Notes from Essex, Massachusetts, 1921.—Uria troille. COMMON MURRE.—On May 18, I secured a female on the Essex River, in Essex. It appeared to be in a somewhat sickly condition and its tarsi were somewhat swollen, facts which may account in part for its presence here at this late date. Its stomach was replete with the remains of fish. This is the first definite record of this species for Essex County. The mounted specimen is now in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History.

Sterna caspia. CASPIAN TERN.—Three birds appeared on the Essex River, August 31. They were seen fishing in the river and later resting with Herring Gulls on the shore. Two others were seen on September 8 near the mouth of the river. The stomach of one secured, was kindly examined for me by the U. S. Biological Survey, and its contents found to be two codlings (*Urophycis tenuis*).

Casmerodius egretta. AMERICAN EGRET.—On the salt marsh of Essex River I saw a flock of three on August 19.

Phalacrocorax carbo. COMMON CORMORANT.—On September 2, flying low over the water off the mouth of the Essex River, two birds of this species were identified with a flock of twenty-five Double-crested Cormorants. They were obviously larger than the latter with white breasts, and their paler bills and gular patches were in distinct contrast to the orange color of these parts in the Double-crested species. All the birds in the flock held their bills widely open as they passed, presenting a peculiar appearance.

Coturnicops noveboracensis. YELLOW RAIL.—One was started in the salt marsh on September 10.

Limosa fedoa. MARBLED GODWIT.—A female was killed on the Essex River on August 31. Its stomach contents were examined for me by the U. S. Biological Survey and found to consist of 14 Nereis, 6 *Gemma purpureus* and at least four other bivalves, and a seed of the pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*).

Falco rusticolus obsoletus. BLACK GYRFALCON.—A fine black female was shot on the edge of the salt marsh at Essex on December 10. It had been seen several times previously and when killed was said to have been attempting to carry off a domestic hen from a farmer's flock. Its crop was greatly distended and on examination was found to be crammed with the flesh and breast feathers of a Black Duck. The specimen is now mounted in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History. —ARTHUR B. FULLER, *Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Boston, Mass.*

Notes from Lauderdale, Fla.—At Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., February 12, 1922, I saw a male Nonpareil (*Passerina ciris*). A day or two later I saw it again in the same general vicinity where, for the third time, I saw it, February 19. On the last occasion I flushed it, together with some Grasshopper Sparrows, from a growth of tangled grass where, evidently, these finches had taken refuge for the night. Maynard refers to this

species as shy and retiring and states that they seldom show themselves in the open. Twice, at least, I observed the bird under conditions which would seem to controvert this statement.

A Loon (*Gavia immer*), was picked up on the golf links, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., February 14, 1922. The bird appeared to be uninjured and submitted, without resentment, to stroking and handling. It made one or two attempts to paddle away, using only its feet, but made little progress. Finally it was carried to the river, about three miles away, where it dove and splashed with evident enjoyment.

The golf links are about as far from the ocean as from the river. The country round about consists of pine land, cut-over land overgrown with palmetto scrub and some truck gardens. It may be that the links, set in an opening of this scrub growth, being nearly level and perhaps covered with mist at night, appeared to the bird as a body of water and that, once down, it was unable again to rise. I think most accounts agree that a Loon is unable to rise save from the water.—Edw. R. Ford, *Grand Rapids, Mich.*

Birds Using their Wings as a Means of Propulsion under Water.—Mr. Charles W. Michael and his companion can be congratulated on the excellent photographs and extremely interesting article on the Harlequin Duck which appeared in 'The Auk' for January, 1922. Closely watching various species of diving birds, an observer notes two distinct means of propulsion under water: (I) by the use of the wings which are not fully expanded in this swimming below the surface, but are bent at the carpal joint; (II) by using the feet alone.

Having for many years had opportunities of observing the Murre (*Uria troille troille*), Razor-billed Auk (*Alca torda*), and Puffin (*Fratercula arctica arctica*), diving when the water was clear, around the coasts of Scotland, I can confirm the statement that these species all use the wings for propulsion, that is to say, the Auk family make use of the wings when travelling beneath the surface.

The Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus puffinus*) does the same, although of course it is not such an inveterate diver as the Auks. The other big petrel, the Fulmar, is said to do the same but I cannot speak of this bird from personal experience.

In Class II there are Loons, Grebes, Mergansers and Ducks. Close to my home, on the Lower Arrow Lake, B. C., there is a beaver dam, where almost any day may be seen Buffleheads, Golden-eyes, Coots, Mergansers and occasionally other species as well, diving at pretty close quarters. The water is still, and usually quite clear. Here these birds use the paddles alone for propulsion under water. The following is the mode of precedure with them when feeding.

A Golden-eye or Buffiehead floating on the surface which is about to dive, may or may not submerge a little before doing so, and may occasion-