

Western Grebe in Illinois.—I am indebted to Mr. Boardman Conover for a specimen of the Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), which he presented to me in the flesh on December 27, 1921, and which is now in my collection. Mr. Conover informed me that this bird was shipped to him on December 24 from Swan Lake, Putnam County, Illinois, where it had been killed probably that day or the day before.

The identification of the specimen was made with the assistance of Mr. C. C. Sanborn by comparison with skins in the Field Museum of Natural History.

I have not been able to find any previous record of the occurrence of the Western Grebe in Illinois.—STEPHEN S. GREGORY, JR., 345 Barry Ave., Chicago, Ill.

The Glaucous Gull at Ithaca, N. Y.—On February 13, 1921 a Glaucous Gull, *Larus hyperboreus* was observed in a large flock of Herring Gulls at the south end of Cayuga Lake. It was seen again on February 20, and on March 26 it was picked up dead and brought in to the museum of Cornell University by a vocational student. The bird was a male, not fully adult in plumage, numerous flecks of brownish being present on the wings and head. The specimen is now in the collection of the museum of Cornell University and forms the first record for the Cayuga Lake Basin.

On March 29, 1923 another specimen of this Gull was seen in practically the same spot. It was seen again on April 3, but has not been observed since. This bird, like the first one, was not pure white but showed faint brownish markings.

In view of the rarity of this species in central New York these records seem worthy of publication.—HERBERT FRIEDMAN AND DANA J. LEFFINGWELL, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Concerning the Field Identification of the Anatidae.—In his recent paper on 'Field Studies of the Anatidae,' Mr. Ludlow Griscom has given us a valuable compilation of points not to be found in most textbooks, and yet extremely useful to the field student. Many of us who think we already know the Anatidae will find new and useful facts in this paper. There are, however, two points that have come into my own experience that have evidently escaped Mr. Griscom's attention, which I believe are worth putting on record to save the future field worker from possible mistakes in identification.

Many species of Ducks have the head marked with green or black with greenish reflections. Observations on a semi-domesticated drake Mallard showed me that when the bird swam with head toward the observer, the color of the head appeared to be violet rather than green. Later examination of a mounted drake Golden-eye showed the same thing to be true. Examination of other species shows that this seems, generally true of all species with heads green or marked with green. The feathers are green when viewed directly, but when the head of the bird is toward the observer, they appear violet.