

### GENERAL NOTES.

**Sea-birds at Cape Lookout, North Carolina.**—**SOOTY SHEARWATER** (*Puffinus griseus stricklandi*).—While I was on my house-boat in bight of Cape Lookout, at 2 A. M., May 26, 1924, we had a twister storm which did some damage to boats; and soon after daylight I found two Sooty Shearwaters alive on the beach, but one badly storm battered. One died eight hours later and one eighteen hours later. I observed with interest the strongest of these birds, and especially noted its peculiar cry of protest when disturbed. A little native child very aptly described this cry, when he exclaimed "sounds like a Christmas horn," meaning the blast that children blow on the little red tin horns from the Woolworth five and ten cent stores.

I also noted that when emitting these cries the bird ruffled up its feathers along anterior edges of its wings, until they stood straight out on both sides of the edge of the wing, and at the same time it also ruffled up certain feathers of its back; not on the neck or just back of it, but back near the base of the tail, meanwhile widely expanding its tail-feathers.

Very few Sooty or any other Shearwaters were present off Cape Lookout in the spring of 1924, although I saw for the first time in this field one of the equally large species having much white in its plumage.

**AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** (*Puffinus herminieri*).—During the summer months this West Indian species is quite common at Cape Lookout, but rarely are more than half a dozen seen on one day. On July 25, 1924, following several days of wind, from southeast, of almost storm velocity, there appeared in the bight of Cape Lookout vast schools of small sardines, covering acres, and kept well up on the surface by great numbers of ocean mackerel (*Auzis thazard*). Hovering over and feeding on the sardines were great numbers of Gulls and other sea birds including more than a hundred Audubon's Shearwaters, many of which so gorged themselves that they were unable to fly, yet resting on the water, I noticed they continued to catch and eat the sardines.

I ran out to them in my motor launch and with small hand dip net picked up and carried on board my house-boat more than a dozen of them for study.

Separating these in four cages, I made many tests. After a short time they showed no fear and would eat from my hand. The voice of this species is especially peculiar, and quite well described by two little children who exclaimed, "Sounds just like a rubber doll baby when you squeeze it;"—I cannot describe it better. It is always the same either indicating pleasure, fear, protest or rage; the same careless, soft, whistling note even when I would force two of them to fight, with bills locked together and really hurting each other.

I gave three in one cage only fresh water to drink, and after a first trial,

I never saw them drink it again. Although these three birds were regularly fed one died at the end of five days and one on the sixth day. Suspecting that they might actually have died of thirst with fresh water to hand, I then released the remaining bird. After flying for a short distance, it alighted on the water by the side of my boat, and for half an hour appeared to be drinking sea water almost continuously, becoming so water-logged that it was unable to fly. I picked it up in my hand and threw it into the air and although it tried vigorously to fly, its weight was then too great and it fell back into the sea.

After the first two days I often fed the Shearwaters from my own hands, and noted that they were the most gluttonous birds that I have ever observed. Wishing to see just what one of them would really eat, I continued to give it little sardines, and although I kept no count, I must have given it approximately fifty. I used no force, just held the little wiggling fish in front of its bill, and it continued to take them in, until it appeared to get sleepy, and swallow with difficulty, then stopped taking them from my hand, and half an hour later I observed that the bird was dead. It would presumably have been unable to catch fish for itself at some time prior to eating itself to death.

During the stay of this large flock of Audubon's Shearwaters in the bight of Cape Lookout, there was quite a heavy on-shore wind one night, and the next morning, I counted thirty-two of these birds on the beach, about half of them either dead or dying, and in my opinion, less than a dozen recovered. It occurs quite frequently that not only this but other species of Shearwaters are blown ashore and killed. I know of no kind of bird that becomes so completely helpless from gorging itself with food, and very often they are the prey, when in this condition, of large voracious fishes. On several occasions I have found them in the stomachs of sharks, and I can recall only one instance of having found evidence of any bird other than Shearwaters having been eaten by sharks.

**RED PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*).—The Red Phalarope is so rare at Cape Lookout, North Carolina that the occurrence of a bird of this species there, May 29, 1924, is worth recording. It was found swimming in a little pond in the marshes and was in process of acquiring summer plumage, the lower parts mottled with red and white.

Pearson, Brimley and Brimley (1919), Birds of North Carolina, give no record for the Red Phalarope later than April 17.—RUSSELL J. COLES, Danville, Va.

**The Brown Pelican** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) in Ontario.—On September 12, 1924, a Brown Pelican was shot at Frenchman's Bay about twenty-five miles east of Toronto. The specimen, an immature female, apparently in its second year, was in good condition and is now No. 24, 9, 16, 1, in the collection of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoölogy, Toronto.

This constitutes the first authentic record of the species for the province although it had been included in Fleming's hypothetical list in 'Birds of