

GENERAL NOTES.

Double-crested Cormorant in the Connecticut Valley.—While watching one or two Greater Yellow-legs at the Ashley Ponds reservoir at Holyoke, Mass. on the afternoon of May 20, 1925, we discovered a bird near shore, swimming in the water. At a distance it appeared to be a Loon but, by taking advantage of the diving intervals, we gradually approached within fifteen or twenty yards and with the binoculars identified it as a Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax a. auritus*).

The diving intervals and the distance traversed were shorter than usually performed by the Loon. After coming to the surface once or twice the Cormorant raised the wings and body above the water revealing black or brown-gray underparts. The head lacked the double crest, characteristic of the breeding plumage.

When the bird finally flew the neck was drawn out to full length and the webbed feet protruded behind. It presented the appearance of a small Goose. After taking one or two turns, it disappeared in a northerly direction heading for Mt. Tom.

Cormorants use the Connecticut Valley but casually. Edward O. Damon records two killed on the Hockanum meadows near Northampton in the fall of the year during the eighties. They were first observed on an old elm stub near the river and were subsequently mounted by the man who shot them.—AARON C. BAGG, 70 *Fairfield Ave., Holyoke, Mass.*

The Man-o'-war-bird in South Carolina.—On May 25, 1925, I was informed by a friend, Mr. Alex Mikell, of this city, that he has seen a Man-o-war-bird (*Fregata aquila*), the previous day, at the entrance to Charleston Harbor. Naturally, I was much interested in hearing this as the occurrence of this species as far north as South Carolina is purely accidental.

Mr. Mikell stated that he was fishing from the south jetty, which lies a couple of miles beyond Fort Sumter. The jetty is built of rock, and keeps the channel open between the bar and the harbor, and lies in the ocean, two or three miles from Sullivan's Island, the nearest land. The bird when first seen was some distance away, but even then the great expanse of wing could be plainly noted. Before very long its course brought it almost directly over the jetty, and every detail was plainly visible to Mr. Mikell.

He at once recognized the bird as a Frigate Bird, having seen numbers off the Florida coast, and also off the coast of southern California.

As we were talking about it, we were joined by Mr. Felix Chisolm, and it transpired that he had seen the same bird (supposedly) on Saturday, May 23, off the beach at Folly Island, another barrier island lying a few miles to the southward. Mr. Chisolm is not very familiar with birds, but

at once realized that he had never seen a bird like this before. He described it to me in detail, and I have no doubt whatsoever but that the bird was a Man-o-war or Frigate Bird.

I made the attempt to see it myself, going out in a launch on Wednesday, the 27th, but we had had a strong north wind on Tuesday, and there was no sign of the bird.

On the afternoon of June 2, I made a trip to Folly Island rather late in the day, simply for a pleasure ride. Nine days had elapsed since the bird was last seen, and the strong north wind had blown itself out some days previously. I had no sooner set foot on the ocean beach, which is reached by motor car, than I saw a magnificent specimen of *Fregata aquila*, circling and dipping over the surf.

My pleasure at seeing the bird can well be imagined. It seemed in perfect health, and pursued the most leisurely tactics, simply wheeling and soaring over the breakers at no great height. We watched it for some time, until its course took it down the beach, and across the inlet which separates Folly from Kiawah Island. The direction of its course was about E.S.E. and it seemed to be in no hurry. There is no accounting for the evident fact that the bird has taken up its temporary abode with us. There is a large colony of Royal Terns on a bank, to the seaward of Kiawah Is. and it may be that the Frigate Bird is levying toll of the Terns for its meals. It has no end of servants to fish for it, at any rate.

I append the following dates upon which this species has been seen in South Carolina, from A. T. Wayne's, 'Birds of South Carolina.'

"Coast of South Carolina near Charleston, Aug. 26th, 1893, a few hours before the devastating hurricane which swept the coast on the following day.

Sullivan's Island, S. C., Oct. 20th, 1906, seen at 7 a.m. At 5 p.m. the wind was blowing at the rate of 64 miles per hour."

Both of these observations, as will be noted, were made just before, or during, high gales of wind, which swept the birds up from the tropics. Why the present bird came up, is a matter of pure conjecture, as the weather has been clear and fine for over a month, and continued so after the disappearance of the bird.

A keen look-out will be kept for any other wanderer during the summer and coming fall. I am indebted to Mr. Mikell for the privilege of recording this bird.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston Museum*.

The American Scoter in Florida.—On May 17, 1925, while driving along the beach at Atlantic Beach, eighteen miles from Jacksonville, I noticed some species of Duck in the surf close to shore. Approaching on foot I had a close examination of the bird, which only flew when I was within about one hundred feet of it. It proved to be *Oidemia americana*—the American Scoter. As this is a rare bird at any time this far south, I was very much surprised to find it, and more so when, on June 14, in company with friends, we watched the same bird or another of the same