

GENERAL NOTES

Winter Records for the Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra*).—During the past winter I have more than once observed Black Skimmers (*Rynchops nigra*) in the harbor of Charleston: available dates are December 28, 1925, and January 16, 1926. On both occasions the birds were fishing within a few hundred feet of the Mount Pleasant ferry wharf.—EDWARD VON S. DINGLE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

Gannet in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.—While in the home of an old resident of Langhorne, Bucks County, Penna, I discovered a mounted specimen of the Gannet (*Moris bassana*).

The bird had been found by my host, with a broken wing caused evidently from flying into the telephone wires which line the road where it was found. I was told it had been picked up during the early part of July, 1921. The plumage being that of an immature bird, it seemed desirable to make sure that the date was not a mistake. However, the gentleman assured me it was correct as he had just returned from a trip to Maine and it was during a period of daily thunder storms. On consulting the Weather Bureau records for that period I find that between the 8th and 15th of July there were thunder storms daily.

Langhorne is situated about fifty miles from the Atlantic coast and seven miles south of Trenton, New Jersey.—HAROLD T. GREEN, *Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.*

The Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum antillarum*), in Grenada, Lesser Antilles.—In looking over West Indian ornithological literature I have failed to find a record of the Least Tern for Grenada, or for any of the other Lesser Antilles nearer to it than Barbados. Therefore it seems worth while recording about a dozen which frequented a shallow inlet of the sea near the Botanical Gardens at St. George's during my visit to that town, from July 13 to 17, 1922.—STUART T. DANFORTH, *Temple University, Philadelphia. Pa.*

Whistling Swans in Michigan.—The accompanying plate is made from two photographs of a flock of Whistling Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) taken from a blind at the Monroe Marshes adjacent to the mouth of the Detroit River in Michigan, by a staff photographer of 'The Detroit News.' For the past five years the spring flight of Swans at this point has noticeably increased. We are indebted to 'The Detroit News' for the privilege of publishing the photographs.—Ed.

Greater Snow Goose (*Chen hyperboreus nivalis*) at Sound Beach, Connecticut.—The estate of J. K. Tod lies on a peninsula which encloses the northeast end of Greenwich Harbor. The house and grounds lie at the extreme western end, and the approach, past a carefully guarded gate-

house, is across half a mile or more of sandy waste land surrounded, on all sides by Long Island Sound. Here, in company with thousands of Scaup, Scoters, Black Duck and other species, a flock of Canada Geese, varying in numbers from one hundred and fifty in mid-winter to five hundred and over in late March, has been present since November last. The writer and Mr. De L. F. Johnson of Scarsdale found upwards of six hundred there on April 11 this year. Among them was a Snow Goose, which we were compelled, because of sight testimony only, to record as *C. h. nivalis*, although our observations, extended over half an hour and at distances varying from two hundred yards to fifty feet, suggest the possibility of its having been the western race, *Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus*. It was first observed on a sand bar of the inner bay in company with several hundred Canada Geese. We watched it both walking and at rest. Walking, the gait and carriage suggested a domesticated species, especially as the body was carried well forward and the neck partly curved as against the "high necked stalking" of *Branta c. canadensis*. Resting, it squatted low to or on the ground with wings slightly lifted. In the air, it flew with far more rapid wing beats than its companions; neck outstretched and bent slightly downward as in *Colymbus holboellii*. On the water it floated with all the grace of a Swan and we noted also the uplifted wings showing plainly the black primaries with ashy coverts against the snow white of the body plumage. Having observed the bird for half an hour or more, we had turned away and were already out of sight when, with a high pitched honking more nasal than that of the Canada Goose, it passed directly over our heads at an altitude of not more than fifty feet. We were then able to observe, closely; the bill, short and high at the base, dull red with a blackish line along the lower mandible; feet dull red; and, an apparent faint, rusty wash, along the neck. Not until it had disappeared into the southwest did we cease to hear the sharp falsetto honking. We were fortunate in being able to observe the bird and make comparisons as to size not only with the much larger Canada Goose but with Black Ducks and Herring Gulls which were swimming in its immediate vicinity. Both Mr. Johnson and I remarked that it appeared, at a distance of a hundred yards, but slightly larger than a Herring Gull. In fact so slight was the difference in size that it was difficult to single it out from among the Gulls. We agreed, however, that, resting on sight observation, we could claim no more than that it was a Greater Snow Goose. The writer has been keeping records since 1906 in the Westchester Co. and lower Fairfield Co. region. To his knowledge this is the first appearance of *Chen hyperboreus nivalis* on this shore of Long Island Sound.—RUTGERS R. COLES, *Mamaroneck, New York*.

Status of the Ring-necked Duck in South Carolina.—The rarity or abundance of this species in South Carolina has been a matter of discussion and it has been reputed as rare, erratic or very rare in different localities. As a matter of fact the evidence seems to point to a peculiarly local distribution.