

### GENERAL NOTES

**Horned Grebe in Breeding Plumage in North Carolina.**—A Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*) in full breeding plumage was taken at Norlina, N. C., about April 9, 1927. It was a female and the first specimen of either sex that I have seen in this plumage from the State.—H. H. BRIMLEY, *Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.*

**Masked Duck (*Nomonyx dominicus*) in Texas.**—On January 2, 1927, I noticed in a pile of dead Ducks at Eagle Nest Lake, Brazoria Co., Texas, a "Ruddy" Duck with peculiar white markings on the head. Feeling sure that it must be a Masked Duck I expressed a wish to have it for my collection and Mr. B. W. Cammer, who had shot it, very gladly exchanged it for a Gadwall.

On dissection I found it to be a male but on consulting the figures of male and female in Forbush's 'Birds of Massachusetts.' I found that the head markings of my bird corresponded to those of the female. I then sent the skin to Dr. H. C. Oberholser of Washington and asked whether he thought I had made a mistake in dissection. The skin was returned to me, however, with simply "*N. dominicus*. H. C. O." written on the label. I imagine my specimen is a male that has not acquired full adult plumage.

The Masked Duck is a tropical American species occurring frequently in the West Indies and five times recorded in the United States: Albury Springs, Vt., September 26, 1857; Near Newville, Wis., November, 1870; Malden, Mass., August 27, 1889; Brownsville Tex., July 22, 1891; and Elkton, Md., September 8, 1905. The first specimen, however, had its wings clipped and was evidently escaped from captivity so that my specimen is really the fifth for the United States. I have presented it to the Biological Survey section of the National Museum collection, as it seemed too rare to remain in a small private collection.—ROBERT B. LAWRENCE, *Houston, Texas.*

**Snake-bird (*Anhinga anhinga*) in South Carolina.**—During the last few days of January, and until February 19, 1926, mild, spring-like weather prevailed along the South Carolina coast. The writer was afield several times but noted nothing of particular interest until February 11, when, at a fresh water reservoir, about 15 miles from Charleston, S. C., a Snake-bird was observed.

It was a female, and apparently in fine plumage. It was seen from a highway trestle which spans the reservoir, sitting in the top of a small cypress tree about 20 feet high, and remained in this tree until after dark. It was first seen about 5:30 p. m. on a clear afternoon, and watched through 6 × glasses at a distance of about 100 yards.