

GENERAL NOTES.

Rare Alcidae in Barnegat Bay, New Jersey.—There was a notable flight of Alcidae to Long Island and New Jersey during December 1926 and January 1927. Mrs. Griscom and I spent the week-end of December 19 at Barnegat City, in the midst of a severe cold wave. Dawn found me at the lighthouse by the inlet, prepared for the morning flight. The bay was frozen, an ice mist swirled over the ocean, and I shivered in a temperature of 5 above zero. The inlet was crowded with Grebes and Gulls of five species, as the tide was racing in from the sea. Brant, Scaup, Mergansers and Old-squaws were passing every moment, and a Northern Shrike was attempting to sing in the bushes back of the lighthouse. Five minutes after my arrival a Brunnich's Murre followed by a Puffin flew in at long range, some Grebes just ahead, and some Old-squaws just behind. The slender bill of the Murre and the narrow white wing stripe were plainly visible. The much smaller size of the Puffin, the absence of a wing-stripe, the large head and buzzing flight were noticed. A little later a Razor-billed Auk flew in at moderate range, the deep bill plainly noticeable, also the greater extension of white back of the eye, and the clouded effect. A lull of half an hour then ensued. Two Brunnich's Murres then flew out to sea. About five minutes later a Razor-billed Auk at close range came by, tagging a flock of Old-squaws, also going out. This bird was near enough to be identified with the naked eye. Another five minutes passed and then a solitary Puffin came right past the light. This bird was also picked up and instantly recognized with the naked eye. It was buzzing by very rapidly, flying with the wind, and was past me by the time I got my glasses on it, so that it was too late to make out the color of the bill-tip. The great depth was plainly seen, and of course all the other characters of this species. Field experience in Labrador, the Newfoundland Banks and Great Britain has made me well acquainted with these birds over many years, and I have seen hundreds and sometimes thousands in a single day. The Puffin is recognizable at the limit of human vision, and the other two species are recognizable as Auks at very great distances and easily separable at moderate distances. I think this account shows that all three species were satisfactorily identified on December 19, though the exact number of individuals is uncertain. It is fortunate that the Puffin, much the rarest of the three, is the most unmistakable. The Puffin has already been mentioned in a 'Bird-Lore' season report, but a sight record of so rare a bird requires a well substantiated account of the observation to be worthy of consideration.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *American Museum of Natural History, New York.*

Brown Pelican and Summering Bonaparte's Gulls at Newport, R. I.—On the afternoon of June 21, 1927, a Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus oc-*