

GENERAL NOTES.

The Razor-billed Auk in New Jersey.—Occurrences of the Razor-billed Auk (*Alca torda*) in New Jersey are infrequent enough to warrant placing on record the appearance of an individual of this species at Wildwood, N. J., in May, 1927 (exact date unknown). The bird, an adult female according to a local taxidermist, was found on the ocean beach by F. Wayne Cole. It was in an exhausted condition but lived for several days after capture. The appearance of this species in May in this latitude is unusual, inasmuch as all other available records south of Long Island are from December to March inclusive. The specimen was mounted and is now on exhibition at the Wildwood Public School.—JOHN A. GILLESPIE, *Glenolden, Penn.*

Franklin's Gull in Illinois.—In my collection is a female *Larus pipixcan* taken at Mallard, Hancock Co., Ill., April 12, 1905, presumably by C. K. Worthen. I know of only three recorded captures of this bird in Illinois, namely: Warsaw, Hancock Co., May, 1875 (C. K. Worthen); Liter, April 21, 1882; Chicago, October 27, 1922 (C. C. Sanborn).—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Evanston, Ill.*

Summering Bonaparte's Gulls at Lynn, Mass.—The note on the summer occurrence of Bonaparte's Gulls in Rhode Island, given by J. T. Nichols in the October, 1927, 'Auk,' reminds me of a series of local summer dates for this species. I do not know whether Lynn Harbor comes within the limits of what Mr. Nichols considers southern New England or not, but it may be of interest to him to know, as he is somewhat familiar with our region, that during three summers, 1922, 1926 and 1927, Bonaparte's Gulls have been seen there and at such close range that all their points could be easily determined.

Beside the mouth of the Saugus River, as it enters Lynn Harbor, is a point of land which formerly was salt marsh, but some years since the river channel was deepened and the sand and mud therefrom was pumped on this point raising it well above high tide. A wooden bulkhead some fifteen hundred feet long was built along the harbor side to retain this dredging. The wash of the tide during several years has carried away the planking of this bulkhead leaving only a long line of posts connected at their tops by a heavy timber string-piece. At high tide this fence rail, if so it may be called, arises from the water from fifty to a hundred feet from shore. On this rail at this time of tide Gulls love to roost. From May to September the majority of these birds are of the smaller species, Ring-billed, Laughing and Bonaparte's with also many Terns. They are seldom molested on this bit of waste land, although in plain sight and only a minute's walk away is one of the busiest automobile thoroughfares in the state. For this

reason the Gulls are very tame and allow an observer to approach to the water's edge and study their markings at his lesiure.

On July 7, 1922, I visited the above locality and found about two hundred Bonaparte's Gulls, a few of which had black heads while many others ranged through varying degrees of smutty-heads to the usual plumage of winter; these last were in the majority.

During 1926, I visited the place on June 16, July 14 and 28, August 25 and September 6. On each date, except the last, there were about a hundred Bonaparte's Gulls present, on the last day there were only a few. On the earlier visits, there were about the same proportion of black and smutty headed birds to be seen as in 1922, but, as the season advanced, they decreased in number until only birds in the young or winter plumage were to be found.

This summer, 1927, I made visits to the locality on May 18, June 8 and 29, July 13 and 27, August 20 and 31, finding about the same number of birds and range of plumages as in 1926.

Neither Forbush nor Bent speak very definitely of the obvious habit of this species of summering on the Atlantic coast in some numbers when apparently it should be in northern Canada or on the Yukon. Evidently there is room for much interesting inquiry into the habits of the species, with the possibility of finding some breeding station nearer New England than is now known.

The records given above for 1922 and 1926 were published in 'The Bulletin of the Essex County Ornithological Club' for those years.—ARTHUR P. STUBBS, 14 Fiske Avenue, Lynn, Mass.

Occurrence of the Old-squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) at Athens, Clarke Co., Georgia.—Within a mile of the city limits of Athens, and on the grounds of the Athens Country Club, lies a small lake covering approximately four acres that affords exceptional opportunities for the study of migrating water fowl. It is the only body of water of any size where hunting is prohibited, and Ducks can be found there throughout the fall and early spring, and to a limited extent even during the winter months. On December 19, 1926, after four days of clear cold weather, with the temperature each morning between 24 and 28° F., a female Old-squaw appeared. I knew of no previous record for this species in the state. The bird was feeding close to the shore, diving repeatedly for food during the few minutes it was watched, and was not very timid, permitting me to stand within a hundred feet of it without showing much concern. At the farther end of the lake were seven Scaup Ducks (*Marila affinis*) but the Old-squaw showed no desire to join them, nor, did it utter any sound whatsoever. The following day I found it still there, and for almost a month it lingered retaining its unsociable disposition, and its silence. The Scaups seen from day to day varied considerably in number. On the 15th of January the temperature dropped abruptly to 16° F., and when on the following morning I went to the lake I witnessed a rather