

I at once realized this was an early record, and think others may substantiate it as the winter and spring to date have been exceedingly mild.

Upon consulting four bird books—two of recent issue—the earliest spring arrival for this state was April 12 at Muskeget Island, which lies about 15 miles southeast of Oak Bluffs.

While a great amount of data has been amassed in recent, leading publications, I was much impressed with the very meagre record of the spring arrival of *atricilla* off the Massachusetts coast.—CHARLES L. PHILLIPS, *Taunton, Mass.*

**The Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) at Washington, D. C.**—Mr. and Mrs. William J. Whiting and I spent the afternoon of May 20, 1928 off Hains Point, D. C., on a mud bar in the Potomac River. We were using 8x, 9x, and 16x binoculars. One of the larger Terns was seen flying down the river, and we all put our glasses on it immediately. The bill was solid black, being quite blunt and heavy and not needle-like. The tail but slightly forked, and the primaries had a dark edge. The bird was flying in a straight line, with steady wing beats, continuing in this manner until out of sight. The sun was behind us, furnishing a perfect light. I examined specimens in the U. S. National Museum and am absolutely certain of the identification. It has been previously recorded here, but there is some doubt about the record.—WILLIAM HOWARD BALL, *1233 Irving St., N. W., Washington, D. C.*

**The Man-o'-war-bird (*Fregata magnificens*) at Cape May, N. J.**—In 'The Auk' for 1926, p. 536, I recorded the occurrence of Audubon's Shearwater at Cape May on August 2 of that year, following the West Indian hurricane of a few days previous. Recently I have received from Mrs. Emlen H. Fisher of Germantown, Philadelphia, the record of another waif driven north at the same time. Mrs. Fisher's letter on the matter is as follows: "I saw the bird at Cape May, N. J., three days after the Florida hurricane that devastated Miami. It was an unusually large bird having a wing spread of nearly three feet, I should say. The wings tapered to a point and were of a decided and curious shape, appearing from the rear to be arched close to the body, above the level of the back. The bird appeared slate gray all over. It had a long bill bent over at the tip and a long curious tail like that of a king crab but slightly forked at the extreme tip. I could not decide whether there was really a fork or whether two long outer tail feathers were crossed at the tip when folded. The neck was either drawn in like a Heron's, in flight, so as to form a bulge beneath the base of the bill, or else there was a sort of pouch there, but not forming a part of the bill as in a Pelican. The bird hung perfectly motionless facing the wind for fifteen or twenty minutes not moving an inch in space, apparently, although there was a strong wind blowing, nor moving a feather save to turn his head to look at the small group of people gathered below. It finally flew to the south where it disappeared."

Mrs. Fisher wrote to ascertain, if possible, the identity of the bird as she had no idea as to what it might be. I think no one who has ever seen a Man-o'-war-bird could have the least doubt as to the identity of this specimen so accurately described by Mrs. Fisher. It constitutes the first satisfactory record of the species for New Jersey, although there is a mention in Maynard's 'Birds of North America' of a specimen mounted by J. R. Beath, a taxidermist of Philadelphia, which had been secured near Cape May Court House, N. J., in 1877, but I have never been able to trace the specimen or ascertain the name of the collector.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia*.

**Phalacrocorax a. albociliatus in Colorado.**—On October 17, 1927 there was brought to me for identification, a bird that was killed on a lake about three miles from town.

I identified it as a White-crested Cormorant, but not being wholly certain of this determination, the skin was sent to Dr. Bergtold of Denver for his opinion. He also being uncertain as to the sub-species, sent the skin to the American Museum of Natural History, whose Division of Birds reports that the specimen is undoubtedly *P. auritus*, probably *albociliatus*. The immaturity of the bird prevents making an iron-clad subspecific identification.

The occurrence of this bird on the Pacific slope leads me to hold that it is subspecies *albociliatus*, making a first record for Colorado of this subspecies. A. R. McCORMON, *Montrose, Colorado*.

**White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons gambeli*) in South Carolina.**—Referring to the article in "Notes," of the April 1928 'Auk,' by Mr. Arthur T. Wayne, it occurred to me that two more early records could be added for South Carolina. One taken on January 29, 1866, and one on February 3, 1866. (See my Journals now in the Boston Society of Natural History). I was shooting on those dates on the Lownes, or Walter Blake plantations, where there were quite extensive rice fields which were watered from the Combakee river near Pocatigo, South Carolina. For a blind I lay in a small gunning float which was dressed over with grass, a string of wooden decoys anchored in front of me.—On the above dates a small flock of four or five of these Geese appeared calling with a sort of maniacal laughter, as they flew past they gave me a long shot, and I brought one down wing broken. As the water was not more than twelve to eighteen inches deep, and the day being calm, there was not a ripple on the water of the rice field, which was free from bushes or trees. When the winged Goose struck the water I thought there was no hurry about picking it up, so I leisurely loaded my muzzle loading gun with powder wads and shot. On looking up to see where my Goose was, it had disappeared, thinking this strange I poled my boat all around without finding any sign of it, and I could not understand where so large a bird could have hidden. I finally gave the bird up as lost, when in passing