

There are few actual breeding records for this species so far south of its normal breeding range. It seems likely that many lists of wild fowl in which species are indicated as "probably breeding" are made without regard to the greater probability that the species so listed are not breeding individuals.—EDWARD R. FORD, *Grand Rapids, Mich.*

Golden-eye Duck Nesting on the Ground.—On the Grand Cascapedia River in eastern Quebec, we have a good many breeding Golden-eyes. In June of the present year I was informed by my companion, on a salmon fishing trip, that near to a favorite lunching place of mine, he had seen a duck fly from under a fallen tree top as if it had a nest there.

On June 19, I visited the spot and found the nest, which contained five rather large, buff-colored eggs, but saw no sign of the bird. I thought at first that they might be those of the American Merganser, as there were a number of them on the river, but on visiting the nest again a few days later I saw the duck leave the nest and it was unquestionably a Golden-eye. There were now seven eggs. She was setting when I last visited the nest on July 2, and I think there were one or two additional eggs at that time, although I could not count them accurately without disturbing the nest. It was placed under the trunk of a fallen tree top, on the ground, well protected from rain and well lined with down. All around the edge was enough down to cover the eggs.

I have never before seen or heard of Golden-eye's nest being anywhere but in a hollow tree.—W. B. MERSHON, *Saginaw, Mich.*

The Song of the Green Heron (*Butoroides virescens virescens*).—The "pumping" of the Bittern and the "cooing" of the Least Bittern may be classed under the head of song, but for the Herons as a group there seems to be singularly little recorded in the way of a courtship song. The following quotation from Bent's 'Life History' of the Louisiana Heron, *Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*, appears to be an exception. He quotes from the notes of Prof. Julian S. Huxley: "Another ceremony, which is much less commonly seen, appears to be performed by the male alone. In this the bird droops its wings, erects its neck vertically and its head almost so and gives vent to a groaning sound." In my account of the Green Heron, written for Mr. Bent's 'Life Histories,' I say: "Early one morning, when I was lying concealed in a grove of trees, a Green Heron alighted among them nearly over my head. Therupon it emitted a series of low double groans at irregular intervals. If I had not seen the bird, I should have been puzzled as to the source of the sounds."

Since this was written, I have had favorable opportunities both in the grove referred to above, and also in a swamp in the Ipswich dunes where I had established a blind for bird watching, to hear this song, for such I believe it is. A bird song is not necessarily musical or pleasing to human ears, but even such short notes delivered during the courtship season as the "sneeze" of the Alder Flycatcher, the "hiss" of the Sharp-tailed

Sparrow and the "shl-pp" of the Henslow's Sparrow are readily recognized as song. The attitude and excitement of the bird during their delivery makes this evident.

This is clearly shown in the case of the Green Heron who stands erect on a perch and at intervals raises his head and neck, opens wide his bill and emits his curious "song." The repetitions are irregular in time, sometimes only once, twice or three times a minute, sometimes eight or ten times and sometimes as often as ten times in a quarter of a minute. Once I saw the bird fly from one perch to another and emit the song while flying—a flight song.

The song is a very peculiar sound, slightly double, difficult to describe and a most un-birdlike one. It appears to come from the depths of the Heron's anatomy, like deep breathing or low groans. It may be written down *ow-er*, the *o* as in *cow* and the *er* much like the German *ch*. Hence it might be written *ow-ch*.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, Ipswich, Mass.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) in South Carolina.—On May 1, 1928, the writer secured a specimen of the Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) in an old rice field bordering the Cooper River. It was in fine plumage and proved to be a male upon dissection.

So far as I can ascertain, this is the first specimen actually taken in the state. Dr. Elliott Coues (in Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. His., XII, 1868, 123), mentions this bird or the White-faced Glossy Ibis under the name *Ibis ordii* as a summer resident. Mr. Walter Hoxie (Ornithologist and Oölogist, X, 1885, 13) says that the "Glossy Ibis" is "rare or only occasional in young plumage; (June 30)." Neither writer records the taking of specimens.

The bird taken by me had the bare skin of the face marked by pure white lines, exactly as the one described by Mr. Oscar E. Baynard on page 46 of Bent's 'Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds.' A breeding bird collected by Mr. Baynard in Florida had the bare skin of the head "pure white where the feathers join the skin for the full length across the front of the head extending down to the upper corner of the eye" and "starting at the lower corner of the eye, the white streak extends down to the lower side of the lower mandible." The white streaks in my specimen's face entirely faded out in a few hours.

When first seen the bird was with another of the same species.—E. VON S. DINGLE, Middleburg Plantation, Huger, S. C.

Geographic variation in *Thinocorus orbignyianus* Geoffroy and Lesson.—D'Orbigny's Seed-snipe has heretofore been considered a geographically invariable species, ranging from Peru to Patagonia. Examination of material from various parts of its range, however, shows that it is divisible into two well-marked races. These are briefly characterized below.