

visitant south of the Carolina Capes (see Bent, 1927, Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus., CXLII, p. 13). Whereas none were seen southbound, single Phalaropes and small flocks totalling about 20 birds were observed late in the afternoon of Nov. 25. None were noted on the 26th, but 4 or more birds were seen on Nov. 27, off New Jersey. They were in all probability the Red Phalarope. Two individuals which flew on ahead and lighted on the water again Nov. 25, could be studied at sufficiently close range for a satisfactory estimate of size (about that of a Pectoral Sandpiper) as well as color (Du Mont), and the others seemed identical.—J. P. CHAPIN, P. A. DUMONT, W. DEW. MILLER, J. T. NICHOLS, *American Museum Natural History, N. Y.*

Lesser Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea hyperborea*) in Quebec.—On May 14, 1928, I shot a Snow Goose on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, across from L'Île aux Grues, Quebec. Mr. Frederic H. Kennard was here a short while ago and identified it as the Lesser Snow Goose (*C. h. hyperborea*).—GUS A. LANGELEIER, *Cap Rouge, Quebec.*

The Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) at Virginia Beach, Va.—On November 14, 1928 on the extensive flats at the head of Back Bay, Virginia Beach we saw two Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*). They were clearly made out through our 8 power glasses with a flock of approximately 2000 Greater Snow Geese. There was also one Canada Goose, but a great number of the last were feeding in the Bay. The occurrence of the Blue Goose on the Atlantic Coast is sufficiently unusual to warrant recording here.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Ipswich, Mass.*, and CHARLES L. BULL, *Oradell, N. J.*

The Greater Scaup Affected by Lead Poisoning.—On April 29, 1928, a shipment of ten Greater Scaups (*Marila marila*) was received at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology through the coöperation of the State Department of Conservation. The ducks had been found sick on Houghton Lake, Michigan, and sent to the Department by Roy Carr. When they reached me only four were still alive. Post-mortem examination showed the symptoms of lead poisoning and in the stomachs were large amounts of lead shot. Most of the stomachs contained forty to sixty pellets of lead and in one there were eighty pellets. Some pellets had been reduced by attrition almost to the vanishing point, but many were fresh and unworn. In several stomachs there were 3.5 to 4 grams and in one case 5 grams of lead. The condition of the internal organs was as described by Wetmore (U. S. Dept. of Agric. Bull. 793, 1919). In addition I noticed that the breast muscles had wasted away to very thin sheets. The living birds were very weak and suffered recurring convulsions followed by spells of excessive weakness. Their sense of balance was also affected and they could not sit upright either in the water or on land. The eye-lids did not droop until just before death, but the iris flickered almost constantly. The poisoning apparently did

not affect their appetites, for the crops and stomachs of most of them were filled with the remains of water plants.

In reply to a letter of inquiry, Roy Carr sent me further details. He writes: "as soon as the ice melted (about April 5 to 10) the ducks started coming. I saw some sick ducks just a day or two afterward. Later when more came I found them dying. I never saw any get well. It would be hard to say how many died, but I saw twenty in three blocks of shore and I heard that they were about like that in many places. There were all kinds of ducks here, but only the Bluebill seemed to be affected. I have noticed this before but never so bad as this year. It is always in the spring, never in the fall. These ducks must get the shot in some other lake, as our shooting grounds were still covered with ice."

In 1919, Wetmore summarized the occurrence of lead poisoning in a Swan, a Godwit, and three species of Ducks. He apparently overlooked Warburton's record (Condor 19, p. 141) of a single Greater Scaup poisoned by lead shot in Puget Sound. This is the first instance of lead poisoning among Michigan birds that has come to my attention. It is also noteworthy that all ten ducks received here were Greater Scaups, a species supposedly rather rare in the State as compared with the Lesser Scaup.

The problem of lead poisoning among birds is likely to become a serious one and future occurrences should be carefully studied and recorded.—*JOSSelyn VAN TYNE, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan.*

White Pelican in Chester County, Pennsylvania.—On September 24, 1928, a White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) was captured alive at Kurtz's Dam, Valley Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, by Messrs. George Richmond and J. W. Shank, Jr., of Coatesville, and turned over to State Game Protector J. E. McCannon. The bird had been badly wounded in one leg and died during the night. After being forwarded to this office for examination it was turned over to the Reading Public Museum. It had a wing-spread of nearly 105 inches and weighed only 7¾ pounds. The somewhat grayish lesser coverts probably indicated immaturity. The open wound on the leg appeared to be the result of a blow, rather than of a bullet. Perhaps the bird was injured and driven northward during the recent hurricane.—*GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.*

American Egret at Conneaut Lake, Pennsylvania.—On the morning of August 24, 1928, while fishing at Conneaut Lake, Crawford County, Pa., I saw the American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*). The morning was quite hazy and with the dark background of the shore and the gray atmosphere the white bird made a most beautiful picture.

The Egret was seen near Wolf Island close to the west shore of the lake. I saw it but a few minutes, observing through my binoculars before it arose into the air and flew toward Conneaut Marsh, southeast of the lake. I hunted around the lake for several days afterward but did not see the bird again.—*STANLEY J. SEIPLE, Greenville, Pa.*