

*Grandin, Carter County.* No. 230000, male, May 21, 1907. Lewis B. Woodruff Collection. Exposed culmen, 11.8 mm., bill from nostril, 9.9 mm. Identification confirmed by H. C. Oberholser.—PHILIP A. DU MONT, *American Museum of Natural History.*

**Bill Deformity in a Catbird.**—The note "Bill Deformity in a Blue Jay" contributed by Charles E. Johnson, in "The Auk," XLVI, 1929, 241-242, reminds me of a similar deformity which I observed in a Catbird in my garden at Lyon Park, Clarendon, Virginia, near Washington, D. C.

The bill of this unfortunate bird was seen to be deformed in such a way that the upper mandible did not close upon the lower in a normal manner, but appeared bent upward dorsally. The bird was not particularly wild and good views of its head were obtainable at the time. The bend of the upper mandible appeared to occur somewhat past the middle toward the nares so that the greater portion of this mandible from the bend to the tip formed an angle of about 45° with the plane of the lower mandible. Naturally much of the inside of the mouth and the tongue as well were exposed. I did not see the bird feed, and it soon passed beyond my garden, but so far as could be judged by its behavior it appeared well-nourished and lively enough.—H. A. ALLARD, *U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

**Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher at Throop, Pa.**—On April 13, 1929, on the grounds formerly occupied by the Scranton Country Club, the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea caerulea*) was seen by Adam Lord of Throop, Pa. Upon notification of this fact, my husband and I, with Mr. Lord found the bird in the same vicinity on the following day, where we verified the identification, observing the dainty creature for more than an hour at close range with field glasses, noting his actions, field marks and cry, all of which he gave for our unmistakable identification. Later in the day, we were able to reach several other bird students adding two more witnesses to what we believe to be the first record of this bird in Lackawanna County. Miss Emma C. Kirk and Mr. J. M. Cairns also saw the bird in the same locality.—MRS. FRANCIS H. COFFIN, *1528 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, Pa.*

**Rare Connecticut Birds in Sanctuary Collection.**—Since the establishment of the Birdcraft Sanctuary at Fairfield, Connecticut in 1914, several birds rare to the avifauna of the state have been received and prepared for the Sanctuary's Museum by the Custodian, Mr. Frank Novack. The specimens of Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Sycamore Warbler constituted the first records of these species within the state and the Wilson's Petrel, Gannet, Gadwall, Purple Gallinule, Black Gyrfalcon, Evening Grosbeak, and Yellow-throated Warbler are nearly as rare.

Mr. Novack recently called my attention to the fact that the Museum had specimens of the three Eiders that occur along the north Atlantic seaboard,—Northern, American and King,—all secured within Fairfield

County, Connecticut. The Northern Eider (*Somateria mollissima borealis*) is a female, shot at Stratford Point during November, 1922. The hunter, who had mistaken the bird for a Scoter, was advised by the State Game Commissioner to turn it over for the Sanctuary's collection. A comparison of both the shape and measurements of the frontal process of this bird with skins in the American Museum of Natural History shows conclusively that it is *S. m. borealis*. It is the first record of this species for Connecticut.

Another rarity in the collection is a fine specimen of the Labrador Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus heterocnemis*). It is a large female, which was caught in a steel trap at the Litchfield Game Preserve, Litchfield, Connecticut, during January, 1928, and subsequently was sent to Mr. Novack by the Custodian, Henry A. Bowden. The measurements of this bird in millimeters are:—wing, 386; tail, 243; exposed culmen, 43; culmen without cere, 29. Besides being much darker than a typical *virginianus*, it has large blotches of black on the upper breast, the top of the head is dark with only a few grayish-brown streaks and the facial disk is quite gray. The only brown in the plumage is on the nape and back; the wings and tail are gray. The only other record of this subspecies in Connecticut is of a specimen taken at Black Hall, November, 1917 (Bishop, Auk, 1921, p. 586).—PHILIP A. DU MONT, *American Museum of Natural History*.

**Notes from Washington, D. C.**—*Sterna forsteri*. FORSTER'S TERN.—One was seen on the mud-flats off Hains Point, D. C., August 22, 1929. *Sayornis phoebe*. PHOEBE.—One was noted at Dyke, Va., January 3, 1929.

*Dumetella carolinensis*. CATBIRD.—One was seen at Wellington Villa, Va., January 3, 1929.—WILLIAM HOWARD BALL, 1861 Ingleside Terrace, N. W., Washington, D. C.

**Notes from Eastern Maryland.**—*Sterna forsteri*. FORSTER'S TERN.—One was seen at Chesapeake Beach, October 21, 1928.

*Aiz sponsa*. WOOD DUCK.—A female with seven young was seen at Cedar Point, St. Mary's County, August 19, 1928.

*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*. LOUISIANA HERON.—One was seen at Scotland Beach, St. Mary's County, August 18, 1928.

*Pisobia bairdi*. BAIRD'S SANDPIPER.—One was watched for twenty minutes in the yard of the hotel at Scotland Beach, August 19, 1928. It was busy probing in the pools of rain water which were quite numerous, sometimes coming within ten feet of me. The distinctive markings of this species which were noted follow: the rather slender, straight black bill, black legs, light buffy washing of the breast and flanks, the scaly appearance of the back, and in flight the presence of dark upper tail coverts and the absence of a white line on the upper surface of the wing. Others in the party were H. G. Deignan, Phoebe M. Knappen, and Mrs. T. M. Knappen.