

### GENERAL NOTES.

**Simultaneous Loss of Primaries in Prenuptial Moulting of Loon.**—Under this heading Dr. John B. May in the July 1930 number of 'The Auk' (pp. 412-14) has a note regarding some Loons (*Gavia immer*) which he found in full moult, with all the primaries growing simultaneously in April. Dr. May's remarks interested me particularly as confirming the conclusions I reached when studying the moult of these birds some years ago. As Dr. May quoting Mr. A. C. Bent and others appears to consider that this complete moult of the Loons in the *spring* was hitherto unknown, it is perhaps worth while drawing attention to my description appearing in 'A Practical Handbook of British Birds' Vol. II, pp. 465 *et seq.* this having been published in 1922. I there state of all four Divers on the British List viz. *Colymbus* [*Gavia*] *immer*, *adamsii*, *arcticus* and *stellatus* that the adults in acquiring their summer plumage have another complete moult similar to that of autumn, this taking place from February to May. Under the autumn moult I state that the primaries, primary-coverts and secondaries are moulted simultaneously but wing-coverts and innermost secondaries normally. The immature bird so far as I could ascertain moulted only very partially during its first year and its first complete moult did not take place until the bird was rather more than a year old i. e. in the autumn previous to its second winter.—H. F. WITHERBY, 326 High Holborn, London, England.

**Dovekies on the Coast of New Jersey and Virginia.**—The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia has received no less than five Dovekies (*Alle alle*) during late November and early December, 1930. Three of these were secured or found dead in the vicinity of Cape May on November 21, and December 8 (two); one was obtained near Seaside Park, N. J. on December 8 along with another which at last account was still alive in captivity. The other specimen was obtained on December 5, on Currituck Sound about fifteen miles north of the North Carolina line. Several of the birds were obviously affected by oil.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

**Sooty Shearwater and Audubon's Shearwater in North Carolina.**—Definite records of Shearwaters in North Carolina are so few that notice of recent records seems worthy of publication.

On June 3, 1930, about one mile south of Shackelford Banks, a Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*), termed "Gulf Gull" by the boatman, was found dead. It was in good condition and without evidence of death by violence, but with a portion of the lower bowl distended by a pale yellow, watery stool. In addition I saw a live one in flight. Not long after this, reports were received that a number of birds, believed to be the same as this, were seen in a dead or dying condition. On several occasions in the