

GENERAL NOTES.

Destruction of Petrels by Cats.—In the October 'Auk' Mr. A. H. Norton is quoted as saying that Leach's Petrel "has decreased alarmingly for no apparent reason." When the Massachusetts Audubon Society made an excursion to Duck Island we were all appalled to see a large number of cats and to find many wings and feet of Petrels outside their burrows, while the light house keeper told us that the cats dug the birds out. I found one colony some distance from the houses which did not seem to have been disturbed. Mr. Winthrop Packard told us that on previous visits they had tried to buy the cats or have some of them disposed of. Considering that the Petrels lay but one egg, one can see that they might readily decrease alarmingly under these circumstances.—ANNE E. PERKINS, *Gowanda State Hospital, Helmuth, N. Y.*

Eastern Brown Pelican on the South Carolina Coast in Winter.—On the afternoon of January 25, 1932, my wife, Mr. F. M. Weston, of Pensacola, Fla., and I saw nine Eastern Brown Pelicans off the beach at Folly Island, S. C., a few miles from Charleston. We were all near an inlet and were sweeping the sea with glasses in search of a possible gannet, when a large bird appeared suddenly in the fields of view, dropping down almost as soon as seen, to the water. Each of us recognized it instantly as a pelican, though such a bird was far from our minds.

Intensive search with the glasses about the spot where it dropped, revealed a closely bunched group of large birds which were riding the waves just as pelicans should, but the distance was at least half a mile and so we retreated to the sand dunes above high-water mark and gained elevation at which observation was easier. Before five minutes had passed, another pelican appeared from the southward and flew over the group on the surface, passing along the beach directly in front of us. As it passed, the group below rose and all doubt vanished. They headed in toward the beach and proceeded to fish directly in the surf, being at times hardly a hundred yards away. There were five in the air, and as we walked along, four more appeared from behind and joined the first ones, making nine in all.

This is the first time the species has been seen in winter on the South Carolina coast and it appears to be the farthest north winter occurrence on the Atlantic coast at this season. There are two records for Long Island, S. C., a few miles north of Folly, for February 22, 1910, but these must be considered early spring arrivals rather than winter visitors. This species usually arrives from the south in late February or early March. When we stood watching the pelicans in and above the surf, Mr. Weston remarked that, except for the color of the water, we might well be on the Gulf coast of Florida! Another pelican was observed at the same locality on the next afternoon, January 26.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.*