

**Old Specimen of the Blue-faced Booby from Texas.**—In the Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa, there is a specimen of the Atlantic Blue-faced Booby (*Sula dactylatra dactylatra*). This bird, an immature female, was formerly No. 13138 in the D. H. Talbot collection and was collected at Matagorda Bay, Texas, June 8, 1885, by Edmond, and the specimen skinned by Carr, two of Mr. Talbot's collectors. It is now No. 6308 in the M. N. H. collection. Additional data on the field label are: "Length, 30; extent, 65; wing,  $15\frac{1}{4}$ ; tail, 7. Color of bill and face, slate; color of feet and tarsi, dark slate; color of eyes, yellow." Measurements in inches of this specimen, recently taken, are as follows: Exposed culmen, 4.18; depth at base of bill, 1.49; wings, 16.80 and 16.50; tarsus, 2.09; middle toe (without claw), 2.89. While the entire head, neck, wings and tail are grayish-brown, the underparts are white; the back and rump are narrowly streaked brown and white.

Since the Talbot collection of birds came to the University Museum in 1891 no critical study has been made of the material other than for the purpose of cataloguing. This specimen was placed with the gannets at that time but recorded as *Sula sula*.

The A. O. U. 'Check-List,' 4th Edition, lists this species for three localities: Florida; Avery Island, Louisiana, and Rockport, Texas. Alden Risser records (Auk, XLIX, p. 106) the capture of a specimen, July 31, 1931, near Matamosos, Mexico, about four miles south of the mouth of the Rio Grande. If this occurrence is accepted as a North American record then the Talbot bird will constitute the fifth record for the U. S. and the third for Texas.—PHILIP A. DuMONT, *Museum Nat. Hist. University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa*.

**Flying with a Flock of Swans.**—On the afternoon of November 5, 1932, I left the airport east of York, Pa., and climbed my ship to an altitude of 1400 ft. into a westerly wind. When over the northern part of the City I was suddenly attracted by a long curving line of large white birds flying at about the same altitude several miles to the north and headed for the Susquehanna, in view, about ten miles away. I was up with them in an instant and for the next fifteen minutes was actually flying with the flock, being always careful not to fly too close as a collision might be most damaging both to swan and ship. I recognized them as Whistling Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*), and estimated the flock to contain about one hundred birds. Most of the time I was flying about the birds on the outside, herding the flock at will. In these maneuvers I was soon aware that I was traveling much faster than the swans, and on several straightaway flights which followed, I made a careful estimate of the birds' speed. My ship was cruising at 80 miles per hour, and from experience in overtaking other ships in the air I estimated the speed of the flight of the Whistling Swan at from 50 to 55 mph., certainly not over the latter figure. During these maneuvers the birds broke ranks and bunched together, but always deployed in a long curving line on the straightaway. In any event, I am quite positive that at all times the birds were flying at maximum speed.