

## GENERAL NOTES.

**Holboell's Grebe in Western Massachusetts.**—Following the very severe weather of early February, 1934, a number of Holboell's Grebes (*Colymbus grisegena holboelli*) were found in western Massachusetts. There were not so many, nor were they so wide-spread, as in 1930, but about two dozen came to our attention. The flight seems to have occurred on the night of Feb. 12-13, but many of the birds lived, undiscovered, starving on the ice or snow, for nearly two weeks thereafter. On Feb. 13 one was found near Athol, and was banded and released in Millers River by Mrs. Robert Allison. The same day, another was picked up in Chester and kept in captivity (fed on minnows) till it died, March 3. On Feb. 14, others were found and freed in Chesterfield and Knightville. The easternmost record was at Sterling, Feb. 23. We heard of Grebes at Williamstown, North Adams, Pittsfield (two), Lenox (six), Becket, and Huntington (two), and observed four that were lucky enough to find an unfrozen place in the Connecticut river in Holyoke and lived there for two weeks.—AARON C. BAGG, *Holyoke, Mass.*, and S. A. ELIOT, JR., *Northampton, Mass.*

**Puffinus gravis in Virginia.**—On July 2, 1934, I found a dead dried specimen of this Shearwater on the beach at Cobb Island, Virginia. It is now entered in the skeleton collection of the U. S. National Museum as No. 322008.

Rives, in his 'Birds of Virginia,' cites this species in his hypothetical list and I have been unable to find additional records for it, which prompts me to call attention to the present specimen.—PAUL BARTSCH, *U. S. Nat. Mus. Washington, D. C.*

**Second Occurrence of the Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Thalassogeron chlororhynchus*) in Maine.**—A few days previous to July 23, 1934, George Walker, a small boy found a large water bird among the sedges by a brook in East Fryeburg, Maine, about forty miles from the nearest point on the coast. On being approached the bird made no effort to escape but allowed the boy to touch it, then fondle it, treatment which it seemed to enjoy. The boy carried it home, where it was placed in an enclosure with a large tank of water. Live fishes were placed in the tank, and the bird caught and ate them.

July 26 I was advised that the bird had died and been sent to Carl A. Garris to be mounted. At Mr. Garris' shop I examined it carefully and found it to be a female of this species; its plumage was spotlessly clean, and except that the extreme tips of the primaries were slightly worn, it was in perfect plumage. No injury was found when it was skinned. It was lean, but not emaciated. The following measurements were taken: wing 458 mm.; tail 192 mm.; culmen 117 mm.; depth bill at base 50 mm.; tarsus 75 mm.

This is the second known occurrence of this species in Maine, the other being a bird of undetermined sex taken August 1, 1913 "near [Machias] Seal Island off Machias Bay."<sup>1</sup> In the original record, it is also stated, (erroneously), that "Seal Island is Canadian territory and since the locality in which the bird was killed, is on the international border south<sup>1</sup> of Grand Manan, the record constitutes an addition to the local avifauna of both New Brunswick and Maine."

It should be pointed out, that Machias Seal Island is United States territory, as I have shown elsewhere,<sup>2</sup> though by a provision of the Ashburton treaty, the navigation signals on the island are owned and maintained by the Dominion of Canada. According to charts at hand these islands are well to the westward of the boundary, and Machias Bay is more than twelve miles to the northwestward of the "Seal Islands" as the small island<sup>3</sup> and its two dry ledges are frequently called by local fishermen. The Seal Island is not south, but west by north, twelve miles distant from Southern Head, Grand Manan. Southern Head is the nearest and southernmost approach of the Seal Island to Grand Manan.

That this bird had passed along the entire coast of Maine, from Portland to the vicinity of Machias Bay seems quite certain.

The late Evan D. Rackliff of Peak's Island, told me that on one of his trips to the Cod Ledges, earlier in the summer, an Albatross came very near his boat. He was a careful observer, exceptionally well acquainted with the sea birds in life, and scrupulously truthful. He was positive that this large bird, with its long thick bill, and long narrow wings was not a Black-backed Gull (well known to him), a Gannet nor a Pelican. No one acquainted with Mr. Rackliff's ability to distinguish the characteristics of birds in flight would doubt the correctness of his observation.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Museum Natural History, Portland, Maine.*

**Brown Pelican in Delaware.**—A Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis*) was seen on May 30, 1934, in Rehoboth Bay, Delaware, about a mile off Indian River Light, by Robert W. Schofield. When approached "to within easy gun shot" it flew about half a mile and settled again. Mr. Schofield is a wholesale lumberman with mills at several points in the South and is thoroughly familiar with the Pelican. He says that he never before saw one north of Georgia but that there is no question as to the identification of this individual.—JOSEPH W. TATUM, *Haddonsfield, N. J.*

**The White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) on the South Carolina Coast.**—On the afternoon of June 13, 1934 the writer saw, off the beach of Folly Island about ten miles from Charleston, S. C., a flock of ten White Pelicans. The birds were about a half mile from the beach, scaling low over the water, alternately flapping and sailing into the

<sup>1</sup> 1922, Murphy, Auk XXXIX, 58.

<sup>2</sup> 1933, Norton, Rhodora 35, 291.

<sup>3</sup> 1904, Dutcher, in Norton Mss. Auk, XXI, 159.