

GENERAL NOTES.

Common Loon in Illinois in July.—An immature Common Loon (*Gavia immer* subsp. ?) was killed July 12, 1934, on the reservoir of the C. B. & Q. Ry., one mile from Franklin, Morgan County, in central Illinois. It was killed by a fisherman to prevent its further feeding on game fish with which the reservoir had been stocked. Upon examination the bird's stomach was found to contain three small crappies, one three-inch large-mouth black bass, and numerous shellfish. The incident was reported to the writer by Mr. Richard Allyn of Waverly, Ill., who observed the bird daily July 2–12. The skin, he stated, had been hopelessly mutilated, but the skeleton, unfortunately minus skull and tarsal bones, he retrieved on a later date and sent to the writer. He in turn mailed it to Dr. Alexander Wetmore, who identified it. Records of the Common Loon summering south of its breeding range exist for coastal regions: on the Atlantic (as far south as North Carolina) and on the Gulf of Mexico (Mississippi). However, the writer believes that he presents the first record of this sort from the interior, and also the first Illinois summer record of this species since the pre-1900 days when it nested in the northeastern part of the state.—CHAS. THEO. BLACK, 407 E. Daniel St., Champaign, Ill.

Leach's Petrel in the West Indies.—In an examination of the available literature, I have been able to discover but two records of the occurrence of Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa*) in the West Indian region. Both were recorded by Dr. Alexander Wetmore. (Condor, 1923, p. 170; and U. S. Nat. Mus. Bulletin 155, 1931, p. 63.) A third record which could almost be considered as West Indian is that of R. C. Murphy (Auk, 1915, p. 171), who observed one May 4, 1913, a considerable distance east of Barbados, just on the edge of the West Indian region. With these records in mind, the writer has been watching for this species in West Indian waters in recent years, and his efforts were first rewarded in 1932 during a voyage on a freighter from Arroyo, P. R., to Galveston, Texas. On May 27 about ten of these Petrels followed the boat off the south coast of Puerto Rico, beginning at a point about three miles south of Parguera. Another was seen in Cuban waters south of Dry Tortugas, Florida, on June 1, and several were seen in the Gulf of Mexico on June 2 and 3 to within 200 miles of Galveston. At about this point there was an abrupt change in the Petrel fauna, those seen nearer to the Texas coast being all Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*), whereas none of these had been seen earlier in the voyage. In 1934 the writer was a passenger on the S. S. "Almeria Lykes," which anchored for over a week a half mile off Cayo Francés, Cuba. On June 20 and 21 about eight Leach's Petrels were feeding around the ship, and one of these was collected. It proved to be a female, with a wing length of 151 millimeters. It showed no evidence of the proximity of the breeding season. On the basis of the records now available it seems possible that the common Petrel in the West Indies during the summer may be Leach's Petrel, although further records are necessary to complete our information on this subject.—STUART T. DANFORTH, *University of P. R., Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.*

Double-Crested Cormorants Breeding in Posey County, Indiana.—On my trip to Hovey's Lake in Posey County, Indiana, on September 9, 1929, I collected two specimens of the Cormorant then present in considerable numbers upon the lake. These were submitted to Dr. Amos W. Butler for identification and were determined by him to be Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*).

A number of authorities have in past years given it as their opinion that the Cormorants of southern Indiana, being found there throughout the summer months, breed in the heavy timber of cypress, pecan, oak and hickory bordering this largest body of water in the southernmost county. However, no definite evidences of their breeding, so far as I can find, were given.

During field excursions made there in 1929, I found what I believe to be a single nest of a Cormorant in a tree on the western edge of the lake. The nest, placed twenty-five feet up in the tree, was empty. It was the size of a Crow's, was made of sticks and was lined with Gull feathers.

Then on June 16, 1934, I observed two immature Cormorants a little more than half grown, perched in a dead cypress tree standing out in the lake. While I watched the parent bird flew towards these young ones, perched beside and fed them.

The flock of Cormorants usually remains until November, the latest date at which they were observed being December 1 (1932).—S. E. PERKINS III, *Indianapolis, Ind.*

On the Genera *Oligocorax* and *Miocorax*.—Dr. Kálmán Lambrecht in his great work on fossil birds (*Handbuch der Palaeornithologie*, 1933, pp. 290–295, fig. 104) has divided the fossil Cormorants into several genera on the form of the intermuscular line on the anterior face of the coracoid. According to his treatment the fossil species included in our North American fauna would stand as follows: *Oligocorax marinavis* (Shufeldt), *Oligocorax mediterraneus* (Shufeldt), *Miocorax femoralis* (Miller), *Phalacrocorax idahensis* (Marsh), *Phalacrocorax macropus* (Cope), *Phalacrocorax auritus* (Lesson).

Recently in connection with work on the A. O. U. 'Check-List' I have had occasion to examine the characters of the new genera proposed, having available for comparison in the osteological collections of the U. S. National Museum representation of most of the living species of Cormorants of the World. From study of this series of skeletons I am not able to substantiate Lambrecht's opinion that the form of the intermuscular line on the coracoid is of generic significance.

Peters (*Check-List of Birds of the World*, vol. 1, 1931, pp. 85–95) has recognized three groups among living Cormorants, namely, *Phalacrocorax*, including all of our American species, *Haliëtor* for the small, long-tailed Cormorants, and *Nannopterum* for the flightless form of Narborough and Albemarle Islands in the Galápagos. There is no definite separation possible on the character under discussion in these three groups as the various modern species show considerable variation, the variation being such as to bridge the gaps that seem to separate the fossil forms.

With regard to the fossil forms the intermuscular line in *Haliëtor africanus* is similar to that of *Phalacrocorax miocaenus* which Lambrecht places in his genus *Oligocorax*, while in *Haliëtor melanoleucus* it varies toward the form found in those species that Lambrecht considers true *Phalacrocorax*. If the form of this line is to be accepted in determining genera then *miocaenus* could be placed in *Haliëtor* on its resemblance to *africanus*, but when compared with *H. melanoleucus* would go in *Phalacrocorax*.

As for *Phalacrocorax femoralis* Miller (illustrated in *The Condor*, 1929, p. 168, fig. 58) which Lambrecht includes in his genus *Miocorax*, this species has the intermuscular line similar to that of modern *Phalacrocorax punctatus* and *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*. It will be recalled that *P. carbo* is the type of the genus *Phalacrocorax*.

With due respect for Dr. Lambrecht's opinion, I am forced to conclude that so far as North American fossils are concerned, at least, the genera *Oligocorax* and *Miocorax* are not valid so that the species included in our fossil list should remain in