

On December 7 at Harrisburg on the Susquehanna River a rather large flock of Ducks was resting. In the flock were 5 Horned Grebes (*Colymbus auritus*), 30 Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis canadensis*), 8 Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*), 100 Black Ducks (probably *A. rubripes tristis*), 4 Baldpates (*Mareca americana*), 8 Pintails (*Dafila acuta tzitzihua*), a male Ring-necked Duck (*Nyroca collaris*), 2 Canvas-backs (*Nyroca valisineria*), 6 Lesser Scaups (*Nyroca affinis*), 12 Golden-eyes (*Glaucionetta clangula americana*), 6 Old-Squaws (*Clangula hyemalis*), 4 Ruddy Ducks (*Erismatura jamaicensis rubida*), 2 Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), 8 American Mergansers (*Mergus merganser americanus*), and 5 Red-breasted Mergansers (*Mergus serrator*). Miss K. M. Stokes and William Meyer accompanied me on the former occasion and W. Stuart Cramer on the latter.—RICHARD M. MAY, *Dept. Forests and Waters, Harrisburg, Pa.*

**Some Additional Notes on the Birds of Pinellas County, Fla.**—During April, 1934, I spent about two weeks in Pinellas County, Florida, making my headquarters at Indian Rocks, a small island separated by a narrow channel from the mainland.

During the time that I was there I observed 23 species of birds which were not noted during my visit to Pinellas County in 1918 (Auk, Vol. XXXVI, p. 393–405). In 1918 there was a large colony of birds on Big Bird Key on lower Tampa Bay. This island has been deserted in favor of a much smaller one called Little Bird Key. The White Ibis (*Guara alba*), which I found abundant, as did Bent and Copeland as well as DuMont, was entirely absent from the colony when I visited it on April 14. The Man-o'-War bird (*Fregata magnificens*), which I found in only very small numbers on my previous visit, was constantly present during the time that I was there in 1934. On April 14 there were more than 125 of these birds on Little Bird Key.

Regarding the Florida Jay (*Aphelocoma caerulescens*) Bent and Copeland say they found it only on "black jack ridges," while DuMont speaks of seeing a pair on Indian Rocks. I found the species distributed in pairs along about four miles of Indian Rock Key.

Some additional notes on eight other species follow:

*Morus bassana*. GANNET.—On April 9 I saw 14 Gannets in various plumages pass Indian Rocks Key flying south over the Gulf of Mexico. The species was not observed again during my stay. Howell mentions this species as rare on the Gulf Coast.

*Totanus melanoleucus*. GREATER YELLOW-LEGS.—One was seen on a mud flat at Madiera Beach April 9 and another at Indian Rocks Key April 19.

*Coccyzus minor maynardi*. MAYNARD'S CUCKOO.—Seen and heard in a hammock at Spanish Farm, near Indian Rocks, April 15 and 18.

*Myiochanes virens*. EASTERN WOOD PEWEE.—In a live oak grove back of Indian Rocks post office April 22.

*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*. EUROPEAN STARLING.—I regret to report individual Starlings seen April 9 and 13 near Seminole.

*Vireo olivaceus*. RED-EYED VIREO.—Seen and heard at Spanish Farm, Indian Rocks, April 22.

*Oporornis formosus*. KENTUCKY WARBLER.—On April 13 I had excellent short range view of a Kentucky Warbler walking on the ground in palmetto scrub under live oaks at Indian Rocks.

*Icterus galbula*. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—One male bird in full song was present near Spanish Farm April 15.—CLIFFORD H, PANGBURN, *Highland Park, Illinois.*

**Notes on Some Bird Colonies on the Gulf Coast.**—During April and May

1934, in the course of inspecting sanctuaries and bird colonies along the Gulf Coast for the National Association of Audubon Societies, the writer had the opportunity of making a series of observations that may be helpful in considering the present status of certain species that have long been of particular interest to bird protectionists. The territory covered in this field work included isolated portions of Florida and Louisiana, and the Texas Coast from Galveston Bay to the Three Islands, in lower Laguna Madre. The status of each of the species considered is either doubtful or has undergone considerable change in recent years.

*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. **WHITE PELICAN**.—The White Pelican has been recorded as nesting irregularly in Laguna Madre, off the coast of southeastern Texas (Auk, XXXVIII, 1921, 515; Condor, XXXII, 1930, 202-204, 304). The unusual character of this nesting may be gathered from the fact that at one season 15 or 20 nests would be observed, as many as 2500 nests the following year, and the next year none at all. In 1934 no birds of this species were discovered nesting on the Texas Coast, and only 90 individuals were counted during 18 field days along the coast. These were observed as follows: Green Island, Laguna Madre (May 6-15), 78; Vingt'un Island, Galveston Bay (May 19), 12.

Apparently the White Pelican is not persecuted in coastal Texas as is the Brown Pelican, and it is the belief of the writer that the present decrease and constant irregularity in numbers are due to the erratic nature of the White Pelican's nesting activities in this state, and not to unfavorable conditions or circumstances. However, it is possible that unfavorable conditions elsewhere may be a factor in the unusual records for this species in Texas.

*Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis*. **BROWN PELICAN**.—The total number of Brown Pelicans on the Texas Coast in 1934 was estimated by the writer and J. J. Carroll, of Houston, as 900. This number was divided among three colonies, as follows: Bird Island (West Bay), 400; Third Chain-of-Islands, 300; Sunflower Island, 200. In 1918 Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson estimated the Brown Pelicans on the Texas Coast not to exceed 5000. Thus, in 16 years, there has been a decrease of about 82 per cent, due to the regrettable fact that this bird is still on the unprotected list in Texas, in spite of well considered proof of its economic innocence (See: Am. Review of Reviews, May 1919, 509-511), and the continued efforts of the Audubon Association for its full legal protection.

Last May the writer was witness to a grimly silent tableau that may be taken as a dismal sample of the destruction of these harmless birds by misinformed Texas fishermen. On a small shel island close to the ship channel, among the Third Chain-of-Islands, we discovered one hundred deserted nests, a heap of smashed eggs, the bodies of three adult Pelicans, stretched in grotesque postures, and, nearby, a wooden handle from the type of pump used commonly in small fishing boats, its surface smeared with the contents of several hundred Pelican eggs.

Fortunately, in Florida and Louisiana, the Brown Pelican is increasing under protective laws, with the added advantage of warden service at strategic points.

*Casmerodius albus egretta*. **AMERICAN EGRET**.—The season of 1934 may well be the highwater mark for this species since efforts to save it from extermination first began. There were 19 known rookeries of the American Egret reported to the Audubon Association during the year, 11 of these having been visited by the writer. A conservative estimate of the number of Egrets in these 19 rookeries is placed at 16,500 individuals. In Texas the American Egret nested last season by the hundreds in localities where a modest half dozen was cause for rejoicing only a few years ago. The recent New Jersey breeding record (Auk, LI, 1934, 368-369) and the increasing

number of American Egrets observed in post-nuptial flights are significant of this remarkable come back.

*Egretta thula thula*. SNOWY EGRET.—The Snowy Egret shared with the larger Egret a banner season. Thirteen rookeries of this species were visited by the writer last spring along the Gulf Coast. The total number of known rookeries, on record in 1934, is 22, and the total population of these rookeries has been conservatively estimated by the writer and others as 72,500 individuals. This is by no means an accurate total, as many southern rookeries are unknown or not reported.

Data on the rookeries of *Egretta thula brewsteri*, in the West, are not available at this time.

*Dichromanassa rufescens rufescens*. REDDISH EGRET.—This species, in many ways the most interesting of all the *Ardeidae*, is now nesting in the United States as far east as Bird Island, in West Bay, off the western tip of Galveston Island, Texas. Three large rookeries are located on the Texas Coast, at Green Island, Laguna Madre; Dunham Island, Aransas Bay; and the Second Chain-of-Islands, San Antonio Bay. Small colonies of nesting birds are established on Big Bird Island, Laguna Madre, and on Bird Island in West Bay.

A conservative estimate of the number of adults in these rookeries, all of which were visited by the writer, would be between ten and twelve thousand individuals. There is little doubt but that other rookeries of Reddish Egrets, as yet undiscovered, exist along favorable sections of the Texas Coast south of West Bay.

*Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus*. EASTERN GLOSSY IBIS.—The Eastern Glossy Ibis apparently has never been a well-established breeding species in the United States. There have been obscure or casual nesting records from Louisiana, and its breeding status in Florida, while not without authenticity, is little better than casual.

As the Glossy Ibis is a bird of the fresh water marshes and inland lakes, I was surprised to find 21 of this species inhabiting the vast mixed rookery at the headwaters of the Shark River, in southwest Florida. These birds were not nesting at the time of my observations (Apr. 10–15), but showed every indication of preparing to do so. However, the wardens reported five nests of the "Bronze Ibis" on April 26.

A few pairs are again nesting in the Audubon Association's sanctuary at Orange Lake, in northern Florida.—ROBERT P. ALLEN, *Nat. Asso. Audubon Societies*.

**Notes from Berrien County, Michigan.**—*Anser albifrons albifrons*. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.—One was seen on the beach of Lake Michigan at Union Pier on November 3, 1933. It was standing apart from a flock of Herring Gulls. Although it was constantly alert, I was able to approach within two hundred feet of it; from this distance I studied it with 8x binoculars. When I purposely alarmed it, it took off and flew strongly, heading directly over the lake in a westerly direction.

*Chen hyperborea hyperborea*. LESSER SNOW GOOSE.—On November 2, 1932, I saw a flock of about eighty resting on Lake Michigan at Union Pier. I kept them under observation for some length of time. Many of the individuals were grayish; these were most likely immature birds.

*Arenaria interpres morinella*. RUDDY TURNSTONE.—A pair of adults seen on August 30, 1933, on the beach at Union Pier.

*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*. WESTERN WILLET.—On August 24, 1934, two were seen on the beach of Lake Michigan at Union Pier. The birds were very tame, allowing a close approach, thus giving me an opportunity to make a satisfactory identification. They were not very active, and showed very little of the nervousness that is characteristic of many shore-birds. The field marks in flight were noted when I alarmed the pair.