

that most of one side of the head had been eaten away by some predaceous animal, the specimen was in good condition, though the presence of several shot holes in the body indicated the probable cause of the bird's death. Mr. Clarence Cottam's record of the third North Carolina specimen, taken on Lake Mattamuskeet last winter (Auk, July, 1935) would place ours as the fourth record, accompanied by a specimen, from this state.

A Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) was taken in the harbor off Southport, N. C., on March 22, 1935, and reached the Museum, in the flesh, on the following day. It proved to be a female in second year immature plumage. This Gull had been observed off the Southport water-front for a week or more previous to its capture, and it would appear to be the third record, accompanied by a specimen, from North Carolina, one of the other two having been taken in the same immediate locality. As I am unable to find any record of this first Southport specimen in 'The Auk,' the following data are submitted: In a letter to my brother, C. S. Brimley, under date of January 26, 1920, Colonel Wirt Robinson, U. S. A., U. S. Military Academy, West Point, New York, reported the taking of a Glaucous Gull by one of his men near Fort Caswell, N. C., on February 19, 1904, Fort Caswell being situated on the west side of the Cape Fear River mouth and directly across the sound from Southport.—H. H. BRIMLEY, *Raleigh, N. C.*

**New Record for Fulvous Tree Duck in Missouri.**—In so far as I can get information, there are but two skins of the Fulvous Tree Duck (*Dendrocyana bicolor helva*) extant which were collected in the state of Missouri. One of these, I believe, is in the Smithsonian Institute and the other was from a bird killed in Marion County by Mr. William Evers of Quincy. This skin was positively identified by O. C. Poling of Quincy and Otto Widman of St. Louis.

On March 3, 1935, occurred one of the worst dust storms in the history of Missouri. Several days later a small boy living near Knox City, Missouri, told me that a peculiar bird had "blown" into his yard during this storm. When he told me it was larger than a Duck and smaller than a Goose, was yellow brown in color and had long legs, I was immediately suspicious. I drove to his farm and found a mature Fulvous Tree Duck trying to fraternize with the Geese, who drove it away and forced it to feed with the Ducks.

I stopped on a second occasion and was able to get within fifteen yards of the bird. I used eight power Goerz binoculars in studying every detail of the bird and there was no doubt of its identity. I called the attention of several other students of birds and in every case the identification corresponded with mine.

As I had no collector's license in Missouri I was unable to collect the bird, from which I should have made a skin and presented it to the museum of the University of Missouri.

At the time of my second visit, the bird took to the air several times when approached too closely, and circled about the barn, landing among the Geese. After a sojourn of nearly three weeks, the Fulvous Tree Duck again took to the air utilizing a strong north wind on its return to the Southland.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Illinois.*

**A Note on the Turkey Vulture.**—On our way to Fredericksburg, Va., on the morning of July 1, 1935, I saw a Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) feeding on a snake about three feet long, which had been killed by a passing motorist, and which was lying in the middle of the tarvia road.

The approach of our car startled the Vulture, whereupon it flew, with the snake

held in its feet. It carried the long and dangling snake for about twenty feet where the reptile caught in a barbed wire fence and the Vulture lost its hold and left the snake draped over the wire. This is the first time I have ever seen or heard of a Vulture carrying anything—at least of that size. It is true the bird had a very hard time of it.

When I looked back, I saw the Vulture return to the spot on the road where the snake had been, completely ignoring the fact that his breakfast was on the line a few feet off.

Possibly the act of carrying was done on the spur of the moment in the haste to get away from the danger of the automobile, and thus was an unconscious reaction.—GORDON W. JONES, "Ellwood," Wilderness, Va.

**The White-tailed Kite in South Carolina.**—A peculiar combination of observations made some time ago enables the writer to record the first occurrence of *Elanus leucurus majusculus* in South Carolina. On May 7, 1929, Mr. Edward M. Moore saw and watched for one hour, a bird which was soaring in company with a Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) over his house on Bull's Island, Charleston County. He kept it in sight the entire time, with and without 7 x glasses. The bird varied its elevation from "just above the roof" of the house to a great height in the sky, and he noted time and again, the pure white underparts, the distinct black shoulders and immaculate tail. Mr. Moore is a very careful observer and keeps excellent notes. These I had an opportunity of examining recently on a visit to Bull's Island.

Though a sight record only, it ties up very consistently with an observation made by Mr. E. B. Chamberlain of the Charleston Museum, who, in early May 1929, saw what he considered to be a specimen of this Kite flying high over Youghal Plantation, Charleston County on the mainland. From the brief observation he was able to make, Mr. Chamberlain was convinced of the identity of the bird but said nothing of it because of its rarity and his inability to collect it. The spot where he saw the bird is only a short distance in an airline across the marshes from Bull's Island, and it may well be that this bird and the one seen by Mr. Moore were one and the same. When seen by Mr. Chamberlain, the bird was flying toward the Island. He cannot be certain of the day, but is sure of the month. The writer considers these two observations to warrant the addition of this species to the avifauna of South Carolina.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.

**An Unusual Gathering of Marsh Hawks in Central North Carolina.**—On January 7, 1935, a local friend of mine supplied me with the following information:

On the previous day, January 6, he, in company with a small party from here, was shooting Quail in Johnston County, which adjoins this county on the south-east. They came to a field in which a few widely-scattered Quail were found, while the air overhead seemed to be filled with Hawks. Believing them to be responsible for the scattering of the Quail and to be still searching for individual members of the covey, my informant hid in a tangle of honeysuckle vines that filled and extended over the sides of a small gully, from which hiding place he killed five Hawks in a few minutes, four of which he brought with him to the Museum. Some of these were observed on the ground, but most of them were either flying around overhead or quartering the field as if in search of prey. My informant's estimate of the number of Hawks in evidence was seventy-five.

All of the four submitted proved to be immature Marsh Hawks (*Circus hudsonicus*). The stomachs of three of them were empty, that of the fourth containing a small