

GENERAL NOTES.

The Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis glacialis*) in Maine.—In 1906 the Boston Society of Natural History issued a circular of five printed pages, as 'A List of Desiderata of New England Mammals and Birds'; at page 5 of this sheet, under a heading, "Birds Represented by Only One Specimen" appears the following record: "Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis* Linn.). Male. Maine." This appears to be the first published record of the bird for this state. As soon as it came to my attention, I wrote Dr. Glover M. Allen, asking more particulars, and offering the suggestion that he publish such other data as were available. In 1908 Dr. Allen published a note under the title of, "Fulmar in Maine"¹ in which he gave these data: "The bird is catalogued as No. 508 collection of the Society, from the coast of Maine, March 1879, from G. O. Welch. No further data are at present available."

Overlooking this record, the late E. H. Forbush reports another instance in the following sentence. "There is an indefinite record of a Fulmar taken in Maine some 12 years ago, which was mounted for the owner by C. Emerson Brown. . . . unfortunately all data of this specimen are missing."²

In a note mailed in Philadelphia October 30, 1935, Mr. Brown writes me that he remembers having mounted a Fulmar many years ago while he was in Boston, but he has forgotten the particulars.

A third specimen of this bird, a male in the dark phase of plumage was shot by Joseph Card, at French's Island Ledges, in Casco Bay, Maine, early in October, 1906. This bird was received at the shop where it was mounted, in Portland, October 5, 1906, having been shot but a day or so previously. Mr. Card informed me that the bird flew over his Sheldrake decoys while he was gunning at the ledges named.

This specimen was acquired by Dr. Henry H. Brock of this city, and with his collection was recently presented to the Portland Society of Natural History.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Museum Natural History, Portland, Maine.*

Food Capturing Tactics of the Least Bittern.—Many of us who attended the Chicago meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, in 1934, were thrilled by motion pictures of a dark-colored species of African Heron which showed the bird capturing its food by progressing across the marshlands afoot in a series of rapid forays, crouching abruptly between each sally, throwing its widespread wings so far forward that they actually overlapped, and snatching up such aquatic creatures as (presumably) were so unfortunate as to seek shelter under the tent-like 'haven of refuge' thus created for them.

Last summer I observed food capturing tactics of our own Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), which reminded me of those dark-colored African Herons. Early on August 7, 1935, my friend Mr. Lawrence Camburn and I rowed round Bass Lake, a marsh-rimmed body of water not far from the Edwin S. George Wild Life Reserve, in Livingston County, southeastern Michigan. The morning was damp, calm, and gray. A thin mist hung over the cat-tails, sedges and fringe of alders.

In a little cove we chanced to come upon an adult male Least Bittern which, being intent upon capturing food, was moving stealthily along the water's edge, grasping the cat-tail stalks with his big feet, slipping across the ferny hummocks, pausing to peer into the water with his bright yellow eyes. As he walked he frequently spread one wing quickly forward, then stood still, looked intently at the water, thrust the

¹ 1908, Allen, G. M., Journ. Maine Orn. Soc. X, 116.

² 1925, Forbush, Bds. Mass. I, 136.

wing out again, moved stiffly forward, and with a thrust of his sharp beak caught some small fish or aquatic insect that apparently had been frightened from its hiding place by the flicking of the bird's wing. Sometimes he put both wings forward at the same time, as if about to fly off. After we had watched him for ten minutes or more we decided that this wing-flicking was no chance mannerism but a definite part of a food-securing campaign. A little surprised that we could not recall having read of such a habit we were at the point of thinking it an individualism when, suddenly, and not far away, we caught sight of two more Least Bitterns, a male and a female, pursuing food in exactly the same way. We watched the birds for a long time. Since we had a good binocular we were able to check our observations again and again.

The birds were catlike in their behavior. Their eyes gleamed fiercely as they watched the water while flicking their wings. As they waited for their prey they held their tails sharply downward and swung them rhythmically and rather rapidly back and forth, almost *lashing* them, to use a term that instantly comes to mind in describing cat-like behavior.

I regret that we did not learn just what these birds were capturing. It is quite likely that in pursuing other sorts of food other tactics are customarily employed.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

The Roseate Spoonbill in South Carolina.—On September 12, 1935, an adult Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) was seen at Price's Creek, Sewee Bay, Christ Church Parish, S. C., by Mr. Edward M. Moore, Junior Refuge Manager of the Cape Romain Federal Bird Refuge.

The bird was in the marshes in company with fourteen Wood Ibises (*Mycteria americana*), and was seen and studied at a range of about fifty yards. In the summer of 1934 a marsh-man of the Romain area reported to Mr. Moore that he had seen a large pinkish bird with a bill like a Shoveller Duck's in the marshes of Bull's Island Narrows. This could hardly have been anything else than a Spoonbill, and ever since that time Mr. Moore has been on the look-out for the species.

Since the days of Audubon and Bachman, the Spoonbill has been taken twice in South Carolina, one by Dr. T. G. Simons in Lucas Mill Pond in the city of Charleston in June, 1879, and the other near Yemassee by Mr. Eugene Gregorie in the fall of 1885. The writer is indebted to Mr. Moore for the privilege of recording this rare species.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Supervisor Southern Sanctuaries National Asso. Audubon Soc., Charleston, S. C.*

Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) in Eastern New York.—On November 4, 1935, a Whistling Swan was shot by a hunter on the Mohawk River near Schenectady, N. Y. It was brought to the writer, a taxidermist, for mounting, and since specimens of this bird from eastern New York are rare it seems desirable to put this capture on record.

The bird was a young male, bill flesh color, head and neck gray and remainder of plumage white washed with gray in a few places. The feet were dark gray and there were twenty tail feathers.

Identification was confirmed by Dr. Dayton Stoner, State Zoologist, who now has the skin.—JOSEPH JANIEC, *Schenectady, N. Y.*

The Blue Goose Again in Coastal South Carolina.—Atlantic coast records for *Chen caerulescens* always being of interest, I would record that, on November 7, 1935, an immature Blue Goose was seen by the writer and Mr. Edward M. Moore, on