

GENERAL NOTES.

Red-throated Loon and Holboell's Grebe in West Virginia.—Since West Virginia has no natural lakes or ponds, bird students in the state have been watching with great interest the effect that the construction of a series of power dams might have on water-bird life. It is gratifying to note that these artificially created lakes are being visited by annually increasing numbers of water-fowl.

Just outside of Morgantown the Cheat River has been dammed, making a narrow mountain lake about sixteen miles in length. A group from West Virginia University consisting of Karl Haller, James Handlan, R. H. Waldron, Jr., A. S. Margolin, and the writer has been visiting this lake regularly this past year. Among the birds noted have been Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) and Holboell's Grebe (*Colymbus griseus holboellii*), two species for which state records are very scarce.

On November 20, 1935, two Red-throated Loons were carefully identified, and a third individual, presumably of this species, but too far away to make identification certain, was seen. It happened that several Common Loons were on the lake at the time, thus making comparison easy. We found that by driving from one side of the narrow lake to the other, following the movement of the birds, we secured a number of close observations, one of them from a distance of not over thirty feet. The very much whiter appearance of these birds as compared with Common Loons, and the apparently upturned bill were points of identification noted.

Bibbee has recorded this species from Lake Terra Alta, Preston County, and A. S. Morgan has taken a specimen in Putnam County. These are, so far as the author is aware, the only previous state records.

A single Holboell's Grebe was carefully identified near Rockley, on Cheat Lake, November 13, 1935. Here also we had a splendid basis for comparison, for there were Horned Grebes on the lake at the same time. The crescent white mark on the head was noted. Bibbee, Weimer, Walron, and a few others have previous state records for this species.

Other species of water-fowl noted during the autumn migration on this body of water were Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Common Loon, Red-breasted Merganser, Scaup Ducks (sp.) and Bufflehead. MAURICE BROOKS, *West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.*

Nest-building Instinct in an Immature Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*).—In connection with my recent studies on the home-life of the Double-crested Cormorant,¹ an unusual nesting condition was noted in one of the Maine colonies. An immature bird, believed to be a male, had established territory and was engaged in nest-building when observed on July 11, 1935. At this time only the foundation had been constructed, and I estimated that the bird had actually been occupied in carrying material about two days. Working at irregular intervals, the Cormorant completed the nest on July 17. Throughout this process, he was greatly hindered by the fact that each time he left his territory, a certain amount of nesting material was stolen by the other members of the colony. Nest-robbing of this type appears to be a common characteristic of the species, as I have observed it in four of the Maine colonies, and Lewis has commented upon it among the birds of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.²

¹ These investigations were made possible by grants from the Coe Research Fund of the University of Maine.

² Lewis, H. F. *The Natural History of the Double-crested Cormorant*. 1929, Ru-Mi-Lou Books, Ottawa. Pp. 32-33.