

Having completed the nest, the Cormorant guarded it jealously, and was as particular of his territorial rights as were the mature adults around him. The bird went through many of the true courtship maneuvers whenever a female flew overhead or walked by the nest. Rotation of the neck, elevation of the mandibles until they were perpendicular, and raising of the wings were all frequently observed, these acts being part of the normal display of the species. Song, and its accompanying physical contortions, were not witnessed. Incidentally, courtship among the other birds had been concluded for some little time, except for an occasional outburst of song.

The Cormorant remained on the nest constantly, except when feeding, until July 21. On that day, during a rather extended absence, his nest was almost entirely destroyed by neighboring adults. Although his premature nesting instinct had subsided to such a degree that he did not re-build, the bird never-the-less used his territory as a roosting place for two more days.

This incident is unusual, not only in itself, but because of the fact that among all the colonies which I have visited, immature Cormorants are not tolerated by the nesting birds. HOWARD L. MENDALL, *Dept. of Zoology, University of Maine, Orono, Maine.*

An Unusual Feeding Habit of the Snowy Heron.—On January 15, 1936, Mr. Robert P. Allen of the National Association Audubon Societies and the writer watched a group of Snowy Herons (*Egretta thula thula*) feeding from the Tamiami Trail, Collier Co., Florida, in a manner that was strange to both of us, and one which seems to be omitted completely in the literature.

The writer has been familiar with this species for many years in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida but never noted this performance before. The birds were in a small pond surrounded by heavy grass growth and their actions were almost those of a band of Petrels! Suddenly rising from the shallows, many would fly out over the pond, patting the water with their feet and flapping the wings quickly, making quick darts downward with the bill into the water. When first seen, it was thought to be an individual quirk of a single bird, but it soon became evident that it was not that. Nearly all of the score or more of birds present indulged in it from time to time and on occasions, half a dozen were at it at once. It was a rapid, hovering flight, close to the surface, with the feet in action as well as the wings, and reminiscent of nothing but a Petrel. It was not possible to see what was taken by the strikes of the bill, but it is likely that the birds were catching small shrimp, one of the fresh-water varieties.

The rapid actions of the species in feeding has often been commented upon, but hitherto always while the bird was wading, or walking about. I have examined the literature as best I can, and find no mention of the hovering flight, though it is possible that someone has noted it.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Supervisor Southern Sanctuaries National Asso. Audubon Societies, Charleston, S. C.*

The Roseate Spoonbill in Georgia.—The writer, through the courtesy of Mrs. Victor Bassett, of Savannah, Ga., takes pleasure in recording the occurrence of *Ajaia ajaja* in Georgia after a lapse of many years. During the summer of 1934, both Mrs. Bassett and Mrs. H. W. Butler of Chatham County, observed a specimen of this species in a Heron rookery situated in what is known as King's Pond, Lincoln County. Both ladies were sure of their identification but as sight records are not specimens, this occurrence did not perhaps, receive the merit it deserved. In July 1934, Mrs. Butler, while in King's Pond with a small kodak, saw the bird again and

photographed it. The image on the print is very small but absolutely characteristic. The bird is on a high, dead tree and the pose is unmistakable. The picture was sent to the writer by Mrs. Bassett.

Upon inquiry for recent records to Messrs. Eugene Murphey of Augusta, Ga., and Arthur H. Howell of the Biological Survey, the writer received news from Dr. Murphey that he knew of no record of the Spoonbill since 1869. Mr. Howell wrote as follows: "the Roseate Spoonbill apparently occurs in Georgia only as a rare and accidental visitor. Hoxie reported one at Savannah in the fall of 1911 (details lacking). Wright and Harper, in 'The Auk' for 1913, p. 503, mention finding feathers of this species in the Okefinokee Swamp."—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R.F.D. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

The Whistling Swan in South Carolina.—On January 22, 1936, Messrs. Edward M. Moore, Robert P. Allen and the writer saw a specimen of *Cygnus columbianus* in House Pond, Bull's Island, a part of the Cape Romain Federal Migratory Bird Refuge, S. C. It was an immature bird, and had been seen for some days previously on Caper's Island, just to the south, by Mr. E. K. Moore.

The bird appeared to be rather lethargic and allowed close approach. Maneuvering in a duck boat, the writer secured two pictures at about thirty feet, and the Swan took flight at even closer range, when another exposure was secured. It was seen to close its eyes several times while being watched, and occasionally emitted a low, whining note. Other than the visitation along this coast in late 1932, when Swans were seen on several plantations (Auk, vol. L, p. 208), this is the only record since 1917 when a single bird was seen near Mt. Pleasant by the late Arthur T. Wayne. It is an excessively rare bird on the South Carolina coast. The flight was strong and well sustained when the bird finally arose from the water.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R.F.D. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

The Whistling Swan in Connecticut.—On November 5, 1935, while I was watching water birds at the Penfield Reef, Fairfield, Conn., a flock of nine Whistling Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) flew by. The birds were not high up, and according to my judgment, only about 250 feet away from me at the nearest point. The shape of the heads and bills could be made out easily to determine that the birds were not Mute Swans.

The call of the birds first attracted my attention to them. The sounds consisted of several short notes, not very loud, on two different pitches, about a major third apart. I determined the pitches to be F# and A# in the third octave above middle C. The quality suggested that of a reed instrument such as a clarinet or oboe.

This was at about 8.30 in the morning when the tide, though receding, was still fairly high. Several hours later, the same day, when the tide was low, I was on a beach in Milford, just east of the mouth of the Housatonic River. Five more Whistling Swans were standing on a sand flat, far out from the shore, and this time I used a telescope of 20x to identify them. Their long necks were stretched up almost straight, and the Herring Gulls near them looked like pygmies in comparison.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Fairfield, Conn.*

The Blue and the Lesser Snow Goose at Niagara Falls.—During the period October 26 to 31, 1935, the Niagara River area was favored by a remarkable, and apparently unprecedented visitation of large flocks of Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*), accompanied by a sprinkling of Lesser Snow Geese (*Chen h. hyperborea*).

This visitation of such unusually large numbers of migratory waterfowl naturally