

GENERAL NOTES.

The Red-throated Loon in Montana—A Correction.—In both the third and fourth editions of the A.O.U. 'Check-List,' *Gavia stellata* is listed as "casual" in Montana. The record upon which the species has been admitted to a place in the list of the birds of that state is given in detail by Mr. Aretas A. Saunders in his 'Distributional List of the Birds of Montana' (Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 14, 1921) as follows: "One taken at Mud Lake, Flathead County, July 15, 1901 (Silloway, 1901a, p. 38). The specimen is in the collection of the University of Montana. Occurs on the Yellowstone, near Billings, in migrations and winter (Thomas, MS)."

Credit for detecting the error in identification of the Silloway specimen must be accorded Mr. Vernon L. Marsh, of Great Falls, Mont., who wrote the Biological Survey that he had examined the bird and that it was unquestionably an example of Holboell's Grebe (*Colymbus griseogen holboelli*). Mr. Marsh further stated that there was no specimen of *Gavia stellata* in the University collection, but that the Grebe carried a label marked "Red-throated Loon, *Urinator lumme*," this label being "very securely tied to the specimen and looks as though it had never been removed."

Further correspondence with Mr. Marsh resulted in the specimen being sent to the Biological Survey for examination. As stated by Mr. Marsh it is a perfectly typical example of *C. g. holboelli*. It is a female and is obviously the specimen collected and recorded by P. M. Silloway as *Urinator lumme* (Gunn.) in his paper on "Summer Birds of Flathead Lake," published in 1901¹ and again in his revised list published in 1903.²

In this second list, Mr. Silloway made the additional comment that "Specimens [had been] taken at . . . Rost Lake, 1901." No further details of this alleged occurrence are given.

The Thomas mentioned by Mr. Saunders as having noted the Red-throated Loon on the Yellowstone near Billings apparently is Gerald B. Thomas, of Billings, later of Long Beach, California. Mr. Thomas sent migration records to the Biological Survey during the period 1917-1920, but he did not furnish any of his older records. At least there is no record for this species for Montana in the files of the Survey save the oft-repeated misidentified Holboell's Grebe.

In the absence of specimen evidence the Red-throated Loon should be withdrawn from the list of Montana birds.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Shearwaters and Ships.—In the interesting paper "On the Habits and Distribution of Birds on the North Atlantic," by V. C. Wynne-Edwards (Proc. Boston Society of Natural History, 1935), I find the following statement in regard to the Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*): "As a rule they will not follow a liner. Very frequently one or two are to be seen among the Fulmars in the wake, but whereas the Fulmars make a business of it, these Hagdowns do not." From my own experience and that of others with whom I have talked I am led to believe that this does not tell the whole story. The Greater Shearwaters, as I have seen them, do not, to be sure, follow the ship to anything like the extent that the small Petrels and the Fulmars do, but they do accompany it for long periods of time, keeping more or less in front of it, though usually not very near, and crossing and recrossing the bows. Again, of the Manx Shearwater (*P. puffinus puffinus*) Mr. Wynne-Edwards says, "It takes no

¹ Bull. No. 3, Biological Series No. 1, University of Montana.

² Bull. No. 18, Biological Series No. 6, University of Montana.