

## GENERAL NOTES

**Birds vs. poison sprays.**—Under the heading "Are arsenicals dangerous to game?" in 'Recent Literature' (Auk, vol. 53, p. 463, 1936) it is reported that partridges under experimental conditions were not seriously affected by eating poisoned insects. I do not wish to minimize the importance of this conclusion but to point out that this is only part, and perhaps not the most important part, of the question at issue. Though many birds can eat more or less liberally of insects containing ingested poison without showing toxic effects, it does not follow that the spraying of plants and orchards may always be indifferent to them. Consider the loads of poison adventitiously deposited on the backs, wings or elytra of insects in spraying or poisoning operations. A few such insects may well individually or in aggregate carry loads exceeding the poison toleration of the birds that eat them. Such insects may long be unaffected by these poison loads and thus carry their menace far from its point of origin. To feed birds with insects that have poisoned themselves with their food and to have them eat food well sprayed with the same poisons are two different operations. The former may be comparatively harmless but how about the latter?—P. A. TAVERNER, *National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.*

**Some post-hurricane records from South Carolina.**—On September 6, 1935, a hurricane of moderate intensity passed Charleston. The maximum wind velocity, as recorded by the local weather bureau, was forty-seven miles per hour. On the following morning, the bodies of a female Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) and an immature male Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus melanoptera*) were found on the Isle of Palms beach. These are in my collection. This specimen of Bridled Tern is, as far as can be ascertained, the sixth and latest record for South Carolina.

Later, a bird which proved to be a Sooty Tern rose from the beach and flew to me. It was weak and very thin and sat placidly on the car seat by me, as I drove to Mt. Pleasant. For nearly three weeks this tern was fed on fresh fish, which it took readily from the hand. On September 24, it was banded and released on the Isle of Palms, when it at once flew rapidly away toward the south.

One dark and two white-breasted Frigate Birds (*Fregata magnificens*) soared for a while over our house in Mount Pleasant on September 7. Another (with white breast) was seen over the Isle of Palms on September 11. The remains of two Sooty or Bridled Terns were found on the same beach on the 11th, but could not be preserved.—E. VON S. DINGLE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

**Fulmar at Meaford, Georgian Bay, Ontario.**—While working be'low the high clay banks west of Cape Rich, about ten miles north of Meaford, Ontario, on November 20, 1936, William Lin discovered a dead Fulmar which had obviously drifted ashore. Attached to a three-inch fish-hook caught in the bird's throat was a fish-line several feet long, which was tangled about the body, feet and wings. The specimen, in fresh condition, probably dead less than a week, was forwarded to the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology in Toronto, where it has been preserved. Mr. L. L. Snyder informs the writer that this specimen, *Fulmarus glacialis glacialis*, is the third record for the Province and apparently the first for the upper Great Lakes region. The two previous Ontario records were for the Ottawa valley, in the eastern part of southern Ontario (Gormley, Auk, vol. 41, pp. 470-471, 1924; Snyder, Auk, vol. 46, p. 376, 1929).—L. H. BEAMER, *Meaford, Ontario.*

**Snowy Egret in southern Michigan.**—On August 2, 1936, Mr. L. Whitney Watkins, residing some six miles southwest of Manchester, Michigan, sent me word

that there were present on his ponds twelve American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) and one Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula thula*). On August 4, I flushed the little egret at a distance of sixty yards when its bright-yellow feet and black tarsi were strikingly apparent. It then perched in plain view on a bare limb of a tree about 150 yards away and was carefully inspected by Mr. Watkins and myself by means of a 20-power telescope on a tripod. The yellow feet and lores were plainly visible; the plumes on the neck and back were such as I have observed on early-winter adults in central Florida. On August 6 this Snowy Egret was observed by Pierce Brodkorb and Thomas D. Hinshaw of University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, both of whom confirm my determination of the bird. Mr. Watkins later reported that this egret remained in the vicinity for three weeks. It was on these ponds that Mr. Watkins collected in 1894 the first Michigan specimen of 'Cory's Least Bittern' (*Ixobrychus neoxenus*)—see Auk, vol. 12, p. 77, 1895.

The present record of an adult Snowy Egret is of particular interest as all previous authentic records of this species in Michigan and Ohio appear to have been of immature birds. The Snowy Egret reported collected by L. W. and B. R. Campbell, in Monroe County, Michigan, August 10, 1935, was an immature bird although not specifically so reported in the published record (Auk, vol. 52, p. 322, 1935). This record seems to be the first authentic report of the species in Michigan, for since its publication, F. W. Rapp, Vicksburg, Michigan, has written the Museum that he had observed at close range on three different days, August 20–22, 1924, the white herons reported as egrets by Benjamin O. Bush and that they were certainly immature Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea caerulea*) with "plumage white, bill for about one third of the way back from the tip black, then gradually lighter toward the base, legs and feet greenish-yellow all over. These birds had a favorite post on which they would perch within about five rods of my place of concealment where I examined them with a glass." Thus Mr. Rapp has disposed of this long-suspected record.

One who has observed the actions and habits of the Snowy Egret can hardly mistake an immature Little Blue Heron for it. The Snowy Egret is very active and frequently exhibits unusual intelligence in its pursuit of food. Compared with it the Little Blue Heron is a sluggish dullard. Several recent reports in 'The Auk' of the Snowy Egret in flight picking food off the water give evidence of its intelligence and agility. I have seen this species perform this feat near Tampa Bay, Florida, flapping back and forth across a deep ditch some twenty feet wide, while American Egrets and Louisiana Herons (*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*) stood on the bank looking on.—WILLIAM G. FARGO, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

**Number of Contour Feathers of *Cygnus* and *Xanthocephalus*.**—In view of the recent interest in numbers of contour feathers it may be worth while to record two additional counts:

<i>Species</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Number of feathers</i>	<i>Weight of bird</i>	<i>Weight of feathers</i>
<i>Cygnus</i>	?	Nov. 5, 1933	25,216	6123.0 grams	621.0 grams
<i>Xanthocephalus</i>	♂	Sept. 2, 1935	4,342	85.5 grams	7.5 grams

The Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) was collected in Erie Township, Monroe County, Michigan. The feathers were counted by Pierce Brodkorb, Leonard W. Wing, William J. Howard and myself. The only feathers not actually counted were those along the margin of a cut in the neck, estimated to be 1200, and those of