

northeast and might end their journey in Nova Scotia. On the other hand, as they were evidently going through the early stages of the reproductive cycle, it seems at least possible that they might seek and find some New England pond or lake in which to complete it. Among the many records of stragglers of southern and western species in New England there are comparatively few in which both male and female were together, and often in these cases one or both of the pair have been collected, eliminating all chance of a breeding record. However, the Yellow-crowned Night Heron has bred in Massachusetts, far from its normal range; a nest of the Lark Sparrow with four eggs is recorded from Connecticut (Howes, in 'Oölogist,' September 15, 1912, cited by Forbush); and Forbush cites records of the New England nesting of the Blue Grosbeak, Kentucky Warbler, and Tufted Titmouse. In the light of this evidence of the breeding of other wanderers speculation as to the possibilities in the case of this pair of Western Grebes becomes especially interesting. May I suggest that the possibility, however remote, of obtaining breeding records ought, perhaps, to outweigh the desire to secure specimens in the minds of collectors who run across pairs of birds outside of their normal ranges?

But whatever the outcome of this particular affair, we who saw the courtship of the Western Grebe at Newburyport may congratulate ourselves on having witnessed something that may, perhaps, never before have occurred on the Atlantic Ocean!—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Massachusetts.*

South American Pied-billed Grebe in the Canal Zone.—During several months' residence in 1927 on Barro Colorado Island, Canal Zone, I learned that a form of the Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) is resident there. On March 8, April 14, and 20, I saw individuals in a lagoon-like arm of Gatun Lake on the south side of the island and on June 3, one near Frijoles on the adjacent mainland. In a third locality, a lagoon on the west side of Barro Colorado Island, I collected an adult male on August 5 and saw another on August 16. The bird proved to be in breeding condition (testes 18 mm. in length) and is of the South American form, *Podilymbus podiceps antarcticus* (Lesson), not hitherto recorded from the Panama region. In his check-list of the birds of Panama (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 78: 291, 1935), Ludlow Griscom records only specimens of *Podilymbus p. podiceps* (from Almirante, Veraguas, and Canal Zone). None of these, he tells me, is a breeding or even summer specimen. The Barro Colorado bird agrees with South American specimens in having a long bill, very dark breast and belly and nearly black crown, nape, and back of neck. It measures: wing 135 mm., culmen 25, bill from posterior end of nostril 19.5; weight 420 grams.

Alexander Wetmore (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 133, p. 49, 1926) first pointed out the distinctive characters of the South American Pied-billed Grebe and at almost the same time Frank M. Chapman (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 55: 181, 1926) developed the same point and extended the range of this form to Cali and Fomeque (near Bogotá), Colombia. The addition of the Canal Zone is only a slight extension of the known range of *antarcticus* but it does raise the question of how far into Central America this form may prove to range.—JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

The Gannets of Funk Island.—When, in 1935, Wynne-Edwards published his paper on 'The Newfoundland Gannet colony: with recent information on the other North American gannetries' (Ibis, 1935, pp. 584-594), the existence of four occupied American colonies was known to him. All were in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, namely, on (1) Bonaventure Island, (2) Bird Rocks, (3) Gull-cliff Bay on Anticosti

Island, and (4) Cape St. Mary, Newfoundland. Of these only the first two were known to exist when, in 1913, Gurney published his book, 'The Gannet' (London, li + 567 pp.). The third, a small colony on Anticosti Island, is well described by Wynne-Edwards, who writes (l. c., p. 586): "The first published mention of it was in 1922,¹ and it is apparently of fairly recent foundation. It is only 83 (nautical) miles north-by-west of Bird Rocks, and Dr. Lewis thinks it may be growing as the latter wanes. Mr. P. A. Taverner visited it in 1928, and estimated that there were about 500 nests." The fourth colony is on Chimney Rock at the southern tip of Cape St. Mary, one of the southern appendages of the Avalon Peninsula, Newfoundland. It is the one which was described for the first time in Wynne-Edwards's paper of 1935 and is the second largest American colony known today. It is surprising that a nesting ground of such size, estimated to have 4500 breeding pairs of Gannets (*Moris bassana*), could have remained hidden so long from the ornithological world. To these four Gannet colonies Mr. S. K. George and myself can now add a fifth which it was our good fortune to discover on Funk Island in June, 1936. While the primary purpose of our trip to Funk Island was to search for remains of the Great Auk, the discovery of a fifth breeding colony of Gannets there was not totally unexpected. At that time we had not seen Wynne-Edwards's statement: "We passed and visited many islands off the outer coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador, including Funk Island. I had half-expected to come across a small gannetry on this coast, in view of the oft-observed presence of Gannets in the neighbourhood of Belle Isle. I am, however, satisfied that no such colony exists, since I have now seen at close quarters every suitable island within 100 miles of this place, having made a special point of doing so."

Perhaps, the boat on which Mr. Wynne-Edwards travelled passed the island on the northern side. If this was the case the birds, if present, would not have been visible. However, if he had circled the island, or passed on the southerly side, I feel quite sure he would have observed them as we were able to see the white cluster of birds near the southwest shore when still about a quarter of a mile away. In the event that Mr. Wynne-Edwards effected a landing—a fact which I doubt and which his paper does not make quite clear—or if his boat circled the island and no birds were observed, the date of the colony's foundation can be set as the spring of 1936.

Jacques Cartier, discoverer of Funk Island, recorded the Great Auk and the Gannet as breeding there profusely at the time of his visit in June, 1534. After discussing the Great Auk, he continues: "There are also of another sort, but bigger, and white, which bite even as dogs; those we named Margaulx." It is evident that this name applied to the Gannet, as in his description of the fauna of Bird Rocks in the *Magdalens* he uses it again.

A search of the records left us by the three collectors who have visited Funk Island since Cartier began the slaughter, which eventually resulted in the total destruction of its Great Auk and the driving away of the Gannets, reveals that until they reappeared presumably in the summer of 1936, no trace of Gannets breeding on Funk had been noted for nearly a hundred years. The only authentic record of Gannets on Funk is the account of Cartier, and the date of its vanishing must always remain problematical. However, we do know that Peter Stuvitz in 1841, Professor J. W. Milne in 1874, and Dr. Frederic A. Lucas in 1888, visited the island but of the three, only Dr. Lucas mentions the Gannet. He writes: "The Auk, by the way, is not the only bird which has been extirpated on Funk Island, for the Gannet lives in

¹ 'Place-names on Anticosti Island, Quebec,' by W. P. Anderson, Ottawa, 1922; see also H. F. Lewis, *Canadian Field-Nat.*, vol. 38, pp. 44, 46, 1924.

name alone, although Cartier found it abundant, and men still living remember to have seen the bird" (Rept. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1888-89, pp. 493-529, 1891). His words apply to the fact that the high southerly bluffs of Funk Island are named "Gannet Head" on the mariner's charts.

We first saw the breeding Gannets of Funk Island while still at sea. From a quarter of a mile out, the white cluster of birds was conspicuous among the thousands of Murres whose nest-sites cover the part of the island on which we later found Great Auk remains. On the afternoon of July 20, 1936, after gaining access to the crest of the cliffs at a point some one hundred yards north-northwest of Escape Point and after crossing the two large faults which run east and west, we came upon the ruins of a house and two cairns marking the summit of the island. Approximately forty yards from this point, on a line running west-northwest, we found seven nesting pairs of Gannets, and estimated a total population of about forty, mostly unmated. One young bird cowered in each nest. From young previously observed in the gannetry of Bonaventure Island, I judged them to be about a week old.

It is curious that these birds have shunned the rough Gannet Head section of the island and selected the sloping, rocky, southwestern side and the company of approximately ten thousand breeding pairs of Murres. This indicates, perhaps, that these pioneers are emigrants from the crowded Chimney Rock gannetry, a flat-topped pillar, rather than from the cliffs and ledges harboring the birds of the Bonaventure and Bird Rock ganneries. Once having chosen a new nesting ground, Gannets evidently multiply rapidly if not disturbed. Wynne-Edwards quotes a resident of St. Mary to the effect that in 1877 no Gannets nested on Chimney Rock, and that in 1883 there were no more than eight or ten breeding pairs. In other words, a gannetry of about the same size as the one we found on Funk Island has, in a matter of perhaps fifty years, increased to 4500 or more breeding pairs. Protected by law, by the local superstitions regarding the island, and by the dangerous surrounding waters, it is, therefore, not inconceivable that the Funk Island gannetry will increase in size at a similar rate.—E. THOMAS GILLIARD, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Double-crested Cormorant breeding in Michigan.—On June 27, 1936, Bayard H. Christy, John B. Semple, and the writer had the pleasure of visiting the Huron Islands in Lake Superior east of Keweenaw Bay as the guests of William P. Harris, Jr., who took us out from the Huron Mountain Club in his launch. As has long been known, the small eastern islands of this group support a large colony of Herring Gulls, at least a thousand pairs at the time of our visit. On the two smallest and easternmost islands we discovered, in addition to gulls, several pairs of Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), the first to be found breeding in Michigan. We found two cormorant nests, one on each little island, and saw seven adults which circled about at some distance. One nest contained three eggs and the other two eggs and two young a day or two old. The lighthouse keepers who lived at the west end of the group of islands told us that they had been seeing the cormorants about for "at least two summers." This little cormorant colony must be of rather recent origin, however, for Messrs. Christy and Semple visited the locality in 1930 and saw no cormorants. About August 10, Mr. Harris visited the islands again and found the young at both nests nearly ready to leave and when he returned ten days later they had left.

Dr. Harrison F. Lewis tells me that he knows of but two other cormorant colonies on Lake Superior, namely, at Agawa Bay (W. G. Fargo and J. Van Tyne, 1926) and at Black Bay (L. S. Dear, 1933), both on the north shore of the lake.—JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*