

BLACK GYRFALCON, *Falco rusticolus obsoletus*.—A specimen of this rare and interesting hawk was taken at the State Game Farm in Milton, Vermont, January 30, 1937, and is now a study skin in the modest collection of the Fish and Game Service at Montpelier. It proved to be a female with a moderately developed ovary. Except for several down feathers of some passerine bird, the stomach was empty. The present rather unsatisfactory knowledge of the taxonomic status of the gyrfalcons makes the subspecific determination of this form a little uncertain, but it seems best to consider it as the gray phase of the Black or Labrador Gyrfalcon. There do not appear to be any other records of this form or allied races in the State. Paucity of records for other States likewise indicates that the gyrfalcons only rarely visit the United States.—GEORGE J. WALLACE, *Biologist, Vermont Fish and Game Service, Montpelier, Vt.*

Summer records from Ocean County, New Jersey.—The following observations were made by the writer in Ocean County, New Jersey, during the summer of 1936.

COMMON LOON, *Gavia immer immer*.—An individual of this species in young or winter plumage, was observed on Barnegat Bay, just south of Mantoloking on August 11, 1936, and another in flightless condition was seen by Charles H. Rogers and the writer on Barnegat Bay, just north of Barnegat Inlet, on August 15, 1936.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*.—A flock of thirty of these birds, most of them with light underparts, was seen from July 2 into September, just south of Mantoloking. The birds were observed on and around the fish ponds in the ocean, as well as on Barnegat Bay, and roosted on a small mud islet in the bay.

MYRTLE WARBLER, *Dendroica coronata*.—A Myrtle Warbler in brown plumage was seen at Lake Metedeconk, west of Point Pleasant, on July 23, 1936.—ROBERT W. STORER, *South Orange, New Jersey.*

Uncommon winter birds in coastal North Carolina.—During the last week of January, from the 24th to the 31st, the writers were engaged in field work in coastal North Carolina, from Currituck to Cape Hatteras. A number of migrant birds were encountered whose presence there seems sufficiently unusual to warrant a brief report.

Pea and Bodie Islands have long been known to be the wintering grounds of a small flock of Greater Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea atlantica*). At least, during the past five years, their numbers have increased from approximately a thousand to fully four times that number during the present season. From counts made, it appears that from 15% to 20% of their present number are birds of immature plumage. For the past three years a small number of Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) have been seen in company with the Snow Geese. Ten of the latter species were observed at Bodie Island as two small units of the larger aggregation. It was interesting to note that while the Blue Geese associated with the Snow Geese, they habitually remained as small units of the larger flock.

On the impounded freshwater pond near Bodie Island Light House, on January 25, we were surprised to find one male European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) in company with a flock of some thirty-five Baldpates. The bird was observed at about 100 yards through a good pair of field-glasses and stood in marked contrast to its American relatives. While records of this European wanderer in North Carolina are of interest, Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley ('Birds of North Carolina,' No. Carolina Geol. and Economic Surv., 4: 63-64, 1919) mention two specimens that were

taken on Currituck Sound. One was collected in 1887, and the other in November 1900.

A limited number of Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*), Red-backed Sandpipers (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*), Sanderlings (*Crocethia alba*), and Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*) have been encountered in this same area each winter for at least the last six years. All were seen by each of the three observers at a number of places on the North Carolina coast during this visit.

Of greater interest is the occurrence of a large number of Dovekies (*Alle alle*) and a limited number of Razor-billed Auks (*Alca torda*) at several places along the coast from Bodie Island to Cape Hatteras. The Dovekies, in particular, were seen in large concentrations at Oregon Inlet from the middle of December to about the middle of January. A number of persons, including Superintendent Walker of the Pea Island Refuge and Captain John A. Midgett of the Chicamacomico Coast Guard Station, reported seeing flocks containing more than a thousand of these pelagic birds. Superintendent Walker informed us that he has seen a total of eighteen Razor-billed Auks. He collected and mounted specimens of both species. In addition to the mounted specimens, which were examined, the writers also found along the beach the bodies of two Dovekies and one Razor-billed Auk that had become oil-soaked. With the exception of the phenomenal wave of Dovekies that occurred along the entire Atlantic coast of the United States in November, 1934, this is the only marked intrusion and concentration of these birds that has ever been reported in North Carolina. Only a few occurrences even of individuals of either species have ever been recorded for North Carolina. Whether some unusual ocean current brought these birds to the Carolina coast is not known.

Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley in their account of the birds of the State (in 1919) give two records of the occurrence of the Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*) in North Carolina. One was at Pea Island, Dare County, in February, 1901, and the other at Oriental, North Carolina, on January 26, 1918. On January 25, 1937, the writers observed two rather large flocks of these birds, totalling perhaps 150 individuals, on the sandy barrier beach at Kittyhawk. One male and a female were collected and their skins added to the Biological Survey collection.—CLARENCE COTTAM, A. L. NELSON, AND C. S. WILLIAMS, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*