

## GENERAL NOTES

**American Egret in the Hudson River Valley.**—Dr. Stoner (Auk, 55: 119–121, 1938) has made detailed report upon the status of the American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) along the upper Hudson River during the summer of 1937. For comparative purposes, it is now interesting to record some observations, previously unpublished, made during 1934 by Dr. W. C. Muenscher and the writer, while investigating, for the Biological Survey of the New York State Department of Conservation, the aquatic vegetation in the Mohawk and Hudson River Valleys. American Egrets were observed during that season on August 27, five on tidal mud flat and sand bar in Hudson River between Hudson and Athens; August 28, twelve along Hudson River just north of Newton Hook; August 29, one on mud flat at Hudson; and August 30, one at mouth of Stockport Creek. During the period in the field, we visited many lakes and ponds on both sides of the river, and worked up and down the Mohawk Valley, concentrating particularly on the section of river between Schenectady and Troy, but saw no egrets except as indicated along the Hudson River, although Great Blue and Green Herons were common and generally distributed throughout the area surveyed.—ROBERT T. CLAUSEN, *Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

**American Egret in Saskatchewan.**—On August 7, 1937, a banded American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) was collected by Mr. R. Lloyd, of Davidson, Saskatchewan, in a colony of Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons near Davidson. The specimen is now in the Provincial Museum, Normal School, at Regina, and, according to Mr. F. A. Dunk, Director of the Museum, it is the first record of the American Egret for that province. This bird, 36-719303, was banded when a nestling, by a party of Rover Scouts from Memphis, on May 24, 1936, in a heronry near Glen Allan, Mississippi.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., *672 N. Belvedere, Memphis, Tennessee.*

**Melanism in the Black-crowned Night Heron.**—During a field trip to the McGuiness Slough at Orland, Illinois, on August 7, 1937, Mrs. Amy G. Baldwin, Mr. C. T. Clark, both of Chicago, and the writer had opportunity to observe an abnormally dark heron of the species *Nycticorax n. hoactli*. So pronounced was the melanism that upon first seeing this bird from the rear while it stood on a post and preened its under-wing feathers, one of the party felt it was a cormorant; but that it was a heron became perfectly evident when the bird assumed its natural standing position. This together with the shape of bill and the size reduced the problem of identification to either the Yellow-crowned or the Black-crowned Night Heron. The entire body was a lusterless, somewhat slaty blue-black color with no apparent streaking on either breast or back. Mr. Clark mentioned that the back feathers appeared to be edged slightly, though this might have been the effect of strong light on the ruffled and slightly wet feathers. The head and neck were brown, almost a reddish brown, and were lightly, but noticeably streaked. Though superficially this plumage recalls that of the adult Little Blue Heron, other details of description mentioned here will obviate any doubts. The bill was black and the feet appeared dark, not yellow as in typical Black-crowns. Upon observing this bird in flight with several Black-crowned Night Herons, the size and manner of flight of the former proved to be identical with those of the latter, thus eliminating all doubt that it was anything but a melanistic Black-crown. Though to my knowledge Night Herons

do not nest in the immediate vicinity of the McGuiness Slough, they gather there in large numbers in late summer and roost preferably in the trees of one wooded hill at the northeast end of the slough, where the melanistic heron was discovered. Yellow-crowned Night Herons (*Nyctanassa v. violacea*) are of rare occurrence in the Chicago region; our most recent record is that of Mrs. Baldwin, who observed one at the McGuiness Slough on May 25, 1937.—FRANK A. PITELKA, *Lyons, Illinois*.

**Notes on Colorado Geese.**—We have had occasion to visit the Colorado College Museum in Colorado Springs, the Colorado University Museum at Boulder, the State Teachers College at Greeley, and the State Agricultural College at Fort Collins, Colorado, and have been surprised at the scarcity of specimens of geese of various species collected in Colorado. Inasmuch as the nomenclature has been changed in recent years it seems worth while to give a short résumé of the status of various species and subspecies recorded from our State.

**LESSER SNOW GOOSE, *Chen hyperborea hyperborea*.**—There are many observations for this form from the State and Bergtold ('Guide to the Birds of Colorado,' 1928) considers it a common bird in October. There are, however, comparatively few specimens in state collections and only five skins are in the Colorado Museum of Natural History. An adult male (C.M.N.H. no. 3179) and an adult female (no. 9768) were taken near Masters, Weld County, Colorado, on March 29, 1914, and November 26, 1923, respectively; an adult female (no. 12367) was collected November 11, 1933, and an immature female (no. 14192) on October 23, 1921, in Adams County. Adult female (no. 14710) taken at Loveland, Larimer County, Colorado, April 9, 1899, which was obtained from the State Historical Society's collection, is the specimen recorded by W. L. Selater ('A History of the Birds of Colorado,' 1912) as the Greater Snow Goose.

**GREATER SNOW GOOSE, *Chen hyperborea atlantica*.**—This species has been recorded as a straggler in Colorado. Selater (l. c., 1912) gives two definite records: one taken by Z. H. Snyder at Greeley, Weld County, Colorado, March 20, 1895, which we have been unable to trace; the other, an adult female collected by J. F. Champion on April 9, 1899, near Loveland, Larimer County, Colorado, formerly in the State Historical Society's collection. The latter bird is now in the Colorado Museum of Natural History collection (no. 14710). It is undoubtedly typical *hyperborea*. In view of the eastern range of *atlantica*, and the questionable records upon which the race has been included in the list of Colorado birds, we believe that *atlantica* should be dropped from the Colorado state list.

**ROSS'S GOOSE, *Chen rossii*.**—Felger (Auk, 24: 211, 1907) recorded the only specimen known from the State, taken near Longmont, Boulder County, by Captain Eli, on December 23, 1906. This skin is now in our Museum collection (no. 416). Bergtold (l. c., 1928) states there are "perhaps two records," but we have been unable to locate another one.

**WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, *Anser albifrons albifrons*.**—This bird is more common in Colorado than specimens in collections would indicate. There are only three specimens from the State in the collection of this Museum: an adult male (no. 9767) collected by G. H. Duffield at Eads, Kiowa County, Colorado, on December 3, 1923; an immature female (no. 9880) taken near Brighton, Adams County, Colorado, by T. H. Smith on October 1, 1921; and another immature female (no. 12506) taken by E. A. Stephens at Milton Lake, Adams County, Colorado, on October 6, 1928. All three specimens agree with Swarth and Bryant's (Univ. of California Publ. Zool., 17: 209-222, 1917) measurements for *albifrons*. A band of fifteen birds wintered in