

GENERAL NOTES

Holboell's Grebe and American Brant in Wisconsin.—On April 22, 1938, a mated pair of Holboell's Grebe (*Colymbus grisegena holboelli*) was found on Fish Lake in Dane County, Wisconsin. The birds were observed with a nine-power binocular for an hour on and near a nesting site on this day and the one following. They were observed in the mating act on the nest site and were heard calling as they swam in the vicinity on both days. They added and arranged nesting material brought up from dives in shallow water. On the forenoon of April 24, the lake was visited again in company with Mr. Edward Ochsner of Prairie du Sac. Both birds were observed and the nesting site was visited in a rowboat with Mr. Ochsner. The platform of mud and decaying vegetation was about two inches above the water level and flattened but no eggs were found as it was apparently uncompleted. No opportunity was afforded to visit the lake again until the forenoon of May 12, when one bird was observed in the vicinity of the nest. In the forenoon one bird was observed sitting on a new nest site. Both birds were seen swimming together and calling after which one of them returned to the nest. On May 13, the new nest was examined from a rowboat with Mr. Ochsner and found to contain four large eggs in a shallow cupped nest about four inches above water level. Both birds stayed in the vicinity and called. The lake was visited again on May 17 in the forenoon and the birds were observed for about an hour. Approach on land caused the bird to leave the nest; and after the two birds had remained together a short time, the other bird approached and then sat on the nest.

Kumlien and Hollister in 'Birds of Wisconsin' (1903) state that Holboell's Grebe probably nested in Wisconsin. The writer is not familiar with any nesting record published since that date.

An American Brant (*Branta bernicla hrota*) was observed on the morning of April 10, 1938, on Delavan Prairie near Delavan, Wisconsin. The writer was watching flocks of Canada Geese returning from feeding on farm lands about 9.00 o'clock when one flock in flight showed a very small individual, apparently near the size of a large duck. The flock alighted in a grassy field near a pond and the small bird was observed with a nine-power binocular at about 250 yards in strong sunlight for about forty-five minutes and determined to be an American Brant. The brant while feeding was almost constantly beside the geese on land where an easy comparison of size and shape could be made. The shorter neck and the size of the bird, a little more than half that of the geese, were good marks. The black head, neck and upper breast with a sharp line of division between breast and belly were plainly visible. The broken white ring around the neck was seen as well as the grayish back and lighter-gray sides. The lower belly and under tail-coverts were white.

One specimen is reported as taken by Hoy at Racine on a former year and is preserved in the Hoy collection according to Kumlien and Hollister. Perhaps there are other more recent records that have been overlooked.—S. PAUL JONES, 509 West Avenue, North, Waukesha, Wisconsin.

A new breeding bird for New York State.—For the last three years I have suspected the Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea violacea*) of nesting in Nassau County, New York, but due to a preconceived notion that the birds were nesting in one of the large Black-crowned Night Heron colonies I failed to locate the nests. In 1936, I even saw adult Yellow-crowned Night Herons carrying sticks but they always seemed to disappear into the dense thickets of red cedar and smilax in

which a large Black-crowned Night Heron colony was situated and careful search amongst the hundreds of nests of the latter species revealed nothing.

On April 14, 1938, while exploring a red maple-tupelo swamp I came upon two pairs of Yellow-crowned Night Herons repairing old nests. The birds were definitely paired on this date and were engaged in some simple courtship displays. By May 10, four pairs were in this area each incubating five eggs. At the date of writing (May 30) there are healthy young in each nest. As far as I am able to ascertain this is the first definite breeding record of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron for New York State.—ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK, *National Association of Audubon Societies, 1775 Broadway, New York City.*

Recent occurrence of the Flamingo in Puerto Rico.—Due to the fact that the Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) has not been reported in Puerto Rico since the time of Gundlach's visits some sixty-five years ago, it seems of interest to record that in December, 1935, a local hunter observed two and shot one at El Faro de Cabo Rojo (the southwestern tip of Puerto Rico). He ate the bird, but preserved parts of its plumage which he has presented to me, more than sufficient to identify the species. Another hunter in whose reliability I have considerable confidence reports seeing a Flamingo at the same locality in 1937.—STUART T. DANFORTH, *College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.*

Blue Goose in St. Joachim, Quebec.—On April 26, 1938, we had the pleasure of capturing a Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) travelling with the flock of Greater Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea atlantica*). The population of this flock amounts to some fifteen thousand birds. On their migration, the Greater Snow Geese stop at St. Joachim near Quebec City, from the end of March till the 15th of May of each year. According to Mr. Charles Frémont, Superintendent of Game and Fisheries for Quebec, about thirty Blue Geese accompany the flock of migrating Greater Snow Geese. The Blue Geese stick together and are easily identified and consequently none of them is shot at in autumn during the hunting season.—J. A. BRASSARD, *Jardin Zoologique, Charlesbourg, Quebec.*

Blue Goose in New Hampshire.—On May 2, 1938, a flock of Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) was observed on the Green Acres Farm of Fred A. Lovering in Manchester, New Hampshire. The birds remained until May 14. During their thirteen-day stay these rare stragglers attracted the attention of many people. The writer was informed of the presence of the geese on May 9 by Dr. George S. Foster of Manchester. On three successive days, May 9, 10, and 11, we visited the Lovering Farm with members of the college ornithological society. The flock consisted of nineteen birds. The coloration of the head and neck of the birds was variable. One had the head and upper neck white; eight others had most of the head white with dark feathering which in some cases extended from near the top or base of the head along the hind neck; the color of the remaining members of the flock was less definite. A few had heads and necks that showed little white feathering.

The geese spent most of the day grazing in a field cut by a narrow drainage ditch. Occasionally, they frequented a nearby ploughed field. Mr. Lovering informed us that daily in late afternoon the entire flock winged its way in the direction of Lake Massabesic, two miles eastward, where the birds apparently spent the night. They exhibited a remarkable lack of shyness. One could always approach them rather closely. On all occasions they seemed to prefer to walk rather than to fly away from the observers. When they were forced into the air for flight motion-pictures, their reluctance to leave the pasture was pronounced. After a short flight sometimes in