

GENERAL NOTES

Audubon's Shearwater ashore on Long Island.—On July 24, 1938, after an extremely rainy week accompanied by southerly winds, my friend, Robert Rorden, picked up on the beach near Point Lookout, Long Beach, Long Island, New York, a dead shearwater which we identified as Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*). On taking the bird to the American Museum of Natural History, our identification was confirmed by Mr. John T. Nichols. Although the bird's feathers were all in place, to have made a satisfactory skin of it would have been difficult, so its skeleton was prepared and is now in the Museum's collection. Mr. Nichols estimated that the bird had been dead probably about two weeks and might have drifted a considerable distance after its death.—RALPH LIND, 35 Lewis Ave., Floral Park, New York.

A Record of the Black-capped Petrel from Haiti.—Mr. L. Dalencour, civil engineer, of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, under date of June 30, 1938, forwarded to me a description of a curious bird found on the Champ de Mars in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, that seems certainly to have been the Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*). The specimen, which was picked up alive, was said to have been white and dark gray varying to almost black in color, with palmated feet. The wing measured 44 centimeters in length. These notes on color and size are accompanied by a very exact sketch of the bill which leaves no question as to identity. It is interesting to add that, while the bird seemed fully grown, down feathers still adhered to the plumage on the back of the head, the back, and beneath the tail. It would seem therefore to be a juvenile not long from the nest, indicating that there is a nesting colony of this rare species somewhere in the mountains of this island. The bird was kept alive for a brief period but unfortunately was destroyed by a cat after the letter had been written to me regarding it.

In 'The Auk' for 1932 (vol. 49, pp. 107-108) I recorded another capture of this species by Dr. R. Ciferri at Moca in the Dominican Republic.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

American Egret nesting along the Illinois River.—Formerly the American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) nested abundantly with the Great Blue Heron and Cormorant in the Illinois River valley. The last-known colony of this species in Illinois was located a few miles below Hennipen (Putnam Co.) near the Illinois River. Containing hundreds of egrets' nests at one time, according to R. M. Barnes of Lacon, Illinois, the colony was reduced to five or six nests by 1907, and these were destroyed by plume hunters in that year.

The writer, while investigating a rookery of Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons and cormorants at Duck Island, discovered an American Egret's nest on June 17, 1938. This was twenty miles below Peoria near the Illinois River. The egret's nest was situated, along with approximately seventy Great Blue Herons' nests in a flooded black-willow swamp between Big and Goose Lakes. It was placed twelve feet up in a living black-willow tree, which also contained two nests of the Great Blue Heron. At that time the Great Blue Herons' nests held nearly full-grown young, while the egret's nest contained three eggs. When first noticed, an adult was incubating the eggs, but upon closer approach the egret moved to a limb several feet from the nest, where it voiced alarm notes (Plate 5, upper figure). On July 8, Leo Borgelt, U. S. Deputy Game Warden, and the writer found three young about two weeks old in the nest. Both adults were in the vicinity of the nest, and one made