

## GENERAL NOTES

**Western Grebe in New Hampshire.**—On April 3, 1938, while studying coastal birds, a group of ornithological students and I saw a Western Grebe, *Aechmophorus occidentalis*, feeding a few hundred yards offshore at Hampton Beach, New Hampshire. A Western Grebe was again seen near the same locality on May 26, 1938, by members of the same group. The swan-like neck, and the white color of head and neck, except for crown and nape which were black, clearly distinguished this grebe from the smaller Holboell's Grebe, with which the writer is acquainted.

The above record is an addition to the sight records accumulating for this bird on the New England coast, since 1934 (see Auk, July 1937).—EUGENE J. GOELLNER, *Manchester, New Hampshire.*

**Predatory instincts in the American Egret.**—Arthur H. Howell, in his 'Florida Bird Life,' page 101, states that "few data on the food habits of the American Egret are available." Neither he nor A. C. Bent in the latter's 'Life Histories,' gives any instance of predatory exhibitions on the part of this species, therefore the following incident may be an addition to the literature concerning this phase of the egret's life history. In early May 1938, while on the plantation 'Cherokee,' in Colleton Co., South Carolina, belonging to Mr. W. R. Coe of New York, the writer was told by Mr. R. F. Kirkland, the Superintendent of that property, of an observation made by the latter a few days previously. Mr. Kirkland was riding horseback over part of the plantation near one of the ricefields. He noted an egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) feeding along one of the ditches, and was idly watching it, when he saw the bird make a sudden dart downward with its beak. Almost immediately it rose into the air with something in the bill, and flapped away. Struck by something unusual about it, he suddenly determined to see exactly what it was, and therefore spurred his horse, attained a position almost under the bird, and by shouting and waving his arms, succeeded in making it drop the object which fell nearby. Going to it at once, he was amazed to find that it was a Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*). Close examination of the bird showed it to be wounded, and since some of these birds had recently been shot because of depredations on the crops, he concluded that the specimen had been injured in that way. It was not able to fly, but could walk. The seizure by the egret had further weakened it, but it was still perfectly able to struggle. Though thoroughly familiar with Carolina Low Country wildlife, Mr. Kirkland had never before seen a like instance, and was much impressed by it. Certainly, it is utterly new to the writer, who has known the egret most of his life and has studied it throughout almost its entire range.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, South Carolina.*

**American Egret and Little Blue Heron in Lower Mohawk River valley.**—Supplementing the reports of Stoner (Auk, 55: 119–121, 1938; Univ. of N. Y. Bull. to Schools, 24: 119–121, Mar. 15, 1938) for 1937, and of Clausen (Auk, 55: 518, 1938) for 1934, upon the status of the American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) in the lower Mohawk River valley, there are the following records for the Crescent Lake section. In only one year since 1920, or possibly earlier, has the American Egret not been seen along this section of the canalized Mohawk River; none was seen in 1934. The birds were first recorded by the writer there in 1930, when information was obtained from several independent sources showing the egrets had been regular summer visitors there at least twelve years. Only two of the birds were seen in each of the first few years, but in the late 1920's the count varied from four to eight.