

GENERAL NOTES

Audubon's Shearwater on New Jersey coast.—On August 19, 1939, there was a southeasterly storm along the New Jersey coast. On the following day (August 20) while walking along the beach at Mantoloking in Ocean County, the writer found the remains of an Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) which had been washed up by the high tide during the storm. There was a hole in the breast as though a gull had started to eat it, and one side of the head was damaged. It nevertheless proved fresh enough to skin, and the indications are that it died during the storm. There was no trace of oil on the feathers and no fat was encountered in the skinning. The specimen, a male, has been identified by Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy of the American Museum of Natural History, as typical *Puffinus l. lherminieri*. It has been deposited in the Princeton Museum of Zoölogy, and appears to be the second record for this species in New Jersey. The only other record is that of one found at Cape May on August 2, 1926, by the late Witmer Stone (Auk, 43: 536, 1926).

The writer thinks it worth noting that many seabirds washed up on the beach in what may appear to be a very poor condition, can be made into relatively presentable skins.—ROBERT WINTHROP STORER, *South Orange, New Jersey.*

Black-capped Petrel in New York.—Mr. Lee J. Loomis, of Endicott, New York, recently brought to my attention an unreported specimen of Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata*, from New York State. The bird, a male, was captured alive by two schoolboys near Hiawatha Island (in the Susquehanna River), not far from Endicott, Broome County, on August 26, 1933. It was so nearly dead that it made no attempt to swim or fly. Presumably it had been driven inland by the hurricane that struck the Binghamton region on August 24.

Cornell University has obtained the specimen through an exchange with Mr. Loomis. It is in excellent plumage though the three outermost primaries and two or three inner secondaries on each wing are more or less sheathed at the base, and some of the rectrices are missing. According to Eaton (Birds of New York, p. 160, 1910) the Black-capped Petrel has been recorded in New York State four times previously.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *Curator of Birds, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Barrow's Golden-eye in Connecticut.—Two diving ducks were sighted on the Connecticut River in South Windsor, Connecticut, on the morning of November 19, 1939. Upon closer observation one bird was immediately identified as a drake Barrow's Golden-eye (*Glaucionetta islandica*). The birds were seen in good light, perhaps 150 yards north of the observation point, through a three-inch telescope by four observers, Messrs. Eugene Schmidt, Dan McDavid, G. O'Brien, and the writer. They were first seen on the water diving, and remained under the glass for about five minutes until frightened by an approaching boat, when they flew northward, low over the water. The very large patch of white coming almost to the top of the bill, and the distinctive intermingling of the black and white on the sides were clearly seen. The second bird was certainly a female Golden-eye, but apart from the fact that it was the only other bird in the vicinity, nothing enabling us to distinguish it as a Barrow's was seen, though the probability is obviously strong that this was a pair.

There are no recent records for this State. Sage and Bishop ('Birds of Connecticut,' 1913) report birds killed November 14, 1867, in the Sound; December 25, 1883, East Haven. Bagg and Eliot ('Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts,' 1937) give four records for the Massachusetts valley region, the latest being of two in November, 1935. Forbush ('Birds of Massachusetts') has one for Vermont in 1917. Brown, Edwards, and Wolfarth report a drake on Sandy Hook Bay, February, 1939 (Auk, 56: 329-330, 1939).

It may be more than a coincidence that of the eight records cited for the Valley region, including this one, five fall in November, three of them in the third week.—M. L. HOFFMAN, *Hartford, Connecticut*.

Water bulrush as a food of waterfowl.—In connection with the waterfowl studies of the Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, a series of duck stomachs was collected during the fall of 1938 and analyzed by the writers. In compiling the results of stomach analyses, one of the outstanding features was the prevalence of root bulbs (tuber-like enlargements of the rhizomes) and fibrous materials of the water bulrush (*Scirpus subterminalis*), which had been eaten by birds taken on the Penobscot River and immediate vicinity. Since this plant apparently has been little recognized as of value to waterfowl, a separate tabulation was made of the food of all birds taken on Folsom Pond, Lincoln, Maine, and on the Penobscot River between the villages of Lincoln and Howland. Twenty-five ducks of eight species were collected from these waters during the months of October and November. Stomach analyses were based upon dry material and were determined according to the percentage-by-bulk method as practiced by the U. S. Biological Survey. Assistance in identification of food materials was given by staff members of the Botany and Zoology Departments at the University of Maine.

Twelve stomachs of the Ring-necked Duck (*Nyroca collaris*) were secured from the area mentioned. One stomach was practically devoid of food but the remaining eleven contained materials expressed in percentages as follows: root bulbs and fibers of water bulrush (*Scirpus subterminalis*), 83.09; snails (Gastropoda), 11.36; seeds of bur reed (mainly *Sparganium fluctuans*), 2.73; seeds of water shield (*Brasenia Schreberi*), 1.55; seeds of pondweed (mainly *Potamogeton pusillus* or *P. gramineus*, together with smaller amounts of both *P. obtusifolius* and *P. epihydrus*), 1.0; seeds of cherry (*Prunus* sp.), 0.27.

The stomachs of five Black Ducks (both *Anas rubripes rubripes* and *A. r. tristis*) contained food materials expressed in percentages as follows: root bulbs and fibers of water bulrush (*Scirpus subterminalis*), 54.0; snails (Gastropoda), 24.8; seeds of bushy pondweed (*Najas flexilis*), 13.6; bur reed (*Sparganium chlorocarpum*), 3.2; pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*), 1.4; water shield (*Brasenia Schreberi*), 1.4; miscellaneous, 1.6.

Two Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) were secured and, although one of these birds had not eaten any *Scirpus subterminalis*, the other had fed upon practically nothing else. The complete food analyses of these two specimens showed the following percentages: water bulrush (*Scirpus subterminalis*), 49.5; arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*), 14.5; insects and miscellaneous animal food, 10.0; snails (Gastropoda), 7.0; seeds of cherry (*Prunus* sp.), 5.0; water shield (*Brasenia Schreberi*), 2.5; pondweed (*Potamogeton epihydrus*), 2.5; miscellaneous and unidentified plant material, 9.0.

One Golden-eye (*Glaucionetta clangula americana*) had made a complete meal of *Scirpus subterminalis*. A Bufflehead (*Charitonetta albeola*) had eaten portions of this bulrush to the extent of 66% of the total stomach contents, the re-