

thanks are due Mr. White for these particulars.—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, Canada.*

Caspian Tern in Haiti.—In 'The Birds of Haiti and the Dominican Republic,' Wetmore and Swales (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 155, p. 181, 1931) place the Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*) in the hypothetical list because of the absence of specimen evidence, although the citation is made that "Danforth writes 'three noted at Les Salines on July 30, 1927.'" As stated in that bulletin, this species is not known to visit the West Indies regularly, and during the subsequent work of Dr. Wetmore and myself on the island of Hispaniola in 1931, no evidence of its presence was obtained, although the superficially similar-appearing Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) was observed on several occasions on the coasts of both Haiti and the Dominican Republic (see Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 82: 30, 1933).

The Caspian Tern, however, may now be added to the avifauna of the island upon the basis of the recovery of a banded bird. This bird, which carried band no. B 608922, was banded as a chick at Gravelly Gull Island, Delta County, Michigan, on July 9, 1932, by the late William I. Lyon. It was killed four kilometers from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on the shore near the Haitian-American Sugar Company, on November 5, 1939. This information, together with the band, was transmitted to the Biological Survey by Colonel George H. Weems, Chief of the U. S. Military Mission (Quartier Général de l'École Militaire d'Haiti) at Port-au-Prince.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

An American Caspian Tern in England.—What is believed to be the first European record of the American race of the Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*) has been reported to the Biological Survey. The bird was marked as a chick with band no. 566280 at the colony on Shoe Island (also known as Little Hat Island), Beaver Island group, in northern Lake Michigan, on July 14, 1927, by the late William I. Lyon. That colony of Caspian Terns is probably one of the largest in the United States. I made an estimate of 600 pairs in the colony in July 1923, and on a visit a year later, I estimated that it contained from 1,000 to 1,500 pairs. Birds banded on those occasions were recovered as far south as Colombia, South America, and also in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Caspian Tern no. 566280 was found dead by a school boy on the beach at Whitby, York County, on the northeast coast of England, during August 1939. It was reported to the Survey by John E. Jenkinson, geography master at the Grammar School, Yarm, Yorks. Subsequent correspondence with Mr. Jenkinson resulted in the band being sent to the Bureau for verification. After preserving a graphite impression for the sake of the record, the band was returned to England to be retained by the finder as a souvenir.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Great Auk in the Isle of Man.—A discovery of great importance to, if not the younger, certainly the older generation of ornithologists has been announced by Mr. Kenneth Williamson in his article contained in the December, 1939, number of 'The Journal of the Manx Museum.' He announced that a drawing by Daniel King, probably made in 1652, which has in the past been regarded as the figure of a Puffin and is so described in 'The Birds of the Isle of Man,' by P. G. Ralfe (1906), has now been established to be that of a Great Auk (*Plautus impennis*).

These words appear in the book under the description of the Puffin—"the white spot before the eye something after the fashion of the Great Auk." The author,

however, had taken into consideration the fact that the copy of the drawing in the Isle of Man disclosed that the beak of the bird was red and so he decided accordingly. Had he seen the original drawing he would doubtless have made the correct announcement. The following inscription is below the drawing—"Theis kind of birds are aboute the Isle of Man." Two of the words, "Theis" and "aboute," have been altered at some time in order to conform to later spelling. The drawing is one of a number formerly belonging to Ralph Thoresby, of Leeds (1658-1725), and is in the British Museum.

At the time I read about the supposed Puffin, my thoughts led me to believe that the drawing was more like a Great Auk than a Puffin, and I made a note accordingly. On talking it over with a friend I found that he thought likewise. We were both of opinion that "the white spot before the eye" suggested further enquiries. However, we have not been able to carry out our intention and it has been left to another to make the correct announcement.

I confess that the news gives me much pleasure because in the past a number of naturalists had come to a definite conclusion as to the range of the Great Auk and particularly in the breeding season, but some of them had cast more than doubt upon statements made by those who considered that this species of bird had been seen in certain places and in some of them had bred. Among others who came under the ban of disapproval was the Rev. H. G. Heaven, the owner of Lundy Island, off the coast of Devonshire. He, in answer to an enquiry by the Rev. Murray A. Mathew, stated in a letter dated September 6, 1865 (Zoologist, 1866, p. 100), that he understood Great Auks had visited that island and that in the year 1838 or 1839, one of his men had brought him an enormous egg which he had taken from a place frequented in some years by the King and Queen Murre. The egg he described thus:—"It was precisely like the Guillemot egg in shape, nearly, if not quite, twice its size, with white ground and black and brown spots and blotches." It had been kept for several years until it got broken. He went on to give his man's description of the birds, and this exactly described the actions of the Great Auk.

Having taken, for many years, a lively interest in the history of the Great Auk and its eggs, I came to the conclusion, bearing in mind that the Rev. H. G. Heaven knew a good deal about birds, that the account was correct and that on the reports the objections by certain naturalists could not be sustained. Two objections were particularly specified in connection with the Rev. H. G. Heaven's account; one was as follows: "How precisely this agrees with Kenneth Macaulay's statements respecting the ones at St. Kilda"; the other stating there was "in fact nothing to show that the range during the breeding season extended south of St. Kilda."

Taking the first of these: it would be curious if a Great Auk behaved in one way at St. Kilda and in another way at Lundy Island. Indeed, the more it is considered, this objection becomes a strong point in support of the report of the Rev. H. G. Heaven. Dealing with the other, there is the statement of the Rev. H. G. Heaven's man and confirmed in certain respects by the master. But now comes a point of great value in the important discovery announced by Mr. Williamson as regards the Isle of Man. For years past I have been looking for a link between St. Kilda and Lundy Island. "The white spot before the eye" aroused my theory of a possibility—Mr. Williamson has confirmed it.

It should be remembered that the figure in the Isle of Man drawing is in breeding plumage. There is no reason to suppose that the Great Auk could not breed

in certain parts of the coast of the Isle of Man; on the contrary, the words on the inscription suggest that it did so. There is also evidence that the birds bred at Lundy Island and the only opposition is mere conjecture.

Mr. Williamson and his Isle of Man naturalists are to be heartily congratulated upon the fact that "Theis kind of birds (were) aboute the Isle of Man."—G. N. CARTER, 8, *Wolseley Place, Manchester 20, England.*

Immature Smooth-billed Ani in Florida in 1897.—The record of *Crotophaga ani* nesting in Florida (A. Sprunt, Jr., *Auk*, 56: 335, 1939) suggests the desirability of calling attention to a skin in the U. S. National Museum collection, first noticed by the author in 1938. The skin (no. 169174) is certainly that of an immature bird because the crest on the beak is undeveloped. Judging from much experience with the *Crotophaginae*, it is probable that the specimen was less than six months old when collected. Its label reads: 'Lake Worth (Fla.) Scrub Dec. 21, 1897 ♀.' The name W. R. Collins is written in another person's handwriting. Since this species is a weak flyer there is doubt that an immature could fly to Florida from the Bahamas or West Indies. According to the U. S. Weather Bureau maps there was a storm "not of hurricane intensity" between September 16–30 and another storm "doubt as to hurricane intensity" between October 1–15. The evidence seems to indicate that the specimen did not come from outside Florida but was reared near Lake Worth.—DAVID E. DAVIS, *Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Mortality of Barn Owls at Champaign, Illinois.—A family of Barn Owls (*Tyto alba pratincola*) was raised in the tower of a grain elevator on the south campus of the University of Illinois during the summer of 1939. The family of owls continued to use the elevator in the winter of 1939–40. During the night of January 18–19, the temperature fell to 15 degrees below zero after two days of subzero weather. Men working at the elevator closed the shutters to the window by which the owls entered the elevator hoping to force the owls to take shelter in the comparatively warm livestock barns nearby. The owls were thus exposed to the full severity of the temperature and deprived of the usual shelter.

My wife and I visited the elevator on the evening of January 27, 1940, to see the owls and were told by one of the attendants that four or five dead Barn Owls had been picked up below the elevator after the 15 below zero night. We saw no survivors. We heard a Screech Owl calling on the night of January 20–21 when the temperature had risen to about 8 degrees above zero. It would seem likely then that the Barn Owls were killed by the extreme cold while the Screech Owl had obviously survived the same cold spell. Cold may be an important factor in limiting the northern distribution of the Barn Owl, which is a lightly feathered species compared with most of the more northern species.—J. MURRAY SPEIRS, 204 *Vivarium, Urbana, Illinois.*

Great Horned Owls dying in the winter of 1939–40.—In late February and early March 1940, two instances of Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*) dying in the wild, were recorded in western New York State. One bird was found lying weakly on a snowbank alongside a farmer's barn near Springville in Cattaraugus County, New York. It was extremely emaciated, scarcely weighing one-half pound, while the eyes appeared deeply sunken as though from prolonged suffering. The bird was so weak as barely to struggle; it refused food offered by the farmer who found it and the bird died about one hour after capture. A close examination failed to reveal external injuries of any kind.