

Howell, in 'Florida Bird Life' (1932: 109) states that nesting "apparently begins in December in southern Florida." A number of dead young night herons were found in and under the nests. None of these young had been torn up by predatory mammals or birds, indicating that few natural enemies of these birds were present on the island.

Seventeen nests of the American Egret were examined, of which two were recently completed but empty; one contained a single egg; five had two eggs each; and nine held three eggs each. No young egrets were observed. The egrets' nests were placed higher on the average than those of the night herons. The plumes of the egrets were well developed. Howell, in the work cited above, gives only a single record of this species nesting as early as December. He reports a set of eggs taken at Lake Jessup, Florida, on December 8, 1859.—JOSEPH C. HOWELL, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Unusual North Carolina records.—In 'The Chat' (Bulletin of the North Carolina Bird Club) of January 1940, the Reverend John H. Grey, its editor, had a paper on 'Unusual [North Carolina] Records in 1939.' As 'The Chat' has a small and mostly local distribution, I secured Mr. Grey's permission to present to 'The Auk' in condensed form such of these records as seem to be of more than local interest, with some additional notes by myself.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER, *Puffinus l. herminieri*.—Unusually plentiful—for the species. Observed by Churchill Bragaw off the mouth of the Cape Fear River on July 23, 1939. Walker found them on Pea Island on July 21, 28, 29, and August 20, 1939, and three were identified near Oregon Inlet on August 17. Walker also reported eight at Oregon Inlet on July 27, 1938, and found seventeen dead in one day along the beach, none being oil-soaked.

GREATER SHEARWATER, *Puffinus gravis*.—S. A. Walker and T. Gilbert Pearson picked up a dead bird on Currituck Beach and Walker found another on Bodie Island Beach on June 26, 1939.

YELLOW-BILLED TROPIC-BIRD, *Phaethon lepturus catesbyi*.—A specimen was picked up dead by Walker on the north shore of Oregon Inlet on July 5, 1939.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, *Anser a. albifrons*.—One was observed by S. A. Walker on the Pea Island Refuge on February 2, 6, 7, 21, and March 5, 1939. He had also identified a single bird on January 19, 1938.

BLUE GOOSE, *Chen caerulescens*.—Observed by Walker on Pea Island from November 2, 1937, to February 9, 1938; a flock of thirteen was seen on February 8. Our earliest record for the species is October 18, 1939, by Walker. Since 1927, this species seems to have become a regular winter visitor on Pea Island, though in comparatively small numbers.

An immature specimen was recorded by Theodore Empie, of Wilmington, North Carolina, as taken a few miles west of the mouth of the Cape Fear River, on November 18, 1939, our farthest southerly record for North Carolina.

GADWALL, *Chaulelasmus streperus*.—Our first record of this species breeding in the State is by Walker, who found an adult accompanied by ten young on one of the Pea Island Refuge ponds, on June 12, 1939. The family was again seen on July 26, when one young was caught and banded.

FLORIDA RED-TAILED HAWK, *Buteo borealis umbrinus*.—A new form for the State list. Reverend Dr. F. H. Craighill, of Rocky Mount, secured two specimens taken near Nashville, North Carolina, one in January 1939, and the other some two years earlier. Dr. H. C. Oberholser upheld Craighill's tentative identification and stated that these were the first satisfactory records of this form outside of Florida.

MARbled GODWIT, *Limosa fedoa*.—A flock of twenty-one was observed on Pea Island, December 26, 1939, by S. A. Walker, Mrs. A. C. Reed, of Norfolk, and John H. Grey. The birds were watched for more than half an hour both in the air and on the mudflats, at times within a hundred yards of the observers.

AVOCET, *Recurvirostra americana*.—One was observed on September 8, 1939, both in the air and on the beach at Nag's Head Coast Guard Station, at close range by F. H. Craighill and S. A. Walker. Another was seen the same day just over the Virginia line.

RED PHALAROPE, *Phalaropus fulicarius*.—One was picked up dead on November 16, 1939, by Craighill, near Rocky Mount, but it was too far advanced in decomposition to be preserved.

ROSEATE TERN, *Sterna d. dougalli*.—An adult female was taken August 17, 1939, and an adult male the following day, by Mrs. Roxie Collie Simpson and J. H. Grey, at Oregon Inlet. Walker reported these rare terns on July 4 and 7, August 26 and September 8, 1938. Walker and Craighill report the species as fairly common on Pea Island from August 28 through September 8, 1939.

DOVEKIE, *Alle alle*. BY H. H. BRIMLEY.—A number of reports show that Dovekies were abundant in the waters adjacent to Beaufort and Morehead City, around Buxton (which is the post office for the Cape Hatteras region), at New River Inlet, Onslow County, and up Core Sound. The earliest dates were November 8, at Buxton, and November 24 at Morehead. In the neighborhood of the mouth of the Cape Fear River several specimens were secured but I have no record of their abundance in those waters, and I have had few reports of their occurrence as far north as Pea Island. They were recorded as common at Buxton through February 1940.

SAW-WHET OWL, *Cryptoglaux a. acadica*.—A much-emaciated male was picked up dead in Oakwood Cemetery, Raleigh, on December 6, 1939. Its gross weight was one ounce and three-fourths.

A male hybrid, BLACK DUCK and MALLARD, was received in the flesh at the State Museum on December 6, 1939. It had been taken by T. G. Samworth, near the mouth of New River a day or two previously. This closes the items from 'The Chat.'

WHITE PELICAN, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*.—One was observed by Earle R. Greene on Lake Mattamuskeet on June 16, 1935 (Report to the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, 1935).

WOOD IBIS, *Mycteria americana*.—Seven of these birds were reported by James L. Stevens, of the State Department of Conservation, on Lennon's Mill Pond, Robeson County, on August 7, 1939.

EASTERN GLOSSY IBIS, *Plegadis f. falcinellus*.—A bird was observed on Pea Island by S. A. Walker, April 20, 1939. An immature female was received in the flesh at the State Museum on February 9, 1940. This specimen was taken in the upper part of Core Sound a few days previous to its receipt here. This is the first record accompanied by a specimen of this species for North Carolina.

WHITE IBIS, *Guara alba*.—An immature bird was seen on two occasions by T. G. Samworth near New River Inlet on August 10, 1939. It was observed with a strong binocular while perched on a small cedar, at about fifty yards distance.

MALLARD, *Anas platyrhynchos*.—On June 20, 1935, a nest containing five eggs was found on Lake Mattamuskeet by Earle R. Greene (Report to the Bureau of Biological Survey, 1935).

BLACK DUCK, *Anas rubripes*.—Four adults, each accompanied by downy young, were observed on the fresh-water ponds at Pea Island on June 20, 1939, by T. Gilbert Pearson, S. A. Walker and the writer. An adult, with seven or eight young was seen on Lake Mattamuskeet, June 19, 1935, by Earle R. Greene (Report to the Bureau of Biological Survey, 1935).

EUROPEAN WIDGEON, *Mareca penelope*.—One was seen by S. A. Walker on Pea Island, March 9, 1939.

AMERICAN MERGANSER, *Mergus merganser americanus*.—In a letter dated February 9, 1939, Mr. Rupert West of Moyock, North Carolina, informed me that during the last week in May 1938, he viewed at close quarters a pair of adult American Mergansers, accompanied by five downy young, on Bennett's Pond, Chowan County, our first record of this species breeding in North Carolina.

MARSH HAWK, *Circus hudsonius*.—A nest containing four eggs was found on King's Point, about six miles northwest of the Cape Hatteras Park, on May 20, 1936 (Edwin L. Green: The Chat, January, 1939). This seems to be our first definite record of the nesting of this species in this State.

EASTERN DOWITCHER, *Limnodromus g. griseus*.—A single bird was observed by T. Gilbert Pearson, S. A. Walker and the writer on the 'lumps' off Buxton, June 20, 1939.

BLACK SKIMMER, *Rynchops n. nigra*.—Mrs. Roxie Collie Simpson reports large flocks (thousands of individuals in the aggregate) in Beaufort Harbor on December 15, 1939. On a later visit, from January 14 to 20, 1940, Mrs. Simpson states that none was to be seen in the same area.

GROVER QUINN, in a letter to C. S. Brimley, under date of February 16, 1940, states that he found a dead bird on the sound shore at Buxton on January 24, 1940, and that he observed about fifty live skimmers during the day. These seem to be new winter records for the species, at least in large numbers.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER, *Mniotilta varia*.—On May 14, 1933, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Clarkson found a nest of this species about five miles southeast of the center of Charlotte, North Carolina, and about 300 yards from their home. It occupied a typical situation and contained four almost fully feathered young. One week later the young had left the nest which was collected for examination. There was no particular departure from normal in its construction except for the fact that it was lined with a mixture of fine rootlets and *very fine copper wire*, such as is used in telephone cables. Fragments of such cable, discarded by repair men, were found nearby where a telephone line ran through the woods. Mrs. Clarkson kindly sent us the nest for examination and there is no doubt of its lining being composed of rootlets and fine copper wire woven together.

EASTERN LARK SPARROW, *Chondestes g. grammacus*.—On Pea Island, S. A. Walker observed an individual a number of times from January 13 to March 31, 1939.

EASTERN SNOW BUNTING, *Plectrophenax n. nivalis*.—A flock of about 75 was observed by Mrs. Roxie Collie Simpson, at Beaufort, on December 11, 1939.—H. H. BRIMLEY, *State Museum, Raleigh, North Carolina*.

Notes from Princess Anne County, Virginia.—The writers made a brief trip on May 20–22, 1940, to this border-line region in order to secure a few birds for subspecific identification. All specimens referred to below were kindly identified for us by Dr. Alexander Wetmore. Certain other observations of some interest were made.

PARASITIC (?) JAEGER, *Stercorarius* sp.—A jaeger in light phase and probably of