

large gathering of observers who had experienced a poor day for hawks. This flock of geese was low-flying and exceedingly noisy. The birds were in such loose formation that five became dissociated from the main group and, cackling lustily, continued southward scarcely more than 150 feet above the treetops, directly over the entrance to the Sanctuary, where I happened to see them.

AMERICAN SCOTER, *Oidemia americana*.—A singular occurrence of nineteen American Scoters, passing fairly close to the lookout at a low elevation, was noted about mid-day of October 17, 1939.

NORTHERN RAVEN, *Corvus corax principalis*.—I have nine records of this species. Single birds occurred on October 14 and November 2, 1934 (Auk, 52: 311, 1935). In the forenoon of October 2, 1935, my wife and I saw a Raven sail low over the ridge, passing from northeast to southwest, and twice we heard a throaty *croak*; at 4.05 p. m., a Raven (the same bird?) flew by in reverse direction. The same season, October 15, seven members of the West Chester (Pennsylvania) Bird Club and myself saw two Ravens, one at 2.30 p. m., and the other at 2.50 p. m., both following the course of the ridge. On October 12, 1936, a number of observers were fortunate in seeing a Raven pass within fifty feet of the lookout; the bird flew up the ridge toward the east. A large gathering of observers had an excellent view of a Raven on October 14, 1939, and very early the next morning two birds were seen by Millard R. Lindauer, Robert Newman, and W. Bryant Tyrell.

BEWICK'S WREN, *Thryomanes b. bewicki*.—On September 30, 1934, I studied a bird of this species for nearly ten minutes, in the low growth bordering the dirt road, near the entrance to the Sanctuary. No other local records obtain for this wren, so far as I know. I have had considerable experience with the Bewick's Wren in the South.

SNOW BUNTING, *Plectrophenax n. nivalis*.—I have seen two Snow Buntings at our Sanctuary lookout: the first, on November 18, 1936, a low-flying bird, following the course of the ridge; the other on November 2, 1937, alighted on the great barren pile of rocks beside me and loitered several minutes before continuing its journey in a southerly direction. So far as I know, there are no other records of Snow Buntings for this region during the present century.—MAURICE BROWN, *Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Route 1, Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania*.

Maritime Birds occurring with summer storms near Charleston in 1939.—At frequent intervals during the summer of 1939, I was on the outer beach at the Isle of Palms, a South Carolina sand-barrier island in Charleston County. While there I spent some part of the time in observing with interest the bird life of the strand and the adjacent ocean. This resulted in the discovery of two species unusual on the Carolina coast: Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) and Noddy (*Anous stolidus*). Tropical oceanic birds often occur on this coast with the passage of storm areas originating in or near the tropics. The occurrence of the Noddy as cited below is an example of a species blown by storm winds beyond its normal range. That heavy local storms may account for some mortality even among such strong-flying forms as the shearwaters, may be seen by the following account. I have drawn from the Weather Bureau's data of the accompanying atmospheric disturbances which I have discussed in some detail in an attempt to shed light on the method of dispersal of maritime birds by storm factors.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER, *Puffinus lherminieri*.—On July 24, 1939, a specimen of Audubon's Shearwater which had just washed ashore was found dead on the beach at Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Although this species has its nearest breeding

grounds in the West Indies it is said to be fairly numerous in the summer over South Carolina coastal waters some distance from shore where it follows fishing boats. It seldom reaches land in this country, however. There are, for instance, only two records of its occurrence, both following storms, listed in the Charleston Museum's 'Second Supplement to Arthur T. Wayne's "Birds of South Carolina."'

Apparently the unusually heavy rains and winds forced down this specimen at sea. On the two previous days rainfall at the Charleston weather station totaled 7.86 inches and winds were southeast off the sea and about 22 m.p.h. velocity. Ships to the northeast in the Atlantic reported considerably stronger wind movement. This storm was the result of a continental low-pressure area that crossed the southern States on the preceding days and there was no tropical disturbance attending it. Probably this shearwater was one of the local offshore population that succumbed to the unusually heavy coastal rain and wind.

Noddy, Anous stolidus.—At the Isle of Palms on the morning of August 14, 1939, with rain squalls coming in from the sea and some intermittent sunshine, I discovered a Noddy Tern resting on the sand at the edge of the open ocean. It appeared exhausted, permitting me to approach to within fifteen feet, but then took wing normally although in a leisurely fashion. The tern skimmed the breakers southward an eighth of a mile or so and showed unusual attitude toward persons on the beach. It fluttered just out of reach among surf fishermen apparently out of curiosity. Passing on over shallow water, it paused to circle over swimmers who could have caught it by hand, attracting notice by its lack of caution. After a flight of a quarter mile or so it had returned several times to the sand where it alighted. After two attempts, with the help of an interested onlooker, this Noddy was secured by the simple method of stalking it with moderate care and dropping a towel over it. Inspection showed it to be in dry plumage and in good condition. Constituting the third record of the species in South Carolina, the specimen is now in the Charleston Museum's collection.

Some interest attaches to the course of this tropical hurricane which beached this Noddy about 400 miles beyond its normal range. The storm center was reported near Puerto Rico on August 8. Its movement was northwestward over Haiti and Cuba, advancing toward the United States across the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Early movement of the storm was rapid so that by August 12 it was centered in the Gulf of Mexico with center nearest Tampa which recorded 3.47 inches of rain, although the barometer read only 29.96 inches. Newspaper reports claimed wind velocities of 60 m.p.h. although the disturbance was classed by the Weather Bureau as of moderate intensity. The storm reached the mainland on the Florida panhandle and had moved by August 15 to northern Alabama with a presumably diminished intensity of 29.83 inches at center. At Charleston, South Carolina, the approach of the storm caused general cloudiness on August 13 with rain squalls. The wind direction was southeast and maximum minute-velocity 26 m.p.h. Rainfall was moderate with 0.63 inches. On August 14, when the Noddy was captured, the weather was clearing as the storm lost force over Alabama.

From these data it may be assumed that this hurricane crossed more or less directly the breeding range of the Noddy. Apparently this bird was carried on the eastern half of the storm where winds were at all times from the southeast. It seems probable that this individual started its flight in the central storm area where gales forced it northward. By the time the Carolina shore was reached the bird had moved toward the calmer periphery of the storm, being already some 400 miles from the center, and somewhat in advance of it. This is in contrast to

those cases where the birds are carried in the so-called 'central eye' of the hurricane.
—JAMES A. BRUCE, 32 W. Bee Street, Charleston, South Carolina.

Notes from northern Lower California.—Between August 14 and 17, 1940, the writer, in company with Karl W. Kenyon of La Jolla, California, was camped near the sea at the mouth of the Santo Tomas River, some thirty miles south of Enseñada, Lower California, Mexico. Among the considerable number of birds listed, the following three seem worthy of record.

COLNETT'S RUFIOUS-CROWNED SPARROW (*Aimophila ruficeps lambi*).—This bird was found in greater numbers than the writer had ever observed Rufous-crowned Sparrows anywhere, both on the hillsides facing the sea, and in the grassy, brushless areas, which were beginning to recover from incendiary fires. It is a common practice for the natives to start fires in the chaparral and leave them to burn themselves out, in the belief that better cattle-feed will result.

LESSER YELLOW-LEGS (*Totanus flavipes*).—On the afternoon of August 14, Kenyon collected an adult male of this species as it was feeding near the surf line on the sandy beach. Through his generosity the specimen is now no. 18197 in the collection of the San Diego Society of Natural History. It apparently represents the first capture of a Lesser Yellow-legs north of Cape San Lucas in Lower California and the first recorded instance for the entire peninsula since M. A. Frazar made his unparalleled collection of Cape birds in 1887.

RED-BELLIED HAWK (*Buteo lineatus elegans*).—As we drove out on August 17, when we came to the last of the large sycamore trees about two miles west of Santo Tomas, a pair of Red-bellied Hawks was seen. This observation adds another record to the few already made for Lower California (see Grinnell's 'Distributional Summation of the Ornithology of Lower California,' Univ. California Publ. Zool., 32: 109, 1928) and marks the first time that the writer, in his seventeen years of Lower California ornithological experience, has observed this hawk on the peninsula.
—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California.*

Interesting records from high elevations on Mount Rainier, Washington.—On June 27, 1940, some interesting birds were recorded from near the summit of Mount Rainier (14,408 feet) in Washington by a party of Park Rangers and Rainier National Park Company guides who ascended this ice-clad volcano in connection with their usual early-season duties. The party consisted of Asst. Chief Ranger William Butler, the leader, and Park Rangers Larry Jensen, Robert Weldon, Gordon Patterson, Darwin Williams, Paul Shaffrath, Robert Jeffery, and Rainier National Park Company guides Deo Molenaar and Kenneth G. Spangenberg. The following birds, frozen and lying upon the surface of the snow, were found between the 13,000-foot elevation and the crater rim, just beneath the actual summit at Columbia Crest. A Golden Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla chryseola*) was found at the highest elevation—upon the outside of the crater rim near Register Rock; the two other birds were found at slightly lower elevations, namely a Little Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailli brewsteri*) and a Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia coronata*).

The birds were picked up and brought to the Park Museum at Longmire where they were identified. From the condition of the birds they had been lying there for some time and, unfortunately, they could not be saved for the museum study collection.—C. FRANK BROCKMAN, *Park Naturalist, Mt. Rainier National Park, Washington.*