

to get some motion pictures of the bird. A few feet of my film came back fairly good, a few frames showing the head markings quite plainly; I have not heard as to Mr. Houghton's results.—LOUIS A. STIMSON, *Miami, Florida.*

Status of the White-winged Scoter in Louisiana.—Although the White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*) has been recorded in the literature as having been taken in Louisiana at least twice, the bird seems sufficiently rare in this state to merit special mention of recent record. All the records for the species in Louisiana listed by Oberholser ('The Bird Life of Louisiana,' Louis. State Dept. Conserv., Bull. 28, 1938) were obtained in the two most southwesterly parishes of the state. According to this source:

"The White-winged Scoter is an accidental winter visitor on the coast of Louisiana. A young male was taken a few miles south of Cameron Farm, which is in Cameron Parish, 14 miles south of Venton, during the latter part of December, 1924, by Elmer Bowman (A. M. Bailey, *Auk*, 42, no. 3: 442, July, 1925). There is also a male specimen in the museum of Tulane University, killed on the Sabine River in Calcasieu Parish, March 1, 1900."

On April 17, 1932, Mr. Jack Gunn, of Lake Charles, Louisiana, collected a male and a female near Big Lake, Cameron Parish. The female was too badly damaged to be mounted, but the male was mounted and put on display in Mr. Gunn's sporting goods store in Lake Charles.

A female, shot during the hunting season of 1938 at the Lake Arthur Gun Club in Cameron Parish, is now mounted and displayed in their clubhouse. It is unfortunate that the exact date of collection cannot be given. During December, 1940, a male was taken at the same hunting club. Both specimens were inspected and identified by Mr. Earl L. Atwood, Superintendent, Lacassine Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. It may also be reported that Mr. Atwood observed a male at close range on the Lacassine Refuge on December 11, 1939.

On a small pond supporting a luxuriant growth of submerged aquatic plants, near Holly Beach in Cameron Parish, a female specimen was taken by Houston C. Gascon, U. S. Game Management Agent, on December 20, 1941. This skin was prepared by the writer and is now deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Service's collection at Washington, D. C.—JULIAN A. HOWARD, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Sulphur, Louisiana.*

Recent interesting Louisiana records.—On February 13, 1942, I observed a male Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus mexicanus*) perched on the top wire of a barbed-wire fence along a marshy field one-half mile north of the Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge headquarters, in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, near the town of Lake Arthur. The bird was observed for fifteen minutes through binoculars at a distance of seventy-five feet. Its color, size, and typical feeding habits left no doubt as to its identity. After this date, the bird was observed almost daily until March 16, within one hundred yards of the same spot. Only one individual was seen during this period and it is concluded that only one bird was present in the area. E. A. McIlhenny (*Auk*, 52: 187, 1935) recorded an example taken December 22, 1934, and Oberholser ('The Bird Life of Louisiana,' Louis. State Dept. Conserv., Bull. 28: 401, 1938) lists a record on February 7, 1938, by George H. Lowery, Jr.

According to Oberholser (tom. cit.: 117) the Blue-winged Teal is a permanent resident throughout the greater part of Louisiana. However, the latest spring record listed by him is April 18 except for one record of eggs on May 9. It is very

probable that all of the April records were of migrants. I have observed this species to be common in Cameron Parish in late April since 1940, when I began spring observations in this area. In 1940 and 1941 this species was common on the Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge during the last week in April. On April 22, 1942, I observed approximately 300 Blue-winged Teals, as many as sixty to a flock, in Sabine National Wildlife Refuge; smaller flocks were observed until April 26. There is no question but that these birds were migrants, since no additional birds were seen during daily field observations until May 14 when a male was observed on a small pond near Hackberry. On June 11, 1942, Mr. John Lynch and I flushed a teal in a marsh near Southwest Pass. The female exhibited the broken-wing behavior but no nest or young were found. The flight of the male was not as strong as usual and it was surmised that he was beginning or recovering from the spring molt. While with Mr. Lynch again on June 14, 1942, we flushed a Blue-winged Teal female from a nest containing ten eggs, one of which was broken in her hurried exit. The embryo was fully developed and probably would have hatched within two days. This nest was located in a salt-grass marsh (*Distichlis spicata*) just behind the Gulf Ridge south of Grand Chenier. On July 4, 1940, I observed five Blue-winged Teals flying across Lake Misere and on July 30, 1942, I observed seven flying over Mud Lake. These late summer records and the additional nesting record more definitely establishes the species as a permanent resident. The nest location is interesting because it is the same from which Kennard (Auk, 36: 455-460, 1919) collected the type specimen of what he called the "Southern Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors albinucha*)." This has not, however, been generally recognized as distinct.

Audubon's Caracara (*Polyborus cheriway auduboni*) is only a casual visitor to the coast region of southern Louisiana, and there is no actual record of its breeding in the State, according to Oberholser (tom. cit.). However, on June 10, 1942, Mr. John Lynch and I observed a pair of these birds near Gum Cove in Cameron Parish. On making inquiry of local residents concerning the occurrence of these birds, we were advised by Mr. Ves Moore and Mr. Stein, who live in this area, that these 'Mexican eagles' have been observed by them at least for five or six years, but only one or two at a time. We were further advised that a bulky nest had been built at one time by these birds in a dead cypress tree in Black Bayou, nearby. Further evidence that the species is nesting in this area was obtained by Mr. Lynch on May 26, 1942, when he observed two caracaras mating on the prairie at the same place where we observed them on June 10. Several thousand acres of prairie land still exist in the Gum Cove area which, except for more abundant rainfall, is not greatly different from areas in Texas and Mexico where I have observed the species to be numerous. It seems probable that, as a permanent resident, this species will be limited to this prairie area of southwestern Louisiana, since the remainder of the former prairie land is now cultivated. An ecological note of interest is that although Attwater's Prairie Chicken was driven from this same prairie land by grazing livestock and by human habitation, the caracara was more adaptable. A collection record from this area in 1879 indicates that the caracara was at least a casual visitor at that time when Attwater's Prairie Chickens were very numerous in the area. The prairie chicken was last recorded from this area in 1919 although residents report that a few birds remained for some time after that date.

On August 30, 1942, at 4:30 P. M., I observed a Noddy Tern (*Anous stolidus*

stolidus) alight on the porch roof of the manager's dwelling at the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge near Hackberry in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The bird was observed for about fifteen minutes before it was collected; it allowed me to approach within thirty feet without exhibiting signs of alarm. It is believed the Noddy was driven westward and inland by a storm which was accompanied by a southeast wind reaching gale velocity, on October 29 and on the morning of the 30th, along the Cameron Gulf coast. Examination after collection revealed it to be an adult male. Identification was later verified by Mr. George H. Lowery, Curator, Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology.

Oberholser (tom. cit.: 311) notes that this species has been reported by several authors to occur on the Louisiana Gulf coast but that he was unable to verify the reports. Correspondence with Oberholser and Lowery since the specimen was collected establishes this to be the first definite record for the Noddy Tern in Louisiana. The specimen will be deposited with the Fish and Wildlife Service collection in the U. S. National Museum.—EARL L. ATWOOD, *Sulphur, Louisiana*.

Violet-green Swallow in southeastern Minnesota.—On the afternoon of October 25, while watching some Mallards on a small pond three miles west of Rochester, Minnesota, I noticed a pair of swallows flying over the pond. On closer inspection it soon became apparent that the birds were not Tree Swallows as I had at first supposed but a species new to me. I observed them in good light for perhaps fifteen minutes from a distance of fifty feet through 6 x 30 Bausch and Lomb binoculars. It seemed certain that the birds were Violet-green Swallows (*Tachycineta thalassina lepida*). They were the size and shape of Tree Swallows. The back was an unusual shade of bright greenish purple and on each side of the rump there was a patch of white, the two patches nearly meeting in the mid-line. Another conspicuous mark was the facial configuration, the white of the throat apparently partly encircling the eye. The underparts were white and the wings and tail black.

The day was quite cold, with the temperature around 20 degrees F., and with a strong northwest wind blowing. The swallows faced into the wind, most of the time, hovering motionless a foot or two above the edge of the pond. Occasionally they alighted on the shore, apparently attracted by masses of foam whipped to the water's edge by the wind. At noon the following day they were seen again. During the night the pond had frozen solid and the wind had abated. The birds appeared tired and flew only a moment or two at a time. They spent much of the time sitting on the ice, frequently pecking at it. Shyness was so lacking that I was able to approach within a few feet and verify completely the notes previously made. There appeared little possibility the birds could survive, for the weather remained below freezing for several days after they were seen.

Dr. Thomas S. Roberts, of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History, very kindly loaned me skins of the Tree Swallow and Violet-green Swallow for study. There was no reasonable doubt that the birds I had seen belonged to the latter species. Doctor Roberts ("The Birds of Minnesota") accords the Violet-green Swallow a place on the hypothetical list for Minnesota on the basis of a note by Hatch (Bull. Geol. Nat. Hist. Surv. Minn., 1881), but there is no other record of its occurrence in the state. Judging by the dates given by Bent, the bird is a rather early migrant in its normal range, so that its occurrence in this latitude at the end of October makes the foregoing record doubly remarkable.—F. R. KEATING, M.D., *Rochester, Minnesota*.