

*nigra americana*) taken October 15, 1941, in the entrance to the Salt Lagoon near St. Paul Village. This scoter was unable to fly because of a wing injury and was captured after being pursued in shallow water where it was rapidly exhausted by its efforts to swim under water. Its stomach was empty. American Scoters have been taken north of the Pribilofs at St. Lawrence Island and south of them in the Aleutians; therefore, it was only a matter of time until one was collected at St. Paul. Other ducks of the same species were observed on the Salt Lagoon during the fall. This specimen is now in the Fish and Wildlife Service collection at the U. S. National Museum.

A Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*) was shot on the shore of the Salt Lagoon on October 15, 1941, where it was feeding in company with Pacific Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica fulva*), Black Turnstones (*Arenaria melanocephala*), Wandering Tattlers (*Heteroscelus incanus*), Pribilof Sandpipers (*Arquatella ptilocnemis ptilocnemis*), and Red Phalaropes (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). It appears to be the first record for this shorebird on the Pribilof Islands. The skin is in the possession of the Economic Investigations Laboratory of the Fish and Wildlife Service near Washington, D. C.—FORD WILKE, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Fur Animal Experiment Station, Saratoga Springs, New York.

**Bubulcus ibis in Venezuela.**—A specimen of this small white heron, native to southern Europe, Africa, and southern Asia, was collected on January 27, 1943, near San José de Tiznados, west of Calabozo, State of Guárico, Venezuela.

The collector was Octavio Arleo B., of the Museo de Ciencias Naturales, of Caracas, and the specimen is the property of that institution. It was identified by Dr. Ernst Mayr of the American Museum of Natural History.

Mr. Walter Dupouy, Director of the Museo de Ciencias Naturales, writes: "According to Arleo, the specimen was together with three others which looked exactly the same to him. The four flew past him and he shot one. Arleo states that the flight of these birds seemed much quicker than that of the small herons found around that habitat and in other places in country."

The question arises as to whether this individual, or the four seen together, were stragglers from Spain or North Africa, or whether the specimen in hand was an escaped captive bird. The species occurs in southern Spain and there is a passenger line of steamships from there to Venezuela. The locality where it was collected is on the prairies of the Apure River, in the Orinoco Valley, many hundreds of miles from the seacoast. The specimen does not show any signs of captivity but it is possible, nevertheless, that the bird may have escaped from the zoological gardens at Maracay, only 100 kilometers distant.—WILLIAM H. PHELPS, Caracas, Venezuela.

**The Snowy Owl in New York State: 1942-1943.**—Following the marked southerly mass movement of the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) into New York and other eastern states in late 1941 and early 1942 (see Stoner, D., Bird-Banding, 14, no. 4: 116-127, 1943), it occurred to me that a supplemental investigation of the bird's status immediately succeeding a peak-year of abundance might be profitable. Accordingly, I addressed communications of inquiry to fifty-five taxidermists in New York State who had furnished me with the greatest number of records in 1941-1942. In addition, some twenty other letters of inquiry were transmitted to correspondents who had supplied data and records on that invasion.

It will be appropriate to mention here that my own observations and letters of inquiry on the 1941-1942 Snowy Owl movement in New York State provided 419

records (291 collected; 128 sight) from 56 counties. The earliest autumnal record was September 28, 1941; the latest spring record, April 5, 1942. The height of the movement occurred in November (193 records) with centers of greatest abundance in the Great Lakes, Finger Lakes, Oneida Lake, Saratoga Lake, Long Island, and Hudson and Mohawk river sections.

The inquiry on the 1942-1943 Snowy Owl movement in New York State revealed the following interesting figures: A total of only 38 records (25 collected; 13 sight) was obtained from 20 counties. Half of the records came from five counties—Jefferson, three; Monroe, three; Queens, four; Saratoga, five; Suffolk, four. The remaining 19 records (16 collected; three sight) were scattered among 15 counties. Twenty-three records (17 collected; six sight) were reported for November, seven for December, four for October, two for January, and one each for February and March. Earliest fall record—October 18, 1942, Queens County; two individuals. Latest spring record—March 13, 1943, Monroe County. Both were sight records.

The following points are of interest in comparing the southerly movement of the Snowy Owl in the two successive seasons mentioned: (1) Subsequent to the very heavy seasonal movement of 1941-1942, the invasion of 1942-1943 was markedly insignificant in point of numbers; thirty of the 55 solicited taxidermists reported negatively on both collected and sight records. (2) The initial and final seasonal dates were about the same for both invasions, though the 1941-1942 movement apparently entered the state a little earlier in autumn and the last birds were sighted a little later in spring than in the 1942-1943 movement. (3) In both invasions the points of greatest concentration appeared to be along the Hudson and Mohawk rivers, Long Island Sound, and in the Great Lakes, Oneida Lake and Finger Lakes areas. (4) For both invasions, maximum numbers occurred during the last half of November. (5) One is prone to inquire whether the high mortality which greeted the invaders from hunters' guns in 1941-1942 may not have been accountable in large measure for the surprisingly small number of individuals which participated in the 1942-1943 movement. Another factor that may have had some bearing upon the disparity in the reported status of the Snowy Owl in the two seasons was the obviously smaller number of hunters abroad in 1942-1943. Compensating in some measure for this were the more minute local inquiries made by the persons solicited. Unquestionably, the Snowy Owl population in New York State in 1942-1943 was scarcely, if at all, larger than that represented by the usual winter numbers of the bird.—DAYTON STONER, *New York State Museum, Albany, New York*.