

Swallow-tailed Kite in Texas.—A Swallow-tailed Kite was seen by me on the forenoon of April 23, 1945, at the Colorado River, along the main highway about one mile south of Bay City, Texas. The bird circled in leisurely fashion low above the nearby treetops, remaining in clear view for about ten minutes. This observation followed a period of squally storms, on the nights of April 20 and 21, bringing to earth waves of migrants which enabled Mrs. Conger Hagar, of Rockport, and the writer, to record a two-day (21 and 22) list of 152 species of birds, in the vicinity of Rockport, Texas.—(SGT.) JOSEPH M. HEISER, JR., *Det. Med. Dept., Brooke Gen. Hosp., Fort Sam Houston, Texas.*

Blue × Canada Goose hybrid.—In December, 1945, the United States National Zoological Park received from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, through the kindness of Messrs. John W. Aldrich, of the Washington office, and Kenneth F. Roahen, of Billings, Montana, two geese that are the progeny of a mating of a male Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) and a female Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis canadensis*). The history in connection with these birds is reported by Mr. Roahen as follows: In the spring of 1936, Mr. Roahen, while on migratory-bird patrol work in South Dakota, picked up a crippled male Blue Goose which he took to his headquarters at Billings. He cared for the bird at his home for a while and later turned it over to the 'See 'Em Alive Zoo' at Red Lodge, Montana. In the spring of 1943, a female Canada Goose that had been with the male Blue Goose for a while, hatched four eggs. Three of the young succumbed in a blizzard, but the fourth one survived. It showed such definite Canada Goose markings the first year that considerable doubt existed in the minds of those who had been caring for the bird that the male parent was a Blue Goose, but late in 1944 this bird had developed the white head characteristic of the Blue Goose. In the season of 1944, the original male Blue Goose mated with another Canada female and five eggs were hatched. One of the young birds was malformed and was put to death. The two young birds that were received by the Zoo are from this 1944 brood, and in December of 1944, when they were about seven months old, the plumage pattern was that of the Canada Goose with the exception that the neck and the ventral surface of the body were speckled with white. These birds have an interesting combination of behavior characteristic of both of the parents. They are excellent swimmers, graze extensively, and enjoy sitting on the snow.

If these two young birds of the F1 generation are a true pair, it will be interesting to see whether or not they can produce young, as we expect to afford them suitable facilities for nesting.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.*

Hybrid between Snow and Blue Goose in Washington, D. C.—For about two and a half months an interesting goose was present at Roaches Run Wildfowl Sanctuary, on the west side of the Potomac River near the airport, Washington, D. C. On November 19, 1944, it was seen by Abby Roe and R. T. Peterson, but they did not report it. Then on December 10, 1944, Dr. Haskell B. Curry and I saw the bird at close range and reported it to the U. S. National Museum. The following day it was seen by Dr. Herbert Friedmann, W. M. Perrygo, Mrs. Roxie C. Simpson, and J. S. Webb, all from the U. S. National Museum, and A. J. Duvall, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These were the characteristics noted:

General appearance whitish with black wing tips; size smaller than a Canada Goose with which it flew. On December 17, 1944, it was seen on land with the Canada Goose by Mr. Perrygo and Mr. W. L. Brown, of the National Museum. They noted the dark bill and legs, general whitishness, and the mottled area on the top of the

head and back of the neck. On December 31, the bird was viewed at close range by participants in the Christmas bird count of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, led by Dr. John W. Aldrich. The consensus of opinion of the many observers was that the bird was an immature Snow Goose. However, on January 31, 1945, Dr. Paul Bartsch, of the National Museum, found the skeleton of the bird, which apparently had died of starvation and had then been devoured by crows or some other scavenger. The wing feathers were still on the skeleton and when the wings were compared with specimens in the National Museum they were found to be typical of the Blue Goose. After careful study of photographs taken of the bird in life, by R. T. Peterson and Dr. John W. Aldrich, it was noted that the bird was similar to the Blue Goose on the wings and like the Snow Goose on the under parts and neck. It is now concluded that it was a hybrid between these two species.—DAN EMERY, 4600 49th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Apparent death of a Blue Jay from Toxoplasmosis.—On May 2, 1944, Dr. R. B. Dienst of Augusta brought to the writer a male Florida Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*) which dropped dead from a tree at his home during the course of the doctor's breakfast. As the bird was fresh and in fair plumage it was skinned and the skin preserved. The carcass was then examined to determine the probable cause of death.

The bird was emaciated and generally in poor condition. Numerous oval, cream-colored lesions, which contrasted sharply with the purplish normal tissue, were scattered throughout the skeletal muscles though more numerous in the breast. A cube of pectoral muscle containing lesions was preserved for sectioning and staining. The internal organs were free from parasites and showed no gross lesions. A smear of heart's blood stained with Wright's stain was negative for parasites. No smears were made of the liver, spleen or lungs.

The section of pectoral muscle shows numerous grayish-yellow foci of necrosis, the largest of which was 2-3 mm. in diameter. The necrosis is coagulative in type and involves the muscle cells primarily. Around the margins of these lesions there is a dense leukocytic infiltrate composed of macrophages, eosinophilic polymorphonuclear leukocytes, lymphocytes and round cells resembling plasma cells. Inwardly, many of the macrophages contain ingested parasites, often in large numbers, which are identified as *Toxoplasma*. Multinucleated giant cells are present but are not actively parasitic. Some of the parasites are extracellular, apparently due to rupture of the containing phagocyte. Rarely an organism is observed within a capillary. The centers of the largest lesions are completely necrotic and all tissues are disintegrating.

Throughout the muscle there are microscopic foci of leukocytic infiltration, usually perivascular in position. Organisms are not found in these areas.

According to Herman [Bird-Banding, 15 (3): 89-112, 1944], infections with *Toxoplasma* have been reported in 14 species of North American birds, including a questionable infection in the Blue Jay. Also, according to the same author, the pathogenicity of *Toxoplasma* for birds is not known. In the writer's opinion, the *Toxoplasma* infection undoubtedly caused the death of the bird discussed above.—J. FRED DENTON, University of Georgia School of Medicine, Augusta, Georgia.

White Pelican in New York State.—On April 21, 1945, a White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) was seen by Mr. Sidney Wilkin of Rochester, New York, on a marsh at Shore Acres, Monroe County, New York. The marsh is about 20 acres in extent, drains into Lake Ontario, and is north of the village of Hilton. The following