

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