

same target (that is, some smaller fish on the surface of the water), one from above and the other from below. Evidence for this explanation lies in the fact that the sheepshead rarely comes to the surface except for swift, nearly vertical lunges for food, after which it returns to deeper water immediately. Also the fact that the sheepshead could enter the pelican's beak at only one angle indicates that they must have met head on.—DONALD E. STULLKEN, *Department of Animal Physiology, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.*

**Brown pelican on the coast of Surinam, Dutch Guiana.**—Murphy (*Oceanic Birds of South America*, pp. 130–131, 1936) discusses at length the oceanic conditions which prevent brown pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) from extending their normal range much to southeastward of the point at which the southern end of the Antillean arc approaches the mainland. He further states that "Brown Pelicans have, of course, been reported from the coast of the Guianas and even from inland waters of the Amazon" and concludes: "all such records, however, appear to be based upon wandering individual birds." His opinion is that "the muddy water of this coast is the factor that limits the southeastward extension of the Brown Pelican's distribution so abruptly in the neighbourhood of Trinidad."

As to British Guiana all records seem to go back to Schomburgk (*Reisen in British-Guiana in den Jahren 1840–1844*, 2: 456, 1848), and Young (*Ibis*, 1928: 751–752) does not mention the pelican in his account of the coast between the Corantyne and Demerara rivers. The Penard brothers (*Vogels van Guyana*, 1: 76, 1908) state that this bird is only of irregular occurrence on migration in the Guianas but give no further details. Count Hans von Berlepsch (*Nov. Zool.*, 15: 312, 1908) does not list the brown pelican for French Guiana, but there are at least two records in Brazil (Snethlage, *Catalogo das Aves Amazonicas*, 120, 1914, and Pinto, *Catalogo das Aves do Brasil*, 1: 25, 1938).

According to my observations during the last two years the brown pelican is of regular occurrence on the coast of Surinam, Dutch Guiana, but only in small numbers. Starting in the northwest of the country my list of records is as follows: coast east of Nieuw Nickerie, August 17, 1947, two birds; coast near Coronie, July 9, 1946, one bird; tributary of Saramacca and Coppename rivers, April 28, 1947, six birds (at least three of them in adult breeding plumage), May 10, 1947, two in adult breeding plumage, June 5, 1948, three, June 6, 1948, nine, July 10, 1947, four, July 11, 1947, twenty, August 7, 1946, eleven at least two in adult breeding plumage, August 24, 1947, seventeen, September 10, 1947, twenty, September 13, 1947, two; coast west of tributary of Surinam River, October 10, 1947, two birds, November 21, 1946, two, December 7, 1946, one bird in adult breeding plumage.

The best locality, however, seems to be the tributary of the Saramacca and Coppename rivers where large sandbanks are found teeming with waterfowl and where the pelicans can regularly be found sitting on stakes put in the shallow water by fishermen. On this shallow and muddy coast the pelicans cannot dive from the air as is their regular fishing method in deep water. On July 11, 1947, I accompanied a fisherman in the tributary of the Saramacca and Coppename rivers. There were about 20 brown pelicans fishing in our immediate neighborhood undisturbed by the presence of our small boat. They fished in exactly the same way as described for the white pelican by Bent (*U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.*, 121: 288, 1922) quoting observations by Goss, "swimming on the water with partially opened wings, and head drawn down and back, the bill just clearing the water, ready to strike and gobble up the prey within their reach."

There are no indications that these birds ever breed along this coast. My records

on the other hand prove that the brown pelican is present on the coast of Dutch Guiana during at least nine months of the year, though I did not visit any likely locality in March. The nearest breeding colonies seem to be on small rocky islands off the northern coast of Tobago and the northern coast of Trinidad (Harrison, Ool. Rec., 18: 90-93, 1938), which are not mentioned by Murphy.—FR. HAVERSCHMIDT, 14 *Waterkant, Paramaribo, Surinam.*

**Booby's beak imbedded in black marlin's back.**—Observers of the large flocks of gannets, boobies and pelicans which feed in coastal waters, habitually by diving for their prey from considerable heights, can not fail to contemplate the potential accident rate incident to this feeding technique. Evidence that accidents occur, at least occasionally, was found by the Mandel-Chicago Natural History Museum Galapagos Island Expedition in 1941.

A large black marlin (*Makaira marlina*), caught January 20 approximately three miles southeast of Tower Island, had the left mandibular ramus of a booby (*Sula* sp.) deeply imbedded in its back. The beak fragment was 98 millimeters long and, although completely encysted, still retained some musculature attached to the basal portion.

This recalls Bent's reference (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 121: 226, 1922) to an unauthenticated report of gannets being killed by diving into a floating board upon which a fish had been fastened.—EMMET R. BLAKE, *Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago, Illinois.*

**The little blue heron in Ontario.**—A specimen of the little blue heron (*Florida caerulea*) was recently acquired by the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology from the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. The bird was found dead with its feet frozen in the ice, on December 16, 1947, on the French River in Delamere Township, Sudbury District, Ontario, by Overseer K. P. McGilvary. When later dissected at the museum, it proved to be a juvenile male. This is the most northerly occurrence for the little blue heron in Ontario and also the first in winter for the Province. Previously the most northerly record was one bird taken in a muskrat trap on March 28, 1929, at Atherley Narrows in Simcoe County (Devitt, Trans. Roy. Canad. Inst., 24: 258, 1929).—C. E. HOPE, *Division of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, Canada.*

**Green heron feeds on goldfish.**—On April 8, 1946, at 11:20 a. m., my attention was called to a bird perched on a trellis in our back yard which is in the residential section of Madera, California. The bird proved to be a green heron (*Butorides virescens*). The bird peered around, seemed undisturbed by sounds coming from the adjacent street, and finally flew across the street to perch fairly high in a pecan tree. The bird was next seen at 1:00 p. m., when it flew from the house next door and perched in our English walnut tree.

By this time I suspected that it might be interested in the many goldfish in the pond next door. At 1:25 p. m., it flew down from its perch to the middle of our garden. It peered about for nearly five minutes, then craned its neck in the direction of the fishpond and made its way carefully in that direction. Upon reaching the pond it spent 10 minutes trying to get through the 16-inch, chicken wire fence that protected the pond on the lawn side. The bird seemed to try to push its way through, much as it would in tules or grass stems, but of course it was unsuccessful. After each attempt it would stop and survey the situation, then try again. Not once did it attempt to fly upon or over the fence. It then worked its way all along this fence