

marshland.—GEORGE H. LOWERY, JR., AND ROBERT J. NEWMAN, *Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.*

First Ontario Specimen of the Eared Grebe, *Colymbus caspicus californicus*.—Among a number of waterfowl which met death by being carried over Niagara Falls, an Eared Grebe is of particular interest since it now represents the first preserved specimen of this species from Ontario (R. O. M. Z., No. 77014). The bird was found on February 6, 1950, on the Ontario side of the Niagara River below the Falls by Mr. Roy Muma, Conservation Officer of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. It was somewhat emaciated but the plumage was in good condition. It is a female and is, except for a few coverts on the left wing which are worn and brownish, in fresh winter dress.

Reference to the inner primaries discloses the specimen to be typical of the western American race *californicus*. The dorsal area is essentially black, with no trace of pale tips on the feathers. The lores, crown, sides of head, hind neck and the terminal portion of the side and flank feathers are blackish. The chin and throat are greyish white, the foreneck and sides of neck are dusky, the breast and belly silvery white. The specimen measured 315 millimeters in length and 540 in wingspread. The culmen, 24 millimeters in length, is broader than high at the base and has a slight depression in the outline of the culmen at the center.

Previous records for Ontario are as follows: The first concerns one examined in the flesh, but not preserved, by Dr. [J. H.] Garnier. It was taken at Colpoy's Bay, Bruce County, Ontario, prior to 1886 and was recorded by T. McIlwraith (*Journ. and Proc. Hamilton Assoc.*, 1885-86: 47). The second is a sight record of a pair on April 28, 1948, at Carroll's Point, Hamilton Bay, by George North and recorded by James L. Baillie, Jr. (*Aud. Field Notes*, 2: 174).—L. L. SNYDER AND C. E. HOPE, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto.*

Observations on the Food Habits of the Double-crested Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax a. auritus*.—Buchheister (*Aud. Mag.*, 46: 14-25, 1944) and Gross (*Auk*, 61: 513-537, 1944) have remarked on the increased populations in recent years of the Double-crested Cormorant along the North Atlantic coast of the United States. Such an increase has also been obvious to marine fishermen who claim that the birds are a threat to the fishing industry. As a result of many requests from operators of herring weirs and herring seiners, control methods were initiated in 1944 by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game. Later, the Maine Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries also cooperated in the effort.

Recently, I have been engaged in an investigation of the herring industry in Maine and have had the opportunity to hear about the "depredations" of this bird. In the minds of marine fishermen, the cormorant is obnoxious for several reasons. They believe that the bird's swimming and feeding activities within weirs or pound nets may disturb the impounded herring schools, and the fish may try to escape from the fishing apparatus. When the fish are held in a seine, there is no easy way of escape; but in a weir, the school may rush out of the entrance, if such has not yet been closed. They also claim that the birds consume enormous quantities of commercially important fish. It is interesting to observe that similar charges of maleficence are made against the hair seal, *Phoca vitulina*, in Maine.

Mendall (*Univ. Maine Studies, Sec. Ser.*, 38: iv-159, 1936) summarized the available data on the food habits of the Double-crested Cormorant and concluded that only a small part of the bird's food was commercially important species. His examination in 1935 of a large series of regurgitated meals revealed that unimportant scrap