

Yellow-billed Tropic Bird, *Phaethon lepturus catesbyi*, on the North Florida Coast.—Arthur H. Howell ('Florida Bird Life,' 1932: 81-82), records the occurrence of the Yellow-billed Tropic Bird in Florida as follows: Audubon, eight or ten birds seen at the Dry Tortugas, 1832; Maynard, a single bird seen near the Florida Keys, 1881; Brewster, a single specimen taken at Merritt's Island, 1886; Pennock, a single bird seen at St. Marks, 1919.

As far as is known by the writer this present specimen is the only one of this species taken on the north Florida Coast.

On September 7, 1950, this bird was picked up by Mrs. A. W. Sears on Ponte Vedra Beach, St. John's County, apparently exhausted by the hurricane of September 6. It was taken to her home where she set out food, but it would not eat. The next day she took it to the beach and released it, where it was picked up by Mr. Hutchinson I. Cone, Jr. who took it to his home and attempted to feed it. It refused food and died September 9.

Mr. Cone brought the specimen to me and I made a study skin of it. It was later identified as an immature Yellow-billed Tropic Bird by Dr. Pierce Brodkorb of the Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville.

On September 9 the writer, accompanied by Messrs. S. A. Grimes and Wilbur Gary, went to Ponte Vedra Beach and to Jacksonville Beach where Mr. Grimes found a primary from a Yellow-billed Tropic bird—possible proof that other birds of this species had visited the north Florida Coast.—REG. R. MCKAY, *Jacksonville Children's Museum, Jacksonville 4, Florida.*

The Pinnated Bittern, *Botaurus pinnatus*, in Paraguay.—*Botaurus pinnatus* (Wagler), the Pinnated Bittern, has a wide distribution in South America from Colombia, Venezuela, and Trinidad south to western Ecuador on the Pacific coast, and through central and eastern Brazil (Mato Grosso, Goiaz, Pernambuco, Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo) to Uruguay and the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina. In the interior it has not been recorded to date in Bolivia, and it is reported from Paraguay for the second time in the present note. There are also two authentic records for Nicaragua, from San del Norte and the Río Menco, though the species has not been found elsewhere in Central America. The U. S. National Museum has one skin from near Orloff, in the Paraguayan Chaco, taken April 11, 1950, by O. O. Miller. The collector noted that the species was rare, but apparently it is known to the Indians since the name Pin-pin-ay is recorded on the label, together with an observation on the usual bittern habit of posing so that the bird is distinguished with difficulty from its background of rushes.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, 25 D. C.*

Some Observations on the Laysan Duck, *Anas wyvilliana laysanensis*.—On June 23, 1950, the MV Hugh M. Smith, fisheries research vessel of the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, stopped at Laysan Island during a voyage of research. The author, who was aboard the vessel as a collaborator of the Fish and Wildlife Service, went ashore to tag green turtles and observe reef fishes and sea birds. While engaged in these tasks, counts were made of the Laysan Duck.

Thirty-three Laysan Ducks were counted during the course of a walk about the central lagoon of Laysan Island, of which 26 were adults and seven were young. The young ducks were still downy and were observed in two small flocks of four and three birds, respectively, each behind an adult female.