

GENERAL NOTES

The Eared Grebe in Massachusetts.—On March 27, 1949, a small grebe diving close to shore off Plum Island, Essex County, Massachusetts, was identified by Mr. Ludlow Griscom as an immature Eared Grebe, the first recorded in the state.

On February 5, 1950, Mr. Griscom found a second immature of this species in Rockport, Cape Ann. On February 25, Mr. Allen Morgan spent six hours collecting this bird, in the process shooting a Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) which attempted to carry off the dead grebe off before he could retrieve it.

This specimen, the first taken on the eastern seaboard, was carefully examined by Mr. James Lee Peters and Mr. Griscom of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. They identified it as *Colymbus caspicus californicus*, since the inner primaries, numbers 5 to 9, had no white at the base. The bird was an immature male; the cheeks were particularly dusky and not sharply demarcated from the crown, and the sex organs were small. The bird is now catalog number 7391 at the Peabody Museum, Salem.

There are subsequent sight records for the state. On October 14 and 21, 1951, an adult Eared Grebe (in winter plumage) with pure white cheeks was seen on the Point Pond, Monomoy, Barnstable County, by Griscom, Richard Bowen, Henry Parker, Snyder, and others, with Horned Grebes (*Colymbus auritus*) for comparison. On March 15, 1952, an immature was seen in Stage Harbor, Chatham, same county, by Allen Morgan, Griscom, and Snyder. On May 17, 1953, Griscom and Mrs. Hervey Elkins found an adult Eared Grebe in full breeding plumage in a backwater of the Mystic River, Everett, Middlesex County.

I am indebted both to Mr. Ludlow Griscom and Mr. Allen Morgan for permission to put these records in print.—DOROTHY E. SNYDER, *Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.*

An Unusual Nest of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*).—Some years ago, in a publication concerning the hummingbird (New York State Museum Handbook, No. 16, pp. 153-154, 1936) I made some general statements concerning the nest site. These were that the nest is saddled on a limb, usually one which slants slightly downward from the tree. The tree is on the edge of an open area, formed by a brook, road, lake, or the edge of an open field. The nest is sheltered from above by branches or leaves and is not lower than six feet from the ground. Twenty-seven nests I have seen agree with these rules, with only occasional slight exceptions. But the twenty-eighth nest broke practically all the rules.

This nest was discovered at Fairfield, Connecticut, on September 25, 1940. At this time it was unoccupied. It was in the middle of a dense thicket of sumac, bayberry, gray birch, and red cedar. There was no open area. It was not sheltered from above. It was attached to an upright shoot of smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*) and was at the height of my knee (about 22 inches from the ground). The top of a branch of the sumac had died and was broken off, and an inch below the break a second shoot grew out and turned vertically upward. The nest was supported on the top of the broken stub and bridged across to the other branch, to which it was attached by nesting material—down and spider silk, wrapped around the branch.

The nest was evidently made for an early brood, for it was made of cinnamon fern wool. It was not quite finished, for it was incompletely covered with lichen and looked as though it had never been used.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Canaan, Connecticut.*