

are usually not acceptable because of possible confusion with the smaller Audubon's Shearwater, *P. lherminieri* (one Massachusetts specimen, others from New York southward) and Little Shearwater, *P. assimilis* (specimens from Nova Scotia and South Carolina).

I am indebted to Mrs. Ruth Emery for sight records, and to Dr. J. C. Greenway and Richard Kleber for measurements of specimens in their care.—DOROTHY E. SNYDER, *Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, December 5, 1957.*

**First Occurrence of Little Blue Heron in Utah.**—A male Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*), apparently sick from botulism, was captured at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, 15 miles west of Brigham, Utah, on September 4, 1957. This is the first and only record for a Little Blue Heron in Utah. The A.O.U. Checklist (1957) gives no United States records west of Oklahoma, Nebraska and North Dakota. The bird died the day it was found and the skin has been placed in the Refuge collection.—VANEZ T. WILSON AND WILLIAM A. REID, *Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Brigham, Utah.*

**The Feeding Habits of the Capped Heron (*Pilherodius pileatus*).**—In Bock's generic review of the Ardeidae (Amer. Mus. Novit. no. 1779, 1956) he synonymizes the monotypic South American genus *Pilherodius* with the night-herons *Nycticorax*, though stating lack of knowledge as to the immature plumage of *P. pileatus* and as to whether it feeds at night like the better-known species of *Nycticorax*.

In Surinam I have observed this black-capped, creamy white heron on ten occasions. In my experience it is a solitary, shy bird, so details of its behavior are scanty. I have seen it in wet forests, along forest fringed rivers, in trenches of coffee plantations, and once in a flooded rice-field. Five of my records pertain to feeding birds, all in broad daylight. On April 6, 1947, March 28, 1948, and November 4, 1952 I surprised single birds standing motionless in the shallow waters of a trench, looking intently into it—the usual hunting posture of herons. On January 22, 1956 two were noted in a similar situation, but one chased the other away, until the pursued bird alighted high in a shade tree. On February 7, 1954 I watched a Capped Heron behaving the same way in a flooded rice-field, where a few Little Blue Herons, *Florida caerulea*, and Snowy Egrets, *Egretta (Leucophoyx) thula*, were also feeding. I cannot say that *Pilherodius pileatus* never feeds at night, but it differs strikingly from the typical night-herons (*Nycticorax*) and the Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius*), which I have never seen feeding during the day, but surprised hiding in thickly foliated trees—a situation where I have never found *P. pileatus* in daylight.

Though I have not personally identified an immature bird, the immature plumage of *Pilherodius* is described by the Penards ("De Vogels van Guyana", 1: 174, 1908), based on a Surinam specimen, as like the adults, but lacking the long head plumes and with the crown variegated with white or gray. In resembling that of the adults, this plumage would seem to be very different from the distinct streaked plumage of young *Nycticorax*.—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, *P.O. Box 644, Paramaribo, Surinam.*

**Masked Duck Collected in St. Croix, Virgin Islands.**—The Masked Duck (*Oxyura dominica*) is unknown in the Virgin Islands, though it occurs in the Greater Antilles and has been recorded from some of the Lesser Antilles (Bond, Check-List of Birds of the West Indies, 1956: 25). An 1857 sight report by Alfred Newton appears to have referred to the resident Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura j. jamaicensis*), which inhabits the lagoon (pond) mentioned by him, and the report has been rejected by recent writers (Wetmore, *Sci. Surv. Porto Rico and Virgin Is.*, vol. 9, pt. 3: 318,