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. Check-list (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 foliaged 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,

1927). I was born on St. Croix, a very small island, and have been an ardent observer of its bird fauna all my life, but I never saw a Masked Duck until very recently.

On March 14, 1957, on the Upper Love Pond (dam), St. Croix, close to the heavy aquatic vegetation, I saw a tiny brown female duck with a small white dot on its wing (speculum) and two distinct brown stripes across the side of the buffy head. On March 15, I was unable to find the duck on the pond until I searched the massed aquatics. The duck then flew up from almost under my feet and dropped back in the pond about 30 feet away, where she was quickly collected. These are the statistics of No. 79 of my collection: weight, 317 grams; length, 357 mm.; wing, 132 mm.; tail, 98 mm.; tarsus, 30 mm.; bill, 35 mm.; iris brown. Ovaries slightly enlarged; stomach empty; gizzard with small amount of gravel.—G. A. SEAMAN, *Box 474, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands.*

Fat Deposition on a Migrant Stilt Sandpiper.—On August 4, 1957 the writer mist-netted a migrant Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*) along the Humber River, near Toronto, Ontario. It was collected and donated to the Royal Ontario Museum. While skinning it, E. H. Taylor, Chief Technician at the museum, noticed that there was a layer of fat over most of the body. On careful examination it was found that there were two or more separate layers. This was especially noticeable in the abdominal region. The thickness of the combined layers varied from 0.5 to 2.5 mm. The fat, when removed and weighed on a triple-beam balance (sensitive to one-tenth of a gram), weighed 19.2 grams. The total weight of the bird, a male, was 75.0 grams. Fat deposition therefore made up about 25% of the total weight. In contrast, the total weights of 4 adult males, taken between 2–9 July 1948 on the breeding grounds at Cape Henrietta Maria, James Bay, Northern Ontario, ranged from 47.0 to 57.0 grams. These were taken by a Royal Ontario Museum collecting party. J. WOODFORD, *233 Roehampton Avenue, Toronto 12, Ontario.*

Great Auk Remains from a Florida Shell Midden.—In a recent collection of bird bones from Castle Windy Indian site (Vo 112) the author identified two humeri of the Great Auk, *Pinguinus impennis* (Linnaeus). This site was excavated by Ripley L. Bullen of the Florida State Museum and Frederick W. Sleight of the Central Florida Museum under the auspices of the William L. Bryant foundation of Springfield, Vermont. A right and a left humerus were recovered from levels 0′–1′ and 0′–2′, respectively, of the shell midden at the site, fifteen miles southeast of New Smyrna Beach, Volusia Co., Florida. Both bones appear to be those of adults, but their presence in contiguous levels makes it difficult to determine whether more than one individual is represented. The humeri are in a good state of preservation and reveal no evidences of being moved or transported. The bones were associated with St. Johns Check Stamped potsherds, a marker type for the St. Johns II period, usually dated ca. 1150–1650 A.D. (Goggin, 1952, Yale Univ. Publ. Anthrop., 47: 53–58). Since the whole of this deep midden was occupied at this time and since the auk bones are from the top levels, they presumably date late within the time range of this period. Pending receipt of a radiocarbon date, Mr. Bullen has tentatively dated the site as late 17th century.

This represents the second find of Great Auk bones from a Florida Indian site. The first occurrence was reported in 1902 by O. P. Hay (Auk, 19: 255–258), who identified two left humeri excavated by W. S. Blatchely and C. H. Hitchcock from a shell midden at Ormond Beach (Vo 83). These humeri were previously thought