

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. Anthropol., 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