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—P. A. BUCKLEY, 6024 Fieldston Road, Riverdale 71, New York, N. Y.

Albinism in *Podiceps grisegena* and other grebes.—During field work in the Delta Marsh in southern Manitoba, two juvenile albino Red-necked Grebes (*Podiceps grisegena holbölli*) were seen with a normal colored adult during July, 1954. One of the juveniles was collected by M. C. Milonski and the writer on July 15 and was found to be an incomplete albino. Its irises were brown and the bill and feet were yellow, though the plumage lacked any coloration. The bird was nearly full grown, with the body plumage complete and primaries breaking from their sheaths. The specimen is now in the museum of the Delta Waterfowl Research Station.

Albinism in grebes has been considered rare, but this rarity may reflect the inconspicuous behavior of grebes on relatively isolated areas, not merely the low incidence of such aberrations. Observations of albinism have accumulated in recent years and at least six species and three genera are now represented. Both partial and incomplete albinism have been reported, but there is only one uncertain case of complete albinism and apparently no record of imperfect albinism. Terminology is modified from Mueller and Hutt (J. Hered., 32: 71-80, 1941). "Complete" is used here in place of "total" for a bird lacking melanin in the eyes and skin, as well as in the plumage. This term is consistent with "incomplete" (lack of melanin in plumage, eyes or skin, but not all three), and with the original terminology proposed by Pearson, Nettleship, and Usher (Draper's Co. Research Memoirs, Nos. 6, 8, and 9, 1911-1913). "Total" may be used for animals lacking all pigments.

In Europe, partial albinism was reported in the Horned Grebe (*P. auritus*) by Petit (Bull. Soc. Zoo. France, 34: 32-35, 1909), in the Eared Grebe (*P. caspicus*) by Chernel de Chernelhoza (Ornis, 14: 524-527, 1907), in the Great-crested Grebe (*P. cristatus*) by Gloger (J.f. Orn., 14: 285-286, 1866) and Chernel de Chernelhoza (*op. cit.*), and in the Red-necked Grebe (*P. g. grisegena*) by Sage (Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 76: 109, 1956). In North America, the U. S. National Museum contains a partial albino Eared Grebe and there is a partial albino Horned Grebe in the collection of the Denver Museum of Natural History. Incomplete albinism was reported in the Red-necked Grebe (*P. g. grisegena*) by Chernel de Chernelhoza (*op. cit.*) and in the Great-crested Grebe by Grochmalicki (Kosmos, Lemberg, No. 50: 892-894, 1925). A Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) in the Manitoba Museum of Natural History appears to be the only specimen of a complete albino. This bird was killed by a hunter and was reported to have had pink eyes and cream-yellow bill and feet.

Sight observations of "white" grebes—presumably incomplete or complete albinos—have been reported by several authors. Stott (Condor, **50**: 46, 1948) observed a white Eared Grebe in California and Rockwell (Condor, **12**: 188–193, 1910) observed a white Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) in Colorado. Because of their individuality, some of these albinos have provided interesting information. Schuz (Der Vogelzug, **2**: 40–41, 1931) assumed that two white Great-crested Grebes observed in two areas in Europe at different times were the same bird and estimated the speed and route of migration of this individual. Observations of a white Eared Grebe by Allen (Condor, **42**: 127, 1940) suggested that wintering populations in California were stable from at least October until February.

For their kindness in searching grebe collections for albinos, I am indebted to personnel of the above mentioned museums and to those of the following museums: American Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Museum, Chicago Natural History Museum, Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, Harvard University, Los Angeles County Museum, Minnesota Museum of Natural History, New York State Museum, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, State University of Iowa, University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Los Angeles, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, and Yale University.—MILTON W. WELLER, *Iowa State College, Department of Zoology and Entomology, Ames, Iowa.*

Eared Grebe in South Carolina.—On January 13, 1959, while looking at two Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*) in the Charleston Municipal Yacht Basin, Charleston, South Carolina, my wife and I noticed a different looking grebe pop to the surface of the muddy water nearby. It proved to be an Eared Grebe (*Podiceps caspicus*)—the first record for the state of South Carolina.

At my suggestion, Milby Burton of the Charleston Museum collected it on the following day. The bird (Charleston Museum No. 59.8), a female in winter plumage, weighed a fraction over 11 ounces. The stomach contents consisted of small fish and tiny shrimp. Measurements in mm. are: wing 124.5; tarsus 39.5; culmen, slightly depressed in center, 23.

The five inner primaries are narrowly tipped with white, the amount of white tipping increasing from 1.5 to about 8 mm. on the innermost of the eleven primaries. This tipping and the lack of reddish tinge in the primaries indicate an immature of the American race, *californicus*, rather than the nominate European race, which has the innermost primaries largely white, at least on the inner webs (Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, "Water Birds of North America", vol. 2, pp. 435–436, 1884; Witherby *et al.*, "Handbook of British Birds", vol. 4, p. 105, 1940). E. B. Chamberlain, who prepared the skin and confirmed the identification, records: "iris orange, with a fine white inner ring".—WALTER DAWN, *176 Wentworth Street, Charleston, S. C.*

Records of Flight Preening and Related Aerial Activities in Birds, Particularly the Black Tern.—Although plumage maintenance activities in most birds are performed only while perching, standing, swimming, or while on the nest, certain groups carry on these activities to a varying degree while in flight. One would expect such behavior to appear in those groups that have evolved a high degree of mastery in the air and, indeed, the existing records indicate that this is the case.

Shaking of the plumage is probably the most common and widespread of these movements. It may be seen directly following any activity which is apt to