

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

Caspian Terns in North-central Iowa.—A flock of eighteen Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*) was observed by the writer at Lake Cornelia, Wright County, Iowa, on September 12, 1934. While this species occurs somewhat regularly as a migrant in eastern Iowa, it is of irregular or rare occurrence through the central part of the state.—PHILIP A. DUMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa*.

Some Shore Birds Collected in South Dakota.—On September 15, 1934, while on an observation trip to Brant Lake, Lake County, South Dakota, a single Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) was seen and collected. Also, on September 16, 1934, a single Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres morinella*) was collected at Lake Herman, Lake County, South Dakota. Both of these specimens are now in the permanent possession of the Zoology Department of Iowa State College.—GERALD B. SPAWN, *Zoology Dept., Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa*.

Northern Phalaropes in Northwestern Iowa.—On September 13, 1934, the writer observed a flock of at least 110 Northern Phalaropes (*Lobipes lobatus*) on East Okoboji Lake, Dickinson County, Iowa. These birds were swimming and feeding in the shallow water near the State Fish Hatchery at Orleans Station. Their distinctive habit of "spinning" in the water, presumably to stir up food particles, was interestingly contrasted with the steady feeding of a pair of Sanderlings on the sandy shore near by.—PHILIP A. DUMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa*.

McCown's Longspur in Southwestern North Dakota.—The writer in May, 1934, made a trip through Grant, Adams, Slope, Hettinger, and Bowman Counties, in southwestern North Dakota, and noted particularly the near absence of McCown's Longspurs (*Rhynchophanes mccouni*). At first the idea of the prolonged drouth came to mind as an explanation of its absence; yet here were thousands of nesting Lark Buntings, Horned Larks, and Chestnut-collared Longspurs present, feasting on the tiny grasshoppers. It is apparent that the McCown's Longspur is actually deserting this part of North Dakota as a breeding ground. On the entire trip of a good many hundred miles, on highways and section lines, the writer did not see more than fifteen of the birds.—WM. YOUNGORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

An October Record of the American Egret in Lee County, Iowa.—A single American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) was observed by Deputy Wardens Walter L. Harvey, F. T. Tucker, and the writer on October 30, 1934, at Green Bay, Lee County, Iowa. This bird was seen feeding in one of the bayous, and we were able to watch it for some time. Apparently it had been wounded, but it still was able to fly short distances at a time. We concluded that this was the reason for finding this single bird at such a late date, several weeks after the flock of three hundred or more which had been present had moved southward.—LLOYD SMITH, *Lake View, Iowa*.

Specimen of Greater Scaup Duck Found in Northern Iowa.—An adult male Greater Scaup Duck (*Nyroca marila*) was found dead by William Schuenke at Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, on March 29, 1934. Mr. Schuenke believed the bird was killed by flying into the telephone wires. The head of this specimen was entirely green, no purplish reflections being apparent. The measurements of the specimen in inches are as follows: Wing (primaries straightened along the ruler), 8.75; wing (chord), 8.50; width of culmen, 1.07; exposed cul-