

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

A Three-egg Set of the Mourning Dove.—On June 5, 1934, in Woodbury Township, Stutsman County, North Dakota, I found the nest of a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) which contained three eggs. Perhaps this is unusual enough to be worth recording.—ARCHIBALD JOHNSON, *Stewart, Nev.*

Effect of Drouth on Birds.—In Woodbury Township, Stutsman County, North Dakota, on June 5, 1934, I found the nest of a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) which lacked the usual mud walls. The materials used were grasses and fine plant fiber only. On the side that was habitually approached by the birds the nest wall was very much depressed, giving the structure an unsymmetrical appearance. The protracted drouth in the region was no doubt responsible for this deviation from the normal in the construction of this nest.—ARCHIBALD JOHNSON, *Stewart, Nev.*

The Black Tern Recorded in the West Virginia Panhandle.—On May 5, 1935, the writer saw a Black Tern (*Chlidonia nigra* subsp.) at Beech Bottom Swamp, Beech Bottom, West Virginia. The bird was darting after insects just above the water's edge, and came so close to the observer that its black head, throat, breast, and belly were easily discerned. The slate-colored back, wings, and tail were also noted. This is the first record of this species for the West Virginia Panhandle, and there are probably not more than a dozen records of the Black Tern for the state of West Virginia.—THOS. E. SHIELDS, *Wheeling, W. Va.*

Specimen of European Widgeon Taken in Northwestern Iowa.—A fully plumaged male European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) was killed during October, 1933, by George Van Wyngarden while he was hunting ducks at North Twin Lakes, Calhoun County, Iowa. Mr. Van Wyngarden stated that this bird was one of a flock of four which flew over, and all appeared to be the same species. Only one specimen was secured.

The specimen was mounted by Mr. Van Wyngarden and is displayed in his private collection of water birds and upland game birds at Manson. While the European Widgeon has been taken in all states surrounding Iowa, this is believed to be the first and only specimen of this bird secured in Iowa. This collection was examined by the writer on May 2, 1935, when permission was kindly granted for the publication of this note.—PHILIP A. DuMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa.*

The Brewer's Blackbird at Athens, Clarke County, Georgia.—In a recent issue of the WILSON BULLETIN (Vol. XLV, No. 3, September, 1933), I discussed in more or less detail the present status of Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) as a migrant and winter resident in the southeastern states, and advanced the opinion, based on the relative abundance of this species both in the spring and in the fall at Asheville, North Carolina, that this western bird would prove, despite lack of records to date, to be of regular occurrence in Georgia in migration and possibly throughout the winter. It would appear now that this supposition was at least partially justified for on two brief field trips to Athens, the Brewer's Blackbird was noted on each occasion, and it is probable that others were present before and after these actual dates. On December 3, 1933, three birds, all males, were seen at the edge of the open Sandy Creek bottoms, while on April 9, 1935, four birds, three males and a female, were watched as they fed about horses grazing in a pasture on the

campus of the Agricultural College. On this latter date their similarity to Cowbirds was quite marked, and suggested a very probable reason for their being overlooked in past years. Their habits are certainly very dissimilar to those of the closely related Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*), and this fact should be borne in mind in watching for these birds in migration. Lack of suspicion is another trait characteristic of the small flocks seen in western North Carolina and Georgia, so positive identification is never a difficult matter.—THOS. D. BURLEIGH, *Bureau of Biological Survey, New Orleans, La.*

A Record of the Trumpeter Swan from the Late Pleistocene of Illinois.

—In material secured at Aurora, Illinois, by Professor Clarence R. Smith of Aurora College, forwarded to me for examination by Dr. L. A. Adams of the University of Illinois, I have identified humeri, a broken sternum, and part of the scapula of the Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*). According to Professor Smith¹ these specimens were found in a marl deposit underlying a peat bog above which was a layer of muck forming the bottom of a swamp in Phillip's Park in the southwest part of Aurora at a point a mile and a half east of the Fox River. They were obtained by C. W. A. workers during excavation of the swamp to make an artificial lake.

The swan remains were associated with bones of mastodon (*Mastodon americanus*) and giant beaver (*Castoroides ohioensis*) and are believed to have been deposited in the bed of a post-glacial lake. According to the findings of Dr. O. P. Hay² this would seem to place them in what Dr. Hay has termed the Wabash beds in late Pleistocene. Dr. Adams writes me that mollusks of Pleistocene species were taken from the pneumatic foramina of the swan humeri.

The bones are distinguished at a glance as those of the Trumpeter Swan. The sternum, while in fragments, shows the characteristic bulbous swelling projecting into the body cavity at the anterior end in addition to the swollen channel in which the trachea is folded. The humeri exhibit two sizes, possibly indicative of sexual difference in wing measurement, and are greater in size than the largest Whistling Swans. All of the specimens, which bear numbers 111, 734, B, C, D, F, H, J, and K, are fresh and clean in appearance, and are in good state of preservation.

Previously this swan has been reported from Pleistocene deposits in Oregon and Florida, the present being the first occurrence of it in the central portion of our country. The find is one of definite importance in view of the few reports of birds that have come from Pleistocene beds of the area in question.

The specimens have been returned to Professor Smith, to whose kindness and that of Dr. Adams I am indebted for permission to place this occurrence on record, and are preserved by the city of Aurora in a museum at Phillip's Park.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Notes on the Nesting of Captive Mute Swans.—In the latter part of June, 1930, four Mute Swans (*Cygnus olor*) about a year old, and still in the gray juvenile plumage, were placed upon eighty-seven acre Fowler Lake, in the city of Oconomowoc, Waukesha County, Wisconsin. These birds were a single brood from a captive pair. Two additional birds that had been hatched the previous year, but from another pair, were placed on the lake later in

¹Science, Vol. 81, April 19, 1935, p. 380.

²Carnegie Inst. Washington, Publ. 322, 1923, p. 13.