

GENERAL NOTES

Least Bittern at Long Lake, North Dakota.—Because of the paucity of records of this bird in North Dakota, it seems desirable to report an observation of the Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) at Long Lake near Moffit, Burleigh County, North Dakota, August 28, 1942. The bird was flushed from a dense growth of *Scirpus acutus*. It flew within 20 feet of me and then disappeared into another stand of bulrush. Light conditions were excellent, and there seemed no possibility of mistaken identification.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois*.

An Ohio Record of the Surf Scoter.—On October 7, 1942, we collected a female Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) on Lake Erie, between South Bass and Middle Bass Islands, Ottawa County, Ohio. The bird was several hundred yards from shore, and during a half hour of observation was seen to feed only by dabbling in the manner of a shoal-water duck.

The total bulk of the stomach contents was 21 cc., of which 20 per cent was fine gravel; 20 per cent, plant material (parts of rhizomes, and three *Potamogeton* seeds); 60 per cent, parts of invertebrates. The recognizable portions of the invertebrates consisted of: pieces of the shells of 8 small snails; at least 42 cucumber beetles (Chrysomelidae); 2 ham beetles (Corynetidae); one rove beetle (Staphylinidae); one ground beetle (Carabidae); one water beetle (Hydrophilidae); one predacious diving beetle (Dytiscidae); 12 large hornets (Vespidae); 2 wasps (Psammocharidae); 3 chinch bugs (Lygaeidae); one stink bug (Pentatomidae). The preponderance of adult land insects is interesting, since Bent (*U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.*, 130, 1925:148) and other authors state that even on interior lakes the Surf Scoter's food consists principally of molluscs, crayfish, nymphs of aquatic insects, and a small amount of vegetable matter, and is obtained chiefly by diving.

The Surf Scoter is apparently the rarest of the three species of scoters found in Ohio, and there are few published records. This skin is deposited in Ohio State Museum.—MILTON B. and MARY A. TRAUTMAN, *F. T. Stone Laboratory, Ohio State University, Put-in-Bay, Ohio*.

Remains of the Wild Turkey in Wisconsin.—The Oshkosh Public Museum has a large collection of bird bones recovered from the Indian refuse pits on the eastern shore of Lake Winneconne, Winnebago County. The writer was instrumental in having these bones sent to Alexander Wetmore for identification. Among the bones were four metacarpals of the Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*). This is striking confirmation of the statement of Allouez (*Wilson Bulletin*, 54, 1942:175) that he found Wild Turkeys at Lake Winneconne in 1670. Thanks are due to Dr. Wetmore for the labor involved in working over the large mass of bones.—A. W. SCHORGER, *168 North Prospect Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin*.

Two Long-eared Owl Nests near Toledo, Ohio.—The Long-eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*) has been regarded as a rare winter visitor in the Toledo region, with a decided preference for dense evergreen cover (L. W. Campbell, "Birds of Lucas County," 1940), although nests have been recorded in 12 northern Ohio counties.

Then, in the spring of 1942, Laurel Van Camp discovered two nests in small deciduous woodlands in this area. The first was found April 11, in a grove of small trees surrounded by level tilled country, in Sandusky County, near Kingsway, not far from the Sandusky River. It was apparently an abandoned Crow nest, relined with strips of bark, and was placed at a height of 20 feet, against the trunk of a red maple. When discovered April 11, the female was brooding. Five