

GENERAL NOTES

Gray Heron chased by Common Gull.—On June 23, 1949, at Foerde, Norway (Lat. $61\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N.), "I saw a gull, presumably a Common Gull (*Larus canus*), because that appears to be the common species here—though some may be Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*)—chasing and harrying a Gray Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) which flew over the valley at about 1000 feet. I was surprised to see the gull harrying it."

The above quotation from my diary is submitted in view of the note by Thomas A. Imhof in the December, 1950, issue of *The Wilson Bulletin* (p. 210), reporting the chasing of a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) by a Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) on March 6, 1950, in Alabama.

Note that the Gray Heron is the Old World analog of the Great Blue Heron, and the Common Gull, to some extent at least, that of the Ring-bill.—F. W. PRESTON, *Box 149, Butler, Pennsylvania.*

The genus *Plegadis* in Ohio.—Donald J. Borror, in his "A Check List of the Birds of Ohio, with the Migration Dates for the Birds of Central Ohio" (1950. *Ohio Jour. Sci.*, 50: 2), lists the Eastern Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis f. falcinellus*, mentioning three occurrences for northern Ohio and one for southern Ohio. The earliest of the four records is that of Jared P. Kirtland, who reported two individuals seen in 1848 near Fairport, in Lake County. One of these, an adult male, was shot by a Mr. Prugen and sent to Kirtland, who wrote (1850. *Family Visitor*, 1: 164): "It was duly skinned and mounted, and may now be seen standing along side of a Scarlet Ibis, from the banks of the Amazon, . . . in the cabinet of Nat. Hist. at the Cleve. Med. Coll." On the strength of this statement Wheaton (1882. "Report on the Birds of Ohio," *Geol. Surv. Ohio*, IV, Section 2, p. 498), Jones (1903. "The Birds of Ohio," *Ohio State Acad. Sci.*, *Special Papers No. 6*, p. 216) and Dawson (1903. "The Birds of Ohio," p. 481) all listed the Eastern Glossy Ibis.

The Kirtland collection, including the Prugen specimen of *Plegadis*, was given to Western Reserve University. It is now in the Biology Building of that institution. Hoping to learn more about the Prugen specimen, I wrote the late J. Paul Visscher concerning it. Visscher replied that the collection contained two ibises—a White-faced Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis mexicana*) and a Scarlet Ibis (*Guara rubra*). Visscher's untimely death prevented my receiving further information concerning the specimens at that time.

Recently I wrote Harry C. Oberholser about the moot *Plegadis* specimen. On September 22, 1950, Dr. Oberholser replied: "I found the Ibises about which you inquired. The Scarlet Ibis is there, with one White-faced Glossy Ibis. There are no data . . . regarding either, but I agree . . . that the latter is without much doubt the bird concerning which Dr. Kirtland wrote. In this specimen the white forehead is not very conspicuous but still present; and one not familiar with the differences between the two species might easily call this specimen the Eastern Glossy Ibis."

The White-faced Glossy Ibis must, therefore, be added to the Ohio list.

The second and third *Plegadis* records for Ohio were sight records. On May 30, 1943, Harold F. Mayfield and Louis W. Campbell saw three adults in a flooded field adjoining the Cedar Point Marshes, in Jerusalem Township, Lucas County, near Toledo. "The birds were viewed at close range and carefully distinguished from the White-faced Glossy Ibis . . ." (Campbell, 1944. *Auk*, 61: 471). On June 22, 1947, in the same general area, Laurel Van Camp, state game protector for Ottawa County, saw an adult ibis which he identified as an 'Eastern Glossy' (Mayfield, 1947. *Aud. Field Notes*, 1: 176-177).

Details concerning the fourth Ohio *Plegadis* record follow: On October 1, 1949, Ronald

Austing, Edith Folger and I saw an immature bird at Lake Grant, in Brown County, some thirty miles southeast of Cincinnati. Austing collected the bird, which proved to be a male (testes very small). The stomach contained about two hundred adult water beetles of the families Gyrinidae, Hydrophilidae and Dytiscidae. This specimen is in the skin collection of the University of Cincinnati's Department of Zoology. It measures: wing, 265 mm.; tail, 112; culmen, 110 (114 if measured along the curve); tarsus, 93. Thus far I have been unable to identify the bird as to species. In the letter above referred to, Dr. Oberholser expressed belief that *Plegadis falcinellus* and *P. mexicana* were indistinguishable in any but fully adult spring plumage.¹—EMERSON KEMSIES, *Department of Zoology, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.*

Reidentification of some Swans, Scoters, and a Jaeger from Kansas.—While engaged in work with the bird collection of the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, I have noted several important misidentifications of birds taken in Kansas.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*). This museum has three skeletons (two without data) and one mounted specimen allegedly of this species. All have proven, when critically examined, to be Whistling Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*). The skeleton with data (UKMNH No. 11949) and the mounted bird (UKMNH No. 7475) were taken at Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas, in 1888, and have long been regarded as the only state specimens of the Trumpeter Swan. There seems to be no reason to doubt the early records of the Trumpeter Swan in Kansas. Goss (1891. "History of the Birds of Kansas," p. 108) mentions the "loud clarion voice" of this species, and indicates that it was more common in migration than the Whistling Swan (although this may be doubtful, since the Trumpeter apparently has never been as migratory as the Whistler, and it may not have been at all common or regular in Kansas even in the early days). The fact remains, however, that no specimen of the Trumpeter Swan from Kansas seems to have been preserved.

The skeletons mentioned above were readily identified on the basis of the convolutions of the trachea within the sternum. The mounted specimen was identified on the basis of size—wing, 20.5 inches; tail, 6.25; tarsus, 3.75; eye to hind edge of nostril, 2.37; tip of bill to hind edge of nostril, 2.19. Probably the original misidentifications were based on the false premise that all Whistling Swans have a yellow spot on the bill in front of the eye, and, therefore, that any swan lacking this spot must be a Trumpeter.

American Scoter (*Oidemia nigra americana*). This scoter was first reported from Kansas by L. L. Dyche (1909. *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.*, 22: 311) on the basis of two specimens. One (UKMNH No. 7735), by plumage a female, was taken at Lakeview, Douglas County, on November 1, 1908, by Edward E. Brown. The other (UKMNH No. 7743), also a female, was taken at Lawrence on October 24, 1908, by George Weyermiller. W. S. Long (1940. *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.*, 43: 438) indicates that the specimens taken in 1908 are the only records for the American Scoter in Kansas. Actually, however, both specimens are Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*), with the female plumage and feathering about the base of the bill characteristic of that species. These specimens raise to eight the number of known specimens of the Surf Scoter taken in Kansas. The American Scoter, although recorded from the Kansas City region of Missouri (H. Harris, 1919. *Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis*, 23: 237), must, for the present, be dropped from the list of Kansas birds.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). F. H. Snow (1904. *Auk*, 21: 284; and 1905. *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.*, 19: 263) first reported the Parasitic Jaeger from Kansas. He wrote: "a young male [of this species] was captured along the Kansas river near Lawrence on October 10, 1898, by [Gus Berger and] Banks Brown. The specimen [UKMNH No. 6967] was mounted . . . and is now in the museum of the University of Kansas. . . ." This record has been re-

¹ Note, in this connection, the comments of Ernest P. Edwards (1950. *Condor*, 52: 262) concerning variation in color of facial skin in museum specimens.—Editors.