

But to me most interesting of all was a sight I had never before witnessed on the beach, although I had visited it every day;—as far as the eye could reach, up and down the line of surf, were great numbers of boobies flying back and forth and every now and then collecting over some school of small fish and diving from a height like a party of boys following each other off a spring-board. There were hundreds, perhaps thousands, of them. There were probably but two species, though of three styles of coloration. A comparatively small number were adults of the Common Booby (*Sula sula*), easily identified by their brown backs and heads and white bellies; next in numbers were young birds in wholly grayish brown plumage, but outnumbering both these together was a small white species with conspicuous blackish flight feathers. All these were of about one size.

For two hours I lay flat on the beach hoping to get a shot, but though the boobies came often to within a hundred yards of me and sometimes gathered together and fished in front of where I lay, none came quite close enough to shoot, keeping just outside the breakers. At the end of this time they began gradually, in small parties, to fly out to sea, till all had gone. From the way these birds behaved I do not think they were driven in by stress of weather, because all the time they were off the beach they were very busy fishing, and when they had done they gradually left again flying out to sea though the storm had not abated. It is my opinion, rather, that the boobies know by experience that during such a storm there is good fishing on the east Florida beach and come there to enjoy it.

While such records as this, where the species are not positively identified by the taking of specimens, are unsatisfactory in the extreme, yet this one, perhaps, is worth publishing as showing that the smaller boobies do sometimes visit the coast of east Florida in large numbers. Moreover, I am sure the white bird was *Sula piscator*; had it been *S. cyanops* I could not have failed to notice the larger size compared with the Common Booby, as I often saw them directly side by side.—OUTRAM BANGS, *Boston, Mass.*

Ardea cærulea again seen in Ohio.—On July 2, 1902, a beautiful specimen of this species was again seen along the canal (Portsmouth-Lake Erie Canal) near Waverly; it was so unsuspecting, that it allowed buggies to pass within a distance of twenty feet and a mistake in identification was excluded. As I had to move north a few days later, I could not observe the species any length of time. The early date this year seems to strengthen the opinion expressed last year, that this bird may breed in southern Ohio.—W. F. HENNINGER, *Waverly, Ohio.*

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*) in Nova Scotia.—It may be of interest to report that on Tuesday, April 1, 1902, while walking through the Quincy Market in Boston, I found in the

stall of F. H. Hosmer & Co. a female Yellow-crowned Night Heron, in full nuptial plumage, and in a remarkably fresh state of preservation, which had been received on the previous Saturday in a shipment of birds from Yarmouth, N. S.

On looking the matter up, I found that it had been shipped by Mr. Howard Smith of Hawks Point, Cape Sable Island, and had been killed somewhere in that vicinity by Mr. R. C. Maxwell of Lower Clark's Harbor, Shelburne County, Cape Sable Island. I had a letter from Mr. Maxwell in which he told me of his killing the bird, and another from Mr. Smith, in which he writes, among other things, under date of April 21, as follows:—

"Since receiving your letter, I have learned through a friend of mine, Mr. I. K. Doane, lighthouse keeper at this place, that two other specimens of this bird have been captured this spring in our neighboring county, viz. Yarmouth, and are now mounted and on exhibition in the store of Benjamin Doane, taxidermist, Yarmouth, N. S."

It seems from this interesting information that at least three birds of this species had wandered this far north during the spring migration.—
FRED. H. KENNARD, *Boston, Mass.*

The Authority for the Name *Geotrygon chrysia*.—In the Eighth Supplement to the Check-List, Auk, Jan., 1897, p. 126, the authority for the name *Geotrygon chrysia* is credited to Bonaparte, Consp. Av. II, 1854, 72, where it only occurs in the synonymy of *Geotrygon martinica*. Bonaparte, Comptes Rendus, XL, 1855, 100, says that he has in his esteemed correspondence "the name *Geotrygon chrysia*, a species still more brilliant and coming from the same countries as *montana*." This he considers to be the same as *Geotrygon martinica* and says that M. Castelnau, following the records of the Museum, finds it reported from Florida. It seems to me that this description is not sufficient to fix the name, and that the proper authority for *Geotrygon chrysia* should be Salvadori, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus., XXI, 1893, 571.—J. H. RILEY, *Washington, D. C.*

The Black Vulture (*Catharista urubu*) in Virginia.—The A. O. U. Check-List gives the regular range of the Black Vulture (*Catharista atrata*) as reaching its most northern point in North Carolina. I have now to record that this vulture occurs regularly in Nansemond County, Virginia, where it is a not uncommon summer resident. Here it is known as the 'South Carolina Buzzard,' and it is usual to find it in company with Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*), from which its smaller size and its quicker, more broken flight distinguish it at a glance. On the edge of the Dismal Swamp, along Cohoon Creek, near Suffolk, Nansemond Co., Virginia, May 19, 1902, it was noted as quite abundant, seven individuals being seen upon one occasion. The regular range of this species is thus extended northward to Nansemond County in Virginia, probably including