

'Ornithology of a Churchyard,' by B. S. Bowdish.

As the opening paper of the afternoon, Mr. Dutcher, Chairman of the 'Committee on Protection of North American Birds,' read a summary of the report of his committee for the previous year.

The concluding paper, illustrated by lantern slides, was :

'The Season's Experiences with Shore-birds, Herons and Water-fowl,' by Rev. H. K. Job.

The next meeting of the Union will be held in New York City, in November, 1905.

The good attendance at this Congress, together with the new members elected, the largest number in any year since the founding of the Union, was most gratifying.

JNO. H. SAGE,
Secretary.

GENERAL NOTES.

Sabine's Gull in Montana.—I enclose two photographs of an immature example of Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*), which, as far as I know, has not before been recorded from Montana. This bird was shot September 23, on the Yellowstone, by the ferryman at Terry, who told me that on the previous day he had seen about fifty gulls, all resting on the river shore—the flock including this species and others slightly larger. I presumed the larger gulls to be Ring-billed Gulls, which, as well as American Herring Gulls, I have observed on the Yellowstone at different dates.

The specimen is a male. The dimensions in inches are: Length to end of tail, 13; to end of wings, 14; extent, 30; wing, 10; tail, 5; across fork of tail, 1½; bill, along gape, 1½. The bill was black; legs and feet flesh color; irides dark brown.—E. S. CAMERON, *Terry, Montana*.

Additional Record of the European Widgeon (*Marcca penelope*).—I have recently examined a fine adult male of this species, which was shot on an overflowed meadow near Nippersink Lake, Lake County, Ill., on April 1, 1904, by Mr. Charles Muehrcke, and is now in his possession. The bird was in company with six of his American cousins, all of whom were shot. The specimen is mounted representing dead game. This record makes the eighteenth for the interior.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Little Blue Heron in Connecticut.—A flock of Little Blue Herons (*Florida carulea*), all young in the white plumage, made its headquarters

during a large part of this summer on a chain of three ponds connected by the Patagansett Stream, township of East Lyme, near this village. Two were recorded on July 22, and until August 18 from one to ten were present on one or another of the ponds every day. After August 18 they disappeared until Sept. 7, when two returned and were then seen for the last time.

I personally observed them from July 25 to July 31 inclusive and on the 28 took one, which upon dissection proved to be a female. The crop was full of small fish, species not determinable by reason of decomposition. This specimen is now in the county collection of Mr. James H. Hill, New London.

The birds were not very wild, and gave me an opportunity to watch them from a short distance. It has been sometimes said that they are silent except on the roost, but I heard them on several occasions, while feeding on the pond margins, utter a low chuckling or croaking sound.—P. J. McCook, *Niantic, Conn.*

Little Blue Heron in Massachusetts.—The Boston Society of Natural History has recently acquired for its New England Collection, a fine specimen of the Little Blue Heron (*Florida carulea*). It was shot by Mr. Benjamin Pease on Chappaquiddick Island, Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, on April 14, 1904. The morning when the bird was shot was cold, the ponds were skimmed with ice, and a snow-storm came two hours after the bird's capture. The specimen is unsexed and is in the blue and maroon plumage. I am indebted to Mr. C. W. Johnson, curator of the Society, for permission to record the above facts.—GLOVER M. ALLEN, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Description of Second Michigan Specimen of Cory's Least Bittern.—This bird (*Ardetta neoxena*), taken on the St. Clair Flats May 14, 1904, by Mr. E. Craven of Detroit, Mich., and now in the possession of Mr. J. L. Childs of Floral Park, N. Y., is an adult male in full breeding plumage and shows no very decided departure from what seems to be the typical plumage of the species. A close examination, however, shows both the color aberrations common to this species, and in view of the peculiar interest attached to the variations of individuals of this species, I append the following detailed description of the specimen.

The melanotic tendency is shown only on the head, and is not as erratic in this individual as in many others previously taken, and in the regularity and plan of the black spots resembles specific markings more than aberrant patches. It appears on both sides of the head nearly equally, and a description of one side will do for both, though a close comparison shows that the right side of the head is a little more strongly marked than the left.

The black of the crown shades off softly into the chestnut of the ear coverts, giving that part a peculiarly rich, warm coloring. Below and