

## GENERAL NOTES.

**The Black Tern at Philadelphia, Pa.**— On October 20, 1906, returning from an unsuccessful ducking trip behind Petty's Island, in the Delaware River, opposite Philadelphia, we (my brother and myself) observed a Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*) which was flushed from the water about two hundred yards off Williams Street wharf, by a passing tug. It flew slowly up the river, keeping close to the shore, but beyond gunshot. It was plainly visible to us, as we were not over a hundred yards distance from it when it took wing, and the black color and white under tail coverts precluded any possibility of doubt as to its identity.

The Black Tern is given in Stone's 'Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey,' (p. 32) as a "rare or irregular transient" in this vicinity, and in the same book (p. 48) he says, "stragglers have been reported from the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers," but I can find no records of its occurrence on the former river. Regarding this species in New Jersey, Mr. Stone says (p. 48 of his book), "transient, occurring during the fall migration on the New Jersey coast"; and from this remark I infer that the bird seen by us was one of these transients, driven inland by the stormy weather and northeast winds that prevailed for about a week previous to our observation. Its presence here cannot be attributed to any other cause, which is undoubtedly the true reason of its occurrence.

The Greater Yellow legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) occurs here only after northeast storms, which also occasionally drive inland other rare species of water birds from the New Jersey coast. The Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) are sometimes abundant on the Delaware River above Philadelphia during northeast storms and always disappear after their abatement.

Mr. Stone is correct in considering the Black Tern a "rare or irregular transient" in this vicinity, for it is of such extremely rare occurrence that there is no record of its capture during recent years on the Delaware.—  
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**Ross's Snow Goose in Colorado.**— On December 23, 1906, there was shot on the Kennicott Club Lake, 3½ miles east of Longmont, Colo., a male Ross's Snow Goose (*Chen rossii*). The bird was killed by Capt. Eli, U. S. A., presented by him to Mr. Mart H. Watrous, mounted by Mr. Rudolph Borchardt, and later generously presented by Mr. Watrous to the Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, where it may now be seen on exhibition. It was associating with a flock of Mallards (*Anas boschas*), with which it had also been seen by the lake keeper the day before. Two or three days previous to this time the keeper's wife had seen a "flock of white geese about the same size as this one," but whether they were Ross's Geese or not can only be conjectured. I have examined the bird very carefully, comparing it with a specimen from my own col-