

**GENERAL NOTES.**

**Cabot's Tern** (*Sterna sandvicensis acuflavida*) **Breeding in North Carolina.**— In Pamlico Sound, North Carolina, about ten miles westward from the village of Ocracoke lies Royal Shoal Island. It is little more than a lump of sand and shells rearing its back scarcely three feet above high water. In area it is rather less than four acres. This island has for many years been a popular resort for breeding sea-birds. For five years the Audubon Society has protected them from the ravages of the feather hunter and egg-eating fisherman, and as a result the colony has largely increased. Laughing Gulls, Black Skimmers and Wilson's Terns breed here in numbers, and the Least Terns are perhaps more numerous about the island in summer than at any other breeding place on the Atlantic coast. The most numerous species, however, is the Royal Tern, and about 3500 young are believed to have been raised here the past season. On my last annual trip of inspection I reached Royal Shoal on June 25, 1907, and soon discovered a new bird breeding here. Closer inspection revealed the new-comer to be *Sterna sandvicensis acuflavida*. The nests of this bird, over twenty of which I counted, were merely slight excavations in the sand. These were all located among the closely clustered nests of the Royal Tern with which the Cabot's Tern seemed to associate constantly. Like their large neighbors, they were very tame and I easily photographed individuals at a distance of not over fifteen feet. Later in the day, by exercising patience, I crawled over the bare beach to within *seven feet* of one as it sat on its eggs, and for several minutes we observed each other at leisure. During the course of my approach the bird frequently left the nest and hovered above it but quickly settled again when my movements ceased. Warden Jannett, who guards the island, reported that sixty-four Cabot's Tern's eggs were laid during the season. This bird has not previously been noticed breeding among the protected colonies in the State, and in fact, so far as I am aware, there have been no records of its occurrence in North Carolina, except one reported by Dr. Louis B. Bishop (MS.) from Pea Island, August 22, 1904.— T. GILBERT PEARSON, Greensboro, N. C.

**Lead Poisoning in Ducks.**— An interesting condition of affairs, which nevertheless promises to have serious results in the future, came to my notice during the past hunting season. The Misqually Flats, one of the numerous large marshes of Puget Sound, has been famous for its duck shooting almost ever since the first settlement of the State. Many tons of shot must have been showered over its broad expanse, but until this year no harm from this source has come to any ducks that did not get it direct from a shot gun. Consequently I was surprised to discover the following conditions:— My attention was directed by a game-keeper to

the fact that he had noticed a number of Mallards (*Anas boschas*), some dead and others that appeared to be sick one day and a day or two later were found dead near the same place. Curiosity had led him to examine several, but he reported no signs of their ever having been wounded. I devoted half a day to a careful study of these singular conditions, with the result that my dog found two dead ducks and caught one that was too sick to fly away. Post-mortem examinations showed no wounds of any kind, but the three stomachs were well filled with duck shot, all evidently eaten by the birds by mistake for gravel. One stomach contained nineteen shot, one twenty-two, and the other twenty-seven. The large intestine was heavily leaded and seemed contracted, while the lining of the stomach could be easily scaled off in quite large crisp pieces. The gastric juices had evidently worked on the shot to some extent, as most of them were considerably worn and had taken various shapes. I found a number of remains of ducks that had recently been eaten by hawks or owls, but could not determine positively the cause of their death. A curious feature of the case is that all of the sick ducks found or reported were Mallards.

Has such a condition of affairs ever before been reported? If so, I should greatly like to know what the future results are apt to be.— J. H. BOWLES, *Tacoma, Wash.*

**Capture of the Flamingo at Lake Worth, Fla.**— A full grown American Flamingo (*Phœnicopterus ruber*) with very handsome plumage was killed on Lake Worth, Dade County, Fla., in May, 1905. The bird was alone, standing in shallow water, off Shermans Point, and was shot with number four shot, at about thirty yards. It was early in the day, just after a severe storm, and the bird seemed to be dazed, for while I was wading to it, it did nothing but look about, as if about to fly. The specimen is mounted and in the collection of J. J. Ryman and Son, Palm Beach, Fla.— C. P. Ryman, *New York City.*

**The Snowy Heron in South Carolina.**— On May 15, 1908, while exploring certain marshes and sea-beaches in the interest of the Charleston Museum and of the State Audubon Society, I discovered two strong breeding colonies of the Snowy Heron (*Egretta candidissima*), a species which was believed to be almost if not absolutely extinct on the South Carolina coast. The birds are established on two small islands or 'hammocks' in the salt marshes which are probably at least ten miles distant from each other 'as the crow flies,' and which are being used as breeding places by hundreds of Louisiana, Little Blue, Green, and Black-crowned Night Herons. The total heron population of the smaller hammock, which has an area of about three acres, is estimated at about six hundred, of which probably between one hundred and one hundred and fifty are Snowy Herons; while the number of herons established on the larger island,