

On Friday, November 18, after adjournment of the Union, many members visited the National Zoölogical Park by invitation of Dr. Frank Baker, the Director.

The next meeting of the Union will be held in Philadelphia, the date to be determined later.

JNO. H. SAGE,  
Secretary.

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### GENERAL NOTES.

**Colymbus holboëlli in Kansas.**—October 22, 1910, I captured a female Holboëll's Grebe on the Kansas River near Lawrence. The specimen, a female in winter plumage, is now in the collection of Kansas University.—LOGAN EVANS, *Lawrence, Kan.*

**A Third South Carolina Record for the Man-o'-war-bird** (*Fregata aquila*).—About 8 A. M. on October 19, 1910, I observed one of these birds slowly flying over my yard. At this time the wind was blowing from the northeast at the rate of forty or fifty miles an hour, accompanied with torrential rain. The bird remained in sight for fully eight minutes and finally disappeared in the direction of Sullivan's Island. It seemed to be not in the least inconvenienced by the storm that was raging, and sailed majestically in front of the severe wind with marvellous ease and upon almost motionless wings.

On October 20, 1906, between seven and eight A. M., a specimen was taken during a storm on Sullivan's Island. (See 'Birds of South Carolina,' 1910, p. 13.)

The occurrence of the Man-o'-war-bird on this coast is due entirely to cyclones or very severe storms.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

**The Color of the Gular Sac of the Water-Turkey** (*Anhinga anhinga*).—Of the numerous specimens that I have examined in nuptial plumage taken by me during the past twenty-five years the males invariably had this member deep, lustrous black, while in the females, also in nuptial plumage, it was of a lighter shade faintly mottled with yellowish.

Audubon<sup>1</sup> says: "Adult male...gular sac bright orange. Adult female...gular sac as in the male." Dr. Coues<sup>2</sup> says: "Sac orange"—evidently based on Audubon's statement.

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<sup>1</sup> Birds of America, VI, 1843, 452, 454.

<sup>2</sup> Key to North American Birds, 1892, 730.

The brain of this species is always infested with numerous cranial parasites (*Filaria ankingæ*), which are coiled up in the cerebellum. An adult male taken May 18, 1910, had ten of these parasites coiled up in the brain, while the gizzard contained great numbers of parasites. That these parasites infest the brain, as well as the gizzard, of the Water-Turkey, was pointed out by Dr. Jeffries Wyman<sup>1</sup> in a lengthy article as long ago as 1868. It would be exceedingly interesting to ascertain by what means these parasites are taken into the body and through what channels they make their way into the brain.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

**A Nest of the Florida Gallinule.**—In 1890 and 1891 the Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) nested in the marsh at Branchport, N. Y., in large numbers; then several years of dry weather followed, the water receded, the ground was cultivated and the flags and reeds were replaced by crops of corn and cabbage, and in place of the Gallinules and Rails nesting in the reeds we had Spotted Sandpipers and Kildeers nesting among the corn rows.

High water came again in the spring of 1901 and the flats have been flooded each spring since until the marsh has gradually come back to her own with cat-tails, rushes, swamp grass and water lilies, and Soras, Virginia Rails and Least Bitterns are becoming more common each year.

I am quite sure that a Florida Gallinule nested here in 1909 as I saw one several times in June and a juvenile was shot here in September. Several times in May, 1910, when sweeping the marsh with my binoculars I saw a gallinule swimming about in an open space in the flags and in early June I flushed one from the thick flags but after a thorough search could not find the nest.

June 13, C. F. Stone, E. P. St. John and myself were searching the marsh for nests of rail and bittern and Mr. St. John found the gallinule's nest close by the place where I had flushed the gallinule. It was well hidden in a thick growth of sweet flag (*Acorus calamus*) and bulrushes (*Scirpus lacustris*) and was composed of dead flags woven around and supported by the last year's growth of flags. It contained ten eggs which appeared to be well along in incubation. The female must have just left the nest as the eggs were warm but we neither saw nor heard her while we were there. I got a good picture showing the nest and eggs at this time. I visited the nest many times after this but could not get a glimpse of the female.

June 26, there were but five eggs left in the nest, one with the chick exposed and struggling to free itself, but there were no other young ones visible.

Leaving the nest for about half an hour, I visited a nest of the American Bittern and exposed several plates on the five young bitterns. Returning to the gallinule's nest, I approached very carefully and found a downy young one sitting on the reeds where they had been broken down by my many visits. It sat there watching me, its eyes twinkling, starting up ner-

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<sup>1</sup> Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist., XII, 1868, 100-104.