

GENERAL NOTES.

Nesting of Man-o'-war-bird (*Fregata aquila*) in Cuba.— Puerto Escondido is a small and from the open sea invisible port on the south coast of Cuba a few miles to the east of Guantanamo Bay. It was used in the old days as a pirate retreat, being admirably fitted for the purpose by its narrow entrance and inconspicuousness, and is so mentioned in 'Tom Cringles Log' by Mr. Scott. The name Puerto Escondido means the Hidden Port. It will now form part of the U. S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay and will therefore be American territory. In this port is a small Key — Cayo Guincho — about 100 feet in diameter composed mostly of mud upon which grows, in the center, a large mangrove tree surrounded by smaller ones in the water. Upon approaching the key on Dec. 23, 1910, large numbers of Man-o'-war-birds were seen flying about it and upon a closer inspection it was noticed that the large tree had a number of nests upon it. The birds, frightened by the launch, left the nests so hurriedly that some eggs were knocked out, while below, among the roots of the smaller mangroves in the water, two species of "snapper" (*Neomænis cyanopterus* Linn. and *Neomænis griseus* Linn.) were greedily feasting on the fallen eggs.— CHARLES T. RAMSDEN, *Guantanamo, Cuba.*

American Merganser in South Carolina.— On January 2, 1911, I secured the first authentic record for the American Merganser (*Mergus americanus*) in this State. Mr. Arthur T. Wayne, in his 'Birds of South Carolina,' refers this species to a hypothetical list, and declares that to the best of his knowledge it has never been taken in the State. The specimen here recorded was shot on Back River near its junction with the Cooper, after having partially swallowed a mullet ten inches in length. The weight of the mullet in its throat destroyed its balance and made continuous flight impossible. The bird rose half a dozen times but with each attempt at escape could gain only a few yards.

Several years ago a Merganser was taken on the upper Cooper River which I afterwards decided was the *Mergus americanus*, but as this specimen was not preserved I have been on the lookout during the past season for another to prove the occurrence of the species in South Carolina.

The specimen taken on Back River is a fine adult male in full plumage with the breast and under-parts a delicate peach-blossom color. The skin is now in the collection of the Charleston Museum (Spec. No. 7258).— CASPAR CHISOLM, *Charleston, S. C.*

Additional Records of the European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*).— The last captures for the interior I recorded in 'The Auk' (Vol. XXII, 1905, p. 206). As a matter of convenient reference I now add to the list three specimens.