

GENERAL NOTES.

Common Tern Nesting at Thousand Islands.— During two successive seasons I have found the nests and eggs of the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) at the Thousand Islands.

On June 26, 1916, at Black Ant, a small isolated island just over the Canadian boundary, the flat rocky shores were covered with groups of brown splotched eggs. On July 27, 1917, at Eagle Wing, a very small island, hardly more than a large boulder, within a half-mile of Clayton, N. Y., eggs were tucked away in every convenient spot. On this island I captured and banded a young tern. He looked like a tiny yellowish chicken all covered with down, with black spots above, pinkish feet and bill, the latter black-tipped with a white dot, and angled below, of course.

Authorities at the New York State Museum inform me that this is a new record. Eaton in his 'Birds of New York' (1901) notes that "This bird is not known to breed within our limits, except on the seacoast." — MABEL METCALF MERWIN, *Clinton, New York.*

European Widgeon at Madison, Wis.— On April 22, 1917, a flock of ducks was observed in a small pond at the eastern end of Hammersly's Marsh. It contained about thirty Baldpates, a few Shovellers and Mallards, and a duck which at the first hasty glance I thought was a Redhead. In going over the flock carefully I saw to my great surprise that the latter bird was a fine European Widgeon, the white band on the crown making identification unmistakable. The birds were very tame and allowed my Airedale to pursue them repeatedly without flying more than a few feet. Having no means of collecting the bird at the time I returned early the following morning in company with Mr. Warner Taylor. The birds were still in the same pond and after observing the Widgeon to our satisfaction I carefully approached the place behind a weedy fence. On raising my head there was the European Widgeon swimming directly towards me not more than sixty feet away. He walked out on the shore and began feeding.

It is truly painful for me to state that I fired point blank at that bird with a twelve gauge Winchester and the net result was a few feathers. There never was a bird that I wanted more but the fact remains that he flew into the marsh and soon began feeding. I tried in vain for an hour to get another shot.

The evening of the 24th the bird was still there and I lay on the ground in a cold driving rain until dark but was unable to get a shot. On the afternoon of the 26th I tried again with Mr. Taylor, he approached the pond from a direction opposite to my position in the weeds with the hope that the birds would come in, but they were now very wary, the European Widgeon being the second bird to leave the water. On the 29th Mr. Taylor found that the ducks had left the marsh.

Curiously enough on the 28th, Mr. G. H. Jenkins observed apparently the same European Widgeon in a flock of Baldpates about ten miles farther north in the Yahara Marshes and also missed a shot.—A. W. SCHORGER, *Madison, Wis.*

The European Widgeon in Massachusetts.—Messrs. Angell and Cash, the well-known taxidermists of Providence, Rhode Island, have kindly given me permission to report that an adult male European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*), recently skinned and mounted by them, was shot at Chappaquiddick, Vineyard Sound, Massachusetts, October 6, 1917, by Mr. Arthur R. Sharpe. The specimen has been identified by Mr. Arthur C. Bent and Mr. John C. Sharpe, Jr. It would be interesting to know whether, as would seem to be the case, this old world species visits our Atlantic sea-board oftener now than formerly or is found there oftener merely because competent field observers of bird life are so much more numerous and omnipresent than they were thirty or forty years ago.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Little Blue Heron in Pennsylvania.—I wish to record two Little Blue Herons, *Florida cærulea*, male and female, in the white plumage, August 11, 1908, taken on the Conodoguinet Creek opposite the city of Harrisburg, Pa., for the Pennsylvania State Museum by Assistant Taxidermist W. J. Durborrow. These two birds were found in company with a flock of egrets. They were mounted and now form part of a group of Herons in the Pennsylvania State Museum.—BOYD P. ROTHROCK, *State Museum, Harrisburg, Pa.*

Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*) in Michigan.—Professor W. B. Barrows has evidently overlooked an earlier record of the Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*) in Michigan, when he states that two specimens procured in Sanilac Co., on Oct. 4 and 28, 1911, "seem to establish the bird properly in the Michigan List." (*Auk*, 1916, 336.) In 'The Auk,' 1913, p. 111, I recorded a ♀ taken in Lenawee Co., Sept. 14, 1899, by Dr. C. M. Butler, No. 170517 U. S. National Museum, which seems to constitute the first authentic record in the state.—B. H. SWALES, *Museum of Zoölogy, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

Sharp-tailed Grouse at Tremont, Indiana.—Although familiar for many years with the Indiana dune region I never saw the Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pediacetes p. campestris*) there until April, 1915.

A party of us were ascending Mt. Holden, a high dune about 200 feet high, just west of the Beach House of our Prairie Club, at Tremont, when I noticed some large tracks, like chicken tracks. We went quietly up the dune, and at the top saw a large grouse-like bird. It was not the least afraid of us, and allowed us to come about fifteen feet from it, giving us