

GENERAL NOTES.

Horned Grebe Rising from the Ground.—The possibility of any grebe rising from a hard, level surface seems so generally doubted, that the following account (taken from my field notebook) of an actual instance appears to me worthy of permanent record. Of course it does not prove that any other species of the family can do so. Even Holboëll's Grebe, of the same genus, may not have the ability, as Mr. F. Seymour Hersey tells me that it is much more loth to rise from the water than its smaller brother; he has approached by boat many of each species, and while the Horned Grebe has frequently flown away, Holboëll's has invariably dived. There are also published stories of Holboëll's and other species that were unable to leave after coming down onto a frozen lake or on the land.

On October 28, 1917, at Long Beach, Nassau County, Long Island, N. Y., Mr. Walter Granger and I met a gunner who had just shot a Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*). A little further on we found another Horned Grebe sitting on the beach, on the hard part but well away from the water, in a horizontal, swimming position, not upright like an auk. On our approach it raised itself, and when we were within a few feet uttered a little, whining, protesting note, then scuttled rapidly away several yards, into the rather brisk wind and away from the water. On our second approach it repeated the performance, but kept on going, and rose from the hard beach into the wind. Flying strongly and swiftly, though it seemed to wobble somewhat, it made a circle to the right several hundred yards in diameter, turned and again with the wind came down onto the hard sand on the inner side of the bar. It landed on a long slant but so hard that it rolled over and over, until it finally sat up and settled itself comfortably. It was still there when we passed again about two and a half hours later.—CHARLES H. ROGERS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) in Chester Co., Pa., in Summer.—Opposite my home at Cheyney, Chester Co., Pa., is an extensive calamus marsh, with a public road running along the edge of it. On June 13, 1917, a man passing along this road found an adult male Pied-billed Grebe, which had evidently just been killed by a passing automobile. The specimen was given to me and is now in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. From the date and the condition of the bird there seems little doubt but that it was nesting.—SPENCER TROTTER, M. D., *Swarthmore College, Pa.*

Breeding of the Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) near State College, Center Co., Pa.—On May 14, 1917, I found on a small pond at Scotia six miles from State College, Pa., a nest of the Pied-billed Grebe that held six slightly incubated eggs. The pond was open except at one

end where there was a short stretch of alders and scrub oak killed by a rise of the water at one time and it was at the edge of this slight protection that the nest was built. It was the usual mass of decaying vegetation, reeds, grasses, etc., and was attached to several of the alders as the water under it was two feet deep. When found, the eggs were entirely covered from sight and no birds were seen, although one bird was heard calling nearby. I had always regarded this species here as a migrant only and would never have searched for a nest had I not been attracted by the suspicious fact that this pair of birds could always be found at this particular part of the pond. They were first seen the 17th of April and when the first week in May passed and they were still daily in evidence, their presence could no longer be casually overlooked. This is, I believe, the first definite breeding record for this species in the State.—THOS. D. BURLEIGH, *State College, Pa.*

A Red-throated Loon on Chestnut Hill Reservoir, Boston, Mass.—

In the early afternoon of February 7, 1918, while I was observing the ducks on Chestnut Hill reservoir, a bird came on the wing from the westward which upon alighting on the water was seen to be a Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). After taking its bearings for a few minutes, it began to swim and dive in the ample area of open water about the intake, which even during the very severe weather of the present winter has been of considerable extent, affording a wintering place for Mergansers, Black Ducks, a few Golden-eyes, and recently a Ruddy Duck. At the time the sky was clouded, wind northeast, and the temperature about 24°. Two days later Mr. Barron Brainerd with Mr. Talbot found this loon still present. But when I visited the reservoir on the 11th, it was not there. The area of open water had been diminished almost half by a formation of thin ice around its borders and had become, perhaps, inadequate to the loon's sense of sufficiency. I am informed that Mr. Talbot noted the absence of this loon on the 10th.

This was my first record of a Red-throated Loon on a pond, lake, or reservoir. I find that Mr. William Brewster reports but one occurrence in his 'Birds of the Cambridge Region' [1906], that of a young male shot in Fresh Pond by Mr. Ruthven Deane on October 21, 1871. The species is not uncommon in winter along the seacoast of New England, and in its fall migration is rather common. Dr. C. H. Townsend in his 'Birds of Essex County' [1905] states, "The Red-throated Diver is a lover of salt water, very rarely, in Essex County, entering the fresh-water ponds and rivers." Dr. J. C. Philips in an article on 'Ten Years of Observation on the Migration of Anatidæ at Wenham Lake, Massachusetts,' (*Auk*, vol. XXVIII, April, 1911, p. 197) says concerning the Red-throated Loon, "Rare in the pond. The only specimen in my collection is a female marked Wenham Lake, October, 1906." Dr. Glover M. Allen in 'Birds of New Hampshire' [1903] gives two records of individuals taken in the interior of the State in the autumns of 1876 and 1886 respectively, and