

## GENERAL NOTES.

**The Black Skimmer on Long Island, N. Y.**— On May 25, 1919, at Long Beach, L. I., three Skimmers were seen flying west. Two were pretty far out, but one was well inshore, though apparently all three birds were together. We were immediately impressed by the sharp black and white colors, forked tail, the remarkably long and slender wings, and the characteristic flight. It is perhaps only proper to add that the senior author was well acquainted with the Skimmer in life, and knows of no other North American bird with which it could reasonably be confused. In late years a rare straggler to Long Island, it is possible that its recent reappearance on the Jersey coast may cause its visits to Long Island to become more frequent. Considering the date, our birds were probably ambitious migrants which had overshot the mark. At least they were seemingly bent on getting home as fast as possible.—LUDLOW GRISCOM AND DR. E. R. P. JANVRYN, *Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

**Another Record of the White Pelican in New York.**— Eaton, in his 'Birds of New York' (1909) notes only eleven recorded instances of the occurrence of *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* from the entire State. Recently, in looking over some old personal journals, the writer ran across an entry to the effect that the late Leslie W. Lake of this village saw a White Pelican in Hamburg township during the summer of 1863. Mr. Lake was a keen observer and a very careful field worker; moreover, he was familiar with the species due to a former residence in portions of the West where it is of more common occurrence.

The writer recalls questioning his informant very carefully relative to this identification, and is himself familiar with the bird, having met with it in some numbers in Yellowstone National Park. While it seems unusual that the bird should have been found here during the summer, certainly no error was made in its identification, as Mr. Lake noted at close range the large size, white plumage, long bill and pouch.—THOMAS L. BOURNE, *Hamburg, N. Y.*

**A Note on the "Southern Teal."**— The leading article in the October number of 'The Auk,' entitled 'Notes on a New Subspecies of Blue-winged Teal,' by my friend, Frederic H. Kennard, held for me more than cursory interest for the reason that I have been studying this supposed form for some time, had corresponded with Mr. Kennard, regarding it, and had held, up to this spring, that it might form a valid subspecies.

I have had in the flying cage in Audubon Park, New Orleans, for the past three years a collection of wild waterfowl obtained on the Louisiana marshes. Among the ducks thus held in captivity was a drake Blue-winged Teal that had the curious white line over the eye as a continuation of the characteristic crescent-shaped white spot, and had on the nape of the neck,

where the line converged with a white line from the opposite side, a conspicuous white patch. In the spring of 1918 I watched this drake emerge from its eclipse plumage and noted that while the white line and patch on the nape were on the new feathers they were not as definitely white as I had recollected the markings of the previous summer. When the drake made its moult during the fall of 1918 I again kept an interested watch on its plumage changes. It appeared in its new dress of feathers *without* either the white line over the eye or the patch on the nape of the neck, and up to the time of its death, the latter part of April, 1919, it was, when in full nuptial plumage not to be distinguished from any ordinary Blue-winged Teal in high feather.

It might be stated that this "necktie teal," to use a term I had never heard until I saw it in Mr. Kennard's paper, was the sole survivor of a flock of seven Blue-wings held in the cage, four females and three drakes. The two other drakes at no time exhibited any indication of the curious white markings and died while the "necktie teal" was still in its curious plumage — from which it afterwards molted.—STANLEY CLISBY ARTHUR, *Dept. Conservation, New Orleans, La.*

**Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*) in Western Minnesota. A Correction.**— I recorded the capture of a beautiful adult male of this species (see 'Auk,' Vol. XIII, page 78), which I have discovered is only the more common species the Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*). This specimen together with an adult female secured at Aitkin, Minnesota, ten years later, are now in the Natural History Survey Collection, University of Minnesota, at Minneapolis.—ALBERT LANO, *Fayetteville, Arkansas.*

**Wild Swan on Long Island, N. Y.**— Mr. John L. Lawrence, while duck shooting off Doctor's Point, on Narrow Bay, between Smith's Point and Moriches, at Mastic, Long Island, saw, on November 5, 1919, one swan, a cygnet, about 150 yards away, flying east. The next day, November 6, one adult swan and one cygnet, came into the duck decoys and stayed there some time, swimming slowly around, feeding, within thirty yards.

On November 8, two swans, both adults, came within 100 yards, circled around the blind, and then settled in the water some distance away.

It seems to me that the record is worth noting in 'The Auk,' as wild swan on long Island are most unusual.—NEWBOLD T. LAWRENCE, *Lawrence, Long Island, N. Y.*

**Notes on Some Shore Birds of the Alabama River, Montgomery County, Ala.**— On Saturday, September 20, 1919, accompanied by a friend who is both a hunter and a naturalist, I made a trip of several miles down the Alabama River from the city of Montgomery for the purpose of collecting fall migrants then numerous in this region. The Alabama River is formed of the Coosa and the Tallapoosa and is a navigable stream from Montgomery to Mobile. It is a noble stream with high wooded banks.