

Alaska, do not go far south in winter since the climate of our southwestern states and that of Mexico is such that food cannot be procured at that season. Their migratory flights are so much shorter than those of our eastern birds that they have generally poorer proportions for flight these conditions being particularly noticeable in the birds of the southwestern states, where so many are resident. This region then is the metropolis for long-tailed, short-winged, large-billed and large-legged birds. The Florida races are of the same sort but much fewer in numbers.

Life for the bird is mainly a struggle for food, and this implies a struggle for room, for extension of feeding grounds and breeding places. In this struggle those with good flight abilities and vigor are found to have the widest distribution for it is written in the book of birds that the longed-winged shall inherit the earth.

406 Stratford Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.

GENERAL NOTES

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougalli*) Breeding in Virginia.—While spending six weeks during the spring of 1920 along the coast of Virginia, I visited every island from Cobb's to Cape Charles, and was surprised and gratified to find the Roseate Tern breeding on three of these islands, namely, Cobb's, Wreck and Isaac's. They were in small groups of three or four pairs in company with Common Terns. I found them to be much more pugnacious than the Common Tern, and while darting at an intruder, would come so close that there was no doubt as to their identity. As Bailey, in his 'Birds of Virginia' does not mention this as a breeding bird of the State, I deem this fact worthy of record.—B. R. BALES, M.D., Circleville, Ohio.

Egret at South Orleans, Mass.—Mr. E. B. Mecarta, of Harwich, has given me the following facts in regard to the capture of an American Egret (*Herodias egretta*) at South Orleans, Mass. On July 26, 1920, Mr. John Kendrick saw a large white heron in a small pond near the state road, and on July 29 the bird was again noticed in the same pond flapping violently as if injured. Upon investigation the heron proved to have had one foot nearly severed probably by a snapping turtle, and was captured from a boat. Mr. Mecarta amputated the foot, and delivered the bird alive to the Curator of the Franklin Park Museum, where it was left in apparently good health on August 2. Strong southwest winds which had

prevailed for ten days may have carried the bird north. About the same time four "Portuguese Man-o-War" were picked up on South Beaches near Chatham.—R. HEBER HOWE, JR., *Chatham, Mass.*

The Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*) at Cape May, N. J.—On August 1, 1920, about a mile west of Cape May, N. J., I flushed a small flock of herons containing five individuals of the Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) and one of the present species. The birds settled in a shallow pond and were flushed again at closer range. On both occasions the coloration of this bird could be distinctly seen both with the naked eye and with the binoculars, and as I am familiar with the species in the South I recognized it at once. Messrs. J. Fletcher Street and Samuel Scoville, Jr., of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, were with me at the time and also satisfactorily identified the bird.

During the rest of the month the Little Blue Herons were seen almost daily as well as individuals of the White Egret (*Herodias egretta*), twenty of the former and eleven of the latter being present, but on no occasion did the Louisiana Heron again appear. New Jersey has always been included in the range of this heron on the basis of the statements of Audubon and Turnbull, that it occasionally migrated that far north, but so far as I know there is no specimen extant from the State nor any definite record of its occurrence. The above record therefore is of considerable interest and is perhaps a further illustration of the benefits to be expected from the protection that is being afforded these birds on their breeding grounds on the Gulf coast.

The present summer seems to have been a good one for "White Herons," as my friend, John Treadwell Nichols, informs me that both the Little Blue and the Egret reached Long Island during August.—WITMER STONE, *Academy Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

The Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) on the New Jersey Coast.—On August 9, 1920, about a mile west of Cape May, N. J., a Marbled Godwit flew past me at close range, coming from one of the small ponds on the salt meadows and making for the beach. It was disturbed however by some people walking there and did not alight, keeping on down the coast just inside the surf. About half an hour later it returned and settled on the edge of a shallow pond directly before me where I had an excellent opportunity of studying its markings. As I can find no recent records of its capture or occurrence on the New Jersey coast this observation seems worthy of record. Old gunners of twenty-five or thirty years ago speak of shooting Godwits, but it is not always clear which of the two species they had obtained. We have two specimens of the Marbled Godwit in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia shot at Wildwood, N. J., by Dr. W. L. Abbott, September 14, 1880, but several more recent Godwit records are all the Hudsonian.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*