

## GENERAL NOTES

**The Iceland Gull (*Larus leucopterus*) in California.**—A flying field trip into Kern County, California, made by Dr. Loye Miller and the junior author in the closing days of the past year not only furnished an opportunity for personal observation of the important Pleistocene deposits recently discovered in the McKittrick region, but also yielded one interesting record of range extension for a modern species. On December 30, 1921, Dr. Miller picked up a dead gull on one of the levees on the west side of Buena Vista Lake. The bird had evidently been killed by some duck hunter an hour or two before, and aside from semi-decapitation at the hands of the same "sportsman", was in perfect condition.

The specimen differed so radically from any *Larus glaucescens* available in southern California collections that it was sent to Dr. Jonathan Dwight for determination. He pronounces it *Larus leucopterus*, and as such it constitutes a new record for this State. The specific data relative to the capture is as follows: Female, immature of the first winter; No. J 1824, Collection of Donald R. Dickey; Buena Vista Lake, Kern County, California; December 30, 1921; collected by Loye Miller and A. J. van Rossem.—D. R. DICKEY and A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California*.

**Pelicans in the Interior of Alabama.**—During the past season, several newspaper notes detailing the killing of both the White and Brown Pelican, in the interior of the State, have appeared. In October 1921, a hunter killed a large White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) at Mountain Creek, in Chilton County, more than 200 miles, in an airline, north of the coast. The bird stopped to rest at a small pond, and was killed and brought to this department and mounted for our collection. It measures nearly nine feet in extent.

During the first few days in February the newspapers carried accounts of the shooting of both species more than 100 miles from the coast. A White Pelican was killed at Selma, Dallas County, and Brown Pelicans (*P. occidentalis*) in Escambia and Butler Counties, and in Montgomery. The bird taken at Georgiana, in Escambia County, is without toe nails on the right foot. It appears to be of great age. The one taken at Montgomery struck a telephone wire during a day flight, killing itself in the streets of the city. The two specimens just referred to are both mounted and in our collection, and measure more than eight feet in expanse.—PETER A. BRANNON, *Alabama State Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama*.

**Eider Duck—A Correction.**—Under date of April 1890, Vol. VII, No. 2, of 'The Auk,' a note appears stating that a specimen of the Common Eider Duck (*Somateria dresseri*) had been shot near Ottawa. This I regret

to state was incorrect, as the specimen has proven to be a young King Eider (*S. spectabilis*). Through the kindness of Mr. P. A. Taverner, Zoologist of the Geological Survey Department, and Mr. Hoyes Lloyd, Ornithologist of the Dominion Parks Branch, Department of the Interior, who recently placed at my disposal a very large number of specimens of both King and Common Eider, the bird has been positively identified as a young King Eider, in the plumage of the female.—GEORGE R. WHITE, *Ottawa, Canada*.

***Anas diazi novimexicana* and *Grus americana* in Nebraska.**—

Last November while on a shooting trip in Cherry County, Nebraska, I obtained a duck which appeared strange to me. The specimen was saved and has been identified by Dr. H. C. Oberholser as *Anas diazi novimexicana* (Huber). The bird, a female, was shot October 17, 1921, on Dad's Lake, Cherry County, Nebraska, by Colonel Dale Bumstead and is now in my collection. As this is believed to be the first known occurrence of this bird outside of New Mexico, it seems worthy of note.

While on this same trip I heard of a supposed occurrence of the Whooping Crane. The gentleman from whom the information was obtained was a member of the Red Deer Lake Shooting Club, and stated that on October 14, 1921, two Whooping Cranes had alighted on the shores of Red Deer Lake and that one had been killed by a farmer boy in the vicinity. I did not see this bird myself, but believe the report to be authentic.—H. B. CONOVER, *Chicago, Ill.*

**Whooping Cranes (*Grus americana*) in Texas.**—On December 23, 1921, it was my good fortune to find four individuals of this rare species in southern Texas. At the time I was in company with Richard M. Kleberg, in charge of the Laureles Ranch, a sub-division of the great King Ranch.

Perhaps twenty-five miles almost directly South of Corpus Christi there is, except in abnormal seasons, a large shallow lake known as Laguna Larga. It was here that the Cranes were seen. The past winter was an unusually dry season in Texas and the water in the Laguna Larga was very low. On the prairies formerly constituting the lake bottom there were a large number of geese, particularly Snow Goose (*Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus*), and the Hutchins' Goose (*Branta canadensis hutchinsi*). One Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) was identified.

While riding over this territory with Mr. Kleberg, he pointed out at a distance two Whooping Cranes feeding on the prairie. They were probably a quarter of a mile away at the time. On nearer approach they rose and alighted after flying a short distance. There was no possibility of doubt as to the identification. Perhaps five miles farther south two others were discovered. On approaching these we encountered some