

GENERAL NOTES.

Little Auk at Sand Bridge, Southeastern Virginia.—On January 20, 1923, the day being cloudy and calm, temperature 24° Fahrenheit, we noticed a small bird in our yard quite near the house. We readily captured it and no one present being able to identify it I determined to send it, alive if possible, to the Biological Survey at Washington.

We attempted to feed it with duck food, pheasant food bread crumbs, seeds and the like, but it refused everything. We put food into its bill but it would not swallow it. It was very gentle, not at all frightened and rather liked being stroked. We put it in a tub of water and it enjoyed itself immensely and I think if we had known what food to float on the surface of the water the bird would have eaten it.

We did our best to keep it alive but on the third day it died, when we sent it up to the Biological Survey and I am now informed that the bird was the Dovekie or Little Auk, *Alle alle*.

The day after its capture we saw another nearby at our boat house, evidently far away from its northern home but we made no attempt to take it.—J. C. O'CONNOR, 24 E. Thirty-third St., New York. N. Y.

Razor-billed Auk in North Carolina.—On January 29, 1923 Mr. Charles M. B. Cadwalader shot a female Razor-billed Auk (*Alca torda*) on Currituck Sound, N. C. The specimen is now in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia—WITMER STONE, *Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*

Double-crested Cormorant at Waterford, N. Y.—On May 16, 1921, a Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax d. dilophus*) was seen on the Mohawk River three miles west of Waterford, N. Y. The bird was seen clearly; first on the water, then in its peculiar flight. I am familiar with the Cormorants of the Atlantic coast and Florida.

Out of thirteen fall records given by Eaton (Birds of New York) two are from this same locality! Lansingburgh, November 13, 1879 and Troy, September 21, 1888. The three localities mentioned being only three miles apart—really one city.

The weather conditions were normal; clear, with a strong west wind.—EDGAR BEDELL, *Waterford, N. Y.*

Field Identification of Ducks.—Mr. Ludlow Griscom's 'Field Studies of the Anatidae,' in the last two numbers of 'The Auk,' are of great value and interest, but I venture to add two or three points that seem to me of value in the recognition of these birds in the field.

The female Merganser can be distinguished at a considerable distance from the female Red-breasted Merganser by the white throat patch or