

GENERAL NOTES.

Black Tern near New York City in Spring.—On May 13, 1923, Dr. Ellsworth Eliot, Dr. E. R. P. Janvrin, Mr. J. M. Johnson and I made a long, all-day spring census in the Englewood region, Bergen County, New Jersey. We were fortunate in striking the biggest wave of migrants of the season and recorded 99 species, many in great abundance. The famous Overpeck Creek Marshes produced an unusual number of water-birds. A pair of very belated Mallards, some Black Ducks, seven species of Shore-birds, including the first inland record of the White-rumped Sandpiper for the State, and all five Swallows were welcome additions after ten hours in the field. Utterly unexpected, however, was the sight of two Black Terns in full breeding plumage hawking gracefully over the waters of the creek, at times passing very close to us. I was consequently much interested to learn from Mr. George E. Hix a few days later, that he saw two Black Terns in full breeding plumage at Long Beach, Long Island on May 16. The birds were tame, conditions were ideal, and this bird is, of course, practically unmistakable. There are only three previous spring records for the Black Tern in this region, all from Long Island. It is perhaps significant that two of these records were in 1921 and 1922 respectively, and it will be interesting to see whether spring records become more frequent and regular.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *American Museum of Natural History, New York.*

A Specimen of Thayer's Gull from New Jersey.—A specimen of *Larus thayeri* in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences was taken by Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads at Mt. Ephraim, N. J. near the Delaware River, March 9, 1888. It had long passed as a Herring Gull until a recent examination of the specimens of this species by Dr. H. C. Oberholser brought out its true relationship.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.*

A Second North American Record for *Puffinus assimilis*.—Among the birds in the collection which Mr. William Brewster bequeathed to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy is a mounted specimen of a small black and white Shearwater bearing two labels. The original, in Mr. Arthur T. Wayne's handwriting, is as follows: "Puffinus auduboni, Summer, ♂, Sullivans Id., S. C. Disabled and exhausted but not dead. Taken after a storm on the Florida coast." Mr. Brewster's label is, of course, essentially the same, omitting the details of capture and carrying in addition his catalogue number 20051.

With a view to obtaining a little more of the history of this specimen, I wrote to Mr. A. T. Wayne asking him if he could not supply a few additional details; this he very kindly did, partly from his remarkable memory and partly from his records. From him I learned that the specimen was

picked up in August, 1883; it was mounted by the late Mr. John Dancer from whom Mr. Wayne acquired it in 1884 and in whose possession it remained until he sold it to Mr. Brewster in January, 1889.

The specimen was mentioned by Smyth, 'Proceedings Elliot Society of Arts & Sciences,' 2, August, 1888, p. 212, and recorded by Wayne, 'Birds of South Carolina,' p. 9, as *Puffinus l'herminieri*.

Some time ago Mr. Bangs called my attention to the fact that the specimen in question was not an Audubon's Shearwater, (*Puffinus l. l'herminieri*), but until recently no attempt has been made to identify the specimen correctly. Now in the course of a critical examination of the Tubinares in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy collection it appears that the specimen is referable to one of the races of *Puffinus assimilis*. This specimen constitutes the second North American record for the species; the first occurrence, that of a bird that struck a lighthouse on Sable Island, Nova Scotia, having been recorded by Dr. Dwight in the 'Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington,' 1897, II, pp. 69-70.

While the probabilities are strongly in favor of both these proving identifiable as the form from the Madeiras and Canary Ids. (*Puffinus baroli* Bp. Consp. Av. 2, 1857, p. 204), Dr. Murphy to whom I showed the South Carolina specimen, and who agrees in pronouncing it an *assimilis*, believes that the subspecies of *Puffinus assimilis* are so close that any attempt at subspecific determination based on a straggler must be unsatisfactory.—JAMES L. PETERS, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

The Black Duck in Colorado.—Through the kindness of Mr. Victor Kennicott of Denver I recently received a specimen of this duck (*Anas rubripes*). Mr. Kennicott secured it at the Kennicott Duck Club (east of Longmont, Colo.) on December 9, 1923; there were three individuals of this species amongst a flock of Mallards, one of which he secured. The Black Duck is exceedingly rare in Colorado, there being only two or three previous published records. The specimen was a male and weighed, two days after killed, two pounds and fourteen ounces.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

European Widgeon in North Carolina.—While a number of European Widgeons have been taken along the Atlantic coast the definite records of captures in North Carolina seem few enough to warrant the recording of an additional specimen. A fine male in perfect plumage was obtained on January 28, 1924, by Mr. Charles M. B. Cadwalader at Waterlilly, N. C., on Currituck Sound and thanks to his generosity is now in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.*

Blue-winged Teal Breeding on Long Island, N. Y.—A pair of Blue-winged Teals (*Querquedula discors*) were collected from a pond in a grassy