

water mark. The three were in a direct line parallel with the shore line, the middle one, containing two eggs, being twenty-five feet from the other one with two eggs, and seven feet from the nest containing three eggs. All are substantial and well made, and each is almost an exact duplicate of the other. Into a hollow measuring about five inches across and an inch and a half deep, the birds had arranged a single layer of broken shells about the size of a ten cent piece. Upon this, but placed in a rather haphazard manner, was a close-set cluster of dead marsh grass stems, with numerous fragments trailing over the edge of the nest and extending in a little stream eight or nine inches beyond the rim, just as if some one had dragged the material into the hollow with a rake, leaving pieces along the way. Heretofore my experience with breeding Terns has been confined to one species—the Least, whose nests are probably the simplest of all, so I was a little surprised to see such elaborately lined structures. On June 13, I again visited the island and found additional nests with eggs. Three sets were collected; two by the writer and one by G. R. Rossignol. One of my sets being now in the collection of my friend Arthur T. Wayne, of Mount Pleasant, S. C.—W. J. ERICKSEN, *Savannah, Ga.*

The Sooty Tern and Audubon's Shearwater in South Carolina.

—My friend Mr. Ellison A. Williams of Charleston, S. C., brought to me on July 30, 1926, a fine specimen of the Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) that was found dead by a negro on the Mt. Pleasant shore, by the bridge which connects Sullivan's island with Mt. Pleasant. The bird was greatly emaciated but was in fine nuptial plumage and when found could not have been dead more than a few hours since the rigor mortis had barely departed.

The bird was evidently blown north by the hurricane which began in latitude 15 N. near Martinique and lasted more than a week in its course northwestward. The wind velocity at Charleston on July 28 (from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M.) ranged from 31 to 54 miles per hour accompanied by heavy rain from 4 P.M. until midnight. At Nassau, N. P., the maximum velocity was 130 miles between Monday night and Tuesday night, July 26-27. Thinking that other specimens might be found on the barrier islands opposite here I suggested to Mr. E. von S. Dingle that he make an investigation and he visited Long Island on August 2, where he found many Sooty Terns and some Audubon's Shearwaters (*Puffinus l'herminieri*) all of which had been partly eaten by sand crabs and had obviously been greatly emaciated.

Several additional Sooty Terns were seen later on my place at Mount Pleasant, which had evidently recovered from the effects of the storm and another was caught alive on Pawley's Island near Georgetown on July 30.

In my 'Birds of South Carolina' (1910) I placed this species in the hypothetical list as there was no evidence of the bird ever having been taken in the state. Therefore the actual capture of a specimen as here recorded constitutes an addition to the avifauna. Mr. Williams very

kindly presented the specimen to me.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mt. Pleasant, S. C.*

The Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) at Charleston, S. C.—On the morning of July 29, about 7:30 A.M. the writer saw three Sooty Terns at Charleston, S. C. The coast of South Carolina had been visited the previous night by a West Indian storm, which had travelled up from Florida, where it devastated many places early in the week.

The three birds were seen flying slowly over the city, very low down, barely above the chimneys. A stiff wind was blowing at the time, and the flight of the birds was slow and wavering, showing every marking almost as distinctly as if they had been in hand. The morning was clear with bright sunlight.

As far as I know this is the first authentic record for South Carolina. This species is mentioned in the Hypothetical List of Arthur T. Wayne's 'Birds of South Carolina,' on page 216.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston, S. C.*

Sooty Tern in North Carolina.—An adult female Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) was picked up in an exhausted condition near the northern edge of Raleigh, on August 1, 1926. The Boy Scout, Fred Dixon, who discovered the specimen, gave it to the State Museum. It was very much emaciated but otherwise unhurt, and in good condition for preserving.

On August 3, 1926, another adult specimen of this species was discovered, in a similar condition, by Jos. W. Womble, about five miles south of Pittsboro, Chatham County, N. C., approximately thirty miles in an air line from where the first was secured. When this specimen reached my hands three days later, it was too far advanced in decomposition to be saved, or even for the sex to be determined.

No doubt the very severe West Indian hurricane of the previous week accounts for the presence of these two birds so far from their natural range.

Our only other North Carolina record, since Dr. Coues saw a flock near Fort Macon in March, 1869, is an adult specimen—found near Raleigh in June, 1909, which was picked up in an exhausted and emaciated condition as were the two above recorded. In that case, however, I failed to ascertain the weather conditions south of us for the immediately preceding days.—H. H. BRIMLEY, *Raleigh, N. C.*

Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) in West Virginia.—On July 31, an adult Sooty Tern was picked up in a weed patch in a garden two miles from Charleston and brought to me for identification. The bird was slightly injured on the wing from being stepped on by a man when catching it. One leg was strained from being tied by a string after the bird had been captured. The Tern was in a very weakened condition and was unable to stand upright on its feet.

After being cared for for several days it seemed to regain some strength, and after feeding it raw beef it was banded with band no. 273487 and