

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

released at 11 A.M. August 12. When first released, it fell to the ground and flopped for many yards and apparently was unable to fly. But I pitched it into the air in an effort to find out just for what reason the bird was unable to fly. I was astonished to find the bird flew off smoothly and strong, as if it had never been injured. It headed in a due line for the Atlantic coast.

This appears to be the first record of the Sooty Tern in West Virginia.

Judging from my experience it would seem that the Sooty Tern cannot rise or take wing from the ground when it is covered with weeds, grass or other vegetation.—I. H. JOHNSTON, *Charleston, W. Va.*

**Audubon's Shearwater at Cape May, N. J.**—On the morning of August 2, 1926, while bathing in the surf on the Cape May beach I saw a bird which was quite unknown to me, alternately flying and resting on the waves just beyond the breakers. Upon swimming out I was able to approach near enough to convince myself that it was a Shearwater but I soon lost sight of it as the sea was choppy and the bird was constantly disappearing in the trough of the waves.

Soon after probably the same individual was picked up by the life guards who were in their boat off the upper bathing beach and through the kind offices of Dr. and Mrs. T. S. Palmer, who were present, the specimen was saved and presented to me, although it had died by the time I received it.

It proved to be a young female Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) and was in an emaciated condition with no trace of food in the stomach. It was at once prepared as a skin and is now in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

With the exception of Audubon's vague statement that he had seen them "off Sany Hook" this is the first record of the species for New Jersey. The bird was evidently blown northward by the hurricane which prevailed in the West Indies and on the Florida coast a few days previously.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

**Old-squaw (*Harelda hyemalis*) at St. Joseph, Michigan.**—On May 5, 1926, while standing on the dock at St. Joseph, a female Old-squaw swam in to the pilings and began feeding on the minnows with which the water fairly teemed. Her course under water could be readily followed by the fish springing into the air. The bird was entirely unsuspecting, and though I watched it for fifteen minutes, its movements gave no indication of injury. The latest spring date given by Barrows in 'Birds of Michigan' in April 3.—A. W. SCHORGER, 2021 *Kendall Ave., Madison, Wis.*

**The Brent Goose of Spitzbergen and Greenland.**—In Dr. Glover M. Allen's appreciative notice of Schiölers 'Birds of Denmark' (*antea*, p. 226), it is stated that Mr. Schiöler and I differ in the recognition of races of the Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla*). Personally I have failed to find any such difference, and find myself in entire agreement with Mr.