

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.

Schiöler. All birds from Spitsbergen and Greenland belong to the light-bellied race (*B. bernicla hrota*), while Siberian breeding birds are dark-bellied (*B. bernicla bernicla*). From Kolguer, where they are said to intergrade, our material is still very scanty. Migrants to the Faeroes, Iceland, etc., are quite as likely to be from Spitsbergen as from Greenland.—F. C. R. JOURDAIN, *Waverly Lodge, Ditchingham, Norfolk, England*.

Egret (*Casmerodius egretta*) at Greenville, Mercer Co., Pa.—On the evening of August 19, 1926, a friend telephoned me that a large "white crane" had been spending several days along the Shenango River, near his home, and when I arrived at the spot, I had no difficulty in securing a satisfactory view of the bird, approaching within fifty yards unobserved and watched it feeding for a considerable time. It was closely attended in its movements by an adult Great Blue Heron, which seemed an ardent admirer, and thus the comparative size was apparent, the Egret being somewhat smaller. Noted well the yellow bill and black legs, but the breeding season plumes were absent. This is the first time in recent years, so far as I can learn, that an Egret has been seen in Mercer County, Pa. The location was about five miles south of Greenville, Pa.—JOHN J. DONALDSON, *Greenville, Pa.*

Unusual Actions of a Great Blue Heron.—Last spring, while engaged in general field work for the Milwaukee Public Museum, the writer made the following observation.

We were making a series of motion pictures of the nest life a pair of Loons (*Gavia immer*), which had established their home on an islet in Bass Lake, Michigan, just across the Wisconsin line. Every day while en route to our "set up," we passed, by boat, through several small lakes, all of which are surrounded by virgin timber and are very deep. Great Blue Herons were abundant and birds from a neighboring rookery kept up a continual procession to and from the fishing grounds. At almost every turn a surprised Heron would clumsily flop up and away.

Upon several occasions a Heron was observed to alight for a moment out in the center of Mamie Lake. With the use of binoculars we could observe no swimming movements, but evidently the bird was interested in something on the surface, and after a moment flew. We sped up our motor and hurried to the spot. By the aid of a line and weight we found the water to be nearly thirty feet deep. Whether the action, several times repeated, was performed by the same bird we could not tell, but Mr. Twombly, our guide, informed us that he has seen Herons alight in the deep waters of Mamie Lake frequently. Having neither seen nor read of a similar occurrence, it was to us a point worthy of note.—OWEN J. GROMME, *Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisc.*

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) at Madisonville, Ky.—In a swamp west of Madisonville, Hopkins County Kentucky, I identified an adult male *Nyctanassa violacea*, on June 27,