

GENERAL NOTES.

Sabine's Gull in Massachusetts.—On August 21, Mr. John Smith of the Boston Society of Natural History and I were collecting Limicolae along the South River at Marshfield, near Greenbush, Mass. A large company of young and adult Common and Roseate Terns were feeding in the river and we sat for a while on the bank to watch them. With them, and closely imitating their method of feeding was a bird which instantly attracted our attention. Its black head and white-flecked, black primaries made it a conspicuous spot in the Tern company. Thinking it was a Bonaparte's Gull in full plumage we collected it. Closer observation immediately showed the bird to be a fine specimen of Sabine's Gull in almost full plumage. The head only indicated the beginning of molt, a few white and grey feathers being mixed in with the darker plumage. The black collar around the neck was perfect as was the rest of the plumage. Upon skinning the Gull we found it to be an adult male. The larger proportion of the stomach contents was sand, with the vertebrae of several small fish, three very small clam shells, and a little fatty substance on which the Gull was feeding when shot. We have but very few records of this species in Massachusetts, and most of these are of birds in winter plumage.—ALLEN H. WOOD, JR., *Boston, Massachusetts.*

Caspian Tern at Stone Harbor, N. J.—On August 29, 1926, while examining a large flock of Terns and Gulls resting on the sand below Stone Harbor, N. J., we noticed three large red-billed birds among them. On closer examination we found them to be Caspian Terns—two in adult and one in immature plumage. We identified the birds to our entire satisfaction, flushing them from the beach twice. On these occasions, their comparatively shallow-forked tails were plainly seen as they flew about overhead. One of the adults uttered a harsh low-pitched k-r-r-r-r which cleared up any doubt we had as to the bird's identity. It is interesting to note that Mr. Clifford Marburger and Professor Herbert H. Beck saw a large Tern which they suspected of being this species at Brigantine, N. J., August 18, 1926.—WILLIAM YODER, *Philadelphia, Pa.*—JULIAN K. POTTER, *Collingswood, N. J.*

Noddy Tern (*Anous stolidus*) at Daytona Beach, Florida.—On September 18, 1926, the day of the south Florida hurricane, a Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) was found in a semi-exhausted condition, resting beneath the ocean pier at the foot of Main Street, Daytona Beach. The bird was still living when brought to me, on the 20th, for identification.

On the morning of the 18th, I was out on the beach looking for the unusual water birds that the fall gales occasionally bring our way. In addition to the first Sooty Tern that I have ever seen here, and the first

Frigate Birds since 1910, my attention was attracted to what I at first sight took to be a Fish Crow hovering above the combers. But as the bird was swept towards and past me, I realized that it was no Crow. In the course of ten minutes I saw four more of the same species. They would occasionally skim close to the waves, stretching the feet towards the water and almost alighting but keeping the wings outspread, never behaving after the manner of the fork-tailed Terns.

I tentatively set the new birds down as Sooty Shearwaters, and upon looking them up in the books, was confirmed in my belief. However upon receiving the Noddy on the 20th, I at once saw the striking similarity in general appearance between the Noddy and the Sooty Shearwater, and I have since read (Bartsch's 'Bird Rookeries of the Tortugas') that the Noddy has habits of flight similar to those I observed, and so have little doubt that the five birds I saw on the 18th were of this species.

The books seem to make no mention of the fact that in general appearance, the Noddy and Sooty Shearwater are strikingly alike. Unless one were fortunate enough to note the shape of bill or the color of the forehead, or were well acquainted with the flight of the two species, it would be almost impossible to separate them in the field. The descriptions as written in the literature are not sufficient to separate them.

Mr. A. H. Howell, U. S. Biological Survey, writes me that this is the first record for the Noddy on the Florida east coast. The bird breeds, of course, in the Tortugas, but those seen on the 18th more probably came from the Bahamas, for the hurricane was from that direction.—R. J. LONGSTREET, *Daytona Beach, Florida.*

Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) and Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaetheta*) on the South Carolina coast.—On July 29, 1926, a tropical hurricane passed the vicinity of Charleston, S. C., the height of the storm was reached during the late afternoon and early part of the night; after 12 o'clock it began to lull. A maximum wind velocity of about 54 miles per hour was reported.

It was not until the morning of August 2, that I visited the Isle of Palms (Long Island) for the purpose of gathering whatever birds might have been washed ashore. Landing on the southern end of the island, which is practically uninhabited I walked the entire length, a distance of approximately nine miles, and back. About halfway up the island, I came upon the carcasses of two Terns, lying within twenty-five feet of each other; they were putrid and partly eaten by crabs, but at a glance were seen to be either *fuscata* or *anaetheta*.

I hurried on and found a number of Audubon's Shearwaters (*Puffinus herminieri*), likewise putrid and stripped of flesh; a careful count showed that there were fourteen of these birds dead on the beach.

The Terns were obviously different species, and on my return home, I took them to Mr. Arthur T. Wayne, who brought out specimens from his great collection. We compared them and found beyond all question that