

GENERAL NOTES

Horned Grebe in Breeding Plumage in North Carolina.—A Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*) in full breeding plumage was taken at Norlina, N. C., about April 9, 1927. It was a female and the first specimen of either sex that I have seen in this plumage from the State.—H. H. BRIMLEY, *Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.*

Masked Duck (*Nomonyx dominicus*) in Texas.—On January 2, 1927, I noticed in a pile of dead Ducks at Eagle Nest Lake, Brazoria Co., Texas, a "Ruddy" Duck with peculiar white markings on the head. Feeling sure that it must be a Masked Duck I expressed a wish to have it for my collection and Mr. B. W. Cammer, who had shot it, very gladly exchanged it for a Gadwall.

On dissection I found it to be a male but on consulting the figures of male and female in Forbush's 'Birds of Massachusetts.' I found that the head markings of my bird corresponded to those of the female. I then sent the skin to Dr. H. C. Oberholser of Washington and asked whether he thought I had made a mistake in dissection. The skin was returned to me, however, with simply "*N. dominicus*. H. C. O." written on the label. I imagine my specimen is a male that has not acquired full adult plumage.

The Masked Duck is a tropical American species occurring frequently in the West Indies and five times recorded in the United States: Albury Springs, Vt., September 26, 1857; Near Newville, Wis., November, 1870; Malden, Mass., August 27, 1889; Brownsville Tex., July 22, 1891; and Elkton, Md., September 8, 1905. The first specimen, however, had its wings clipped and was evidently escaped from captivity so that my specimen is really the fifth for the United States. I have presented it to the Biological Survey section of the National Museum collection, as it seemed too rare to remain in a small private collection.—ROBERT B. LAWRENCE, *Houston, Texas.*

Snake-bird (*Anhinga anhinga*) in South Carolina.—During the last few days of January, and until February 19, 1926, mild, spring-like weather prevailed along the South Carolina coast. The writer was afield several times but noted nothing of particular interest until February 11, when, at a fresh water reservoir, about 15 miles from Charleston, S. C., a Snake-bird was observed.

It was a female, and apparently in fine plumage. It was seen from a highway trestle which spans the reservoir, sitting in the top of a small cypress tree about 20 feet high, and remained in this tree until after dark. It was first seen about 5:30 p. m. on a clear afternoon, and watched through 6 × glasses at a distance of about 100 yards.

As this is the fourth winter occurrence of *Anhinga anhinga* in South Carolina, the other dates may be of interest. On each occasion warm weather had prevailed for some time, but as the other records were made at intervals of about a month, all observances really cover but two warm spells. It was seen on Back River, S. C., on November 30, December 30, 1913, and January 18, 1914, all observations being made by Mr. Caspar Chisolm of Charleston.

The Snake-bird usually makes its appearance in South Carolina during the second week in March, in forward seasons, and is always abundant by the 21st of that month. (Wayne).

The writer was accompanied on the above trip by his wife, Mr. E. B. Chamberlain of the Charleston Museum, and Mr. F. M. Weston, of Pensacola, Florida, all of whom are thoroughly familiar with the species.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.*

Farallon Cormorant Killed by Unusual Accident.—In April, 1921, after a rather severe storm in western San Diego County, Henry Gray, a taxidermist residing in Mission Valley, picked up an adult female Farallon Cormorant, (*Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus*), from under a telephone cable running in front of his house. A large black mark, made by the insulation, was plainly visible on the lower part of the bird's neck. The bird, probably being driven before the storm at great speed, struck the cable with such force that its neck was completely severed, but in such a way that the skin was not broken. The specimen was mounted and is now on exhibition in the museum room of the O'Rourke Zoological Institute, still retaining the stripe of tar as a witness of its accidental death.—JACK C. VON BLOEKER, *O'Rourke Zoological Institute, San Diego, California.*

The Glossy Ibis in Delaware.—The Memorial Day outing of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club this year took the form of a three day automobile trip to Milford, Del., from which, as headquarters, excursions were made to various localities in that State and Maryland.

On the return trip on the afternoon of May 30, 1927, our car stopped on the edge of an open marsh on the outskirts of Wilmington where Florida Gallinules had been seen by one of the other parties on the way down. The marsh was probably a couple of hundred yards in extent each way and was bordered on three sides by railroad embankments and on the other by the highway. It was full of water the surface being covered with duckweed (*Lemna*), with clumps of water arum (*Peltandra virginica*) thickets of cat-tails, and here and there a bar of soft mud. The Gallinules were seen swimming about or walking on the ooze, Least Bitterns arose frequently from the cat-tails and settled again, several Night Herons and one Green Heron were standing motionless, watching for prey. Suddenly Erskine spied another bird which he likened to a "Black Curlew," unwittingly using a name often bestowed upon this species, which Stone immediately