

GENERAL NOTES.

Rare Alcidae in Barnegat Bay, New Jersey.—There was a notable flight of Alcidae to Long Island and New Jersey during December 1926 and January 1927. Mrs. Griscom and I spent the week-end of December 19 at Barnegat City, in the midst of a severe cold wave. Dawn found me at the lighthouse by the inlet, prepared for the morning flight. The bay was frozen, an ice mist swirled over the ocean, and I shivered in a temperature of 5 above zero. The inlet was crowded with Grebes and Gulls of five species, as the tide was racing in from the sea. Brant, Scaup, Mergansers and Old-squaws were passing every moment, and a Northern Shrike was attempting to sing in the bushes back of the lighthouse. Five minutes after my arrival a Brunnich's Murre followed by a Puffin flew in at long range, some Grebes just ahead, and some Old-squaws just behind. The slender bill of the Murre and the narrow white wing stripe were plainly visible. The much smaller size of the Puffin, the absence of a wing-stripe, the large head and buzzing flight were noticed. A little later a Razor-billed Auk flew in at moderate range, the deep bill plainly noticeable, also the greater extension of white back of the eye, and the clouded effect. A lull of half an hour then ensued. Two Brunnich's Murres then flew out to sea. About five minutes later a Razor-billed Auk at close range came by, tagging a flock of Old-squaws, also going out. This bird was near enough to be identified with the naked eye. Another five minutes passed and then a solitary Puffin came right past the light. This bird was also picked up and instantly recognized with the naked eye. It was buzzing by very rapidly, flying with the wind, and was past me by the time I got my glasses on it, so that it was too late to make out the color of the bill-tip. The great depth was plainly seen, and of course all the other characters of this species. Field experience in Labrador, the Newfoundland Banks and Great Britain has made me well acquainted with these birds over many years, and I have seen hundreds and sometimes thousands in a single day. The Puffin is recognizable at the limit of human vision, and the other two species are recognizable as Auks at very great distances and easily separable at moderate distances. I think this account shows that all three species were satisfactorily identified on December 19, though the exact number of individuals is uncertain. It is fortunate that the Puffin, much the rarest of the three, is the most unmistakable. The Puffin has already been mentioned in a 'Bird-Lore' season report, but a sight record of so rare a bird requires a well substantiated account of the observation to be worthy of consideration.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *American Museum of Natural History, New York.*

Brown Pelican and Summering Bonaparte's Gulls at Newport, R. I.—On the afternoon of June 21, 1927, a Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus oc-*

cidentalis) was observed resting on the water a mile or two off Narragansett Pier. We sailed quite close to it and the writer made memoranda of its immature plumage. Perhaps two hours later a bird of this species, presumably the same individual, was again observed at a greater distance flying over Newport harbor with a few nondescript young Herring Gulls, in contrast with which its appearance was grotesquely diagnostic. It continued up the bay in a northeasterly direction.

This casual record for the Pelican may have been correlated with an unusual spring abundance of this species in northern Florida (Weston, 1927, *Bird-Lore*, XXIX, p. 275. Pensacola), with the slow northeastward passage of a storm center which was close to Cape Hatteras the evening of the 19th and some 200 miles east of Cape Cod on the morning of the 21st, causing strong easterly winds and rain in local waters June 19 and 20, (see Forbush, 1925, *Birds of Massachusetts*, I, p. xix-xxiii), or with both.

On June 29 nine Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) were observed at Newport, alighting on and near some stakes in a small landlocked marsh near the Sound shore. A strong southeasterly wind and threatening sky may have accounted for their behavior, but not for their presence, midway between dates which would seem possible for north-bound or south-bound migrants. All were seemingly second year birds, with black tail band, and varying amount of dark on neck and head. There seems to be little or no data of this species summering in southern New England, though it is reported just south of New York City in the summer of 1923 (1923, *Bird-Lore*, XXV, p. 323; Urner, 1924, *Auk*, XLI, p. 149).—J. T. NICHOLS, *American Museum of Natural History*, *New York*.

Madeira Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) in Pennsylvania.—While examining recently the natural history collections of Mr. Frank S. Flack, taxidermist of Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, I came upon a Petrel which, according to Mr. Flack, was taken in Pennsylvania. Mr. Flack kindly brought the mounted specimen to me at Harrisburg for critical inspection. Having no comparative material at hand I forwarded it to Mr. W. E. Clyde Todd, of the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, who pronounced it a Madeira Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*), for which there are, so far as I am aware, but three records for the North American continent—two being for the District of Columbia and one for Indiana.

The specimen was brought to Mr. Flack on April 15, 1912, by Mr. William Lippey, who had found the bird dead along one of the streets of Chambersburg. Mr. Flack does not remember that any considerable storm preceded this date, but according to the records of the Weather Bureau an unusually constant easterly and northeasterly wind had been blowing over Pennsylvania on April 13, 14, and 15 of that year. While this wind was not of high velocity in Franklin County, it may have been sufficiently strong to account for the presence of this maritime bird so far inland. It is possible that the street lights lured the wandering bird