

I at once realized this was an early record, and think others may substantiate it as the winter and spring to date have been exceedingly mild.

Upon consulting four bird books—two of recent issue—the earliest spring arrival for this state was April 12 at Muskeget Island, which lies about 15 miles southeast of Oak Bluffs.

While a great amount of data has been amassed in recent, leading publications, I was much impressed with the very meagre record of the spring arrival of *atricilla* off the Massachusetts coast.—CHARLES L. PHILLIPS, *Taunton, Mass.*

The Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) at Washington, D. C.—Mr. and Mrs. William J. Whiting and I spent the afternoon of May 20, 1928 off Hains Point, D. C., on a mud bar in the Potomac River. We were using 8x, 9x, and 16x binoculars. One of the larger Terns was seen flying down the river, and we all put our glasses on it immediately. The bill was solid black, being quite blunt and heavy and not needle-like. The tail but slightly forked, and the primaries had a dark edge. The bird was flying in a straight line, with steady wing beats, continuing in this manner until out of sight. The sun was behind us, furnishing a perfect light. I examined specimens in the U. S. National Museum and am absolutely certain of the identification. It has been previously recorded here, but there is some doubt about the record.—WILLIAM HOWARD BALL, *1233 Irving St., N. W., Washington, D. C.*

The Man-o'-war-bird (*Fregata magnificens*) at Cape May, N. J.—In 'The Auk' for 1926, p. 536, I recorded the occurrence of Audubon's Shearwater at Cape May on August 2 of that year, following the West Indian hurricane of a few days previous. Recently I have received from Mrs. Emlen H. Fisher of Germantown, Philadelphia, the record of another waif driven north at the same time. Mrs. Fisher's letter on the matter is as follows: "I saw the bird at Cape May, N. J., three days after the Florida hurricane that devastated Miami. It was an unusually large bird having a wing spread of nearly three feet, I should say. The wings tapered to a point and were of a decided and curious shape, appearing from the rear to be arched close to the body, above the level of the back. The bird appeared slate gray all over. It had a long bill bent over at the tip and a long curious tail like that of a king crab but slightly forked at the extreme tip. I could not decide whether there was really a fork or whether two long outer tail feathers were crossed at the tip when folded. The neck was either drawn in like a Heron's, in flight, so as to form a bulge beneath the base of the bill, or else there was a sort of pouch there, but not forming a part of the bill as in a Pelican. The bird hung perfectly motionless facing the wind for fifteen or twenty minutes not moving an inch in space, apparently, although there was a strong wind blowing, nor moving a feather save to turn his head to look at the small group of people gathered below. It finally flew to the south where it disappeared."