

GENERAL NOTES.

Caspian Tern on Long Island, N. Y.—Mr. Ludlow Griscom in his 'Birds of the New York City Region' (1923), gives the status of the Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) on Long Island, N. Y., as "a rare or casual transient" and mentions the fact that but nine records of its occurrence had been published—only one of these being in spring (May 11, 1898). He cites three additional recent fall observations (September 8, 1914, September 28, 1916, and August 30, 1921).

It was, therefore, with great interest that I observed a bird of this species at Long Beach, Nassau County, L. I., on April 29, 1928. A close view, through 8x binoculars, was obtained, and the size, in comparison with Herring Gulls, the heavy red bill, the dark forehead and crown, the slate-gray undersides of the primaries and the rather short, forked tail were all carefully noted.

I have recently learned of four other observations of the Caspian Tern on Long Island, all by members of the Linnaean Society of New York. They are as follows:

1. One bird seen at Jones Beach, Nassau County, on May 30, 1925. (Messrs. Ludlow Griscom, Julius M. Johnson and Warren F. Eaton.)
2. Fourteen birds, also at Jones Beach, on August 15, 1926. (Mr. Ralph Friedman.)
3. One specimen seen at Long Beach, September 12, 1926. (Mr. Allan D. Cruickshank.)
4. Two at Oak Island Beach, Suffolk County, September 12, 1926. (Mr. Charles Johnston.)

My own observation, therefore, to the best of my knowledge, is the third of the occurrence of this species on Long Island in spring. It has, however, been recorded at two other localities in the New York City region at this season. Mr. J. L. Edwards saw two on Newark Bay, May 20, 1928, and Mr. John Kuerzi one at Todd's Neck, near Sound Beach, Connecticut, June 3, 1928. Messrs. C. A. Urner and T. Donald Carter also report one at the Manasquan Inlet, New Jersey, May 20, 1928.

Does the unusual "abundance" of the Caspian Tern on New York and New Jersey shores this past spring perhaps indicate a return to its former breeding grounds in Labrador and the Magdalen Islands?—E. R. P. JANVRIN, M.D., *New York City*.

Lesser Scaup Duck in Michigan in Summer.—July 1, 1928, there were present on one of the small lakes of Newaygo County, a group of Lesser Scaups consisting of one male and three females. These birds showed a great deal of reluctance about taking flight and, when approached in a row-boat, sought escape by diving. Believing them to be crippled individuals in association, I pressed the pursuit. But they were well able to fly and took wing when I had come within ten or twelve yards of them.

There are few actual breeding records for this species so far south of its normal breeding range. It seems likely that many lists of wild fowl in which species are indicated as "probably breeding" are made without regard to the greater probability that the species so listed are not breeding individuals.—EDWARD R. FORD, *Grand Rapids, Mich.*

Golden-eye Duck Nesting on the Ground.—On the Grand Cascapedia River in eastern Quebec, we have a good many breeding Golden-eyes. In June of the present year I was informed by my companion, on a salmon fishing trip, that near to a favorite lunching place of mine, he had seen a duck fly from under a fallen tree top as if it had a nest there.

On June 19, I visited the spot and found the nest, which contained five rather large, buff-colored eggs, but saw no sign of the bird. I thought at first that they might be those of the American Merganser, as there were a number of them on the river, but on visiting the nest again a few days later I saw the duck leave the nest and it was unquestionably a Golden-eye. There were now seven eggs. She was setting when I last visited the nest on July 2, and I think there were one or two additional eggs at that time, although I could not count them accurately without disturbing the nest. It was placed under the trunk of a fallen tree top, on the ground, well protected from rain and well lined with down. All around the edge was enough down to cover the eggs.

I have never before seen or heard of Golden-eye's nest being anywhere but in a hollow tree.—W. B. MERSHON, *Saginaw, Mich.*

The Song of the Green Heron (*Butoroides virescens virescens*).—The "pumping" of the Bittern and the "cooing" of the Least Bittern may be classed under the head of song, but for the Herons as a group there seems to be singularly little recorded in the way of a courtship song. The following quotation from Bent's 'Life History' of the Louisiana Heron, *Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*, appears to be an exception. He quotes from the notes of Prof. Julian S. Huxley: "Another ceremony, which is much less commonly seen, appears to be performed by the male alone. In this the bird droops its wings, erects its neck vertically and its head almost so and gives vent to a groaning sound." In my account of the Green Heron, written for Mr. Bent's 'Life Histories,' I say: "Early one morning, when I was lying concealed in a grove of trees, a Green Heron alighted among them nearly over my head. Therupon it emitted a series of low double groans at irregular intervals. If I had not seen the bird, I should have been puzzled as to the source of the sounds."

Since this was written, I have had favorable opportunities both in the grove referred to above, and also in a swamp in the Ipswich dunes where I had established a blind for bird watching, to hear this song, for such I believe it is. A bird song is not necessarily musical or pleasing to human ears, but even such short notes delivered during the courtship season as the "sneeze" of the Alder Flycatcher, the "hiss" of the Sharp-tailed