

**Sooty Tern on Staten Island, N. Y.**—On September 23, 1928, Messrs. Peterson, Muller and Kessler, members of the Bronx County Bird Club, picked up a dead Sooty Tern in the heart of the salt marsh at Oakwood Beach, Staten Island, N. Y. The bird was an adult and was in good condition. It was undoubtedly blown up by the West Indian hurricane which touched upon the New York region a few days before. Mr. Ludlow Griscom in his "Birds of the New York City Region" lists the Sooty Tern as of accidental occurrence, the last record being September 18, 1883. The specimen that we found was presented to the American Museum of Natural History.

We learn that another bird of the same species was picked up on the Connecticut shore on September 21.—VICTOR R. MULLER, *New York City*.

**Pomarine Jaegers and Phalaropes off shore in November.**—Several persons who attended the 1928 A.O.U. meeting at Charleston, S. C., travelled between that city and New York by sea, leaving New York Nov. 17 and arriving Nov. 19; leaving Charleston Nov. 25, arriving Nov. 27. On the south bound trip (warm, fair weather with moderate breezes) the most interesting sea bird encountered was the Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), a species which unlike the Parasitic is rare or irregular inshore near New York. At daylight on Nov. 18 the first ones were seen. Throughout the morning some dozen birds or more (maximum of 20 counted), were following the ship's wake, their flight and behavior very much like that of the few Herring Gulls, also following. From time to time we would pass scattered birds that generally swung into the wake, and 30 would be a conservative estimate of the total number seen. The last one was seen just prior to passing south of Diamond Shoal Lightship early in the afternoon. The following morning close inshore, approaching Charleston, a single distant Jaeger, thought to be this species, was seen. The only Parasitic Jaegers of the trip were one young bird that almost surely was such (Nichols) just outside of New York, Nov. 17, and a probable bird of this species early next morning. The Pomarine Jaegers following the ship were light and dark birds, and others, doubtless young, had all dark breasts and white bellies. Very few of them had the noticeably exerted tail feathers.

On the northbound trip a cold north-west blow was encountered off the Carolina Capes Nov. 26. This change in weather, correlated with the advance of the season, may have accounted for a difference in sea birds met with; at least for a scarcity of Jaegers. A single Jaeger, Nov. 25, and not more than 5 or 6 (Pomarines) Nov. 26, were the only ones noted. On the other hand an immature Kittiwake (Miller and Chapin), a species missed on the earlier trip, was seen a little north of the lightship Nov. 26; and about 15 adults from off Barnegat Light to Atlantic Highlands, Nov. 27. The occurrence of Phalaropes is of especial interest in view of the question as to whether the Red Phalarope is a regular transient or even winter

visitant south of the Carolina Capes (see Bent, 1927, Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus., CXLII, p. 13). Whereas none were seen southbound, single Phalaropes and small flocks totalling about 20 birds were observed late in the afternoon of Nov. 25. None were noted on the 26th, but 4 or more birds were seen on Nov. 27, off New Jersey. They were in all probability the Red Phalarope. Two individuals which flew on ahead and lighted on the water again Nov. 25, could be studied at sufficiently close range for a satisfactory estimate of size (about that of a Pectoral Sandpiper) as well as color (Du Mont), and the others seemed identical.—J. P. CHAPIN, P. A. DUMONT, W. DEW. MILLER, J. T. NICHOLS, *American Museum Natural History, N. Y.*

**Lesser Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea hyperborea*) in Quebec.**—On May 14, 1928, I shot a Snow Goose on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, across from L'Île aux Grues, Quebec. Mr. Frederic H. Kennard was here a short while ago and identified it as the Lesser Snow Goose (*C. h. hyperborea*).—GUS A. LANGELEIR, *Cap Rouge, Quebec.*

**The Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) at Virginia Beach, Va.**—On November 14, 1928 on the extensive flats at the head of Back Bay, Virginia Beach we saw two Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*). They were clearly made out through our 8 power glasses with a flock of approximately 2000 Greater Snow Geese. There was also one Canada Goose, but a great number of the last were feeding in the Bay. The occurrence of the Blue Goose on the Atlantic Coast is sufficiently unusual to warrant recording here.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Ipswich, Mass.*, and CHARLES L. BULL, *Oradell, N. J.*

**The Greater Scaup Affected by Lead Poisoning.**—On April 29, 1928, a shipment of ten Greater Scaups (*Marila marila*) was received at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology through the coöperation of the State Department of Conservation. The ducks had been found sick on Houghton Lake, Michigan, and sent to the Department by Roy Carr. When they reached me only four were still alive. Post-mortem examination showed the symptoms of lead poisoning and in the stomachs were large amounts of lead shot. Most of the stomachs contained forty to sixty pellets of lead and in one there were eighty pellets. Some pellets had been reduced by attrition almost to the vanishing point, but many were fresh and unworn. In several stomachs there were 3.5 to 4 grams and in one case 5 grams of lead. The condition of the internal organs was as described by Wetmore (U. S. Dept. of Agric. Bull. 793, 1919). In addition I noticed that the breast muscles had wasted away to very thin sheets. The living birds were very weak and suffered recurring convulsions followed by spells of excessive weakness. Their sense of balance was also affected and they could not sit upright either in the water or on land. The eye-lids did not droop until just before death, but the iris flickered almost constantly. The poisoning apparently did