

GENERAL NOTES.

Simultaneous Loss of Primaries in Prenuptial Moulting of Loon.—Under this heading Dr. John B. May in the July 1930 number of 'The Auk' (pp. 412-14) has a note regarding some Loons (*Gavia immer*) which he found in full moult, with all the primaries growing simultaneously in April. Dr. May's remarks interested me particularly as confirming the conclusions I reached when studying the moult of these birds some years ago. As Dr. May quoting Mr. A. C. Bent and others appears to consider that this complete moult of the Loons in the *spring* was hitherto unknown, it is perhaps worth while drawing attention to my description appearing in 'A Practical Handbook of British Birds' Vol. II, pp. 465 *et seq.* this having been published in 1922. I there state of all four Divers on the British List viz. *Colymbus* [*Gavia*] *immer*, *adamsii*, *arcticus* and *stellatus* that the adults in acquiring their summer plumage have another complete moult similar to that of autumn, this taking place from February to May. Under the autumn moult I state that the primaries, primary-coverts and secondaries are moulted simultaneously but wing-coverts and innermost secondaries normally. The immature bird so far as I could ascertain moulted only very partially during its first year and its first complete moult did not take place until the bird was rather more than a year old i. e. in the autumn previous to its second winter.—H. F. WITHERBY, 326 High Holborn, London, England.

Dovekies on the Coast of New Jersey and Virginia.—The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia has received no less than five Dovekies (*Alle alle*) during late November and early December, 1930. Three of these were secured or found dead in the vicinity of Cape May on November 21, and December 8 (two); one was obtained near Seaside Park, N. J. on December 8 along with another which at last account was still alive in captivity. The other specimen was obtained on December 5, on Currituck Sound about fifteen miles north of the North Carolina line. Several of the birds were obviously affected by oil.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

Sooty Shearwater and Audubon's Shearwater in North Carolina.—Definite records of Shearwaters in North Carolina are so few that notice of recent records seems worthy of publication.

On June 3, 1930, about one mile south of Shackleford Banks, a Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*), termed "Gulf Gull" by the boatman, was found dead. It was in good condition and without evidence of death by violence, but with a portion of the lower bowl distended by a pale yellow, watery stool. In addition I saw a live one in flight. Not long after this, reports were received that a number of birds, believed to be the same as this, were seen in a dead or dying condition. On several occasions in the

last three years on trips extending some thirteen miles off shore I have seen what I now feel sure was this species. Previous state records are: May, 1870, one specimen, Coues; June, 1892, one specimen, H. H. Brimley; "about 1897," two specimens and July, 1924, two specimens, R. J. Coles (Auk, January, 1925).

On July 26, 1925, a dying Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) was taken at Bogue Banks by several of us from the U. S. Fisheries Station, Beaufort, skinned by the writer and sent to the National Museum. Previous state records consist of a specimen picked up on the beach near Beaufort, July, 1910, and those reported by Dr. Coles (l. c.) who stated that the species is a common summer visitor at Cape Lookout and that on and after July 25, 1924, more than a hundred stayed in Lookout Bight.

I take pleasure in thanking Mr. H. H. Brimley for information as to North Carolina records and Dr. C. W. Richmond for the date the dying Audubon's Shearwater was taken.—JAMES S. GUTSELL.

Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) in the District of Columbia.—While rowing down the Potomac River, a short distance above Hains Point, D. C., October 4, 1930, the writer's attention was attracted to a flock of five Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) feeding in the extensive growth of aquatic plants which are so conspicuous in the late summer. In making his way through this growth in quest of the Grebes, the writer discovered a specimen of Leach's Petrel quietly resting on the water. It was collected and is now in the U. S. National Museum. There have been four previous records for this species at Washington, D. C., the last being in 1891.—W. HOWARD BALL, 1861 *Ingleside Terrace, N. W., Washington, D. C.*

In Re "Townsend's Oregon Tubinares."—Dr. Stone has questioned Townsend's North Pacific records of the Yellow-nosed Albatross, Sooty Albatross, Giant Fulmar, and Slender-billed Fulmar, after a brief discussion and quotations, in which he says: "It will, I think, be evident that Townsend had no clear idea of the identity of the various species of Tubinares nor of where he secured the several specimens; that he sent Audubon no information about the four in question and probably did not label them at all; and that he had every opportunity to secure specimens of all four in the South Pacific, while his illness may have made it still more difficult for him to remember which specimens had been obtained at the mouth of the Columbia and which in the South Pacific." (*Auk*, XL VII, 1930, pp. 414-415.)

I may, perhaps, be pardoned for the presentation of the same or similar evidence in a more favorable light in respect to the veracity of that intrepid pioneer ornithologist of the great Northwest, John Kirk Townsend, and of observing the actual sequence in publication dates of the citations, which, from a critic's standpoint, sometimes makes all the difference in the world.