

## GENERAL NOTES.

**On the Status of the Gannet (*Sula bassana*) in the New York City Region.**—In the January issue of 'The Auk,' Mr. Alexander Sprunt discusses the occurrence of Gannets (*Sula bassana*) in fall and winter, on the South Carolina coast, citing October 2, 1930, as the earliest date of appearance of that species. He mentions incidentally that October 5 is the fall arrival record for the New York City region as given by Griscom in his 'Handbook of the Birds of the New York City Region.'

In going over an accumulation of two years "field-notes" preparatory to their publication by the Linnaean Society, we find that under date of September 23, 1928, Mr. W. T. Helmuth, Jr., observed Gannets off the beach at Easthampton, L. I., New York. A few others were seen there later in the month. The east end of Long Island is perhaps among the best places near New York from which to observe the Gannet. Recent observations there would seem to indicate that the species is casual in early September, occasionally present during the third and fourth week of that month but rarely plentiful before mid-October. It is chiefly a November and March and April bird in this region. During the last few years, however, the species has lingered regularly off Montauk Point, L. I., and usually in numbers, to mid-January (for instance, five flying east, January 20, 1929, Peterson, Herbert, Kuerzi, etc.). There are one or two fairly recent early February records and in 1930 the species was noted in some numbers during the third week of that month and eight were observed flying east off the beach at Chatham, Mass., February 23 (various members of the Nuttall Club and Linnaean Society). These birds may have been abnormally early migrants—it being unseasonably mild at this time—or perhaps individuals which had remained offshore in the North, during January.

My belief is that the October 2 record of the Gannet on the South Carolina coast is merely an unusually early arrival and is perhaps comparable, in some respects, with the September 23, 1928, observation of the species at Easthampton, L. I., New York, mentioned above.—JOHN F. KUERZI, *New York City*.

**European Widgeon in Georgia.**—On January 31, 1931, Mr. F. V. Hebard shot a male European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) on the north end of Floyd's Island Prairie, Okefenokee Swamp, Georgia. The plumage of this Duck indicates a young of the year. Definite records of this Widgeon in Georgia seem to be well worth publishing where specimens are preserved. Mr. Hebard presented this specimen in the flesh to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, where it is now in the study collection.—WHARTON HUBER, *Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*.

**A Late Spring Record of Lesser Scaup Duck (*Nyroca affinis*) in Georgia.**—On June 28, 1930 while in a boat with Norman Giles, Jr., on Lake Rabun in Rabun County, in the northeastern part of Georgia, I saw

a Lesser Scaup Duck swimming about. We approached slowly and were able to verify it as this form, the bird flying then alighting, flying and again alighting on the lake. It was a male bird and the lateness of the date made us wonder if it could be possible that this species nested anywhere as far south as this. Giles, a very careful observer, had recorded 14 of these birds, 6 males and 8 females, on this same lake on June 11, 1930; and had records for June 10, 11, 12, 13, and 15, 1929 also on Lake Rabun. Arthur H. Howell in 'Birds of Alabama' gives several records around the middle of May and Thos. D. Burleigh, writing from Athens, Ga., says: "A rather unexpected record was that of three birds, all females, seen June 21, 1926." Probably the bird we saw on June 28 was a very late migrant or liked the high altitude of north Georgia better than a section further north among its kindred.—EARLE R. GREENE, 642 Orme Circle, Atlanta, Ga.

**Status of the American and Lesser Scaup Ducks in Ohio.**—Considerable confusion still exists among Ohio ornithologists and sportsmen concerning the relative numbers and abundance of the American Scaup Duck (*Nyroca marila nearctica*) and the Lesser Scaup Duck (*Nyroca affinis*). Of the former, Dr. Wheaton ('Report on the Birds of Ohio,' 1879, p. 530) says it is a "not uncommon spring and fall migrant in the interior of the State; more common on Lake Erie, but nowhere abundant." Jones in 'The Birds of Ohio,' 1903, p. 42 and Dawson's 'Birds of Ohio,' 1903, p. 604 states that in his experience the Scaup Duck is about one-fourth as numerous as the Lesser Scaup, especially in northern Ohio. Among the sportsmen a large specimen of the Lesser Scaup is usually called a "Big Bluebill" while a small individual is a "Little Bluebill." It is agreed that at present the Lesser Scaup Duck is one of, if not, the most common Duck occurring in Ohio.

During the past seven years I have made quite an effort, as have other members of the Wheaton Club of Columbus, to compile data in regard to these two species. At Buckeye Lake, in the central part of Ohio, I examined and measured 106 Bluebills, most of which were shot by sportsmen. All of these were Lesser Scaup Ducks. Though the majority were taken in the fall hunting season, considerable effort was made during the rest of the year to collect any bird which looked suspiciously like the American Scaup. On a few occasions Ducks have been noted which surely were American Scaups, but in each case it was impossible to collect them.

Some work was also conducted in the Sandusky Bay marshes on Lake Erie, especially at East Harbor, during the latter part of the hunting seasons of 1924, 1925, and 1926. Though over 250 Lesser Scaups were handled and measured, no American Scaups were found. A number of sportsmen have described to me a bird taken on rare occasions in this region, which by its size must have been the "Big Bluebill."

I have been unable to find an American Scaup taken in Ohio, in the Museums and other collections scattered over the State, though a number of birds were found labeled American Scaup which in reality were Lesser.