

tions of their work, in the breeding area of the Petrel last summer, and it is but seldom that minks reach the remote breeding places of the bird. At present, moreover, this valued fur bearer is at low ebb of abundance on the coast of Maine.

It seems possible that these birds, of slow development, may require several years to reach maturity, which may account for some of the temporary periods of scarcity with returns to comparative abundance, which have been observed on several occasions in the past.

With man now domiciled on five of the islands occupied by the bird, it seems to us that the only permanent hope for the future of this unusual and highly interesting bird is the ownership of several sizable breeding places of the species by the Audubon Society, with a special fund for the enforcement of regulations which will insure the places from encroachment and resulting destruction of the birds.

We may mention, as a beginning in this direction, the purchase of Little Duck Island in Hancock County by Mr. Benjamin W. Arnold, who has devoted it to the purpose of a bird sanctuary, over a decade ago; also the purchase of Western Egg Rock, in Lincoln County, for the same purpose, by the Cumberland County Audubon Society of Portland, Maine.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Museum of Nat. Hist., Portland, Maine*, and ROBERT P. ALLEN, *National Association of Audubon Societies, 1775 Broadway, New York, N. Y.*

**The Breeding of the Brown Booby in Porto Rican Territory.**—The known breeding colonies for the Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster leucogaster*) in Porto Rican waters have been the islands of Mona and Desecheo in Mona Passage to the west of Porto Rico, with report of another station on two small rocks north of Culebrita Island.<sup>1</sup> The last is based on hearsay evidence only and is somewhat uncertain.

It is of interest, therefore, to place on record information sent to me by Major Chapman Grant who recently has made numerous observations on natural history in this area. Under date of March 20, 1932 Major Grant forwards a snapshot of a Brown Booby with a well grown young taken March 11, 1932, on "El Blanquillo" an islet in the Cordilleras Reefs, a chain of islets and reefs extending along the extreme northeastern point of Porto Rico. The location is said to be between Icacos Cay and Diablo Cay. Eggs and three-fourths grown young were said to be present at this time. This gives definite evidence of the nesting of this booby in a locality where it had not been reported previously.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**The European Cormorant in New Jersey.**—Referring to the status of *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo* on the New Jersey coast (Auk, Vol. XLIX, p. 77), the writer has, several times, seen winter birds about Barnegat Bay

<sup>1</sup> See Wetmore, *Birds of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands*. *Scient. Surv. Porto Rico and Virgin Islands*, Vol. 9, Pt. 3, 1927, p. 282.

which, judged merely by size and manner of flight, were probably of that species. But it was not until February 23, 1931, that a bird was positively identified as such. This was a single individual flying from the bay through the inlet. It was first noted by John H. Baker and as it came closer in good light we could see distinctly the white on the cheek, chin and flank of this otherwise black bird. Since identification of single cormorants in the field is so difficult unless the bird is in, or approaching, breeding plumage, or is seen very near at hand, this species is probably of more regular occurrence than the published records indicate.—CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, N. J.*

**Wintering or Early Arrival of the Great Blue Heron in Connecticut.**—On March 4, 1932, a neighbor of mine, Mrs. Charlotte Williams, who lives on the banks of the Norwalk River here in Wilton, Conn., watched for more than ten minutes a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea h. herodias*) standing on a rock near the edge of the stream, which is at this point about twenty-five feet wide. She was scarcely twenty feet away and described the bird to me in detail.

The species is not uncommon here in summer or in migration but the earliest state record of which I am aware is March 22, 1902 at New Haven. Since Great Blue Herons occasionally winter on Long Island it seems likely that this bird took advantage of the mild winter to stay in this locality, or at any rate, went only a short distance to the southward.—DEVERE ALLEN, *Wilton, Conn.*

**A Comparitively Tame Eastern Green Heron.**—On Sept. 13, 1931, I saw an Eastern Green Heron, which remained perched while I sat under a tree twenty-five feet away. When other people approached, the heron made low throaty notes similar to the call of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo instead of the customary harsh alarm notes.

It glided down to the edge of the stream where it perched on a snag five inches above the water and began to fish—only thirty feet away from me. Several times, as I walked along, frogs jumped into the stream and the heron, which was on the opposite side of the stream, would squawk, and fly into the stream within eight feet of me in an attempt to catch the frogs. Twice when frogs jumped into the water, the perching bird squawked and raised its "crest."

Once while I was within twelve feet of the heron it became excited, turned its head sideways, stretched its neck and looked upward. I looked in the same direction and saw the cause of its behavior—a fox squirrel was coming down a nearby elm "jerking" its tail. While this was occurring the heron kept up a continual throaty cuckoo-like call.

When the bird again resumed fishing I was able to maneuver to within eight feet and saw it catch a one-inch crawfish, a tiny minnow, a larval salamander (*Eurycea b. bistlineata*) and a large tadpole. It ate the tadpole and then jabbed its bill into the water, either to drink or to wash out the mud.—LOUIS B. KALTER, *535 Belmont Park, Dayton, Ohio.*