

GENERAL NOTES.

Notes on the Food of Grebes.—North American grebes are commonly known to feed extensively upon various kinds of fishes. A study of the feeding habits of these birds is reported upon by Wetmore (U. S. Dept. Agr. Bulletin No. 1196, Jan., 1924), in which fishes comprised the following percentages of the stomach contents of specimens of five species studied: Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), 100%; Holboell's Grebe (*Colymbus grisegena holboelli*), 55.5%; Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*), 34.6%; Eared Grebe (*Colymbus nigricollis californicus*), 9.8%; Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps podiceps*), 24.2%. Although at least half of the one hundred or more lakes within the altitudinal range of grebes in Lincoln County, Montana, contain fishes of some kind, my observations indicate that, except possibly in the case of the Holboell's and Eared Grebes, fishes constitute a much smaller proportion of the total food of these birds here than is shown by the above figures.

The only Western Grebes that I have found breeding in Lincoln County chose as their nesting site a small, rush-grown lake which contains various kinds of aquatic insects and crustaceans, but no fishes of any kind. Both in 1922 and 1923 a pair of these birds nested and raised five young on this lake. Western Grebes occur in this locality rarely during migrations and, although they seem to prefer the larger lakes, nearly all of which contain trout, they occur also on lakes containing no fishes of any kind.

The Holboell's Grebe occurs here rarely as a migrant and summer resident but I have obtained no evidence of its nesting. My scattered records of its occurrence are divided about evenly between lakes containing fishes and those in which this food is not available.

Both the Horned Grebe and the Eared Grebe, occur throughout the summer and nest regularly, only at rush-grown lakes which contain no fishes whatever. To be sure, I have visited frequently during the breeding season only about twenty lakes; but of these, all except five contain fishes; and among these five are the three at which the grebes regularly nest. During migrations, and irregularly during summer, these birds occur also at lakes containing fishes.

A few pairs of Pied-billed Grebes nest regularly at two of the three "fishless" lakes inhabited by the Horned and Eared Grebes. Although birds of this species undoubtedly occur, at least during migrations, at lakes where fishes may be obtained, it happens that I have as yet noted Pied-billed Grebes only at the two lakes where they nest.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana*.

The Diablotin in Dominica.—Mr. Stephen Haweis in a recent letter from Dominica informs me of the capture in Roseau, Dominica, of a specimen of the rare Diablotin (*Pterodroma hasitata*). According to a clipping

from the 'Dominica Chronicle' forwarded by Mr. Haweis, the bird was obtained alive on May 2 by Miss Mary Rose Rock, having been found in an exhausted condition near the Fort, following a day of storm and rain. The specimen is reported to be in the possession of Dr. Thaly. This seems to be the only record of the species in Dominica for many years.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Double-crested Cormorant in Inland New York.—On May 29, 1931, my attention was called to a strange bird on Mohonk Lake. After careful study with 8 power glasses from a cliff about 250 feet from the bird it was identified as a Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax a. auritus*) though I had never seen one in the flesh before.

It turned its head nervously from side to side, often pointing its bill up into the air.

From the literature at hand this would appear to be a first record for this bird in Ulster County, and perhaps the third or fourth for interior New York during the spring migration.—DANIEL SMILEY, JR., *Mohonk Lake, N. Y.*

Great Blue Heron in Cuba and Panama.—In the A. O. U. 'Check-List,' Third Edition (1910), the winter range of *Ardea herodias herodias* Linnaeus, is given as "Oregon, the Ohio Valley, and Middle States south to the West Indies, Panama, and Venezuela." At this time the southern races of this bird had not been clearly separated and this probably included them all. Two years later, however, when Dr. Harry C. Oberholser published 'A Revision of the Forms of the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias* Linnaeus)'¹ he was unable to assign to the typical race, any specimen of West Indian, Central or South American collection south of Tamaulipas, although the material assembled for study, comprised the series of this species from most of the large collections in the country.

Thomas Barbour in 'The Birds of Cuba'² lists the species under the subspecific name *Ardea herodias repens* Bangs and Zappey, while in the revision of the species previously mentioned, Dr. Oberholser describes the form *Ardea herodias adoza*, and assigns thereto all specimens then studied from the Bahamas, West Indies, and Lesser Antilles. As other faunal reports for Cuba likewise fail to list true *herodias*, the following case appears to be the first record for that country: A Great Blue Heron, No 320371, banded by Wm. I. Lyon at Hat Island, Green Bay, Wisconsin, on February 9, 1931, was killed on February 9, 1932, on the estate of General Juan Lorente, on a point known locally as "Cormenal." This is located on the south coast of the Province of Pinar del Rio, Cuba. The recovery of this bird was reported to the Biological Survey by Señor Arcadio Ocegquera, a sportsman of Candelaria, Cuba.

Writing in 1913, L. L. Jewell³ in his paper 'Some North American Birds

¹ Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 43, pp. 531-559, 1912.

² Mem. Nuttall Ornith. Club, vol. 6, Cambridge, 1923.

³ The Auk, vol. 30, pp. 422-429.