

Zool., I, p. 67). It was, however, not mentioned in the 'Catalogue of Birds Brit. Mus.,' Vol. XXVI, in Sharpe's 'Handlist' or Peters' 'Check-list.'

During the preparation of a check-list of the Polynesian bird fauna, in which I am engaged at present, I came across this species and attempted to identify it. The type, according to Sarasin (l. c.), is not in the Paris Museum and it was therefore possible that it might have come to the American Museum with that part of the Verreaux Collection that was acquired by this institution. An investigation has revealed indeed in our collection of mounted birds a specimen of *Demigretta sacra* with an original Verreaux label, which reads: "No. 2551, Egretta brevipes J. Verreaux et O. Des Murs., Rev. et Mag. Zool., Nouvelle Calédonie, ♂." This specimen fits very well the description given by the French authors, except that the bill is now more or less dirty yellowish-brown, with the tip lighter yellow, not blackish with yellowish tip as indicated in the original description. This is probably due to the fading of the specimen which has been exposed to light for seventy years. There are also on the lesser wing-coverts and secondaries a few scattered slaty feathers not mentioned in the original description. The measurements agree reasonably well with those given in the original description of the rediscovered type specimen.

	Original description	Type-specimen	<i>modestus</i>
Length of bill.....	90 mm.	94 mm.	103 mm.
Length of tarsus.....	100	96	144
Exposed tibia.....	30	41	97
Wing.....	300	332	340
Tail.....	80	107	128
Middle toe and nail..	70	77	97

The French authors in the original description compared their "new species" with *timoriensis* (= *Casmerodius albus modestus* Gray), for which reason I have added the measurements of a Celebes specimen of that species. There can be no doubt that *brevipes* is really the white phase of *Demigretta sacra*. In no other species of white heron that might occur on New Calédonia is there such a combination of a long wing and short tarsus.

The American Museum possess from the Verreaux Collection also the types of *Rhipidura spilodera verreauxi* Marie and of *Clytorhynchus pachycephaloides* Elliot and the apparent cotypes of several other New Calédonian species.—ERNST MAYR, *Amer. Mus. Hist., New York*.

Recent Records of the Flamingo in Florida.—Sporadic occurrences of the Flamingo in southern Florida are numerous, as consultation of the pages of Mr. Howell's splendid 'Florida Bird Life' (1932, pp. 122-124) will show; yet this striking bird is in fact so rarely seen in Florida waters, and is of such general interest to bird students, that I am moved to place on record two recent reports that I believe to be entirely trustworthy.

On May 11, 1932, Audubon wardens D. G. Cox and Loren S. Roberts, while patrolling in Florida Bay near East Cape, saw a Flamingo at Clive

Key. Cox was a newcomer at Cape Sable. Roberts, who is a native, said that this was the first Flamingo he had seen in ten years.

Five months later, in the Ten Thousand Islands, Audubon wardens Perry and Roy Roberts watched four Flamingos come from the south on the morning of October 1, 1932, and alight on a bank near Buzzard Key. After about three hours, they flew over into Alligator Cove, but returned next morning to feed on the same bank near Buzzard Key. Here presumably the same four birds were again seen on October 11. Perry and Roy Roberts are brothers who have lived all their lives in southern Florida, and are thoroughly familiar with the larger birds of the region. Moreover they had been guarding several hundred "pinks" for months, and I do not believe it possible that they could have mistaken Roseate Spoonbills for Flamingos.

I agree with Mr. Howell in the opinion that Flamingos have never nested in Florida, certainly not during the period of American ornithological history. Whether they come from Great Abaco, Andros, or the keys of northern Cuba (the nearest known breeding colonies *cf.* Pearson, *Nat. Geog. Magazine*, October, 1932, 469), it would be idle to conjecture, though it might be observed that the Andros colony is the nearest of the three to Florida.—ERNEST G. HOLT, *Nat. Association of Audubon Societies, New York City.*

The Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*) in South Carolina.—Although there have been sporadic occurrences of the Whistling Swan at rare intervals in the upper counties of this state, they are among the very rarest of the coastal birds, one seen in 1917 by the late Arthur T. Wayne being the only one known for a generation. The occurrence of several during this past winter has special interest and the fact that one flock spent more than a month is the first known instance of their extending a stay which could almost be termed "wintering."

The first report of the swans in the South Carolina coastal section came from Mr. W. S. Bogart of Charleston, who saw a flock of six over the Stono River, on November 28, 1932. During the two weeks that followed, reports were received from plantations on three other tidal rivers, stating that swans had been seen there and remained for a few days. Eleven were seen on Mr. Arthur Whitney's place on the South Edisto River; four at Mr. W. R. Coe's Combahee River home, and seven from Mr. John F. Maybank's plantation on the Ashepoo. This last flock was the one which remained, and at the present writing, has been on the place for over a month. Rigid protection of these birds is being undertaken by Mr. Maybank and they seem perfectly at home in the cypress backwater.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.*

Gray Lag Goose in Massachusetts.—On December 2, 1932, following some heavy gales and a spell of zero weather, I spotted an exhausted goose floundering on the ice at a wide part of the Housatonic River here. I