GENERAL NOTES.

Color Changes in the Head of the Single-wattled Cassowary (Casuarius uniappendiculatus occipitalis).—The colors of the bare skin areas of the head and neck in Cassowaries have been used so extensively as taxonomic characters that it may be of interest to record the extent of color changes in an adult *Casuarius uniappendiculatus occipitalis* in the National Zoological Park. It is well known that in some birds the colored parts become more vivid or intense under excitement of emotional stress. The relative color values of the different areas are maintained, each being fairly equally intensified. In this particular Cassowary, however, the distinctive shades of the hind neck and foreneck, are lost during the intensifying process, suggesting a different local degree of response to excitement.

The plate of *C. u. occipitalis* in Rothschild's monograph of the Cassowaries (Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond., XV, 1900, pl. xxxi) is the nearest of any of his pictures to the present bird but differs in the following respects. The hind neck is there depicted as deep blue like the face and fore neck whereas in the bird watched the hind neck was very much lighter, approximately calamine blue; the lower neck was deep yellow, not orange as in the plate; the pendent wattle was deep crimson, slightly paler at the tip (figured as bluish gray by Rothschild); the bare sides of the neck were deep crimson similar in color to these areas in the plate.

When the bird was excited the facial wattles became enlarged and took on the appearance of small air sacs; the face and upper neck became darker blue, about Hay's blue while the hind part of the upper neck turned to deep blue similar to the face in the resting stage; the lower hind neck became dark orange; the front part of the lower neck, the pendent wattle, and the bare sides of the neck became vivid crimson, the intensification being very striking in the bare areas extending down the sides of the neck. The small yellowish occipital patch did not change under excitement. The iris, normally light brown, near antique brown, turned darker, like raw umber in shade. The successive dilation and contraction of the pupil was also greatly accellerated when the bird was excited, giving it a rather fierce expression.

When the bird is excited the feathers become ruffled, especially those of the rump, and the wing quills stand out more from the body than while at rest.

This bird has been in the National Zoological Park for six years; it was in the brown plumage of immaturity when received and assumed adult plumage within two years after arrival.—Malcolm Davis, *National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.*

Pacific Loon on the Lower St. Lawrence River in July.—On July 17, 1934, while returning from an automobile trip to the Gaspé Peninsula in eastern Quebec, the writer saw a Pacific Loon (*Gavia arctica pacifica*) swimming near shore in the waters of the lower St. Lawrence River between Ste. Flavie and Rimouski. The bird was seen under good conditions, attention first being attracted by its slender bill, suggestive of the Red-throated Loon. The bird was in full summer plumage and all its markings were plainly noted, except that the back of the head and neck did not *appear* as gray as in museum specimens since examined. My only previous experience with the Pacific Loon was a bird in winter plumage seen at Rockport, Mass., and identified by L. Griscom and F. H. Allen, but I am very familiar with the Common and Red-throated Loons in both summer and winter plumages. My son Edward, who was with me, checked my identification of the St. Lawrence bird.—John B. May, *Cohasset, Massachusetts.*