

and Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) were observed on one or more of the islands bordering Pamlico Sound. The last-named species, however, are not common winter visitors, although they occur regularly in small numbers.

During each of the past four winters a progressive increase of Gulls has been noted. Until the past few years the Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) has occurred only as a casual visitor south of Delaware Bay. During five days spent in the Pamlico Sound area more than 50 of these birds were observed. More than 30 were seen in one afternoon between Cape Hatteras and Rodanthe on Hatteras Island. Thirteen of these were in one flock.

Two Terns were observed at Swanquarter and 2 near Portsmouth, yet they did not come within gunshot and I could not collect a specimen. While they were regarded as the Common Terns (*Sterna h. hirundo*), they may have been Forster's (*S. forsteri*).

Five records of the Razor-billed Auk (*Alca torda*) are known for North Carolina. On January 16, 1935, at Pea Island, one individual of this species, covered with oil, was picked up on the beach. An effort was made to clean the feathers and bring the bird to the National Zoological Park, but it died in transit.

While Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) are known to winter sparingly along the coast of the state, it was somewhat surprising to see 30 of these birds in the air at one time on January 18. They were observed at a number of places, but were most common in the Swanquarter Migratory Bird Refuge. In this same area 2 Maryland Yellow-throats (*Geothlypis trichas* subsp.) were seen.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Interesting Winter Notes at Lake Mattamuskeet Wild Life Refuge (Hyde County, N. C.).—*Casmerodius albus egretta*. AMERICAN EGRET.—Although several birds were observed in October and November about the lake it appears likely that only one remained during the winter, an individual being seen on January 3 and on January 7, 1935.

Branta bernicla hrota. AMERICAN BRANT.—As this species has become rather scarce except in certain localities along the Atlantic seaboard, I take this occasion to record one bird here on January 9, and three birds on January 22, 1935.

Chen hyperborea atlantica. GREATER SNOW GOOSE.—Another form which has become rather scarce except in certain sections. Three birds flew up from the lake with a flock of Canada Geese on November 27, 1934; two birds seen on December 4, 1934; one bird seen flying with and on the waters of the lake with Canada Geese on January 21, 1935; one bird seen by W. G. Cahoon and J. B. Hodges flying over New Holland Inn on March 17, 1935.

Chen caerulescens. BLUE GOOSE.—Records for this form are always of interest along the Atlantic coast and I give the following:—October 30, 1934 one bird flying with a flock of Whistling Swans; November 9, 1934 six birds seen by Mr. James Silver and Mr. Joe Mann; November 20, 1934 seven birds in one flock, apparently all in adult plumage; January 9, 1935 one bird flying with Whistling Swans for some distance; March 13, 1935 two birds on the lake recorded by Mrs. Wm. F. Atkinson.

Falco columbarius columbarius. PIGEON HAWK.—As this Falcon is supposed to winter further south it is well to record one here on December 25, 1934.

Gallinula chloropus cachinnans. FLORIDA GALLINULE.—On January 7, 1935 a bird was seen by the Goose pen which it struck against in efforts to get away. This date may establish this form as a permanent resident to some extent in this coastal strip.

Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis. SNOW BUNTING.—All records of this bird in the south are of interest so I give the following:—One bird on December 3, 1934, allowing

a very close approach; one bird (possibly the same individual) on January 7, 1935 near the same place.—EARLE R. GREENE, *New Holland, N. C.*

Notes on Some Unusual Birds in Florida.—During the past winter I spent a part of each day (November 19, 1934 to April 1, 1935) afield in various parts of Florida. My observations covered 155 species and subspecies of birds, of which the following seemed noteworthy.

Gavia stellata. RED-THROATED LOON.—On December 30 I saw a Red-throated Loon between Islamorada and Metacumbe, of the upper Florida Keys. Again on January 13 my wife and I studied a bird of this species in Biscayne Bay. It was swimming close to the causeway which connects Little River with Miami Beach. Howell, in his 'Florida Bird Life' (page 74) gives the status of this species in Florida as uncommon in winter, and cites R. H. Howe's specimen at Lemon City (winter of 1899) as the most southerly record in that State.

Ictinia mississippiensis. MISSISSIPPI KITE.—For upwards of quarter of an hour during the mid-afternoon of December 28, I watched an adult of this species as it circled over the Tamiami Trail, about fifty miles west of Miami. Howell's data include six previous winter records for the state.

Buteo brachyurus. SHORT-TAILED HAWK.—I saw three specimens on February 4. The first, a splendid bird in dark plumage, was also seen by Mrs. E. Peterson and Mrs. Mary Lott, both of Miami. We came upon the bird in the forenoon, between Florida City and Card Sound, and studied it at some length as it sailed and circled over the highway, once only thirty feet or so off the ground. The bird was moving slowly northward. About an hour later I saw two more Short-tails, one in the dark and the other in the light phase, over the upper end of Key Largo, and these birds were also headed north.

Falco peregrinus anatum. DUCK HAWK.—On December 30 I saw an adult of this species at Tavernier.

Larus marinus. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.—While driving through the upper Florida Keys on February 4, accompanied by the ladies mentioned above, two immature specimens of this Gull came to our attention. The birds were five or six miles apart, associating with Herring and Laughing Gulls that made up small flocks on sandy beaches, just before reaching the Metacumbe ferry. The Black-backs were studied at very close range; their husky build, heavy beaks and very brown backs distinguishing them from their companions instantly. So far as I know this record represents the southernmost appearance of the species on the Atlantic coast.

Gelochelidon nilotica aranea. GULL-BILLED TERN.—On November 19 I saw two birds resting on Jacksonville Beach, in company with a small flock of Royal Terns.

Tyrannus verticalis. ARKANSAS KINGBIRD.—Howell lists eight occurrences of this species, all dating from 1918. An Arkansas Kingbird which I saw on February 23, on the Tamiami Trail about forty miles west of Miami, permitted me a full twenty minutes of observation. Once the bird disappeared for a moment in some undergrowth beside a ditch. When it regained its perch on a telephone wire, I was amazed to see a small frog clamped in its bill, and dispatched quickly!

Vermivora leucobronchialis. BREWSTER'S WARBLER.—In the early morning of November 21 I was concealed in a weedy patch of farm land bordering Biscayne Canal, seven miles north of Miami, attracting numerous small birds to me by means of whistling and squeaking. Suddenly, in the tall "dog fennel" within five feet of me, exposing itself to full view, appeared a beautiful specimen of this hybrid Warbler. The bird's curiosity led it to remain barely long enough for me to recognize it as a