

GENERAL NOTES.

The Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis glacialis*) in Maine.—In 1906 the Boston Society of Natural History issued a circular of five printed pages, as 'A List of Desiderata of New England Mammals and Birds'; at page 5 of this sheet, under a heading, "Birds Represented by Only One Specimen" appears the following record: "Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis* Linn.). Male. Maine." This appears to be the first published record of the bird for this state. As soon as it came to my attention, I wrote Dr. Glover M. Allen, asking more particulars, and offering the suggestion that he publish such other data as were available. In 1908 Dr. Allen published a note under the title of, "Fulmar in Maine"¹ in which he gave these data: "The bird is catalogued as No. 508 collection of the Society, from the coast of Maine, March 1879, from G. O. Welch. No further data are at present available."

Overlooking this record, the late E. H. Forbush reports another instance in the following sentence. "There is an indefinite record of a Fulmar taken in Maine some 12 years ago, which was mounted for the owner by C. Emerson Brown. . . . unfortunately all data of this specimen are missing."²

In a note mailed in Philadelphia October 30, 1935, Mr. Brown writes me that he remembers having mounted a Fulmar many years ago while he was in Boston, but he has forgotten the particulars.

A third specimen of this bird, a male in the dark phase of plumage was shot by Joseph Card, at French's Island Ledges, in Casco Bay, Maine, early in October, 1906. This bird was received at the shop where it was mounted, in Portland, October 5, 1906, having been shot but a day or so previously. Mr. Card informed me that the bird flew over his Sheldrake decoys while he was gunning at the ledges named.

This specimen was acquired by Dr. Henry H. Brock of this city, and with his collection was recently presented to the Portland Society of Natural History.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Museum Natural History, Portland, Maine.*

Food Capturing Tactics of the Least Bittern.—Many of us who attended the Chicago meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, in 1934, were thrilled by motion pictures of a dark-colored species of African Heron which showed the bird capturing its food by progressing across the marshlands afoot in a series of rapid forays, crouching abruptly between each sally, throwing its widespread wings so far forward that they actually overlapped, and snatching up such aquatic creatures as (presumably) were so unfortunate as to seek shelter under the tent-like 'haven of refuge' thus created for them.

Last summer I observed food capturing tactics of our own Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), which reminded me of those dark-colored African Herons. Early on August 7, 1935, my friend Mr. Lawrence Camburn and I rowed round Bass Lake, a marsh-rimmed body of water not far from the Edwin S. George Wild Life Reserve, in Livingston County, southeastern Michigan. The morning was damp, calm, and gray. A thin mist hung over the cat-tails, sedges and fringe of alders.

In a little cove we chanced to come upon an adult male Least Bittern which, being intent upon capturing food, was moving stealthily along the water's edge, grasping the cat-tail stalks with his big feet, slipping across the ferny hummocks, pausing to peer into the water with his bright yellow eyes. As he walked he frequently spread one wing quickly forward, then stood still, looked intently at the water, thrust the

¹ 1908, Allen, G. M., Journ. Maine Orn. Soc. X, 116.

² 1925, Forbush, Bds. Mass. I, 136.