

wing out again, moved stiffly forward, and with a thrust of his sharp beak caught some small fish or aquatic insect that apparently had been frightened from its hiding place by the flicking of the bird's wing. Sometimes he put both wings forward at the same time, as if about to fly off. After we had watched him for ten minutes or more we decided that this wing-flicking was no chance mannerism but a definite part of a food-securing campaign. A little surprised that we could not recall having read of such a habit we were at the point of thinking it an individualism when, suddenly, and not far away, we caught sight of two more Least Bitterns, a male and a female, pursuing food in exactly the same way. We watched the birds for a long time. Since we had a good binocular we were able to check our observations again and again.

The birds were catlike in their behavior. Their eyes gleamed fiercely as they watched the water while flicking their wings. As they waited for their prey they held their tails sharply downward and swung them rhythmically and rather rapidly back and forth, almost *lashing* them, to use a term that instantly comes to mind in describing cat-like behavior.

I regret that we did not learn just what these birds were capturing. It is quite likely that in pursuing other sorts of food other tactics are customarily employed.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

The Roseate Spoonbill in South Carolina.—On September 12, 1935, an adult Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) was seen at Price's Creek, Sewee Bay, Christ Church Parish, S. C., by Mr. Edward M. Moore, Junior Refuge Manager of the Cape Romain Federal Bird Refuge.

The bird was in the marshes in company with fourteen Wood Ibises (*Mycteria americana*), and was seen and studied at a range of about fifty yards. In the summer of 1934 a marsh-man of the Romain area reported to Mr. Moore that he had seen a large pinkish bird with a bill like a Shoveller Duck's in the marshes of Bull's Island Narrows. This could hardly have been anything else than a Spoonbill, and ever since that time Mr. Moore has been on the look-out for the species.

Since the days of Audubon and Bachman, the Spoonbill has been taken twice in South Carolina, one by Dr. T. G. Simons in Lucas Mill Pond in the city of Charleston in June, 1879, and the other near Yemassee by Mr. Eugene Gregorie in the fall of 1885. The writer is indebted to Mr. Moore for the privilege of recording this rare species.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Supervisor Southern Sanctuaries National Asso. Audubon Soc., Charleston, S. C.*

Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) in Eastern New York.—On November 4, 1935, a Whistling Swan was shot by a hunter on the Mohawk River near Schenectady, N. Y. It was brought to the writer, a taxidermist, for mounting, and since specimens of this bird from eastern New York are rare it seems desirable to put this capture on record.

The bird was a young male, bill flesh color, head and neck gray and remainder of plumage white washed with gray in a few places. The feet were dark gray and there were twenty tail feathers.

Identification was confirmed by Dr. Dayton Stoner, State Zoologist, who now has the skin.—JOSEPH JANIEC, *Schenectady, N. Y.*

The Blue Goose Again in Coastal South Carolina.—Atlantic coast records for *Chen caerulescens* always being of interest, I would record that, on November 7, 1935, an immature Blue Goose was seen by the writer and Mr. Edward M. Moore, on

Bull's Island, a part of the Cape Romain Federal Bird Refuge. We were investigating wildfowl on Summerhouse Pond, and the Goose was noted among them.

Initial approach was made to within fifty feet, as the bird sat on the water and it was studied at length with and without glasses, then flushed. Early on the morning of the 8th, we were again in the pond and saw the Goose first at no more than twenty-five foot range and surprised it among some cat-tails at hardly more than ten feet. At this time the pinkish legs were plainly visible. On the afternoon of the 9th, the writer saw it again from some distance.

On November 13, with Mr. Clarence Cottam, of the Biological Survey, the bird was seen again and allowed approach to within fifty feet before flying. It always called a single time as it rose.

In 'The Auk' (vol. LII, p. 439) Mr. Cottam lists the occurrence of *Chen caerulescens* in South Carolina in his compilation of records for that species on the Atlantic seaboard during the winter of 1934. It is interesting to note that the birds listed by him occurred at exactly the same time of year as the above specimen, i.e., November 3 to 13. The Bull's Island bird gave every indication of being perfectly at home and only flew a short distance before alighting. The pond is well supplied with a growth of widgeon grass, sago pond-weed and banana water-lily. The Goose has now been there for a full week.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

Turkey Vulture Carrying Food.—The letter of Mr. Gordon W. Jones in the General Notes department of 'The Auk', of October 1935 (page 444), brought to mind two instances of food carrying by this species that have been observed by the writer. In both cases the food was carried in the beak instead of the feet.

Many years ago I saw a Turkey Vulture, when frightened away from a carcass, carry in its bill what appeared to be a piece of intestine about a half yard long. I have no written record of this occurrence.

I quote the following from my field notes written at the time the observation was made, dated June 16, 1930. While driving on route 38 in the east end of the county (Amelia County, Va.) I saw a Turkey Vulture pecking at a small object in the road ahead. As I approached it seized the object in its bill and flew down the road about fifty yards before dropping it. The object proved to be a fully grown box turtle (*Terrapene carolina* Merrem) that had been crushed by an automobile.—JOHN B. LEWIS, *Amelia, Va.*

The Turkey Vulture's Ability to Carry Food in its Beak.—Mr. Gordon W. Jones's "Note on the Turkey Vulture" which appeared in the October, 1935, issue of 'The Auk' (p. 444) prompts me to state that during my boyhood residence at Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas (1911-1914), I several times saw Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura teter* Friedmann) flying about carrying large-sized objects in their beaks—in one instance a snake; again what I took to be a spermophile; and again a considerable part of the carcass of a young jack rabbit. The bird that was carrying the rabbit appeared to be doing its best to elude several other Vultures. It eventually dropped its burden and the hungry birds descended to tear the rabbit to pieces.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Curator of Birds, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Turkey Vultures Possible Victims of an Automobile.—The note by Gordon W. Jones in 'The Auk,' for October, 1935, in which he recounted his observation of a Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) feeding on a snake which had been