

water and drifted with the current toward the municipal beach on Independence Island. Two of the Loons were smaller and lighter than the third. One of the smaller birds swam within ninety feet of the island making possible its identification as a Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) in winter plumage. A good comparison could be made between this bird and a Common Loon (*G. i. immer*) which was a little farther off-shore. The birds were observed through 8× binoculars.

On November 18, 1935, three Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea* probably *atlantica*) were observed by the writer on the Susquehanna at Harrisburg. When first seen about noon the birds were about two hundred feet off-shore. They were observed with 8× binoculars, the pink bill and black primaries were noted. Later in the afternoon four Snow Geese were seen by the writer and Dr. Harold B. Wood resting on one of the grass covered islands in the middle of the river. Probably the same three birds mentioned above joined a fourth.—RICHARD M. MAY, 2233 North Second Street, Harrisburg, Pa.

Notes from Brigantine Beach, N. J.—*Limosa fedoa*. MARBLED GODWIT.—On September 1, 1935, I found a single individual feeding in shallow back water at the lower end of the island.

Hydroprogne caspia imperator. CASPIAN TERN. *Thalasseus maximus maximus*. ROYAL TERN.—On September 15, 1935, at the lower end of the beach I found two Caspian Terns and a Royal Tern resting on the sand. They were almost touching one another and could be compared to advantage. The Royal was distinctly smaller with more white on top of the head, the more slender bill, which was orange color in contrast to the strong red of the Caspian. There was an apparent difference too in the legs, those of the Caspian being longer and black while the Royal's seemed to be greenish yellow or brownish. In flight the Royal was more graceful or "Tern-like" with darker wing-mantle and less black at the tips.

A quarter of a mile away four more Caspian Terns were resting with a lot of Gulls.

Fregata magnificens. MAN-O-WAR-BIRD.—On September 15, 1935, a single individual came in over the lower beach soaring in 300-ft. circles at 150-200 feet altitude and gradually drifted off to the south. It was apparently very black with a sharply defined, very white, breast. It had a wonderful long tail deeply forked which it opened and closed, continually. In the ten minutes that it was in sight it made only three quick successive flaps of the wings, drawing them in close to the body and arching them deeply. As soon as it appeared all of the Gulls on the beach mounted to about the same height but were not seen to go near it.—JOSEPH W. TATUM, Haddonfield, N. J.

Four Rare Nesting Records for Maryland.—*Casmerodius albus egretta*. AMERICAN EGRET.—On April 12, 1931, Mr. Arthur H. Hardisty and I while collecting in Charles County, Maryland, secured a fine adult male bird of this species from a fisherman who had shot it earlier in the day. I asked him when and where he secured this bird and he told me in a "squawk" (Black-crowned Night Heron) colony half a mile distant. Having known this Heron colony for many years we went directly to it and found three occupied nests of the American Egret. Other birds of this species were present and seven were flying directly over us the entire time we were in the heronry. This small colony has been kept under observation since and has increased each year. The nests are of the usual type, made of sticks and lined with small scrub pine twigs (*Pinus virginianus*). Mr. Frank C. Kirkwood does not mention the American Egret nesting in Maryland in his 'List of the Birds of Maryland' published in 1895, and so far as I am aware this is the first breeding record for the state.

Podilymbus podiceps podiceps. **PIED-BILLED GREBE**.—On several occasions I have seen young of this Grebe unable to fly in the marshes near Point Lookout, Piney Point, and St. Clair Lake in St. Mary's County, Maryland. On June 3, 1932, in company with Mr. Robert McDermott, I found a nest with five fresh eggs in Broadwater Marsh, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. I came on the bird suddenly before she had time to cover her eggs, and both birds came very close to our boat. The nest was placed on a pile of drift in one of the large channels where the water was about three feet deep. It was composed mostly of leaves and stems of water lilies and other drifted aquatic vegetation. Three of the eggs were entirely fresh and the other two showed a slight trace of incubation. Kirkwood supposed that this species nested in Maryland, but there seem to be no records of any one having collected eggs previously.

Iridoprocne bicolor. **TREE SWALLOW**.—For many years I have believed that this Swallow nested in St. Mary's County in southern Maryland, but it was not until May 30, 1933, that I actually found a nest with five fresh eggs. The birds had located in an old Flicker's hole about 15 feet up in a dead pine stub. The nest was composed of dried straw and grass intermixed with feathers and lined with white chicken feathers. My friend Mr. Paul Hodge, tells me that he has taken two sets of the Tree Swallow at Fair Haven, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Both nests were in natural cavities in old apple trees, and the birds were seen in each case. Kirkwood states that this species nests in the upper part of Maryland and on the eastern shore along the Chesapeake Bay. As a matter of interest the eggs of the Tree Swallow can be readily distinguished from those of the Bank Swallow by being shiny white with a distinct gloss, while the latter have a dull finish.

Sterna dougalli dougalli. **ROSEATE TERN**.—On June 10, 1933, Mr. McDermott and I collected in Worcester County, on the outer sand bar extending from Ocean City along Chincoteague Bay. When about five miles south of Ocean City, where there is a break in the sand dunes known as the Five Mile Level, we found a good sized colony of Terns nesting. At once I recognized them as the Roseate Tern by their loud, sharp notes which differ decidedly from those of the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo hirundo*). To make their identity absolutely certain I had McDermott cover me with a blanket piled with drift trash within a few feet of the nests. Within ten minutes all had settled on their eggs and all were Roseate Terns. Some of the nests composed of drift material, while the others were merely slight depressions in the sand. The eggs can be readily distinguished by an experienced oologist from those of the Common Tern though there are sets in each species that overlap. No other species of Tern were nesting within several miles of this colony. I know of no other breeding records for Maryland. The heavy storms of 1934 changed the entire shore line in this section and since I have not found these birds nesting in such numbers.—EDWARD J. COURT, 1723 Newton St., N. W. Washington, D. C.

Unusual Birds in Central West Virginia.—During the first week in September, 1935, we had in central West Virginia almost continuous rain, accompanied by light-to-heavy east winds, evidently a product of the tropical hurricane that struck the Atlantic Coast from Florida north. The effect of this spell of weather was to drive into the state numerous sea and shore birds, with one or two land species that usually migrate near the coast.

On the evening of September 5, Mrs. Brooks and the writer were driving near Volga, Barbour County, West Virginia, when our attention was called to flocks of birds flying over a flooded meadow. When we stopped the car we realized that this and