

American Egret and Black-bellied Plover in Delaware in winter.—The American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) and the Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*) are both occasionally encountered afield in the Northeast as late-fall immigrants. Their presence in Delaware during Christmas week, however, seems to be sufficiently uncommon to justify a brief note. The American Egret was observed feeding on the border of Silver Lake Pond within the city limits of Rehoboth Beach within twenty-five yards of the highway on December 22, 1936, and the Black-bellied Plover was noted on the sandy beach near the inlet to Rehoboth Bay on the same day. It is common knowledge that both species have shown an increase during recent years. Whether this increased bird population, an abnormal physiological development, or the unusually mild weather has had anything to do with these birds, being so far north during the winter is not known.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Little Blue Heron in the interior of Northern Maine.—On August 25, 1936, I took a specimen of the Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea caerulea*) at the western end of Millinocket Lake in the Katahdin region of Maine. According to data furnished me by Mr. Arthur H. Norton, of the Portland Society of Natural History, this record constitutes the most northerly occurrence of the species within the State. The bird was in white plumage and the feathered parts were colored only on the tips of the outer primaries. The skin is now in the Portland Museum of Natural History.—HOWARD L. MENDALL, *28 Pendleton St., Brewer, Maine.*

Maine records of the Eastern Glossy Ibis.—The Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus*) is a bird of the tropical and subtropical regions but casually strays to the northward. It has been reported for the States of New Hampshire, Connecticut and Massachusetts in New England, and as far north as Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia as well as for more southern localities, but I know of no reports of this bird for Maine. The following records for this State are of interest. A pair of Glossy Ibis was seen by Radcliffe Pike at Lubeck, Maine, on April 22, 1935. They fed along the beach near Pike's Puddle for a week when one of them disappeared. The remaining bird was seen frequently until it was found dead on May 6, 1935, having been shot by some thoughtless person. The bird was preserved and is now in the ornithological collection of Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. Mr. Arthur H. Norton of the Portland Society of Natural History, informs me that a Glossy Ibis was seen by various persons at Toddy Pond, East Orland, Hancock County, for about three weeks during the month of May, 1931. This bird was so tame that it could be approached within six or seven feet. A good photograph of the bird was published in the 'Bangor Daily News' for May 21, 1931.—ALFRED O. GROSS, *Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine.*

Ring-necked Duck nesting in Maine.—Breeding records of the Ring-necked Duck (*Nyroca collaris*) in the East are so unusual that the recent collection of two specimens in Maine is of more than passing interest. On August 6, 1936, Mr. Francis Uhler of the U. S. Biological Survey and the writer discovered a number of ducks on Grassy Pond, Piscataquis County, Maine. Among them was a female Ring-necked Duck with a brood of young less than half grown. We were unprepared to collect birds at that time, so requested Mr. Fred Roberts, the local game warden, to obtain specimens for us if possible. His efforts were unsuccessful until August 17, when, together with Messrs. Howard Mendall and C. M. Aldous, he succeeded in collecting two of the eight young birds in the only brood found that day. These birds were fully feathered and not appreciably smaller than mature birds. In the comparison

with museum specimens the outline of the feathers at the base of the upper mandible, as pointed out by Todd (*Auk*, 53: 440, 1936) proved to be the best distinguishing character between these birds and Red-heads.

One of the specimens was presented to the Portland Society of Natural History, and bears Catalogue No. 506 of that collection. The other remains in the University of Maine collections. Mr. Arthur H. Norton, of the Portland Society, reports that the only records of this species breeding in Maine are those of Boardman who reported the species as breeding in the region of Calais, Washington County, over seventy years ago.—GUSTAV SWANSON, *University of Maine, Orono, Maine*.

King Eider in South Carolina.—On December 26, 1936, E. M. Burton saw two immature eiders near the North Jetty, at the mouth of Charleston Harbor. One bird was collected on this date and on December 29, another was taken. On this latter date, two other ducks seen may have been of the same species. Both specimens prove to be King Eiders (*Somateria spectabilis*) and constitute an addition to the birds of this State. Formerly this eider was carried on the hypothetical list by the late A. T. Wayne on the basis of Georgia records.

Although the sexual organs of these immature birds are undeveloped, both are believed to be females in the first-winter plumage. The iris is dark brown, legs and feet olive green, webs blackish. The bills are very dark olive green, almost black. Examination of stomach contents indicated that the birds had been feeding entirely on a small mussel, *Modiolus plicatulus*. The specimens bear Nos. 36.240 and 36.241.1 in the Charleston Museum Collection. I am indebted to Mr. Burton for the privilege of recording these birds.—E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, *The Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.*

Tapeworm in young Red-breasted Merganser.—A downy young Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), which I estimated to be ten days of age, collected about two miles above tide water in the Etamamu River on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, was found to be heavily infested with the tapeworm, *Schistocephalus solidus*. Forty parasites were taken from the intestine of this small young bird. Some of these were already sexually mature while others (larvae of the same size) would not mature for a period of two or three days.

Sculpins, and I believe other forms of fish, are known to be hosts to this parasite. The sculpin is very common in the salt-water regions about the mouth of the Etamamu River as are invertebrate forms which form a link in the life history of this parasite. These waters are an important breeding ground for the American Eider and other diving birds. To what extent these birds may be parasitized by this tapeworm would be interesting to know.

I am indebted to Dr. Justus F. Mueller of the New York State College of Forestry for identification and information about this parasite.—ROBERT A. JOHNSON, *State Normal School, Oneonta, N. Y.*

Turkey Vultures killed by Automobiles.—In 'The Auk,' 53: 76, 1936, Mr. Charles J. Spiker advances the theory that Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) may sometimes be killed by automobiles. He gives as his reasons, the finding of two specimens on a highway, with the carcass of a rabbit between them, and seems impressed by the fact that this is a rather unusual and uncommonly observed occurrence. Those of us who live in the land of the "buzzard," however, know that this is not only a common occurrence, but one which has actually to be avoided. Throughout much of the South, the feeding of vultures in highways has greatly increased, due to the numbers of small mammals, birds and reptiles which are killed