

The great salt marshes, estuaries and creeks from at least the vicinity of Georgetown, South Carolina, down to Jacksonville, Florida, are frequented by Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*) the year round. I have seen the bird not only feeding in the gullies left on the ocean beaches by the ebbing tide, but actually in the surf itself, wading as deep as the belly, and retreating before the incoming waves much as do some of the sandpipers. This habit is shared by the Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula thula*). Within a distance of thirty miles north and ten miles south of the city of Charleston, there are four rookeries of herons nesting either on barrier islands, marsh hammocks, or wooded sloughs within from a stone's throw of the ocean to a mile or two from it. In all of these rookeries the Little Blue Heron is present; in some, many hundreds of pairs nest annually. The most striking of these is a small oyster bank in Bull's Bay, of only an acre or so in extent and boasting a growth of salt-water myrtle (*Baccharis* sp.) about eighteen inches high. Among this small vegetation there have been as many as two to three hundred nests of this species. The bank is about two miles from the mainland, entirely surrounded by waters of the Bay and is virtually in the ocean itself.

It is hardly to be supposed that South Carolina and Georgia are the only sections of the Little Blue Heron's range where it resorts regularly to salt water, but such seems to be the case. The writer works a good deal in Florida and has noted that the species is certainly uncommon about salt water in that State, though it is met with in such situations. Compared with the Louisiana and Snowy Herons it is uncommon. It nests on the barrier islands of the Georgia coast as well as on the South Carolina shoreline. And so, in view of the belief which seems to be so prevalent that it is not a salt-water bird, it may be well to record the above for, in some sections of its range, it is as much at home among the marshes and the islands as are the other small herons.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

Nesting of the Flamingo in the United States.—The question of whether the Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) ever nested in the United States has long been a moot one. There seems to be no authentic record in the literature of its ever having done so; therefore, the following is of very considerable interest.

In the writer's work for the Audubon Association, he frequently gets into the Florida Keys and has talked with many of the 'old-timers.' Some of these men know the country and the birds as well as any ornithologist who ever visited the region, and when they make a statement as to occurrence, it is definite. In 'The Auk' for April, 1937, page 207, the writer lists the occurrence of the Dovekie (*Alle alle*) in the Keys during December 1936. One of the observers of this remarkable occurrence was Judge E. R. Lowe of Tavernier. Later this year, the writer ascertained that this gentleman was possessed of information regarding the actual nesting of the Flamingo, and secured the following from him. In the spring of 1901, Judge Lowe was stationed at the Key West Barracks and, during the latter part of March of that year, or early April, he secured leave to cruise among the Keys. While he and two companions were camped on Sugarloaf Key (Lower Keys), he was investigating his surroundings, and one morning, "walked back over a sand ridge and saw, across a pond, on an island, a number of large pinkish birds, about forty or fifty, many of which were standing straddle of what I took to be whitish stumps . . . at that time I did not know it was unusual for Flamingoes to nest in the Keys, and to me it was just another tropical bird."

The "stumps" were of course, the characteristic mud nests of this species, and many of the birds were sitting upon them. Those standing "straddle" probably saw Mr. Lowe appear over the ridge and were just arising from the nests. It is

interesting to note that this nesting colony was observed just a year previous to the flock of a thousand birds seen by Reginald H. Howe, Jr., near Cape Sable, and mentioned in Howell's 'Florida Bird Life,' page 123. Howe's observation was in March, 1902. As Howell points out, it is strange that the "peculiar mud nests" were not observed by someone in south Florida if the species nested regularly. Probably the birds did not nest regularly, but only sporadically, and if they confined these activities to the Lower Keys in the latter part of the last century and the first of this, they inhabited a region seldom visited by ornithologists, so that the presence of the nests could easily be missed. The natives probably did see the nests at times, but as Judge Lowe did, gave no thought to them. To them it was "just another tropical bird." It is the writer's opinion that the Flamingo certainly nested in the Lower Keys at times during the early part of this century and that it probably never did breed on the mainland of Florida at all.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Supervisor Southern Sanctuaries, Charleston, S. C.*

Migrating Snow Geese in northern New Jersey.—In 'The Auk,' (vol. 50, page 352, 1933) C. K. Nichols records a migrant flock of Greater Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea atlantica*) seen at Troy Meadows, New Jersey, on April 2, 1933, and follows with an excellent discussion of the spring migration of this race showing that the flight is mainly overland, with the scarcity of records largely due to the height at which the flocks fly. It seems worth while therefore, to record the following observation by the writer. On the morning of April 13, 1937, I stepped into the yard of my residence at Union, New Jersey, and scanned the sky in hope of possible migrants, but far beyond my expectation was the big, snowy, double V that appeared high up, just west of the zenith. Apparently the birds were higher than those seen by Mr. Nichols, for the black wing-tips were hardly discernible without the binocular. However, the flock was of similar size, about one hundred birds. The weather that morning was fine and clear, and entirely favorable for migration. The difference in date is interesting in that it shows the annual variation in the departure date for birds leaving the Delaware Bay concentration, of which these seem surely to have been a part.

This also adds the subspecies to the birds of Union County, New Jersey, at least as a sight record based on the assumption that the flock had left the Delaware Bay group that morning, for while C. A. Urner has recorded the Lesser Snow Goose as taken on the Newark Meadows in his excellent county list, he knows of no previous occurrence of *atlantica* in this area.—ALFRED E. EYNON, *Union, New Jersey.*

Greater Snow Goose in New Hampshire.—On April 15, 1937, at about 11.00 a. m., a flock of seventy-odd Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea atlantica*) appeared at Forrest Lake in Winchester, New Hampshire, giving an appearance of being badly lost in the prevailing heavy fog at the time. The birds were very shy. They became frightened and flew, only to return in an hour's time, when they alighted on ice in the center of the lake. An immature male was collected by Mr. Luman R. Nelson, and, incidentally, has been preserved by him. There are no former records, and the older residents in this locality cannot recall ever having heard of any white geese seen here. When they left Forrest Lake the flock of geese went to Wilson Pond in Swanzey, about eight miles distant in a northeast direction; and on being disturbed there, it is not known where they went.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

European Widgeon in Florida.—Through conversation with duck hunters in April, 1934, I learned that a European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) had been taken