

GENERAL NOTES

Western Grebe in Massachusetts.—On January 1, 1939, while making a census of birds on Martha's Vineyard off the southern coast of Massachusetts, my attention was called by one of our party, Richard Stackpole, to a large grebe close inshore and perhaps a quarter of a mile distant. I recognized the bird immediately as a Western Grebe, *Aechmophorus occidentalis*. We promptly drove down the road which conveniently paralleled the beach until opposite the bird, which had meantime drifted farther offshore, and studied it through telescopes for perhaps twenty minutes. The bird was associating particularly with a flock of Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) but there was also a flock of American Eiders near by as well as a few Scoters. At the place in question, Chilmark, a strong current follows the shoreline and an hour or so later in the afternoon while watching some Eastern Harlequin Ducks and a substantial flock of Scoters I saw presumably the same Western Grebe and a flock of Loons drifting in. They had been carried a half mile or more from the original location.

I am well acquainted with the Western Grebe, having observed it in Oregon and California. I saw the species frequently in southern California in September, 1938. Another member of the party, Mr. Oliver K. Scott, had also become acquainted with the species while in the West in the summer of 1938. The remaining members of the party were Messrs. D. L. Garrison, Ralph Hornblower, Jr., and Eric Cutler. Mr. Hornblower and I returned the following day in the hope that we might be able to break out a boat and collect the bird, but we failed to observe it.

The occurrence of the Western Grebe on the Atlantic Coast has been outlined in the 'General Notes' in 'The Auk' for July, 1937. The above observation constitutes an additional 'sight record' by six observers, two of whom in addition to having a thorough knowledge of the Holboell's Grebe, had within a few months observed the Western Grebe in its home territory.—WENDELL TABER, *Cambridge, Massachusetts*.

Western Grebe in New Jersey.—The only specimen of the Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) actually secured on the Atlantic coast was brought to the Charleston Museum on June 22, 1936 (Chamberlain, E. B., *Auk*, 53: 438, 1936), but there are now reliable sight records for this species in Massachusetts. In March and April, 1937, an apparently mated pair was observed near the mouth of the Merrimack River (Allen, F. H., and Tyler, W. M., *Auk*, 54: 376-379, 1937). Its occurrence in the New York City region, a short distance south, is not, therefore, entirely unexpected.

On January 8, 1939, Gilbert B. Cant, John T. S. Hunn, and the writer visited the Long Beach strip in Ocean County, New Jersey. Just north of the town of Beach Haven, we drove out to the ocean beach and soon espied a large diver near the shore. Making a short detour, we arrived at a point which we judged to be about opposite the bird, approached behind a sand dune, and found that we were within fifty yards of what was unmistakably a Western Grebe. The time was shortly before noon with brilliant sunshine and a calm sea. Easily observed with our 6-, 7-, and 12-power binoculars were the great size, the long swan-like neck, and the striking black and white coloration. The crown, a narrow strip down the back of the neck, and the remainder of the upper parts were solid black, while the face, neck, and under parts were pure white. The bill was long, thin, and distinctly light-colored. To make comparison easy, a Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*) floated on the water just beyond it. Though not previously familiar with this species in life, we were all thoroughly acquainted with the darker, heavier-billed Holboell's Grebe (*Colymbus griseogen holboelli*) so that there was no confusion with that species. The bird gradu-

ally moved seaward, beyond easy observational range. Returning after lapse of half an hour, we found that it had come in again, northward, and we approached and observed it closely for a second time, firmly convincing ourselves of its identity. A few evenings later, through the kindness of Mr. Charles H. Rogers, I examined a skin of a Western Grebe at the Princeton Museum of Zoology and felt sure that this was the bird that we had seen so well at Beach Haven.

This is, as far as I know, the first record for the Western Grebe in the State of New Jersey. One previous record for the New York City region exists, a bird observed May 21, 1916, by Messrs. Rogers, Hix, and Fleischer at Long Beach (Long Island) and reported by Ludlow Griscom in his 'Birds of the New York City Region,' p. 384. Most of the Massachusetts records were made in spring.—ALFRED E. EYNON, *Union, New Jersey*.

Flamingos again in Florida Keys.—In 'The Auk' (54: 99, 1937) the writer gave a few records of the recent occurrence of the Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) in the Florida Keys, indicating a movement of this species from (presumably) Cuba and the West Indies, into the Keys in fall and winter. These records covered a period from May to October, 1936. Recently there seem to be an increased number, which further indicates that there is a westward or northward movement of the species in the fall of the year. There is as yet not the slightest intimation of any nesting. The following observations all occurred in the fall of 1938: near Tavernier, Key Largo, September 15, one bird (E. R. Lowe); Bottlepoint Key, Florida Bay, October 16, one bird watched for an hour at close range (C. F. Lowe); West Lake, Cape Sable, October 26, two birds seen from Coast Guard plane, which circled over them twice (Commander C. C. von Paulsen, U.S.C.G.); Boca Chica Key, Lower Keys, October 14, four birds (E. M. Moore).

Of the last group, one was shot and wounded by a native and was found by Mr. Moore, Audubon Association representative, at Key West in a wire pen on Stock Island a few days later. He had seen the four birds previously in a lagoon on Boca Chica. He notified the keeper of the bird that his act was unlawful, and an endeavor was made to secure it for a zoological park, but the owner became frightened and presumably set the bird free although its wing was so injured that flight was impossible. The writer saw this bird in early December during a trip to Key West; it was then in good condition except for the wing. Although the writer is in the Keys every month of the fall and winter, he knows of no Flamingos seen or reported since late October.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *National Assn. of Audubon Societies, Charleston, South Carolina*.

Black Vulture and Duck Hawk nesting in Maryland.—On April 12, 1938, I found the nest of the Black Vulture, *Coragyps urubu urubu*, above Seneca, Maryland. The two eggs were deep in a rock crevice above the Potomac River. As far as I am able to ascertain this is a northern breeding record in this region. Some time ago 'The Auk' published a record of the species breeding closer to the city of Washington, D. C., but this is south of the present record.

On March 26, 1938, at Maryland Heights in northern Maryland, I found the eyrie of the Duck Hawk, *Falco peregrinus anatum*, containing three young falcons about two days old. This early record is unique in this area. In 1936, the eggs were not laid in this eyrie until March 25, and in 1937 they were laid from April 2, the set being completed on April 9. These notes show that the birds were approximately thirty days early in their nesting this spring. The explanation is not entirely due to the mild winter because several other eyries visited from March 26 to 28 in this same