

GENERAL NOTES

Cory's Shearwater in South Carolina.—On August 18, 1940, one week after a tropical hurricane had hit coastal South Carolina, the badly decomposed remains of a large shearwater were found by Dingle on the Isle of Palms, eight miles east-northeast of Charleston. The yellow bill attracted immediate attention. Because of a certain amount of white on the inner webs of the primaries, the writers were inclined to consider the bird *Puffinus diomedea diomedea*. However, being handicapped by a lack of comparative material, we sent the specimen to Dr. Alexander Wetmore for final determination. Dr. Wetmore has advised that the bird is Cory's Shearwater, *P. d. borealis*, "the form ordinarily to be expected on the eastern coast of the United States." As far as we know, this constitutes the first definite record for South Carolina.

At this time it may be mentioned that we know of no specimen of the Greater Shearwater, *Puffinus gravis*, from this State. The late Arthur T. Wayne, in 'Birds of South Carolina' (1910: 8), states that the cyclone of 1893 destroyed great numbers of these birds, and that a few days after the storm the Long Island (Isle of Palms) beach was "literally strewn with dead birds." Examination of Mr. Wayne's record book of specimens collected during August and September of 1893 fails to disclose any record of a shearwater collected or prepared during that period. Our files contain later sight records, by other observers, and we now believe that these records may apply as well to Cory's Shearwater as to the Greater. One record in our files is based on a badly decomposed specimen found after the 1911 storm. In the 'Bulletin' of the Charleston Museum (7: 50, 1911), L. M. Bragg records this specimen as *Puffinus gravis*, "the head and bill being unmistakably that of a shearwater, and the white feathers of the throat and breast distinguishing it from the only other large shearwater found along our coast, the Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*)." No mention is made of the color of the bill of this specimen and it is possible that the bird may have been Cory's Shearwater.—EDWARD S. DINGLE and E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, *The Charleston Museum, Charleston, South Carolina*.

Gannets along the Connecticut River in New Hampshire and Vermont.—On October 24, 1940, an immature Gannet, *Moris bassana*, landed on a tennis court on the campus of Dartmouth College, at Hanover, New Hampshire. The bird was in an exhausted condition when picked up by Professor Lauren M. Sadler and brought to me. We fed it on a diet of fish scraps until it was strong enough to be released. On October 27 it was given the U. S. Biological Survey band no. 37-715727 and placed on Occum Pond near the campus. It remained on and around the pond until November 2 when it disappeared. It was able to fly from one end of the pond to the other and readily came to the shore for food. On November 5, it was turned in to the Vermont Fish and Game Service and thence returned to me via James Otis and George Davis. It had been shot at North Hartland, Vermont, which is twelve miles south of Hanover along the Connecticut River. The bird had landed in a field with a flock of turkeys. The second Gannet, which was also an immature bird, landed in an exhausted condition at Barnet, Vermont, also along the Connecticut River, fifty miles north of Hanover. This bird was found October 23 and was kept alive for eleven days on a diet of 'hamburger'. When it finally died it was also sent to the Vermont Fish and Game Service and thence to me. This specimen will be returned to the Service for use in their study collection, while the Hanover bird will be placed in the Dartmouth College Museum.