

where it was handed over to Corporal W. G. Kerr of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Corporal Kerr sent this fragment to Ottawa, where it was referred, through official channels, to the writer.

This piece of an upper mandible includes the tip and is practically entire except about its broken basal end. It is eleven inches long. Comparison with material in the collection of the National Museum of Canada makes clear that it is undoubtedly part of the bill of a White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchus* Gmelin). The specimen is being deposited in the National Museum of Canada.

Apparently the White Pelican has not hitherto been reported from James Bay, and, although the A.O.U. 'Check-List', fourth edition (1931), indicates that Hudson Bay is the type locality of the species, previous records of White Pelicans from that bay lack desirable definiteness. The specimen from "York Fort" recorded by J. R. Forster (Phil. Trans. London, 62: 419, 1772) may merely have been traded there after having been taken on its normal inland range. A similar condition attaches to the specimen recorded by A. Murray (Edin., N. Phil. Jour., 1859: 231) from "Hudson's Bay."—HARRISON F. LEWIS, *Ottawa, Ontario*.

Brown Pelican in Wisconsin:—On the evening of July 31, 1943, Mrs. T. E. Coleman, residing at Maple Bluff on Lake Mendota, informed me that there was a pelican sitting on a tree on the shore of the lake. It proved to be a Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*). It departed within a few minutes. The bird was seen once in flight the following morning but it did not return to the tree until evening when it was collected. It was a female in second-year postnuptial molt, according to Mr. O. J. Gromme of the Milwaukee Public Museum, to which institution the specimen was presented.

One of the local papers learned of the taking of the bird and published an account of it. In the August 6 issue of the Wisconsin State Journal, appeared a letter from E. D. Ochsner, taxidermist, of Prairie du Sac, which stated that years ago he mounted a Brown Pelican shot by S. Fisher on the mill pond at Black Hawk, Sauk County, and that the bird was in the possession of his daughter, Mrs. Herman Fuchs. I went to Black Hawk on August 15 and examined the bird which I found in excellent condition with the plumage showing the beginning of the second-year postnuptial molt. Mrs. Fuchs stated that there had been two birds on the pond but that only one had been shot. This was in late May or early June, "about 1903." The season was fixed by the fact that the bird was taken on the day of a school picnic. The sex was not determined at the time.

At present, the above specimens are the only ones known for the state.—A. M. SCHORGER, *Madison, Wisconsin*.

Fulvous Tree-ducks in the Louisiana rice fields.—In May of this year (1943), I made a trip to Louisiana for the purpose of collecting some Fulvous Tree-ducks (*Dendrocygna bicolor helva*). I had been told that the birds were numerous in the rice fields in the vicinity of Crowley, which is considered as the Rice Capital of the United States. I first went to Abbeville where Mr. J. J. Lynch of the Fish and Wildlife Service kindly took charge of me, drove me to the rice fields, and did everything to help make my trip a success. The trip from Abbeville to the rice fields, however, was too long for a daily trip there and back, so I moved to Crowley where Mr. W. A. Douglas of the Agricultural Experiment Station kindly piloted me and assisted me in every way.

Crowley is the center of a vast rice-growing region, and, as the conditions there are purely local in character, a word of explanation is necessary. Rice is sown in

two ways—drilled in as is wheat, and sown broadcast—and it is the newly-sown seed rice that the ducks come from many miles away to feed on at night. During the day, very few if any ducks are to be found on the paddies and only once did we find a small company of six feeding there in daylight, but at dusk they come in by the hundreds. They will not touch the sprouted rice nor injure the growing crop but, as stated, feed only on the newly-sown seed. For this reason they are exceedingly injurious to the only crop grown in the country, and the farmers try to protect themselves in a measure by organizing shooting parties at night in an endeavor to kill as many as possible and frighten the rest away. Many birds are killed every night during the planting season. They are excellent eating, and one farmer told me he had twelve in his ice box at home from a 'shoot' the night before. The discharge of firearms apparently is the only practical method of preventing serious injury to a rice crop.

The Fulvous Tree-duck is a night-feeder, and during the day is miles away in the almost inaccessible lagoons of the coastal marshes, but with the approach of dusk begins to arrive for the nightly repast in the rice fields. Anyone wanting to shoot tree-ducks in the rice fields of Louisiana must make up his mind for some night-shooting, which is not easy shooting. Accordingly, our search was for fields freshly sown, with no attempt made to hunt the lagoons elsewhere.

Southwest of Crowley, near Thornwell, the birds were particularly abundant owing to much new sowing, and a farmer directed us to a favorable spot. We reached the place before dusk and distributed ourselves along the low dykes or levees that divide the fields into paddies. Not a duck was to be seen or heard, and it was hard to believe what we were told, that in a few minutes the place would be swarming with them. "Just wait a few minutes" was the admonition, and presently we could hear them before we could see them. On they came, in no particular formation as with ordinary ducks—singly, in pairs, in companies of a dozen or more, and in irregular groups, and in twenty minutes they were flying and squealing everywhere, hundreds of them.

Judging from the gunshot reports that could be heard here and there, some of the farmers were also at work, for they go out whenever they can to protect their crops as far as possible by gunfire. Faint booming from far away as well as near-by shooting told of the wide dispersal of the birds in their nightly foray. It is probable that there are thousands of the birds distributed over this vast area during the spring and summer. Phillips in 'Natural History of the Ducks' makes no mention of this condition existing in the Louisiana rice fields; Bent does not refer to it, and Oberholser, in 'Birds of Louisiana,' says nothing about it.

I was too early by a month or more to find the ducks breeding, but every one spoke of them as being common breeders, and the organs of those taken were well advanced in development, although no egg formations were as yet evident. Locally these tree-ducks are known as 'squealer,' 'squealer duck,' and 'Mexican squealer,' and while some writers attempt to describe their peculiar call note as a 'whistle,' from my own observation I would say that 'squeal' describes the note or call perfectly. Once heard and familiarized, I do not think it could ever be forgotten.—
EDWIN M. HASBROUCK, M.D., *Washington, D. C.*

Two abnormal breeding records for South Carolina.—The writer is indebted to Mr. E. J. DeCamps of Beaufort, South Carolina, for the information and the privilege of recording the following notable ornithological data for South Carolina.