

First nesting of Forster's Tern in South Carolina.—While examining some oölogical specimens recently, the writer made the discovery of an omission which is being rectified herewith. Early in January, 1937, he was given a set of eggs of *Sterna forsteri* by Dr. Eugene E. Murphey, M.D., of Augusta, Ga., which had been collected on Vessel Reef, Bull's Bay, S. C. on June 24, 1904. It is the first record of the nesting of that species in South Carolina. This fact should have been recorded before, as intimated above, and the writer was under the impression that it had been, but search of the literature reveals the lack of it. Some details of the matter are of interest.

The eggs were found by a cousin of Dr. Murphey's (Elwood Murphey) who was visiting the South Carolina coast with Dr. M. T. Cleckley of Augusta. He pointed out the eggs to Cleckley who recognized them for what they were, and knowing their rarity, he collected and prepared them. On his original data now in the writer's possession, Cleckley wrote that the identification of the eggs was doubted by Arthur T. Wayne of Mt. Pleasant, S. C. for many years the well known ornithologist of this area. They were submitted to the Smithsonian Institution at Washington where the identification was confirmed. Dr. Murphey adds that: "My cousin Elwood blundered on to the nest with its eggs and called them to Cleckley's attention who immediately collected them for he knew what they were by reason of his great familiarity with eggs as such."

The eggs number three and were laid in a "slight depression in the sand, on a small elevation." Vessel Reef has since disappeared by action of storm tides. Bull's Bay has other tern colonies today, consisting of Royal Terns (*Thalasseus m. maximus*), a few Cabot's Terns (*T. sandvicensis acuflavidus*), and Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*), many Least Terns (*Sterna a. antillarum*) and an occasional Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica aranea*). Anyone familiar with the eggs of these birds will of course, understand how unlike they are from those of *S. forsteri*. Apparently this recording of a first breeding record comes literally under the heading of better late than never!—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 50, S. C.*

Harlequin Duck on the Texas coast.—On January 14, 1945, while traveling north on Highway 35, six miles from Rockport, Texas, I saw a small raft of ducks to the left (Copano Bay side) of the rock breakwater on the south end of the Copano Causeway. They were about 12 feet from shore and about 50 feet from where I stopped my car. Twelve of the ducks were American Golden-eyes. White markings on the face of one small duck immediately attracted my attention and very quickly I saw that a male and female Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) were present. I was so close that glasses were not actually necessary, but I put the glasses on them (Zeiss 8 X 40) and compared their markings at the same time with the figure in Peterson's 'A Field Guide to the Birds.' The identification was unmistakable. I kept them under observation for about 20 minutes and afterwards continued up the highway but returned about two hours later. The ducks had not left the vicinity and they were watched again for about ten minutes. They have not been seen since. On January 30, Mr. Ralph Friedman, of New York City, who came to Rockport with Dr. Fleisher, of Brooklyn College, to observe birds, told me that on the previous day he had identified a Harlequin Duck on the Aransas Wildlife Refuge, near Austwell, Texas. He felt rather sure of the identification but nevertheless felt that it was "too fantastic" and therefore had scarcely known what to think about it.

Dr. Harry C. Oberholser has informed me that the Eastern Harlequin Duck (*H. h. histrionicus*) has been recorded as far south as Florida. According to Musgrove and Musgrove ('Waterfowl in Iowa,' State Conservation Commission, Des Moines: