

of seeing gulls alight on the heads of fishing pelicans in Panamanian waters and rob the latter of their catch of fish, reminded the writer of similar behavior observed at the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Charleston County, South Carolina, in the summers of 1939 and 1940. A picture of the act was secured with an inexpensive telephoto lens from quite a distance and, although not particularly clear, the photograph is thought to be of sufficient interest to warrant publication.

This refuge has what is probably the northernmost Atlantic Coast nesting colony of the Eastern Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis*), and during the breeding season the birds fly over extensive areas of salt creeks, bays, and ocean in search of food for their young. Approximately 95 per cent of the food they bring in is menhaden. Their method of diving from the air for fish is too well known to be described here. In the early summer it is not unusual to see Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*), in both breeding and non-breeding plumage, following the pelicans, with as many as five gulls often harassing a single pelican. Just after the pelican has completed the plunge and before it can swallow the fish protruding from its bill, a gull may flutter in, alight on the water or even on the pelican's head and seize the fish. A pelican has never been observed to show anything but stoic calm during this procedure.—WILLIAM P. BALDWIN, *Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, McClellanville, South Carolina.*

Great Blue Heron swallows large snake.—On October 28, 1944, as Donald J. Nicholson, Wray Nicholson, Joseph C. Howell, Jr., B. F. McCamey and I were driving eastward along the road between Titusville and Titusville Beach, across the peninsula just north of Merritt Island in Brevard County, Florida, we chanced to see an adult Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), with head hanging awkwardly forward, standing several rods north of the highway at the edge of a salt-water marsh. When we stopped the car, the bird lifted its head and we saw that it had half swallowed a thick-bodied snake about three and a half feet long. With convulsive movements of its neck and body, the heron succeeded in swallowing several more inches of the snake, then flew laboriously to another arm of the marsh fifty yards away. I believe the heron had killed the snake; but it might have found the reptile dead along the highway and carried it to one side to finish swallowing it. The snake was dark above and white, or almost white, below. It almost certainly was a water snake (*Natrix*) rather than a moccasin (*Agkistrodon*), since the latter is more or less heavily mottled with gray below.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *ADT Branch, AAF Center, Orlando, Florida.*

Some Louisiana observations.—While stationed at the Army Air Field near Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, from January 1 to mid-June, 1943, the writer had several opportunities to observe the bird life of the vicinity, and through the courtesy of several members of the Fish and Wildlife Service personnel in that Gulf Coast area, notably Mr. John J. Lynch, was enabled to visit the Lacassine and Sabine refuges of the Service in Cameron Parish. After comparison of roll calls and journal entries for this period with H. C. Oberholser's 'The Bird Life of Louisiana' (1938), the following observations seem worthy of record:

WHITE-FACED GLOSSY IBIS, *Plegadis mexicana*.—On April 27, scores of individuals among some four hundred ibises present on the Lacassine Refuge marshes were satisfactorily identified as of this species. I stalked the first group patiently, through mud and stubble, in order to check facial markings but subsequently had several small groups fly close enough to be readily identified. None of the ibises observed at sufficiently close range lacked this specific field characteristic.

GULL-BILLED TERN, *Gelochelidon nilotica aranea*.—Among the first birds to excite my curiosity after arriving at Lake Charles was a flock of terns and gulls feeding and resting in a wet meadow at one end of the air field. Although first noticed on the 3rd, it was not until January 16 that I found a way of examining these birds closely. The meadow bore a growth of close-cropped rushes and was marked by flat furrows bespeaking recent cultivation. The raised path of an old sand road cut across it but to either side were pools with an inch or two of water spotted by many hive-like mounds of the crayfish. Along with a few Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, there were fourteen Gull-billed Terns resting on the sandy ridge of the road or flying about. Although heretofore unfamiliar with this species in life, I offer this sight record with full confidence for, with Peterson's 'Field Guide' in hand, I carefully double-checked all field marks. Almost all these terns showed the black ear patch, a remnant of the summer cap, either prominently or as a grayish vestige. One bird hovering directly over me, evidently doing some reciprocal observing, uttered a high, dry-toned treble call, *kik kik kik*. Another was marred by oil-soaked under plumage.

It was especially interesting to see that they were feeding on crayfish here, a performance as graceful and quick as the swoop of any maritime tern after a small fish at the surface. I saw them thus snatch up three or four crayfish, and though I could not tell whether these were actually taken from the mound opening itself (the vegetation was just high enough to prevent close scrutiny), I have no doubt that these crustaceans were their prey since they could be seen curling and uncurling their 'fringed' abdominal portion before being swallowed on the wing by their agile captors.

The flock disappeared the day after the record minimum temperature of 22° F. experienced in southern Louisiana on January 19, perhaps because this frost killed the crayfish in their burrows, though I did not have time to check this. I report this observation in detail because Oberholser calls this tern a "rare permanent resident" coastwise and records no such inland occurrence as given here, and because the habit of feeding on crayfish appears to be an uncommon one if not unrecorded.

WESTERN BURROWING OWL, *Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*.—On January 31, I had the pleasant experience of flushing this small owl from under the edge of temporarily empty barracks set above the ground on concrete pillars. It flew quickly, low over the ground, but soon settled again, turning sharply in alighting, and it stood high on its long legs and watched me closely, all characteristic behavior. Although reports indicated the presence of numbers of individuals at points farther east along the coast, this was the only one I saw in western coastal Louisiana.

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH, *Sitta p. pusilla*.—On April 12, I saw a pair in a grove of long-leaf pine at Mallard Junction, just east of Lake Charles. A strong wind made observation difficult but, returning to the same locality in mid-May, I again found a pair, presumably the same, this time carrying food and showing attachment to a small cluster of high pines. Although my efforts to locate a nest cavity were unrewarded, it seemed evident that this was a nesting pair.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE, *Lanius l. ludovicianus*.—A family group of three young and the two parents was observed closely in the shrubbery outside the air-field gate on April 27. The fledglings were still hesitant in flight and had probably been off the nest only two or three days. Assuming an incubation period of 13 days and an altricial period of about 20 days, this observation would antedate by

over a month the record egg-laying date of April 16 listed for this species by Oberholser. I have assumed the subspecific identity of these birds on the basis of the tentative range designations given by Oberholser.—ROLAND C. CLEMENT, 49 Tremont St., Fall River, Massachusetts.

Mockingbird at Bonaventure Island, Quebec.—During a recent ornithological field trip to the Gaspé coast, Quebec, Canada, a Mockingbird was observed on Bonaventure Island, at Percé, on June 26, 27, and 28, 1945. Although I did not see the bird myself, being elsewhere at the time, the single individual was studied by Dr. Robert Lockwood and Dr. Stephen Langfeld, both competent observers. I believe this to be the farthest northern occurrence of this species and therefore worthy of permanent record.¹—DELOS E. CULVER, 'Addingham,' Drexel Hill, Penna.

New records for the Puerto Rican avifauna.—An adult male of the Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) was collected on May 3, 1944, on the coastal plain of the southern coast of Mona Island. This record is very interesting because the bird has not been reported either from Puerto Rico or Hispaniola. The individual was seen frequenting a small patch on the coastal plain densely covered with "cogollo" palm (*Sabal causiarum*), growing on the southern littoral of Mona Island. The bird was seen alone and in spite of my efforts I did not succeed in finding more individuals during the next ten days. The species winters in Venezuela, Colombia, British Guiana, and south to Brazil, Perú, and Bolivia. Is a rare winter visitor in the West Indies where accidental occurrences have been recorded from Jamaica, some of the Virgin Islands, the Lesser Antilles, and the Bahamas. Examination of stomach contents showed nothing but remains of the fruit of "papayo" trees (*Metopium toxiferum*) which grow abundantly on the coastal plain of Mona. The bird was in its magnificent scarlet plumage typical of the season.

On May 4, 1944, one female and two males of the White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica asiatica*) were collected at Ubero Beach, on the southern coast of Mona Island. On this occasion I noticed the presence of this species for the first time on the island. A small flock of about 30 individuals was observed feeding in a dry, cactus-covered area close to the sandy beach. The birds remained in Mona until about the first days of June, as on my next trip to the island (June 7) I succeeded in obtaining only one more female. The rest of the flock recorded on May 4 probably continued its interrupted journey to the southwestern littoral of Puerto Rico.

Another female of *Zenaida asiatica asiatica* was secured on August 19, 1943, in the vicinity of Boquerón, Puerto Rico, a very dry region in that neighborhood. The presence of this dove in Puerto Rico dates back many years according to the testimony of many local hunters, but I obtained positive evidence in August, 1943. I noticed that it frequents only the extreme southwestern corner of Puerto Rico, in the area enclosed between Boquerón and Guánica. These doves are found associated in flocks of about 25 to 30 individuals during the months of July, August and September. During this period they are pursued by hunters as a game bird.

On December 15, 1943, three Mallard Ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*) were killed from a flock of eight birds on the opening day of the duck season at Anegado Lagoon (Lajas) by Mr. Sadoth Morales, a local sportsman and hunter.

¹ There are earlier records from Anticosti and "Godhaut" (?Godbout), noted by Wright, Auk, 38: 431, 1921.—Ed.