

The White-faced Storm Petrel off Cape Cod.—On October 1, 1945, I was aboard the Victory ship 'Claymont Victory' which was one day out of New York harbor returning servicemen to the United States for redeployment. At 0730 hours I went up on deck to watch for ocean birds at which time the ship was approximately 30 miles off the tip of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Small scattered flocks of Leach's and Wilson's Storm Petrels darted erratically along the troughs of the waves on either side of the ship, some as close as twenty yards from the vessel. I was watching a Wilson's Petrel about 25 yards off the starboard side through 8x glasses when a black and white petrel flew into my field of vision about five yards beyond the Wilson's. The newcomer was fluttering along in the same direction as the ship and remained under observation at a distance of about thirty yards for nearly three minutes. This petrel appeared to be slightly larger than the Wilson's and was dark above, blackest on the primaries, secondaries and tail, and white below including the forehead, chin, throat and under wing-coverts. The rump was paler than the back but not brilliant white. In flight this petrel was much slower and more butterfly-like than either the Wilson's or Leach's and several times fluttered over bits of flotsam but did not pick up anything. The White-Faced Storm Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*) is the only storm petrel with the under surface entirely white. It breeds in the Canary, Salvage and Cape Verde islands in the South Atlantic and has been recorded only twice, to my knowledge, off the coast of eastern North America. A specimen was collected at sea off the coast of Massachusetts in 1885 and the record was published in the October Auk of that year. The A. O. U. Check-List cites one record 400 miles off the coast of New Jersey.—JACKSON MILES ABBOTT, CAPT., CE, U. S. A., *Whitehall Hotel, Haverford, Pennsylvania*.

Summer occurrence of the White-winged Scoter on National Wildlife Refuges.—Since a review of the literature has revealed a scarcity of records of the summer occurrence of the White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*) in the Great Plains region, the following observations made by several managers of National Wildlife Refuges located in this area are presented:

Six birds spent the summer on Lake 12 of the Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Roosevelt and Sheridan counties, Montana, thus establishing a new record for the refuge and adding another to the very few summer records for the state (B. M. Hazeltine). The species was again noted here in 1944 when 12 birds returned May 18 to summer on Lake 12. The last observation for that year was of four birds, October 20 (Vernon Ekedahl).

Previous to the summer of 1940, when a pair of White-winged Scoters remained on the Upper Des Lacs Lake, only migrant birds had been seen on the Des Lacs Refuge, Burke and Ward counties, North Dakota (Seth Low). During a census made here June 14, 1941, seven males were identified but no females were found (F. V. Kent). A single bird, possibly a straggler, was noted on the Upper Thompson Lake of the Lostwood Refuge, Burke and Mountrail counties, North Dakota, June 2, 1938 (Seth Low).

While salvaging ducks from drying water areas in the vicinity of the Lower Souris Refuge, Bottineau and McHenry counties, North Dakota, July 28, 1936, Seth Low found two broods of nine young each, on a deep little lake about five miles south of Denbigh, North Dakota. Observations of four birds on the Upper Souris Refuge, Renville and Ward counties, North Dakota, June 6, 1936 (P. N. Chase) and a similar number June 19, 1940 (F. S. Dart) constitute the only summer records of the White-

winged Scoter for this refuge.—FAXON W. COOK, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois.*

Western Grebe in Keuka Lake at Branchport, N. Y.—At 4:30 P. M. on April 23, 1942, I was searching the lake with my high-power telescope, looking for ducks, when a Western Grebe came into its field. Swimming along with its very long swan-like neck held erect, its size, carriage and the all black and white plumage—black crown and black stripe down the back of the neck to the black back—it was unmistakable. I had it under observation for ten minutes or more before it passed out of range. At 7:00 next morning I saw it in about the same place, but had to leave soon to get to my work and did not see it again.

There seem to be no western New York records for this species and until now I have hesitated to publish this. Now, after reading Mr. Packard's record of the Western Grebe in the *Auk* (62: 461, July, 1945) and being absolutely sure of my identification, I feel that this later record should be published.—VERDI BURTON, *Branchport, New York.*

Little Blue Heron at Branchport, N. Y.—August 6, 1944. This morning I found a Little Blue Heron in a beaver pond two miles up the inlet of Keuka Lake. It was a young bird in the white plumage and I watched it for more than an hour. I do not think that it was aware of my presence until I began to move up cautiously; then it climbed up on a dead bush and soon flew off up the creek. A little later in the day, Charles Spiker and Carlton Sturdevant were at the locality and both saw it. I visited the pond several times on succeeding days but did not see it again.—VERDI BURTON, *Branchport, New York.*

King Rail at Branchport, N. Y.—Late in the afternoon of August 31, 1941, in company with my daughter, Mrs. Vireo Whitaker, and Chas. Spiker and Carlton Sturdevant, I was sitting on a small boat dock on Keuka Lake. The shore here is bordered with a growth of cattails and at this time the low water had left a narrow muddy shore line. While we were watching two Solitary Sandpipers, two rails came out of the cattails several rods down the shore and began hunting. At first I thought they were Virginia Rails, but they appeared much larger and I was suddenly aware that I was looking at two King Rails, the second time that I had ever seen one in life. They were an adult and juvenile and as they approached, the adult picked something up and came running toward us, with the young one following closely, until they were both within 60 feet of us. They did not appear shy and we watched them for some time as they searched the muddy shore.

That evening I brought one of my one-funnel bird traps down and set it where we had seen the rails. Next morning the two birds were seen but the trap was empty. At 2:00 P. M. I was there again, but the trap was empty and no rails were in sight. I sat down on the dock and in a few minutes the young one came out, walked toward and went on past the trap. Then it turned, went back, and without hesitation walked directly into the trap. I placed band No. 40-515596 on its right leg and carefully noted its plumage. The crown and back of neck were dark gray, almost black; back brownish gray-black with gray-olive margins to the feathers; neck grayish-white with many chestnut streaks; sides and flanks brownish gray with white bars; legs olive-gray; bill brownish black. This bird was seen again September 2, 7, 10 and 14. This was the last time. The adult was not seen again until the afternoon of September 28 when I found it far out in the open on the mud flats some 50 or 60 rods to the north of where I had seen the birds before. When it saw me it ran and flew back to the cattails into which it disappeared. This was the last time either of them was seen.—VERDI BURTON, *Branchport, New York.*