

The Auk, 57: 257, 1940.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.*

White Pelican in the Chicago region.—A White Pelican in adult plumage was seen on McGinnis Slough, Orland Wildlife Refuge, Cook County, Illinois, on October 2, 1946. The bird was first observed by Mr. Ray Murdy and Mr. Jack Jedlicka who are in charge of duck banding on the Refuge. On October 4 it was observed for more than four hours on the water and in flight by Murdy, Jedlicka and Coursen. On Sunday, October 6, an audience of about fifty local bird students, including several staff members of the Chicago Natural History Museum, studied the pelican at fairly close range. It remained on McGinnis Slough until October 8. This appears to be the fifth record for the Chicago Region.—C. BLAIR COURSEN, *Chicago, Illinois.*

Notes on the Pomarine Jaeger in the Atlantic and Caribbean.—In March, 1945, the writers frequently observed Pomarine Jaegers (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) while enroute from an East Coast seaport to Panamá. In view of the scarcity of published records for this species in the area covered during our voyage, it appears to us that the observations we have made would be of interest.

Near sunset of March 23, two Pomarine Jaegers in light phase joined a group of eight Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) which had been following the ship throughout the afternoon. Our approximate position at the time of this observation was 200 miles southeast of Cape Lookout, North Carolina, at latitude 33 degrees north. The following afternoon, one jaeger was observed about 300 miles off the coast of northern Florida; however the bird did not approach close enough for specific identification.

Mid-afternoon of March 25, 150 miles east of Great Abaco Island in the Bahamas, a single Pomarine Jaeger followed the ship for an hour, appearing directly over the ship on one occasion. The bird was in the light phase, and its blunt-feathered tail and white wing bars were clearly distinguishable.

Early morning of March 26, an individual of description similar to the one seen on the previous day was noted following the ship. Our position at this time was 18 miles east of San Salvador in the Bahamas.

During mid-morning of March 27, about 25 miles east of Cuba, a single Pomarine Jaeger followed the ship for an hour, occasionally alighting in the wake of the ship.

A small group of Pomarine Jaegers, varying in number from five to eight, flew with the ship throughout the morning and early afternoon of March 28. One of the jaegers was in the dark phase. During this period the distance traversed was from 50 to 150 miles to the south of Jamaica. On several occasions we passed single birds of this species resting on the water.

Pomarine Jaegers were last seen March 29 at approximately 13 degrees north latitude and 79 degrees west longitude.—WILLIAM C. STARRETT, *Ames, Iowa*, and KEITH L. DIXON, *La Mesa, California.*

Summering of the Alder Flycatcher in southwestern Virginia.—On June 27, 1946, a small flycatcher was discovered at the edge of an extensive alder thicket less than one mile west of Abingdon, Virginia. As the habitat strongly suggested the possibility of an Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax t. traillii*), this bird was watched carefully for several minutes. Not only did it fully conform with this species in appearance, size, and habits, but its song supplied the final proof of its identity. In fact, even the call note, a rather loud *pep*, seemed noticeably different from that of other small flycatchers. Within the next few minutes another bird of this species was found frequenting the margin of a small alder thicket.

Dr. James Tanner, of Johnson City, Tennessee, accompanied me to this spot on July 14 in an unsuccessful attempt to collect one of these flycatchers. One such bird was shot as it perched above an alder jungle, but our search for it underneath its perch proved fruitless. Tanner, however, who has had considerable field experience with this species in New York, heard the song and concurred in my identification. On this date, allowing for possible duplication, it appeared that at least six Alder Flycatchers were present, suggesting the presence of immatures out of the nest.

The last field trip made to these alder thickets was on August 8. Positive identification was then impossible, as the flycatchers were silent, but two small flycatchers which apparently belonged to the genus *Empidonax* were still present. No flycatchers have been found in other alder thickets in this region, and Dr. J. J. Murray, of Lexington, Virginia, writes (under date of July 31) that there are "no summer records of the Alder Flycatcher in Virginia." The present occurrence, then, is the first for Virginia and apparently the most southern breeding locality east of the Mississippi River.—HENRY M. STEVENSON, *Department of Zoology, Florida State College for Women, Tallahassee, Florida.*

Nesting of Herring Gull in New Jersey.—On July 14, 1946, when, with J. H. Buckalew, I was banding young Laughing Gulls at Stone Harbor, Cape May County, New Jersey, a Herring Gull in full white plumage was flushed from a nest containing two eggs. Photographs were taken of the nest and eggs. This is probably the first New Jersey record. This is the locality where I found a nest of Gull-billed Tern with two eggs on June 20, 1926.—T. E. McMULLEN, *Runnemedede, N. J.*

Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches at Baltimore.—Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) appeared in the Baltimore region in considerable numbers in the winter of 1945–1946. A flock of about 50 was first seen in central Baltimore on the isolated date of November 15 (Emlen and Davis, *Maryland Birdlife*, 1: 24, 1945); then on January 1 the birds began appearing in outlying sections of the city and in the surrounding suburbs, and were present in flocks of two to 35 through May 13. At some places the appearances were brief, at others intermittent, and at a few they were continuous for the entire four-month period indicated.

The grosbeaks appeared in the Hamilton, Cedarcroft, Homeland, Roland Park, Dickeyville and Ten Hills sections of Baltimore City, and at Towson, Stevenson, Catonsville and Lansdowne in Baltimore County. Judging by reports from casual observers, the birds were most numerous and widely scattered from the second half of January through March; although it may be that interest in them merely abated after that time, an apparent decline in numbers that began in April at some of the points of prolonged stay suggests that that peak was real. During the second half of February, at least, the birds were present simultaneously at practically all of the places named, including the most widely separated.

The longest observed stay was at Stevenson, January 1 through May 11; the next longest at Dickeyville, about January 18 through May 13. Elsewhere, there were departures, following appreciable stays, as early as mid-February, and first appearances as late as mid-April. When final departures began in May, males disappeared from some places as much as a week before the last females; at other places the flocks were of mixed sex through final dates as late as May 11.

At most of the places where they appeared—including the two where their stays were longest—the grosbeaks regularly patronized feeding shelves and fed gluttonously on sunflower seed. At half a dozen places, however, they appeared to rely entirely on wild food; buds, and seeds of the catalpa, box elder and an exotic elm were wild foods personally observed or reliably reported.