

on the other hand prove that the brown pelican is present on the coast of Dutch Guiana during at least nine months of the year, though I did not visit any likely locality in March. The nearest breeding colonies seem to be on small rocky islands off the northern coast of Tobago and the northern coast of Trinidad (Harrison, Ool. Rec., 18: 90-93, 1938), which are not mentioned by Murphy.—FR. HAVERSCHMIDT, 14 *Waterkant, Paramaribo, Surinam.*

**Booby's beak imbedded in black marlin's back.**—Observers of the large flocks of gannets, boobies and pelicans which feed in coastal waters, habitually by diving for their prey from considerable heights, can not fail to contemplate the potential accident rate incident to this feeding technique. Evidence that accidents occur, at least occasionally, was found by the Mandel-Chicago Natural History Museum Galapagos Island Expedition in 1941.

A large black marlin (*Makaira marlina*), caught January 20 approximately three miles southeast of Tower Island, had the left mandibular ramus of a booby (*Sula* sp.) deeply imbedded in its back. The beak fragment was 98 millimeters long and, although completely encysted, still retained some musculature attached to the basal portion.

This recalls Bent's reference (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 121: 226, 1922) to an unauthenticated report of gannets being killed by diving into a floating board upon which a fish had been fastened.—EMMET R. BLAKE, *Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago, Illinois.*

**The little blue heron in Ontario.**—A specimen of the little blue heron (*Florida caerulea*) was recently acquired by the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology from the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. The bird was found dead with its feet frozen in the ice, on December 16, 1947, on the French River in Delamere Township, Sudbury District, Ontario, by Overseer K. P. McGilvary. When later dissected at the museum, it proved to be a juvenile male. This is the most northerly occurrence for the little blue heron in Ontario and also the first in winter for the Province. Previously the most northerly record was one bird taken in a muskrat trap on March 28, 1929, at Atherley Narrows in Simcoe County (Devitt, Trans. Roy. Canad. Inst., 24: 258, 1929).—C. E. HOPE, *Division of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, Canada.*

**Green heron feeds on goldfish.**—On April 8, 1946, at 11:20 a. m., my attention was called to a bird perched on a trellis in our back yard which is in the residential section of Madera, California. The bird proved to be a green heron (*Butorides virescens*). The bird peered around, seemed undisturbed by sounds coming from the adjacent street, and finally flew across the street to perch fairly high in a pecan tree. The bird was next seen at 1:00 p. m., when it flew from the house next door and perched in our English walnut tree.

By this time I suspected that it might be interested in the many goldfish in the pond next door. At 1:25 p. m., it flew down from its perch to the middle of our garden. It peered about for nearly five minutes, then craned its neck in the direction of the fishpond and made its way carefully in that direction. Upon reaching the pond it spent 10 minutes trying to get through the 16-inch, chicken wire fence that protected the pond on the lawn side. The bird seemed to try to push its way through, much as it would in tules or grass stems, but of course it was unsuccessful. After each attempt it would stop and survey the situation, then try again. Not once did it attempt to fly upon or over the fence. It then worked its way all along this fence

finally giving up. After some time it walked around to the other side and came out on the pond's unprotected side.

It crouched with its beak down and almost aimed at the water and then it relaxed. It repeated this performance several times in a period of about ten minutes. It then crouched and appeared to jump, not dive, in. The first attempt was unsuccessful, but immediately it tried again and this time came up with a goldfish. This was held crosswise in the bill, shaken vigorously several times and then swallowed. The bird again took up its stance, but it was frightened and flew back to the walnut tree. It did not fly far or seem too wary, but seemed loathe to leave the locality. The owner of the fish shot the bird, and I secured it. Upon skinning it was found to be a female with the ovary well developed. The stomach contained the goldfish measuring 100 by 29 by 20 millimeters and weighing 15.8 grams. It also contained the remains of two small fish and several beetles. Barker (Bird-Lore, 3: 141, 1901) and Brooks (Auk, 40: 121-122, 1923), report a similar type of activity.—ALBERT C. HAWBECKER, *Fresno State College, Fresno, California.*

**Yellow-crowned night heron in Rockingham County, Virginia.**—On April 19, 1948, I saw a yellow-crowned night heron (*Nyctanassa violacea violacea*) along the bottomland of North River just below the town of Bridgewater. The bird was quite tame and allowed me to get right under the tree in which it was perched.

The following day the bird was not seen, although a thorough search was made throughout the river bottoms. Then at noon on April 21, the heron was flushed along with two little green herons from the rocky spillway under the same willow tree where it was first seen. The bird was collected; examination disclosed developing eggs with one egg about the size of a marble, which had not yet moved down the oviduct.

The only definite previous record listed for western Virginia is of a bird shot on July 11, 1923, at Boyce, Clarke County and published (Auk, 43: 538, 1926) by B. H. Swales.

The skin has been placed in the United States National Museum, Washington, D. C. I wish to thank Chandler S. Robbins of the Fish and Wildlife Service who kindly checked the distribution files for records of the yellow-crowned night heron.—MAX M. CARPENTER, *Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, Virginia.*

**The wood ibis in Ontario.**—Fleming (Auk, 30: 226, 1913) has recorded the occurrence of the wood ibis, *Mycteria americana*, in Ontario, based on a drawing of a dead bird, one shot by a farmer near Simcoe, Norfolk County, in November, 1892. The drawing, now preserved in the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, is unmistakably of the species concerned and the documentation exceptionally complete. However, there is some dissatisfaction in resting the validity of the first and only Provincial occurrence on a drawing of an unpreserved bird made at some remote time and place.

There is some gratification then in being able to record this species for the Province on evidence which is beyond doubt. On August 2, 1948, a wood ibis was killed in the extreme eastern part of southern Ontario, township of Charlottenburgh, County of Glengarry. An overseer of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Lands and Forests, Mr. E. W. Munro, seized the bird which he "thought to be a Wood Ibis" and forwarded it to the Department in Toronto from whence it was turned over to the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology where its identity was confirmed. The specimen is now number 76069 in the museum's collection.—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto.*