

GENERAL NOTES

Three Brown Pelicans in Illinois.—On Saturday, April 24, 1948, three "great birds" flew over the city of St. Louis, resulting in news stories in two St. Louis newspapers. The following day, James Nielson, Wallace Elmsley, and the writer were doing field work 30 miles south of Quincy, when three Brown Pelicans, *Pelecanus occidentalis*, flew not 50 feet above our heads. I studied them carefully with eight-power binoculars; there was no question of their identity. They were probably the same three birds that were seen over St. Louis the previous day.

In so far as I can discover, there are but four previous records of the Brown Pelican in Illinois. In the Steinheuer collection is a skin of a bird killed on a lake south of Vandalia. Benjamin Gault (Check-List of the Birds of Illinois, 1922: 35) says, "Rare straggler from the gulf coast. But one positive record, viz;—Lacon, Marshall County (Gault) on authority of Judge Barnes." Robert Ridgway (The Ornithology of Illinois, 2: 200, 1913) says, "The brown pelican is barely entitled to a place in the list of Illinois birds, on account of a single specimen having been seen (not taken) by Mr. C. K. Worthen, near Warsaw (see Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club V 1880, page 31)." In 1913, the writer saw one over the Mississippi at Quincy.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, Quincy, Illinois.

American Egrets near Quebec City, Quebec.—A flight of American Egrets, *Casmerodius a. egretta*, is known to have occurred in the summer of 1948 in north-eastern United States. Some at least reached the Province of Quebec, their first occurrence in the vicinity of Quebec City, as far as is known. On August 1, 1948, Mr. Francois Hamel saw, with binoculars at about 300 feet, two egrets at St. Francois on the Island of Orleans, Quebec. He clearly noted the yellow bill of the American Egret. On the following August 13, a call to the Quebec Zoological Garden from Everell, a few miles northeast of Quebec City, brought Dr. J. A. Brassard, director of the Zoo, and myself to that place where a man had seen a flock of "white cranes" on the shore. There were, in fact, nearly a dozen white birds standing on the shore about half a mile away. With binoculars, they looked very much like egrets, and a closer approach to one of these birds clearly showed that it was an American egret. The distance and bad lighting, it was 8 p. m., did not permit a clear view of its yellow bill, but similarity in size with a Great Blue Heron, standing a few feet from the egret, helped in identification. A few minutes later the bird took flight toward the Island of Orleans. We were told by our host that the flock of "white cranes" had come to that shore at Everell every day in the morning and in late afternoon for nearly two weeks. They were very shy and hard to approach. Later, Mr. Louis A. Lord, taxidermist at the Quebec Provincial Museum, was told by a hunter that "white cranes, never seen before" were still to be found near St. Peter, Island of Orleans, in mid-September.—RAYMOND CAYOUILLE, Quebec Zoological Society, Charlesbourg, Quebec.

Lesser Snow Goose and Blue Goose at Lexington, Virginia.—On November 18, 1948, at a small fish pond on the farm of Joshua Womeldorf near Lexington, I collected an immature male (?) Lesser Snow Goose, *Chen h. hyperborea*, and an immature female (?) Blue Goose, *Chen caerulescens*. Drs. A. Wetmore and H. Friedmann kindly examined the skins and confirmed the identifications. The birds were in poor flesh, the Snow Goose weighing four pounds, three ounces, and the Blue Goose, three pounds, 14 ounces. The Snow Goose was heavily infested with ectoparasites, identified by Robert T. Mitchell as *Trinoton querquedulae* (L.). The Lesser Snow Goose is