

## GENERAL NOTES

**Green-throated Loon (*Gavia arctica viridigularis*) in Southeastern Alaska.**

—On a cruise among the islands of southeastern Alaska in the spring of 1948, I saw many loons in the waterways and watched carefully, hoping to find *G. a. viridigularis* which had not been recorded in the area. When in Chatham Strait, well off the west coast of Admiralty Island, near Wilson's Cove, many loons were noted upon the glassy waters, and a Green-throated was collected on May 13. It was a male (DMNH no. 25415) with well developed testes, apparently going into its first high plumage. This form is similar in color to *pacifica*, but differs in having a uniformly dark crown and hind neck and in being approximately the size of *Gavia i. elasson*. The specimen collected has a tarsus of 80 mm., 10 to 14 millimeters longer than the tarsi of any of the 22 skins of *pacifica* in our collection. The middle toe is 111 mm. long as against 99 mm. for the longest *pacifica*.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *The Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado.*

**Homing of the Manx Shearwater.**—Shearwaters are ideal species for long-range homing experiments. During the long incubation period, one parent may remain in the nest for as long as twelve days; the birds are therefore accustomed to long periods of fasting. Many experiments with the Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus puffinus*) have been conducted from Skokholm, an island off the southwest coast of Wales. This island, made famous by the residence and works of the English ornithologist R. M. Lockley, is now a research station operated by the West Wales Field Society.

In the most remarkable of the prewar tests Lockley took two Manx Shearwaters by aircraft to Venice where he released them. Birds of this subspecies never normally visit the Mediterranean and do not cross dry land in their migrations. Yet upon release, one of the birds turned and headed west in the direction of the Italian Alps instead of flying south toward the sea. It reached its own burrow in Skokholm in 341 hours 10 minutes.

Dr. G. V. T. Matthews of the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, has been conducting further homing experiments with Manx Shearwaters. He has had birds released at many points on the British mainland and has enjoyed a startling series of returns. In many cases there was strong evidence of an initial sense of homeward orientation, because the birds started on a direct compass bearing for Skokholm. Attempts at sending birds to America had failed because the long journey by steamer exhausted them.

During a conversation with Mr. Lockley at Skokholm on June 1, I happened to say something concerning my anticipated return by air to Boston on the morning of June 3. Lockley at once realized the opportunity for quick transport and asked me to take two birds to Boston for release. Accordingly, I was given a carton containing two Manx Shearwaters which Dr. Matthews had taken from their burrows and banded. I left Tenby, Pembrokeshire, that evening via sleeper train for London. The birds caused no little wonder and merriment to the people in the adjoining rooms, who could not understand the origin of the mewing and cackling sounds which came from my room in the late evening. The next day the birds remained in the carton, each in its own compartment, and in the evening I enplaned for America with the birds under my seat. Only one survived the journey.

On the morning of June 3, immediately after landing and passing through Customs, I was driven in a TWA truck to the easternmost point of Logan International Airport on Boston harbor. There, with the kind cooperation of a TWA employee, I released