

Common Tern (*Sterna h. hirundo*) Breeding in the Netherlands Antilles.—The islands of the Netherlands Antilles—Aruba, Curaçao, and Bonaire—are situated in the Caribbean Sea off the Venezuelan Coast.

The only previous breeding records of the Common Tern in the Netherlands Antilles have been from the island of Bonaire, where Hartert found eggs of the species in abandoned flamingo nests in 1892 (Ibis, 1893: 337) and where Rutten saw a single downy chick a few days old in 1930 (Ardea, 20: 104, 1931).

Annually from 1952 through 1955, we have found loose colonies of two to seven nests on four small islands or groups of islands in the inland bays of southern Curaçao (Isla Makwakoe, Spaanse Water, Nieuwe Haven, and Jan Thiel). Adult birds and eggs have been collected and sent to the Amsterdam Zoological Museum. There Dr. K. H. Voous has identified the birds as specimens of the nominate race, whose only other known tropical breeding ground is off the coast of Nigeria, West Africa.

The eggs average 41×29 mm. Their shape is the same as in the northern breeding range, but the color is different, being very light cream, heavily marked with small olive-brown and gray blotches. Complete clutches of one, two, and three eggs have been found, a clutch of two being by far the commonest. Egg dates range from April 26 to August 2.—F. H. ANSINGH AND H. J. KOELERS, *Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles*.

Southernmost Records for the Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) in the United States.—On November 8, 1954, three ducks, which I tentatively identified as mergansers, appeared on the rock pit lake in the Long Pine Key Fire Tower area of the Everglades National Park in south Florida. Their silhouetted outlines looked like those of Hooded Mergansers, but they were in too poor light for me to be sure. I saw these same three ducks several times in the next few weeks, and by November 20 I had identified them as the Hooded Merganser.

Part of the time only two ducks were present and were either a pair, or a female and an immature. When there were three, the group was always composed of a male, a female, and an immature. The last behaved in a consistent manner every time it was present. It was a little smaller than the others and remained close to the female, seeming to do everything the female did. It always remained a few inches behind, never swimming abreast of the female, never going ahead. The pair, however, whether on the lake by themselves or with the immature, remained relatively close but moved about independently.

On December 12, 1954, David Karraker, a park naturalist, reported seeing two Hooded Mergansers, a male and a female, in Barnes Pond on Long Pine Key road, which is but two miles from where I had been observing them. Since the birds which I had been watching disappeared for two or three days whenever boy scouts or other campers came in, there is little doubt that the Barnes Pond individuals were also those visiting the rock pit.

On December 16, I recorded in my notes, "The Mergansers were here [at the rock pit] again at dawn, but there are four this time . . . one male, two females, and the immature. The behavior of the immature and one of the females remains the same."

Mr. Daniel Beard, Superintendent of the park, stopped at the rock pit the next day and was amazed to see the four Hooded Mergansers, his "discovery" making me aware of the rareness of this species in this area and leading me to discover that the southernmost records for these birds have not been published. Mr. Charles Brookfield, of Tropical Audubon, Miami, saw a pair of these ducks on a small pond