

GENERAL NOTES

Recent Occurrences of the Manx Shearwater in Massachusetts—Two specimens of *Puffinus puffinus puffinus* were collected off Essex County, Mass., in 1957, bringing to five the total number for the state. The A. O. U. Check-list (1957) regards the Manx Shearwater as casual on the Atlantic coast and does not mention Massachusetts as within its range. The specimens recently taken, together with many other sight records of small shearwaters during August and early September (twelve in 1957 alone), suggest the possibility that this species may now be of regular occurrence. I am recording the specimens at the request of Ludlow Griscom and with the kind permission of Allen H. Morgan.

The species was added to the North American fauna by the remains of a bird found August 30, 1917 on Fire Island Beach, Long Island, N.Y., now in the American Museum of Natural History. Johathan Dwight (Auk, 40:125, 1923) in his account of this specimen suggests that possibly stranded waifs, which may have drifted for some distance, should not be accepted as the basis of records.

The first Manx Shearwater for Massachusetts was also a dead bird, found on Katama Beach, Martha's Vineyard on September 2, 1950 by Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Ludwig, Jr., and photographed the following day by Harriet C. Larrabee (Bull. Mass. Aud. Soc. 1951:93-95). The skull, together with the photographs, was sent to Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, who called the bird unquestionably *Puffinus puffinus* and the second record for North America. This skull is now 2427 at the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

The second specimen for the state was found alive off Chatham by Ludlow Griscom and party on August 13, 1953, photographed by Richard Borden and collected by Allen H. Morgan. This bird, M.C.Z. 280747, is a female with wing measurement of 227 mm. (worn primaries) and exposed culmen 34.5 mm. Two years later, August 20, 1955, another specimen was collected in the same waters, again by Morgan. This bird, Boston Museum of Science 20805, has a wing measurement of 228 mm., exposed culmen 36 mm., sex unknown.

A third Cape Cod record is that of a partly decomposed shearwater found on Harding's Beach, Chatham, September 6, 1957 by Mrs. M. W. Maclay. This was shown to Griscom who considered it to be *P. p. puffinus*, but the specimen was not preserved.

During the summer of 1957 a number of trips were made to Stellwagen Bank, about 12 miles off Gloucester, Essex County, Mass., in a boat belonging to Mrs. Chandler Robbins, II, and four species of shearwaters were found. *P. gravis*, *P. griseus* and the first specimen of *P. diomedea borealis* for county waters were collected (Frances Burnett). On August 9 the writer found a smaller shearwater in the large flock of Greaters, which was taken for the Peabody Museum of Salem by Burnett, and proved as expected, to be *P. p. puffinus*. The same type of small, black and white shearwater was seen on other trips and a second specimen collected (D. E. Snyder) on August 18. These are now P. M. S. 7977 (female, wings 227-229 mm., worn primaries, exposed culmen 36 mm.) and 7978 (female, wing 230 mm., exposed culmen 35.2). Other individuals, apparently similar, were seen on a number of other trips during August and early September.

The source of these shearwaters is of interest. The Manx Shearwater is a well-known breeding bird off the European coast and is stated by the A. O. U. Check-list (1957) to breed in Bermuda, the locality of a 1905 record being given. The most recent report on Bermuda birds (Bourne, Ibis, 1957:102) states that no Manx Shearwater has been seen there since 1905. Sight reports of *P. puffinus* in our waters

are usually not acceptable because of possible confusion with the smaller Audubon's Shearwater, *P. lherminieri* (one Massachusetts specimen, others from New York southward) and Little Shearwater, *P. assimilis* (specimens from Nova Scotia and South Carolina).

I am indebted to Mrs. Ruth Emery for sight records, and to Dr. J. C. Greenway and Richard Kleber for measurements of specimens in their care.—DOROTHY E. SNYDER, *Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, December 5, 1957.*

First Occurrence of Little Blue Heron in Utah.—A male Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*), apparently sick from botulism, was captured at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, 15 miles west of Brigham, Utah, on September 4, 1957. This is the first and only record for a Little Blue Heron in Utah. The A.O.U. Checklist (1957) gives no United States records west of Oklahoma, Nebraska and North Dakota. The bird died the day it was found and the skin has been placed in the Refuge collection.—VANEZ T. WILSON AND WILLIAM A. REID, *Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Brigham, Utah.*

The Feeding Habits of the Capped Heron (*Pilherodius pileatus*).—In Bock's generic review of the Ardeidae (Amer. Mus. Novit. no. 1779, 1956) he synonymizes the monotypic South American genus *Pilherodius* with the night-herons *Nycticorax*, though stating lack of knowledge as to the immature plumage of *P. pileatus* and as to whether it feeds at night like the better-known species of *Nycticorax*.

In Surinam I have observed this black-capped, creamy white heron on ten occasions. In my experience it is a solitary, shy bird, so details of its behavior are scanty. I have seen it in wet forests, along forest fringed rivers, in trenches of coffee plantations, and once in a flooded rice-field. Five of my records pertain to feeding birds, all in broad daylight. On April 6, 1947, March 28, 1948, and November 4, 1952 I surprised single birds standing motionless in the shallow waters of a trench, looking intently into it—the usual hunting posture of herons. On January 22, 1956 two were noted in a similar situation, but one chased the other away, until the pursued bird alighted high in a shade tree. On February 7, 1954 I watched a Capped Heron behaving the same way in a flooded rice-field, where a few Little Blue Herons, *Florida caerulea*, and Snowy Egrets, *Egretta (Leucophoyx) thula*, were also feeding. I cannot say that *Pilherodius pileatus* never feeds at night, but it differs strikingly from the typical night-herons (*Nycticorax*) and the Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius*), which I have never seen feeding during the day, but surprised hiding in thickly foliated trees—a situation where I have never found *P. pileatus* in daylight.

Though I have not personally identified an immature bird, the immature plumage of *Pilherodius* is described by the Penards ("De Vogels van Guyana", 1: 174, 1908), based on a Surinam specimen, as like the adults, but lacking the long head plumes and with the crown variegated with white or gray. In resembling that of the adults, this plumage would seem to be very different from the distinct streaked plumage of young *Nycticorax*.—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, *P.O. Box 644, Paramaribo, Surinam.*

Masked Duck Collected in St. Croix, Virgin Islands.—The Masked Duck (*Oxyura dominica*) is unknown in the Virgin Islands, though it occurs in the Greater Antilles and has been recorded from some of the Lesser Antilles (Bond, Check-List of Birds of the West Indies, 1956: 25). An 1857 sight report by Alfred Newton appears to have referred to the resident Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura j. jamaicensis*), which inhabits the lagoon (pond) mentioned by him, and the report has been rejected by recent writers (Wetmore, *Sci. Surv. Porto Rico and Virgin Is.*, vol. 9, pt. 3: 318,