

dition to the breeding islands along the Louisiana coast west of the Mississippi river, June 23d, 1915.

The petrel, when observed, was about a mile off shore, paddling the rough waters of the Gulf of Mexico, and about seven miles west of Grand Isle. The stranger to the Pelican State circled the commission's petrol boat "Opelousas" but, although efforts were made by throwing lard on the waters to entice it close enough to be photographed, it finally flew out of sight, however not before the ornithologists had thoroughly studied it through binoculars for over a quarter of an hour.

Although both Mr. Job and Mr. Arthur kept a close watch for other specimens during the remaining five days of their trip no other petrel were sighted, and the specimen they did see was absolutely alone.

#### NEW DUCK SPECIES BREEDING IN LOUISIANA.

Since the establishment of the vast game and waterfowl preserves in Louisiana along the Gulf of Mexico, particularly the State Game Preserve and Marsh Island, it has been observed that there has been a marked increase in the species of waterfowl and shore birds that seek these marshes for breeding purposes.

According to a late report made by Stanley Clisby Arthur, ornithologist of the Conservation Commission of Louisiana, to his superior, President M. L. Alexander, four species of wild duck that go to the northern tier of states for the rearing of their young have remained on the protected areas of the southern state to perform that function.

The Wood duck (*Aix sponsa*); the Florida duck (*Anas fulvigula*), and in few numbers the Blue-winged teal (*Querquedula discors*) have, until the spring of 1915, constituted the Louisiana list of *Anseres* breeding within that state's borders. Observation and investigation by Mr. Arthur of the breeding birds this spring, which has only partially been completed, show that the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*); the Gadwall (*Chaulelasmus streperus*); and the Bald-pate (*Marcea americana*) nested in few numbers on Marsh Island. The conservation agent there noted that the height of the breeding season was from April 1st to May 15th. Nesting was observed as early as March 20th, however.

On June 17th the commander of the Conservation Commission's patrol boat "Louisiana" observed a flock of 28 Lesser Scaup (*Mareca affinis*) ducklings swimming in the waters of Lake Borgne. The little waterbirds were with the adult parents and a castnet was used in an endeavor to capture some of them to make sure of identification. According to Captain Sandras' report the ducklings were

but two weeks old, establishing beyond all doubt that they were bred in the Louisiana marshes.

The conservation agent on Marsh Island also discovered the Long-billed curlew (*Numenius americanus*) breeding on the marshland of the preserve under his patrol. During the visit of former President Theodore Roosevelt to the bird reservation along the Louisiana coast east of the Mississippi river during the early part of June, nests and eggs of the Man-o'-war bird (*Fregata aquila*) were found, thereby settling the question whether this bird is a Louisiana breeder or not.

#### NESTING OF A CHIMNEY SWIFT IN A HOLLOW TREE.

Several years ago, in company with an ornithological friend, Walter Bennett, I made a canoe trip through the big woods that cover the northern portion of Minnesota. At Walker, a lumber town on Leech Lake, we purchased a birch bark canoe of the Ojibway Indians and plunged into the wild, traversing a tangle of lakes and streams and swamps filled with interesting wild life, especially birds. Among our varied experiences, one of the most interesting was the discovery of a pair of tree-nesting chimney swifts. Of course, as is well known, this was the universal custom of these birds before the advent of the white man with his convenient chimneys. Like some other birds, the chimney swift has taken to modern improvements.

Far in the heart of the wilderness, a hundred miles from a lemon or a railroad, we one night pitched our white tent upon the clean, white sands of a little island. Behind us rose a large dead pine, its gnarled branches silhouetted sharply against the sky, upon which the turkey vultures came to perch and preen their feathers. That night the veery — the "wilderness bird" we called him — sang entrancingly long after all other bird-notes were hushed and darkness had settled upon the earth. Out on the lake rang out the wild demoniacal laughter of the loons. It was a wild spot, — remote, lonely.

The next day, as we sat beside our campfire, eating a meal, I noticed a chimney swift fly to a tall stub that stood upon the shore and disappear beneath a projecting twig. Examination disclosed a small hole, into which the bird had apparently entered. Further observation confirmed this conclusion. The birds were using the stub, presumably for breeding purposes. The next day presumption was changed to certainty. After chopping a hole in the base of the stub, my companion crawled in, and worming his way up the hollow interior, found a nest composed of sticks glued together