

GENERAL NOTES

A Royal Tern choked by a fish.—On Saturday, 20 October 1962, I found a Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) in distress in the edge of the surf on the north end of Tybee Island, Chatham County, Georgia. When first seen it was waving its wings feebly, but by the time I got to it, it was practically lifeless. There was a feeble heart-beat, which soon ceased. There was no external indication of the cause of death.

Later in the day, when it was skinned out carefully, the bird was found to have a fish, an Atlantic Croaker (*Micropogon undulatus*), firmly lodged in the pectoral arch. It was just too large to pass through. The pectoral arch, bounded by the branches of the furcula and the bony framework superior to it, is roughly triangular and nonexpandable. The fish also was roughly triangular in cross section back of the head. The bony spines of the dorsal fin had prevented the bird from disgorging the fish. The fish was 175 mm long and weighed 27 grams.

It is believed that the bird's death was caused by the closure of the windpipe and the blood vessels to the head. When skinning, I noted considerable serous fluid in the tissues of the neck and head, a condition often found in birds that have been killed by "squeezing" the thorax. Perhaps this condition follows the shutting off of the blood to the head.

The tern was an adult female, in good flesh, and with much subcutaneous fat. It weighed 567 grams.

This kind of happening is rare, for Royals Terns are numerous, and this mile of beach has been patrolled often and very few dead gulls or terns found. Several shrimp trawlers were operating a mile offshore, and perhaps this fish was thrown out with other trash fish. The gulls and larger terns gather around these trawlers in flocks when the trash fish from the nets are being discarded.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, 1231 East 50th Street, Savannah, Georgia, 11 November 1962.

Fulvous Tree Ducks in Michigan.—During the waterfowl hunting season three Fulvous Tree Ducks (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) were shot from a flock of ten on 14 October 1962, by Edwin Sobota and Gary Schwalbe of Monroe, Michigan. They gave two of the specimens to John Minick, a conservation officer, who in turn presented them to The University of Michigan after James Foote contacted me. I do not know the fate of the third duck.

All three birds were taken on North Cape (= Woodtick Peninsula) near the Consumers' Power Plant in Section 23, T8S, R8E, Monroe County, Michigan. The two specimens, which are now in The University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, were both females. The immature weighed 580 grams, had little fat, had an ovary 18×7 mm, had a bursa of Fabricius 16×6 mm, and had the gizzard one-third filled with unidentified seeds. The adult female weighed 590 grams, had little fat, had an ovary 13×4 mm, and had no bursa of Fabricius; the gizzard was not examined.

No mention whatever of the Fulvous Tree Duck is made in Barrows (1912. "Michigan Bird Life"), Wood (1951. "The Birds of Michigan"), or Zimmerman and Van Tyne (1959. "A Distributional Check-list of the Birds of Michigan"). It has occurred in Missouri and Minnesota as accidental, according to the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds (1957). The Check-list account does not include Michigan as having even accidental occurrences of this species. Thus, the present specimens constitute a unique record for Michigan and the surrounding region.—GEORGE S. HUNT, School of Natural Resources, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 12 November 1962.