

Auk' for April, 1902. Both birds were evidently on their spring northerly migration and were lost at sea and wandered here by accident. — WM. ALANSON BRYAN, *Bishop Museum, Honolulu, H. I.*

The Occurrence of Boobies in Numbers on the East Coast of Florida, during a Storm. — Two white Boobies (*Sula cyanops* and *S. piscator*) are given in the A. O. U. Check-List as occasional visitants to the Florida coast, but as actual records are meagre it is, perhaps, worth while to publish an account of a day, during a terrific storm, when I saw a species of small white booby in company with the Common Booby (*Sula sula*) fishing in large numbers off the beach of the East Peninsula. Unfortunately I was not able to secure a specimen or positively identify the species, though I feel sure it was *S. piscator* (or possibly *S. coryi* Maynard, if that bird is really distinct).

On February 12, 1895, occurred the second terrible 'freeze' of that memorable winter. At the time I was at Oak Lodge, on the East Peninsula of the Indian River, opposite Micco. For several days thereafter the weather continued to be very cold and unsettled, with high winds that drove the water out of the Indian River to such an extent that it was impossible to cross it in a boat, and culminated on Feb. 16, in a northeasterly gale accompanied by rain, of a violence seldom attained on the east coast of Florida in winter. About 10 o'clock of that morning (Feb. 16, 1895) Mrs. Latham came into the workshop where I was skinning my morning's catch, thankful to be indoors again out of the storm, and told me she had just been at the beach and had seen a great many birds there, among them what she thought were Gannets, fishing in the breakers. I instantly took my gun and started along the trail through the palmetto hummock, fighting my way foot by foot against the fury of the wind and rain. On arriving at the beach I was greeted by the wildest scene imaginable; huge breakers were rolling in over the shallow water and falling on the beach with tremendous noise; the rain, driven by the gale, came in sheets, but in spite of it the cutting white sand was blown with such force against my face and hands, that I had repeatedly to turn my back to the storm.

Vast numbers of Herring Gulls, Royal Terns and Bonaparte's Gulls sat huddled together in bunches on the upper beach, not daring to trust themselves to the elements. These great gatherings of gulls were very tame and allowed me to walk up close to them, and when they did take wing skimmed only a short distance along the crest of the beach and lit again, huddled together as before.

High up overhead an occasional Frigate Bird swept by on motionless wings, cutting directly into the teeth of the gale, or driving before it with apparent indifference. The stolid Pelicans, unmoved by the storm, proceeded as usual up and down the line of breakers, in little companies, with the same measured flight as in the finest weather, rising and falling as the huge breakers rolled under them.

But to me most interesting of all was a sight I had never before witnessed on the beach, although I had visited it every day;—as far as the eye could reach, up and down the line of surf, were great numbers of boobies flying back and forth and every now and then collecting over some school of small fish and diving from a height like a party of boys following each other off a spring-board. There were hundreds, perhaps thousands, of them. There were probably but two species, though of three styles of coloration. A comparatively small number were adults of the Common Booby (*Sula sula*), easily identified by their brown backs and heads and white bellies; next in numbers were young birds in wholly grayish brown plumage, but outnumbering both these together was a small white species with conspicuous blackish flight feathers. All these were of about one size.

For two hours I lay flat on the beach hoping to get a shot, but though the boobies came often to within a hundred yards of me and sometimes gathered together and fished in front of where I lay, none came quite close enough to shoot, keeping just outside the breakers. At the end of this time they began gradually, in small parties, to fly out to sea, till all had gone. From the way these birds behaved I do not think they were driven in by stress of weather, because all the time they were off the beach they were very busy fishing, and when they had done they gradually left again flying out to sea though the storm had not abated. It is my opinion, rather, that the boobies know by experience that during such a storm there is good fishing on the east Florida beach and come there to enjoy it.

While such records as this, where the species are not positively identified by the taking of specimens, are unsatisfactory in the extreme, yet this one, perhaps, is worth publishing as showing that the smaller boobies do sometimes visit the coast of east Florida in large numbers. Moreover, I am sure the white bird was *Sula piscator*; had it been *S. cyanops* I could not have failed to notice the larger size compared with the Common Booby, as I often saw them directly side by side.—OUTRAM BANGS, *Boston, Mass.*

Ardea cærulea again seen in Ohio.—On July 2, 1902, a beautiful specimen of this species was again seen along the canal (Portsmouth-Lake Erie Canal) near Waverly; it was so unsuspicious, that it allowed buggies to pass within a distance of twenty feet and a mistake in identification was excluded. As I had to move north a few days later, I could not observe the species any length of time. The early date this year seems to strengthen the opinion expressed last year, that this bird may breed in southern Ohio.—W. F. HENNINGER, *Waverly, Ohio.*

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*) in Nova Scotia.—It may be of interest to report that on Tuesday, April 1, 1902, while walking through the Quincy Market in Boston, I found in the



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