

On February 7 I picked up a dead specimen on the beach at Bridgeport and a few days later three more. The finding of these specimens was the first indication I had of the occurrence of the bird, as I had been absent from home during the winter until the above mentioned date.

At New Haven I saw a stuffed specimen in the store of Folsom & Co. and learned that it was secured at Saugatuck Harbor by Mr. D. C. Sanford, a government surveyor, who had also secured another at that place.

Mr. W. F. Davis of Stony Creek writes me that hundreds could be seen there from the 1st to the 10th of January, so tame they could be taken in the hand; they could fly but seemed hungry and fatigued, some being found five miles from the salt water; he thought many died of starvation. He adds that he used to see great numbers of them when a boy, at Nantucket Shoals, where they were called Murres.

At Stratford I found a stuffed specimen in the village drug store and another in the possession of Mr. L. B. Beers. They had been seen in large numbers and attracted general attention. They were described as very tame but no one that I talked with seemed to think that they had starved. Mr. Theodore Judson, keeper of the Stratford Light, assured me that he had seen the bird occasionally before, but had regarded it as rare.

Mr. Wm. H. Hayt, an associate member of the A. O. U., writes me from Stamford as follows: "The Murres were plentiful here from Dec. 20 to about Feb. 10. A large number were shot. Fourteen specimens fell under my own observation. They all seemed to be in the last stages of starvation. One was found by the road side at some distance from the shore where it had evidently fallen from exhaustion. The stomachs of those which I examined contained nothing but sand.

I received information from several other persons at different places but think the above sufficient to indicate the extent of the movement. As all the specimens I examined were Brännich's Murre, I refer all the notes to that species.

Since writing the above I have been informed by Mr. D. C. Sanford that from Penfield Reef Light House, off Black Rock, to the mouth of Saugatuck River "there were thousands of them, and hundreds were shot off Saugatuck."—C. K. AVERILL, Jr., *Bridgeport, Conn.*

The Sandhill Crane (*Grus mexicana*) in South Carolina.—On October 18, 1890, I heard a most remarkable sound, something like that made by blowing a large tin horn. I was told by one of the negroes on the plantation that it was a Wild Goose. Early in the morning of the following day I heard the note again and saw the bird flying in the heavens. One glance was enough to show me it was a Crane. After sailing about for some hours it flew down in a corn field among a drove of cows. I started in pursuit with my brother-in-law: he taking a stand, and I one, about a hundred yards away. The bird rose but sailed away from both of us,—not near enough for a shot. It sailed about in circles until it was lost to our view.

On the 21st I started to the corn field again with the hope of seeing the bird. Upon shooting four Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*), the Crane arose from the field where it had been feeding along with the cows and flew about a mile away. Away I went in pursuit but found it was impossible to get nearer than a hundred yards without being seen.

I waited under some bushes for an hour hoping it would come nearer. The whole time the bird remained on the ground it was making the trumpet-like sound. Finally it flew and lit about half a mile off in a myrtle pasture, where there were two ponds of water. I knew I would in the end secure the bird, so walking cautiously about I at last saw the red on his head. He was standing in the middle of the pond, and as he rose I secured him. The bird is an adult male in perfect plumage. Although the specimen is considerably smaller than average *Grus mexicana*, for the present it may stand as such.

This is the first record of the capture of this bird in the State, to my knowledge.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mt. Pleasant, S. C.*

Capture of a Fourth Specimen of *Ardetta neoxena*.—A specimen of *Ardetta neoxena* was shot on the Kissimmee River, Florida, by Mr. R. C. Stewart, on May 19, 1890. The bird is a male in full plumage, and is apparently exactly like the type. Mr. Stewart claims to have seen another, but he was unable to secure it. This is I believe the fourth specimen of the species known to have been taken, three of them having been recorded from the lower Kissimmee or Okeechobee region, and the fourth is claimed to have been killed in Ontario, Canada, and was sent to Mr. Ridgway for examination by Mr. McIlwraith.—CHARLES B. CORY, *Boston, Mass.*

Notes on the Nest and Habits of Cory's Bittern (*Botaurus neoxenus*).—Mr. J. F. Menge of Fort Meyers, Florida, has kindly written me the following account of a nest of Cory's Bittern. He is familiar with the bird and is the gentleman who collected and sent to me the specimen mentioned in 'The Auk,' Vol. VI, 1889, p. 317. This letter is under date of May 20, 1891, and I quote from it as follows:

"I herewith send you notes concerning the Bittern as requested by Mr. J. W. Atkins, first found on 8th of June, 1890, two and a half miles above Fort Thompson, Florida, in a small willow swamp on the borders of Lake Flint. It was built of willow twigs and lined inside with maiden cane leaves. It was in a low bush two feet and a half above the surface of the water. There were four young birds, about two-thirds grown in the nest. I had one of the old birds in my hand, which I think was the female. She was not inclined to fight and would not leave the nest. The other old bird was two or three feet from me and seemed a much larger bird. I did not disturb them and when I let the old bird go she hopped back on her nest as though she were accustomed to being handled. The Brown Bittern [local name for *Botaurus exilis*. *B. neoxenus* being known as the Black Bittern—W. E. D. S.] will fight, for I have had them come up