

Branta canadensis.—At Prince Edward Island on September 6, 7, and 8, 1892, Canada Geese gathered at Hogg Island flats, at the mouth of Richmond Bay, to a greater extent than has ever been known before at this season of the year, estimates of the number being impossible. On September 9 they rose up in the air, and remained in sight some thirty minutes. As watched from a distance of about two miles they had the appearance of a large thunder cloud over a mile in length. Mr. William Everett of Dorchester, Mass., who visits Prince Edward Island every season has kindly furnished me with the above information.

Mr. H. G. Nutter of Boston informs me that he saw at Ponkapog Pond, Mass., Oct. 17, 1892, four flocks of Canada Geese flying southwest. One flock contained seven birds; one, eleven; one, thirty-two; and the other, forty to fifty.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Branta bernicla at Nantucket, Massachusetts.—I am informed by Mr. Charles E. Snow that on Nov. 22, 1892, while shooting at the extreme western end of Nantucket, he saw large numbers of Brant (*Branta bernicla*) flying towards the southwest. They passed mostly through the 'opening' between the islands of Nantucket and Tuckernuck. Some of the flocks contained from one to two hundred birds. He also noted several hundred American Eider Ducks (*Somateria dresseri*) well up in the air flying in the same direction. The wind was north-northwest and northwest.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Notes on the American Bittern.—Late last September a female *Botaurus lentiginosus* was discovered by some boys upon the margin of a small pond at a short distance behind my residence. It was a most unusual locality for the species to occur, and its coming there appeared to have been due to the fact that the bird was exhausted by long flight. After flying a few yards it was easily captured, and was brought to me alive, without having received any bodily harm whatever. Next morning it had recovered no little of its strength, and it was remarkable to observe how noiselessly and with what ease it could fly about a furnished room without overturning any small object of furniture. It gracefully flew up from the floor and perched upon the curtain rod of a high window, where it sat for an hour or more in a characteristic position, as motionless as a statue. If approached when upon the ground, it eyed you keenly, assumed a squatting posture, widely spread out the feathers at either side of the neck, while it slightly raised those of the rest of the body and its wings; and finally, when it considered you within the proper distance, drew all its plumage close to its body and delivered, as quick as a flash, a darting blow with its beak. This thrust, I am sure, is generally given with sufficient violence to pierce one nearly through an eye, even were the lid instinctively drawn down to protect that organ. By such a blow it can easily stab a large frog through and through its head, impaling the creature upon the end of its beak,—a feat I have seen the bird perform. A loud blowing noise accompanies this attack of the Bittern, which varies in its intensity,