

The Yellow-billed Tropic Bird near Phoenix, Arizona. — In April, 1905, a specimen of the Yellow-billed Tropic Bird (*Phaëthon americanus*) was taken alive near Phoenix, Arizona. The bird had dropped in a field from utter exhaustion. The bird, or birds, for there might have been more of them, probably came up by way of the Gulf of California, thence following the Gila River, became bewildered and lost. — GEO. F. BRENINGER, *Phoenix, Arizona.*

Fregata aquila at San Pablo Bay, California. — A specimen of this southern species was shot, June 20, 1905, by P. J. Walsh at Black Point, Marin Co., at the mouth of Petaluma Creek, a tributary of San Pablo Bay. The bird, an immature male, was taken to a local taxidermist where I had the pleasure of examining it. — EDWARD WINSLOW GIFFORD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, Cal.*

Brant's Nest.—Last April I bought a set of four Brant's (*Branta bernicla leucogastra*) eggs with the nest of Mr. J. S. Warmbath of Washington, D. C. As this is one of the first nests of this bird found, it may be of interest to record it.

Mr. Warmbath accompanied Lieut. Peary's supply ship to Cape Sabine, Ellesmere Land, leaving July, 1899, and returning in October, 1901.

The nest was found, June 17, 1900, on a ledge of rock, 20 feet from the ground among Eider Ducks' and Glaucous Gulls' nests. Both birds were shot.

Mr. Warmbath says: "The Brant's eggs were not incubated, but quite fresh, as I had the pleasure of eating the contents when blown. It was the first taste of any kind of eggs I had had for about twelve months."

The female was shot on a slight elevation above the nest and the male in the water near it. On the same island Eider Ducks and Glaucous Gulls were nesting.

All the islands and the mainland of Buchanan Bay were visited that season, but no other Brant's nest was found. The next year Mr. Warmbath shot several specimens, but found no more eggs.

He has one egg which he secured in Greenland in 1901 and knows of two more secured by Eskimos the same season in Greenland which were turned over to Lieut. Peary.

The eggs are dull creamy white and smaller than the eggs of the Black Brant (*Branta nigricans*). The measurements are as follows: 2.40 inches \times 1.60, 2.30 \times 1.75, 2.30 \times 1.65, 2.40 \times 1.70 inches. — JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*

A Brood of Albino Spoonbill Ducks (*Spatula clypeata*). — I am much indebted to Mr. Alex. Calder, taxidermist, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, for a most striking photograph of three mounted Spoonbill Ducks, as white as the driven snow. The most interesting feature is that they all belonged to the same brood. Mr. Calder writes under date of June 16, 1905: "They

were pure white with yellow legs and bills and bluish eyes. I shot them near the Saskatchewan River at a point near Edmonton, in June, 1904. These birds were in a flock of their own species and no white parent duck was noticed during the breeding season. When the birds were some weeks old they were seen by Mr. Grant, a ranchman, who owns the pond near which they were hatched. He saw the young white ducks swimming in the pond, and curious to find out what they were he and another man swam into the pond and caught the ducks, which they distinctly saw diving under the water. When they discovered what they were, Mr. Grant released them and the specimens which I got are the result. There were five birds in all, and I succeeded in getting three of them, two having disappeared the day before I got there." The 'American Field' of Chicago has an albino specimen of this duck in its collection. — RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Rare Ducks near Bridgewater, Mass.—Ornithologists may be interested to know that Mr. Daniel B. Davis on Oct. 22, 1904, at Lake Nippinickett, Bridgewater, Plymouth Co., Mass., shot a Shoveller (*Spatula clypeata*). This bird, together with a number of others of different species, was about to be disposed of in ordinary ways when fortunately Mr. Joseph E. Bassett identified and purchased it.

Other interesting captures at this lake are as follows: Two specimens of the Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*), by Joseph E. Bassett, Nov. 20, 1895. A King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*), Oct. 21, 1899, also by Joseph E. Bassett. Two Gadwalls (*Chaulelasmus streperus*), Oct. 18, 1901, by Mr. Harry P. Sturtevant.

With the exception of one of the Ringnecks the skins of the above are in the writer's possession. — ARTHUR C. DYKE, *Bridgewater, Mass.*

Rallus elegans and Iornornis martinica in Massachusetts.—While examining recently the collection of bird skins of Mr. Alfred Hill of Belmont I was interested to find among them a male King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) which was taken Dec. 30, 1896, at Cambridge, and which furnishes the first record of the species for the vicinity. The bird was caught on the ice of a small pond in the Fresh Pond marshes. It was in good plumage but was much emaciated and died in the night following the day of its capture.

I am indebted to Dr. L. C. Jones of Malden for the information that there came into his possession in April, 1902, a fine male Purple Gallinule (*Iornornis martinica*) which was shot at Sandwich by John McArdle, a local gunner. — J. A. FARLEY, *Boston, Mass.*

The Ruff at Camden, Maine.—I wish to record the capture of a female Ruff (*Pavoncella pugnax*) at Camden, Maine, Sept. 14, 1900, by Mr. Sidney Clark. This skin I purchased of Charles K. Worthen, Warsaw, Ill. — JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*