

as to whether this influx of birds was attributable to excessively hot weather. To this I would say emphatically, no. The Egret, it is true, is now a very rare species in either Pennsylvania or New Jersey but the Little Blue Heron invades both States periodically during late summer. Though personally I have seen but few birds, yet records have come to me with great regularity of their occurrence during the last four years at numerous localities in widely separated parts of New Jersey (barring the mountains), while in Pennsylvania they are even taken occasionally in the Alleghanies. At certain periods in late August they may even be called abundant. It would seem that each year after the breeding season they wander north, usually in flocks, and spend August and the first half of September on northern feeding grounds.— R. C. HARLOW, *State College, Pa.*

The Yellow Rail at Salem, New Jersey.— I have recently secured from a Mr. McKee of Philadelphia a mounted specimen of the Yellow Rail, with full data, which Mr. McKee took at Salem, New Jersey, on October 24, 1908. The bird is an adult female in fine plumage but very poorly prepared. This is the most recent capture of the Yellow Rail in the State and the fourth record for the State.— R. C. HARLOW, *State College, Pa.*

The Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis*) in the District of Columbia.— Through the courtesy of Mr. H. M. Darling, of Washington, D. C., the Biological Survey has recently received a specimen of the little Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis*), collected on the Eastern Branch of the Potomac, September 1, 1908. The specimen is adult, mounted, but with the sex unmarked. At least three earlier records of the occurrence of this species in the District of Columbia have been published. In September, 1861, the bird was reported as seen by Coues and Prentiss.¹ On June 6, 1879, a male (No. 78,384, U. S. National Museum) was collected by Shekells near Washington²; and on May 29, 1891, a specimen was taken by R. L. Jones and recorded by E. J. Brown.³ The specimen collected by Mr. Darling is apparently the third actually captured, and the fourth record for Washington.

The Black Rail has also been taken by John Dowell at Piscataway, Prince George County, Maryland, Sept. 25, 1877 (No. 97,717, U. S. National Museum),² and several specimens are said to have been taken on the Patuxent River in Maryland, not far from the northeastern boundary of the District.— T. S. PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

Occurrence of the Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) off the coast of Nova Scotia.— In October, 1907, I secured an adult female specimen of this small European Curlew which has an interesting history. On May 23, 1906, it came aboard the steamship 'Bostonian' when she was westward

¹ Avifauna Columbiana, p. 101, 1883.

² Auk, Vol. XXIV, p. 209, 1907.

³ Ornithologist and Oölogist, Vol. XVI, p. 108, 1891.

bound and not far to the southward of Sable Island, Nova Scotia or, to quote the manuscript record literally, in "Lat. about 43° N., and Long. 60° W." "There had been a northeast gale for five days," which perhaps accounts for the occurrence of the bird so far to the westward. For two days previous to its capture it had been seen following the steamer. When it sought refuge on her decks it was utterly exhausted and very much emaciated, being, indeed, "nothing but skin and bones." "The men on board tried" to revive it "with food (probably corn beef and hard tack) . . . but it died a short time before the steamer reached port." Her Second Officer, S. A. Cornwell by name, took it in the flesh to D. B. Mackie of Malden, Massachusetts, by whom it was skinned, sexed and mounted and from whom I afterwards purchased it, through the kind offices of Dr. Lombard C. Jones, also of Malden. I am further indebted to the latter gentleman for the above data, all of which I have compiled from letters written by him to Mr. Walter Deane in 1907, and from one addressed to me personally, that has come within the past week.

It would perhaps be not wholly unreasonable to maintain that the record just given entitles the Whimbrel to a place in New England lists; for the bird to which it relates had apparently flown unaided to within six hundred miles of the sea coast of New Hampshire, in about the latitude of Portsmouth, and similar instances of "casual occurrences" have been accepted on no better evidence than this. In any case the specimen furnishes a definite and perfectly satisfactory North American record of a European species which, if I am not mistaken in my recollection, has been found previously on this side of the Atlantic only in Greenland, where it is said to have been taken a dozen times or more.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*).—Mr. Rudolph Borchardt, the pioneer taxidermist of Denver, informs me that in the fall of 1868 he killed three Wild Turkeys, out of a flock of twenty-five or thirty, in the oak brush in what is known as the Oak Hills, about 6 miles above the mouth of Plum Creek, which empties into the Platte River, south of Denver. The remaining members of the flock were, one by one, killed by the Indians. These birds had frequented this locality for two or three years previous. He states also that these were the last and only Wild Turkeys that he ever heard of within a good many miles of Denver.—A. H. FELGER, *Denver, Colo.*

Capture of a Bald Eagle near Chicago, Ill.—On January 10, 1909, we shot an immature Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) on the shore of Lake Michigan at Glencoe, Illinois. The bird was flying low over the ice that piles up along the beach.—THORNE C. TAYLOR, HUBBARD WOODS, and WALTER T. FISHER, *Chicago, Ill.*

The Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) in **Western Minnesota**.—A specimen of this falcon was taken Sept. 11, 1894, in Traverse County, Minnesota,