

'Key to the Water Birds of Florida' is that "it occasionally wanders to our shores." In Bulletin No. 26 of the Biological Survey, Wells W. Cooke in his article 'Distribution and Migration of North American Ducks, Geese and Swans' says, in respect to the European Widgeon, that "on the Atlantic coast the dates are almost entirely in the fall and winter. . . . there are only three records after February 5." If this is the case, and I find no evidence to the contrary, this is the fourth record only after the date he mentions, for the Atlantic coast.—S. PRESCOTT FAY, *Boston, Mass.*

Two Records of the Golden-eye at De Funiak Springs, Florida.— On December 5, 1907, an adult female Golden-eye Duck (*Clangula clangula americana*) was taken on a small fresh-water lake near De Funiak Springs, Florida. The specimen was taken by M. Harry Moore, and mounted by him. It was sent to the American Museum of Natural History, and identified by W. De W. Miller from an examination of the specimen.

On November 20, 1909, an adult female of the same species was seen on the same lake. It was observed under such favorable conditions that there was no doubt in my mind as to the identification.

Prof. Wells W. Cooke says that this is "almost the extreme limit of its southern range, as it has been noted only a few times in Florida."—G. CLYDE FISHER, *De Funiak Springs, Florida.*

Nesting of the Black Duck in Yates County, N. Y.— May 26, 1907, I found a nest of the Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) in Potter Swamp. The locality was a young second growth of maple, beech and ash of four to eight inches in diameter. The ground was nearly dry and covered with a rank growth of ferns and skunk cabbage. The female was flushed from a bunch of six small maples growing from a mound about three feet above the surrounding ground and there in the center of the bunch of trees were six eggs layed on a few broken fern stems and dead leaves.

On my next visit (June 2) there were nine eggs and a nice lot of down had been placed around and among the eggs. A farmer told Mr. C. F. Stone of finding a nest of this duck in Potter Swamp in 1892 or 1893, but this is the first authentic record to my knowledge.—VERDI BURTCR, *Branchport, N. Y.*

A Bittern taken in West Florida.— On November 17, 1909, an adult male Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) was taken near De Funiak Springs, Florida. This is the first individual of this species that I have seen in this vicinity in the two and one-half years that I have been here, so I conclude that it is probably somewhat rare. This specimen, which was in excellent condition, was taken in a dry 'broom-sedge' field,— a rather unusual place, it seemed to me. Its stomach contained two grasshoppers which it had probably captured in this field. The bird was killed by Wm. F. Jones while out quail hunting.

While the large Bittern may be rare in this section, its smaller relative, the Least Bittern, is quite common in suitable localities, and breeds here.— G. CLYDE FISHER, *De Funiak Springs, Florida*.

Northern Phalarope in Bladen County, North Carolina.— On September 22, 1909, I saw three phalaropes on White Lake. It was a little after sundown and I was out on the lake, fishing, without a gun. I followed them up and was certain of their identity (as to being phalaropes, that is), getting within fifteen yards or so of them. The day following, September 23, I was out on the lake in both morning and afternoon, covering the lake pretty thoroughly, but none were seen. I went out fishing about sundown, with gun this time, and saw five; flushed them just out of range. They went off quite a distance and then circled round almost to the place from which they were flushed. I paddled up quite close and killed three, all of which proved to be Northern Phalaropes (*Lobipes lobatus*). All were in fair bodily condition and were very active on the water, dodging about in a most erratic manner after food and reminding me very much, in their movements, of a whirligig beetle. Occasionally one would fly a few feet as if attracted by an insect or other food item. They were not at all shy. They flew well and strongly, reminding me of some of the sandpipers, the flight being always near the surface.

On the same date I saw two Black Terns (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*) on the lake. On the next day, September 24, I saw several very light colored terns which I suppose were immature Black Terns. These were fishing, a thing I have never seen Black Terns indulge in.— H. H. BRIMLEY, *Raleigh, N. C.*

Wilson's Snipe Wintering near Boston, Mass.— Mr. C. A. Clark of Lynn informs me that at least seven Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) are wintering not far from that city in a meadow on the northeast side of Hall's Brook, which runs into Flax Pond. There have been open places in the brook all winter and the birds come out of the meadow and are seen "boring" into the mud with their long bills. When everything has been locked in frost and snow they have been seen thrusting their long bills down through the snow. The flock was first noticed by Mr. Clark on November 12, 1909, and he has watched them up to date, January 22, 1910.

I have notes of the occurrences of single snipe occasionally about brooks and springs in January, but have never before heard of such a number of them here in winter. The weather of the month has been very severe.— E. H. FORBUSH, *Boston, Mass.*

Another Golden Eagle taken in West Florida.— On February 3, 1910, an adult Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) was taken about nine miles north of De Funiak Springs, Florida. This is the fourth individual of this species taken in this vicinity during the past two and one-half years. (See 'The Auk,' XXVII, 1910, 80.)— G. CLYDE FISHER, *De Funiak Springs, Florida*.