

Snow Geese and Swans on Currituck Sound, North Carolina. So long as conditions remain the same, the birds being very wary, and having little market value there is no incentive to kill them, nothing occurring during their stay in the United States will materially lessen the numbers, nor even interfere with the increase of these fine birds. However, if they should become an object of pursuit, it is equally true that they would diminish very rapidly.

Specimens of *Anas fulvigula maculosa* were obtained at Belle Isle, La., March 2, 1910. A male *Anas tristis* was apparently mated with one of the mottled ducks. Some of the hunters of Louisiana urge an extension of the open season on the plea that the Mottled Ducks leave the State in winter. I may say, however, that all of the evidence of intelligent persons living in the range of the species, confirms what has often been recorded, namely, that the Mottled Duck is resident. They may be absent in winter from localities they frequent even in large numbers in summer, but they remain in the same general region. As one hunter expressed it "they spread out." The bird is not well known among the hunters at large over the State, from the fact that the range is limited to a narrow strip along the coast. They have heard of it, however, under the names of Summer or Mexican French Duck, or Mallard, and as they get no such duck when shooting, jump to the conclusion that it migrates before the hunting season. Hence the clamor to get at it.—W. L. McATEE, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Another King Rail in Massachusetts.—Mr. Richard M. Russell shot a King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) on Sandy Neck, West Barnstable, Mass., on December 30 or 31, 1909. This is I believe the ninth record for the State. The bird was very emaciated when shot, and quite tame. Mr. Russell has deposited the specimen, mounted, in this Museum from which it will be transferred to the Boston Society of Natural History.—R. HEBER HOWE, JR., *Thoreau Museum, Concord, Mass.*

Knot (*Tringa canutus*) Wintering in Massachusetts.—The winter records of our shore birds are so scanty that any new addition should be very welcome, and in this connection I want to record the taking of two Knots at Chatham on Dec. 31, 1909—the very last day of the year. A friend of mine to whom the birds were sent identified them, which he described as being in the immature gray plumage and in as good condition as fat young birds killed in the early fall. A party from Chatham were out after rabbits on Monomoy Island near the flats and marshes which the shore birds frequent in summer, when these two birds flew by. As they were thought to be Black-bellied Plover the corresponding whistle was given, whereupon both birds wheeled about, and as they came nearer they were seen to be Knots. They were shot and both fell on solid ice. As the last week in December was bitterly cold, in fact the coldest part

of the winter, for the thermometer several times touched zero, it seems strange that these birds should have stayed north, especially as everything was frozen up and the flats and feeding grounds were covered with ice. How they managed to find any sustenance, to say nothing of their being fat, seems a mystery. That same week I was on Martha's Vineyard Island where I found a male Chewink wintering, which I reported in 'The Auk,' Volume XXVII, p. 220.—S. PRESCOTT FAY, *Boston, Mass.*

Breeding of the Long-eared Owl in Philadelphia County, Pa.—It appears almost incredible that any of our larger hawks and owls can exist in such a densely populated locality as Philadelphia, yet, to our surprise and wonder, they somehow manage to subsist, despite the ruthless warfare waged against them by ignorant gunners and farmers, who kill them upon every occasion. In view of these facts it is a mystery to me why our larger Raptores have not long ago been extirpated as breeders in this vicinity, but such seems not to have as yet happened, as their occasional discovery nesting indicates.

The Long-eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*) is one of these much maligned species. It now is of decidedly scarce occurrence even as a winter visitant and is a rare breeder. It is so rare in Philadelphia that I have not seen any since December, 1902, and have only several other subsequent records of them from near the city.

Although I have never actually found a nest in Philadelphia I have seen the young, which establishes a record of its breeding. On June 9, 1898, in a big, thick wood at Frankford, I discovered four fledgling Long-eared Owls huddled together about thirty feet up in a scrubby scarlet oak. When disturbed they flew weakly about in a bewildered manner in all directions, and their discovery by the inhabitants of the wood had made them almost distracted. They were evidently raised in one of the many Crow's nests in the wood. A pair of Long-eared Owls was seen in this wood on March 14, 1902, but subsequent search for them and their nest was fruitless, and I have no doubt that the birds were shot.—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Harrowgate, Philadelphia, Pa.*

Northwestern Saw-whet and Snowy Owls in Oregon.—On Nov. 30, 1909, a hunter shot a fine adult female Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) at Sheridan, Dougal Co., Oregon. It was perched on a large stump beside the trail in heavy forest. Mr. Frank Baker, a Portland, Oregon, taxidermist, has three Northwestern Saw-whet Owls (*Cryptoglaux acadica scotwa*) collected in Douglas County during the summer of 1899. Both these Owls are rare in this part of the State.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon.*

♀ A Hybrid Flicker in Eastern Missouri.—On Feb. 6, 1910, on the bank of the Meramec River, ten miles southwest of St. Louis, I found dead a Flicker, a hybrid of the Northern (*Colaptes auratus lutes*) and Red-shafted