

regularly there, few Surf Scoters frequent this stream.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

**Early Date for the Ruddy Duck.**—On Labor Day, Sept. 5, 1910, a single Ruddy Duck was seen in Oldham Pond, Pembroke, Mass., by Mr. A. B. Gardner, who assures me that it was not a cripple, and had not been about the pond before that date. There can be no mistake as to the identity of this bird, as Mr. Gardner is perfectly familiar with the species and paddled to within a few yards of this individual.—J. C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

**A Wood Ibis Record for Michigan.**—June 19, 1910, a Wood Ibis, *Mycteria americana*, was taken near Monroe, Monroe County, Mich. (on the west shore of Lake Erie), by Mr. J. A. Peterson of that city who brought it in to the shop of Mr. L. H. Eppinger to be mounted, where I examined it in the flesh. It was a juvenile bird, so shot as to be of indeterminate sex. As a matter of record, a photograph of the mounted bird was made and preserved. The species has been in the hypothetical list for this State for some time but this appears to be the first fully authenticated record for it within our Michigan boundaries.—P. A. TAVERNER, *Highland Park, Mich.*

**The Nuptial Plumes of Bitterns: A Correction.**—In the last number of 'The Auk' (Vol. XXVIII, Jan., 1911, p. 100) I quoted, from an article written by Agnes M. Learned and published in 'Bird-Lore' (Vol. X, No. 3, May-June, 1908, pp. 106-108), a paragraph relating to the white nuptial plumes of the American Bittern. This I characterized as "rather curiously incomplete," failing to notice that it is led up to and made perfectly intelligible by two or three lines which occur above it on the same page in the midst of matter not closely kindred. They run as follows: "Here we saw, one perfect Sunday morning in June (the 9th), the Bittern; but not as we had seen him before, for on his back he wore two clusters of beautiful white plumes that fluttered softly in the morning air."

I trust that Miss Learned will forgive me for overlooking this essential and gracefully worded passage. How I could have done so is difficult to understand for I read her article no less than three times — as I thought, with care. Apparently my eyes see Bittern plumes better in Concord bogs than in printed text; but then light within doors is no longer what it used to be, as every oldish person knows.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Nesting of the King and Virginia Rails (*Rallus elegans et virginianus*) in Philadelphia County, Pa.**—KING RAIL. In 'The Auk,' Vol. XXV, p. 218, I reported having found two nests of this species at Bridesburg, in the northeastern part of this county, where it is a very rare breeder, and now desire to place on record the discovery of two subsequent nests.