

was observed to fly for several hundred yards, with characteristic speed and strength. That it was not a new comer is indicated by the fact that Mr. John Whitney, a man with a gunner's keen knowledge of the Anatinæ, had reported some weeks earlier, a Pintail wintering in the vicinity. That the bird was strong of wing, after, evidently, surviving the low temperature, of the previous week, which ranged each night below zero Fahrenheit, indicates that it had remained through choice, rather than necessity, and with the foregoing notes, shows that the Pintail occasionally spends at least a considerable part of the winter as far northeast as Portland, Maine.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Portland, Me.*

**White-winged Scoter** (*Oidemia deglandi*) **in Minnesota.**—Late in the Autumn of 1905 a local hunter of this city shot an adult male White-winged Scoter on Lake Minnetonka. I examined this duck in the flesh and tried to buy it but the owner preferred to keep it and had it mounted by the late Henry W. Howling of Minneapolis. It was subsequently destroyed by a house cat.

On Nov. 14, 1911, I secured from a local hunter an adult female in perfect plumage, shot on Lake Minnewashta some two miles distant from this village. This was the only one seen and was not near any other species of duck. Cold weather with snow-storms had prevailed for three days prior to its capture. It was fat and in good condition.—ALBERT LANO, *Excelsior, Minn.*

**The Bittern** (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) **Wintering in New Jersey.**—On January 21, 1912, an adult Bittern was brought to me alive by my nephew, Robert W. Moore. It had been caught by him the day previous while he was skating at Walker's Pond about a mile and a half southeast of Haddonfield, N. J. For several days the bird had been noted about the pond in a weakened condition. No wounds were discoverable, but its stomach was empty and, I have no doubt, it was weak from lack of food. Two days after it was captured it died in captivity and was mounted.

Since the 5th of January snow had covered the ground and the extraordinary continuance of the freezing weather from that date to the 20th must have made the securing of its chosen food impossible. Possibly the unusual period of warm weather, which lasted throughout the early winter to January 5, tempted this bird, as well as many other species which usually go south, to winter with us. The latest previous record for the state seems to have been November 19, 1878, at a point much farther south in Cape May Co., and the earliest spring record March 30, so that this instance may fairly be termed the first recorded case of this species wintering in the state.—ROBERT THOMAS MOORE, *Haddonfield, N. J.*

**Recent Occurrence of the Egret** (*Herodias egretta*) **near Portland, Maine.**—Although a few authentic records have been made of the occurrence in Maine of the Egret (*Herodias egretta*), the increasing scarcity of

the species in its usual haunts renders especially interesting the recent capture of a beautiful adult example near Portland. This, a female in full nuptial plumage, was shot not far from Black Rock, Scarborough, on April 23, 1911, and was brought to me in the flesh. It is now included in my collection.—HENRY H. BROCK, *Portland, Maine*.

**The Snowy Egret in New Mexico.**—The writer has to record another occurrence of this species (*Egretta c. candissima*) in a locality near to the one of his previous record ('The Auk,' January 1909, p. 76).

On October 23, 1911, the writer examined, at the ranch of Mr. Montoya (which is at the junction of the East Fork of the Gila River, and Diamond Creek, N. Mex.) a skin of this species taken from an adult bird shot by Mr. Montoya's son near the confluence of Black Canyon, and the East Fork of the Gila River, N. Mex., in April, 1910. The bird had been shot with a rifle, and in the skinning, was so damaged, that its plume characteristics were not available for sex determination. The present record makes the third specimen of this beautiful little Egret taken within a circle whose diameter is less than one hundred miles, the two other records being the one mentioned above, and one by Maj. E. L. Munson, U. S. A., in 'The Auk' of April, 1907, p. 212.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

**King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) at Springfield, Mass.**—On the thirtieth day of August, 1911, a King Rail was captured in the wild rice that is found in abundance along the shores of the Connecticut river a few miles below Springfield. There are but two previous records of the occurrence of this bird in the Connecticut valley near Springfield.—ROBERT O. MCCRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

**Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) in Massachusetts.**—During the fall of 1911, three specimens of the above Rail, which is generally supposed to be rare in this state, were brought to my attention. Curiously enough two of these were shot at the same place though at very different dates. The first one was shot on October 3 at West Roxbury by Mr. W. P. Henderson. The second was taken at Chatham on October 2 by Mr. John J. Chickering. The third was shot on the very late date of November 25 also at Chatham by Mr. Russell Bearse. This latter specimen was larger and darker than the others and the yellow on the breast was not so bright. I saw all of these birds at the store of Mr. C. Emerson Brown, the Boston taxidermist, where I carefully examined them.—S. PRESCOTT FAY, *Boston, Mass.*

**Yellow Rail in Michigan. A Correction.**—In 'The Auk' for January, 1912, p. 101, in my notes on the Yellow Rail, *Coturnicops noveboracensis*, appears the following: "This is the second recorded Michigan specimen and the third noted in Wayne County." This is, of course, a