

grounds, but when they returned this year, conditons were altered, the reservoir being filled to the brim. This compelled the birds to hunt for a different feeding ground and in hunting about they found my pond.—  
JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*

**Ocracoke Water Bird Notes.**— On Royal Shoal, a small island belonging to the North Carolina Audubon Society, and situated some eight or nine miles northwest of Ocracoke, we found the following birds nesting: Laughing Gull, Common Tern and Oyster-catcher. The Gulls were in the midst of their laying, as were the Common Terns. Three pairs of Oyster-catchers inhabited the island. One nest was found with the eggs about ready to hatch, and one pair had young nearly grown, two being the complement in each case. The Black Skimmers were preparing their nesting hollows, but had not yet begun to lay. The Royal Terns seem to have almost deserted this island — where they were so numerous four or five years ago — for islands farther to the eastward, and the Least Terns are mostly back on the beaches.

The total number of eggs of the Laughing Gull and Common Tern was something over two hundred.

A flock of twenty Cormorants left the 'lump' as we approached.

A small petrel, presumably a Wilson's, was seen flying up the sound on May 23, after a rather stormy night. On the same date we found Black Skimmers very plentiful, though not yet laying, on the island in the middle of Ocracoke Inlet, with a few Common Terns nesting. Common Tern, Least Tern and Oyster-catcher were all, apparently, nesting on the beach, the Common Terns mostly on the south side of the Inlet. Young of the Oyster-catcher were seen, from a quarter grown up to the flying stage, in each case in broods of two.

This island was almost completely swept by the storm tide of the previous night, which may have destroyed a good many Tern eggs. There were many more birds around than the number of nests warranted. The few nests found were all on the small, unswept area, of course.— H. H. BRIMLEY, *Raleigh, N. C.*

**Oreortyx in Idaho.**— Notes appearing in 'The Auk' of April, 1911 and 1912, refer to the range of *Oreortyx* being extended eastward to near the Idaho-Oregon line,— specifically, Vale, Oregon. My observation is that not only has it been long established in southwest Idaho, but that its range extends at least 125 miles beyond the Oregon line.

Four years ago a covey of eight along Indian Creek several miles northwest of Nampa was wiped out by hunters. Two years ago a number were taken in the Boise bottoms eight miles north of this place. For ten years more they have been common in the Owyhee foothills some forty miles south of Nampa; in fact, so numerous are they that hunters from here regularly visit that section at the opening of the shooting season, two guns on one occasion killing 44 Quail in two hours.

A rancher from Twin Falls, 100 miles south and 145 miles east of Vale, Ore., tells me the 'Blue Quail' appeared there several years ago, while a report from Shoshone, 75 m. south and 150 east of Vale, says they are becoming plentiful near that place. I am unable to verify by personal observation either of these last reports, but have no reason to doubt them.

It is a fair supposition that the birds taken near Nampa were 'explorers,' merely crossing the valley to the hills beyond, where they will doubtless be found soon if indeed they are not already established there.

I have examined numerous birds in the flesh from the Owyhee section and would pronounce them typical *plumifera*, though I have not the material in my collection for a comparison. Hunters insist that they find another variety, similar in coloring but smaller and with shorter plumes.—L. E. WYMAN, *Nampa, Ida.*

**Passenger Pigeon** (*Ectopistes migratorius*) **in Alberta.**—The records of the Passenger Pigeon printed of late in 'The Auk,'<sup>1</sup> cover practically all of its former range except the extreme northwest. The account of its occurrence in Alberta is contained in a little known book entitled 'Saskatchewan and the Rocky Mountains. A diary and narrative of travel, sport, and adventure, during a journey through the Hudson's Bay Company's Territories in 1859 and 1860. By the Earl of Southesk.' Edinburgh, 1875, 1-448. On May 28, 1859, when in northwestern Minnesota near Pembina, he says, "I stalked and shot some pigeons." When near Qu' Appelle Fort, Saskatchewan, July 2, they "discovered a few pigeons in a little grove." From Edmonton, Alberta, the party went westward and August 22, when near the Lobstick River the record reads, "We also saw a good many pigeons, one of which I shot with my rifle. They were plump, compact little birds, and made delicious eating." The next day, when a few miles further west, two were shot.

These are apparently the first and only records of the Passenger Pigeon in Alberta.—WELLS W. COOKE, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**The Band-tailed Pigeon** (*Columba fasciata fasciata*) **in North Dakota.**—Recently I have been having some interesting correspondence with Mr. C. J. Campbell, whose home is at Englevale, North Dakota. From the Editor of 'Outer's Book' I learned that Mr. Campbell had shot a specimen of the Band-tailed Pigeon near Englevale, and I investigated the matter until I was satisfied of the truth of the statement; and now, with his permission, I publish his last letter to me on the subject, it being dated at his home on the 1st of July, 1912, and runs as follows:—"Dear Sir:—In reply to your letter of June 27th I am perfectly willing you should publish the facts as stated in any of my letters. The Band-tailed Pigeon referred to was shot by me on the evening of June 2nd in this village, which is situated in Ransom Co., N. D., about 50 miles from the Minnesota State

<sup>1</sup> 1910, 428; 1911, 346 and 427.