

Nesting of the Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis*) in New Jersey.— The Black Rail has been recorded as nesting in southern New Jersey in 1810, 1877 and 1886, and judging from these data and the secretive habits of the bird, it always seemed to me probable that it bred regularly in suitable localities where original conditions had not been altered. Inquiries among friends who do considerable gunning along the coast between Cape May and Asbury Park brought forth the fact that at least two of them had shot Black Rail in the fall, and one told me that he had seen young birds at rare intervals on the salt meadows.

I requested him to make a special search for the bird during the breeding season of 1912, and on June 22 I was rewarded with a letter, announcing the discovery of a nest containing seven eggs on the edge of the marshes back of Brigantine, which he had collected for me on June 20. On the 29th I visited the nest from which the set had been taken. It was built in a low marshy meadow, overgrown with salt grass and sedge and very skilfully concealed in a thick mass of mixed green and dead grass, so that it was completely hidden from above. In composition, it was better built and deeper cupped than the nests of the Virginia, Sora, King and Clapper Rails that I have seen. In size the nest was little larger than the average structure of the Robin, but deeper-cupped and built entirely of the dry, yellowish stalks of the sedges, and there in the lining, clung several black feathers. Thinking that there might be other nests in the vicinity we began searching every thick clump of marsh grass that we saw, and presently came upon another also containing seven eggs. It was placed among thick clumps of marsh grass and was quite invisible until the grass was parted from above. It was an inch above the salt meadow and was interwoven on all sides with the surrounding stalks. We tried hard to flush the birds but without success, although I once heard a prolonged call or succession of short quick notes, 'kie, kie, kie, kie, kie.' The first set of eggs was partly incubated while the second was fresh. It is possible both were laid by the same pair of birds. The eggs show great similarity and in each set one is peculiar being discolored with a yellowish stain. This points to their being laid by the same bird but the short space of time, nine days, seems too short a period for the building of a new nest and the laying of seven eggs.

The ground color of the eggs is creamy white, well sprinkled with fine dots of reddish brown and a few larger spots. The speckling is nearly like that seen in certain types of eggs of the Meadowlark, but the ground color is entirely different. In size they are noticeably smaller and less pointed than any of our other Rails' eggs, averaging 1.02 by .78 ins.— RICHARD C. HARLOW, *State College, Penna.*

A Recent Capture of the Eskimo Curlew.— I wish to place on record the capture of an Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*), taken at Fox Lake, Dodge county, Wisconsin, ten miles northwest of my home, on September 10, 1912. Sex, male, adult, fat and in good plumage. Number 7660, collection of W. E. Snyder.

I was away from home for the day, following a threshing crew. The day had been a hot one, and returning to my home about 9 o'clock my wife greeted me thus: "I've got a rare bird for you now I know." Unwrapping the bird the reader can imagine my feelings when I saw the prize. It had been left for me by a party who has repeatedly refused to give me any information as to who shot it, fearing to do so because it had been killed out of season — nor can I learn anything as to whether the bird was alone, flying over decoys, on lake shore, or anything further than that it was shot at Fox Lake. Being about worn out by the hard and hot day's work I could not muster enough courage to mount the bird, so hurriedly I skinned it and that night drove to town and left the skin, duly packed for shipment, with a friend, with orders to mail it on the early morning train, to my friend, the skilled Chicago taxidermist, Mr. Karl W. Kahmann, who has done an artist's job on the bird.

I have carefully compared the bird with descriptions of the species as given in the works of Coues, Ridgway and many other ornithologists. The culmen measures 2.50 inches, wing 9 inches, tarsus 2.62, neck and breast marked evenly and densely with dusky streaks, primaries uniform dusky.— W. E. SNYDER, *Beaver Dam, Wis.*

Hudsonian Curlew on Long Island in Winter.— On the evening of December 24, 1912, during a heavy snow and wind storm, a Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus*) was found in an exhausted condition in the backyard of an apartment house at Rockaway Beach, Long Island. After spending the night in a basket it recovered sufficiently to fly away at seven-thirty o'clock the following morning. The owner of the house who discovered the bird would not allow it to be taken but it was identified beyond question.

I have not been able to find any previous record of the occurrence of *Numenius hudsonicus* at this time of the year on Long Island.— CHARLOTTE BOGARDUS, *Coxsackie, New York.*

A Peculiar Hudsonian Curlew.— I had supposed that a Curlew with a bill less than 3 inches in length might safely be put down as an Eskimo, but it seems that this is not the case. A bird was shot at Northeast Harbor, Me., September 5, 1912, by Mr. Lynford Biddle of Philadelphia, which was supposed by several persons who saw it in the taxidermist's shop to be an Eskimo Curlew. Upon writing to Mr. Biddle for information he very kindly presented the specimen to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. It proved, as he himself had determined it, to be a Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus*) but with the bill, which appeared perfectly normal in other respects, only 2.25 inches in length. This is three quarters of an inch shorter than the minimum given in Ridgway's 'Manual,' and exactly equals the minimum for the Eskimo Curlew. This incident emphasizes the importance of making a careful ex-