

At one time all the holes had frozen over, and the grain was placed on the bare ice, the ducks coming in from the lake and lighting on the ice to feed. This was at a distance of about a quarter of a mile from the open water in the lake. On February 21, being temporarily out of wheat, cracked corn was tried, but the ducks apparently did not relish it, and did not clean it up, as they did the wheat. During a period from February 12 to 16, Mr. DeVille estimated the number of ducks was at least ten thousand. They gradually scattered with the coming of milder weather, but there were several thousand still present on March 18.

The ducks were about seventy-five per cent Bluebills, or Scaups, the remainder being about evenly divided between Canvasbacks and Redheads, with a few Whistlers.

On March 13 when the writer visited the bay he counted in an open place between the outlet of the bay and Sand Point, about five hundred Bluebills, one hundred Redheads, a few Canvasbacks, about a dozen Mallard, three or four Black Ducks and several Holboëll's and Horned Grebes. At this time the ducks were apparently able to take care of themselves, were feeding in the usual manner, and did not come for the grain.

Mr. DeVille stated that the ducks were in such poor condition, that he had seen many with ice frozen to their feathers, the wing feathers being sometimes frozen together. Many also had balls of ice over the bill, often extending to the eyes. Fourteen ducks were found dead, eleven Bluebills, one Canvasback and two Redheads. One Bluebill drake found in full plumage weighed one pound and three ounces.

Great credit must be given to both Mr. DeVille, who is a game protector of a type we need more of, and the New York State Conservation Commission, for their prompt action in this matter, for there is no doubt that if they had not acted in time, thousands of ducks would have died of starvation.—H. E. GORDON, *Rochester, N. Y.*

Early Occurrence of Rails in Massachusetts.—On August 26, 1913, a Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) was taken in Longmeadow near Springfield, Mass., and on the 22d. of the same month, a King Rail, *Rallus elegans*, was captured in the same town.

These are the earliest autumnal dates recorded for the appearance of either of these species of birds in this part of the Connecticut Valley, although I believe that both kinds are more often represented here than is generally supposed, and it is possible that they breed here.

In Massachusetts, under a very unwise state statute purporting to be for the protection of certain kinds of so-called marsh birds, the open season for Rallidæ begins as early as August 1, and on that day in Longmeadow, a sportsman caught a young Virginia Rail that was still in the downy state, and probably not more than ten days old.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Woodcock in Ohio Co., West Virginia.—The first authentic record of the occurrence of the Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) in Ohio County, West