

The habits that characterize the two forms as they appear in autumn in New England may be thus summed up: *Anas rubripes tristis*: Breeding locally and often migrating as early as, or before, mid-September, or at least "shifting ground" from inland nesting grounds to better feeding grounds near coast. Feeding in both ponds and salt meadows, but if in salt meadows resorting to fresh water once or twice a day. Much less nocturnal in feeding habits than *rubripes*, because less shy, and much less inclined to spend day on open ocean. Prefers good fresh water and brackish water food, but spends the winters on the coast of New England in small numbers, along with *rubripes*. Reaches great size at times. Largest male 3 pounds 10 ounces; largest female 2 pounds 15 ounces (Squibnocket, 1919). More difference in size between sexes than in *rubripes*! Comes readily to live decoys, no matter how extreme the voice may be (too high or too low); and is more loquacious than the red-legged form.

A. rubripes rubripes: Late migrant, never becomes localized except near sea, and where marine food in the form of small mollusca is abundant. Very seldom resorts to small ponds or bogs, but likes large open sheets of fresh water near ocean, to which it often makes daily trips to drink and rest, but not to feed. Is better able to sit off-shore in rough seas; and in general appears a more rugged bird with heavier feathering and superior resistance to extreme cold. In winter, it does not depend on ponds for fresh water, but obtains a sufficient supply in small springs about salt meadows at low tide.

This is a much more wary bird, is more silent itself, and comes less easily to live decoys, towards which it manifests an instinctive fear, especially if they be loud or shrill callers. In the salt meadows the best gunners prefer sea-weed bunches or canvas sacs, and find the live decoys useless, especially late in the season.

When a flock of *rubripes* alights on a pond near a shooting stand, they nearly always keep at a safe distance until perfectly satisfied of their surroundings. Then, more often than not, they will swim away from the stand and its live decoys. If they approach the stand, which they do with the utmost caution, and with necks erect, they are not apt to keep closely together as *tristis* does.

Extreme weights not much above that of *tristis*. Heaviest male noted by myself, 3 pounds 12 ounces. Average is a good deal heavier than *tristis*, females perhaps more nearly size of males than in *tristis*, but no figures at hand to bear out this point.—J. C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

Flight of Water-fowl at Washington, D. C.—On February 24, 1920, an unusual flight of water-fowl, bound in a southerly direction and flying at an altitude of probably one thousand feet, passed over Washington. During the following three days we experienced the coldest weather of the winter, the thermometer hovering about the 13 degree mark.

On February 7, with the temperature at 15 above zero, a flock of five Canada Geese passed over the city and alighted in East Potomac Park. The wind on that day at times attained a velocity of forty-five miles an hour.—BRENT M. MORGAN, 224 Eleventh St., S. W., Washington, D. C.

Nesting of the Greater Yellow-Legs in Newfoundland.—On June 20, 1919, Mr. J. R. Whitaker and the writer had the satisfaction of discovering a female of this species (*Totanus melanoleucus*) brooding four young just out of the shell and still in the nest, in a large bog in the vicinity of Grand Lake, N. F. Led to the spot by the ever increasing cries of the male bird, the nest, which was nothing more than a bare depression ten inches in diameter and three inches deep, upon the top of a mound of peat otherwise covered over with a short growth of sheep laurel, was noticed three yards from where we had stopped in doubt as to where next to proceed.

It presented an unusual domestic picture; one youngster was perched on the mother's back, while one or two others appeared from under her wings after the manner of domestic fowls. The parent remained until we closed in, when she flew low from the nest with a piercing cry, and after circling about overhead took up a position on a dead stub nearby, from which she continued to *kip, kip, kip, kip*—incessantly as long as we remained near the nest, the male likewise calling and circling above.

The young, whose legs were not as yet strong enough to bear their weight, lay flat in the nest. They were mottled in gray, brown and black down, white below. Some of the lighter spaces on the back tending toward buffy. The eyes were large and black, bill one-half an inch long, lead-black in color, while the legs were characteristically long and greenish in color. Notwithstanding the recent hatching of the eggs, only one or two small pieces were to be found, the empty shells doubtless having been carried away by the parents.

On visiting the nest the day following, the young could not be found, although the actions of the old birds indicated their presence in the vicinity.—GEORGE H. STUART, 3rd, Girard Trust Co., Philadelphia.

Nesting of the Little Black Rail in Atlantic County, N. J.—On July 4, 1919, Mr. Julian K. Potter and the writer flushed a small rail in a marsh an acre or two in extent, beyond the sand dunes immediately back of the ocean beach, on an island below Beach Haven, N. J. Searching for the nest in the belief that the bird was a Little Black Rail, we were rewarded by finding it placed among the long grasses, the tops of which were so drawn over as to almost completely hide the eggs from view. The nest, which was composed entirely of the same rather fine grass, was placed about one inch above the damp ground and contained eight eggs, very heavily incubated.