

In 1910 ('The Auk,' p. 268) I pointed out that the average yearly number of geese seen from a single point at Oldham Pond, Pembroke was 1145. This year 2876 geese were seen at this same place, and at least 1400 of them came into the pond. This count does not include some flocks that came in and went out during the night.

I suggested in 1912 that our Atlantic coast flight of Canada Geese showed signs of being on the increase. I think now that there is no doubt about this. The numbers taken this year seem to some people excessive, but the chance to shoot so many will probably not occur again in many years. The favorable conditions were due to a combination of a great breeding year, with a heavy flight, which happened to meet extremely hard weather after it had started. In Labrador the past season has been one of great scarcity of foxes, following one of the cycles in which mice and rabbits die off in great numbers. This may have something to do with an extra successful breeding year for geese resulting in large numbers of young.

It is quite interesting to compare our Massachusetts figures with those which I have recently seen for the State of Minnesota. The hunters of that state have reported only 2330 Canada Geese shot during the two years 1919-1920 (MS. of State Game Comm. Report).

Some geese having heavy oil, of a black, tarry consistency on their underparts, were shot in Massachusetts ponds last autumn. I saw one or two geese shot with this oil upon them at Currituck Sound, N. C., in December, and I heard of several others taken there in the same plight.

Swans were again reported in Massachusetts. Two flocks, one of eleven, and one of seven came into Duxbury Bay, but I have not the dates.—JOHN C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

**The Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*) on the coast of South Carolina.**—About three o'clock P. M., on January 17, 1921, my wife called my attention to a very large white bird flying over our yard and about to alight in the water near our house while we were sitting on the piazza. I cautiously approached the place under cover and to my astonishment found the huge bird to be an adult Swan. I then retreated and went back into the house for my gun and glasses, came back under cover and approached it to within 150 feet and saw it feeding by immersing its long neck under the water. I watched this bird through good glasses hoping to see the position of the nostrils, but was unable to do so nor did I have the heart to shoot so beautiful a bird. It was an enormous bird and may have been an example of the very rare Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*) for which there is no South Carolina record. The bird was constantly on the alert and finally flew away in a southerly direction.

The Whistling Swan—which I suppose this bird must have been—is rare in South Carolina, but I have in my collection a young bird of the year taken at Ridge Springs, Edgefield County, South Carolina, on November 26, 1907, which was given to me by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, and

recorded by me in 'The Auk,' XXV, 1908, 217-218. ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.*

**Whistling Swan—A Correction.**—Through a typographical error my record of *Olor columbianus*, Whistling Swan, at Elizabeth, N. J., October 29, 1916, on p. 120, January 'Auk' appeared without a question mark, and as it turns out, the identification was wrong. Mr. W. De W. Miller, of the American Museum of Natural History, to whom I reported the capture of the bird, also saw it and he has kindly notified me that the specimen (a young bird) was not *O. columbianus* but was *Cygnus olor*, the Mute Swan, which he states is now naturalized and wild on the Hudson River and the coast of New Jersey. Dr. Stone also informs me that one of this species was found dead on the ice at Beach Haven, N. J., January 8, 1920 and that another obtained on the south Jersey coast narrowly escaped being published as a Trumpeter! Swan records of the future must evidently be carefully scrutinized.—CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, New Jersey.*

**An Egret (*Herodias egretta*) Record from Oswego County, N. Y.**—While recently examining a small local collection of mounted birds, I was somewhat surprised to find an excellently preserved specimen of the Egret. The bird was shot in August, 1887, at Mexico Point, Lake Ontario, by E. E. Chapman of this village. Although there are a number of published records of the occurrence of this species in the interior of New York, it must be remembered that the Egret is only an occasional summer visitant here, and that its presence at any time is at once worthy of note.

The present specimen was apparently mounted by a good taxidermist, and has been carefully kept all these years in a glass case. The plumage is remarkably white; moreover, the black of the legs and feet, the yellow bill with its blackish tip, and the orange lores—all appear as fresh as though the bird had been taken only recently. Inasmuch as the case could not be opened, it was possible to estimate, only, the total length, etc., of the mounted bird; however, it was evident that its measurements would be about the minimum usually given for the species. THOMAS L. BOURNE, *Hamburg, N. Y.*

**A Late Record for the Red-backed Sandpiper.**—While collecting on a small island near Gimli, Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba, June 27, 1916, I secured a finely plumaged Red-backed Sandpiper (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*). This record hitherto unpublished is interesting because of the appearance of this arctic species at a point only fifty miles north of Winnipeg at a time so late. The individual was an adult male showing no abnormality or sign of recent recovery from injuries and having gonads highly developed. J. NELSON GOWANLOCK, *Hull Zoological Laboratory, University of Chicago, Chicago.*

**Sanderling on Nantucket in December.**—My son Captain George H. Mackay, Jr., while shooting on December 24, 1920 at Nantucket,