

There seems to be no special reason why these birds should come here this year and particularly so early in the season. The winter has been mild and the river has remained open but often the winters are mild here, notably last winter which was even milder than the present season, yet my only record for Canvasbacks last spring was on March 19, when I saw a small flock of eight.

Old duck hunters with many years of experience say that they have never seen the Canvasback here in January and not often as early as the latter part of February; March being their usual time of migration, but Mrs. F. W. Robinson, of this city, a careful and faithful observer, says that seven or eight years ago during a very mild winter she saw a flock of several hundred of them on the Detroit River during the latter part of January.—ETTA S. WILSON, *Detroit, Mich.*

The Greater Snow Goose in Massachusetts.—Three specimens of *Chen hyperborea nivalis* were shot in the Westfield Little River, not far from Westfield, Massachusetts, on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1921. Two were immature with dark bills and feet, but the third was a mature bird. Unfortunately two of these geese, including the adult, were plucked and eaten before I learned of their being shot, and the third one was rescued while on the way for another dinner. This specimen, which has the rusty tinge about the head and neck, is now being mounted for the Springfield, Mass., Museum of Natural History.

Undoubtedly there was a very unusual flight of Snow Geese into this region about this time as a flock estimated to contain over one hundred birds was reported as seen in Southwich Ponds not far from Westfield. A single bird was also shot at Portland, Conn., one at East Windsor Hill, and a small flock noted at Glastonbury.

Mr. Robert O. Morris informs me that he observed a Snow Goose in the spring of 1887 in Longmeadow near the Connecticut River, a few miles below Springfield. His only other record of the bird dates back at least twenty-five years. It is of a Snow Goose wounded and captured in the vicinity of Springfield and kept for several years with a flock of domestic geese in the town of Southwick.—AARON C. BAGG, *Holyoke, Mass.*

Notable Increase of Egrets in Chatham County, Georgia.—It is with much gratification that I am enabled to report a marked increase in the numbers of Egrets (*Casmerodius egretta*) breeding in Bird Pond, Ossabaw Island, Chatham County, Georgia. I first visited this pond in May 1905, devoting two days—May 11 and 14—to a study of the varied and abundant bird life which finds refuge there, nesting harmoniously in close proximity. At that time there were approximately a dozen pairs of Egrets breeding there (see *Wilson Bulletin*, March 1921, pp. 6-7). On April 30, 1921, I again visited this rookery, in company with Thos. D. Burleigh and J. T. Wheeler of the faculty of the University of Georgia. Besides making a very accurate count of the Egret population, we secured

much interesting data on the habits of the several species of water birds nesting in the pond. We found that the colony of Egrets had increased to thirty-four pairs, the contents of their nests being as follows: Nine contained young two or three days old; five held young a week or ten days old; one contained two pipped eggs; one held a single egg; four held two eggs each; ten contained three eggs each, incubation of which was far advanced, and a single nest contained four eggs.

The height of these nests varied from eight to twelve feet above the surface of the water which was three feet deep. Several of the larger willows supported four or five nests, while other trees held two and sometimes only one nest. Frequently, while climbing to the nests to examine their contents, a limb would give way beneath our weight, so frail and brittle are these trees, but we were always careful to avoid placing our entire weight on any limb supporting a nest.

In marked contrast to the behavior of these Egrets during my first visit to their rookery in 1915, when it was impossible to get within two hundred feet of them, was our experience with them in 1921. We were frequently allowed to approach to within a few yards of an adult standing on a limb near its nest, especially those birds whose eggs had hatched.

The pond in which this remnant of this beautiful and once abundant species breeds is not a natural one, but was formed and is maintained by the accumulation of water flowing from an artesian well. Should this well go dry—which, however, is very unlikely—these and all the hundreds of pairs of other species of herons which breed in the pond would be forced to seek other nesting places. These birds, especially the Egrets and Snowy Herons, are rigidly protected by the owners of the island, and, unless some unforeseen disaster should overtake them, will continue to increase steadily.—W. J. ERICHSEN, 2311 Barnard Street, Savannah, Ga.

Nesting of the Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) in Philadelphia Co., Pa. In 'The Auk', 1918, p. 477, I recorded the discovery of a Bittern's nest at Woodbury Gloucester county N. J., in the Delaware Valley, and within ten miles of Philadelphia. This was the first definite nesting record of this species in this region where it seems to be a rare breeder. On May 31, 1921, I found a nest containing five eggs at Bridesburg, Philadelphia, on the Delaware River marshes, within five miles of the City Hall. The female was flushed from the nest and let me approach within two yards before vacating. The nest was in a patch of wide-leaved cattail in a large marsh, within a few yards of a railroad, less than a quarter of a mile from a foundry and still nearer to a shipyard. This is the only record of the nesting of the Bittern on the Pennsylvania side of the river, and one of the few records for the State.—RICHARD F. MILLER, Philadelphia, Pa.

A Connecticut Record of the Stilt Sandpiper.—The Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*) is not often recorded from Connecticut in