

At first thought, I imagined it to be a Clapper Rail's nest, but on seeing the bird I quickly identified it as a King Rail (*Rallus elegans*). Its general resemblance to the Virginia Rail, together with the cinnamon neck and breast, and large size, left no doubt in my mind as to the identification.

The nest was found on May 24, when it contained thirteen eggs. On the next visit, one week later, fourteen eggs were observed. On June 14, I commenced to take pictures, and was quite surprised at the bird's fearlessness. Seven eggs hatched between June 16 and 20. My next trip to the nest was on the 21st, when I found seven eggs remaining, all punctured and the contents drained by some animal. The nest and remaining eggs are now in the Brooklyn Museum, where I deposited them.

It is interesting to note that the nest of a Virginia Rail was found not sixty yards from that of the King Rail. Marsh Wrens and Red-winged Blackbirds were also to be found nesting in close proximity to the nest.—WM. J. HAMILTON JR., *Ithaca, New York*.

Nesting of Great Blue Heron in Boothbay, Maine.—In the spring of 1924, Mr. Frederic O. Whitman of Boothbay, Maine, found a nesting colony of Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias herodias*) which had been reported to us the year before, and for which we had unsuccessfully hunted late in the summer of 1923, after the birds had left.

The heronry is located in the woods between the Knickerbocker ponds and the Backriver branch of the Sheepscot river, and is about two hundred yards westward from the shore of the northern end of the ponds. Mr. Whitman counted sixty-five nests of which surely forty were occupied in 1924. The bulky structures are all in hardwood trees, most of them in beeches, a few in the maples, and one in a birch. Not a single one was found in the pines or other coniferous trees, although the heronry was in their very midst. On June 6, Mr. Whitman counted sixty-four young birds peering over the edges of the nests. On July 26, when he and I visited the site together, nearly all the immature herons could fly, and with the old birds would leave the nests with much flapping and squawking when they became aware of our presence. But there were others not yet ready to trust to their wings. These stood motionless on the nests or branches, craning their necks, evidently much disturbed. We found on the ground one whole nest that had fallen, and with it the remains of three young birds. More remains of young ones were found here and there under the trees. The ground in the vicinity of the nests was white with the droppings, and the odor of this and of disgorged fish was far from agreeable.

In view of the fact that such large colonies of Great Blue Herons are no longer common in Maine, I believe this one to be of interest.—THOMAS E. PENARD, *Arlington, Mass.*

Little Blue Heron in Massachusetts.—On the morning of September 4, 1924, I saw an immature Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) in Hingham, Massachusetts, in the small and shallow brackish pond which has

been formed through the cutting off of the inner end of Broad Cove by the State road. The bird, which was notably larger and more slender than a Little Green Heron standing not far from him, appeared to be pure white with jade-green legs, and bill yellowish for about half its length, then blackish. I was not able to detect any blue in the wings even when the bird flew. In the evening of the same day, and again on the morning of September 8, I found him in the same pond.—S. F. BLAKE, *Washington, D. C.*

American Egret (*Casmerodius egretta*) and Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) in Brooke Co., W. Va.—There are so few published records from West Virginia that it is difficult to know what birds may actually be new to the State's avifauna, but it is thought that the Egret and Little Blue Heron are sufficiently rare to warrant particular notice here.

On June 14, 1921, a large white Heron was seen along Buffalo Creek and Castleman's Run, near Bethany, W. Va., and subsequently shot by a man whose name has not been ascertained. The specimen came into the hands of Mr. Doc Jones, was rather poorly skinned by a friend of his, and in a flat condition was examined by me on June 18, and easily identified as an American Egret. The bird's skull had been almost completely removed during skinning, but the plumage and condition of the feet and bill indicated immaturity.

August 9, 1924, near Bethany, W. Va., I observed a Little Blue Heron in white plumage, for half an hour, and satisfactorily identified it by its pale green feet, dusky wing tips, and small size. The bird was very unsuspecting, allowed close approach a dozen times, and was viewed in ideal light. Farmers had reported two of these "white cranes," and it is reasonable to suppose that both birds were of the same species.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *State Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.*

Correction.—I much regret that owing to a mistake in field diagnosis the conditions found in the digestive apparatus of the Fijian Nutmeg Pigeon were ascribed to *Globicera pacifica* ('The Auk,' p. 433, XLI, 1924) and not to *Muscadivores latrans*, as they should have been.—CASEY A. WOOD, *Authers' Club, London, England.*

Late Nesting of the Scaled Quail (*Callipepla squamata squamata*).—September 22, 1924, an Indian boy reported that he had found a bird's nest with a number of eggs. I went along with the boy, expecting to see an abandoned Quail's nest. The boy led me to a large sage bush near a fence on the U. S. Indian School field. Carefully spreading the bushy sage in order to get a look at the nest, I, to my great surprise, saw a Scaled Quail on the nest incubating. She stayed on for a few seconds and then left, diving through the bush and flying and running out of sight.

The nest contained a complement of 10 eggs on the verge of hatching. A couple of the eggs were chipped, and I could hear the chicks in several others.