

When first sighted, we mistook the V shaped formation in which they were flying for a flock of Geese. But it was a month or two early for Wild Geese. We were in the act of putting away our canoe as they flew past overhead and so obtained a clear view through the binoculars. The wing-beat was swifter than that of Geese, there was no white patch visible and we could not hear a single note. When half a mile or so south of us, they broke the regular formation, flying thence in a mixed flock.

This is the largest flight using the Valley of which we have any record in recent years.—AARON C. BAGG, 70 Fairfield Ave., Holyoke, Mass.

Mortality among Cormorants on Coast of Chile.—During a recent voyage along the west coast of south America I was told much regarding a southern migration of sea birds along the Peruvian coast, due, it was said, to a change in the Humboldt Current following the great earthquake recently, and also was informed of many dead sea birds on the Chilean coast, south of Antofagasta. While the Grace Line Steamer, "Santa Elisa", lay at San Antonio, Chile, loading copper, opportunity offered to investigate this latter report. In company with Dr. Van Dyne, the ship's surgeon, and Engineer Deason, I went to a place called Lloillao, several miles south of San Antonio, where dead birds had been found. Walking was difficult through the deep sand so we boarded the narrow guage railroad train consisting of a Brockway bus mounted on a Ford truck. From the end of this line we walked over the mountain to the valley of the Rio Maipó, and after crossing a half-mile trestle, headed for a rocky point projecting into the ocean three miles distant. Here we discovered the truth of our adventure. Thousands of dead and dying Cormorants were found lying in heaps between the rocks or scattered along the beach, many of the latter partially covered with the drifting sands.

Those in a weak condition were easily picked up but the cause of their trouble was obscure. I cannot say certainly that they were dying of starvation as there are many other varieties of sea birds in this section that are not affected this way and the Cormorants were the only sea birds found. Some time ago, numbers of Cormorants were reported dead or dying from the streets of Viña del Mar a suburb of Valparaiso. It is supposed that these birds are the same as those that have been so well known from the Guano islands to the northward.—CHARLES L. FAGAN, R. F. D. 2, Box 58, Rahway, New Jersey.

A Gannet at Painesville, Ohio.—On November 2, 1925, Mr. Grow of the Grand River Fish Co., of this place, telephoned me that they had caught a strange bird which they wished me to identify. I drove to the fish house and found, confined in one of the fish boxes, a beautiful immature Gannet (*Sula bassana*). I was very much surprised as I never expected to see a Gannet in this part of the country.

The bird was in the gray plumage, heavily dotted with white on head and neck, the spots becoming fewer and V-shaped on the body. The eyes were light gray with a black pupil, and the bill dark horn color.

Mr. Grow told me that they were lifting the fish nets out of the lake for the season, and had been throwing out many rotten fish to the Gulls, when this big glutton appeared and ate so much that he could not rise from the water, so they put out in a small boat and caught him. I visited him again, the next day and, after photographing him and placing a band on his right leg, took him to the beach and gave him his liberty. He was loath to leave but finally swam out onto the lake, diving through some of the waves and riding over others. He seemed to be enjoying himself, flapping his wings, spreading his tail and ducking his head under the water. After going out onto the lake, for some distance, he turned, and swam off in a northeasterly direction.—E. E. HADELER, *Painesville, Ohio*.

Wood Ibis in Illinois.—On September 6, 1925, I found the badly decomposed remains of a Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*) near a pond in the Little Wabash bottoms in southwest Richland County or possibly northwest Wayne County since the boundary is about at that point.

My companion recognized the bird as the same as a flock of twenty-five which he had seen two weeks before in Lawrence County. I have never seen this species here before.—S. H. EATON, *Lawrenceville, Ill.*

Louisiana Heron on Long Island.—On June 26, 1925, I saw a strange looking Heron on the edge of Little Reed Pond, Montauk, Long Island. Thinking that it was a Little Blue Heron, in transitional plumage, I collected it, and was much surprised to discover that it was an adult male Louisiana Heron. The specimen was taken to the American Museum of Natural History, where my identification was confirmed by Mr. Ludlow Griscom. This is the second record for New York State, the first made in 1836. It is now No. 1857 in my collection.—RALPH ELLIS, JR., *Jericho, Long Island*.

Little Black Rail again in Illinois.—Since Nelson's record of June 19, 1875, in which he reports taking the eggs of the Black Rail, I can find no authentic record of the taking of the bird. While collecting specimens for the Illinois State Exhibit for the World's Fair, I was certain that I saw this bird at Wolf Lake several times but did not care to report it unless actually taken. Unlike the other Rails, which depend almost entirely upon hiding, the birds I saw ran very quickly and did not hide in the grass, the fact that my dog brought me two Yellow Rails that season, which he caught without injuring, substantiates this fact. I was almost doubting that this bird was a resident of Illinois, when a young man recently brought me a specimen which he had caught in his back yard.—FRANK M. WOODRUFF, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Ill.*

Northern Phalarope in Dutchess County, N. Y.—On September 7, 1924, the author and Dr. Alfred O. Gross observed a Northern Phalarope, (*Lobipes lobatus*) swimming around in a small pond about a mile outside the town of Amenia, N. Y. The bird was exceptionally tame and we were