

interesting sight. The entire lake was covered with a sheet of ice, with the exception of an opening possibly ten feet across, that I am confident was only prevented from freezing over by the untiring activity of the Old-squaw. There was certainly no other reason why there should have been any open water, for the ice was tested near the shore and found to be almost half an inch thick. While I watched the bird, and it showed remarkably little fear of me, it was continually diving and coming up where the thin ice was forming at the edge of the open water and breaking it off, in this way unquestionably keeping itself from being gradually frozen in and forced to hunt other open water. Undoubtedly the desire for food was responsible for much of this activity, but it was interesting to note that it never came up except where the thin ice was forming. It was a losing fight, however, for the temperature dropped even lower that night, and the following morning I found the lake finally frozen over and the bird gone. Almost three months later, on the 10th of April, there occurred here an unusual and unexpected flight of Red-breasted Mergansers (*Mergus serrator*), flocks appearing that day on practically all the bodies of water of any size about Athens, and in one flock resting on the city reservoir I was very much interested to see a female Old-squaw. I had no way of knowing of course that this was the same bird that I saw in December.—THOS. D. BURLEIGH, *Athens, Clarke Co., Georgia.*

Canada Goose Migration at Saginaw, Mich.—Just for the purpose of recording date of migration I have the following to tell about the southward movement of Canada Geese over the Saginaw, Michigan, district:

A great many residents of Saginaw were awakened shortly after midnight the morning of October 29, 1927, by the calls of Wild Geese. The early part of the night was clear, but shortly after midnight a thunder storm came up. Whether the Geese were confused by electric lights of the city is a question, but from all parts of the city came reports of these circling Geese and their calling. These Geese were reported from so many different parts of the city that an unusual number of them must have been circling the town over a wide area.

Saturday morning, October 29, I went to see if I could find a Woodcock or two, and drove forty miles north of Saginaw to the headquarters of the Kawkawlin River. There two farmers told me the same story about Geese calling in the night and quantities passing there. It was just 9:00 A.M. and I could still hear Geese calling and see them high in the sky in flocks of a hundred, two hundred or three hundred passing south, so there must have been a very large migration extending over a wide pathway.—W. B. MERSHON, *Saginaw, Mich.*

Whistling Swan at Marthas Vineyard, Mass.—On July 28, 1927, eight white Swans, probably *Olor columbianus*, were seen off Marthas Vineyard, Massachusetts. They were on the ocean about two miles to the southwest of Gay Head, between that promontory and the island of

No Mans Land. They were shy and rose from the water and flew off to the northwest when our sail boat approached within a third of a mile.

These birds are rare winter visitors here, but summer records, I believe, are lacking.—STANLEY COBB, M.D., *Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.*

King Rail Capturing a Common Crab.—While looking for birds near a tidal pool at Cape May, N. J., September 4, 1927, a King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) suddenly appeared from the grass and deliberately walked out to the edge of a shallow stream which traversed the muddy bed of the pool. Slowly and with mincing step the Rail made his way down the middle of the stream swinging his bill from side to side in the water as he moved along. At intervals, he stopped and swallowed any morsel captured.

Just as the Rail reached the center of the pool bed, he suddenly jumped back and at the same moment I saw a common blue crab throw up his claws in defense. The Rail eyed the crab a moment and then to my surprise gave the crab a vicious jab and then jumped back as before. These tactics were repeated until the crab had lost one claw and was very much subdued.

The Rail then deliberately picked up the weakly protesting crab and laid it on its back in the mud. As it did this I could see that the crab measured about three inches across the shell.

After placing the crab on its back, the Rail raised himself on his toes and lifting his bill as high as possible came down with all the force that he could muster, striking the crab in the middle of its lower shell. Repeated blows rendered the crab inert.

Apparently satisfied that the crab was completely subdued, the Rail lugged it off to a place near the edge of the grass, battered it to pieces and consumed it. The carapace was left intact.

The meal seemed to satisfy the Rail for he afterwards stood about for some time pluming and arranging his feathers.

About fifteen minutes elapsed between the first blow struck and the final knockout.—JULIAN K. POTTER, *Collingswood, N. J.*

The Red Phalarope, (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) in Ohio.—A fine young male specimen of this species was taken on the Scioto River, several miles north of Columbus, in Delaware County, Ohio, on the evening of September 29, 1927. The specimen was first seen by Charles F. Walker and was collected by Milton B. Trautman. From all reports examined it is the first Ohio specimen of the species to be preserved in any scientific collection. In the 'Ohio Agricultural Report' for 1861 Dr. J. M. Wheaton stated on the authority of Mr. R. K. Winslow of Cleveland "that two or three specimens had been taken on Lake Erie." Every statement made since, concerning the species as an Ohio bird, has been based on this one. The statement is indefinite as there is no evidence that the specimens were