

Sora Breeding in Mississippi.—In a report dated July 6, 1927, United States Deputy Game Warden Clifton E. Mosley reported the Sora (*Porzana carolina*) breeding in 1926, near Greenwood, Mississippi.

Upon writing to Mr. Mosley regarding this occurrence, he supplied the following verbatim quotations from his notebook: "June 5th, 1926—Ten miles east of Greenwood in Carroll County, Mississippi, I observed a bird of the rail species which proves to be a perfect stranger to me. Under a cluster of low heavy willow bushes on the ground in a low marshy place this bird has a nest constructed of wire grass (or swamp grass) weeds and strips of cattail blades. Color of bird—brownish slate with equally divided stripes of yellow on back, and stripes of same color, pointing downward on sides—yellow blunt bill shaped very much like that of a chicken. Size looks to be about that of a broiler chicken, in fact its movements and looks while on nest remind one very much of a chicken nesting. Very gentle. No count of eggs or sight of same as I did not disturb the bird."

"June 11, 1926.—Returned to the place of the Sora's nest having been convinced that the species is a Sora Rail when referring to Reed's 'North American Birds' and illustrations in bulletins of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture—I find the female with, I would judge, a dozen young birds, like young quails, just a few yards from the nest."

Mr. Mosley has checked his identification with a Sora that in April 1927, was picked up on the main street of Greenwood (apparently a flood refuge) and concludes that he can "make the positive statement that a Sora hatched 10 miles east of Greenwood, Mississippi."

This is much farther south than any other breeding record for this species that has come to my attention. In U. S. National Museum 'Bulletin 135' (Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds, by A. C. Bent), page 313, the writer outlined the breeding range of this bird as extending south to Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, etc.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

The Red Plumage Coloration of the Little Brown and Sand-Hill Cranes, *Grus canadensis* and *Grus mexicanus*.—For some time I have been puzzled by the brick red coloration of these two species. Some birds are strongly red on back, wings, crown and neck, while others are clear dull lead blue with or without traces of red. The color seems perfectly natural in pattern and distribution but after examining a considerable series it does not seem to be correlated with age, season, sex or geography nor are any new or incoming red feathers to be discovered on adult birds while new bluish ones are comparatively common.

Acting on the suggestion given by Mr. F. H. Kennard (Auk, XXXV, 1918, 123-132) I had a selection of feathers from some mature specimens in our collections tested by Mr. R. T. C. Fabry, analyst to the Department of Mines. His report is as follows:

"The feathers were all treated in the same manner, being boiled in a very dilute hydrochloric acid and the resulting solution tested for iron.