

to discuss this question in the forthcoming 'Ibis' article.—W. M. CONGREVE, MAJOR, M. B. O. U. ETC., *Hafod, Trefnant, Denbighshire, North Wales.*

**Caspian Terns (*Sterna caspia imperator*) at Palmyra, N. J.**—On April 21, 1929, in company with W. C. Doak, E. G. Loomis and W. J. Emlen I paid a short visit to the open marshes along the Delaware just south of Palmyra, N. J. A slow steady rain was falling, and consequently very few birds were about. However, near the ferry dock we noticed among a small flock of Herring Gulls three birds whose whiter plumage and more graceful flight made them quite distinct. A look through the glasses revealed the typical black cap of the Terns and a short but decidedly forked tail. One of them flew up to within reasonably short range, giving us a chance to see his large red bill and short forked tail, which, aside from the size, are the principal field marks of the Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia imperator*). All three of them flew around for some time and finally lit on a distant mud flat, where they remained partially hidden by grass.

Spring records for this bird are quite rare, and we have been unable to find any for this section.—J. T. EMLEN, JR., *Philadelphia, Pa.*

**Ducks and Other Water Birds on the Reading, Pa., Reservoir.**—During the past year the city of Reading completed an impounding dam, about seven miles from the city limits, which has created an S-shaped artificial lake some two miles in length and averaging in width about 220 yards, with a maximum width of 400 yards.

This is the only body of still water of like size in the neighborhood with the exception of the Schuylkill River, which has become choked with culm from the coal regions, and is now absolutely barren of any vegetation or fish-life.

This spring was the first season that the dam has been filled and it has proved remarkably attractive to passing water-fowl throughout the entire season. Nearly all the trees in the neighborhood have been cut down, leaving a broad expanse of gently undulating upland meadow on all sides. Perhaps this latter feature of the landscape has had something to do with the immediate acceptance of the dam by passing water-birds, which normally occur here in very small numbers, and only for a short period following storms.

It is of course too early to draw any conclusions, but if the past season is typical of what is to be expected in the future, the writer is led to believe that this locality is in the path of a much more extensive overland migration of water-birds than has heretofore been suspected. A glance at the map will show that Reading is located in the path of the shortest flight between Delaware Bay, and the New York lake region, as well as Lake Ontario.

Practically every rain or spell of "heavy" weather, especially at night, has caused a number of these transients to alight for a greater or lesser