

Early Nesting of the Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) in South Jersey.—On May 4, 1928, Mr. Frederick A. Hemphill and the writer found a Bittern's nest in the salt meadows at Cape May Court House, N. J. containing four highly incubated eggs. The female had to be actually pushed from the nest.

This is about three weeks earlier than the usually recorded nesting date for this species, in southern New Jersey. Supposing the eggs were fourteen days incubated the nest must have held a fresh clutch about April 20.

On May 30, 1921, I found a Bittern's nest containing two young over a week old, at West Cape May, and at the same locality Mr. Turner E. McMullen collected five slightly incubated eggs on May 22, 1921, while on May 21, 1922, at Cape May Court House, Mr. William Jay found a nest with four highly incubated eggs. I was with both parties when they found these nests and they constitute all the Bittern's nests I have ever seen in southern Jersey.—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

Carolina Rail (*Porzana carolina*) Wintering in Colorado.—On January 10, 1930, when approaching a bridge across a marshy stream north of Aurora, Colorado, I saw a Carolina Rail about twenty-five feet away, walking over the mud and snow at the margin of the water. The black on the face and throat and the short, thick bill were seen clearly, distinguishing it from the Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*) which is known to winter in this state. It disappeared in a clump of vegetation, and when I came still nearer, arose, flew about twenty feet and dropped out of sight among the cat-tails. For some minutes later I heard the usual squeaking *ur-ur-ur* alarm call. The water had not frozen over despite the zero weather, because of a stream from the Aurora sewer plant emptying into it, keeping it at a temperature of about 37° F. Standard bird books of the state do not mention this species wintering here.—LEON KELSO, *Aurora, Colorado.*

Abundance of Wintering Limicolae on the Florida West Coast.—While spending the winter of 1929 (January–April) at Dunedin, Florida, I was particularly interested in noting the relative abundance of the wintering and migrant *Limicolae*.

The largest concentration of shore-birds appeared to be on the mud-flats, at low tide, in Old Tampa Bay, south of Safety Harbor. Great numbers were also noted along either side of the causeway to Clearwater Beach; along both sides of the approaches to Gandy Bridge, and on the beaches north of Sarasota, near the Whitfield Estates.

A summary of these observations for the purpose of comparison with one-time and future numbers of these shore-birds is herewith presented. Shore-birds were recorded on 44 field trips between January 15 and May 2, 1929; the species are arranged below according to the frequency of occur-