

I am giving this information because I feel that the appearance of the Egrets and immature Little Blue Herons has become a regular occurrence, at least as far north as the fortieth parallel of latitude. Reports from other sections of the country show the decrease in appearance of Egrets during 1931. Certainly this cannot be said to be the case here along the Mississippi River.

There are no nesting records to report for the egret, although I recently discovered a rookery with half a hundred nests of the Great Blue Heron and half a dozen of the Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax dilophus dilophus*) and have a record of a pair of American Egrets seen on Lima Lake as early as June 7, 1928.—F. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Ill.*

European Teal (*Nettion crecca*) in Essex Co., Massachusetts.—On November 22, 1931, a large party of observers noticed four ducks on the upper basin of the Artichoke Reservoir in West Newbury, a fine locality for our rarer wild fowl. I had with me one of the new very powerful Zeiss telescopes with three oculars on a revolving disk, and setting it up on its tripod, we soon found that the ducks were Baldpates. While looking at them I discovered a pair of Green-winged Teal sitting on the beach, and noted the pretty clean gray effect of the male and his chestnut head. For twenty years I have carefully examined all drake teal, well seen in North America with the hope of finding a European Teal. On this particular occasion I suddenly registered the fact that my teal lacked the conspicuous white bar on the side of the breast in front of the wing, and more careful study showed the presence of the characteristic longitudinal white stripe on the scapulars. The teal persisted in squatting on the beach, often facing us, but occasionally would rise and waddle a few feet only to squat again. Whenever a side view was obtained, the absence of the breast bar was very conspicuous, but the scapular stripe was inconspicuous unless the bird was actually walking. The party consisted of Messrs. Francis H. Allen, C. E. Clarke, George Perry, and R. J. Eaton of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, and John H. Baker of the Linnæan Society of New York. It took some time, but most of us managed to see both points, including the brothers of two of the party, who were not experienced students of birds. After twenty minutes or so, a flock of ten Green-winged Teal suddenly appeared and circled about the basin. They were immediately joined by the two other teal, and all twelve darted off to the south. There is, of course, no knowing to what species the female belonged. I have been familiar with the European Teal in life for years, was thoroughly conversant with the differences between the two species, and recognized the identity of the bird immediately. There is no previous record for Essex County, but according to Forbush, there are three specimens from Massachusetts, and at least three other records for New England. He describes the bird correctly in his 'Birds of Massachusetts,' but by a curious lapse, the distinguishing characters of the two species are reversed in the paragraph on "field marks."—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.*