

making quite a commotion. The female, on hearing the cries of her young, quickly flapped down stream toward her brood. When she reached her first duckling, she pushed it under water with her wing, then went to the next one and likewise pushed it under water. After this procedure had been repeated on all of her brood, she started to fly away, when one of her young reappeared above the water, resuming its peeping cry. The female returned and again ducked the young one under water. Each time that one of the ducklings appeared in the open stream or made any sound, it would again be submerged under the water by its mother. This was repeated several times, until the ducklings took to cover in the sedges along the stream bank that offered excellent protection for them. Not until each one of her ducklings was safely hidden did the female fly away.—LYNN GRINER, *Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah.*

Golden Eagle in Illinois.—In view of the scarcity of definite records of the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*) in Illinois, it may be well to record the capture of two specimens. Some time ago I saw a fine female which had just been sent in to a taxidermist's shop in Chicago from Lacon, Marshall County, Illinois. It was killed by a farmer on November 9, 1928, and was said to have disposed of two chickens daily for the six days previous to its death.

There is the skin of a young bird in this museum collected at Charleston, Coles County, Illinois, December 1, 1914, by T. L. Hankinson. Judging by size (wing 650 mm.), it, too, is a female.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.*

Duck Hawk and Sparrow Hawk on the Tortugas.—In view of the comparative scarcity of arrival dates in the fall migration of the Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) and the Eastern Sparrow Hawk (*Falco s. sparverius*) in far-southern Florida, it seems well to record early dates made by the writer on Garden Key, Dry Tortugas, on October 2, 1936. A landing was made at Fort Jefferson on this day from a Coast Guard amphibian plane and several hours were spent on Garden Key. Among the few birds seen there, was a magnificent adult Duck Hawk and a pair of Sparrow Hawks. Howell, in his 'Birds of Florida,' states on page 188, on the authority of Atkins, that the former arrives "at Key West in winter . . . about Oct. 1st." Garden Key lies directly west of Key West, distant about 65 miles in the open Gulf. The bird was seen several times during my stay, and circled over the quadrangle of the fort at an elevation of hardly more than twenty feet over the parapet. The black mustache mark and the barring of the underparts were plainly visible without glasses. This record then, is one day later than the earliest hitherto.

On page 192, Howell gives the same authority for the arrival of *Falco s. sparverius*, "the earliest migrant being noted September 30, 1888." Forty-eight years have passed since Atkins made that observation, and the writer saw a pair at Garden Key on October 2, 1936, two days later than the earliest hitherto. These birds are referred to *sparverius* provisionally, since *paulus* does not seem to occur on the Lower Keys. None was taken at Garden Key of course, but it would seem proper to assume that this pair, for it was a pair, were representatives of the Eastern Sparrow Hawk.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Supervisor, Southern Sanctuaries, Charleston, S. C.*

Black Rail breeding in Indiana.—On June 7, 1936, a pair of Black Rails (*Crex ciscus jamaicensis stoddardi*) was found near Windfall, Tipton County, Indiana. This is the third locality in the State from which they have been reported. The two other instances are: on April 22, 1888, Ruthven Deane found this bird at English Lake; on July 27, 1894, Jesse Earle and Alexander Black found one young and one

adult male near Greencastle (Butler, 'Birds of Indiana'). In the present case, the Black Rails were found in an alfalfa field with a marshy edge on a drainage ditch. The birds were working their way along rows of cut alfalfa when two young boys discovered them and tried to flush them. The birds would not fly but ran to cover in the hay. The boys succeeded in capturing them and put them in a canary-bird's cage for the night. The male escaped and next morning an egg was found in the cage. The boys had thought these were immature birds but finding the egg so aroused their interest that they came to Kokomo for help in identification and were sent to me. The female died on June 10, 1936. The egg was 1.011 x 0.756 inches, nearly oval, creamy white, very smooth and glossy; the shell was sprinkled with irregular small reddish-brown spots, larger and more numerous at the larger end of the egg. Comparatively few of the spots could be called dots. This female Black Rail was mounted and the specimen with one egg is to be given to the Field Museum of Natural History.—(MRS.) ALTA R. COX, 316 N. Union Street, Kokomo, Indiana.

Franklin's Gull in Ontario.—On August 31, 1936, Mr. C. Molony and the writer visited Wasaga Beach, Simcoe County, Ontario, on Georgian Bay. Driving along the beach, we were attracted by a small gull which was in company with several Ring-billed Gulls. This bird was quite striking when contrasted with its larger companions and appeared to be in winter plumage, being dusky about the eyes, ears and back of head. When collected it proved to be a Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). The writer is indebted to Mr. L. L. Snyder and Mr. J. L. Baillie of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, who confirmed the identification of the specimen as that of a female in the last stage intermediate condition of plumage between the first-nuptial and the second-winter plumage. The specimen is now in the museum's collection. There appear to be only three published records of Ontario specimens: Thomas McIlwraith records two individuals taken at Hamilton, one by John Dynes in Oct. 1865, and the other by McIlwraith in the following April ('Birds of Ontario,' p. 39, 1886). These specimens are not now known to be extant, and are not in the McIlwraith Collection of mounted birds in Hamilton. The only other record is of one shot at Toronto by C. K. Rogers, June 1, 1898, and now in the collection of J. H. Fleming (Auk, vol. 47, pp. 65-66, 1930).—O. E. DEVITT, Toronto, Ontario.

Sabine's Gull on Long Island.—On October 17, 1936, the wind blew with almost hurricane force directly from the sea upon the south shore of Long Island, New York. At Mecox Bay, near Watermill, large numbers of Herring, Ring-billed, and Laughing Gulls took refuge on the sand-flats. Among them, hovering over the inrushing surf, was a single Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*), and this bird remained on the bay until the evening of the next day, when it flew out to sea with some Laughing Gulls. It was not seen on the nineteenth, but it returned from sea, again with Laughing Gulls, on the morning of the twentieth, and alit on the flats. Several attempts were then made to collect it, but it was impossible to stalk the gulls to within shotgun range, as there was absolutely no cover, and as soon as a few gulls rose into the air, all the others would follow. I was able, however, to approach close enough to pick out the Sabine's Gull even while the birds were at rest, most easily because of the different shape and smaller size of its head and bill, as well as by the yellow color of the terminal portion of its otherwise dark bill. This feature I had not observed on the first day of the bird's appearance. In flight, identification was a simple matter even at long range, and among hundreds of other swirling gulls. The unique and conspicuous wing-pattern marked it from afar. The pattern is not easy to describe concisely, but the general effect was of two differently colored,