

and Schmidt of the staff of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge and the present note is made with the kind permission of Mr. Ray C. Steele, Superintendent of the Refuge. The birds were nesting 25 to 75 feet up in black-birch trees in the center of a colony of Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons, and Double-crested Cormorants. Two of the nests were about 30 feet apart with the third only 100 feet distant. On this date the young were large and well-feathered although they showed some individual variation in size. A tree-top blind was built 30 feet from the two closest nests and most of one day was spent observing and photographing the birds. Colored movies recording the nesting are now in the motion-picture library of the Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Another report of the nesting of this bird came from Mr. F. B. Kalash of Lakefield, Jackson County. In correspondence with Dr. Roberts Mr. Kalash wrote: "I did not see their nest but saw them very often driving from Lakefield to our cottage on Spirit Lake (Iowa). I saw them first about June 10 and now (August 23) they have two young ones almost fully grown."

These records indicate that the American Egrets in the Mississippi Valley must be reestablishing themselves in numbers approaching those of 75 years ago when they may have nested here before. At least this possibility is suggested in that Kumlien and Hollister (*Birds of Wisconsin*, 1903) reported three southern Wisconsin nestings between 1860 and 1880.

In the far West this same gratifying increase appears to be taking place. It seems then, that in the American Egret we have a bird that has responded most satisfactorily to legal protection and has actually come back from the very verge of extinction to almost its former abundance. And anyone with the slightest appreciation of the great esthetic value of these majestic fishermen certainly hopes that they will be able not only to maintain their numbers but to increase and extend their range still farther.—W. J. BRECKENRIDGE, *Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota*.

Bahama Pintail and Cinnamon Teal in Cuba.—Mr. Hernández Bauzá, of Havana, Cuba, sends me the following data on specimens of these ducks in his collection. A Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*), an adult male, was taken in a lagoon at Campo Florido, near the north coast of the Province of Habana on February 28, 1932. Three specimens (two males and one female) of the Bahama Pintail (*Dafila b. bahamensis*) were taken "in a single shot" at Punta de Tarara, Province of Habana, on December 29, 1932. I had the pleasure of seeing these specimens when in Havana last winter.

According to Barbour's 'Birds of Cuba' (Mem. Nuttall Ornith. Club, no. 6, 1923) there is but one previous record of the occurrence of either of these ducks in Cuba, while that of the Cinnamon Teal constitutes the second definite record of the species in the West Indies.—JAMES BOND, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*.

An unusual roadside casualty in southern Maryland.—On May 22, 1938, the writer, accompanied by Clarence F. Smith, found near Marberry, Maryland, the body of a freshly killed, adult Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) that had recently been struck by an automobile. The occurrence of the bird in this locality was somewhat surprising, inasmuch as it was on the side of a hill in heavily wooded country almost a mile from the Potomac River. The date is nearly a month later than the average departure of Red-breasted Mergansers from this vicinity and is

close to the latest record. The specimen is now in the collection of the writer.—
JOHN C. JONES, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Bald Eagle robbing Marsh Hawk.—On March 22, 1939, a party consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Ludlow Griscom, Mr. and Mrs. Harold S. Peters, Mr. and Mrs. E. Burnham Chamberlain, Mr. William L. Hills, and the writer witnessed an interesting sight on Bull Island, South Carolina (a unit of the Cape Romain Migratory Bird Refuge). As we looked over a dead *Spartina* marsh, we saw a Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*) drop to the ground several times after some sort of small prey. The hawk, a few minutes later, flew out over the adjacent ocean beach, fairly close to us. At this point, an adult Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*), which had been circling above, dropped on the Marsh Hawk and forced it to release its prey. The eagle quickly landed on the beach, and, with a few steps, seized the object and was off again. Arriving at the spot, we picked up a few scattered feathers from the sand; these were identified then (and later compared with study skins at the Charleston Museum) as those of a Sora (*Porzana carolina*). Although the Bald Eagle's habit of robbing the Osprey is well known, this tyrannical act against other birds of prey is not widely reported.

Sporadic collections around the base of an eagle's nest-tree, which was used from about the first of December to the middle of March, resulted in the recovery of the remains of the following birds: seven Clapper Rails (*Rallus longirostris waynei*), four Lesser Scaup Ducks (*Nyroca affinis*), three Black Ducks (*Anas rubripes* subsp.), three unidentified ducks, one Coot (*Fulica americana*), one Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias herodias*), one Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*), one Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), and one (imm.) Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*). Since the interior of the nest was not examined it is realized that this small list is not indicative of the entire nesting diet. On several occasions during February one of the eagles was seen flying to the nest with stout-bodied snakes. Adult and immature eagles were seen many times feeding along the beach on carrion fish and hogs. A piece of yellow, filiform *Gorgonia* coral, also found at the base of the tree, may have been brought to the nest by an eagle as some sort of gift for the mated bird.

While it is conceivable that some of the birds listed above may have been able-bodied but caught unawares, it is more likely that most of them were crippled, diseased, or dead birds, or were taken away from some other predator. In the light of the Marsh Hawk encounter, it would appear that some of the smaller prey listed could have been obtained from hawks of various species which are abundant here in winter.—W. P. BALDWIN, *U. S. Biological Survey, Awendaw, South Carolina.*

Yellow Rail in West Virginia.—A specimen of the Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) was found by the writer in Ohio County, in the northern panhandle of West Virginia on October 8, 1939. The bird was lying on the Clinton-West Liberty Pike between Warwood and Oglebay Park. It had apparently been struck by an automobile during the night or early morning, as the body was in a perfect condition except for a spot on top of the head where a few feathers were missing. The bird was taken to the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by Mr. Wm. LeRoy Black, and there a study skin was made of it. I have been informed by Miss Ruth Trimble, Assistant Curator, that the bird was an adult male, and that it now reposes in the study collection of the Museum.

Due perhaps to its inconspicuousness rather than to its rarity, this bird has been previously reported only once, to the best of my knowledge, in West Virginia and