

The nesting date reported may seem early for the latitude concerned, since it was "long before the break-up which comes in May," but it is not improbable. It is possible that the birds were observed in association with a nest of the previous year. Tree-nesting is not in any sense unlikely, especially in an area where ledges are non-existent.—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, Canada.*

A bud-eating Ring-necked Pheasant.—The inability of the Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus torquatus*) to adapt itself to a winter diet of buds is thought to be one of the factors controlling its present distribution. Because of this, the following analysis of the crop contents of a male Ring-necked Pheasant may be of interest.

On February 3, 1939, at about 11 a. m., a cock pheasant was seen scratching in the snowplow-cleared strip at the edge of a country road about three miles north of Ithaca, New York. With it were ten to fifteen Crows and a number of Tree Sparrows and Starlings. Except where cleared by man, the snow was about fifteen inches deep and covered by a light crust. One-half hour later a pheasant, presumably the same one, was found dead along the road, having been struck by a car.

The crop contents, with approximate percentages by volume, were as follows: large flower buds of elm (*Ulmus americana*), 50%; leaf buds of elm, 10%; Geum seeds (*Geum arvense*), 7%; ragweed seeds (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), 6%; milkweed seeds (*Asclepias* sp.), 3%; burdock seeds (*Arcticum* sp.), 3%; Prunus pits (*Prunus* sp.), 4%; green leaf fragments, 5%; grass stems (*Gramineae*), 5%; apple fragments (*Malus* sp.), 3%; Bidens seeds (*Bidens* sp.), trace; buckwheat seed (*Fagopyrum esculentum*), trace; 1 small spider (*Arachnida*), trace; gravel, trace; unknown seeds of four species, 2%.

The writer wishes to express his thanks to H. B. Banks of the Department of Botany, Cornell University, for identification of the elm buds.—A. HEATON UNDERHILL, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Purple Gallinule and King Rail at Lexington, Virginia.—A living Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) was brought to me on May 16, 1940, by Mr. Clarence W. Morrison, who had just secured the bird at his home on South Buffalo Creek, ten miles southwest of Lexington, in Rockbridge County, Virginia. He had considerable difficulty in capturing the bird. It flew several times into a small tree near the stream, but made no effort to fly very far and always came back to its feeding in the creek. As far as I have been able to learn from published records this bird has not occurred in Virginia for nearly fifty years, the latest report being for Cobb's Island, May 1891, as recorded in Bent's volume on marsh birds. The present record seems to be the only one for the mountain region of western Virginia. It seemed advisable, therefore, to make the bird into a skin. Unfortunately the friend who prepared it for me neglected to sex it. The bird was in very bright plumage but in exceedingly poor flesh.

Curiously enough the first King Rail (*Rallus elegans elegans*) which I have seen in this county was brought in on the previous day from the same neighborhood and also alive. It was later released.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Virginia.*

Eskimo Curlew record corrected.—The writer has recently purchased from the Will E. Snyder collection (Beaver Dam, Wisconsin) his mounted specimen carrying tag number 7660 which was reported in various publications as an Eskimo