

On the following Sunday, a thorough search was made for the bird but it could not be found.—CORPORAL MAYNARD F. REECE, *Headquarters Company W.S.C.T.C., Camp Kohler, Sacramento, California.*

**White-fronted Goose at Rouses Point, New York.**—On November 3, 1943, through the courtesy of Mr. M. T. Chapman, Superintendent of Game, New York State Conservation Department, I was informed that a specimen of White-fronted Goose (*Anser a. albifrons*) had been killed a short while before on Lake Champlain by Lieutenant John Owen, U.S.N.R., of Rouses Point, New York. Mr. Chapman was kind enough also to enclose for my information a copy of the letter relating to the goose which, under date of October 23, 1943, Lieutenant Owen had addressed to the Conservation Department.

Since the opening paragraph of that letter relates specifically to the bird in question and contains the essentials of the collector's first impression of his kill, a verbatim quotation thereof follows: "On 22 October, last, I shot a goose on Lake Champlain just south of the village of Rouses Point [Clinton County]. The following is an accurate description of the goose: White forehead, bordered with black, upper part of the head is brownish, breast and stomach is brown-white with numerous blotches of black; feet are yellow with dark nails; bill is pink with white nail; eyes are brown; length is 29 inches; wing  $17\frac{1}{2}$  and bill  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long." It is at once obvious that the specimen concerned is a White-fronted Goose.

Immediately upon receipt of this information I wrote to Lieutenant Owen asking for any further data that he might have concerning the bird and what disposition had been made or was to be made of the body.

Unfortunately, I was a little late in my request. Under date of November 10, 1943, Lieutenant Owen reported that, having failed in his attempt to obtain the services of a taxidermist in preserving the goose, he had given the bird to their colored cook who lives at Port Henry, New York. Upon inquiry, Lieutenant Owen found that "she dressed out the goose last night [November 9, 1943], burning the entrails and head and other non-edible parts."

Lieutenant Owen's letter also carried the following pertinent remarks supplementing the data previously transmitted: ". . . I neglected to give the weight of the goose which was  $7\frac{1}{4}$  pounds, four days after it was shot. The exact locality of shooting was at Catfish Bay about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile south of the Rouses Point breakwater . . . The time of shooting was about 8:30 A. M. Weather was warm and overcast. The goose decoyed to a stool of about fifteen blueball decoys, came from the northeast and was alone."

As a partial compensation for the disappointment which I felt in the complete disappearance of visual evidence of the goose in question, Lieutenant Owen announced that he had "about ten feet of colored 8 mm. movie" of the bird and generously offered to lend the film to me. On December 15, 1943, I received the Kodachrome film, some six feet of which show the dead goose, as it is held at arm's length, in the flesh in various positions. A detailed examination of this film provides substantiating evidence for Lieutenant Owen's statements and enables me to present the following brief supplementary remarks: White of fore-face bordered behind by a distinct blackish line. Breast and upper belly grayish white, the blackish cross-patches irregular in shape, size, and distribution; some were sharply pointed, the shape more or less like that of a maple leaf; a good deal of grayish interspersed among them. Area of under tail-coverts distinctly whiter than area immediately anterior thereto. The total available evidence suggests that this individual may have been an adult female.

So far as I am able to determine, this is the sixth specimen of White-fronted Goose reported to have been collected in New York State. Records available to me indicate that the five specimens previously collected (1844-1889) came from the Long Island area. An additional sight record (1889) also is available from that territory. And the only other point that I know in New York State from which the species otherwise has been recorded is Chautauqua Lake in Chautauqua County [Bull. Buffalo Soc. Nat. Sci., 4: 34, July (1881) 1883].

Unfortunately, since no visible part of the White-fronted Goose here reported has been preserved, this account must serve for verification of the record of a species which apparently has not been taken in this state in more than fifty years.—DAYTON STONER, *New York State Museum, Albany, New York*.

**The European Migratory Quail in North America.**—The account by John C. Phillips (U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Tech. Bull. 61: 38-39, 1928) of the widespread liberations of the subspecies, *Coturnix c. coturnix*, in the United States and Canada is very satisfactory but, if sporting magazine records can be trusted, may be somewhat enlarged and corrected. To his list of states in which these birds were released can be added Connecticut, Maryland, and Iowa. Phillips does not cite actual records of breeding, though the bird was reported to have occurred in Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, and Ontario. Moreover, he says that, "after migration there was never any return movement." Observations of the Quail the year after introduction are noted for Maine (Everett Smith, *Forest & Stream*, 18: 28, 1882), Vermont and Pennsylvania (*op. cit.*, 15: p. 30, 1880-81); Massachusetts (Horace P. Tobey) and Connecticut W. H. Williams, *op. cit.*, 13: 927, 1879-80), and New York (*op. cit.*, 16: 453, 1881). The birds were seen for three years in succession at Allentown, Pennsylvania (*op. cit.*, 18: 223, 1882). Breeding in two successive years was reported for Connecticut (Sage and Bishop, 'Birds of Connecticut': 184, 1913) and Vermont (*Forest & Stream*, 11: 56, 1878-79).

The European Migratory Quail achieved mention in a few local lists and in Coues's 'Key' (6th ed., 2: 751, 1927), but has not yet been noticed in the A. O. U. Check-List. The facts appear to be that the bird was introduced over an extensive range in total numbers aggregating thousands, that individuals were seen in the areas of liberation for two years in six states and for three years in one state, that the birds bred in eight states—for two successive years in two of them—but that it did not become permanently naturalized. To sum up, it was a breeding bird in both the United States and Canada but it became extirpated. Probably there is no definite criterion by which such cases can be judged, and they exist in every degree from introductions that produced no tangible results to the entirely too successful colonizations of the Starling and English Sparrow. To what extent these histories should be recognized in ornithological literature is a question not easy to answer, but one with which the writer is faced in a large work now in preparation. Are there any suggestions?—W. L. McATEE.

**Western Burrowing Owl in Clark County, Washington.**—Specimen no. 91 in my collection, an immature male Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*), was collected about four miles south of Battle Ground, Clark County, Washington, October 18, 1942. The owl was flushed from the edge of a small stubble field which was surrounded by brushy pasture land and second-growth Douglas fir. This habitat is altogether different from the open prairie in which