

I have not discovered a nest of Woodcock eggs since the tragic winter of 1940. Imagine my surprise, during this fall hunting season (1944), to have five different Woodcocks brought to me for identification, killed by hunters ignorant of the law protecting them. Another Woodcock was captured in a garage and brought to me alive. I banded and released it.

Late in November, 1944, I had a letter from J. W. Summers, science teacher at the Griggsville High School, which read: "For the past two weeks I have been observing what to me is most unusual. About three miles northeast of Perry, in a creek valley, some two or three hundred Woodcock have been having a great time feeding. I first observed them on November 13, again November 20, and November 23 and 26. On the last date few remained. In the past twenty-five years, I have seen possibly fifteen Woodcocks all told, but never before anything like the number accumulated in the Perry creek valley."

It has probably been fifty years since a similar accumulation was reported from the middle Mississippi Valley. Whether this invasion of Woodcocks is due to an unusually good year on the feeding grounds or to a shift of migration route due to unsatisfactory breeding conditions in the east, is difficult to tell. Certainly, in the spring and fall of 1945, we shall watch the same valley for a similar invasion.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Illinois*.

A further record for the Double-crested Cormorant from the Pleistocene of Florida.—Early in 1934 the late Walter Wetmore Holmes forwarded to me a number of bones of the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) from the pit on Florida Avenue, Bradenton, Manatee County, Florida,¹ that furnish a new locality for this species from the Pleistocene of the state. For various reasons the specimens were laid aside at the time but it seems desirable now to place them on record. The lot includes parts of right and left humeri, an ulna, a fragmentary radius, a coracoid, one vertebra and a broken lower jaw, all found associated in such a manner that the collector, Mr. J. E. Moore, believed that they are parts of the skeleton of one individual bird.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

Yellow Rail nesting in Massachusetts.—On August 1, 1944, my son Richard and I were taking a bird walk through the salt marshes in Essex County, Massachusetts. Following the railroad tracks toward Newburyport, we were crossing one of these marshes and had reached a point about half way when we heard a bird call which seemed to come from the marsh grass at the base of the roadbed. The tracks here were elevated about 12 feet above the marsh. Directly beneath us was a bare spot in the marsh, roughly triangular in shape and approximately six feet across. It was from the grass fringing this spot that the call seemed to come.

We waited quietly and were soon rewarded by seeing a Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops n. noveboracensis*) walk leisurely out of the marsh grass to the center of the bare patch where it stopped to stretch and preen its feathers. It was not more than 18 feet away from us, and being above it we had an excellent chance to study it. Then, to add to our enjoyment and surprise, another Yellow Rail, the female, with her brood of black downy young, approached through the marsh grass to the edge of the same bare spot. Just how many young there were it was impossible to tell, as they did not stray far from the marsh grass, and were constantly on the move, running back and forth. We did, on several occasions see four at one time and judged that there were six or seven in the brood. The female did not venture far out into the open, as

¹ See Wetmore, A., *Smiths. Misc. Coll.*, 85 (no. 2): 8, April 13, 1931.