

characteristic of the species. As they were too small to band I returned them to the water after a brief examination.

I am quite certain that there was only one pair of shovelers in the area. Therefore, this brood must have been the result of a renesting attempt. It is interesting to note that there was at least one more egg laid during the renesting than in the first attempt.

My last observation of the brood, on August 25, showed them to be well-feathered and about half the size of the female. By this date their number had dwindled to six.—G. F. BOYER, *R. R. No. 1, West Sackville, New Brunswick.*

**Recent records of the ring-necked duck.**—On August 3, 1947, a juvenile female ring-necked duck, *Aythya collaris*, almost ready to fly was trapped and banded by Jack Jedlicka at the Orland Wildlife Refuge, eight miles southwest of the Chicago city limits. His father who has previously banded ducks here for the Illinois Natural History Survey and he identified the bird.

The evidence points toward breeding in northern Illinois. This is further strengthened by observations of the author in 1940 when on June 26 and on July 3 and 5 he saw several males and a female of this species on Longjohn Slough, five miles north of the refuge near the town of Willow Springs, Illinois. It was not determined if these were breeding birds, but the dates are far past the spring migration period, as most individuals have passed through by the first week in May.

A review of the literature indicates that the southern breeding range of this species formerly extended into the lake region of northeastern Illinois, but it has not been known to nest there for many years. However, at present the ring-necked duck appears to be a rare breeder in this area.

Another interesting record of the ring-necked duck is that of an adult male banded at the refuge on March 23, 1945, and shot on October 27, 1945, at Mingan, Quebec, north of Anticosti Island. Correspondence with Dr. Oliver Hewitt of the Dominion Wildlife Service and Mr. Howard Mendall of the Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit reveals that this apparently constitutes the most northeasterly record for the species.—PAUL F. SPRINGER, *Illinois Natural History Survey Laboratory, Havana, Illinois.*

**Greater scaup eating frogs.**—On April 12, 1948, four greater scaup, *Aythya marila*, were observed eating frogs on a roadside pond near Ortonville, Minnesota. The ducks diving near the shore and perhaps 30 yards from the road had swallowed several large objects before we recognized that the objects were frogs. Seven frogs were then eaten within the next few minutes. Apparently they were leopard frogs, *Rana pipiens*, with a body length of about two inches. I believe they were in the dormant condition as yet. Near the middle of the pond, 100 yards from us, were three more greater scaup and ten lesser scaup, *Aythya affinis*, which fed on vegetable material.—WILLIAM H. LONGLEY, *Saint Paul, Minnesota.*

**Rallus philippensis on Mindoro, Philippine Islands.**—Mr. J. Frank Cassel has generously donated a small collection of birds from New Guinea and the Philippines to Cornell University. Among these specimens is a skin of *Rallus philippensis* from San José, Mindoro, P. I. This specimen apparently represents the first record of the banded rail from any Philippine island other than Luzon or Bataan (Delacour and Mayr, *Birds of the Philippines*, 1946: 62).

The specimen is a subadult female taken April 1, 1945. It was captured by William K. Clark in a rat trap near a garbage pit in an old sugar-field which had

reverted to grassland. The ovary is described on the original label as "undeveloped."

Mr. Herbert Deignan of the United States National Museum kindly checked the Mindoro specimen against the series in that institution and has given me permission to quote from his notes. Mr. Deignan states, "The Mindoro bird has been compared with four specimens of *philippensis* from Luzon, nine of *chandleri* from Celebes, and eight of *pelewensis* from the Palau Islands. It appears that *chandleri* and *pelewensis*, compared with each other, are pretty good races, especially in series, but that *philippensis*, the first-named form, is variably intermediate between them . . .

"The Mindoro bird, when placed in the series of *chandleri*, cannot be picked out, without reference to the label. However, the same thing is true of a Luzon specimen, and this Luzon bird agrees in every way with the one from Mindoro. Under the circumstances, one must call the latter *philippensis*.

"It is regrettable that the oldest name for the species as a whole was bestowed upon the unstable Philippine population."

Like most rails, *Rallus philippensis* is secretive in its habits. It may, therefore, be present on other islands of the Philippines where it is as yet undetected.

The Mindoro specimen is now number 21385 in the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Memorial Collection at Cornell University.—KENNETH C. PARKES, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

**Southernmost nesting of the Florida gallinule in the United States.**—Although the Florida gallinule, *Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*, is known to breed through Tropical America and South America to the Argentine, it apparently has not been reported in this country south of Cape Sable, Florida. The writer has worked for many years in the Florida Keys but has no knowledge of a nest of this species ever having been found there. No mention of such is made in either Florida Bird-Life (Howell, 1932) or Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds (Bent, 1926).

On June 17, 1948, while making a population survey of the sooty and noddy tern colony on Bush Key, Dry Tortugas, the writer happened to be on the edge of a smaller pond on that key. On the north shoreline, about midway of the pond, he stopped by a bay cedar bush, *Suriana*, to make some notes. He happened to look down, and there, directly at his feet, was a well-made nest. It was about one foot from the ground, attached to stems of mixed growth of bay cedar and high glasswort, *Salicornia*, and measured about ten inches across the top. It was a shallow, though noticeably depressed, platform of dried grasses and weeds, a type of nest utterly unlike any to be expected in these keys. Looking about, and under it, several small feathers were to be seen, many of them in the nest itself, exposed and partially exposed amid the grass material. Some dozen of these were removed. The nest was otherwise empty. These feathers were from a half inch to an inch long, downy and of a dark grayish shade. These were forwarded to Dr. Alexander Wetmore with the request that he name them. He replied that they were those of *Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*. The writer has worked at Tortugas for four consecutive seasons (June) with several trips prior to 1945, and no such nest has ever been seen on any of the keys comprising that group. It certainly must constitute the most southerly nesting for this species in its range in the United States.

No mention of the Tortugas is made in connection with this species by Howell (Florida Bird-Life) though he does mention the locality in regard to the purple gallinule, *Porphyryla martinica*. However, Paul Bartsch gives a record for it, as occurring on Tortugas in 1890, on authority of W. E. D. Scott (Bird Rookeries of