

Among the members of the family *Rallidae* that were picked up on this same date were a Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) and an American Coot (*Fulica americana*). Rails included in previous kills were Sora (*Porzana carolina*) and coots.

It is interesting to note that there were no rails found among the 106 bird casualties that were picked up for me by friends, on 16 October 1960, at the WBAP-TV tower in the Meadowbrook area, within the eastern part of the city of Fort Worth, Tarrant County. This tower is only 250 meters (750 feet) high, and approximately 48 km (30 miles) from the Cedar Hill TV tower.—WARREN M PULICH, *Department of Biology, University of Dallas, Dallas, Texas.*

***Dendroica dominica stoddardi* from South Carolina.**—Recently, while examining some warbler skins in the Charleston Museum collection, my attention was attracted by an unusually long and slender-billed male Yellow-throated Warbler (No. 53FF). This bird had been collected by the late Arthur T. Wayne near Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, on 9 January 1912. The exposed culmen measured 15 mm. The skin was sent to George M. Sutton, who, under date of 9 March, wrote that it was unquestionably *stoddardi*. My thanks are due to Dr. Sutton; also to Mr. E. Milby Burton, Director of the Charleston Museum, for the privilege of recording the bird.—EDWARD VON SIEBOLD DINGLE, *Huger, South Carolina.*

A White-winged Scoter Specimen from Alabama.—Although the White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*) may have always occurred sparingly in Alabama, it is not listed in A. H. Howell's *Birds of Alabama*, published in 1928. In recent years there have been several sight records, both coastal and interior. Interior records seem limited to those kept by the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge and include both observations made on the refuge and those made on nearby portions of Wheeler Reservoir. These include an observation at the Flint Creek Embayment of the refuge on 21 December 1942 by Ernest Holland. On that same date John Steenis, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, and Paul Bryan, a TVA biologist, examined a female White-winged Scoter killed by a hunter on Swan Creek, a short distance west of the refuge boundary, but the specimen was not preserved. On 2 November 1954 David C. Hulse of Decatur saw a female White-winged Scoter near the Decatur Boat Harbor. No Alabama scoter specimen was preserved until James Call shot a young female White-winged Scoter on 10 December 1960 in the Wheeler Reservoir backwaters of Limestone County immediately north of the city of Decatur. Call gave the specimen to David Hulse, who turned it over to Wheeler Refuge personnel. After positive identification this was given to the Alabama Conservation Department, mounted by Robert Skinner, and is now included in the department's collection as specimen B-316.—THOMAS Z. ATKESON, *Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 1643, Decatur, Alabama.*

Cattle Egret in Mexico.—The Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) is a species with a remarkable ability for range expansion. In a very few years it has become established along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida as well as at numerous places inland and is a breeding species from Florida to central Texas (Davis *Auk*, 77: 421-424, 1960). In addition it is probably well established in Mexico. While in the state of Tabasco with Dr. T. C. Meitzen and Joe Johnson of

Refugio, Texas, both competent ornithologists, I observed Cattle Egrets at two different localities. On 13 April 1961 we saw 11 about 75 km (45 miles) south-east of Villa Hermosa, Tabasco. The birds were about 15 meters from the road in a swampy pasture with a herd of cattle. Some were perched on the back of a cow, and others were on the ground scattered among the herd. Later the same day we observed 11 more about eight km (five miles) farther east, but these were possibly the same birds. On 14 April 1961 two Cattle Egrets were seen on the backs of cattle about 10 km (six miles) east of Villa Hermosa. Again, on 17 April 1961, five Cattle Egrets were seen about 12 km (seven miles) north of Tampico, Tamaulipas. These were also in an open pasture scattered among a herd of cattle. No specimens were taken, as the yellow bill, buffy crown, and buff along the back precludes confusion with any other species. Cattle Egrets have been reported in Guatemala by Smith and Land (*Auk*, 77: 218, 1960) and in Quintana Roo by Denham (*Auk*, 76: 359, 1959), but these are believed to be the first records for Tabasco and Tamaulipas.—COL. L. R. WOLFE, *Kerrville, Texas*.

Recovery of Bird Band from an Owl Pellet.—On 18 January 1961, while repairing goose nesting islands in Pool 1 at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw, Michigan, a large, freshly regurgitated owl pellet—presumably a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*)—was found on one of the islands. Upon examining the pellet, a Fish and Wildlife Service bird band, No. 546-35934, was found. No mechanical distortion of the band had occurred, and apparently it had been unaffected by the digestive processes. The band was attached to the leg of an American Coot (*Fulica americana*). The leg, from the toes to the tibia, had been regurgitated intact. Freshly plucked feathers from a Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) were found on the ground near the pellet.

It was found that the coot had been banded at the refuge 13 September 1960. Presumably the coot was one of a small number that remained on the refuge in a small, open-water area after freeze-up in December.—RALPH H. TOWN, *Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw, Michigan*.

Loss of 1,000 Lesser Sandhill Cranes.—On 10 November 1960 Don Price, Wildlife Conservation Officer from Clovis, and I observed a number of dead Lesser Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis canadensis*) along State Highway 330 north of Elida, New Mexico. These birds were in a badly decomposed condition, and the cause of death could not be determined. At first we believed the birds had been killed either by poachers from the nearby highway or by coyotes, which are numerous in this area. Additional investigations into these losses revealed 15 more dead birds around a windmill stock tank on the Jake McCabe ranch. Mr. McCabe was contacted, and he stated that a hailstorm on 15 October had killed these birds. While talking he pointed out numerous House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) in his yard that had also been killed. He said the storm began about 0330 and lasted for approximately 30 minutes. He also mentioned that additional dead cranes could be found around Lewiston Lake also located on his property. We made a trip to this lake, but did not arrive until after sundown, and no count of dead birds could be made.

On 15 November Charles Q. Heumier, U.S. Game Management Agent of Roswell, New Mexico, and I returned to Lewiston Lake and walked around part of the shoreline where the largest concentration of dead birds appeared. We counted 720 dead cranes. Many of the birds had been dragged from the shoreline