

former years succeeded in approaching to within five and at another occasion to within ten feet, which would seem impossible when one considers the wariness of this lordly woodpecker in other places. This time I got up to within thirty feet, without really trying very hard.

The latest instance of my meeting this stately bird was June 15, 1926. This was at Sand Point, about thirty miles west of Houston, Texas. It was in the large live oaks, which formed the setting for a pond, in which hundreds of Little Blue, Louisiana, Black-crowned Night and Green Herons nested. The numerous white or nearly white young of the Little Blue Herons, perched on the dark green foliage of the bushes in and around this pond, made a picture that one never forgets. The Pileated Woodpecker did not seem to fit in such surroundings, but here it was and apparently very much at home, as it is wherever there is large timber. Of course this one, or rather this pair, was *Phloeotomus p. pileatus*, the southern form, like the one seen in Missouri.—C. W. G. EIFRIG, *River Forest*, Ill.

Data Concerning the Breeding Range of Certain Marsh Birds.—Mr. Arthur C. Bent's "Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds," published as Bulletin 135 of the United States National Museum, is, like all his previous volumes of this series, a very fine piece of work, and as it covers several species of birds that breed in areas that I am very familiar with, I offer the following comments that may add to the data contained in the above mentioned work:

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*).—On page 51, in giving the breeding range of this species, Mr. Bent says: "Definitely known as a breeder in America only in Florida (Micanopy and Bird Island, Orange Lake)." To this I may add that up to this year (1927) there have been two other small breeding colonies that I know of, one of which was cleaned out by gunners last season, the other in which I saw birds this year, sadly depleted. A few more years and this species will be missing from Florida entirely.

American Egret (*Casmerodius egretta*).—On page 144, Mr. Bent says of this species: "Virginia, one record (Arlington)." He evidently failed to note the remarks on this species in my "Birds of Virginia," page 41. They are still breeding in several of the tributaries of the James River, Chickahominy being one, up to the time I moved from that state in 1920. The salt water coastal birds have entirely stopped nesting in that area.

Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa rufescens*).—In the breeding range given covering the Bahama Islands, on page 167, Andros Island has been omitted. I found these birds breeding abundantly in Grassy Creek, at the south end of the island, June 22, 1921.

Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*).—On page 184, Mr. Bent includes only Hog Island, Virginia, in the breeding range of this species. More of these birds bred and still breed in Grays Creek and the Chickahominy River swamps, Virginia, than on the whole eastern shore combined, since the days of Mock Horn Island, back in the 1890's.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*).—In the breeding range of this species, on page 218, among the Bahama Islands, Mr. Bent neglected to list Andros Island, where I have taken this species breeding at the south end of the island in June (21-22), 1921.

Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*).—In his outline of the breeding range of this species, on pages 298 and 299, Mr. Bent neglected to give any Florida records,

leading one to infer that it does not nest that far south. It does, however, nest on the St. Johns River marshes, and other fresh water lakes, as far south as Palm Beach County. I found a nest and eggs on May 16, 1923, in that county, partly destroyed, with a large Cotton-mouth Moccasin still on the nest, and evidently with some eggs, and possibly the bird, inside.

Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis*).—On page 331, in his outline of the breeding range of this species, Mr. Bent says: "Probably Virginia (Wallops Island)." On page 60 of my "Birds of Virginia," published in 1913, I mentioned an incomplete set having been taken by my father in 1911. This set was taken, however, on Cobbs Island, Northampton County, and not on Wallops Island. On May 16, 1917, a full set of six eggs was taken on this same island. On May 22, 1917, my father found a small colony of six or seven nests on Hog Island, bordering a small fresh water pond. This pond, however, and also the one on Cobbs Island, was completely washed away by the ocean water during a storm of the week following, and no more sets were taken by us previous to my leaving Virginia, in 1920. Since moving to Florida, I wrote on page 43 of my "Birds of Florida": "I am quite positive that they breed in this state * * * a dropped egg, etc." Since then, on July 13, 1926, Nicholson has found them breeding in Brevard County, on Merritts Island, and Mr. Bent quotes him at length. At this date it would seem evident that these sets found by Nicholson were second settings, on account of my having found a dropped egg in May in Dade County, and over 150 miles farther south. I am very glad that Nicholson found these full settings, for one of my friends in reviewing my "Birds of Florida," doubted that the Black Rail bred this far south. They will probably be found breeding in Florida by May 15, depending on the rainy season.

Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinicus*).—On page 339, in describing the bird life of the extensive marshes which border the upper waters of the St. Johns River in Florida, Mr. Bent says: "Least bitterns, sora rails, and boat-tailed grackles were breeding in the saw grass, etc." I think the recording of the Sora Rail must have been a mistake, for Mr. Bent does not give Florida in the breeding range under that species on page 313. I do not know of a record for Florida. Possibly Mr. Bent misstated Sora Rail for Virginia Rail, which latter species breeds there. Mr. Bent gives South Carolina as the northern limit of the range of the Purple Gallinule. In 1916, after my "Birds of Virginia" was published, my father took an incomplete set of four eggs of the Purple Gallinule on Hog Island, Northampton County, Virginia, on June 17. This was in the same little fresh water pond and marsh in which he had found the little colony of Black Rails in 1917. We had secured birds each spring on Hog Island for several years previously, but up to the time my book was published no nest with eggs had been found, so I did not include it in my work as a breeding bird, although I was convinced that it bred in Virginia. I feel sure that it will be found breeding in the upper marshes of Back Bay, Virginia, as well as at Currituck Sound, North Carolina, for I have seen it there during every month from May to September. In winter it is found on our Florida east coast, certainly as far north as Palm Beach County, and probably up to Brevard County.

American Coot (*Fulica americana*).—Concerning the breeding range of this species, Mr. Bent writes on page 367: "Formerly Florida (Monticello)," giving one the impression that this bird does not breed in Florida now. There are,

however, many places where it still breeds in Florida. My latest record is on Merritts Island, Brevard County, May 11, 1927, a nest in the cat-tails bordering a small creek running up into the island. As I have all of the sets of eggs of this species I need in my collection, and as there is no demand for such common sets in exchange, I did not disturb the set. I could easily have shot the bird with my little .22 caliber cane gun, so tame was she. I have seen old birds with young several times since moving to Florida, and I consider them rather a common breeder here.—HAROLD H. BAILEY, *Miami, Fla.*



Albino Red-tailed Hawk, Male.

The post-nuptial moult was virtually complete, there being but two old, discolored rectrices.

While there is nothing of great scientific importance in the occasional discovery of such a freak specimen as this, it is interesting to note that a very oddly colored individual may successfully meet the conditions of its environment, handicapped though it be by coloration which is neither properly protective nor properly aggressive. A White Gyrfalcon captures its prey the more easily, we are led to believe, because it is white in color as are its Arctic surroundings. Yet here is a creature of the Temperate Zone, well fed, obviously in good condition, existing successfully with a type of coloration not found in any of the birds of prey typical of this latitude. One is led to wonder, in considering such a case as this, whether the importance of aggressive coloration, so called, has not been somewhat overestimated.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.*

An Albino Red-tailed Hawk.—

On October 15, 1925, County Game Protector S. Maurice Shuler of Liverpool, Perry County, Pennsylvania, forwarded to the writer's office a living almost perfect albino specimen of Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis borealis*), which had been shot by J. Walter Zellers of Liverpool. The bird was subsequently mounted by Mr. Paul W. Sharp, taxidermist of Newport, Pennsylvania, who furnished the accompanying photograph.

Most of the plumage of this specimen was pure white, fresh, and silken. Three primaries and four secondaries of the right wing were pale brownish gray in color. One greater covert was normal dark brown. The eyes were deep brown; the bill and feet were yellowish flesh color, the claws pinkish white.