

GENERAL NOTES.

Merganser americanus breeding in New Mexico.—On and near the head of the Pecos River, New Mexico (latitude $35^{\circ} 45'$, elevation 6800 feet), I saw, July 2, 1885, a female American Merganser, with four little ones not over ten days old. I fail to find any record of the birds' breeding so far south, therefore think the 'find' worthy of mention.—N. S. Goss, *Topeka, Kan.*

The Clapper Rail again in Massachusetts.—I have the pleasure of hereby presenting for record a third example of *Rallus longirostris crepitans* obtained in this State; and at a remarkably late date in the season.

The bird was taken in a small pond-hole in 'Rocky Nook,' Kingston, on Dec. 29, 1885. It was in fair condition, showing no sign of being crippled.

It is now in possession of W. C. Hathaway of Plymouth, to whom I am indebted for above particulars.

The dates and places of the previous authentic records are: May 4, 1875, Boston Harbor (*Purdie*, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1877, p. 22), and October, 1879, Plymouth (*Brewster*, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1881, p. 62).—F. C. BROWNE, *Framingham, Mass.*

Ictinia mississippiensis and Ægialitis nivosa nesting in Southern Central Kansas.—While collecting in this State, I found, May 9, 1887, quite a number of the Mississippi Kites sailing over and into the timber skirting the Medicine River, near Sun City, Barber County, and from their actions knew that they were mating and upon their breeding grounds,—a lucky find worth following up. On the 11th I noticed several of the birds with sticks in their bills (green twigs in leaf), flying aimlessly about as if undecided where to place them, keeping hidden within the trees as much as possible, dropping the sticks when from fright or other cause they raised much above the tree tops. I succeeded, however, in tracing one of the birds to an old nest in the forks of a cottonwood; having thus located the birds, and knowing that it must be some time before they would begin to lay, I left for the salt plains on the Cimarron River, in southwestern Comanche County and in the Indian Territory, where I found the Snowy Plover quite abundant. (See Auk, Vol. III, No. 3, p. 409, in regard to finding the birds nesting in the same vicinity last season.) I returned to the Kites on the 16th, and remained watching the birds until the morning of the 22d, at which time the nests found, seven in number, appeared to be completed, and I saw a pair of the birds in the act of copulation. A business matter called me home, and I hired the man with whom I stopped to climb the trees on the 28th for the eggs, but a hailstorm on the 25th injured the nests badly, and in one case beat the nest out of the tree. On the 31st he collected four sets of two eggs each and one with only one egg—it being a hard tree to climb he decided to take the egg rather than wait to see if the bird would lay more. Not hearing from him