

The tail presents the most curious blending of the two species, the two middle curled tail-coverts of the male Mallard, while still curled, are enormously lengthened, and now resemble the two long middle tail feathers of the Pin-tail; the middle tail feathers themselves are nearly as long as in the latter duck, but the rest of the tail is really Mallard. The crissum, again, is Pin-tail, and the orange-red feet are, in shape and color, as in the Mallard.—GEO. E. BEYER, *Tulane University, New Orleans, La.*

The Roseate Spoonbill in Kansas.—A specimen of this Southern bird was captured by a party of gentlemen from Wichita who were fishing on the Walnut River near Douglas, Butler County, Kansas, in April, 1899. The specimen is in the collection of Mr. Gerald Volk, of Wichita. It has not previously been reported from Kansas.—D. E. LANTZ, *Chapman, Kan.*

Breeding of the Little Black Rail (*Porzana jamaicensis*) at Raleigh, North Carolina.—In view of Dr. Allen's account of this rare bird in the last number of 'The Auk' I was interested to see recently a set of eggs in the collection of Miss Jean Bell of Ridley Park, Pa., which seems not to be recorded. Inquiry as to the history of these eggs brought from the owner of the collection the following manuscript notes of Messrs. H. H. and C. S. Brimley, which I was urged to publish. In doing so I wish to express my obligations both to Miss Bell and to Messrs. Brimley, to whom of course all credit belongs, my idea in publishing being merely to add to our knowledge of the bird in question.

"The Little Black Rail nests regularly here [Raleigh, N. C.] in the wet meadows lying along Walnut Creek, choosing for that purpose only those portions of the meadows covered with long grass, and building its nest in such situations in a grass tussock, either where the water actually stands among the grass or close to such a situation. The nests have never been found among cat-tails or bull-rushes or in the dryer portions of the meadows. The nests are found by the farm hands when cutting grass in the meadow, the nest being usually cut into and the eggs more or less injured before the cutter sees the nest. One such nest we found ourselves, all the others have been found and the eggs brought to us by farm hands. The following is a list of sets found at Raleigh:

"1. May 26, 1890. Five eggs in the nest and three of them broken; eggs fresh, nest of grass.

"2. June 8, 1892. Eight eggs, one destroyed; incubation advanced.

"3. June 16, 1892. Seven eggs, one broken; incubation about half completed.

"4. June 3, 1893. Eight eggs, two destroyed; incubation half completed. Nest cup-shaped, of dead cat-tail leaves and coarse grass.

"5. June 28, 1894. Eight eggs, one destroyed; fresh.