

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.

"6. July 12, 1894. Seven eggs; incubation advanced. Nest in tussock of coarse grass, made of dead grass and bull-rush leaves.

"7. August, 10, 1898. Six eggs; small embryos."—H. H. & C. S. Brimley.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

Breeding of the Little Black Rail (*Porzana jamaicensis*) in New Jersey in 1844 and 1845.—Soon after the above note was written, by a curious coincidence I came across a definite account of the breeding of this bird in New Jersey. Apart from a bare statement of the fact in Turnbull's 'Birds of East Pennsylvania and New Jersey,' the record seems not to have been published.

The facts are contained in letters written by Chas. C. Ashmead of Philadelphia to Prof. Baird, and for the privilege of publishing them I am indebted to Miss Lucy H. Baird. The extracts relative to the Black Rail are as follows:

July 28, 1844.—"My brother-in-law has just arrived from the seashore. Not long since he found a nest of the Black Rail; it was on a *fresh* water meadow near the seaside, and contained four eggs. He also caught the bird."

Oct. 2, 1844.—"I have the eggs of the Black Rail, also the full-plumaged male bird, in my possession."

Nov. 17, 1845.—"Tom Beesley has found another nest of the Black Rail, making the third he has found. The two first nests he found, one early in June, 1844, with four eggs; one early in June, 1845, with three eggs; and the last one about the middle of August, with but one egg in the nest. He had killed the bird before he found the nest. All three of the nests were found on the same spot of ground,—a fresh marsh on the banks of the Great Egg Harbor River, and not more than one fourth as big as the College Campus [at Carlisle]."

The locality was evidently Beesley's Point, and a brief mention of the spotting on the bird leaves no doubt of its identity. The fact, however, that Mr. Ashmead and his brother were constantly at the Academy at this time, and in daily association with Mr. Cassin, would preclude the possibility of any error in identification. The discovery that this obscure little bird still breeds in this locality is well within the limits of possibility.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

Occurrence of *Tringa fuscicollis* in Virginia in Autumn.—During a visit to the Eastern Shore of Virginia in company with Dr. William C. Rives, Sept. 21–28, 1899, a specimen of the White-rumped Sandpiper was secured near Chincoteague, Va., on the sand flats lying inside the beach of Assateague Island on Sept. 24. The bird was shot as it flew past with a flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers, among which it was conspicuous by reason of its larger size. It was the only individual of this species observed on the trip. This species appears in Dr. Rives's 'Birds of the