

## GENERAL NOTES.

**The Black Tern at Philadelphia, Pa.**— On October 20, 1906, returning from an unsuccessful ducking trip behind Petty's Island, in the Delaware River, opposite Philadelphia, we (my brother and myself) observed a Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*) which was flushed from the water about two hundred yards off Williams Street wharf, by a passing tug. It flew slowly up the river, keeping close to the shore, but beyond gunshot. It was plainly visible to us, as we were not over a hundred yards distance from it when it took wing, and the black color and white under tail coverts precluded any possibility of doubt as to its identity.

The Black Tern is given in Stone's 'Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey,' (p. 32) as a "rare or irregular transient" in this vicinity, and in the same book (p. 48) he says, "stragglers have been reported from the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers," but I can find no records of its occurrence on the former river. Regarding this species in New Jersey, Mr. Stone says (p. 48 of his book), "transient, occurring during the fall migration on the New Jersey coast"; and from this remark I infer that the bird seen by us was one of these transients, driven inland by the stormy weather and northeast winds that prevailed for about a week previous to our observation. Its presence here cannot be attributed to any other cause, which is undoubtedly the true reason of its occurrence.

The Greater Yellow legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) occurs here only after northeast storms, which also occasionally drive inland other rare species of water birds from the New Jersey coast. The Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) are sometimes abundant on the Delaware River above Philadelphia during northeast storms and always disappear after their abatement.

Mr. Stone is correct in considering the Black Tern a "rare or irregular transient" in this vicinity, for it is of such extremely rare occurrence that there is no record of its capture during recent years on the Delaware.—  
RICHARD F. MILLER, Philadelphia Pa.

**Ross's Snow Goose in Colorado.**— On December 23, 1906, there was shot on the Kennicott Club Lake, 3½ miles east of Longmont, Colo., a male Ross's Snow Goose (*Chen rossii*). The bird was killed by Capt. Eli, U. S. A., presented by him to Mr. Mart H. Watrous, mounted by Mr. Rudolph Borchardt, and later generously presented by Mr. Watrous to the Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, where it may now be seen on exhibition. It was associating with a flock of Mallards (*Anas boschas*), with which it had also been seen by the lake keeper the day before. Two or three days previous to this time the keeper's wife had seen a "flock of white geese about the same size as this one," but whether they were Ross's Geese or not can only be conjectured. I have examined the bird very carefully, comparing it with a specimen from my own col-

lection, and the identity is unquestionable. The commissure is typical and the maxillary tubercles, though not prominent, are present. We thus are able to tally another species for Colorado.—A. H. FELGER, *Denver, Colo.*

**The Whistling Swan at Martha's Vineyard, Mass.**—Two Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) were shot at Squibnocket, Martha's Vineyard, Mass., by Mr. Gardiner Hammond. One was taken November 28, 1906, and the other the next day, November 29. These specimens are in my collection.—JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*

**Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*) in Massachusetts.**—Recent records of the occurrence of the Whistling Swan in this State are sufficiently rare to warrant mentioning the capture of three fine adult specimens on Nantucket on Nov. 29, 1906. A party of sportsmen, consisting of Messrs. J. E. Flynn, H. K. Perkins, and J. H. Ashley of Bridgewater, and L. A. Harvard of Taunton, Mass., while duck shooting from a blind on Tacacha Pond, near Quidnet, Nantucket, saw three large white birds on the pond which they at once recognized as swans. They were exceedingly wary at first, but after much patient waiting they finally swam up near enough to risk a shot at long range, and all three of the birds were eventually secured after shooting them over several times, at the expenditure of some seventeen shots.

I saw all three of the birds, on exhibition in a market in Bridgewater, and succeeded in securing one of them, an adult female, for my collection; it measured 51½ inches in length and 84 inches in extent. Another was secured for the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy in Cambridge, and the third was mounted for Mr. J. E. Flynn.—A. C. BENT, *Taunton, Mass.*

***Ardea egretta* in New Mexico.**—In view of the increasing scarcity of all the Egrets the undersigned wishes to put on record the capture of a specimen of *Ardea egretta*, on Nov. 5, 1906. It was shot on the lower part of the Rio Mimbres, about 20 miles above Deming, having been flushed amongst some willows bordering the Canaigre irrigating lake, the altitude of this lake being about 4400 feet; the weather was about freezing. The bird, an adult female, was alone and in excellent plumage.—E. L. MUNSON, *Major, Surgeon, U. S. A.*

**Late Occurrence of the King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) in Wisconsin.**—Dec. 19 last, a live King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) was brought to me by a boy who had caught it that day in a marsh on the shores of Beaver Dam Lake about two miles from this city. I questioned the lad as to the existence of any open spring of water in the vicinity and he assured me there was none. The rail was seen running through the grass as the boy had skated up to the marshy shore. The bird died the following night and on skinning the specimen I could observe no evidence whatever of an injury of any nature, though the bird was greatly emaciated.—W. E. SNYDER, *Beaver Dam, Wis.*