

of Eastern North America,' p. 124, the color of the feet of the *young* is described as "yellowish flesh-color," "grayish, or whitish," and by the last-named author as "light."

Although the Whistling Swan winters in great numbers on the northern coast of North Carolina, there are but few authentic records of the capture of these magnificent birds for this State.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

Capture of the King Rail in Massachusetts.— I would like to report the taking of a fine male King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) on October 10, 1907, on the Charles River marshes, Needham, Mass. The bird has remarkably fine plumage for that season of the year, and was extremely fat.—FRED. H. KENNARD, *Boston, Mass.*

Nesting of the King Rail in Philadelphia County, Pa.— The King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) is a very rare breeder nowadays — if it ever was a common one — in the Delaware Valley and the discovery of a nest is worth reporting, especially when found in the vicinity of Philadelphia, and particularly within the city limits. Bridesburg, on the Delaware River, is about five miles from the City Hall and well within the city limits. In the meadows at this locality it was my good fortune to find a King Rail's nest on June 3, 1902. It was placed half a foot up in a clump of reeds, two feet high in a shallow marsh, woven to the blades and stalks, the tops being pulled down and interwoven into the nest and formed a sort of arch over it. It contained two fresh eggs, which were taken and are still in the writer's collection, probably the only eggs of *Rallus elegans* from Philadelphia in collections.

A week or so later the dead rail was found in a ditch near the nest and its skull (which I still have) collected; the bird being partially decomposed, it was useless as a skin or for mounting.

On June 26, 1907, I found a deserted King Rail's nest not a square away from the site of the other, placed on muddy water in a shallow marsh amid tussocks and thin and scattered stalks of cat-tails, along the edge of a cat-tail marsh.

These are the only King Rail's nests I have been able to find in North Philadelphia, after diligent search for them during the past six years.—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

Virginia Rail and Kentucky Warbler in New Jersey.— In the January issue of 'The Auk' I noted Mr. Hunt's observations of these species on the Pensauken Creek, New Jersey. A few words on this subject may not be amiss, as I fear a wrong impression of the rarity of these species is given here. The Virginia Rail is rarely observed by the casual ornithologist, but nevertheless it is a perfectly regular summer resident in suitable marshes throughout the Delaware Valley. In my several trips to the Pensauken region I have not infrequently observed or heard the Virginia Rail and

have not the slightest doubt but that a careful search will prove it decidedly common in that locality.

Mr. Hunt's record of the Kentucky Warbler is considered by him to be the only record from southern New Jersey. On July 3, 1904, I observed two individuals of this species at Manahawkin, a locality still more southern than Pensauken where I again observed it on May 21, 1907. Though undoubtedly rare, it is probably of regular occurrence.—RICHARD C. HARLOW, *Edge Hill, Pa.*

Rallus virginianus Breeding in the Delaware Valley.—In 'The Auk' for January, 1908, p. 81, a correspondent appears to infer that the nesting of the Virginia Rail is rare in the location above mentioned. I find already recorded the nesting of this species as follows: In the 'Abstract of Proceedings of Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, Vol. IV, p. 5, three nests on the Delaware marshes below Philadelphia. In 'Cassinia' for 1903, p. 51, two nests at Richmond, Philadelphia, in the river marshes. In 'The Oologist,' Vol. III, p. 46, there is a record of five nests of this bird found in Chester County, Pa. One of these sets is in my collection. In 'The Oologist,' Vol. IV, p. 2, two additional nests are recorded from the same locality. This bird breeds not uncommonly in the extensive marshes along the Delaware River and its tributaries to at least twenty-five miles south of Wilmington, Del. I have a set of 7 eggs collected near Odessa, Del., July 19, 1903, and I have seen the bird in the nesting season near Rehoboth, Del., just below Cape Henlopen, and almost one hundred miles south of Philadelphia, Pa.—C. J. PENNOCK, *Kennett Square, Chester County, Pa.*

Nesting of the Virginia Rail in Philadelphia County, Pa.—During ten years or more of persistent search the writer has failed to find more than two nests of the Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*) in north Philadelphia County, Pa., and consequently regards the bird as a rare summer resident. The two nests in question were found on May 28, 1903, in a marsh at Richmond, Philadelphia, well in the city limits, and to my chagrin they were subsequently deserted.

Several times the birds have been since seen during the summer, and a diligent search made for their nests, but without success.—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

Nesting of the Coot in Philadelphia County, Pa.—The Coot (*Fulica americana*) is a common transient in the Delaware Valley, and has always been regarded as such by the writer, despite suspicious stories of its occurrence during summer told to me by gunners of questionable veracity. This was my belief until the summer of 1906, when I learned of the undoubted breeding of the Coot in this district.

On August 21, 1906, a gunner observed a Coot with six half grown young swimming together in a reedy tide-water pond at Richmond, Philadelphia,