

GENERAL NOTES.

A Curious Influx of Southern Herons to New Jersey.— In the October, number of 'The Auk' (XXV, p. 473) I recorded the capture of an American Egret at Sea Bright, N. J., by Mr. R. B. Romaine. He has since informed me that sometime between August 5 and 15 two more were seen, and that from August 6 to September 5, 1908, a large flock (nearly fifty birds) of immature Little Blue Herons (*Ardea carulea*) were inhabiting the tide flats. On September 5, the last day they were seen, he shot a male out of a flock of three, and wounded another. This specimen he had mounted, and is now in his home.

Mr. Romaine's family have lived at Sea Bright for nearly forty years, and never before have they seen any species of southern heron in the neighborhood. Could the excessively hot weather of the past July have caused their occurrence? —REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Concord, Mass.*

The Little White Egret in New Mexico.— A specimen of this beautiful heron (*Egretta candidissima*) was shot Oct. 21, 1908, while on a small pond at the home ranch of the G. O. S. Cattle Co., by one of the farm hands. Fortunately the writer arrived at the ranch the next day and was able to skin the bird at once; it proved to be a male in excellent plumage and flesh. It had been noticed for several hours before alighting on the pond, flying about the barn buildings in company with a flock of domestic pigeons. The bird is now in the possession of Mrs. Victor Culberson of the G. O. S. Ranch. This ranch has an altitude of 6300 feet, and is on the head waters of the Sapillo Creek (a tributary of the Gila River), the exact location of the ranch being Section 15, T 15 S, R 12 W.

The spot where this bird was taken is about sixty miles north of the place where the specimen reported in 'The Auk' two years ago by Maj. Munson, was secured.— W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

The Clapper Rail in Essex County, Mass.— On September 15, 1908, I picked up on the beach at Plum Island, Mass., near the mouth of the Ipswich River, a dead Clapper Rail. After fully satisfying myself as to the identity of the bird, I took it to the Abbott Frazar Co., taxidermists, in Boston, to be mounted. I have since been informed by them that no indications were found of the bird's having been shot; and, taking into consideration the fact that water ran freely from the bird's mouth when picked up by the legs, I imagine that it probably died in the water. The body did not appear to be decomposed to any extent, and the taxidermist's foreman informed me that the bird had probably not been dead over three days. Taking into consideration the direction of winds, etc., during that period, it seems very unlikely that the rail could have drifted from further south. I have written a full statement of the facts to Mr. John Robinson, of the Peabody Museum at Salem, Mass., and Mr. Edward S. Morse, the

curator; they both agreed that the bird should be regarded as an Essex County record. According to Mr. Townsend's 'Birds of Essex County,' and Howe and Allen's 'Birds of Massachusetts,' this is the first authentic record of the occurrence of the Clapper Rail in Essex County, though both cite: "Mr. J. F. Le Baron informed me that he shot a specimen some years ago at Ipswich." C. J. Maynard, the Naturalist's Guide, p. 145, 1870.

The mounted bird will be presented to the Peabody Museum, Salem.—
WILLIAM P. WHARTON, *Groton, Mass.*

Late Flight of Woodcock on Long Island, N. Y.—On December 5, 1908, while hunting near Flanders, Suffolk Co., I flushed a Woodcock (*Philohela minor*). On December 8, after a storm and heavy rain, eleven were shot in a small swamp at Lawrence, Nassau Co., close to the New York City line. The same day one was seen in a little strip of woods about one mile from this swamp.

In 30 years on Long Island, I have never seen other than stragglers after about November 20th and do not recall ever before seeing one in December.—HAROLD HERRICK, *New York City.*

Capture of the Ruff at Seabrook, N. H.—Mr. John Hardy of Boston has kindly presented me with an adult female Ruff (*Pavoncella pugnax*) shot at Seabrook, N. H., Sept. 23, 1907, by Charles Fowler, who said it was with a flock of Black-bellied Plover.—JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*

Eskimo Curlew taken at Newburyport, Mass.—I purchased of Mr. John Hardy of the Boston Market, a male Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) taken at Newburyport, Mass., by A. B. Thomas, August 27, 1908. He shot two, but the other bird had its head so badly shot that it could not be made into a skin.—JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*

The American Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*) in Ohio in Autumn.—On October 23, 1908, I met a flock of 6 American Golden Plovers at the Grand Reservoir, Ohio, and on October 27 a pair of them was shot, together with a Baird's Sandpiper and a pair of Wilson's Snipe at the Loramie Reservoir in Shelby Co., O. Fall records in Ohio for the American Golden Plover are very rare, in fact any record of the occurrence of this species in this State is interesting and noteworthy. The female of this pair of Golden Plovers has the tip of the upper mandible curved over the lower one to the extent of about 4 mm., with the tip curving decidedly downward almost at right angles, thus forming a veritable crossbill. The cause of this formation cannot be seen, only the upper mandible seems to be rather thin and weak, when compared with that of the other specimen, nor was the bird as fat as the male.—W. F. HENNINGER, *New Bremen, Ohio.*