

rushes (*Juncus effusus*) and cat-tails (*Typha latifolia*), 12 inches above water, which in that spot was about two feet deep. The cat-tails were bent over above the nest forming a partially covered arch. The nest itself was loosely, but firmly, constructed of rushes, and measured 9 inches across by 4 inches deep; a slight depression held the eggs. Although this species is a regular breeder in the Delaware River marshes of Delaware County, which borders Chester County on the east, and of Philadelphia County, which borders Delaware County on the north, as far as I have been able to ascertain, this constitutes the first breeding record for Chester County.—LEONARD S. PEARSON, *Wayne, Pa.*

The Black Rail in Maryland.—In 'The Auk' for April, 1909, p. 190, I mentioned that several specimens of the little Black Rail were said to have been taken on the Patuxent River in Maryland. Through the courtesy of Mr. W. F. Roberts, I am now able to give three records. Mr. Roberts, who was an associate member of the A. O. U. from 1888 to 1899, is an enthusiastic sportsman, has had long experience in rail shooting, and is thoroughly familiar with the habits of the various species in this vicinity. In a recent letter he says:

"For more than 25 years the writer has been cognizant of the regular occurrence of *Porzana jamaicensis* on the marshes of the Patuxent River, in the vicinity of Mt. Calvert, Md. It appears more reluctant to take wing than *P. carolina* and more are taken during October than September—the two months of rail shooting. They are never common, but I learn of several individuals every season and have the following record dates: Oct. 19, 1906; Sept. 22, 1907; and Oct. 12, 1908."

The only other record for this rail in Maryland with which I am familiar is that of a specimen presented to the National Museum by John Dowell. This bird (No. 97,717) was taken on Piscataway Creek, Prince George County, on September 25, 1877.—T. S. PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

First Appearance of the Sanderling in the Vicinity of Detroit.—In August, 1908, the Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*) was noted for the first time in the vicinity of this city. Specimens were taken by Messrs. W. C. Wood, Spicer, Jones, and the writer. With them came a White-rumped Sandpiper (*Actodromas fuscicollis*) which is the first autumn record for the county. The Sanderling reappeared May 16, 1909.—J. CLAIRE WOOD, *Detroit, Mich.*

Actodromas fuscicollis in Philadelphia County, Pa.—This species, which is rightly regarded by ornithologists as a rare transient in this vicinity, is mentioned in Warren's 'Birds of Pennsylvania,' revised edition, page 85, as a "very rare spring and fall migrant," and in Stone's 'Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey,' we learn (page 32) that it is a "rare or irregular transient," and also, on page 73, that "this species