

Virginia Rail.— On December 24, 1909, a single bird was observed in the narrow open channel of a small stream near a cat-tail marsh. I watched it closely with a field-glass for some time before it disappeared under a thin sheet of ice that had been left above the water-level. It did not act injured though I did not see it fly.

Golden-crowned Kinglet.— One was taken on February 6, 1910, from a flock of about eight. They were feeding in the pines on a mesa near Boulder.— N. deW. BETTS, *Boulder, Colorado.*

Massachusetts Notes.— Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*).— Because this bird is considered a rare spring migrant near the coast of this State I would like to record having seen a pair on April 11, 1909, in a pond near Wenham Swamp, Topsfield, Mass. The male was in full adult plumage, the white crescent before the eye plainly visible. I observed them for some time with a pair of glasses and as they were not over a hundred yards distant there could be no question as to their identity.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulcarius*).— On May 2, 1909, I shot a male specimen on the Guerned beach, Duxbury, Mass. The bird even at that date was in the extreme immature or winter plumage with no trace of red. However a few feathers on the back were slightly tipped with tawny. For one or two days previous there had been a rather heavy easterly storm and I suppose it had been driven ashore at that time. At any rate the bird was not tired but strong on the wing, and furthermore was in good condition. It is now in my collection. Though these birds can hardly be called rare on our coast, they are more apt to be taken in the late summer or early fall rather than in the spring.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogaster*).— On August 16, 1909, an albino male specimen was shot by Russell Bearse at Chatham, Mass. The bird was taken on the flats off Monomoy Island where Mr. Bearse had gone after shore birds, and where it had been seen previously for several days. It was nearly pure white and the only suggestion of any other color was on the inner webs of the middle tail feathers where the white spots ordinarily exist in the normal plumage. These white spots on close scrutiny could still be seen, showing that the rest of the plumage was not pure white. This specimen is in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*).— On September 4, 1909, I shot a female specimen on Monomoy Island, Chatham, Mass. There was an easterly storm the day previous making it very improbable that the bird had just arrived. For that reason, and because of the fact that the bird was fat and in excellent condition, it seems likely that it had been there several days. I was walking through the meadows where the salt grass had been cut looking for Pectoral Sandpipers when this bird flew up. As I was on the lookout for anything odd that day I immediately recognized it as it rose. It is now in my collection. On enquiring of a few people in Chatham, Mr. Russell Bearse, a reliable local gunner, informed me that nearly every year during the flight of Pectoral Sandpipers in Sep-

tember he had killed one of these birds on these same meadows. He is on the grounds regularly several days a week and is the best informed person in the neighborhood. This only goes to show that there are undoubtedly more of these birds killed than is known about.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*).— I received a fine adult male this fall from Chatham, Mass., where it was shot on October 31, 1909, by Mr. Russell Bearse. The King Rail seems to be a rather uncommon straggler from the South and there are but few recent records of its having been taken here. Mr. F. H. Kennard records in 'The Auk,' Vol. XXV, p. 218, a male being taken at Needham, October 10, 1907, and in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History is a bird taken in a steel trap at Peabody, Mass., March 13, 1908. The specimen to which I refer taken at Chatham is also in the above collection. Mr. Bearse also informed me that on December 28, 1908, he killed another King Rail at Chatham which was given to Mr. Warren E. Freeman of Arlington, Mass. This latter seems like a very late date.

Chewink (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*).— This seems to be a rare winter resident and I can find no record for this State since 1904 when, on December 4, at Smith's Point, Manchester, a bird was seen by W. R. Peabody. On December 28, 29 and 30, 1909, I saw a handsome male bird at Edgartown (Martha's Vineyard), about two miles from the town. I was duck shooting and staying at our camp on the "Great Pond," and observed this bird both from the building and from the stand. The end of the point where the camp is situated is covered with a thick growth of bushes and the Chewink seemed to be living in them. He was so tame that he scratched among the leaves almost at my feet, and even when I moved he did not appear to be greatly frightened. He also came close to the door in search of the food we threw out after meals. A family of rats were living under the building and several times I saw one of them searching among the leaves for this food, with the Chewink only a very few feet away engaged in the same occupation. The day I left the bird was still there and appeared to be in good condition. As far as I could see his only other feathered companions were a pair of Song Sparrows that spent their time in the same way scratching among the leaves in search of food. During these three days the weather was bitterly cold, the thermometer going to nearly zero every night, and considering the continued cold weather we had experienced since the first of December, and the blizzard the day after Christmas, the bird seemed to have chosen an extremely cold winter to stay north. Though I never heard him chirp, he showed no signs of minding the cold, for when feeding he was very active on his feet. I never saw him fly or attempt to, but in such thick cover there was no occasion for it. Still, he may have had a bad wing which would account for his being north. It seems reasonable to believe that physical disability must play an important part in such cases as these.— S. PRESCOTT FAY, Boston, Mass.