

Bird Notes from Springfield, Mass., and Vicinity.—*Gallinule galeata*. On January 17, 1910, William Dearden, a taxidermist, residing in Springfield, received a Florida Gallinule, to be mounted, which was sent to him from the town of Ware. The occurrence of this bird in Massachusetts at this season of the year, was so unprecedented, that deputy game warden, Dennis F. Shea, residing in Ware, was asked to inquire into the matter, which he did, and reported that this bird was first seen about the middle of December in a field on the farm of Arthur F. Bennett, in the town of Palmer, feeding on an old pig's head that lay upon the ground; that for a number of days after that time, Mr. Bennett saw the bird near his hen-coop, searching for food. Finally he caught it and put it in with his fowls, where in a few days it died. Mr. Bennett states that he thought his hens killed it.

Sialia sialis. Early in the past winter four Bluebirds were observed in the town of Westfield, and they have since been seen in the same locality in this town many times during the months of January and February. The region adopted by these birds as their winter home was near a trolley line and the passengers in the cars were often entertained by seeing these unusual winter visitors. This is the first authenticated instance of Bluebirds wintering in the Connecticut Valley as far north as Springfield.

Mimus polyglottos. About the 20th of last November, a Mockingbird appeared in the residential part of Springfield, where the homes are surrounded by ample grounds, and in that vicinity made its home during the past winter. Very soon after it was first observed, food was furnished it and it became quite tame. So-called mockingbird food, rice, bread crumbs, and suet, were provided for it, which latter it seemed to prefer. During severe storms this bird would disappear for a day or two, but with the return of pleasant weather would again be seen. The suggestion that it was an escaped cage bird has not the force it would have had a few years ago, as in Massachusetts, we now have a generally respected law forbidding the sale or confinement of these birds. Mockingbirds have been frequently seen in the vicinity of Springfield during the warmer months, and have rarely bred here, but never before has one been known to pass the winter in this part of the Connecticut Valley.

In 'The Auk' for last October, Francis H. Allen stated that a pair of Mockingbirds successfully raised a brood of four young in the eastern part of Massachusetts, and this bird may be one of that family.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Another Tagged Bird heard from.—Mr. J. T. Miner of Kingsville, Ont., has a number of wild ducks in semi-domestication along with geese and pheasants. Each year he has interesting experiences with wild birds, which are attracted by the presence of their kind.

Last fall his Black Ducks attracted a wild one of the same species on August 5, and within a few weeks the bird became so tame, that it could be handled. Mr. Miner then put a ring around its leg, and left it at liberty

as before. About Dec. 15, it left, and the following letter from Mr. W. E. Bray, Anderson, South Carolina, gives subsequent history.

Anderson, S. C.

On Friday evening, Jan. 14, I was hunting on Rockey River near this city, and killed a wild duck, with a band on his leg marked Box 48 Kingsville, Ont.

I supposed who ever sent him out wanted to hear from him, so I am writing to let you know where he came to his end. He was a very fine specimen. I must commend him for his judgment, for he came to the best county in the best state in America.

If you will let me hear from you, I will return the band I took from his leg. So hoping you will send me his pedigree, I will close until I hear from you. Send me your address in full. W. E. Bray.

Mr. Miner writes that Mr. Bray has since sent him the identical ring which was on the Duck's leg.

Kingsville lies on the north shore of Lake Erie, about twenty-five miles from the east end of the lake.— W. E. SAUNDERS, *London, Ontario.*

RECENT LITERATURE.

Thayer on Concealing Coloration in Animals.¹— It is now fourteen years since the eminent artist, Abbott H. Thayer, first published his discovery of "The law which underlies Protective Coloration," in 'The Auk' for April and July, 1896. These articles were later republished, in full or in abstract, in the 'Yearbook' of the Smithsonian Institution for 1898, and in 'Nature' in 1902. Mr. Thayer has also given many practical demonstrations of his discovery before various gatherings of naturalists, his first oral presentation of the subject, with experiments and demonstrations, so far as we are aware, having been made before the American Ornithologists' Union at the annual meeting held in Cambridge, in November, 1896, and again more elaborately before the same body in New York, in November, 1897. Later similar demonstrations were given in England and in various cities in Europe. His previous most elaborate exposition of the subject in print appeared in the 'Popular Science Monthly' for December,

¹ Concealing-Coloration | in the | Animal Kingdom | An Exposition of the Laws of Disguise | through Color and Pattern: | Being a Summary of | Abbott H. Thayer's | Discoveries | By | Gerald H. Thayer | With an Introductory Essay by | A. H. Thayer | Illustrated by | Abbott H. Thayer Gerald H. Thayer | Richard S. Meryman and others | and with Photographs | New York | The Macmillan Co. | 1909 [= February, 1910] — 4to, pp. xix + 260, 16 colored plates, and 140 black-and-white figures.