

and at a good height for five or six rods before dropping back into the scant vegetation, which here stood in a foot or so of water. On going to the spot the bird flushed again, nearly underfoot, and was secured. The flight of this individual was fully as strong as that of Sora and Virginia Rails seen a short time previously. Mr. Charles Brandler, of the Field Museum, tells me that he saw a specimen of this rail in a hunter's string of birds, early in September, 1898, that was taken in this same locality. The owner, however, refused to part with it on learning it was different from the others.

The only previous Illinois records of which I am aware are those of Mr. E. W. Nelson (*Birds of Northeastern Illinois*, Bulletin of the Essex Institute, Vol. VIII, 1876, p. 134) who says, "During the spring of 1875 I saw three specimens in the Calumet Marshes. The first was observed early in May," and proceeds to give a good description of a nest and ten eggs found the same season near the Calumet River.—H. L. STODDARD, *N. W. Harris Public School Extension of Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois*.

Early Flight of Wilson's Snipe in Massachusetts.—On the afternoon of August 27, 1916, I saw at least 25 Wilson's Snipe, *Gallinago delicata*, along the Ipswich River in Topsfield, Mass. Mr. F. W. Killam reported about "three dozen" there the next day. These snipe were very wild and restless, continually fighting about the meadows in small flocks. A flight of snipe was reported at other points in Mass. the same week. So far as I can find out this is the earliest autumn record for any considerable number of this species in Mass.—J. C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

Eskimo Curlew in Massachusetts.—I am informed by Mr. E. H. Ives of Boston that a flock of about fifty Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) was seen last spring (May 17, 1916) at Chub-Head Sands, near the mouth of the Rowley River between the towns of Ipswich and Rowley, Mass.

A letter to Mr. Ives from J. E. Short (not dated) says, "I should say there were fifty of them — they stayed around two days. Charles Bartlett saw them (also) and he said he had n't seen any for 15 years."

Both Short and Bartlett are "clammers" and have been experienced shore-bird gunners in the past. Mr. Ives has talked with both these men and others at Rowley and feels certain that there was no mistake in identification.—JOHN C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

Note on the Nesting of the Valley Quail.—Mr. Fred M. Steele, of Los Angeles, Cal., sends me the following:—"Last spring a pair of California Valley Quail came down from the hills and were fed on our place for several days. They finally selected a flower box on my sleeping porch for a nesting site, and raised thirteen young, which are now (Aug. 23, 1916) full grown. Every morning about five o'clock they come to be fed on wheat which we put out for them, and we take great pleasure in feeding and watching them."—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Ill.*