his desire to display himself, for at no time did he withdraw the white ruffs into concealment. Several times for an instant a second Bittern, presumably the female, appeared in view, but only to become hidden at once behind one of the clumps of bushes. On the other hand, the male bird made no use of the bushes to screen himself. The distance travelled by this male bird during our observation was but a few rods, for he moved first in one direction and then in the opposite, first towards us and then away from us, and was only slightly further removed from us when we proceeded on our way, than when we first saw him. Our position had been about a hundred yards distant.

Mr. William Brewster's very interesting detailed description[1] of the display of these white nuptial plumes as witnessed by him and friends in the Great Meadows in Concord in April, 1910, then for the first time observed by him, presents the exhibition quite as we ten years later were fortunate enough to observe it in this Westwood swamp.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *107 Pinckney St., Boston, Mass.*

The Knot in Montana.—On October 4, 1915, I found the mummified body of a Knot (*Tringa canutus*) on Woody Island in Lake Bowdoin, Montana (nine miles east of Malta), among remains of a large number of shorebirds and other species that had perished from disease. From the appearance of these bodies it appeared that the birds had died near the end of August or during the early part of September of that same year. All were lying on a muddy shore just above the water line, apparently where they had dragged themselves out of the water after becoming sick. Like the other specimens examined the Knot was not in suitable condition for preservation as a skin, and so was prepared as a skeleton. It is now in the osteological collections of the U. S. National Museum. This is apparently the first published record of the Knot in Montana.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Tringa Auct. versus Calidris Anon.—It has been conclusively shown by Mr. G. M. Mathews (Novit. Zool., XVIII, No. 1, June 17, 1911, pp. 5–6) that the generic name *Tringa* Linnaeus must be transferred to the group commonly called *Helodromas* Kaup. This leaves the Knot, *Tringa canutus* Linnaeus, without a generic name, and Mr. Mathews proposes the use of *Canutus* Brehm (Naturg. Vög. Deutschl., 1831, p. 653; type, *Tringa canutus* Linnaeus). Dr. C. W. Richmond has called attention (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., LIII, August 16, 1917, pp. 581–582) to a still earlier publication of this name by an anonymous reviewer of Bechstein's Ornithologische Taschenbuch. This name, however, must give way to *Calidris* of the same anonymous reviewer (Allg. Lit.-Zeitung, 1804, II, No. 168, June 8, 1804, col. 542), which has anteriority over *Canutus* and which was introduced as follows:

[1] 'Auk,' XXVIII, Jan. 1911. Pp. 90–100.

"*Knüssel, Calidris.*

Schnabel walzenförmig, gegen die Spitze hin dicker, glatt. Mittlere und äussere Zehe etwas verbunden.

Tringa calidris, arenaria u. a."

The *Tringa calidris* here mentioned should by tautonymy be considered the type of *Calidris* [Anonymous], although the other species mentioned, [*Tringa*] *arenaria*, has as a synonym the same specific name *calidris* (= *Charadrius calidris* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, I, 1766, p. 255). In such cases of tautonymy it seems by all means more logical to consider as the type the species the cited name of which is the same as the generic name proposed, rather than the species having the same name as a synomyn.

The type of *Calidris* Anonymous being thus settled as *Tringa calidris*, it remains to determine the identity of this *Tringa calidris*. It is, of course, the *Tringa calidris* of Bechstein (Ornith. Taschenb. Deutschl., 1803, p. 308), which is in turn the *Tringa calidris* of Linnaeus, (*i. e.*, Gmelin) since Bechstein quotes "*T*[*ringa*] *calidris* Linn." and "Linné, l. c., p. 681, N. 19," which latter, of course, refers only to Gmelin. But *Tringa calidris* Linnaeus (Syst. Nat., ed. 12, I, 1766, p. 252) and *Tringa calidris* Gmelin (Syst. Nat. I, ii, 1789, p. 681) are, anyway, one and the same; and as is unmistakably shown by the diagnoses of both and by the descriptions given by the authors on which both are based, they both clearly refer to the Knot, *Tringa canutus* Linnaeus; not to the Redshank, *Totanus totanus* (Linnaeus), as intimated by Mathews and Iredale (Austral Avian Record, III, No. 5, December 26, 1917, p. 114). This unexpected development makes it necessary to use the generic name *Calidris* Anonymous for the Knot, which will, therefore, now stand as

Calidris canutus (Linnaeus.)

This use of the generic name *Calidris*, of course, precludes its employment for the Sanderling just as effectively as though it were to be employed for the Red-shank. Consequently the substitution of the generic name *Crocethia* Billberg for the Sanderling, made by Messrs. Mathews and Iredale (Austral. Avian Record, III, No. 5, December 26, 1917, p. 114), remains valid, even though they misidentified the *Tringa calidris* on which *Calidris* Anonymous is based.—Harry C. Oberholser, *Washington, D. C.*

Early Virginia Rail in New York.—On March 13, 1920, Mr. William Gee, of Stony Point, N. Y., picked up a Virginia Rail at Bear Mountain, near Stony Point. The bird evidently had been killed by flying into telegraph wires. It was sent to me for identification by Mr. Fred E. Sleight, Principal of the Stony Point High School, and the record seems unusual enough to be reported to 'The Auk.'—Lee S. Crandall, *N. Y. Zoological Park.*