

of the Mississippi, immediately south of Burlington, in August of the same year, and that although it had been fed, they had succeeded in keeping it alive for a few days only. I believe that this is the first Iowa record for the Man-o'-war-bird (*Fregata magnificens rothschildi*).—PAUL BARTSCH, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**Surf Scoters (*Oidemia perspicillata*) near St. Louis, Mo.**—Surf Scoters in juvenile dress have been taken in Missouri before this, but Mr. Steinwender of St. Louis took a male and female, probably a pair, in fine adult dress on November 19, 1921, on the Dardenne Club grounds, twenty-five miles northwest of St. Louis; Mr. Frank Schwarz of St. Louis mounted them.—O. WIDMANN, *St. Louis Mo.*

**European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) at Corpus Christi, Texas.**—On December 20, 1921, Mr. Sidney T. Bixby of St. Louis shot from the yacht of Mr. Jos. Pulitzer, Jr., at Corpus Christi, Texas, a fine male European Widgeon. It was at first taken for a hybrid and has been mounted by Mr. F. Schwarz of St. Louis. More European Widgeons may be killed by hunters in North America than our records show, but considered hybrids they are not thought worth the trouble and expense of having them preserved.—O. WIDMANN, *St. Louis, Mo.*

**Old-squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) in Texas.**—On December 13, 1921, I was asked to identify two Old-squaws which had been shot the day before near the town of Cove, some twenty-five or thirty miles from Houston, by two gunners from Dallas, Texas. They were apparently birds of the year and the sex was not determined. I failed to learn whether they were with others of the same species or alone. The bird is unknown to the local gunners.—ROBERT B. LAWRENCE, *Houston, Texas.*

**An Enormous Flock of Canvas-backs (*Marila valisineria*) Visit the Detroit River.**—On the morning of January 24, 1922, a big flock of canvasbacks (*Marila valisineria*) appeared on the Detroit River in the immediate vicinity of Belle Isle, the city park. Careful estimates by the observer and others placed the number of birds at about 1,000, and it was agreed that this number was more likely to have been an underestimate than otherwise.

Daily accessions to the ranks of the birds soon brought up the number to approximately 10,000, and these have remained in the waters about the island continuously until now, the last of February.

As the birds have been feeding very near the island, often within 50 feet of the shore, it has been easy to watch their methods. They dive in turn and about half of them are under the water at a time. When those that dive come up they bring roots of eel grass which they slap around violently until the root is broken into small pieces which they swallow and no piece is ever wasted, for if a small fragment starts away borne upon the current the duck retrieves it and eats it.