

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.

There seems to be no special reason why these birds should come here this year and particularly so early in the season. The winter has been mild and the river has remained open but often the winters are mild here, notably last winter which was even milder than the present season, yet my only record for Canvasbacks last spring was on March 19, when I saw a small flock of eight.

Old duck hunters with many years of experience say that they have never seen the Canvasback here in January and not often as early as the latter part of February; March being their usual time of migration, but Mrs. F. W. Robinson, of this city, a careful and faithful observer, says that seven or eight years ago during a very mild winter she saw a flock of several hundred of them on the Detroit River during the latter part of January.—ETTA S. WILSON, *Detroit, Mich.*

The Greater Snow Goose in Massachusetts.—Three specimens of *Chen hyperborea nivalis* were shot in the Westfield Little River, not far from Westfield, Massachusetts, on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1921. Two were immature with dark bills and feet, but the third was a mature bird. Unfortunately two of these geese, including the adult, were plucked and eaten before I learned of their being shot, and the third one was rescued while on the way for another dinner. This specimen, which has the rusty tinge about the head and neck, is now being mounted for the Springfield, Mass., Museum of Natural History.

Undoubtedly there was a very unusual flight of Snow Geese into this region about this time as a flock estimated to contain over one hundred birds was reported as seen in Southwich Ponds not far from Westfield. A single bird was also shot at Portland, Conn., one at East Windsor Hill, and a small flock noted at Glastonbury.

Mr. Robert O. Morris informs me that he observed a Snow Goose in the spring of 1887 in Longmeadow near the Connecticut River, a few miles below Springfield. His only other record of the bird dates back at least twenty-five years. It is of a Snow Goose wounded and captured in the vicinity of Springfield and kept for several years with a flock of domestic geese in the town of Southwick.—AARON C. BAGG, *Holyoke, Mass.*

Notable Increase of Egrets in Chatham County, Georgia.—It is with much gratification that I am enabled to report a marked increase in the numbers of Egrets (*Casmerodius egretta*) breeding in Bird Pond, Ossabaw Island, Chatham County, Georgia. I first visited this pond in May 1905, devoting two days—May 11 and 14—to a study of the varied and abundant bird life which finds refuge there, nesting harmoniously in close proximity. At that time there were approximately a dozen pairs of Egrets breeding there (see *Wilson Bulletin*, March 1921, pp. 6-7). On April 30, 1921, I again visited this rookery, in company with Thos. D. Burleigh and J. T. Wheeler of the faculty of the University of Georgia. Besides making a very accurate count of the Egret population, we secured