

much interesting data on the habits of the several species of water birds nesting in the pond. We found that the colony of Egrets had increased to thirty-four pairs, the contents of their nests being as follows: Nine contained young two or three days old; five held young a week or ten days old; one contained two pipped eggs; one held a single egg; four held two eggs each; ten contained three eggs each, incubation of which was far advanced, and a single nest contained four eggs.

The height of these nests varied from eight to twelve feet above the surface of the water which was three feet deep. Several of the larger willows supported four or five nests, while other trees held two and sometimes only one nest. Frequently, while climbing to the nests to examine their contents, a limb would give way beneath our weight, so frail and brittle are these trees, but we were always careful to avoid placing our entire weight on any limb supporting a nest.

In marked contrast to the behavior of these Egrets during my first visit to their rookery in 1915, when it was impossible to get within two hundred feet of them, was our experience with them in 1921. We were frequently allowed to approach to within a few yards of an adult standing on a limb near its nest, especially those birds whose eggs had hatched.

The pond in which this remnant of this beautiful and once abundant species breeds is not a natural one, but was formed and is maintained by the accumulation of water flowing from an artesian well. Should this well go dry—which, however, is very unlikely—these and all the hundreds of pairs of other species of herons which breed in the pond would be forced to seek other nesting places. These birds, especially the Egrets and Snowy Herons, are rigidly protected by the owners of the island, and, unless some unforeseen disaster should overtake them, will continue to increase steadily.—W. J. ERICHSEN, 2311 Barnard Street, Savannah, Ga.

Nesting of the Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) in Philadelphia Co., Pa. In 'The Auk', 1918, p. 477, I recorded the discovery of a Bittern's nest at Woodbury Gloucester county N. J., in the Delaware Valley, and within ten miles of Philadelphia. This was the first definite nesting record of this species in this region where it seems to be a rare breeder. On May 31, 1921, I found a nest containing five eggs at Bridesburg, Philadelphia, on the Delaware River marshes, within five miles of the City Hall. The female was flushed from the nest and let me approach within two yards before vacating. The nest was in a patch of wide-leaved cattail in a large marsh, within a few yards of a railroad, less than a quarter of a mile from a foundry and still nearer to a shipyard. This is the only record of the nesting of the Bittern on the Pennsylvania side of the river, and one of the few records for the State.—RICHARD F. MILLER, Philadelphia, Pa.

A Connecticut Record of the Stilt Sandpiper.—The Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*) is not often recorded from Connecticut in

either spring or fall. For that reason I wish to put on record a bird observed by myself at Great Marsh, Westport, Conn., on May 28, 1921. The tide was low at the time, and the bird was found standing in the tall sedges that grow between low and high water. It allowed me to approach very closely and to make out all of its markings and characteristics save the long legs which were hidden in the grass, and did not show to advantage when the bird finally flew. While I have never before seen this species, the markings tallied in every way with those of the Stilt Sandpiper in spring plumage, and I have no doubt of its correct identification.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Fairfield, Conn.*

The European Gray Partridge in Saskatchewan.—During the first week in November, a bird was sent in from Rutland, Sask., to the University of Saskatchewan for identification. It was the Gray Partridge of Europe, here called the Hungarian Partridge. It has been mounted for the University Museum.

I have gathered the following information about the bird:

Mr. Russell Martin, who sent the specimen in states:

"I saw a flock of from 15 to 20 of these birds at the edge of a wheat field, about the first of September and about the first of November picked this one up from beside the road three miles from where I saw the flock. It had apparently been killed by flying against a telephone wire. This is a hilly, rough country with considerable brush and sloughs or pot holes. About half the land is farmed."

Mr. Benj. Lawton, Chief Game Guardian of Alberta, notes under date of November 30, 1921: "There is no doubt in my mind but that these birds are the natural increase of a number of pairs which were turned loose by the sportsmen of Calgary about the year 1910. They have spread all over the southern half of the Province of Alberta and have got as far as Edmonton. They are very prolific"

"There were two importations, one I believe in the spring of 1910, and the other in the spring of 1911. There have been no importations since the outbreak of the war"

"The open season in this Province is for the whole month of October, with a bag limit of 10 birds for the day and 50 for the season."

Mr. F. Bradshaw, Chief Game Guardian of Saskatchewan, wrote from Regina, Sask., Dec. 1, 1921: "I have no previous authentic information on file regarding this bird being observed in Saskatchewan, but under date of November 23rd, I received a letter from Mr. G. H. Coulter, Box 5, Piapot, in which he states that he had, 'seen some small birds around here this fall, thought they were quail. Have been told that they are Hungarian partridge from Alberta. They flush all together, and run on the ground.'"

"It would appear that these birds are extending their range, and have now crossed the Alberta boundary, and I have asked Mr. Coulter to keep the birds in his district under observation, and advise us from time to time how they are getting along."