

about apparently unconcerned at their presence. When they flew up, startled at my appearance, the Grebe dived, but by a little patience I was later able to get close enough to see the salmon-buff throat. This, I believe, is characteristic of the Horned Grebe.

The February record is the more important, for winter records, according to Mr. Bent (1919), are for the most part from the Great Lakes Region.—GORDON ALEXANDER, *Marshall, Mo.*

**King Eider at Waterford, N. Y.**—On April 30, 1922, I observed in the Mohawk River, three miles west of Waterford, N. Y., a pair of King Eiders (*Somateria spectabilis*). The male appeared entirely black except for a pyramidal patch of white covering the breast, point upward; and two large white rump patches, although the head when examined closely proved to be an indefinite grayish color on the crown. Later the bird rose and flapped its wings causing a white collar two inches wide at the base of the neck and four inches wide in front, to spring into view. At all other times the duck was plain black with a conspicuous red "shield" on its forehead and a white patch on the breast and rump.

The female was a typical Eider with head, neck and breast buffy, the rest of body much darker and heavily barred.

Never having seen an Eider in this plumage, I drew several carefully executed sketches and sent them to the American Museum of Natural History. Mr. Ludlow Griscom in reply said that undoubtedly the ducks were King Eiders, the male having not yet completed molting into the breeding plumage. I consulted a dozen authorities, but could find no description of this plumage except in Bulletin 12, 1899, of the American Museum of Natural History, wherein Dr. Frank Chapman describes a specimen taken March 19, on Long Island, N. Y., which is practically the same as the one I saw.

The pair were very tame and were within fifty feet at one time. When I walked toward them, they merely swam slowly away, neither diving nor flying during the hour I watched them.

Eaton's 'Birds of N. Y.,' gives no record within 150 miles of here and no spring records in the State, except "to April 27" on Long Island.

There were no abnormal weather conditions at this time.—EDGAR BEDELL  
*Waterford, N. Y.*

**Woodcock Carrying its Young.**—On the morning of Saturday, June 10, at Milford, Connecticut, I saw a Woodcock carry off a young one from before me.

I was walking up a slight hill through a short lane bordered on either side by loose undergrowth, when a woodcock rose from the grass on the north side of the lane, twelve or fifteen feet from me, flew a few feet out to the middle of the lane, and then turned and flew directly away from me, disappearing over the hill fifty or sixty yards ahead. As it rose, I had a clear view of the bird in profile and again, as it turned and went away,

saw it from the rear while it was flying some little distance. The side view showed an abnormally shaped body, much thicker and rounder than one expects to see in a woodcock; and from the rear view, when the bird flew directly from me, I received the same impression.

The bird was close to me, its legs hung down straight below the body, and both tarsi and the individual toes of the two feet were distinctly seen against the sky. The body, I repeat, seemed unnaturally deep from above downward, and this was the first thing noticed from the first instant I saw the bird until it disappeared over the hill. This roundness of form—depth of body from above downward—was due, I am satisfied, to the fact that the old bird was carrying a young one clasped between its thighs. I could not see the young bird as an individual, nor the thighs of the old bird; and the lower thighs and the object held between them appeared only as a part of the body of a woodcock of very unusual shape.

Observations of the well known practice of the woodcock carrying its young are scattered through the literature of ornithology and sport for many years back; but the descriptions given it naturally lack detail. The time for observation is short and the occurrence usually a surprise to the observer. I never before saw anything of this kind. Nearly fifty years ago, Mr. John H. Sage, of Portland, Connecticut, observed the act, but in that case the young bird was held in the parent's claws, and apparently was distinctly seen. There are many reports of the young one being carried between the parent's thighs, as in the case I report—GEO. BIRD GRINNELL, *New York, N. Y.*

**Oyster-catcher on the New Jersey Coast.**—While on a trip to Seven Mile Beach, N. J., June 18, 1922, with Mr. C. K. Roland an Oyster-catcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) was noted. Our attention was attracted to a small group of Black Skimmers some fifty yards distant, and while examining them through our binoculars we noticed a larger bird among them and almost at the same moment exclaimed "There is an Oyster-catcher." We looked at him for several minutes through our glasses and then tried to work up a little closer, but we had scarcely taken a few steps when the bird true to his wild nature took wing, giving an excellent view of his striking wing pattern as he made off. He flew due south settling on a distant bar where he was lost to view.

Both Mr. Roland and myself are familiar with the bird having observed this species on Cobb's Island, Va.—JULIAN K. POTTER, *Camden, N. J.*

**Breeding of the Florida Gallinule in Ontario.**—While at a cottage ten miles from Picton, Ont., between Lake Ontario and East Lake, I made the acquaintance of the Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*), June 4, 1922. As the cottage was on an outlet between the two lakes we had a fine opportunity to watch the pair of Gallinules nesting in the edge of the reeds directly in front of the porch. The nest contained nine eggs, was bulky, built well above the water in rushes and cat tails. Some of