

birds were killed by a poacher, he suggests that I publish a note explaining this matter. I am giving herewith a copy of my letter to him.

"I appreciate your feeling in regard the killing of the Blue-winged Teals. It was a great disappointment to me that these birds were destroyed, as they were not killed by me. They were shot by a clam-digger who had run up the creek in his boat. It was a regret that I could not punish him by law. As it was we came to blows over the dead Teals and I took the birds from him by force. This party was a stranger and has never returned here, for very good reason.

"I had been studying these Teals in the marsh for several weeks previous to that date and they were very tame. I have never in my life killed a Duck after the shooting season has closed and never shoot them for sport in winter. As a total I have not killed over one dozen Ducks in the past twenty years.

"In my note to 'The Auk' I mentioned only the breeding record, feeling that general interest ended there."

The above record is evidence that I have not severely depleted the ranks of our wild-fowl.—ROY LATHAM, *Orient, L. I.*

**Ring-necked Duck in Delaware County, Pennsylvania.**—On March 30, 1924 I saw a Ring-necked Duck (*Marila collaris*) on a small pond about 300 x 150 feet in Griffiths Park, Lansdowne, Pa. I watched it for half an hour at a distance of twenty feet and farther away through glasses. It was a full plumaged male and the light band over the bill and the definite, though not conspicuous, collar, as well as the dusky or dirty white sides as distinct from the white of the sides next to the black breast were clearly seen. He would dive and remain under water for some time and once raised up and flapped his wings. The species is decidedly uncommon here and the observation seems worthy of record.—ASA P. WAY, *Lansdowne, Pa.*

**Snow Geese at Boonton, N. J.**—On April 6, 1924, Mr. Frank E. Watson and I observed a flock of 37 Snow Geese—presumably the Greater (*Chen hyperborea nivalis*)—over the Jersey City Reservoir, at Boonton, Morris County, New Jersey. The flock evidently had just arisen from the water and passed nearly over our heads, well within gunshot, thus giving us an excellent view. They then headed directly north.

This reservoir, approximately three miles long and a mile wide, during migrations attracts large numbers of Anatidae, 17 species having been observed there by the writer.—T. DONALD CARTER, *American Museum of Natural History.*

**Least Bittern in the Orient Region, Long Island.**—The Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) was first located in our region at East Marion by Mrs. Harold P. French during the winter of 1921. This was by the discovery of an old nest. The following summer, 1922, the bird was observed there by Mrs. French. In June of the same year the nest with eggs was

found there by the writer. There was evidently but one pair in the restricted flag area.

In 1923 the writer found another pair in an extensive cat-tail swamp near Arshamomaque, where a nest containing eggs was found in June.—ROY LATHAM, *Orient, L. I.*

**Snowy Egret (*Egretta candidissima*) at Newport, R. I.**—With the snow storm of April 2, 1924 came a full plumaged Snowy Egret evidently swept up the coast by the storm from some point far to the south. The bird was picked up dead on the piazza of Mr. Charles A. Hall of Newport and presented to the writer who has had it mounted and will place it on exhibition in the Children's Museum of Newport.

The plumes on the head, breast and back are perfect, the toe claws are black, the feet light orange and the legs black or extremely dark green. Measurements: length 24 inches, wings extended 38, wing 9.50, tail 4, tarsus 3.75, middle toe 2.75, bill 3. This is the first authentic instance of the occurrence of the species in Rhode Island so far as I can ascertain.—A. O'D. TAYLOR, 38 Powel Ave., Newport, R. I.

**The Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*) in South Carolina.**—In view of the fact that the Stilt Sandpiper has not been taken in South Carolina since the days of Dr. Bachman, the following record is worthy of publication.

On August 22, 1912, the writer, in company with Mr. B. R. Chamberlain and Mr. C. P. Webber, the latter of Georgetown, S. C., was shooting Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*) on Pawley's Island, a long, narrow coastal island a few miles from Georgetown. During the shooting Mr. Webber killed a Stilt Sandpiper. This bird, a female in winter plumage, was shot from a flock of Yellow-legs, while flying low over the salt-water myrtles (*Baccharis halimifolia*) near the back beach of the island, and within two hundred yards of the nearest house.

Mr. Arthur T. Wayne, in his 'Birds of South Carolina,' says of this species: "This rare species is included on the authority of Dr. Bachman, who appears to have taken many specimens near Charleston. . . . During the past twenty-five years I have devoted much time and study to the Limicolae, but as yet I have not taken a specimen of this rare bird, although I believe I saw a small flock on August 1, 1901." Since Mr. Wayne wrote in 1910, up to the present time, no specimens of this bird have been seen or taken, with the sole exception of the specimen recorded above. This specimen has been donated to the Charleston Museum (No. 7171) and recorded in the 'Charleston Museum Bulletin', Vol. IX, 52, 1913.—E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, *Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.*

**An Oyster-catcher in Brunswick County, Virginia.**—On January 13, 1924 a farmer living four miles north of Lawrenceville, Va., told me of the shooting of a strange bird by a negro laborer employed on his farm.