

taken, but unfortunately a cow destroyed them.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Evanston, Illinois.*

Occurrence of King Rail about New York City in Winter.—On February 1, 1926, during a rather severe northeast hail storm, the writer had the good fortune to pick up a dead King Rail (*Rallus elegans*), at Hunts Point, in the lower Bronx region, New York City, found by the merest chance while crossing the tidal marsh. The plumage was heavily coated with ice, but otherwise the bird was in fairly good condition, barring a few damaged feathers on the side of the head. After thawing the bird was limp, and seemingly quite fresh, with no evidence whatever of decomposition about it. It proved to be an adult male, and Mr. W. DeW. Miller of the American Museum of Natural History, to whom the specimen was brought, examined it, and was able to have the skin preserved for the Museum's collection. The stomach was practically empty. An injury to the left-wing, disabling the bird, probably hastened death from exposure.

The date is, of course, abnormal, and the fact that the bird was found on a tidal salt marsh is notable in view of the species' partiality to fresh-water swamps. This is to my knowledge the second local record; the first being a sight identification of an individual of this species which spent at least a week in a deep fresh-water swamp, directly east of the Jerome Reservoir, N. Y. City and which was observed there April 20–21, 1925 and several days thereafter, by A. D. Cruickshank, the writer, and others.—JOHN F. KUERZI, *Bronx, N. Y. City.*

Red Phalarope at Sea 100 miles west of Gibraltar.—On October 25, 1925 a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) flew on board the Isthmian Line Steamship "Steel Seafarer" when about 100 miles due west of Gibraltar. It was found dead, was skinned by the writer and is now in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Mass. The bird was a male with minute testes and the stomach was empty save for some grit. This record is of interest in connection with the distribution of the species as given by Meinertzhagen in 'The Ibis' for April, 1925, and helps to fill the gap between his October record for the southwest coast of England and his November record for the Straits of Gibraltar.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, *32 Garden Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Black-necked Stilt in Winter on the North Carolina Coast.—On December 3, 1925 a Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) was killed by Mr. Peters of the Narrow's Island Shooting Club on the Club property near Poplar Branch, Currituck Co., N. C. It is being mounted for the Club collection.

Dr. Geo. Bird Grinnell who is President of our Club writes me that there is a specimen of this bird which was killed in North Carolina in the Museum of Trinity College, Durham, N. C. The bird killed by Mr. Peters was an adult male in very fine plumage. The bird must now be

rare on the North Carolina coast as none of the old baymen in the neighborhood had ever seen one. I thought therefore that its occurrence, particularly so late in the year, was worth reporting.—ROBERT T. EMMET, 48 Washington Ave., Schenectady, N. Y.

A New Genus, *Acentrorityx*, proposed for *Francolinus nahani* Dubois.—The African Francolins, usually grouped in two genera, *Francolinus* and *Pternistis*, show such a variety of color-pattern and so much diversity in the relative size of the bill that it would seem almost natural to subdivide the groups further, as has been done by Mr. Austin Roberts in his list of South African birds.¹ Certainly *Francolinus lathamii* (type of the genus *Peliperdix* Bonaparte) departs widely in structure from such a species as *F. levaillantii*, but a graded series of species could be laid out which would tend to bridge such gaps.

One feature, however, in which virtually all the species of *Francolinus* and *Pternistis* agree—so far as I am aware—is the presence, normally, of one or two metatarsal spurs in adult males. Nevertheless, in *Francolinus nahani* Dubois² such spurs are never to be seen, nor is there even a modified scale at the point where they usually arise. I have carefully examined eighteen adult specimens in the collections of the British Museum, of Sir Frederick Jackson, of Lord Rothschild, of the U. S. National Museum, the Congo Museum, and the American Museum of Natural History. Eight of them were sexed by the collectors as males.

In other respects this Partridge does not depart widely from the genus *Francolinus*. The bill is not quite so weak as in *F. lathamii*, and the rectrices number fourteen, as usual in *Francolinus*. The only additional feature of note is the bareness of the skin around the eye. But the complete absence of spurs alone may be regarded as of generic importance, and I propose the new genus *Acentrorityx*, with *Francolinus nahani* Dubois as its type species.—JAMES P. CHAPIN, on Board S. S. "Majestic" in Mid-Atlantic.

Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker in West Chester Co., N. Y.—On October 12, 1925, my husband and I saw a female Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) on our place at Mount Kisco, N. Y., I believe that no other has been recorded from West Chester Co., and that this is an early date for that latitude. The bird was working hard on some small dead or dying white birch trees and allowed us upon this and several subsequent occasions to approach within a few feet of her. The presence of our dog did not bother her but the Downy Woodpeckers resented the intrusion and did all they could to drive her away. We saw her on November 6 and again on December 11 when we found her on a heap of dead birches that had been dug up and thrown on the ground.

On December 15, 1925 I saw a solitary Redpoll in a flock of Goldfinches and on December 12, a single Evening Grosbeak near our feeding station.—MARCIA B. TUCKER, 733 Park Ave., N. Y. City.

¹ 1924, Ann. Transvaal Mus., X, pp. 121-122.

² 1905, Ann. Mus. Congo, Zoologie, I, fasc. 1, p. 17.