

disappeared in the direction of Buzzards Bay and the base of Cape Cod on a course that was separated by not more than half a mile from the course taken by the 1926 bird. In fact if one of his side meanderings the latter actually crossed the course of the former. Now, as to the identity of the bird I saw. I hold no brief for any particular species of Crane but I never for a moment doubted that it was a Crane of some kind after getting a good view of it. Whether it was a Whooping Crane, a pale phase or even an albino of the Sandhill Crane or an exotic species that might have escaped from a zoological garden or a preserve I do not know.

If any ornithologists believe in the immortality of the avian soul they may conclude that the spirit of some old Whooper of Colonial days makes a yearly visit to his old haunts and that I have been lucky enough to see it on these two occasions.—J. PERCY MOORE, *University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia,*

(Dr. Moore's most interesting observations led me to inquire as to the possibility of some exotic Crane being at large in this part of Massachusetts and Mr. W. Cameron Forbes of Boston replies to my letter as follows: "I have repeatedly seen the bird of which you speak, which is said to be a Japanese Crane, escaped from some zoological garden. It flies over the vicinity of Cape Cod and we have seen him almost every year. He has a certain cry which is very penetrating and which calls attention to his presence. I hear it from my house and look out to see him. I have seen him two or three times this year and I think almost every year for the last nearly ten years now." If anyone is in possession of additional information 'The Auk' will gladly publish it.—Ed.)

The Calls of the King and Virginia Rails—Descriptions of the calls and notes of Rails seem to be much confused. So much so in fact that they are of little value in identifying the birds. That this confusion sometimes is justified is proved by the following experience. On June 6, 1926, as I was walking over a bridge that crosses a cattail and grass marsh at the upper end of Newton Lake, Collingswood, New Jersey, I heard a Rail call and stopped in hopes that I might catch a glimpse of the author. Presently a King Rail came out of the cattails into the short grass and could be seen very plainly, calling at intervals. The note very much resembled the squawking noise made by a boy giving a sharp quick blow on a blade of grass placed between the thumbs. Soon another Rail, supposedly the same species, squawked in exactly the same manner from a bunch of cattails a short distance away. The first Rail slowly made his way through the grass toward the second bird. Meanwhile this bird had come into view and was plainly seen by the size and coloration of the head to be a Virginia Rail. The King Rail was now silently walking toward the Virginia while the latter continued to call. Suddenly the King made a swift dash at the Virginia. The latter instantly flew a few yards out in the grass and presently started calling again as it made its way back to the cattails now occupied by the King Rail. The latter at this time was skulking

along the edge of the cattails, almost motionless but as soon as the Virginia reached the edge, he dashed out and the Virginia retreated as before. This performance was repeated again and again. The Virginia was squawking most of the time and the King at intervals. Both were plainly seen and the notes of one could not be distinguished from those of the other. Timing of their calls proved that there is no regularity in the intervals. At one time two King Rails were in view, one walking out of the cattails into the grass while the other skulking along watched for the approach of the Virginia. Suspecting a nest of either or both species I searched the cattails on June 15 and soon flushed the Virginia from a nest containing eight eggs and found two false nests of the King, a habit which Mr. Richard F. Miller informs me, is common not only to this Rail but to others as well. Although subsequent visits were made to the marsh, the Kings never revealed themselves after the first visit. The Virginia when flushed from the nest, always squawked from the nearby cattails. Once a clattering call similar to that of the Clapper Rail was heard from the direction which the bird had taken. This may have been the Virginia or it may have been the King as neither bird was in sight at this time. On June 24 a heavy storm flooded the marsh and put an end to further observation.—JULIAN K. POTTER, *Collingswood, N. J.*

Hudsonian Curlew in West Virginia.—The recording for West Virginia of the Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus*) was a reward of a recent camping trip into Cranberry Glades, Pocahontas County, W. Va. This interesting bird, far off its usual migration range, was seen on May 25, 1926. The specimen was taken and presented to the collection of West Virginia University, Morgantown.

The Glades region includes several hundred acres of marshy land, the bed of a geologic lake, in the Alleghany highlands of the state. A number of open glades are thickly covered with sphagnum, in turn supporting a heavy growth of cranberries. The flags and the alders around the borders make a wonderful region for Swamp Sparrows and Alder Flycatchers. The elevation is about 3100 feet.

When first seen the Curlew was moving about in the largest of the open glades, a tract of about 100 acres. Although moving freely, and able to fly at will, it showed none of the fear commonly ascribed to the species, and allowed itself to be closely approached. It seemed to be feeding, but whether on the last year's cranberries which adhered to the vines, or on insects which swarmed in the sphagnum, we were unable to determine. On our near approach it became stationary and very attentive to our movements, so that it was thought advisable to take the specimen for positive identification.

So far as has been determined there is no previous record for this species in the state.—C. L. BROOKS, *Morgantown, W. Va.*; A. B. BROOKS, *Buckhannon, W. Va.*; MAURICE BROOKS, *French Creek, W. Va.*