

No Mans Land. They were shy and rose from the water and flew off to the northwest when our sail boat approached within a third of a mile.

These birds are rare winter visitors here, but summer records, I believe, are lacking.—STANLEY COBB, M.D., *Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.*

King Rail Capturing a Common Crab.—While looking for birds near a tidal pool at Cape May, N. J., September 4, 1927, a King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) suddenly appeared from the grass and deliberately walked out to the edge of a shallow stream which traversed the muddy bed of the pool. Slowly and with mincing step the Rail made his way down the middle of the stream swinging his bill from side to side in the water as he moved along. At intervals, he stopped and swallowed any morsel captured.

Just as the Rail reached the center of the pool bed, he suddenly jumped back and at the same moment I saw a common blue crab throw up his claws in defense. The Rail eyed the crab a moment and then to my surprise gave the crab a vicious jab and then jumped back as before. These tactics were repeated until the crab had lost one claw and was very much subdued.

The Rail then deliberately picked up the weakly protesting crab and laid it on its back in the mud. As it did this I could see that the crab measured about three inches across the shell.

After placing the crab on its back, the Rail raised himself on his toes and lifting his bill as high as possible came down with all the force that he could muster, striking the crab in the middle of its lower shell. Repeated blows rendered the crab inert.

Apparently satisfied that the crab was completely subdued, the Rail lugged it off to a place near the edge of the grass, battered it to pieces and consumed it. The carapace was left intact.

The meal seemed to satisfy the Rail for he afterwards stood about for some time pluming and arranging his feathers.

About fifteen minutes elapsed between the first blow struck and the final knockout.—JULIAN K. POTTER, *Collingswood, N. J.*

The Red Phalarope, (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) in Ohio.—A fine young male specimen of this species was taken on the Scioto River, several miles north of Columbus, in Delaware County, Ohio, on the evening of September 29, 1927. The specimen was first seen by Charles F. Walker and was collected by Milton B. Trautman. From all reports examined it is the first Ohio specimen of the species to be preserved in any scientific collection. In the 'Ohio Agricultural Report' for 1861 Dr. J. M. Wheaton stated on the authority of Mr. R. K. Winslow of Cleveland "that two or three specimens had been taken on Lake Erie." Every statement made since, concerning the species as an Ohio bird, has been based on this one. The statement is indefinite as there is no evidence that the specimens were