

molt into nuptial plumage almost complete, except for a whitish patch on crown and hind head and a number of white spots on back and shoulders. I have the skin. The Bufflehead and Old-squaw were noted just after a storm. They were quite tame and very active, diving constantly. On April 18 I found these two and a Lesser Scaup dead, floating in the rushes at the pond's edge. Someone had shot them, apparently with a small rifle.

A Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*) spent a week here on another pond, April 19 to 25.—JAMES J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Va.*

**Nesting of the American Merganser in Chihuahua.**<sup>1</sup>—In a general collection of bird skins recently acquired by Mr. Donald R. Dickey from H. H. Kimball, there is a downy young of *Mergus merganser americanus* Cassin, collected by Mr. Kimball at Colonio Pacheco, Chihuahua, Mexico, on May 23, 1909. The bird was not more than a couple of days old at the time of collection and therefore was certainly hatched in the immediate vicinity. As the southernmost breeding station recorded by Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 126, 1923, p. 12) is Tulare County, California, it seems desirable to place this downy young on record. In details of head coloration and in the position of nostril, which is 11 mm. from the tip and 8 mm. from the base of the exposed portion of the maxilla, the specimen is typical of this species.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California.*

**Florida Gallinule in Northern New Jersey.**—April 29, 1929, in a big, fresh-water marsh near Whippany New Jersey, I observed a Florida Gallinule. I noted its call and heard several others like it in the marsh. I had heard these calls in the marsh since April 13, but, as I saw Coots, I took them for Coot calls, not being familiar with the calls of either bird.

May 1, I was again in the marsh, and observed two Gallinules through 8x glasses (Zeiss) within thirty yards, with Coots close by for comparison. But, surely, no careful observer would ever confuse the two. I saw four others at a distance, and from the calls in the marsh, I would say that I did not see half the Gallinules that were there.

I expect to keep watch on the Gallinules to see if they breed there this season.

The marsh has had unusually high water all the spring. Shovellers and Blue-wing Teals have been quite common up to April 27.

I have haunted this marsh winter and spring for seven years, and this is the first time I have observed there Florida Gallinules, Coots or Grebes (Pied-bill?).—W. DAN QUATTLEBAUM, *East Orange, New Jersey.*

**Egg-eating Habits of the Florida Gallinule.**—In 'The Auk' Vol. XLIV, page 550, October, 1927, I noticed an article by Alfred M. Bailey, giving an interesting and unique account of a Purple Gallinule stealing a very small young of the Louisiana Heron, from a low nest in the swamps

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<sup>1</sup> Contribution from the California Institute of Technology.