

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.¹—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

¹ Contribution from the California Institute of Technology.

of lower Louisiana. He stated that he actually saw the bird pick up the young Heron by the neck and dart off with it.

During the summer of 1928 either in late June or the early part of July Mr. Joseph Howell, of Orlando, Florida, told me of a nearly parallel case. He was hunting for late nests of the Florida and Purple Gallinules on the west side of Lake Apokpa in Lake Co., Florida. While standing quietly watching for birds he noticed a Florida Gallinule go to a Purple Gallinule's nest and pick up something and as it rose and flew past near him, he said he could see that the bird had stuck its bill through an egg and was carrying it in that manner.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Florida*.

Notes on the Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) in Florida.—A Roseate Spoonbill has always been a sort of Will-o-the-wisp, to me, and although I have been to most of the places where it has been reported to me I have yet to see one in its native habitat. The following reports covering recent years may be of interest.

Mr. A. M. Nicholson, a reliable observer, informed me that he had found a few pairs of Roseate Spoonbills nesting among a colony of White Ibis, on Bird Island, Lake Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida. This was either during the early nineties or late eighties. At one time this was a famous rookery, but as early as 1908, few breeding birds were to be found upon the island; only such birds as Ward's Herons, several pair of Black-crowned Night Herons, Florida Ducks, and a colony of Stilts. In April, 1909, a single pair of Glossy Ibises nested on the island, and a set of two fresh eggs and the parent birds were secured by Gilbert R. Rossignol, Jr.

A trapper by the name of Henry Redding, has told me of the Spoonbill breeding at the mouth of Wolf Creek, Osceola Co., Florida, in a marsh which is part of the St. Johns River system. He was corroborated in his statement by a woodsman, Edw. Murphy, who also had occasion to visit this heronry.

There were no eggs taken, and they might have presumed the birds nested as they were associating with the numerous Herons and Ibises which were nesting. They both declared that they had seen Roseate Spoonbills at this place in different years.

These men also stated they had seen this species in numbers in the Mosquito Lagoon, at the Haulover Canal, near Oak Hill, and thought they were nesting there. This was within the last several years.

Benj. Reddit, an old reliable resident of Orange County, told me of seeing two or three Spoonbills feeding on the Indian River, near Cocoa, Brevard County, in June 1923, or 1924.

While riding with the late William Leon Dawson, in March 1927, through the wildest part of Okeechobee County, returning from a Wood Ibis colony we had been photographing in Blue Cypress Lake, we came upon an intelligent Seminole Indian who told us that the Roseates nested at Fish-eating Lake, south of La Belle, Hendry County. This coincided with information received from several Indians that I questioned while