

could entirely remove; neither do they have even a trace of the greenish blue of the Golden-eye, which I doubt greatly if exposure could remove.

"Generally speaking there is a striking similarity in the upper parts of the females of the Red-breasted Merganser and the Golden-eye, including the white wing patch. The beaks of course, are utterly different, so, if you had a good look at the beak, this theory is completely knocked in the head. Now, as I have said, I feel as though I were insulting an experienced duck hunter, like yourself, by suggesting that he might mistake a female Golden-eye for something else. However, I am treating you exactly as I would cross examine myself. If I did not get a good look at the beak and a clear impression of the bird as it left the nest—well, the mistake would have been possible."

I rather think Mr. Bowles has the best of it. Had his suggestion come up last year, when it was all fresh in my mind, it might not have made as much of an impression of doubt as it does now after a lapse of time. The place was so dark that I did not distinctly see the Duck on the eggs, and so thick that I did not crawl in to examine the eggs as I should have done, but the occurrence was so unusual that I am going to give Mr. Bowles the benefit of the doubt and make this acknowledgement so that a possible error may not be carried into the future as a fact.—WM. B. MERSHON, *Saginaw, Mich.*

Breeding of the Pink-footed Goose in Iceland.—American Ornithologists, particularly those primarily interested in oölogy, may be glad to hear that the vexed question as to whether the Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus* Baillon) does or does not breed in Iceland has at last been definitely answered by Mr. S. W. P. Freme, M. B. O. U. and myself, as one of the results of six weeks ornithological work in Iceland during the summer of 1929.

As we intend to shortly have a paper published in 'The Ibis' giving the results of our experiences I am unable to give readers of 'The Auk' full particulars as to our find, beyond stating that we were led to a very flourishing nesting colony of these Geese in the north central desert. Our guide insisted that he was leading us to a breeding colony of the White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons* Scopoli). Identification of the Geese presented no sort of difficulty, but for the education of the guide and for exhibition purposes my companion shot a Goose from the first nest we came to in the colony.

Nests seen contained from five to seven eggs but numbers had been harried by foxes and possibly by Ravens (*Corvus corax tibetanus*) as well. Many nests were inaccessible in the limited time at our disposal as they were mainly situated on the precipitous sides of a wonderful river gorge, many miles from our base. The question has now arisen, as a result of our discovery "Does the White-fronted Goose breed in Iceland? If so what race?" I know it is *supposed* to do so and many eggs purporting to be of this species have been sent from Iceland by native collectors. We propose

to discuss this question in the forthcoming 'Ibis' article.—W. M. CONGREVE, MAJOR, M. B. O. U. ETC., *Hafod, Trefnant, Denbighshire, North Wales.*

Caspian Terns (*Sterna caspia imperator*) at Palmyra, N. J.—On April 21, 1929, in company with W. C. Doak, E. G. Loomis and W. J. Emlen I paid a short visit to the open marshes along the Delaware just south of Palmyra, N. J. A slow steady rain was falling, and consequently very few birds were about. However, near the ferry dock we noticed among a small flock of Herring Gulls three birds whose whiter plumage and more graceful flight made them quite distinct. A look through the glasses revealed the typical black cap of the Terns and a short but decidedly forked tail. One of them flew up to within reasonably short range, giving us a chance to see his large red bill and short forked tail, which, aside from the size, are the principal field marks of the Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia imperator*). All three of them flew around for some time and finally lit on a distant mud flat, where they remained partially hidden by grass.

Spring records for this bird are quite rare, and we have been unable to find any for this section.—J. T. EMLEN, JR., *Philadelphia, Pa.*

Ducks and Other Water Birds on the Reading, Pa., Reservoir.—During the past year the city of Reading completed an impounding dam, about seven miles from the city limits, which has created an S-shaped artificial lake some two miles in length and averaging in width about 220 yards, with a maximum width of 400 yards.

This is the only body of still water of like size in the neighborhood with the exception of the Schuylkill River, which has become choked with culm from the coal regions, and is now absolutely barren of any vegetation or fish-life.

This spring was the first season that the dam has been filled and it has proved remarkably attractive to passing water-fowl throughout the entire season. Nearly all the trees in the neighborhood have been cut down, leaving a broad expanse of gently undulating upland meadow on all sides. Perhaps this latter feature of the landscape has had something to do with the immediate acceptance of the dam by passing water-birds, which normally occur here in very small numbers, and only for a short period following storms.

It is of course too early to draw any conclusions, but if the past season is typical of what is to be expected in the future, the writer is led to believe that this locality is in the path of a much more extensive overland migration of water-birds than has heretofore been suspected. A glance at the map will show that Reading is located in the path of the shortest flight between Delaware Bay, and the New York lake region, as well as Lake Ontario.

Practically every rain or spell of "heavy" weather, especially at night, has caused a number of these transients to alight for a greater or lesser