

was discovered by Edward J. Reimann, of the Audubon Association's Southwest Coast Patrol, and shown to the writer March 16, 1937. It was built in a red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) on the south shore of the upper reaches of Shark River, southwest coast. It was located about twenty-five feet up, and over the water, composed of mangrove sticks, lined with leaves (green) of myrtle, mangrove, stopper-wood and willow. It contained two eggs. This nest was broken up a day or two after by crows.

The other nest was discovered by the writer as above described. It was built in exactly the same manner as that employed by the Audubon's Caracara, being placed close to the trunk of a cabbage palm, and amid the tuft of fronds near the top of the tree. This is, by a considerable margin, the earliest known nesting date, most of the Florida nesting records having been made in March and April.

The writer knows of another nest discovered by James Earl Moore, of Miami, in late March 1937. It was located in Pinecrest, and was built in a very small cypress, hardly more than eight feet from the ground. Moore found the nest when it contained three eggs and watched it until the birds were hatched and left the nest.

I am told by Warden Reimann that he notes these hawks at intervals during the patrols made by the Southwest Coast Warden Patrol. They seem to be not excessively rare along the rivers which make in from the Gulf to the western Everglades. Such streams as Chatham, Broad, Lostman's, Rodgers and Shark Rivers have figured in his reports. He observed one bird on Marco Island during the taking of 'Bird-Lore's' Christmas Census for 1937. It is the opinion of the writer that this species is one of the rarest of birds in Florida and that this is shared by others is evidenced by Mr. Bent's comment in his account of the species in his 'Life Histories'. Never common, it seems to be steadily decreasing its range southward, and now is confined pretty much to the region south of the Tamiami Trail and the southwestern portions of the Everglades. Every effort should be put forth to preserve its present status, and to increase its numbers.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston, South Carolina*.

**Sora Rail breeding in Virginia.**—As there appears to be no definite instance of the nesting of the Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*) in Virginia, the following incident seems worthy of record. It was reported to the Biological Survey by Max D. Hart, Executive Secretary of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. The observations were made by State Game Warden Jefferson C. Phillips, of Hampton, Virginia. On June 9, 1938, Mr. Phillips was cutting hay in a marshy section of a flying field at Langley Field when the boy operating the rake caught a young black bird, obviously a rail. A second one was found nearby, both of which Mr. Phillips put in his hat on the ground. Several adult Soras had already been noted during the progress of the cutting. About half an hour later Mr. Phillips noted that the young were still calling lustily, so he turned the hat over gently to allow them to escape. Much to his amazement an adult Sora was under the hat. As the adult bird did not move, after about half a minute he lifted it on a finger to see if it were injured, whereupon it flew about fifteen yards and alit again. As the downy young of all rails are black, it is possible, of course, that this incident merely represents the solicitude of a bird for young not its own, but circumstantially, it seems to be reasonably satisfactory evidence of the breeding of this species in tidewater areas of the Old Dominion.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**Florida Gallinule at Philadelphia in winter.**—The Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*) has long been regarded as a summer resident in the Philadelphia region, the bird wintering from South Carolina southward. In the records of Richard

F. Miller, who has taken notes on his observations of birds in this locality for the past thirty-five years, he finds that the average date of fall departure is October 9 and that of spring arrival April 21.

During the past winter, I have found four birds of this species remaining with us at the Richmond Marshes, a tract within the city and situated along the Delaware River. The weather had not been too mild, and there were a number of freezes. However, the safety of these birds throughout the ice and snow was probably due to an influx of warm water through a culvert pipe, which kept open about one hundred square yards of water and cat-tails. I visited this locality on December 22, 1938, while working on a Christmas census report for the Philadelphia area. The marshes were frozen solid except for the small patch kept open by the warm water. At first, there seemed to be not a single sign of life; but, after remaining still for about five minutes, I was rewarded by a clucking sound. Right off, I believed I had a Coot; which appears to be the more hardy of the two cousins; but, a second later, a jerky head started out from behind a cat-tail clump and a gallinule burst out into the open. I clapped my hands to start the bird in order to see if it had been injured and robbed of its powers of flight. It seemed to be strong as it pattered across the water where it arose and flew to a dense cat-tail thicket. I remained quiet and saw one more individual come out from hiding. On January 5, 1939, I returned to the marsh, and this time saw four birds which took wing and flew to the middle when I flushed them. A record of crippled birds wintering would be the result of a forced issue upon them; but their stay must have been voluntary for all of them seemed possessed of their full powers of flight.

Heretofore, the only winter records of Mr. Miller for Philadelphia County had been one bird captured at Richmond, February 13, 1913; two birds seen at Richmond, November 9, 1927; and one bird at Richmond, November 7, 1932.—EDWARD J. REIMANN, 2285 E. Kennedy St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Lapwing at Bridgehampton, Long Island.**—While pursuing a rough survey of the winter bird life of Long Island, New York, Messrs. Robert J. Newman and Millard Lindauer of the Miller Ornithological Club of Philadelphia discovered a mounted specimen of the Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) in the home of Dr. Eagleston, of Bridgehampton. His father while hunting in that vicinity had observed that it appeared to be of an unusual kind and shot it. The present Dr. Eagleston states that this occurred sometime during the fall of the year 1910. He asserted that his father at the first shot only wounded it, but finally caught it. The 'German Plover,' as he called it, was mounted, and to this day, remains in the Eagleston household, in the possession of his son, the present Dr. Eagleston of Bridgehampton.

So far, there are only two published records of the occurrence of this species on Long Island: two birds in December, 1883 (Dutcher, Auk, 3: 438, 1888); and a single bird in the autumn of 1905 (C. W. Beebe, Auk, 6: 221, 1906).—EDWARD J. REIMANN, 2285 E. Kennedy St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Long-billed Curlew in Massachusetts.**—On June 14, 1938, Mr. J. P. Bishop, of South Chatham, found one of these great curlew on the "Red River" salt marsh at Chatham. At 7.30 p.m. it showed every sign of bedding down for the night, so he very kindly telephoned me in Cambridge. Knowing him to be most reliable and careful, his account was the first one I had ever received from an observer without previous experience of the species in life, that made me certain his bird was in fact a Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*). I accordingly left Cambridge at day-break, and reached Mr. Bishop's house some three hours later. The curlew was