

a week of her release. It strikes me as phenomenal that the bird should return and lay a second set under these circumstances, particularly at such a late date. The first set of eggs was only slightly incubated.—WILLIAM A. WIMSATT, 11 Grafton St., Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Early nesting of the Duck Hawk in Maryland.—In 'The Auk' for April 1939, was published my note concerning an early breeding record of the Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia (nest is on Maryland side of the Potomac River). In the spring of 1939 the record was even more unique. Three 4-weeks-old fledglings were removed from the nest on April 10 by Washington falconers. Allowing a period of 28 days for incubation and four days during which the set was being completed before incubation began, I might reasonably conclude that the eggs were laid about February 12, a full two weeks earlier than last year. Other nests in this region did not have eggs until the end of March and early April.—WILLIAM A. WIMSATT, 11 Grafton St., Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Ruffed Grouse budding on western serviceberry.—On January 3, 1939, while driving down a narrow country lane in the woods along the South Branch of Park River, I observed a Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) budding on the western serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*). The bird fed on the buds for ten minutes at a distance of about fifteen feet from the observer before it flew away. Dr. Wm. R. VanDersal in his book 'Native Woody Plants of the United States' (U. S. Dept. Agric. Misc. Publ., no. 303) in summarizing food-habit records for *Amelanchier alnifolia*, reports stomach records for the Sooty Grouse and Richardson's Grouse; observations for Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse and Blue Grouse. He reports stomach records of the Ruffed Grouse feeding on the serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*). The portion of the plant eaten is not indicated in the above records.

The U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey recently informed the writer that "we have no records of Ruffed Grouse feeding on *Amelanchier alnifolia*. *Amelanchier canadensis*, of course, is an important grouse food. It has been recorded in 43 stomachs examined by the Biological Survey."—ADRIAN C. FOX, Park River, North Dakota.

King Rail breeding in southern Ontario.—Although apparently uncommon everywhere throughout its range along the southern edge of Ontario, the King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) does breed sparingly in a few of our marshes from Lake St. Clair east to Toronto. The earliest account of its nesting was published by the late J. A. Morden and Mr. W. E. Saunders (Canadian Sports. and Nat., 2: 193, 1882) who stated that it was common at St. Clair Flats (in the extreme southwestern corner of Ontario) and bred there. A female with a set of thirteen eggs, taken at St. Anne's Island, Lake St. Clair, Lambton County, in May, 1882, by Mr. Saunders is still in his collection (Baillie and Harrington, Trans. Roy. Canad. Inst., 21: 32, 1936). Information on its present status at St. Clair Flats has not come to the attention of ornithologists, so far as we are aware.

On May 30, 1894, a second set containing ten eggs was discovered in Ontario at Point Abino, Welland County, near the eastern end of the north shore of Lake Erie, by Edward Reinecke (Oölogist, 12: 45, 1895) but no further light was thrown on its breeding range in Ontario for nearly thirty years.

During the summer of 1921, and again in 1926, the late Charles K. Rogers observed a female with her family of young near the 'cottages' on Long Point, Norfolk County, on the north shore of Lake Erie (Snyder, Trans. Roy. Canad. Inst., 18: 163, 1931) and thus a third breeding station became known.

The fourth and fifth localities at which this rail is known to rear its young in southern Ontario did not come to the attention of ornithologists until very recently, and both places (Toronto and Hamilton) lie at the western end of the north shore of Lake Ontario and represent a slight northward and eastward extension of the known breeding range of this species in the province. At Toronto, F. H. "Bill" Emery had the good fortune to see five dark immature birds of this species together in one of the marshes bordering the lower Humber River on August 22, 1938, and at Hamilton three dark immatures were seen together at a small cat-tail marsh on the Burlington Golf Course (at Aldershot) on August 6, 1939, by a party comprising George W. North and Oliver Hewitt of Hamilton and F. H. Emery, Dr. Richard M. Saunders, William W. H. Gunn and Douglas S. Miller of Toronto. Four days later, at the same marsh at Aldershot, D. Bruce Murray, Lloyd Slichter and the writer saw an immature bird accompanied by its parent.

The record of the King Rail breeding at Pelee Island, at the west end of Lake Erie (Jones, Wilson Bull., 24: 145, 1912) seems insufficiently conclusive and should be considered hypothetical until some supporting evidence is forthcoming.

Localities which mark the northernmost penetrations of this rail into southern Ontario, all of them somewhat north and east of its known nesting range, are: Crane Lake, Bruce County, where one was identified on July 31, 1931, by William C. Baker (Auk, 49: 100, 1932); Port Perry, Ontario County, where one was seen by Russell G. Dingman and the writer on April 21, 1923; and Ottawa, Carleton County, where one was shot (at Billing's Bridge) on May 7, 1896, according to Eifrig (Ottawa Nat., 24: 176, 1911).—JAMES L. BAILLIE, JR., *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, Ontario.*

Status of the Upland Plover.—Supplementing my records on the status of the Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*), already published in 'The Auk', I submit my 1939 report. Since 1921 I have taken this census over four widely separated tracts in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, which is one of the most used breeding grounds east of the bird's original range—Saskatchewan and the prairie lands southward. These definite tracts, about two square miles each, are (A) in Penn-Warwick townships; (B) in Warwick-Manheim townships; (C) in Warwick township; (D) in Elizabeth-Clay townships. The census records to date are as follows:

| | A | B | C | D | Total |
|-----------------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|
| 1921 (August 4) | 12 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 21 |
| 1922 (August 3) | 8 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 22 |
| 1923 (August 9) | 23-24 | 35-38 | 1 | 15-20 | 74-83 |
| 1925 (August 8) | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| 1936 (August 4) | 5 | 22 | 4 | 11 | 42 |
| 1937 (August 4) | 11 | 28 | 1 | 17 | 57 |
| 1939 (August 3) | 14 | 75 | 0 | 5 | 94 |

Dr. Alexander Wetmore of the Smithsonian Institution, who spent eighteen months in South America studying our migrant shorebirds (1926), attributes this increase entirely to protection in North America. He says he knows of no improved enforcement of the loose game-laws in Argentina or Uruguay where the Upland Plover spends the winter. Richard Pough, of the Audubon Association, found the bird being shot with other shorebirds in Barbados (1938). The writer was assisted in making these observations, by Frank T. Thurlow, Clifford Marburger, Samuel Beck and Kenneth Schmid.—HERBERT H. BECK, *Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.*