

Probably the duck had been killed, or found dead on the river by the hawk. The breast and most of the belly had been removed, but the head as yet had not been touched. It was interesting to note that the hawk had not as yet eaten the eyes. I was unable to determine the physical condition of the bird before its death, but by the looks of the remains I would say that the duck had met its death within an hour or two before I found it. *Rigor mortis* had set in and the bird was cold, but as the weather was fairly cool this factor may have hastened the reaction.—WILLIAM F. RAPP, JR., *Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.*

Further notes on wintering of the Rough-legged Hawk in Florida.—In 'The Auk' (57: 564, 1940) the writer gave all the records then available for the occurrence of *Buteo lagopus sancti-johannis* in Florida, pointing out that, apparently, these had been additions to the ornithology of the State, since A. H. Howell made no mention of the species in his 'Florida Bird Life' (1932). With what has transpired since, and another winter in the background, it may be well to sum up what could be called the present status of the bird. Reference was made in the above-mentioned 'Auk' item, to an observation of the species during the Audubon Wildlife Tours about Okeechobee during the winter of 1940. This project was again undertaken in February and March, 1941, conducted by the writer, and assisted this year by Alden H. Hadley, Audubon Educational Representative for Florida. The following observations of this large hawk were made in the field on these trips.

February 1—One observed at north city limit of Okeechobee, soaring at about 100 feet, Okeechobee County (Sprunt and Jacques, F. L.).

February 7—Two observed on Fort Bassenger Prairie, four miles north of State Road 8 (Arcadia to Okeechobee) and 16 miles west of Okeechobee (Hadley), Glades County.

February 11—Two observed on Seminole Indian Reservation, Glades County, ten miles south of Road 8 and about eight miles north of Lake Okeechobee (Hadley).

February 14—One seen about fifty feet over Road 8, five miles west of Okeechobee City, Okeechobee County (Sprunt).

February 24—One seen at Worm Cove, Lake Okeechobee shore, Glades County, about six miles east of Lakeport (Sprunt). This bird was sitting in a guava bush and was approached to within about sixty feet.

Here then, are five observations, involving seven birds, though it is impossible to say how many different individuals there were. However, because of the considerable distances that separate the records, it is safe to assume that more than two are accounted for.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *National Audubon Society, Charleston, South Carolina.*

Purple Gallinule nesting in Virginia.—An article by Dr. J. J. Murray (Auk, 57: 566, 1940) calls for comment, as to the occurrence of the Purple Gallinule (*Tonornis martinica*) in Virginia since 1891. My father, H. B. Bailey, while collecting on Hog Island, Northampton County, Virginia, took a set of four eggs of the Purple Gallinule, on June 17, 1916. He flushed the bird from the nest, and this set is still in the Bailey collection. The nest had been found a few days previous with more eggs in it, was left for a larger set, but on returning to it later, he found one egg of the four left had been pecked by a Fish Crow, during the absence of the parent. No doubt the crow had secured several other eggs before the parent returned. As this was at the time, the farthest-north breeding record for this bird,

this damaged set has always been kept in the Bailey collection as a Virginia record, and I think it was recorded as such in one of the bird magazines soon afterward.—HAROLD H. BAILEY, *Coral Gables, Florida*.

Unusual water- and shorebirds in the Illinois River Valley.—Recent years have brought remarkable changes to the avifauna of the Illinois River Valley. In 1938, a tremendous post-nuptial influx of American Egrets occurred and with them a number of rare southern herons. These records, together with those of other unusual water- and shorebirds, are here listed.

WHITE PELICAN, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*.—The White Pelican is of rare occurrence over most sections of Illinois, although reported to be a regular migrant along the Mississippi River. There are no recent records for the Illinois River Valley. Consequently, the following observations are worth recording. On October 16, 1939, I saw two individuals flying over Lake Senachwine, five miles north of Henry. With an 8 × 40 binocular, I saw another one on Patterson Bay, near Bath, Illinois, on May 3, 1940; and on May 24, several other members of the Illinois Natural History Survey and I observed seventeen individuals on Clear Lake, fifteen miles north of Havana. One White Pelican was seen, April 26, 1941, on Beebe Lake by Ferd Luthy of Peoria.

SNOWY EGRET, *Egretta thula thula*.—Little is known of this egret in central Illinois. I observed five Snowy Egrets among large numbers of American Egrets at Cuba Island, Chandlerville, Illinois, on July 30, 1938. I observed them many times at close range; their black legs and yellow feet were noted, as well as the lack of bluish color on the under primaries. On September 27, 1938, Ferd Luthy and I watched three of these egrets with 8 × 30 binoculars at Duck Island, Banner, Illinois. We compared them with nearby American Egrets and Little Blue Herons.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, *Nyctanassa violacea violacea*.—Since I found this species nesting in the Illinois River Valley (*Auk*, 55: 122, 1938), I have seen numerous other individuals along the river. I noted one adult near the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers at Grafton, July 9, 1938; five immature birds (which were readily distinguished from immature Black-crowned Night Herons) on Sangamon Bay, Browning, Illinois, August 23 and 24, 1938. On July 21, 1940, I saw an adult of this species on Gilbert Lake, near Grafton.

WHISTLING SWAN, *Cygnus columbianus*.—While Whistling Swans in recent years have appeared regularly in the Chicago region, there are few records of this species in the Illinois River Valley. I saw one swimming about an ice-encased opening with numerous Mallards and Lesser Scaups on the Starved Rock navigation pool, near Ottawa, January 2, 1939. One immature Whistling Swan was shot by a hunter on Lake Chautauqua, November 13, 1940. The bird was confiscated by Patrolman Milford Smith of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is now in the collection of the Illinois Natural History Survey. Another individual was seen, November 16, 1940, at Lake Chautauqua by Arthur S. Hawkins of the Illinois Natural History Survey and several others.

HUTCHINS'S GOOSE, *Branta canadensis hutchinsi*.—Notwithstanding the few definite records of this goose in Illinois, it appears to be more common than is generally believed. A crippled Hutchins's Goose was kept for many months at the Brownstone Club, Bath, Illinois. In July 1938, it was measured by C. T. Black and the writer, who definitely determined it as *hutchinsi*. On October 18, 1939, Harry Anderson of the Illinois Natural History Survey and I saw one Hutchins's Goose at Crane Lake, near Snicarte, and on October 23, 1939, we saw twenty-five of these