

King Rail impaled on barbed wire (Plate 16, upper figure).—On June 7, 1944, I was driving along a graded road that crossed a marsh near Anahuac, Chambers County, in eastern Texas. I had not noticed a low, barbed-wire fence paralleling the road until I saw a bird, seemingly dead, hanging on it. On stopping the car and examining the bird, I found it to be an adult King Rail (*Rallus e. elegans*), still alive though in an extremely emaciated and weakened condition. The bird was suspended entirely by one wing where a cluster of barbs had penetrated the skin and underlying fibrous tissue just distal to the wrist-joint. The bird's struggle to extricate itself had apparently been vigorous and prolonged. The legs were deeply lacerated; the impaled wing was twisted around the wire and severely torn. The bird died as I worked to free it. The rail's misfortune may have been caused by flying blindly into the fence while passing at night from one part of the marsh to the other. One stroke of the wing against the offending barbs had been sufficient to cause impalement.

On November 9, 1928, James J. Murray (*Auk*, 46: 106, 1929) examined a dead Clapper Rail near Lexington, Virginia, "caught in the abdomen on a hook on one of the upper strands of a barbed-wire fence and appeared to have beaten itself to death on the wires." In this instance, the fence paralleled a road passing through an upland pasture with no water "of any consequence" in the vicinity. Perhaps the bird had become impaled at night while migrating.—OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL, JR., *Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota*.

Breeding of the Ring-billed Gull in New York (Plate 16, lower figure).—On June 7, 1945, Harry Stevens (of Henderson Harbor) and I visited Little Galloo Island for the purpose of obtaining information on breeding waterfowl. This island, about thirty acres in extent, lies in eastern Lake Ontario about ten miles air-line from Henderson Harbor, Jefferson County, New York.

As we drew near the island, large numbers of gulls (*Plate 16*) and terns were seen both in the air and upon the land. Hardly had we landed when nests and young of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) in varying stages of early development were encountered, as well as nests of the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo hirundo*). In moving about the island it was necessary to exercise great care to avoid stepping upon the great number of nests and young that were found on all sides. During our inspection, adult Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) and their nests were also encountered, but in relatively small numbers. We estimated the gull population at 2000 breeding birds with a ratio of about ten Ring-billed Gulls to one Herring Gull.

This appears to constitute the first authentic record of the Ring-billed Gull breeding in New York. Sterling (*Auk*, 19: 297-300, 1902) has previously reported two Ring-billed Gull nests at Axton in the northern Adirondacks, but Eaton (*Birds of New York*, 1: 131-132, 1910) states that this record "should probably be referred to the Herring Gull."

Breeding of the Ring-billed Gull in New York has, however, been anticipated. Lewis (*Wilson Bull.*, 54: 145, 1942) reported on four colonies in Canadian waters of eastern Lake Ontario and one colony on an island of the Thousand Island chain of the St. Lawrence River within a mile of the New York State Line. He expressed the likelihood of similar colonies occurring within New York borders. Little Galloo Island is about twenty-eight miles distant in a direct line from the island in the Thousand Island chain mentioned by Dr. Lewis.—H. L. KURTZ, *Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Project 20-R, New York State Conservation Department, Chaumont, N. Y.*