

## GENERAL NOTES

**Bald Eagle near Stillwater, Oklahoma.**—There are so few records of Bald Eagles from Oklahoma that its appearance near Stillwater, January 4, 1939, may be of interest. An adult bird, presumably *Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*, was observed from an automobile by a party of five persons at R. 1 E, T. 19 N, S. 14, Payne County. The car was stopped about 75 feet from the thirty-foot elm tree which served as a perch and the eagle remained until all five occupants had made thorough observations. The bird flew a few hundred yards away and alighted in another tree. All present took note of the bird's white head and tail.—  
GEORGE A. MOORE and JOHN D. MIZELLE, *Stillwater, Oklahoma.*

**King Rail in Michigan in Winter.**—A King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) was received in the laboratory of the Game Division, Michigan Department of Conservation, on December 9, 1938. The bird was sent in by conservation officer Thomas White of Houghton Lake, Michigan, who reported that it was taken from a muskrat trap on December 7, about three miles east and one and one-half miles south of Prudenville, Michigan.

An examination failed to reveal any injury other than those resulting from the trap or any diseased condition that would have prevented normal flight. The bird was a male, in adult plumage, but was a bird of the year as evinced by the presence of a bursa Fabricii.

While there are other winter records of this species in Michigan, this is probably the first record from a point so far north in the state.—W. CARL GOWER, *Game Division, Michigan Department of Conservation, Lansing.*

**Twilight Flight of the Black Tern.**—During many summer evenings and week-ends between 1934 and 1938, I had abundant opportunity to observe an interesting twilight flight of the Black Tern (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*) at Whitmore Lake. This Michigan lake is about twelve miles north of Ann Arbor, and is approximately six hundred acres in extent. Within a five mile radius of Whitmore Lake are many bodies of water ranging in size from a glacial pothole of a fraction of an acre to lakes several hundred acres in extent. Horseshoe Lake, a mile and a half to the south, is one of the largest in the immediate vicinity. Many of the lakes, including Whitmore and Horseshoe, usually have annual nesting colonies of Black Terns.

During the summers between 1934 and 1936 the water level of Whitmore Lake was several feet below normal, thereby exposing many suitable nesting sites for Terns. As a consequence twenty to forty pairs nested annually. The water level was raised several feet in 1937, the nesting sites were covered with water, and no Terns nested then. In 1938 three pairs nested despite the high water level. They placed their nests upon some boards that were floating in a small marsh at the southern end of the lake.

The nesting birds at Whitmore Lake and visiting Terns from neighboring lakes fed singly, in pairs, or small groups over the entire lake throughout the day. About an hour before sunset large hatches of aquatic insects began emerging, and the Terns became more active in their food gathering. This increased activity of the birds continued until sunset. Shortly after sunset the scattered Terns from the Whitmore Lake colony (in those years when a colony was present) ceased their active feeding and began to gather in a flock. At the same time they became much