

Snow-killed Bobwhite Covey—While making the routine spring check-up at the Faville Grove game management area at Lake Mills, Wisconsin, on April 22, 1940, in company with Arthur S. Hawkins of the Illinois Natural History Survey, we came upon a covey of Bobwhite Quail (*Colinus virginianus*) that had died during the previous winter.

The hapless covey was found in a small copse of second-growth oaks with an undergrowth of wild raspberry, grape, and dried weeds. The copse is triangular, bounded by grazed pasture, tamarack swamp, and oat stubble on its three sides. The birds had evidently gone to roost on the leeward side of the copse, and on the leeward side of a grape tangle, in an open growth of raspberry and weeds. The date of their demise must have been after January 5, 1940, for on that date Hawkins flushed a covey from this same copse and counted sixteen birds. On January 14 an 8.7 inch snow fell during the night and then drifted. It seems likely that our covey was unable to dig out of the drift and fell victim to starvation in their "snow prison." Eight bodies were found, still arranged in rosette formation. What happened to the other eight birds? Some may have died between the date last seen and the date of the storm. Some certainly were removed from the roost by scavenging animals, for one wing and a few breast feathers were found eight feet from the "death circle."

A feeding station that had been operated during the winter stood, as if in mockery, but 25 yards to the south of the dead covey.

Both crop and gizzard contents were too far gone to be identified. The plumage was used to sex and age the birds. The sex ratio was four males to five females. Five of the eight birds were young ones, of which three were males.

But for this one storm, the winter of 1939-40 was comparatively mild. It would appear, therefore, that sudden storms may prove to be as disastrous as continuously severe weather. Few snow-killed coveys have been recorded. Douglas E. Wade (*Bird Lore*, 40, 1938: 7-10) has traced the separate fates of a covey scattered during a blizzard, but we know of no published account of an entire covey found dead on the roost.—ROBERT McCABE and ALDO LEOPOLD, *University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin*.

Red Phalarope and Other Water Birds at Lexington, Virginia.—The following notes are supplementary to two former papers in *The Wilson Bulletin* (47, 1935: 59-67 and 49, 1937: 48-9). The two previous papers listed 56 forms for Rock-bridge County. Since then five additional species have been recorded. Of land birds, 180 forms have been recorded, making a total of 241 species and subspecies for this mountain county.

KING RAIL. *Rallus elegans elegans*.—On May 15, 1940, one of these birds, alive and in good condition, was brought to me. It had been captured while trying to get through a fence in a chicken yard on South Buffalo Creek, eight miles from Lexington. The friend who showed the bird to me promised to release it.

YELLOW RAIL. *Coturnicops noveboracensis*.—One was captured on September 29, 1937, and brought to me alive. It was later released. The man who captured it saw others at the same time.

PURPLE GALLINULE. *Ionornis martinica*.—One, of which I have the skin, was captured on May 16, 1940, on South Buffalo Creek, about ten miles from Lexington (*Auk*, 57, 1940: 566). A more unlikely place for such a bird than this mountain stream could scarcely be imagined.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. *Pisobia fuscicollis*.—My daughter, Jane, and I found one of these birds at a rain pool in a field two miles north of Lexington, on September 30, 1940. I had close views of the bird for some time with 8X glasses, flushing it several times to observe the white rump. The next day I tried without success to collect the bird. At times it was in company with Killdeers, and again with a small flock of Pipits. This species is extremely rare in western Virginia.