

GENERAL NOTES.

An Early Date of a Rare Bird in South Carolina.—I shot on October 15, 1889, at Mt. Pleasant, S. C., a young male Red-throated Diver (*Urinator lumme*). The bird was very shy, and it was with great difficulty that secured it. It was in good condition, and had apparently been in the neighborhood for some time, as it was seen several times at a distance, but it was mistaken for a Florida Cormorant. The Red-throated Diver is one of the rarest of the winter birds that visit South Carolina. During the severe winter of 1886 several were taken, but they have not been found here since. This early date of capture is certainly surprising, as they have only been seen for a few weeks in January.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Charleston, S. C.*

The Mottled Duck in Kansas.—In my 'Revised Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas' I entered this bird as the Florida Duck (*Anas fulvigula*). Mr. Sennett, in the July number of 'The Auk' for 1889, describes a new Duck from Texas, viz., Mottled Duck (*Anas maculosa*) to which, I find upon examination, the Kansas bird should be referred, instead of to the Florida Duck as given.—N. S. Goss, *Topeka, Kansas.*

Capture of the Widgeon (*Anas penelope*) on the James River, Virginia.—At Washington Market, New York City, on January 25, 1879, I saw a male Widgeon among a lot of American Ducks which had just been received from a gunner on the James River, Virginia, by a dealer who was positive that the Widgeon had been killed with the other Ducks, as he had never handled any foreign game. The specimen was exhibited, in the flesh, to the Linnæan Society of New York, and is now in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, New York. It is a young adult, and can be exactly matched in size and coloration from a series of Widgeons from Europe. Its fresh measurements were as follows: length, 495 mm.; alar expanse, 850 mm.; wing, 244 mm.; tail, 102 mm.; culmen, 35 mm.; tarsus, 39 mm.—EDGAR A. MEARNs, M. D., *Fort Snelling, Minn.*

The King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) at Erie, Pennsylvania.—The great storm of Nov. 28 and 29, 1889, on the Great Lakes, brought into the Bay of Erie a flock of fifteen to twenty King Eider Ducks. They were seen about noon of Nov. 30 swimming in close to the Iron Ore Dock where numbers of men were at work unloading vessels. The hunters were soon down on the dock with guns and others put out in boats. So fearless or stupid were the Ducks that it was no trouble to shoot them, and at one discharge three were killed. Mr. James Thompson very kindly took two of the birds home with him and telephoned me that some very queer looking Ducks had been shot that day, placing at my disposal the pair he



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