

Dr. Manigault was not in the habit of affixing localities to specimens (despite my protestations) taken in South Carolina, for he regarded the Charleston Museum as not a museum of science, but one to attract the public generally.

Although the specimen is labeled "♀" there can be little doubt that it is a young ♂, for the speculum is rich, uniform green.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Honorary Curator Div. Birds, Charleston Museum.*

Barrow's Golden-eye (*Clangula islandica*) in Massachusetts.—As this bird seems to be of rare occurrence in Massachusetts I would like to call attention to its having been taken at Nantucket on December 17, 1906. It was a male specimen in the adult plumage and was shot by Charles C. Chadwick, a native of the island, and whom I have had occasion to go shooting with several times. The bird was shot at the eastern end of the harbor where there is an opening into the ocean known as Haulover Break. At daylight and until sunrise a large flight of sea fowl streams through here on their way to the feeding grounds in the harbor. They consist mostly of White-winged Scoters (*Oidemia deglandi*), American Golden-eyes (*Clangula clangula americana*), Old-squaws (*Harelda hyemalis*), and a few Red-breasted Mergansers (*Merganser serrator*); this latter bird being very common later on in the spring. The bird in question was shot at this time during the flight, and was flying singly. Chadwick was unable to identify the specimen but supposed it to be a freak *Clangula clangula americana*. He showed it to several of the oldest gunners on the island but none had ever seen one like it before. Unfortunately the bird was destroyed in ignorance. I have been unable to find any recent records of the capture of this bird in Massachusetts and I believe it is considered a rare bird here, though a few are occasionally taken in Maine.—S. PRESCOTT FAY, *Boston, Mass.*

The Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*) in South Carolina.—I am indebted to Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., for the gift of a bird of this species taken at Ridge Springs, Edgefield County, on November 26, 1907. The specimen was shot in a small pond and seemed to be very tired. It was sent by Dr. L. J. Smith to Mr. James P. Garick, Jr., of Weston, S. C., to be mounted, who (the latter) upon learning of my desire to obtain it for my collection kindly used his influence in my behalf. Mr. Garick informs me that the bird was greatly emaciated, in fact 'skin and bone,' but despite its condition it measured (in flesh) 52 inches in length and 84 inches in extent.

This Swan, although a *young* male and doubtless a bird-of-the-year, has the legs and feet deep *black* as in the *adult*.

In Audubon's 'Birds of America,' Vol. VI, p. 232; Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, 'Water Birds,' Vol. I, p. 425; Coues's 'Key to N. A. Birds,' p. 683; Ridgway's 'Manual of N. A. Birds,' p. 120, and Chapman's 'Birds

of Eastern North America,' p. 124, the color of the feet of the *young* is described as "yellowish flesh-color," "grayish, or whitish," and by the last-named author as "light."

Although the Whistling Swan winters in great numbers on the northern coast of North Carolina, there are but few authentic records of the capture of these magnificent birds for this State.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

Capture of the King Rail in Massachusetts.—I would like to report the taking of a fine male King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) on October 10, 1907, on the Charles River marshes, Needham, Mass. The bird has remarkably fine plumage for that season of the year, and was extremely fat.—FRED. H. KENNARD, *Boston, Mass.*

Nesting of the King Rail in Philadelphia County, Pa.—The King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) is a very rare breeder nowadays — if it ever was a common one — in the Delaware Valley and the discovery of a nest is worth reporting, especially when found in the vicinity of Philadelphia, and particularly within the city limits. Bridesburg, on the Delaware River, is about five miles from the City Hall and well within the city limits. In the meadows at this locality it was my good fortune to find a King Rail's nest on June 3, 1902. It was placed half a foot up in a clump of reeds, two feet high in a shallow marsh, woven to the blades and stalks, the tops being pulled down and interwoven into the nest and formed a sort of arch over it. It contained two fresh eggs, which were taken and are still in the writer's collection, probably the only eggs of *Rallus elegans* from Philadelphia in collections.

A week or so later the dead rail was found in a ditch near the nest and its skull (which I still have) collected; the bird being partially decomposed, it was useless as a skin or for mounting.

On June 26, 1907, I found a deserted King Rail's nest not a square away from the site of the other, placed on muddy water in a shallow marsh amid tussocks and thin and scattered stalks of cat-tails, along the edge of a cat-tail marsh.

These are the only King Rail's nests I have been able to find in North Philadelphia, after diligent search for them during the past six years.—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

Virginia Rail and Kentucky Warbler in New Jersey.—In the January issue of 'The Auk' I noted Mr. Hunt's observations of these species on the Pensauken Creek, New Jersey. A few words on this subject may not be amiss, as I fear a wrong impression of the rarity of these species is given here. The Virginia Rail is rarely observed by the casual ornithologist, but nevertheless it is a perfectly regular summer resident in suitable marshes throughout the Delaware Valley. In my several trips to the Pensauken region I have not infrequently observed or heard the Virginia Rail and



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