

repeated its diving many times. It should be noted at this point that a solitary Mallard observed from January 3 to January 13, 1914, and possibly the same bird, was never seen to dive, but fed by immersing its head merely. The action of the mothers encouraging their young to dive, as noted by Millais, if they themselves dive, cannot be explained by any of the stimuli mentioned, and provided the Mallard is a surface-feeding duck, as is generally believed, the cause is entirely obscure. Many more observations throughout the bird's life-history are badly needed.—EDWIN D. HULL, *Chicago, Illinois.*

Piping Plover at Cape May, N. J.—On September 7, 1913, while studying the birds on the beach at Cape May, five Piping Plover (*Egialitis meloda*) were observed. The birds were first found directly in front of the resort on the beach and at all times staid by themselves in a close compact band. Being exceedingly tame they allowed me to approach very close, and then ran but a very short distance when they settled down to feeding again. Only at rare intervals when hard pressed did they take wing and then as before went but a very short distance. At the moment of observation I did not fully realize what a rare bird the Piping Plover had become on the New Jersey coast.

Again on September 13, 1914, Mr. J. K. Potter, who was with me on the Cape May beach, found an individual of this species in almost the identical spot that the five of the year before had been observed.

This bird was alone and after a careful search no others were found. It was also very tame and allowed us to approach very close to it. There were at the time in the immediate vicinity, in fact all about us scattered flocks of Sanderling (*Caladris leucophæa*) and Semipalmated Plover (*Egialitis semipalmata*) but the Piping Plover showed not the slightest tendency to associate with them, in fact kept as far away from them as it possibly could.—DELOS E. CULVER, *Addingham, Delaware Co., Penna.*

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Colorado. A Correction.

—The writer regrets that he was in error in reporting (*Auk*, Oct. 1914, p. 535) the individual of this species taken at Byers as being "the second record for this State for this species and the first with full data as to location of occurrence and date of collection." He unintentionally overlooked an earlier record made by E. R. Warren, with full data (*Condor*, XI No. 1, p. 33 and *Auk*, April, 1910, p. 145), and now makes this correction and presents his apologies to Mr. Warren for this inexcusable oversight.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

The American Bittern Nesting on Long Island, N. Y.—Previously the American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) has been classed as a transient visitant on Long Island, since, heretofore, no definite record of its nesting there has been forthcoming. Though the breeding range of this species includes New York State, and though the area of Long Island has been

perhaps the most attentively examined by bird students and sportsmen, it has not heretofore been recorded as a nesting bird there.

Giraud wrote seventy years ago (*Birds of Long Island*, N. Y., 1844) of this species on Long Island in his pleasing manner; of its habits and comparative scarcity, but makes no mention of its nesting. George N. Lawrence in his 'Catalogue of Birds observed on New York, Long and Staten Islands, and the adjacent parts of New Jersey,' merely lists the bird, without remark of any sort. Mr. Dutcher's notes on the birds of Long Island in Chapman's 'Handbook' 1894, and subsequent editions mention no record of its breeding, but give its status as "common transient visitant."

In my 'List of Birds of Long Island' (Abstr. Proc. Linn. Soc. of N. Y., 1907) I also gave its status as a common transient visitant, recording the limits of its occurrence, observed and collected to that time, in spring, April 16 (Sheepshead Bay) to May 5 (Montauk); autumn, August 4 (Shinnecock) to December 11 (Rockaway). I may say that data since collected have extended the spring arrival nearly a week earlier, *i. e.* to April 10 (1909, Seaford).

The actual discovery of a nest, eggs and young of the American Bittern on Long Island has apparently been reserved till the present year. On Sunday, June 14, 1914, Mr. Robert W. Peavey, to whom students of Long Island birds are indebted in many instances for his indefatigable enthusiasm, discovered a nest of this bittern on the part of the Great South Bay of Long Island, known as Jones' Beach, or locally, as Seaford Beach. This is one of the least frequented parts of the ocean-side Long Island beaches. The nest contained two newly-hatched young birds and two eggs. It was placed on salt meadow hay and was built up several inches above the level of the ground. Mr. Peavey flushed the bird off the nest when he was within three feet of her. The locality was one mile east of the High Hill Life Saving Station near the back or bay side of the beach, and within a newly-established game-preserve of about 5000 acres, which is guarded by a patrolman.

It may be said that he was the less surprised in that he had been informed of the unusual occurrence of one or more "Look-ups," as they are named in this part of Long Island, by Nelson Verity, one of the veteran gunners of this locality, and had himself seen an American Bittern on June 7 on Seaford Creek, almost within the limits of the village of the same name.

It is safe I think to say that the bird as a breeding species is exceptional on the whole of Long Island, as well as in this restricted locality — Seaford region, since Mr. Peavey has spent a day each week for many summers in this place, and his own observation as well as the testimony of the baymen of the region make its occurrence here in the nesting season altogether unprecedented.— WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Cory's Least Bittern in Illinois.— On May 23, 1914, the writer was staying on the edge of a small swamp along the Fox River, about forty miles northwest of Chicago. While standing motionless to watch the



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