

Lake Iamonia, Florida, is indisputable. The specimen is an adult male in nuptial plumage and is now in the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. The gentleman who shot the bird and the taxidermist who mounted it in Philadelphia are known to us here. I examined it freshly skinned.—S. N. RHOADS, *Haddonfield, N. J.*

The Snowy Heron in Camden County, N. J.—On July 16, 1904, I saw a fine adult Snowy Heron (*Egretta candidissima*) near Delair, Camden County, N. J., feeding with an immature Black-crowned Night Heron on the Pea Shore Flats of the Delaware River. It allowed us to approach quite close in our boat and reluctantly took wing as we rowed in closer and closer, preceded by the more wary Squawks, and both birds flew into a small grove of trees on the shore.

This is the first authentic record of the occurrence of the Snowy Heron in the Delaware Valley in recent years, and as the bird was well seen at a distance of less than fifty feet there can be no doubt as to the correctness of my identification. I am positive of it, and would inform the incredulous, who may be inclined to think that the bird I saw was an immature Little Blue Heron (*Florida carulea*), that I am well acquainted with the distinguishing marks of the two species and recognized the bird at once as the Snowy Heron. Furthermore, I have been hunting for this bird for several years, but only to run across one without a firearm of any sort. Hard luck, truly, but this seems to be a frequent misfortune of mine, possibly because I am not of a collector of skins and seldom carry a gun, for I have on several occasions stumbled upon rare birds and wished in vain for a gun.

A few words regarding the status of the Snowy Heron in the Delaware Valley will not be amiss in this connection. In Stone's 'Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey' it is given as a "straggler from the South" (page 63); and yet Chapman, in his 'Handbook,' says it breeds as far north as Long Island. This is a rather singular statement in these days, although it may have bred there formerly. However, now it is a rare transient everywhere north of 39° north latitude at least.

Evans in his excellent paper on 'The Unusual Flight of White Herons in 1902' (see 'Cassinia' for 1902, page 15) does not mention a capture or a record of the Snowy Heron, nor are there any subsequent records. The Snowy Heron, then, can rightly be regarded as a "rare straggler" in the Delaware Valley, at least.—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Harrowgate, Philadelphia, Pa.*

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) Nesting near Newark, New Jersey.—In 'The Auk,' XXIV, pp. 1-11, I recorded the nesting of the Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) and the Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) in the marshes near Newark, N. J.; also, the presence in the same marshes of the American Coot, although no nest of this species was discovered. On May 30, 1907, I visited the same marsh area in company with Messrs. J. P. Callender, P. B. Philipp, R. H. Southard, and T. F. Wilcox — all

members of the Linnæan Society of New York. I am pleased to record that a nest of the American Coot containing eight eggs was discovered by Mr. Wilcox, thus establishing this bird as a nesting species within seven miles of New York City Hall.

In other respects conditions in the marsh-bird colony were found to be much the same this year as those described in the above mentioned article.

— CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *New York City*.

The Stilt Sandpiper in Massachusetts.— While looking over the 'General Notes,' in the July issue of 'The Auk' I noticed a reference to the Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*) in Massachusetts. I think the rarity of this species in this State has been greatly exaggerated in this note.

On September 20, 1903, while gunning at Chatham with a friend, a flock of about a dozen Stilt Sandpipers flew over us, and we each secured a pair. Since then both my brother and myself have seen numbers of these birds in the big market in Boston, which were shot along the south shore in the vicinity of Chatham and Monomoy.

Thus it seems to me that the Stilt Sandpiper is not so rare in Massachusetts as Mr. Nash believes and states it to be. I would like to hear from other Massachusetts men in regard to the prevalence of the Stilt Sandpiper in this State.— WINTHROP S. BROOKS, *Milton, Mass.*

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) on Long Island, N. Y.— Owing to the infrequent occurrence of this species on the Atlantic coast, I wish to record a young male in my collection taken at Rockaway Beach on Sept. 11, 1906.— J. A. WEBER, *New York City*.

American Goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus*) versus Man and Barred Owl.— Two incidents, illustrating at once the ferocity and the "lack of judgment," so to say, of the Goshawk, have lately come to the writer's notice. About May 15, 1905, Mr. Ferdinand Lack, a farmer of Germanicus, Renfrew County, Ontario, had occasion to go into an old, little visited pasture on his farm, lying along an extensive piece of woods. Suddenly a large hawk swooped down upon him, flew around his head in most threatening and uncomfortable proximity, at the same time striking at him with wings and claws, as if it wanted to arrest his progress. In this the hawk was successful, the man could not proceed. The next day the farmer wanted to resume his interrupted inspection of the pasture, and thinking that the experience of the day before would probably remain unique, took no weapon of any kind along. But the same thing happened again. He had to turn back again, as he could hardly dodge the vicious onslaughts of the bird. The inspection of the meadow had to remain incompleated again. Once more the farmer sallied forth the following day, but this time in the company of his gun. But even the sight of this did not deter the bird from making his usual assault with the result, of course, that it was speedily put out of commission by a shot from the farmer's gun. He



Abbott, Clinton G. 1907. "American Coot (*Fulica americana*) Nesting near Newark, New Jersey." *The Auk* 24, 436–437. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070569>.

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