

On July 3, 1913, Dr. John C. Phillips, of Wenham, Mass., banded one hundred juvenal Common Terns, *Sterna hirundo*, at Eastern Egg Rock, Muscongus Bay, Me., using American Bird Banding Association bands, numbered from 1201 to 1300, inclusive. Four years later, in August, 1917, a native of the village of Ikibiri, on the Nun branch of the Niger River delta, South Nigeria, West Africa, found one of these birds, number 1258, floating in the river, dead. He removed the band and carried it to the Rev. Oswald N. Garrard, of the Church Missionary Society at Patami, from whom the information was received. The native informed the Rev. Garrard that it was a matter of frequent occurrence at that time of the year to find these birds dead, in the river, although no evidence such as might account for this statement was forthcoming.

The almost cosmopolitan range of *Sterna hirundo* is, of course, a matter of common knowledge, but it has no doubt been generally assumed that it was the European breeding birds that wintered in Africa, while the North American colonies would, for the same reason, be presumably in South America at that season. This assumption is probably more or less correct although definite data of the character provided by number 1258 has been lacking. However, the case in question proves that occasionally, at least, North American birds of this species do make the trans-oceanic flight to Africa.

The date is also of peculiar significance, indicating that because of poor condition or other reason, the bird was a non-breeder or that it had bred early either in Europe or America (?) and had immediately moved back to its winter quarters. There is, of course, no information as to how long the bird had been dead when found, but it is extremely improbable that it had been so for more than a very few days or it would have been discovered and eaten by some carnivorous animal.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**Swans on the Hudson River.**—Four swans, apparently *Olor columbianus* (Ord) were observed February 19, from the window of a south-bound New York Central train. They were swimming in the open water at the end of a culvert which connects the Hudson river with a rather extensive bit of marsh about two miles north of Staatsburg, N. Y. The swans were on the marsh side of the culvert and seemed not to be disturbed by the train which passed within a few yards of them. A few crows were walking about on the ice near the swans and out in the river many ducks were seen.—S. C. BISHOP, *State Museum, Albany, N. Y.*

**King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) in Michigan Waters.**—Three King Eiders spent the greater part of the winter in the St. Clair River and contiguous waters greatly to the delight and wonder of observing bird lovers. These handsome birds came down from the arctic about the middle of November and remained throughout December and the month of January. They were under observation much of the time and while

wary and suspicious at first, they eventually became quite tame as they made friends with some domesticated Mallards belonging to Mr. Robert Chambers, keeper of the Canadian Gun Club near the junction of the St. Clair and the Basset. King Eiders were also reported at the bird reserve of Mr. Jack Miner, near Kingsville, Ont., a few miles south of the St. Clair.

Records of the visits of the King Eider in Michigan waters are few and have been usually confined to severe winters; but, as the past winter was of unusually mild temperature, the cause of this welcome visit remains problematical.

Another arctic visitor the past winter was the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*), hundreds of which visited southeastern Michigan, many of them being taken for mounting and for the Zoo at Belle Isle, Detroit's beautiful park.—ETTA S. WILSON, *Detroit, Mich.*

**An Earlier Consideration of *Botaurus lentiginosus*.**—With reference to Dr. Oberholser's remarks about this species (*Auk*, Jan., 1921, p. 80), as agreement is always a good thing, it may be mentioned that in 1915 in a list of additions and corrections to our 'Hand-list of British Birds,' it was decided to treat this bird as a distinct species (see 'British Birds,' Vol. IX, p. 6).—H. F. WITHERBY, *London, Eng.*

**Louisiana Clapper Rail in Mississippi.**—Among some skins that Dr. Oberholser very kindly identified for me recently, was a specimen of the Louisiana Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris saturatus*). The bird, a female, was shot by me in a salt marsh at Gulfport, Harrison County, Miss., on January 18, 1919, and is in my collection.

Speaking of the range of this species, Dr. Oberholser says, "Although the form *Rallus longirostris saturatus* has been recorded as far east as Alabama, there seems to be no published record for Mississippi."—STEPHEN S. GREGORY, JR., *456 Surf St., Chicago, Ill.*

**The Type Locality of *Ortalis v. vetula*—a Correction.**—In 'The Auk' for January, 1921, in a revision of *Ortalis vetula*, we designated the type locality of typical *vetula* as Tampico, Tamaulipas (p. 46). We have since received a letter from Dr. Carl E. Hellmayr, who writes that Wagler's type is in the Munich Museum. He also kindly informs us that the collector, a Mr. Keerl, did not visit the State of Tamaulipas, according to the records of the Museum, but worked in the vicinity of Vera Cruz, and then went up to the City of Mexico. It is, therefore, nearly certain, as Dr. Hellmayr points out, that the type was obtained in the neighborhood of Vera Cruz, and the type locality of *Ortalis v. vetula* should be corrected to "neighborhood of the city of Vera Cruz, Mexico."—W. DEW. MILLER AND LUDLOW GRISCOM, *American Museum of Natural History, New York.*