

LETTER.

AMERICAN WIGEON IN STIRLINGSHIRE AND FIFESHIRE.

*To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.*

SIRS,—With reference to the notes on the American Wigeon having been seen in Stirlingshire and Fifeshire (*antea*, pp. 244 and 299), is it not highly probable that these were birds bred from captive parents and, owing to the War, were not pinioned? I know personally of some which were hatched and not pinioned in Northumberland in 1914-15. It may be thought improbable that these birds would escape for so long a period, but a male Common Wigeon which I have had since 1910 is still about, though not fed since 1914-15, and also a male Pintail, hatched 1914, comes back at intervals and I saw him on March 20th, and he still remembered the whistle and came up within fifteen yards, which astonished me, as I had been away over four and a half years.

M. PORTAL.

HIGH SANDHOE, HEXHAM.

[Although both birds appeared to be wild ones, of course there is always the possibility of their having been bred from captive birds, and unfortunately this is so with many rare "Waterfowl."—EDS.]