

I am indebted to Andrew J. Berger for suggesting techniques for raising the birds in captivity and for encouraging me to prepare my observations for publication.—C. ROBERT EDDINGER, *Department of Zoology, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, 27 September 1966.*

**Diving Wood Duck Ducklings Entangled in Filamentous Algae.**—During 1955–1957, I conducted research on Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) at the Olentangy Wildlife Experiment Station in Delaware and Marion counties, Ohio. This research involved frequent visits to the 40 ponds on the area for the purpose of making brood counts of the ducklings. By making sudden appearances at the ponds, it was frequently possible to count the ducklings before they dived, or skittered over the water surface to cover.

In 1955 at one pond only one brood was present, and this brood of recently hatched ducklings was usually seen and the ducklings counted during several visits to the pond. The brood was twice found near the center of the shallow pond that it occupied, and my sudden approach then caused the ducklings to dive beneath the water surface rather than to hide in emergent vegetation. On the second of these visits I was surprised to note that there were only six ducklings in the brood instead of the 11 present the previous day. I was also surprised to note that only one of the six ducklings reappeared on the water surface after diving. I therefore waded out into the pond and found the five missing ducklings entangled in filamentous algae beneath the water surface. There seemed little doubt that the five ducklings would have drowned if I had not rescued them. In six additional cases at other ponds at the Olentangy Wildlife Experiment Station individual Wood Duck ducklings were not seen to return to the water surface after diving near beds of filamentous algae.

*Oedogonium* and *Spirogyra* were the algae genera identified in the ponds described. Some species of *Oedogonium* have particularly strong strands and grow so dense that "algae paper" is formed when the water disappears from the beds (Prescott, *How To Know the Fresh-water Algae*, 1954, p. 103). Francis M. Uhler (personal conversation) advised me that several species of *Utricularia* grow abundantly on some of the ponds managed for waterfowl production at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, and he has the impression that duckling survival is lower on the ponds containing *Utricularia*.

Based on his work in British Columbia, J. A. Munro (*Canad. J. Res.*, 19:131, 1941) reported heavy loss among Lesser Scaups (*Aythya affinis*) as a result of ducklings becoming entangled in weeds or filamentous algae. Drowning, following subsurface entanglement, was suspected as one of the chief causes of loss of ducklings.

My observations on Wood Ducks indicated that the ducklings do not normally dive to escape unless closely pressed, and it seems likely that my activities caused the ducklings to dive and thus made the algae a critical feature of the habitat in all of the cases described. It seems inevitable, however, that conditions must sometimes occur when the ducklings are closely pressed in the absence of research activities, and filamentous algae must then be a hazardous feature of the ducklings' habitat. It appears desirable for pond managers to strive to create conditions so that small Wood Duck ducklings can always move easily into surface cover when on ponds containing thick growths of filamentous algae.

The research reported in this note was conducted under the direction of E. H. Dustman when I was a research fellow of the Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. Personnel of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service aided in typing and in reviewing the manuscript.—PAUL A. STEWART, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Entomology Research Division, Oxford, North Carolina 27565, 27 September 1966.*

**The Occurrence and Possible Breeding of McKay's Bunting on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska.**—On 29 June 1966 an adult male McKay's Bunting (*Plectrophenax hyperboreus*) was observed on top of Sevuokuk Mountain in the northwest cape area of St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, but was lost in heavy fog. On 25 July 1966 a specimen was collected near the place that the above-mentioned bird was seen. The specimen (U.B.C. Mus. Zool. no. 13274), an adult male with en-