

that Canvasbacks have so increased in numbers that marsh shooting is neglected for the bay. All of these causes, however, operate to reduce alike the take of Black Ducks and Mallards, both varieties being shot in the same ponds on the marshes. The Black Duck is also a warier bird and decoys less readily than any other species. Very few breed, but begin to arrive early in September, a week or ten days ahead of the Mallards, and remain to feed on the wild rice until winter sets in.

While all ducks seem to have increased in numbers of late years, the Canvasback is the most notable example. It has always in numbers frequented the celery bays, but commencing with 1902 it has been represented each autumn in most extraordinary numbers. During the past eight years — 1902 to 1909 — the number taken at the Club at Monroe, Michigan, is nearly three times as great as taken in the preceding eight years — 1894 to 1901, and this in view of the fact that during most of the later period the law has limited the daily bag to twenty-five, while in the earlier period there was no limit but conscience. There were, as stated before, also fewer gunners.

The first Canvasbacks arrive from the north about October 15 and remain until the first severe cold. In 1904 they were in such great numbers that after eating all the celery from the bay they frequented the larger ponds in the marsh, something not previously known to occur.— HAROLD HERRICK, *New York City*.

**A Small Flight of Gadwalls** (*Chaulelasmus streperus*) **near New York.**— Early in the morning of October 16, 1909, my young friends Allan and James Hand were watching at a pond on the salt marshes near Lawrence, L. I. About sunrise a flock of seven odd looking ducks circled the pond several times and finally six of them came to the decoys, four being shot. The boys remained an hour or so longer, seeing two or three more flocks that they felt sure were the same kind of duck, but none came near enough for positive identification. They brought the birds to me — to be identified as young Gadwalls, rather poor in flesh, their average weight being under twenty-four ounces. The best one I preserved.

My friend Col. Franklin Brandreth of Ossining, N. Y., tells me of a single specimen brought to him, that was killed near that place about October 29, 1909.

The marshes of Lake Erie are the nearest points to Long Island where the Gadwall is regularly found, and there they are not very common. The carefully kept record of a shooting club at the western end of the lake shows that in twenty-one years, to 1908, but one has been taken in each two hundred ducks, or about one-half per cent. of the total score. This year (1909), however, they were more abundant than usual, I personally securing eleven specimens, which is exactly the same number I have secured, in the aggregate, on the same marshes, during the previous eighteen years.— HAROLD HERRICK, *New York City*.