

*phus*) resting on ice at the edge of the water on one of the lagoons of Jackson Park, Chicago. It appeared during an unusually cold wave. Mr. F. M. Woodruff in his 'Birds of the Chicago Area' published in 1907 writes of this species as being a rather rare fall visitant in the area covered by that book, and no doubt since then it has become still more rare. At least, in nearly six years acquaintance with the birds of this region, this is the first cormorant that I have ever seen.—EDWIN D. HULL, *Chicago, Illinois.*

**Note on the Feeding of the Mallard.**—That the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) does not dive for its food seems to be the general impression. Therefore an exception which I was fortunate enough to witness would seem worthy of record. January 28, 1914, on one of the lagoons of Jackson Park, Chicago, I saw an adult male Mallard in company with a female Lesser Scaup. When the birds were first seen about 4:30 P. M. the Scaup was diving repeatedly near the middle of the lagoon in deep water, while the Mallard was following her about, rushing up to her every time she appeared at the surface, but unable to rob her of any food. Nearly twenty minutes later the Mallard dove for the first time. A few more dives followed in fairly quick succession. Meanwhile the Scaup had been diving continuously. The diving of the Mallard in comparison with that of the Scaup was clumsy in the extreme, and accompanied with much flapping of wings and splashing of water. The actual time spent by the Mallard under water was very short, in fact, when it dove after the Scaup had disappeared it was still the first to rise. The diving would seem to be unsuccessful, for the bird quit shortly although the Scaup kept up its diving, and later about 5:00 P. M. when the birds swam off to another part of the lagoon and the Scaup again commenced diving the Mallard made no effort to do so. It is highly improbable that sufficient food, if indeed any at all, was secured in these short clumsy dives. At any rate the bird brought no food to the surface, and if any was obtained it was swallowed under water.

I notice J. G. Millais<sup>1</sup> states that young Mallards when about three-quarters grown and before they are able to fly, encouraged by their mothers secure a considerable part of their food by diving. This author states further in his notes on the Mallard that surface-feeding ducks exceptionally dive for choice bits of food, but he does not name the species, although presumably the Mallard is included.

From the few available observations, the most plausible theory, it seems to me, in regard to the feeding of the Mallard is that the species has nearly changed in adult life from a diving to a surface-feeding duck, although diving is habitual in the young. Reversions to this juvenal behavior occur among adults under the pressure of a very strong stimulus, as an unusually choice morsel of food, or in imitation of a diving duck after that bird has

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<sup>1</sup> The Natural History of British Surface-Feeding Ducks, 1902, p. 3.

repeated its diving many times. It should be noted at this point that a solitary Mallard observed from January 3 to January 13, 1914, and possibly the same bird, was never seen to dive, but fed by immersing its head merely. The action of the mothers encouraging their young to dive, as noted by Millais, if they themselves dive, cannot be explained by any of the stimuli mentioned, and provided the Mallard is a surface-feeding duck, as is generally believed, the cause is entirely obscure. Many more observations throughout the bird's life-history are badly needed.—EDWIN D. HULL, *Chicago, Illinois.*

**Piping Plover at Cape May, N. J.**—On September 7, 1913, while studying the birds on the beach at Cape May, five Piping Plover (*Ægialitis meloda*) were observed. The birds were first found directly in front of the resort on the beach and at all times staid by themselves in a close compact band. Being exceedingly tame they allowed me to approach very close, and then ran but a very short distance when they settled down to feeding again. Only at rare intervals when hard pressed did they take wing and then as before went but a very short distance. At the moment of observation I did not fully realize what a rare bird the Piping Plover had become on the New Jersey coast.

Again on September 13, 1914, Mr. J. K. Potter, who was with me on the Cape May beach, found an individual of this species in almost the identical spot that the five of the year before had been observed.

This bird was alone and after a careful search no others were found. It was also very tame and allowed us to approach very close to it. There were at the time in the immediate vicinity, in fact all about us scattered flocks of Sanderling (*Caladris leucophæa*) and Semipalmated Plover (*Ægialitis semipalmata*) but the Piping Plover showed not the slightest tendency to associate with them, in fact kept as far away from them as it possibly could.—DELOS E. CULVER, *Addingham, Delaware Co., Penna.*

**The Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Colorado. A Correction.**—The writer regrets that he was in error in reporting (Auk, Oct. 1914, p. 535) the individual of this species taken at Byers as being "the second record for this State for this species and the first with full data as to location of occurrence and date of collection." He unintentionally overlooked an earlier record made by E. R. Warren, with full data (Condor, XI No. 1, p. 33 and Auk, April, 1910, p. 145), and now makes this correction and presents his apologies to Mr. Warren for this inexcusable oversight.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

**The American Bittern Nesting on Long Island, N. Y.**—Previously the American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) has been classed as a transient visitant on Long Island, since, heretofore, no definite record of its nesting there has been forthcoming. Though the breeding range of this species includes New York State, and though the area of Long Island has been