

or mud. The Ducks, however, which live in the wet fields in winter, sift out this buried wild rice, to the great advantage of the rice grower.

Rice fields are usually drained before the grain is cut, and the Ducks would fly over these dry fields were it not for the custom, rapidly increasing, for those who have learned to use the Ducks, to pump water into the cuts between the levees so as to attract migrating Mallards which soon come in by the thousands. Under these conditions it is said that the Ducks do not feed on the shocked rice. They feed on the ground rice and clean it all up in three or four days.

While instances of damage to rice by wild Ducks are on record for Arkansas and Louisiana such damage has occurred under extraordinary conditions, as when scarcity of labor or other causes have delayed the harvest until the full migration of Ducks was under way and the fields submerged by winter rains. This happened during the war but probably will not be allowed to occur again to any extent. While damage is sporadic, the good done by the wild Ducks is a yearly benefit of which it is hoped rice growers throughout the Southern States will avail themselves. All that it is necessary to do is to get the crop out of the fields in season, flood the ground when the Ducks first come, and protect them as long as they stay. With the help of these birds red rice will become a rarity instead of a common and persistent weed as at present.—W. L. MACATEE, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**The Harlequin Duck in Massachusetts.**—On February 22, 1923, in company with Mr. Charles Clark of Medford and Prof. F. E. Saunders of Cambridge I observed a Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) off Eastern Point, Essex County, Massachusetts. The Duck permitted a close inspection three times and was observed in flight and on the water. The bird was quite tame and though flushed twice it flew but a short distance and returned to the rocky point where it was first observed.

There are but few records of this rare Duck in this state. There are three records, and a possible fourth from this county.—CHARLES B. FLOYD, *Auburndale, Mass.*

**Occurrence of the Barnacle Goose on Long Island.**—I arrived at my office near Farmingdale, L. I., on the morning of November 28, 1922, and found that Mr. H. J. Hutchinson, one of my assistants had just shot a Goose on our pond. Being on the point of leaving, I wrote down a description of the bird in detail. A couple of days later I was able to look it up with Mr. A. C. Bent and found that it was a male Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) in fine plumage. It was then too late to secure it as a specimen. Mr. Hutchinson reported later that when he plucked it one wing seemed to have been badly bruised. It is quite likely that it had struck one of the numerous guy wires or ropes about our plant during the night, as it was flying by. This would account for its presence, alone, on our small pond which is but 450 feet. long and situated about six miles inland from the Great South Bay.—F. C. WILLARD, *Farmingdale, L. I.*