

to the environs of the town.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.*

Canvasback in Pennsylvania in Summer.—On August 9, 1927, when passing a mill pond on Lititz Creek, Lancaster Co., Pa., twenty miles north of the Maryland line, we saw a wild Duck which we could identify only by its distinctive profile. A boy in the neighborhood said "that duck has been here for several days" which would bring its appearance in the locality to the first week in August.

Without question the bird was a Canvasback (*Marila valisineria*) in juvenal plumage which was feeding here with some white farm ducks hundreds of miles from its Canadian summer home. Three days later when we again visited the pond the pale russet color of the bird's crown had spread and perceptibly deepened confirming its profile identification and the statement of A. C. Bent that the color characters of the young Canvasback develop rapidly.—HERBERT H. BECK, and CLIFFORD MARBURGER, *Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa.*

Notes on the Migration of Brant.—I have fished for salmon for many years on the Grand Cascapedia River that puts into the Bay of Chaleur from the Gaspé Peninsula, Quebec. A bit to the west of the mouth of the river is a valley of considerable width flanked on either side by rather high mountains. This valley is short and converges to the valley of the Cascapedia. Coming up this valley, I have seen the Brant move to the northward at evening for many years, and now regularly expect them to pass north just after sunset from the 3rd to the 5th of June, but I have not always made a note of this in my records.

I have wondered where they go, and why so much later than the Geese, and how they would have time to go to the extreme north, raise a brood, and return before the freezing up of the water of their breeding ground.

My imperfect notes say that on June 6, 1920, "Brant are moving north after sundown."

In 1921, under date of June 3, "Large flocks of Brant at evening move north."

My next record seems to be 1925. June 5, "Migration of Brant takes place from sunset for an hour. Great flocks pass to the north; one flock must have been nearly 1000 strong."

In 1926 the migration seems to have been much later, for my first notation is June 12. "Saw six or eight big flights of Brant passing north. One flock I estimated over 200 birds." June 14, another large flock passing north this evening. June 15, Brant pass north at 8.30 P.M. June 16, flock of Brant pass north at 9.10 P. M.

1927, June 10, "Brant passing north at 11.00 A. M. June 11, a flock of Brant passed north about 11.00 A. M., and from 8.00 P. M. to 8.30 saw four large flocks of them. June 13, one flock of Brant passed north at 8.35 P. M.

The reason for writing this memorandum at this time is that I have just finished reading "The Voyage of the 'Fox' in the Arctic Seas," being a narrative of the discovery of the fate of Sir John Franklin and his companions, by Captain McClintock.

Under date of June 8, 1859, Capt. McClintock records, "The first ducks and brent geese were seen flying northward." At that time Captain McClintock and his party were at Cape Victoria, the extreme northern point of Boothia Land. He was on his return to the 'Fox' which had wintered in Bellot Strait, and under date of the 26th or 27th of June, 1859, he says, "I saw and shot a brent goose, seated upon an accessible ledge, and made a prize of four eggs; it seems strange that this bird should have selected so unusual a breeding place."

So my Brant of the Grand Caspædia must arrive at northern Boothia Land in two or three days from the time I see them, but it must be the first week in August before their young will be hatched, and from an Arctic egg to a strong enough pinion to bear them southward Nature has certainly hurried the procedure.—W. B. MERRISON, *Saginaw, Michigan*.

The Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*) in Canada.—The National Museum of Canada (late Victoria Memorial Museum) has received from Mr. Frank L. Farley, Camrose, Alberta, a specimen of this species taken at Bittern Lake, near that city, October 28, 1926.

Mr. Farley informs us that it was shot in flight while leading a flock of wild Canada Geese. It is in clean and perfect plumage with no recognizable marks of captivity upon it. A number of inquiries have failed to produce any report of captive or escaped Bean Geese in North America and there are no apparent grounds for suspecting this as other than a natural straggler from its normal range. That such a bird should be taken in the mid-continental mass instead of on its coastal edges lends an additional interest to the occurrence.

In plumage the bird agrees perfectly with all descriptions and plates examined, but no authentic specimens have been available for direct comparison. It is a bird of the largest size as shown by the following measurements taken in the flesh by F. L. Farley: extent, 60 in., weight, 10 lbs., wing, 17.4 in., culmen, 3.9, depth of bill at base, 1.85, tarsus, 3.6, middle toe and claw, 3.9.

The bill though dry and faded is still distinctly yellow, with black nail and cloudings of black along culmen and on sides. It differs from any of the illustrations in Alpheraky's, *Geese of Europe and Asia* and the plate in Stejneger's, 'Exploration in Commander Islands and Kamschatka,' by being decidedly larger and deeper, with a highly arched culmen giving a "Roman-nosed" effect that may be somewhat abnormal. There is a narrow plumage line of white bounding the base of the upper mandible. The collector states that the feet and legs were yellow when fresh.

On the whole, this specimen seems to be an extreme or ultra-typical example of the *mentalis* Oates type as described by Alpheraky. Both