

Main Pass, and this land is in the heart of the wintering grounds of the Blue Geese. On my arrival, October 20, I found the Blue Geese had not arrived. We saw a flock of possibly one thousand Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis* sub-species) and White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons* sub-species) on this date, and birds of both species were seen during the following ten days.

The first Blue Geese were seen October 25 when we flushed a great flock of possibly two thousand birds, from the marsh. The noise of our boat evidently disturbed them, for they arose from their feeding grounds, and after milling about for fifteen minutes, drifted down the coast to the mouth of Main Pass where they rested in a great sea bend. I believe they arrived during the night.

We entered our photographic blind at nine o'clock, and for the next few hours, witnessed the most interesting migration it has been my fortune to see. The Blue Geese, with an occasional Snow Goose, were coming in, following down the coast. A strong northwest wind had been blowing, which in the early morning changed to northeast, so the Geese had a fair sailing wind, and they came, flock after flock, the white heads of the adults agleam in the sun. We could distinguish the juvenile note from that of the adult, as the hosts sent their quavering calls back to those following. There were from one to three flocks in sight all day, ranging from 25 to 200 individuals, and they all came from the north and passed over practically the same route, as though the flocks were following each other. Had we anticipated such a flight, it would have been easy to count the flocks and estimate the number of birds.

Marsh men, in the employ of Mr. Lutcher Stark in Cameron Parish, western Louisiana, told me that the Snow Geese also arrived from the north on October 25, so the two species arrived on the Gulf Coast at the same time.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Chicago Academy of Sciences*.

Migrating Water Birds on a New Artificial Lake in Piedmont Virginia.—In the summer of 1926 an artificial body of water known as Timberlake, containing forty or more acres, was developed by realtors near Lynchburg, Virginia. The new lake is about forty miles east of the Blue Ridge mountains, and is ten miles southwest of the city of Lynchburg and the James River. The country surrounding the lake is typical Piedmont as regards climate, topography, flora and fauna.

For three seasons we have been watching the migration of Ducks and other water fowl at the lake. During the fall and winter of 1926-27, few migrants visited the lake. A Pied-billed Grebe and a few Lesser Scaup Ducks were the only species observed. We were considerably misled that year into believing that a number of Mallards and four Canada Geese were wintering at the lake. We soon found out that they had been transferred from a park at Roanoke, Virginia, and were thoroughly tamed. These tame birds had much to do with attracting wild species.

During the autumn of 1927, Mrs. Freer and I made many trips to the

lake, observing thirteen wild species. These included Holboell's (?) Grebe, Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Cormorant, Mallard, Black Duck, Pintail, Redhead, Lesser Scaup Duck, Golden-eye, Buffle-head, Old-squaw and Ruddy Duck. Of these, the Mallards, Black Ducks, Lesser Scaups, Buffle-heads and Redheads were frequent in their visits and rather abundant in numbers. The Cormorant, Pintail, Golden-eye, and the Grebe identified as Holboell's, were solitary, and stayed only a day or so. The Grebe had the characteristic winter plumage of this species, and was considerably larger than the Horned Grebe. A flock of eight Horned Grebes and a pair of Old-squaws stayed only a short time, during a storm. The largest number of individuals observed at any one time during that fall was 78.

During the fall and winter season just closing I have found twelve species at the lake, including the Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, American Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Mallard, Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Lesser Scaup Duck, Buffle-head, Ruddy Duck, and Coot. The number of individuals on the lake at any one time has never been as large as a year ago.

The Mallards and Black Ducks which came in the fall, arriving in early November, have remained through the winter. No visiting migrants except these two species were observed during December. On January 26, 1929, a pair of female American Mergansers and a Horned Grebe were seen on the lake.

As time goes on and the natural food of the water birds becomes more abundant, the lake should be a haven for increasing numbers of migrants. So far as I know, nothing has been done in the way of introducing natural plant or animal species as food for wild ducks. No wild species have been observed to remain for breeding.—RUSKIN S. FREER, *Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va.*

The European Coot in America.—Early in May of 1928 this museum received for identification the dried fragments (head, leg, foot and wing) of a European Coot (*Fulica atra*) from Mr. Gower Rabbits, Secretary of the Game and Inland Fisheries Board of Newfoundland.

Under date of May 7, Mr. Rabbits informed me that it was taken in Exploits Harbor some time in the previous December, and that two others had been killed but he had been able to secure only these fragments.

The specimen has been returned to Mr. Rabbits, who stated that it would be deposited in the Memorial University College, but not until after it had also been submitted to Mr. J. H. Fleming of Toronto and Mr. Outram Bangs of Cambridge for corroboration of my identification.

It looks as if these birds accompanied the extraordinary flight of Lapwings from England, that occurred about the same time and has been reported elsewhere.—P. A. TAVERNER, *National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.*