

Nyroca affinis. LESSER SCAUP. Abundant, March 28 to April 22.

Nyroca collaris. RING-NECKED DUCK.—A female brought to me on November 25, 1929, which was killed on North River; two females on April 2; six females on April 4; a pair on April 5 at Cameron's Pond.

Glaucionetta clangula americana. AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE.—A male on North River on April 3.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Va.*

Diving Habits in the Genus *Nyroca*.—In a paper on "The Use of The Wings and Feet in Diving Birds,"¹ I stated that Redheads, Greater and Lesser Scaups, and Ring-necked Ducks, all of the genus *Nyroca*, use only the feet in under-water propulsion, but I was able to give very few observations on these birds. This statement I am now able to confirm by observations on two European birds of the same genus, the Tufted Duck (*Nyroca fuligula*) and the Pochard (*Nyroca ferina*). The diving of the former I witnessed many times in the pond of St. James Park, London, in July, 1927, and of both species in June, 1930, under most favorable circumstances. Standing on the bridge, which is only two or three feet above the surface of the water, here perhaps four feet deep, one looks down on the Ducks which often dive directly below or only a few feet away. The water is clear enough to show distinctly all their under-water movements. Notwithstanding their tameness, these are "wild" birds with unclipped wings, and they resort here in the heart of London together with Gulls, Moorhens and other birds.

The Tufted Ducks, which look like Lesser Scaups, were in both years continually diving for small fish which they pursued with great speed by feet propulsion alone, and they darted about making quick turns from side to side and up and down. The fish were brought to the surface, and, after some efforts, swallowed. On two occasions while I was watching, the fish dropped from the bill, and the Duck instantly dove in pursuit. At no time, even at turns, were the wings used or even raised from the sides. In fact the feathers of the flanks, pure white in the adult males, rolled over and covered the wings, and it could be seen that these feathers were not displaced at any time.

The feet were used together, but not always. In turns they were often used alternately, and they were often extended from the body at an angle. The Duck generally began the dive by leaping from the water with wings close to the side, and it executed a graceful curve as it plunged below the surface.

The Pochard, which looks like our Redhead, dives and pursues its prey under water in the same manner. This method of diving is very different from that of Ducks of the genera *Clangula* and *Somateria*, for example, where the wings are used.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Ipswich, Mass.*

Spoonbills at Marco, Fla.—I may have misunderstood him, but in the

¹ The Auk, XXVI, 1909, pp. 234-248.