

A Sight Record of a European Teal in Ohio.—On the afternoon of March 6, 1932, while looking over some ducks which were sitting upon the water in a partly frozen bay of Buckeye Lake, in Licking County, Ohio, I discovered a male European Teal (*Nettion crecca*) near a group of six male Green-winged Teal (*Nettion carolinense*) and one female teal which I also took to be a Green-wing. As I had a pair of 8× Zeiss binoculars and was only some 120 feet from the birds, the distinguishing characteristics of the European Teal were so obvious as to be instantly recognizable; namely, the creamy-white long scapulars and inner secondaries, forming a conspicuous broad white streak along each side of the back, and the total absence of a white crescent on the side of the breast in front of the bend of the wing. There was also a distinct difference between the color and vermiculation of the sides of the breast, sides and flanks in the two species; in the European Teal the vermiculation was considerably coarser and the ground color a darker grayish-slate than in the Green-wing.

The ducks were under almost continuous observation for approximately one hour, during which time the six male and one female Green-winged Teal remained in a more or less compact flock. But whenever the European Teal attempted to join them he was chased and picked at by one or more of the others until driven away.

An unsuccessful attempt was made to collect the bird, and though it was looked for carefully on several days thereafter it was not seen again. Even if the bird did remain in this vicinity for some time the chances of its being seen are slight due to the teals' habit of keeping in the cattail marshes and about the dead vegetation where they are difficult to locate until flushed. It is only when they are driven into the open, that opportunities for careful observation are had, and this may well be one of the reasons for the European Teal not having been recorded more frequently.

There appears to be but one previous Ohio record, that of a specimen collected by the late Rev. W. F. Henninger. (See Walker: *The Wilson Bulletin*; Vol. 43; p. 63.)—MILTON B. TRAUTMAN, *Ohio Division of Conservation, Columbus, Ohio.*

The Harlequin Duck in Minnesota.—An immature male Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) was collected by the writer on Lake Superior fifty miles northeast of Duluth, Minnesota, on April 10, 1932. This was a lone bird found feeding in a protected bay. The immature plumage was rather worn and the deep blue-gray feathers of the adult plumage were just appearing on the back and in the scapulars and only a faint suggestion of the chestnut sides was evident. The Museum's collection does not contain sufficient material to allow subspecific determination in this plumage. According to the Museum records this is the first authentic occurrence of this species in Minnesota.—W. J. BRECKENRIDGE, *Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.*

Elder Duck (*Somateria mollissima dresseri*) on the Connecticut River in 1932.—On April 18, 1932, a day earlier than they were seen last

year (Auk, XLVIII, page 615) Eider Ducks were found feeding in company with Black Ducks on a flooded space where the swollen river overflowed its banks, in West Charlestown, N. H. There were four males and at least as many females. Their presence again this spring is interesting in that it may prove the species a more common migrant on this waterway than has been suspected.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

The American Eider in Colorado.—During the forenoon of February 25, 1932, Mrs. R. J. Kerruish and Miss Susan Goddard of Littleton, Colorado, and Miss Prue Bostwick of Denver in company with the undersigned, visited Marston Lake, near Littleton, Colo., on which there were, at the time, several hundreds of ducks, and some geese.

These birds were studied for a couple of hours with a high power telescope ($\times 40$) which brought them so close, as it were, that every detail of bill, color, and color-pattern was distinct, and unmistakable. Miss Bostwick, in examining the flocks, drew attention to a duck which exhibited a striking forehead marking; further and prolonged examination showed the bird to be a male American Eider (*Somateria mollissima dresseri*). We had with us Vol. I of Forbush's 'Birds of Massachusetts,' the Eider plate of which enabled every one to verify the diagnosis.

While extremely skeptical of the value of sight identifications of birds rare or unknown in the area of observation, the circumstances of the identification of this eider were so extraordinarily favorable and easy that its correctness is beyond question. There are two previous records (Cooke, Birds of Colorado, Append. p. 157) of this eider in Colorado. One is utterly worthless: "a mounted bird of this species in the rooms of the Society of Natural History in Denver" with no data. The second record is only a shade better: "taken by W. G. Smith at Loveland sometime previous to 1892" said to be in Mr. Smith's collection but specimen not seen by Cooke and no other data published.—W. H. BERGROLD, *Denver, Colo.*

"Duck Ponds" in Holland.—The establishment in the United States of what are referred to by the uninforming name of "duck ponds" of the Holland pattern has been urged as a conservation measure. We are informed that these devices are still in operation with the same "wonderful results" that they have yielded for generations in the past.

The "duck ponds" prove to be only what are known in England as "duck decoys," that is, ponds to which wildfowl are attracted and which are equipped with devices for trapping the birds. These ponds are usually well-screened by trees and surrounded by dikes or walls so that when the birds are inside they cannot see what is going on outside. The Dutch Government prohibits all interference with the ducks for about a mile in all directions, and no shooting or other disturbance is permitted on the entire preserve.

Some of the birds are wing-clipped and especially trained to feed in, and thus lose fear of, the leads to the traps. These usually are females which, retained in the ponds until their quills are renewed and they are again able