

Golden-eyes,¹ Old-squaws,² Scoters² and Mergansers¹ are readily identified by the experts, and are not considered game and therefore not generally shot by them. Under the present laws, most of the teal go by before the season opens, and the Wood Duck is protected. Excluding, in addition to these the rare European Widgeon, we then have left in the list of Eastern bred birds only the Black Duck, the Pintail, and the geese. Now the ducks which the gunner does get in large quantities in this area north of the Virginia Capes are, except perhaps in the Potomac, mostly Scaups with quite a few Redhead and Canvasbacks on the Susquehanna Flats and Chesapeake Bay. Battery and baited blind shooting yield large bags and the limit is frequently obtained. The Scaup is no doubt still one of the commonest ducks in this area, but when we consider in what numbers it is shot, we can appreciate the cause of its decrease in the last thirty years.

It is therefore apparent why the Eastern bred ducks, including the geese, which seem able to hold their own pretty well, have maintained their numbers at a place like Wenham, irrespective of the kind of shooting done there, while the Western bred ducks have so largely decreased. As so many ducks south of the Virginia Capes do not migrate via the Atlantic Seaboard (and we might include in this category the Potomac and some of the Chesapeake ducks), the Southern shooting would not so greatly effect Massachusetts. On the other hand, the heavy toll taken on the Western bred birds south to Cape May or even the Virginia Capes would very directly effect the Wenham shooting. From my own shooting experience, the relative decrease noted by Dr. Phillips is just what I should have expected.

I am not sufficiently familiar with the propagation of ducks by sportsmen and others to know whether that has any material influence on the relative abundance of the two groups.—FREDERICK WM. KOBBE, *1155 Park Ave., New York City.*

Snow Goose at Northampton, Mass.—While studying Acadian and Nelson's Sparrows in a patch of boggy grass at the east end of a marshy pond in Northampton on September 29, 1932, we beheld flying towards us, already near, above the pond, a large white bird. It circled, and we saw plainly the black wing-tips and brown-washed neck of a Snow Goose.

The Goose settled down and spent several days in that marsh, feeding along its edges. Some observers were able to approach it very closely. Though no ready standard of size-comparison was available, we were inclined to think it an unsophisticated Lesser Snow Goose, astray from the west. This is the third record of the species (in no case could the race be determined) in Hampshire County, the others being at Granby, where nine were seen in northward flight on March 31, 1926, by B. Schurr, and at Chesterfield, where a flock of about fifty, flying south on November 23,

¹ Eastern bred.

² Western bred.

1929, were observed by Rev. Ralph E. Danforth. At these dates and in these numbers, the Greater Snow Goose is probably the more likely.—S. A. ELIOT, JR., *Northampton*, and A. C. BAGG, *Holyoke, Mass.*

The Baikal Teal from King Island, Alaska.—A small collection of birds was received by the Chicago Academy of Sciences from King Island, Alaska, this past summer. The island is a small isolated rock in Bering Sea, about eighty miles northwest of Nome, which is closed to navigation except for the summer months. The specimens were secured by the eskimo, Arthur Nagozruk, and the most interesting were two beautiful adult male Baikal Teal (*Nettion formosum*), the second and third records for Alaska. The first was a male in full plumage, taken in arctic Alaska (Wainwright), September 2, 1921 (Condor XXVII, 1925, p. 169). The King Island birds (C. A. of S. 5833-5837) were taken May 23 and May 25, 1931.

The above mentioned specimens appear to be the only North American records except for a male taken in Contra Costa County, California, December 13, 1931, recorded in 'The Condor,' Vol. XXXIV, p. 193, by Mr. James Moffitt.

Several hundred Baikal Teal have been imported into California by bird dealers, and Mr. H. S. Swarth objects to Mr. Moffitt's record (Condor, XXXIV, p. 259), because of the possibility of the bird having escaped or having been released from captivity. Mr. Swarth's objection could also include our specimens, but the chances of birds imported in limited numbers in California, being taken so far north, are too remote to be considered. It is my belief that the majority of the birds of eastern Asia are regular visitors of the Alaskan coast.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Illinois.*

Female Quail "Bobwhiting."—In his book on 'The Bobwhite Quail' (p. 104) Mr. H. L. Stoddard writes: "As far as known, the 'bobwhite' call note is confined to cock birds." At Clark University, Worcester, Mass., I had a pair of captive quail (*Colinus virginianus virginianus*) the female of which "bobwhited" to some extent. That she was not a male in female plumage was proved by the fact that she laid two clutches of eggs. Her mate's "bobwhites" were either earsplittingly loud or almost whispered; hers were intermediate in loudness. I recorded this note the latter part of April and also on July 10, when I started to take the male away; at this time he answered her call with his loudest "bobwhite." Both birds belonged to the fourth generation raised in captivity.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Columbus, Ohio.*

A Pennsylvania Specimen of the White Gyrfalcon.—The Reading Museum has recently acquired a specimen of the White Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus candicans*) which I believe to be a unique record for Pennsylvania. This bird was taken by Dr. Samuel B. Kern of Slatington, near Forest Inn, Carbon County, on November 11, 1928, and was mounted and kept in his