

at first took for Scaup, but studying them through 8x binoculars I soon realized that they were not Scaup but Ring-necked Ducks (*Nyroca collaris*). There were five of them—four males and one female—and they continued to feed throughout our stay.

The writer observed Ring-necks on several other occasions in increased numbers. On March 16 two flocks were seen, one containing thirteen individuals and the other twelve. Males predominated in both flocks. On March 24 a single flock of 24 were observed. They were last seen on April 1, a flock of twenty.

As far as I know this is the first record of the species for the state. In all probability, however, it has occurred previously and not been recorded because of the scarcity of ornithological observers in the region.—J. WILLCOX BROWN, *Montchanin, Delaware*.

Incursion of American Scoters in Norfolk, Connecticut.—In the early morning of October 22, 1933, the citizens of Norfolk, Connecticut, were much surprised to find that some 300 American Scoters (*Oidemia americana*) had dropped into the town during the night. A milk-delivery man and others who happened to be out during the night informed me that the birds came from near midnight to about six o'clock in the morning. They did not all descend at once, and undoubtedly represented individuals of several flocks. The fore part of the evening was comparatively warm and clear, but by midnight a low dense fog hung over this section. It seems probable that the aviation light on Haystack Mountain, which is 700 to 800 feet higher than the adjacent valley, attracted the birds, and the dense fog beneath may have appeared as a body of water. It appears that they had flown a considerable distance before alighting. Eight stomachs of birds killed by the fall were examined and all were practically empty, indicating that some time had passed since the birds had had any food.

Between fifty and seventy-five Scoters were picked up. About half of these were dead, having been killed by the fall—by hitting trees, buildings, or hard ground, and the remainder injured so that they could not at once fly. Many were reported to have had broken bones. An autopsy showed the sternum to have been crushed in two birds and a wing and leg broken in another. These and others less carefully examined showed internal hemorrhages indicating that they had struck the earth or objects with terrific force. The autopsy indicated that the birds had been in normal health and all were in good flesh. Senator Frederick C. Walcott informed me that about 200 of the birds succeeded in landing on Toby Pond on his estate and that after resting for a day they resumed their migration. At the time of my visit to Norfolk two days after this unusual incident, there were about twenty birds left in the vicinity that were still unable to fly.

It was of interest to note that of the birds observed males outnumbered the females by more than three to one. Reports of other observers indicate a large preponderance of males over females. It would be interesting to

know where the birds had come from and whether or not this was their normal migration route. The incident indicates that they may migrate in flocks as a species not in company with related species.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Serrations on the Bill of the American Merganser.—While examining the bill of an American Merganser (*Mergus m. americanus*) I noticed that the serrations of the upper mandible were fewer than on the lower 28 to 45 respectively. Further examination brought out the fact that the seven serrations nearest the base of the lower mandible pointed forward instead of backward as in the case of the others, a fact that I have not found noticed in the literature.—WILLIAM H. MOORE, *Scotch Lake, N. B.*

An Aerial Nest of the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*).—We have recently had occasion to examine a Turkey Vulture's nest located some forty feet up in a cavity of a live beech tree. All the others that we have found have been on the ground, in, or in the near proximity of hollow logs. This particular beech, growing in Union Twp., Clermont Co., Ohio, has attracted the attention of the writer for the past two years. During this interval, it has provided a home for an interesting succession of inhabitants. When first investigated the hollow in its top, in early March, 1932, held a Barred Owl (*Syrnium v. varium*) incubating four eggs. These eggs were collected. and three additional ones were laid, of which two hatched.

Several months after the young Owls had been raised to maturity and left their home, three Gray Squirrels (*Sciurus c. carolinensis*) had altered this former nursery into a storehouse for walnuts, as well as a place for concealment and rest on sunny afternoons. They were taken for museum specimens.

It was with a good deal of anticipation, therefore, that we clambered up this beech in early spring to find several cast up Owl pellets and a freshly killed White-Footed Mouse (*Peromyscus l. noveboracensis*). Things appeared as though the first boarders in this beech for 1933, would again be Barred Owls. However, though we carefully examined the nest each week, nothing more of interest was noted until April 22, when Woodrow Goodpaster reported to me that he had found a Turkey Vulture incubating a single egg in this tree. Somewhat doubtful, we examined the nest the following day and found that it was a Turkey Vulture and that it was now incubating two eggs. The bird was exceedingly tame and permitted itself to be stroked and lifted from the eggs in much the same fashion as an old hen. On later visits this procedure was repeated except that the Vulture began to protest over our excessive handling by its usual method of defense—vomiting. Only on one occasion did the bird leave the nest without our first removing it. This, although by no means positive evidence, would lead me to believe that both sexes incubated the eggs.

Realizing that some interesting facts might be revealed by this unique