

led me to think at once of the Sanderling, while in flight it uttered a single weak, but rather shrill peep. My notes as they were taken during observation of the bird include the following diagnostic characteristics: Head and underparts white, except for a dark (almost black) hind neck and spot behind the eye; legs and feet appear dusky or bluish gray—decidedly *not* black; back gull-blue, apparently unmarked; size, scarcely smaller than a Wilson's Phalarope, but shorter legged, thicker necked and with a shorter and stouter bill. When I returned past the spot an hour later, the bird was again swimming in the ditch, but on the following day when I came back determined to collect the specimen, it remained in a pool far out in the treacherous mud flats and the third day it was gone.—R. L. HAND, *St. Maries, Idaho*.

The Louisiana Heron in Oklahoma.—While collecting birds in Dewey County, Oklahoma, along the North Canadian River, I took two specimens since identified as the Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*). These specimens, both females, were taken July 21 and July 23, 1934, respectively, and are now in the collection of the University of Kansas Museum of Birds and Mammals. Apparently this Heron has not been previously reported from Oklahoma.

At the time I was camped along the river, the stream was very low, the water standing only in pools about one-fourth mile apart. These pools teemed with small fish, which attracted large numbers of water-birds. At dawn or at dusk I frequently observed Louisiana Herons in groups of as many as six or eight, feeding in company with the Green Heron, and Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

My thanks are due Mr. C. D. Bunker, of the University of Kansas Museum of Birds and Mammals, for permission to submit this note, and to Mr. W. S. Long of the same institution, for the identification of the specimens.—A. B. LEONARD, *Dept. of Zool. Univ. of Kans.*

Red-Legged Black Duck in West Virginia.—In view of the fact that the 1931 'Check-List' recognizes the Red-legged Black Duck (*Anas rubripes rubripes*) as a separate race, I wish to record that there is in the museum of West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va., a female Black Duck with very bright red legs, clearly referable to this subspecies. The specimen was taken by Mr. P. C. Bibbee near Hanna, Wood County, W. Va., on March 9, 1924.

I am aware that many ornithologists hold grave doubts as to the validity of this race, but until its status is cleared up, the bird should be included on the West Virginia list. This is, so far as I know, the first published West Virginia record for the subspecies.—MAURICE BROOKS, *Dept. of Biology, West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.*

Ring-necked Duck (*Nyroca collaris*) at Lonsdale, Rhode Island.—The writer saw a drake of this species on the Blackstone River between Lonsdale and Berkely on February 22, 23, 24 and 25, 1933. The bird was carefully examined with 7x binoculars at a distance of only forty yards, and was continually in the company of three female American Golden-eyes (*Glauconetta clangula americana*). This constitutes the first twentieth century record for Rhode Island. There are two old records, one taken at Easton's Pond, Newport, on Nov. 11, 1871, and another taken, also at Newport, no date given, by Col. J. H. Powel and said to have been sent to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, but while several of Col. Powel's birds are in the Academy's collection, Dr. Witmer Stone informs me that there is no record of this specimen ever having been received.—ALFRED E. EYNON, *Lonsdale, R. I.*

Apparent Skin-transplant in a Wild Scaup.—On December 23, 1934, Mr. Donald McKellar of Garden City brought me a male plumaged Greater Scaup

(*Nyroca marila*) recently shot at Moriches Bay, Long Island, with a broad-oval area about $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ inches in diameter of what seemed like white belly-feathers rising as a low mound in the middle of its back, which, before this oval, was somewhat vermiculated, behind its solid black. Close inspection showed that these white feathers were somewhat marked with pale gray, much as on the belly of the same bird, especially at the front of the oval.

The bird was skinned out at the American Museum of Natural History where it is now No. 300514. Messrs. J. T. Zimmer and R. B. Potter of the Museum examined it carefully and we agreed that the feathers were belly feathers in texture and otherwise, probably a skin transplant. The skin to which they were attached and body beneath were in reasonably healthy condition, but the skin was too ample forming a shallow pocket, and somewhat thickened at the apex of the pocket. Immediately below the surface, in the bone under this pocket was a pellet of shot which evidently had not recently entered from above, but may have penetrated the body of the bird from below when it was killed and lodged there by chance.

Aside from some antecedent improbability in a wild Scaup, this looks like a clear case of skin transplant. If so it is hoped that some reader of "The Auk" may be able to throw light on the bird's history. If, on the other hand, we have here an abnormality or peculiar result of an injury, the case has considerable interest.—J. T. NICHOLS, *New York, N. Y.*

Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) on the Tuckerton, New Jersey, Marshes.—On November 11, 1934, two adult Blue Geese and a Snow Goose, standing on the open salt marsh at Tuckerton, New Jersey, offered rare opportunity for identification.

With the sun behind the observers, the birds were approached by automobile within about one hundred and fifty feet, at which distance the black "grinning recess" of the bill could be clearly seen. Both had white heads. Each side of the white neck and nape of one, the paler of the two, was marked with a vertical streak of dusky gray blending into the dark of the lower neck. The entire head and upper neck of the other bird were white. Their feet were pinkish or flesh-colored. In flight the rump and upper tail appeared lighter than the back and wings.

The wing expanse of the Snow Goose was slightly greater than that of the Blue Geese; which leaves rather uncertain the subspecific identity of the former, the span of both a large Lesser Snow Goose and a large Greater Snow Goose exceeding that of the Blue Goose. Breeding ground association would make the chances favor the white bird's identity as a Lesser, though the size comparison seemed to favor its identity as a Greater Snow Goose.

The birds were seen at about 7:30 A.M. The sky was clear although the distance visibility was rather poor, despite the strong north wind. The temperature had dropped noticeably from the rather mild level of the previous week.

This is the first definite record for the Blue Goose from Ocean County, N. J., known to the writer. Chas. A. Urner, who accompanied me, confirmed the identification.—GERBERT REBELL, *Springfield, N. J.*

Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) in Cape May Co., N. J.—About the end of October 1934, a Blue Goose appeared on a pond on the property of Mr. Michael McPherson at Cold Spring, N. J., and joined a flock of Peking Ducks which he had on the farm. The Goose became more tame as time passed and came up to the barn with the Ducks, and to save it from possible killing by gunners when the shooting season began, Mr. McPherson caught it in a crab-net and placed it in a chicken coop.