

(*Nyroca marila*) recently shot at Moriches Bay, Long Island, with a broad-oval area about $2\frac{1}{2}$ x 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.

The confinement or the food provided for it did not prove congenial and the bird was again liberated. It was still present at the end of January although it had been wing-clipped in the meantime. It was a bird of the year with a black head and bill and constitutes the first record, so far as I know, for the county.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

Golden Eagle in Louisiana: A Correction and a Reaffirmation of a Positive Record.—When Mr. E. A. McIlhenny, in the October, 1933, 'Auk,' p. 431, took exception to a second-hand record of the Golden Eagle, that I had published in the previous issue of the same journal, p. 355, I immediately wrote to Mr. Alfred M. Bailey for the facts in the case, in order to publish any correction or explanation that might seem necessary. Unfortunately, more urgent affairs intervened, and my subsequent removal to Wisconsin and preoccupation with new duties drove the matter out of mind. It might well have remained so but for a note that Mr. John S. Campbell has published almost simultaneously in the June, 1934, 'Wilson Bulletin,' p. 116, and in the July, 1934, 'Auk,' p. 370.

It is patent that Mr. Campbell read both Mr. McIlhenny's note and my own too casually to observe that the particular record called in question is but one of several cited. The possibility that other readers may do the same thing leads me, even at this late date, to make an explanation.

In the first place, I want to apologize to my colleagues for lapsing into a fault which I have not hesitated to criticize in others, namely, the publication of unverified records. My only excuse is that they were given to me by an old friend in whom I had entire confidence—the late Edward Stiles Hopkins, of New Orleans. He was a good bird man, and he certainly knew the difference between the Bald and Golden Eagles as well as anyone in the state. The fact remains, however, that the two specimens in the Louisiana State Museum (which, by the way, is an institution entirely distinct from the one next to be mentioned) have been declared by Mr. Bailey, who collected them, to be actually immature Bald Eagles. Hopkins was a very sick man for many months before he died, and it must be that his illness affected his memory to some extent.

Be that as it may, the error in connection with those specimens in nowise invalidates the third paragraph of my note in the July, 1933, 'Auk.' The mounted bird in the Museum of the Louisiana Department of Conservation is still a Golden Eagle—provided, of course, that no one has singed the feathers off its legs since I last saw it! In view of Mr. McIlhenny's admission that it was he who edited the Conservation Department's 'Birds of Louisiana,' 1931, it seems even stranger that this specimen in the Department's own museum should have been ignored.—ERNEST G. HOLT, *Box 863, LaCrosse, Wisconsin.*

A Sparrow Hawk Gynandromorph.—A Desert Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius phalaena*) in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology is of interest in that it shows evidences of gynandromorphism. The bird in question, No. 62319, was taken at Grafton, North Dakota, on April 27, 1925, by H. V. Williams.

The feathers of the left side are male, as is one posterior left flank feather. The left half of the breast is colored as in a young male, and there are a few male feathers on the right side of the breast. Above the bird is partly male on the left wing; i. e., the proximal lesser, middle, and greater coverts have the ground color blue, some of the feathers being slightly tipped or spotted with cinnamonaceous, and some of the longer secondaries are washed or spotted with bluish. There are a few male scapulars on the left side.