

very distinctly the recurved tufted crest and the entire absence of any white about the lower jaw or on the flanks. First seen resting upon the river, they were later seen at three different times flying in single file at about five feet above the surface and with outstretched necks. They then were noiseless. Mr. Richard May watched these birds with me. An hour later two Cormorants flew above me near open woodland a mile east of the river. For certainly over a minute before they came into view I heard a call from them, about as loud as that of a Goose. This call was not one of fright. It was a rather harsh croak, entirely different from the call of any Duck or Goose, but came with the frequency of a Goose's call. The birds flew about a hundred feet overhead and distinctly showed the markings of the Double-crested. This experience is interesting as Bent considered these birds mostly noiseless. After 5 P. M. the same day I saw seventeen of these Cormorants settled, apparently, for the night on a grassy island which was then only an inch or two above the surface of the river. A few Herring Gulls, a few Common Terns and four White-winged Scoters (*Melanitta deglandi*) were with them. The next morning the Cormorants were not found, but in the afternoon Merrill Wood and I counted nineteen of them in the river and later four were apparently feeding near a distant island, swimming with the body wholly immersed and the long black necks performing gyrations. There are no records of more than a single Cormorant being seen in this neighborhood.—
HAROLD B. WOOD, M. D., *Harrisburg, Pa.*

A Migration of Mute Swans.—Mr. William R. Lodge, since 1911, has propagated Mute Swans (*Sthenelides olor*) and other waterfowl on Silver Lake located near Akron and Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Each autumn, for several years, the Mute Swans have displayed a distinct urge to join other waterfowl in the southward migration but, being pinioned, were unable to do so.

The United States Biological Survey reported that they lacked any data on the migration of this species in America and regretted that they were unable to furnish bands with which to mark these birds. Nevertheless, Mr. Lodge decided to permit the birds to migrate if they cared to do so as an experiment, even though the flock was valued at perhaps \$200. Eight of the birds, leaving the old pinioned pair on Silver Lake, took up residence for two months on the nearby Crystal Lake. The flock indulged in a great deal of flying and one bird died of a broken neck from colliding with telegraph wires along the Pennsylvania Railway.

The remaining seven birds sat on the ice of the lake December 8, 9 and 10, 1934, refusing food made available at the old feeding places. On December 11 they left. On December 15 a single unmated three year old bird returned to partake of food with the old pinioned pair and remained. The six departed birds included a three and a half year old mated pair, a single bird two and a half years old and three birds raised in 1934. Another pair of yearling birds sold to Fells Lake Park at Northfield may have joined these six. Mr. Lodge speculated as to whether the Swans might follow the Ohio-Mississippi system south or join wild Whistling Swans in an overland flight to Chesapeake Bay. As it seemed plausible that the birds might move only far enough to find open water, Mr. Lodge appealed to the writer to attempt to locate his birds at Buckeye Lake or along the Ohio River.

By coincidence, in late December, 1934, he did secure some information of a flock of Mute Swans along the Ohio River, while visiting in West Virginia. George M. Sutton, Thomas Shields, J. Russell Hogg, W. E. Howard and others of the Wheeling area, furnished information concerning the slaughter of a flock of Mute Swans which are believed to be the same birds liberated by Mr. Lodge at Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

Eight of these sighted on the Ohio River near New Cumberland, West Virginia,

on December 13 (two days after the Swans left Cuyahoga Falls), an air distance of about 65 miles. Three men from the Ohio shore shot into the flock on December 13, killing six birds. One bird was unharmed and has remained in the vicinity. The eighth bird was wounded and captured but has since recovered. Mr. W. E. Howard, game protector of West Virginia and a United States deputy game warden, writes that he has taken the offenders into custody and is holding them under heavy bond on four counts. Mr. Howard described the birds as being pure white, weighing from 25 to 30 pounds each, measuring 56 inches from tip of beak to tip of tail, and the wounded bird having a wing spread of seven feet.

Stray Mute Swans are frequently reported in the East and Midwest, sometimes living for many months as wild birds. No records of even short migrations similar to this one have come to the writer's attention. It seems regrettable that the too well known urge common with humans to shoot any big bird, has so abruptly terminated what might have been a most interesting experiment.—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, *Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.*

Whistling Swans.—In 1921 during the late hunting season, a lad brought in what he called a big Gray Goose weighing about thirteen pounds. It proved to be a juvenile Whistling Swan and was one of a flock of five birds. Shooting the Swan was contrary to law but the boy was unaware of the identity of the bird. Later he reported that although the bird had been baked for four or five hours, it made very tough eating.

On December 30, 1934, a hunter wading through Lima Lake, near Quincy, Illinois, came upon a dead Whistling Swan that had been shot by some ruthless hunter. Another, probably the mate, was shot by a native who lived nearby and who crawled through the swamp grass and shot the bird which he carried home for food. These are the only positive records of Swans in this locality recently, although several rumors of small flocks have come to me during the last several years.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Illinois.*

Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea*) near Washington, D. C.—While in search of early Warblers and other migrants with Wendell Taber at noon on April 19, 1935, our attention was suddenly drawn skywards. We had driven over Chain Bridge, a few miles up the Potomac River from Washington and had climbed the height of land rising above the Virginia end of the bridge. It was in the midst of a pine grove topping the hill that we gazed upwards and discovered a flock of Snow Geese in somewhat loose wedge formation, to the number of eighteen or twenty, winging their way steadily westward following the river, at an altitude, we estimated, of seven hundred feet. In the brief space of time ere the flock passed from view, no honking was audible. Strongly contrasting were the white bodies and black wing tips. One could only guess as to which subspecies they belonged.—AARON C. BAGG, *Holyoke, Mass.*

Another Blue Goose from Georgia.—Dr. Eugene Edmund Murphey, of Augusta, Ga., has kindly given me permission to record another Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) from this state. This specimen, an adult male, taken Nov. 20, 1920, is now in Dr. Murphey's collection. It was taken at Axon, Atkinson County, and antedated by nearly fourteen years the one I recorded in the January issue of 'The Auk,' page 78.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *U. S. Dredge Morgan, Savannah, Ga.*

The Oldsquaw in the Interior of Alabama.—So far as I can ascertain there are only three records of the Oldsquaw in Alabama, and they are all from the Gulf