

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

Coast region. On January 25, 1935, I saw a bird of this species, presumably a female or an immature, on Lake Purdy, near Birmingham. It appeared predominantly gray and white (rather than brown and white) and lacked the long tail of the adult male. There was a small patch of fuscous behind and slightly below the eye, and all the top of the head was fuscous. The back, wings, and tail were practically the same color, but there was a small, squarish, white patch on each wing. Especially noticeable, however, was its short, upturned, blackish bill, with its pinkish band in the middle, differentiating it from any other Duck with which I am acquainted. I had always thought of the Oldsquaw as a rather wild bird, but such was decidedly not the case with this individual. It performed its diving operations within eight feet of the shore, as I examined it with 8x glasses alternately lying and sitting almost at the water's edge. However, another black-and-white Duck, which I saw near the same spot on February 22 and which I suspect of being the same species if not the same individual, was much wilder, and I could see it only as it flew across the water several hundred yards away.—HENRY M. STEVENSON, 7759 1st Ave. So., Birmingham, Ala.

Ducks in Chimneys.—While at Lost River, New Hampshire, during the summer of 1934, I received from Mrs. Gardner Rogers an adult female American Merganser (*Mergus merganser americanus*) which had died under most unusual circumstances. On Monday, June 25, 1934, Mrs. Rogers entered a room in her Asquam Lake camp at Ashland, New Hampshire. This room had been cleaned and closed up the previous Saturday. To her astonishment she found the bird in question resting with legs stretched wide apart on a table beside a window. It was noticeably weak and appeared somewhat dazed. It was easily captured but died within a few minutes. A hurried inspection of the room to find how it had gained admittance revealed a few feathers inside the fireplace and the screen before it pushed out from one side. Apparently this hollow-tree-nesting Duck had made the fatal mistake of coming down the chimney in search of a suitable nesting site. Dr. Witmer Stone tells me of a similar case of a Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) which came down a chimney in the vicinity of Philadelphia, during the past spring, and stopped up the flue. Upon investigation its dead body was found, completely covered with soot.—OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL, JR., Middleton, Mass.

Black Vultures in Indiana.—On November 12, 1934, while riding along the eastern edge of Clifty Ravine, near Madison, Indiana, I was astonished to see, on the opposite wall of the cliff, a large number of Vultures sunning themselves among the rocks and shelters there. Most of them were perched upon rocks and trees, some with wings outspread in characteristic Vulture way. Some were flying. I estimated there were a hundred and fifty birds in sight. At least three fourths of them were Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus atratus*), locally known as "Carriion Crows," the remainder were Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*). I do not know of any place in this region where so many of these birds congregate. In fact, there is great lack of information concerning the first mentioned species in the Ohio Valley. Audubon's account seems to have been the only one for many years. Few of the early writers mention it. In the opinion of many persons these birds had disappeared as the country was settled. Perhaps investigation will show that view to have been wrong.

Inquiry shows that McKim Copeland, reported Black Vultures wintering in large numbers in Jefferson County, Indiana, and notes that about a hundred and fifty made their headquarters in Clifty Falls State Park the winter of 1926-7. A few stay