

The American Goldeneye (*Glaucionetta clangula americana*) and the Greater Scaup (*Nyroca marila*) are generally classed as Bay or Sound Ducks in our region, but when sudden frigid spells stiffen such bodies of water these species are forced to take to the ocean. At such times it is not unusual to see some of these birds resting on the beaches and they do so with no ill effects. But the unusually cold weather this year evidently presented many of these bay species with a rather new problem for if they chanced to be resting on the slushy beaches as the tide ebbed, the slush free of the tempering effect of the water would freeze almost instantaneously sealing the unfortunate Ducks to the ground.

During the first week of February on the south shore of Long Island I found fourteen Golden-eyes and Scaup frozen fast to the beach, some dead, some struggling desperately to get loose. It was absolutely impossible to chip the encased live birds out of their trap. In fact, the only humane thing to do was quickly to terminate their suffering for in their strenuous efforts to get loose they invariably ripped their very skin and were found bleeding and messy.

The regular Sea Ducks seemingly knew how to avoid this icy slush for only one of them, a White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*), was found in this predicament. I wonder if this situation is unusual or whether annually many Ducks meet their death in this fashion on more northern shores?—ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK, *Freeport, Long Island, New York.*

Effect of Extreme Cold on Ducks in Milwaukee Bay.—During the month of February of this year the extreme cold caused the death of hundreds and probably thousands of winter Ducks on Lake Michigan in the Milwaukee area.

Steamship Captains reported that Lake Michigan was practically frozen across. Only small open areas existed at intervals many miles off shore. Otherwise the only open water near Milwaukee was that irregularly kept open in the shipping lanes, and at the warm water outlet of the Milwaukee Sewage Disposal Plant. At the disposal plant the open area was about 200 feet long and 60 feet wide.

On February 21 Mr. Walter Dethloff of the Wisconsin Humane Society, asked the aid of the Museum Staff in the removal of many frozen in but still living Ducks.

We found the open water to be crammed with birds, mostly Old Squaws (*Clangula hyemalis*). The greater number were females. The next numerous were Greater Scaup (*Nyroca marila*) and only a few of the Lesser Scaup (*N. affinis*) were present. The Ducks were picking up bits of waste material flowing from the plant and the thin ice at the edges was rimmed with the dead and dying birds. At one point where the piling composing the inner breakwater offered shelter, dead Ducks were piled several deep. The dying birds were feebly struggling, and with few exceptions those on the ice were held prisoner by the freezing down of primaries or breast feathers and in many cases both. Dangerous ice made the recovery of many of them impossible, but nevertheless about fifty of the living birds were chopped out and delivered to the Milwaukee Zoo where most of them died. While we were there a car-ferry plowed through the partially open lane and literally hundreds of the imprisoned Ducks were helplessly churned under and ground among the large blocks of ice. Out on the hard ice dead Ducks which had been frozen down were to be seen as far as the horizon, but most of them were concentrated at the edges of the open places. Golden-eyes suffered the most, and next in abundance the Greater Scaup. We found a few dead American Mergansers (*Mergus americanus*) and a few Old Squaws. One immature female King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) was also found frozen down. The Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) were there in numbers and they waxed fat upon the carcasses.

Many of the birds which were in fair condition were saved as museum specimens. All birds examined were in an extremely emaciated condition, digestive tracts were empty with the exception of several Golden-eyes which contained a quantity of rubber bands and other small bits of rubber. One Merganser contained string and a mass of hair-like substance. One female Greater Scaup was completely oil soaked and scarcely able to swim.

The limiting of the open water areas reduced the possibility of feeding to a minimum, and we concluded that starvation brought about the above condition. Fortunately at this writing the weather has moderated and the thaws have made available large areas of open water for feeding.

We are much interested to know to just what an extent this condition prevailed upon the Great Lakes, particularly in our area.—O. J. GROMME, *Milwaukee Public Museum*.

Mexican Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura aura*) at Brownsville, Texas.—

While on a collecting trip to Brownsville, Texas, in the spring of 1930, I obtained three sets of eggs of the Turkey Vulture near the Rio Grande on the American side. These eggs are noticeably smaller, less marked, and of a paler creamy ground color than those of the same species that I have seen from elsewhere in the United States. They are nearly uniform in size and average 66.3 by 45.8 mm. in size, whereas the average measurements of the Turkey Vulture's eggs taken farther north are about 71 by 48.3 mm.

With this in view H. C. Blanchard of Brownsville, Texas, collected for me four Turkey Vultures during that fall. It develops that two of these are practically typical examples of the race inhabiting Mexico and Central America, *Cathartes aura aura*. Except for some fossil bones that Dr. Alexander Wetmore recently recorded from central western Texas this form of the species has never before been reliably reported from the United States.

The two specimens mentioned above are in my collection of Falconiformes; and their data are as follows:

Number A-577. Female, September 30, 1930, Brownsville, Texas.

Length of wing 487 mm.

Length of tail 235 mm.

Length of tarsus 59 mm.

Number A-579. Female, October 11, 1930, Brownsville, Texas.

Length of wing 488 mm.

Length of tail 240 mm.

Length of tarsus 62 mm.

The other two specimens collected about the same time are migrant birds of the western subspecies, *Cathartes aura teter*, recently described by Dr. Friedmann.

All these specimens have been identified by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser of the Biological Survey.—HERBERT W. BRANDT, *Cleveland, Ohio*.

Additional Notes on the Prevalence of the Adult Marsh Hawk in South Florida.—In 'The Auk' (1935, p. 209) the writer gave some comparative figures on ratio of adult male specimens of *Circus hudsonius* as against females and immature birds.

Having occasion to visit south Florida again in February 1936, the writer again kept careful check on this matter. This time, the country east of Lake Okeechobee was surveyed, the route being down the eastern shore to the extreme southeastern