

December 26, 1931, on Orange Lake, near McIntosh, Florida. The bird was mounted by a local taxidermist, and through the help of several hunters it was finally located. Although the head is missing, the bird is easily identifiable. It is now in the collection of the Department of Biology, University of Florida. This is the fifth specimen of the European Widgeon that has been taken in Florida, and the locality is the second recorded for the species in the State. A. H. Howell ('Florida Bird Life,' p. 135) mentions four specimens. Three are from Titusville, but no locality is given for the fourth.—ROBERT C. McCLANAHAN, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

European Teal at Lexington, Virginia.—On April 11, 1937, as I was looking at the Big Spring Pond near Lexington I noticed a teal duck with the same general characteristics as the other teal ducks, but lacking the white bar before the wings that the Green-winged Teal bears and having a definite white patch above the forward edge of the wings. The author was accompanied by Robert Smith and W. W. Grover. All three of us made a careful study of the bird with an eight-power binocular and took individual notes which we then compared. This is the second record of the European Teal (*Nettion crecca*) at the same pond in two years. Dr. J. J. Murray collected a specimen from here last winter.—J. SOUTHGATE Y. HOYT, *Lexington, Virginia.*

Early nesting of the Wood Duck.—On the morning of April 25, 1937, while walking through a wooded section along the Hackensack River near Riverdale, Bergen County, New Jersey, I concealed myself to watch two male Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) that were floating toward me down the stream. Closely following the drakes was a female around which were huddled eight young, apparently out of the nest but a few days. They must have suspected my presence for, when directly opposite me, the males flew; but the female and young turned sharply to the other bank where she went ashore and disappeared in the bushes, closely followed by her brood. Considering the normal period of egg laying and incubation of the Wood Duck, the first egg must have been deposited about the 15th of March, a date considerably earlier than any other records north of the southern States that I have been able to find.—CHARLES K. NICHOLS, *Ridgewood, New Jersey.*

A Wood-Duck marsh in northwestern Iowa.—Field studies in the vicinity of Ruthven, Iowa, have now been conducted by Iowa State College and cooperators since the summer of 1932. Incidental to these studies, the evident partiality of Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) for Round Lake, a marsh of about 450 acres, has been observed with considerable interest, particularly by Mr. Logan J. Bennett and myself. The marsh commonly had from two to four feet of water in the deeper parts and supported various growths of vegetation, chiefly of bulrushes (*Scirpus* spp.), cat-tail (*Typha* sp.), reed (*Phragmites communis*), and pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.). Habitats dominated by reed and pondweeds were conspicuously favored by the Wood Ducks throughout the months that they remained in the locality.

While the largest number of Wood Ducks were to be noted in August and September, the species was strongly represented during the summer months as well. It is doubtful if there have been less than thirty individuals on the marsh at any time of the summer since our observations began; and the 1935 and 1936 summer populations surely were strongly in excess of that number.

The summer-resident birds were of both sexes and apparently non-breeders. Apart from the behavior of a pair that frequented for a time in 1936 the vicinity of a clump of willows on the shore in which there were cavities and old crow nests, nothing

indicative of reproductive effort was seen. The marsh was worked very intensively from 1934 to 1936 in connection with other studies, but few broods of any kind of ducklings were encountered and none at all of Wood Ducks. Floating mats of reeds and rushes and muskrat lodges were consistently used as sitting and preening places, however. Late summer was attended by an appreciable influx of the birds. It is the opinion of Mr. Bennett and myself that the numbers of Wood Ducks to be seen on Round Lake in early fall have been steadily increasing since our initial observations in 1932, although we have few actual data on relative populations.

In September, 1936, there was a heavy concentration of ducks on Round Lake, made up mostly of Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*), but Wood Ducks were almost as numerous as the second most abundant duck for this season, the Pintail (*Dafila acuta tzitzihoa*). At the height of this concentration, the author and his wife, paddling a canoe, could flush Wood Ducks at random from the reed patches (to which they were ordinarily somewhat restricted) at an estimated rate of about three birds per 2,500 square feet. About 39 acres of the marsh were covered by the reed patches, which should give us about 2,040 Wood Ducks, a figure we do not feel to be excessively wide of the truth.—PAUL L. ERRINGTON, *Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.*

Canvas-back breeding in Iowa.—On June 15, 1934, at Mud Lake, Clay County, Iowa, the writer found a submerged duck nest that contained eight eggs. Upon examination three of the eggs proved to be those of the Redhead (*Nyroca americana*), four were those of the Canvas-back (*Nyroca valisineria*), and one egg was not identified. The nest had been submerged at the time the ducklings were beginning to come out of the shells. The ducklings were removed from the pipped shells to identify them properly. The writer found 47 Redhead nests from 1932 to 1936 in northwestern Iowa, but apparently this finding of the Canvas-back eggs is the first breeding record of the bird in the State. The Canvas-back ducklings and eggshells are now in the possession of the Zoology and Entomology Department, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.—LOGAN J. BENNETT, *U. S. Biological Survey, Ames, Iowa.*

Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse budding on wild plum.—On February 15, 1937, I had the good fortune of observing six Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioceetes phasianellus campestris*) budding on the native wild plum (*Prunus americana*). They were feeding rapidly as they walked easily about on the closely matted top of the plum thicket. Observations were made through a six-power binocular from a distance of seventy-five yards, so there is no question as to the birds' activity.

The plum growth was on the edge of a mixed native stand of bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica* var. *lanceolata*), American aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), junberry (*Amelanchier oblongifolia*), choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), elm (*Ulmus americana*), wolfberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*), hazelnut (*Corylus americana*), blackhaw (*Viburnum lentago*), hawthorn (*Crataegus chrysoarpa*), and meadowsweet (*Spiraea salicifolia*). Within a very short flying distance, paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*), speckled alder (*Alnus incana*), and high-bush cranberry (*Viburnum americanum*), occur in abundance. The timber growth is immediately adjacent to or bordering the South Branch of Park River.

The incident was new in my observation of the Sharp-tailed Grouse and did not recall to mind any known previous reference in literature to budding on wild plum. Upon returning from the field, I reviewed the literature in my meager library which