

resident. No breeding record is mentioned by Howell ('Birds of Alabama') for Alabama; hence this note.

Wheeler Dam, located across the Lauderdale-Lawrence County line in northern Alabama, was completed and the water impounded early in 1937. This new reservoir is some 72 miles in length and has a shoreline of approximately 960 miles. Much of it is shallow water, affording excellent areas for ducks as proven during the spring migration of 1937, when thousands of ducks of many species frequented the area. The following records relate to the Shoveller during the 1937 spring-migration period on Wheeler:

April 14	100 seen	in flight
April 17	50 seen	feeding
April 21	24 seen	feeding
April 25	44 seen	feeding

This migration presence is not unexpected, but the fact that in May broods of young were seen, is distinctly unusual. On May 4, two broods of three or four day old Shovellers were seen; one brood consisted of nine young, the other of eleven. Both were feeding in very shallow water and were within one hundred yards of each other; the parents were in attendance. On May 8, another brood of six was seen in shallow water of a pond, but was not again located in the vicinity. Again, on July 17, two broods of Shovellers were seen in approximately the same location as the broods of May 4—northwest of Decatur, Alabama—and were approximately two-thirds grown. They are believed to be the same broods as seen on May 4, but now they numbered six and eight young each. At this time the young were growing flight feathers and were seen frequently exercising their wings. Thus we have at least one very early indication of the possible effect of this newly impounded reservoir on waterfowl.—A. R. CAHN AND PAUL BRYAN, *Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, Tennessee.*

Blue Duck or Mountain Duck.—When last in New Zealand in 1934, I had an opportunity to examine a live and healthy individual of this rare duck at a distance of a few yards. Its actions were quite unlike those of any other duck that I have seen in life but the most peculiar feature was the plane of the eyes. All other ducks observe you with one eye, the head held sideways. In the Blue Duck (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus*) the eyes were directed forward; when looking at you it turned its bill toward you, the yellow deep-set eyes staring at you from each side of the bill just as in a hawk or heron. The effect was most un-duck-like and with its hiding habits (the Maoris were said to drag them out from under rocks with hooks) created an impression that here was the most aberrant of all ducks. The species is not nearly extinct and its whole structure should be carefully investigated. Unfortunately the authorities in power in New Zealand absolutely discourage any scientific work that necessitates the taking of specimens.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia.*

Eclipse in ducks of the southern hemisphere.—In the London 'Field' for September 4, 1937, Mr. Richard Perry discusses the eclipse plumage in drakes. He says, "The phenomenon of eclipse is peculiar, or nearly so, to drakes breeding in the northern hemisphere. American and British ornithologists differ on this point: the former state that no drakes eclipse in the southern hemisphere, the latter that some do." Phillips, in his 'Natural History of the Ducks,' states in volume 1: "None of the males of South American or Australian ducks have an eclipse," but in