

Snowy Egret nesting in New Jersey.—On July 9, 1939, the undersigned found the Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula thula*) breeding in Cape May County, New Jersey. The nest, composed of twigs and small branches, was situated in a holly tree about eight feet from the ground, and contained three well-feathered young about three weeks old which left the nest upon discovery, clambering among the upper branches. Two were captured, examined in detail, photographed and banded. Their skins were a pronounced green in color; the tarsi a lighter green with a yellowish cast showing on the sole of the foot and wrist. The mandibles were lead-gray, darker at tip. The lores of the larger bird were noticeably yellow, while those of the smaller bird were greenish yellow. The primaries were about two inches in length and showed no traces of the dusky tips always in evidence in the fledgling Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea caerulea*), but were absolutely white above and below. One adult bird was observed not far from the nest.

On a subsequent visit July 16, McDonald, together with Julian K. Potter and Harvey Moore, fellow members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, captured one of the banded birds and confirmed the identification. On the occasion the two immatures were closely attended by an adult. The tarsi, on this date, were greenish yellow, as were the toes. The soles of the feet and back of tarsi were more pronounced yellow. The toe-nails were gray at base with a black tip. The upper mandible measured two and three-eighths inches and was bright yellow at base, gradually darkening to a blackish tip. The primaries, as on a week previous, were pure white; the wing measured fourteen inches. The iris was yellow, with the pupil black. Total length approximately sixteen inches.

Stone ('Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey,' p. 63, 1894) in discussing the breeding range of this species states, "formerly to New Jersey . . . a heronry having been visited by Mr. H. G. Parker as late as 1886." A search of available literature fails to reveal a published breeding record for this species in New Jersey since that date. It is most gratifying to welcome the return of the Snowy Egret to New Jersey as a breeding species, especially when one considers that but a short time ago it was on the brink of extinction.—NORMAN J. McDONALD, STEPHEN DALY JOHN A. GILLESPIE, *Associated Conservation Agencies, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.*

A heronry in northern New Jersey.—On July 22, 1939, I came across a pond located in the hills about a mile south of Lake Mohawk, New Jersey. Here I found five species of herons: Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea caerulea*), Eastern Green Heron (*Butorides virescens virescens*), Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*), and American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). Undoubtedly these birds nested here as nests were seen and young Great Blue Heron and Little Blue Heron were seen. I visited this pond five times in a period of two weeks and always the same birds were observed. It seems strange that these birds should be nesting in this section of New Jersey. I do not know of another place within 75 miles where there is such a heronry.—WILLIAM F. RAPP, JR., *Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.*

Black Ducks nesting in tree holes.—On May 25, 1938, along Portobello Creek, near Mougerville, Sunbury County, New Brunswick, I found two nests of Black Ducks (*Anas rubripes*) in tree holes similar to those used by Golden-eyes and Wood Ducks in the same locality. One nest was in an old snag with the entrance hole about seven feet above the flood waters and contained eight eggs; the other was in the hollow trunk of a live maple tree about ten feet up and contained seven eggs. In both instances the incubating adult was flushed from the nest when we came

within a few feet in our canoe. Possibly the Black Ducks were forced into using tree holes because this area is flooded by melting snow and early rains each spring to a depth of three to five feet or more, and hence all suitable nesting cover is under water at that time.

A Black Duck was found incubating eight eggs in a nest built in an old Crow's nest about fifteen feet up and overhanging the water of Loder Creek, near Sheffield, Sunbury County, New Brunswick, on May 26, 1938. This may be another adaptation resulting from flood waters. It is believed that these constitute the first recorded instances of Black Ducks nesting in tree holes and old Crow nests.

Col. H. H. Ritchie, chief game warden of New Brunswick, and John Campbell, game warden, were with me when the above observations were made, and movies were taken of the adult bird flushing in each instance.—HAROLD S. PETERS, *U. S. Biological Survey, Charleston, South Carolina.*

Snow Geese near Philadelphia.—The apparent paucity of records for Snow Geese in Pennsylvania, especially in spring, prompts me to submit the following observation. On the morning of April 27, 1935, while returning from a walk along Naylor's Run, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, I chanced to glance directly overhead and was astounded to see a small flock of eight Snow Geese (presumably *Chen hyperborea atlantica*), winging their way northward in V-formation at an altitude of about 800 feet. The birds were silent, uttering no sound while within my hearing. The brightness of the morning sun and blue depth of sky as a background, seemed to accentuate the snowy plumage and contrasting black wing-tips of the birds in a clear-cut and unforgettable picture.

While I can find only one published *spring* record for the Greater Snow Goose in Pennsylvania (Auk, 30: 336, 1913), several observers in the neighboring State of New Jersey have noted large April flocks: Carter near Boonton (Auk, 41: 472, 1924), Nichols at Troy Meadows (Auk, 50: 352, 1933) and Eynon at Union (Auk, 54: 532, 1937).

Nichols in an interesting discussion of the Snow Goose, comments on the rarity of records for a bird so easily recognized and suggests that this may be due to their passage at such great altitudes as seldom to be seen. In addition to this factor, Dr. D. J. Elliot (in Bent's 'Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl,' Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 130, p. 167, 1925) says that the Snow Geese "usually fly silently," which, if characteristic of their high migratory flights would make them still less conspicuous to the observer.—J. KENNETH TERRES, *Soil Conservation Service, Ithaca, New York.*

Homing instinct and prolificacy in the Duck Hawk.—During the spring of 1939 it was my good fortune to be able to make several trips into eastern Pennsylvania for the purpose of collecting nesting data on the Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*). I have often wondered what would be the effect of removing one or the other of the adults from the eggs. Would the other parent continue to incubate them? If a captured bird were released at some distance would it return to the same nesting site, and if so, how soon? In other words, I was curious to find out how strong and lasting is the nesting urge in a species which is usually so fearless as the Duck Hawk in the protection of its eyrie, and to find out how pronounced is the homing instinct in this species. In the experience described below it must be remembered that only one bird was involved, the female. It is quite probable that the male would show a different reaction under the circumstances described. Though no conclusions can be definitely drawn from this single incident, it is, I believe,