

There are no recent records for this State. Sage and Bishop ('Birds of Connecticut,' 1913) report birds killed November 14, 1867, in the Sound; December 25, 1883, East Haven. Bagg and Eliot ('Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts,' 1937) give four records for the Massachusetts valley region, the latest being of two in November, 1935. Forbush ('Birds of Massachusetts') has one for Vermont in 1917. Brown, Edwards, and Wolfarth report a drake on Sandy Hook Bay, February, 1939 (Auk, 56: 329-330, 1939).

It may be more than a coincidence that of the eight records cited for the Valley region, including this one, five fall in November, three of them in the third week.—M. L. HOFFMAN, *Hartford, Connecticut*.

**Water bulrush as a food of waterfowl.**—In connection with the waterfowl studies of the Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, a series of duck stomachs was collected during the fall of 1938 and analyzed by the writers. In compiling the results of stomach analyses, one of the outstanding features was the prevalence of root bulbs (tuber-like enlargements of the rhizomes) and fibrous materials of the water bulrush (*Scirpus subterminalis*), which had been eaten by birds taken on the Penobscot River and immediate vicinity. Since this plant apparently has been little recognized as of value to waterfowl, a separate tabulation was made of the food of all birds taken on Folsom Pond, Lincoln, Maine, and on the Penobscot River between the villages of Lincoln and Howland. Twenty-five ducks of eight species were collected from these waters during the months of October and November. Stomach analyses were based upon dry material and were determined according to the percentage-by-bulk method as practiced by the U. S. Biological Survey. Assistance in identification of food materials was given by staff members of the Botany and Zoology Departments at the University of Maine.

Twelve stomachs of the Ring-necked Duck (*Nyroca collaris*) were secured from the area mentioned. One stomach was practically devoid of food but the remaining eleven contained materials expressed in percentages as follows: root bulbs and fibers of water bulrush (*Scirpus subterminalis*), 83.09; snails (Gastropoda), 11.36; seeds of bur reed (mainly *Sparganium fluctuans*), 2.73; seeds of water shield (*Brasenia Schreberi*), 1.55; seeds of pondweed (mainly *Potamogeton pusillus* or *P. gramineus*, together with smaller amounts of both *P. obtusifolius* and *P. epihydrus*), 1.0; seeds of cherry (*Prunus* sp.), 0.27.

The stomachs of five Black Ducks (both *Anas rubripes rubripes* and *A. r. tristis*) contained food materials expressed in percentages as follows: root bulbs and fibers of water bulrush (*Scirpus subterminalis*), 54.0; snails (Gastropoda), 24.8; seeds of bushy pondweed (*Najas flexilis*), 13.6; bur reed (*Sparganium chlorocarpum*), 3.2; pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*), 1.4; water shield (*Brasenia Schreberi*), 1.4; miscellaneous, 1.6.

Two Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) were secured and, although one of these birds had not eaten any *Scirpus subterminalis*, the other had fed upon practically nothing else. The complete food analyses of these two specimens showed the following percentages: water bulrush (*Scirpus subterminalis*), 49.5; arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*), 14.5; insects and miscellaneous animal food, 10.0; snails (Gastropoda), 7.0; seeds of cherry (*Prunus* sp.), 5.0; water shield (*Brasenia Schreberi*), 2.5; pondweed (*Potamogeton epihydrus*), 2.5; miscellaneous and unidentified plant material, 9.0.

One Golden-eye (*Glaucionetta clangula americana*) had made a complete meal of *Scirpus subterminalis*. A Bufflehead (*Charitonetta albeola*) had eaten portions of this bulrush to the extent of 66% of the total stomach contents, the re-

mainder of its food being snails (Gastropoda). The stomach contents of a Greater Scaup (*Nyroca marila*) consisted of *Scirpus subterminalis*, 96%, and snails (Gastropoda), 4%, while a stomach of a Lesser Scaup (*Nyroca affinis*) showed traces of *Scirpus subterminalis* although the predominating food consisted of snails (Gastropoda), 100%. Two Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) had fed entirely on larvae of dragonflies, and constituted the only waterfowl species collected which showed no traces of *Scirpus subterminalis* in the stomachs.

Even including the two Hooded Mergansers, the tabulated contents of 24 waterfowl stomachs showed that *Scirpus subterminalis* made up more than 64% of the total food eaten by these birds. Of the 25 ducks collected, 21 had eaten varying amounts of the plant. As far as the writers are aware, quantitative published data are lacking in which this plant is mentioned as waterfowl food. The files of the Food Habits Section of the Biological Survey, according to a letter from Dr. Clarence Cottam, contain neither field observations nor stomach records pertaining to the subject. In McAtee's recent book ('Wildfowl Food Plants', 1939), *Scirpus subterminalis* is merely listed without specific reference, although the bulbous bases of a marsh form, *Scirpus pauciflorus*, are said to constitute an important wildfowl food at James Bay, Canada.

In the stomachs taken in Maine and here reported on, fragments of leaves, roots and stems of this plant were occasionally found during the analyses, but the root bulbs were the food items ordinarily present. In connection with this, some interesting field observations were obtained on the Penobscot River near Howland, Maine, about the first of November, 1938. At this time the fall migration was at its height and large flocks of Ring-necked Ducks, Golden-eyes, Scaups, Black Ducks, Buffleheads and Wood Ducks were present on the river. The principal foods available in this section at the time were *Sparganium* (*S. fluctuans* and *S. chlorocarpum*), *Sagittaria latifolia*, *Pontederia cordata*, *Carex* sp., and *Potamogeton* (primarily *P. natans* and *P. amplifolius*). Wild rice (*Zizania aquatica* var. *angustifolia*) is very abundant in this portion of the river but most of the panicles had already been stripped of grain by the resident ducks and earlier migrants. On the date in question, the flocks were confining their feeding to those areas where *Scirpus subterminalis* was most abundant, and the heads of the islands and the snags below the feeding area were covered with drifted fragments of the plant. The Black Ducks and Wood Ducks appeared to be obtaining bulbs and fragments that had been dislodged by the bottom-feeding activities of the diving ducks. The birds seemed reluctant to leave the vicinity, even after a few had been collected, and many of them returned shortly after the observers had stopped shooting. Specimens of the plant were secured at the time of the observations and these, as well as the bulbs later found in the stomachs, were identified by Dr. F. H. Steinmetz of the Botany Department of the University of Maine. This aquatic bulrush was found growing in abundance, although in scattered patches, on the Penobscot River in water four to six feet deep, and was also observed in some of the lakes in the vicinity of Lincoln, Maine. Arthur H. Norton, of the Portland Museum of Natural History, states, in correspondence, that the plant is common throughout Maine. For future studies it would be of interest to determine whether or not any parts of the plant are eaten at seasons of the year other than the autumn.—HOWARD L. MENDALL AND JAY S. GASHWILER, *Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Station, Orono, Maine.*

**Black Vultures in southern Florida.**—According to Howell ('Florida Bird Life', 1932), Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) are less numerous in the southern tip of