

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

the peninsula of Florida than in the central and northern parts and are supposedly absent from the Keys. The writer spent seven weeks, January 17 to March 8, 1938, near the city of Miami and found Black Vultures fairly common, even outnumbering the Turkey Vultures at times, from Miami south to Homestead and across the Tamiami Trail as far west as Port Everglades. They were also noted on three occasions on the Florida Keys and one specimen, a victim of an automobile on the Tamiami Trail, was examined. Identification in the field was made easy in most instances because of the relative tameness of the birds, which were often seen standing along the side of the road waiting to resume feeding after the cars had passed. Fifteen field trips were made during the seven-weeks' period and birds of this species were seen on each occasion. Black Vultures were noted on the Florida Keys during a trip to Key West, February 9, 10, and 11. Four individuals were seen in Key West on the 10th and forty birds were recorded on the round trip.

A summary of the number of individuals of this species seen on the fifteen field trips, compared with the number of Turkey Vultures, is shown in the accompanying table giving the dates and localities for each trip.

Date	Locality	Black Vultures	Turkey Vultures
January 17	Miami	20	8
January 25	Port Everglades	60	10
February 7	Tamiami Trail	40	20
February 9	Miami to Key West	15	23
February 10	Key West	4	2
February 11	Key West to Miami	25+	25+
February 16	Dade County	6	45
February 17	Tamiami Trail Region	3	5
February 19	Tamiami Trail Region	26	48
February 21	Miami	17	26
February 23	Tamiami Trail Region	14	17
February 23	Homestead	25+	25+
February 25	Homestead	25+	25+
March 7	Miami Beach	4	2
March 8	Fort Lauderdale	6	11
Total	290+	292+

—JOHN C. JONES, Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

Swallow-tailed Kite in Connecticut.—Sage and Bishop's 'Birds of Connecticut' gives three records for this graceful and unmistakable bird (*Elanoides f. forficatus*) in Connecticut: summer 1861, July 2, 1877, and June 16, 1889. All these records are for the coast of the State, on Long Island Sound. On July 29, 1938, and again two days later, an individual of this species was seen soaring over a field in Litchfield township in the northwestern corner of the State. On one occasion it was seen perched on a fence-post at close range. Flushed, it flew effortlessly over the field, gliding close to the grass the way a Marsh Hawk (*Circus*) does, possibly in search of insects or snakes.—S. DILLON RIPLEY, *Litchfield, Connecticut*.

Hawk notes from Sterrett's Gap, Pennsylvania.—A picture of the fall migration of raptors differing in a significant way from that of Hawk Mountain on the same