

these men were satisfied with the identification.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Massachusetts.*

Winter food of Snow and Blue Geese in Delaware.—The commonest winter food of the Snow Goose on the marshes of the Bombay Hook Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, in central Delaware, consists of the roots and culms of *Spartina alterniflora*, commonly known as salt-marsh cordgrass. While studying a flock of 3,700 Snow and 18 Blue Geese (*Chen hyperborea atlantica* and *C. caerulescens*) on the refuge, December 11, 1939, at a distance of 300 feet, I noticed them feeding to a considerable extent on several other grasses in the vicinity. Investigation revealed that both *Spartina patens* (salt-meadow cordgrass, or bent hay) and *Distichlis spicata* (saltgrass) had been used consistently for food; not only were fragments of the roots strewn around on the surface, but holes in the mud leading down to the roots were frequent, and in some cases the holes were ringed with the tell-tale evidence of white feathers from the necks of the Snow Geese.

This particular flock was later observed for several hours at midday at a distance of about 100 yards. Most of the birds were resting and some few were feeding. There were always a few birds in the air, but since it was a cold, windy day, the majority of the birds were relatively immobile.

Dr. Clarence Cottam in a summary of the known observations of the Blue Goose in the Atlantic Coast States (Auk, 52: 436, 1935) gives but one record for the State of Delaware, and that was based on a single bird shot by a gunner. Therefore, these additional data should be of interest.—L. W. SAYLOR, *Patuxent Research Refuge, Bowie, Maryland.*

Breeding grounds of Ross's Goose at last discovered.—With the discovery of the Snow and 18 Blue Geese (*Chen hyperborea atlantica* and *C. caerulescens*) on the breeding grounds of Ross's Goose (*Chen rossi*), one of the last of the major mysteries of our more northern birds has been solved. By a process of elimination the country north of the Thelon River and east of Great Bear Lake in the Northwest Territories of Canada seemed the last remaining probability for the nesting area of this species. The interest of various officers of the Hudson's Bay Company was aroused in the subject and under the authority of Mr. R. H. G. Bonycastle of the Fur-trade Department of that company, Messrs. Angus Gavin of the Perry River, and E. Donovan of the King William, Posts undertook an investigation of the area. Ascending the Perry River some thirty miles from its mouth July 1 of the past summer (1940) some tundra lakes were reached. On rocky islets in some of these lakes considerable concentrations of Ross's Geese and a few Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) were found breeding. Photographs of incubating birds, nests and eggs, and skins and eggs of the former were secured. These have been received by the National Museum of Canada and fully identified. The Perry River empties into the Arctic Ocean at the bottom of the Queen Maude Gulf about longitude 102° west. The terrain occupied is a low-lying ancient sea bed with little relief and many lakes of various shapes and sizes studded with rocky islets. A full account is under publication in 'The Beaver,' the house organ of the Hudson's Bay Company, and in the 'Canadian Field-naturalist' for December 1940.—P. A. TAVERNER, *National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.*

Mallard Duck returns to destroyed nest.—Late on the afternoon of May 19, 1939, we were driving along a country road three miles east of Mooresville, Limestone County, Alabama, and chanced to see a severe grass fire, which had been