

quarters, the swan's chief difficulty is in finding access to food in the few patches of water remaining open during the winter. In any season of unusual severity these openings freeze over and the swan starve. As is usual in all species, the first to succumb are the young, and only the most hardy of these young birds live through to replace the species.

Precariously holding their own against starvation and natural enemies including eagles, wolves and coyotes, the swan were nearly overwhelmed by the effects of the great flood of 1936 which brought down rock slides, dammed the outlet and raised the water level of their lake and thus destroyed their feeding grounds. From 110 in the winter of 1936, the number dropped, as shown, to twenty-two. Yet the species survived, with the loss of all its young, and is again building up to its maximum, limited by food supply, of about one hundred birds. It is needless to point out what the effect on its survival would be if man were added to its list of natural enemies. For this reason the names of localities in the note have been omitted. It is the policy of the Canadian Government not to advertise the whereabouts of rare species threatened with extinction.—H. H. CHAPMAN, 205 Prospect Street, New Haven, Connecticut.

**Gadwall in Center County, Pennsylvania.**—The status and range of the Gadwall (*Chaulelasmus streperus*) in Pennsylvania have not been well investigated except in the farthest western counties of the State (Todd, 'Birds of Western Pennsylvania') and in some few of the eastern counties. For example, in Berks County, Earl L. Poole reports: "An uncommon transient and winter resident at Lake Ontelaunee. I have thirty-two records between Oct. 14, 1932, and May 30, 1939, from single birds to groups of ten." And also from Chester County, Albert E. Conway has published two records of the bird in his 'Check List of Birds of Chester County' (1940): "Rare transient. December 26, 1912, near Kennett Square (Pennock & Thomas) and April 17, 1937, Brandywine (Copes)."

Todd mentions records of the bird in western Pennsylvania, including breeding records at Pymatuning. He states that because of the lack of evidence he does not believe that the bird's range extends into central Pennsylvania.

Therefore, in view of the fact that we know the bird to be an uncommon transient in the vicinity of State College (Center County), we would like to present the several sight records which we have from our own records and from records which have been turned over to us from reliable sources in this vicinity.

All these records were made on a pond which is approximately three acres in area. This is located on the eastern edge of the borough of State College, Pennsylvania, on land belonging to the Pennsylvania State College. This is a protected area, and on this account the ducks which come there may often be closely approached. In some cases the Gadwall was approached within twenty yards, and in none of the following records was the distance greater than sixty yards.

The descriptions made in the field by the different observers, independently, were checked against one another. Three observers (Curry, Holzman, Yerger) are familiar with the bird in the Middle West.

State College, Pennsylvania, March 29, 1939, one male, studied closely with 8-power glasses at 50 yards; black under tail-coverts, white speculum, neck thinner than in Black Ducks with which it was associating; made it fly several times to get wing pattern (Holzman). November 15, 1940, one male (black under tail-coverts seen distinctly) (R. Yerger, W. Currier). November 16, 1940, one male (Yerger and Holzman). November 17, 1940, one female or young male (Curry).

November 19, 1940, one male (G. Free). November 23, 1940, one male, November 24, 1940, two females and one male. November 25, 1940, two females (R. Giegler). December 5, 1940, one male (Currier).

All the males seen between November 15, 1940, and December 5, 1940, may have been the same bird.—JAMES H. HOLZMAN AND HASKELL B. CURRY, *Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pennsylvania.*

**European Widgeon at the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge.**—Because of the limited number of records of the European Widgeon in the interior country it seems appropriate to report that on July 29, 1941, a male European Widgeon, *Mareca penelope*, was observed on Unit 96, Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge, near St. Mary's Crossing, North Dakota.

The bird was in a mixed flock of Mallards, Pintails, and Baldpates, and was observed through 9-power glasses at about one hundred yards. The differences between the European Widgeon and the American Baldpates were readily recognizable. The bird was seen both on the water and in flight.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.*

**Pintail in the Dominican Republic.**—In our account of the birds of Haiti and the Dominican Republic (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 155: 100, 1931) B. H. Swales and I recorded the Pintail (*Dafila acuta tzitzihoa*) as of uncertain status. Mr. Hugh A. Johnston of Monte Cristi, under date of July 10, 1941, writes me that last winter migratory ducks were present in his vicinity by thousands, passing over his house in flocks that at times literally stretched across the entire sky. His observation was that the majority appeared to be the Pintail. Birds that a friend and he shot were mainly of that species, though including a few Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*). As Mr. Johnston is familiar with ducks the record may be accepted to validate the occurrence of this species on the island. The numbers in which it was present were a matter of some surprise.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**Bartram's Painted Vulture.**—Francis Harper has discussed references to this bird at length (Auk, 53 (4): 381–392, Oct. 1936) but failed to note one that suggests a better solution of the puzzle than that which he adopted. In the light of the evidence he collected, Harper proposed that *Sarcoramphus papa* L. be recognized as formerly having occurred in Florida. The authority to whom I refer is R. P. Lesson who in his 'Traité d'Ornithologie' (1831: 26) says, "The bird described by Bartram under the name of *Vultur sacra*, seems to be a variety, tending to albinism, of this species." The tendency of birds to form Floridian subspecies being amply evident, why is it not the best course to regard the extinct Painted Vulture as a subspecies of the King Vulture and call it *Sarcoramphus papa sacra*, the authority for which should be Lesson *ex* Bartram, who under the rules will be the first strictly binomial author to give the name currency?—W. L. McATEE, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.*

**Fuertes's Red-tailed Hawk in Northern New Mexico.**—On August 15, 1940, an adult female Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) was collected by the writer six miles east of Colfax, Colfax County, New Mexico. The specimen is now no. 9284 of the Fuertes Memorial Bird Collection at Cornell University, and has been identified by Dr. George M. Sutton as *Buteo jamaicensis fuertesi* Sutton and Van Tyne (Occas. Papers Mus. Zool., Univ. of Michigan, no. 321, September, 1935).