

**Blue Geese on National Wildlife Refuges of the Atlantic Coast, Winter of 1941-'42.**—Information contained in reports from refuge managers in charge of national wildlife refuges along the Atlantic Coast indicates the continued trend (Auk, 52: 432-441, 1935; 57: 524, 529, 1940) for small numbers of Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) to move eastward during periods of migration, and to winter on that coast.

An observation of perhaps the largest Blue Goose flock in the Atlantic coast was reported by Mr. Albert L. Stadlmeir, manager of the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge, Absecon, New Jersey. A flock of 45 birds was observed on December 18, 1941, feeding with a large flock of Snow Geese on Egg Island, near Fortesque, Cumberland County, New Jersey. Mr. Stadlmeir stated that during the past 15 years some Blue Geese, ranging in numbers from 15 to 45, have been seen with Snow Geese during the occasional visits made to this Delaware Bay marsh area.

Mr. John F. Herholdt, manager of the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Smyrna, Delaware, reported that on November 1, 1941, a flock of 12 Blue Geese was noted with approximately 3,000 Snow Geese on the refuge. By November 13, a count indicated 18 Blue Geese and 4,700 Snow Geese. While the number of Snow Geese increased thereafter to an estimated 10,000 by December 1, and 12,000 by December 22, the Blue Goose population remained constant at 18 until the birds departed by January 3, 1942. This is the same number as noted on the refuge area on December 11, 1939, by L. W. Saylor (Auk, 58: 92, 1941) although Mr. Herholdt reported (in litt.) that the 1939 migration of Blue Geese was first noticed on December 10, with a total of 18, and increased to the maximum of 27 on December 16. A few Blue Geese have been noted on the refuge each winter since 1937. The number of Snow Geese on the Bombay Hook Refuge in 1941 was approximately the same as reported for 1940 (Auk 59: 302, 1942).

During November and December 1941, the Snow Goose population on the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Pungo, Virginia, gradually increased in numbers until by the first week in January the number was estimated by Manager Harry A. Bailey as between 13,000 and 15,000. With this flock were 36 Blue Geese of which 9 were birds of the year. A few Blue Geese have been noted in the refuge each winter since 1939.

On the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, New Holland, North Carolina, Manager Maynard S. Johnson noted Blue Geese with the Canada Geese, as had been the case during six of the previous eight winters. Five Blue Geese were noted with an estimated 20,000 Canada Geese on December 23, 1941, and the same number was present in January.

Only about 100 Snow Geese were present on the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, Manteo, North Carolina, November 1, 1941, but by January 9, 1942, a peak population was reached, estimated by Mr. Samuel A. Walker, manager, to be 10,000. With this flock were "10 to 15" Blue Geese, which Mr. Walker stated was about the number seen on the refuge each of the past few winters. The Service files contain 23 different observations of Blue Geese on this refuge, a few being reported each season (Auk, 58: 106, 1941), but only on December 19, 1938, when 22 were noted, and on November 27, 1940, when 23 were seen, did the number exceed those present during the winter of 1941-42.

On the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, McClellanville, South Carolina, Manager Andrew H. DuPre reported seven Blue Geese present on the Cape

Island pond. These birds, as at the Mattamuskeet Refuge, were associated with Canada Geese. Seven Blue Geese were noted on November 17 and 22, 1941, and one was seen on January 16, 1942. The maximum number of Canada Geese was 111 on December 31.—PHILIP A. DUMONT, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois*.

**Records and Notes from St. Croix, Virgin Islands.**—*Ixobrychus exilis exilis*. The Least Bittern first came under observation on St. Croix on May 5, 1939, and again on August 16, 1940, when a pair was flushed from the low mangroves bordering Krause Lagoon. The birds were not seen again until July 21, 1942. On that date a female flushed from her nest where already she was incubating two pale blue eggs. I instantly observed that the nest was that of the White-crowned Pigeon (*Columba leucocephala*) and of recent construction of coarse sticks and unused. A large colony of these pigeons was nesting in the mangroves at the time. The nest was located in a small mangrove bush growing in soft mud, in eight inches of water, one hundred yards from the border of the lagoon.

*Oxyechus vociferus rubidus*. Nesting records of the Antillean Killdeer show that two or three eggs may comprise the full complement of a single clutch. It is, therefore, of interest to cite an instance when, on May 10, 1942, a nest was found which contained seven eggs deposited in a shallow, unlined cup whittled out of the center of a twelve-inch splash of dry cattle droppings. The background blended so perfectly that the eggs could not be discerned beyond a distance of ten feet. The eggs are uniform light gray color and are spotted and sprinkled with sooty black. Measurements in millimeters: six eggs, 39 x 28; one egg 36 x 28. It should be remarked that the nest site was on the slopes of an extensive pasture land and that a careful search of the area did not reveal the presence of a third bird. Also note the uniform coloration of the eggs and especially the measurements. There is every reason to believe that all of the eggs comprised the clutch of a single female.

*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*. The Eastern Willet has long been a regular winter visitant to St. Croix. In the summer of 1938 I made the observation that a few pairs had overstayed the date of departure, and a month later my presence in the same area of the marsh aroused their considerable resentment, convincing me that nesting had begun. That year, and every year since then, searching was in vain until May 11, 1942. On that date I flushed a female bird from a nest placed in the midst of a bed of short, fibrous plants growing on an open sandy stretch; it was a well-formed cup made of plant stems, built up above the level of the ground. The nest contained four eggs, varying in ground color from pale olive-buff to deep olive-buff, splashed broadly with irregular spots of light seal brown, fuscous and shades of gray. Measurements in millimeters: 51 x 37, 52 x 37, 52 x 37, 52 x 37.

A second nest, found on May 21, also contained four eggs and the female was collected when she flushed ten feet away. Three of the eggs are olive-buff in ground color with the usual dark spots, and the fourth is pale olive-gray with a few splashes of grayish olive and seal brown. Measurements: 55 x 40, 54 x 40, 55 x 40, 54 x 40.

*Dendroica chrysoparia*. The adult male of the Golden-cheeked Warbler, a tree haunting species, is easily distinguishable from the male of the Black-throated Green Warbler (*D. virens*), the only other warbler with which, in some plumages, it may be confused. On November 23, 1939, I was working my way stealthily