

They had grown more slowly, too, for the average weights of his birds at ten days was 18.02 grams. It is hoped to check this by further studies in order to determine whether this slower rate is typical of the race in this locality.

Since there were no other pairs of Prairie Horned Larks in the vicinity, the male had no opportunity to defend his territory. Nevertheless, both parents fed within a fairly well-defined area chiefly to the east and north of the nest. When I chased the male, he retreated about 100 yards from the nest and then flew around me into the center of the territory. On only one occasion was the male observed to resent the presence of other species, when he chased one of a flock of Vesper Sparrows (*Poocetes gramineus*) away from the nest but not off the territory. On another occasion, the female was much disturbed by the presence of a flock of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) near the nest. She chased one a few feet away. Then, as a second flew in, she rose to meet it, but the larger bird failed to be intimidated and alighted near-by. She continued to walk nervously near the nest until the Starlings had departed.—HARVEY B. LOVELL, *University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.*

European Widgeon in Alabama.—Hasbrouck's account of the status of the European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) in North America (Auk, 61: 93-104, 1944) makes desirable the mention of a hitherto unpublished sight record of the species in Alabama. This individual was discovered on a small swimming pool within the city limits of Tuscaloosa, on March 30, 1939. At a considerable distance the writer was first led to believe it to be a Redhead (*Nyroca americana*). Fortunately, however, the bird permitted so close an approach that the vermiculations on the sides and the buffy crown were plainly visible even with 4-power glasses.

The number of records listed by Hasbrouck for the interior during the winter period (Oct. 1-March 31) is only 34, but it is extremely likely that this individual was a north-bound migrant. (Between April 1 and September 30, 131 records are cited for the interior.)

Previous records for the Southern States, excepting those on the Atlantic Coast, are from Louisiana (three) and Texas (seven). Thus the record at Tuscaloosa appears to be the only one for the Southern Interior, east of the Mississippi River.—HENRY M. STEVENSON, *Department of Biology, University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi.*

European Widgeon in California.—A full-plumaged male European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) was observed at Lake Merritt, Oakland, California, on January 23, 1944. It was first seen at the feeding grounds about noon. Apparently ill at ease among strange surroundings, it paced nervously through the flocks composed of Pintails, Baldpates, Mallards, and gulls, near the feeding pool and kept a watchful eye on the visitors peering over the fences. It soon flew out toward the lake and was not observed until a couple of hours later when it returned to the feeding grounds. It stayed but a few minutes and then flew back to the water's edge, away from the congestion of ducks and visitors, where it rested more quietly. It fed for a while, pecking all competitors which came near it and even fighting with Pintails on several occasions.

The male widgeon was in full breeding plumage, having a rich chestnut head, with deep cream or buff forehead. It was observed at approximately twenty-five feet, with a telescope used for the study of details in feather construction, so the observer was positive of identification.