

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European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) in North America (Auk, 61: 93–104, 1944) makes desirable the mention of a hitherto unpublished sight record of the species in Alabama.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.

On the following Sunday, a thorough search was made for the bird but it could not be found.—CORPORAL MAYNARD F. REECE, *Headquarters Company W.S.C.T.C., Camp Kohler, Sacramento, California.*

White-fronted Goose at Rouses Point, New York.—On November 3, 1943, through the courtesy of Mr. M. T. Chapman, Superintendent of Game, New York State Conservation Department, I was informed that a specimen of White-fronted Goose (*Anser a. albifrons*) had been killed a short while before on Lake Champlain by Lieutenant John Owen, U.S.N.R., of Rouses Point, New York. Mr. Chapman was kind enough also to enclose for my information a copy of the letter relating to the goose which, under date of October 23, 1943, Lieutenant Owen had addressed to the Conservation Department.

Since the opening paragraph of that letter relates specifically to the bird in question and contains the essentials of the collector's first impression of his kill, a verbatim quotation thereof follows: "On 22 October, last, I shot a goose on Lake Champlain just south of the village of Rouses Point [Clinton County]. The following is an accurate description of the goose: White forehead, bordered with black, upper part of the head is brownish, breast and stomach is brown-white with numerous blotches of black; feet are yellow with dark nails; bill is pink with white nail; eyes are brown; length is 29 inches; wing $17\frac{1}{2}$ and bill $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long." It is at once obvious that the specimen concerned is a White-fronted Goose.

Immediately upon receipt of this information I wrote to Lieutenant Owen asking for any further data that he might have concerning the bird and what disposition had been made or was to be made of the body.

Unfortunately, I was a little late in my request. Under date of November 10, 1943, Lieutenant Owen reported that, having failed in his attempt to obtain the services of a taxidermist in preserving the goose, he had given the bird to their colored cook who lives at Port Henry, New York. Upon inquiry, Lieutenant Owen found that "she dressed out the goose last night [November 9, 1943], burning the entrails and head and other non-edible parts."

Lieutenant Owen's letter also carried the following pertinent remarks supplementing the data previously transmitted: "... I neglected to give the weight of the goose which was $7\frac{1}{4}$ pounds, four days after it was shot. The exact locality of shooting was at Catfish Bay about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of the Rouses Point breakwater ... The time of shooting was about 8:30 A. M. Weather was warm and overcast. The goose decoyed to a stool of about fifteen blueball decoys, came from the northeast and was alone."

As a partial compensation for the disappointment which I felt in the complete disappearance of visual evidence of the goose in question, Lieutenant Owen announced that he had "about ten feet of colored 8 mm. movie" of the bird and generously offered to lend the film to me. On December 15, 1943, I received the Kodachrome film, some six feet of which show the dead goose, as it is held at arm's length, in the flesh in various positions. A detailed examination of this film provides substantiating evidence for Lieutenant Owen's statements and enables me to present the following brief supplementary remarks: White of fore-face bordered behind by a distinct blackish line. Breast and upper belly grayish white, the blackish cross-patches irregular in shape, size, and distribution; some were sharply pointed, the shape more or less like that of a maple leaf; a good deal of grayish interspersed among them. Area of under tail-coverts distinctly whiter than area immediately anterior thereto. The total available evidence suggests that this individual may have been an adult female.