

Teal (*Anas carolinensis*) among a flock of waterbirds estimated at six hundred Blue-winged Teals (*Anas discors*), six Baldpates (*Mareca americana*), three American Pintails (*Anas acuta tztizihoa*), and thirty Bahama Pintails (*Anas b. bahamensis*). The flock remained for several weeks and, on January 30, two pairs of Green-winged Teals were seen. A few days later all the northern birds had left the pond. This teal is of rare occurrence in the West Indies where there are but few records, of which this one constitutes the first for the Virgin Islands.—HARRY A. BEATTY, *United States Department of the Interior, Wildlife Research, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands.*

Three new bird records for St. Paul Island, Alaska.—A single swan was occasionally observed on Webster Lake, Northeast Point, St. Paul Island, during the month of November, 1941. Later in the same month it was joined by two others. The three swans were seen from time to time feeding on Rock Lane and Cup and Saucer Lake, which are about ten miles from Webster Lake. No attempts were made to collect the birds since it was assumed that they were Whistling Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*), which have been recorded on both St. Paul and St. George Islands several times previously. Natives of St. Paul often tried to shoot one of the swans for food, but they were too wary to allow anyone to approach within shotgun range. On December 7, Antone Kushin, a native of St. Paul, shot one of the birds in flight with a .30-.30 rifle. It was brought into the village while still alive. The shot had cut a long gash across the breast muscles, rendering the bird flightless. Its weight, after the loss of considerable blood from the bullet wound, was 23 pounds, and its wing spread, fully extended, was 8 feet 7.5 inches. The broad yellow area at the base of the bill of this swan immediately indicated that it was not one of the American species.

Apparently this bird constitutes the first record for the Whooping Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) in northwestern North America as well as for the Pribilof Islands. Formerly it occurred as a breeding bird in southern Greenland, where it is now a casual visitor, according to Bent ('Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl,' Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 130: 279-280, 1925). Knight ('Birds of Maine': 124-125, 1908) recorded a specimen taken in Maine, but Forbush ('Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States': 302, 1925) was unable to trace the specimen and regarded it as doubtful.

A specimen was prepared from the bird but because war conditions forced the writer to leave the island very hurriedly, before the skin had opportunity to dry, it was left on St. Paul. War conditions have likewise made it impossible to secure the specimen subsequently. Skins at the U. S. National Museum were examined to verify the identification and, while the amount of yellow on the beak alone is diagnostic, the measurements also precluded the only other possibility, *Cygnus bewicki jankowskii*.

Dr. J. W. Aldrich of the Fish and Wildlife Service points out that it is not surprising that a Whooping Swan should occur occasionally in the Pribilof Islands, since it is found in eastern Siberia, in Kamchatka, and in the Commander Islands.

An examination of the stomach contents revealed a large quantity (27 c.c.) of the black sand common on St. Paul, the much eroded basal portion of some unidentified plants, a quantity of vegetable debris, such as covers the bottoms of most of the lakes on the island (total 16 c.c.), and 31 seeds (0.2 c.c.) of *Ruppia* sp. (*maritima* or *spiralis*). The total volume of the contents was 43.2 c.c.

Another record for the Pribilof Islands was a female American Scoter (*Oidemia*

nigra americana) taken October 15, 1941, in the entrance to the Salt Lagoon near St. Paul Village. This scoter was unable to fly because of a wing injury and was captured after being pursued in shallow water where it was rapidly exhausted by its efforts to swim under water. Its stomach was empty. American Scoters have been taken north of the Pribilofs at St. Lawrence Island and south of them in the Aleutians; therefore, it was only a matter of time until one was collected at St. Paul. Other ducks of the same species were observed on the Salt Lagoon during the fall. This specimen is now in the Fish and Wildlife Service collection at the U. S. National Museum.

A Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*) was shot on the shore of the Salt Lagoon on October 15, 1941, where it was feeding in company with Pacific Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica fulva*), Black Turnstones (*Arenaria melanocephala*), Wandering Tattlers (*Heteroscelus incanus*), Pribilof Sandpipers (*Arquatella ptilocnemis ptilocnemis*), and Red Phalaropes (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). It appears to be the first record for this shorebird on the Pribilof Islands. The skin is in the possession of the Economic Investigations Laboratory of the Fish and Wildlife Service near Washington, D. C.—FORD WILKE, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Fur Animal Experiment Station, Saratoga Springs, New York.

Bubulcus ibis in Venezuela.—A specimen of this small white heron, native to southern Europe, Africa, and southern Asia, was collected on January 27, 1943, near San José de Tiznados, west of Calabozo, State of Guárico, Venezuela.

The collector was Octavio Arleo B., of the Museo de Ciencias Naturales, of Caracas, and the specimen is the property of that institution. It was identified by Dr. Ernst Mayr of the American Museum of Natural History.

Mr. Walter Dupouy, Director of the Museo de Ciencias Naturales, writes: "According to Arleo, the specimen was together with three others which looked exactly the same to him. The four flew past him and he shot one. Arleo states that the flight of these birds seemed much quicker than that of the small herons found around that habitat and in other places in country."

The question arises as to whether this individual, or the four seen together, were stragglers from Spain or North Africa, or whether the specimen in hand was an escaped captive bird. The species occurs in southern Spain and there is a passenger line of steamships from there to Venezuela. The locality where it was collected is on the prairies of the Apure River, in the Orinoco Valley, many hundreds of miles from the seacoast. The specimen does not show any signs of captivity but it is possible, nevertheless, that the bird may have escaped from the zoological gardens at Maracay, only 100 kilometers distant.—WILLIAM H. PHELPS, Caracas, Venezuela.

The Snowy Owl in New York State: 1942-1943.—Following the marked southerly mass movement of the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) into New York and other eastern states in late 1941 and early 1942 (see Stoner, D., Bird-Banding, 14, no. 4: 116-127, 1943), it occurred to me that a supplemental investigation of the bird's status immediately succeeding a peak-year of abundance might be profitable. Accordingly, I addressed communications of inquiry to fifty-five taxidermists in New York State who had furnished me with the greatest number of records in 1941-1942. In addition, some twenty other letters of inquiry were transmitted to correspondents who had supplied data and records on that invasion.

It will be appropriate to mention here that my own observations and letters of inquiry on the 1941-1942 Snowy Owl movement in New York State provided 419