

Schoodic Island. 44° 28' N., 68° 2' W.

A nest and seven eggs of the Black Duck were found in the marshy central section of the Island on June 12, 1941. Four other adults, which may have been nesting, were flushed from the same area. Adults were seen in 1942 and 1943 but no nests or young were discovered during these visits.

Of the 21 records of nests and young, two were obtained in 1941, one in 1942, six in 1943 and twelve in 1944. Since we visited practically the same islands each year, the increase indicated by the number of records is significant. In addition to the above records, Black Ducks were seen on or near six other islands but there was no evidence of their nesting.

There has been a marked general increase in the sea-bird population along the Maine coast in recent years, and our records seem to indicate that the Black Duck is also becoming well established as a nesting species on our coastal islands. Many of the eleven islands listed in this report presented little to attract a freshwater Duck. It is probable that many of the inner, larger islands, which provide more favorable conditions, are inhabited by more nesting Black Ducks than we have supposed.—ALFRED O. GROSS, *Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine.*

Observations of Red-breasted Nuthatches.—To those who have enjoyed the antics of nuthatches at their feeding-trays, the following observation should prove interesting. While hunting in Corbin Park, near Newport, New Hampshire, on January 14, 1945, Ralph C. Morrill, of the Peabody Museum staff, saw about a dozen Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) feeding on the entrails of a deer that had been dressed in the woods. Later in the day, and in another part of this extensive forest, he was attracted by shrill squeaks issuing from a small white pine tree. The disturbance proved to be an 'assault' by ten or a dozen of these nuthatches, possibly the same group, upon a little Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica*). Apparently only the nuthatches were excited for, while the owl sat quietly, the former continually darted about it, over and under the limb which served as a perch, but not approaching nearer than six or eight inches from the owl. And they were doing all the squeaking.—STANLEY C. BALL, *Peabody Museum (of Natural History), Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.*

Additional unrecorded Passenger Pigeons from New York State.—On December 29, 1942, when I called upon Dr. T. Van Hyning, Director of the Florida State Museum in Gainesville, I observed two freshly mounted Passenger Pigeons, *Ectopistes migratorius* (Linnaeus), on the mantle in his office. In correspondence immediately subsequent to my visit, Dr. Van Hyning stated that the two pigeons, a male and a female, had been purchased not long before from Ward's Natural Science Establishment in Rochester, New York. The specimens were collected by the late Charles A. Bullock of Ohio, Herkimer County, New York, "about" 1890 and were taken in that vicinity.

It may be of interest to know that the purchase price of these two Passenger Pigeons was one hundred dollars which Dr. Van Hyning considered "extremely reasonable for the fine specimens."

Further general interest attends the fact that these birds, together with another individual not concerned in this note, are now displayed in a small habitat group in the Florida State Museum under Accession No. 82209 of that institution.

Both Dr. Van Hyning and I have endeavored to obtain further information on the two New York State Passenger Pigeons discussed here but without much success. Mr. Burt M. Robinson, current District Superintendent of Public Schools, Poland,