

and 50 young spoonbills in almost complete coats of dull pink yet remained. On the basis of several trips by refuge personnel to Shell Island during 1944, it was determined that approximately 350 adults used the rookery and 150 young spoonbills were produced. Roseate Spoonbills were observed much later than in previous years; Mr. Childs recorded four birds on November 20 and three were reported by a fur trapper December 19, 1944. Spoonbills were also seen on Bird Island in the Black Bayou area that fall, although no nesting had occurred here in 1944.

In 1945, Roseate Spoonbills returned earlier than usual, with nesting under way the last of April. On March 13, Arthur Miller, Regional Refuge Supervisor, and Manager Childs observed some 20 spoonbills and also estimated that 225 nests of the Snowy Egret, Ward's Heron, American Egret, cormorant, and Louisiana Heron were in the Shell Island rookery. By the end of April, approximately 100 spoonbills were present and five nests were seen, but again the inspection was brief to avoid undue disturbance. Several young Roseate Spoonbills were seen in the nests on May 8, 1945, and by June 16 they were strong enough to move about in the trees. Two hundred adults were seen in the vicinity of Shell Island on June 20 when James Silver (Regional Director), William Davis (Regional Game Management Supervisor), and the refuge manager visited the area. On July 19, Refuge Patrolman, George Harrison, counted 42 nests; of these, 12 contained four young; 16, three young; 10 contained two young birds, and 4 had only one each—an average of 2.85 per nest. It was estimated that 80 pairs of spoonbills nested on Shell Island in 1945, and it was evident that they were incubating more eggs this season than last year.

Patrolman Harrison made a trip on July 19, 1945, to the old nesting area on Bird Island, but no Roseate Spoonbills were found. Probably marsh burning and increased human activity have been responsible for the abandonment of the rookery.

The tree growth about Shell Island has been heavily taxed by the high concentration of nesting and some permanent damage has resulted. During the winter of 1944-1945, two nesting platforms were constructed to provide additional sites for the birds. These are about 20 feet long and consist of two decks, both within the range of elevations apparently favored by the spoonbills. The planking is so spaced as to provide a measure of sanitation. While the spoonbills showed no interest in the new structures, other species did find them acceptable. At least 25 nests were built on the platforms by Ward's Herons and American and Snowy Egrets in 1945, and to that extent relieved the pressure on the island's vegetation. Tree plantings have been made in suitable locations on the Refuge with the hope of establishing additional rookery sites.—R. E. GRIFFITH, V. L. CHILDS, and FAXON W. COOK, *Division of Wildlife Refuges, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Chicago 54, Illinois.*

Predation on living prey by the Black Vulture.—In practically every reference to the food of the Black Vulture (*Catharista urubu*), mention is made that it occasionally attacks such domestic stock as lambs, kids or pigs. However, one cannot but note that specific instances of it are highly infrequent and the comments thereon deal largely in generalities. Aside from the fact that they take young herons from nests in rookeries and tear the eyes from newly born calves and the like, one is hard put to it to find a record of actually witnessed predation of this sort. Therefore, it seems that the following is worthy of record, as it comes from an impeccable source; the observer is a highly trustworthy and completely competent authority. The observation comes to the writer through the kindness of a friend who knows her well.

Miss Serena K. Dandridge maintains a large flock of sheep on a farm near Shepherdstown, West Virginia. One day in July, 1945, she noted that one of the lambs

was without its tail. No one knew why. The day before, the tail was present; the next it was non-existent. A day later, it was noted that both the hind quarters of the same animal bore numerous lacerations. A watch was kept after this with the result that on a succeeding day, three Black Vultures were seen to attack the lamb and "literally tear it to pieces while yet alive." It was added that a fourth vulture "sat on the mother to keep her away." No further elaboration of this sentinel's tactics was given. Apparently, a flock of about 75 of these birds frequents the vicinity of the sheep pasture and a constant watch has to be maintained in order to keep down further depredations.

In Vol. 1 of the *Birds of Prey* of Bent's 'Life Histories,' J. D. Figgins is quoted as having seen this species tearing the eyes from new-born calves and weakened cows. He also witnessed the attack of a vulture on a small pig and the removal therefrom of the tail. Oscar E. Baynard is quoted as saying that the Black Vulture is destructive to young pigs and lambs in Florida, but C. J. Maynard, on the other hand, states that it is more inclined toward carrion than the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) "and will seldom eat fresh meat . . .".

No doubt such instances are, to say the least, uncommon, but definite records of them are so rare that it seems well to set some of them down. The writer has never witnessed it.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 50, South Carolina.*

Concerning the status of Hutchins's Goose on the Atlantic coast.—While it is usually merely repetitious to list records previously published, the following are mentioned to supplement W. L. McAtee's summary of records of *Branta canadensis hutchinsii* on the Atlantic coast (*Auk*, 62: 461-462, 1945) and particularly because they are more recent than any which he listed. Witmer Stone ('Bird studies at old Cape May,' 1: 190, 1937) says: "Dr. Henry Tucker tells me that a few years ago he secured one on his place on the Elk River, Maryland." Wharton Huber (*Auk*, 48: 259, 1931) mentions a specimen, given to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, which was shot on January 31, 1931, on the Bohemia River, Maryland, by Mr. R. R. M. Carpenter.

The A. O. U. Check-List (3rd ed.: 86, 1910) states: ". . . in migration rare east of the Mississippi Valley but recorded on the Atlantic Coast from Maine to Virginia." While it is possible that there are not so many records of this race along the Atlantic coast as there were during the last century, the same is true for nearly all the water-fowl, and I agree with Mr. McAtee that the statement, "Casual on the Atlantic coast (Maryland and North Carolina)," as given in the A. O. U. Check-List (4th ed.: 38, 1931) is too restrictive, and that, in view of the considerable number of records at hand, it should be considered, as formerly, of rare occurrence along the Atlantic coast from Nova Scotia to North Carolina.—ALBERT E. CONWAY, *Dept. of Biological Sciences, Drexel Institute of Technology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

European Widgeon in eastern Pennsylvania.—In his paper on the status of the European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) in North America, Edwin M. Hasbrouck (*Auk*, 61: 93-104, 1944) contrasts the fall and spring migrations on the Atlantic coast. His "fall and winter" records embrace the period from October 1 to March 31 and, in addition, the first week of April, for he says: "but in the Atlantic Coastal Division there are a few records occurring so early in April—from the 1st to the 7th—that they might rightly be included in the winter list, and they have been so placed." His tabulation shows that on the Atlantic coast, there are 251 records for the "fall and winter" list and 23 records for the "spring and summer" list. He concludes: "The table shows that on the Atlantic coast the bulk of the birds are southbound