

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

migrants . . . ". It is with this point that I wish to take issue, as eastern Pennsylvania is included in this territory, and the records for eastern Pennsylvania do not agree with Mr. Hasbrouck's conclusions.

By arbitrarily placing the limits of the "fall and winter" records so far into the spring migration period, the ratio of fall to spring records has been distorted so as to give the appearance of only a few records on the return flight. The European Widgeon usually associates with the Baldpate (*Mareca americana*), and its appearance in eastern Pennsylvania in spring parallels that of the common species. The Baldpate occurs commonly on its northward migration from March 5 to April 30, with extreme dates ranging from February 26 to May 20. None of the six additional spring records of the European Widgeon listed below nor any of those which Hasbrouck listed for Lake Ontelaunee (4 records, February 26 to May 8, Earle Poole) is earlier than records of the spring migration of Baldpates and, even more significantly, none of the birds was seen during the preceding winter at any of the localities, indicating clearly that these records apply to migrant rather than wintering individuals.

The following records, not listed by Mr. Hasbrouck, bring to eleven the total of properly documented records for eastern Pennsylvania:

March, 1887, one shot on the Delaware River near Chester, by Charles Voelker (Stone, 'Birds of e. Pa. and N. J.': 55, 1894).

March 25, 1908, one shot at West Fairview, Cumberland County, on the Susquehanna River, by Hardie Disney, and now in collection of State Museum (Frey, 'Check-list of the birds of Cumberland county, Pa.': 17, 1943).

December 1, 1923, one seen on the Susquehanna River at the same place, by Hardie Disney (*loc. cit.*).

March 17-31, 1939, one seen at West Chester Reservoir by F. Newman, Whitworth, and Conway (Conway, 'Check-list of the birds of Chester county, Pa.': 4, 1940 and 1943).

March 11, 1939, March 31, 1940, and March 30, 1941, single birds at Penn Manor, Bucks County, observed by J. Newman, Yoder, Reimann, et al., and reported at meetings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club.

Cruickshank ('Birds around New York City': 94-95, 1942) points out that, away from Long Island, the bird is known as a transient, chiefly during October and March, and that there is a lighter flight in spring than in fall. It is also interesting to note that in eastern Pennsylvania, lying inland from the immediate coastal area, there is but one fall record as compared with ten spring records.

It would seem that the arbitrary setting of the end of March, and, indeed, the first week of April, as the end of the "fall and winter" period results in a distortion of the ratio of fall and spring records so that the bird is apparently much rarer in spring than in fall. In eastern Pennsylvania, it is much more likely to be met with in spring than in fall, and in the whole eastern area, a reworking of the data in Mr. Hasbrouck's paper in the light of the actual migration habits of the species would probably show the same to be true. These criticisms do not in any way reflect on the other conclusions drawn by Mr. Hasbrouck concerning the abundance of the species in North America, the status in the Mississippi flyway, or the possibility of breeding stations in North America.—ALBERT E. CONWAY, *Dept. of Biological Sciences, Drexel Institute of Technology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*