

Ring-necked Duck breeding in Ontario.—Recent numbers of 'The Auk' have carried short notes and full-length articles on the increase in breeding range of the Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*). This spread was apparent to the writer as early as 1939, at least, and while notes on this increase in range were forwarded to Ontario authorities, no published comment has, as yet, been forthcoming.

The writer has summered in the Huntsville-Lake of Bays region of Ontario for many years, particularly at Rebecca Lake, about fourteen miles northeast of Huntsville. This lake is in the northeast corner of the District of Muskoka, a few miles from the surrounding districts of Parry Sound, Nipissing, and Haliburton. About one-quarter of a mile south of Rebecca Lake is a small, somewhat marshy lake, known as Mansell's Lake, which has certain attractions to waterfowl. Unfortunately, while access to this lake is to a point of good vantage, ducks, as a rule, keep to the far shore, only occasionally permitting positive identification.

Thus, while ducks have been seen there since 1933, when the writer commenced note-keeping, it was not until 1939 that positive identification of the Ring-necked Duck was made. On August 6 of that year, a female and nine striped young were seen. An additional four, apparently full-grown, were on the lake but farther away. The young agreed in appearance with the plates of the Ring-necked Duck in T. M. Shortt's 'The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America,' while the ducks in the distance were seen to dive. On August 10, the larger ducks were found close to shore and were "Scaupy" in appearance, the speculum appearing to be that of a Ring-neck. From their proportions and manner of swimming and diving, it was deduced that these were also Ring-necks and birds of the year.

On August 31, 1941, five apparently full-grown ducks were again found on Mansell's Lake. Their appearance and actions were the same as those seen in 1939. When one bird swam by, a vague light mark was seen at the side of the breast, the apparently not fully developed breast-mark of the Ring-neck. These were again apparently birds of the year.

In 1944, on July 5, the writer and Mrs. Millicent M. Mansell saw a female and eight downy young there. These young were diving, and had the same markings as those seen in 1939. On July 7, a canoe was introduced into the lake with some difficulty, and two females, each with seven young, were seen; and close by was a full-plumaged drake. All birds were seen up to July 14, and presumably five of them were seen on September 4.

The presence of a drake was the 'clincher,' and removed all doubt from the writer's mind as to the specific identity of the ducks seen since 1939. It was also possible, with the canoe, to approach the females and their broods much more closely than heretofore, and satisfactorily establish their identity. Collecting is not permitted in this vicinity, unfortunately, and the writer was anxious to clear up the matter of identity, which, for a number of years, had been held in abeyance pending separation in the field of this and *N. affinis*.

On July 12, 1946, a female and seven young were again seen on Mansell's Lake, from which they seemed to be absent in 1945, although it would have been possible for them to remain unobserved at the far end of the lake among the lily-pads. This is a considerable extension of the breeding range of the species in Ontario.—WM. C. MANSELL, 7 Sunny Lea Ave., Toronto 9, Ontario.