Acquired feeding behavior in mallards.—On several occasions the ducks in the J. Rulon Miller wildlife enclosure (McDonogh School, McDonogh, Md.) were fed dry corn meal. This was placed in a pan about fifteen feet from the water. Domestic ducks (pekins and muscovies) ate this without any difficulty but the wild ducks, ten mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and one black duck (*A. rubripes*), after a few coughing noises, returned to their usual occupation of dabbling in the pond. These wild ducks were reared from eggs obtained through the kindness of Mr. E. A. Vaughn, Maryland State Game Warden. On September 16, 1947, it was first noticed that one female mallard had solved the problem of eating this meal. She would scoop up a mouthful, run for the pond, wash it down and hurry back for another load. She made continuous, rapid trips in this fashion. The other mallards at this time took no interest in the meal even when it was moistened with water until crumbly and placed at the pond's edge.

On September 26, the ducks were again offered corn meal. Upon this occasion they were very hungry as they had been fed very sparingly the day before. The female mallard began to feed immediately in the same fashion as before; her peculiar method of running served to distinguish her from the other birds. Several other mallards and one black duck sampled the corn meal. This time they followed it with bits of leaves (black duck) or dirt (mallards), but the results were similar to those observed on earlier trials, they were unsuccessful and soon returned to the pond. In this as in the following trials, any uneaten meal was removed at the conclusion of the experiment.

The next day the ducks were very hungry as they had now been fed only very sparingly for two days. Several mallards were observed to make one or two casual, neither direct, hurried nor persistent, trips to and from the water and the meal. Only one duck was continuously and purposefully running to and from the water, this being the female noted above.

No further attempts were made to speed the learning by withholding food, the food being offered on the dates referred to below. On October 19 three additional mallards were seen to make regular trips to and from the corn meal and the pond. Two others made casual trips and several sampled the meal and returned to the pond without feeding. On October 22 all the mallards almost immediately engaged themselves in regular trips to and from the pond. The black duck, by this time, had apparently lost all interest in the meal. Two mallards, however, continued to eat the meal even though offered whole corn as a choice after they had started feeding on the meal. On November 6 the ducks were again offered corn meal. All the ducks (domestic and wild) made regular trips to and from the water except two young muscovies (about two months old), their mother and three mallards that persisted in staying near the observer. The black duck made only two trips. This was the first time that any of the domestic ducks or the black duck were observed eating the corn meal in this fashion.

These observations, while not complete, do suggest that mallards may, on occasion at least, be slow in changing their food habits and in this respect resemble several other species of diverse habits (see Cushing, The relation of non-heritable food habits to evolution, Condor, 46: 256–271, 1944, for further references).—A. O. Ramsay, *McDonogh School, McDonogh, Maryland,* and John E. Cushing, Jr., *Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.*

Barrow's golden-eye near Waddington, New York.—Barrow's golden-eye (*Bucephala islandica*) is a rare winter visitant on all inland waters of New York, and

only two published records are available from the St. Lawrence River section of the state. The first of these dates back to 1865 when, according to Eaton (Birds of New York, 1: 211, 1910), D. G. Elliot took about 40 specimens. The second, supported by a single specimen, likewise refers to the last century, about 1898 (Hasbrouck, Auk, 61: 552, 1944). Because of this scarcity of records it seems that the following should be recorded.

On December 19, 1943, State Game Protector Marvin R. Nichols, Massena, New York, was hunting with a friend on Allison Island in the St. Lawrence River not far from the village of Waddington. During the day his friend shot at close range a drake Barrow's golden-eye in full adult plumage, mutilating the body of the bird beyond repair. However, Nichols mounted the undamaged head and neck. The writer saw the specimen in the spring of 1946 and was kindly given permission to borrow it.

All the important characters used in identifying the adult male Barrow's golden-eye were clearly apparent. The abruptly rising forehead, the frontal protuberance, the rounded crown, the large, white fully-formed crescent before the eye, and the purple gloss of the head stood out in sharp contrast when compared with a specimen of an adult drake American golden-eye (*Bucephala clangula americana*).

Because of the low population of Barrow's golden-eye in northeastern North America and its tendency to occur more often in coastal and tidal waters, it is not to be expected that the species would appear with any degree of frequency in the New York section of the upper St. Lawrence River. On the other hand, by reason of the very limited number of competent observers in the region, it seems questionable whether this golden-eye is as extremely rare as published records indicate.—H. L. Kutz, *University of Maine, Orono.*

Surf scoter records from Georgia.—In the spring of 1947, Mr. Isaac F. Arnow, retired ornithologist and taxidermist of St. Mary's, Georgia, donated more than 400 bird and mammal skins to the University of Georgia Museum, and among these skins were three scoters, all collected by Mr. Arnow. The writer identified the birds as surf scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*). This identification has been confirmed by Dr. Alexander Wetmore who examined the specimens. The three birds are labelled as follows:

"No. 652, Collector: I. F. Arnow, Locality: Cumberland Jetties, Camden Co., Ga., Mch. 19, 1904. Male."

"No. 558, Collector: I. F. Arnow, Locality: North Jetties Cumberland Sound, C. Co., Ga., Nov. 17, 1903. Female."

No. 559. Label partly obliterated by a stain but these words are still legible: " . . . nd, C. Co., Ga., Nov. 17, 1903. Male." Sub-adult plumage.

Since specimens 558 and 559 were taken on the same day by the same collector, there is little doubt that they were collected at the same locality. In any case it is certain that they are all from Georgia.

In "Birds of Georgia" (Greene, *et al:* p. 33, 1945) the placing of the surf scoter on the state list is based upon three sight records on the coast. These three specimens, then, are perhaps the only known specimens of this bird from Georgia.—David W. Johnston, *Department of Biology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.*

First occurrence of the black vulture in Ontario—A specimen of the black vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) was received in July, 1947, by the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology through the kindness of Overseer A. R. Muma, Chippawa, Ontario, of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. The specimen was preserved as a study