

Upon the information given, the writer accompanied Miss Gorski and Mr. Buntrock to the pond on August 29 and found the birds to be frequenting the area as noted on the previous visit. The bird was collected, proved to be a male in fair plumage and is now in the collection of the Milwaukee Public Museum.—JOHN L. DIEDRICH, *Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*

**Snowy egrets in Iowa.**—A snowy egret, *Leucophoyx thula thula*, was observed at Fisher's Lake north of Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa, on July 30, 1948, where it was feeding with 11 American egrets. On the following day two snowy egrets were found in the company with the American egrets. The birds were studied with a 20-power telescope and their identity definitely established. On August 4, three snowys were found in company with 25 American egrets. On August 5, three snowy egrets at Fisher's Lake and an individual on a small pond about a mile south were observed.

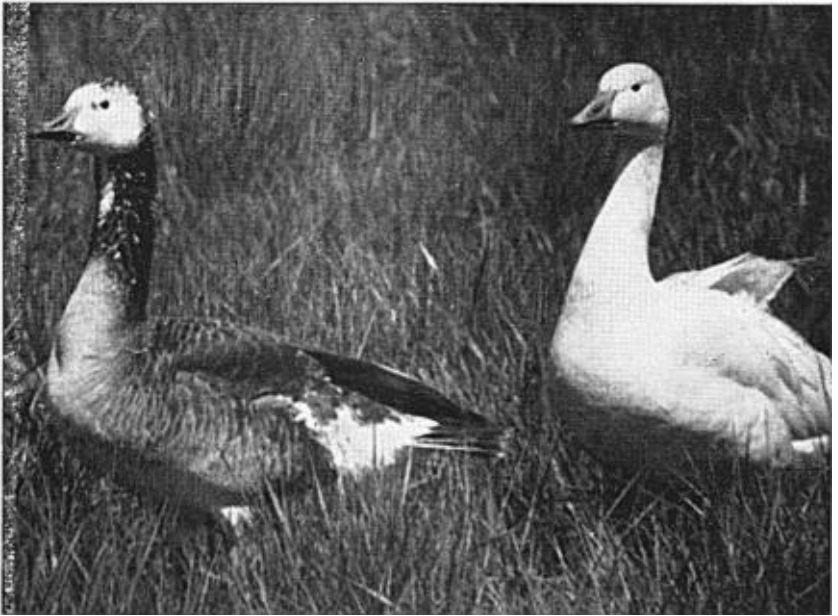
In checking over the records for Iowa I found that none were substantiated by specimens. A specimen of the snowy egret was, therefore, collected and found to be a male measuring 23 inches and weighing 17 ounces. This specimen has been placed in the collection of the State Historical Museum in Des Moines.—JACK W. MÜSGROVE, *State Historical Museum, Des Moines, Iowa.*

**Young snowy egrets with saffron in plumage.**—While examining an ibis and heron rookery in Camden County, Georgia, on May 30, 1947, I was surprised to find broods of snowy egrets, *Leucophoyx thula*, with saffron in their plumage. Herbert L. Stoddard came with me the following day, and said he had never observed snowy egrets at any age with any color in their plumage. If one of a brood had saffron in its plumage, all had, with possibly one exception. I picked up one young not yet able to fly but able to scramble out of its nest and made the following notes on color: "Skin color yellowish-green shading into greenish-yellow on neck; feet light greenish-yellow; legs olive-green; bill black, with yellow at base extending to some extent into body of bill; eyes gray, iris blue; head feathers white with saffron cast; all other feathers white but with saffron tips on wing feathers particularly and, to a lesser extent, on feathers of back, tail and neck."—FREDERICK V. HEBARD, *1500 Walnut St. Bldg., Philadelphia 2, Pennsylvania.*

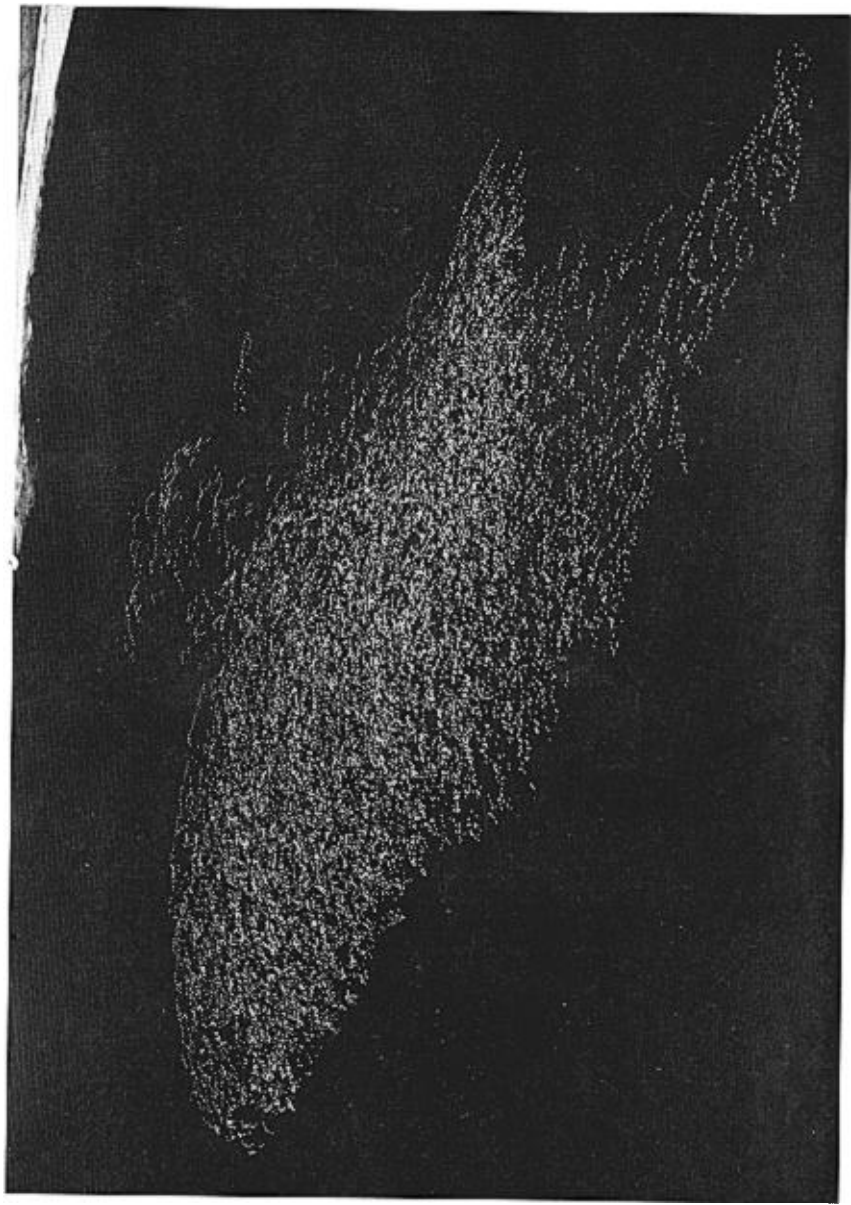
**A bittern "pumps" from a perch in a tree.**—On May 2, 1948, Mr. Paul Baker and I heard a bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus*, "pumping" in a near by marsh. As we approached, the bird flew up out of the marsh and alighted on the limb of a red maple tree, about 30 feet above the ground. As we watched it through our glasses it "pumped" several times. The sound was clear and distinct, and the motions of the head and neck were more readily observed than is usual when a bird is half hidden by marshy vegetation.

Looking through the literature available to me, I find only one other authentic record of a bittern perching in a tree (Wright, Auk, 34: 476-477), and none of its "pumping" in such a position.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Fairfield, Connecticut.*

**The eastern glossy ibis in Delaware.**—On June 1, 1947, while on a trip to the marshes in the Fowler's Beach section of Delaware, a small flock of five eastern glossy ibises, *Plegadis f. falcinellus*, was flushed out of the cattails, along with a considerable number of little blue herons, black-crowned night herons, snowy egrets, and American egrets. As this was my first sight of the ibis, its identity was unknown at the time, although the fact that they were birds strange to me was quite apparent from the flight and behavior. The ibises separated from the herons and settled back



*Left, HYBRID OF *Chen hyperborea* AND *Branta canadensis*. Right, ADULT MALE *Chen hyperborea*. JACK MILES GAME FARM, DENVER, COLORADO.*



SPRING FLOCK OF *Chien hyperborea atlantica*, MARCH 29, 1945. COURTESY 4146TH AAF BASE UNIT, ATSC, DOVER ARMY AIR FIELD, DOVER, DELAWARE.

into the cattails just a short distance away. I approached the birds and, as they flew, shot and killed one. The other four circled the marsh and again settled down. As they flushed again, I collected another. The remaining three circled out of sight but soon came back and again settled into the marsh.

I again approached the ibises, this time very carefully, and got within 50 feet of them. They were standing along the edge of a small pond, with their decurved bills lying along their breasts. After a short time they began feeding in the pond, with very deliberate movements. After feeding for about 20 minutes they flew up and circled out of sight. In approximately half an hour they returned and dropped into the cattails a short distance away. This time I approached to within 30 feet and watched them for about an hour as they fed and preened. As I wanted to look over more of the marsh I rose, flushing the ibises. They again circled out of sight and returned to the same general area. The last I saw of them they were again dropping into the cattails.

Examination of the two specimens taken showed that one was an adult male and one was an adult female. The gonads of each were in breeding condition, those of the male being much enlarged, and those of the female containing eggs as large as the end of an ordinary pencil. While watching the living birds from a very close range, a light line was seen extending around the base of the feathers. In the living bird this appeared white, but in the birds collected it was seen that this line was of a greenish-white and was a line in the bare skin at the base of the bill. At a little distance in poor light, or at a glance, it would be very easy to confuse this line with the white feathers around the base of the bill of the white-faced glossy ibis, *Plegadis mexicana*. There are few ornithological works that mention this line.—JOHN H. BUCKALEW, *Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Chincoteague, Virginia*.

**An abnormality in a Canada goose.**—On April 1, 1948, a Canada goose, *Branta c. canadensis*, was found by laborers on the Tuckahoe Public Shooting Grounds, Tuckahoe, New Jersey. The bird was emaciated and unable to fly. An autopsy was performed by Mr. C. B. Hudson, Department of Poultry, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. The lower esophagus and proventriculus were severely impacted with a mixture of sand and vegetable material, mostly leaves which resembled *Spartina alterniflora*. A blood smear and a macroscopic examination of the intestinal tract did not reveal any parasites. Impaction of the upper digestive tract is a rather common occurrence in chickens and domestic turkeys.—EDWARD L. KOZICKY, *New Jersey Division of Fish and Game, Trenton 7, New Jersey*.

**Hybrid of snow and Canada goose.**—An interesting example of hybridism between a male lesser snow goose, *Chen hyperborea hyperborea*, and a female Canada goose, *Branta canadensis*, occurred on the game farm of Jack Miles of Denver, Colorado. He has a small band of pinioned Canada geese and one crippled, male snow goose. In 1942, and the following spring, the snow goose followed a Canada goose and attempted to mate, apparently without success. His attentions continued in the next two years, and eggs were laid both seasons, but they did not hatch. In 1946, four eggs were laid and in due time three young appeared, two of which were raised. These two young, a trifle larger than the snow goose, have nearly white heads, a flecking of white upon the neck, and their underparts are whiter than in Canada geese (Plate 3). —ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado*.

**Observations on greater snow geese in the Delaware Bay Area.**—One of the major resting and feeding areas used by greater snow geese, *Chen hyperborea atlantica*,