

rare in Virginia, even on the coast. The only other records for these species in the mid-Appalachian region are those listed by Maurice Brooks for West Virginia (A Check-List of West Virginia Birds, 1944: 14): two Lesser Snow Geese and a Blue Goose seen near Bluefield in 1942, and a Blue Goose taken near Morgantown, November 21, 1914.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Virginia*.

Ducks Continue to Nest after Brush Fire at Castalia, Ohio.—On April 17, 1948, a part of the Resthaven Wildlife Sanctuary at Castalia, Ohio, was accidentally burned. The burn covered approximately 100 acres of land strip-mined for marl many years ago and now supporting a mixed growth of herbaceous and woody plants. The area was visited April 24 to confirm reports of mortality of rabbits and damage to pheasant and duck nests caused by the fire. The fire had been hot enough to burn all of the dead herbaceous cover and, a week later, no green sprouts had appeared through the ashes and charred remains of plant stems.

Intensive searching in a two-acre section of the burned area revealed the blackened fragments of several pheasant and duck eggs. In addition, a Mallard, *Anas p. platyrhynchos*, and a Black Duck, *Anas rubripes*, were flushed from nests which had been completely burned over and had no cover remaining around them. The mallard nest contained five scorched and four unscorched eggs, the latter apparently having been laid after the fire. The black duck nest contained 12 eggs, all blackened on one side by the fire. The nest had been relined with down and the female had evidently been incubating the eggs for a week following the fire.

In an attempt to obtain photographs of the incubating hens, April 26, both hens were again flushed from their nests. A final visit, May 14, showed that both nests had been disrupted and the eggs destroyed. Messrs. F. B. Chapman, Roy Hooker, Burt Karbler, E. D. Martin and Clifford Morrow of the Ohio Division of Conservation assisted the writer in his observations.—DANIEL L. LEEDY, *Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio*.

Gadwall Nesting in Maryland.—The recorded nesting of the Gadwall, *Anas strepera*, by Griffith (Auk, 63: 436-438, 1946) in salt marshes on Bombay Hook Refuge in Delaware and Pea Island Refuge in North Carolina since 1939 suggested the possibility of the species breeding in suitable coastal marshes between these two points.

On May 18, 1948, while engaged in studies of salt marshes on the eastern shore of Maryland, the writers noticed several pairs of Gadwalls frequenting the tidal ponds and guts one to two miles southeast of Dames Quarter in Somerset County. The males of each pair exhibited definite signs of defense behavior, vigorously chasing the females of other pairs flying in the near vicinity. Because of the late date and the fact that the species was not known to breed in Maryland, it was decided to watch them more closely.

Egg shells of Gadwalls, probably broken by a raccoon, were discovered on May 19; on the following day one female was flushed from her nest containing eight eggs. This nest was built in a clump of switchgrass, *Panicum virgatum*, under a hightide bush, *Iva frutescens*, and was located on the side of a road bank adjoining a salt-meadow cordgrass, *Spartina patens*, marsh. The nearest water was in a ditch on the other side of the road, a distance of 15 feet. This is in agreement with other records on the east coast where the species has been found nesting in similar salt marshes not far from water.

Lack of time prevented us from searching for other nests, but at least seven pairs were seen in an area approximately 1.5 miles long by .75 miles wide. Several of