

## GENERAL NOTES

**Mallard Nesting in Maine.**—The Common Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos* Linnaeus) has been suspected of breeding occasionally in Maine, although no actual instance of nesting has been recorded (Palmer, *Maine Birds*, 1949, *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoo.*, Harvard College, Vol. 102, p. 75). While far from being abundant, this species has been observed during recent years at all seasons, but particularly during the fall migration. The discovery of two nests, one each in 1949 and 1950, at the Davis-Holbrook Marshes in Eddington, Penobscot County, Maine, and one flightless brood at Passadumkeag, Penobscot County during 1952, are of interest.

On May 8, 1949, I observed a drake mallard in the water along the edge of a small marshy cove. He flushed and flew to a distant part of the area. Within an hour I flushed a hen mallard from a nest that was within 450 feet of the area where the drake was first seen. The hen left the vicinity by the same route taken by the drake. Later in the day the pair was flushed from another marshy portion of the area and after circling for several minutes they alighted in the open lake about one-half mile distant.

The nest contained five light greenish-buff eggs. During the second check, on May 18, the hen was flushed from the nest at 11:00 a.m. Nine eggs and an increased amount of down were present. On May 29, the writer, together with Howard L. Mendall, again checked this nest and flushed the hen at 3:40 p.m. When re-examined on June 21, the remaining evidence indicated a successful hatch.

The nest site was much like that of a Black Duck (*A. rubripes*). It consisted of a small hummock formed by stems of holly (*Ilex verticillata*), sedge (principally *Carex lasiocarpa* var. *americana*), and leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*). The general area is characterized by floating sedge meadow with scattered patches of woody plants.

The nest was constructed of the stems and leaves of sedge and a few dead leaves of leatherleaf. It was approximately 15 inches above the water, 125 feet from upland woods, and 240 feet from the channel of open water.

The second nest, found on May 9, 1950, was at a similar site, and was within 100 feet of the first. This nest contained 8 eggs when discovered. Another egg was subsequently laid, and when re-checked on June 4, nine newly hatched ducklings were present.

Attempts to locate the broods after they left the nest were unsuccessful. In June 1949, a hen mallard was flushed from dense cover. Her behavior was like that of a broody Black Duck, but no ducklings were seen.

On July 17, 1952, a hen mallard with a brood of 12 half-grown, flightless young was observed from a canoe on the Penobscot River at Passadumkeag, Penobscot County, Maine. These birds were watched for several minutes with the aid of binoculars at a distance of about 300 feet. Eventually the hen and brood scurried to shore into dense growths of ferns and grasses.

This is a contribution from the Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Orono, Maine; Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game, University of Maine, Wildlife Management Institute, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, cooperating.—MALCOLM W. COULTER, *Assistant Leader, Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Orono, Maine.*

**Further Information on the Turkey Vulture (*Cat hartes aura*) in New England and Eastern Canada.**—A paper by the undersigned, "The Turkey Vulture in New England and Eastern Canada up to 1950" (*Auk*, 68: 315-333, 1951), has elicited certain material which seems worthy of record.