

revealed gizzards that were empty or contained only a few bits of Horse Mussel (*Brachydontes demissus*) shell, Mud Whelk (*Nassarius obsoletus*) shells, gravel, and/or some oil. Four of the birds with oil in the gizzard were heavily oiled externally; the internal oil may have been ingested in preening. All of these 15 ducks had completely used up their fat supply, as evidenced by the lack of adipose deposits under the skin.

Although no count could be made of the complete death toll of eiders resulting from the oil from the tankers, it is possibly significant that on December 28, 1952, Mr. Griscom estimated only 150,000 birds in the wintering flock off Monomoy, as compared to 500,000 a year previous.—FRANCES L. BURNETT, *Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts*, and DOROTHY E. SNYDER, *Peabody Museum of Salem, Salem, Massachusetts*.

Unusual Feeding Behavior of the Lesser Scaup.—In the last week of February, 1953, I saw groups of six to eight Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) on four occasions swimming in extremely shallow water among the breakers along the sandy beach at Bull's Island, South Carolina, at times when the tide was falling. On February 25, at approximately mean low water, I saw six scaup squatting with bellies flat on the wet sand feeding vigorously around them. Every so often a wavelet of the receding tide would put them afloat. Usually, however, they would get up and waddle a few steps so as to keep in a zone close to the waters edge where the sand was wettest. The ducks would then again squat on their bellies and stretch their head and neck straight out. Apparently what they were feeding on was abundant along the margin of the receding wavelets, for they never appeared to hunt for food. When I stood within 150 feet, four scaup swam into deeper water. They appeared normally active and healthy. The behavior of the scaup on the beach suggested that the birds were actively feeding, possibly on mollusks (*Donax*) or crustacea (*Emerita*) which would be available in considerable numbers at low water. It is also possible that the ducks were able to obtain their prey by diving as long as the tide had not fallen too low, but when the water left, they continued to feed over the same area by squatting on the bare sand. What the birds actually ate could only have been determined by examination of stomach contents.—LAWRENCE KILHAM, M.D., 8302 Garfield St., Bethesda, Maryland.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird Feeding at Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Holes. On September 2, 1953, between 1:45 and 2:30 p.m., I observed a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) in an activity which I thought was quite extraordinary. I was at Island Lake, 25 miles east northeast of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. Walking on a road from the north end of the lake to Mud Lake, I noticed an American elm tree with numerous holes in it. The holes were those made by a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). I saw a female hummingbird taking sap from the holes. An immature sapsucker was in the vicinity, but the hummingbird kept him away by making sudden darts at him.

I returned about 15 minutes later with my father, Mr. H. D. Smith. The action was still going on. The hummingbird would take sap from the holes, on the wing as they take nectar from flowers. An adult sapsucker came and the hummingbird left for about five minutes but then came back. The adult sapsucker at first made passes at the hummingbird; then both birds fed peacefully about a yard apart. In the meantime, the young sapsucker found more holes farther up the tree and began to feed.—JEROME HAZEN SMITH, 4815 Erskine, Omaha, Nebraska.