whose initial response had not been vigorous and the intensity of response seemed to wane after this period (see Hinde, *op. cit.*).

The predator-decoy method presents some advantages over the use of nest traps and hoop nets (see V. Nolan, *Auk,* 78: 643–645, 1961) when nests are difficult to reach or when it is important to avoid disturbing the immediate area surrounding the nest. Judging from the behavior of the several species that were attracted to the mobs at our decoys, we think the method could easily be adapted for the capture of a large variety of species by playing back the appropriate mobbing calls and placing the nets near active nests.—RICHARD B. ROOT and RUTH M. YARROW, *Department of Entomology and Limnology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Fulvous Tree Duck observed in the southern Sargasso Sea.—The Fulvous Tree Duck, *Dendrocygna bicolor,* is currently extending its wintering range in the eastern United States (H. L. Jones, *Chat,* 30: 4–7, 1966). It has also become more frequent on islands in the Caribbean and in the Bahamas (J. Bond, *Ninth* and *Tenth supplements to the check-list of birds of the West Indies,* Acad, Nat. Sci., Philadelphia, 1964, 1965) and on Bermuda (David Wingate, *in litt.,* 27 November 1964). Bond (1965, *supra,* p. 6) suggested that the Antillean peregrinations of this duck apparently stem from the northern population known as *"D. b. helva,"* which he is unable to distinguish from the nominate race.

There are no published records of this fresh-water duck at sea. Thus, it was with interest that I watched three individuals that were swimming about in the Sargasso Sea, at 0630 hours, 25 October 1964. I was aboard the "Atlantis II" which was on station at about 23° 03′ N lat. and 60° 00′ W long. On this and the previous day, the sky was clear with only scattered high clouds, the wind was light and from the south-southeast, and the sea was calm to slightly rippled.

The birds were dabbling their bills in the disturbed water around a hydrographic wire then in use. I was unable to ascertain what they might have been feeding on. Sargasso weed (*Sargassum* spp.) was seen nearby but was not abundant. The birds flew off and settled on the surface 200 yards away. After one-half hour, they returned, whistling in flight, to the ship and landed 10 yards away. Again they dabbled their bills in the water. It would have been impossible to recover a specimen, so I made no attempt to collect one.

Examination of the skull of *Dendrocygna bicolor* revealed that the birds have small salt glands in the interorbital region rather than having pronounced glands which are characteristic of ducks living in marine environments. Presumably then, the species is not adapted for coping with a large intake of salt in its diet, and this probably accounts for the lack of marine records of the species.

This observation of Fulvous Tree Ducks at sea suggests that the birds might cross considerable stretches of open water by intermittently resting on the surface. The puzzling pantropical distribution of this monotypic species (which is found in North, Central, and South America, Africa, and Southeast Asia) has sometimes been explained by assuming that birds regularly cross the oceans. This observation would lend some credence to that theory.

The cruise of the "Atlantis II" was supported by grants to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution from the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC 1918), Office of Naval Research (NONR 2196), and National Science Foundation (NSF 861). I am grateful to John H. Ryther and David W. Menzel for making my participation possible.—GEORGE E. WATSON, *Division of Birds, Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*