

flush with the bank the entrance was 9 inches from top to bottom, 7 inches across at the top, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide at the bottom. From the entrance the burrow sloped upward and inward for 6 inches before going straight back to a depth of 8 feet 4 inches. From where it went straight back the burrow was practically round and 4 inches in diameter

As reaching this nest entailed a round trip of 150 miles, it was not practical to keep it under constant surveillance. On 10 April I watched the nest from daylight until 11:00. At a little after 09:00 the female appeared flying upstream, clucking away as she went by. Just before 11:00 she returned to perch in the dead willow but carried no food. In 5-6 minutes she left going back upstream. On 15 April one bird was seen at 07:00 flying upstream. By 13:00 it had not returned so the watch was abandoned. On 25 and 30 April no bird was seen. On 1 May the male came to the dead willow without food, remained 15 minutes, and departed. The disappearance of the foot furrows at the entrance hole by then showed the nest was apparently no longer occupied. The hole was probed with a steel tape to ascertain its depth and to attempt to find out if there might be dead birds in the nest. The tape came out clean and with no odor. Evidently the young were either fully fledged on 8 April and left the nest that day or the next, or some disaster befell them prior to 10 April.

A thorough search of the many arroyos in this area revealed several old holes of the proper size for Ringed Kingfishers, so it is highly probable that they have nested here in former years.—ALBERT D. MCGREW, 410 North Main Street, McAllen, Texas 78501. Accepted 8 Sep. 70.

#### **Comparison of two presumed European X American Widgeon hybrids.**

—Only two wild-taken, presumed hybrid specimens have been reported between the European Widgeon (*Anas penelope*) and the American Widgeon (*A americana*). To the best of my knowledge these have never been compared directly to each other. The first reported is an adult male taken at Back Bay, Princess Anne County, Virginia on 28 November 1918 (Bailey, Wilson Bull., 31: 25, 1919). The second is also an adult male, taken in Florida in 1858, and reported in some detail in comparison with the presumed parental forms by Watson (Auk, 87: 353, 1970). In view of the extreme rarity of this cross in nature and because the Virginia specimen was not described in detail, it seems worthwhile to publish the results of a comparison. Besides the two hybrids I also used 11 male *penelope* and 6 male *americana*, all from the New World and all in the Bailey-Law Collection. The Virginia hybrid (HHB 1372) was also formerly in that collection, but has now been deposited in the Smithsonian Institution (USNM 532826). I am grateful to Richard C. Banks for the loan of the Florida specimen from that collection and to George E. Watson for reading and commenting on this manuscript.

To describe the Virginia hybrid and compare it to the one from Florida (and with the presumed parents) I have used the table of characters Watson (*ibid.*) employed. The numerical index of characters is my own, and without a more thorough study of the intrinsic variation in these two species it must be regarded as very tentative, but it does serve to quantify the characters of the two hybrids for present purposes.

Table 1 shows that the Virginia hybrid is more nearly intermediate in its overall characteristics than the Florida hybrid, which is closer to *penelope*. The two hybrids agree closely in bill and frontal feathering and perhaps did in forehead color

TABLE 1

COMPARISON OF HYBRID MALE WIDGEON FROM VIRGINIA WITH ONE FROM FLORIDA (AND WITH *Anas penelope* AND *A. americana*), GIVING CHARACTER INDEX SCORES<sup>1</sup> FOR EACH

Bill	Higher at base, agreeing with the Florida hybrid and <i>penelope</i> (Virginia hybrid = 4, Florida hybrid = 4).
Frontal feathering	Straight, agreeing with the Florida hybrid and <i>americana</i> (Virginia hybrid = 0, Florida hybrid = 0).
Forehead color	Now cream but reported to have been white (Bailey, <i>ibid.</i> ); Florida hybrid also cream (perhaps also due to discoloring) as are some <i>penelope</i> (Virginia hybrid = 0, Florida hybrid = 3?).
Color of head	Medium rufous with the lores and cheeks paler; the Florida hybrid is similar but paler, while <i>penelope</i> is darker with less difference in loreal and cheek areas (Virginia hybrid = 3, Florida hybrid = 2).
Postocular stripe	Narrow, metallic green, but broken by rufous; the Florida hybrid and <i>penelope</i> lack the stripe, but the former has prominent green spotting behind the eye. Virginia hybrid moderately spotted on the head (excluding the forehead) with black, while the Florida hybrid and <i>penelope</i> are lightly spotted (Virginia hybrid = 2, Florida hybrid = 3).
Chin and throat	Moderately spotted with black; spotting heavier in the Florida hybrid and heavier yet in many <i>penelope</i> (Virginia hybrid = 2, Florida hybrid = 3).
Back; flanks	Vermiculated with black and washed with medium brown; Florida hybrid is washed with lighter brown and <i>penelope</i> lacks brown (Virginia hybrid = 2, Florida hybrid = 3, in both characters).
Axillaries	Ground color yellowish (apparently due to discoloration), lightly vermiculated at tips with dark gray; Florida hybrid and <i>penelope</i> with white to grayish ground color, latter with heavier vermiculation on the average (Virginia hybrid = 2, Florida hybrid = 3).
Green on speculum	Reduced, while extensive in the Florida hybrid and <i>penelope</i> (Virginia hybrid = 0, Florida hybrid = 4).
Total score	17, compared to 28 (plus or minus 3 because of the uncertainty of the forehead color) in the Florida hybrid; <i>penelope</i> would score 40 in the "pure" form, versus zero in <i>americana</i> .

<sup>1</sup>Numerical index used: 0 = as in *americana*, 1 = closer to *americana*, 2 = more or less intermediate, 3 = closer to *penelope*, 4 = as in *penelope*.

and axillaries before discoloration occurred. The two are at opposite ends of the scale in the amount of green in the speculum, and the Virginia hybrid is more nearly intermediate in the development of the postocular stripe (and in the amount of head spotting) than the Florida hybrid, which is closer to *penelope*. In the color of the head, back, and flanks the Virginia hybrid is distinctly darker than the Florida hybrid, which shows more chin and throat spotting than the Virginia hybrid. While both specimens clearly seem to be hybrids between the two species of widgeon,

it is notable that they differ in at least degree in more characters (6) than they agree in (2, and possibly 4). In view of the fact that hybrids between the two widgeons are both readily produced in captivity and are fertile (Gray, *Bird hybrids*, Edinburgh, Commonwealth Agr. Bureaux, 1958), it would be of interest to study the morphological characteristics of hybrids of known ancestry. Perhaps such studies might yield some clues as to the ancestry of these two hybrids.—JOHN P. HUBBARD, *Rockbridge Alum Springs and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Route 2, Goshen, Virginia 24439. Present address: Delaware Museum of Natural History, Greenville, Delaware 19807. Accepted 24 Aug. 70.*

**Great White Heron captures and eats Black-necked Stilt.**—An Coot Bay Pond, Everglades National Park, Florida, about midday on 7 December 1969, we watched two Black-necked Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*) feeding along the edge of the pond next to the road with herons of several species. One of the stilts passed under overhanging foliage of red mangrove close to a Great White Heron (*Ardea occidentalis*). The heron, with a quick stab, seized the stilt by the upper part of one leg. We tried to frighten the heron, only a short distance away, into releasing the stilt, but it took wing and, with the struggling and fluttering stilt dangling from its bill, flew easily to the far side of the pond. The stilt, apparently not yet badly hurt, continued to struggle and to call loudly.

The heron maintained its hold upon the stilt's leg for about 10 minutes, repositioning its grasp several times. For a brief moment it appeared to lose its grip entirely, but the stilt, evidently now much weakened, did not escape. The heron then extended its grip to a portion of the rump, achieving a more secure grasp. During the next 10 minutes, the heron shifted the stilt about, grasping it by the main body. The stilt soon stopped struggling and seemed dead. In the next few minutes the heron swallowed the head, neck, and anterior portion of the body while the wings, tail and legs still dangled from its mandibles. The heron lowered its head and appeared to wet the stilt in the water. At this point, unfortunately, we had to leave and we did not see the heron swallow the rest of the stilt.

Hérons apparently capture and eat birds not uncommonly. Audubon (Ornithol. Biogr., 3, 1835) described such activities by captive Great White Herons and also (op. cit.) noted that the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) feeds upon marsh-hens, rails, and other birds.—CLARK S. OLSON, *Biology Department, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida 33124* and H. MCCLURE JOHNSON, *National Hurricane Center, U.S. Weather Bureau, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida 33124. Accepted 31 Aug. 70.*

***Collyriclum faba*: a new host and distributional record from California.**—Four individuals of colonies of Cliff Swallows, *Petrochelidon p. pyrrhonota*, banded in California were found to harbor the trematode *Collyriclum faba*. This constitutes both a new host and a new distributional record, and is only the third report of this parasite from birds from the western United States.

In the present study 823 individual Cliff Swallows were banded (February–June 1967) at seven colonies near Folsom, El Dorado County, California. Of these, 377 individuals were banded in one colony, of which 210 individuals were carefully checked for fat, molt, brood patch, and cloacal conditions. Four adult females in breeding condition were found to harbor *C. faba*. The first of these infected birds was taken on 18 June 1967. It had one nodule near its cloaca containing two flukes enclosed in a subcutaneous cyst. A second bird captured 24 June 1967 had four similar