

## GENERAL NOTES

**Common Eider and King Rail from the Dry Tortugas, Florida.**—From 25 March to 4 April 1967, we watched the early spring migration at the Dry Tortugas islands, which lie in the Gulf of Mexico about 70 miles west of Key West, Florida, and recorded 70 species, the majority land birds. The two records reported here represent significant additions to the species' known distribution. The specimens have been deposited in the collection of the University of Miami (UMRC), Coral Gables, Florida. We thank O. T. Owre and W. B. Robertson, Jr. for reviewing the manuscript and verification of records and Mrs. R. C. Laybourne and R. C. Banks, Smithsonian Institution, for verifying identities.

Common Eider, *Somateria mollissima* (Linnaeus).—A much decomposed carcass was found on Garden Key 3 April 1967. Identification of the skeleton (UMRC 5246) was confirmed by Mrs. Laybourne; subspecific determination was not attempted. There appear to be fewer than five earlier records of this eider from Florida. It has not been previously recorded from the Florida Keys, and this is believed to be its southernmost record of occurrence for North America. A search of the Old World literature suggests this may be the southernmost record anywhere.

King Rail, *Rallus elegans* Audubon.—An oil-soaked bird, still alive, was found on Bush Key 28 March 1967. A male with no fat and testes very slightly enlarged, the bird (UMRC 5215) weighed 230.8 g. The species was reported once previously at the Tortugas (Sprunt, Florida Naturalist, 35: 40, 1962). Because the Dry Tortugas are roughly equidistant between the continental U. S. and Cuba where another subspecies, *R. e. ramsdeni*, occurs, the subspecific identity of the Tortugas King Rail merited checking. Mrs. Laybourne and Banks identified the present specimen as *R. e. elegans*. According to Meanley (Natural history of the King Rail, North Amer. Fauna, No. 67, 1969) the winter range of *R. e. elegans* extends as far south as the Everglades in Florida, and this subspecies is not known to migrate south of the continental U. S. Thus it is of interest that this bird was found during the spring migration period somewhat south of its normal winter range.—CLIVE A. PETROVIC, *F. T. Stone Laboratory, The Ohio State University, Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456*, and JAMES KING, JR., *13910 N.W. 5th Avenue, North Miami, Florida 33168*. Accepted 29 Jul. 71.

**Electrophoretic study of Mallard serum proteins.**—The plasma proteins of the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) were characterized electrophoretically by Sibley and Johnsgard (Condor, 61: 85, 1959) using a paper strip separating system with very low resolving power for individual proteins. We have found no extensive study using an agarose gel medium with additional resolution. Electrophoresis procedures have been used extensively to search for hereditary differences between individuals, or species, in other animal groups. This note describes an extended study of Mallard serum proteins and other blood parameters and summarizes some of the more interesting results.

In a search for strain differences, we analyzed electrophoretically the plasma proteins of six strains of the Mallard maintained at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, Dundee, Illinois. The birds included 383 males and 391 females, divided among the six strains as shown in Table 1.

Electrophoresis was accomplished with agarose gels (Analytical Chemists, Inc., sold by E. K. Turner, Inc., Palo Alto, California) (pH 8.8) in a sodium barbital buffer (pH 8.8). Separation proceeded at a constant current of 15 milliamps, 100–130 volts, for 1 hour. Staining with Buffalo (Amido) Black consistently revealed the presence of