

molested by humans to any extent. The place showed that it had been occupied for several weeks, and they remained there until October 20.

It was rather hard to count the number of the Robins, but after several observations we concluded that there were between 4,000 and 5,000 birds spending the nights in this roost.—WILLIAM YOUNGWORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

Bird Casualties on the Highways.—On June 10, 1928, we left Chicago by automobile for the Dakotas on an expedition for the Chicago Academy of Sciences. Our records of the birds and animals found dead in the road, which were probably all killed by automobiles, are as follows:

From Chicago to Iowa City, which is a distance of about 260 miles, we found eighteen birds and eleven mammals of the following species: Nine Red-headed Woodpeckers, two Screech Owls, one Northern Flicker, one Cowbird, one Meadowlark, one Rusty Blackbird, one English Sparrow, two domestic fowls, three thirteen-striped spermophiles, two squirrels, one cottontail rabbit, one mink and four domestic cats.

From Iowa City to Hawarden, Iowa, a distance of about 360 miles, we found dead thirty-five birds, three mammals, two reptiles and an amphibian, which were of the following species: Thirteen Red-headed Woodpeckers, three Mourning Doves, two Kingbirds, two Bronzed Grackles, one Northern Flicker, one Meadowlark, one Cowbird, one Catbird, one Bluebird, one Bob-white, one English Sparrow, one female Ring-necked Pheasant, seven domestic fowls, two thirteen-striped spermophiles, one Franklin's spermophile, two garter snakes and one toad.

From Hawarden, Iowa, to Webster, South Dakota, a distance of about 280 miles, we found very few bird casualties, and only one mammal, a plains muskrat. The few bird and mammal deaths in this instance were probably due to the scarcity of automobiles on the highways we traveled.

From Webster, South Dakota, to Chase Lake, North Dakota, a distance of about 280 miles, very few dead birds were found. Several dead Richardson's spermophiles were seen, which was not unusual, as they are very abundant in the grass along the roadsides in North Dakota.

On the entire trip, which covered about 1180 miles of highway, we saw about sixty birds, twenty mammals, a toad, and two snakes whose deaths were probably caused by automobiles.—E. V. KOMAREK, *Oak Park*, and E. G. WRIGHT, *Chicago, Ill.*

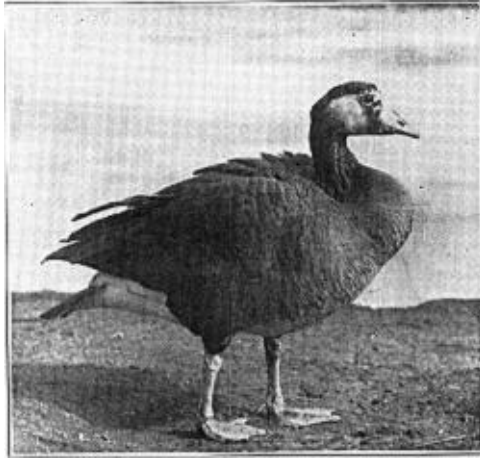
Bird Casualties.—The accidental death of birds due to flying into wires, poles, and other obstructions, is of common occurrence, especially during the migration season. Weather conditions are often bad, with visibility poor, and it is not strange that a few of the passing thousands should be killed. Hardly a week passes but someone brings a specimen into the Chicago Academy of Sciences, which was picked up dead in this vicinity, and on April 21, 1928, an adult female Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) was found by one of our staff. In spite of it being not unusual for birds to fly into obstructions, it seems strange that a Woodcock, which is an adept at flying in thick cover, and which migrates at night to a great extent, should fly into a large building on a clear night. Another, which had flown into a wire, was found near Lincoln Park on May 1st. Both were breeding females, and had deposited their complement of eggs.

While on the subject of accidents, I saw a Black-footed Albatross (*Diomedea nigripes*) fly into the flag-staff of a tower on Laysan Island, H. T., in March,

1913. The bird's right wing was broken, and we found that it was blind in the right eye. The albatross evidently circled, with the pole on its blind side. On Laysan, I several times saw albatrosses collide with each other, and fall heavily to the ground, but these birds waddled off unhurt.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Ill.*

A Hybrid Canada Goose.—

There is an interesting cross between the Canada Goose and the common, or domestic Toulouse Goose, in Lincoln Park, at Chicago. It is a large sized bird, and is considerably darker than the average Canad Goose. While the cheek patch is well defined, it is rather dusky, and there is a patch of white on the forehead. When first observed, the hybrid goose was sitting with a small bunch of Canada Geese, and did not differ greatly from the others, except for the white feathers



of the head, and the darker coloration. When the bird raised to its feet, however, it was very conspicuous, for its legs and feet were yellow.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Ill.*

COMMUNICATIONS

April 17, 1929.

TO THE EDITOR: In running through the *WILSON BULLETIN* for March, 1929, I find among the communications on page 63 a letter from the Heath Hen Committee of Boston, Massachusetts, dated January 31, 1929. This communication was very interesting to me, especially the reference to *National Sportsman*.

While it would be farthest from our minds to resent the publication of any reference to our magazine, I want to say at this time that the statement that we have published "extravagant" articles on the Heath Hen situation is not true. The articles in question have been based on fact and no attempt was made to exaggerate the deplorable situation that existed.

Sincerely yours,

W. H. FOSTER,

Editor *National Sportsman Magazine*,
Hunting & Fishing Magazine.