

Breeding of the Lesser Scaup Duck in Southern Ontario.—During the past sixty years many statements concerning the breeding of this duck, *Nyroca affinis*, have been published from various parts of Ontario north to Lake Temiskaming. An examination of these records reveals that the only satisfactorily authenticated breeding station, prior to 1923, was at the marshes bordering Lake St. Clair, in the extreme southwestern section of the Province. There, the late J. A. Morden and Dr. W. E. Saunders recorded that a few pairs bred about 1882 (*Can. Sportsman and Nat.*, 2, 1882, p. 194); young were seen at Mitchell's Bay on June 6, 1888, according to the late Wells W. Cooke (*U. S. Dept. Agri., Biol. Surv. Bull.* 26, 1906 :47-8); and a downy young bird, one of five which were accompanying female parent, was secured at Walpole Island by W. G. A. Lambe about 1900 and placed in the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology. The Walpole Island record was published by Paul Harrington and the writer (*Trans. Royal Can. Inst.*, 21, 1936 :16), but no recent observations on the breeding of the Lesser Scaup at Lake St. Clair have come to our attention.

Since 1923, however, this duck has been reported breeding at four additional points in southern Ontario, and evidence that it is on the increase as a breeding species seems to be accumulating. During the first week of September, 1923, Charles F. Haultain watched a female with her brood of flightless young in the drowned timberland between Baptiste and Elephant Lakes on the border of Hastings County and Haliburton District; in 1929 the late John Townson saw a female with seven young at Toronto Island daily between July 27 and September 12 (*Can. Field-Nat.*, 44, 1930 :167); on July 6, 1938 a female was seen with five young near the mouth of the Nottawasaga River in Simcoe County by Mrs. Edgar Hobbs; and on August 6, 1939 William C. Mansell watched a brood of five half-grown young at Rebecca Lake, in the northeastern corner of Muskoka District.

The statement by McIlwraith (*Birds of Ont.*, 1894 :81) that Dr. G. A. MacCallum had encountered some breeding at Dunnville, on the north shore of Lake Erie, was probably correct, but it is significant that the species was not given as breeding in Dr. MacCallum's own list published in 1892 (*Ont. Game and Fish Commission Report* :378). Nash's report that this duck used to breed at the Hamilton and Toronto marshes (*Check List of the Vertebrates of Ont.*, 1905 :17) was accompanied by no details and does not correspond to the experience of contemporary observers. Hubel's record (*Auk*, 24, 1907 :49) of several families seen on Lake Temiskaming, Temiskaming District, during the late summer of 1905 might best be considered hypothetical in the light of present knowledge. The nesting record for Frenchman's Bay, Ontario County (Baillie and Harrington, *loc. cit.*) bears insufficient data and may be withheld awaiting particulars.—JAMES L. BAILLIE, JR., *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, Ontario.*

Mountain Plover in Saskatchewan.—While conducting wild life investigations in southern Saskatchewan on June 5, 1939, I discovered a Mountain Plover (*Eupoda montana*) two miles north of the village of Bracken. This point is 14 miles north of the International Boundary at an altitude of about 2,900 feet. The bird was carefully scrutinized for several minutes with 8X binoculars at a distance of 20 to 30 feet. The pale coloration of this species with its conspicuous black lores and forehead patch renders identification easy and certain. Detection of the above individual apparently establishes the first certain record of the species in Canada. The occurrence of *montana* in the extreme southern part of the Prairie Provinces has long been anticipated, especially on the Missouri drainage of southwestern Saskatchewan west of the 105th degree of longitude. It is also to be looked for in southern Alberta. In summer, the Mountain Plover haunts the dry, treeless plains and mesas of the western interior, characterized by short gramma grasses, sagebrush, greasewood and the prickly pear cactus.—J. DEWEY SOPER, *National Parks Bureau, Winnipeg, Manitoba.*