

special search for them. One pair, discovered by George Breiding of Wheeling, West Virginia, seemed much disturbed by our presence and evidently had a nest close by. Ganier sat for half an hour while the birds flew uneasily about in nearby trees and shrubs, keeping 30 to 50 feet away, but they were not seen to go to the nest. The thick, knee-high marsh grass all about made a thorough search impossible in the time available. Maurice Brooks has written us that he and Carl Haller saw a male in this swamp on June 3, 1936, and felt at the time that the White-throat might eventually be found nesting in the West Virginia mountains. However, none were found in the high, mountainous area around Davis, Tucker county, about 25 miles south, in a week-long census by The Brooks Bird Club, June 9-17, 1951 (127 species recorded).

Barrows (1912. "Michigan Bird Life") states that in Michigan, all nests of which he had record were built on the ground. The elevated nests described in this paper may have been the result of occasional floodings of the bog by the stream which drains the valley.—ALBERT F. GANIER, 2112 Woodlawn Drive, Nashville, Tennessee, and FOREST W. BUCHANAN, Amsterdam, Ohio, September 17, 1952.

Unintentional live-trap for American Mergansers.—On June 20, 1950, my wife and I arrived at a camp situated in the Winnipeg River just north of the Lake-of-the-Woods and six miles south of Minaki, which is only a few miles from the western border of the province of Ontario. Minaki is a small settlement and trading post on the Canadian National Railroad. The camp is situated on a wooded island of about two acres in extent, and there are half a dozen cabins scattered about it. Beneath an ice house on the island we found a nest with ten eggs of the American Merganser (*Mergus merganser*).

The morning after our arrival we found a female American Merganser in a mess hall adjacent to our living cabin. The bird had entered through the chimney during the previous night and we permitted it to escape. This experience was repeated on three successive mornings and in each instance the bird was unharmed and permitted to go free.

On the second day of our encampment there we visited a neighboring island a half mile distant where there was a single, large, unoccupied cabin with no open entrance revealed by subsequent, careful search except for the chimney. On the floor of the cabin were eleven female American Mergansers, all except two of which were dead. The two were permitted to escape by the door as we entered. They all had entered the cabin by way of the chimney and fireplace, and the nine apparently had died of starvation. After this experience we took pains to cover the chimney of this cabin, as well as the others at our encampment, with chicken wire held in place by stones of suitable weight. We subsequently learned from natives of the region that covering chimneys was a common practice, as female mergansers had a habit of entering unoccupied cabins in the spring.

During our stay of ten days we saw a great many American Mergansers, but we did not discover a natural nesting site. There were few large trees; and, because of the very high water, fully ten feet above normal, most of the short stumps were covered. This condition may have contributed to the behavior of the birds. Undoubtedly they were seeking nesting sites when they entered the cabin chimneys.

It should be added that in June, 1951, we revisited this region. The water was much lower on this occasion, and the behavior of the mergansers was not repeated. We did find a nest with a clutch of eggs under the ice house on this occasion, just as we had previously.—WILLIAM D. DUGAN, 221 Pierce Avenue, Hamburg, New York, January 27, 1953.