

meal. Only about one-third of the duckling's posterior end protruded from the frog's mouth, the duckling already being well down the frog's throat. Nevertheless, the duckling was pulled alive from the frog's throat and soon became active. The duckling's legs were not injured in the towing process.

The method used to capture these ducklings was different than the method earlier described as being used by a bullfrog for capturing a bird. W. E. Howard (1950. *Copeia*, 1950:152) reported seeing the capture of a Brown Towhee (*Pipilo fuscus carolinæ*), which was caught by one foot or leg and submerged before swallowing was started. The frog spent about an hour swallowing the bird.

A. H. Wright (1920. "Frogs: their natural history and utilization," 42) reported ducklings unusual in the bullfrog's diet. W. L. McAtee (1921. *Copeia*, 1921:40) reported shooting of a bullfrog "swallowing a three-weeks old duckling" of an unnamed species. O. H. Hewitt (1950. *J. Wildl. Mgmt.*, 14:244) reported finding two Black Ducks (*Anas rubripes*), two or three days old, in the stomach of a bullfrog.

The promptness with which the duckling disappeared as the five free ducklings moved through the cattails, together with the quick capture of the two tethered birds, suggests that bullfrog predation on young Wood Ducks may be substantial in some situations. Capture of tethered birds, of course, is only partly indicative of what would happen in a natural situation.

The observations reported in this note were made when I was conducting research on the Wood Duck under support of the Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. Dr. E. H. Dustman guided the research project, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed and typed the manuscript.—PAUL A. STEWART, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Entomology Research Division, Oxford, North Carolina, 30 April 1966.*

Flight speed of the Wood Duck.—Man has always been interested in the flight speed of birds, particularly the speed and distances flown by the larger ones such as the hawks, eagles, and waterfowl. To accurately determine Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) flight speeds, my wife and I timed the flight speeds of seventeen flocks over a measured course.

Cooke (1937, "Flight Speed of Birds," U.S. Dept. of Agri. Circ. No. 428) tabulated early records of bird flight speeds for more than 100 species. Flight speeds of ducks

TABLE 1
FLIGHT SPEEDS OF NINE WOOD DUCK FLOCKS RECORDED 8 AUGUST 1964

Flock No.	No. in flock	Sec. to fly 970 feet	Miles per hour
1	3	14	47
2	5	17	39
3	4	14	47
4	3	17	39
5	2	15	44
6	1	14	47
7	1	12	55
8	5	13	51
9	3	14	47
Average	3.0	14.4	45.9

TABLE 2
FLIGHT SPEEDS OF EIGHT WOOD DUCK FLOCKS RECORDED 9 AUGUST 1964

Flock No.	No. in flock	Sec. to fly 970 feet	Miles per hour
1	4	12	55
2	1	14	47
3	3	14	47
4	1	14.5	46
5	2	12	55
6	5	14.5	46
7	14	17	39
8	12	12	55
Average	5.3	13.7	48.3

varied from a low of 26 miles per hour for a Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) to a high of 72 miles per hour for a Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*). Cottam, Williams, and Sooter (1942. *Wilson Bull.*, 52:121-131) measured the flight speeds of 57 species. They recorded cruising speeds between 29 and 33 miles per hour for four duck species. The flight speed of four ducks which were being chased varied between 40 and 55 miles per hour. Meinertzhagen (1955. *Ibis*, 97:81-117) lists the flight speed of the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) at 46-70 miles per hour, the Pintail (*Anas acuta*) at 37-65, and the Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*) at 47-53.

During our observations, Wood Duck flocks were clocked with a stop watch over a measured course during two evenings in August, 1964. The course was a 970-foot stretch of the Wisconsin River between two prominent points. Just before dark, wood ducks fly along this stretch of river in a relatively straight line enroute to their traditional roosting site, this particular one located upriver from the power dam in Merrill, Wisconsin. During these observations, the ducks were not alarmed. The only motivating factor was to reach the roosting area before complete darkness.

The stop watch was started as the first duck of the flock crossed an imaginary line perpendicular to the observer on the downstream point. The watch was stopped when the upstream observer signaled that the first duck of the flock had crossed the imaginary line perpendicular to him. The signal was transmitted by a flashlight blink. Spier (1945. *Auk*, 62:135-136) clocked Oldsquaws (*Clangula hyemalis*) in a similar manner but was troubled by an erratic wind. Wind was negligible during these two evening periods.

Recorded Wood Duck speeds on the two evenings varied between 39 and 55 miles per hour but averaged 47.1 miles per hour (Table 1 and 2). The range of speeds recorded during the second evening (Table 2) were similar to those recorded on the first evening (Table 1) but did average 2.4 miles per hour faster.—JOHN T. LOKEMOEN, *Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, P.O. Box 1672, Jamestown, North Dakota, 9 May 1966.*

Erythrism in the wild Turkey.—As far as I can determine erythrism has not been reported in the wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*).

The plumage of a hen (specimen No. 45 in my collection) obtained in 1965 from Sarasota County, Florida approaches brownish red (color terminology after Palmer, ed., 1962. "Handbook of North American Birds." Vol. 1, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven and London) making the term *erythristic* appropriate.