

GENERAL NOTES

Breeding of the Trumpeter Swan at the Madison, Wisconsin, lakes.—No proof of the breeding of the Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*) in Wisconsin could be shown in a previous paper (Schorger, 1964. *Wilson Bull.*, 76:331-338). Continued search of the literature has revealed that it formerly bred at the Madison lakes. This supports the reported breeding of the species in Jefferson and Dane counties (Kumlien and Hollister, 1903. *Bull. Wisc. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 3:31-32). In 1846, H. A. Tenney became a permanent resident of Madison, "a hamlet—the country a wild waste." He wrote further: "The stately swan came fearlessly to feed or make his nest" (In: W. J. PARK & Co., 1877. "Madison, Dane County and surrounding towns. Madison." p. 541). David Atwood (*Madison State Journal*, 28 August 1867) was at Colliday's Point on Lake Kegonsa in August, 1867, where a swan was floating on the lake. W. H. Colliday informed him that he had captured the bird in spring. Its plumage was then a "light blue," but now snow white. It was completely domesticated, a trait characteristic of the species. H. Albert Hochbaum has informed me that about a year after hatching, at a distance, a yearling cannot be distinguished from an adult. This shows that Colliday's bird was hatched in the area, and that at the time mentioned it was at least a year old.

While trapping for small mammals in the large marsh on the west side of Lake Waubesa, on 26 October 1966, I met William S. Lalor. He was 92 years of age, but appeared to have a very good memory. His grandfather, William Lalor, homesteaded on Section 7, Dunn Township, Dane County, in 1839 or 1840. In pursuit of local information, I asked him if swans once occurred in the vicinity. My journal reads: "He

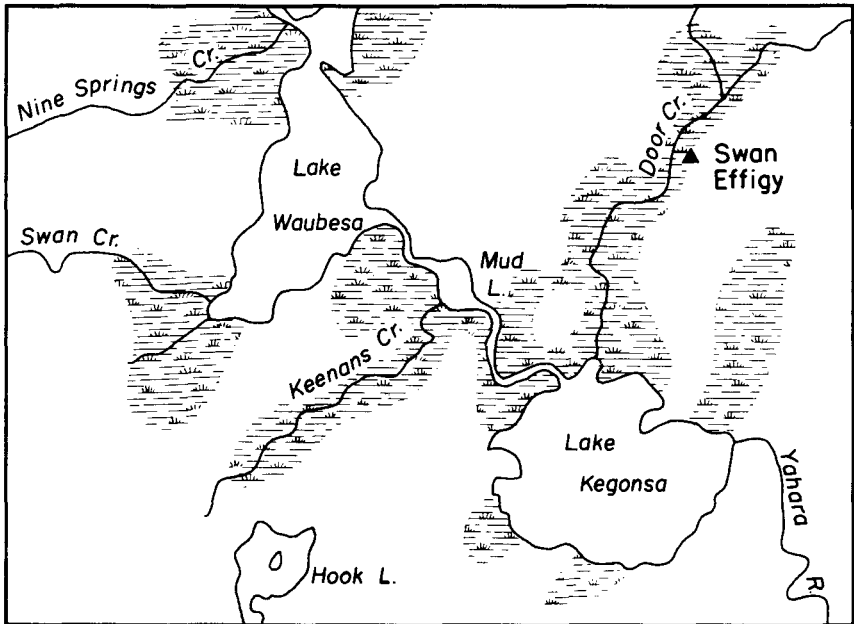


FIG 1. Map of Lakes Waubesa and Kegonsa.

said that when a boy he shot into a group of 8 swans sitting on the bank of Swan Creek with an old musket. He killed one which when hit gave a pitiful cry. This was in late summer. . . . He remarked that swans could be approached easily. Differed in this respect from Sandhill Cranes." In view of the season, these must have been Trumpeter Swans. In May, 1887, Thwaites (1888. "Historic highways." Chicago. p. 43) followed the east shore of Lake Kegonsa on a canoe trip down the Rock River. He wrote: "A stately wild swan kept us company for over a mile, just out of musket-shot, and finally took advantage of a patch of rushes to stop and hide." The species must remain in doubt.

Place names are indicative that swans once bred in the region, as they were too common in migration to leave their name from being merely birds of passage. Swan Creek (Fig. 1) flows through a large marsh to enter the southwest corner of Lake Waubesa. Waubesa is a corruption of *wabisi*, the Chippewa word for swan. In Section 6, Pleasant Springs Township, along Door Creek, is an unmistakable swan effigy mound (McLachlan, 1925. *Wisconsin Arch.*, n.s. 4:191). This type of mound is rare in the state, only one other example being known. Measurements of the mound were: length of body, 55 feet; width of body in middle, 21 feet; and length of neck 30 feet. In the memory of the early settlers, the marshes along the banks of this creek were much more extensive, containing wide spreads with water throughout the year.

The reason for naming Swan Lake, thirty-five miles north of Madison, has not been ascertained. Five white swans were reported at Bay City, Pierce County, on 28 May 1873. A week later there was an addition of about twenty birds (Bay City *Herald*, 28 May, 4 June 1873). No information on nesting was found.—A. W. SCHORGER, *Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin*, 6 May 1967.

Mottled Ducks in Kansas.—An addition to the Kansas avifauna was the discovery, in 1963, that the Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*) is a breeding resident. Heretofore, it had been considered "accidental" in the state by Tordoff (1956. Check-list of the birds of Kansas. *Univ. Kans. Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 8:314) and a "vagrant" by Johnston (1960. Directory to the bird-life of Kansas. *Univ. Kans. Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist., Misc. Publ.*, 23:12). The species was known for Kansas by one specimen; Goss (1891. "History of the birds of Kansas," p. 57) collected a female near Neosho Falls, Woodson County, Kansas, 11 March 1876.

It was thus unexpected when Marvin Schwilling, Jim New, John Nilsen, and Dr. David Parmelee discovered a Mottled Duck nest containing nine eggs on the Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Refuge in central Kansas on 27 June 1963 (Johnston, 1965. A directory to the birds of Kansas. *Univ. Kans. Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist., Misc. Publ.*, 41:12). This nest was later destroyed by a predator. So far as is known, this is the only far inland breeding population of this species which supposedly has been restricted to the Gulf Coast states.

Mottled Ducks have been observed with some regularity at Cheyenne Bottoms since 1964: one pair observed frequently throughout the summer of 1964; an adult male in molt (flightless) was captured in a drive-trap with other ducks 29 July 1964, photographed, banded, and released. Schwilling (pers. comm.) reports regular observations of as many as five birds at one time, during summer of 1965 and six observations of two to four birds from 13 May to 23 September 1966.

Four Mottled Duck specimens have been collected at Cheyenne Bottoms. A juvenile