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The wing molt of the Florida Duck.—There does not appear to be any documentation of the Florida Duck (*Anas fulvigula fulvigula*) undergoing a wing molt, rendering it flightless, in the wild. Beckwith and Hosford (Am. Midl. Nat. 57:461–473, 1957) reported circumstantial evidence that the Florida Duck undergoes such a molt in the wild. They reported that three one-year-old captive Florida Ducks underwent a molt and became flightless during the month of July 1954.

Between 1 August and 1 September 1967 nightlighting operations were conducted on the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Titusville, Florida. These operations were designed primarily to capture broods of Florida Ducks utilizing a modification of the method described by Cummings and Hewitt (J. Wildl. Mgmt. 28:120–126, 1964).

These nightlighting operations yielded a total of 13 flightless adult Florida Ducks, six males and seven females, in varying stages of a wing molt that had rendered them flightless. The primary wing feathers are lost first (Fig. 1), followed by secondaries and tertials. The tertial feathers are not entirely molted until after the new primary and secondary feathers begin to appear. The molting succession of axillars and coverts was not determined. A wild Florida Duck retained after capture was found to remain flightless for approximately 4 weeks. All flightless females were found alone. In one instance, four flightless adults were encountered, two of which were captured, and proved to be males.

All molting Florida Ducks were found in impoundments of 515 to 555 acres in size. Water salinities in these two areas varied from 7,910.4 to 14,184.0 ppm. Vegetation utilized for escape by molting Florida Ducks consisted of saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*) and mangrove (*Rhizophore mangle* and *Avicannia nitida*). At no time were molting birds found very far from such cover.

I thank the following employees of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife for

FIG. 1. Adult female Florida Duck in early stage of wing molt; primaries and secondaries lost, greater primary coverts, tertials and underwing coverts essentially intact. Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Florida (1967).

their assistance during the study: W. O. Steiglitz, C. T. Wilson, J. Carroll, D. Kosin and S. Wineland. Appreciation is also expressed to Dr. R. E. Martin, Tennessee Technological University.—TERRY W. JOHNSON, *Georgia Game and Fish Commission, Route 3, Ridgewood Apartment 9, Forsyth, Georgia 31029, 25 April 1972.*

Turkey Vulture harassed in flight by Mallard pair.—While observing a Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) circling over a swampy area in Guilford, Connecticut on 6 April 1972, I noticed a pair of Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) climbing upwards and circling it in wide spirals. Flying about a foot or so apart, and with the drake in the lead, the ducks made a pass at the vulture's wing whereupon the vulture rolled to one side. The ducks then circled above the vulture which sailed downward. The ducks resumed the attack, this time diving at its tail and making the vulture flap again to gain height. After climbing above the now rising vulture the ducks again dived close to its wing making the vulture roll sideways. The vulture was by now gaining altitude rapidly and the ducks made an attack from below. As they approached they separated, the female making a pass at the tail and the male at the wing, the vulture suddenly swerving to avoid them as it continued to rise. The ducks then sailed back to the marsh, where I presume they had arisen. The vulture continued to rise and drifted away.—NOBLE S. PROCTOR, *Biology Department, Southern Connecticut State College, 501 Crescent Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06515, 14 April 1972.*