

physiologically stressed and so delayed molt (Bancroft and Hoffman, in press). When they did begin molt the additional stress probably contributed to their death.

Discussion.—The pattern of rectrix molt we describe in Black Scoters is fairly complicated, and enough variability is present even in our limited sample, that the pattern could have been dismissed as “irregular” (e.g., Weller 1957, Oring 1968). Our data suggest the order of rectrix replacement in ducks in general deserves closer examination.

The timing of the first Prebasic and First Prealternate molts in the Black Scoter is the subject of some controversy. Palmer (1976) indicates that Black Scoters attain their First Basic and First Alternate plumage in autumn, but Cramp et al. (1977) report that immatures in Europe are molting from September through May with a very incomplete post-juvinal (=First Prebasic) molt in fall followed by a protracted prenuptial (=First Prealternate) molt. Apparently our understanding of scoter molt has advanced little during the seven decades since Dwight (1914) first discussed the subject! Dwight stressed the great individual variation in timing of molt in his specimens but because they apparently were collected in various locations over a number of years, the meaning of this variation is unclear.

Our specimens seem to fit better the molt patterns described by Dwight (1914) and Cramp et al. (1977) than those described by Palmer (1976), but our sample may be biased. Clarification of this issue will likely require adequate series of healthy Black Scoters collected within the normal winter range.

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GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON AWARD FOR ORNITHOLOGICAL ART

The Wilson Ornithological Society announces the establishment of the George Miksch Sutton Award for Ornithological Art. The Award will be given for art that would be suitable as a color plate in *The Wilson Bulletin*. The subject matter and medium are at the artist's discretion. Size of the artwork should be no smaller than 9¼ wide × 14 inches high and no larger than 18¾ × 27¾. Any artist who has not been represented by a major gallery or who has not been featured in magazines such as *Audubon* or *National Wildlife* is eligible to enter. Prior publication of a color plate in a professional journal does not disqualify an artist. In short, the competition is primarily for artists who do not make their living, or a significant portion of it, by painting birds. Artists who question their eligibility should query the Award Committee when requesting entry information. Artwork will be judged by a panel of ornithologists and artists at the June 1985 Wilson Ornithological Society/Cooper Ornithological Society joint annual meeting in Boulder, Colorado. All qualified entries will be on display at the meeting. Artists should insure their entries both to and from the meeting and include a return mailer with postage attached. Matting and/or framing is at the discretion of the artist. The winner of the competition will receive a check for \$500, and his/her artwork will appear as a color plate in *The Wilson Bulletin*. For further information and application form, contact **Phillips B. Street, Chairman, Sutton Award Committee, Lionville Station Road, R. D. 1, Chester Springs, Pa. 19425.**