WHITAKER, L. M. 1957. Comments on wing-flashing and its occurrence in Mimidae with uniformly colored wings. Wilson Bull. 69:361-363.

EDWARD H. BURTT, JR., JULIE A. SWANSON, BRADY A. PORTER, AND SALLY M. WATERHOUSE, *Dept. of Zoology, Ohio Wesleyan Univ., Delaware, Ohio 43015.* (Present address BAP: *Dept. of Zoology, The Ohio State Univ., 1735 Neil Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43210.)* *Received 26 July 1993, accepted 17 Jan. 1994.*

Wilson Bull., 106(3), 1994, pp. 562–563

Tree nesting by Wild Turkeys on Ossabaw Island, Georgia.—In the spring of 1988, seven Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) poults were found either wandering or stunned near the base of a large live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) on Ossabaw Island. Ossabaw Island is a 10,117 ha barrier island consisting of approximately 4775 ha of uplands, with the remaining acreage consisting of salt marsh. A detailed description of plant communities of Ossabaw is given by Johnson et al. (an ecological survey of the coastal region of Georgia, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, 1974). The live oak had a diameter at breast height (dbh) of approximately 1.2 m. At about 2.4 m high several limbs originated, forming a large crotch covered with resurrection fern (*Polypodium polypodioides*). Examination of the tree crotch revealed a nest containing eggshells from hatched poults. Some poults had injuries from the fall, but most appeared to be in good health. During the spring of 1989, a Wild Turkey hen was observed incubating 11 eggs in the same tree. All 11 eggs hatched. The hen was observed at the base of the tree calling to the poults. Three poults jumped out of the tree and followed the hen away from the nest. The remaining eight poults in the tree were abandoned. A Wild Turkey also was observed nesting in the same tree in 1990. Poults were not seen during or after hatching; however, eggshells from several turkey eggs were recovered from the nest during mid-July, 1990. The tree was not used during the 1991 nesting season. Evidence of a turkey nest in a second live oak also was found on Ossabaw Island during the summer of 1988. The tree had a dbh of 1.8 m and a crotch at about 1.5 m. Wild Turkey eggshells were found in the mat of fern in the tree crotch and at the base of the tree. Wild Turkey nesting was not detected in the tree during the 1989, 1990, or 1991 nesting seasons.

Although the Wild Turkey is a ground nester (Williams, The book of the Wild Turkey, Winchester Press 1981), above-ground nesting of two Wild Turkey hens in North Carolina was described by Cobb and Doerr (Wilson Bull. 101:644–645, 1989). Unlike Ossabaw, the nests were in old growth water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*)/bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) backswamp. Also, the North Carolina nests were on a log (65.5-cm tall) and a stump (1.4-m tall) compared to live trees on Ossabaw. Cobb and Doerr (1989) pointed out that above-ground nests they observed had the advantage of being above the normal field of view of ground predators. In addition, the nests were less likely to be destroyed by flooding.

Three hypotheses may explain tree nesting by Wild Turkeys on Ossabaw Island. Feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*) (>24.7/km^2) and raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) (>4.0/km^2) both occur on Ossabaw (Fletcher et al., J. Wildl. Dis. 26:502–510, 1990). Tree nesting may be an attempt to prevent nest depredation by these species. Additionally, high populations of deer and exotic browsers and grazers have greatly reduced understory nesting cover (Johnson et al. 1974), limiting suitable ground nesting sites. Last is the availability of trees large enough and with suitable configurations to accommodate a turkey nest. Few places exist where trees similar to the size and shape of the live oaks on Ossabaw are accessible to nesting Wild Turkeys.

Acknowledgments.—This project was funded by the Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources,

Wildlife Resources Division. We thank H. Todd Holbrook for helpful suggestions with preparation of the manuscript, and Margaret Beacham for typing of the manuscript.

WILLIAM O. FLETCHER, *Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, 2150 Dawsonville Highway, Gainesville, Georgia 30501;* AND WILLIE A. PARKER, *Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, P.O. Box 14565, Savannah, Georgia 31416.* *Received 8 Sept. 1993, accepted 17 Dec. 1993.*

Wilson Bull., 106(3), 1994, pp. 563–564

Post-hatch brood amalgamation by Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks.—Post-hatch brood amalgamation (post-HBA) occurs when parents incubate and hatch their own young, but subsequently rear young of other individuals as well. The term also applies to cases in which young are reared by other adults as well as situations in which pairs cooperatively rear their broods together (Eadie et al. 1988, Afton 1993). Afton and Paulus (1992) reported that brood amalgamations have been described in 41 waterfowl species. Eadie et al. (1988) and Afton and Paulus (1992) grouped post-HBA into four categories: (1) *adoption,* a pair or single female accepting foster young into their own brood, (2) *creche* or *mixed brood,* a group of birds containing any number of adults (not necessarily related to the young) plus two or more young which are parentally unrelated, (3) *gang-brooding,* mated pairs or several different females with their associated broods joining together, and (4) *kidnapping,* a pair or dominate female which aggressively kidnaps young of a subordinate pair or female. However, no records of post-HBA in the tribe Dendrocygnini have been recorded (Afton and Paulus 1992). I report here the first occurrence of post-HBA in Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*).

On 3 June 1987, I received 30 one-day-old Black-bellied Whistling-Duck ducklings obtained from a single nest by personnel of the Texas Dept. of Parks and Wildlife. Six ducklings died within the first 3 h of captivity. The ducklings were housed at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute's South Pasture Facility 10 km south of Kingsville, Texas. They were fed a mixture of chick starter and water ad libitum and were housed for two weeks in a brooder. Subsequently they were moved to a pen that was half indoors and half outdoors (4 m length × 2 m width × 2 m height). The outdoor half of the pen was enclosed with 2.54 cm chicken wire and an electric fence to prevent predation. Four ducklings escaped the outdoor pen through the chicken wire fence. The outdoor pen also contained a 151-L water tank for the birds.

During the growth and development of these ducklings, adult whistling-ducks regularly visited the pen. During the first 2 h of daylight, adults perched on top of 2.5-m fence poles leading out from the duckling housing facility. The adults vocalized, and the ducklings responded, presumably in response to the adult calls. After perching on the fence posts, the adult Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks would then fly to a 4-ha pond 300 m north of the duckling pen. The peak number of adults on the fence posts in the morning was 28. On at least five occasions, one pair of adults would perch on individual 2.5-m poles next to the duckling pen and stay throughout the day. When the adults were leaving the pond in the evening, up to eight would perch on the poles and vocalize. Vocalizations by adults and ducklings would occur while they were in visual proximity of one another and continue until 0.5 h of light remained in the day at which time the adults would leave toward the south.

The remaining 20 ducklings made their first attempt at flight on 8 July 1987 and were