

species of which there seems to be no previous Arizona record. The date given on the label of this specimen is April 10, 1905.— W. DE W. MILLER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

**Status of the Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) in Colorado.**— The appellation of that form of Black Duck found in Colorado is certainly having its quota of vicissitudes, which may in part be accounted for by the fact that it is a rare species in our State, only four absolute records having been made to date. It may be well to note here another specimen — a mounted bird (a male) in the Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver. It was taken by W. N. W. Blayhey at Loveland, Colorado, in 1907. This specimen and one in the writer's collection are the only two known birds available for identification.

In 'The Birds of Colorado,' by W. W. Cooke, March, 1897, our form of this duck is given as, "*Anas obscura*. Black Duck.... An eastern species finding in Colorado its most western extension." In the first supplement to this volume, March, 1898, the same name is retained. In the second supplement, May, 1900, Mr. Cooke changes the name of our form of this duck and refers it to the more southwestern type in the following words: "In place of 133, *Anas obscura*. Black Duck. Put 134a. *Anas fulvigula maculosa*. Mottled Duck. Although no specimens of this duck taken in Colorado have been examined by the present writer, yet there can be no doubt that the three specimens reported really belong to this subspecies."

We wonder why Mr. Cooke felt justified in making such an unqualified statement in view of the fact that this change to *Anas fulvigula maculosa* was made by him wholly on geographical grounds. It appears also that the original reference of our form to *Anas obscura* was also made entirely on geographical grounds.

In the light of subsequent events we are again reminded of how unsafe it is to refer any bird to any particular form purely on geographical grounds, without a single specimen ever having been identified as belonging to such form, unless it is stated clearly that there is a question as to the form to which it should be referred. When it has been once indubitably established that a certain form, be it, for example, a certain subspecies, is found in any given locality we of course have the right to consider all the birds of this type reported from this locality as being of this particular subspecies until another subspecies has been discovered.

Since the appearance of the second supplement to 'The Birds of Colorado' it has been assumed by Colorado ornithologists that our form of Black Duck is *Anas fulvigula maculosa* (Mottled Duck), as is evidenced by recent writings. The present writer never having seen more than the one specimen referred to above as being in his own collection, and not wishing to trust in a final test the obscurities of book descriptions on a female bird of semi-pronounced characters, noted a possible change of name on the specimen's tag from *Anas obscura* to *Anas fulvigula maculosa*

to be determined at such time when the specimen could be sent to Washington for comparison with large series. A reference to this specimen appeared under the latter name in an 'Annotated List of the Water Birds of Weld, Morgan and Adams Counties, Colorado,' etc., by the writer in 'The Auk,' Vol. XXVI, No. 3, July, 1909, p. 280.

This specimen was recently sent to Washington and examined by Mr. Harry C. Oberholser, who pronounced it *Anas rubripes* (formerly *Anas obscura*), Black Duck. Believing that Dr. Dwight had, in 'The Auk,' October, 1909, demonstrated that there is no subspecies of the Black Duck, Mr. Oberholser made no attempt to refer it to any subspecies.

Upon its return I took the specimen, together with Coues's and Ridgway's manuals, to the Colorado Museum of Natural History and made a very careful comparison of my bird with the specimen there, which bears the name, "*Anas fulvigula maculosa*." The comparison convinced me that that specimen is also *Anas rubripes*. To confirm this opinion, I sent to Mr. Oberholser a careful description of the bird together with a drawing of its head showing patches of buff and black specking and streaking. In an answer just received from him he says, "I have not much doubt of its being *Anas rubripes*."

It has never to my knowledge been assumed that more than one form of the Black Duck exists in Colorado. That *Anas rubripes* is found here is now positive, and until some other form is proved to be co-existent, the Black Ducks of our State should be referred to this form.—A. H. FELGER, Denver, Col.

**The Blue-winged Teal in Cuba in Summer.**—I beg to report that on June 12, 1910, while collecting in a brackish lagoon named "Laguna de Manati," which lies on the bay about 4 leagues from the town of Guantanamo, I saw three Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*), two males and a female, swimming in the lagoon. Thinking they might be wounded birds and unable to fly I waded in after them and was very much surprised to see all of them take to wing and fly off, finally circling again over the place where I stood and lighting on the other side of the mangroves which surround the lagoon. I have not had time to return to the lagoon since, so do not know how long they remained there.—CHARLES T. RAMSDEN, Guantanamo, Cuba.

**The Turnstone at Grosse Isle, Michigan.**—In April last I had some dredging done along the river front bordering my place on Grosse Isle which resulted in a bank being thrown up along the shore for some distance and reaching well out into the river. Here it was washed down by the waves almost to the water's surface, forming, in some places, a rather muddy little flat. On May 29, 1910, I happened to see a flock of waders circle down to the end of the cut, and upon investigation found them to be a flock of thirty Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres morinella*), all in rather high plumage. They would bunch closely together near the water's edge,