

nification under a dissecting microscope. Another bird that I have seen had the cæca represented by small, slightly thickened ridges that would have been overlooked without careful search.

Several notes on the cæca of the American Anhinga have appeared in print previously. Garrod<sup>1</sup> remarks that there was one cæcum present, as in herons, in specimens that he dissected. In a second communication<sup>2</sup> he confirms his previous observation, stating that in this species he found no trace of a second cæcum. Forbes<sup>3</sup> notes that normally he found one cæcum but that in one individual there was in addition to a single cæcum of the ordinary size a much more rudimentary one developed on the other side of the intestine. While in another paper<sup>4</sup> he says that "it is not unusual . . . in a group of birds in which the cæca are of small size, and probably of no physiological importance, to find specimens or species with the normal number of cæca reduced by one. I may give as instances . . . *Plotus ankinga* amongst the Steganopodes." Beddard<sup>5</sup> records one cæcum in some specimens of the Anhinga while in others he notes that there were two. Mitchell<sup>6</sup> found only one vestigial cæcum in a bird that he examined.

From this it would appear that as Forbes has supposed the intestinal cæca in this species are not functional; and that they are on the road to disappearance. One cæcum often seems to be larger than the other, while the second may be vestigial. It is my belief, from my own observations, that some indication of this second one may be found if the gut is examined while fresh or after preservation in some fluid that causes rapid hardening. It would seem that at times this rudiment may be imperceptible in specimens dissected from alcohol or that it may be overlooked without minute search for it. It is possible that cæca are more prominent in young birds and that one or both of them may decrease in size with age.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**On the Nesting of the Black Duck in Ohio.**—In regard to the article in the last number of 'The Auk' on this subject by Mr. E. A. Doolittle, I would like to state that the species formerly nested quite frequently at the Grand Reservoir here in western Ohio, especially at two places, where the Big and Little Chickasaw creeks empty into the Reservoir. Mr. Doolittle quotes my article in 'The Auk', January, 1910, but evidently overlooked my record for the recent nesting of this duck in the spring of 1911, as recorded in 'The Wilson Bulletin,' December, 1912, page 198, which is a good and reliable record. Writers on Ohio birds

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<sup>1</sup> Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1876, p. 344.

<sup>2</sup> Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1878, p. 681.

<sup>3</sup> Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1882, p. 210.

<sup>4</sup> Voy. of Challenger, Zool., Vol. IV, Pt. XI, 1882, p. 22.

<sup>5</sup> Structure and Classification of Birds, 1898, p. 403.

<sup>6</sup> Trans. Linn. Soc. (London), Zool., Ser. 2, Vol. VIII, p. 192.

will do well to consult the pages of 'The Wilson Bulletin' before rushing into print.—W. F. HENNINGER, *New Bremen, Ohio*.

**The American and European Widgeons in Massachusetts.**—In 'The Auk' for April, 1911, in writing of ten years' observations on migrating ducks at Wenham Lake, Mass., I reported four occurrences of the European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) and suggested that this species is probably more common than is usually supposed.

Those records ended with the year 1909, and since then I have accurate notes for nine additional years at the same place, a series of nineteen years in all. In 1911 no shooting was done and no records kept.

During those nine years seven more specimens of *M. penelope* have been taken among only seven specimens of *M. americana*, as follows:

1910—*M. americana*, 1.

1912—*M. americana*, 3; *M. penelope*, 1, on October 24.

1913—No Widgeon taken.

1914—*M. americana*, 0; *M. penelope*, 2, on November 21.

1915—No Widgeon taken.

1916—*M. americana*, 3; *M. penelope*, 4, October 20 and November 2.

1917—No Widgeon taken.

1918—No Widgeon taken.

1919—No Widgeon taken.

Total for the nine years—*M. americana*, 7; *M. penelope*, 7.

Total for 19 years—*M. americana*, 59; *M. penelope*, 11.

All specimens of the European species were in female plumage and showed both the typical rusty coloring of the head and the dark gray axillaries. It is very likely that some specimens of *M. penelope* were classed as *M. americana* in the early years of shooting at Wenham, before the diagnostic value of the axillars was learned.

On November 14, 1919, I noted one specimen of *M. penelope* hanging up in a duck blind on the south shore of Great Bay in the town of Greenland, N. H., not far north of the Massachusetts state line. This bird was also in female or in immature plumage. I was told that a small flock of twenty or thirty Widgeon had been feeding in Great Bay for several days, but this was the only one that had been shot. At Squibnocket Pond, Chilmark, Mass., which is situated at the southwest corner of Martha's Vineyard Island, out of 120 Widgeon taken between October 22 and December 10, 1919, one fine male of *M. penelope* was shot November 6. I examined all these Widgeon very carefully myself.

On December 8, 1919, I watched another full plumaged male *M. penelope* through a glass at close range, among a raft of many hundred Widgeon and Red-heads at Squibnocket.

It certainly seems that among the rare straggling Widgeon which appear irregularly east of Boston, at Wenham, *M. penelope* is at least relatively more abundant than among the Martha's Vineyard birds. Can it be