

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) in Pennsylvania.—Through the courtesy of Mr. Boyd P. Rothrock, curator of the Pennsylvania State Museum, Harrisburg, Pa., I am able to report the capture of four specimens of the King Eider, on the Susquehanna River at a point opposite Harrisburg, not far from West Fairview, on December 7, 1920. Mr. Rothrock writes me that an assistant of his sighting five ducks, which he at first took to be Canvasbacks, paddled out to within shooting distance and with a Winchester pump gun secured four of them. Three of these are females and one a young male showing a considerable amount of white on the breast. The male and one of the females were sent to me for examination by Mr. Rothrock and thanks to his generosity the latter is now in the Pennsylvania study series at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, while the other three are being mounted at the State Museum.

Curiously enough on January 11, 1921, Mr. Brent M. Morgan of Washington, D. C., sent me a clipping from an issue of the 'Liverpool [Pa.] Sun,' published early in the present year in which it is stated that: "B. F. Lower, while poling a boat along the river one day last week was fortunate enough to kill a large Eider duck with his pole. The wild Eider duck is a rare species in this vicinity and has a beautiful plumage."

Liverpool is in Snyder County, about thirty miles above Harrisburg, on the west side of the Susquehanna, so that it would seem that there were more Eiders present than those reported by Mr. Rothrock. Requests for further information from the editor of the paper have met with no response, but the allusion to the beauty of the plumage would seem to indicate the presence of an adult male. So far as I am aware this is the first record of the King Eider for the State, with the exception of the flock reported by Dr. Warren on Erie Bay, November 30, 1889 (Birds of Pennsylvania, 2nd ed. p. 46.).—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia*.

The Blue Goose in the Province of Quebec.—On October 10, 1917, an adult Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) was shot by Mr. Charles Frémont, of Quebec, P. Q., at Cap Tourmente, Montmorency County, P. Q. Cap Tourmente is on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, about twenty-five miles below Quebec City. The Blue Goose was with a flock of Greater Snow Geese (*Chen hyperboreus nivalis*) when taken.

On October 16, 1920, a juvenile Blue Goose was shot at the same place by Mr. H. des Rivières of Quebec, P. Q. This bird also was in the company of a flock of Greater Snow Geese when taken. Mr. des Rivières informs me that the Greater Snow Geese would not permit the Blue Goose to mingle freely with them, but kept it always at a distance of at least several feet from their flock.

Both of these Blue Geese were taken in the flesh to Mr. C. E. Dionne, curator of the museum of Laval University, Quebec, P. Q., by whom they were mounted. They were not sexed. When seen by me they were mounted and were in the possession of Mr. Frémont and Mr. des

Rivières, respectively. They were identified by me within a short time after I had examined the series of skins of Blue Geese and Snow Geese in the possession of Mr. J. H. Fleming, of Toronto, Ont. I completed the identification of Mr. des Rivières' juvenile bird by writing down a detailed description of the specimen while it was before me and later comparing the description, in Toronto, with a skin of a juvenile Blue Goose in Mr. Fleming's possession.

There appear to be no previous records of the Blue Goose in the Province of Quebec.—HARRISON F. LEWIS, *Bergerville, P. Q.*

Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) in Massachusetts.—The following records of Blue geese taken in Massachusetts do not seem to have been reported.

One (sex?) shot at Long Point, Silver Lake, Plympton, Mass., late in November, 1914. The specimen was mounted and is now kept in a camp at Oldham Pond, Pembroke.

One (sex?) shot at Accord Pond, South Hingham, Mass., October 29, 1920. Specimen not saved, but seen by Mr. A. B. Gardner after it had been plucked for use as food. JOHN C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

Massachusetts Geese.—The autumn of 1920 was remarkable for what was probably the largest flight of Canada Geese that has been seen in eastern Massachusetts, at least in recent times. Geese started moving the first week in October, and this early flight was large. There seem to have been very few days from early October to early January of the present year that flocks were not seen at some point between Weymouth and Duxbury. The November flight started early and lasted with very little interruption the rest of the month, the bulk probably passing between November 20 and 26, during which period there was continual "dirty" weather; sleet, snow, fog, north-east and north gales. These extremely unfavorable conditions for migration forced geese into small ponds, marshes, and even fields, so exhausted did they become. Consequently many were shot outside the regular goose "stands," how many we cannot tell. It was remarked by Massachusetts gunners that there seemed to be a large proportion of young geese, and the same was true of Currituck Sound, N. C.; where geese also appeared in unusual numbers and were very tame. The tameness of the geese in Massachusetts this past season caused comment everywhere, and I saw instances of it myself.

The figures which I have gathered on the numbers taken are not complete, but they do include nearly all the largest shooting stands. Added together they give a total of 4749 for eastern Massachusetts, without allowing anything for numbers killed on small ponds, or during flight. This may bring the number actually shot up to 5000. It is interesting to compare this with a count taken on three other years in the same way. In 1908 about 1450, in 1909 about 1900, and in 1911 about 3518, this last being the biggest year up to that time ('The Auk,' 1912, p. 390).