

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).

In 1910 ('The Auk,' p. 268) I pointed out that the average yearly number of geese seen from a single point at Oldham Pond, Pembroke was 1145. This year 2876 geese were seen at this same place, and at least 1400 of them came into the pond. This count does not include some flocks that came in and went out during the night.

I suggested in 1912 that our Atlantic coast flight of Canada Geese showed signs of being on the increase. I think now that there is no doubt about this. The numbers taken this year seem to some people excessive, but the chance to shoot so many will probably not occur again in many years. The favorable conditions were due to a combination of a great breeding year, with a heavy flight, which happened to meet extremely hard weather after it had started. In Labrador the past season has been one of great scarcity of foxes, following one of the cycles in which mice and rabbits die off in great numbers. This may have something to do with an extra successful breeding year for geese resulting in large numbers of young.

It is quite interesting to compare our Massachusetts figures with those which I have recently seen for the State of Minnesota. The hunters of that state have reported only 2330 Canada Geese shot during the two years 1919-1920 (MS. of State Game Comm. Report).

Some geese having heavy oil, of a black, tarry consistency on their underparts, were shot in Massachusetts ponds last autumn. I saw one or two geese shot with this oil upon them at Currituck Sound, N. C., in December, and I heard of several others taken there in the same plight.

Swans were again reported in Massachusetts. Two flocks, one of eleven, and one of seven came into Duxbury Bay, but I have not the dates.—JOHN C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

The Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*) on the coast of South Carolina.—About three o'clock P. M., on January 17, 1921, my wife called my attention to a very large white bird flying over our yard and about to alight in the water near our house while we were sitting on the piazza. I cautiously approached the place under cover and to my astonishment found the huge bird to be an adult Swan. I then retreated and went back into the house for my gun and glasses, came back under cover and approached it to within 150 feet and saw it feeding by immersing its long neck under the water. I watched this bird through good glasses hoping to see the position of the nostrils, but was unable to do so nor did I have the heart to shoot so beautiful a bird. It was an enormous bird and may have been an example of the very rare Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*) for which there is no South Carolina record. The bird was constantly on the alert and finally flew away in a southerly direction.

The Whistling Swan—which I suppose this bird must have been—is rare in South Carolina, but I have in my collection a young bird of the year taken at Ridge Springs, Edgefield County, South Carolina, on November 26, 1907, which was given to me by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, and