

Shoveller in Bergen Co., New Jersey, in Spring.—The marshes of Overpeck Creek, near Englewood have long been an excellent place for freshwater ducks, and their rapid increase there in recent years in the spring has been a source of gratification to many field ornithologists of the New York City region. In line with this statement the spring of 1921 was better than any previous one. On April 3, American Mergansers, Mallard, Black Ducks, Green-winged Teal, Pintail, Lesser Scaup, and Ruddy Ducks were scattered over the waters of the creek or roosting on the flats left there by a low tide. We crawled up to the very edge of the creek behind some reeds, and had several minutes of observation before some Pintails scarcely 50 feet from us gave the alarm. For a few minutes the air was full of flying ducks streaming off in various directions. A last sweep of the glasses over the supposedly deserted creek revealed a small flock of Teal and, to our great surprise, an adult male Shoveller roosting in plain sight on a mud bar. The dark head, long bill, ruddy breast and white ring around the neck were all conspicuous, and when after a few minutes the bird stood up and started waddling to the water, there could be no doubt of the identity of a so conspicuously marked species, which Griscom knew well from field experience in various parts of this country and Europe. The Shoveller has been shot just once on Overpeck Creek though the exact data was not preserved by the lucky sportsman. It is reported "to have occurred formerly" by old gunners. Otherwise we are not aware of any definite record for this species in northern New Jersey.—LUDLOW GRISCOM AND E. R. P. JANVRIN, M. D., *New York City*.

Mute Swans on the Hudson.—In the July, 1921, number of 'The Auk,' under "General Notes," Mr. S. C. Bishop writes of seeing "Four swans, apparently *Olor columbianus* about two miles north of Staatsburgh, N. Y." At various times other observers have reported swans from the same locality and assumed them to be of this species.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Jacob Ruppert a number of years ago introduced the European Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor*, in the large cove between Staatsburgh and Rhinebeck, and during recent years the gradually increasing flock has eluded capture and wing-clipping so that individuals and groups are often seen in the Hudson River at some distance from their home. Last autumn this flock numbered 26 birds, but during the latter part of the winter only a few were present, leaving the whereabouts of the rest a matter of conjecture. This spring nearly the whole number had returned.

This flock was recorded in 'Bird Lore's' 1920 Christmas Census and was also mentioned in the 'Yearbook' of the Rhinebeck Bird Club for 1918, 1919 and 1920, which is briefly reviewed in the same number of 'The Auk' which contains Mr. Bishop's note, the review referring to "White" Swans, which we learn was a misprint for "Mute."

It is of course likely that wild swans will decoy to these Rhinebeck birds, but unless positively identified it is safer to assume that all seen in this locality are *Cygnus olor*.—MAUNSELL S. CROSBY, *Rhinebeck, N. Y.*