

Although the subspecies *nivalis* is supposed to be the one occurring on the Atlantic coast, two specimens of *C. h. hyperboreus* have been taken on Long Island and also one near Elizabeth, N. J. (Auk, Vol. XXXVIII, p. 120. Charles A. Urner),—all three in the month of October. Mr. G. A. Langelier, in 'The Auk' for January, 1929, p. 103, reports a bird he shot on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, in Quebec, on May 14, 1928, identified by Mr. Frederic H. Kennard as *C. h. hyperboreus*. This bird, presumably, migrated north along or near the Atlantic coast.—E. R. P. JANVRIN, M.D., 38 East 85th Street, New York City.

Migrating Ducks in the Valley of Virginia.—The 1929 spring migration of Ducks in Virginia, west of the Blue Ridge mountains, was of unusual interest. This mountainous region is not very attractive to Ducks. We have few large streams and no lakes of any size. Mallards and Black Ducks are regular fall and spring visitors in small numbers, and Blue-winged Teals and Lesser Scaups are nearly always seen in the migration periods. With these exceptions, there are only casual records of Ducks. This year a number of species occurred which have rarely been noted in this section. All of these herein reported, except the Baldpates, I saw on Cameron's Pond, a very small body of water two miles from Lexington, Va. Most of them were seen while in company with Mr. M. G. Lewis of Lexington.

The following species were observed:

Lophodytes cucullatus. HOODED MERGANSER.—Single females were seen on various dates from April 3 to 17.

Mareca americana. BALDPATE.—I saw a flock of seven on North River, near Lexington, March 11.

Spatula clypeata. SHOVELLER.—A male and two females on March 23; two males and five females on March 31; a single male on April 1 and 3. All very wild.

Nyroca americana. REDHEAD.—One male stayed on the pond from March 20 to April 6.

Nyroca collaris. RING-NECKED DUCK.—One male from March 18, joined by another male on March 31, and both stayed until April 6. The Redhead and the Ringnecks were always together. They were very tame and rarely took flight even on being closely approached. One rainy day I drove my car out in the open to the edge of the pond and watched them. I saw the same trio once on North River where automobiles were passing on a much-travelled road within less than a hundred yards of them without frightening them away.

Glaucionetta clangula americana. AMERICAN GOLDENEYE.—One found dead on March 18. Wing broken by shot. Had not been dead long, but was partially eaten by turtles. I saved the head, a wing, and the feet.

Charitonetta albeola. BUFFLEHEAD.—One female April 15 to 17, with an Old Squaw.

Clangula hyemalis. OLD-SQUAW.—One male from April 14 to 17. The

molt into nuptial plumage almost complete, except for a whitish patch on crown and hind head and a number of white spots on back and shoulders. I have the skin. The Bufflehead and Old-squaw were noted just after a storm. They were quite tame and very active, diving constantly. On April 18 I found these two and a Lesser Scaup dead, floating in the rushes at the pond's edge. Someone had shot them, apparently with a small rifle.

A Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*) spent a week here on another pond, April 19 to 25.—JAMES J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Va.*

Nesting of the American Merganser in Chihuahua.¹—In a general collection of bird skins recently acquired by Mr. Donald R. Dickey from H. H. Kimball, there is a downy young of *Mergus merganser americanus* Cassin, collected by Mr. Kimball at Colonia Pacheco, Chihuahua, Mexico, on May 23, 1909. The bird was not more than a couple of days old at the time of collection and therefore was certainly hatched in the immediate vicinity. As the southernmost breeding station recorded by Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 126, 1923, p. 12) is Tulare County, California, it seems desirable to place this downy young on record. In details of head coloration and in the position of nostril, which is 11 mm. from the tip and 8 mm. from the base of the exposed portion of the maxilla, the specimen is typical of this species.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California.*

Florida Gallinule in Northern New Jersey.—April 29, 1929, in a big, fresh-water marsh near Whippany New Jersey, I observed a Florida Gallinule. I noted its call and heard several others like it in the marsh. I had heard these calls in the marsh since April 13, but, as I saw Coots, I took them for Coot calls, not being familiar with the calls of either bird.

May 1, I was again in the marsh, and observed two Gallinules through 8x glasses (Zeiss) within thirty yards, with Coots close by for comparison. But, surely, no careful observer would ever confuse the two. I saw four others at a distance, and from the calls in the marsh, I would say that I did not see half the Gallinules that were there.

I expect to keep watch on the Gallinules to see if they breed there this season.

The marsh has had unusually high water all the spring. Shovellers and Blue-wing Teals have been quite common up to April 27.

I have haunted this marsh winter and spring for seven years, and this is the first time I have observed there Florida Gallinules, Coots or Grebes (Pied-bill?).—W. DAN QUATTLEBAUM, *East Orange, New Jersey.*

Egg-eating Habits of the Florida Gallinule.—In 'The Auk' Vol. XLIV, page 550, October, 1927, I noticed an article by Alfred M. Bailey, giving an interesting and unique account of a Purple Gallinule stealing a very small young of the Louisiana Heron, from a low nest in the swamps

¹ Contribution from the California Institute of Technology.