

Michigan in past years, an occasional pair or two being seen. This year on March 30, I counted 200 on Portage Lake, and on April 6, 100 individuals, while some of the more common species did not come at all. The late Dr. W. B. Barrows speaks of this and the following as uncommon migrants inland, in his 'Michigan Bird Life.'

For the past four years I have seen from three to six Ruddy Turnstones at the same lake each year on May 30 and 31, a rather punctual itinerary.—
EDITH K. FREY, *Jackson, Michigan.*

Ducks in the Valley of Virginia.—The following are supplementary to my previous notes ('The Auk', July 1929, p. 379). The number of Ducks noted during the 1930 spring migration was again considerable for a mountain country that has few large streams and no lakes of any size, especially since some of the ponds were much diminished this year by a dry season. All dates are for 1930, unless otherwise noted, and all places are near Lexington, Va.

Mergus merganser americanus. AMERICAN MERGANSER.—A female brought to me on January 17. This was one of three shot on North River out of a flock of about a dozen, all said to be similar.

Lophodytes cucullatus. HOODED MERGANSER.—A pair in adult plumage at Cameron's Pond on April 2; and two flocks, totalling twelve, one on North River and one at Big Spring Pond, on April 14, all in immature plumage.

Anas platyrhynchos. MALLARD.—Occasional from October 3, 1929, through February; common in March and April.

Anas rubripes. BLACK DUCK.—Occasional from November 25, 1929, through March; common in April; a crippled bird on May 27. As far as the sub-species could be determined in the field, most of these were *A. r. tristis*, but I saw a few individuals at close range which I felt sure were *A. r. rubripes*. A cripple of the latter form was closely watched on April 4.

Chaulelasmus streperus. GADWALL.—Two males and a female noted at Big Spring Pond on numerous occasions from November 25 to December 30, 1929. First record here.

Mareca americana. BALDPATE.—Eight males and six females at Cameron's Pond on March 11. These were in very bright plumage, the heads of some of the males being strong cream buff.

Nettion carolinense. GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—One male and two females at Big Spring Pond on April 4 and 5. This is my only record here, while they are fairly common on the eastern side of the mountains.

Querquedula discors. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.—Abundant, April 3 to 14.

Spatula clypeata. SHOVELLER.—Two pairs at Cameron's Pond on April 3, and one male, April 4 to 9.

Dafila acuta tzitzihoa. PINTAIL.—A pair at Cameron's Pond on March 11.

Aix sponsa. WOOD DUCK.—A pair in bright plumage at Cameron's Pond on April 4, and another pair on April 14.

Nyroca affinis. LESSER SCAUP. Abundant, March 28 to April 22.

Nyroca collaris. RING-NECKED DUCK.—A female brought to me on November 25, 1929, which was killed on North River; two females on April 2; six females on April 4; a pair on April 5 at Cameron's Pond.

Glaucionetta clangula americana. AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE.—A male on North River on April 3.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Va.*

Diving Habits in the Genus *Nyroca*.—In a paper on "The Use of The Wings and Feet in Diving Birds,"¹ I stated that Redheads, Greater and Lesser Scaups, and Ring-necked Ducks, all of the genus *Nyroca*, use only the feet in under-water propulsion, but I was able to give very few observations on these birds. This statement I am now able to confirm by observations on two European birds of the same genus, the Tufted Duck (*Nyroca fuligula*) and the Pochard (*Nyroca ferina*). The diving of the former I witnessed many times in the pond of St. James Park, London, in July, 1927, and of both species in June, 1930, under most favorable circumstances. Standing on the bridge, which is only two or three feet above the surface of the water, here perhaps four feet deep, one looks down on the Ducks which often dive directly below or only a few feet away. The water is clear enough to show distinctly all their under-water movements. Notwithstanding their tameness, these are "wild" birds with unclipped wings, and they resort here in the heart of London together with Gulls, Moorhens and other birds.

The Tufted Ducks, which look like Lesser Scaups, were in both years continually diving for small fish which they pursued with great speed by feet propulsion alone, and they darted about making quick turns from side to side and up and down. The fish were brought to the surface, and, after some efforts, swallowed. On two occasions while I was watching, the fish dropped from the bill, and the Duck instantly dove in pursuit. At no time, even at turns, were the wings used or even raised from the sides. In fact the feathers of the flanks, pure white in the adult males, rolled over and covered the wings, and it could be seen that these feathers were not displaced at any time.

The feet were used together, but not always. In turns they were often used alternately, and they were often extended from the body at an angle. The Duck generally began the dive by leaping from the water with wings close to the side, and it executed a graceful curve as it plunged below the surface.

The Pochard, which looks like our Redhead, dives and pursues its prey under water in the same manner. This method of diving is very different from that of Ducks of the genera *Clangula* and *Somateria*, for example, where the wings are used.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Ipswich, Mass.*

Spoonbills at Marco, Fla.—I may have misunderstood him, but in the

¹ The Auk, XXVI, 1909, pp. 234-248.