

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.

July 'Auk' Mr. Amos W. Butler, Indianapolis, Indiana, seems to imply that the Roseate Spoonbill is now quite rare in Florida. When I was in Florida the first week of June this year, I found large numbers of them among the "Thousand Islands," around Marco (I believe it is now renamed Collier City), on the west coast, below Fort Myers, and friends who go down there for tarpon, as I did, once or twice every June tell me they always find them there in abundance. I did not make any mistake in identification, as I was repeatedly near enough to see every mark of identification quite plainly.—THOS. E. WINECOFF, *In Charge of Research, Pennsylvania Game Commission.*

Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) taken in Southern Alabama.—On June 9, 1930, I visited Dauphin Island, Alabama, at the mouth of Mobile Bay, for the purpose of banding Little Blue Herons. In the small fishing village on the island, I was shown, as a curiosity, a stuffed bird which the owner called a "curlew." This bird proved to be a mature Roseate Spoonbill with the typical bare head and throat, and the ochraceous-buff and carmine markings of the adult.

The Roseate Spoonbill was taken by Mr. Oliver Ladnier of Dauphin Island on June 1, 1930, in the Little Blue Heron Swamp known locally as "Alligator Pool" and situated on the east end of the island. I purchased the specimen from Mr. Ladnier and sent it to a taxidermist for better mounting. The bird is now in my possession. The last occurrence of the Roseate Spoonbill in Alabama is recorded by A. H. Howell in his 'Birds of Alabama' as follows—"two birds of this species (*Ajaia ajaja*) killed on Dauphin Island (Alabama) about the year 1897."—HELEN M. EDWARDS (Mrs. W. H.), *Fairhope, Ala.*

Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.—On May 4, 1930, in the upper valley of the Hammer Creek I had a close view of *Nyctanassa violacea*. The bird, a mature individual, assisted the observation by standing quietly on a log within forty yards allowing me to study its yellow tinted white-crown and plumes. This is the first record of the species in this region.—HERBERT H. BECK, *Lititz, Pa.*

Little Blue Heron Breeding in Delaware.—On June 6, 1930 in company with another member of the West Chester, Penna., Bird Club, we were conducted to the site of a colony of breeding Little Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons in lower Delaware. Some months previous I had been informed that this colony had been discovered during the breeding season of 1929 and that I might visit it during the coming season. We arrived about 2 P. M. after a walk of perhaps three-fourths of a mile from the highway. The site was in second-growth pine and deciduous trees, the former predominating and all set very thickly on the ground, averaging perhaps forty feet in height with the tops closely interlacing. The nesting trees covered an irregular area of perhaps 75 to 100 feet square and so dense was the foliage above, that it was generally impossible