

a Lesser Scaup Duck swimming about. We approached slowly and were able to verify it as this form, the bird flying then alighting, flying and again alighting on the lake. It was a male bird and the lateness of the date made us wonder if it could be possible that this species nested anywhere as far south as this. Giles, a very careful observer, had recorded 14 of these birds, 6 males and 8 females, on this same lake on June 11, 1930; and had records for June 10, 11, 12, 13, and 15, 1929 also on Lake Rabun. Arthur H. Howell in 'Birds of Alabama' gives several records around the middle of May and Thos. D. Burleigh, writing from Athens, Ga., says: "A rather unexpected record was that of three birds, all females, seen June 21, 1926." Probably the bird we saw on June 28 was a very late migrant or liked the high altitude of north Georgia better than a section further north among its kindred.—EARLE R. GREENE, 642 Orme Circle, Atlanta, Ga.

**Status of the American and Lesser Scaup Ducks in Ohio.**—Considerable confusion still exists among Ohio ornithologists and sportsmen concerning the relative numbers and abundance of the American Scaup Duck (*Nyroca marila nearctica*) and the Lesser Scaup Duck (*Nyroca affinis*). Of the former, Dr. Wheaton ('Report on the Birds of Ohio,' 1879, p. 530) says it is a "not uncommon spring and fall migrant in the interior of the State; more common on Lake Erie, but nowhere abundant." Jones in 'The Birds of Ohio,' 1903, p. 42 and Dawson's 'Birds of Ohio,' 1903, p. 604 states that in his experience the Scaup Duck is about one-fourth as numerous as the Lesser Scaup, especially in northern Ohio. Among the sportsmen a large specimen of the Lesser Scaup is usually called a "Big Bluebill" while a small individual is a "Little Bluebill." It is agreed that at present the Lesser Scaup Duck is one of, if not, the most common Duck occurring in Ohio.

During the past seven years I have made quite an effort, as have other members of the Wheaton Club of Columbus, to compile data in regard to these two species. At Buckeye Lake, in the central part of Ohio, I examined and measured 106 Bluebills, most of which were shot by sportsmen. All of these were Lesser Scaup Ducks. Though the majority were taken in the fall hunting season, considerable effort was made during the rest of the year to collect any bird which looked suspiciously like the American Scaup. On a few occasions Ducks have been noted which surely were American Scaups, but in each case it was impossible to collect them.

Some work was also conducted in the Sandusky Bay marshes on Lake Erie, especially at East Harbor, during the latter part of the hunting seasons of 1924, 1925, and 1926. Though over 250 Lesser Scaups were handled and measured, no American Scaups were found. A number of sportsmen have described to me a bird taken on rare occasions in this region, which by its size must have been the "Big Bluebill."

I have been unable to find an American Scaup taken in Ohio, in the Museums and other collections scattered over the State, though a number of birds were found labeled American Scaup which in reality were Lesser.

At present the Ohio State Museum has 27 specimens of Lesser Scaups from Ohio, from the collections of Wheaton, Jasper, Davie, Henninger, and other more recent collectors.

It therefore appears that the American Scaup is one of the rarer of Ohio Ducks, being much less common than usually considered.—MILTON B. TRAUTMAN, *Ohio Division of Conservation, Columbus, Ohio*,

**The American Scoter (*Oidemia americana*) Again in Winter on the South Carolina Coast.**—In 'The Auk' for April, 1929, the writer recorded the third observance of this species in South Carolina. Since that time additional records have strongly indicated that this species is on the increase along the South Atlantic coast, certainly as far down as Charleston. These records cover a considerable range of season; the first one after the above mentioned one occurring on April 6, 1929 when a fine male was taken alive at the same island where the writer and Mr. Weston saw the flock of eight mentioned in the April 'Auk.' This specimen was secured by Mr. Isaac Grimball and was presented to the Charleston Museum. In December, 1929 flocks of the American Scoter were seen in Bull's Bay by Mr. E. Milby Burton and two companions, several of the birds being taken ('Auk,' April, 1930).

During this past year, the writer saw this species on two occasions off Folly Island, in huge flocks, sometimes so close in that the birds could be seen easily without the aid of glasses, playing and swimming just beyond the surf line. The dates are December 20, 1930; January 17, 1931. For three consecutive winters American Scoters have been noted on the South Carolina coast and are probably to be included in the number of winter residents.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.*

**Black-bellied and Fulvous Tree Duck, in Illinois.**—On September 15, 1930, a Black-bellied Tree Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) was shot, by a hunter, from a tree along the Illinois river, near LaSalle, Illinois. This bird, the sex of which could not be determined, was brought in to a local taxidermist and mounted by him.

In mentioning the above to a friend of mine who is also a commercial taxidermist, he told me that some years ago he mounted a Fulvous Tree Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) which was brought in to him. We looked this bird up in his records and found that it was a male, killed off the Government Pier, in Chicago, on December 7, 1919.

Both these birds looked to be healthy, were in good plumage and did not show any signs of being kept in captivity, although there is a possibility of their being caged birds at one time, a fact though of which no one can feel certain.—JOHN WILLIAM MOYER, *Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois*.

**Lesser Snow Geese in Barry County, Michigan.**—On October 21, 1930, two Snow Geese were shot from a flock of twenty-five, at Crooked Lake, Barry County, Michigan, by J. D. Langworthy of Battle Creek.