

presented to the Charleston, S. C., Museum.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, U. S. Dredge Morgan, Savannah, Ga.

**The Downy Young of Some Foreign Species of Ducks and Geese.—**

Students often experience great difficulty in assembling specimens of foreign birds, particularly in natal and juvenile plumages, in this country for study. It often happens that critical specimens are located in small private collections where their existence is known to few people. For this reason I am prompted to place on record the fact that my personal collection contains the specimens of downy *Anatidae* listed below. These specimens will be loaned to interested students at any time. All these birds were hatched at the aviary of my friend the late Mr. J. V. de Laveaga, San Mateo, California, who kindly presented me with such specimens as from time to time died there. Since the birds were hatched in captivity, positive identification, sometimes difficult to accomplish in the field in the case of young waterfowl, was secured. For the same reason it is possible to give the exact age of each specimen.

<i>Casarca cana</i> . . . . .	Age six days.
<i>Anas poecilorhyncha poecilorhyncha</i> . . . . .	Age two days.
<i>Anas bahamensis bahamensis</i> . . . . .	Age nine days.
<i>Nettion castaneum</i> . . . . .	Age one day.
<i>Nettion flavirostre</i> . . . . .	Age one day.
<i>Metopiana peposaca</i> . . . . .	Age two days.
<i>Chloëphaga leucoptera</i> . . . . .	Age one day.
<i>Chloëphaga rubidiceps</i> . . . . .	Age six days.

In addition to the above listed foreign species, I have in my collection, specimens of the downy young of most North American ducks including those of all the American Eiders.

I have placed the Bahama Pintail in the genus *Anas* Linné, as do Phillips (Nat. Hist. Ducks, II, 1923, p. 344) and Peters (Check-List Bds. of the World, I, 1931, p. 167), rather than in the genus *Dafila* Stephens (A. O. U. Check-List, 4th Ed., 1931, p. 46) as the plumage of the downy young of this species is strikingly typical of young of the genus *Anas* as restricted by the A. O. U. 'Check-List' (*loc. cit.*). In so doing, I do not disregard the genus *Dafila* for the species *Dafila acuta*. Conversely, on account of the dissimilarity of the downy young, I retain use of the genus *Nettion* Kaup for the Chestnut-breasted and Yellow-billed Teal whose young in no way resemble those of Mallard-like ducks. This nomenclature is in accord with that of the A. O. U. 'Check-List,' 4th Edition; but is contrary to the practice of Phillips and Peters (*supra. cit.*) who disregard the genera *Dafila*, *Nettion* and *Querquedula* and treat all pintail and teal as species of the genus *Anas*. I believe that the natal plumages of ducks, recognized as being so demonstrative of relationships often rendered difficult to appraise in adult plumages, are important indications of generic relationships.

Phillips (Nat. Hist. Ducks, vol. I-IV, 1922-1926) describes the downy

plumages of all the ducks listed above except that of the Rosy-billed Pochard. It therefore seems advisable to record the natal plumage of *Metopiana peposaca* as follows: (Colors from Ridgway's Color Standards 1912).

Very similar to the corresponding plumage of *Nyroca americana*, plumage patterns identical, but species under consideration darker and colors more intense throughout. Crown and upper parts, sepia. Sides of head, yellow ochre. Lower surface and wing-, scapular-, and rump-patches of upper surface, amber yellow becoming slightly darker on breast where it merges into yellow ochre of sides of head and neck. Soft parts noted twelve hours after death as follows: Upper mandible, pale flesh color, nail, flesh pink. Lower mandible, salmon color. Iris, brownish olive. Feet and legs, mainly olive yellow, brighter on webs and darker on outer surfaces of tarsi.

The natal plumage of *Chloëphaga leucoptera* is described by Scott under the synonym *C. megallanica* (Repts. Princeton Univ. Exped. to Patagonia 1896-1899, 1912, vol. II, pt. III, pp. 420-421). I am unable to find a description of the plumage of the downy young of *Chloëphaga rubidiceps* in the literature at my disposal, hence shall describe it as follows: Crown, fuscous, hind neck and upper surface, except wing-, scapular-, and rump-patches which are white, olive brown. Lores and narrow stripes above eyes extending just behind them, black. Rest of plumage including forehead, throat, foreneck and sides, entire under surface and stripes between crown and black eye stripes, white; but underlaid by shorter deep mouse gray down which gives it a grayish tinge. A few olive brown hairs on the cheeks, foreneck and ventral region lend a darker tone to these areas. Specimen received too long after death (48 hours) to render color notes of soft parts reliable. In the dried skin, the feet and legs are brownish, both mandibles are black except the nail which is horn colored.—JAMES MOFFITT, 1879 Broadway, San Francisco, Calif.

**Blue-winged Teal Nesting in New Jersey.**—*Querquedula discors* may be positively added to the casual breeding birds of New Jersey. Our first suspicion that the bird was actually breeding in Troy Meadows was in May, 1929 when we found it as late as May 30 (Griscom and the writer) calling, and when four individuals, including one which looked like a bird of the year, were seen by J. L. Edwards and the writer August 3. The bird considered as a juvenile was very white below and showed little or no color in the wing. The following year, May 25, 1930, Edwards and the writer in the same locality found a Blue-winged Teal which was very nervous, repeatedly coming over us and calling. The bird evidently was nesting, and the fact was definitely established later in the season by Mr. Edwards and Lester L. Walsh, both of whom found females with young. There were probably two broods for those found by each observer were of different size. Again in 1931 at least one pair of the birds was present at the opening of the breeding season but whether they nested I have not learned.—CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, N. J.*