

year (Auk, XLVIII, page 615) Eider Ducks were found feeding in company with Black Ducks on a flooded space where the swollen river overflowed its banks, in West Charlestown, N. H. There were four males and at least as many females. Their presence again this spring is interesting in that it may prove the species a more common migrant on this waterway than has been suspected.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

The American Eider in Colorado.—During the forenoon of February 25, 1932, Mrs. R. J. Kerruish and Miss Susan Goddard of Littleton, Colorado, and Miss Prue Bostwick of Denver in company with the undersigned, visited Marston Lake, near Littleton, Colo., on which there were, at the time, several hundreds of ducks, and some geese.

These birds were studied for a couple of hours with a high power telescope ($\times 40$) which brought them so close, as it were, that every detail of bill, color, and color-pattern was distinct, and unmistakable. Miss Bostwick, in examining the flocks, drew attention to a duck which exhibited a striking forehead marking; further and prolonged examination showed the bird to be a male American Eider (*Somateria mollissima dresseri*). We had with us Vol. I of Forbush's 'Birds of Massachusetts,' the Eider plate of which enabled every one to verify the diagnosis.

While extremely skeptical of the value of sight identifications of birds rare or unknown in the area of observation, the circumstances of the identification of this eider were so extraordinarily favorable and easy that its correctness is beyond question. There are two previous records (Cooke, Birds of Colorado, Append. p. 157) of this eider in Colorado. One is utterly worthless: "a mounted bird of this species in the rooms of the Society of Natural History in Denver" with no data. The second record is only a shade better: "taken by W. G. Smith at Loveland sometime previous to 1892" said to be in Mr. Smith's collection but specimen not seen by Cooke and no other data published.—W. H. BERGROLD, *Denver, Colo.*

"Duck Ponds" in Holland.—The establishment in the United States of what are referred to by the uninforming name of "duck ponds" of the Holland pattern has been urged as a conservation measure. We are informed that these devices are still in operation with the same "wonderful results" that they have yielded for generations in the past.

The "duck ponds" prove to be only what are known in England as "duck decoys," that is, ponds to which wildfowl are attracted and which are equipped with devices for trapping the birds. These ponds are usually well-screened by trees and surrounded by dikes or walls so that when the birds are inside they cannot see what is going on outside. The Dutch Government prohibits all interference with the ducks for about a mile in all directions, and no shooting or other disturbance is permitted on the entire preserve.

Some of the birds are wing-clipped and especially trained to feed in, and thus lose fear of, the leads to the traps. These usually are females which, retained in the ponds until their quills are renewed and they are again able