

Oct. 31, 1924, p. 322) the late W. De W. Miller makes the statement that ". . . the tuft is wholly absent . . . in *Hydranassa t. ruficollis*." A chance examination of three specimens of the Louisiana Heron collected August 25, 1932, disclosed two minute tufts of feathers on the oil gland of each. The series of skins in the collections of the United States Biological Survey and the United States National Museum were examined to supplement these observations.

One hundred and eleven skins were inspected, of which twelve were in such poor condition that they were not included in the results tabulated below. Two or more of these specimens were secured in every month of the year except November, when none were collected. The ninety-nine skins considered were taken in various of the states, Mexico, the Bahamas, the West Indies and Central and South America. The ratios of occurrence of feather tufts on the oil gland with respect to sex and to age are presented in the following table:

Adult males (37), tufted	29 (78.38%)	bare	8 (21.62%)
Immature males (11), tufted	9 (81.82%)	"	2 (18.18%)
Adult females (16), tufted	10 (62.5%)	"	6 (37.5%)
Immature females (9), tufted	6 (66.67%)	"	3 (33.33%)
Unsexed adults (14), tufted	13 (92.86%)	"	1 (7.14%)
Unsexed immatures (12), tufted	10 (83.33%)	"	2 (16.67%)
Total (99), tufted	77 (77.78%)	"	22 (22.22%)
Males (48), tufted	38 (79.17%)	"	10 (20.83%)
Females (25), tufted	16 (64%)	"	9 (36%)
Unsexed (26), tufted	23 (88.46%)	"	3 (11.54%)
Adults (67), tufted	52 (77.61%)	"	15 (22.39%)
Immatures (32), tufted	25 (78.13%)	"	7 (21.87%)

No correlation was found to exist between season, age, or sex and the presence or absence of tufts. However, the gland was found to be nude in a greater number of the poor skins than in those well prepared, suggesting that some of the former may originally have been tufted.—CLARENCE COTTAM AND PHOEBE KNAPPEN, *U. S. Biological Survey*.

**Eastern and Western Ducks.**—Dr. Phillips gives some interesting data in his article in the October 'Auk' on Eastern and Western bred waterfowl at Wenham, Mass., and very neatly shows which have suffered the greatest relative reduction and which the least, by comparing the relative abundance of the one with the other.

Examining Dr. Phillips' two lists, there is however, an additional feature to be noted. In the Atlantic States north of the Virginia Capes, the greatest amount of duck shooting is done on the marshes, ponds, and bays along the seacoast, and on Chesapeake Bay, the Susquehanna Flats, and the Potomac River. At these places the experienced gunners congregate, mostly in batteries and baited blinds, and it is the experienced gunners who make the large bags.

Golden-eyes,<sup>1</sup> Old-squaws,<sup>2</sup> Scoters<sup>2</sup> and Mergansers<sup>1</sup> are readily identified by the experts, and are not considered game and therefore not generally shot by them. Under the present laws, most of the teal go by before the season opens, and the Wood Duck is protected. Excluding, in addition to these the rare European Widgeon, we then have left in the list of Eastern bred birds only the Black Duck, the Pintail, and the geese. Now the ducks which the gunner does get in large quantities in this area north of the Virginia Capes are, except perhaps in the Potomac, mostly Scaups with quite a few Redhead and Canvasbacks on the Susquehanna Flats and Chesapeake Bay. Battery and baited blind shooting yield large bags and the limit is frequently obtained. The Scaup is no doubt still one of the commonest ducks in this area, but when we consider in what numbers it is shot, we can appreciate the cause of its decrease in the last thirty years.

It is therefore apparent why the Eastern bred ducks, including the geese, which seem able to hold their own pretty well, have maintained their numbers at a place like Wenham, irrespective of the kind of shooting done there, while the Western bred ducks have so largely decreased. As so many ducks south of the Virginia Capes do not migrate via the Atlantic Seaboard (and we might include in this category the Potomac and some of the Chesapeake ducks), the Southern shooting would not so greatly effect Massachusetts. On the other hand, the heavy toll taken on the Western bred birds south to Cape May or even the Virginia Capes would very directly effect the Wenham shooting. From my own shooting experience, the relative decrease noted by Dr. Phillips is just what I should have expected.

I am not sufficiently familiar with the propagation of ducks by sportsmen and others to know whether that has any material influence on the relative abundance of the two groups.—FREDERICK WM. KOBBE, *1155 Park Ave., New York City.*

**Snow Goose at Northampton, Mass.**—While studying Acadian and Nelson's Sparrows in a patch of boggy grass at the east end of a marshy pond in Northampton on September 29, 1932, we beheld flying towards us, already near, above the pond, a large white bird. It circled, and we saw plainly the black wing-tips and brown-washed neck of a Snow Goose.

The Goose settled down and spent several days in that marsh, feeding along its edges. Some observers were able to approach it very closely. Though no ready standard of size-comparison was available, we were inclined to think it an unsophisticated Lesser Snow Goose, astray from the west. This is the third record of the species (in no case could the race be determined) in Hampshire County, the others being at Granby, where nine were seen in northward flight on March 31, 1926, by B. Schurr, and at Chesterfield, where a flock of about fifty, flying south on November 23,

<sup>1</sup> Eastern bred.

<sup>2</sup> Western bred.