

appearance of Audubon's fifth volume, he adds *D. nigripes*, apparently not realizing, until the appearance of Audubon's description, that he had obtained two species of these birds. As Townsend himself never described *D. fusca* and had not seen Audubon's description of it at the time he published his first list, I feel certain that the bird to which he referred was in reality *D. nigripes*, a common bird off the coast of Oregon. Audubon, too, probably did not distinguish between the two until after he had described *D. fusca*. It is curious, too, that Townsend compared his "*D. fusca*" in Mr. Burns' quotation with the white Wandering Albatross and does not mention *D. nigripes*. To illustrate the apparent difficulty under which Townsend labored in trying to remember details of the capture of certain birds, after he had disposed of his specimens we find that in his first list he very properly made no mention of *Fringilla mortoni*, an undoubted Chilean bird, but after Audubon had named and described it as from the Columbia River, Townsend entered it in his second list just as he did the other "Brown Albatross." It is significant that for nearly all the undoubted Columbia River specimens quoted by Audubon, there seem to have been definite labels but none in the case of the supposed Chilean birds nor on such undoubted Chilean specimens as I have seen. With regard to Trudeau's Tern Mr. Burns' point is well taken!—WITMER STONE.]

Little Blue Heron and American Egret in the West Virginia Panhandle.—On July 30, 1933, Mr. Percy Dowden, of Bethany, Brooke County, West Virginia, brought me a female Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*), in white plumage, that had been shot by a farmer along Castleman's Run not far from its mouth. The specimen is now in the Carnegie Museum at Pittsburgh.

On the evening of the same day. Mr. Edwin S. Miller and myself saw an American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*), flying back and forth along the Buffalo, not high in air.

Twenty years ago white Herons were virtually unheard of along Buffalo Creek. Nowadays they are of fairly regular occurrence, a few individuals of the above-named species being noted practically every summer.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Black Ducks as Ice Breakers.—We have, in the woods just back of our house, in Newton Centre, Mass., a shallow skating pond, several acres in extent. This pond, when flooded early enough in the fall, before freezing, is frequented by a number of Ducks, generally Blacks, with a sprinkling of Mallards; but this year accompanied by a bunch of Pintails, formerly rare in New England, but seen more frequently of late; and quite a number of Wood Ducks; and late in the afternoons, for two or three weeks, it was not unusual to have thirty or forty Ducks pitch in, just at dusk, to spend the night.

On November 11, just before lunch, I had strolled down to see what Ducks were there, when I discovered, to my surprise, that the pond had