

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

been frozen completely over the night before. Wondering just what any visiting Ducks would do under the circumstances, I had just sat down to watch, when a young male Pintail came in, half circled, and then fluttered lightly down onto the ice, which, to my surprise was strong enough to support him; and there he stood, very erect, and perhaps a couple of hundred feet from where I sat watching him through a pair of 8x binoculars.

As we sat there, watching each other, a pair of Black Ducks dropped in, about fifty feet this side of the Pintail; and they, being apparently heavier than the Pintail, broke through; and there they sat, each in his little hole in the ice, watching me for several minutes, until, apparently deciding that I was harmless, they started to swim over to the Pintail. As they were quartering away from me, I could see every motion.

Discovering almost at once that the ice was too thick to swim against, they moved their heads back, in order to bring back their centers of gravity; and then, lifting their breasts just high enough, and paddling rapidly, pushed their breasts up over the ice; and then bringing their heads and centers of gravity forward, pressed down on the thin ice, and broke it. I watched them doing this repeatedly, until, after breaking the ice for twelve or fifteen feet towards the Pintail, they all three took fright at some movement of mine, and left.

Professor A. A. Allen, writes me on this subject: "I have frequently watched Ducks on thin ice of my own pond and at the head of Cayuga Lake, but never could make up my mind that they were breaking the ice intentionally. They would push up onto it with their breasts as you describe and if it were heavy enough to hold their weight, would clamber up onto it, but frequently it would break under them."

Probably these ducks of mine would have "clambered up onto" the ice also if they had not broken through, but with this thin ice, and I was watching every movement, they made no attempt to do so, and their repeatedly breaking through it as they did, seemed to me to be deliberate. They could easily have flown to the Pintail if they had so desired.—FRED H. KENNARD, *Newton Centre, Mass.*

European Teal in South Carolina.—On February 13, 1930, Mr. Richard E. Bishop, of Philadelphia while duck shooting at the Santee Club, South Carolina, killed a male European Teal (*Nettion crecca*) which he kindly presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia where it is preserved as a skin in the study series of Anatidae. Unless I am in error this is the first record of the species for the state.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

First Record of Ring-necked Duck in Delaware.—During the late winter and early spring of 1933, I found this Duck in comparative abundance on the recently completed Hoopes Reservoir near Wilmington, Delaware. I first saw the species (with which I was well acquainted in South Carolina) on the reservoir on March 4, 1933, a small flock, which I