

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

at first took for Scaup, but studying them through 8x binoculars I soon realized that they were not Scaup but Ring-necked Ducks (*Nyroca collaris*). There were five of them—four males and one female—and they continued to feed throughout our stay.

The writer observed Ring-necks on several other occasions in increased numbers. On March 16 two flocks were seen, one containing thirteen individuals and the other twelve. Males predominated in both flocks. On March 24 a single flock of 24 were observed. They were last seen on April 1, a flock of twenty.

As far as I know this is the first record of the species for the state. In all probability, however, it has occurred previously and not been recorded because of the scarcity of ornithological observers in the region.—J. WILLCOX BROWN, *Montchanin, Delaware*.

Incursion of American Scoters in Norfolk, Connecticut.—In the early morning of October 22, 1933, the citizens of Norfolk, Connecticut, were much surprised to find that some 300 American Scoters (*Oidemia americana*) had dropped into the town during the night. A milk-delivery man and others who happened to be out during the night informed me that the birds came from near midnight to about six o'clock in the morning. They did not all descend at once, and undoubtedly represented individuals of several flocks. The fore part of the evening was comparatively warm and clear, but by midnight a low dense fog hung over this section. It seems probable that the aviation light on Haystack Mountain, which is 700 to 800 feet higher than the adjacent valley, attracted the birds, and the dense fog beneath may have appeared as a body of water. It appears that they had flown a considerable distance before alighting. Eight stomachs of birds killed by the fall were examined and all were practically empty, indicating that some time had passed since the birds had had any food.

Between fifty and seventy-five Scoters were picked up. About half of these were dead, having been killed by the fall—by hitting trees, buildings, or hard ground, and the remainder injured so that they could not at once fly. Many were reported to have had broken bones. An autopsy showed the sternum to have been crushed in two birds and a wing and leg broken in another. These and others less carefully examined showed internal hemorrhages indicating that they had struck the earth or objects with terrific force. The autopsy indicated that the birds had been in normal health and all were in good flesh. Senator Frederick C. Walcott informed me that about 200 of the birds succeeded in landing on Toby Pond on his estate and that after resting for a day they resumed their migration. At the time of my visit to Norfolk two days after this unusual incident, there were about twenty birds left in the vicinity that were still unable to fly.

It was of interest to note that of the birds observed males outnumbered the females by more than three to one. Reports of other observers indicate a large preponderance of males over females. It would be interesting to