

(*Nyroca marila*) recently shot at Moriches Bay, Long Island, with a broad-oval area about $2\frac{1}{2}$ x 2 inches in diameter of what seemed like white belly-feathers rising as a low mound in the middle of its back, which, before this oval, was somewhat vermiculated, behind its solid black. Close inspection showed that these white feathers were somewhat marked with pale gray, much as on the belly of the same bird, especially at the front of the oval.

The bird was skinned out at the American Museum of Natural History where it is now No. 300514. Messrs. J. T. Zimmer and R. B. Potter of the Museum examined it carefully and we agreed that the feathers were belly feathers in texture and otherwise, probably a skin transplant. The skin to which they were attached and body beneath were in reasonably healthy condition, but the skin was too ample forming a shallow pocket, and somewhat thickened at the apex of the pocket. Immediately below the surface, in the bone under this pocket was a pellet of shot which evidently had not recently entered from above, but may have penetrated the body of the bird from below when it was killed and lodged there by chance.

Aside from some antecedent improbability in a wild Scaup, this looks like a clear case of skin transplant. If so it is hoped that some reader of "The Auk" may be able to throw light on the bird's history. If, on the other hand, we have here an abnormality or peculiar result of an injury, the case has considerable interest.—J. T. NICHOLS, *New York, N. Y.*

Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) on the Tuckerton, New Jersey, Marshes.—On November 11, 1934, two adult Blue Geese and a Snow Goose, standing on the open salt marsh at Tuckerton, New Jersey, offered rare opportunity for identification.

With the sun behind the observers, the birds were approached by automobile within about one hundred and fifty feet, at which distance the black "grinning recess" of the bill could be clearly seen. Both had white heads. Each side of the white neck and nape of one, the paler of the two, was marked with a vertical streak of dusky gray blending into the dark of the lower neck. The entire head and upper neck of the other bird were white. Their feet were pinkish or flesh-colored. In flight the rump and upper tail appeared lighter than the back and wings.

The wing expanse of the Snow Goose was slightly greater than that of the Blue Geese; which leaves rather uncertain the subspecific identity of the former, the span of both a large Lesser Snow Goose and a large Greater Snow Goose exceeding that of the Blue Goose. Breeding ground association would make the chances favor the white bird's identity as a Lesser, though the size comparison seemed to favor its identity as a Greater Snow Goose.

The birds were seen at about 7:30 A.M. The sky was clear although the distance visibility was rather poor, despite the strong north wind. The temperature had dropped noticeably from the rather mild level of the previous week.

This is the first definite record for the Blue Goose from Ocean County, N. J., known to the writer. Chas. A. Urner, who accompanied me, confirmed the identification.—GERBERT REBELL, *Springfield, N. J.*

Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) in Cape May Co., N. J.—About the end of October 1934, a Blue Goose appeared on a pond on the property of Mr. Michael McPherson at Cold Spring, N. J., and joined a flock of Peking Ducks which he had on the farm. The Goose became more tame as time passed and came up to the barn with the Ducks, and to save it from possible killing by gunners when the shooting season began, Mr. McPherson caught it in a crab-net and placed it in a chicken coop.