

Coast region. On January 25, 1935, I saw a bird of this species, presumably a female or an immature, on Lake Purdy, near Birmingham. It appeared predominantly gray and white (rather than brown and white) and lacked the long tail of the adult male. There was a small patch of fuscous behind and slightly below the eye, and all the top of the head was fuscous. The back, wings, and tail were practically the same color, but there was a small, squarish, white patch on each wing. Especially noticeable, however, was its short, upturned, blackish bill, with its pinkish band in the middle, differentiating it from any other Duck with which I am acquainted. I had always thought of the Oldsquaw as a rather wild bird, but such was decidedly not the case with this individual. It performed its diving operations within eight feet of the shore, as I examined it with 8x glasses alternately lying and sitting almost at the water's edge. However, another black-and-white Duck, which I saw near the same spot on February 22 and which I suspect of being the same species if not the same individual, was much wilder, and I could see it only as it flew across the water several hundred yards away.—HENRY M. STEVENSON, 7759 1st Ave. So., Birmingham, Ala.

**Ducks in Chimneys.**—While at Lost River, New Hampshire, during the summer of 1934, I received from Mrs. Gardner Rogers an adult female American Merganser (*Mergus merganser americanus*) which had died under most unusual circumstances. On Monday, June 25, 1934, Mrs. Rogers entered a room in her Asquam Lake camp at Ashland, New Hampshire. This room had been cleaned and closed up the previous Saturday. To her astonishment she found the bird in question resting with legs stretched wide apart on a table beside a window. It was noticeably weak and appeared somewhat dazed. It was easily captured but died within a few minutes. A hurried inspection of the room to find how it had gained admittance revealed a few feathers inside the fireplace and the screen before it pushed out from one side. Apparently this hollow-tree-nesting Duck had made the fatal mistake of coming down the chimney in search of a suitable nesting site. Dr. Witmer Stone tells me of a similar case of a Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) which came down a chimney in the vicinity of Philadelphia, during the past spring, and stopped up the flue. Upon investigation its dead body was found, completely covered with soot.—OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL, JR., Middleton, Mass.

**Black Vultures in Indiana.**—On November 12, 1934, while riding along the eastern edge of Clifty Ravine, near Madison, Indiana, I was astonished to see, on the opposite wall of the cliff, a large number of Vultures sunning themselves among the rocks and shelters there. Most of them were perched upon rocks and trees, some with wings outspread in characteristic Vulture way. Some were flying. I estimated there were a hundred and fifty birds in sight. At least three fourths of them were Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus atratus*), locally known as "Carriion Crows," the remainder were Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*). I do not know of any place in this region where so many of these birds congregate. In fact, there is great lack of information concerning the first mentioned species in the Ohio Valley. Audubon's account seems to have been the only one for many years. Few of the early writers mention it. In the opinion of many persons these birds had disappeared as the country was settled. Perhaps investigation will show that view to have been wrong.

Inquiry shows that McKim Copeland, reported Black Vultures wintering in large numbers in Jefferson County, Indiana, and notes that about a hundred and fifty made their headquarters in Clifty Falls State Park the winter of 1926-7. A few stay

through the summer and nest. They were reported to number from a hundred and fifty to five hundred in different winters. Miss Edna Banta, who was a nature guide in the park for three summers, states that they were common in winter of 1927-8, and that in March they began to scatter. A pair nested in the jumble of rocks at Tunnel Falls each of the three summers she was there and she saw young learning to fly. About two years ago (1932) they were shot at, by park officials, to drive them away. Then the C. C. C. Camp was located nearby and now one does not see so many of them. S. E. Esten, on the staff of the State Conservation Department, observed numbers of Vultures there in winter and estimated ninety per cent were Black Vultures. John C. Kirkpatrick makes a similar report. He says these birds were first noted in Jefferson County about ten years ago (1925) near Rikers Ridge. In 1931 they were abundant in Clifty Falls, State Park, roosting in winter under the ledges along "dead man's trail," but in summer they were not common. A nest was seen among a pile of rocks near the falls in 1933 and several young in the park early in September.

From Clarke County Mrs. Genevieve B. Myers records them from Jeffersonville September 1, 1934, and S. E. Perkins III from Charleston, October 23, 1932.

C. W. Brown notes several at Vevay, Switzerland County, the winter of 1933-4 and has seen them the past winter. December 6, 1934, he saw nine at one time. Several persons reported them in Posey County the past few years. The counties mentioned border the Ohio River.

Roy Chansler records having seen them in Knox County in 1930 and 1933. Prof. W. P. Allyn informs me he found a pair nesting six miles south of Manhattan, Putnam County, in 1933. He photographed the nest. Charles K. Muchmore, Laurel, Indiana, says January 8, 1935, he found a company of twenty-two Black Vultures in the center of a wooded tract lying between the old canal and the White Water River about two miles south of that town. The evidence showed they had been using that place for a roost for some time. They were there January 28, 1935.

From the evidence now before us it appears that Black Vultures range north in Indiana to about the old National Road—Fayette and Putnam counties. They occasionally breed throughout that territory and associated with Turkey Vultures gather in winter in some quiet, protected places—sometimes in large numbers.—AMOS W. BUTLER, *Indianapolis, Indiana.*

**An Exhausted Sharp-shinned Hawk.**—Early in the forenoon of May 11, 1922, in a small sloop, sailing on the course from Pemaquid Point to Eastern Egg Rock in Muscongus Bay, Maine, and quartering against a strong northwesterly wind, when about half way between these two points, we saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk coming toward us. As it was coming before the wind it quickly came up, and dropped astern, wheeled into the wind, followed, and attempted to alight on the end of our boom, within a few feet of the helmsman. It was evident that it was exhausted, probably having made a long flight against a head wind, before attempting the open stretch of the Bay. As the bird hovered for its coveted perch, the boat lurched, and the bird missing its hold fell into the water, where it rested with out-stretched wings, making no attempt to rise. We came about as quickly as possible, and ran back for the unfortunate bird, but as we came near, it made a supreme effort and aided by the strong breeze, rose from the water, and as soon as it could master its flight, again started for our boom; again it missed its intended perch, struck the leech of the sail, and slid down into the cockpit, where it was seized before it could regain the use of its weary wings. We tacked and again started on our course to windward. In a few seconds the bird made one of its spasmodic efforts and escaped. It now started before