

with museum specimens the outline of the feathers at the base of the upper mandible, as pointed out by Todd (*Auk*, 53: 440, 1936) proved to be the best distinguishing character between these birds and Red-heads.

One of the specimens was presented to the Portland Society of Natural History, and bears Catalogue No. 506 of that collection. The other remains in the University of Maine collections. Mr. Arthur H. Norton, of the Portland Society, reports that the only records of this species breeding in Maine are those of Boardman who reported the species as breeding in the region of Calais, Washington County, over seventy years ago.—GUSTAV SWANSON, *University of Maine, Orono, Maine.*

King Eider in South Carolina.—On December 26, 1936, E. M. Burton saw two immature eiders near the North Jetty, at the mouth of Charleston Harbor. One bird was collected on this date and on December 29, another was taken. On this latter date, two other ducks seen may have been of the same species. Both specimens prove to be King Eiders (*Somateria spectabilis*) and constitute an addition to the birds of this State. Formerly this eider was carried on the hypothetical list by the late A. T. Wayne on the basis of Georgia records.

Although the sexual organs of these immature birds are undeveloped, both are believed to be females in the first-winter plumage. The iris is dark brown, legs and feet olive green, webs blackish. The bills are very dark olive green, almost black. Examination of stomach contents indicated that the birds had been feeding entirely on a small mussel, *Modiolus plicatulus*. The specimens bear Nos. 36.240 and 36.241.1 in the Charleston Museum Collection. I am indebted to Mr. Burton for the privilege of recording these birds.—E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, *The Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.*

Tapeworm in young Red-breasted Merganser.—A downy young Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), which I estimated to be ten days of age, collected about two miles above tide water in the Etamamu River on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, was found to be heavily infested with the tapeworm, *Schistocephalus solidus*. Forty parasites were taken from the intestine of this small young bird. Some of these were already sexually mature while others (larvae of the same size) would not mature for a period of two or three days.

Sculpins, and I believe other forms of fish, are known to be hosts to this parasite. The sculpin is very common in the salt-water regions about the mouth of the Etamamu River as are invertebrate forms which form a link in the life history of this parasite. These waters are an important breeding ground for the American Eider and other diving birds. To what extent these birds may be parasitized by this tapeworm would be interesting to know.

I am indebted to Dr. Justus F. Mueller of the New York State College of Forestry for identification and information about this parasite.—ROBERT A. JOHNSON, *State Normal School, Oneonta, N. Y.*

Turkey Vultures killed by Automobiles.—In 'The Auk,' 53: 76, 1936, Mr. Charles J. Spiker advances the theory that Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) may sometimes be killed by automobiles. He gives as his reasons, the finding of two specimens on a highway, with the carcass of a rabbit between them, and seems impressed by the fact that this is a rather unusual and uncommonly observed occurrence. Those of us who live in the land of the "buzzard," however, know that this is not only a common occurrence, but one which has actually to be avoided. Throughout much of the South, the feeding of vultures in highways has greatly increased, due to the numbers of small mammals, birds and reptiles which are killed