

interesting to note that this nesting colony was observed just a year previous to the flock of a thousand birds seen by Reginald H. Howe, Jr., near Cape Sable, and mentioned in Howell's 'Florida Bird Life,' page 123. Howe's observation was in March, 1902. As Howell points out, it is strange that the "peculiar mud nests" were not observed by someone in south Florida if the species nested regularly. Probably the birds did not nest regularly, but only sporadically, and if they confined these activities to the Lower Keys in the latter part of the last century and the first of this, they inhabited a region seldom visited by ornithologists, so that the presence of the nests could easily be missed. The natives probably did see the nests at times, but as Judge Lowe did, gave no thought to them. To them it was "just another tropical bird." It is the writer's opinion that the Flamingo certainly nested in the Lower Keys at times during the early part of this century and that it probably never did breed on the mainland of Florida at all.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Supervisor Southern Sanctuaries, Charleston, S. C.*

**Migrating Snow Geese in northern New Jersey.**—In 'The Auk,' (vol. 50, page 352, 1933) C. K. Nichols records a migrant flock of Greater Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea atlantica*) seen at Troy Meadows, New Jersey, on April 2, 1933, and follows with an excellent discussion of the spring migration of this race showing that the flight is mainly overland, with the scarcity of records largely due to the height at which the flocks fly. It seems worth while therefore, to record the following observation by the writer. On the morning of April 13, 1937, I stepped into the yard of my residence at Union, New Jersey, and scanned the sky in hope of possible migrants, but far beyond my expectation was the big, snowy, double V that appeared high up, just west of the zenith. Apparently the birds were higher than those seen by Mr. Nichols, for the black wing-tips were hardly discernible without the binocular. However, the flock was of similar size, about one hundred birds. The weather that morning was fine and clear, and entirely favorable for migration. The difference in date is interesting in that it shows the annual variation in the departure date for birds leaving the Delaware Bay concentration, of which these seem surely to have been a part.

This also adds the subspecies to the birds of Union County, New Jersey, at least as a sight record based on the assumption that the flock had left the Delaware Bay group that morning, for while C. A. Urner has recorded the Lesser Snow Goose as taken on the Newark Meadows in his excellent county list, he knows of no previous occurrence of *atlantica* in this area.—ALFRED E. EYNON, *Union, New Jersey.*

**Greater Snow Goose in New Hampshire.**—On April 15, 1937, at about 11.00 a. m., a flock of seventy-odd Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea atlantica*) appeared at Forrest Lake in Winchester, New Hampshire, giving an appearance of being badly lost in the prevailing heavy fog at the time. The birds were very shy. They became frightened and flew, only to return in an hour's time, when they alighted on ice in the center of the lake. An immature male was collected by Mr. Luman R. Nelson, and, incidentally, has been preserved by him. There are no former records, and the older residents in this locality cannot recall ever having heard of any white geese seen here. When they left Forrest Lake the flock of geese went to Wilson Pond in Swanzey, about eight miles distant in a northeast direction; and on being disturbed there, it is not known where they went.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

**European Widgeon in Florida.**—Through conversation with duck hunters in April, 1934, I learned that a European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) had been taken

December 26, 1931, on Orange Lake, near McIntosh, Florida. The bird was mounted by a local taxidermist, and through the help of several hunters it was finally located. Although the head is missing, the bird is easily identifiable. It is now in the collection of the Department of Biology, University of Florida. This is the fifth specimen of the European Widgeon that has been taken in Florida, and the locality is the second recorded for the species in the State. A. H. Howell ('Florida Bird Life,' p. 135) mentions four specimens. Three are from Titusville, but no locality is given for the fourth.—ROBERT C. McCLANAHAN, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**European Teal at Lexington, Virginia.**—On April 11, 1937, as I was looking at the Big Spring Pond near Lexington I noticed a teal duck with the same general characteristics as the other teal ducks, but lacking the white bar before the wings that the Green-winged Teal bears and having a definite white patch above the forward edge of the wings. The author was accompanied by Robert Smith and W. W. Grover. All three of us made a careful study of the bird with an eight-power binocular and took individual notes which we then compared. This is the second record of the European Teal (*Nettion crecca*) at the same pond in two years. Dr. J. J. Murray collected a specimen from here last winter.—J. SOUTHGATE Y. HOYT, *Lexington, Virginia.*

**Early nesting of the Wood Duck.**—On the morning of April 25, 1937, while walking through a wooded section along the Hackensack River near Riverdale, Bergen County, New Jersey, I concealed myself to watch two male Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) that were floating toward me down the stream. Closely following the drakes was a female around which were huddled eight young, apparently out of the nest but a few days. They must have suspected my presence for, when directly opposite me, the males flew; but the female and young turned sharply to the other bank where she went ashore and disappeared in the bushes, closely followed by her brood. Considering the normal period of egg laying and incubation of the Wood Duck, the first egg must have been deposited about the 15th of March, a date considerably earlier than any other records north of the southern States that I have been able to find.—CHARLES K. NICHOLS, *Ridgewood, New Jersey.*

**A Wood-Duck marsh in northwestern Iowa.**—Field studies in the vicinity of Ruthven, Iowa, have now been conducted by Iowa State College and cooperators since the summer of 1932. Incidental to these studies, the evident partiality of Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) for Round Lake, a marsh of about 450 acres, has been observed with considerable interest, particularly by Mr. Logan J. Bennett and myself. The marsh commonly had from two to four feet of water in the deeper parts and supported various growths of vegetation, chiefly of bulrushes (*Scirpus* spp.), cat-tail (*Typha* sp.), reed (*Phragmites communis*), and pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.). Habitats dominated by reed and pondweeds were conspicuously favored by the Wood Ducks throughout the months that they remained in the locality.

While the largest number of Wood Ducks were to be noted in August and September, the species was strongly represented during the summer months as well. It is doubtful if there have been less than thirty individuals on the marsh at any time of the summer since our observations began; and the 1935 and 1936 summer populations surely were strongly in excess of that number.

The summer-resident birds were of both sexes and apparently non-breeders. Apart from the behavior of a pair that frequented for a time in 1936 the vicinity of a clump of willows on the shore in which there were cavities and old crow nests, nothing