

indicative of reproductive effort was seen. The marsh was worked very intensively from 1934 to 1936 in connection with other studies, but few broods of any kind of ducklings were encountered and none at all of Wood Ducks. Floating mats of reeds and rushes and muskrat lodges were consistently used as sitting and preening places, however. Late summer was attended by an appreciable influx of the birds. It is the opinion of Mr. Bennett and myself that the numbers of Wood Ducks to be seen on Round Lake in early fall have been steadily increasing since our initial observations in 1932, although we have few actual data on relative populations.

In September, 1936, there was a heavy concentration of ducks on Round Lake, made up mostly of Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*), but Wood Ducks were almost as numerous as the second most abundant duck for this season, the Pintail (*Dafila acuta tzitzihoa*). At the height of this concentration, the author and his wife, paddling a canoe, could flush Wood Ducks at random from the reed patches (to which they were ordinarily somewhat restricted) at an estimated rate of about three birds per 2,500 square feet. About 39 acres of the marsh were covered by the reed patches, which should give us about 2,040 Wood Ducks, a figure we do not feel to be excessively wide of the truth.—PAUL L. ERRINGTON, *Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.*

Canvas-back breeding in Iowa.—On June 15, 1934, at Mud Lake, Clay County, Iowa, the writer found a submerged duck nest that contained eight eggs. Upon examination three of the eggs proved to be those of the Redhead (*Nyroca americana*), four were those of the Canvas-back (*Nyroca valisineria*), and one egg was not identified. The nest had been submerged at the time the ducklings were beginning to come out of the shells. The ducklings were removed from the pipped shells to identify them properly. The writer found 47 Redhead nests from 1932 to 1936 in northwestern Iowa, but apparently this finding of the Canvas-back eggs is the first breeding record of the bird in the State. The Canvas-back ducklings and eggshells are now in the possession of the Zoology and Entomology Department, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.—LOGAN J. BENNETT, *U. S. Biological Survey, Ames, Iowa.*

Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse budding on wild plum.—On February 15, 1937, I had the good fortune of observing six Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioceetes phasianellus campestris*) budding on the native wild plum (*Prunus americana*). They were feeding rapidly as they walked easily about on the closely matted top of the plum thicket. Observations were made through a six-power binocular from a distance of seventy-five yards, so there is no question as to the birds' activity.

The plum growth was on the edge of a mixed native stand of bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica* var. *lanceolata*), American aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), juneberry (*Amelanchier oblongifolia*), choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), elm (*Ulmus americana*), wolfberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*), hazelnut (*Corylus americana*), blackhaw (*Viburnum lentago*), hawthorn (*Crataegus chrysoarpa*), and meadowsweet (*Spiraea salicifolia*). Within a very short flying distance, paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*), speckled alder (*Alnus incana*), and high-bush cranberry (*Viburnum americanum*), occur in abundance. The timber growth is immediately adjacent to or bordering the South Branch of Park River.

The incident was new in my observation of the Sharp-tailed Grouse and did not recall to mind any known previous reference in literature to budding on wild plum. Upon returning from the field, I reviewed the literature in my meager library which