

resident. No breeding record is mentioned by Howell ('Birds of Alabama') for Alabama; hence this note.

Wheeler Dam, located across the Lauderdale-Lawrence County line in northern Alabama, was completed and the water impounded early in 1937. This new reservoir is some 72 miles in length and has a shoreline of approximately 960 miles. Much of it is shallow water, affording excellent areas for ducks as proven during the spring migration of 1937, when thousands of ducks of many species frequented the area. The following records relate to the Shoveller during the 1937 spring-migration period on Wheeler:

April 14	100 seen	in flight
April 17	50 seen	feeding
April 21	24 seen	feeding
April 25	44 seen	feeding

This migration presence is not unexpected, but the fact that in May broods of young were seen, is distinctly unusual. On May 4, two broods of three or four day old Shovellers were seen; one brood consisted of nine young, the other of eleven. Both were feeding in very shallow water and were within one hundred yards of each other; the parents were in attendance. On May 8, another brood of six was seen in shallow water of a pond, but was not again located in the vicinity. Again, on July 17, two broods of Shovellers were seen in approximately the same location as the broods of May 4—northwest of Decatur, Alabama—and were approximately two-thirds grown. They are believed to be the same broods as seen on May 4, but now they numbered six and eight young each. At this time the young were growing flight feathers and were seen frequently exercising their wings. Thus we have at least one very early indication of the possible effect of this newly impounded reservoir on waterfowl.—A. R. CAHN AND PAUL BRYAN, *Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, Tennessee.*

Blue Duck or Mountain Duck.—When last in New Zealand in 1934, I had an opportunity to examine a live and healthy individual of this rare duck at a distance of a few yards. Its actions were quite unlike those of any other duck that I have seen in life but the most peculiar feature was the plane of the eyes. All other ducks observe you with one eye, the head held sideways. In the Blue Duck (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus*) the eyes were directed forward; when looking at you it turned its bill toward you, the yellow deep-set eyes staring at you from each side of the bill just as in a hawk or heron. The effect was most un-duck-like and with its hiding habits (the Maoris were said to drag them out from under rocks with hooks) created an impression that here was the most aberrant of all ducks. The species is not nearly extinct and its whole structure should be carefully investigated. Unfortunately the authorities in power in New Zealand absolutely discourage any scientific work that necessitates the taking of specimens.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia.*

Eclipse in ducks of the southern hemisphere.—In the London 'Field' for September 4, 1937, Mr. Richard Perry discusses the eclipse plumage in drakes. He says, "The phenomenon of eclipse is peculiar, or nearly so, to drakes breeding in the northern hemisphere. American and British ornithologists differ on this point: the former state that no drakes eclipse in the southern hemisphere, the latter that some do." Phillips, in his 'Natural History of the Ducks,' states in volume 1: "None of the males of South American or Australian ducks have an eclipse," but in

the subsequent volumes there is evidence that he may have modified this view later. The presence or absence of an eclipse in captive birds can hardly be taken as absolute evidence of what may happen in a wild state.

Some years ago Mr. E. Fitzgerald of Tirau, New Zealand, wrote to me that both the Australian Shoveller (*Spatula rhyncotis*) and the Brown Duck (*Elasmonetta chlorotis*), had a full eclipse and later, January 6, 1934, at Rotorua, North Island, he was able to show this to me. The shovellers were breeding in small ponds south of Rotorua Lake; my diary gives the record, "Australian Shovellers were in pairs, the males in eclipse or nearly so; the eclipse is darker than the female plumage, no trace of crescent on head or white spot on flanks." The birds were tame and were studied with good binoculars at close range.

The same day at the beautiful Hamurana Springs the New Zealand Scaup was seen in numbers and extremely tame; the birds were mostly sitting on the dense beds of water-weed in the clear, fast-flowing stream, looking like models of ducks in highly polished mahogany; the females were mostly incubating away from the stream but a number were with the males. These females plainly showed the little-known but constant character of the female nesting eclipse, the white face had been lost exactly as in nesting females of the Lesser Scaup (*Nyroca affinis*).

Considering how much we have yet to learn regarding the eclipse in our North American ducks it would be safe to assume that much more evidence is required before we deny the existence of an eclipse in the ducks of South America. The Chiloë Wigeon (*Mareca sibilatrix*) definitely has no eclipse but in this species the female has the same brilliant plumage as the male. Phillips mentions a male Cinnamon Teal from Peru in Lord Percy's collection which was in full eclipse. It may be that the eclipse stage is of shorter duration than in the northern hemisphere and so is more apt to be overlooked.—ALLAN BROOKS, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia*.

Broad-winged Hawk migration in Mississippi.—As hawk migrations in the southeastern States are seldom noted, a migration of Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo p. platypterus*) on September 28, 1937, near Starkeville, Mississippi, is of interest. The flight was observed from about 7.45 to 8.30 a. m.; during this time ninety-one of these hawks were seen. The first birds appeared about seven miles east of Starkeville, and the flight continued westward along U. S. Highway .82, passing just north of the city. Soaring birds were moving at a speed varying from five to ten miles an hour, and birds in full flight attained a speed of about twenty miles an hour. These rates were checked by automobile speedometer, and the hawks timed were moving parallel to the highway. The largest group seen at any one time contained twenty-eight birds, and the average group numbered about six.—ROBERT C. McCLANAHAN, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Black Gyrfalcon in Wisconsin.—On December 26, 1936, the Milwaukee office of the Wisconsin Humane Society was notified that "a large hawk" with a freshly broken wing was flopping around in a city back-yard. The owner of the property had no idea how the bird got there. Mr. Lester Diedrich, the society's field man, recognized the bird as a gyrfalcon and donated it to the museum. It is in the gray plumage and became our catalogue No. 17611. It is a splendid large specimen and was in excellent physical condition. It had been helpless on the ground for but a short time because the primaries and tail feathers were in perfect condition. We think that the bird may have flown against a wire, possibly while in pursuit of a Domestic Pigeon.

Inasmuch as we had insufficient material for comparison, and on account of the