

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

general confusion concerning the status of the gyrfalcons, the skin was sent to Dr. Alexander Wetmore for possible identification. Drs. Wetmore and Friedmann determined the bird to be *Falco rusticolus obsoletus*.—O. J. GROMME, *Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin*.

Greater Prairie Chicken in western Pennsylvania?—In the last edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-list' the Greater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido americanus*) is stated to have formerly reached western Pennsylvania. The only basis for this ascription, as I am advised by Mr. F. C. Lincoln, is the record cited by Wilson ('American Ornithology,' 3: p. 117, 1811), that refers to a nest found "between the Pilot Knobs and Bairdstown." It has been assumed that "Bairdstown" in this case referred to the place still known by that name just west of Blairsville, Indiana County, Pennsylvania. In his account of the "Snow Owl," however, Wilson distinctly specifies "Bairdstown, in Kentucky," and a careful reading of his text on the "Pinnated Grouse" is perfectly consistent with this understanding. I submit, therefore, that there is no valid reason for accrediting the Greater Prairie Chicken to western Pennsylvania. It is highly improbable that it has ever occurred there at any time, for the primitive areas of open country were comparatively small and completely isolated from the prairie region farther west. The range of the Heath Hen must have been completely cut off from its western relative by this forest barrier of the Appalachian divide. Newspaper reports to the contrary notwithstanding, there appears to be no acceptable evidence for the occurrence of the Heath Hen anywhere in the western half of Pennsylvania.—W. E. CLYDE TODD, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*.

Purple Gallinule in central Illinois.—On April 30, 1937, a Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) flew through an open window in the main library of the University of Illinois at Urbana. It was captured and brought to the Illinois Natural History Survey, where entomologists inspected it for Mallophaga. Placed in the writer's hands it was taken to Dr. S. C. Kendeigh, banded, and released. This is, so far as known, the seventh record for the State of Illinois and the first for Champaign County.—FRANK BELLROSE AND LYNN HUTCHENS, *University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois*.

Hudsonian Curlew, White-faced Glossy Ibis and Black-bellied Plover in Oklahoma.—On May 18 and 19, 1937, considerable numbers of transient Hudsonian Curlews (*Phaeopus hudsonicus*) fed and rested along the Beaver River, and at a broad, shallow lake close by, three miles south of Gate, Beaver County, Oklahoma. On May 18, we counted a flock of twenty-one birds. From this flock two specimens, a female (Semple) and male (Sutton) were collected. Early in the morning on May 19, the same flock (nineteen birds) was seen again. But at nine o'clock a larger flock appeared high in air; the two flocks joined and we counted between fifty and sixty birds. Our two specimens are apparently the first for the State, since Mrs. Nice does not list the Hudsonian Curlew in her admirable 'Birds of Oklahoma' (Publ. Univ. of Oklahoma Biol. Surv., vol. 3, no. 1, 1931).

In the same region (at the lake, not along the river) we took also two male White-faced Glossy Ibises (*Plegadis guaravna*), the first an exceptionally handsome and fat individual (gonads measuring 23 by 11 mm.) on May 18 (Semple); the second, a slightly less colorful bird, also fat and with much enlarged gonads, on May 25 (Sutton). This species Mrs. Nice (loc. cit., p. 58) calls 'accidental,' listing a single specimen taken 'about 1897' near Dover, Kingfisher County.

On May 18 and 19, again in the same general region, but along the river and not