

within a few feet in our canoe. Possibly the Black Ducks were forced into using tree holes because this area is flooded by melting snow and early rains each spring to a depth of three to five feet or more, and hence all suitable nesting cover is under water at that time.

A Black Duck was found incubating eight eggs in a nest built in an old Crow's nest about fifteen feet up and overhanging the water of Loder Creek, near Sheffield, Sunbury County, New Brunswick, on May 26, 1938. This may be another adaptation resulting from flood waters. It is believed that these constitute the first recorded instances of Black Ducks nesting in tree holes and old Crow nests.

Col. H. H. Ritchie, chief game warden of New Brunswick, and John Campbell, game warden, were with me when the above observations were made, and movies were taken of the adult bird flushing in each instance.—HAROLD S. PETERS, *U. S. Biological Survey, Charleston, South Carolina.*

**Snow Geese near Philadelphia.**—The apparent paucity of records for Snow Geese in Pennsylvania, especially in spring, prompts me to submit the following observation. On the morning of April 27, 1935, while returning from a walk along Naylor's Run, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, I chanced to glance directly overhead and was astounded to see a small flock of eight Snow Geese (presumably *Chen hyperborea atlantica*), winging their way northward in V-formation at an altitude of about 800 feet. The birds were silent, uttering no sound while within my hearing. The brightness of the morning sun and blue depth of sky as a background, seemed to accentuate the snowy plumage and contrasting black wing-tips of the birds in a clear-cut and unforgettable picture.

While I can find only one published *spring* record for the Greater Snow Goose in Pennsylvania (Auk, 30: 336, 1913), several observers in the neighboring State of New Jersey have noted large April flocks: Carter near Boonton (Auk, 41: 472, 1924), Nichols at Troy Meadows (Auk, 50: 352, 1933) and Eynon at Union (Auk, 54: 532, 1937).

Nichols in an interesting discussion of the Snow Goose, comments on the rarity of records for a bird so easily recognized and suggests that this may be due to their passage at such great altitudes as seldom to be seen. In addition to this factor, Dr. D. J. Elliot (in Bent's 'Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl,' Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 130, p. 167, 1925) says that the Snow Geese "usually fly silently," which, if characteristic of their high migratory flights would make them still less conspicuous to the observer.—J. KENNETH TERRES, *Soil Conservation Service, Ithaca, New York.*

**Homing instinct and prolificacy in the Duck Hawk.**—During the spring of 1939 it was my good fortune to be able to make several trips into eastern Pennsylvania for the purpose of collecting nesting data on the Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*). I have often wondered what would be the effect of removing one or the other of the adults from the eggs. Would the other parent continue to incubate them? If a captured bird were released at some distance would it return to the same nesting site, and if so, how soon? In other words, I was curious to find out how strong and lasting is the nesting urge in a species which is usually so fearless as the Duck Hawk in the protection of its eyrie, and to find out how pronounced is the homing instinct in this species. In the experience described below it must be remembered that only one bird was involved, the female. It is quite probable that the male would show a different reaction under the circumstances described. Though no conclusions can be definitely drawn from this single incident, it is, I believe,