

town of Indiana along what is locally known as the 'Dead Waters' of Yellow Creek. Here the creek flows directly toward the west, a part of the Monongahela system, while a few miles to the east the streams flow toward the Atlantic. The geese were flying high and directly up the creek toward the east. A large flock of about seventy-five birds in a very one-sided V did considerable shifting of leaders and of general shape during the time of their passing. Following a short distance behind was a beautiful V-formation of thirteen birds which held their alignment almost perfectly while within sight. The bright sunlight gave the oncoming flocks a shining, silvery hue which faded to dull white that contrasted vividly with the black of the primaries as the flocks passed overhead. Canada Geese in flight have never suggested a squadron of airplanes to me as strikingly as did these Snow Geese. Presumably these were Greater Snow Geese, *Chen hyperborea atlantica*.—THOMAS SMYTH, *State Teachers College, Indiana, Pennsylvania*.

Fulvous Tree-duck an addition to the avifauna of Florida.—During the course of the Audubon Wildlife Tours, conducted by the writer out of Okeechobee, Florida, during February and March, 1940, he learned of what appears to be the first record of the Fulvous Tree-duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor helva*) for Florida. On December 14, 1939, Mr. Richard Reed, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was duck-shooting on Lake Okeechobee, with his young son, and a guide known as 'Mule-head' Swain. Each of the three secured, out of a 'squad' of very strange-looking ducks, specimens of what could have been nothing else than Fulvous Tree-ducks. The birds were brought into the Southland Hotel, and exhibited to interested parties. None of the guides who have worked on Lake Okeechobee for many years (some of them since boyhood) had ever seen ducks like them. They were described to the writer as being "mainly of a tan color, with a black line on the back of the neck, a black back and a white stripe along the sides." Aside from the fact that the remarkably long legs and long necks of these unknown ducks attracted much attention, the shooters themselves averred that they had calls utterly unlike any duck they had ever heard, characterizing them as a "sort of squeal." This is, of course, a character of the tree duck which is unmistakable, the local name along the Texas coast for this species, being 'Squealer.'

Conversation with Swain elicited the fact that two or three 'squads' of these birds were seen. He himself, though having guided on the Lake for years, was utterly at a loss to know what the ducks were. Search of the literature has failed to reveal any other instance of their occurrence, and this must be the first. Unfortunately, none of the specimens was preserved. The presence of these ducks in Florida is somewhat on a parallel with the regular visits of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) and the Reddish Egret (*Dichromanassa ruficollis*) to Florida in winter, both of these birds coming over from western sections of the Gulf Coast.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, South Carolina*.

King Eider in Ohio.—Reported occurrences of the King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) in Ohio are sufficiently few to make worth recording the recent capture of a specimen in this State.

The last day of hunting season, December 5, 1939, found the writer out in a small hunting boat at Winous Point in Sandusky Bay, the southwesternmost extremity of Lake Erie. The day was cloudy and cold with occasional snow flurries. Most of the ducks that had been in the neighborhood earlier in the season had moved on. Huge flocks of Red-breasted Mergansers and a few American Mergansers

were going by constantly, but very few 'marsh ducks' were seen. Around two o'clock the writer chanced to be looking down the bay toward the east and noticed a small flock of large ducks approaching at great speed. They were very low over the water and in the dull light looked all alike, almost pitch black with no plumage markings whatever. They flew like open-water ducks, in a very steady formation with very rapid wing beat and seemingly less than two feet above the surface of the water. There were eight birds in the group, one of which was dropped with a shot as they passed. The shooting hardly broke up the formation at all and the ducks quickly disappeared up the bay, keeping much the same short distance above the water.

The single specimen obtained turned out to be a female King Eider, and is now preserved in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. It is the first time the species has ever been identified at the Winous Point Shooting Club and for that matter one of the very few instances for the entire State of Ohio.

Wheaton (Report Geol. Surv. Ohio, 4: 536, 1882) states that Mr. R. K. Winslow of Cleveland informed him that one was taken many years since at Cleveland and one at Sandusky, and that a specimen obtained at the latter locality in the winter of 1877-78 was in the possession of Mr. Frank W. Langdon of Cincinnati. Wheaton goes on to state that he obtained the legs and head of a specimen in the market November 4, 1880, that was alleged to have been shot on Darby Creek about fifteen miles southwest of Columbus, Ohio. The portions secured were identified by Robert Ridgway as *S. spectabilis*. So far as we know none of the specimens mentioned by Wheaton is now extant, at least with data that would identify them as the birds in question.

Jones (Wilson Bull., 28: 202, 1916) received from William B. Haynes of Akron the head and neck of a King Eider that was one of four individuals shot there November 14, 1916. It was reported that another of these four birds was preserved by Arch Kunzel of Akron.

The most recent previous record of the King Eider for Ohio and the only one for which the present whereabouts of a specimen is known, is that of Robert M. Geist (Ohio State Science Bull., 1: 6, 1928). This specimen was one of three individuals seen at Buckeye Lake in central Ohio, on December 2, 1926. It was preserved and deposited in the Ohio State Museum Collection by Mr. Fred Harlow.—CHESTER K. BROOKS, *Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio.*

American Rough-legged Hawk in Florida.—The absence of any reference to the occurrence of *Buteo lagopus s. johannis* in Arthur H. Howell's 'Florida Bird Life' (1932) indicates that, up to the time of publication, no record for the species existed in that State. Since then, they have been seen, and it seems well to place them on record.

On May 19, 1938, one of these birds was watched for upwards of half an hour on one of the grassy 'reefs' of Lake Okeechobee. It was shown to the Audubon warden, in whose company the writer was at the time, and he instantly recognized it as a bird he had been seeing for some weeks, not only that year, but the previous one. He then added the rather astounding information that the bird had a mate, and had nested in the Lake the previous season! Being somewhat incredulous of this, I tried to shake his conviction, without success. He proceeded to take me to a small island not far from where we were at the time, and showed me the nest! It was built on the ground, on a slight rise, a great mass of sticks, debris and various sorts of trash. He stated that the year previous, he had found