

A few other Greater Snow Geese were probably to be found at the same time on other areas along the Atlantic coast of the United States. An estimate of the total population of Greater Snow Geese arrived at from these data is somewhat in excess of the estimate of 18,000 formed at Cap Tourmente, Quebec. The difference may be due to differences in methods of forming estimates of large numbers of wild geese, or it may be that not all of the Greater Snow Geese were present in the vicinity of Cap Tourmente at any one time.—CHARLES FRÉMONT, HARRISON F. LEWIS, and FREDERICK C. LINCOLN.

Greater Snow and Blue Geese in New Jersey.—During the last few years, members of the Urner Ornithological Club have found Garret Mountain Reservation in Paterson, New Jersey, an advantageous place to observe migrating hawks and crows and lesser birds. Occasionally waterfowl have been seen passing over various spots along the Watchung Mountains and vicinity. On Sunday, April 13, 1941, Messrs. E. B. Lang, R. Burkhart and F. P. Wolfarth were watching for passing hawks which had proved all too scarce that morning. In the distance we caught a glimpse of long wavy lines of approaching waterfowl and in a few moments saw the birds overhead, many of them calling in typical goose fashion. They were Snow Geese, presumably Greater Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea atlantica*), and flew at about 800 feet above the rock lookout. The birds were continually changing formations, with no distinct leader, and some of the geese were bunching in dense groups. This was at 9.12 a. m., and the estimated number was 350 birds. No effort was made at that time to determine whether any Blue Geese were among them but the light was good and the white and black contrasts were very showy as the geese moved past the sun.

However, this was not to be the last of the Snow Geese for this day and at 10.04 a. m. a sight met our eyes which we had never before beheld. A great V with about a 30° angle appeared in the distance—one outside line of the V was judged to have at least 100 geese in it. Extending from this line and the other side of the V were lesser lines all forming the same angle toward the inside of the V. Not far behind came another V but somewhat smaller in length. These geese were not sounding off and flew at about 1000 feet above the rock, which lies at about 600 feet above sea-level. This time birds in one line were scrutinized closely and at least three geese with all-dark wings were noticed, which we presumed were Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*); these were of about the same size with identical methods of flight. The estimated number of these two flocks was about 550 birds making an approximate total of 900 geese. In these last two groups all birds remained in this beautiful symmetrical pattern and disappeared to the north-east without change. The day was fair and the temperature at that time about 50° F.; the wind blew from the west at about 15 to 20 m.p.h.; there were scattered cumulus formations with visibility of about three miles. In the past there have been reports of Snow and Blue Geese in this area but in smaller numbers.—FLOYD P. WOLFARTH, Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey.

Blue Geese in South Carolina.—It may be of interest to note the following in connection with the records of the Santee Club on the Santee River, South Carolina.

In 1926, I saw there four Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) which remained together for some time.

The Santee Club records show the following: November 14, 1930, Paul Thompson, Jr., 1 Blue Goose; December 11, 1933, George D. Macbeth, 2 Blue Geese;

November 15, 1934, George D. Macbeth, 1 Blue Goose; December 1, 1937, Howard S. Hadden, 1 Blue Goose.—**IVERS S. ADAMS, Hardwick, Massachusetts.**

An unusual Mallard's nest.—Although it is well known that Mallards often nest at 'some distance' from the water, the discovery of a nest located about three miles from the nearest water-supply is, to the writer, decidedly unusual. The difference in elevation between the nearest water and the nest is about 700 feet. At the time of discovery on April 7, 1941, the nest was accidentally destroyed by a tractor, but it contained four fertile eggs. It was located in a large brushfield some six miles from the town of Mount Shasta, Siskiyou County, California. The female was flushed from the nest at the time of discovery and has since been seen in the vicinity by the writer on several occasions and is unquestionably a Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*). During the spring of 1940 a female Mallard was seen by a competent observer in the same area and was possibly the same bird.

Mr. E. R. Kalmbach advises me that his experience with nesting ducks in North Dakota during the drought of 1934–35 leads him to believe that some of the birds there had to travel three miles or more in order to reach water. There, however, it would seem that the nest was originally set closer to the water and that it was left 'high and dry' as the water receded. Such was not the case in the Mount Shasta nest, as no water supply, except perhaps for runoff from a storm, was closer than the distance indicated.

The brushfield undoubtedly provides excellent cover, and a supply of insect food such as grasshoppers that would be ample to support the young for some time, but the method by which the young reach water is not known. It is difficult to understand how tiny ducklings could with safety traverse on foot a distance of over three miles on this rugged and rocky terrain.—**CLARENCE F. SMITH, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mount Shasta, California.**

Lesser Scaup Duck nesting at Churchill, Manitoba.—On June 21, 1941, we found a nest of the Lesser Scaup Duck (*Nyroca affinis*) containing ten eggs, located about four miles southeast of Churchill, Manitoba. The incubating female was killed in order to make positive identification. This bird and also the eggs were compared with a female and eggs of the Greater Scaup Duck (*Nyroca marila*) which had been taken but two days previously, and identification of the Lesser Scaup Duck was positive. The nest was situated in dead grass at the edge of a small lake. When found no bird was seen, but on later examination the female was flushed from the nest. The nest contained no down, indicating that the set may not have been complete. The male bird was not seen.

So far as I am able to find, this is the first breeding record for this species in this locality and the only record we have for the species during the 1940 and 1941 seasons. In 'The Birds of Churchill' by P. A. Taverner and George M. Sutton it is stated that this bird probably breeds in the Churchill locality but no certain record is quoted.—**JOHN R. CRUTTENDEN, Quincy, Illinois.**

Turkey Vulture and Killdeer in Newfoundland Labrador.—Dr. E. P. Wheeler, 2nd, of Ithaca, New York, is one of those rare persons who, though not primarily biologists, nevertheless give much time and thought to biological matters. While carrying on geological studies in the Newfoundland Labrador during 1940–41, Dr. Wheeler came into possession of two remarkable bird specimens—a Killdeer, found dead by an Eskimo near Nain about November 25, 1940, and a Turkey Vulture, shot 'for a hawk' by a settler near the graveyard at Nain in the early part of the