

on the outer feather; 56 birds had the white only on the outer feather, 71 on the outer two, 28 on three feathers, three on the outer four rectrices, and three on the outer five. In none was the white mark on the first rectrix over, or much over, one centimeter in length. The involvement of the adjoining feathers decreased markedly. Exact sketches were made of the size, shape, and amount of the white areas in all tail feathers of the 162 Robins. There were no two alike in the proximal outline of the main spot. Only eight of these Robins returned to the traps in subsequent years, a return percentage of five, about equal to the general average return of Robins banded at all ages.

One Robin, 39-250343, had the basal three centimeters of all rectrices white—the only such specimen seen. Another, trapped in 1942 and again in 1943, had gray tips to the outer feather, no white on any. Two Robins, trapped, sketched, and banded in 1940 and retrapped in 1941 and 1943, gave excellent opportunity to compare the configuration and extent of the white markings, and three others which made I-returns and II-returns, in each set, also helped in the study. A careful comparison of the drawings, and some collected feathers, showed that by subsequent molts there was no increase in the number of feathers involved in any individual, nor was there any appreciable difference in the shape or in the proximal outline of the white areas. These rectricial white spots in the Eastern Robin are therefore constant in amount, and appear in the first feathers developed.—HAROLD B. WOOD, 3016 North Second St., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**Extraordinary Fatality to a Blue-winged Teal.**—On March 12, 1944, while looking at water birds on a small pond south of San Antonio, Texas, I noticed a duck hanging from the telephone wires along the highway. Examination showed that the bird, a female Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*), had evidently flown through the wires at high speed with its beak open. The open beak had scooped in two wires, and the velocity had been sufficient to split the corners of the teal's mouth open and drive the wires back to the base of the skull. The victim was left hanging from the two wires which were forced into its skull.—MAJOR CLIFFORD PANGBURN, *Randolph Field, Texas*.

**The Woodcock at San Antonio, Texas.**—On March 5, 1944, I was watching a flock of Wilson's Snipe (*Capella delicata*) which were feeding at the edge of a small pond just south of San Antonio. A Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) suddenly appeared from behind a grass clump. It was not more than 50 yards distant in full moonlight, and was easily identifiable through my 8X binoculars.—MAJOR CLIFFORD PANGBURN, *Randolph Field, Texas*.

**Great Black-backed Gull kills adult Black Duck.**—It has long been the conviction of some of the old-time duck hunters at Newburyport, Massachusetts, that the Great Black-backed Gull will attack and kill adult Black Ducks. This has seemed incredible, knowing the prowess and swift flight of the Black Duck. Bent, in his 'Life Histories of North American Gulls and Terns' (1921), does not mention its taking live waterfowl other than young eiders on the breeding grounds. Forbush, in his 'Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States' (1929), reports from his own observations and those of others that the Black-back kills Dovekies and other small birds, young ducklings, and American Coots, and has been known to carry off full-grown scoters.