

Rare birds in west-central Ohio.—On several different mornings in the early part of March, 1945, a female American Scoter (*Oidemia nigra americana*) was observed on the east end of Lake St. Marys and on the ponds of the State Fish Hatchery adjacent to the lake. On the morning of March 19, the bird was collected and is now a part of the collection belonging to the Ohio Division of Conservation and Natural Resources. According to men who formerly hunted ducks on Lake St. Marys for the market, the "Black Muscovy" was an irregular transient, always seen in very small numbers, and usually on the rough open waters of the lake.

During the morning of October 7, 1945, a Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) was seen in pursuit of a group of teal. This bird was killed by a hunter and is in the above-mentioned collection. According to older residents, this falcon was not abundant but was a regular visitor during the duck flights. This is the first individual I have seen in my eight years of observations in this area.

During the past three years, I have received reports on the presence of a single Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis tabida*) at the west end of Lake St. Marys. The observations were made by Game Protector Arlie Rhodes and Mr. Lowell Gilbert during the month of May in both 1943 and 1944. On June 9, 1945, I found a single bird on a patch of high ground in the marshes of the lake. I was unable to make a positive identification but all characters indicated that it was a Sandhill Crane. On October 14, 1945, another individual was seen. This crane was observed at a distance of not over 400 feet with the aid of five-power binoculars. The bird stood upright and walked with graceful strides. It flew with outstretched neck like a goose and interrupted the beating of the wings with short periods of soaring. The uniform gray color of the plumage and the darker bald spot were further distinguishing characters.

Also, I wish to report the presence of the White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons albifrons*) at Lake St. Marys. Forsthoefel (unpublished manuscript, 1933) states that he found a dead specimen of this goose at Lake St. Marys in 1926. As far as I have been able to learn, these geese have not been reported from Ohio for many years and never by published record from this section.

On the morning of November 2, 1945, a group of four White-fronted Geese came from the south side of Lake St. Marys and flew over the Fish Hatchery. They were so low that the yellowish or orange feet and the speckled breast of one adult could easily be seen. Game Protector Albert Wells saw the same flock as it left the lake. Mr. Granville Filiburn, at Lake Loramie in Shelby County, reported three on that lake.

According to the old commercial hunters, the "Speckled-bellies" were uncommon and irregular migrants on Lake St. Marys. These men also state that they have not seen one of these geese in at least forty years,—CLARENCE F. CLARK, *Ohio Division of Conservation and Natural Resources, St. Marys, Ohio.*

Black Skimmer breeding in Massachusetts.—The Black Skimmer (*Rynchops n. nigra*) is again nesting in Massachusetts after the passage of more than 100 years without a record. On July 8, 1946, at Plymouth Beach, Dr. Oliver L. Austin and a banding crew from the Austin Ornithological Research Station found a nest with one egg.

This discovery was not unexpected, for a number of Skimmers, including what appeared to be a mated pair, appeared at Plymouth in early July of 1945 and spent the summer. By late August they had built up to a maximum of twenty-four adults and four immatures, but no nest was found. They returned promptly this year, and when Dr. Austin began banding operations in the tern colony on June 15, eight birds