

rare in Virginia, even on the coast. The only other records for these species in the mid-Appalachian region are those listed by Maurice Brooks for West Virginia (A Check-List of West Virginia Birds, 1944: 14): two Lesser Snow Geese and a Blue Goose seen near Bluefield in 1942, and a Blue Goose taken near Morgantown, November 21, 1914.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Virginia*.

**Ducks Continue to Nest after Brush Fire at Castalia, Ohio.**—On April 17, 1948, a part of the Resthaven Wildlife Sanctuary at Castalia, Ohio, was accidentally burned. The burn covered approximately 100 acres of land strip-mined for marl many years ago and now supporting a mixed growth of herbaceous and woody plants. The area was visited April 24 to confirm reports of mortality of rabbits and damage to pheasant and duck nests caused by the fire. The fire had been hot enough to burn all of the dead herbaceous cover and, a week later, no green sprouts had appeared through the ashes and charred remains of plant stems.

Intensive searching in a two-acre section of the burned area revealed the blackened fragments of several pheasant and duck eggs. In addition, a Mallard, *Anas p. platyrhynchos*, and a Black Duck, *Anas rubripes*, were flushed from nests which had been completely burned over and had no cover remaining around them. The mallard nest contained five scorched and four unscorched eggs, the latter apparently having been laid after the fire. The black duck nest contained 12 eggs, all blackened on one side by the fire. The nest had been relined with down and the female had evidently been incubating the eggs for a week following the fire.

In an attempt to obtain photographs of the incubating hens, April 26, both hens were again flushed from their nests. A final visit, May 14, showed that both nests had been disrupted and the eggs destroyed. Messrs. F. B. Chapman, Roy Hooker, Burt Karbler, E. D. Martin and Clifford Morrow of the Ohio Division of Conservation assisted the writer in his observations.—DANIEL L. LEEDY, *Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio*.

**Gadwall Nesting in Maryland.**—The recorded nesting of the Gadwall, *Anas strepera*, by Griffith (Auk, 63: 436-438, 1946) in salt marshes on Bombay Hook Refuge in Delaware and Pea Island Refuge in North Carolina since 1939 suggested the possibility of the species breeding in suitable coastal marshes between these two points.

On May 18, 1948, while engaged in studies of salt marshes on the eastern shore of Maryland, the writers noticed several pairs of Gadwalls frequenting the tidal ponds and guts one to two miles southeast of Dames Quarter in Somerset County. The males of each pair exhibited definite signs of defense behavior, vigorously chasing the females of other pairs flying in the near vicinity. Because of the late date and the fact that the species was not known to breed in Maryland, it was decided to watch them more closely.

Egg shells of Gadwalls, probably broken by a raccoon, were discovered on May 19; on the following day one female was flushed from her nest containing eight eggs. This nest was built in a clump of switchgrass, *Panicum virgatum*, under a hightide bush, *Iva frutescens*, and was located on the side of a road bank adjoining a salt-meadow cordgrass, *Spartina patens*, marsh. The nearest water was in a ditch on the other side of the road, a distance of 15 feet. This is in agreement with other records on the east coast where the species has been found nesting in similar salt marshes not far from water.

Lack of time prevented us from searching for other nests, but at least seven pairs were seen in an area approximately 1.5 miles long by .75 miles wide. Several of

these birds were seen again on June 17 and July 3. Mr. Francis M. Uhler, of the Patuxent Refuge, visited the same area on the latter date and observed one brood of ten young about four or five days old.

Gadwalls have also been reported nesting at Jones Beach on Long Island, New York, for the past two years (Auk, 65: 610-612, 1948; and Aud. Field Notes, 2: 199, 1948), and in New Jersey since 1946 (L. G. MacNamara *in litt.*). Thus there are recent records for all of the seaboard states from New York south to North Carolina with the exception of Virginia. The caretaker of the Maryland marsh in which the Gadwalls were nesting stated that he had not observed them during previous years. This, along with the fact that the other coastal breeding stations have been recorded only recently, suggests that these are newly established colonies.—PAUL F. SPRINGER AND ROBERT E. STEWART, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland.*

**European Teal Again in Coastal South Carolina.**—On November 28, 1947, on Bull's Island, S. C., the writer with a group of eight observers, saw a well plumaged male *Anas crecca* in House Pond. The bird was about 50 yards distant, in excellent light, and in company with four or five drakes of *Anas carolinense*. Even the observers unfamiliar with ducks could readily see the differences between this bird and the accompanying teal. The lack of the white bar in front of the wings and the presence of the horizontal white stripe on the scapulars were perfectly apparent and commented on by all of them.

The occurrence of *A. crecca* in South Carolina is purely accidental. One specimen was taken on February 13, 1930, at the Santee Gun Club, Charleston County, by Richard Bishop (Stone, Auk, 51: 227, 1934), and constituted the first record for this region. In December, 1946, the writer saw one of these teals on Bull's Island, practically in the same place as recorded above. There are then three records for this accidental wanderer in South Carolina, two of them sight records by this writer.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 50, South Carolina.*

**A Correction in the Generic Name for *Eocathartes grallator*.**—In proposing the genus *Eocathartes* for a fossil species of American vulture (Family *Cathartidae*) (Ann. Carnegie Mus., 30: 58, 1944) I was not aware of the earlier use of this name for the Old World fossil *Eocathartes robustus* by Lambrecht (Nova Acta Leopoldina, Bd. 3 (14): 362, 1935). For the preoccupied *Eocathartes* Wetmore 1944, I propose the name *Neocathartes*, with *Eocathartes grallator* Wetmore as type. This will be placed in the Family *Neocathartidae* of the superfamily *Neocathartoidea* as *Neocathartes grallator* (Wetmore).—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

**White-tailed Kite on the Kissimmee Prairie.**—The White-tailed Kite, *Elanus leucurus majusculus*, is now so rare in Florida that any occurrence is worthy of report. On January 1, 1949, my wife and I and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Chandler saw one on the Kissimmee Prairie between Lake Istokpoga and Fort Bassenger. The bird rose from a ditchbank near us and flew in open view for 200 yards, showing clearly the black area on the forepart of the wings and beneath the black patch at the end of the wings. It was not fully mature, as the tail was pearly rather than white in color.—J. J. MURRAY, *6 White Street, Lexington, Virginia.*

**What is *Spizaetus devillei* Dubois?**—In 1874, Dubois (Bull. Acad. Roy. Belgique, 38: 129) described and figured in color two eagles from Ecuador, giving them the new name, *Spizaetus devillei*. Chapman in his volume on the birds of Ecuador