

uted to their collection a number of birds from widely scattered localities in the United States. The collection was later deposited in the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History.

In a letter to Norman A. Wood in 1926, Charles Dury stated that Roach was one of the firm of contractors that built the first lock, which was finished and opened for traffic September 1, 1881. Roach had purchased the specimen at the time it was collected and brought it to Dury for identification.

In 1936 I corresponded with M. J. Magee at Sault Ste Marie concerning the record. Magee consulted Judge Joseph H. Steere, an elderly amateur ornithologist of Sault Ste Marie who knew about the specimen. Judge Steere said that an Indian had shot the Anhinga at Garden River, Ontario (12 miles down the river from Sault Ste Marie), "about 1881" and brought it to a saloon in Sault Ste Marie, where the Judge examined it and where it was identified by "a captain at Fort Brady" who had seen Anhingas in Florida. The Judge was not then familiar with the species, but he later came to know it in the south and recalled the Garden River specimen.

The St. Mary's River is not very wide at Garden River, and the bird could presumably have been taken on either side of the International Boundary line; the evidence, however, is in favor of Ontario. At any rate, there seems to be no reason to doubt the authenticity of the record. The Anhinga occurs regularly north to Reelfoot Lake in northwestern Tennessee and was formerly found in southern Illinois. L. L. Snyder (Contrib. Royal Ont. Mus. Zool. No. 19: 28-29, 1941) has recorded an Anhinga taken near Wellington, Prince Edward County, Ontario, September 7, 1904. There are also two reports of this species from Wisconsin, but neither is wholly satisfactory (see Bull. Wis. Nat. Hist. Soc., 2: 109-112, 1902; Auk, 29: 398, 1912). I am indebted to L. L. Snyder, of Toronto, and J. L. Diedrich, of Milwaukee, for information on these records.—JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor.*

The Man-o'-war-bird, *Fregata magnificens*, on the Coast of Surinam, Dutch Guiana.—In the account of the bird life on the Atlantic coast of South America to the shoulder of Brazil, Murphy ('Oceanic Birds of South America,' 1936: 132) quotes the description by Young (Ibis, 1929: 751) from the coast of British Guiana between the Corantyne and Demerara rivers and lays stress on the absence of records of the Man-o'-war-birds from this region.

According to my observations during the last three years, the Man-o'-war-bird is of regular occurrence on the coast of Surinam, Dutch Guiana, in small numbers. Starting in the northwest of the country my list of records is as follows: (1) mouth of Nickerie River, which is only a few miles east of the mouth of the Corantyne River: March 6, 1946, two birds; March 9, 1946, one; July 23, 1946, 7; August 12, 1947, one; December 10, 1946, four birds. (2) coast near Coronie: July 10, 1946, one bird; September 11, 12, 1947, two; September 13, 1946, one bird. (3) tributary of Coppenname and Saramacca rivers: March 15, 1947, one bird; June 5, 1948, one; July 8, 1946, one; July 11, 1947, one; September 10, 1947, one; September 14, 1946, six birds.

I do not know of any evidence that this bird breeds anywhere along this coast. On the other hand, my records prove that the Man-o'-war-bird is present during at least six months of the year, though I was not able to visit any likely localities during all months, so that my records do not prove any way that the birds are absent during other periods.—FR. HAVERSCHMIDT, *Paramaribo, Surinam.*

American Egret, *Casmerodius a. egretta*, Builds Nest in Massachusetts in August.—A remarkable incident in the great 1948 flight of egrets to New England was the building of a nest at South Sandisfield, Massachusetts. The date was mid-

August. Mr. J. Edward Hyde of Springfield, a professional motion-picture photographer, who happened to be spending the week-end at this Berkshire village on August 14-15, 1948, was able to record on color-film what skeptics would otherwise feel was "unproven." He built a blind in an adjacent tree and photographed the fitting in of stick after stick. The nest-builder was still wearing nuptial plumes at that very late date, but the partner who found and carried the sticks had shed these plumes, and one can only wonder what induced the latter bird to undergo this labor. The nest was to all appearances completed, but no eggs were ever laid. Incidentally, the film also shows a Snowy Egret, *Leucophoyx thula*, still richly plumed—the first indubitable record of occurrence of that species in Berkshire County.—SAMUEL A. ELIOT, JR., *Smith College, Northampton, Mass.*

The Black Duck, *Anas rubripes*, in North Dakota.—On August 3, 1948, the writers saw a female Black Duck with a brood of six half-grown young on the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge about two miles west of Grano, North Dakota. A search of the available literature disclosed that the brood was a first record for the state. This and two records in 1949 from the same locality are described here.

Although formerly of very rare occurrence (Wood, 'A preliminary survey of the bird life of North Dakota,' 1923: 16), the species has in recent years been frequently seen in North Dakota (Griffith, *Auk*, 64: 470-471, 1947) and also through the prairie provinces (Wright, 'The black duck in eastern Canada,' Unpubl. Master's Thesis, Dept. Wildl. Manag., Univ. Wisconsin, 1947). We believed that an inquiry into its migration, distribution, and relative numbers might explain the absence of prior observed nesting and certain vagaries of its appearance during the year.

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MIGRATION AND DISTRIBUTION

The information from all sources shows that Black Ducks are rarely seen with Mallards during spring migration in March, April, and most of May, but they become fairly common in some localities and widely scattered over the state about June 1.

They are usually first seen with small bands of male Mallards, and they appear with Mallards on the larger marshes during the flightless period. All of 39 Black Ducks sexed as botulism victims or in banding operations between 1936 and 1949 were males (including three flightless birds taken in a corral-type trap on the Lower Souris Refuge, July 13, 1948). It seems quite probable that the summer population may largely originate in eastern breeding areas. There must be a wide wandering of males, as there is of male Mallards, prior to the postnuptial molt. The scarcity of females explains the relatively few breeding records.

Fall movements have been discussed by Wright (*loc. cit.*, 106-108), who suggests that considerable distances are "traveled by flying young in their wanderings prior to the southward migration." This would ordinarily explain the occasional immature bird recorded at banding stations in September and through the fall. The autumn