

**White-winged Scoter Nesting Record in North Dakota.**—The White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*) has been recorded in North Dakota a number of times, but nesting records are rare. The last nesting (to the writer's knowledge) was reported on July 28, 1936, by Seth Low who found two broods of nine young each, near Denbigh, North Dakota (Auk, 63: 251–252, 1946). Although a pair of White-winged Scoters was observed on School Section Lake, in the Turtle Mountains of North Dakota, on June 10, 1952, by D. V. Gray of the Lower Souris National Wildlife Refuge, no brood was seen on subsequent visits (Audubon Field Notes, 6: 287, 1952).

On July 28, 1952, while making an aerial waterfowl census on the Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge, Kenmare, North Dakota, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Pilot-Biologist R. M. Glahn and the writer observed what they believed to be a female White-winged Scoter with a brood of downy young. Although several passes were made at a low altitude, it was not possible to count the young accurately.

In the early morning of July 29, the brood was re-located and the identity checked by the writer. There were then nine downy young with the female White-winged Scoter.

On the evening of July 29, the brood was again observed and the identification was verified by Dr. and Mrs. R. T. Gammell of Kenmare, North Dakota. At this time, however, only eight young were seen.

The last observation of this White-winged Scoter and her brood was made on September 3, by K. D. Dybsetter of the refuge staff. At this time only three young, about two-thirds adult size, remained.

Although the Upper Des Lacs Lake area frequented by the female and her brood was covered several times while making population counts, breeding-pair counts, and early brood counts, the male scoter was never seen.

Kortright (The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America, 1943) indicated that northern North Dakota is within the breeding range of the White-winged Scoter, and it seems probable that the species nested more extensively in this area in earlier days; encroachment of civilization and past drought years may account for the infrequent occurrences in recent years.—HOWARD S. HUBNECKE, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge, Kenmare, North Dakota.*

**Foraging Activities of the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) During a Period of Low Lemming Population.**—Following the "crash" in the population of the brown lemming (*Lemmus trimucronatus alascensis* Merriam) during the spring of 1949, this small rodent almost disappeared from the tundra in the vicinity of Point Barrow, Alaska. Snowy Owls were fairly common throughout the summer of 1949, but much less numerous during the spring and summer of 1950. In late April, 1950, a Snowy Owl perched on a hummock of ice approximately three-fourths of a mile off shore opposite the Arctic Contractors' base camp, seven miles southwest of the geographical tip of Point Barrow. Since no lemmings were in evidence on the tundra, and would not be present out on the ocean ice, there was speculation about the source of food for the large owl.

Eider ducks had begun to drift northward in fair-sized flocks, and Eskimo hunters killed a few each day while waiting for whales to appear along open leads off shore. Since the Eskimo usually fires into a *flock* of ducks rather than at an individual bird, the number of wounded ducks not recovered by the hunters is disproportionately high. Casual observation of the owl over a period of several days revealed that it was stationed almost in the center of one of the main local fly-ways of the eiders.