

## GENERAL NOTES

**Mallard Nesting in Maine.**—The Common Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos* Linnaeus) has been suspected of breeding occasionally in Maine, although no actual instance of nesting has been recorded (Palmer, *Maine Birds*, 1949, *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoo.*, Harvard College, Vol. 102, p. 75). While far from being abundant, this species has been observed during recent years at all seasons, but particularly during the fall migration. The discovery of two nests, one each in 1949 and 1950, at the Davis-Holbrook Marshes in Eddington, Penobscot County, Maine, and one flightless brood at Passadumkeag, Penobscot County during 1952, are of interest.

On May 8, 1949, I observed a drake mallard in the water along the edge of a small marshy cove. He flushed and flew to a distant part of the area. Within an hour I flushed a hen mallard from a nest that was within 450 feet of the area where the drake was first seen. The hen left the vicinity by the same route taken by the drake. Later in the day the pair was flushed from another marshy portion of the area and after circling for several minutes they alighted in the open lake about one-half mile distant.

The nest contained five light greenish-buff eggs. During the second check, on May 18, the hen was flushed from the nest at 11:00 a.m. Nine eggs and an increased amount of down were present. On May 29, the writer, together with Howard L. Mendall, again checked this nest and flushed the hen at 3:40 p.m. When re-examined on June 21, the remaining evidence indicated a successful hatch.

The nest site was much like that of a Black Duck (*A. rubripes*). It consisted of a small hummock formed by stems of holly (*Ilex verticillata*), sedge (principally *Carex lasiocarpa* var. *americana*), and leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*). The general area is characterized by floating sedge meadow with scattered patches of woody plants.

The nest was constructed of the stems and leaves of sedge and a few dead leaves of leatherleaf. It was approximately 15 inches above the water, 125 feet from upland woods, and 240 feet from the channel of open water.

The second nest, found on May 9, 1950, was at a similar site, and was within 100 feet of the first. This nest contained 8 eggs when discovered. Another egg was subsequently laid, and when re-checked on June 4, nine newly hatched ducklings were present.

Attempts to locate the broods after they left the nest were unsuccessful. In June 1949, a hen mallard was flushed from dense cover. Her behavior was like that of a broody Black Duck, but no ducklings were seen.

On July 17, 1952, a hen mallard with a brood of 12 half-grown, flightless young was observed from a canoe on the Penobscot River at Passadumkeag, Penobscot County, Maine. These birds were watched for several minutes with the aid of binoculars at a distance of about 300 feet. Eventually the hen and brood scurried to shore into dense growths of ferns and grasses.

This is a contribution from the Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Orono, Maine; Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game, University of Maine, Wildlife Management Institute, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, cooperating.—MALCOLM W. COULTER, *Assistant Leader, Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Orono, Maine.*

**Further Information on the Turkey Vulture (*Cat hartes aura*) in New England and Eastern Canada.**—A paper by the undersigned, "The Turkey Vulture in New England and Eastern Canada up to 1950" (*Auk*, 68: 315-333, 1951), has elicited certain material which seems worthy of record.

Maurice Broun (1951: *in litt.*) wrote that Judith Gregory, of Charlottesville, Virginia, saw an adult Turkey Vulture "about 8 miles south of Inverness, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, on the coast," during the first week in August, 1948.

Christopher M. Packard (1951: *in litt.*) reported his unpublished observation of a Turkey Vulture soaring "very low over a burnt-over section just outside of Brunswick, Maine," in early May, 1944.

A note by Vera H. Wallace (New Hampshire Bird News, 4: 32, October, 1951), discussed records for this species in the vicinity of New Hampton, N. H. Mrs. Wallace (1951: *in litt.*) informed us that this note erroneously gives "April 12, 1947" as the date on which a bird was taken near New Hampton; the correct date is April 13, 1947, as given in our paper. However, Mrs. Wallace's note added a New Hampshire sight-record which we had overlooked: a bird seen by her on July 21, 1947, in New Hampton. Hugh Williams, of Waldoboro, Maine (1951: *in litt.*), described accurately to us six Turkey Vultures which he saw over Dublin, N. H., in May, 1941.

In view of the scarcity of records for this species in Vermont, the report by Thomas H. Foster (1951: *in litt.*) of a bird, which he saw over his home in Bennington, Vermont, April 12, 1951, deserves mention.

George Decker (1951: *in litt.*) wrote that he had found a Turkey Vulture roost in a wooded swamp in central Dutchess County, N. Y., and another roost close to the New York stateline in Litchfield County, Connecticut. According to Decker, the latter roost is located on a rocky hillside; it is used in summer by about 40 birds and has existed for several years. Mr. Decker added that, at the time of heavy snows prevailing during the winter of 1947-48, "dogs killed several deer on Preston Mountain, and the vultures (about 30) wintered, feeding on the dead deer." Preston Mountain is near Kent, Conn.

Our first report of a Turkey Vulture feeding on an animal killed on a New England highway came to us from Henry H. Townshend (1951: *in litt.*), who wrote that in April, 1951, for the first time in his experience, he closely observed one of these birds feeding on a dead skunk on a highway near Salem, Conn.

Samuel A. Eliot, Jr. (1951: *in litt.*) pointed out that an immature Turkey Vulture was caught alive in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, in late November, 1946, and was kept for some time in the Forest Park Zoo, Springfield, Mass.

A paper by Dr. A. E. Allin (Can. Field-Nat., 58: 185) should be called to the attention of students of the northern limit of range of *Cathartes aura*. Dr. Allin (1951: *in litt.*) suggested that the birds discussed in his paper probably are referable to the western race, *teter*.

The senior author regrets that, through his inadvertence in proofreading, the name of Dr. Edson B. Heck appeared as "Gordon Heck" (Auk, 68: 319), and apologizes for this error.

We are grateful to the various correspondents who supplied the material contained in this note.—AARON M. BAGG, 72 Fairfield Ave., Holyoke, Mass., and HENRY M. PARKER, *Sunapee, N. H.*

#### **Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) Wintering near Pensacola, Florida.**

—Until early in 1948, the Red Phalarope was considered only an accidental visitor in the Pensacola area, as it had been recorded there but twice in 32 years (Auk, 64: 473, 1947). On February 8, 1948, Mr. Frank Bray, of Pensacola, reported having seen a flock of phalaropes, numbering about 150 birds, on the waters of the Gulf of Mexico about 40 miles southwest of the entrance to Pensacola Bay. Contrary to published accounts of the habits of the Phalaropodidae, these birds were so wild that the boat