

**Masked Duck and Jacana at Brownsville, Texas.**—Though known from the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas since 1891 and 1876, respectively, the Masked Duck (*Oxyura dominica*) and Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) have been recorded so infrequently in the United States that the following observations seem noteworthy.

On September 4, 1937, in a reed-choked resaca within a mile of Brownsville, I had protracted views of eight Masked Ducks—a flock of seven, including one adult male, and another adult male some little distance apart. Because of the many years which have elapsed, I prefer to quote directly from my field notes, although most of the details are still vividly remembered.

"The Masked Ducks were very shy, particularly the two adult males which never strayed far from the reeds. The females [presumably including young of both sexes] kept close together, and while they showed uneasiness as I waded knee-deep into their haunts, they did not take alarm, but slowly swam off through the marsh vegetation. At one time they all loitered in an unprotected spot where I had excellent views of their small chunky bodies and the two very conspicuous black streaks on each side of their heads. The males looked very much like Ruddies [*Oxyura jamaicensis*] in nuptial plumage but were noticeably smaller and, lacking white cheeks, had a black mask on the top, front, and sides of head. Their tails looked even longer and spinier than a Ruddy's. The males' bills were bright blue. I never saw them fly, nor in any way exhibit the white wing-patch. These ducks can float with just the head and upper neck above the water, like a grebe. Silent."

Returning to the same resaca two days later, when an adult male and four in female plumage were closely approached in ideal light, I finally saw a reddish male and two of the other ducks stretch their wings sufficiently to show the large, clearly marked, white patch on the secondaries.

In mid-March 1939, near Isla in southern Veracruz, México, I had further opportunity to observe Masked Ducks under much the same circumstances, with the added feature of seeing two males in flight.

Another unexpected bird, September 4, 1937, at the very resaca near Brownsville where the Masked Ducks were skulking, was an adult Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*). It was watched for several minutes walking on matted marsh vegetation and along the water's edge. When I approached closely enough to see its fantastically long toes, it spread its yellow-patterned wings, and uttering an explosive *kip*, familiar to me from many previous encounters with this species in the tropics, flew weakly, and with long legs extended, to the other side of the resaca. Even from that distance its yellow frontal shield and chestnut and black body were unmistakable.—FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER, JR., *Centre College, Danville, Kentucky*.

**Masked Duck in Florida.**—'Florida Bird Life,' as recently revised by Alexander Sprunt, Jr., does not list the Masked Duck (*Oxyura dominica*). On April 13, 1955, a small brown duck was brought to my home in Key West by a neighbor, who found it lying dead in the street one morning (about March 30). She had reported it to the City Sanitary Department, but they failed to pick it up. She then carried it to her back yard, where it remained for two weeks. All flesh had been destroyed by ants, but the feathers were in fairly good condition. I believed it to be of the above species and forwarded the specimen to Dr. H. M. Stevenson, Department of Zoology, Florida State University, who verified the identification. The specimen is now a part of the skin collection at that institution.—FRANCES HAMES, *1230 von Phister St., Key West, Florida*.