

cliff ledges were occupied by a number of nesting Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*) and Northern Murres (*Uria lomvia arra*). From my observation point close to the cliff's edge, I could see a number of murre chicks huddled along the ledges. Most of the adult birds had left, and the young thus left exposed ranged from newly hatched to nearly completely feathered chicks. Probably the newly hatched birds were the result of second layings occasioned by the egg gathering of the Aleut boys from the village.

Several of the older chicks were quite nervous and appeared to be nearly ready to leave their ledges. A few adult murres had alighted on the water beyond the gathering of seals, and their soft vocal sounds were plainly audible on shore. Suddenly two of the young murres fluttered at a steep angle from their ledges to the water below. The smaller of the two failed to clear the rocks and was washed about by the waves while it paddled frantically before it finally reached calm water. As soon as it was clear of the rocks, it dived instinctively, remaining under water for about 15 seconds during which it traveled about two or three yards.

Both small birds headed for deep water, chirping loudly, and swimming directly through the mass of fur seals. The parent of one chick answered its calls and joined it as soon as it passed through the seals. The two then swam out to sea together. The parents of the other chick were not present, and it seemed confused by the many seals. For ten minutes I watched it as it paddled and dived among them. During almost all this time, one seal or another swam behind the little bird with its nose nearly touching its tail. Dozens of others sniffed it curiously as it passed them. Although the chick stretched its neck and looked surprised at each curious animal, its only fear reactions were occasional short dives. At no time during its journey among the seals did they show any inclination to snap at or molest the murre. The only apparent reaction of the seals was one of idle curiosity. Mistakes in recognition, when the seal suddenly encounters a diving bird beneath the surface, might account for an infrequent bird being taken by fur seals.—KARL W. KENYON, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Seattle, Washington, June 30, 1949.*

The Incidence of Hybrids in Migrant Blue and Snow Geese in Kansas.—The Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) and the Lesser Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea hyperborea*) are common spring migrants through eastern Kansas. Hybridization between these two forms has been established by Sutton (Auk, 48, 1931:335-364). Harrold (Auk, 45, 1928:290-292) observed many hybrids in migrant flocks at Whitewater Lake, Manitoba.

On March 11, 12, 13, 16, and 18, 1949, migrating flocks of Blue and Snow geese were observed along the Kansas River, five miles northwest of Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas. The estimated number of birds observed on March 12 was 20,000 individuals, most of which passed overhead without alighting. On March 13 a flock of 5000 (± 500) was observed at rest on a sand-bar in the river. Using a 36 \times telescope, a count of 2120 of the geese was made. Of these, 1552 (± 50) were Blue Geese, 426 (± 10) were Lesser Snow Geese, and 142 were hybrids. Most of the hybrids were similar to those described by Harrold (*loc. cit.*) and figured by Sutton (*op. cit.*, pl. V), having the underparts white with a dark band across the breast. At least two hybrid individuals were noted which had the entire underparts white, the breast band being absent.

The 142 hybrids comprise 6.7 per cent of the total of 2120 birds counted. This figure is undoubtedly low since an individual bird could be determined to be a hybrid only if its underparts could be seen and if it was not hidden behind other birds. Assuming that equal numbers of birds would be facing each direction we would be unable to see the underparts of one-fourth of the hybrid birds, namely those facing directly away from us. If this is true, we would miss 47 hybrid birds for this reason and our theoretical number of hybrids rises to 189 or 8.9 per cent of the total of 2120 counted. There is no way to correct the figures for those hybrid birds which were hidden behind their companions, but it is safe to assume that hybrids comprised at least 10 per cent of the migrant flock which passed through eastern Kansas.

Harrold (*loc. cit.*) has suggested that greater numbers of hybrids occur at the western edge of the migratory route of the Blue Goose. Comparative counts along the eastern margin of the flyway and on the wintering grounds would be of interest.

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