

still some distance from the observer—a call note not at all like that of the House Wren. When located it was found to be in a gully at the bottom of a heavily wooded ravine. This gully was partially filled with fallen leaves and other rubbish; it had an overhanging edge caused by erosion and supported by the roots of trees, small sticks and broken branches. The bird was hopping about under this overhanging edge, making its way through the tangle of roots and sticks, apparently in search of food. It ceased to utter its call upon the closer approach of the observer. Occasionally, as it took note of the presence of the observer, it would perch on a root or twig close to the ground and remain quiet temporarily. It exhibited many of the characteristics and mannerisms of the Wren family. *Nannus hiemalis hiemalis* is distinguished from *Troglodytes aedon parkmani*, which is the species common here, by (1) its call note, already referred to; (2) its smaller size, one inch or more less than *parkmani*; (3) by the dusky line over the eye; (4) by its general darker coloring; (5) by its shorter tail, and (6) by its habitat. Its prevailing color is reddish or chestnut brown above, barred with dusky, while the throat, chest and under parts are a light wood-brown, speckled with buffy or dusky. The short, compact tail, slightly rounded at the end, is held erect. *Hiemalis* is a species of eastern distribution, but is found rarely breeding southward to northern Indiana and Illinois and central Iowa.

A. F. ALLEN.

Sioux City, Ia., Nov. 10, 1919.

A BANDED MALLARD

A female mallard which had been banded by the Massachusetts Fish and Game Commission was killed by a Norfolk, Neb., hunter, M. C. Fraser, on October 26, 1919. The bird was shot about twelve miles southeast of Norfolk, and was one of a number of wild ducks taken at the time. The wording on the leg band was as follows: "No. 350. Marshfield. Fish and Game Com. State House, Boston." Upon communicating with the commission, Mr. Fraser learned that this mallard, together with others, had been raised at the Massachusetts state hatchery at Marshfield. After being tagged, the birds were distributed over the state for liberation. The mallard taken by Mr. Fraser, it is apparent, joined the wild ducks in their flight northward and accompanied them on their autumn migration southward.

The mallard is one of the wild species of ducks which is easily domesticated. It is the practice among hunters in this locality, as it is in other localities, to rear mallards for use as live de-

coys. Ducks hatched from eggs taken from the wild mallard's nest and raised among the domestic ducks and chickens show few or no indications of wildness in their behavior. The second and succeeding generations are even less wild. As a precaution against flight, clipping of the wings frequently is resorted to, but instances are common of the birds making no attempt at flight even though the wings remain unclipped. At McCook lake, S. D., in the spring of 1919, wild ducks were decoyed into a farmer's dooryard by a flock of domesticated mallards and took their departure without any of the home grown birds accompanying them.

The incident of the Massachusetts mallard shows that under the proper conditions of temptation and environment the species hatched and reared in captivity will heed the call of the wild and return to the ways of its kind.

A. F. ALLEN.

Sioux City, Ia., Nov. 14, 1919.

ORDER PERMITTING THE KILLING OR TRAPPING OF CERTAIN BIRDS, AT FISH HATCHERIES, FOUND TO BE INJURIOUS TO VALUABLE FISH LIFE.

Information having been furnished the Secretary of Agriculture that grebes, loons, gulls and terns, mergansers and certain species of the heron have become, under extraordinary conditions, seriously injurious to and destructive of fishes at fish hatcheries in the United States and Alaska, and an investigation having been made to determine the nature and the extent of the injury complained of, and whether the birds alleged to be doing the damage should be killed, and, if so, during what times and by what means, and it having been determined by the Secretary of Agriculture that the birds above mentioned have become, under extraordinary conditions, seriously injurious to and destructive of fishes at fish hatcheries in the United States and Alaska, and that such birds found committing the damage should be destroyed:

Now, therefore, I, D. F. Houston, Secretary of Agriculture, pursuant to authority in me vested by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of July 3, 1918, and agreeably to Regulation 10 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act Regulations approved and proclaimed July 31, 1918, do hereby order that the owner or superintendent, or a bona fide employee of a public or private fish hatchery in the United States or in Alaska, for the purpose of protecting the fishes at such hatchery, may shoot or trap the following birds at any time on the grounds and waters of such hatchery:

Grebes (*Colymbidæ*), locally also called water-witches or hell-divers.