

The Wood Duck in New Mexico.—On October 19, 1947, Hugh B. Woodward, H. H. Drum, and Walter Bellman brought in a bag of ducks taken on a marsh one mile south of Bernardo, Socorro County, New Mexico. In this bag were two Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*), a male and a female, both immature and both molting heavily. I saved these as specimens; the female is now in the collection of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, the male in Dr. Max M. Peet's collection (also housed in the Museum). So far as I can learn, no New Mexican specimen has previously been preserved, nor have any sight records been published since 1928.

W. W. Cooke (in F. M. Bailey's "Birds of New Mexico," 1928, p. 131) quotes Thomas C. Henry on the status of the Wood Duck in New Mexico: "but two or three were ever met with, and only on the Rio Mimbres." (Henry was stationed at Fort Webster, east of Silver City, on the Rio Mimbres from December 1852 to early 1854.) Cooke also notes one sight record made by William H. Emory near Las Palomas (south of Hot Springs) on October 12, 1846.

Recent observations of the Wood Duck in New Mexico are as follows: John C. Knox, of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, examined a Wood Duck taken by a hunter at San Marcial, Socorro County, during the open duck season in 1944. During the open season in 1945, Knox examined a second Wood Duck killed by a hunter at San Marcial and also saw one in flight at the same location. In 1946 Knox observed one adult male Wood Duck on a pond in Tingley Park, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County. Thomas G. Cornish killed a male Wood Duck in December 1946 on the Rio Grande 10 miles north of Albuquerque, and on December 22, 1947, he saw another one at the same location. On January 7, 1948, Roger Tory Peterson and I observed two male Wood Ducks in prime plumage on a pond in Tingley Park, Albuquerque. They were tame enough for close observation though they did not join other ducks and geese in taking food thrown to them. I observed a male Wood Duck on the same pond on February 25, 1948.

Charles T. Vorhies (1947. *Condor*, 49:245) has outlined a remarkably similar story of the Wood Duck in Arizona.—A. E. BORELL, *Soil Conservation Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico*.

Unusual consumption of fish by three species of birds.—On September 2, 1947, I noted a large concentration of birds of several species on the Souris River below the spillway downstream from Lake Darling, an artificial lake on the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge in North Dakota. The birds appeared to be feeding almost exclusively—if not entirely—upon small fish. This was particularly noticeable in the tailrace below the spillway, where the water was black with a tremendous concentration of fingerlings. The tailrace was about 15 feet by 25 feet in surface area, deep, and without shallow margins, so that all birds feeding there were swimming. Two Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*), three Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*), and two Franklin's Gulls (*Larus pipixcan*) were noted swimming in the water and feeding voraciously upon the fingerlings, which averaged perhaps scarcely more than an inch in length. The fish seemed to be invariably swallowed head first, and consisted mainly of small chubs, shiners, and sticklebacks.

While yellow-legs not infrequently consume small fish in shallow water as a part of a meal, they are rarely found swimming, and only occasionally do they consume fish in large numbers. They frequent shallow margins and marshes, and it is rare for them to forage for food in deep water. It is also extremely rare for teal, or any species of river duck, to consume fish in appreciable quantity. They are primarily vegetable feeders and are most at home in shallow waters and mud flats. On this occasion, because of the great concentration of these small fish