

Tuscaloosa County, on September 7 and September 24, 1938, and again near Stroud, in Chambers County, on August 10, 1952.

In the late afternoon of September 14, 1955, Eugene Cypert, E. A. Byford, W. M. Depreast, and the writer were observing shorebird migrants in the Garth Slough vicinity of the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. This locality lies some five miles east of Decatur, Alabama, in Morgan County. At that stage of water it consisted of several hundred acres of mud flat, interspersed with channels. Cypert observed five Buff-breasted Sandpipers feeding in short grass on a high portion of mud flat and tentatively identified nine or ten others at a greater distance. Since Thomas A. Imhof was at that time rewriting "Birds of Alabama," and since no specimen was on record for the state, one was collected from the small flock. Later a study skin was prepared and submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the identification was confirmed by Dr. J. W. Aldrich.

The Garth Slough locality was revisited September 15 but no more of these birds were seen. Byford, on September 23, reported seeing two more in the same vicinity.—THOMAS Z. ATKESON, *Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Decatur, Alabama, April 1, 1956.*

The Muscovy Duck in the Pleistocene of Panamá.—During the dry seasons of 1950 and 1951 Dr. C. Lewis Gazin, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology in the U.S. National Museum, excavated several Pleistocene fossil localities on the Azuero Peninsula on the Pacific side of the Republic of Panamá. In 1951, among abundant remains of ground sloths at El Hatillo, near the highway one and one-half miles west of Pesé, Province of Herrera, he obtained one bone of a bird, the distal two-third of a right ulna (U.S. Nat. Mus. no. 21312). This I have identified as from a Muscovy Duck, *Cairina moschata* (Linnaeus). Dr. Gazin considers the spring deposit from which this bone was obtained as Upper Pleistocene. The bone is stained light brown in color and is somewhat mineralized. It marks the first definite report of an avian fossil from Central America. The Muscovy Duck, well known in domestication, ranges in the wild in suitable habitats in the tropical lowlands from Sinaloa and Tamaulipas in northern México southward along both coasts of Central America and South America to Perú and Argentina. The species is locally common in lagoons and marshes in Panamá today where it is known to hunters as the *pato real*.

Cairina moschata has been found previously in cave deposits of supposed Pleistocene Age in southern Brazil so that it seems to have had an extended range over a long period of time.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D.C., May 3, 1956.*