

TABLE 2  
FLIGHT SPEEDS OF EIGHT WOOD DUCK FLOCKS RECORDED 9 AUGUST 1964

Flock No.	No. in flock	Sec. to fly 970 feet	Miles per hour
1	4	12	55
2	1	14	47
3	3	14	47
4	1	14.5	46
5	2	12	55
6	5	14.5	46
7	14	17	39
8	12	12	55
Average	5.3	13.7	48.3

varied from a low of 26 miles per hour for a Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) to a high of 72 miles per hour for a Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*). Cottam, Williams, and Sooter (1942. *Wilson Bull.*, 52:121-131) measured the flight speeds of 57 species. They recorded cruising speeds between 29 and 33 miles per hour for four duck species. The flight speed of four ducks which were being chased varied between 40 and 55 miles per hour. Meinertzhagen (1955. *Ibis*, 97:81-117) lists the flight speed of the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) at 46-70 miles per hour, the Pintail (*Anas acuta*) at 37-65, and the Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*) at 47-53.

During our observations, Wood Duck flocks were clocked with a stop watch over a measured course during two evenings in August, 1964. The course was a 970-foot stretch of the Wisconsin River between two prominent points. Just before dark, wood ducks fly along this stretch of river in a relatively straight line enroute to their traditional roosting site, this particular one located upriver from the power dam in Merrill, Wisconsin. During these observations, the ducks were not alarmed. The only motivating factor was to reach the roosting area before complete darkness.

The stop watch was started as the first duck of the flock crossed an imaginary line perpendicular to the observer on the downstream point. The watch was stopped when the upstream observer signaled that the first duck of the flock had crossed the imaginary line perpendicular to him. The signal was transmitted by a flashlight blink. Spier (1945. *Auk*, 62:135-136) clocked Oldsquaws (*Clangula hyemalis*) in a similar manner but was troubled by an erratic wind. Wind was negligible during these two evening periods.

Recorded Wood Duck speeds on the two evenings varied between 39 and 55 miles per hour but averaged 47.1 miles per hour (Table 1 and 2). The range of speeds recorded during the second evening (Table 2) were similar to those recorded on the first evening (Table 1) but did average 2.4 miles per hour faster.—JOHN T. LOKEMOEN, *Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, P.O. Box 1672, Jamestown, North Dakota, 9 May 1966.*

**Erythrism in the wild Turkey.**—As far as I can determine erythrism has not been reported in the wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*).

The plumage of a hen (specimen No. 45 in my collection) obtained in 1965 from Sarasota County, Florida approaches brownish red (color terminology after Palmer, ed., 1962. "Handbook of North American Birds." Vol. 1, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven and London) making the term *erythristic* appropriate.

*Body color.*—The contour feathers of the breast are chestnut-brownish red, barred and speckled with brownish black, tipped with light tawny. The feathers on normal specimens of similar age are usually blackish brown, barred subterminally with black, and terminally with light shades from tawny to buffy brown.

*Wings.*—Little reddish color occurs in the primaries except on the distal webs. The secondaries are not barred and are more reddish than the primaries. The greater upper secondary coverts are light reddish chestnut barred subtly with blackish brown on the distal web.

*Other plumage.*—All feathers are more reddish than normal, but some, particularly the retrices and feathers of the neck region, closely approach normal coloration. The erythristic specimen has a black beard which by its length (160 mm) suggests advanced age (Mosby and Handley, 1943. "The Wild Turkey in Virginia," Virginia Comm. Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond).

*Unfeathered parts.*—In life the feet and tarsometatarsi were reddish as in normal specimens and the eyes and skin of the head and unfeathered portion of the upper neck were colored typically.

*Other examples of erythrism.*—I have several retrices and remiges from a reddish female specimen taken by a hunter near Baldwin in Nassau County, Florida in 1963. They are similar to the corresponding feathers of specimen No. 45 and include a number 10 juvenal primary by which the individual is known to have been less than one year old (Petrides, 1945. *Auk*, 62:223-227). The same hunter reported that he had seen other reddish turkeys in the area.

In 1963 I saw a reddish adult male near Baldwin and have been told by wildlife wardens in the area that reddish turkeys had been seen there before.

There is evidence of erythrism in wild Turkeys also from Arkansas and Mississippi. Mr. Mark Block sent color transparencies and a humeral feather from a brownish-red adult male taken about two years ago in Arkansas County, Arkansas by Mr. C. Elmer Bohnert. The specimen was preserved in a life-like mount. Mr. Russell Davis of Jackson, Mississippi sent a brownish-red feather and a color photograph of a juvenile male from Clark County, Mississippi taken in 1952. These turkeys were living wild and are believed to be "wild" Turkeys in the genetic sense. There is little evidence, one way or the other, concerning their ancestry but there is no reason to consider them to be products of domestic-wild cross-mating.

In view of the varied plumage coloration in domestic turkey strains, it is natural to wonder whether genetic exchanges between wild and domestic strains are responsible for off-color "wild" Turkeys. Specimen No. 45 has no characteristics of domestic turkeys. The tarsometatarsus length is 135 mm (measured as suggested by Baldwin, Oberholser, and Worley, 1931. "Measurements of Birds," Scientific Publications of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Vol. II, Cleveland, Ohio) and the diameter of the middle of the tarsometatarsus is 15 mm. This ratio of tarsometatarsal length to mid-tarsometatarsal diameter (135:15) compares closely to the same measurements of normal wild specimens. (Domestic turkeys have shorter and very much wider tarsometatarsi.) The specimen's body conformation, size, and wattling on the head and neck are typical of adult wild hens in Florida.

I would like to thank Mr. A. D. Dawson of Arcadia, Florida for securing the erythristic hen specimen. This paper is a contribution of Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Program, Florida Pittman-Robertson Project W-41-R.—LOVETT E. WILLIAMS, JR., *Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Wildlife Research Projects Office, Suite 21, 412 N.E. 16th Avenue, Gainesville, Florida, 24 May 1966.*