

**Foraging dives by surface-feeding ducks.**—Recently, R. I. Smith (1966. *Wilson Bull.*, 78:483–484) questioned, among other things, the occurrence of foraging dives by Pintails (*Anas acuta*). Foraging dives by mature wild Pintails have been repeatedly seen at the Wildfowl Trust since at least 1954 (Chapman et al., 1959. *Brit. Birds*, 52:60), and this species is only one of several “dabblers” that regularly dives for food there. Other surface-feeding species that we have observed diving for food include Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) (wild resident and wintering birds), Shovelers (*Spatula clypeata*) (wild wintering birds), African Black Ducks (*Anas sparsa*), and Bahama Pintails (*Anas bahamensis*). One of us (J.K.) has also observed foraging dives by New Zealand Brown Ducks (*Anas auklandica chlorotis*), Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*), and Mandarin Ducks (*Aix galericulata*); in all cases females of these species have been observed diving more frequently than males. Additionally, one of us (P.A.J.) has noted foraging dives by Gadwalls (*Anas strepera*), Cape Teal (*Anas capensis*), and Gray Teal (*Anas gibberifrons*). Of these three, the Cape Teal has been observed diving much more commonly than the others.

A number of published accounts of diving by surface-feeding ducks probably refer to “dashing-and-diving” during bathing (McKinney, 1965. *Behaviour*, 25:173–174) or to escape-diving, but others are clearly concerned with foraging. Thus, foraging dives by wild Mallards have been reported on several occasions (e.g., Mylne, 1954. *Brit. Birds*, 47:395; Kutz, 1940. *J. Wildl. Mgmt.*, 4:19–20). Wild Black Ducks (*Anas rubripes*) likewise have been reported to dive for food to depths of up to ten or twelve feet (Kutz, 1940. op. cit.; Wright, 1954. “High Tide and an East Wind. The story of the Black Duck.”) Cottam (1945. *Condor*, 47:39) also reports foraging dives by these two species, as well as by male Shovelers. Foraging dives by both sexes of Shovelers have been reported (Dean, 1950. *Brit. Birds*, 43:19–20), and similar behavior has been noted in the New Zealand Shoveler (*Spatula rhynchotis*) (Black, 1959. *Notornis*, 8:118–119).

To our knowledge, there are no published accounts of Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) diving for food, but Frank McKinney (pers. comm.) has reported seeing this among both adult and immature birds, particularly during August and September. We have found no record of foraging dives by Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*), and only one (Janssen, 1964. *Loon*, 36:141) for Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*), but it should be apparent that nearly all normally “surface-feeding” ducks might perform foraging dives occasionally. Incidentally, corroboration of preflight Neck-jerking (or “Head-thrusting”) by Pintails is provided by McKinney (1965. *Behaviour*, 25:215), and Lorenz (1952. *Avicult. Mag.*, 58:12) has independently reported mutual precopulatory “Pumping” in Pintails.—JANET KEAR AND PAUL A. JOHNSGARD, *Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, Glos., England, and Department of Zoology and Physiology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508. 19 May 1967.*

**Records of the Snowy Owl for Utah.**—One specimen of the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) is on record for Utah (Hayward, 1935. *Wilson Bull.*, 47:284), taken on Provo Bench, Utah County, in December, 1908. It is in the collection at Brigham Young University. However, there are several other instances of occurrence of the species in the state and a second specimen has been lately acquired. The additional records are as follows. All observations were made by competent ornithologists.

A Snowy Owl was taken at Huntsville, Weber County, during the winter of 1909 which was mounted and for many years adorned the mountain cabin of J. W. Brewer in Ogden Can-

yon. Its present whereabouts, if still extant, is unknown. Archie Hull reported that two Snowy Owls were killed by hunters 15 miles northeast of Mantua, Box Elder County, on 1 October, 1925. They were not saved. A Snowy Owl was observed by Ellis R. Wilson in a field south of Centerville, Davis County, on 5 April, 1953. Reed Ferris saw one just north of Ephraim, San Pete County, on 4 January, 1954. Rodney Harvey observed a Snowy Owl on the southeastern outskirts of Salt Lake City in early January, 1961. It was perched near a willow patch where several quail and a pheasant had a haven of refuge.

Two or possibly three additional records turned up during January, 1967, one corroborated by a museum specimen. A Snowy Owl was picked up alive but sick on 26 January, 1967, by Jaren Tolman, 4 miles west of Syracuse, Davis County, on the Syracuse-Antelope Island dike that extends out into the Great Salt Lake. It died that night and was presented to the University of Utah through Jack A. Rensel of the State Fish and Game Department. It proved to be a male, with testes measuring 8 mm in length. Its weight was 1427.8 grams. Upon learning of the rarity of the species in Utah, Mr. Rensel subsequently reported two other observations. Conservation Officer LeVon Thomas saw one on 7 January, 1967, on the Glen McKinnon Ranch, 2 miles south of Randolph, Rich County. At 2:30 p.m. it was resting on a snow-covered haystack and allowed the observer to approach within a few feet before flying off. A decomposed Snowy Owl was found on 22 January, 1967, near the southeastern end of Bear Lake, Rich County. It had become entangled in some old net fencing. This could have been the same owl seen earlier near Randolph which is about 15 miles distant airline.

Thus Snowy Owls, although relatively uncommon in the state, periodically come into Utah during the winter, their range extending as far south as the central part of the state. These data suggest a status of rare winter visitant in Utah.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE, *Department of Zoology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, 3 April 1967.*

**Breeding range extension of Saw-whet Owl in West Virginia.**—On 21 May 1966, I collected two immature Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) about six miles south of Huntington, and one mile west of Shoals, in Wayne County, West Virginia. They were roosting side by side on a small branch about ten feet above the ground in a small clump of scrub pine (*Pinus virginiana*). They were so close together that one .22 caliber rifle shell loaded with dust shot killed both of them.

Specimen 135-1/256 was a female, overall length 188 mm, ovary undeveloped, and with some fat. Specimen 135-2/257 was a male, same size, but with more fat. Both stomachs contained mouse bones, the stomach of the male contained the entire pelvic region and tail of white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus*). The skins are in the Marshall University collection.

The geographical location of immature individuals of this species in May seems worthy of note. The common impression among bird students is that the breeding of these owls southward is restricted to the high mountains. Brooks (1944. "A Check-list of West Virginia Birds." Bull. 316, Agr. Exp. Station, West Virginia Univ.) states that they breed occasionally in the spruce belt. My note (1950. *Auk*, 67:386-387) lists the known records of young birds in the state, all from high altitudes. These two specimens were taken at an altitude of between 650 and 700 feet. George Sutton, in a letter, states "There is no doubt in my mind that the species nested near where the young birds were found." If this be true, the breeding distribution of Saw-whet Owls is much more extensive than is generally believed.—RALPH M. EDEBURN, *Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, 8 March 1967.*