

GENERAL NOTES

Mallard-Green-winged Teal associations in southern Wisconsin.—Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) are involved in hybridization more often than any other species of waterfowl (Kortright, The ducks, geese and swans of North America, 1967:43). Cockrum (Wilson Bull., 64:142, 1952) records, for North America, only the single wild Mallard × Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*) hybrid described by Stone (Auk, 20:209, 1903). Captive hybrids of these species are relatively common (Gray, Bird hybrids, 1958:23; Johnsgard, Condor, 62:28, 1960). This paper records our observations of two instances of unusual association between a male Green-winged Teal and a pair of Mallards in southern Wisconsin during the summer of 1969.

One trio was first seen on Lake Mendota, Madison, Wisconsin, on 11 April by Nellis. He saw them nearly every day until 19 June when observations were terminated. During these observations, the male Green-winged Teal was always found closely associated with a hen and drake Mallard. The teal was nearly always seen between the male and female Mallards (Fig. 1) and was dominant over the larger drake Mallard. Pre-copulatory behavior was observed several times, but neither drake was ever seen to copulate with the hen. When the drake Mallard attempted to copulate, the teal chased him away, and when the teal attempted to copulate the hen became unresponsive. No aggression was shown by the male Mallard toward the teal. The constant association of these three birds for 70 days clearly suggested that the hen had no nest in this period.

A second Mallard-Green-winged Teal association was observed twice weekly from 2 June until 23 July by Zohrer on a farm pond 40 miles west of Madison. A drake Green-winged Teal was associated with a pair of marked, wing-clipped "wild" Mallards. The



FIG. 1. The usual spatial relationship of the three members of this "trio" with the teal between the Mallards, Lake Mendota, Wisconsin, 13 June 1969.

teal was never seen in association with an additional hen Mallard or a Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) present on this pond. Both in the water and on land the teal was always closer to this particular female Mallard than to any other duck. Aggression was not seen between the three members of this trio.

Several similarities are apparent between these two associations. In both cases, the female Mallard was "paired" with a drake Mallard and a drake Green-winged Teal. Neither hen was observed to copulate with either male. To our knowledge, neither hen produced a brood, and neither was incubating when observations ceased. The potential for hybridization was not realized in either case. Both associations occurred in southern Wisconsin, which is outside the normal breeding range of Green-winged Teal.

We wish to thank P. A. Johnsgard for advice in preparing this manuscript.—CARL H. NELLIS, JAMES J. ZOHRER, AND DANIEL W. ANDERSON, *Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 28 October 1969.*

A second Swallow-tailed Kite record for Trans-Pecos Texas.—On 5 August 1969 an adult Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) was observed soaring over Rio Grande Village, Big Bend National Park, Brewster County, Texas. It remained within a three-mile long area over the Rio Grande or its floodplain, on both sides of the river, including the vicinity of Boquillas, Coahuila, Mexico, from 09:30, when it was first found and photographed by the author, until at least 16:30 when David Easterla observed it there. It remained in flight at all times, gracefully soaring with seven Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) and two Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*).

The record constitutes only the second sighting of the Swallow-tailed Kite for Trans-Pecos Texas. Johnson (Wilson Bull. 80:102-103, 1968) reported a lone bird over Fort Davis, Jeff Davis County (about 120 miles north of Rio Grande Village) on 26 August 1966. However, Pansy Espy (pers. comm.) observed a Swallow-tailed Kite over Fort Davis for 10 days; 25 August to 3 September 1966. These records are undoubtedly of post-nesting wanderers. The species is known to wander widely after nesting; Bent (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 167:52, 1938) reported many fall sightings from New Jersey to North Dakota west to Colorado and Carlsbad, New Mexico. In recent years there have been few fall sightings anywhere but on its regular migration route. In Texas, one was seen north of Fort Worth in Denton County, 22 August 1966 (Williams, Audubon Field Notes, 21:52, 1967); and one was seen near Stockdale, Wilson County, 21 August 1964 (Webster, Audubon Field Notes, 19:57, 1965). Although the species once bred in eastern and central Texas, Wolfe (Checklist of the birds of Texas, 1956:18) considers it to be a "Very rare summer resident in southern area," Galveston to Calhoun Counties, "and rare migrant south to Brownsville."

According to Allan Phillips (pers. comm.), the fact that the bird was seen also over Boquillas, Coahuila, Mexico, constitutes the westernmost Mexican record and only the second for Coahuila. Friedmann, Griscom, and Moore (Distributional checklist of the birds of Mexico, Part I, Pacific Coast Avifauna, No. 29:48) do not include a record for Coahuila.—ROLAND H. WAUER, *Big Bend Natl. Park, Texas 79834, 24 September 1969.*

Giant water bug in an owl pellet.—Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) and other owls feed on a variety of animals including even scorpions and centipedes (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 170:1938). The ability to consume species that possess stinging or biting body parts associated with toxic substances seems remarkable. On 12 October 1969 an owl pellet, probably that of *Bubo virginianus*, was found below a TV tower near Bithlo, Orange County, Florida. The pellet consisted largely of hair from an opossum (*Didelphis*