

GENERAL NOTES

Flightless Green-winged Teal in southeast Missouri.—On 25 September 1963, four adult female Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*) were caught in a night drive-trapping operation on the Duck Creek Wildlife Management Area near Puxico, in southeast Missouri. All had recently molted their wing feathers and were flightless. New flight feathers were at various stages of development: in three birds the longest primaries (the ninth primary in each case) were 70–75 mm long; in one bird the longest primary was 48 mm long. The flight feathers all had soft, blood-filled shafts. In contrast, the full-grown ninth primary is about 120 mm long in adult females, and feather shafts are hard and translucent. This information is reported here because there appear to be no previous observations of flightless Green-winged Teal in Missouri or in other areas so far south of the breeding grounds. No further drive-trapping has been done at Duck Creek so it is not known if such molting occurs regularly here.—JOHN P. ROGERS, *University of Missouri, Gaylord Memorial Laboratory, Puxico, Missouri, 2 August 1966.*

Disgorging of food by Wood Ducks.—Malone (1966. *Wilson Bull.*, 78:227–228) reported regurgitation of *Chara* by Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) about 45 minutes after ingestion. The *Chara* was disgorged in loosely compacted balls, each ball being about one inch in diameter. Malone postulated that disgorging resulted from overeating. No comparison was made of the moisture content of the food when eaten and when disgorged. It is the purpose of this note to report somewhat similar behavior by the Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*).

In Ohio during 1955–57, I trapped and banded some 600 Wood Ducks. Traps were placed at the water's edge, with the corn on dry soil at the rear of the traps and the funnel entrance of the traps in shallow water. The birds could thus drink water as they fed on the dry corn. An abundance of corn was kept in the traps, and Wood Ducks regularly entered the traps and ate to the limit of their capacities. Crops and gullets were often crammed so full they literally could not hold another kernel. Feeding was completed in a few minutes.

These corn-filled ducks were sometimes kept overnight in burlap bags before work with them could be completed, and corn was often found loose in the bags. In one bag holding 12 ducks, 264 kernels were found, for an average of 22 kernels per bird. The corn was necessarily disgorged by the ducks. Even after such a night in confinement, the ducks often had well-filled crops and gullets. The corn presumably did not move through the alimentary tracts sufficiently rapidly to keep pace with the increase in volume resulting from imbibition.

In the morning, a total of 190 kernels of corn was removed from the digestive tract of one of these corn-filled ducks, 136 kernels coming from the crop and gullet. In a supplementary test, 158 (136 plus 22) kernels of corn were soaked in water overnight; the increase in volume was such that 46 kernels were displaced. With 22 kernels disgorged per bird and the crops and gullets being about equally well-filled in the morning as the preceding evening, approximately 24 kernels moved from the crop farther into the digestive tracts.

This ability to disgorge food in excess of capacity may operate to avert rupture of the crop wall. If the crop is filled to capacity, increase in volume of crop contents presumably would be hazardous to the crop wall.

Malone (op. cit.) commented on the possibility of regurgitation of food by ducks operating in the dissemination of plant propagules. In this case with the Wood Ducks,



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