

is in this Branch of the Interior Department that all Canadian banding records are kept.—HOYES LLOYD.

RECENT INTRODUCTION OF EUROPEAN GRAY PARTRIDGE IN NEW BRUNSWICK.—In March, 1926, Mr. J. M. Robinson, of Rothesay, New Brunswick, released fourteen European Gray Partridges, *Perdix perdix*, near his premises. The snow was very deep at the time and low temperatures prevailed, and for some time afterwards the birds returned to his outbuildings daily for food. They were exceedingly shy and refused to come close when the caretaker was present. It was not Mr. Robinson's original intention to give these birds their liberty until favourable conditions prevailed in April, but they very soon discovered a small opening in the wire enclosure and made for the nearest thicket.

In an interview with Mr. Robinson in St. John on January 25th, 1927, I was informed that individuals of his flock were seen from time to time during the breeding season and at least two broods of young had been observed. He further stated that he had not been able to find any trace of them since about the middle of October and was apprehensive lest they had fallen victims to their natural enemies which appear to be present in greater numbers than usual. These birds are commonly known as "Hungarian Partridges" and it is Mr. Robinson's intention to liberate additional pairs in the same region, during the spring of 1927.—R. W. TUFTS.

THE PRAIRIE CHICKEN IN WESTERN ONTARIO.—In November, 1925, I had a conversation with Mr. John Crawford, Ailsa Craig, who spent his early life near Mitchells' Bay on Lake St. Clair and about 1855 was very well acquainted with the Prairie Chicken, which he often saw lined up on the fence, a dozen in a row. He was very familiar with their call which he imitated for me. On the 16th of February following, I was told by Mrs. Garnier, widow of the late Dr. John Garnier, whom I met at Lucknow where she is still living, that the doctor used to bring home Quail and Prairie Chicken from Mitchells' Bay to eat, and she liked the Chicken best of all the game birds that the doctor hunted—a clear indication that Prairie Chicken was no unusual event. The Doctor's house boat was located just at the mouth of the Snye Ecarté which is the easternmost channel of the St. Clair river where it empties into Lake St. Clair, and his land hunting was doubtless done on the mainland and the edges of the marsh because the nearby ground on the

west was St. Ann's Island which was private property and hunters were excluded.

I once heard the booming call of the Prairie Chicken *Tympanuchus americanus* over toward the main land while paddling a canoe in the Snye in the early eighties.—W. E. SAUNDERS.

THE KING EIDER AT LITTLE LAKE, BARRIE, ONTARIO.—On November 1, 1926, H. B. Haugh collected a female King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) at Little Lake, the specimen being sent to the Museum in the flesh. This locality is sufficiently inland to be of interest and suggests that some individuals of this species move south through the interior.—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto*.

RECENT INTRODUCTION OF EUROPEAN GRAY PARTRIDGE IN NOVA SCOTIA.—There has been a recent attempt to acclimatize the European Gray Partridge, *Perdix perdix*, in the Province of Nova Scotia and whether this acclimatization experiment ultimately succeeds or not it seems desirable to place the facts of the experiment on record.

These birds, which are commonly known in this country as "Hungarian Partridges" were imported from Czecho-Slovakia by Colonel R. B. Willis of Halifax. From reports furnished the writer by Col. Willis it is noted that in all he liberated one hundred and forty individual partridges, one hundred of which were released between the 7th and the 20th of April, 1926, in the vicinity of Elderbank, Halifax County, and the remainder on the 24th April were liberated at Nappan Experimental Station, which is in Cumberland County.

Several flocks of young were reported from time to time during the summer months by interested persons living in the districts where the birds were released.

It will be interesting to learn whether these birds succeed in passing their first Canadian winter or not.—R. W. TUFTS.

A CHICKADEE'S MEMORY.—An interesting incident occurring last summer proved that even such a small bird as friend Chickadee may have an almost human memory.

For many years these birds have been regularly fed almost every winter at my home on the edge of a small wood. During the hard winter of 1924-25, these birds were unusually numerous and very eager for food. In some way they developed a liking for pumpkin seeds which were preferred to all other kinds of food, not even suet excepted.



Snyder, L. L. 1927. "The King Eider at Little Lake, Barrie, Ontario." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 41(4), 90–90. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.338793>.

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