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CURRENT LITERATURE

MALLARD IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.—

Mr. J. A. Munro has given us another intensive study (Studies of Waterfowl in British Columbia, Mallard, 1943, *Can. Journ. Research, D*; 21, pp. 223-260). The mallard is the most important duck in the province, in places its numbers exceed those of all other ducks combined, and in the "Coastal Plain" area in southwest British Columbia and northwest Washington there is concentrated the largest winter population on the Pacific Coast. In 1941 there was an estimated investment of nearly \$2,000,000.00 in duck hunting equipment, and about \$1,000,000.00 spent in duck hunting by 39,932 licensed hunters, who took an estimated 20,221 mallards. Despite the mallard bearing the heaviest hunting pressure, it is the only duck that has maintained its numbers, and has actually increased in the last twenty years.

Through an analysis of some 3,387 returns of over 17,000 mallards trapped and banded, of 218 stomach examinations, and many field notes, a wealth of information is presented,

from which may be noted that mallards nest over most of the province in a variety of habitats; there are populations that migrate differently, and one probably does not migrate at all; some units of population remain together over a period of years; the arrival of the main fall flight in the Coastal Plain is determined by temperature changes. The time of breeding varies with the locality, being later inland and northward. Eating of shot may be a restrictive factor, but some birds apparently build up a resistance to lead poisoning; agricultural expansion especially grain growing, has had a beneficial effect on the mallard. The food may be nearly all animal, in which salmon eggs may bulk large, or plant such as weed seeds, aquatic plants, or grain. Mallards may conflict with agricultural interests by destroying forage plants in flooded fields, but do little damage to grain; the salmon-egg destruction is probably unimportant.

The data presented are not correlated with a vast amount of similar work done in other areas. — A. L. RAND.



Rand, Austin Loomer. 1944. "Mallard in British Columbia, by J. A. Munro [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 58(3), 81–81.

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