

anything, except that they were ducks, this call is so characteristic and unmistakable that the identification from it alone is certain.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Mt. Vernon, N. Y.*

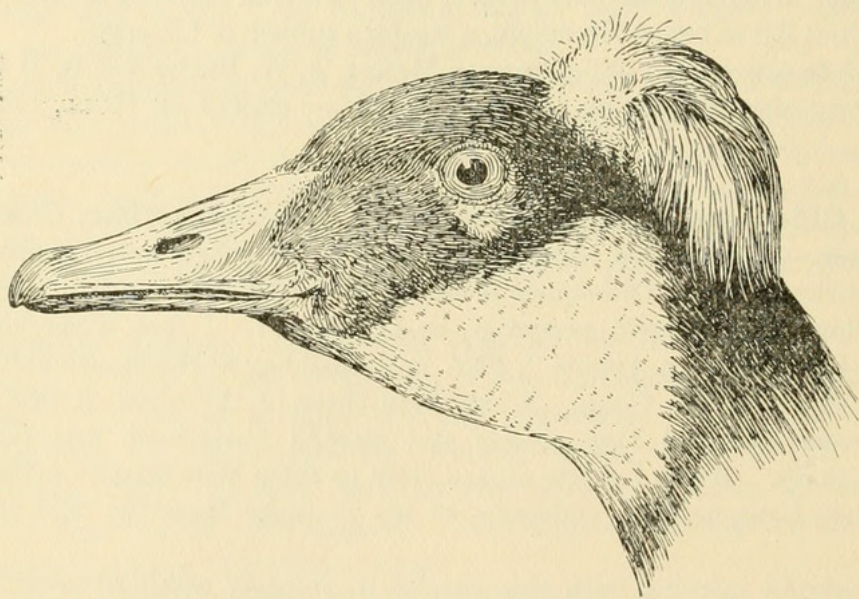
A Crested Canada Goose.—On February 15, 1913, three Canada Geese, all with a peculiar crest of feathers were shot from the same bunch of geese, near Pea Island, N. C.

Dr. H. B. Bigelow came into possession of the partial scalp of one of these curious birds and was good enough to turn it over to me.

From this piece of head skin I have had the accompanying drawing made. The crest is dirty brownish in color and the feathers are stiff and rather tightly curled.

The occurrence of this crest in a race of wild geese is interesting, because the crested Polish fowls and the breed of crested ducks are well known.

So far as I am informed there is no race of crested geese, though in Wright's *Book of Poultry*, 1886, p. 562, there is mention of the fact that in



crosses between Embden and Toulouse geese the majority of the gander and a fair proportion of the geese carry a slightly crested head.

Davenport showed (Carnegie Institute Pub. no. 52) that the crest of the Polish fowl was a dominant character, though the dominance was not perfect. The crest here is associated with a cerebral hernia.

The fact that three crested individuals were shot from this same flock of geese means that they belonged almost certainly to the same family, and that the crest was probably inherited as a dominant character.

If such a variation had occurred in captivity it could have been made the basis for a permanent race of crested Canada Geese.—JOHN C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

Greater Snow Goose (*Chen hyperboreus nivalis*) in Arkansas.— On March 28, 1913, a farmer living three miles west of this city shot an adult male Greater Snow Goose in his field. The bird was seen feeding all day but no others of its species were observed near. I examined it carefully in the flesh and found it to be in perfect plumage. Dr. C. H. Luther of this city, who made it up into a skin, informed me that the specimen was in good condition and that he found only fresh wounds on the body.— ALBERT LANO, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Feeding Wild Ducks on Sodus Bay, N. Y.— Sodus Bay, one of the largest bays on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, was the scene of an interesting experiment in the feeding of wild ducks during the months of February and March, 1913. The bay, which is a large irregularly shaped body of water, containing several islands, is frequented in the spring and fall by large numbers of ducks. The winter was unusually mild up to the first of February, and many ducks remained on a large area of the bay which was open, and where they apparently found plenty of food. About February 1 the weather turned suddenly cold, with heavy snow storms and high winds. This caused the bay to freeze entirely over, preventing the ducks from reaching their feeding grounds. On February 4 the weather was very stormy, and several thousand ducks were noted in places still remaining open. On February 5 Mr. Claude T. DeVille, the state game protector at Sodus Point, noted that the ducks were flying to places kept open by men harvesting ice. The ducks were very fearless and were apparently suffering from lack of food. On the succeeding day, February 6, he obtained a quantity of wheat, and tried feeding the ducks. The grain was readily eaten and he immediately wrote the New York State Conservation Commission, notifying them of the presence of the ducks and the necessity of relief measures. The Commission promptly responded, and on February 10, Mr. DeVille received word to purchase grain and feed the ducks. He first tried feeding by throwing the grain in the water, but the ducks were so weak that they apparently had difficulty in reaching bottom in sixteen feet of water. This fact alone shows the extremes to which the ducks were reduced, as they were mainly Bluebills, Redheads and Canvasbacks, all of which feed at considerable depths. He then tried placing the grain on the ice on a place scraped clear of snow near the edge of the open water. This proved successful, as the ducks immediately came out on the ice, feeding like barnyard fowls. At one place near where men employed by the Northern Central Railway Co. were harvesting ice, there were often six or seven hundred ducks feeding at one time. The ducks were fed in this manner at all the places which remained open, which varied from three or four to six or eight. They were fed at least once and often twice each day, and during the period from February 10 to March 10, when the feeding was discontinued, thirty-eight bushels of wheat were fed.

The ducks soon learned to look for the grain and upon seeing Mr. DeVille starting out on the ice, would fly to the places where the grain was placed.



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