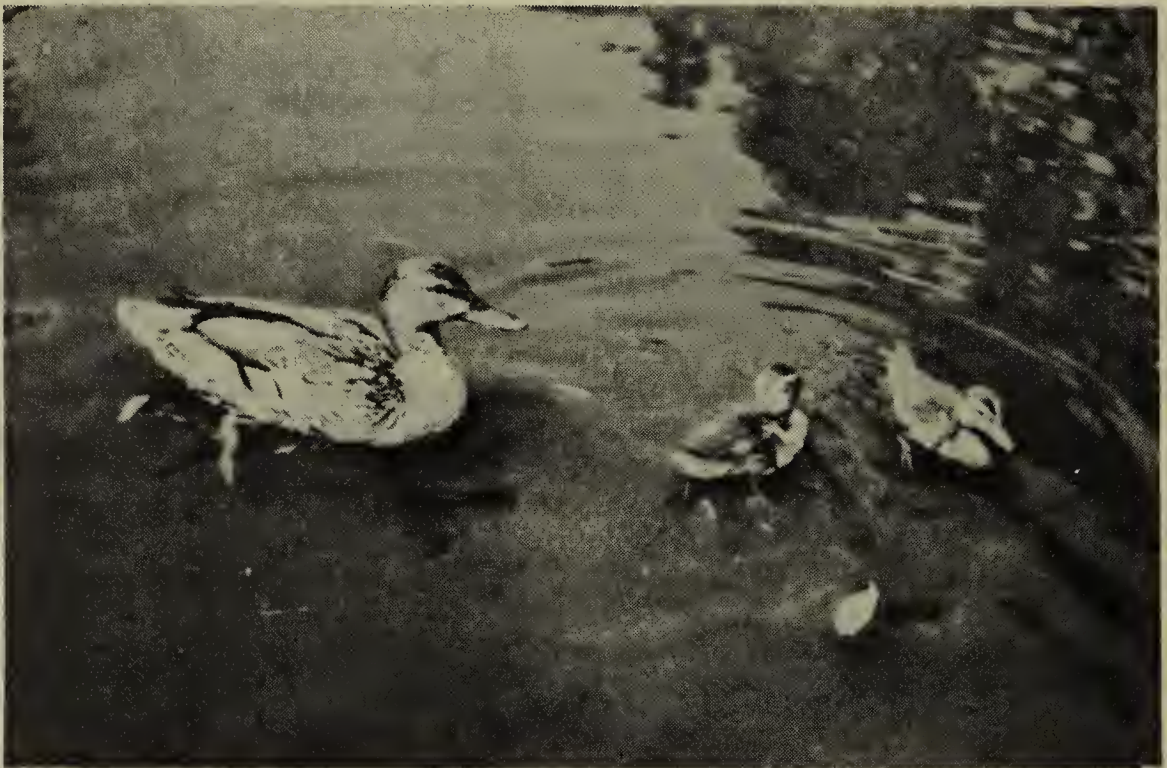


More than Ever Before



—PHOTO BY DOUG GILROY

DUCKS

I believe we have more ducks here this year than ever before. They can be seen in the fields, on the roads, pastures, etc. In fact, everywhere you go you seem to be scaring up ducks.

Soon sights, like this photograph will be very common. They are Mallards.

Blind Teal Duck

Dr. V. Rondeau, Rouleau.

A TEAL DUCK, which is the smallest of our ducks, was recently attacked by a dog, at Milestone, and blinded.

A young banker there gave it to me after he had tried to restore its sight. I kept it for a few days thinking I might tame it. It would eat from my hand and would bathe in a dish of water, but it kept trying to get away. Finally I decided to take it to a friend of mine who lives about six miles from our town and who has a large dug-out—and no cats and dogs.

The Teal, which is a green-winged one, was delighted to be released and swam towards the tame ducks, which started to talk in the language which all ducks understand universally.

My friend informed me lately that the Teal disappeared a couple of days after I brought it over. They looked high and low but, at first, could not find it. Finally it turned up by itself. It seems to be feeding and happy, though blind.

Dumb but Communicative

Frank Baines, Saltcoats

THE story in the December issue on page ten regarding the robin whose young one had a worm stuck in its throat, reminded me of an old cow pony that came home one morning before daylight, whinneying around the house. My father got up and followed her over half a mile to an old well. There he heard the colt down the well about fifteen feet, in about a foot and a half of water. He came home for me and I went down, tied a rope around it and came up. Between us we got it out safely and delivered it to its mother amid much rejoicing.

If birds and other animals can't talk, they do sometimes deliver messages in a very real manner.

Did you know that waterfowl each year are refused flight clearances by Mother Nature? . . . In mid-summer both male and female go through a period of moult when they are unable to fly.