

the usual "kidick" and "wak, wak" notes of the Virginia have been heard in 11 recent years in various parts of our area, they are seldom uttered steadily. A close study of the vocalization of other rails, such as the Sora, Yellow and Black, in various areas of our continent might also produce some surprising inconsistencies. It could be many more years before the status (is it the real song?) and prevalence of the "kicker" notes are determined. Probably the greatest need at present is a complete analysis of the many reports to date; it is rather likely that this would reveal erratic vocalizing by the rails and also erratic attention by observers. Certainly it would be difficult for observers to maintain a continuous vigil in the various areas and over one or more complete nesting seasons but this may be necessary in order to obtain the complete answer.

Credit is due to many people in the search for identity of the "kicker" but very special credit should be given to Brewster, who first reported it, and to Hagar, who conceived the successful approach in solving the mystery. Others who deserve special mention are Kellogg, Allen, Peterson, Barnett and Belcher, who contributed most valuable recordings and/or articles, to Lane and Root, who were very prominent in the search, and to Doug Wade, who edited the Fort Qu'Appelle recordings of 1963.

NOTE: In a long letter dated April 8, 1968, Hagar has advised me that observations at Concord, Massachusetts in 1965, at Troy Meadows, New Jersey in 1962 (not reported to Hagar until 1967), and at Camden, New Jersey in 1967, strongly confirm the conclusions reached at Fort Qu'Appelle in 1964.

LITERATURE CITED

- Brewster, William. 1901. An ornithological mystery. *Auk*, 18:321-328.
Kellogg, P. P. 1962. Vocalizations of the Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) and the Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). *Auk*, 79:698-701.

CINNAMON TEAL AT FORT QU'APPELLE

by E. Manley Callin, Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan

At about 4:00 P.M. on May 1, 1968, as I was leaving Fort Qu'Appelle to return to Fort San, I followed my frequent custom of checking for a few minutes at the Fort Qu'Appelle dam. It was a very windy, dusty day and a flock of about 55 ducks were resting or swimming about on the river in the shelter of the willows on the leeward side. It was immediately noted that the flock included a number of Blue-winged and Green-winged Teals, neither of which I had seen previously this spring, and that Lesser Scaups were predominant. My attention was then drawn to a dark bird which showed extensive areas of pronounced reddish colour when it turned about and I quickly realized that I was looking at the first Cinnamon Teal I had ever seen (it had somewhat the colour but very obviously did not have the markings or shape of the Ruddy Duck). Although the Cinnamon Teal was moving among the Blue-winged Teals, it soon became obvious that he had a mate, as a

female teal was close ahead, behind or beside him almost constantly and the male Blue-wings were showing no interest in this female. I then contacted Fred Dunk, the local druggist, who also came and viewed the pair of Cinnamon Teals. For many years Fred had hunted and observed waterfowl in this area and in other parts of the province and he states that he has never before seen this species in Saskatchewan, although he has seen numbers of this western bird when visiting San Diego, California. *Birds of Regina* (1961) lists a number of sightings of Cinnamon Teal and the furthest north sighting, near Battleford in 1964, is given by H. C. Moulding (*Blue Jay*, 22:154).

Although there was very limited time for observation, the flock had few females. The flock was as follows: Blue-winged Teal, 15 male; Green-winged Teal, eight male, no females; Lesser Scaup, about 30 but apparently only about half a dozen females; Cinnamon Teal, one male and one female.