

hoped that when captive birds start reproducing some young can be returned to the wild each year.

Increasing the size of the flock is, however, only one aspect of the problem. We must ensure that there will always be habitat for the Whooping Crane. In Canada wildlife habitat is rapidly dwindling and most Canadians are far too inclined to take wildlife and its habitats for granted. But good news comes from Ottawa where a strong national committee met in June under the sponsorship of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to establish sub-groups to assess unique land areas and to plan ways of preserving all kinds of habitat and wildlife. It is to be hoped that they will be able to preserve the nesting grounds of the Whooping Crane and prevent excessive pollution and human utilization of the area.

The biggest immediate problem in Whooping Crane survival, even surpassing all the perils of the long migration, is the threatened change to its wintering ground. We have just

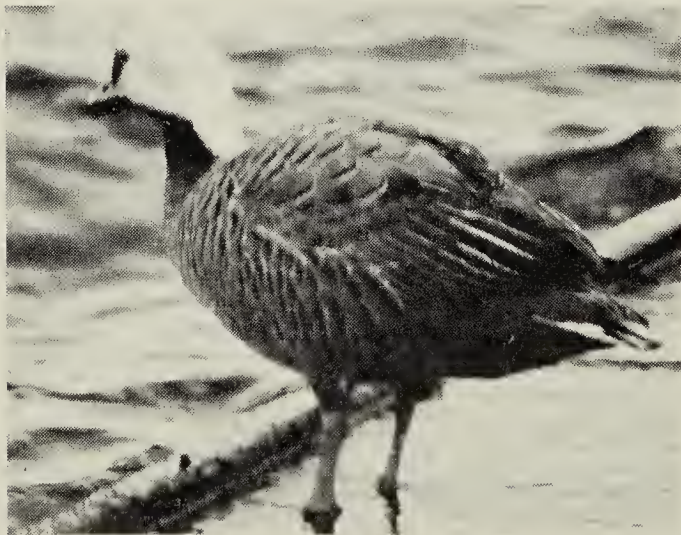
received word that the oyster shell dredgers have made application to dredge a total of 56 square miles of San Antonio Bay which runs the entire length of the eastern boundary of the Whooping Crane feeding grounds. Mud and silt will stay in suspension for a long period of time and the food chain of many species in this region will be affected. The changes may be disastrous to the welfare of wildlife in the Aransas Refuge and to the Whooping Crane in particular.

Canadian and American Wildlife Services are registering protests against the dredging plans. The application for dredging was made July 9 and deadline for protests is August 9. I received word, by telephone on July 25, from State Representative H. Cory of Victoria, Texas. The mail strike in Canada has delayed and hampered communications but I hope that this wilderness area which is of international value and is a right of future generations will not be destroyed by the desires of one small group.

## AN EMPEROR GOOSE RECORD FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

by **Al Grass**, 5666 Rumble St., Burnaby, B.C.

Records for the Emperor Goose (*Philacte canagica*) in British Columbia are rather scarce. It is a pleasure therefore to report that one was observed and photographed by me on January 28, 1968 at the city of White



Rock. It was sitting on a floating jetty eating eel grass (*Zostera marina*) which had been washed up by the rather heavy waters which occurred during the week.

Godfrey (1966. *The Birds of Canada*, p. 51) gives the status of the bird as: "Rare winter visitant to the coast of British Columbia. Most frequently recorded from Masset, Queen Charlotte Islands, but has occurred also at Chemainus, Tlell, Cape Scott, Discovery Island, and Triple Island."

The bird was observed by a large number of people, including Mr. Glen R. Ryder and Mr. C. Wayne Campbell (who first alerted me to its presence). This species resembles the blue phase of the Snow Goose, but its black neck immediately separates it.