" chip, chip, chip " of the male, though definitely more musical, even if with a querulous tone. According to Delacour the female's only sound is " a weak quack ". This I have not heard.

Indian Pygmy Goose. My observations have been made on three groups—the first consisting of one male and three females, the second of three young males and five females and the third of two young males and one female. I have heard four or five calls from adult males — (1) a nasal " grrr " used aggressively; (2) a nasal song " rick, rick, re-oo "; (3) a quiet rather nasal " quack " when anxious; and (4) a metallic " chak, chak, chak ", also when anxious. The young male in the third group uttered the nasal quack when being handled and the metallic " chak, chak, chak " after being released. The adult male in the first group once called " wak, wak, wak-a-wak " when driving off a female. This may be distinct or perhaps just a modification of call (4). The " song " is presumably the noise described by Delacour as " a curious rattling, metallic cackle, which is heard mostly on the wing ".

According to Delacour " the female is usually silent but can utter a weak squeaking note ". In the groups at Slimbridge two or three calls have been distinguishable: (1) " tuck-it, tuck-it ", in aggression or excitement when disturbed; (2) a conversational, musical " tick-a-tick-a-tick "; (3) " wick, wick, wick " like a rusty hinge, also conversational and probably when anxious and perhaps not really distinct from (2).

Few of the Indian Pygmy Geese have been seen to display, but Mrs. Peter Scott has photographed the behaviour of a pair before, during and after copulation. These photographs are reproduced in the gravure section of this Report. In the incomplete displays of a male to an unresponsive female which I have seen, the male dipped his bill frequently into the water on one occasion and on another bobbed his head up and down excitedly. In both cases he uttered no sound.

L. P. Alder

Pigmentation of the bones of certain Eiders

We have grown accustomed to the purple pigmentation found in the bones and teeth of Sea Otters *Enhydra lutris,* traceable to pigments in the Green Sea Urchin *Strongylocentrotus drobachiensis,* a primary item in the Sea Otters' diet. Such stomach samples of the Pacific subspecies of the Common Eider *Somateria mollissima v-nigra* as we have observed also contained specimens of the Green Sea Urchin. We were not, therefore, surprised to find the bones of these same eiders distinctly purple, presumably from the same pigmentation source. This observation has proven of great value to us in the identification of bird bones recovered from the nests of predaceous birds. Cottam in " Food Habits of North American Diving Ducks " (US Department of Agriculture, 1939), lists the Green Sea Urchin as forming part of the stomach samples examined from all three North American subspecies of the Common Eider and from the King Eider. As both the King and the Common Eider are circumboreal and so is the Green Sea Urchin it would appear likely that this pigmentation might be found in both species of eiders in many places.

Robert D. Jones, Jr.