

## HYBRID DUCKS IN THE WILD

By H. T. CONDON.

Following the taking of a second specimen of a non-descript duck in South Australia at Pyap, near Loxton, River Murray, by Frank Juttner, of Tanunda, on March 18, 1947, it is considered that the following information is worth placing on record.

On March 10, 1936, a pair of strange-looking ducks was seen on a dam about eight miles from Wolseley, South Australia by Mr. N. Quire, and one was sent to the South Australian Museum for identification. This bird was 24 inches long, slightly larger than a Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*), and weighed about 4 lbs. It was roughly skinned by the collector and carefully reconstructed by the Museum Taxidermist. Its general appearance was whitish, with brown wings and tail and reddish breast. The head and neck were dirty white and the abdomen pure white. The bill was dark and the legs and feet were pale in color. Much speculation arose as

to the parentage of this bird, and information was received indirectly that it was one of several progeny of a cross between a Mountain Duck (*Casarca tadornoides*) and a domestic "Khaki Campbell." Apart from the indistinct chestnut breast the skin exhibited no other features of the Mountain Duck. It is now preserved in the Museum, registration No. B 23696.

Dr. Juttner's bird, mentioned above, was similar in general appearance to the "Wolseley bird," but somewhat darker and without any white areas. It was also larger (total length 28 inches), and with shorter wings. The bill was slate-colored and the legs and feet yellow-orange. The parentage of this bird was unknown, but the writer considered that the remains (too badly damaged for preservation), exhibited some features of the wings and head of the European Mallard (*Anas boschas*).