

Callipepla
gambelii

spine v. 49

Callipepla gambelii.

Vineyard Haven to W. Tisbury, Mass.

1891. West, our driver, (he was conversing with us on our
May 8. drive) saw Gambel's Quail regularly and frequently during the
 summer and autumn but has not observed one since December and
 fears that all have perished although the winter was mild
 with no deep snows.

1240. [*The Messina Quail in Maine.*] By Frank Henshaw. *Ibid.*,
No 2, July 10, p. 32.—One seen near Thorne's Corner, Maine. *American Field*, XXVI

THE GAMBEL'S PARTRIDGE IN MASSACHUSETTS.

In the Oct. 20th issue of SHOOTING AND FISHING were two articles regarding the Gambel's partridge, the introduction and acclimatization of which is now being tried in Massachusetts. Our Committee was pleased to see them, and hopes there may be other articles, notes or comments upon the different varieties of birds which have been introduced, or which might, in the judgment of the contributors to SHOOTING AND FISHING, be valuable acquisitions to the State as game. Adverse criticism is welcomed as well as that favorable to the work, for though this Committee has not been in the habit of working in the dark, it cannot know too much on the subject, and criticism, whether of one kind or another, may be, possibly, of much value.

In reference to the Gambel's partridge, our reports at first were seemingly very contradictory—a majority showing that it was an exceedingly unsatisfactory game bird. So much at variance were the statements that further light was sought, with the result that the Gambel's partridge in its native home runs and lies badly to a dog where cover is scant, and in good cover affords good sport—as does the bob-white under like conditions.

Now, this new bird is not claimed to be better game than the bob-white and the ruffed grouse, both of which are hard, if not impossible, to better; but it will, we hope, fill a vacant space. The northern and western portion of Massachusetts is admirably adapted for native quail, with good cover; but the birds do not increase materially—usually fighting a losing battle on account, we believe, of the severity of the winters and depth of snow. The Gambel's partridge will, we hope, do well in this portion of the State, having shown itself thus far an exceedingly hardy and strong bird, its habit of roosting in trees and bushes saving it from the fate which so often a heavy snowfall brings to our native bird.

We have heard thus far of but four Gambel's partridge having been shot in the State, although many have been seen. Of the four cases reported, each one was shot before a dog on a point, the shooters all stating that when they shot, and while their dogs were working, they believed the birds to be our native quail. In two other cases the experience was the same—that the birds lay to dog like a native bird, but seemed tamer, and when flushed, flew much faster and were, apparently, a harder bird to hit. One observer states that he saw one of these birds in a bevy of our native quail, and to-day, from an entirely different locality, a letter was received stating that, to the best of his belief, the writer had seen two in the same sort of company.

During the present shooting season some of the readers of SHOOTING AND FISHING will doubtless see this bird, or some of the other varieties loosed by our Committee; if so, will they give us their experience?

Committee on Acclimatization of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Protective Association.

HENRY J. THAYER, Secretary.

BOSTON, Mass., Oct. 24.

Albinistic Plumages. R. Deane.

29. *Lophortyx gambeli*. GAMBEL'S PARTRIDGE. — Partial albino specimens not uncommon (*Bendire*).

Bull. N. O. C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 29

915. *The Arizona Quail*. By Adios. *Ibid.*, p. 484.—An offer to send living Arizona Quail to parties in the East desiring to introduce them there.

For. & Stream. XXII

1123. *Arizona Quail Notes*. By Herbert Brown. *Ibid.*, Dec. 31, p. 445.—Relates chiefly to *Colinus ridgwayi*, and is an important contribution to the history of this species.

For. & Stream. XXV

1126. *Arizona Quail*. By Robert Ridgway. *Ibid.*, Jan. 14, p. 484.—An important paper, in reply to that of Mr. Brown. (See above, No. 1123.)

For. & Stream. XXV

Shooting & Fishing
Vol 13 no 1 Oct. 27-1892

948. *Arizona Quail in Confinement*. By J. B. B. *Ibid.*, Oct. 30, p.

264.—Two pairs of *Lophortyx gambeli* received by the writer at Toledo, Ohio.

For. & Stream. XXIII

1796. *The Plumed Quail of Arizona*. By T. W. B. *Ibid.*, pp. 84-85.

—*Callipepla gambeli* (?). *For. & Stream*. Vol. 33, Aug. 22.

THE PLUMED QUAIL OF ARIZONA.

THE plumed quail are very abundant in the walnut grove valley, some fifty miles south of Prescott, Arizona. The vegetation through this valley is called chapparal or brush, consisting principally of scrub oak and cat-claw. The quail delight in this brush, and during the heat of the day nearly every second clump conceals a covey.

A novice sportsman, approaching a clump, gun in hand, hears first a subdued note of warning from a more watchful bird; this is repeated by others, giving evidence of a large covey in concealment. Our novice now feels the delightful excitement caused by game near at hand, and holding his gun in readiness, approaches warily. He comes nearer, every instant expecting the birds to rise; still nearer and nearer, and there is no movement from the clump. He feels disgusted, thinks he has been deceived in the quail, and lets his gun fall. As he rounds the brush and looks about, some 60ft. off he sees the covey, running daintily and swiftly away; and as the birds see they are discovered, they turn quickly behind another thicket. Now our novice is wiser and steps quickly but carefully toward the birds. With a rushing whirr they are up, and he must be a good shot to bring more than one down. Swift as our Eastern quail, if they are old birds they scatter more, and their flight being through thick clusters of bushes, our sportsman may get only a few glimpses of them.

A covey of these quail as they are running over the arid brown wastes of Arizona is a beautiful sight. There are sometimes thirty birds together, and as they step along, their heads slightly thrown forward and their crests erect, they are unsurpassed by any of our game birds for beauty and neatness. Their colors are clean and clear; in the male this is especially so; their crest is a beautiful affair, a jet-black, club-shaped, tight bunch of feathers about an inch and a half long.

The quail spend the day upon the foothills feeding, and just at dusk come down to the stream which drains the valley, to drink. After drinking they settle in the willows along the banks for the night; while thus settling they constantly call to each other in their sweet, plaintive notes. In their courtships and pairings they are very interesting, and make a source of endless delight to a lover of natural history. At this time the cock brings himself into prominence; and his challenges and struttings, his fights and victories, his billings and cooings, are pleasing studies of social bird life, to be seen on the arid desert, on the mountain or in the cañon, and in the verdant river bottoms.

Their food consists principally, I judge, of the seeds of the scanty herbage. It seems sometimes the birds must live very hungry, the grasses and weeds are so scanty. Probably they consume many insects though, and gain a good sustenance from these. Sometimes they make havoc in the crops of the ranchers. One planter disgusted me by telling me how he succeeded in poisoning several hundred quail.

Many of the teamsters in Arizona carry shotguns besides their usual weapon and kill many quail. The quail gather about the camping ground to get the grain left and dropped by the stock, and the "bull-whacker" or "mule-skinner" makes a pot shot into the flock of feeding birds, killing twelve or twenty.

But the little bird, although nature and man seem against him, flourishes and is happy, helping to make a rather dark place brighter.

T. W. B.

NEW HAVEN.

For. & Str. Vol. XXXIII No. 5 Aug 22-1889
H. 84-85

Nesting of Gambel's Quail in the Colorado Desert.

Gambel's Partridge (*callipepla gambeli*) is one of the very few game birds which inhabit the desert exclusively, and for this reason they are not likely to become exterminated for a long time, as is the case with many others, for there are few sportsmen, however ardent, who care to take a hunting trip over the scorching sands of the desert, when game equally palatable is to be found at their very doors.

It was my good fortune to take a trip over the Colorado Desert this spring, and for the first time in my life I saw the beautiful Gambel's Quail at home.

Starting from Julian, San Diego Co., California, we descended the east side of the mountains, and after a day's travel found ourselves on the edge of the desert. From here we traveled for three days over rocky and sandy roads and trails, until we arrived at Fish Springs, not far from the edge of the great Salton Sea, which caused so much anxiety two years ago by threatening to, and in fact it did, overflow its banks, and cover the tracks of the Southern Pacific R.R. and endanger the works of the salt company at Salton. The spring is a circular hole about thirty feet across and of unknown depth, the usual story of a bottomless pit being applied to it. It receives its name from the fact that in it live numbers of tiny fish from one to two inches long. The water is rather alkaline and impregnated with sulphur.

The next day we entered the Mesquites, and here, for the first time, met the object of our search, Gambel's Quail.

We were first made conscious of the bird's presence by hearing its familiar call. I say familiar, for it is very similar to that of the Valley Partridge, so common about home.

I made off in the direction of the sound, and soon saw a pair of the birds run into a thick Mesquite bush. Any one who is familiar with a Mesquite thicket will know why I did not follow. For the sake of those who are unacquainted with the plant, I would say that going through them is much like going through a thicket of briars with thorns an inch long, and thorns that will not bend or break either. They come as near being like a thicket of thorny locust trees as anything else I can think of. Well, I decided to go around that Mesquite bush, and did so just

in time to see one of the birds dive into the next. I fired at its retreating form, and was gratified at hearing a heavy fluttering under the brush. By crawling on hands and knees, I succeeded in pulling it out, a fine male. Soon afterward I killed a female, which, upon skinning, was found to contain a well-developed egg. During the afternoon I succeeded in taking two specimens of Phainopepla (*Phainopepla neteus*).

That night we camped at Aqua Dulce (Spanish words meaning "Sweet Water"). I do not know why it is so called, for the water is only a little less salty and sulphury than the other watering places on the desert.

As I was starting out, just at sundown, in search of a suitable place to set my traps, for I was collecting both birds and mammals, I flushed a bird from beneath a small bush about a foot high.

Examination revealed a depression in the ground in which rested eight creamy white eggs, blotched with brown and lilac. I left them undisturbed, hoping to find a full set and get the parent bird on my return. Two days later, when I again visited the spot, the eggs were as I left them and the parent nowhere in sight, so I was forced to take the incomplete set. This was on April 5, which I think is about the proper date to look for eggs of this species.

At Walter's station, on the Southern Pacific R.R., I found Gambel's Quail quite plentiful and succeeded in taking four more specimens, which, with some taken on the home trip, made a total of nine skins, and one incomplete set of eggs the result of the trip.

Gambel's Quail is slightly smaller than the Valley Quail (*callipepla californica vallicola*), with a brown crown instead of the ashen gray of the latter. On the breast is a heavy smoky patch which takes the place of the beautifully mottled breast of the Valley species. The whole tone of the bird is lighter, the plume being nearly jet black. The species ranges in this State as far north as San Geronio Pass, where it hybridizes with the Valley Partridge. It also extends through Arizona and New Mexico, but always is found in the vicinity of water. Generally it is shyer than the Valley Quail, but I consider a week's trip after them worth a month's with the latter.

Fred. W. Koch.

Twin Oaks, California.

O. & O. Vol. 18, June, 1893 p. 90-91

Haematopus
palliatu

Rare Birds taken at Cape Cod.

An American Oystercatcher (*Hematopus palliatus*,) was shot by Alonzo Nye, the veteran gunner, during the latter part of April, 1885, near Monomoy Island.—J. C. Cahoon.

O. & O. X. Oct. 1885, p. 160

The Oyster-catcher (*Hematopus palliatus*) in Massachusetts.—Mr. Warren Hapgood tells me that during the last week of April, 1885, he received an Oyster-catcher in the flesh from Chatham, Mass. It was shot on Monomoy Island by Alonzo Nye, the veteran gunner of Chatham. It was in fine plumage, and is now preserved in Mr. Hapgood's collection. If I remember rightly this is only the third specimen known to have been taken in Massachusetts, the other two being the pair mentioned by Dr. Brewer (Water Birds, Vol. I, p. 113), and now in the New England collection of the Boston Society.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

Auk, 2, Oct., 1885. p. 384.

Shore Birds of Cape Cod.
John C. Cahoon.

American Oyster-catcher, *Hematopus ostralegus*, (Linn.) A rare visitor on the Cape coast. I have one instance of its occurrence of late years, that of a specimen taken near Monomoy Island during the latter part of April, 1885, as recorded in the O. & O., Vol. 10, No. 10, 1885.

O & O. XIII. Oct. 1888 p. 156

Rare Massachusetts Birds.

by
William Brewster.

AMERICAN OYSTER-CATCHER (*Hematopus palliatus*).—Mr. Charles A. Hardy of Auburndale, Massachusetts, has very generously contributed to my New England collection an adult male Oyster-catcher which, with a female, also said to be an adult and probably the mate of the first, he shot at Chatham, Massachusetts, August —, 1899. He writes me that "they came in beautifully to decoys and my whistle and were the only ones I have ever seen there," *i. e.*, at Chatham. Both specimens were skinned by Mr. M. Abbott Frazar; the female remains in Mr. Hardy's possession. I have an impression that a brief mention of the capture of these birds has already appeared in print, but my assistant, Mr. Walter Deane, has searched in vain for such a record.

Auk, XVIII, April, 1901, p. 136.

Notes on Long Island Birds:

5. *Hæmatopus palliatus*, Temm. OYSTER CATCHER. — On May 28, 1877, I obtained a specimen of this bird, which had been shot in New York Harbor.

Robert Lawrence

Bull. N. O. C. 5, April, 1880, p. 117.

Long Island Bird Notes. Wm. Dutcher

14. *Hæmatopus palliatus*. AMERICAN OYSTER-CATCHER. —As long ago as Giraud's time this bird was considered rare, as he says of it, "With us the Oyster-catcher is a rather scarce bird Its occurrence with us is so seldom that I have not had an opportunity of observing its habits as closely as I should wish."* It is probably now even more rare than it was then. In the early part of June, 1882, I saw a pair of these birds in the shop of a taxidermist on William St., N. Y. He claimed that they had been shot at or near Greenport, Suffolk Co., a few days previous, although the name of the shooter could not be given. The record although somewhat obscure, is probably correct. During an outing on Long Island in April, 1886, I found in the possession of Mr. Squires of Ponquogue, Suffolk Co., a specimen of this species. It was shot on a salt meadow, near the beach, about March 9, 1880.

Auk, 3, Oct., 1886, p. 439.

* Birds of Long Island, pp. 222, 223.

Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.

Hæmatopus palliatus. AMERICAN OYSTER-CATCHER.—This specimen was brought to Mr. Akhurst in the flesh by 'Old Jake,' the peddler referred to before. It is labelled "South Side Meadows," and was probably shot on the Great South Beach somewhere between Fire Island Inlet and Coney Island. There is no date attached, although Mr. Akhurst says it was many years since and is the only one he ever had from Long Island. Sex not given.

Auk. X. July, 1893 p 272.

An Egg Lifter.

BY WALTER HOXIE, FROGMORE, S. C.

The sun was low, the tide was low and my spirits were low, as I jogged back to camp along the beach with absolutely nothing in my bag. But suddenly my spirits rose like a regular tidal wave, for there in the sand was an Oyster-catcher's tracks. Not one or two little casual foot marks, leading nowhere in particular, but a regular little pathway and at the end of it, just as I expected, two eggs. Now it was so near sunset that I felt sure the birds would soon be back; so with murder in my heart I hid in a tussock of grass and eeked both barrels. As soon as I was fairly hidden and bent upon a special object it seemed as if all sorts of nice birds came trooping about. Royal Terns and Laughing Gulls flew low over the beach I had just left. The Sea-side Finches sang sweetly in the grass all about me; and a flock of Piping Plovers bathed and played in a little pool within easy shot.

At last my Oyster-catchers came along. They came prancing up from the beach, and when within sight of the nest stopped and held a pow-wow. Possibly, I thought, they see me, so I squatted clear out of sight for a minute or two and when I raised my head again they were both at the nest.

For an instant I hesitated but I might destroy the eggs, and while I was waiting one flew off to a distance of about a hundred yards. After looking carefully about for a few minutes, he gave a call and his mate rose from her nest and joined him. They seemed to be making a lot of fuss out there, kicking up the sand, squatting down and cackling like mad. In a few minutes though they seemed to get over this excitement and one bird came flying back and settled on the eggs. Now she began to act strangely, wiggling round and squatting down again and I began to think she was going to lay another egg, when off she went and joined her mate, who welcomed her coming with the most extravagant cries and gestures. But she sat down quite still and demure. I was about to rise and look for my third egg when I saw her coming back. Again she went through the same operation and her second welcome was if possible more exuberant than the first. Then all was quiet; one bird sat on the sand and the other stood silently by her, and though I waited some time longer they showed no sign of returning again to their eggs and I could only conclude that they had seen me watching them and would not come back until I went away. So I arose from my uncomfortable position and went to pick up the eggs, when to my surprise the little hollow in the sand was empty. While I was watching the curious antics of the female she had lifted the eggs between her legs and carried them off. So without giving time for her to repeat the offence I hurried to her new quarters and secured them successfully.

On preparing the specimens they proved to be slightly incubated and were no doubt a full set. The Oyster-catcher seems to deposit two as often as three eggs; at least that is my experience in this locality.

O. & O. XII. Aug. 1887 p. 129.

On a Collection of Eggs from Georgia. H. B. Bailey.

89. *Hæmatopus palliatus*. OYSTER CATCHER.—Nests on the sand near the sea; eggs four. May 18.

Bull. N. O. C., 3, Jan, 1883, p. 42

Frognore, S. C. — Walter Hoxie.
(May)

Farther back, towards the sand hills we will look for the Oystercatcher's (*Hæmatopus palliatus*) nest. A slight mound is usually selected, and the eggs deposited on the top; usually three in number, but sometimes only two. The tracks of the birds are the best guide to follow, and I usually see the eggs from quite a distance more easily than close up to them.

O. & O. XII. March, 1887. p. 38

*Arenaria
interpres*

interpres
(rule)

The European Turnstone in Massachusetts.—An adult female Turnstone which I collected on Monomoy Island, Mass., on Sept. 8, 1892, Mr. Oberholser agrees with me in identifying as *Arenaria interpres*. As an adult male and two young Turnstones in my collection, taken by Mr. A. H. Dunham at Nome, Alaska, are intermediate between *A. interpres* and *A. morinella*, I have no doubt Mr. Oberholser was right in suggesting that the latter is merely a subspecies of the former (*Osprey*, Vol. IV, February, 1900, p. 96).—Louis B. BISHOP, *New Haven, Conn.*

Auk, XXIII, July, 1906, p. 335.

Strepsilas interpres.

Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

Aug. 1, 1890. Forty or fifty were feeding both on the wet sand along the water's edge and back on the dry white sand. The movements are different from those of other waders and resembling those of Gallinaceous birds. The gait a quick walk or slow run, somewhat waddling, and steadily maintained but with its direction constantly varying. The body carried in a crouching attitude, and the head low, nodding slightly at each step. They seemed to be feeding on beach fleas as they kept chasing something. They are addicted to fighting, charging one another with bills held like lances in rest.

The flight is swift and direct but heavy.

Notes. Cùt-a-cùt sometimes cùt-a-cùt-a-cùtta-cùtta rapidly uttered the tone rolling, given while flying; occasionally, also, while sitting.

Kau a short, low note of alarm.

Pè-uk very like that of the Flicker.

Notes on Birds of Grand Banks
R. L. Newcomb. - 1878.

Sept 5, on Quereau Bank a single spec-
imen of the Turnstone (*Streptilas interpres*) appeared.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, April, 1879, p. 128

Birds within Ten Miles of Point
de Monts, Can., Comeau & Merriam

84. *Streptilas interpres*. TURNSTONE. — Tolerably common in Sep-
tember.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct., 1882, p. 238

Summer Birds of Bras D'Or Region
Cape Breton Id., N.S. J. Dwight, Jr.

10. *Arenaria interpres*.

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887. p. 16

An Ornithologist's Summer in Labrador
M. Abbott Frazer.

Arenaria interpres, Turnstone. One flock ob-
served at Esquimaux Point late in May, evi-
dently migrating.

O. & O. XII, Mar. 1887. p. 33.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

113

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 452.

113. *Arenaria morinella*. RUDDY TURNSTONE. — Regular migrant,
common in spring, May 18 to June 2; an adult taken June 16, 1895, and a
flock of seven seen June 17, 1894; the young arrive in September (Septem-
ber 4, 1891).

Eye Beach, N. H. 1867.

Strepsilas interpres. - Aug. ¹19 ¹21 ²22, ⁵26. "In flocks of five or six on pebbly beaches

Strepsilas interpres. - ^{13. 8. P.}Aug. ¹19, ²22, ^{13.}31 Eye Beach, N. H. 1868.

Strepsilas interpres. - ^{13. P.}July 28; ¹Aug. ^{1 ad. 13. P.}2, 4, 16, 22 Eye Beach, N. H. 1871.

Strepsilas interpres. - ¹July 26 Eye Beach, N. H. 1872.

Mass. (Ypswich)

Streptilas interpres

1886 Early return.

July 17 One seen at above date & place by R. B. Newcomb

Mass. (Hyannis)

Arenaria interpres

1888 Late stay in autumn.

Nov. 6

C. B. Cory tells me that he shot a Turnstone on Great Island on the above date.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Arenaria interpres (Linn.), Turnstone. Migrant, tolerably common in spring and fall along the coast.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 139

Limicolæ in Bristol County.
H. F. Dexter, Dartmouth, Mass.

Turnstone, *Streptilas interpres*. Frequently seen along the coast in August and September. One or two specimens have been reported as taken on one of our large inland ponds.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 147

Shore Birds of Cape Cod.
John C. Cahoon.

Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres* (Linn.) "Chicken" Plover" on Cape Cod. A common spring, summer and autumn migrant. The first ones arrive at the Cape in the spring about the first of May, increasing until the 24th and a few remain until June 15th. I have seen individuals as late as June 24th. The first comers on their return from the north reach the Cape about the last of July, increasing about the middle of August by the arrival of the young birds. They are the most common about the last of August and remain tolerably common until late in September. It was, some twenty or thirty years ago, abundant on the water side of the Cape. In its handsome adult dress it is the most conspicuous of any of the Limicolæ that visit our Cape shores. Although it is often seen on the sandy beaches, bars and flats, its favorite haunts are low pebbly or rocky beaches, mud flats, and the shores of salt creeks. In the summer and autumn it retires to the high beaches to rest during high tide, but in the spring it goes on to the salt marshes like many of our other birds. In the spring of 1883 large flocks came on to the Quinset marshes at Brewster in company with Black-bellied Plover.

Their food consists of small crustaceans, horse-foot eggs and soft marine animals, many of which it finds by turning over small stones and from this habit it derives its name of Turnstone. This is one of the several shore birds that I have found feeding about heaps of guano on Monomoy Island. This species is not usually shy and will alight to any of the shore bird decoys. Their note, a short, sharp whistle, repeated with great rapidity, is very hard to imitate. They are generally seen in parties of from two to six, but in the spring when flying to the marshes, they congregate in flocks of twelve or more individuals and fly very swiftly, calling incessantly to each other.

O. & O. XIII. Oct. 1888 p. 156

Water Birds, Nantucket, Mass.

George H. Mackay, General Notes.

Arenaria interpres.—May 1, 1892. There were four Turnstones in full adult plumage, standing on the rocks of the Western Jetty this morning. They are the first arrivals this season, and it is an unusually early date for them to appear. On May 27, 1891, I shot eleven at the west end of the island.

On Tuckernuck Island during the northeast rainstorm of May 19-21, 1892, about three hundred Turnstones landed. By the 26th about two thirds of them had departed. Strong southwest winds prevailed for the period after the 21st.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Auk 9, July, 1892. p. 306.

**Notes on Certain Water Birds in Mass.
George H. Mackay.**

There were fewer Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) during the spring of 1893 than in 1892; they arrived at the same time as the Black-bellied Plovers, just as they did in the spring of 1892. They are close friends, and frequent the upland with the Plovers, as they do also by themselves.

Auk XI. July. 1894 p. 226

**Bds. Obs. at Little and Great Gull Is-
lands, N. Y. Aug. '88 B.H. Dutcher.**

10. *Arenaria interpres*. TURNSTONE.—Flocks of these birds could be seen at almost any time flying around the islands, and alighting on the rocks to feed. They seemed to prefer the larger rocks to the shore, and especially those that were in the water. So common were the Turnstones on Great Gull that the Terns did not seem to pay the least attention to them. I presume the Terns had learned that the Turnstone, unlike almost every other visitor, did not go for the purpose of killing them or their young, or of robbing them of their eggs. Two specimens shot proved to be so fat as to render good skins impossible; in fact a few hours after they were killed the feathers of the breasts of both birds were matted with oil. The keepers at Little Gull consider these birds very poor eating, so never kill them for food.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 129.

Ithaca, 72. 4.

Arenaria interpres. TURNSTONE.—On Sept. 15, three of this maritime species were seen running along the sand beaches, prying under shells, bark and bits of water plant in their characteristic manner. One was collected the following day in the same place.

Auk 27. July-1910 p. 345-

Charadrius
squatrorola

Charadrius squatorola

1890 Mass.

Aug 2 Martha's Vineyard. Had a good view of one which appeared to be ^{a ♂} in full breeding plumage with the under-parts uniform black. Yesterday I saw one with apparently wholly white underparts. Both birds were on the beach at the head of the harbor, one alone, the other feeding in company with some Ring-necked and Dowitchers.

July 31 I saw a flock of nine Beetle-heads at Muskeget but did not get sufficiently near them to make out their age or plumage.

1891 Chatham, Mass.

April 7 (Monomoy Id.). "Saw two Beetle-heads, both young. ~~One~~ Cook killed one of them. Capt. Gould of the life-saving station here tells me that a flock of 15 (actual count) Beetle-heads in full plumage spent the entire summer here last year, staying over from the Spring migration. They did not breed. All were killed July 15, when the land went off." (Orinon Bangs' notes)

Spring arrival
Spent summer at Chatham.

May 27 Nantucket. - Two shot by Geo. H. Mackay.

1895 Cape Cod

June 13, 14 A flock of eight Black-bellied Plover seen on "the Cape" by G. H. Bowles (letter G. H. B. June 20, 1895)

Seen in mid-June.

1896

Oct. 24 Concord. Heard one call a dozen times or more distinctly, but at a distance, over the Great Meadows, at about 8.30 a. m. the weather cloudy & misty at the time although the sun came out half an hour later. I think the bird was flying high in air. This is the first time I have ever noted this species at Concord.

On Concord River meadows.

1897
October

Concord. On Oct 24 & again on the 28th I heard the call of a bird or birds (apparently only one in each instance) flying over Great Meadows.

Birds within Ten Miles of Point
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam.

80. *Squatarola helvetica*. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.—Rather rare
and irregular in occurrence. Mr. Comeau has shot it in May and
September.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct., 1882, p. 238

Notes on the birds of Cape Breton Island.
by Charles W. Townsend, M. D.
Auk, XXIII, Apr., 1906, p. 173

Squatarola squatarola. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.—A flock of
14 were seen at Englishtown on August 21.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 451.

107. *Squatarola squatarola*. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.—Regular
migrant, fairly common, May 22 to June 2; returning in July (July 23,
1890). Of two females taken in August, 1891, one, on the 28th, is adult, the
other, on the 31st, is a young bird. Young birds taken at Hamilton from
August 9 to September 5, are in my collection; Mr. Nash gives the
latest dates as September 15, 1898, and October 17, 1895.

Charadrius helveticus - Aug. 15 Rye Beach, N. H. 1866.

Charadrius helveticus - Aug. 20, ^{1 B.} 22 Rye Beach, N. H. 1868.

Charadrius helveticus - Aug. 20 <sup>1 ad. ♀
shot 13.</sup> Rye Beach, N. H. 1870.

Charadrius helveticus - July 31, Aug. 2, 9, 25⁴ Rye Beach, N. H. 1871.

Charadrius helveticus - Aug. 14 Rye Beach, N. H. 1872.

1884

Squatula helvetica

Rye Beach
N. H.

August 4

no. 765, ♀ shot by Arthur Nichols

August 5

no. 767, ♂ shot by Geo. W. Lamb.

(Exp. field coll. C. R. Lamb)

Mass. (Ipswich)

Squatarola helvetica

1886

Early return

July 17

One seen at Ipswich by R. B. Newcomb.

Mass. (Monomoy Id.) Spring arrival

1888

Apr. 22

"The first appearance of shore birds is a Black-bellied Plover & Semipalmated Sandpiper that came to-day." J. C. Caborn letter Apr. 22/88.)

Squatarola helvetica.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Charadrius squatarola (Linn.), Black-bellied Plover. Migrant, fairly common in spring and fall on the coast.

O & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 139

Limicolae in Bristol County.
H. F. Dexter, Dartmouth, Mass.

Black-bellied Plover, *Squatarola helvetica*. Seldom seen in spring; a few instances of capture April '82 and '84. In autumn they occur more frequently, though never very common. Arriving about the middle of September they remain nearly a month, September 3rd and October 11th being the two extreme dates of observation. Have never seen it on the uplands, but it has been frequently shot about the interior ponds.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 147

Auk, XIII, April, 1896, p. 182.

Sundry notes

Billingsgate, Cape Cod, Mass., April 27, 1895. Three Black-bellied Plovers, *C. squatarola*, the first this spring, noted to-day. On May 13, about one hundred seen all in one flock.

George H. Mackay, Nantucket, Mass.

Auk, XIV, Apr., 1897, p. 228.

Sundry notes.

Squatarola squatarola. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.— Four young birds were seen at Nantucket, Nov. 1; they were well up, flying towards the west. On Nov. 3, I saw one, also a young bird, and an American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). Geo. H. Mackay, Nantucket, Mass.

General Notes.

Correction.—In my article on the Black-bellied Plover, on page 148 of 'The Auk' for April, 1892, speaking of the abundance of these birds in the neighborhood of Tuckernuck Island, Mass., it reads, "from a flock of about twenty-five birds, which served as the nucleus, they continued to increase until six to eight hundred had collected, the average number in the spring for fifteen years previous being two to three hundred." It should read, "They continued to increase until about two or three hundred had collected. The average number in the spring for fifteen years previous being about one hundred." On page 143 it reads, "The adult female is rather smaller than the male." It should read, "The adult female is about same size as the male. These errors are entirely my own.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Auk 9, July, 1892. p. 300

Water Birds, Nantucket, Mass.

George H. Mackay.

General Notes.

Charadrius squatarola.—During the northwest rain storm of May 19, 20, and 21, 1892, about one hundred and fifty Black-bellied Plover landed on Tuckernuck Island. By the 26th more than half of them had departed. The first one this spring was noted on the ninth of May in this locality. The birds in the vicinity of Tuckernuck have resorted to the uplands more than usual this year. The first one noted on Cape Cod was on April 20, 1892. It was alone, and was an adult male. No others were seen for several weeks after, but this one remained around undisturbed. This is the earliest date I have ever heard of.

Auk 9, July, 1892. p. 306.

General Notes

Charadrius squatarola.—Mr. William Everett of Dorchester, Mass., has furnished me with the following information. At Malpeque, Prince Edward Island, August 22, 1892, during mild, pleasant weather, a very large flight of Black-bellied Plover appeared, the number that landed being estimated at about one thousand. It was composed entirely of adults with black, and black-and-white, breasts. They established themselves in several fields at Lower Malpeque where they are locally known as 'Sea Plover.' On the night of Sept. 14, 1892, it rained and was misty with southwest wind. On the next day the greatest number of young birds that was ever noted in this vicinity at one time was seen in and flying about the fields of Lower Malpeque. While driving around late in the afternoon as many as one thousand birds (estimated) were seen in four fields. Many others were noticed flying, which did not stop. All the adults mentioned above and which also had frequented the same fields where the young birds were now, had previously departed.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Auk X, Jan., 1893. p. 79.

General Notes.

Stray Notes from vicinity of Muskeget Island, Mass. George H. Mackay.

Stray Notes from the vicinity of Muskeget Island, Massachusetts.—*Charadrius squatarola*.—Tuckernuck Island, May 10, 1893. While in my stand today, which faced a large sand flat recently exposed by the retreating tide, I perceived Black-bellied Plover picking up some large worms which they held wriggling in their bills before swallowing. Never before having seen them eat such, I secured several for identification. They are locally known as 'cod worms,' and resemble a centipede, being flat to oval, their sides being fringed with legs. In color they vary from a blood red to a dirty brown. They are from four to six and a quarter inches long. These worms first make their appearance on the flats in shoal water during the latter part of March, and they disappear early in June. Mr. Samuel Henshaw of the Boston Society of Natural History has kindly identified them as *Nereis*, the clam worm of the fisherman. Auk X, Oct., 1893 p. 370.

Shore Birds of Cape Cod.
John C. Cahoon.

Black-bellied Plover, *Charadrius squatarola*, (Linn.) Adults, "Black-breasts" or "Beetle-heads;" young, "Beetle-heads" or "Pale-bellies," on Cape Cod. A common spring and abundant summer and autumn migrant. The first ones in the spring arrive as early as April 15th, but are not generally seen until the last week or first in May. They become tolerably common May 15th, increasing until the 27th, and by this last date they have reached the height of their spring migration. They are rarely seen after the 10th or 15th of June. In the summer the first birds flying south, which are adults, reach the Cape the latter part of July or first of August, although individuals are occasionally seen as early as July 15th. They increase until the middle of August, the flights usually occurring from the 1st to the 15th of the month. The young birds commence to make their appearance about the middle of August, increasing until the middle of September, and the largest flights occur between this date and October 15th. Most of them leave by the first of November, but a few small flocks remain as late as the middle of the month. This bird is seldom seen on the uplands, but frequents the sand and mud flats at low tide, feeding on small shell fish and aquatic worms. As soon as the tide flows over the flats it resorts to the high beaches, salt meadows and marshes to wait until the next ebb tide. On the marshes it finds an abundance of small snails, crickets and grasshoppers. There is no shore bird on the Cape so well known to gunners, or so eagerly sought after, as the "Black-breast," or "Beetle-head. No bird, however is more wary than the old "Black-breast," and to be successful in shooting them,

one must have good decoys, be well concealed behind a stand or blind, and be able to imitate their call note correctly. Stands are built on the meadows and marshes by cutting bushes of about the proper height and sticking them in the grass or mud so as to form a circle of convenient size for one or more gunners. If bushes cannot be found handily, dry seaweed, grass and other materials are sometimes used. On the mud flats bunches of sedge grass afford concealment, but the most successful method is to make a bar in the sand flats and sink a box, or dig a pit in the sand. It requires considerable labor to build and keep a bar in order, also to sink a box. The bar is laid bare before any of the surrounding flats, consequently the birds, finding no other feeding place uncovered, fly to the bar. One other way in which large numbers are sometimes taken is to find out the locality on the high beaches where they roost during high tide, and digging a hole in the sand for a place of concealment. They usually come to the same spot to roost each high tide and by examining the beach these places can be easily found, by the numerous foot prints in the sand. The blind should be completed soon after the tide begins to flow, as these birds leave the flats as soon as the tide commences to cover them. For the young, or "Pale-bellies," all that is needed is a pit dug with the sand thrown out around the top edge and a few decoys placed out the right distance from the pit. For the old "Black-breasts" it is necessary to have the top covered over with boards and dry sand spread on them and have an opening in the sides and front, to shoot from. It is best not to put out any decoys as the old birds will seldom alight to decoys on the beaches, even if they are made to look very natural.

O. & O. XIII. Oct. 1888 p. 154

Notes on Certain Water Birds in Mass.
George H. Mackay.

Mr. Marcus W. Dunham of Tuckernuck informs me that on May 2, 1893, he saw a flock of fifteen (*Charadrius squatarola*), the first birds of the season, which were resting on Gravelly Island flats. On May 18 or 20 one hundred or more had collected on Tuckernuck Island and vicinity. They remained about one week. On April 18, 1894, at the westernmost part of Nantucket Island, seven birds were noted flying towards the west. On April 29 I saw two at the south head of the Hummuck Pond. One of them, a male, which I shot, was pretty evenly black and white on the breast; the other had apparently no black. On April 29, 1894, at Billingsgate Lighthouse, Wellfleet, Cape Cod, Mass., the keeper, Mr. James P. Smith, saw two Black-bellied Plovers. These are *all* very *early* dates for spring birds in Massachusetts.

Auk XI. July. 1894 p. 225-26

Birds of Adirondack Region. - Merriam.

188. *Squatarola helvetica*. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.—Occurs along Lake Champlain during the migration.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 256

Oneida County, New York,
William L. Ralph & Egbert Bagg

Charadrius squatarola.—A specimen was taken at Sylvan Beach, Oct. 8, 1888. Another was taken at the same place Sept. 24, 1889. These are the first records for the County, though the species was given in the List as taken on the Lake by Mr. A. A. Howlett of Syracuse.

Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 230

Bird News from Central New York.

In addition to these new records the following seem worthy of mention:
Charadrius squatarola. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.—Between September 5 and 7, 1899, Egbert Bagg, Jr., and a companion killed several birds of this species on Verona Beach, Oneida Lake. Our second record.

Egbert Bagg, Utica, N.Y.

Auk, XVII, April, 1900, p. 178.

Black-bellied Plover and Hudsonian Godwit on Long Island, N. Y.—On July 1, 1903, while walking along the beach at Quogue, Long Island, I shot a young Black-bellied Plover (*Charadrius squatarola*). It was quite tame but in good condition. None have been taken here before July 20, and they do not occur regularly until later.

T. W. Kobbé, New York City.

Auk, XXXI, Dec. 1903, p. 79.

Ithaca, N. Y.

Squatarola squatarola. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.— First seen Sept. 3; a few scattering individuals then seen until Sept. 25.

Auk 27. July-1910 p. 346

Charleston, South Carolina,

Squatorola helvetica

1885.

May 11

On May 6th & 8th we saw a few of these Plover on Sullivan's Island but they have not been numerous there until to-day when at least 200 were observed. One flock contained at least 100 birds. They alighted back from the beach on moist sandy flats among the sand-hills. I fired into one flock and shot down four. The wounded ones hoave well but did not dive. One made directly out to sea & was lost. All were in nearly

will not be able to do any
more extraordinary things.

Charadrius squatarola.

The Moults of the North American Shore Birds (Limicolae).

by

Jonathan Dwight, jr.

Black-bellied Plover (Charadrius squatarola).

See under Charadrius dominicus, Syst. Notes.

The Spring and Fall Plumage of Our
Shore Birds.

BY F. H. CARPENTER.

In glancing over the numerous lists of bird skins in collections, I have often remarked the error into which many ornithologists have fallen in dividing the conditions of plumage of birds, especially those of order *Limicolae*. That such a distinction of plumage should receive due attention and classification is without dispute, but when the division is based upon the change in seasons, rather than age of the bird, some exceptions should be cited. Taking, for instance, the Black-bellied Plover (*Charadrius squatarola*), a well known species, which has come under my observation frequently. I have shot as full plumaged birds of this species in September as in May. In their large flocks on Monomoy I have seen many black individuals among the juvenile gray specimens. Also with the Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*), the same remarks will apply, save for the fact that the adults are noted in separate flocks, and earlier in the season than the young.

My own observations are corroborated by Mr. John C. Cahoon, who probably has had more recent experience than any other person with our New England shore birds. In fact Mr. Cahoon first drew my attention to this question, and I should have hesitated before I publicly expressed my assertions had not such evidence presented by that gentleman's notes as to settle any debatable point beyond dispute. I regret that I have not at hand a complete list of such species as retain their spring plumage during the autumn, but in absence of such data I find it difficult to exclude any variety, as I have notes collected from various authentic sources bearing upon every New England species of shore birds, but in some cases the information is so meagre, as to doubt whether it is a governing rule to retain the breeding plumage, or rather individual exceptions.

I have shot in the fall both Woodcock and Grouse that appeared to be much brighter in plumage and "better" birds than those seen in spring, and can find no sportsman of any field experience who does not relate the same observation.

That the difference in plumage should be attributed to age and not season seems to be a correct view, and other evidence either pro or con should be offered upon this subject, to which the foregoing statements are but a prologue. O. & O. XII. Aug. 1887 p. 132-133

HABITS OF THE BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER
(*CHARADRIUS SQUATAROLA*) IN MASSA-
CHUSETTS.*

BY GEORGE H. MACKAY.

THIS distinguished-looking bird, the largest of the Plovers, is nearly cosmopolitan. It ranges in the Western Hemisphere as far south as Brazil, New Grenada and Peru, with a corresponding limit in the Eastern Hemisphere in Australia and New Guinea. It is said to breed on the marshes above forest growth at the delta of the Lena River in northern Siberia, in the valley of Pechora on Taimyr Peninsula, northern Russia, on the banks of the Anderson River, and on Melville Peninsula in Alaska (Seebohm's Plovers, p. 103; Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway, N. A. Birds, Vol. I, p. 132).

In summer plumage the adult male is black from around the base of the bill to the eyes, fore neck, and under parts of body; abdomen to end of tail white; axillars black; forehead and fore half of crown creamy white to white; a broad white line or band running from the sides of the head over the eyes, down the sides of the neck, and enlarging and encroaching into the black on the breast where the neck joins the body, sharply defined in front by the black, but blending into the plumage of the neck and back (this white line or band is the most prominent feature of their plumage as seen from a distance); sides of the neck and rump ashy gray; back and hind half of crown whitish, covered with small irregular spots of brownish black; upper tail-coverts barred with brownish black. The legs and bill are black; small hind toe. The adult female is rather smaller than the male; the plumage of the top of the head, back of the neck, and back, is duller with more brownish, not being so defined as in the male; the fore neck, breast and lower parts, interspersed with brownish to black, and white, feathers; abdomen white. They never have the clear crow-black fore neck and breast of the males, nor is the white band or line of the forehead and sides of the neck so prominent. As a whole their plumage lacks that clearly defined

* Read before the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Dec. 7, 1891.

dominicus

Charadrius dominicus.

Nantucket, Mass.

1878. Mr. Sweet showed me an adult C. virginicus, which was shot
Aug. 21. to-day from a flock of about twenty. It was the first speci-
men that has been killed here this season.
- Sept. 24. Saw a flock of about a dozen, between Reed and ~~Hummock~~
Ponds.
- Sept. 28. When near the town we drove up within thirty-two yards
of a flock of Golden Plover as they were bathing on the shore
of a pond. I killed four with one barrel: the horse acted so
badly that I could not use the other.

Mass

Charadrius fulvus

Nahant

1890

Sept. 30.

"On the 24th Torrey & I went to Nahant. On the water's edge, Bayside of Lynn Beach, we came upon two Golden Plover. Altho' not wounded, they were marvellously tame, allowing us to approach within about 4 yds. We at first took them for Black-bellies, & when we walked up to them in order to force them up & show their rumps it seemed for a while as if they would not get up. I think I could have blown their heads off with my baby-gun. They finally went upon the dead eel-grass higher up on the beach where they were both killed at one discharge by a gunner. They were in beautiful (winter) plumage—one with a lovely golden back. This was my first encounter with the famous "Plover".

Walter Faxon in letter

September 30 - 1890.

Birds within Ten Miles of Point
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam

81. *Charadrius dominicus*. GOLDEN PLOVER. — Tolerably common
in September, and sometimes seen in spring.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct., 1882, p. 238

Contemporary with these heavier flocks, composed entirely of
the Black-bellied species, came the Eskimo Curlews, which some-
times intermingled with their smaller congeners. The Golden
Plover was usually the last of the Charadriidæ to depart, staying
until the latter end of October. This species was never so
numerous here as was the Black-bellied, but both are rarely met
with here now.

Pictou Co. Nova Scotia.
James. M^s Kirkland.
Auk 2. Jan. 1885. p. 41.

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador
by Henry B. Bigelow.

52. *Charadrius dominicus*. GOLDEN PLOVER. — Not common. I saw
several flocks after August 22, mostly young birds, probably mere strag-
glers.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 29.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 451.

108. *Charadrius dominicus*. AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER. — Fall
migrant, rare; said to have been formerly abundant at irregular intervals.
Mr. Wm. Loan describes a flight that occurred about 1887, when thousands
of birds assembled on the eastern sandbar at night, and returned to the
open fields at daybreak. I have no records between 1898 and 1905, when
five young birds were taken on September 27. Old birds in changing
plumage occur from August 25 to September 15, young from September
16 to 27; there are some records as late as November 9, but I have not
seen these birds.

Charadrius virginicus. - Aug. 16 Rye Beach, N. H. 1866.

Charadrius virginicus. - Aug. 26, 29 ^{2 imm. ♂, ♀, 1} _{1 nest ♂, ♀} Rye Beach, N. H. 1868.

Charadrius virginicus. - Aug. 27 ^{1 nest ♂, ♀} Rye Beach, N. H. 1871.

Charadrius virginicus.

Spring captures in Mass.

Geo. O. Welch tells me that a friend of his killed a real Golden Plover near Byram town in May, 1881. The bird was in immature plumage, the breast being merely blotched with black. He examined it personally. He knows of no other Spring captures.

Byram, Mass.
May 1881.

garrus) Occurrence in October

Saw a flock of about thirty on Great Id.

Charadrius virginicus

Birds of Framingham, Mass. which have appeared since the construction of the Reservoir on Sudbury River. . . . J. C. Brown.

2. *Charadrius virginicus*. One obtained by self, Sept., 1880. Two only seen.

Bull. N. O. C., 6, April, 1881, p. 127

MIGRATION NOTE. SHORE BIRDS. AUG. 29, 1883. Wind N. E., blowing very hard and rainy in a. m. Golden Plover and ~~Fulmar~~ Curlew flying in large flocks. Saw one flock of Curlew of several thousands. Rain ceased about 9 a. m., clouds raised and sky lighter. The flights were much higher. Flock after flock went by, at times five could be seen at once. This continued until noon; in the afternoon the numbers were much less.

AUG. 30, 1834. Weather cloudy, foggy. Wind S. E. and light. Curlew and Plover commenced flying but not in very large numbers; an occasional flock was to be seen during the day. The next day the weather was the same and the flights as before.—Chatham, Mass., S. Frank Dexter.

O. & O. IX. Oct. 1834. p. 127.

Late Appearance of a Golden Plover on Cape Cod.

I shot a Golden Plover November 19th in an old field near Provincetown, Mass. The bird was in young plumage and very poor but was not crippled as it required a heavy charge with No. eight shot to drop him. I have never heard of a Golden Plover being taken as late as this in Massachusetts. They are seldom seen along Cape Cod after the 15th of October.

O. & O. XII. Apr. 1887 P. 62. J. C. CAHOON.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Charadrius dominicus Müll., American Golden Plover. Migrant. Occurs under the same circumstances as the foregoing though not quite as common.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 139

Charadrius virginicus

Spring captures in Mass.

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Mass. (Hyannis)

Occurrence in October

1887

Oct. 14 Saw a flock of about thirty on Great Id.

Charadrius virginicus

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O. & O. XII, Apr. 1887 J. C. CAHOON. P. 62

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F. W. Andros.

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O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 139

Shore Birds of Cape Cod.
John C. Cahoon.

American Golden Plover, *Charadrius dominicus*, (Mull.) "Green Plover" on Cape Cod. A common summer and autumn migrant. This species is very rarely seen on the Cape in the spring, and I do not know of an instance of its being taken. The appearance of these birds on the Cape in the summer and fall is largely due to the weather and winds. Large numbers pass our coast from the 15th of August to the last of September and whenever we have an east or south-easterly storm during that period some of the flocks are certain to stop. The first flight is looked for by the old gunners from the 25th to the 29th of August. It bears a marked resemblance in color to its cousin, the Black-bellied Plover, but can always be distinguished

by the absence of its hind toes. Its habits and food are the same as the Eskimo Curlew, with whom it associates. It is very fat in the autumn and, like other birds that feed on insects, berries and grains, it is in much demand for the table on account of its fine flavor. The most successful gunners get these birds in the following manner: Several weeks before the time for the flights to occur, they go to an old field or pasture that they know the birds usually come into and burn off the old grass and bushes for quite a space. Then a hole is dug large enough for one or two persons to sit in comfortably, with only the top of their heads above the surface. In a few weeks the grass springs up and the green patch is easily distinguished from its duller surroundings by the Plover flying about, and they are sure to come to this place. The gunner, with his decoys out, sits in his pit with only the top of his head out, which is covered with a green cap. A flock, before alighting to the decoys, will usually circle about several times, often flying directly over the gunner's head only a few yards away. An experienced gunner will not shoot when they are so near and scattered, as he could kill but one or two, but will wait for them to bunch at the right distance, which they are sure to do while turning, and seize that opportunity to fire, killing many at one shot. A friend of mine, "Dr. T.," is considered a fine marksman and has shot Plover for many years, and this last season, in the manner I have described, he killed fourteen Plover out of a flock of nineteen at one discharge of his gun.

O & O. XIII. Oct. 1888 p. 154-5

The Migration of *Charadrius dominicus* in Massachusetts in 1891. — Nantucket Island, August 20, 1891. — First arrival of American Golden Plover late this afternoon, about twenty in the flock. The next flock to appear was a dozen or fifteen on the 28th. Some were heard passing over the town on the night of the 27th. The weather since the 20th had been warm and humid with light southwest wind, with considerable fog which was very thick during the night and late afternoon, clearing up during the daytime. I drove constantly over the Plover ground, but no birds had landed. I saw two and shot one on the 29th.

August 30.—The wind was northeast at daylight and it was raining; later it backed all around the compass to northeast again, raining continuously all day, with considerable wind at times, and at others calm. Some Plover were heard whistling as they passed over the town last night and a very few landed, two or three flocks being seen the next day. August 31, I was on the Plover ground at daylight; the sky was lowering and atmosphere misty, almost rain; wind steady northeast all day. I had anticipated a landing of Plover, but was disappointed, only a few birds were seen. I saw one flock of thirty flying south on migration, high up. Quite a number passed the east side of the island tonight, but none landed. September 1, the weather was about the same as yesterday, and good for landing birds, but none to speak of came down. I saw this morning a flock of at least one hundred, high up, flying south on migration, also saw flocks eight and thirteen, respectively, which had landed. I was out from early morning until afternoon.

From the last date there was nothing to note until Sept. 6, on which day I was on the Plover ground at daylight; the wind was southwest and there was a dense fog which had prevailed all night, good weather to land the birds; there was a rain squall at 12.30, noon, the wind backed up as far as southeast, and the fog lifted over portions of the island. I saw only four Golden Plover, two of which I shot; no birds were reported as having been seen today.

Sept. 7.—There was quite a hard local northeast rain today, and tonight at about 8.30, a number of flocks of Plover were heard whistling as they passed over the town; none landed.

Sept. 12.—I drove over the western portion of the island; I saw only seven Golden Plover, four of which I shot from my wagon. It was a calm, pleasant day with a little air from the south. One of the above birds was a Palebelly (young), the first shot this season. The stomachs of these birds I sent to New York where they were examined by Mr. Buetenmüller, the entomologist of the American Museum of Natural History, to

General Notes

The Migration of *Charadrius dominicus* in Massachusetts in 1892. — At Nantucket, Aug. 18, a flock of fifteen Golden Plover was seen, the first noted this season. Aug. 20, I saw five scattered birds. I think there must have been a storm at sea recently, for the surf was running high and breaking over the beaches into the ponds near the shore on the south side of the island, notwithstanding the fresh north wind. Large numbers of birds must have passed over the island tonight, as they have been heard whistling during the greater part of the night; none stopped. This was the first movement noticed this season. In the afternoon the wind changed to west by south, clear, warmer and pleasant.

Aug. 25 I saw a flock of twenty two, and shot three of them. The wind was south by east, fresh, in the forenoon; more moderate in the afternoon; the weather was thick outside the island, barometer 29.75 and falling. Aug. 26, I was driving over the Plover ground at daylight. The wind remained southeast up to 3.30 A.M.; at 4.10 A.M. a thunder and lightning squall with severe rain and wind came blowing north by east; the wind remained so until eight A.M. when it hauled northeast, moderate and warm; at one P.M. wind hauled east and it commenced to rain again, having ceased from eight A.M. until this time. I saw one flock of fifteen, another of nine, another of twelve, and two or three scattering birds; during the afternoon the wind was blowing at the rate of thirty-seven miles an hour with hard rain. A large number of Golden Plover landed at night, this being the second movement. Aug. 27, I was out at daylight. The weather was very thick, with wind northeast and a little rain. I saw a good many Plover, in fact more than for the past three years put together. In the afternoon the wind backed to north by west, and later to north, the weather continuing thick, almost rain at times. Much to my surprise I saw one flock of about fifty birds go up in the air and leave on migration, evidently not liking the surroundings. About three hundred birds were shot that day on Nantucket and Tuckernuck Islands. The greater part of the birds left in the afternoon and night. I hardly expected they would go, although the wind was fair (north), for the weather was very unsettled. I judge they considered anything preferable to remaining, as they were being greatly harassed. I never in my experience knew the Plover to be so restless and unwilling to remain as they appeared to be. Instead of coursing over the ground low down, as is their usual custom after landing, they kept up in the air, in great part at an altitude of forty to one hundred yards, evincing the strongest disposition to continue migration, notwithstanding the unsettled condition of the weather, which did not apparently warrant their leaving. I noticed also that most of the flocks led to the windward, which is the reverse of what is usually the case when here.

Aug. 28, I was driving over the ground as usual at daylight. The wind was north, and increasing, the weather very misty with rain at intervals during the greater part of the day. The only birds left were some scattering flocks and about seventy to one hundred birds in a field which is preserved. No one shot many birds, and the aggregate killed was very small. Aug. 31, the only birds seen were those living in the field which is preserved. Sept. 1, I drove over the western ground and saw about a dozen Plover altogether, one of which was a Palebelly (young bird), the first for this season. The wind was west by north, then west, from which point it backed to northeast. On Sept. 2 and 3 there was nothing to note.

The 1893 Migration of *Charadrius dominicus* and *Numenius borealis* in Massachusetts.—Nantucket, August 20, 1893. Lowering sky and southeast wind. While driving over the western portion of the island, I saw in the distance eighteen birds which I thought were a flock of American Golden Plovers. I had been advised that such a flock had been seen in that neighborhood on the 18th inst. The wind was light southeast with severe rain in the night from nine o'clock P. M. until two A. M.

August 21. I was out very early; raining hard; wind increasing and backing to northwest at four A. M., reaching a velocity of fifty to sixty miles an hour, the storm being very severe. I remained out until noon, seeing only two Golden Plovers and one Eskimo Curlew, and I shot one of each. These were the first birds shot here this season. This storm extended by actual reports two hundred miles south of Nantucket. It cleared at 10.30 P. M. in the evening with wind nearly west.

August 22. Wind light southwest to west; no birds.

August 23. Wind southeast, threatening; no birds.

August 24. Up at four o'clock A. M. Rain commenced about five o'clock, and lasted until nine o'clock A. M., raining very hard at intervals; velocity of wind about 50 miles an hour. It then cleared, wind remaining east and east by south, still blowing very hard. No birds.

August 26. Clear, good breeze, southwest and west; think it has been foggy at sea. I was out four hours driving over the plover ground but only saw one Golden Plover. I have heard from the islands of Tucker-nuck and Muskeget and no birds have been seen.

August 27. Foggy around the islands; light warm southeast wind during the early portion of the day; later south to south by west and very foggy; almost calm; no birds.

August 28. Thick weather all last night; no change of wind. Drove over the ground; no birds; warm.

August 28 and 29. Pleasant weather; full moon at night; wind west. Went all over the ground again but no birds.

August 30 and 31. Clear and pleasant; no birds.

September 1. A number of flocks of Plovers were reported to have been heard passing over the island last night; *none* stopped. The only Plover here are a flock of thirty-five located in a certain preserved field, and a small flock of twelve; nine of these were shot on Sept. 9. I drove over the western ground on the 9th and 10th of September but did not see any birds.

September 11 and 12. Pleasant weather; drove over the ground but no birds.

September 13. While driving over the western ground saw nine Golden Plovers from the above preserved field; weather calm, wind light south by west and southwest.

From the 13th to the 16th I drove out daily, but saw no birds. On the 16th I saw a flock of four Golden Plovers and shot two of them. They

The 1894 Migration of *Charadrius dominicus* in Massachusetts. — The season of 1894 was unusually dry and warm, with entire absence of storms, moderate, pleasant weather prevailing throughout the entire migrating period, thus rendering it a matter of inclination, rather than necessity, that any American Golden Plovers (*Charadrius dominicus*) or Eskimo Curlews (*Numenius borealis*) should temporarily stop on the islands composing the group of which Nantucket is one. As a result but few Plovers did tarry, and no Eskimo Curlews. At Nantucket, August 18, 1894, the weather was clear with southwest winds; on the 19th nearly clear with a very light fog during a portion of the day, wind southwest. The first Golden Plovers were observed to-day passing over the eastern portion of the island, headed towards the south. Two flocks were seen, estimated to contain, respectively, fifty and thirty birds; none stopped.

There was an unusual large area of land burned over this season, more than I have ever known before, which should have proved particularly attractive to these birds as a resort. It was in consequence expected that many would stop which otherwise would have kept on. These hopes, however, were not realized. From the 19th to the 24th no birds were observed. During the night of the latter date, the wind having been westerly with some south in it at intervals, a few Plovers were heard passing over the town of Nantucket, but none stopped. Although out almost every day I have nothing to record until the 26th, when I saw four birds; wind southwest, calm, foggy outside the islands. As near as I can ascertain there are only about a dozen Plovers on the island and only four shot up to date.

August 29. Wind northeast to southeast, very light. A few Plovers passed over the town last night, and five were seen to-day. Also at sundown eight flocks were noted flying towards the west, the estimated numbers of which were seventy to twenty in a flock. None stopped on Nantucket. The weather was hazy; could not see off the shore.

September 3. The wind came from the northeast last evening about eight o'clock P.M.; at three o'clock in the morning it was blowing a strong breeze. I saw one flock of nine birds, and another of fifteen; about one hundred more were seen by other parties who were out. Only three birds were shot to-day, and seven on September 4.

Tuckernuck Island, September 5. About one hundred (estimated) Plovers landed last night; these are the first birds seen here this season. About twenty of them were shot up to September 10. Nantucket, September 6, I saw a flock of nine birds from which four were shot. September 7 was foggy early; three flocks of Plovers were seen towards the western part of the island; one contained nine birds, one seven, and one four, and a single bird. These, however, are not new birds; no new arrivals have been noted.

September 8, I drove all over the eastern burnt district. A gentle southeast breeze was blowing and the sky was overcast. Here I found several flocks of Plovers, one of twenty, from which I shot five, another of about forty from which I obtained ten.

Limicolae in Bristol County.
H. F. Dexter, Dartmouth, Mass.

Golden Plover, *Charadrius pluralis*. This species occurs with us under nearly the same circumstances as the previous, being on the whole more common in fall.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 147

Rare Birds
by J. M. Wade.

Mr. Charles E. Hoyle of Millbury, shot, on Saturday, at a pond in Oxford, two of the rare Golden Plover out of a small flock that had been frequenting the pond for several days. These birds, so eagerly sought after by gunners along the coast during their flights southward in the fall, are extremely rare so far inland. They were undoubtedly driven in by the northeast storm of last week.

O. & O. XI, Nov. 1886, p. 175

Auk, XIII, Jan., 1896, pp. 80-81.

The 1895 Migration of *Charadrius dominicus* in Massachusetts.—Nantucket Island. The prevailing wind on August 13 was N. W.; on the 14th, east; on the 15th, S. W.; on the 16th, S. E.; on the 17th and 18th, S. W.; on the 19th, north; 20th, N. E. and N. W.; 21st, N. W.; 22d, N. E. to N. W.; 24th, west; 25th, N. E.; 26th, east; 27th, 28th, and 29th, N. W. The weather during the entire migrating period was pleasant with absence of storms or high winds. As a result these birds undoubtedly passed many miles outside of us, and only a few scattering Golden Plovers landed. On August 24 it was foggy outside the island with fresh southwest wind. The first Golden Plovers of the season were observed on this date, a flock of five at the west end of the island, flying towards the west. Two other single birds were seen at the eastern end of the island. On August 31 I saw a lone Golden Plover, and on September 1 a flock of four, one of which was shot, this being the first one taken this season. Later in the day four others were shot, three of which were *young* birds. In all twenty-four Golden Plovers were seen. On September 9 a flock of forty Plovers were seen at the west end of the island. This flock was also seen at the east end, and was probably the only *flock* on the island. On September 19 I saw seven Plovers in a certain preserved field near the centre of the island. I also saw three others, one of which was a young bird. These a friend and I shot. I heard of a small bunch of Plovers having been sent up from Tuckernuck on this date, but I did not see them. Up to September 15 only one Golden Plover had been taken on Tuckernuck Island.

Not an Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) has been seen as far as I have been able to learn this season. I have made repeated inquiries in the large Faneuil Hall Market in Boston, but have failed to learn of any Eskimo Curlew, and of but a few Golden Plover which had been taken on Cape Cod and at Ipswich, Mass. This meagre record is all I have to report for the season of 1895.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

The 1898 Migration of the Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*) and Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) in Massachusetts.—I have little to communicate this year regarding the movements of these birds going south. Their scarcity here for a number of years past is most discouraging. During the migrating period weather favorable for their landing occurred several times, notwithstanding which only scattering birds have been noted. Personally I have not seen any flying. As far as I am aware the first Golden Plovers seen on Nantucket this season were four birds on August 12. On August 18, a flock containing about twenty-five birds, was reported to have been seen, two of which were said to be Eskimo Curlews. (As far as I know these two birds were the only ones seen during the entire season.) On August 28, three Golden Plovers were seen at the extreme west end of Nantucket Island, one of which was killed. On September 1, twelve were seen flying south on migration; on September 12, wind northeast and cold, a flock of Plovers estimated to contain sixty birds, were said to have been seen at the north side of Nantucket. On this same date eleven Plovers were killed from a flock of sixteen on Tuckernuck Island. These birds were sent to me; ten of them were young, the other was an adult. On September 15 seven young Plovers were seen at the eastern end of Nantucket, two of which were shot. On September 16, thirteen young birds were shot at the eastern end of the island. On Marthas Vineyard I have heard of but two Plovers being taken, one a young bird too emaciated to eat; no Eskimo Curlew seen. I have made enquiry of several of the large game dealers in Faneuil Hall Market, Boston, and have only learned of a stray Golden Plover or so, and not any Eskimo Curlew. The spring shooting of both these birds in the West, as also of the Bartramian Sandpipers, is to be greatly deplored.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Auk, XVI, April, 1899, p. 180.

The 1896 Migration of *Charadrius dominicus* and *Numenius borealis* in Massachusetts.—The prevailing winds on Nantucket Island during the greater portion of the migrating period was as follows: August 13, east and southwest; 14, east; 15, northeast; 16, southwest; 17, northwest; 18, west; 19 and 20, north; 21, 22, and 23, south; 24, southwest; 25, east; 26, southeast; 27, north; 28 and 29, southeast; 30, southwest; 31, southwest, with squall from the north in late p. m.; Sept. 1, north by west. There was no severe blow or storm during this period.

On August 22, at night, a few Golden Plovers were heard passing over Tuckernuck Island, where on the 28th the first one of the season was shot. Five were also seen on this same date at the eastern part of Nantucket. On the 31st sixteen Plovers arrived in a certain preserved field on the Kimball farm, where in a short time their number was somewhat augmented, at which time some were shot. When I visited the remainder, a little later in September, I counted twenty-two, the greater part of flew around the electric lights located at the tops of the sign poles in various parts of the town. This calling was nearly continuous up to one o'clock, midnight, and I have only two or three times before heard such prolonged and continual calling of the birds. They were apparently bewildered, and seemed to pass around a certain light for awhile, and then pass to another, later coming back to the first one. I therefore think we heard the same birds over and over again. In order to substantiate this I made inquiry the next day of some of the life-saving crews located at different parts of the island, as also of others, but none of them had heard of any birds, and they were all apparently in a restricted area over the town. While no birds were seen *distinctly*, many of the call notes were recognized by others and by me, those of the Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) predominating. There were also the Smaller Yellow-leg (*Totanus flavipes*), Golden Plovers (*Charadrius dominicus*), Hudsonian Curlews (*Numenius hudsonicus*) (heard only twice), Black-bellied Plovers (*Squatarola squatarola*), Terns and Peeps. Several of the sportsmen told me they heard the notes of the Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*). I am inclined to the opinion that they must have been mistaken, inasmuch as I was up until half past eleven o'clock p. m. and did not hear any of them. It was with the liveliest anticipations for the next day's shooting that I retired for the night. I arose at three o'clock a. m., and my disappointment can be imagined better than told when on looking out I found that the weather had cleared, the stars were shining and the little air that was moving was from the *north*. Although hopeless, I was driving over the western Plover ground at daylight, hoping I might find a few tired birds. Seeing absolutely no birds in this quarter up to eight o'clock, I picked up my decoys and drove eastward where I remained until 1.30 p. m. and then returned home without having seen a bird. On the way I saw a number of sportsmen, none of whom, I learned on inquiry, had seen anything. *All* the birds had passed on without stopping. This was the first defined migratory movement this season of birds going southward.

The 1897 Migration of the Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*) and the Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) in Massachusetts. — Were it not for the reason that I desire to keep up the continuity of my migrating record on these birds, I should scarcely consider the data I have for this season worth recording. Up to August 22, no Golden Plovers or Eskimo Curlews had been observed at Nantucket or adjacent islands. On this date the wind was southwest, with rain commencing at 9.30 o'clock A. M., accompanied at intervals with lightning. I drove all over the western plover grounds but did not see any birds. I was informed that a flock of thirty Golden Plovers had been seen there later in the day. The wind finally came from the northeast and in the evening two or three persons informed me that they had heard the birds passing over the tower. Although on the alert, I did not hear any. Again, after 10.30 at night, a good many birds were reported to have been heard from several points as they passed over head, but none stopped. At Chatham, Cape Cod, Mass., on this same date (August 22), the first Golden Plovers (four) of the season, as far as I know, were shot, and many others were noted as they passed during the day, on migration. This was the *first* movement going south this season.

I again drove all over the western grounds on Nantucket August 23, seeing four Golden Plovers, flying towards the west; later in the day two others were noted. On the 24th, I am informed, three flocks of Plovers were observed at the westward, one of twenty-five, one of fifteen, and one of thirty, the numbers being estimated. A small flock of six Plovers was also observed at Tuckernuck Island. The wind was easterly on this date, and it rained at intervals from six o'clock A. M. until twelve o'clock noon, at which time the wind changed to southwest and the weather cleared.

One small flock of eight Eskimo Curlews (the only ones noted here for the entire season) was seen well up in the air, flying on migration, headed towards the west. No birds stopped on the islands, and none were killed.

On the afternoon of August 27, a flock of twelve Plovers was seen, and on the 29th, eleven Plovers were domiciled in a certain protected field on the Kimball farm. On September 17, five Plovers were noted at the western end of Nantucket. The ground on the island this season is in poorer condition than usual, owing to the wet weather, which has enabled the grass and weeds to grow profusely; in addition to this, there has been no ground burned off this year.

I made inquiries several times in the Boston markets in order to ascertain if any of the above birds had been sent in from other localities, but could hear of none. Personally, I have not shot any. It is doubtful if over twelve Plovers have been taken during the entire season on Nantucket and adjoining islands, and not an Eskimo Curlew.

I can but regard with solicitude the killing of these birds in such immense numbers, as also the Bartramian Sandpipers, as they pass northward on migration through the Mississippi Valley in the *spring* on their way to their breeding grounds; many of the females having eggs quite well developed in their ovaries at the time. This has been going on for a number of years. (I called attention to it in Auk, Vol. VIII, p. 24, January, 1891.) How long can it continue? It has been several years since any considerable numbers of these birds have landed on the Atlantic seaboard during August or September. I believe the danger line has been passed long since. Protection is generally the laggard in the race. Our Western Associates should look to this matter and endeavor to put a stop to such annihilation if possible. — GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Old Records for Mass. & Rhode Id.

Somerville, Massachusetts, March 20, 1840, and Revere, Mass., March 6, 1880. On each of these dates Mr. George A. Tapley of Revere, Mass., shot an American Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*). Mr. Tapley informed me he had killed one other in the spring.

A Golden Plover in Massachusetts in April.— On April 8, 1911, while at Plum Island, Mass., with Dr. J. B. Brainerd, Barron Brainerd, and Richard M. Marble, I shot a Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*). The bird proved to be a male with a single black feather near the center of his breast. He is now in my collection.

The bird had not been seen by members of the Plum Island life-saving station near which he was shot, neither were there any traces of old wounds. His body was entirely free from fat. Whether he was a straggling migrant or a bird which had been forced to winter is a question open to discussion.— JAMES L. PETERS, *Harvard, Mass.* *Arch. xxv. 111 July 1911. p. 368.*

American Golden Plover (*Charadrius d. dominicus*) at Nantucket Island.— On September 6, 1915, I drove to the extreme western end of the island, and remained there an hour or two without seeing any birds. I interviewed the crew of the Life Saving Station at Maddeket, several of whom I knew, none of them had seen, or heard any Golden Plover or Eskimo Curlew passing this summer. One of the men said he had heard of five Golden Plover living in a certain field, the owner of which preferred watching, to shooting them. In the afternoon I drove to the south side of the Island (Surfside). I called at once on the former captain of the Life Saving Station located there, who was an old acquaintance, and a gunner. He informed me that his grandson had shot a Golden Plover the day before, he showed me the legs which I identified. He said there had been four in all living at Nobadeer pond, and that I could probably find the other three still there. I suggested we harness up his horse and ride down to the pond, he and his grandson taking their guns. On arrival we saw the three Golden Plover running about, two black and white breasted birds, and one 'pale-breast' (young); we succeeded in shooting the latter, which I later had made into a skin. I am of the opinion that these birds were the same ones which occupied the protected pasture mentioned above. They constitute the only records of this plover I have been able to obtain for the island of Nantucket this season. I also saw, while at the Nobadeer Pond, two Hudsonian Curlew, and two of the larger Yellowlegs.— GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Boston, Mass.*

Arch xxxiii, April 1916. p. 199

Rare Birds at Hartford, Conn

Charadrius dominicus. AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER.—I have a young male of this species in my collection which was shot Oct. 24, 1885, as it was flushed from a stubble field in this locality. The bird was alone, and in skinning it I found that it was in good condition.

Willard E. Treat, East Hartford, Conn.
Auk, 4, Jan., 1887, p. 78.

Birds of Adirondack Region - Merriam.

189. *Charadrius dominicus*. GOLDEN PLOVER.—Very common about Lake Champlain during October in some seasons.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct, 1882, p. 256

Ithaca, N. Y.

Charadrius dominicus. GOLDEN PLOVER.—One individual taken Oct. 27 constitutes the only record for this species.

Aug 27. July - 1910 p. 346.

Albinism and Melanism in North
American Birds. Ruthven D. Ane.

An albino, *C. fulvus* var. *virginicus*, was shot on Cape Cod, in September, 1875. This is the only instance which has come to my knowledge of albinism occurring in any of our Plovers or Sandpipers, and as these species are shot in such immense numbers during the migrations is it not a little strange that we do not hear of more examples, as such curiosities are always preserved, even by the market gunner.

Bull. N.O.C. 1, April, 1876, p. 22

1916. *Golden Plover*. By E. E. F. *Ibid.*, p. 349. — Spring migration in Iowa. *For. & Stream*. Vol. 34 May 22.
1403. *Protracted Flight of a Golden Plover*. By H. E. Stockbridge. *Ibid.*, No. 10, Oct., 1886, pp. 898, 899. — The bird alighted on a ship in Lat. 37° N., Long. 156° W. *Amer. Naturalist*, XXI
1718. *Golden Plover*. By F. *Ibid.*, Sept. 13, p. 145. — Large flights on Long Island. *For. & Stream*. Vol. 31
1954. *A Tame Plover*. By E. B. Webster. 'The Loon,' Vol. I, No. 2, Feb., 1889, pp. 9-11. — *Charadrius dominicus*.

On the Seasonable Changes of Plumage in Birds.

BY ALFRED CRAWHALL CHAPMAN.

No doubt naturalists have frequently observed the great dissimilarity in the seasonal plumages of many species of birds. This is strikingly noticeable in the case of the Golden Plover. On the Northumberland moors the Golden Plover may be said to breed commonly. Small parties of them may be seen frequenting the lower grounds all through the Winter. About the beginning of February the change from the white breast of Winter to the black of Summer commences, and gradually increases until the bird has attained its full Summer dress. When on the wing these dark-breasted birds appear to be much blacker than they really are. Having shot what appears to be a very black-breasted bird, one finds that many of the white feathers of Winter are still visible, giving the bird a checkered appearance.

What appears most strange is that these birds never reach what is considered the typically adult Summer plumage of the Golden Plover. It matters not at what period of the breeding season, this undeveloped plumage is always conspicuous. Now, I would ask, what is the natural cause of this?

Even in Shetland the Summer dress of the Golden Plover is much darker, *i.e.*, more developed than in Northumberland; but if we visit Lapland or Siberia, we find there the Golden Plover in what we consider their typically adult Summer dress. If they had to endure greater cold or stress of weather at their northern breeding-stations, one could perhaps account for the more adult form of plumage by a greater thickness of feathers; but such is not the case. Indeed, I venture to say that the Northumberland birds have, if anything, the greater cold to endure. Perhaps it is that the birds which frequent our moors in Winter are not the birds which remain to breed with us; possibly all these birds migrate northwards to Lapland and Siberia, their places being taken by another and different set of birds, which have spent their Winter in more southerly latitudes, and which make our counties the northern limit for their Spring migration. This is a theory difficult to solve. It may be that the reverse is the case, and that the birds which Winter also remain to breed with us, and that there is a great migration from the Mediterranean direct to the morasses and tundras of Siberia.

I think, perhaps, this is most likely to be the case, as many specimens of birds which seldom breed south of the Arctic circle are regularly obtained in their adult Summer plumage in the very south of Europe, about the middle of May.

OtO. X. July. 1885. p. 97.

Two other species that on account of similarity of plumage may well be considered together are the following:

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER (*Charadrius dominicus*).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Charadrius squatarola*).

1. *Natal Down*. Mottled above, yellowish below.
2. *Juvenal Plumage* acquired by a complete postnatal moult. Extra-limital specimens of *C. dominicus* in this plumage are the following, viz.: Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. No. 30856, August, Bolivia, and eight birds from Brazil taken between October 5 and November 14. Specimens of *C. squatarola* are the following, viz.: Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. No. 61634, ♂, October 25, France; No. 61633, November 9, Amoy, China; U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 119351, ♂, December 26, West Indies.
3. *First Winter Plumage* acquired by a partial postjuvenal moult late in the fall which involves only the body plumage. No. 61634 just cited shows an early stage. The winter dress is deep gray above (yellow-tinged in *C. dominicus*) and chiefly white below, indistinctly mottled on the breast and not differing greatly in the two species.
4. *First Nuptial Plumage* acquired by a prenuptial moult that is

The Moults of the North American
Shore Birds (*Limicolae*)

by
Jonathan Dwight, jr.

not those of the wings and tail. The difficulty of distinguishing adults from young, added to imperfect data, makes me hesitate about citing several specimens with worn flight-feathers that show growth of new body feathers, but the evidence that new body plumage is assumed by moult is conclusive if we examine birds even in worn breeding dress.

A few specimens of *Charadrius plumialis* indicate precisely the same sequence of plumages and moults here outlined.

It is only a matter of suitable specimens and of time, for the

THE HABITS OF THE GOLDEN PLOVER (*CHARADRIUS DOMINICUS*) IN MASSACHUSETTS.

BY GEORGE H. MACKAY.

AMONG the water birds which annually migrate along the coast of New England, none to me possesses greater interest than *Charadrius dominicus*, the American Golden Plover. One reason for this is its prolonged migration, extending from the shores of the Arctic Ocean to the Argentine Republic, and probably to Patagonia, a distance of nearly seven thousand miles, during which it apparently makes no stop after leaving Nova Scotia, unless compelled to halt by storms or hurricanes, until it reaches its destination. It is while making this migration that their appearance is so eagerly watched for by the many sportsmen on the New England coast, the great uncertainty of their landing in any considerable numbers adding much to the interest and importance of their capture. The reason they are not now as abundant as formerly, is, first, the absence of suitable feeding ground, and secondly the eagerness with which they are pursued, allowing them no opportunity to become attached to any one locality. Civilization has encroached upon and absorbed so many of the fields bordering on the coast, to which they used to resort, that there is little room now left for them.

On the Island of Nantucket I notice a very great change in the amount of ground suitable for them, there being now not more than one-quarter as much as formerly. This in part is due to the increase of the pine trees, scrub oak, bushes, and beach grass which have greatly encroached upon the open fields, and in part to the absence of considerable numbers of sheep and cattle which formerly roamed at large and kept down the grass; for the Golden Plover dislikes to alight or run in grass which is high enough to touch the feathers of the breast. Another cause is the fact that the sportsmen go out to shoot them at the commencement of the storm which causes them to seek land, and follow them up unceasingly until a change of weather gives the harassed birds an opportunity to continue their interrupted migration. This mode of procedure is just the reverse of what prevailed in former times, when few people pursued them. They were then

Aegialitis
rostrifera

Aegialitis vocifera.

Cambridge, Mass.

1898. On June 6th A.Hathaway discovered a Killdeer Plover in
June 18. the big clay pit just east of the Maple Swamp. It was seen
there by W.Deane, Hathaway and O.A.Lothrop on the 8th.

The Aegialitis vocifera disappeared between July 2 & 6.

Oliver A.Lothrop, North Cambridge,

Oct.2nd, 1898.

Aegialitis vocifera

Concord, Mass.

1899. As I was returning from the Emersons' this evening I met
April 9. Fred Hosmer. ----- He saw in Dugan Brook meadow near Marshall
Miles's (Nine Acre Corner) " a Plover about the size of a
Meadow Lark, with a white ring around the neck and some con-
spicuous bright cinnamon brown on the back or rump. It was
noisy and shy flying from place to place, alighting on a sheet
of ice, bobbing its head up and down as it stood watching him"
When I imitated the cry of a Killdeer he said "That was the
bird".

Actialitis vocifera

1891 Mass.

May Martha's Vineyard. - Mr. Howard Norris of Cottage City tells Breeding
me that the Killdeer breeds sparingly but regularly on
the island, especially about the ponds on the south
shore. This is confirmed by Mr. Walden and Mr. Adams
of W. Fisbury. Mr. Fayou & I failed to see the bird.

1895

Nov. 5-29 Cohasset. One of the Nottall Club members, Mr. _____, reported
at the meeting of Dec. 2 that Killdeer Plover had been seen by
him at Cohasset on the following dates. ~~Swamp~~ birds Nov. 5,
six birds Nov. 20th, one bird Nov. 29. The one last mentioned
was shot. No other member present had heard of any occurrences
this year.

1898 Cambridge. At Hatheway, found a Killdeer Plover in the
June 24 large clay pit east of the Maple Swamp by the Artificial, on
June 6. I saw it, with him and C. A. Lothrop on June
8. The bird kept very near us, flying about, lighting,
running along the ground, squatting at intervals, and ut-
tering its various notes continually. I watched it for
about 3/4 of an hour. The bird has been there ever
since as the boys have visited it almost daily. It has
changed its habitat from the western to the eastern
edge of the clay pit. I went up there this morning
with Lothrop and saw the bird again. It was quite
demure and very tame, allowing us to approach
within about 15 ft. as it was squatting on the ground
when it would rise and run or ahead of us.

Walter Deane

Regiastes vocifera.

1898 Mass.

June 30

Cambridge. - I went to the Boy State Clay pit this afternoon to see the Killdeer Plover. I found him in the cove at the western end of the pit standing erect and still on the margin of silt of muddy water. After I had watched him for a few minutes he began calling when I saw another Killdeer swimming swiftly towards him from my side of the rivulet. The second bird was also an adult and from its behavior I judged that it was the female. She stopped within a yard or less of her mate and the two stood side by side looking at me shyly. Then the male flew off & I did not see him again.

When I advanced towards the female she ran on ahead of me stopping frequently to cry kill-dee and occasionally gya-ting feet in some depression of the rough, clayey ground. She also simulated lameness at times but with much energy. After I had followed her for a distance of about 100 yards she rose and circling around me flew back to was the place where I first saw her. Just as she alighted she rolled about on the ground for a moment with half spread & loosely fluttering wings. I approached her again when she again led me off in the same manner as at first. I was within 20 yards of her more than once.

This is the first time that more than one bird has been seen. Indeed W. Deane, Bohler, & Hathaway had concluded that there was but one and hence no nest. My experience throws a new light on the matter & makes it practically certain that there has been a nest which the boys have overhauled. I think the young were probably out today. It was last seen by Bohler July 2. It was missing July 10 by Hathaway.

Birds within Ten Miles of Point
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam.

82. *Ægialites vociferus*. KILDEER PLOVER. — Mr. Comeau says
that this species breeds and is not rare.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct., 1882, p. 238

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 451.

109. *Oxyechus vociferus*. KILLDEER. — Summer resident, not un-
common, April 6 to October 24; earliest March 25, 1891. Breeding records,
June 3 and 18, full sets. Killdeer are very abundant and widely distrib-
uted during migrations.

Remarkable Flight of Killdeer (*Agialitis vocifera*) near Portland, Maine.—On the afternoon of Wednesday, November 28, 1888, several flocks of Killdeer were seen by Captain Trundy, of the U. S. Life Saving Service, near his station, on the extreme point of Cape Elizabeth, Maine. Twenty birds, which were shot down without difficulty, were sent to Portland and offered for sale at one of the markets. On the following day, Captain Trundy tells me, hundreds of the Plover were to be seen along the shores of the Cape, and on Richmond's Island, a mile or two west of the station. They disappeared on November 30, leaving stragglers behind, however, the last of which was shot by one of the Life Saving crew on December 4, and kindly presented to me.

Such a flight of Killdeer in Maine—where the bird is well known to be rare—has probably not occurred within the memory of living sportsmen. It is doubtless to be attributed to the violent northerly storm that prevailed in eastern North America on November 25, 26 and 27.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.* **Auk, VI. Jan., 1889, p. 69.**

Note on the Killdeer in Maine.—A detail which is perhaps worth preserving of the great flight of Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*) along the coast of Maine in 1888 has never found its way into print. This relates to the duration of the stay of the birds near Portland. A note by myself¹ made the limit December 4. Dr. Arthur P. Chadbourne's article,² dealing with the entire subject of the flight along the Atlantic coast, advanced the date to December 10 on evidence obtained from lighthouse keepers. About the middle of the following January, after my note had gone to press, G. E. Staples, surfman No. 2 of the Cape Elizabeth life-saving crew, reported to me that the plover were seen in twos and threes on the Cape up to December 25, 1888, and that his half-brother, W. D. Dresser, shot three of them on that day. Staples said that about twenty birds were noted after December 4, if all which he saw were to be considered as seen but once. It may be added that Hon. John M. Kaler, of Scarborough, told me at the same time that the Killdeer visited Prout's Neck in that town during the height of the flight.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

¹ Auk, VI, p. 69.

² Auk, VI, p. 256.

Auk 28. Apr. 1911 p. 247.

Rye Beach, N. H. 1868.

Algialites vocifera. - Aug. 31. W. Philbrick shot on - 6 P.

Algialites vociferus. - Aug. 4² Rye Beach, N. H. 1871.

Algialites vocifera. - July 29² Rye Beach, N. H. 1872.

Cape Cod, Mass.

Aegialites vocifera

1832-1835

Dr. Samuel Cabot tells us that during his early shooting experience the Killdeer was an abundant bird on Cape Cod. They were not often shot being considered worthless for food. They breed numerously in Massachusetts at that time.

Mass (Wakefield)

Aegialites vocifera

1886

March 30

"A Killdeer was shot recently (I think yesterday) in Wakefield by a Mr. Parker. The bird was in excellent condition & fine plumage." (R. B. Newcomb, letter dated March 31, 1886)

Mass (Cambridge)

Agriolites vocifera

1888

Charles River

Dec. 25

One shot by W. P. Cones (of Cambridge) on the muddy banks of Charles River opposite the Cambridge Casino. It was doubtless a straggler from the late great flight.

Mass. (Marston's Mills)

Agriolites vocifera

1888

Dec 9-1888

I begone the ^{Law} ~~Law~~ eggs are again - ^{Marston's Mills, Dec. 9-1888.} I saw a flock of a dozen or more "Kildee Hens" today in my neighbor's field did you ever know of them so late in the season in this latitude. I have not seen one here before for twenty years or more. With all our best

1889

Nov. 27th - Dec

Follows both

seen by Coy

village where he saw so many during the flight in the autumn of 1888. Agriolites vocifera

regards I am as ever
Yours &c
Saml. S. Bayler

Mass (Cambridge)

Aegialitis vocifera

1888

Charles River

Dec. 25

One shot by W. P. Cones (of Cambridge) on the muddy banks of Charles River opposite the Cambridge Casino. It was doubtless a straggler from the late great flight.

Mass. (Marston's Mills)

Aegialitis vocifera

1888

Dec. 9-1888

I before the ^{two} ~~two~~ eggs are again - I saw a flock of a dozen or more "Kilde Klauer" today in my neighbor's field did you ever know of them so late in the season in this latitude. I have not seen one here before for twenty years or more.

1889

Marston's Mills, Mass.

Nov. 27th - Dec. 2nd (Baxter)

~~Two~~ ^{Two} ~~two~~ Both single birds (perhaps the same individual)

seen by Capt. S. S. Baxter in a field near the village where he saw so many during the flight in the autumn of 1888. *Aegialitis vocifera*

Winter Birds of Eastern Massachusetts.
H. K. Job.

The first snow fell November 17.* I was on an island in Boston Harbor the next day, where I met with an unlooked-for bird. As I was crossing the island I was surprised to see a shore-bird running over the snow, beneath which lay a mud-flat, a former resort for such birds. I had no difficulty in shooting the stranger, which proved to be a Killdeer Plover (*Aegialitis vociferus*). The day was bitterly cold, and although these birds are known to linger here quite late at times, it is surprising that the delay in the present instance was not fatal. A week before this,—on the 11th,—I secured a Short-eared Owl on this island, which started up from a potato field as I approached.

* 1881

Bull. N. O. C. 3, July, 1888, p. 148.

Only one nest of the Killdeer have I ever found, although the birds are plentiful in August in ponds and water courses. The nest was among the rocks just above high water mark, and contained, May 30, four eggs, just on the point of hatching.

Notes from Rehoboth Mass.
H. K. Job.

O. & O. IX, Oct. 1884, p. 125.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Aegialitis vocifera (Linn.), Killdeer. Migrant, not common. Formerly Bred.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 139

Limicolae in Bristol County.
H. F. Dexter, Dartmouth, Mass.

Killdeer Plover, *Oxyechus vociferus*. I cannot find this species as common at present; a few occur inland and have been secured at Rehoboth (Carpenter) and Attleboro (Ried). Two instances of its breeding have occurred within the memory of the writer. Along the coast and the principal water courses of the interior, it is found in late summer and autumn in small numbers.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 147

Shore Birds of Cape Cod.
John C. Cahoon.

Killdeer, *Aegialitis vocifera*, (Linn.) A rare spring and autumn migrant. It is the first of the shore birds to arrive in the spring, sometimes reaching the Cape as early as March 1st. In the autumn, migrants remain as late as the last of November. This bird was common on the Cape in former years and bred in some localities. They frequent ploughed fields and pastures, marshes and the muddy edges of ponds and rivers. Their shrill notes of "killdeer," are incessantly reiterated while on the wing or running along on the ground.

O. & O. XIII, Oct. 1888 p. 155

Notes.

Marcus N. Baker shot a Killdeer Plover at Scituate, Mass., Dec. 31, 1888; length 10, wing 6.25, extent 20, tail 4, tarsus 1.40, bill .80; a splendid specimen, the pectoral half ring unusually broad. H. D. Eastman, Framingham, Mass.

O & O. XIV. Feb. 1889 p. 29

O & O.
XIII
Dec. 1888
h.

A heavy flight of Killdeer Plover has been attracting considerable attention. They appeared the 28th of November at Nantucket, Chatham, and other points on Cape Cod, and in scattering bunches made their way all along the coast up to Essex. They were driven in by the storm and seemed in no hurry to depart. Killdeer have been of late quite scarce in this locality, and the question is, where did they come from?

They were offered in the Boston market at one dollar a dozen, but when it was found that "those taxidermist chaps" were after them, the price rapidly advanced.

Notes

"The Killdeers are flying around yet, but not quite so plentiful as they were after the hard storm. You could see them most anywhere. I have not seen any before since I was a boy (about 35 years); then they used to be here all summer, and were found in pairs. They nested in the old mossy field."—R. S. Young, Chatham, Mass., December 17, 1888.

O. & O. XIV. Jan. 1889 p. 14

Notes

A Killdeer Plover shot December 25, on Charles River, just out of Boston, by W. P. Coues.

O. & O. XIV Jan. 1889 p. 14.

From Eastern Mass. M. A. Frazar.

~~and~~ A solitary kildeer plover was seen and killed at the same place on April 1, Sandwich, Mass.

For. & Strm, April 24, 1890. p. 263

Muskeget Id. Mass.

Ægialitis vocifera.—One Killdeer was shot on Muskeget, Feb. 28, 1890, the only one seen. I have preserved the skin.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, Boston, Mass.

Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 295.

Mass. (Essex, Wintthrop, Centham, Nantucket) *Aegialitis vocifera*

1888

Extraordinary inroad in large flocks

Nov. 25
to Dec. 4

On Nov. 25th a storm of unusual strength swept the coast of Mass and the Middle States causing great damage to shipping & much loss of life. The wind was N. E. and attained a speed of over 80 miles an hour. About 6 inches of snow fell. The next day it rained in torrents & the wind still blew hard. Immediately after this storm Killdeer Plover appeared along the coast in large numbers. On Dec. 5 at least 75 were hanging in Quincy market. Most of them were sent from Nantucket on the 4th. There was one brace from Essex.

Mass. (near Boston)

Aegialitis vocifera

1888

Late autumn occurrence.

Nov. 29

On Nov. 30 I saw at F. B. Webster's a Killdeer Plover which was brought in early that morning. It was in the flesh and in perfectly fresh condition. Its owner, who left it to be mounted with spread wings for a shield, told W. that he had killed it the previous day (Thanksgiving day) near Boston. It was in fine plumage.

A Mr. Thayer, a friend of Webster's
coming from Chatham on the 4th
reported seeing many Killdeer on
the hills about the Capehouse on
the preceding day (Dec. 3). They
were in flocks & he killed several.
One of the local gunners told
him that he had seen a
flock containing fully 1000 birds.
Dec. 6. Clark, Webster's taxidermist,
tells me that Sumner secured
a fine bunch of Killdeers this
morning.

Mass. (near Boston)

Aegialitis vocifera

1888

Late autumn occurrence.

Nov. 29

On Nov. 30 I saw at F. B. Webster's a Killdeer
Plover which was brought in early that morning.
It was in the flesh and in perfectly fresh
condition. Its owner, who left it to be mounted
with spread wings for a shield, told W. that
he had killed it the previous day (Thanksgiving
day) near Boston. It was in fine plumage.

Mass. (Nahant)

Aegialitis vocifera

Faxon's & Tovey's specimens

1888

Nov. 28

Messrs. Faxon & Tovey saw a flock of seven or eight in a marshy place in a pasture on Nahant. They also met a gunner who had two which he had just killed.

Dec. 4

~~About~~ Dec. 4 they again visited Nahant & saw five or six Killdeers on the beach besides a flock of seven or eight flying. They were rather tame allowing an approach to within 30 yards.

Mass. (Great Id.)

Aegialitis vocifera

1888

There was no sound but instead heavy rain

Nov. Dec.

Two seen Nov. 25 the day of the great storm. Next day the island was alive with them. One of the men saw at least 200, including a flock of fully 50. He thinks there must have been at least 1000 on the island. They were most numerous on the pasture & ploughed field about the house but were found fully on the beaches also and on all the salt marshes. They were very tame allowing an approach to within a few yards. On Thanksgiving day (Nov. 25) he saw perhaps

Mass. (Nahant)

Aegialitis vocifera

Faxon's & Torrey's specimens

1888

Nov. 28

Messrs. Faxon & Torrey saw a flock of seven or eight in a marshy place in a pasture on Nahant. They also met a gunner who had two which he had just killed.

Dec. 4

~~About~~ Dec. 4 they again visited Nahant & saw five or six Killdeers on the beach besides a flock of seven or eight flying. They were rather tame allowing an approach to within 30 yards.

as many as on the 28th
 for the rest the days their
 numbers decreased steadily but
 steadily. On the 13th (the first
 day of the cold snap) not more
 than eight or ten were seen,
 many few shot on the surrounding
 land they were much less
 numerous than there are
 the following. On the 14th
 shot a bird some number
 Nov. 14. very cold. This 6th at 90. 24
 at Boston. 120 at West 10. at
 about 120 at 11 P. M. also found
 Mr. W. Torrey. Number found 100,
 100. 7 found of the long form.
 saw a flock of 50 (including
 7 females) at 12 in hour
 7 including 2 seen about 7 7 included.
 Dec. 13. Only 3 seen 7. 8 seen
 they were shot, 10 seen, 10 seen.
 had the 10 seen on 10 seen.
 were seen around 10 seen 10 seen
 of 10 seen 10 seen 10 seen. The
 were 10 seen 10 seen

A heavy flight of Killdeer Plover has been attracting considerable attention. They appeared the 28th of November at Nantucket, Chatham, and other points on Cape Cod, and in scattering bunches made their way all along the coast up to Essex. They were driven in by the storm and seemed in no hurry to depart. Killdeer have been of late quite scarce in this locality, and the question is, where did they come from?

They were offered in the Boston market at one dollar a dozen, but when it was found that "those taxidermist chaps" were after them, the price rapidly advanced.

O. & O. XII, Dec. 1888 p 191

At the last meeting of the Boston Scientific Society, Mr. F. A. Bates called attention to the effect of the great gale of Nov. 25 upon birds. The killdeer plover, a bird formerly quite common in New England, but of late years exceedingly rare, was found by sportsmen along the South Shore by the hundred. Quantities of them were killed and exposed for sale in the markets at exceedingly reasonable prices. The birds were in good condition, showing that they had not been without food for a very long time, but they were nevertheless very hungry, and easily approached by sportsmen. The habitat of these birds at the present season is nowhere to the north of the Carolinas, so that, if from those regions, they were brought hundreds of miles in a comparatively short time. But the storm did not so affect even Florida as to make certain that the birds were from this locality. Traces of food in the stomachs of some of the birds may, when critically examined, afford evidence of the origin of this extraordinary visitation of birds, about which so little is known at present.—(Boston Transcript.)

"Information is requested on the occurrence of the Killdeer Plover on the coast north of Boston during or after the storm." [The stomachs of these birds, upon dissection, were found to contain remains of insects, principally Coleoptera.] [Ed.]

The Killdeer Plover (*Aegialitis vocifera*) wintering on the New England Coast.—On the 28th of January, 1889, I discovered seven Killdeer Plovers in a small meadow in Marblehead, where they remained throughout the winter. I visited the place four times in February, and found them always present. My last sight of them was March 1 (six birds), but Mr. Walter Faxon, who had previously seen them on several occasions, found a single individual as late as March 7. They were doubtless a part of the great flock blown upon the New England coast by the storm of November 25-27, as already more than once mentioned in 'The Auk.' The season was very open and mild (although February averaged rather colder than usual), and the spot was exceptionally favorable. So far as I could judge, the birds suffered no inconvenience from what we may presume to have been a somewhat involuntary sojourn in this latitude.

Mrs. Celia Thaxter assures me that the Killdeers remained at the Isles of Shoals, also, throughout the winter,—"till the very last week in February, growing fewer and fewer and finally disappearing altogether." Her authorities for the statement are her brother and another resident of the Shoals, one of whom, early in December, shot a bird, parts of which (a wing, etc.) she sent to me for identification.—BRADFORD TORREY, *Melrose Highlands, Mass.*

Auk, VI, July, 1889, p. 274-275.

A Killdeer (*Aegialitis vocifera*) in the vicinity of Cambridge, Mass.—On the 19th of October, 1901, we identified a Killdeer (*Aegialitis vocifera*) in a large ploughed field in Belmont, Massachusetts. Although we had no means of securing the specimen its identification is certain since we flushed it three times at close range, getting good views of the rufous tail-coverts. We also saw clearly the marks on the breast and heard the call-note.

According to Messrs. Howe and Allen's 'Birds of Massachusetts' there are only two previous records in the vicinity of Cambridge, both of which were in September.—HOWARD M. TURNER, RICHARD S. EUSTIS, *Cambridge, Mass.* *Auk*, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 78.

Unusual record near Boston Mass -

Ægialitis vocifera. Two were observed in the Middlesex Fells, Mass., on April 6, 1904.

Francis G. and Maurice C. Blake, Brookline Mass.

Auk, XLI, July, 1904, p. 392.

Massachusetts Coast.
Col. Boston Soc. Nat. History.

Oxyechus vociferus. KILLDEER.— A specimen from the Massachusetts coast was received from the Everett collection.

Auk 26, Apr-1903, p.

Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*) at Lancaster, Mass.— I have a small pond of about three acres where I keep a collection of ducks. This year owing to the drought it was very low and the muddy shores afforded good feeding ground for any waders that might come along.

On June 16, I was surprised to hear the note of a Killdeer and going to the pond I discovered four. They seemed very tame and were busily occupied in feeding. This was in the afternoon. They remained for about an hour, then flew off. The next morning they were back again and remained until about 11 o'clock, then disappeared. The same afternoon they came again and remained until 5 o'clock, when they flew away. This continued until June 26, when I shot two, which proved to be adult males in worn plumage. The other two came back the next day. On June 30, two new ones appeared with the other two, making four in all on the pond that day. On July 1, 2, and 3, only three were seen. They remained until July 6, when they disappeared and they have not been seen since.

When they left the pond they always flew in the same direction — towards the big Clinton reservoir. My theory is that these birds bred there last year and as the shores were very low it afforded them excellent feeding grounds, but when they returned this year, conditions were altered, the reservoir being filled to the brim. This compelled the birds to hunt for a different feeding ground and in hunting about they found my pond.—

JOHN E. THAYER, Lancaster, Mass. Auk, XXIX, Oct. 1912, p. 70

512-18
Uncommon Shore-birds seen in Essex County, Massachusetts.—

Clark's Pond, Ipswich, July 24, 1912, one full plumaged Killdeer Plover (*Oxyechus vociferus*). Eagle Hill, Ipswich, July 31, 1912, before any shooting was allowed we found five Killdeer Plover. Four were feeding together in a marsh hole and one flew over. The birds were so tame we could see all their markings. When startled they flew uttering their 'Kill-dee' note. Eagle Hill, Ipswich, August 7, 1912, one Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*,) in the grassy edges of Mr. A. B. Clark's pond. This was a new bird to me but easily identified by the general brownish yellow color and the specklings on the wings.

Nahant Beach, August 10, 1912, one Willet (probably *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*) so exhausted after a long flight that, as it crouched on some seaweed, I thought the bird was wounded and went up to examine it. When I was within fifteen feet it stood up and stretched its wings over its back showing the beautiful black and white markings, the black axillars and the greenish legs. After a few moments the Willet took a short flight over the water giving its 'Pill-willy' notes, then returned to a clump of seaweed just ahead of me and there I left it.

Clark's Pond Ipswich, August 14, 1912, one Willet seen at close range.

Clark's Pond Ipswich, August 17, 1912, the same Willet, which Mr. Maynard said was a young Western Willet.

Eagle Hill, August 28, 1912, three Killdeer Plover apparently in full plumage.— LIDIAN E. BRIDGE, West Medford, Mass.

Auk, XXIX, Oct. 1912, p. 887.

Killdeer Plover at Cambridge, Mass.— On November 15, 1913, during the Harvard-Yale freshman football game, two Killdeer Plover (*Oxyechus vociferus*) alighted on the field while the game was in progress. It was during the third period of the game that the plover, calling shrilly, flew over the crowd. Several of the students whistled in reply. The birds circled around for a moment, and then alighted in the very middle of the field, — not forty yards away from the struggling players. Hardly had the birds folded their wings, when the Harvard stand burst out cheering for their team; this was too much for the plover and calling once or twice, they flew up and away.

This incident is most singular, not only because of the unnatural behavior on the part of the plover, but because Killdeer are extremely rare migrants in the Cambridge region.— G. KINGSLEY NOBLE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Am. Orn. 1914 p. 161.

Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*) in Massachusetts.— Upon the authority of many of the older ornithological writers it is evident that this species bred in earlier years at various widely separated stations in the state of Massachusetts. In more recent years however, it has become rare, so much so, as to make its occurrence noteworthy. It is with a sense of pleasure and satisfaction that at this time I can submit evidence of an increase in its numbers and frequency in this northeastern portion of the State at least, an increase due quite probably to the better protective laws now in force. The following notes briefly record its occurrence in a region where it has been absent for a number of years.

West Newbury, Mass., May 24, 1915, 5.30 A. M. While walking along a road in the open country I was attracted by the petulant cry of a Killdeer Plover, and in a moment discovered the bird flying low and coming toward me. He alighted about 60 yards distant in an open pasture, offering me a very good view, and an opportunity to identify him with certainty if his voice had not been sufficiently convincing. After a few moments of erratic running about in the open pasture he took flight in a southerly direction.

West Newbury, Mass., Sept. 6, 1915 — 3 P. M. Three Killdeer Plover noted flying northward at great heights, their unmistakable notes bespeaking their presence and identity.

West Newbury, Mass., Oct. 18, 1915 — 11 P. M. Hear the notes of Killdeer Plover overhead, presumably from several birds migrating.

Newburyport, Mass., May 5, 1916. Two Killdeers walking about on ploughed fields.

June 23, 1916. Probably the same birds seen again in the same field.

Jan. 24, 1916. About a half mile from the above mentioned field heard the notes of a Killdeer and on investigation found four adult birds, running about erratically and uneasily amid the sparse grass of the pasture. They allowed me, however, to approach quite closely and I had an excellent opportunity to observe their coloring. By an odd coincidence, in making my way back to the road, and about 300 yards from where the Killdeer were seen, I flushed three Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*). These last have been sufficiently scarce of late to make their occurrence interesting.

June 28, 1916. In the same locality as above mentioned, saw one Killdeer Plover.— S. W. BAILEY, *Pittsfield, Mass.*

Am. Orn. xxiv. Apr. 1917, p. 207-208.

Killdeers at Allen's Harbor, R. I.—From August 16, 1904, until September 11, I stayed at Allen's or Quidnessett Harbor, North Kingston, R. I., five miles east of East Greenwich. There I found in an open closely cattle-cropped field a flock of about a dozen Killdeers (*Oxyechus vociferus*). They inhabited this field where doubtless they bred, making frequent visits to the salt marshes about the harbor. Mourning Doves were common with them, visiting the cornfields instead of the marshes. A trustworthy farmer tells me that they have bred in the pasture for years commonly. He has often seen their young.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, Jr., *Concord, Mass.* *Auk*, 25 (1908), p. 485.

Connecticut, June, 1893.

1893

Regiaster vespera

June 17

a male flying low over a
 field landed a great while
 flapping his wings loosely &
 about, and uttering incessantly
 kill-de-ah, kill-de-ah, at least
 the first rose from the grass
 from a spot where he had once
 alighted. He remained & followed
 him for a little way when both
 alighted together, I have never heard
 this kill-de-ah cry before. Yesterday
 when this same pair followed me
 about they used only the autumn
 & winter cries ke-ē or ee-ē
 ke-ke-ke-ke. The voice shrill
 & rather hoarse. These birds do not
 seem to be abundant in
 the country but the kill-de-ah
 cry is heard in several places.

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Regiaster vespera

June 15³ heard in 16⁸² nesting in 17⁸² part in Saybrook
 " 18⁸² 19⁸² 20⁸²

Seen only in barren ⁸² country
 yesterday half a mile above the
 where at least two pairs were
 always to be heard. My journal
 contains a detailed account of their
 observation & of our fruitless effort
 to discover their nests. After our
 return Clark wrote me that
 he had found a female with
 young near his house in a
 gravelly hollow at the foot of a
 gravel bank. It would doubtless
 have been the same as the 9th
 which I saw on the 9th
 which must have been
 sitting at the time. In fact, I think
 the Killdeer according to Clark used
 to breed abundantly about Saybrook
 prior to the great flight which
 wintered there in 1885. Since
 that year they have been almost
 extinct.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

142. *Oxyechus vociferus* (Linn.) Reich. KILLDEER.—Occurs during the migrations.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 234

THE KILLDEER PLOVER. This bird is a common summer resident with us, arriving early in April and remains until most of our feathered tribe have sought warmer climes. In this locality it generally resorts to low wet pasture land, but occasionally is seen on the upland, especially in the "tussock" grass. It sometimes prefers to breed on higher ground. I found one nest last spring, May 23, in a pasture well up on high ground. The nest was placed against the roots of a dead Elm stump, and was composed of loose material, such as dead grass and stalks and twigs. After the manner of the Spotted Sandpiper, the nest contained three eggs, which were to my eye, the same in color and marking as those of the "Tipup," excepting they were larger. These Plover prefer to fly on rainy or wet days, and are hard to approach at such times, as they are shy and easily take wing. Many times when the water clouds darkened the heavens have I heard the Killdeer far up in the air uttering its plaintive cry. In the fall they resort to plowed fields and stubble, where they feed. On the discovery of its nest it endeavors to decoy away the intruder by feigning lameness, taking the inexperienced collector away from its home.—Benj. F. Hess, *Phoenix*, N. Y.

O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886, p. 16.

Proc. Linnaean Soc. of N. Y., 38-39

Mr. L. S. Foster spoke of an unusual flight of Killdeer Plover (*Aegialitis vocifera*) along the New England coast after the storm of November 27. Mr. Dutcher said that his men at the east end of Long Island reported large numbers of these birds early in December.

Auk, 6, Apr. 1889, p. 199.

Birds Tioga Co, N. Y. Alden Loring.

516. Killdeer Plover. Rare. But one of these birds has come under my observation.

O. & O., XV, June, 1890, p. 86

Notes on the birds of Madison County, New York, with especial reference to Embury's recent list.

3. *Aegialitis vocifera*. KILLDEER.—Given as a "very common summer resident." In the northeastern parts of the county the bird is rather uncommon, and it seems likely that its distribution is very local throughout.

By William R. Mason. *Auk*, XX, July, 1903, p. 263.

Ithaca, 72. W.

Oxyechus vociferus. KILLDEER.—On July 25, a flock of about 75 appeared. They continued common until Sept. 16 when the majority were frightened away. From the 16th of Sept. to Oct. 20 scattering flocks of from 3 to 50 appeared, so that they were never entirely absent from the beaches. The last record was made Oct. 27.

Auk 27, July-1910 p. 346

Curious Nesting Places.

Ernest B. Thompson, Hamilton, Ont.

The following brief notes may be of sufficient interest for publication in your valuable magazine, the O. & O. They struck me at the time as being instances of what singular places birds sometimes choose to breed in.

The first case was that of a Killdeer Plover, which I found breeding on the railway embankment at St. Clair, Ont., within two yards of the track, where trains were passing very often. There were four eggs in the nest, incubation well advanced.

O. & O. XIV. May. 1889 p. 77

Some of my Best Finds to June 8, 1892.
A. E. Kibbe.

May 5. Set of four Killdeer.

O. & O Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 133

Some of my Best Finds to June 8, 1892.
A. E. Kibbe.

May 10. Set of four Killdeer.

O. & O Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 133

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p. 14

A Killdeer Plover shot December 25, on Charles River, just out of Boston, by W. P. Coues.

997. *The American Killdeer Plover in Cornwall.* By Thomas Cornish. *Ibid.*, IX, March, 1885, p. 113.—A specimen of *Aegialitis vociferus* shot at Tresco, in the Scilly Islands, Jan. 15, 1885. *Zoologist*.

1946. *The Killdeer Plover.* By E. F. Gamble. *Zoologist's Exchange*, Vol. 1, No. 5
Vol. 31. Dec. 20. 1736. *Massachusetts Killdeer Plover.* By Hub. *Ibid.*, p. 437. *For. & Stream*.

Mountain Birds
of Arizona.

Aegialitis vociferus. KILLDEER.—Breeds in moist places up to 7000 feet. I cannot recall having seen it above that level. *Auk*, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 52.

AN UNUSUAL FLIGHT OF KILLDEER PLOVER
(*ÆGIALITIS VOCIFERA*) ALONG
THE NEW ENGLAND COAST.

BY DR. ARTHUR P. CHADBOURNE.

A VERY unusual flight of Killdeer Plover occurred along the New England coast in the latter part of November, 1888, and I have succeeded in collecting some data that may help to show from whence the birds came, and why they were found in certain places while only a short distance away they were absent or found in small numbers.

My data would have been far from satisfactory had it not been for the kindness of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Chief of the Division of Economic Ornithology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, who sent circulars to all the light-house keepers on the Atlantic coast, asking about the occurrence of Killdeer Plover in the fall of 1888, and to these reports I am largely indebted for what I have been able to find out about the flight in question. Where there seems to have been any doubt of the identity of the birds noted, the report has been excluded from the following list, and this has necessarily left out some places where the birds appeared in small numbers.

* "Le *p. Gairdneri* d'Audubon a exactement, d'après ce dernier auteur, les dimensions du *pubescens*, qui est plus grand que mon espèce nouvelle." —MALHERBE, *Monographie des Pécidécs etc.*, Vol. I, p. 126.

New England, but for years it has been very rare. The birds still breeds in Rhode Island, however, for Mr. Charles H. Lawton of Newport writes that "the Killdeer is quite plenty with us, but has

Remarkable Flight of Killdeer Plover.

On November 25th, the New England coast was visited by one of the most severe north-east storms that has occurred for a number of years; when for more than sixty hours the wind blew a gale from the east accompanied with rain, sleet, and dense fogs.

On the night of the 28th, the surfmen, while out on their patrol on the beach, heard the peculiar cry of a bird strange to them.

From their description of it I thought it that of the Killdeer, and during the early morning I saw two near the station and succeeded in capturing one. On going out on the beach soon after I found the birds very plenty, sometimes singly, and in pairs, but oftener in flocks from ten to twenty. They were very tame and seemed to be tired out, and instead of running out on the beaches looking for food they were in some sheltered place among the sand hills.

I shot twelve of them, and could have killed many more; those that I got were very poor in flesh, but all were adult birds.

They were very plenty on the beach for some four or five days, when they left as suddenly as they came; and from reports I have heard they were very plenty on all parts of the Cape, at this time. On December 1st I had occasion to go to the town of Harwich, and I found the birds in every old field, and even in the public roads, and without doubt they could be found at this time back at the uplands, but none were seen on the beaches after the fifth day of their first making their appearance.

The Killdeer is a very *rare* bird on this part of the cape. I have hunted on the beaches, flats and uplands for the past twenty-five years, and never saw but one of them before, which I shot in August, 1886.

While the Killdeer is somewhat irregular in its migratory habits, it is certainly not a maritime bird, and just why an easterly gale should bring them on the coast seems very strange, as certainly everything in this case points that way, not only the lateness of the season and the actions of the birds during their short stay, but by their having never been here during the past quarter of a century, in many numbers, and then immediately after the storm. Perhaps some of the many readers of the O. & O. can give us some information, if so, I should be pleased to see it in the columns of that paper at some future time.

On January 9th, I saw a pair on Monomoy Island, and on January 15th saw another pair

in about the same place, possibly may have been the same ones. On January 18th, saw a pair on Morris Island; since that time have not seen any in this vicinity, or heard of any being seen, and think them very rare if any. On February 3d, saw a *Least Tern*; it came by me within easy gun shot, and am very certain I could not have been mistaken as I have had a large experience with them, but never before saw one at this season of the year. We are having very good shooting, and have had all winter.

N. E. Gould.

Chatham Life Saving Station, Dec. 8, 1888.

On November 27th, during the severe north-east gale, twenty Killdeer Plover made their appearance at Hampton Beach, where I saw them nearly every day up to December 25th, on which date the last one was seen. They seemed to prefer the few acres of tillage land lying between high water mark and the vast extent of marsh, avoiding the latter place and the sandy beach. Single birds were seen frequently on the highway. On December 25th, rode past a Killdeer, who merely moved a few feet to one side in order to avoid the wheels of the carriage.

Four specimens that I secured were quite fat, showing that they had not been deprived of food for any length of time. In each instance the stomach contained a few small red beetles, sand fleas and a quantity of gravel.

This species being very rare here attracted considerable attention. One old fisherman remarked that he had not seen a flock of Killdeer before for more than a dozen years. It would be very interesting to know from whence they came and the cause of their being here so late in the season. I was glad to see reference made to this in the December O. & O., and think when the notes of observers in different localities are brought together much light will be shed on the subject.

S. Albert Shaw.

Hampton, N. H. O. & O. XIV. Mar. 1889 p. 44

Semipalmata

Aegialitis semipalmata.

Concord, Mass.

1893. There was a Ring-necked Plover above the Holt this morn-
May 27. ing, a bird which I do not remember to have seen on Concord
River before and which seldom occurs anywhere inland (i.e. in
New England) during the spring migration. He was ridiculously
tame.

Birds within Ten Miles of Point
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam.

83. *Ægialites semipalmatus*. RING-NECK. — Occurs in spring.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 238

New Brunswick Notes... Chamberlain.

In May a small flock of Ring-necked Plover (*Ægialites semipalmatus*) spent a few days near St. John; although ~~both of these~~ ^{this} species ~~is~~ ^{is} very abundant here for several weeks in the autumn ~~they have~~ ^{it has} not before been known to occur in the spring. Bull. N. O. C. 3, Jan, 1883, p. 9.

Birds of Magdalen Islands.
Dr. L. B. Bishop.

23. *Ægialitis semipalmata*. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER. — Tolerably common, breeding on the beaches not far from high-water mark.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 147

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador
by Henry B. Bigelow.

53. *Ægialitis semipalmata*. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER. — Very common; almost as much so as the Spotted Sandpipers. Nesting all along the coast.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 29.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

II

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 451.

110. *Ægialitis semipalmata*. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER. — Common migrant, May 12 to June 2 (latest June 6, 1895); Mr. Nash has records of adults July 5, 1890, and July 23, 1891; the young arrive in August (August 24 to 29). Latest records, September 10, 1892, and October 26, 1895.

Summer Residents on Southwest
Coast of Maine. T. H. Montgomery, Jr.

274. Semipalmated Plover. Common. Col-
lected specimens at Camden, Bobson's Island,
and North Haven.

Journal, Vol. Nov. 1890. p. 161

Aegialitis semipalmata. - ^{Num.} Aug. 15, 16 Rye Beach, N. H. 1866.

Rye Beach, N. H. 1867.

Aegialitis semipalmata. - Aug. 21, 25, 26. "Common during very heavy"

Aegialitis semipalmata. - ^{Large flock 3 just out of beach.} Aug. 14, 28 Rye Beach, N. H. 1868.

Rye Beach, N. H. 1871.

Aegialitis semipalmata. - ^{See '91.} July 28, 30; ^{11-7. 11-7. do. 9-7. 8-7. 11-7. 11-7. 4. 2 pairs} Aug 7, 8, 10, 15, 22, 25, 26, 30; Sept. 1

Aegialitis semipalmata. - ^{11-7.} July 26 Rye Beach, N. H. 1872.

Crawford Notch, New Hampshire.

3. *Aegialitis semipalmata*. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER.— On September 3, 1908, during a northeast rain storm a single bird in company with a Semipalmated Sandpiper remained for a few moments on a sand bar in Saco Lake. The bird was easily approached.

Auk 26, Oct-1908, p. 437.

E. Mass. 1884.
20 *Aegialitis semipalmata*, Nov. 17 ^{1 shot Hps. juv.} ₁₀₀₀₀₀₀

Birds new to the Vicinity of Frammingham,
Mass., which have appeared since the
construction of the Reservoirs on the
Sudbury River... F. C. Brown.

3. *Aegialites semipalmata*. Two obtained by a friend, Oct., 1880.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, April, 1881, p. 127

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Aegialitis semipalmata Bonap., Semipalmated Plover. Migrant, not common in spring or fall

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 139

Limicolae in Bristol County.
H. F. Dexter, Dartmouth, Mass.

Semipalmated Plover *Aegialites semipalmatus*. Fairly common in spring but does not tarry long with us at that season. It has been reported to breed with us, but the assertion is open to doubt. In the fall it occurs in large numbers, arriving by the first of August and remaining through September.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 147

Shore Birds of Cape Cod.
John C. Cahoon.

Semipalmated Plover, *Aegialitis semipalmata*, (Bonap.) "Ring-neck," on Cape Cod. A common spring and abundant summer migrant. Arrives from the south in the spring the last of April or the first of May, becoming common about the 21st of May, nearly have passed by June 1st. First comers arrive in the summer about the 12th of July, becoming common by the last of the month, and are most numerous through the month of August. They be-

gin to decrease about the first of September, and by the 28th nearly all have taken their departure. The spring arrivals and the adults in the summer and autumn are usually in pairs, but when the young commence to put in an appearance they are seen in small flocks by themselves, or in company with the Sandpipers. They go on to the mud and sand flats, sand bars and low beaches, where they feed on small shell fish and marine animals. As soon as the tide begins to flow over the flats, they fly to the high beaches to roost, in company with other Plover and Sandpipers. In the spring they are often seen on the salt marshes near the shore. There is no doubt but that it bred in former years on Monomoy Island in company with its paler relative, the Piping Plover, and Mr. Samuels, in his *Birds of New England*, speaks of a pair that he found with their nest in 1866 on Muskeget, an island off the Massachusetts coast. O. & O. XIII, Oct. 1888 p. 155

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Group is. Eschkiyu, G.H. Coues

53. *Ægialitis semipalmata*. RING-NECK. — Seen occasionally.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 32

Birds of Adirondack Region. Merriam.

190. *Ægialites semipalmatus*. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER; RING NECK.
— Abundant along Lake Champlain during the fall migration, arriving
about the middle of September.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct. 1882, p. 256

Ithaca, 72. 4/.

Ægialitis semipalmata. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER. — First appeared
July 23; common until the 16th of September; a last straggler Nov. 3.
This bird was poor in flesh and had probably been wounded.

Auk 27, July - 1910 p. 345.

Protective Coloration in the Genus *Ægialitis*.—To the protective colors which are usual among the shore birds I had always considered the neck and head markings of the genus *Ægialitis* a striking and curious exception, till a short time ago when looking at an *Æ. semipalmata*, which I had wounded, trying to hide by crouching in a hollow in the sand; and while admiring the perfect blending of its brown shades with the surroundings I saw in its white rings one of the commonest objects of the sea shore—the empty half of a bivalve shell. The white about the base of the bill was the 'hinge,' the collar the outer rim, and the top of the head the cavity of the shell, filled—as they usually are—with sand.

In the cabinet drawer the resemblance is not so noticeable, but such resemblances rarely are, and it was striking among the natural surroundings when I first observed it, and it is most perfect when the bird is crouching as it does in the presence of danger or when on its eggs. Not only are these shells found along the water's edge, but they are carried far above high-water mark by several agencies, and are common in such places as these birds breed in, their cavities discolored or filled with sand, their curved edges kept bright by exposure and friction. I now consider these beautiful markings a clear case of 'protective coloration.'—

WM. V. PRAEGER, Keokuk, Iowa. *Auk*, 8, April, 1891, p. 236

meloda

Actialitis meloda

1890 Mass

July 17 Martha's Vineyard. At Cape Poge pond heard them flour at intervals through the entire night flying about over the water. They are evidently quite as nocturnal as the larger species. On the beach this morning found several pairs that evidently had young. They went through the cripple performance in an unusually artistic way lying flat on the sand and beating their spread wings or fluttering slowly along apparently without using the feet at all.

Simulating

So realistic was ~~it~~ that the sympathetic terns repeatedly collected carcasses and hovered over them evidently taking them for wounded birds.

Carcasses

I looked closely for the young but could find none. Last night in the darkness and to-day when a pair were flying together I heard a peculiar low guttural chuckling call which is new to me. I also saw what appeared to be a love performance.

Courting

A bird, apparently a ♀, was standing on the beach when another which looked like a ♂ appeared and circled around her, flying very slowly with a quivering motion of the wings and with the tail spread to its widest possible extent, uttering meanwhile a peculiarly sweet plaintive whistling notes from either of the usual calls and repeated a dozen times or more in quick succession always on the same key.

Notes

It also gave the guttural chuckle or chatter mentioned above.

Brood by

" 18 Several young about $\frac{2}{3}$ grown feeding with parents on beach young near water's edge. The young looked even whiter than the old birds and seemed to have much white or whitish down scattered in patches among the sprouting feathers. As I approached in my canoe the young ran swiftly up the beach into the beach grass where they hid so effectually that I could not find one of them. While searching I was constantly followed by the parent birds who circled about me uttering the usual mellow call notes. Nesting, however, simulated carcasses.

young

Newfoundland.

Ægialitis meloda. PIPING PLOVER.—A pair was seen continually on the beach at the Crossing. Though I did not find their nest, they were evidently breeding and showed much anxiety at my presence when I crossed a certain portion of the beach. I believe this species has not been reported except as a migrant from this island. *R. Blake Howe Jr.*

Auk. XXX. Jan. 1913. p. 116.

New Brunswick Notes... C Hamberlain.

Piping Plover (*Ægialites melodus*) too were taken here last spring for the first time, though I am not certain that more than four specimens were observed. Two of these were shot by the Baron de Tuyll, and are now in the collection of the Natural History Society here.

Bull. N. O. C. 8, Jan, 1888, p. 9.

Birds of Magdalen Islands.
Dr. L. B. Bishop.

24. *Ægialitis meloda*. PIPING PLOVER. — More common than the last, and breeding in the same situations. Young fully fledged before the middle of July. On the sand bar, about half a mile long and a hundred yards wide, stretching between Grindstone and All Right Islands, two pairs of this species and three pairs of *Æ. semipalmata* were breeding. The Piping kept half of the beach to themselves, the Semipalmated taking the rest, neither species, as far as we were able to observe, ever venturing on the territory belonging to the other.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 147

Dwight, Summer Birds of
Prince Edward Island.

Ægialitis meloda. PIPING PLOVER. — Frequented the sandy or gravelly beaches in considerable numbers.

Auk X, Jan, 1893. p. 8

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 451-452.

111. *Ægialitis meloda*. PIPING PLOVER. — Regular migrant, not very common, May 16 to 24 (earliest May 1, 1891); and June 20 to 25.

Curiously enough all the old specimens in local collections are referable to *meloda*, and the last record is June 20, 1894; the first record of *circumcincta* is May 24, 1891, and all recent records belong to this form.

Aegialites meloda. - Aug. 18¹ Rye Beach, N. H. 1866.

Aegialites meloda. - Aug. 19^{2 shot B.} 28^{B. 1 shot.} Rye Beach, N. H. 1868.

Aegialites meloda. - July 26^{Gen. E. P.}; Aug. 15^{Gen.} Rye Beach, N. H. 1872.

1882 Aegialites meloda Rye Beach
N. H.

Aug. 14 ♀ shot.

" 21 2 ♂♂ "

1884

August 5

no 768 ♀ (shot by Gen. H. Lamb)

(Exp field coll. C. R. Lamb)

Mass. (Monomoy Island) Early arrival in Spring
1888

March "Piping Plover was on the island
when I arrived (the last of March)."

J. C. Cahoon letter Apr. 22/88.

Ægialitis meloda.

Notes on New England Birds-- J. H. Mackay.

4. *Ægialitis meloda*. PIPING PLOVER.—Taken at Nantucket as
early as April 14, 1878. Comm. by Brewer.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan, 1879, p. 63.

Limicolae in Bristol County.
H. F. Dexter, Dartmouth, Mass.

Piping Plover, *Aegialitis melodus*. More often observed in spring than the foregoing. A single instance of their breeding is given, a nest found on a small island off the coast, June 1883. In the autumn it is quite abundant at times, disappearing by the first of October.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 147

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Aegialitis meloda (Ord.), Piping Plover.
Summer resident, common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 139

Water Birds, Nantucket, Mass.
George H. Mackay.

General Notes.

Aegialitis meloda.—May 1, 1892, I saw one Piping Plover on the beach at the south head of the Hummuck Pond. On March 29, 1891, I saw one at the same place.

Auk 9, July, 1892. p. 306

General Notes.

Stray Notes from vicinity of Muskeget
Island, Mass. George H. Mackay.

Aegialitis meloda.—While walking along the shore of Muskeget Island, March 26, 1893, I saw a Piping Plover and heard it whistle. On the 29th I saw two near where I saw the first. These dates are earlier than I have before remarked.

Auk X. Oct. 1893 p. 370.

Early Record for the Piping Plover (*Aegialitis meloda*) in Rhode Island.—I have just obtained a Piping Plover which was taken on March 24 last by Mr. C. B. Clarke, a local taxidermist. The bird, which is a male in spring plumage, was shot on the Middletown marshes about three miles east of Newport. I believe this is the earliest spring record for the State.—LEROY KING, *Newport, R. I.*
Auk, XX, July, 1903, p. 305.

Bird Notes from Long Id. Wm. Dutcher

3. *Ægialites melodus* (Ord) Bp. PIPING PLOVER.—March 24, 1884, Mr. Newbold T. Lawrence, while at Shinnecock Bay, saw one of these Plovers which had been shot that day by a sportsman stopping at Capt. Lane's. Noted as an early date.

Auk, 2, Jan., 1885. p. 37.

Undescribed First Plumages, Brewster

116. *Ægialitis meloda*.

Autumnal plumage: female. Differs from the adult in having the black frontal crescent entirely wanting, the feathers upon the crown and back with ashy-brown centres, a broad white collar around the neck behind, and the band across the breast brownish or ashy-plumbeous, instead of black. From a specimen in my collection obtained at Nantucket, Mass., September 22, 1875. Mr. Ridgway's western variety of this species cannot possibly be maintained. A large proportion of our New England Coast specimens have the breast band continuous, and in several that I have examined it is as broadly so as in the supposed variety *circumcincta*.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 44.

Shore Birds of Cape Cod.
John C. Cahoon.

Piping Plover, *Egialitis melodia*, (Ord.) Pale Ring-neck, "Clam bird," or more commonly "Mourning Bird" on Cape Cod. A common summer resident. The first ones in the spring arrive at Monomoy Island from the 8th to the 10th of April, increasing until May 1st at which date the migration is at its height. They are usually in pairs when they arrive, and on Monomoy they commence to nest about the last of May or first of June. I have instances of their nesting as early as May 10th and as late as July 20th. Wherever I have found their eggs on Monomoy and other islands off the Cape, they have been laid on the bare sand on the high beaches above high water mark. The nest is usually a slight depression in the sand, but it is sometimes lined with small pieces of shells and sea weed. The eggs are usually four in number and the ground color is so near like that of the sand upon which they are deposited that it requires a sharp eye to discern them. Whenever a person approaches the vicinity of their nesting site, they resort to various devices to entice them away. They make a feint of being wounded by dropping one of their wings as if it was broken and fluttering along as if in great pain, and a person who has not seen this habit performed by other birds would be certain to be deceived. Another device is to alight on the beach a short distance from a person, then run along a few yards and crouch down, fluttering their wings and acting as if on their nest. They will remain in this position until the person approaches quite near them, when they jump up and run along and repeat the performance. The young, as soon as they

leave the eggs are able to run about on the beach and when discovered will try and make their escape by running away, but as soon as they are overtaken will crouch on the sand and will make no movement to get away, even when taken in the hand. When the old birds are nesting they seldom go out on to the flats to feed at low tide, but feed on tiny marine animals washed up by the surf and small insects found on the beaches. As soon as the young are full grown they are seen in small parties by themselves, or in company with the Semipalmated Plover on the flats, the old birds, however, being usually in pairs. The old birds commence to leave about the middle of August; the young linger several weeks longer and then they too start on their journey south. They run very swiftly and it is exceedingly hard work to catch one wounded. They alight and the very instant their feet touch the beach they are running along as fast as their propelling muscles can move them, with their heads drawn in close to the shoulders. The note of this bird is a soft plaintive whistle, quite prolonged, which is shortened when quickly repeated. It is from these mournful notes that it receives the appellation of "Mourning Bird." It was abundant in former years on the east part of the Cape from Chatham to Provincetown, but there has been a great decrease during the last five seasons.

O. & O. XIII. Oct. 1888 p. 155-6

The Salem Museum has lately
received a set of two eggs of the Sanderling.
The latter was collected on May 22, 1892,
by J. H. Sears, and named on his authority.
They were collected at Ipswich Beach
in the sand, and are probably the only
eggs of this species taken in this county,
at least.

Frank A. Brown.

I have seen
three eggs & found
that they are
unquestionably eggs
of the Piping Plover
(W. B. Dec. 1894)

O. & O. Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 140

(The eggs are now hatched, which were collected by me on Spill
island should read on a shell of a Red-tailed Tropicbird or
Reginulda meloda. Ringneck, I had reason to think that they
were Sanderlings Eggs when collected.) John H. Sears. (Letter Salem, Jan'y
29, 1902)

circumcineta

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

I:

By James H. Fleming.

¹ Auk, II, 1885. 335.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

² Auk, XIV, 1897. 412.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p.452.

112. *Ægialitis nivos*. SNOWY PLOVER.— Two records: one specimen taken by Mr. J. Foreman in May, 1880, was identified by Mr. Ernest Seton ¹ and has since been destroyed; the other is in the collection of Mr. J. H. Ames, and was taken July 6, 1897.²

Ægialitis meloda circumcincta on the Atlantic Coast.—During a recent hurried visit to the Museum of the College of New Jersey, at Princeton, N. J., I noticed, in looking over the beautifully mounted Scott collection of birds, two specimens, male and female, in adult spring plumage, of the Belted Piping Plover, taken by Mr. W. E. D. Scott at Long Beach, Barnegat Bay, N. J., in April, 1877. On referring to the series of skins two other specimens were found, taken at the same time and place as the above, in which the pectoral band was complete but narrow. The specimens first mentioned above have the pectoral band broad and continuous—typical representatives of var. *circumcincta*.

In the same collection I found also two skins of typical *circumcincta* taken by Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown, on the Scarborough marshes, near Portland, Maine, respectively May 17, 1878, and May 2, 1880. Thus in a series of thirteen specimens of the Piping Plover taken on the Atlantic Coast, contained in the Museum of Princeton College, four were typical of var. *circumcincta*. These specimens appear to have been unrecorded till briefly mentioned by me in the 'Additions and Corrections' to my 'Revised List of the Birds of Massachusetts,' recently published in the 'Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History,' Vol. I, No. 7.

Mr. Ridgway and Dr. Brewer (Water Birds of North America, Vol. I, 1884, pp. 161, 163) mention this variety as occasionally occurring along the Atlantic Coast, though mainly restricted to the Missouri River region. Mr. Cory (A Naturalist in the Magdalen Islands, 1878, p. 61), however, has recorded it as "abundant" in the Magdalen Islands, and judged it "possible that its range may extend to *Anticosti*, or even to *Labrador*," he believing that many of the migrants of this species he saw at the Magdalens came from further north.—J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, *New York City*.

Auk, 3, Oct., 1886. p. 482-83.

Note on *Ægialitis meloda circumcincta*.—In looking over the back numbers of 'The Auk' which have accumulated on my desk during my late long absence from America, I find a notice* of the occurrence of *Ægialitis meloda circumcincta* on the Atlantic coast, by Mr. J. A. Allen. Amongst other examples of this variety, Mr. Allen writes that he has examined "two skins of typical *circumcincta*" taken by myself in Scarborough, Maine.

It is proper for me to state that I had never made mention of these examples, for the reason that I doubted the validity of the so-called 'inland form.' The evidence of such Maine birds as have fallen into my hands is certainly against it. I cannot remember that I have ever seen more than three specimens, taken on the coast of Maine, in which the neck band was wholly interrupted in front; and while the band, when complete, is not always so broad as in the skins examined by Mr. Allen, it is often so. The two forms distinctly intergrade in Maine. According to Mr. Allen,† they come very near intergradation in New Jersey. One cannot help believing, from the numerous instances, published and unpublished, of the occurrence of *circumcincta* on the Atlantic coast, that the same thing may be true of other localities. All this, of course, is not enough to deprive the belted bird of its name; but it is perhaps enough to render its right to a separate name doubtful.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine*.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 79.

*Vol. III. p. 482.

†l. c.

The Belted Piping Plover in Massachusetts.—During a trip to Marshfield, Mass., on April 20, 1896, I started two small Plovers from a sandy beach. They were very wild and difficult to approach but after several attempts I managed to secure one of them.

The bird proved to be a male Belted Piping Plover (*Aegialitis meloda circumcincta*), the band across the breast being very dark and well marked. This is the first time I have met with this bird in the spring, although it occasionally occurs during the fall migration.—FOSTER H. BRACKETT, Boston, Mass.

Aegialitis
circumcincta On April 20, I shot a ♂ Belted Piping Plover at Marshfield Mass. It was with another bird but I was unable to secure but one. I do not recall any records for this bird in the spring, and the date strikes me as being quite early. Can you give me any information in regard to this species? I have sent notes to the (Foster H. Brackett letter May 12, 1896.)

CAPTURE OF *ÆGIALITIS MELODA* VAR. *CIRCUMCINCTA*, RIDG., ON LONG ISLAND. — While collecting April 30, 1873, on the outer beach, near Rockaway, Long Island, I shot several specimens of the Piping Plover. One, an adult male, had the pectoral band complete across the jugulum, a peculiarity I could not discover in any others. The band is unusually broad, curving anteriorly somewhat, and is slightly enlarged in the middle toward the throat, giving it the outline of a top of a shield, whereas in those specimens which have the markings on the neck *nearly* meeting, the lines converge to a point in an hour-glass shape. The dimensions are, $6.77 \times 14.25 \times 4.65$; tail, 2.10; bill, .55; tarsus, .90, male adult, agreeing in the main with Mr. Ridgway's type (breeding plumage, male adult, July 8, Loup Fork of the Platte, Am. Nat., VIII, 1874, 109) excepting length, which he gives as $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, which is much below the average. The same day I shot a female with just a faint line of dusky uniting the dark patches of the neck, formed by the edgings only of two or three feathers, all the way across. I doubt whether this should be regarded as the female of var. *circumcincta*, however. — C. H. EAGLE.

Bull. N.O.C. 3, April, 1878, p. 94

Auk, XIII, July, 1896, p. 256.

Discovery of the Eggs of the Belted Piping Plover.—As I am not aware that the nest and eggs of this species (*Aegialitis meloda circumcincta*) have been previously recorded, perhaps the following notes will be of interest to oölogists.

Mr. Oliver Spanner of Toronto after reading 'Bird Nesting in North West Canada' decided to make a trip to Lake Manitoba and while there secured eggs of this species. On June 19, 1895, he found a nest on Birch Island near the west shore of Lake Manitoba. The nest consisted of a depression in the sand lined with bits of drift weed, and contained three eggs which are similar to those of the common Piping Plover; the ground color is pale buff and they are finely spotted with black and purple gray, averaging in size 1.25×1.00 . Both eggs and skin of the parent are now in my collection. Mr. Spanner also obtained young birds in the down at the same time, and as he saw several pairs of these Plovers, together with solitary Sandpipers, no doubt these were nesting in the vicinity.

—W. RAINE, *Toronto, Canada.*

wilsonia

Podasocys
montanus

A New Record for New England.—This museum has obtained a specimen of the Mountain Plover (*Podasocys montanus* (Towns.)) taken at Chatham, Mass. It is an immature male and was shot on October 28 by Mr. A. E. Crowell. This bird was associated with some Black-breasted Plovers at the time.—W. SPRAGUE BROOKS, *Boston Society of Natural History*.

Auk. XXXIV. Jan. 1917 p. 86.

Wilson's Plover in Nova Scotia.—I shot on Brier Island, April 28, 1880, a female *Ochthodromus wilsonius*, and have the same in my collection. The wind was blowing very hard from the southeast, and I think carried the bird off the shore by and beyond her intended destination; at any rate she appeared tired, alighting directly on reaching the shore, resting a few moments, and then running to the edge of the water and bathing freely. After dressing her feathers she started along the beach in the direction in which I was sitting, a mistake not noticed by her until too late. I can find no record of the occurrence of this species so far north, therefore think its capture worthy of note.—N. S. Goss, *Topeka, Kansas*.

Auk, 2, April, 1885. p. 221-222.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

I

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Hypothetical List.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 453.

17. *Ochthodromus wilsonius*. WILSON'S PLOVER.—Prof. Hinks gives this species in his list, and a pair were sent to Paris; beyond this nothing is known.

Eastern Massachusetts

Ægialites wilsonius

1832-1835

Dr. Samuel Cabot tells me that during his early shooting experience in Massachusetts he killed two Wilson's Plover, on Cape Cod as nearly as he can remember. (I am not sure that the above dates given were an approximation to the true time.)

Distribution of New England Birds.-
A Reply to Dr. Brewer. H. A. Purdie.

(Records of Birds excluded by Dr. B. from his Catalogue.)

Ægialites wilsonius. WILSON'S PLOVER. — Allowing that this species has not yet been found in Massachusetts, we have: "Stratford," Conn., Linsley (l. c.). "Appears to be rather rare, and perhaps only occasional, as far north as Massachusetts. (Coes, l. c.) "Dr. Wood informs me that Wilson's Plover is abundant in August on Long Island, and Mr. Linsley has recorded it from Stratford, Conn. It hence seems unquestionable that they sometimes occur in Southern New England, and it would not be strange if they should occasionally reach the coast of Massachusetts." (Allen, Am. Nat., Vol. III, 1869.) "North to Long Island and Connecticut, probably to Massachusetts, but rare beyond New Jersey." (Coes, Birds of the Northwest.)

Bull. N. O. C. 2, Jan., 1877, p. 13

WILSON'S PLOVER (*Ægialites wilsonius*) IN NEW ENGLAND. — Mr. W. A. Stearns sends me a letter from Mr. Arthur S. Fiske, dated Gurnet, Conn., Aug. 22, 1877. "This morning I shot a bird of this species on the beach at the south of the hotel. It was alone, though there were several flocks of other Plovers near at hand. In note and actions it closely resembled the Piping Plover, but was larger and lighter colored. Capt. Hall called it the 'Pale Ring-neck,' and said he had seen it at the Gurnet before." The description given by Mr. Fiske (length 7.75 inches; bill fully 1 inch, black," etc.) leaves no doubt that the bird was Wilson's Plover. — ELLIOTT COES, *Washington, D. C.*

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Jan., 1882, p. 60

WILSON'S PLOVER ON LONG ISLAND, N. Y. — On May 28, 1879, at Good Ground, Suffolk Co., Long Island (Shinnecock Bay), I shot a female Wilson's Plover, *Ægialitis wilsonia*. It was identified and mounted by Mr. James Bell, who reported it very rare. He said it was about six years since one had been recorded as far north as Long Island. This specimen was in very poor flesh. — WM. DUTCHER, *New York City*.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Oct., 1879, p. 242.

WILSON'S PLOVER (*Ægialitis wilsonia*) ON LONG ISLAND. — On page 72, Vol. I, of this Bulletin, Mr. H. A. Purdie, in a criticism on Dr. Brewer's "Catalogue of Birds of New England," etc., says: "But does not previous record show that . . . *Ægialitis wilsonius* . . . can at least be retained as birds that have occurred here?" Dr. Brewer, on page 91, same volume, replies by saying "these names should remain on the list of those requiring more evidence." Mr. Purdie answers, on page 13, Vol. II, with proofs, among others the following, quoted from Mr. Allen: "Dr. Wood informs me that Wilson's Plover is abundant in August on Long Island." In Vol. IV, page 242, the writer records having shot a single specimen (female) on Long Island in May, 1879. A few facts regarding this occurrence may be of interest as proof of the rarity of this bird even there.

This specimen was secured while spending a few days at "Lane's" on Shinnecock Bay. His son George, who has been on the bay for nearly fifteen years, was in the blind with the writer the morning it was procured. The instant George saw it, he requested the writer to secure it, as he *had never seen such a bird*, and wished to examine it. After looking at it closely he was positive he had never seen one on the bay before. It was shown to an older son of Lane's, and to Lane himself, both of whom have been baymen from youth (the latter about forty years), and neither had ever seen a bird of this species before. They are unusually intelligent and observing gunners, and know every bird that is a common or even rare migrant or summer resident. On its being submitted to Mr. J. G. Bell, he identified it as "*Ægialitis wilsonia*, in summer plumage." It seems to the writer that the testimony offered is almost conclusive, as it is unbiased; the Lanes not knowing of the difference of opinion referred to above, nor in fact did the writer until a few weeks since, when he procured a complete set of the Bulletin. — WILLIAM DUTCHER, *New York City*.

Bull. N.O.C. 5, July, 1880, p. 187.

Long Island Bird Notes N. T. Lawrence

10. *Ochthodromus wilsonius*. WILSON'S PLOVER. — Mr. Harold Herrick secured a male of this species at Far Rockaway, May 17, 1879. Two others were seen by myself the same day but not secured.

Auk, 2, July, 1886, p. 273

Long Island Bird Notes. Wm. Dutcher

13. *Ægialitis wilsonia*. WILSON'S PLOVER. — Since the record I made in 1879* I have been able to secure only one specimen of this Plover on Long Island. May 16, 1884, Mr. G. A. Lane shot one at Shinnecock Bay, which he sent to me. It was a female and some of the ova were materially increased in size. It was in company with some Turnstones when shot. Nelson Verity, of South Oyster Bay, Queens Co., a professional gunner, recognized a description of this species and said that he had shot them at long intervals.

Auk, 3, Oct., 1886, p. 438-39.

* Bull. N.O.C. Vol. IV p. 242.

Proc. Linnæan Soc. of N. Y. 88-89

Mr. William Dutcher reported the capture of a Wilson's Plover (*Ægialitis wilsonia*) several years ago on Long Island. He read a letter from Mr. George Lane, an intelligent and observant gunner from the same locality, stating that about two weeks ago he had seen a bunch of these birds bound east.

Auk, 3, Apr., 1889, p. 196.

Charleston, South Carolina.

Regiaster wilsonii

1885

May 6

Shot three pairs on Sullivan's Island, all that I could find there. A pair would usually be first seen sitting erect, close together, and motionless on some sand-keel. When approached they would run on ahead making wonderful trim over the smooth sand and rarely flying until slowly pursued. They commonly advanced thirty to forty yards at each run pausing a moment before starting again. Of the two females shot on

was laying, the other about
to begin.

Then blown on blunt
beaks. Think on the ground
absolutely so, but on flying
post (and that in the air)
uttered a jukle zek, zek
somewhat like the note
of Tringa bonapartei.
Those examined were not
at all fat.

At low tide several
were seen on the wet
beach.

Vanellus
vanellus

Remarkable Ornithological Occurrences
in Nova Scotia.

LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*).—On March 17, 1897, one of these birds was found, dead, on the sandy shore of Ketch Harbour, near Halifax. I examined the bird before it was skinned. Death had evidently been largely caused by starvation, as the body was very thin. The occurrence of this European bird upon our coast is most remarkable. It is perhaps doubtful if there is another well-authenticated record of the capture of the bird in temperate America, for Mr. Ridgway queries "Long Island" in the list of localities given in his 'Manual.' There cannot be the slightest doubt about the identification of the present specimen.

Auk, XV, April, 1898, pp. 195-6. Harry Piers, Halifax, N.S.

Occurrence of the Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) and the Turkey Buzzard (*Cathartes aura*) in Newfoundland.—Dr. R. R. McLeod of Brookfield, Nova Scotia, has been kind enough to place at my disposal some brief notes relating to the recent capture in Newfoundland of a Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) and a Turkey Buzzard (*Cathartes aura*). The data just mentioned consist (1) of extracts copied by Dr. McLeod from a manuscript letter addressed to him by "the Editor of the St. Johns [Newfoundland] 'Evening Herald,' Mr. Forneaux"; (2) of a newspaper clipping bearing neither title nor date, but with the letters "J. E. F." inscribed in pencil on the margin; (3) of a printed letter signed and dated "James P. Howley, November 27, 1905." As the "J. E. F." clipping contains several sentences closely similar in expression, as well as thought to some of those in the letter written to Dr. McLeod, I assume that the initials just quoted represent the name J. E. Forneaux and that the account to which they are appended was written by him for the St. Johns 'Herald.' The letter by Mr. Howley is printed on paper of a different quality and color. It was apparently taken from some daily newspaper and, no doubt, from one also published in Newfoundland.

Mr. Forneaux writes to Dr. McLeod that "the wanton lapwing" was shot on the 23d of November, 1905, and the Buzzard a few weeks before. I handled the lapwing and it was in excellent condition, being quite plump and its beautiful plumage scarcely ruffled. It was killed about a mile inland from the sea-shore, making its way south, just outside the city limits. Does it not seem the 'irony of Fate' that the brave little traveller that had come so far through storm and tempest should fly right over a man behind a gun and fall a victim to his unerring aim. He was probably the only hunter in a vicinity that covers many miles of country. Both birds will be mounted and placed in the museum in charge of Mr. J. P. Howley." In his newspaper account "J. E. F." says that the locality where the Lapwing was killed is "in the vicinity of the White Hills."

Mr. Howley states that the Turkey Buzzard "was shot by Mr. Jocelyn near Renew's, not far from the whale factory at Aquaforte." "Can it be possible," he asks, "that it has been attracted by the whale offal floating southward on the bosom of the Arctic current, and has it followed up the scent to locate the origin thereof?" The Lapwing, he says, was "submitted to me by Mr. Wm. Clapp, M. H. A., who shot it near Quidi Vidi." Mr. Howley thinks it "almost impossible that this bird could have come direct across the Atlantic from its European home" and he is "inclined to believe it may have been up somewhere in Greenland or Iceland," and "been driven westward by the prevalence of strong gales of easterly and northeast winds." -- WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

Auk, XXI, Apr., 1906, p. 221

The European Lapwing on Long Island, N. Y.—A European Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) was shot late last fall on the grounds of Dr. Eagleton, Meccox Bay, Watermills, Long Island. The bird was in good plumage and health.—C. WILLIAM BEEBE, *New York Zoological Park, New York City.*

Ibid., XXIII, Apr., 1906, p. 221.