

hudsonicus

SB 97A19 (47)

v. 53

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

Numenius hudsonicus, Hudsonian Curlew.
Not a rare August migrant.

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

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

99. *Numenius hudsonicus*. HUDSONIAN CURLEW.—Rather rare. Mr.
Comeau has shot it in August.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct, 1882, p. 239

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

Numenius hudsonicus. HUDSONIAN CURLEW.—One seen at
Ingonish.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

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By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

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

105. *Numenius hudsonicus*. HUDSONIAN CURLEW.—Regular mi-
grant, not uncommon, May 27 to June 2; the old birds return early in July
(July 4, 1904, July 17, 1906), and the young from September 1 to 15, but
are very rare.

A Peculiar Hudsonian Curlew.— I had supposed that a Curlew with a bill less than 3 inches in length might safely be put down as an Eskimo, but it seems that this is not the case. A bird was shot at Northeast Harbor, Me., September 5, 1912, by Mr. Lynford Biddle of Philadelphia, which was supposed by several persons who saw it in the taxidermist's shop to be an Eskimo Curlew. Upon writing to Mr. Biddle for information he very kindly presented the specimen to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. It proved, as he himself had determined it, to be a Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus*) but with the bill, which appeared perfectly normal in other respects, only 2.25 inches in length. This is three quarters of an inch shorter than the minimum given in Ridgway's 'Manual,' and exactly equals the minimum for the Eskimo Curlew. This incident emphasizes the importance of making a careful examination of supposed Eskimo Curlews and not depending too much upon bill measurements.— WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

Ank 30, April, 1913. p. 270.

Rye Beach, N. H. 1866.

Numerius hudsonicus. - Aug. 16, 22³⁰⁰

Rye Beach, N. H. 1871.

2. (shot) B.

50 *Numerius hudsonicus*. - Sept. 2

3 flocks

Numerius hudsonicus. - Aug. 6, 9, 15, 17 Rye Beach, N. H. 1872.

Monomoy Isl. Notes.
J. C. Cahoon

Two Hud-
sonian Curlew were seen early in April, and

O. & O. XV. May. 1890. p. 66-67.

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

Numenius hudsonicus.—A Hudsonian Curlew was seen on or about April 10, 1892 (I cannot fix the exact date), flying towards the west. It had probably been here for several days.

Auk 9, July. 1892. p. 306.

General Notes.

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

Numenius hudsonicus.—Nantucket Island, July 17, 1893. The first Jack Curlew were observed today. They were at the western extremity of the island. Two birds were seen first, and soon afterwards twenty-two more. On the 23d two birds were seen towards the western, and twenty-four towards the eastern part of the island, and I lean to the opinion that they are the same birds noted on the 17th.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*
Auk X, Oct. 1893 p. 370-71.

General Notes.

Numenius hudsonicus.—Nantucket, July 23, 1894. The first Hudsonian Curlew, or 'Jacks,' this season were seen to-day,—nine birds on Eel Point. They were again observed at the same place on July 29. There are fewer here this season than usual—in fact I have never known so small a number.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Auk XII. Jan. 1895 p. 77

Shore Birds of Cape Cod.
John C. Cahoon.

Hudsonian Curlew, *Numenius Hudsonicus*, (Lath.) Jack Curlew on Cape Cod. A tolerable common spring and a common summer migrant. It arrives singly or in pairs from the middle to the last of May. It does not seem to be in a hurry to continue its journey and remains later, with few exceptions, than any of the other shore birds. I find in my note-book of 1885 that a pair arrived at Monomoy Island June 3rd and stopped until June 23rd. I saw these birds nearly every day during that period, as they "tended" quite regularly certain locations on the flats and beaches. In the summer this bird makes an appearance by the 15th of July and is quite common by the last week of that month or first in August. It is the most common between the 6th and 28th of September, as during this period the flights occur. It is, however, irregular in its appearance. In coloration and habits it shows a great resemblance to its long-billed relative, *N. longirostris*. It is considerably smaller and its bill is only half as long. This species frequents low beaches and bars, devouring flies, sand fleas and other insects which it finds about the bunches of seaweed thrown up by the tide and wind, and is often seen about the edges of the

sedge grass on the sand and mud flats feeding on marine worms, shell fish and small fiddler crabs. It goes on to the salt marshes adjoining the beaches or flats to rest and feed during the greater part of the flood, and the first of the ebb tide. On the marshes it feeds on snails, grasshoppers and black crickets, which are numerous at these places. Although not a wary bird, in the summer and autumn it flies high, and its notes not being easy to imitate, a small number only are taken. I have, quite a number of different times, shot individuals on the flats by walking boldly up towards them until within shooting distance, being in plain sight of them while approaching. I have a pair of adult birds in my cabinet that were secured in this manner on "Brewster Flats," in August, 1883. p. 53—O. & O. XIII. Oct. 1888 p. 4

Some Birds of Unusual Occurrence
in Orleans Co., N.Y.

Numenius hudsonicus. HUDSONIAN CURLEW.—One taken from a flock of Killdeers in September, 1897, near Murray, by Mr. F. A. Macomber of that place. Now in his collection.

Neil F. Posson,
Medina, N.Y. *Auk*, XVI, April, 1899, pp. 193-6.

Bird News from Central New York.—In the three years which have elapsed since my last communication to 'The Auk' I have been able to add three new species to our list of Oneida County Birds, which with *Icteria virens*, recorded by Mr. W. J. B. Williams on page 331 of Vol. XV, bring the total for our vicinity up to 247. These three are:

Numenius hudsonicus. HUDSONIAN CURLEW.—A specimen of this bird, sex unknown, was shot on Verona Beach, Oneida Lake, by Egbert Bagg, Jr., Sept. 5, 1899.

Egbert Bagg, Utica, N.Y.
Auk, XVII, April, 1900, p. 177.

Hudsonian Curlew on Long Island in Winter.—On the evening of December 24, 1912, during a heavy snow and wind storm, a Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus*) was found in an exhausted condition in the backyard of an apartment house at Rockaway Beach, Long Island. After spending the night in a basket it recovered sufficiently to fly away at seven-thirty o'clock the following morning. The owner of the house who discovered the bird would not allow it to be taken but it was identified beyond question.

I have not been able to find any previous record of the occurrence of *Numenius hudsonicus* at this time of the year on Long Island.—CHARLOTTE BOGARDUS, Coxsackie, New York. *Auk* 30, April, 1913, p. 270.

Albinistic Plumages. R. Deane.

35. *Numenius hudsonicus*. HUDSONIAN CURLEW.— A specimen
in the Derby Museum, Liverpool, England (*Merrill*).

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

For note on Esquimo Curlew see Golden
Plumage under migration note by
S. Frank. Dexter.

Q. + Q. 1X. Oct. 1884. p. 127.

HABITS OF THE HUDSONIAN CURLEW IN MASSACHUSETTS.

BY GEORGE H. MACKAY.

OF THE various shore birds which are visitants to New England during migration the most difficult to take, on account of its extreme vigilance, is the Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius hud-*

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being too shy and too limited in number to make it any object, either for gain or for pleasure. During these seventeen years there have never been more than one hundred birds on an average living on the above islands each year, and for the past few years I have noticed a falling off from this number. Many of them have, I think, passed one or more summers on these islands, for they appear about the same date and in the same numbers, frequenting the identical localities, and flying from place to place in about the same manner. Thirty-five years or more ago there used to be many more than at present, and according to a reliable account there were some fifteen hundred birds, during the summer of 1833, living on the two islands.

They were apparently as shy then as now, for even then it was considered essential in order to take them to mortise a hole in the ground for concealment in the locality which they frequented or passed over, care being taken to remove the soil taken out to some distance in a wagon in order that the place might appear perfectly natural. Stands were dug in the centre of a clump of bushes, as being less noticeable. In times past, on Cape Cod, I have used a hogshead, sunken level with the marsh, from which to shoot them, but even under such conditions I never secured more than nine in one day, and that only once. The Hudsonian Curlew is a very observing bird and perceives at once anything strange and out of harmony with the natural surroundings of any locality which it has been in the habit of frequenting, and in order to get a flock up to the decoys considerable care must be exercised. Single birds or pairs will, however, decoy fairly well if they have not been harassed. These birds have a way of setting their wings stationary and sailing, when headed for the decoys, at a distance of one hundred yards or more, the flock

borealis

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

98. *Numenius borealis*. ESKIMO CURLEW. — Common in August and September.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 239

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

Sundry Notes. — New London, Prince Edwards Island, Sept. 1, 1872. Mr. William Everett of Dorchester, Massachusetts, saw to-day a flock of about fifty Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) which had that day landed in a field where a man was ploughing. This man informed him that they were very tame and had been following the furrows picking up and eating earth-worms. This Mr. Everett saw them do, after which he shot fifteen by walking up to them. On examination he found that all those shot were poor, having no fat. *George H. Mackay, Nantucket, Mass.*

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

50. *Numenius borealis*. ESKIMO CURLEW. — The Eskimo Curlew are hardly a remnant of their former numbers. I made careful inquiries among the settlers, and obtained the following rather interesting information: (1) The curlew remained in all their former numbers, in spite of the persecution to which they were subjected, until eight years ago. (2) They then appeared no more. I heard of only about a dozen, which were seen on the coast this fall. Of these I saw five.

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

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

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

106. *Numenius borealis*. ESKIMO CURLEW. — There are two specimens, said to have been taken on Toronto Island in 1864, in the museum of the Geological Survey at Ottawa; the authority is Mr. S. Herring, who mounted the birds. The Eskimo Curlew can never have been more than accidental on Lake Ontario. I have carefully examined all the material available, and have so far found only two more records, one in the McIlwraith collection taken at Hamilton,¹ I think an adult; the other was taken at Wolf Island, near Kingston, Ont., October 10, 1873, and is marked "female." I think it is a young bird; it is now in the British Museum.

¹ McIlwraith, Birds of Ontario, 1894, 160.

Hog Island, Hancock Co. Maine.

A Recent Record for the Eskimo Curlew. — On November 22, while at the University of Maine, I noticed among the accessions to the Museum a very fine specimen of the Eskimo Curlew which had been recently mounted. This bird is a male and was taken at Hog Island, Hancock County, Maine, on September 2, 1909, by Mr. Cyrus S. Winch, the taxidermist for the University. This is the first record of the species along the Maine coast for several years. Mr. Winch also had a Hudsonian Curlew taken at the same locality by a fisherman a day or so before he arrived there. — ORA WILLIS KNIGHT, Bangor, Me.

Auk 27, Jan - 1910 p. 79

Numenius borealis.

Nantucket, Mass.

1878. Near the sough shore on the smooth turf we found a flock
Aug.30. of eleven feeding, but they were too shy to be approached.

The Eskimo Curlew has of late years been far from plentiful on Cape Cod. There was quite a flight of them and Golden Plover on the afternoon of the first Sunday in September. The boys had to resort to a vigorous singing of psalm tunes to keep from popping at them.

O. & O. XII. Oct. 1888 p 160

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

Eskimo Curlew, *Numenius borealis*. Rarely seen; two instances have been recorded, Sep. 18th, 1881 (Dexter) and Sep. 21st, 1883 (Miller).

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 148

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

Numenius borealis (Forst.), Eskimo Curlew.
Migrant, rare.

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

General Notes

The Migration of *Numenius borealis* in Massachusetts in 1892. — Although there was at the right time considerable weather sufficiently severe to deflect and land Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*), either it was insufficient to cause a like result on such powerful fliers as Eskimo Curlews, or none were passing our coast at the time. I have consequently but a meagre record to present. At Nantucket on the afternoon and during the night of Aug. 26, it blew hard (at rate of 37 miles an hour) with rain. On the next day two birds were shot, two were seen also on Tuckernuck Island; these were the first birds of the season. None were seen between this date and Sept. 1, when one rather lean bird was shot; the wind was west to north, a fresh breeze, late in the afternoon it backed to northeast. My next record was on Sept. 6 when five birds were shot on Tuckernuck Island, and three seen and one shot on Nantucket. No more were noted until Sept. 15, on which date three were seen and one killed on Nantucket. On the afternoon of the 14th the wind was strong, southeast, increasing to rate of 35 miles an hour at midnight, with hard rain. Towards morning of the 15th the wind changed to northwest, a light breeze. These instances cover all the birds noted during the entire season on the above islands. Mr. William Everett of Dorchester, Mass., who visits Prince Edward Island regularly every year, informs me that seven Eskimo Curlew were shot at Alberton, and one at Darnley, on or about Aug. 28, which were all that he heard of during the entire season. — GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Auk X, Jan, 1893, p. 79.

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 hacking 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 1898 Migration of the Golden Plover
(*Charadrius dominicus*) and Eskimo Curlew
(*Numenius borealis*) in Massachusetts.

George H. Mackay, Nantucket, Mass.

Auk, XVI, Apr. 1899, p. 180.

See under Charadrius dominicus.

Shore Birds of Cape Cod.
John C. Cahoon.

Eskimo Curlew, *Numenius borealis*, (Forst.)
Dough-bird on Cape Cod. A rare spring and common summer and fall migrant. The bird rarely, if ever, visits the Cape in the spring and I do not know of one instance of its being taken or seen. This is one of the birds that is the most irregular in appearance on our coast. It is seen at intervals from July 15th to October 1st. The occurrence of this bird in any great numbers depends entirely upon the wind and weather, for if we have a heavy gale from the east or south-east of a few day's duration during the latter part of August, or in September, we are sure to have one or more flocks stop. As soon as the wind shifts about so as to be favorable for their southward migration most of the number will depart but a few individuals will remain for a considerable length of time. There were a great many flocks of these birds, in company with Golden Plover, passed over the Cape in the latter part of August, 1883. I saw large flocks high in the air flying in over the land in a south-easterly direction at Brewster. I learned of quite a number of Eskimo Curlews being taken at Eastham, Orleans, and other localities at this same date. In September of the same year I found them common on Monomoy Island, and heard of their being so at Chatham. Since that time there have been no flights of any consequence, and for the past three seasons they have been quite scarce. They frequent old fields and pastures, often several miles from the shore, and feed on berries, grasshoppers, crickets and other insects. They occasionally go on to the dry salt marshes and there too they find an abundance of grasshoppers and insects. On Monomoy Island they are found on the sand hills about the gray moss that covers a large portion of the Island. I

have a specimen that was shot out of a flock of Sandpipers on the dry sand beach at Monomoy Island Sept. 10, 1887. Like the other Curlews, they fly high and swiftly, their wings moving with great rapidity, and the flock usually takes the form of the letter V in flying, thus resembling some of our water fowl. While in the air they keep up a continual whistling, which is not as loud as the Hudsonian. Many writers give the name by which this bird is known in New England as "Doe-bird." It should be written "Dough-bird," which does not change the sound. The reason that it is called by this appellation is on account of its fatness, which give a soft and yielding feeling, like dough upon handling. They are well flavored and being very fat and of good size, command a price nearly double that of any other shore bird. Gunners realize as much profit from these birds in several day's shooting, when they are plenty, as they do in a season's shooting of other birds.

Numenius borealis (Forst.).

1885-95.
September.

Eskimo Curlew.

Brighton, Mass.

Since the publication of my "Birds of the Cambridge Region", I have learned of the capture of an Eskimo Curlew in the marshes on the Brighton side of Charles River, about opposite the Cambridge Cemetery. This bird was shot early in September, a number of years ago, by Mr. Wm. D. Gooch. Unfortunately it was not preserved, but it was examined, soon after it had been killed, by Mr. George N. Lamb who unhesitatingly pronounced it to be a 'Doe-bird'. Although not, like his brother Charles, a trained ornithologist, Mr. George Lamb has had large experience as a sportsman, especially with the waders and water-fowl which frequent the coast of New England. At the time of examining Mr. Gooch's bird he was perfectly familiar with the points of difference between the Eskimo and Hudsonian Curlews, having repeatedly killed both species during shooting excursions to Cape Cod. In view of these facts I am inclined to place full reliance in the correctness of his identification of the Curlew obtained in the Long-fellow marshes. Mr. Gooch has no record of the date of its capture, but he remembers distinctly that he shot it on a 'Labor Day', and that the weather was "thick" at the time. He is equally sure that the year was not later than 1895, nor earlier than 1885. All this I learn from Mr. Charles R. Lamb - on February 17, 1907.

William Brewster.

Newburyport, Mass.

Eskimo Curlew taken at Newburyport, Mass.— I purchased of Mr. John Hardy of the Boston Market, a male Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) taken at Newburyport, Mass., by A. B. Thomas, August 27, 1908. He shot two, but the other bird had its head so badly shot that it could not be made into a skin.— JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*

Ank 20, Jan-1909, p. 77.

Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) in Massachusetts.— On September 5, 1913, an Eskimo Curlew was taken on the marsh at East Orleans, Mass., by Mr. John Greenough Rogers.

The bird was alone and when taken the weather was thick and raining with an east wind, and since the afternoon of the day before the wind had been northeast to east with rain most of the time.

After the bird was shot, what appeared like hardened whitish grease formed at the nostrils. The centre feathers of the under tail-coverts and the under sides of the ends of the tail feathers were stained a purple color. There was nothing in the stomach but the bird was very fat.

The specimen was preserved and is now in my collection.— CHARLES R. LAMB, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Ank 30, Oct, 1913, p. 581.

14. *Numenius borealis*. ESKIMO CURLEW.—During a period of about twelve years' Bay Snipe shooting at Far Rockaway and vicinity, I have only four records of this bird,— one September 12, 1875, one September 10, 1876, and two September 26, 1884.

Auk, 2, July, 1885. p. 273

Notes concerning certain Birds of Long Isl.,

Numenius borealis. A bird of this species (♂) was shot at Rockaway N. Y. Beach Sept. 14, 1902, by Mr. Robt. L. Peavey of Brooklyn and is now in his collection of mounted birds, and has been examined by the writer. Mr. W. F. Hendrickson in a recent communication to Mr. William Dutcher referred to a strange bird which was shot from a flock of about fifteen as they were passing along the beach, near Zach's Inlet Life Saving Station on August 29, 1903. From the description furnished Mr. Dutcher was inclined to believe the bird one of this species and referred the matter to me for investigation. The captain of the life saving crew, Philip K. Chichester, who saw the bird, is certain the bird was an "English Fute," that is, an Eskimo Curlew. The life-saver is an old-time gunner who in former times saw the bird in much greater numbers than it is now known to occur anywhere. There seems to me no reasonable doubt that this bird, which unfortunately was promptly plucked and eaten, was also a specimen of the Eskimo Curlew.

William C. Braislin, M. D., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Auk, XXI, Jan., 1904, p. 289.

A Correction: Concerning the Occurrence of *Numenius borealis* on Long Island.— In 'The Auk,' XXI, 1904, p. 289, two specimens of the Eskimo Curlew were erroneously recorded from Long Island. Both were evidently the young of the Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus*). That reported as in the collection of Mr. Robt. L. Peavey is certainly this species. The bill of this curlew was under 3 inches in length and it was carelessly referred to *borealis*. The elimination of these records apparently shifts the date of the last known occurrence of this species on Long Island to September 26, 1884, when two were killed at The Rockaway by Mr. Newbold T. Lawrence (Auk, II, 1885, p. 273).— WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN M. D., Brooklyn, N. Y. Auk, 24, July, 1907, p. 341

Long Island.

Eskimo Curlew.— It is rather with a sense of reluctance that I send the following record, knowing the suspicion which is bound to arise but, being an enthusiastic gunner myself, I think it may prove of some interest to that very small body of ornithologists who know anything about shore birds. The record is that of the much discussed Eskimo Curlew. It is only within the last year that I realized that this species was nearing extinction. Such a blunder, however, I consider excusable when I take up any recent text-book or list and find this species still mentioned as our most abundant curlew. I understand, however, that the last record of this species from Long Island was in 1884, or 26 years ago. It seems incredible that for 20 years the absence of this species should have passed without remark, unless it be explained, as the present record must be, on the grounds that every gunner supposed these birds were common enough but that he had never happened to see one.

In 'The Auk,' Vol. XXI, p. 79, I recorded a flight of Hudsonian Godwit on the 31st day of August, 1903. That was the morning after a heavy three days' storm, and on that day a friend of mine, an experienced gunner, shot an Eskimo Curlew at Quogue, L. I. I paid small attention to it at the time, believing it to be a fairly common bird. There can be little doubt that this record is correct. I understand that the record in 'The Auk,' Vol. XXI, p. 289, of a bird of this species shot on Sept. 14, 1902 is incorrect. However, it is a strange coincidence that Dr. Braislin, on the same page, refers to one shot from a flock of about 15 as they were passing along the beach, near Zach's Inlet on August 29, 1903. The storm continued on August 30, clearing on the 31st, when the flight above noted took place at Quogue, the birds coming from the west. Zach's Inlet is about 40-50 miles west of Quogue, so that it would seem that Dr. Braislin's record and mine would fit in rather well together. There seems to me no doubt that this bird was a specimen of the Eskimo Curlew.— FREDERICK WM. KOBBE, New York City.

Auk 28, Jan-1911, p. 110.

Auk, XIV. Apr., 1897, pp. 212-4.

Numenius borealis.

The 1896 Migration of Charadrius dominicus and Numenius borealis in Massachusetts.

George H. Mackay, Nantucket, Mass.

See under Charadrius dominicus.

Auk, XV, Jan., 1898, pp. 52-3.

Numenius borealis.

The 1897 Migration of the Golden Plover (Charadrius dominicus) and the Eskimo Curlew (Numenius borealis) in Massachusetts.

George H. Mackay, Nantucket, Mass.

See under Charadrius dominicus.

Eskimo Curlew in Massachusetts.— I am informed by Mr. E. H. Ives of Boston that a flock of about fifty Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) was seen last spring (May 17, 1916) at Chub-Head Sands, near the mouth of the Rowley River between the towns of Ipswich and Rowley, Mass.

A letter to Mr. Ives from J. E. Short (not dated) says, "I should say there were fifty of them — they stayed around two days. Charles Bartlett saw them (also) and he said he had n't seen any for 15 years."

Both Short and Bartlett are "clammers" and have been experienced shore-bird gunners in the past. Mr. Ives has talked with both these men and others at Rowley and feels certain that there was no mistake in identification.— JOHN C. PHILLIPS, Wenham, Mass.

Auk xxxiii. Oct. 1916. p. 434.

Ermeretor petrifacalis

Cambridge, Mass
September 27, 1880

While walking in Cambridge this evening I heard a great flock of "Peeps" passing overhead. Judging from the confused chorus of faint whistles that came down from the gloomy heavens there must have been hundreds of white throats forming in the chorus as their usual speed softly subsided. I heard no voices of other birds in the flock. The night was cloudy and dark but signs of a coming storm

Numenius borealis

Early fall arrival.

Saunders, Mass.
Aug. 5, 1882

Mr. Gordon Peummer has identified a bird of this species which was killed in a pasture at about this time & place. He considers the date unusually early, and, according to his experience, the bulk of the flight passes between Aug. 29 and Sept. 3. In some seasons the "Dough-birds" are abundant; in others, scarce. They go in large flock - fifty or more while he has never seen more than six or eight N. hudsonicus together. The

Mass (Cape Cod)

Numenius borealis

1888

Sept.

Whiting & Cahoon report the largest flight for years at Chatham. Most of the birds passed in one afternoon. They were in flocks mixed with Plover (C. virginicus).

At North Ferris G. S. Miller Jr. saw several large flocks in one day. When in company with the Plover as they usually are they are led off by these shy companions but when alone or in flocks of their own kind solely they are tame & easily shot (Miller)

Eskimo Curlews are often
seen during heavy thunder
showers which have been
in on the land as the
quinners say.

[All the above on Mr. Plummer's
authority I have never shot,
nor were certainly recognized,
A. borealis in N. E.]

Eremias petroica

Cambridge Mass
September 27 1880

While walking in Cambridge this
evening I heard a great flock of "Ereps"
calling overhead. Judging from the
confused chorus of trut truts that
came down from the gloomy heavens
there must have been hundreds of
birds throats joining in the chorus
as their usual trud trut trud trud
I heard no voice of other birds in
the flock. The night was cloudy and
dark but sign of a coming storm

HABITS OF THE ESKIMO CURLEW (*NUMENIUS BOREALIS*) IN NEW ENGLAND.

BY GEORGE H. MACKAY.

FROM the shores of the Arctic Ocean, where they breed, to Patagonia, where they probably winter (Ibis, 1878, page 404), is a journey of seven thousand miles; yet the Eskimo Curlews, familiarly known as Doughbirds, compass it every year on their migrations. Starting from the far north after incubation is over, the older birds, which are then generally lean and in poor condition, commence to straggle down in small parties until about the first of August they reach Labrador, where they remain, with constantly increasing numbers, for about three weeks, becoming extremely fat upon the berries of the *Empetrum nigrum* (known as curlew-berry, crow-berry or bear-berry) to which they are particularly partial.

About the twenty-third of August, at such time as the weather conditions prove favorable for migration southward, they undertake their long journey to the southern portion of the South American continent. They are then in the best physical condition, and are frequently so fat that when they strike the ground after being shot flying the skin bursts, exposing a much thicker layer of fat than is usually seen in other birds, hence their local name 'Doughbird,' from the saying "as fat as dough." At this season they are considered by epicures the finest eating of any of our birds, and consequently they are watched for and sought after by sportsmen with great perseverance during the very short period that they are expected to pass along this coast during their migration southward. They suffer but little, however, in New England from such pursuit, as the number killed in the great majority of years is trivial and has no effect in diminishing their numbers.

When I take a retrospective view for a series of years I am more than ever impressed with the few birds killed except in some very exceptional year. In most years they are far from being abundant, in fact are rather the reverse. I am inclined to the opinion that these birds generally pass our coast much further from land than has been usually supposed, for it rarely happens

that any large numbers of them are deflected over the land by ordinary storms, very severe thunder and lightning with heavy rain, or dense fogs, apparently being required to drive them from their customary line of flight and force them to seek land until more favorable conditions for migrating take place, for they are unusually strong and high fliers with great endurance. I believe also, that it is only in exceptional years that we see a portion of the principal movement of these birds while making their southern migration.

Those which do visit us almost invariably land with their boon companions, the American Golden Plover, of whose flocks I have frequently noticed they were the leaders, and I can scarcely call to mind, as I write, an instance where any number of Eskimo Curlew have landed without there being more or less Golden Plover present at the same time.

Those birds which may come cannot, if they would, remain any longer than is absolutely necessary, for they are so harassed immediately after landing that the moment there occurs a change in the weather favorable for migration they at once depart. They appear to leave the coast at Long Island, New York, and strike further out to sea, and then are not seen on the Atlantic coast for another year.

It is on the spring migration to their breeding grounds, while passing through the United States and especially along the Mississippi Valley, that they suffer, being unmercifully shot in many places on the route, particularly in Nebraska. Like the American Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*) the Eskimo Curlew never returns in the spring to the North via the Atlantic coast.*

Of those I have observed in New England during a series of years I may say that most of their habits closely resemble those of the Golden Plover. In migration they fly in much the same manner, with extended and broadside and triangular lines and clusters similar to those of Ducks and Geese at such times. They usually fly low after landing, sweeping slowly over the ground,

*The only Eskimo Curlew that I have ever heard of being obtained in the spring in New England was shot by my friend Mr. Augustus Denton on Cape Cod, Mass., about the end of May, 1873. It was a lone bird. Mr. Denton told me that he always supposed it was a bird which had been wounded the previous autumn and had managed to live through the winter; the reason for this conclusion was the condition of the bird, it being very thin, and sedgy in taste when eaten.

Nova Scotia.

Occurrence of the Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) off the coast of Nova Scotia.— In October, 1907, I secured an adult female specimen of this small European Curlew which has an interesting history. On May 23, 1906, it came aboard the steamship 'Bostonian' when she was westward bound and not far to the southward of Sable Island, Nova Scotia or, to quote the manuscript record literally, in "Lat. about 43° N., and Long. 60° W." "There had been a northeast gale for five days," which perhaps accounts for the occurrence of the bird so far to the westward. For two days previous to its capture it had been seen following the steamer. When it sought refuge on her decks it was utterly exhausted and very much emaciated, being, indeed, "nothing but skin and bones." "The men on board tried" to revive it "with food (probably corn beef and hard tack) . . . but it died a short time before the steamer reached port." Her Second Officer, S. A. Cornwell by name, took it in the flesh to D. B. Mackie of Malden, Massachusetts, by whom it was skinned, sexed and mounted and from whom I afterwards purchased it, through the kind offices of Dr. Lombard C. Jones, also of Malden. I am further indebted to the latter gentleman for the above data, all of which I have compiled from letters written by him to Mr. Walter Deane in 1907, and from one addressed to me personally, that has come within the past week.

It would perhaps be not wholly unreasonable to maintain that the record just given entitles the Whimbrel to a place in New England lists; for the bird to which it relates had apparently flown unaided to within six hundred miles of the sea coast of New Hampshire, in about the latitude of Portsmouth, and similar instances of "casual occurrences" have been accepted on no better evidence than this. In any case the specimen furnishes a definite and perfectly satisfactory North American record of a European species which, if I am not mistaken in my recollection, has been found previously on this side of the Atlantic only in Greenland, where it is said to have been taken a dozen times or more.— WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

Auk 26, Apr-1909, p. 190-191.

The Whimbrel, Ruff, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Eskimo Curlew on Long Island, N. Y.—Through the courtesy of Mr. John H. Hendrickson of Jamaica, N. Y., I am able to record the occurrence on Long Island of these four Shorebirds. The specimens of the two European species were brought in the flesh to the American Museum and are now preserved in its mounted collection of local birds.

The Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), which proved on dissection to be a male, was shot by Mr. S. M. Van Allen, of Jamaica, Long Island, at Gilgo Inlet, Great South Bay, south of Amityville, on Sept. 4, 1912. It was in the company of two Hudsonian Curlews. This appears to be the first record of the Whimbrel for the United States. According to the A. O. U. Check-List, it is of occasional occurrence in Greenland and has been taken once in Nova Scotia.

The Ruff (*Machetes pugnax*), an immature male judging by size and plumage, was collected by Mr. Hendrickson near Freeport on September 26, 1914. It was alone and was attracted to the decoys by imitations of the calls of Yellowlegs and Robin Snipe. There are numerous North American records for this species, including two previous Long Island captures.

Mr. Hendrickson states that during the past half-dozen years he has collected three Buff-breasted Sandpipers (*Tryngites subruficollis*) near Freeport, and could have secured another one the past season.

Regarding the Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) Mr. Hendrickson writes: "When I was on the meadows two years ago last September I saw two birds which I believe were Esquimo Curlews. As we were aboard the boat getting it ready to leave, these birds flew within about twenty-five yards of us, and I had a good opportunity to observe them closely. They were not the Hudsonian Curlew, commonly called "Jacks"; they were much smaller and less wary than the latter. I know the Esquimo Curlew, having shot several specimens a number of years ago, and at the time I told my friend that was what I believed these birds were."—W. DE W. MILLER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Arch xxx 11. Sep. 1915 p. 226.

*Cymophilus
felicarius*

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

"September 16. Saw several 'Sea Geese'; they were much tamer than when previously seen.

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

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

On August 31, (1878) three flocks of "Sea Geese," were seen

—one containing about twenty individuals, and the others four or five each. Three of the "Sea Geese" were shot, and proved to be Red Phalaropes (*Phalaropus fulicarius*).

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

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

86. *Phalaropus fulicarius*. RED PHALAROPE.—Not rare in September.

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

OCCURRENCE OF RED PHALAROPE AT OTTAWA, CANADA. An adult male was discovered swimming gracefully about in the Rideau River on October 21st., 1886, and was shot by Mr. S. White. It is now in my collection.

G. R. WHITE.

O. & C. XII. Mar 1887. p 38.

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

Crymophilus fulicarius, Red Phalarope. A fine adult male, the only specimens observed I killed at Cape Whittle June 25th. It was swimming about in the water near the shore of an island, and although it observed my approach, it kept on feeding in utter disregard of danger.

O. & C. XII, Feb. 1887. p. 20.

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

39. *Crymophilus fulicarius*. RED PHALAROPE.—Rather rare. Seen several times in small flocks offshore.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 28.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 443.

76. *Crymophilus fulicarius*. RED PHALAROPE.—Regular migrant in the fall, rare; all I have examined are young birds, September 12 to November 14, but in the museum of the Geological Survey at Ottawa there is a full plumaged bird said to have been taken here. This is probably the commoner of the three phalaropes, and is usually taken among duck decoys

Auk, XIII, April, 1896, p. 173.

Crymophilus fulicarius in Maine.— It seems worth while to make a note of the capture of some recent specimens of the Red Phalarope (*Crymophilus fulicarius*) on the southwestern coast of Maine, not only because the bird is uncommon there, but because data as to the exact time of its occurrence are not at all full. An adult female in fine plumage was taken on Peak Island, Portland Harbor, on May 17, 1892, and is now in my collection. Two other specimens were sent to me in the flesh from York Beach, May 8, 1893.— HENRY H. BROCK, *Portland, Me.*

Phalaropus fulicarius.

Mass. No.

7-879

The Trustees Bangs have two specimens of this Phalaropus; one an adult ♂ changing to summer plumage, was taken at Orleans Mass. Aug 15th 1878. The other a fully plumaged bird ♀ was shot at Magnolia, Mass. Sept. 19th 1879. The last named sample is curiously variegated in coloring, the red feathers sprinkling the white winter plumage all over the under parts.

Phalaropus fulicarius

Cambridge
Wintthrop
Mass
Aug. Sept.
1880

My friend Mr. A. M. Pelham tells me that he has lately examined a Red Phalarope which was shot on Charles River near the Gal-Wharf sometime last August. The specimen is in the possession of Mr. [unclear] by whom it was also captured.

I have also seen at Goodale's in Boston an adult specimen in fall plumage which was taken at Wintthrop Mass on Sept. 15-1880. Its captor Mr. James O'Neil stated that when first seen it was swimming about in

Mass. (Mowmoy Island)

Phalaropus fulicarius

1888

Oct - "I shot a Red Phalarope here last week" (J. C. Cahoon in letter Oct. 12-1888)

Synophibus fulicarius

Oct. 16. 1888

Medfield, Mass.

I have just examined a specimen shot by Robert Fitzgerald (of Willsley) on Charles River in Medfield. The bird is in the full autumnal plumage of the young. It is labeled "♂".

On inland river

Mass. (Plymouth)

In spring pl. in May.

May 1889

"At Plymouth last fall I saw a Red Phalarope in good plumage taken in May 1889 on one of the beaches there" (F. C. Brown letter Jan'y 25-1890)

Shore Birds of Cape Cod.
John C. Cahoon.

Red Phalarope, *Crymophilus fulcarius* (Linn).
Whale Bird on Cape Cod. A rare spring mi-
grant. This bird arrives in the spring at the
same time as the following species (*Phalaropus*
lobatus) with whom it associates in its mi-
grations, and like the latter is not regular in its
appearance on the Cape coast.

O. & O. XIII, Aug. 1888 p. 122.

*Addition to List of Shore Birds
of Cape Cod. John C. Cahoon.*

October 9th I shot a Red Phalarope in a small
fresh water pond near Salt Meadows, and on
November 2nd a second one in a channel be-
tween the flats and the outer beach. This bird
is a rare visitor to our Cape Cod coast, and
I have never before seen one in the autumn.

O & O. XIII, Dec. 1888 p. 189

A fine specimen of the Red Phalarope in full plu-
mage was shot on May 15th, 1888, at Marshfield,
Mass.

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

Crymophilus fulcarius. RED PHALAROPE.—On October 25, 1890, a
Red Phalarope (in the gray plumage) was shot near the 'No Bottom
Pond,' on the outskirts of the town. Only one was seen. This is the
first time to my knowledge that *C. fulcarius* has been taken here. I
have in the past taken *P. lobatus* (September 20, 1870) and *P. tricolor*
(August 31, 1889) on the island.—GEORGE H. MACKAY. *Nantucket*,
Mass.

Auk, VIII, Jan., 1891, p. 120.

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

Vol. XI]
1894]

MACKAY, *Notes on Certain Water Birds.* 225

Mr. Marcus W. Dunham of Tuckernuck Island informed me
that on May 2, 1893, he saw a good many Red Phalaropes
(*Crymophilus fulcarius*) between Muskeget and Tuckernuck
Islands.

Auk XI, July, 1894 p. 225

Duxbury, Mass.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulcarius*).— On May 2, 1909, I shot a male
specimen on the Guerned beach, Duxbury, Mass. The bird even at that
date was in the extreme immature or winter plumage with no trace of red.
However a few feathers on the back were slightly tipped with tawny.
For one or two days previous there had been a rather heavy easterly storm
and I suppose it had been driven ashore at that time. At any rate the
bird was not tired but strong on the wing, and furthermore was in good
condition. It is now in my collection. Though these birds can hardly
be called rare on our coast, they are more apt to be taken in the late
summer or early fall rather than in the spring.

Auk 27, Apr-1910 p. 219.

Some Rare Rhode Island Birds. — The following species, considered rare for that portion of the County, have been observed by me in the vicinity of Newport, R. I.: Newlow's Sparrow (Ammodramus heselovi), abundant in September and Oct., 1888; Florida Gallinule (Gallinula paleata), a number seen in Oct. 1888; Black-throated Bluebird (Spiza melucana), one specimen, Sept. 1888; Red Phalarope (Chrysophalarus fulicarius) one specimen, Oct., 1888. — Wick-Robinson, Ed. Dieter; Wm. Astley, For. Adams, R. I.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 194.

Red Phalarope in Rhode Island.

A Red Phalarope in full plumage was taken at Seaconnet, August 26, 1889, and one at Newport, September 27, 1890.

Southwick and Critchley.
Providence, R. I.

Sci. Bull., 16. Nov. 1890. p. 166

Brief Newsy Notes.

RED PHALAROPE.—I have in my collection a male in good plumage which was shot at high water on the meadows at this place May 22d, 1881. It was first seen swimming as gracefully as a duck. Is not this a rare visitor in New England?—*Chas. H. Neff, Portland, Conn.* *O. & O. VII. Mar. 1882. p. 100.*

C. Hart Meriam, M. D., in his Review of the Birds of Connecticut, reports only one capture (sex not given) at Portland, Conn., in September. It is now in the collection of W. W. Coe of that place. *O. & O. VII. Mar. 1882. p. 100.*

General Notes.

Rare Visitants to the Connecticut River Valley in 1892.

Crymophilus fulicarius.—Near Chicopee, Mass., on the 30th of September, two young Red Phalaropes were captured from a flock of about a dozen.—*ROBERT O. MORRIS, Springfield, Mass.*

Auk XI. April. 1894 p. 181

General Notes.

The Red Phalarope at Bridgeport, Conn.—Mr. J. C. A. Meeker has given me the skin of a male *Crymophilus fulicarius* (Red Phalarope). The bird was found under some electric light wires on a bridge, May 20, 1894. Upon skinning it there was found a dark mark across the breast, showing the bird had killed itself by flying against the wires. As this is a very rare bird in this part of Connecticut, the record may be of interest.—*J. B. CANFIELD, Bridgeport, Conn.*

Auk XII. Jan. 1895 p. 77

Bird Notes from Long Island, N. Y.
William Dutcher.

6. *Crymophilus fulicarius*. RED PHALAROPE.—Capt. Scott, early in September, 1886, found on the beach at Montauk a specimen of this species. dead. The skin was sent to me for identification with the statement that, "The bird is rare here." No other records were obtained until October 22, 1888, when Mr. William L. Baker, one of the crew of the Ditch Plain Life Saving Station, near Montauk Point, sent to me, in the flesh, a male Northern Phalarope, and a female Red Phalarope, with the following very interesting letter: "October 22, Montauk, Long Island. You will find enclosed two birds which I killed while they were feeding in the surf abreast of this station. I wish to know what they are, as I have never seen any like them before. They came here about ten days ago. They are the most graceful little fellows on the water that I ever saw, and they seem to be experienced surfmen, for the surf seems to be their home altogether." Subsequently he wrote: "There were four of them, two large and two small ones. Both of the latter and one of the former were killed. The fourth one remained about an hour and then disappeared. There are men who have been at this station for the past twelve years; I have been here nine years, and we do not remember seeing any such birds on Montauk before." Mr. Giraud remarks of them: "This is another species with which our acquaintance is very limited. The specimen now before me was shot on the beach at 'Quogue,' and I have seen a few others that were procured in that vicinity."†

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 134.

†Birds of Long Island, p. 245.

Notes concerning certain Birds
of Long Island, N.Y.

Crymophilus fulicarius. Three Red Phalaropes (females) which struck the Montauk Point Light were picked up at the foot of the tower, Nov. 27, 1902, by Capt. James J. Scott, the Keeper of the Lighthouse, and kindly forwarded to me.

William C. Braislin, M.D., Brooklyn, N.Y.
Auk, XXI. Apr., 1904, p. 289

Notes on Long Island Birds:

6. *Phalaropus fulicarius*, Bp. RED PHALAROPE.—In August, 1870, I received from Mr. E. Frame a fine specimen of this bird, which he had shot upon the meadows at Flushing, Long Island. I mounted the specimen, but did not note the sex. It was in immature plumage.

Robert Lawrence.

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

245. RED PHALAROPE.—(*Phalaropus fulicarius*.) (Linn.) Bp. Rare. September, 1880, Charles F. Wright, of Auburn, N. Y., captured a fine plumaged male on the shore of Lake Ontario, Wayne Co., N. Y., during a severe storm. The bird was swimming in the lake at the time; now in the cabinet of F. S. Wright, and identified by Mr. Fred T. Jencks, of Providence, R. I.

*Birds of
Cattaraugus Co. N. Y.
by Fowler
Myer &
Rathbun*

O. & O. VII, Sup. 1882, p. 113

Bird Notes from Long Id. Wm. Dutcher

8. *Phalaropus fulicarius* (Linn.) Bp. RED PHALAROPE.—May 19, 1883, I received from Geo. A. Lane, of Shinnecock Bay, a Red Phalarope that had evidently been shot some three or four days. He wrote me, "The bird was alone. I never saw but one before."

Auk, I, Jan., 1884, p. 33.

Long Island Bird Notes. Wm. Dutcher

6. *Crymophilus fulicarius*. RED PHALAROPE.—Mr. G. E. Payne, of New York City, while bay-bird shooting at Shinnecock Bay, September 26, 1885, procured a female of this species in full winter plumage. He presented the specimen to me, in the flesh, and gave me the following note of the capture. "My gunner, Charles Lane, first observed the bird, and concluded it to be a stranger. It was quietly feeding, and although we were quite close, it did not appear to notice us. It was alone. It was pronounced a Phalarope, but none of the members of the Lane family, who are all gunners, remember having seen one like it before."

Auk, 3, Oct., 1886, p. 436.

Auk, XII, July, 1895, p. 313.

Rare Birds near Buffalo, New York.

Crymophilus fulicarius. RED PHALAROPE.—I shot a female which I found wading in a wet pasture in South Buffalo, September 26, 1894. I thought at the time it was the first for Erie County but have since obtained another from Mr. Herman Grieb, taxidermist, which is one of two which he shot on separate occasions near Rattlesnake Island, Niagara River, in October, 1892. Have also seen another, taken here, in the collection of Mr. Edw. Reinecke.

James Savage, Buffalo, N. Y.

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

Crymophilus fulicarius.—A young bird, probably a female, was killed at Sylvan Beach on the east end of Oneida Lake, Oct. 4, 1889, by Messrs. Shepard and Hughes.

Auk, VII, July, 1890, p. 230

The Red Phalarope.

About the twenty-first of May, a large flight of these birds while passing Cape Cod were driven in and quite a number secured. The plumage was full. Captain Gould says, "There was a large flight yesterday (21st) and I collected quite a number. I never saw as many. They were seen along the beach in all directions. The government telephone wire was certain death to many, numbers being killed between here (Chatham) and Monomoy. We found over forty within four hundred yards of the station, but they were useless, being torn and wingless from flying against the wires. The following day not one was seen."

This bird is very hard to obtain, not on account of its being rare, but because it flies outside, beyond the reach of the collectors. Another party sent us in some twenty-five, a part of a lot that he had received from Provincetown. There were a very few of the Northern Phalaropes with them.

The proportion of males in the entire lot was about three to one and there were but two in the white plumage. The birds were not as fat as is usually the case. Reports were received of single specimens being taken along the coast.

F. B. W.

O. & O Vol. 17, July, 1892 p. 109

Red Phalarope (*Crymophilus fulicarius*).—During a Gulf of St. Lawrence last spring, I gained considerable information concerning the migration of the Red Phalarope. I sailed from Gloucester on May 24, and the first Phalaropes were seen on the following day, being more or less abundant until reaching Cape Breton Island. They were not again seen until, passing Cape North, we entered the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The exact position of the first birds seen was lat. $43^{\circ} 2'$, long. $69^{\circ} 13'$, or 132 miles W. by N. of Seal Island on the Nova Scotia coast. At this point seven were seen at 11 A. M.,

two at 3 P. M., one between three and four, and five during the following hour, the last being in lat. $43^{\circ} 25'$, or 27 miles N. E. by E. from the point of first observation. All were flying E. by N.

The following morning, May 26, observations were commenced at four o'clock, but no Phalaropes were seen until 5 A. M. when small bunches, estimated to contain, in all, twenty-five birds passed, flying E. by S. A single pair was seen at 1 P. M., and ten were recorded at two o'clock. Single birds were noted at 4 and 6 P. M., and an estimated number of thirty was recorded at the end of the following hour. At 8 P. M. a flock of ten or twelve was heard as they flew overhead, passing south. The position of the first record of the day was lat. $43^{\circ} 30'$, long. $68^{\circ} 25'$, and the distance between the extreme stations of observation was 82 miles, the latitude of the latter being $43^{\circ} 47'$, and the longitude, $66^{\circ} 33'$, or a position 18 miles N. W. by W. of Gannet Rock.

On the morning of the 27th we were in sight of this island, and as it was nearly calm all day, we only succeeded in passing Cape Sable by sunset. During the entire morning Phalaropes were seen coming from up the bay and flying southerly, or out to the open ocean. They were in

wards night it in rafts upon gunshot, fly a seemed to be e at that par- rning of May 'jogging' off f threatening the morning, from two to to sea.

itering Liver- of Phalaropes ently settling 31, a number seen between rly as abun- to the east- Phalaropes, 1, and twelve ing to feed.

no more were seen until we passed Cape Canso and were off Chedabucto Bay on June 3, when one was seen flying south at 4.30, and three flying east at 5 P. M., they being the last that were noted until rounding Cape North from the eastward, and although I inquired of fishermen at various times, especially at Louisbourg, off Scatari, at Sidney, and at Inganish, I failed to hear of any except a very few stragglers off Scatari Island on the 5th or 6th. I questioned very closely at Inganish and found that these birds usually passed that place, but had not been seen this year. As

The specimen that
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Washington, D. C.

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General Notes.

Crymophilus fulicarius in Provincetown Harbor.—May 21 to 23, 1892, I spent at Provincetown, Massachusetts, with Mr. Outram Bangs of Boston. The number of Phalaropes that we observed was so unusual as to seem worthy of record.

May 21.—A single *Crymophilus* found on the edge of a large pond near the town. The bird appeared to be unhurt, but moved about slowly and awkwardly on shore. The weather was rainy and foggy with a steady, strong wind from the east. Fishermen who went out to the weirs north of the town reported 'bank birds' (Phalaropes) very abundant, large numbers of them even alighting on the beach. They said that the birds had been unusually abundant a few miles out at sea for some weeks, but these were the first seen near shore.

May 22.—This morning the wind moderated, but a fog set in, bringing with it numbers of Phalaropes. At about 8 A. M. word was brought that the harbor was full of 'sea geese' (a name applied indiscriminately to both species of Phalarope). The fog was not very dense and the birds could be seen from shore, flying in large flocks close to the water. They moved mostly toward the northwest, very few being seen to fly in any other direction. It was noticeable that the flocks did not like to cross the long nets or 'leaders' stretching from the weirs toward shore directly across the usual line of flight. Although these nets rose only three or four feet above the water, the birds almost invariably turned their flight and followed them for some distance before rising to pass over. At a little after nine the fog cleared, the birds disappearing with it. We probably saw between five hundred and one thousand Phalaropes during the hour that they were in the harbor.

May 23.—Thick fog and driving rain with moderate wind until about 8 A. M., after which the rain and wind ceased; but the fog continued nearly two hours longer until driven away by a fresh west wind which rose rather suddenly. Fishermen who landed at 7.30 reported immense numbers of 'bank birds' resting on the water less than half a mile from shore. This was something entirely unheard of, and created much interest among the men gathered about the wharf waiting for the weather to moderate. The 'white bank birds' (*Phalaropus lobatus*) sometimes come within less than a mile of shore, but the "brown ones" (*C. fulicarius*) they said had never before been seen in this region except at sea. Taking a dory we soon found a flock resting on the water only a few hundred yards from the end of the wharf. There were certainly one hundred and fifty individuals in this flock—perhaps twice as many. The number could only be guessed at, as the birds were very restless and much scattered, while new arrivals constantly came in to increase the confusion. The flocks moved slowly to windward, bunches of a dozen or more birds continually rising from behind and flying to the front. For the next two hours Phalaropes were constantly in sight, either resting on the water or flying about in every direction, mostly in large flocks, but frequently singly. They were very unsuspecting, allowing the dory to approach within fifteen or twenty yards before taking alarm. Their only note was a single *chip* like that of *P. lobatus*, and somewhat resembling a note of *Calidris arenaria*. While the fog was most dense some of the flocks settled on the water within fifty yards of the ends of the wharves, but as the air cleared they drew away from shore, and later could be seen rising through the rapidly disappearing fog. After circling about until well oriented, they flew off over the town in the most direct line for the open ocean, and when the fog finally cleared none were left in the harbor. A few, however, could still be seen out in the bay where the fog still lingered. It was impossible to get any adequate idea of the number of birds seen during those two hours. Two thousand would be a very low estimate, and I doubt whether double that number would be much too high.

Scattered about among the *Crymophilus* were a few *Phalaropus lobatus*, in about the proportion of one to twenty. The smaller species was very conspicuous on account of its snowy white breast.

This unusual occurrence so near shore of a species almost pelagic in its habits in this latitude, is of course to be accounted for by the sudden arrest of the northward migration by the easterly storm and fog. The latter was probably the more important cause as fog accompanied by a very light wind even, appears invariably to have more influence than wind alone on the movements of migrating Limicolæ.—GERRIT S. MILLER, JR., Cambridge, Mass.

General Notes.

The Red Phalarope (*Crymophilus fulicarius*) at Nantucket Island, Massachusetts.—While driving in the western portion of this island on May 1, 1892, my attention was attracted while crossing the beach at the south head of Hammuck Pond to quite a number of small birds (about forty estimated) which, when flying on the waves, resembled the Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*), and which were hovering just above the water and alighting on it amid the breakers which were rolling in on the beach. I at once recognized that that most graceful of the smaller water birds, the Red Phalarope, or Whale Bird as it is sometimes called, was before me. Never having taken them before, I filled my pocket with cartridges and, hastily jumping from my wagon (leaving my horse, who is accustomed to such proceedings, to take care of himself on the crest of the beach), I ran to the edge of the water and commenced firing; nor was my ardor dampened, although my legs and feet were, after the waves had twice washed over my rubber boots. There was a strong south by west wind blowing at the time, as it had been for a day or so previous, which drifted my dead birds on the shore. The weather for the past week, as it was that day, had been quite cool. The

and sometimes for an instant only in front of a wave, and then rest to view behind it, rising and falling with the waves several feet at a time. Of the fifteen I shot down I saved twelve, one of which was a Northern Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*), a female in the adult spring plumage, a most beautiful bird, and the first I have taken in this plumage. I could easily have captured more of the Red Phalaropes, but considered I had a sufficiently good series, the birds being in various stages of plumage, except the fully adult. One of the crew of the life-saving station at this end of the island (west), and within a mile and a half of the spot where I shot them, informed me the next day that, on the day previous to the one on which I shot them, he should think he had seen nearly two hundred of them. On May 10 they had mostly departed. There were several hundreds in the flocks which were resting on the water and flying about. One of my friends, who has made the passage several springs from New York to South Carolina and return, and who knows the bird, informs me that in the years 1886, 1887, and 1889, he saw them in numbers beyond estimate, about April 20, fifty to one hundred miles north of Cape Hatteras, N. C., and perhaps fifty miles from land.

I am of the opinion that this bird is more abundant along the coast than would be inferred from the few which are taken, but I account for so few, comparatively, being noted by the fact that as a usual thing they do not linger near the shore, unless driven in by severe weather.

As far as I am aware, this spring, the first of these birds observed were

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) off Boston Harbor in Summer.—On July 11, 1913, when Miss Cleveland, local secretary of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and I were returning by boat to Boston, from Plymouth, a small duck-like, brightly colored bird caught my eye just as the boat passed the Harding's Ledge buoys just outside Boston Harbor. We examined the bird carefully with our glasses, and it proved to be a Red Phalarope in full plumage, the first of the kind we had ever seen, but we had good views and were able to positively identify it.—LIDIAN E. BRIDGE, *West Medford, Mass.*

Auk. xxxi. Oct. 1914. p. 536.

Phalaropus
lobatus

1885

Aug. 13. At about 10 P.M., the night dark and densely foggy I heard what I took to be a large flock of Phalaropus wandering about in the air overhead. There was a confused but incessant calling *quat, quat* and from the sound I judged the birds were rising higher and higher in a great circle, probably in the attempt to get above the fog.

Addendum to list of Birds Occurring within
Ten miles of Point des Monts, Quebec, Can.
From Notes of H. A. Gonsau.

180. *Lobipes hyperboreus*.—Shot at Godbout, May 27, 1885.—C. HART
MERRIAM, Locust Grove, New York.

Auk, 2, July, 1885, p. 315.

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

Phalaropus lobatus, Northern Phalarope.
Killed one at Exquimaux Point late in May.
Also two at Musquano on June 5th. Saw no
evidence of their breeding.

O. & O. XII, Feb. 1887, p. 20.

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

40. *Phalaropus lobatus*. NORTHERN PHALAROPE.—Common. Breed-
ing in almost all the suitable marshes; occasionally very abundant off-
shore.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 28.

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

Phalaropus lobatus. NORTHERN PHALAROPE.—Several were
seen at sea south of the island on August 17.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 448.

77. *Phalaropus lobatus*. NORTHERN PHALAROPE.—Regular migrant,
rare; an adult male taken June 7, 1890, is in my collection, and I have
seen an adult female taken here, but such records are exceedingly rare.
Young birds occur regularly, September 22 to October 31.

GENERAL NOTES.

Northern Phalaropes off the New Hampshire Coast.—While taking my new boat the 'Phalarope' from Rockaway, Long Island, N. Y., to Casco Bay, Maine, I met with numerous flocks of Northern Phalaropes, twenty miles off the New Hampshire Coast, August 9, 1893. I was running my course for Cape Elizabeth and found on coming within sight of land that they disappeared.—REGINALD I. BRASHER (*in letter to WILLIAM DUTCHER*).
Auk XI. July, 1894 p. 250

The Northern Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) in the Franconia Mountains, New Hampshire.—About five years ago, in September, while fishing on Profile Lake, Franconia, N. H. I observed a bird sitting on the water, feeding on winged ants, of which thousands lay on the surface. The bird was fearless, allowed me to approach it in my canoe so closely that I could easily reach it with my landing net (handle not three feet long), and was not alarmed at several attempts I made to put the net gently over him. I observed him for nearly half an hour, constantly within a few feet of him, and then left him. I did not know the bird, and several friends, ornithologists, afterward expressed a wish that I had captured or killed him for examination.

On September 22, 1888, while fishing on Lonesome Lake (about two miles from Profile Lake, on Mt. Cannon, nearly 3000 feet above sea-level), I saw another specimen of the same bird swimming duck-like among the sedges on the edge of the lake. He was equally fearless, allowing me to approach within hand reach, without alarm and without ceasing his employment, which was feeding on the seeds of the sedges. There was no mistake, in either case, as to what the bird was eating—in one case ants, in the other seed. In the latter case I greatly enjoyed watching the rapid and graceful action of the bird as he picked off the seeds, frequently stretching up, almost standing on the water, and reaching to seeds on high sedges. After ten minutes I concluded with great reluctance to kill him, which I did by striking him gently on the head with a short stick. Ornithologists who examined him pronounced him the Northern Phalarope. At their request I make this note of the facts.—W. C. PRIME, *New York City*.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889, p. 68-69.

Interesting Capture in Mass.

Phalaropus hyperboreus, Temm. — NORTHERN PHALAROPE. — A single specimen, not in full plumage, was shot at the same place, and found in the market May 10. It had been dead several days, and the exact date of its capture cannot be given, but probably about May 5. — T. M. BREWER, *Boston, Mass.*

Orleans, Cape Cod.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, July, 1878, p. 151.

[I have found *Phalaropus hyperboreus* to be of by no means rare occurrence in Boston market, from Cape Cod and elsewhere along the Massachusetts coast, and remember upon one occasion purchasing four specimens there. It is, however, like several other off-coast species, not commonly found near the land unless forced to take shelter from severe storms.— WILLIAM BREWSTER.]

CAPTURE OF THE NORTHERN PHALAROPE (*Lobipes hyperboreus*) IN MASSACHUSETTS. — Some time since I received a communication from Mr. C. C. Hitchcock, of Ware, Mass., noticing the capture of several birds new to that section. Among those recorded was the one above mentioned. I have recently written to Mr. Hitchcock for further particulars, as the record of this bird in a locality at such a distance from the coast is most surprising, when it is so comparatively rare even on the coast itself, being confined chiefly to the waters off shore; and I enclose his reply: "I had no doubt at the time of the capture of the Phalarope in regard to its identity; but to make sure I have again looked it up (as I have the bird in my possession), and find I was correct." The bill, he adds, is "not lance-shaped, and is under one inch." This fixes the identity of the species. The bird was taken October 13, 1875. — W. A. STEARNS, *Fishkill-on-the-Hudson, N. Bull, N. O. C. 5, April, 1880, p. 122.*

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

Northern Phalarope, *Lobipes hyperboreus*.
Despite the statements of writers as to the great abundance of this species, I can record but two instances of its capture within the limits of our county, and have observed it but once.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 148

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

Phalaropus lobatus (Linn.), Northern Phalarope. Not common off coast.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 138

Editor O. & O.:

I saw down at Quinsigamond Lake last Friday two birds which I thought you would like to know about. They were a Northern Phalarope and a Passenger Pigeon. I got within fifteen feet of the Phalarope, which was engaged in catching insects on the water. The Pigeon flew over the boat. The Phalarope is a bird that is very rare here and the Pigeons are not common, although I most always see one or two every migration.

Ralph H. Holman.

Worcester, Aug. 26.

O. & O. XIV, Oct. 1889 p. 160

General Notes.

The Northern Phalarope.—A Correction.—In my article 'Notes on Certain Water Birds in Massachusetts' (Auk, XI, July, 1894), at end of third line from bottom of page 226, read *Northern*, for Red. In last word of article, page 228, read *April*, for May.—GEO. H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Auk XI. Oct. 1894 p. 324

Shore Birds of Cape Cod. John C. Cahoon.

Northern Phalarope, *Phalaropus lobatus* (Linn.) Whale Bird on Cape Cod. A common spring migrant. This bird passes the Cape coast between the first and twenty-fifth of May. As this bird feeds and lives wholly in the water, it may most properly be called a "sea bird." It is irregular in its appearance in shore, and it is only after a heavy storm on shore or thick fog that it is seen in the bays, harbors, and inlets of Cape Cod. The men that go ten to twenty miles from shore in boats cod-fishing in the spring, report seeing many flocks of "whale birds" as they call them. I have seen them when on a fishing schooner on several occasions in large flocks feeding on some kind of substance that they got from the large masses of floating sea and rock weed. They are very tame, especially in foggy weather, and will allow one to approach within a few yards, in a boat, before they will fly. They are pretty to see, as they float or swim gracefully and lightly on the water. One of the flock will leave the others and fly a short distance ahead and alight on the water, and a second, third, and fourth will follow, and so on. In this manner, many of the flock are always in motion. When they come in about Monomoy Island, they are usually seen in the tide rips off the point, and near the cut through which the out tide flows through the Island into the bay from the ocean.

O. & O. XIII. Aug. 1838 p. 121.

Phalaropus lobatus.

Nantucket, Mass.

1878.
Sept. 24.

Mr Sweet gave me one shot on the island, Sept. 22.

Phalaropes at Swampscott, Massachusetts.—The morning of Aug. 12, 1890, dawned at Swampscott, Mass., with the wind northeast and a cloudy sky. At noon the wind fell to a whole-sail breeze, tempting my brother, Dr. J. A. Jeffries, and myself to try a sail.

After standing to the east for about a mile we noticed a flock of at least three hundred birds, apparently Sandpipers, flying rapidly back and forth about half a mile in-shore of us, and an equal distance off the land. Suddenly, to our surprise, they settled on the water, and we knew they were Phalaropes, birds that appear as a rule, only in small numbers with us and not regularly. In twenty years' sailing we have not seen any in the water in our locality.

From Aug. 12 until Sept. 26 Phalaropes were seen nearly every day we went out, usually in small scattered bunches of from six to twenty birds swimming about on the water, sometimes just out of the breakers and again twelve miles off shore.

All the birds we succeeded in sailing onto were very tame, simply swimming away from our cat-boat to prevent being run down. Yet it was not always easy to take specimens, as a flock seldom remained long in one spot; rising every few minutes they would fly about, alight, and then off again before we could sail one half the distance. Sept. 9 we sailed into the midst of a flock of several hundred birds, which chanced to settle right in front of us. They were very tame.

All birds taken previous to Sept. 26 were Northern Phalaropes, and while it is not possible to state that all the Phalaropes seen were of the same species, we can say that no individual was noticed with any specially distinct coloring to attract our attention. A single specimen of Red Phalarope was taken Sept. 26 about one mile off shore. It was swimming about alone, and on dissection proved to have been feeding on land insects, probably blown off by the stiff northwester then in full force.

What I desire to call attention to in this case is that a bird of not regular occurrence suddenly appears in large numbers, and once with us remains for six weeks.

As evidence that nearly all birds seen were included in the original flock, I would say that,—1st, the Phalaropes appeared in a flock, after a stiff although short northeast wind. 2nd, On days when many small bunches were seen, we did not see the large flock. 3rd, Birds startled did not seem to us to make any attempt to resume a flight, but simply flew off and settled down again.

Twelve or fifteen were taken, all being very fat.—W. A. JEFFRIES,
Boston, Mass.

Auk, VIII, Jan., 1891, p. 112-113.

Phalaropus lobatus off Scituate, Mass.—On August 30, 1890, I made my first acquaintance with the Northern Phalarope. As my friend Mr. Marcus Barber and myself were returning from a trip to the Gurnet, Plymouth Harbor, in my sail-boat, when off Fourth Cliff Life Saving Station, we observed what we at first supposed was a large flock of Sandpipers, some two hundred or more, flying to and fro from shore, and were surprised to see them settle on the water. Heading the boat for them, we soon came within gunshot, and secured eight as they rose, they being so scattered as not to offer a good shot. On picking them up, I at once recognized them as one of the Phalaropes. We watched this flock pass from view to southward. Leaving my friend soon after at the Cove, I made sail for Scituate Harbor, about a mile distant; but had not been long underway when the boat was in the centre of a second flock as large as the first, giving me a fine opportunity to watch the bright eyed little birds, as they rode up and down on the light sea that was running. These finally took wing, but had not passed from sight before a third flock nearly as large showed up over the bow; making in all between five and six hundred birds seen within an hour's time. The last were nearly opposite the Harbor, in which I soon dropped anchor. The birds secured proved to be all young of both sexes, except one, an adult female, but no two were alike in plumage. Taking into consideration Mr. W. A. Jeffries' account of 'Phalaropes at Swampscott' (*Auk*, Jan. 1891, p. 112), and the statement made by my friend Mr. Barber, who in ten years' service along shore "never saw anything like it before," the flight of Phalaropes along our shore last fall must have been a remarkable one. The wind at the time was blowing a fair northwest breeze.—H. D. EASTMAN,
Framingham, Mass.

Auk, 8, July, 1891, p. 310.

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

Through the courtesy of my friend Mr. J. R. Kendall of Jamaica Plain, Mass., I am able to contribute the following interesting data concerning the recent occurrence of the Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) off the coast of Massachusetts. On May 25, 1894, about ten thousand (as carefully estimated)

idermists. The remainder were not preserved. All of those sent to the above gentlemen proved to be Northern Phalaropes, and were all females. There is every reason for believing that this entire body of birds were of this species. This gathering of birds appears to have been the largest ever noted in this vicinity. I understand they were also observed in large numbers at Annisquam at about the same time.

On May 30, with the wind south and fresh, my friend Mr. J. R. Kendall observed two thousand (estimated) around the 'Pigs,' where they were still lingering, the others having departed. They kept up a continual twittering. He again visited the same locality on June 3, at my request, and sailed over the adjacent water, but failed to observe any birds, all having apparently departed. On that day the wind was west, a fresh breeze. The day before the wind was strong southwest.

I am inclined to the belief that *Phalaropus lobatus*, as also *Crymophilus fulicarius*, exist in enormous numbers, owing to the fact that they seldom approach the shores in numbers, or pass over the land to any extent, as far as I am aware, during their migrations. They consequently are not subject to the contingencies which affect other birds. It will be recalled that a very large flight of Red Phalaropes (see Auk, Vol. IX,

The Oologist. 1634. Northern Phalarope. By C[hables] C. T[rembly]. *Ibid.*.
p. 236.—Striking an electric light tower at Utica, N. Y. Auk, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 86.

Springfield, Mass.

Capture of the Northern Phalarope near Springfield, Mass.—A Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*) was captured on the Connecticut River near Springfield, Mass., on September 23, 1909.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Auk 27. Jan-1910 p. 79

*Notes from New Haven Conn.
by E. L. Moulton.*

On August 4th and December 25th, 1886, I had the good fortune to take specimens of Northern Phalarope, male, and adult male Mallard, on the "Quinnipiac" marshes, near New Haven.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 156

Rare Birds at Hartford, Conn.

Phalaropus lobatus. NORTHERN PHALAROPE.—I shot a female about a mile below Hartford, Sept. 27, 1886. It appeared quite tame and was flushed from the water with considerable difficulty. The plumage was perfect but on dissection it proved to be in very lean condition.—WILLARD E. TREAT, *East Hartford, Conn.*

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887. p. 78.

General Notes.

Phalaropus lobatus—A Correction.—In 'The Auk,' Vol. IV, page 78, I recorded the *Phalaropus lobatus* as having been captured near Hartford. I find on more critical examination, that it is the *Crymophilus fulicarius*.—WILLARD E. TREAT, *East Hartford, Conn.*

Auk XI, Jan. 1894 p. 74

Some Birds of Lewis Co, N. Y,
O. Hart Merriam

"*Lobipes hyperboreus*. NORTHERN PHALAROPE. — I shot a young male on Black River, September 6, 1877. One other was taken about the same date, near Boonville.

A. J. Dayan, Lyons Falls, N. Y.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1878, p. 54

Notes on Long Island Birds.

7. *Lobipes hyperboreus*, Cuv. NORTHERN PHALAROPE. — Shot two males of this species on August 20, 1879, while decoying Bay Snipe at Center Moriches, L. I., and a third specimen was taken by C. A. Willets, at Flushing, L. I., on September 29, 1879.

Robert Lawrence.

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

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

149. *Lobipes hyperboreus* (Linn.) Cuvier. NORTHERN PHALAROPE. — A rare migrant.

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

Bird Notes from Long Id. Wm. Dutcher

9. *Lobipes hyperboreus* (Linn.) Cuv. NORTHERN PHALAROPE. — May 24, 1883, Geo. A. Lane, sent me some specimens of this Phalarope. He wrote, "There have been more Phalaropes this spring than I ever saw before. My brothers killed nearly 50 and sent them to market with other Snipe." Subsequently, while at South Oyster Bay, I questioned some of the gunners regarding the flight of Northern Phalaropes this spring, and ascertained that on the 23d and 24th of May there was a large flight of them. Three gunners said they shot about 20, and then desisted because they did not want any more. They remarked "that they were very gentle, almost always alighting among the decoys, swimming lightly and gracefully about." The very unusual number of these birds found on Long Island this spring may possibly be accounted for as follows: During the northward migration they were driven out of their usual course by head winds. The facts are these: On the 18th of May it commenced to blow from the north-east and continued blowing from that quarter to south-east steadily until the 21st, when it culminated in an easterly storm which lasted about twenty-four hours. On the 23d and 24th, the Phalaropes were seen, but disappeared as suddenly as they came. They are more commonly seen in the fall, but then only occasionally.

Auk, I, Jan., 1884, p. 33.

Long Island Bird Notes. Wm. Dutcher

6. *Phalaropus lobatus*. NORTHERN PHALAROPE. — The only note of this species made by the writer since his record* of the unusual flight which took place in May, 1883, is of one which struck Fire Island Light during the night of May 19, 1884. Wind south south-west, fresh. Weather cloudy.

*Auk, Vol. I, 1884, p. 33.

Auk, 3, Oct., 1886, p. 436.

Occurrence of *Phalaropus lobatus* at Syracuse, N. Y.—September 3, 1886, an adult male Northern Phalarope was shown to me by Mr. Charles Noxon of this city, who procured it September 2 on Onondaga Lake, on the outskirts of Syracuse.

The bird, in company with another (female), which was also secured, was discovered swimming gracefully about in the middle of the lake, and both were so tame as to be shot without trouble. Two days after (September 4) another specimen, a male, was shot in the same locality by Mr. E. M. Hasbrouk; on September 25, following, another was seen, but not procured. Previous to this the Northern Phalarope has been recorded but once in this County.—MORRIS M. GREEN, *Syracuse, N. Y.*

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887, p. 72.

Bird Notes from Long Island, N. Y.
William Dutcher.

7. *Phalaropus lobatus*. NORTHERN PHALAROPE.—Since my last record of this species in May, 1884,† I have obtained a number of records and also specimens, both in spring and fall, all from Montauk Point, the extreme southeastern end of Long Island. It would seem from this fact that these Phalaropes do not, in migrating, follow the outline of the coast, as most of the Limicolæ of Long Island do, but in coming northward in the spring leave the coast in the neighborhood of Delaware or lower New Jersey and by taking a northeasterly route reach Cape Cod. During the southward migration the reverse obtains. A few only of the great body of these migrants approach the land, even at Montauk, except in case of heavy and adverse winds. September 3, 1886, three individuals struck Montauk Point Light, one of which was sent to me by the keeper, Captain J. G. Scott. He informed me that there were about twenty of the same kind of birds about the light and that some of the same species were seen on the beach the next day. He stated they are not uncommon in August and September. May 5, 1888, two specimens were sent to me by Captain Scott. He reported about fifty around the light when these struck, and that there were "Lots of them hovering about the light from midnight to four A. M." Captain Scott thought these a new species, as he had not before seen them in their spring plumage, and consequently did not recognize them as the same species of "web-footed birds."

that these Phalaropes do not, in migrating, follow the outline of the coast, as most of the Limicolæ of Long Island do, but in coming northward in the spring leave the coast in the neighborhood of Delaware or lower New Jersey and by taking a northeasterly route reach Cape Cod. During the southward migration the reverse obtains. A few only of the great body of these migrants approach the land, even at Montauk, except in case of heavy and adverse winds. September 3, 1886, three individuals struck Montauk Point Light, one of which was sent to me by the keeper, Captain J. G. Scott. He informed me that there were about twenty of the same kind of birds about the light and that some of the same species were seen on the beach the next day. He stated they are not uncommon in August and September. May 5, 1888, two specimens were sent to me by Captain Scott. He reported about fifty around the light when these struck, and that there were "Lots of them hovering about the light from midnight to four A. M." Captain Scott thought these a new species, as he

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

Phalaropus lobatus.—A specimen killed at Sylvan Beach, east end of Oneida Lake, Sept. 21, 1889, is our second record.

Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 230

Occurrence of *Phalaropus lobatus* at Syracuse, N. Y.—September 3, 1886, an adult male Northern Phalarope was shown to me by Mr. Charles Noxon of this city, who procured it September 2 on Onondaga Lake, on the outskirts of Syracuse.

The bird, in company with another (female), which was also secured, was discovered swimming gracefully about in the middle of the lake, and both were so tame as to be shot without trouble. Two days after (September 4) another specimen, a male, was shot in the same locality by Mr. E. M. Hasbrouk; on September 25, following, another was seen, but not procured. Previous to this the Northern Phalarope has been recorded but once in this County.—MORRIS M. GREEN, *Syracuse, N. Y.*

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887, p. 72.

Bird Notes from Long Island, N. Y.
William Dutcher.

7. *Phalaropus lobatus*. NORTHERN PHALAROPE.—Since my last record of this species in May, 1884,† I have obtained a number of records and also specimens, both in spring and fall, all from Montauk Point, the extreme southeastern end of Long Island. It would seem from this fact that these Phalaropes do not, in migrating, follow the outline of the coast, as most of the *Limicola* of Long Island do, but in coming northward in the spring leave the coast in the neighborhood of Delaware or lower New Jersey and by taking a northeasterly route reach Cape Cod. During the southward migration the reverse obtains. A few only of the great body of these migrants approach the land, even at Montauk, except in case of heavy and adverse winds. September 3, 1886, three individuals struck Montauk Point Light, one of which was sent to me by the keeper, Captain J. G. Scott. He informed me that there were about twenty of the same kind of birds about the light and that some of the same species were seen on the beach the next day. He stated they are not uncommon in August and September. May 5, 1888, two specimens were sent to me by Captain Scott. He reported about fifty around the light when these struck, and that there were "Lots of them hovering about the light from midnight to four A. M." Captain Scott thought these a new species, as he had not before seen them in their spring plumage, and consequently did not recognize them as the same species of 'web-footed snipe' that he had seen, not uncommonly, in the fall of the year. Both of the specimens sent to me were females in very high plumage. The ova in both were very small. May 29, 1888, three additional specimens were sent to me from Montauk, which struck the tower that night, during a fog, with an east wind. There were about twenty in the flock. The specimens were all males, but were not in such high plumage as the females that were migrating nearly a month in advance of them. That they were adult birds and would have bred was indicated by the testes, which were about fully developed. August 13, 1888, the return migration had commenced, as three out of a flock struck the same light at 3 A. M. and just in advance of a southeast storm which commenced shortly after.

The specimen taken October 22, 1888, by Mr. Baker, is the latest seasonal record that I have. How much longer this pair would have remained it is hard to conjecture, but it is fair to suppose that if the food supply continued satisfactory to them, only a marked and unfavorable change in the weather would have hurried them on their southward journey. The status of this Phalarope on Long Island may be briefly described as follows: In the spring, rather rare except when driven shoreward by storms. In the fall, not uncommon in the eastern and middle south shore, and rare at the western end of the Island. On the Sound side of the Island I have only one record,—of one which was caught alive by the keeper of Little Gull Island Light, some years since.*

Mr. Giraud says of them:† "With us, it is seldom observed. The last individual that I met with, I came upon while engaged in shooting Terns on the inner beach, in the latter part of June. I observed it at a distance in company with a party of small Sandpipers, which I was scrutinizing through a glass that always accompanies me in my collecting tours. Appearing longer than its associates, and too small for the Yellow-shanks, or other familiar species of which we have spoken, I immediately set about ascertaining to what species it belonged—and as I advanced, was much pleased to find that an opportunity offered to secure another specimen of one of the rarest of our birds. It was very gentle, and seemed to have no disposition to take wing, although I had arrived quite near. It was standing in a shallow pool of water, and during my observations remained in a listless attitude, scarcely changing its position until alarmed by the explosion of the cap of the first barrel of my gun, which missed fire—when it sprang up, uttering a low whistling note; and while passing slowly from me, with the other barrel I secured it. On dissection it proved to be a male, and from its plumage I considered it the young of the year. In its stomach I found particles of shells and sand." Mr. Giraud's inference that the specimen in question was of the "young of the year" seems hardly correct in view of the fact that the date he gives is "the latter part of June." It is probable that it was a more than usually dull plumaged adult male bird.

†*Auk*, Vol. III, p. 436.

* An additional Sound record may be found in *Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club*, Vol. V, p. 117 of one taken Sept. 29, 1879, at Flushing, Queens Co., by C. A. Willets, the record being made by Robert Lawrence.

† *Birds of Long Island*, pp. 248, 249.

Some Rare Occurrences in Yates County, N.Y.

Phalaropus lobatus, NORTHERN PHALAROPE. — Rare migrant. I took one specimen on May 16, 1895.

Clarence Freedom Stone, Branchport, N.Y.

Auk, XVI, July, 1899, p. 285.

Ithaca, N.Y.

Lobipes lobatus. NORTHERN PHALAROPE. — Two specimens taken Sept. 23 and Sept. 27.

Auk 27. July-1910 p. 344.

PHALAROPE, — AN ETYMOLOGICAL BLUNDER.—Happening, not long ago, to be a little curious about the exact meaning of the word Phalarope or *Phalaropus*, I took occasion to consult a Greek dictionary on the question, and by so doing unearthed a somewhat curious etymological blunder. Brisson, who was the first to give the name to the genus, ‡ explains it as follows: "Phalarope, a name that I have given to the birds of this genus, because of the resemblance of their feet to those of the Coot, called, in Greek, *φάλαρις*." Now, Phalaropus, according to all rules for the composition of Greek and Latin words, does not mean "coot-foot" at all, as Brisson intended it should, but "white-patched-foot" (from *phalaros*, "patched with white," and *pous*, "foot"), which is a manifestly inapplicable name, since the Phalaropes all have black or green feet. *Phalaridopus* (from *phalaris*, genitive *phalaridos*, "coot," and *pous*) would mean "coot-foot," and this is what Brisson should have written. Nevertheless, the name has served so long as a distinguishing mark of the genus, that it would be by no means advisable to attempt to make an exchange for the etymologically correct form. It is, however, an interesting example of the necessity of a little care in compounding scientific names, if we wish to have them retain any meaning.—JOHN MURDOCH, *Roxbury, Mass.*

Bull. N. O. C. 3, July, 1878, p. 150-151.

Steganopus
bicolor

Phalaropus tricolor

in Maine.

SUFFOLK COUNTY,
PROBATE COURT AND COURT OF INSOLVENCY,
BOSTON, MASS.

Boston December 31/98

W. Brewster Esq -

Dear Sir -

I answer to your favor of 21st inst. I would simply say that my boy thinks he would prefer to keep the "Phalaropus." * This bird was shot somewhat is known as "Goose Fair" marsh on the 30th of last August. Goose Fair marsh is a small marsh at Old Orchard Beach, a small river known as Little River runs up from the sea and back into the country, it is about a mile and a half west of Old Orchard Beach Station. A part of this marsh where the grass had been recently cut, we lighted 7 birds, 5 winter yellow legs, one summer yellow leg + this Phalaropus. The part of the marsh where we got them is about 500 yards back from the Ocean.

[* Young Wilson's Phalaropus in gray autumn plumage, mounted by M. Abbott Frost & examined by me early in December]

In Maine

Very Truly Yours

W. A. Coburn

Probate Court

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

85. *Steganopus wilsoni*. WILSON'S PHALAROPE.—Mr. Comeau tells me that this Phalarope occurs during the fall migration, but is not common.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct., 1892, p. 238

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 448.

78. *Steganopus tricolor*. WILSON'S PHALAROPE.—Rare migrant; adult female May 22, 1855; adult male June 2, 1890, and a young female August 15, 1890, are in my collection. Mr. J. H. Ames has a female taken May 25, 1890, and a young bird. A supposed hybrid belonging to Mr. T. Harmer of Tacoma, Wash., proved to be a young bird of this species. Besides these there are two or three more in local collections, all adults. There are indications that at one time this species was of much more regular occurrence than it is now.

Wilson's Phalarope in Massachusetts.

On August 18, 1907, a young female Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) was shot at Salisbury, Mass., and sent to Faneuil Hall Market, Boston. Here it was identified by Mr. John H. Hardy, Jr., and kindly given by him to the writer, in whose collection it now rests. This is the second instance of the capture of this western Phalarope in Essex County, and the fourth for the State. One of these was taken near Boston about 1833; one was taken in Essex County, at Nahant, on May 20, 1874, and one was taken at Nantucket on August 31, 1889.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M. D., *Boston, Mass.*

Auk 25, Jan-1908, p. 80-81.

Mass. Coast
Col. Boston Soc. Nat. History.

Steganopus tricolor. WILSON'S PHALAROPE.—A specimen in fine plumage taken on the Massachusetts coast was received from the collection of the late William Everett. This seems to be the fifth recorded specimen for the State.

Auk 25, Apr-1908, p. 234.

1883

Steganopus wilsoni

Pigeon Beach
N. H.

August ("about Aug 24th")

no. 402 ♀ collection, Chas. R. Lamb,

shot by George Lamb "about
Aug 24th". "It was flying

when he shot it and going

with the wind". "It was

alone & the only one seen

there this season"

with back C. R. Lamb.

Nantucket, Mass.

Aug. 31 - 1889

Phalaropus tricolor

A young bird shot by Geo H. Mackay
near Hummock Pond and now in my
collection.

Wilson's Phalarope Marshfield Mass Aug 24/93 yg ♂

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

Phalaropus tricolor (Vieill.), Wilson's Phalarope. More common than preceding variety.

O & O, XII, Sept. 1887 p. 138

Rare Birds in Rhode Island. .. Jencks.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus wilsoni*), I took a male
in spring plumage, at New-
port, R. I., August 2.

Bull. N. O. C. 5, Oct., 1880, p. 237.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) in Rhode Island.—On Sep-
tember 13, 1886, one of these Phalaropes, in immature plumage, was
brought to me by J. Glynn, Jr., who had noticed it among some birds shot
by one of the local sportsmen, and seeing that it belonged to an uncom-
mon species had obtained it from him. I understand that when shot it
was in company with two 'Creakers' (*Tringa maculata*). This is the
second record of the bird's occurrence in this State.—WILLIAM C. RIVES,
JR., M. D., *Newport, R. I.* **Auk**, 4, Jan., 1887, p. 72.

1964. *The Wilson's Phalarope.* By Wm. G. Smith. *Ibid.*, pp. 14-15.
—As observed in Colorado. **Orn. & Oologist's Semi-annual**, Vol. 1, No. 2.

Steganopus wilsoni

Newport, R. I.
August 1880

Mr. Jencks had shown me a Wilson's
Phalarope which was shot by a friend
at the above named place and date.
It is a young bird in the first fall moult.
This is the third N. E. specimen of which
I have any knowledge (see each, see
No. 3.) Bos. For m. e. d. g., from Trabant!

Bird Notes from Long Island, N. Y.
William Dutcher.

13. Phalaropus tricolor. WILSON'S PHALAROPE. My friend, Mr. Charles E. Perkins, again enriched my collection of Long Island birds by sending to me, September 13, 1887, a specimen of this Phalarope, which he shot that day, at Shinnecock Bay, Suffolk Co., while shooting Bay-birds (*Limicolæ*) over decoys. Two days after he shot another.

Auk, V, April, 1888. p.177-178.

Long Island Bird Notes N. T. Lawrence

16. *Steganopus wilsoni*. WILSON'S PHALAROPE.—On October 10, 1874, I had one of these birds settle in my decoys, swimming among them quite fearlessly. On October 15, 1879, I saw one swimming in the East River at the foot of Pine Street, New York City. It was very gentle, the steamer I was on passing within twenty-five feet of it, when it started, flew a short distance, and settled on the water again.

Auk, 2, July, 1886. p.273-274.

Long Island Bird Notes. Wm. Dutcher

7. *Phalaropus tricolor*. WILSON'S PHALAROPE.—Mr. G. W. Howell, of Atlanticville, Suffolk Co., shot an individual of this species about August 15, 1885. The writer had the pleasure of seeing it while being mounted at the taxidermist's.

Auk, 3, Oct., 1886. p. 436.

Bird Notes from Long Id. Wm. Dutcher

10. *Steganopus wilsoni* (*Sab.*) *Coues*. WILSON'S PHALAROPE.—Mr. Charles E. Perkins, of Hartford, Conn., wrote me: "While at Shinnecock Bay, L. I., August 20, 1883, I shot a bird which none of the gunners recognized, and I ordered it sent to you. I should like to know what it is." It proved to be a Wilson's Phalarope. Subsequently one of the gunners informed me that a similar bird was shot a few days later by another sportsman, but he could not secure it for me.

Auk, I, Jan., 1884. p. 33.

Quogue L. I., N. Y.

Shore-bird Notes.— Last September, Wilson's Phalarope appears to have been not uncommon along the Atlantic Coast. I have never seen this species before, although I shot a Northern Phalarope at Quogue, L. I., during the month of August, 1907. I have the following records of the occurrence of Wilson's Phalarope. Adult female shot by Mr. Whitlock at Quogue on September 4. Immature in winter plumage were shot near Currituck Light House, North Carolina, by Mr. Whitlock and Mr. Nourse on September 7, September 8 (two), and September 12. A well-marked female was seen by me September 14. This bird was so tame that it allowed me almost to touch it before it flew away in a zigzag manner. An old gunner at Currituck had never seen these birds before.

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper seems also to have been unusually common along the coast. Mr. Whitlock shot a specimen at Quogue, L. I., on September 4, and three at Currituck on September 12. I saw a flock of six at the same place on September 14. This species was also unknown to the local gunners.

On September 11, at Currituck, I shot a Solitary Sandpiper on a sandy beach. I have frequently seen this bird in woodland streams but never near salt water.

On September 12, two Marbled Godwits were shot by Mr. Whitlock and myself at Currituck. The female was the smaller, measuring 17.00 and the male 19.25. The absence of bars on the underparts would indicate that they were young birds.

I trust these records may be of interest, both as individual records and also as showing the tendency of certain western Shore-birds to follow the same line of migration to the shores of North Carolina as is later followed in far greater numbers by the Canvas-back, the Mallard, and the Whistling Swan.— FREDERICK WM. KOBBE, *New York City.*

Auk 29, Jan. 1912, p. 108.

Auk, XV, July, 1898, p. 268

Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) at Ocean City, N. J.—To the best of my knowledge the published records of Wilson's Phalarope on the New Jersey coast are limited to two specimens recorded by Dr. C. C. Abbott, as taken at Deal Beach, Monmouth Co. (Birds of New Jersey, in Cooke's Geol. of N. J., 1868). I was never able to trace up these specimens, and the many evident errors in the list in which they are mentioned, naturally casts some doubt on the validity of the record. It is with much pleasure, therefore, that I am able to place on record the capture of a fine adult female of this species by Mr. Gilbert H. Moore, at Ocean City, N. J., May 19, 1898. The bird was in company with a flock of the smaller shore birds when shot.

Mr. Moore has presented the specimen to the local collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.—WITMER STONE, *Acad. Nat. Science, Philadelphia, Pa.*

•

Additions to Catalogue of Kansas
Birds. N. S. Goss

Phalaropus tricolor (*Vieill.*). WILSON'S PHALAROPE.--June 8, 1886, I found three pairs of these birds breeding on marshy ground, bordering a slough or pond of Crooked Creek, Meade County, and I therefore enter the species as an occasional summer resident in Western Kansas; quite common throughout the State during migration. Nest on the ground, usually on hummocks, quite deeply excavated, and lined with leaves from the old dead grasses; eggs, three or four—usually four; ground color, cream to ashy drab, rather thickly but irregularly blotched with varying shades of brown to black. The female is larger and brighter in color than the male, but from limited observations of the birds I am led to think certain writers are mistaken in reporting that the females arrive first and do all the courting, but leave the work of nest-making, incubation, and the rearing of the young to the males. I have never been so fortunate as to find either of the birds upon the nest; but certainly, both appear equally watchful and solicitous, circling around and croaking as one approaches their nests, or near their young (grayish little fellows that leave the nest as soon as hatched). The earliest arrival noticed in the State was at Neosho Falls, April 29, 1879. In this flock, as in all others seen at or about the time of their arrival, the sexes appeared to be about equally divided, and I am inclined to think further examination will prove the birds to be joint workers in the hatching and rearing of their young. With a view to removing all doubts, I trust all naturalists who are so fortunate as to be upon their breeding grounds during the breeding season will carefully note and report their observations.

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887. p. 8.

FIELD AND FOREST.*—With the number for July, this journal begins its second volume, considerably enlarged and improved. The articles are varied and all valuable contributions to science, and we wish "Field and Forest" the success its merits so well deserve. The single article relating to ornithology brings forward quite novel facts in the history of Wilson's Phalarope, which are unique in the history of our birds, and should engage further attention. Mr. Kumlien describes the female as being not only "richer dressed" than the male, but as leaving the duties of incubation wholly to the male, who in the breeding season has "invariably the naked and wrinkled belly, characteristic of incubating birds," while the female shows nothing of the kind. He also represents the female as making the advances to the male during the pairing-season, and says it is not unusual to "see two females pursuing one male," instead of the reverse, as is usually the case with other birds. If no mistake has been made, these facts are among the most interesting in the annals of American ornithology.—J. A. A. *Bull. N. O. C.* I, Sept, 1876. p. 71.

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE BIOGRAPHY OF WILSON'S
PHALAROPE.

BY E. W. NELSON.

ALTHOUGH this species (*Steganopus wilsoni*, Coues) is more or less common in portions of the country frequently visited by Ornithologists, it is remarkable that its life-history should be so little known. The account of nearly every author who has mentioned the species contains more or less error, and none give anything like a complete history of it. To remedy this to some extent is the object of the present paper, since I have had abundant opportunity for observing the bird in the field.

But first I wish to make a few quotations from and remarks upon the principal accounts of the species. Ord, in his edition of "Wilson's Ornithology (Vol. III, p. 205), states as follows: "Our figure of this species [*Phalaropus lobatus*, Ord] bears all the marks of haste; it is inaccurately drawn, and imperfectly colored; notwithstanding, by a diligent study of it, I have been enabled to ascertain that it is the Coot-footed *Tringa* [Phalarope] of Edwards, pls. 46 and 143, to which bird Linnæus gave the specific denomination of *lobatus*." Thus far Ord is undoubtedly correct, as is evident by a comparison of the plates in question. As Dr. Coues has already stated (Birds of the Northwest, p. 467), *Tringa lobata*, Linn. is *Lobipes hyperboreus*, (L.) Cuv., and I perfectly agree with Ord in referring Wilson's plate to the same species; but farther on Ord describes an undoubted specimen of *Steganopus wilsoni*, taken near Philadelphia, as being identical with Wilson's plate of *lobatus*, which is certainly a bad case of mal-identification. From references I have been enabled to make, I

think it extremely doubtful that Wilson ever saw a specimen of *S. wilsoni*.

Audubon's account of the sexes of this bird is quite erroneous. Concerning a pair taken near Great Egg Harbor, in June, 1829, he states that, "on examining the birds when we returned, I saw that the female had been sitting";* and on the opposite page, "I observed scarcely any difference in the coloring of the sexes, the female being merely larger than the male"; and he again states: "The female, which is somewhat larger, is in color precisely similar to the male." The few specimens seen by Audubon during the breeding-season were apparently all females, and, taking it for granted that the males were equally bright, he so stated. In his plate of this species he figures a "female" young of the year and an adult "male," which is, in reality, a female in breeding plumage. Audubon's statement regarding the likeness of the sexes in the breeding plumage has been accepted as true by subsequent authors, even when they have had the opportunity to settle the matter for themselves in the field.

Nuttall adds considerable to the known range of the species, but makes his statements curiously conflicting, as the following quotations show: "Taking the interior of the continent for its abode, it is seen not uncommon on the borders of lakes, in the vicinity of the City of Mexico. In these situations, choosing the shelter of some grassy tuft, it forms an artless nest, in which it deposits two or three pyriform eggs, between yellowish-gray and cream-color, interspersed with small roundish spots and a few larger blotches of umber-brown somewhat crowded towards the obtuse end." He also states that "it is unknown in summer beyond the 55th parallel, passing the period of reproduction on the plains of the Saskatchewan, being also a stranger to the coasts of Hudson's Bay"; and again, that "*in the United States it can only be considered as a straggler.*" †

Dr. Coues, in his "Birds of the Northwest," arranges the synonymy of the species in a very satisfactory manner, but makes essentially the same statement as Audubon regarding the sexual plumages, and adds nothing of importance to the life-history of the species. To Mr. A. L. Kumlien‡ is due the credit of being the

* Birds of Amer., Vol. V, pp. 229, 230, pl. 341.

† Man. Orn., Vol. II, pp. 245, 246.

‡ Field and Forest, July, 1876.

XVI.—ON THE OLDEST AVAILABLE NAME OF
WILSON'S PHALAROPE.

The genus *Steganopus* of Vieillot is usually quoted as having been established by that author in 1823 (Enc. Méth., p. 1106). It is, however, to be found as early as 1819 in the 'Nouveau Dictionnaire d'Histoire Naturelle,' vol. XXXII, where it is properly characterized on p. 136.

An inspection of the same article shows also that the name *Steganopus tricolor* is there applied to Wilson's Phalarope for the first time, consequently four years earlier than Sabine described the same bird as *Phalaropus wilsoni*, as the latter name dates only from the year 1823.

The species, therefore, should stand as

Lobipes tricolor (VIEILL.). WILSON'S PHALAROPE.

Auk, I, Oct., 1884, p. 367.

*Recurvirostra
americana*

Recurvirostra americana.

Brookline
Jan 28th 97

My dear Mr Brewster

Enforced idleness, on account of this gentle snow-storm, has given me a much longer than opportunity for squaring up some of my winter purchases, and I write to you first to tell you that I have at last found out about three 3 American doves that I saw at Newell's shop on Faneuil St. Boston.

I wrote, as I told you to the man that killed them, Mr A. B. Clark of Peabody Mass; but got no reply.

Later I left my cards, both with Mr Newell & with his assistant, and at last,

after oft-repeated visits, I have
pinned out all that I could.

Mr Clark finally remembered the
date of the killing to be the second
Sunday in Sept. when I believe
was Sept 13th. He told Mr
Newell's assistant, who told me,
there were but 3 birds in the
flock - and he got them all
with 2 shots I believe.

This man at Ipswich Neck,
where he has shot for a number
of years; and he seems also
to be a man very well known
at Newell's. where he frequently
stops and talks of birds & guns etc.

The unfortunate part of the
affair seems to be that the
birds were not sexed, when
they were skinned. Neither Clark
nor the people at Newell's knew
what the birds were. when they
were brought in.

I will send a note to Dr Allen
by ^{my} ~~my~~ friend W. K. Thumant.

Faint handwritten text, possibly a name or title, written vertically in red ink.

J.H. Sears. Letter Salem, Mass., Jan. 29 1902

I have given the note on the occurrence of the
 taking of the Recurvirostra americana
 (Wood) to Essex County, Mass. The late Mr Samuel B. Clark
 of Peabody Mass. on the 12 of September 1896. killed three specimens
 of the wood - on the shore at Jefferys Neck Ipswich and two
 specimens are all preserved one of them is owned by
 Mr William L. Allen, Jr. 80 South Street Boston Mass. Another
 is at the residence of Mr Alexander Wilbur, father of the
 late Samuel B. Clark 30 Central Street Peabody. and the third
 specimen is in the cabinet of the birds of Essex County Mass
 in the museum of the Peabody Academy of Science in Salem
 this last one a gift from Mr Alexander B. Clark, of Peabody
 as this is the only known occurrence in which the actual
 specimens of the wood are in existence which have been
 taken in this county. I thought you might like the
 record of where the specimens are and the date of collection

CAPTURE OF THE AVOCET IN NEW BRUNSWICK. — When in St. John, N. B., a short time since, I saw in a bird-stuffer's shop a good specimen of the Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) sent to him to set up. It was shot by Mr. William Ellis, at Quaco, where he has shot three this season (1880), and where he says "they come along every few years." I have been able to get but two. As they occur so rarely in New England, it is a little strange to find them so frequently over the border in New Brunswick. — GEORGE A. BOARDMAN, *Milltown, St. Stephen, N. B.*

Bull. N. O. C. 5. Oct., 1880, p. 241.

Birds of Southern New Brunswick.
M. Chamberlain.

14. *Recurvirostra americana*. AVOCET.—Mr. William Ellis of St. Martins, a village on the shore of the Bay of Fundy, says he has shot one or more of these birds each year for the last five years, usually meeting two together. A specimen taken by him in 1880 is in the museum of the Natural History Society.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, April, 1882, p. 105

American Avocet and American Three-toed Woodpecker at Toronto. — An Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) was shot on the eastern sandbar, Toronto, by Mr. C. K. Rogers, September 19, 1901. The bird was noticed feeding among a flock of plovers. It proved to be a male, and is the second Toronto record, the first being of a bird taken about fifteen years ago.

J. H. Fleming, Toronto, *Can. Auk*, XIX, Jan. 1902, p. 79.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

79

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds. ² *Auk*, XIX, 1902, 79.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 443.

79. *Recurvirostra americana*. AMERICAN AVOCET.—Accidental migrant, two records, one a bird in full plumage in the possession of Mr. Wm. Loan, the other an adult male in the gray plumage taken September 19, 1901.²

*Notes on Some Birds occurring near Portland,
Maine - - - N. C. Brown.*

The first specimen of *Recurvirostra americana* known to have been taken in Maine was shot at Simonton's Cove, Cape Elizabeth, on the 5th of November, 1878, and passed through my hands. A notice of the bird was shortly afterwards published in the "Portland Press" by the Portland Natural History Society, in whose cabinet the specimen is preserved. I should add that reports have reached me of the occurrence of several other individuals of this species about the same time, but have not been traceable to any authentic source.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, April, 1879, p. 108.

THE AVOCET (*Recurvirostra americana*) IN MASSACHUSETTS. — A bird of this interesting species was shot October 19, 1880, near Lake Cochituate in the town of Natick, Middlesex County, by a local gunner. Mr. Paul S. Roberts, in whose possession I first saw it, secured and mounted the specimen. The plumage is immature, being that of "*R. occidentalis*," of authors (figured in Vigor's Zoöl. Voy. of Blossom, pl. xii; Gray's Gen. of Birds, III, pl. civ; Cassin's Ill., pl. xl). My record is the third authentic one for New England, and the first for Massachusetts.*

We are indebted to Mr. E. J. Smith of Natick for knowledge of this capture, he writing the fact to Mr. C. J. Maynard, who kindly gave me the information. — H. A. PURDIE, *Newton, Mass.* Bull. N. O. C. 6, April, 1881, p. 123.

^{Auk, XIV, Apr., 1897, p. 212.}
The Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) at Ipswich, Mass. — I take pleasure in reporting the capture of three American Avocets, on Sept. 13, 1896, at Ipswich Neck, Ipswich, Mass., by Mr. A. B. Clark of Peabody, Mass. The birds were brought into the taxidermist establishment of Mr. L. W. Newell in Boston, where I saw them, and where I at last found out about their capture. There were but three birds in the bunch. They were not sexed when skinned. — FRED. H. KENNARD, *Brookline, Mass.*

Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.

Recurvirostra americana. AMERICAN AVOCET.— Says Col. Pike: "I have met with this bird but four times in my life, and it has always been extremely rare on Long Island. The first individual I procured near Ponquogue in 1844, and is the specimen in the collection. The second was killed in 1847 on the shore of Canarsie Bay, near where now stands the Oriental Hotel, Coney Island; I had a shooting box there. The others were killed at Southampton."

Auk X, July. 1893 p 272.

Ithaca, N. Y.

Recurvirostra americana. AVOCET.— A single specimen, Sept. 15 and 16.

Auk 27. July - 1910 p. 344.

The Avocet and Other Shore-birds at Ithaca during the Fall of 1909.—

In Eaton's recent exhaustive work, 'Birds of New York,' he states that "The last authentic specimens [of the Avocet] were obtained about 50 years ago on Long Island." In view of this fact and the general paucity of records for this bird in the east, it seems advisable to present a record made at Ithaca, N. Y., last fall. The bird when first seen was flushed amid a mixed flock of Lesser Yellow-legs, Pectoral Sandpipers, Sanderlings and Semipalmated Plover, Sept. 15, 1909. Later in the day it was seen feeding in its characteristic manner a short distance from this same flock but always keeping with them. The following day, Sept. 16, it was collected and is now in the C. U. collection (Ae. No. 5219). It is an adult male in full winter plumage.

In addition to the occurrence of the Avocet, the migration of other shore-birds during the fall was so unusual for this station that a short review of the records may be worthy of note. Normally the possible feeding grounds for these birds is rather scant as the lake shore is grown up to rank vegetation. This year (1909) however, due to the unusually low level of the lake, extensive mud flats and sand beaches were left exposed. Before the hunting season opened, these were teeming with birds and thereafter flocks were continually dropping in, although almost immediately frightened away by gunners. Morning and evening, three or four times a week, these flats at the head of the lake were visited and it is a summary of the records made that follows:

Auk 27. July - 1910 p. 344.

Simantopus
mexicanus

Birds of Southern New Brunswick.
M. Chamberlain.

15. *Himantopus mexicanus*. BLACK-NECKED STILT.—I procured one of this species in September, 1880, from Mr. John Ellis of Mace's Bay, an arm of the Bay of Fundy, lying some thirty miles to the westward of St. John, and was told by Mr. Ellis that several had been taken there during former years.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, April, 1882, p. 105

Notes.

Mr. Reed also received early in May a fine specimen of the Black-necked Stilt, shot at Rockland, Maine.

O. & O. XIV. May. 1889 p. 78

Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.

Himantopus mexicanus. BLACK-NECKED STILT —Two specimens are in the collection, one labelled "Great South Bay, 1843," and the other "Great South Bay." Col. Pike says of them: "These birds were collected by me and the location is correct. Always a rare bird on Long Island; I have not seen one in my rambles for over thirty years."

Auk X, July, 1893 p 272.

Himantopus mexicanus. BLACK-NECKED STILT.

It is interesting to note the ability of this extraordinary Wader to swim when pressed by necessity, though it probably never exercises itself in this way under ordinary circumstances. While on the St. John's River in April, 1888, in company with my brother, we wounded a Black-necked Stilt that was yet able to use its legs and ran some distance along the shore; but being pressed by our pursuit, it took to the river and swam for the opposite bank. One returned to the place where we had stepped ashore, to get the boat, while the other remained to watch the bird and direct the continuation of the pursuit. Before the boat could be brought up to the scene of action, the Stilt had crossed the river, but there it lost strength and lay helpless under the bank. In swimming, the Stilt had proceeded in a sort of sidling manner, and rising in the water with each stroke of the feet, and continually turning its head from side to side, it presented a foolish aspect, but its progress was remarkable when its ill adaptation to swimming is considered.

AUK, VII, Oct,
Orange Co., Ia. D. Mortimer, 1890, 1335

Young Ool. 1528. *The Black Stilt*. By A. M. Shields. *Ibid.*, p. 41. Auk, VII. Jan. 1890. p. vi.

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

93. *Himantopus mexicanus*. BLACK-NECKED STILT.—Nests on the sand, near the sea or salt ponds; eggs four. May 15.

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

*Rallus
elegans*

Rallus elegans ?

"Big Grunter".

East Lexington, Mass.

1899. We (O.A.Lothrop, A.H.Hathaway & I) heard several Carolina
May 6. Rails (we were in a boat in the flooded meadow), a "Big
Grunter", etc.

Concord, Mass.

1899. As I was paddling back to the cabin this evening I heard
May 20. a "Big Grunter" in the marsh opposite Davis's Hill. It had
a tremendous voice. It called only once, the grunting call
not the quacking. I do not remember hearing it here before.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p.447.

69

69. *Rallus elegans*. KING RAIL.— Migrant, probably accidental;
one was taken in September, 1903, and there are two other local records.

AN ADDITION TO THE MAINE FAUNA.—On October 8, 1881, I received from Mr. Alpheus G. Rogers, of Portland, an immature specimen of *Rallus elegans*, the King Rail, which he shot on Scarborough Marsh, on the morning of that day. This species is new to the State of Maine, and has occurred in New England only about half a dozen times.

Its previous New England record is as follows: (1) Stratford, Conn., breeding, Linsley, Am. Jour. Sci. and Arts, Vol. XLIV, No. 2, p. 267. (2) Portland, Conn., one specimen; (3) Saybrook, Conn., one specimen, Merriam, Rev. Birds Conn., p. 115. (4) Nahant, Mass., one specimen, Purdie, this Bulletin, Vol. II, p. 22. (5) Sudbury Meadows, Mass., one specimen, Purdie, this Bulletin, Vol. III, p. 146.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine Bull. N. O. C.* 7, Jan, 1882, p. 60

THE KING RAIL IN NEW ENGLAND.—It seems that in making up the New England record of the King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)† I overlooked a note on this species, published in "Forest and Stream" of March 11, 1880. In this note Mr. Jno. H. Sage announces the capture of a female specimen at Portland, Conn., September 17, 1879.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine. Bull. N. O. C.* 7, April, 1882, p. 124.

Auk, XIII, Jan., 1896, p. 79.
The King Rail Again in Maine.—An adult male King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) was shot in Falmouth, Maine, on September 19, 1895, by Mr. Walter Rich, of Portland, and is now in my collection. The township of Falmouth lies northeast of Portland, and the locality where the bird was taken was a brackish marsh known as 'The Dyke,' about two miles from the city, near the mouth of the Presumpscot River.—HENRY H. BROCK, *Portland, Me.*

The King Rail again near Portland, Me.—I have already (*Auk*, Vol. XIII, p. 79) noted the capture of a specimen of the King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) at the Dyke Marsh, near Portland, Maine. I have since obtained another specimen taken at the same place by Mr. John Whitney. It was brought to me in the flesh and was dissected and mounted by myself. It proved a male in good condition. The date of its capture was December 17, 1899.

The King Rail is thus shown to have occurred three times¹ in the vicinity of Portland.—HENRY H. BROCK, *Portland, Me. Auk*, XIX, July, 1902, p. 285.

¹ See Brown, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. VII, p. 60.

Found at Janna ton 7.7.
by Mr. & Mrs. Loo

Rallus elegans. KING RAIL.— 1910, one spent the month of May in
a swamp in this town.

Ark. 10, July, 1910. p. 436

Rallus elegans.

Poultney, Mass. (Neponseth River
marshes), doubtless.

Aug. 27 [1894]. "While hunting
for wood nests of short-billed
marsh Wren my dog flushed
a large bird which I shot.

It proved to be a King Rail and
was within forty feet of
where I shot the other

last year [Sept. 9, 1893]. It
is, however, larger in every way
than last year's bird" (J. H. B.)

of the woods
and
this specimen
was by Mr. B. Bowles

Rallus elegans

Boston

Mass. Mr. J. H. Bowles
has an adult female
which he shot on the
Neponseth River marshes,
Sept. 9th 1893. "One of
its legs had been broken by
a shot and was much
shorter than the other
but the bird was otherwise
unhurt and apparently in
first-class condition"

(J. H. B., letter Nov. 15-1893)

This specimen (as yet unrecorded)
is the second known to me
to have been taken on the
Neponseth marshes within
recent years. (The first was
reported to me by Mr. Bowles who
had seen the head of the bird)

he bought
label
by Mass

at least
d and eye
in

Mass Sept 24/84 ♂
visited with you.

Rallus elegans.

Poukeagoy, Mass. (Neponset River
marshes), ~~Andover~~.

Aug. 27 [1894]. "While hunting
for wood nests of short-billed
marsh Wren my dog flushed
a large bird which I shot.

It proved to be a King Rail and
was within forty feet of
where I shot the other

last year [Sept. 9, 1893]. It
is, however, larger in every way
than last year's bird". (J. H.

of the woods
was by
Mr. B. S. S. S.

Specimen taken on Cape Cod.

Charles R. Hamble has a specimen which he bought
of Maynard and which bears the following label
"No 6077 Collection of Foster H. Brackett, Boston, Mass
♂, Chatham, Mass., Sept. 14, 1884"

Mr. Hamble thinks the bird was shot by Mr. Brackett himself
(Specimen afterwards destroyed by moths but head and eye
given me by Hamble and now in my collection)

Rallus elegans

King Rail.
(Foster H. Brackett)

Chatham Mass Sept 24/84 ♂

Remains deposited with you.

The King Rail in Plymouth County, Massachusetts.— On January 20, 1903, an adult female, *Rallus elegans* was shot by Mr. Clarence Chandler at Ellisville, Plymouth County, Mass. The bird was at once sent to me and proved to be quite fat and in fine plumage. When shot the rail was skulking among some low bushes and dry grass near a salt marsh.—
ARTHUR LINCOLN REAGH, M. D., West Roxbury, Mass.

Auk, XX, July, 1903, p. 304.

Some Birds of Rare or Accidental Occurrence in New England. H. A. Purdie

12. *Rallus elegans*. KING RAIL.— In the collection of Mr. George O. Welch, of Lynn, Mass., is a mounted specimen shot at Nahant, November 21, 1875. This is a second species new to Massachusetts, and has been but once or twice before recorded from any part of New England.

Bull. N. O. C. 2, Jan., 1877, p. 22

Rallus elegans.

Mr. Browne, of Dedham, Mass., has in his cabinet a specimen of the King Rail (*Rallus elegans*), which was got on the Sudbury Meadows some years since, the latter of ~~Sudbury~~ ~~in~~ ~~November~~, ~~1877~~. This occurrence of the Rail is the second instance known for Massachusetts,

H. A. Purdie, Newton, Mass.
Bull. N. O. C. 3, July, 1878, p. 146.

General Notes

Two Cape Cod Records.—*Rallus elegans*.—Mr. P. L. Small of Provincetown, Mass., has presented me with the remains of a King Rail that was caught in a muskrat trap in North Truro early in February, 1892. The skin has been badly damaged by mice, but enough is left unhurt to make the identification certain. Mr. Small received the bird in the flesh a few days after it was taken. The early part of the winter of 1891-1892 was very mild in eastern Massachusetts, and I am told that until the middle of February there was no ice in the marshes where the Rail was captured.

George S. Miller Jr. Auk IX, Oct. 1892, p. 396

Auk, XIII, Jan., 1896, p.
Rare Visitors to the Connecticut River Valley in
Massachusetts in 1895.

Rallus elegans.—October 19, a young King Rail was taken in Longmeadow. It was found in the *Zizania aquatica* which grows so profusely along the banks of the Connecticut River. The presence of this species in this part of the valley, I believe, has never before been noted; and the Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris crepitans*) has been captured here but twice. Robert O. Morris, Springfield, Mass.

Rallus elegans and *Ionornis martinica* in Massachusetts.—While examining recently the collection of bird skins of Mr. Alfred Hill of Belmont I was interested to find among them a male King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) which was taken Dec. 30, 1896, at Cambridge, and which furnishes the first record of the species for the vicinity. The bird was caught on the ice of a small pond in the Fresh Pond marshes. It was in good plumage but was much emaciated and died in the night following the day of its capture.

I am indebted to Dr. L. C. Jones of Malden for the information that there came into his possession in April, 1902, a fine male Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) which was shot at Sandwich by John McArdle, a local gunner.—J. A. FARLEY, Boston, Mass.

Auk, XXII, Oct., 1905, p. 409

Needham, Mass.

Capture of the King Rail in Massachusetts.—I would like to report the taking of a fine male King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) on October 10, 1907, on the Charles River marshes, Needham, Mass. The bird has remarkably fine plumage for that season of the year, and was extremely fat.—FRED. H. KENNARD, Boston, Mass.

Auk 25, Apr-1908, p. 218.

Peabody, Mass.
Col. Boston Soc. Nat. History.

Rallus elegans. KING RAIL.— A bird, in worn plumage, was captured in a steel trap at Peabody, Mass., on March 13, 1908.

Auk 26, Apr-1908, p. 234.

Another King Rail in Massachusetts.— Mr. Richard M. Russell shot a King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) on Sandy Neck, West Barnstable, Mass., on December 30 or 31, 1909. This is I believe the ninth record for the State. The bird was very emaciated when shot, and quite tame. Mr. Russell has deposited the specimen, mounted, in this Museum from which it will be transferred to the Boston Society of Natural History.— R. HEBER HOWE, JR., Thoreau Museum, Concord, Mass. *Auk* 27, July-1910 p. 332.

Chatham, Mass.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*).— I received a fine adult male this fall from Chatham, Mass., where it was shot on October 31, 1909, by Mr. Russell Bearse. The King Rail seems to be a rather uncommon straggler from the South and there are but few recent records of its having been taken here. Mr. F. H. Kennard records in 'The Auk,' Vol. XXV, p. 218, a male being taken at Needham, October 10, 1907, and in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History is a bird taken in a steel trap at Peabody, Mass., March 13, 1908. The specimen to which I refer taken at Chatham is also in the above collection. Mr. Bearse also informed me that on December 28, 1908, he killed another King Rail at Chatham which was given to Mr. Warren E. Freeman of Arlington, Mass. This latter seems like a very late date.

Auk 27, Apr-1910 p. 220.

Early Occurrence of Rails in Massachusetts.— On August 26, 1913, a Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) was taken in Longmeadow near Springfield, Mass., and on the 22d. of the same month, a King Rail, *Rallus elegans*, was captured in the same town.

These are the earliest autumnal dates recorded for the appearance of either of these species of birds in this part of the Connecticut Valley, although I believe that both kinds are more often represented here than is generally supposed, and it is possible that they breed here.

In Massachusetts, under a very unwise state statute purporting to be for the protection of certain kinds of so-called marsh birds, the open season for Rallidæ begins as early as August 1, and on that day in Longmeadow, a sportsman caught a young Virginia Rail that was still in the downy state, and probably not more than ten days old.— ROBERT O. MORRIS, Springfield, Mass.

Auk 30, Oct, 1913, p. 580.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) in Massachusetts in November.— On the 12th day of November, 1914, a King Rail was captured in Longmeadow. This is the latest time in the autumn that the presence of one of these birds has been noted in this region. Early writers on bird life in Massachusetts placed the King Rail in the class of birds whose presence in this State was accidental, and with only two records of their appearance in any part of the State, while now there are in collections here a half a dozen specimens of this bird that have been taken in the vicinity of Springfield in recent years.— ROBERT O. MORRIS, Springfield, Mass.

Auk XXXIII, April 1916, p. 198.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) in Massachusetts.— On September 15, 1917, on the edge of a fresh water pond, at Haverhill, Mass., I saw a rail which I supposed was this species, but I was unable to secure it. Just a month later in the same spot I again saw it, and succeeded in shooting it. The specimen was identified from a photograph, by Mr. E. H. Forbush and Mr. Walter Rich, and by Mr. M. Abbott Frazar, the taxidermist who mounted it.— CHARLES B. MORSS, *Haverhill, Mass.*

Auk, vol. xxxv, 1918, p. 223.

General Notes

Winter Birds in Connecticut. — On Dec. 15, 1892, I had a fine specimen of *Rallus elegans* brought to me in the flesh to be mounted. The bird is a male in fine plumage and was shot on the salt marshes at Milford, Connecticut, about nine miles from here.!

A. H. Verill, New Haven, Conn.

Auk X, April, 1893. p. 207.

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Rallus elegans?

June 14^{10^h} * - 15^{11^h} * Saybrook

in journal of A. H. Verill

Bird Notes from Long Island, N. Y.
William Dutcher.

10. *Rallus elegans*. KING RAIL.—Mr. Giraud says of this Rail: "During my frequent excursions on Long Island, I have not had the good fortune to meet with this large and beautiful Rail, and have only seen one specimen that was procured in that locality, which was shot in the vicinity of Williamsburg, and is now in the valuable collection of George N. Lawrence, Esq." After quoting Mr. Audubon at some length, as to its being altogether a fresh water bird, he concludes by saying: "Hence we may conclude that its occurrence with us is extremely rare." † As it is, like all of the Rallidæ, partly nocturnal and extremely secretive in its habits, it is probably overlooked and is more common than it is thought to be. Mr. Knoess, of Riverhead, has a mounted specimen in his collection. It is a young bird and was caught alive on the shores of Peconic Bay. It is the second one that has been brought to him alive. He cannot say positively whether it was bred there, but he is under the impression that it was. §

Mr. Squires, of Ponquogue, Suffolk Co., has in his possession a mounted specimen which was shot some years since on the meadows opposite the Great West Bay Light, Shinnecock Bay. It was taken in the summer. My friend, Mr. Alfred A. Fraser, of Oakdale, Suffolk Co., presented me with a magnificent specimen in the flesh, which he shot November 2, 1886, on a meadow bordering a fresh water stream, emptying into Great South Bay, at Bayport, Suffolk Co. He wrote: "I cannot remember of bagging over half a dozen in my twenty years' shooting on Long Island." Mr. Fraser is the fortunate possessor of a beautifully located country seat of 800 acres, which affords him many hours of sport with his dogs and gun.

March 3, 1887, one of these birds struck the Montauk Point Lighthouse, and was sent to me by the keeper, Capt. Scott. He stated that the bird struck the light on the east side of the tower. If it was migrating northward, it should have struck the tower on the west side, the trend of the Island being about east and west, but striking on the opposite side indicates that it only struck after circling about the light. *

Auk, V, April, 1888. p. 176-177.

† Birds of Long Island, p. 210.

§ See Birds of Connecticut, p. 115.

* See Bird Migration, By William Brewster. Mem. Nuttall Ornith. Club, No. 1, 1886.

Some Birds of Unusual Occurrence
in Orleans Co., N. Y.

Rallus elegans. KING RAIL.—About August, 1880, Mr. Milo C. Webster of Knowlesville (now of Buffalo) while out on a hunt in company with Rev. J. H. Langille, shot a King Rail in a marsh on the lake shore in the town of Carlton. Mr. Langille makes mention of this specimen in his 'Our Birds in their Haunts,' page 400.

Neil J. Posson,
Medina, N. Y.

Auk, XVI, April, 1899, pp. 193-6

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) at Springfield, Mass.—On the thirtieth day of August, 1911, a King Rail was captured in the wild rice that is found in abundance along the shores of the Connecticut river a few miles below Springfield. There are but two previous records of the occurrence of this bird in the Connecticut valley near Springfield.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, Springfield, Mass.

Auk, XXIX, Apr. 1912, p. 237

145 Brattle St.
Cambridge

DEC 23 1894



William Brewster, Esq.
145 Brattle St.,
Cambridge,
Mass.

I have had to make them
entirely from memory, having never
noted down any description of
the egg when the bird was
attempting it. The birds are fairly
common here & are very noisy
in the spring. I've found a
nest containing shells of 10 eggs.

Storchester

Mar. 10th 91

William Brewster Esq.

Cambridge Mass

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 9th at hand - I am sorry to have so little information as to the King Rail, I have only met with two of the birds in N. England one I shot about twenty



Essex
St.
bridge,
Mass.

I have had to make them
entirely from memory, having never
noted down any description of
the egg when the bird was
attending it. The birds are fairly
common here & are very noisy
in the spring. I once found a
nest containing shells of 10 eggs

years ago on a small meadow in Dorchester (sixty acres about) the other about ten years ago on Canton meadows, both in the Autumn and I think both, certainly the last in quite a wet place where the grass was uncut. If at any time I can learn anything further about them



Eggs
St.
bridge,
Mass.

I have had to make them
entirely from memory, having never
noted down any description of
the egg when the bird was
attending it. The birds are fairly
common here & are very noisy
in the spring. I once found a
nest containing shells of 10 eggs

I shall be pleased to send you
particulars but do not be at all
surprised if it has taken me
forty seven years to find these two -

From July

Samuel B. Westcott

Mr. Autumn Bangs sends for the identification
having seen the heads of both specimens which are on
one of the cards to the west in Mr. B's house. Mr. B. is
now gone

It may interest you to know that, while walking
beside a boggy pond today, I flushed a Wilson's Snipe.
This, I believe, is by no means rare, but it is the latest I
have seen myself.

Tonkspog, Meas.

Dec. 25, 1894.

Dear Mr. Brewster,

You have certainly more than
repaid, for my notes, by sending
me such a complete answer

regarding the permit. I am very
much obliged to you for giving me
all the details which, of course, I
should not repeat to anyone.

It shows me very clearly that, as you
inferred, a permit is an "elephant on
one hand." I shall not apply for one
yet, at any rate, as I am in no danger
whatever, but, should it seem advisable,
I will write you before taking any steps.

I have had to make them
entirely from memory, having never
noted down

particular bird I flushed first within a few feet of me and it flew about forty feet (parallel to me) and then lit. I hunted for fully twenty minutes before flushing it again, when I shot it instantly, with no. 7 shot, at about thirty feet away. My dog would point, when, of course, the bird would run, and I only succeeded in getting it by running in the direction the dog was pointing and thus flushing it. I think it not impossible that it may breed, as mine are not the first that have been shot. Besides, several years ago I found a nest, which was deserted before the eggs were laid, that I have never been able to identify. It was built of the same material as those of the smaller Rails, but was quite as large as that of a Bittern and was not placed in a grass-hummock, but on the ground in the marsh. It was a very neat affair (very unlike the slipshod nests of the Bittern), with nicely rounded edges, but I must admit that it looked very little like a photograph of a King Rail's nest and eggs that I have. I cannot even suggest what it might have been.

Thanking you again for your kindness about the permit and for identifying my birds and with kindest regards to Mrs. Brewster, I remain, very sincerely, J. H. Bowler.

I have always shown that I work as scientifically as possible, which has always satisfied the most inquisitive.

The duck that I described was called a "Blue-bill" by the stand-keeper, and, he tells me, comes in occasionally with the Black Ducks.

I am glad to know that he is a Widgeon, as I have never seen one before. It was taken early in December.

Regarding the King Rail, it was so badly shot in the back as to render it impossible to make out its sex. This bird and the Yellow Rail are the most difficult things to flush that I ever saw. This

I have had to make them noted down any description of the eye when the bird was entirely from memory, having never entered from any description of the eye when the bird was



Bag
St.,
bridge,
Mass.

most
in the
common
when

12/15/92
12/15/92



William Brewster, Esq.
145 Brattle St.,
Cambridge,
Mass.

BRIMLEY. OFFICE OF C. S. BRIMLEY.
H. H. & C. S. BRIMLEY,
'axidermists AND Collectors
OF
BIRD SKINS, EGGS AND MAMMAL SKINS,
REPTILES, BATRACHIANS, EMBRYOS, &c.

Raleigh, N. C., Aug 2, 1892

W^m Brewster, Esq.
Concord, Mass.,

Dear Sir,

Your favor of July 30, enclosing
postal note for .76¢, received with
thanks.

I always find it very hard to
give an intelligent description of
a bird's notes on paper but will
describe those of the King Rail as
best I can.

In Vol III, No. 2, page 320, of Bull.
Am. Museum Nat. Hist., W^m Frank
Dr. Chapman describes the note as
"resembling the syllables büp, büp, büp,
"uttered with increasing rapidity until
"the syllables are barely distinguishable



kak note can best be imitated
by pronouncing the syllable with
tongue down in the throat, the lips
open & teeth closed.

I am afraid you will find
the above notes rather meagre, as
I have had to make them
entirely from memory, having never
noted down any description of
the cry when the bird was
uttering it. The birds are fairly
common here & are very noisy
in the spring. I once found a
nest containing shells of 10 eggs
that had been recently robbed
of their contents - not hatched.
I have sometimes wondered if it
was the work of a snake.

Yours truly,
H. A. Brimley

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

94. *Rallus elegans*. RED-BREADED RAIL. — Nests in fresh-water marshes, near ponds; eggs eight to ten. A set taken July 18 on Butler's Island, Georgia.

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

King Rail in Louisiana.

BY W. C. AVERY, M. D.

On the 24th of March I met three small boys who were returning from the field with dogs and guns. Besides a half dozen hares which one of them carried on a string over his shoulder, was a King Rail (*R. elegans*) tied by the leg and in the hands of one of the boys.

It seems that the Rail had been pointed by their dog, flushed and shot at. She returned immediately, however, to the spot where she had been flushed first, and allowed herself to be captured by the boys. I asked permission of the owner to examine the bird, and observing a protuberance near the vent, I pressed it, and received in my hand a mature egg. This egg measures 1.54 x 1.22. The ground color is dull white, blotched and spotted with rusty brown, also specks of the same color and indistinct spots of lilac. The brown spots are largest and irregularly scattered over the surface. They vary in size from fifteen hundredths to the one hundredth of an inch in diameter. I returned to the marsh with one of the boys, who not being able to locate the tussock of bulrush where they had captured the Rail, our search for the nest was fruitless.

O. & O. XIII, May, 1888 p. 80.

A Set of the King Rail.

On June 1st, a colored man brought me four fresh eggs of the King Rail from a nest he had mown down in a meadow, which I reluctantly took, more to encourage him than for any other reason. On June 2d, he flushed the old Rail from near the site of the old nest and secured another egg and on June 3d he got the sixth, again near the old nest. On June 5th, another man found the same Rail and this time she had one egg in the poorest apology for a nest he had ever seen; this in the low bushes and briars on the edge of the meadow. The next day she had built up the nest some more and had laid another egg and she kept on laying one egg each day and building up her nest till on June 9th she had five eggs in the nest making eleven she had laid in all, the usual number here I think.

There was only one pair of Rails in this meadow which was only an acre or two in extent and there is no doubt that the old bird simply kept on laying till she had completed the set.

C. S. Brimley.

Raleigh, N. C.

O. & O Vol. 17, July, 1892 p. 103

Nesting of the King Rail Near
Philadelphia.

I was out on the meadows on the Schuylkill River below Philadelphia, on June 7, 1892, looking for nests of the Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgianna*) which breeds plentifully in that locality, when I came across a nest which amazed me.

It belonged to the King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) and contained six eggs. They proved to be fresh and the bird would have undoubtedly laid more, but I was afraid to leave them owing to the number of persons frequenting the meadows.

This is the first instance that I am aware of where this bird has bred in this locality.

Isaac S. Rieff.

Philadelphia.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 94

The King Rail, I shot on Sept. 9th; It is an old female and, although one of its legs had been broken by a shot and was much shorter than the other, was in first-class condition, apparently otherwise unhurt. As it happens, it was only about two hundred yards from where I shot the Yellow Rail.

Please tell me if I should have taken that

J. H. Bowler Nov. 17/93

255. *Rallus elegans*. . . . Great Red-breasted Rail. By the Editor.
Ibid., p. 95.—Specimen taken having a large water beetle sticking in its
oesophagus.

Jour. Cincin. Soc. N. H., 1882

crepitans

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James S. Flaming.
Part II, Land Birds. Hypothetical List.
Auk, xix, Jan., 1907, p. 87.

HYPOTHETICAL LIST.

¹ Canadian Journal, V, 1860, 394.

18. **Rallus crepitans.** CLAPPER RAIL.— Given in Prof. Hincks's list, and a pair were sent to Paris; given as occurring at Toronto, in 'Hand Book of Toronto,' 1858, 54, and by McIlwraith in his Hamilton list of 1860,¹ but is not mentioned in subsequent lists. In all three cases *R. elegans* is given as well, but even with this evidence the records must be incorrect.

Notes on Some Birds occurring near
Portland, Maine . . . N. C. Brown.

I am not aware that any of the scientific papers* relating to the birds of Maine include the name of *Rallus longirostris*. It appears, however, to be a rare visitor to the State. Mr. Samuel Hanson, a gentleman who is perfectly familiar with the species, has given me three instances of its occurrence in the vicinity of Portland. One specimen was killed by himself, in Falmouth, on the 17th of October, 1866, and about the same time two others were noticed in the game-bag of a sportsman in the same town. A probable fourth specimen (if correctly identified, doubtless the first killed in the State) was shot by my friend Mr. Luther Redlow, about September, 1864. It proved a "sp. nov." to all local sportsmen, and was pronounced to be of the species in question only after comparison with printed descriptions.

* A contributor writing from Portsmouth to the defunct "Country," under date of February 14, 1878, noted the capture of a "*Rallus crepitans*" at York, Me., in the last week of December, 1875. Since the gentleman chose to conceal his identity under the initial "E.," I am unable to say under whose sponsorship this record was made, but regard it as probably correct. Mr. Purdie writes me that his allusion on page 22, Vol. II, of this Bulletin, to the bird's occurrence in Maine was based on a knowledge of the same specimen, which, he adds, was preserved by Mr. Vickery, of Lynn, Mass.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, April, 1879, p. 108.

Note on the Clapper Rail in Maine.—Many years ago Mr. Samuel Hanson, of Portland, spoke to me about three examples of a large Rail from Falmouth, one of which he had shot and all of which he had examined. I did not see the birds, for this was long after they had been bagged, and none of them was, I believe, preserved; but they were identified by Mr. Hanson as Clapper Rails (*Rallus crepitans*). This identification I accepted.² Mr. Hanson was a man of education and standing, as well as a sportsman of wide experience in this country and abroad. Throughout his life, which ended a few months ago, he felt much interest in birds, especially in game birds. I think to-day, as I have always thought, that his identification of the rails could hardly have been questioned at the time when the record of them was made. But I now believe that he was mistaken and that the birds were King Rails (*Rallus elegans*). When they were recorded, no King Rails were known to have occurred in Maine.

When I cited¹ the record in my list of the birds of Portland and vicinity, but one such Rail had been noted,² and that was shot in Scarborough. Now, however, there are two records³ of King Rails from the very marsh on which Mr. Hanson found his birds. On the other hand, no Clapper Rails have been detected there or elsewhere in the vicinity of Portland since his identification was made. While the possibility that he was right remains, the probability that he was mistaken is so strong that I have felt obliged to call attention to it.

There is also to be considered a rail shot "about September, 1864" by Mr. Luther Redlow, and referred to in the original notice of Mr. Hanson's birds as "a probable" Clapper Rail, but not mentioned in my Portland list. If we adopt the hypothesis that the latter were King Rails, it can scarcely be doubted that the former was of the same species, and we are left without evidence that *Rallus crepitans* has occurred near Portland.—
NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, Portland, Me.

Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 95-96.

² Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. IV, p. 108.

¹ Proc. Port. Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. II, 1882, p. 30.

² Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. VII, p. 60.

³ Brock, Auk, XIII, p. 79; *ibid.*, XIX, p. 285.

Some Birds of Rare or Accidental Occurrence in New England. H. A. Purdie

11. *Rallus longirostris*. CLAPPER RAIL. — In the Natural History store of Brewster & Knowlton, Boston, I recently saw a mounted specimen of this species. The bird was captured by its flying on board a vessel in the harbor, May 4, 1875. Though recorded from Maine and Connecticut, it being in the latter probably quite a regular summer visitor (about the Sound), I believe its appearance before in Massachusetts has been questioned.

Bull. N.O.C. 2, Jan., 1877. p. 22

Rallus capitatae

Mr. Arthur Smith has shown me a fine specimen of the Clapper Rail which he killed late in October at Crescent Point Plymouth.

It was killed in a salt marsh & another large rail supposed to be of the same species was seen at the same time.

Published in Bull. N.O.C. January 1881.

Plymouth, Mass.

Oct. 1879.

The Clapper Rail again in Massachusetts. — I have the pleasure of hereby presenting for record a third example of *Rallus longirostris crepitans* obtained in this State; and at a remarkably late date in the season.

The bird was taken in a small pond-hole in 'Rocky Nook,' Kingston, on Dec. 29, 1885. It was in fair condition, showing no sign of being crippled.

It is now in possession of W. C. Hathaway of Plymouth, to whom I am indebted for above particulars.

The dates and places of the previous authentic records are: May 4, 1875, Boston Harbor (*Purdie*, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1877, p. 22), and October, 1879, Plymouth (*Brewster*, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1881, p. 62).—F. C. BROWNE, Framingham, Mass. *Auk*, 4, Oct. 1887, p. 344.

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General Notes From the 28th day of last August until about the 20th day of September a water bird, which I suppose to have been a Clapper Rail, located itself and remained among the wild oats that grow on the muddy banks of the Connecticut River upon the shore directly opposite the city of Springfield. During calm days the call of the bird, which very much resembles that of the common Guinea-hen, could be distinctly heard from this side of the river, a distance of more than a quarter of a mile. All my attempts at capture failed, although I approached within a few feet of the bird. I know of but one Clapper Rail having been taken in this vicinity. *Robert O. Morris, Springfield, Mass.*

Auk, 9 Jan. 1892, p. 74.

A SECOND MASSACHUSETTS SPECIMEN OF THE CLAPPER RAIL (*Rallus longirostris*). — Mr. Arthur Smith has shown me a fine specimen of the Clapper Rail which he shot late in October, 1879, at Gurnet Point, Plymouth, Massachusetts. It is a dark colored example in full fall plumage. It was killed on a salt marsh where another large Rail supposed to be of the same species was seen at the same time. After the expunging of the old-time records the Clapper Rail was first reinstated as a bird of Massachusetts by Mr. H. A. Purdie in this Bulletin for January, 1877. A year later Dr. Brewer published* a notice of what would at first reading seem to be a second specimen, for no reference is made to Mr. Purdie's previous record and the date of capture is given as May, 1876; but upon looking up the bird in the "New England Collection" of the Boston Society I find it to be the same as that upon which Mr. Purdie based his data.

Oddly enough Dr. Brewer apparently makes a similar blunder with *Rallus elegans* when he gives a specimen (l. c.) as "shot in Nahant in the spring of 1876," with the remark that there is "no previous record for New England, except West Haven, Conn." The latter statement is obviously incorrect, for the presence of the King Rail in Massachusetts had been made known by Mr. Purdie† a year previously, and, if I am not greatly mistaken, Dr. Brewer's specimen and the bird taken by Weleh "at Nahant, Nov. 21, 1875," are identical. — WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

*"Notes on certain species of New England Birds with Additions to his Catalogue of the Birds of New England. By T. M. Brewer." Proc. of the Boston Soc. of Nat. Hist., Vol. XIX, Feb. 6, 1878.

† Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. II, Jan., 1877, p. 22.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Jan., 1881, p. 62.

[Boston, Dec. 30, 1895]

[Mr. Wm Brewster etc]

let me know?

This week I had a
Clapper Rail come into
the store to be mounted.
It was shot at East
Orleans on the third
of December. Is this
not of rare occurrence?

Sincerely yours

Jas. T. Clark.

I will be over sure next
week.

This was a fine specimen - typical



The specimen referred to below was
sent in the flesh to Mr. Clark. I
saw it soon after he mounted it. It
is a typical crepuscular & cloudy specimen
to one found in my collection but a
trifle lighter colored below. W. B.
James T. Clark,

Taxidermist and Naturalist,

409 Washington St.

Boston, *Mar 30* 1901.

Mr. Wm. K. Brewster,

Dear Sir,

The Clapper
Rail was killed by Ed
Rogers of Scituate Mass.
and shot on North River
Marshfield, Mass.

February, 18th 1891.

Yours truly
James T. Clark

Rare Massachusetts Birds
by
William Brewster.

CLAPPER RAIL (*Rallus crepitans*).— I am still further indebted to Mr. Clark for a finely mounted specimen of the Clapper Rail which has an interesting history. It was taken November 30, 1895, at East Orleans, Massachusetts, by Mr. John Greenough Rodgers who started it on the edge of a marsh during a snow storm. It flew a short distance and plunged into a snow bank. Mr. Rodgers, seeing the hole by which it had entered, thrust in his hand and pulled it out. He sent it to a Mr. Seaver who kept it alive for a day or two. It ate at first but finally refused all food and died, when Mr. Seaver took it to Mr. Clark who found it much emaciated. It is a male, quite typical of the form *crepitans*, and in fresh and remarkably perfect autumn plumage.

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

The Clapper Rail in Essex County, Mass.— On September 15, 1908, I picked up on the beach at Plum Island, Mass., near the mouth of the Ipswich River, a dead Clapper Rail. After fully satisfying myself as to the identity of the bird, I took it to the Abbott Frazar Co., taxidermists, in Boston, to be mounted. I have since been informed by them that no indications were found of the bird's having been shot; and, taking into consideration the fact that water ran freely from the bird's mouth when picked up by the legs, I imagine that it probably died in the water. The body did not appear to be decomposed to any extent, and the taxidermist's foreman informed me that the bird had probably not been dead over three days. Taking into consideration the direction of winds, etc., during that period, it seems very unlikely that the rail could have drifted from further south. I have written a full statement of the facts to Mr. John Robinson, of the Peabody Museum at Salem, Mass., and Mr. Edward S. Morse, the curator; they both agreed that the bird should be regarded as an Essex County record. According to Mr. Townsend's 'Birds of Essex County,' and Howe and Allen's 'Birds of Massachusetts,' this is the first authentic record of the occurrence of the Clapper Rail in Essex County, though both cite: "Mr. J. F. Le Baron informed me that he shot a specimen some years ago at Ipswich." C. J. Maynard, the Naturalist's Guide, p. 145, 1870.

The mounted bird will be presented to the Peabody Museum, Salem.—
WILLIAM P. WHARTON, Groton, Mass.

Auk 26, Jan-1909, p. 76-77

Two Unusual Massachusetts Records.— On October 20, 1910, Mr. T. C. Wilson, of Ipswich, brought me a young male Clapper Rail (*Rallus crepitans crepitans*). It was shot in the salt marshes of that town near the Poor Farm, and was a young bird of this season. This seems to be the second authentic Massachusetts record.

Auk 28, Jan. 1911, p. 119.



246. CLAPPER RAIL.—(*Rallus longirostris crepitans*.) (Gmel.) Ridgw. Mr. Foster Parker, of Montezuma, Cayuga Co., N. Y., while drying his fyke-net on the bank of Seneca River, near that place, May 25th, 1879, took therefrom an adult female of this bird, that had become entangled in its meshes. He failed to secure the male bird.

Birds of
Central N. Y.
by Fowler
+
Rathbun.

O. & O. VII, Jun. 1882. p. 113

Long Island Bird Notes N. T. Lawrence

17. *Rallus longirostris crepitans*. CLAPPER RAIL.—This bird seems to be a winter resident on Long Island. Mr. Wm. Dutcher informs me that the gunners at South Oyster Bay see a few every winter. I have the following records from Far Rockaway: Nov. 9, 1872; Nov. 25, 1883; Dec. 5, 1884. Messrs. Wm. Dutcher and L. S. Foster found a freshly killed specimen on the outer beach, February 23, 1885.

Auk, 2, July, 1885. p. 274

Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.

Rallus crepitans. CLAPPER RAIL.—There is a fine specimen of this common Long Island bird in albinistic plumage. There are no data with it.

Auk X. July. 1893 p. 271

CLAPPER RAILS' EGGS.—During the season of 1881 1,000 eggs were taken from a tract of land not two miles square, and yet not half was taken that could have been. These eggs were taken to sell for cooking purposes in New York market. *O. & O. VIII. Mar. 1883. p. 44.*

preparation except to select a spot above the reach of tide, and with a little old hay beneath and a good screen overhead, they commence business. Nests are found from the 15th of May to the 20th of June in abundance; and even as late as the 1st of August fresh eggs have been obtained. Farmers, and others in the localities where these birds are abundant, have been in the habit of "going egging," as they term it, for years, gathering in a season bushels of eggs, in the aggregate, and using them in the culinary operations of the family. My first discovery of this mine of Rails' eggs was an accidental one. At a stand in a market my attention was directed to a basket of 200 or more of these eggs. Thinking it might be well to secure a few of them I enquired and found the price to be according to weight, at what they were worth for cooking purposes. Thinking it a shame to destroy so many specimens, I took the lot, getting information about the locality and the promise of more the succeeding week. Judge of my surprise the next week when 500 or more arrived. For two years I took all our collectors brought, but owing to the prospect of a fine of \$25 for each egg taken, and not being able to have such expensive eggs in my collection, it was deemed best to leave the eggs to be hatched for the benefit of the gunners. I enquired in the market this Fall for the killed birds, and found a large lot at one stand at from \$1 to \$1.50 per dozen. They weigh about one pound each, but are very unsalable from some cause, a large lot having to be thrown away. Although not web-footed they can swim pretty well when going from island to island, or across the creeks, accompanied by their family of young Rails. I do not think they have more than one nest in a year, unless their first nest is broken up. The number of eggs in a nest varies from eight to sixteen, not many reaching the latter figure. The size and color varies very much. I have eggs $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches long by

$1\frac{3}{8}$ broad; most are about $1\frac{3}{8} \times 1\frac{1}{8}$, although found occasionally $1\frac{1}{4} \times 1$ inch. The color varies from bluish white to light brown, and the markings vary from faint dots to heavy splashes of brown. The farmers, when gathering the eggs for culinary uses, if in doubt as to the freshness of the eggs, dip them in shallow water, and if they sink and lie on the sides they call them good; if they sink but stand on end they put them back in the nest; but if they float they know them to be bad. The young are full grown about the 1st of September. The C. Rails being very shy, form burrows under the growing grass, so that their nests are not easily found; and were it not for the fact of their placing their nests near some tall grass or bunch of reeds it would be next to impossible to find them. They seldom take to wing unless they are suddenly startled, trusting to their being able to run and dodge their pursuers in the reeds. While setting, they stick to their nests to the last moment, and are sometimes caught on the nest. They startle you J. sometimes as you uncover the nest. To use the words of one collector, "They are sometimes quite bold and saucy, if it is near hatching time, and squawk like a setting hen." Having had a large number to distribute during 1880 and 1881 it has reduced values in catalogues; but having none to send out in 1883, another change may be necessary. Most of the C. Rail eggs were found on the north side of Long Island. I have not met with this species on the Elizabeth or Newark great meadows, but found one nest of the Virginia R., containing eight eggs, on the Salt Meadows at Elizabeth. The gunners are very numerous about here, and birds stand but little chance. We have but two or three good collectors of eggs in this neighborhood.—*B. B., Elizabeth, N. J. O. & O. VIII. May. 1883. p. 37-40.*

2 eggs see Howland

1883. p. 35.

nd. Ibid., p. 35.—Chiefly re- Sora Rails. O. & O. Vol. VIII. Ibid., p. 40.—Its abundance, O. & O. Vol. VIII

CLAPPER RAILS' EGGS.—During the season of 1881 1,000 eggs were taken from a tract of land not two miles square, and yet not half was taken that could have been. These eggs were taken to sell for cooking purposes in New York market. *O. & O. VIII. Mar. 1883. p. 44.*

Alexander Wilson's Works.

When Wilson wrote his book it was purely from nature. He went into the woods and wilds for subjects and matter for his brush and pencil. If he quoted anything it was from persons that had good opportunities for observation and in whom he could rely. He makes no quotations from the works of others except to expose their errors and correct their mistakes. He was *Par excellence* the American Ornithologist, the father of ornithology in this country. His whole mind and energies were bent on the one object of his life. He does not appear to have sought society, he does not appear to have been fascinating, and yet he made a few chosen friends and held them through life. They were slaves to his every desire. His friend, William Bartram, responded to his every wish. It was the same with his "Brether Scott," Alexander Lawson, without a doubt one of the best of engravers on copper of his time or any time since. Lawson never crossed him but once and that was when he criticised some of his Poems in the edition of 1790, when Wilson snatched the volume and threw it into the fire saying that "if a friend found so much fault it could not be of much account." Lawson never crossed him in his ornithological desires and we have it in his own words that he worked on some of the finest plates at prices that did not bring him over fifty cents per day. Only think of it, one of the finest copper plate engravers working for from three to five cents per hour. If that is not devotion to a friend and his work we do not know what is. There has been written some six or seven lives of Wilson, but not one that does him justice, not one that shows a proper research. Even his friend Ord did not grasp the situation, and only tells part of the story. Rev. Alexander from eight to sixteen, not many reaching the latter figure. The size and color varies very much. I have eggs $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches long by

*For note on Clapper Rail eggs see
Virginia Rails by Snowdon Howland
Newport, R. I.*

O. & O. VIII. May. 1883. p. 35.

707. *Oological.* By Snowdon Howland. *Ibid.*, p. 35.—Chiefly relates to the eggs of Clapper, Virginia, and Sora Rails. *O. & O. Vol. VIII*
711. *The Clapper Rail.* By B. B. *Ibid.*, p. 40.—Its abundance, habits, etc., in the marshes of Elizabeth, N. J. *O. & O. Vol. VIII*

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

95. *Rallus longirostris crepitans*. CLAPPER RAIL.—Nests in salt
marshes; eggs ten to twelve. April 18.

Bull. N. O. O., 8, Jan., 1883, p. 42

*Observations on Nest Building
by Walter Hogue, Yuzmore, S. C.*

Close by my house is a bed of rushes in which a Clapper Rail builds every year. The first time I found the nest it contained only one egg, and did not seem wide enough to hold more than one more. It was in plain sight from my "skinning" window, so I placed my spy glass in a rest and lost much valuable time in watching the movements of the old marsh-hen and her mate. As each new egg was laid they added fresh material to the outside, until the nest was at last amply sufficient to contain the full set of eight. The deft way in which they interwove their building material was really a beautiful sight. The male dragged one long, trailing reed from a rice pond fully a hundred yards distant, and stitched it through and through the whole outside. I took it out after the young were hatched and found it to measure four feet and a half in length.

O. & O. XII, Nov. 1887 p. 181

Notes-Cobb's Isld Va & vicinity, May 1888
Wm. H. Fisher, Baltimore, Md.

211. Clapper Rail.—Very abundant on all the marshes, although seldom seen. I only saw one, it being flushed on the edge of a "gut," where it had no place to sulk away in the grass. Many nests were found, all at Cobb's Island. Most of them were built about six to ten inches from the ground, and some had drift grass drawn over the top to hide them. All had fresh eggs, the largest set being nine and the smallest five.

O. & O. Vol. 18, Mar. 1893 p. 41

The Clapper Rails build in the high grass along the creeks on south side of the island. The surrounding meadows are so frequently overflowed that progression and search for their nests is extremely laborious on account of the yielding nature of the black muddy soil. The grass is always somewhat twisted about directly over their nests and this is how the natives find their eggs, which are highly esteemed as an article of diet. It is surprising to one who, after having tramped over the salt meadows all day without having seen a single Rail, will go after sundown to some outlying secluded nests being found, so far as I am aware, only by watching the birds.

Seven mile Beach, N. J. H. A. R.

O + O. XIV. Jan. 1889. p. 3

The Clapper Rail,

Or Mud Hen, Marsh or Meadow Hen, (*Rallus longirostris crepitans*.) This bird, which answers equally well to any of the above names, is found in certain parts of the great salt meadows along the coasts of New Jersey and Long Island in large numbers. Being a very shy bird, living along the creeks of the salt meadows where few men go early in the year, its habits, time of coming and going, &c., are not well known. It is supposed they travel at night. The time of arrival on Long Island is dependent on the season, but from the 1st to the 15th of May is the time they are first seen. Their food consists of worms, aquatic insects, &c. They form a group apart from the other Rails during the breeding season and are not very sociable, but, on the contrary, exceedingly shy. Instinct does much for these as well as other birds, and knowing how the wonderful powers of man are directed toward their destruction, or to obtaining their eggs, they are obliged to carefully hide their nests under some tuft of grass, left standing from the previous year, or among the reeds, where they are entirely hidden from the Hawks and Owls and their worst enemy, man. They make but little

Rallus crepitans :

See "Sennett on the Clapper Rails,"
under *Rallus longirostris*.

Auk VI, April, 1889, pp. 161-166.

ON *RALLUS LONGIROSTRIS*, BODD., AND ITS GEOGRAPHICAL RACES.

BY ROBERT RIDGWAY.

ALTHOUGH, as rightly determined by Messrs. Selater and Salvin (cf. P. Z. S., 1868, p. 442), the oldest name of this species is *Rallus longirostris*, Bodd., the birds to which this name is strictly applicable are so different from those from other portions of America, referred by the above authors to the same species, that it appears necessary to recognize by name several geographical races. Comparing the South American bird (true *longirostris*) with the small and very dark-colored Gulf Coast form here named *saturatus*, the differences are indeed more striking than between *longirostris* in any of its forms and *R. elegans*, yet the latter is undoubtedly a distinct species.

* On the destruction of birds from drowning see two items in this Bulletin (Vol. V, pp. 44 and 192) in relation to inland waters, which are doubtless far less fatal than those of the oceans.

The Pacific Coast bird, described by me in 1874 (cf. Am. Nat., VIII, p. 111) as "*R. elegans* var. *obsoletus*," proves to be a true "Clapper" Rail, strictly confined to the salt-water marshes; and were it not for the very wide interval of territory separating it from any race of *R. longirostris*, it might be classed as a form of the latter species. In view of its complete isolation, however, taken together with its peculiar characters of coloration and form, it seems best to regard it as a distinct species.

In the following synopsis are included not only *R. longirostris* and its races, but also all the other known North American members of the genus.

A. *Size large (wing more than 5 inches).*

a. Axillars and flanks dusky or reddish umber, with broad white bars (bars about .15 of an inch wide on the flanks), or narrow reddish-white and pale cinnamon bars.

1. *R. elegans*. Back and scapulars ochraceous-olive, or yellowish-drab, sharply and conspicuously striped with black; breast deep cinnamon.

a. var. *elegans*. Flanks and sides dusky-brownish, widely and distinctly barred with pure white. Wing, 5.90-6.80; culmen, 2.12-2.50; least depth of bill, .27-.35; tarsus, 2.20-2.40; middle toe, 1.80-2.10. *Hab.*, freshwater marshes of Eastern North America.

b. var. *tenuirostris*.* Flanks and sides reddish-umber, narrowly and indistinctly barred with reddish-white and dilute cinnamon; breast and neck more deeply and uniformly cinnamon than in *elegans*. Wing, 5.90; culmen, 2.00-2.10; least depth of bill, .22; tarsus, 1.80-1.90; middle toe, 1.70. *Hab.*, Mexico (Mazatlan, and city of Mexico).

b. Axillars and flanks brownish-gray or grayish-brown, with narrow white bars (about .10 of an inch wide on flanks).

2. *R. obsoletus*.† Back and scapulars grayish-olive, indistinctly striped with dusky; breast, deep cinnamon. Wing, 6.40-6.60; culmen, 2.25-2.50; least depth of bill, .32-.35; tarsus, 2.10-2.25; middle toe, 2.00-2.15. *Hab.*, salt-water marshes of California.

3. *R. longirostris*. Back and scapulars light hair-brown, brownish-gray, or ashy, obsoletely striped with brown (in Gulf-Coast specimens distinctly striped with dusky, much as in *R. obsoletus*); breast pale buff or dull cinnamon.

a. var. *longirostris*. Above olive-gray, distinctly striped with van-

* *Rallus elegans tenuirostris*, LAW. R.

Rallus elegans var. *tenuirostris*, LAW. R., Am. Nat., VIII, Feb. 1874, p. 111 (city of Mexico).

† *Rallus obsoletus*, RIDGW.

Rallus elegans var. *obsoletus*, RIDGW., Am. Nat., VIII, Feb. 1874, p. 111 (coast of California).

ceeded in obtaining the head and some wing and tail feathers." The remains I forwarded to Mr. J. A. Allen for comparison and identification, and he pronounces it an undoubted specimen of *Cooltrygon montana*, the Ruddy Quail-dove, and the first recorded for North America. I wish here to express my indebtedness to Mr. Allen for this and many other similar kindnesses. I wish also to thank Mr. Atkins who has kindly presented the remains of the Dove in question to me. It is No. 3210 in my catalogue.

Milvulus forficatus. SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER.—On December 10, 1888, Mr. J. W. Atkins saw five Scissor-tailed Flycatchers near the town of Key West and secured two of them, a male and a female. He says "The birds seen to-day were quite shy and were taken at long range." This is, I believe, the second record for the island of Key West, and it can hardly be considered as accidental at that point.

THE CLAPPER RAILS OF THE UNITED STATES
AND WEST INDIES COMPARED WITH *RALLUS*
LONGIROSTRIS OF SOUTH AMERICA.

BY GEORGE B. SENNETT.

IN 'TABL. P. E.,' 1783, Boddart described *Rallus longirostris*, based on 'Râle à long bec, de Cayenne,' Buff., 'Pl. Enl.,' 849.

In 1788 Gmelin described *Rallus crepitans* (S. N., Vol. 1, pt. ii, p. 713) based on 'Clapper Rail, from New York' (Penn., Arct. Zool., II, 1781, No. 407).

In 1868 (Proc. Zool. Soc., p. 442) Messrs. Sclater and Salvin give an admirable 'Synopsis of the American Rails.' In this synopsis the New York Rail (*crepitans*) is not separated from the Cayenne Rail (*longirostris*) but is made its synonym.

In 1874 Mr. Lawrence described *Rallus crassirostris* (Ann. Lyc. N. Y., Vol. X, Feb., 1874). Mr. Lawrence sent the Bahia specimen, which differed so much from the *crepitans* of our Atlantic Coast, to England and says, "on returning it, Mr. Sclater wrote, 'is true *longirostris*, figured Pl. Enl. 849.'" Again Mr. Lawrence says, "I find it agrees with Buffon's plate (which is of reduced size) in the apparent color of the back, also in the form and stoutness of the bill"; and again, "my specimen differed so much from *crepitans*, as well as from all others, that I considered

virginianus

Pallus virginianus. * = fig-note, c = cutta

1889

May 16¹² 1889 3² 13² 17³ 18⁴ 21¹ 22² 23² 24² 25² 28² 1890
 June 1² 7² 9³ 11⁴ 12⁶ 13² 14² 1889 5² 6² 8² 1890 1² 2² 3² 1891.
 July 12¹ (Faxon) 1889.
 Aug. 8¹ (Faxon) 1889.
 April 16¹ (Faxon) 23¹ (Faxon) 1890 18¹ 1891 6¹ (Hubert Holden) 24¹ (Faxon) 1893
 19² 27¹ 28¹ 1897 10¹ Concord 20¹ (C. P. P. / Ball's Hill) 1898 30¹ Concord 1899 14¹ (A. H. Hutton) 1899

May 4² 15² 18² 21² 24¹ 31² 1891
 " 11¹ 24¹ 30¹ Concord 1892
 " 11¹ 18¹ 30¹ 1893
 " 4¹ 5¹ 6¹ 11¹ 19¹ 20¹ 29¹ 1895 29¹ 1898 3¹ 4¹ 6¹ 7¹ 9¹ 10¹ 11¹ 12¹ 13¹ 14¹ 15¹ 16¹ 17¹ 18¹ 19¹ 20¹
 Concord (A. H. Hutton) Ball's Hill n. Faxon C. P. P. Concord Ball's Hill n. Faxon 21¹ Great Meadows Concord, 1891

June 8¹ Concord 1892

July 1¹ 2¹ 14¹ hi-ki-ki heard - 21¹ 22¹ hi-ki-ki heard Concord 1892
 " 3¹ Concord 1893

August 14¹ (K. K.) Concord 1892 8¹ hi-ki note in picked weed edge of river - 13¹ (ride) Concord. 1893.

Sept.

November 9¹ (sec. C. P. P. / A. H. Hutton) 1898
 Dec. 9¹ (J. H. B. notes) 1893

R. virginianus

Rallus virginianus.

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass

May 16 Cambridge. - While crossing the meadow just north of the Maple Swamp about noon (the day clear and the sun hot at the time) my attention was attracted by a loud, sharp ~~peck~~ Alarm note uttered, at intervals of about three or four seconds, in a dense thicket of alders and wild rose bushes on the bank of Alewife Brook. This cry resembled the peck of *Colaptes* but was sharper and shriller. It began when I was about midway of the meadow and was continued until, approaching the thicket cautiously, I finally spied the author, a Virginia Rail, skulking along within three or four yards of me. I shot at and missed her when she ran swiftly into a dense tangle of wild roses. Here she remained silent and probably motionless for a minute or two but when I forced my way in she darted out and, pausing in plain sight, standing knee deep in a pool of water, began a double-syllabled cry less loud and sharp than the first and sounding like kie-kie. Alarm note. This was repeated at about the same intervals as the peck. She jerked her tail up sharply every ~~second~~ few seconds and occasionally bobbed her head like an automaton. I finally shot her, with some hesitation as her peculiar behavior and apparent solicitude led me to suspect that she had young but, on dissecting her, I found that she had not laid this season while the largest oviducts in her ovary were not larger than buckshot. I cannot understand why she showed so much anxiety.

June 1 Concord. - Heard one utter the wh'ey - wh'ey - wh'ey - wh'ey - wh'ey - wh'ey cry near the middle of Great Meadows. It was apparently on a small, dry island overgrown with tall ferns & a few alders. Flushed another on the edge a ditch among flags. It rose with dangling legs & flew to a thicket of willows on the river bank.

Rallus virginianus

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass.

June 3 Cambridge - Dr. W. Faxon heard one or more in the meadow between the Fitchburg & Mass. Cen. R. R. tracks north of the Glacialis pond.

" 7 I heard two this evening in a bush grown meadow on the north side of Pont Pond, both uttering the grunting cry.

" 9 Two, both uttering the grunting cry, in the meadow between the Fitchburg & Mass. Central tracks north of the Glacialis. Each was heard only once during at least a period of two hours. He afterwards heard a third just north of Pont Pond, at about noon. At least two of the three called when the sun was shining. The forenoon was still and sultry. All three birds were in thickets of low willows, alders etc. Calling at midday.

" 12 As I was wading along the edge of the Pont Pond swamp a Virginia Rail suddenly called out peek in a willow copse a few rods off. As I approached the spot it continued to utter this cry in loud, sharp tones, very half second or so. Presently its mate also began to call. Taking a few steps further I saw both birds standing in the shallow water a few yards apart & within 20 feet of me. They kept uttering the cry just mentioned varying it a little from peek to pe-uk. When I remained still they stood still, also, merely jerking up their tails and craning their necks from side to side to get a better look at me. If I moved they would run from cover to cover circling around me sometimes coming within a few feet & calling incessantly. One, the ♂ I think, walked up the stem of an inclining alder to a height of ten or more feet then fluttered feebly down into a thicket alighting on the ground. The water between the shallows places was often a foot or more deep but everywhere covered A pair with young

Rallus virginianus

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889

Mass.

June 12

Cambridge } thickly with duck-weed. They often attempted to walk across these deep places and when their feet slipped

through would open their wings and half-run, half-fly making a loud plumping sound. I finally went out into the open meadow again where they became silent. Returning a few minutes later I started them from a tussock surrounded by water. Beating up the long grass I discovered a young bird only a few days old crouched flat on the mud with the color of which its black down harmonized ~~with~~ matched closely. I put my finger within an inch of its little bill and made sudden passes at its head but it did not move. One leg was stretched out straight behind, the other doubled under the body. Its eyes were both closed tight. I finally replaced the grass & left the bird just as I found it. It behaved exactly as a young Green would have done.

Both ^{old} birds meanwhile kept up their loud cries & the ♀ ran around me coming within three or four feet. The cry just mentioned resembles closely the pe-uk of the Flicker. In a differing part of the same swamp I afterwards found another pair which behaved in precisely the same way, but I did not find their young. Not once while I was in the swamp (two or three consecutive hours) did I hear the hungry pig call but no sooner had I reached the dry land outside than a Rail started it and it was taken up by half a dozen or more, one ^{beginning} calling as soon as the preceding one ceased. As my companion said it had a sound of derision, as if they were laughing at my vain efforts to harm them. Last night in this swamp the Virginia Rails often gave the pig cry. One uttered only the first note repeating it a dozen times or more at regular intervals as the Iowa calls Wac. Faxon thought it a song note

Chick

Notes

Song?

Rallus virginianus

1890 Mass.

May 22 Cambridge.- Found five pairs which evidently had young. They would circle about me within eight or ten yards uttering the Flicker cry (peck or pe-ak) continuously and occasionally the ki-ki keeping well concealed as a rule but occasionally peeping out at me from under cover of a tussock or tuft of grass or bush. In every case both parents were together or within a few yards of one another. They would usually begin their clamor when I was within 30 or 40 yds. of their retreat. I started one young, a chick of about 4 or 5 days old covered with black down. It huddled out under foot and slipped across a pool on the floating vegetation peep-peeping exactly like a young chicken. Within less than 20 yds. of the place where the old birds began to call I found in the case of three pairs a nest with egg shells which looked as if young had very recently escaped from them. In one instance a pair of birds which made a great outcry, started within five feet of such a nest. From this I infer that the young, for the first three or four days at least, do not ^{they} move far from the spot where they are hatched. Another curious fact, which I have noticed before, is that three or four nests, all equally well made and smoothly lined, are apt to occur within the space of a few square rods. To-day I found four within ten or fifteen feet of one another one containing egg shells, the others empty. During the day I found no less than fifteen nests of which only three bore evidences of having been used. This I have never observed in the case of the Carolina Rail. All of these fifteen nests except one were in the tops of tussocks among or very near scanty thickets of young willows four to six feet tall. They were all perfectly open above the grass not being drawn over the top in the least. The nest most in a tussock was built among the slender stems of

Young out

Behavior of parents

Both parents together with young

Peeping of young

Young stay near nest.

Faded(?) nests

Position of nests.

(Continued)

Rallus virginianus

1890 Mass.

(May 22 Cambridge) found small willows. In materials and construction these nests were precisely similar to those of the Carolina Rail save for this; that most of them were in taller tussocks and sunk more deeply in the tops of these tussocks instead of being built up among the tussock grass.

I found one nest with ten eggs all incubated about alike and perhaps four or five days. This nest was in the top of a tussock, the bottom resting in the water, the eggs about 2 inches above the water. The tussock grass, both green & dead, was "lodged" in a thick mat ~~close~~ over the nest concealing the eggs almost perfectly. The sitting bird slid off when I within four or five feet and with wings ^{half} spread and trailing glided off over an open space, moving slowly evidently trying to induce me to follow. She disappeared quickly and made no noise of any kind. The eggs were arranged in a single tier.

Nest 10 eggs

In several of its attitudes and motions the Virginia Rail is very unlike the Carolina. It stands, usually, in a crouching posture, the neck drawn in, the bill pointing downward like a Snipe's or Woodcock's. Its dark coloring and small, deeply set red eye with something about the carriage of the head give it a sinister expression. It ~~moves~~ walks very like the Carolina lifting & putting down its feet in the same gingerly way and jutting the tail up sharply at each step. If alarmed it will sometimes make a run of 30 or 40 yds. at surprising speed, apparently jumping, or at least moving with a seeming bounding motion, like a mouse. It swims broad, deep pools or ditches without hesitation and very swiftly carrying its head high and nodding like a Coot's at each stroke of the feet, its tail pointing straight up. It feeds chiefly among bushes or long grass & less often shows its elf in open places than the Carolina

Attitudes &
Motions

Running

Swimming

Rallus virginianus

1810 Mass.

May 25 Cambridge. - At 1 P.M., the day clear with strong S. wind, I saw two birds which I took to be Red-wings (*Agelaius*) fly a short distance and drop down together among dense, tall cut-tails. As we were passing the place, walking on the railroad track and making no noise save by talking in ordinary tones, they rose, again together, at fully thirty yards distance and to my surprise I recognized them positively as Virginia Rails. Their second flight was protracted to fully eighty yards and was nearly or quite as swift as a blackbird's although performed more in the manner of a Quail, the course level, the wings beating rapidly & steadily, the legs stretched out behind like a Hare's. The most remarkable fact, however, is that they rose straight up among these tall flags to a height of nearly six feet with the utmost apparent ease. Probably they were not really disturbed by our approach but merely happened to rise at that particular time. I do not remember to have ever seen two Rails fly thus in company before. The sig note of this species sounds at a distance like: whick, whick, whick, whick, whick, whick the first note highest the others in a descending scale and more and more accelerated towards the end. Unusual
divergent flight.

" 28 During a heavy shower started two birds, one of them twice in quick succession. Both rose at fully 10 yds. and flew slowly with hanging legs. They were in open meadow but not far from bushes. Heard pig note over and pair with young calling peak and ki-ki in exactly the same spot where I found a pair acting in a similar manner on the 23rd. This confirms my previous conclusion that the young remain for a number of days after hatching within a few yards of the nest. In this instance we found ^{empty} Virginia Rails nest just 20 yards from where the old birds were calling. Bird started
twice in quick
succession

Young remain
near nest for
several days
after hatching

June 8 Very silent of late except when disturbed with young. I heard the pig-note twice to-day but on the 5th & 6th failed to hear it at all. Calling season
over

Rallus virginianus

1891 Mass.

May 4

Cambridge. - Searched the swamps rather thoroughly for nests and found two both apparently just finished and in the tops of tussocks, one in open meadow near Thetabos, the other among dense cut-tails and scattered bushes. One nest was dry, the other lined with wet, soggy, mud-soaked pieces of ^{tussock grass} flag, which must have been put in within 24 hours as there has been no heavy rain for nearly a month. The water in the swamps is low for the season & Rails seem to be scarce although reported abundant two weeks ago. I heard only two *virginias* this morning.

nest lined
with wet
flag.

" 15

Visited the above mentioned nests this afternoon. The one in the open meadow contained 9 eggs on which the bird was sitting. I poked the grass directly over her but she did not move for several seconds after she was exposed. She was excessively puffed out laterally and looked as big as a Woodcock. She held her head rather high the bill nearly horizontal. When she started she took to her wings, flying directly from the nest into the neighboring thicket where she dropped within ten yards of me. She voided her excrement on the eggs just as she left them but there was no old excrement in or near the nest. The bird did not appear or make any noise while I was drapping up the eggs but either she or her mate uttered the pig note once in the thicket as I was walking off.

nest, 9 eggs

The nest was in the top of a large tussock, nearly in the middle, apparently resting on the solid earth but really raised 5 inches by actual measure above the crown of the mound and supported among the stout stems of the tussock grass. The grass was dense and luxuriant some of the blades rising 29 inches above the nest and a sufficient number coming together

Rallus virginianus.

1891 Mass.

May 15 Cambridge - directly over it to conceal it perfectly. None
V. 2) of the blades had been drawn down or interlaced as is nest
sometimes the case (at least with Sora Rails' nests) nor
was there any trace whatever of a "run way".

The tussock stood in water 3 or 4 inches deep with
other tussocks near it. In the top of one just 9 ft. off
I found a new ~~but~~ nest quite as well finished as False nests
the one which held the eggs and resembling it closely
in every particular. I am certain that this nest has
been built since my last visit for on that occasion I
examined every tussock in the meadow. As I have often
in former years found two or three Va. Rails' nests
within a rod or two of one another but never more
than one occupied I am forced to conclude that this
bird, like the Marsh Wren, builds false or "cock" nests.

The nest taken to-day measured in situ 4 in. across
one way by 5 inches the other, and 1 1/2 inches in
depth. It was a thin mat of dead tussock grass of
last year's growth, carefully arranged. The eggs were
arranged in three nearly straight rows with butts &
points alternating thus: 

On visiting the other nest (found May 4) it proved
to be empty. I now think it a "cock" nest. There was
a Rail near it uttering the peck cry and acting as
if with young, following me about etc.

This bird and the parent of the nest with eggs were scarcity of
the only two Virginia Rails that I saw or heard all the birds, due
I remained in the swamps until it was dark to low stage
& visited all the old places. Sora's were scarce, of water-
also. The water is very low this season and the
larger marshes nearly dry.

Rallus virginianus

1891 Mass.

May 18

Cambridge. Nest in a clump of tall Canary grass and flags mixed together, within 20 yds. of the Fitchburg R. R. and 15 yds. from the edge of a dense thicket of willows and maples with a few leafless button bushes scattered about but essentially in open marsh. It was about 12 inches above the water (here only an inch or two deep) but was not built up from the ground its sole support being the stout grass stems and flag stalks among which it was placed. The grass and flags clond together over it concealing it perfectly. The nest was made of last year's flags & was a thin, mat-like, very slightly-hollowed structure. The birds called pink and gave the pig note in the neighboring thicket. We visited the nest twice but did not see the female sitting there although in the interim she had visited the nest and changed the arrangement of the eggs which, moreover, were warm. The eggs (now in the collection of W. A. Francis) are by far the handsomest that I have ever seen, the ground color being of an unusually deep creamy tint and some of the markings rich reddish brown or chestnut and as large as one's little finger nail. These eggs were perfectly fresh & the set doubtless incomplete.

1891

Canton. The Bolles Bros. of Canton found a nest with Birds 7 eggs. The bird was sitting and ran off into the grass breaking. Returning an hour or two later the Bolles approached the nest cautiously and discovered a Va. Rail in it busily engaged in breaking the eggs. It trampled and jumped on them and was also distinctly seen to drive its bill into one of them. On being driven out four of the eggs were found to be broken. Neither the bird first seen nor the second one was captured. The Bros believe both to have been the same individual but have no proof of this.

Rallus virginianus.

1891. Mass.

Nests.

May 21. Cambridge.-- With the help of a companion I found four nests in the cat-tail swamp near Pont Pond in less than two hours and noted the following details:

Nest No 1. Ten eggs on the point of hatching, one being "chipped". Bird sat close, allowing me to almost touch her, then darted off, running over the floating vegetation with wonderful speed and concealing herself in a thicket of dense flags. Neither she nor her mate made any sound whatever. Nest among rather short, sparse green flags, but built in a clump of a peculiar kind of grass with broad, flat, light green blades. The tips of these blades were drawn down from every side and intertwined loosely over the nest forming an arched canopy which caught my eye at a distance of several yards and betrayed the nest instead of protecting it. The eggs could be seen through this canopy but not very distinctly except from directly above. There was no run-way. The water about the nest was about four inches deep. The eggs were a handsome set, strongly blotched with reddish brown, one or two approaching but not equaling, those found by Francis on the 18th. Eggs in single tier, filling nest to rim. *Nest & eggs left untouched.*

Nest No 2.--Ten fresh eggs arranged in single tier filling the nest to the rim. No bird seen or heard but eggs warm. Nest in the top of a tussock, the grass rather short and thin the ends drawn over and intertwined. Eggs visible several feet away from the height of a man's head, but well concealed from the sides. No run-way. The tussock was near the middle of a ditch in a very open situation, its top being on a level with the ends of the green flags that were scattered sparsely around it. There were dense beds of green cat-tails not far off. *Eggs taken by W. A. Jeffries.*

Nest No 3. Three fresh eggs. No bird seen or heard. Nest in clump of ^{broad bladed, yellow sedge (Carex distachya)} tall green flags, on the very edge of a deep, wide ditch, built among the stout stems of the flags about ~~7~~^(measured) inches above the water, ~~the position being very like that of the least Bittern's nest which I found last year.~~ The cluster of sedge flags was separated from a dense bed of very tall, rank-growing flags by a space of open water two or three feet wide. The nest was a thin mat of coarse pieces of dead cat tails and measured internally $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. The ends of the surrounding sedge stalks bent over it and concealed the eggs very effectively but none of them showed any signs of having been pulled down or intertwined by the bird. There was no run way. Such a nest could be easily & quickly made by merely wedging a mat of dead flags into the top of a bunch of grass. On the 2nd of May this nest contained eight eggs which were irregularly disposed in a single tier. Bird sitting. She darted off when my hand was within 12 feet of

her and half flying, half running crossed the ditch and covered herself in the dense flags beyond where she uttered the jig-note once, then hink several times, then ki-ki a great many times, but did not show herself. On the 21st no bird was seen a heard. I took the eggs for W. A. Jeffers who found the nest.
Rallus virginianus.

1891. Mass.

Nests.

May 21 Cambridge.-- Nest No 4. Six fresh eggs. No bird.

~~Nest in a clump of dry, bleached, last-year's flags the tops of which had been broken down by the winter snow's forming a natural canopy. Nest resting on the stems of these flags eight or ten inches above the water which was here about a foot deep but its surface everywhere covered with a raft of floating bits of dead flags. There were no tall green flags in the vicinity, but over a surrounding space of half an acre in extent clumps of dead, broken-down flags stood crowded thickly together, forming a homogeneous bed.~~

May 29 nest a thin mat of pieces of dead grass & flags misstrung (in situ) internally 5 inches across by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. Bottom of cup just 7 inches above the water. Nest placed in a bunch of tussock grass nearly a foot above the tussock the top of which was under water, here about 10 inches deep. Situation a great bed of broken down flags of last year's growth with scattered green flags rising 2 to 3 ft above the water. A few of these green flags surrounded the nest. The tops of the tussock grass bent naturally over it concealing the eggs well but there was no indication that any of the stems had been bent down or interrupted by the bird. No trace whatever of a run-way. Eggs irregularly disposed as to large & small ends, one on top of the others May 29 when the full set of 10 had been laid. On this date the bird was sitting. She slipped off and darted over the water into the surrounding flags without using her wings when I tried to touch her. Up to the last moment she remained perfectly still, her head lowered. She did not reappear or even make any sound while I remained near the spot.

May 29 Cambridge.-- Nest 8 eggs, slightly incubated. Middle of large open meadow surrounded by sparsely growing cat-tails & waxy grass in clump of sedge (*Carex stipitata*) & cat-tails. Eggs conspicuous 15 ft away. No canopy over top. Nest as bulky as a Carolina's & it was built up 6 inches from the ground which formed its chief support although the grass & flag stems helped support it. It had a slight run way on south side. No bird. Eggs cold. Egg cavity 5 inches across by $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep. Bottom 3 inches above water. Egg in single tier. Set taken

Massachusetts.

Rallus virginianus. (No. 1)

1892.

May. 30 Concord. Heard two Virginia Rails, One was calling cut-cut-cut, cutta, cutta. He kept it up steadily far into, if not through the entire night for we heard him as late as we were awake (about 10.30 P.M.) the sound carrying distinctly to my house a distance of fully half a mile.

June 3. After supper we walked along the river bank westward ++ A Virginia Rail calling cutta which it kept up unceasingly as late, at least, as 10.30 P.M. and probably all night.

June 4. A Virginia Rail was calling cutta very steadily in the Mill Brook meadow. I found that it varied this call with almost every repetition.

The following notes taken on the spot will give some idea of these variations

cut, cut, cutta, cutta, cutta, cutta, cutta, (twice)
cut, cut, cut, cutta, cutta, cutta, cutta, cutta, (once)
cut, cut, cut, cutta, cutta, cutta, cutta, cutta, cut, (twice)
cut cut cut cutta " " " " cutta, (once)
" " " " " " " " " cut, (once)
" " " _____ [no cuttas] _____ (once)
" " " cut _____ (twice)
" " " " cut _____ "
" " " " cutta, cutta, cutta, cutta, cutta, (once)
" " " " cut, cutta, cutta, (once)
" " " " " cutta, cutta, cutta, cutta, cutta, (once)
" " " " " cut, cutta, cutta, (once)
" " " " " " cutta, cutta, cutta, cutta, cutta, (once)
cutta, cutta, cut, cut, (once)
" " " cutta, cutta, cut, cut, (once)

W. W. H. H. H. H.

Rallus virginianus. (no. 2.)

1892.

June 5. Lopwood. A Rail calling cutta in the Great Meadow. On reaching the house I heard another cutta in Mill Brook meadow, doubtless the same bird noted last night. As nearly as I can remember I have not heard the ir-e note of the Carolina Rail for over two weeks: they all say "cutta" now. What is the meaning of this?

June 15. At the head of Beaver-dam rapid I heard a Virginia Rail which uttered every few seconds a remarkable variation of the cutta cry. Perhaps I should say the cut cry for this note was invariably repeated from seven to fifteen times without any variation whatever (save in the number of repetitions) and hence without the usual cutta addendum. The tone seemed to me to be less harsh & vibrating than usual and I was struck by the resemblance of the notes to those of a common call of the Red-wing, the clucking call I mean.

June 17. The Virginia Rail which was calling cutta at least up to midnight & as I believe, the whole of last night kept up this cry during the entire forenoon up to 3 P. M. (when the shower came) despite the intense heat. Is there any other bird which sings all day and all night also?

June 18. The Virginia Rail called cutta all the forenoon and I heard it last night whenever I was awake.

Rallus virginianus.

1892. Mass.

Aug. 14. Concord. - As I was paddling up the straight reach between the (NO.2) Holt and Hunt's Pond a Virginia Rail began making a great outcry in the narrow belt of pickerel weed and wild rice on the right (N.) bank uttering the ki-ki so rapidly and in such agonized tones that I at first supposed that the bird had been seized by a Weasel, or Mink. On paddling to the spot, however, I quickly convinced became that this was not the case but that the bird was merely alarmed for the safety of her young for she continued her cries with unabating vigor and moved continually from place to place. I failed to silence her either by striking the water with my paddle or by "spattering". I could see nothing for it was nearly dark at the time. At this close range (I got within ten or fifteen feet of the bird) the ki-ki had a peculiar vibrating or jarring undertone not unlike the cutta note of the Carolina Rail under similar conditions.

Callus virginianus.

Concord, Mass.
April, 9. 1898.

On the morning Ball's Hill I landed at the cabin
and presently Herbert Holden came along in his
canoe. He tells me that on April 6th he saw a
Virginia Rail in Bedford Swamp. The bird was
in dense brush and came rattling past him within
a few yards as he sat in his stand watching
for ducks. Four inches of snow had fallen the previous
night.

Virginia
Rail.

Rallus virginianus

Its notes & song

My attention was first called to the presence of the Rails by hearing their call-note (consisting of two short notes) at night on July 13th. My brother and I listened the next evening and heard the rattling note of a Lora (as we afterwards ascertained). This, as nearly as I can describe it, is a rattling note, somewhat resembling the call of the Clapper Rail, but sharper and not so heavy. The note starts with a guttural sound and is followed by several sharp notes, repeated in quick succession: ur-~~r~~-~~r~~-~~r~~, rike-a --dik -- dik --dik-- dik--dik.-- These notes would also be uttered when the birds were disturbed by stones thrown in the cattails where they were. The Loras also had another soft whistling note of a couple of syllables. After considerable hunting, assisted by a rabbit hound, we secured a female Lora with eggs, one ready to lay. Further hunting revealed the fact that there were also Virginia Rails in the ponds, and we found a couple of nests with eggs. One nest with nine eggs appeared to be deserted, and in looking around my brother found a female Virginia Rail which had evidently been killed by some oil from a sewer. I believe it was the mate of this bird which we afterwards heard every night as we hunted the pond, but the dog seemed to find only one bird which he sometimes hunted for a long time, seldom flushing it.

This bird I believe was looking for its mate, and every evening at dusk would begin calling and continue until midnight or later. We would only occasionally hear it in the day time. There was also another bird further away which we would sometimes hear, apparently answering the one above mentioned. The note of the Virginia Rail I will attempt to describe as follows: It began with the sounds, tuk -- tuk, uttered slowly; a hardly noticeable pause, then the sound tuk -- a -- tuk -- tuk uttered rapidly, and then a rather abrupt change to the final sound of, tee -- oo, the former uttered in a shrill tone with a rising inflection and a trifle prolonged, falling off gradually to the double o, which is soft and gradually dies away. The whole note being described by the following: tuk -- tuk --- tuk-a - tuk - tuk -- tee - oo. The notes designated by tuk - tuk some what resemble the call notes of a three or four months old chicken, and in fact some of the members of my family did once insist that I was mistaken, and that the call was that of a chicken.

Mr. Dutcher and his son Basil were with me on August 30 and saw the bird I have reference to as it ran ahead of the dog which hunted it for several hours and could not make it fly. After August 30 we did not hear it so regularly. I went away on August 10th, but my brother told me that it was heard for only two nights after that.

-----Letter to Bradford Torrey from W. F. Hendrickson, Long Island City, New York, September 17th, 1889.

Rallus virginianus 1

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY,

CAMBRIDGE, MASS

24 July, 1893

Dear Brewster:

Thanks for the ~~two~~ ^{three (1)} interesting letters. I can't get a bit excited over those Mourning Warblers. On June 16th Watrous tells Clark that M. W's "were common" in the Chester swamp. He doesn't say on what date they were common. Carry the date back a few days, say to June 10th, and don't we reach the time when the "Down East" Mourning Warblers pass thro' Eastern Mass.? If they did breed in Conn. I don't believe they would breed in a swamp in Chester but rather in sprout-

land in the "Canadian Fauna" —
i.e. in the N. W. corner of the
State.

No, I have not found the
Coots, but the part of the
swamp where we heard the
strange note is impenetrable
on account of the low water
and the thick growth of But-
ton-bushes. After their long
quiescence one of the Gallinules
showed up again on the 21st.
of this month. On the 28th of
June I found a Grebe's nest
built in a patch of Pickerel-weed,
but attached, as usual, to the
stem of a Button-bush. It was
apparently empty and lacked
the shallow cavity of a perfect
nest. A pair of Grebes near by

seemed a good deal disturbed
by my presence and I found
that the nest contained four
eggs which were completely
covered up by the same ma-
terial the nest was built of —
i.e. old Pickerel-weed leaves.

How easily such a nest
might be passed by one who
was not up to this bird's tricks!
I left these birds in the enjoy-
ment of their treasures.

"After my return from Cown. I
went to the E. Lox. swamp to hear
the Va. Rails. At once heard
the "ticket" & "pig" notes. The ^{fat-} ~~form-~~
^{ter} was so unlike the "Big Grouse"
of Saybrook that I began to wav-

er in my latest "theory" that
~~the big grunt~~
it was produced by the Virginia
Rail. But lo, in a few min-
utes a big bass bump, bump,
bump, bump & issued from
one corner of the meadow.
A typical Saybrook "big
grunter" in Lexington! The
following day, when out in boat,
I heard a "cutta" in a patch
of Cat-tails. I thrashed
thru' the cattails on foot
and heard the "cutta" and
"big grunter" notes many times
repeated & as near as could
be told issuing from the same
source. My theory now (prob-
ably demolished tomorrow!) is that
the cutta and big grunter are one

and the same bird (Va. Rail).
That the pig-note and big bass
note are either the corresponding
note of the two sexes, or else
two modes of emotional expres-
sion of the same bird. That
the difference between the two
notes is an acoustic matter,
I don't now believe. What
think you? "

I should like very much to
go out to Concord this
week, but as I am going
off again next month, and
as I have a great deal to do
before I go, I shall have to
give up all thought of any
more outings here
Trueman
W. Fox

W. Faxon.

July 24-1893.

Rallus virginianus.

Copy.

Brewer, Maine. 13 Sept., 1901.

Friend Brewster,

xxxxxxxxxxxxx. Mr. Pane a friend wrote me of seeing some strange birds on Passadunkeag Stream, on a marsh. He described them as being smaller than a woodcock with quite a long curved bill and quite red in color, while their young which were with them were nearly black. He said that last year he saw just such birds in the same place. The only bird I know which fits this description is the Virginia Rail and I feel sure it was this bird. I have never before heard of their breeding here. x x x x x . It seems as if both this [Short-billed Marsh Wren] and the rails were regular breeders in the described localities but probably not often found elsewhere in this vicinity. x x x x x .

M.Hardy.

Notes on Certain Birds Observed on a Voyage from Liverpool to
Quebec in Sept., 1883. By C. J. Young, Montreal, Can.

Harting, in his most useful 'Handbook of British Birds,' says of the Rallidæ: "Audubon gives two instances of this species [*i. e.*, the Carolina Crake (*Crex carolina*)] having been met with at sea, and as a proof that the short-winged Rallidæ are not incapable of sustained flight, it may be noted that during the voyage of the steamship Nova Scotia, from Liverpool to Quebec, in October, 1865, when in lat. 26° 28' N. (?); long. 23° 24' W., more than 500 miles from the Irish coast, a Virginian Rail (*Rallus virginianus*), came on deck and was captured. Both this and the last-named species visit the Bermudas annually, although this group of islands is distant from Cape Hatteras, the nearest point of the North American coast, about 600 miles. The well-known Corn Crake (*Crex pratensis*), too, is a summer visitant to Greenland, and has been met with on several occasions on the eastern coast of the United States."

Auk, I. Oct., 1884. pp. 398-99.

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

4. *Rallus virginianus*?

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

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

70

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 447.

70. *Rallus virginianus*. VIRGINIA RAIL.— Summer resident; arrives late in April and is common in May; young birds from July 7 to August 27. A few remain till October. Breeds (July 6, 1891).

Mass.
Cambridge (note by Faxon)

Rallus virginianus

While walking from Cambridge to Waverly on the afternoon of the 2d I heard the kicker of July 13 close by the Fitchburg railroad and found the answers of it,--- two Rails, Virginia, I think I saw the birds quite near, but owing to the dense growth and my slight acquaintance with the birds, I am not positive of the species. I could not see the bill well. The birds called one another when I separated them--- kik'-kik'-, kik'-kik', kik'kik' ; sometimes kik'- kik'. Besides this call they gave out a shrill kèah or kah, and occasionally a sound almost a whistle. On the 3d I found them in the same place and in another. The kik'-kik seems to me to be an alarm call note and, supposing the bird to be the Virginia Rail, I think it may be equivalent to the cut'-tuk of the Carolina. Perhaps this will explain why we have heard the cut-tuk so seldom, it being an alarm signal, only given when the bird is disturbed.---Walter Faxon. letter of August 6, 1889.

Winter Birds of Cape Cod, Mass.
Ralph Hoffmann.

Rallus virginianus. VIRGINIA RAIL. -- One seen in Barnstable, Dec. 31, 1894. Mr. Bangs reported this bird as fairly numerous in December, 1892. ~~1892~~ Auk, XII, April, 1895, p. 188.

CONNECTICUT, June, 1893.

Rallus virginianus

* = cutta note; p = high note

June 8¹* 12⁵⁻²* p - 11²⁻²* p } Saybrook
" 12³* 14³* 15⁵* (2 seen)
" 17¹* (2 seen) - 18³⁻¹* p 19¹*
" 20²*

Birds of Adirondack Region Merriam.

197. *Rallus virginianus*. VIRGINIAN RAIL.—Tolerably common about the borders of the wilderness.

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

Birds of Oneida County, New York.
Egbert Bagg.

Rallus virginianus.—Given in the list as "Not uncommon"; should be changed to "Not uncommon summer resident. Breeds," a nest and eggs having been taken in New Hartford by Chas. C. Trembley.

Auk XI. April. 1894 p. 163

Undescribed First Plumages, Brewster

118. *Rallus virginianus*.

Downy stage: chick about a week old. Entirely clothed in long, rather coarse, glossy, or blue-black down. Bill nearly straight, .72 inches long, yellowish at tip and base, crossed in the middle by a broad black band. From two specimens in my cabinet collected by Mr. D. C. French, at Concord, Mass., June, 1870.

First plumage: female. Top and sides of head, neck behind, back anteriorly, rump, breast, and sides, dull dead black. Interseapular region black, with a few of the feathers margined with brownish-olive. Wing-coverts and wings nearly as in adult, a little duller and darker perhaps. Superciliary line obscure ashy. Throat ashy-white, finely spotted with black. Central region of lower breast and abdomen, with a few of the feathers on the sides, tinged with white. Anal region and crissum dull reddish-chestnut. In my cabinet, from Cambridge, Mass., August, 1875. Several other specimens of corresponding ages agree closely with the one above described. A male, however (Cambridge, August 9, 1875), differs in having a faint reddish wash over the white on the breast and abdomen.

This species, as previously stated, passes through a regular first plumage, which precedes the downy stage, and is in turn succeeded by the regular autumnal plumage. The first moult occurs in the latter part of August. The autumnal plumage is a little brighter than that of the adult in spring, but does not otherwise materially differ.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 45.

O. & O. VIII. Feb. 1883. p. 16

RARE BIRDS. — It will interest you to know that I have taken a pure white Rail,

Charles C. Bellows
Bridgton N. J.

Nesting of the Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*).

On June 21, 1892, I went out to a small inland swamp several miles north of St. Clair to see if I could collect some Blackbird eggs. I found several nests of these and two fine sets of Swamp Sparrows, but was rather disappointed. I waded out to a large log thickly covered with underbrush and crept along for quite a way only to come face to face with a large, black snake. It would have required a good stop-watch to determine the seconds it took me to get off that log and endeavor to get a stick, but his snakeship didn't relish the meeting any more than I did and quickly swam away. Close by her were several clumps of flags and out of one of these I startled a bird. Stooping eagerly down I found a nest full of eggs. It was a compactly built nest, slightly hollowed and made of dead flags. The eggs were ten in number, creamy white dotted with fine specks of reddish and lilac-brown, averaging 1.25 x .96 in size. I soon saw the bird and recognized it as the Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*). The female would not fly till almost stepped on and would then fly quickly in a straight line and dive quickly into the underbrush where she would rapidly move away until out of sight.

As I had never found any other but the Common Sora and occasionally a King Rail's nest, I felt very much elated over my find. The eggs were badly incubated, but after half an hour's labor I succeeded in saving them.

B. H. Swales.

1220 Woodward ave., Detroit, Mich.

Remember.—Our only place of business is at our works, Hyde Park, Mass.

Frank Blake Webster Co.

O. & O Vol. 17, July, 1892 p. 103

I have not found Rails breeding here until this season when, after special search, I took three sets of nine eggs each. Now, with their somewhat restricted habitat at my command, I can probably take their eggs every year if there is any use for them.

J. M. W. Norwich. Conn.

O. & O. VII. Nov. 1882. p. 173.

From my own experience the Virginia Rails are always larger than the Sora, lighter in color and with fewer and smaller markings. ^{eggs} Clapper Rails are ovoidal in shape, tapering slightly toward smaller end, but not sharply pointed, ground color, a dirty cream or drab, with a few spots of reddish brown mingled with purple shell marks, mostly on and about the larger end. Virginia and Sora Rails are similar in shape to the above, but much smaller in size, the Virginia having a light cream ground with none of the olivaceous tint so common in the Sora. The markings of the former are small, of a reddish brown, with purple shell spots scattered over the surface, but more numerous near the larger end. The Sora is darker in color, and with the olive tint before mentioned, though I have specimens which are a dark, rich cream, without any olive. The spots are of two shades of brown, one overlaying the other and with the same purple spots or blotches. None of the Rails, to my knowledge, are ever so thickly spotted as to have the ground color entirely concealed.—*Snowdon Howland, Newport, R. I. O. & O. VIII. May, 1883. p. 35.*

A Peculiarity in the Nesting Habits of the Virginia Rail.

Although I have talked with a large number of persons and read quite a few books on this bird (*Rallus virginianus*), I have been unable to hear of, or find, a feature in the nesting-habits similar to the following.

The first instance of the kind that has come under my notice, occurred on May 30, 1891. My brother and I were hunting in a small marsh in the vicinity of Dedham, Mass., for Rail's nests in particular. We had not been long at work when my brother called out to me that he had found a Virginia's nest with nine eggs. Being at some distance, it took me perhaps three minutes to reach him. While I was on the way, he had been hunting within a few yards of the nest and, when I came up, we immediately went to it. To our surprise and, at the moment, disgust we saw the old Rail standing among the eggs and, in the most cool and deliberate manner spearing them with her long bill. We made no delay in driving her off but not before she

Nesting of the Virginia Rail in New Hampshire.

BY S. ALBERT SHAW.

During the latter part of the summer of 1886 a boy brought me an addled egg which he found in an old nest in a swampy pasture and which I could not satisfactorily identify, so I decided to make a search for the nest next season, hoping the birds would return there to breed again.

It was on the 13th of May last that I visited

had completely smashed three of the eggs, and driven her bill clear through another without otherwise injuring it. We have the remaining six still, and in my eyes, on account of the eggs drilled by the bird herself, they are more valuable than a full set of nine which lies beside them. By the way, nine eggs is the regulation set laid by the Virginia Rail in these parts, although occasionally seven makes a full set.

The peculiarity of the above mentioned marsh is the strictness of the society, one might call it, kept by the birds there. While Virginia Rails and Short-billed Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus stellaris*) abound there, I have never seen a Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*) nor a Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) nor have I heard of one ever being seen there. This is all the more strange, as a marsh not a mile and a half distant is reasonably well stocked with all four birds. This has nothing to do with the subject, it is true, but it has always seemed so singular to me that I do not omit it.

Since the nest first mentioned, I have found a large number; my brother has also done so. In each case we were careful to handle the eggs and place them in different positions to see if the art of fencing would be repeated; but, until this year, the birds simply rearranged the eggs and continued to set. The second and last case of the kind happened while hunting in a different marsh in the early part of last June. I had been hunting for Marsh Wrens' nests but had found nothing of importance but a few Short-bill "decoys," which I marked, until my dog showed me a Virginia's nest containing the remains of nine eggs, which had all been broken in the same manner as those in the first nest. In some of these eggs the damage done amounted to very little more than a thrust clean through, but the majority were badly broken. I am sorry to say that no reason can be given for this case, as the eggs had been washed clean by recent rains, leaving the residue in the bottom of the nest, which proved that the

was with no room to spare.

I flushed the bird from the nest and as she flew rather slowly and awkwardly, with legs hanging down at full length, I had a good chance to identify her before she dropped into a thicket a few rods away.

Visited it again on the 28th, and found eight eggs, and that the surface of the nest had been doubled by the addition of more leaves of the cat tails and also slightly hollowed.

The eggs are of a dirty white, covered with lilac spots which are larger and more numerous on the larger end. The measurements average 1.20x.89.

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678. *Virginia Rail*. Editorial. *Ibid.*, p. 7.—Harry F. Haines collected 1,000 eggs of this species in one season on the salt meadows of Elizabeth, N. J. **Vol. VIII**
1350. *Rail in Captivity*. By C. T. Rutgers. *Ibid.*, No. 2, Aug. 4, p. 23.—Capture and confinement of a Virginia Rail with four young at Trenton, N. J. **Vol. & Stream, Vol. XXI**

1074. *Virginia Rail Wintering on Long Island*. By Paul Geipel, Jr. **Vol. & Stream, Vol. XXIV**
Ibid., Feb. 5, p. 105.

breaking had taken place some time before I found them. I forgot to mention that, in the first instance, neither the eggs nor the nest were in any way disturbed beyond parting the grass above in order to see the eggs distinctly.

I will add here that if Short-bill "decoys" are found in June, it is well to mark them and pay another visit about the middle of July, as of the nests just mentioned one held seven eggs and another six when visited about a month later.

J. H. Bowles.

Ponkapog, Mass.

August Nests and Birds.

During the last twenty days of August I found and examined eighteen nests of the American Goldfinch, or Thistle-bird. All were situated in untrimmed hedges of osage orange, growing from eight to fourteen feet high, and within a radius of two miles from town. Other observers note this bird's nesting in orchards, especially in young apple trees, but I carefully explored all the orchards in this neighborhood without finding a single nest of the Goldfinch except in hedges. The nests were usually placed about three-fourths the height of the hedge, on an obliquely ascending branch, fastened around it and smaller outgrowing twigs. One nest was saddled on a horizontal limb and was not supported by smaller twigs, though several thorns aided in giving a firm base to the structure. There is much variation in the construction of the nests, especially in the external depth, which ranges from two to nearly four inches. One nest, made of fine bark fibres, was well rounded and closely woven, and covered without with fragments of gossamer, which gave it a grayer appearance than most of the other nests. Within was a layer of whitish horse hair, and within the latter was the downy bed of thistle. Another nest contained many fibres of a yellowish brown bark, had no hair in its lining, and its cavity was larger and deeper. One

nest was usually at a point above half the height of the hedge. It is a loosely constructed affair, though firmer and deeper than the nest of the Mourning Dove, and quite similarly situated, and the Cuckoo sitting upon the nest, when approached from the rear, may be easily mistaken for the Dove. One nest was built of heavy sticks and roots, some of which were one-fourth of an inch in diameter and eight inches long, laid loosely together, with dried leaves, corn husks, grapevine bark and rootlets intermixed. The cavity was three inches across and one inch deep, though most of the nests were shallower. Another nest had for bedding two inches of corn silk, with many stalks of the corn bloom or tassel laid among the sticks. Four of the nests each contained three fresh eggs, two nests contained two fresh eggs each, and the remaining nest held two newly hatched young, one egg just hatching and one decayed egg.

Late nests of the Black-throated Bunting, "Dickeissle," were placed in untrimmed hedges at distances from the ground varying from five to eight feet. I found four such

breaking had taken place some time before I found them. I forgot to mention that, in the first instance, neither the eggs nor the nest were in any way disturbed beyond parting the grass above in order to see the eggs distinctly.

I will add here that if Short-bill "decoys" are found in June, it is well to mark them and pay another visit about the middle of July, as of the nests just mentioned one held seven eggs and another six when visited about a month later.

J. H. Bowles.

Ponkapog, Mass.

O. & O. Vol. 18, Aug. 1893 p. 115-116

Nesting of the Virginia Rail in New Hampshire.

BY S. ALBERT SHAW.

During the latter part of the summer of 1886 a boy brought me an addled egg which he found in an old nest in a swampy pasture and which I could not satisfactorily identify, so I decided to make a search for the nest next season, hoping the birds would return there to breed again.

It was on the 13th of May last that I visited

the above-mentioned pasture, which is boggy and very wet, the open part being covered with hassocks and a dense growth of rushes and coarse grass, the other portion with a thick growth of alders, white birches and scattering young pines, and through which flows a sluggish brook. The ground is traversed by cow-paths running in every direction, the intervening spaces being covered with a rank growth of skunk cabbage.

It was while threading my way carefully through the above thicket that I had a fine opportunity of witnessing the movements of a bird I had never seen alive before, a Virginia Rail.

I remained perfectly quiet and he was soon running about within a few feet of me, and the thought came to me that from the examination of a dead specimen one would never suspect it capable of such nimble and graceful movements as I had the pleasure of witnessing. If I stirred he would pause and turn his bright little eyes towards me for an instant, and then, as if reassured, would continue his search for food as unconcernedly as before. Saw him catch several flies in a dexterous manner and also probe the mud with his long red bill in a rapid manner. As I moved away he ran along only a few steps in advance for quite a distance when I suddenly lost sight of him, but shall always remember the meeting with pleasure.

Thinking from its actions a nest might be not far away, I spent quite a while looking for it but in vain.

On May 21st I made another effort to find the nest and was successful after a long search. It was in the midst of a large patch of cat tails, eight inches from the ground, and was composed of dead grass, with a few leaves of the cat tails on top, which was perfectly flat, the whole being supported by several last year's stalks that surrounded the nest, almost completely hiding it from view. It contained one egg, with no room to spare.

I flushed the bird from the nest and as she flew rather slowly and awkwardly, with legs hanging down at full length, I had a good chance to identify her before she dropped into a thicket a few rods away.

Visited it again on the 28th, and found eight eggs, and that the surface of the nest had been doubled by the addition of more leaves of the cat tails and also slightly hollowed.

The eggs are of a dirty white, covered with lilac spots which are larger and more numerous on the larger end. The measurements average 1.20x.89.

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1350. *Rail in Captivity*. By C. T. Rutgers. *Ibid.*, No. 5, Aug. 4, p. 23.—Capture and confinement of a Virginia Rail with four young at Trenton, N. J. FOR. & STREAM, Vol. XXII

1074. *Virginia Rail Wintering on Long Island*. By Paul Geipel, Jr. FOR. & STREAM, Vol. XXII

Ibid., Feb. 5, p. 105.

Mass. (Cambridge)

APR 24 1888

Rallus virginianus

Habits

1888

Apr. 24

A pair in thicket near where I shot the pair on the 18th. The ♂ was very tame but kept his body covered by stems of bushes peeping out at me and bobbing his head up and down incessantly, moving as I moved just as a gray squirrel maneuvers about the trunk of a tree. The ♀ was much shyer & eluded me by skulking swiftly away through down rank grass & finally taking wing. I went directly to the spot where she alighted but could not find her. The thicket (alders, willows etc) in which these birds were was plentifully chalked with their excreta - white &

Mass. (Cambridge)

APR 28 1888

Rallus virginianus

1888

April 21

Two in thicket of button bushes bordering a ditch one standing on a tussock, the other perched on a branch a few inches above water. The reddish breast in each instance caught my eye first. They were very tame & kept quite still evidently relying on the scant protection of the Copulas about dense cover for concealment. One when slightly wounded ran like a mouse from tussock to tussock, hiding until nearly trodden on then darting forward several rods to the next available refuge. The scarlet color at the base of bill (very conspicuous) led me to suppose

my comprehension. He said it just
attracted my attention & led me
to search for the birds.

At first that the bird was bleeding
at the nostrils. This I noticed I
thought I had seen this bird, numerous
found what I took to be the
dusky-winged sparrow, numerous
& perfectly fresh chalk spots about
as large as a robin's egg, but with
only like a Woodcock's, but with
another dark center.