

rubripes

381-1013 F11

v. 57

Anas obscura rubripes.

Western Mass.

Extract from a letter by Robert O. Morris to Wm. Brewster, dated Springfield, Mass., January 19, 1903.

" In regard to the red legged black ducks about which we had some correspondence a month or two ago. Late in the autumn, I left word with the proprietor of a market in Springfield, that dealt in game, to send me any black ducks he received that he knew were taken in this vicinity, which resulted in my obtaining through that source, half a dozen specimens of true obscura. About the same time, I told a man, who shot a good many ducks about here, that if he captured a black duck with red legs, to send it to me. and all I received from him was a female mallard. Not far from the first of December, I visited a place near the line between the towns of Wilbraham and Hampden, where black ducks always winter, and found a flock of about thirty there, but I failed to capture any. Two or three weeks later, and after a very cold time, I went to the same place, and found the flock had been reduced to half a dozen individuals, but in walking, the breaking of the crust upon the snow made so much noise, I was unable to approach very near without flushing them. It then occurred to me that the true obscura had been driven south by the cold, and only the northern form remained. Last Saturday I visited the place again, and found about the same number there as at the last

Anas obscura rubripes.

time, and succeeded in capturing one, which proved to be a rubripes, and as you described it in the Auk last April. I am inclined to think that only a few of this sub species visit us, but further investigation may show the contrary." "

Notes on some northern birds -
Notes on birds of Ottawa, Ontario, and
vicinity. Auk, XXIII, July, 1906, p. 315.
by Rev. C. W. S. Sifrig.

HYBRID BLACK DUCK (*Anas obscura rubripes*?).—The status of the Black Duck here is quite interesting. According to local ornithologists of long standing and of ability, the facts do not agree with Brewster's position as stated in Vol. XIX of 'The Auk.' We may revert to this sometime in the future. What is to be recorded here is an apparently new and curious hybrid. On last Nov. 20, I saw in the Ottawa market a number of Black Ducks that were strikingly dissimilar to the common form. The head was larger, the neck thicker and shorter, the color blacker, especially also about the head and neck, and the bill and tarsus shorter and stouter. The dealer said they had been shot on the St. Lawrence River, near Montreal. Two ornithological friends of mine, who besides being highly competent ornithologists, are also sportsmen of long experience, say that this form is a hybrid between Black Ducks used on the St. Lawrence as decoys and some domestic ducks. Are similar hybrids noticed elsewhere? —The more common hybrid form, Black Duck + Mallard also occurs here.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

32

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 444.

32. *Anas obscura rubripes*. RED-LEGGED BLACK DUCK.—Common migrant. The dates given for the Black Duck include this rather doubtful form, which remains later and consequently more are taken in the fall than of the other.

[of 1903-4] Black Ducks

The winter was the severest for at least twenty-five years, as evidenced by the freezing of the whole of Casco Bay inside the islands. From 300 to 500 Black Ducks were driven into the inner harbor by the closing of their usual feeding grounds among the islands. They congregated near Martin's Point bridge on the Falmouth shore and for several weeks staid within two hundred yards of the bridge, flying up at the approach of the electric cars which cross the bridge every fifteen minutes. They suffered to some extent for food, and corn and other things were thrown on the flats for them by kind-hearted persons, who thought the birds were liable to starve. Not one of them died, as a matter of fact, except a few whose death was doubtless due to flying against the wires which pass over the bridge. They staid until the ice began to leave the bay, objects of great curiosity to hundreds of persons who went there for the purpose of seeing so unusual a sight.— W. H. BROWNSON, *Portland, Me.*
Ibid., 1901, p. 388-390.

Black Ducks which became very tame.— Four Black Ducks (*Anas rubripes*) have been spending the winter in one of the coves at Hadlyme, Conn. The cove has been frozen over with ice from 18 to 24 inches thick. At the north shore of the cove are two spring holes which are near the main road in the town and every day these ducks have been seen by a great many people. Late in the afternoon of Feb. 15 I carried to the spot about a peck of cracked corn and spread around on the ice and placed some in the spring holes, the next morning some crows came and started to eat the corn, but the ducks drove them away, they were too much for the crows.

Soon after the grain was placed there, two more ducks arrived, the second day two, the third day fifteen, and finally thirty arrived to feed, they are very tame allowing one to approach very near before taking flight.

This shows how tame our wildest birds will become, if not shot at or molested.— ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, *Hadlyme, Conn.*

Arch. X X IX. Apr. 1912. p. 234.

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

Anas obscura rubripes. Soon after the publication of Mr. William Brewster's description of this newly defined subspecies I made inquiries regarding the presence of a Black Duck on Long Island answering the description of *rubripes*. I found that the difference in external characteristics was sufficient to have attracted the notice of certain sportsmen and baymen. Mr. Brewster found that the red-legged form is well known to baymen in Massachusetts and that it is regarded by them as a distinct variety of the Black Duck. I find substantially the same facts to apply on Long Island. In answer to my request, from one of whom I had made inquiries, that specimens of this variety of Black Duck be furnished me, I received a few days later two fine specimens answering in every respect to Mr. Brewster's description. This subspecies is, therefore, herewith definitely recorded for Long Island.

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

Duk, X. I. Apr., 1900, p. 288.

Gadrel

Chaulelasmus streperus

1890.
Mar 7-15

Florida,
Canaveral, Banana Creek.

Common, associating chiefly with the Widgeon, feeding much in the fresh water ponds, but also frequently seen around the shores of the bays. An exceedingly shy bird, not decoying as readily as most of the other species. When flying it is difficult to distinguish this duck from the Widgeon, the color of the under parts appearing similar at a distance, ~~while~~ the wings have a similar white patch. As far as I could make out, the flight of the two species is practically the same. The notes of the Gadrel are very different from those of the Widgeon, and much nearer a quack than a whistle, When a number are feeding together they frequently make a good deal of noise. Their notes resemble somewhat the bleating of a lamb, but are shorter, *a bā-bā-bā or hā-hā-hā*. I have never heard them utter any sound when flying. All the specimens killed were exceedingly fat. They rank as a table bird next below the Widgeon among the Ducks found commonly here.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

33

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 444.

33. *Chaulelasmus streperus*. GADWALL.— Rare migrant; a male in Mr. Maughan's collection taken November 2, 1901.

Notes on Hybrid Ducks from Long Point, Ontario.— Among a number of ducks recently shot at Long Point, Ontario, was an interesting hybrid between *Anas rubripes* and *A. platyrhynchos*. It was an immature male, and every character which normally distinguishes the two species was about evenly merged in this bird. It was large, weighing three and a quarter pounds, and was the second hybrid of the same parentage to have been taken on these grounds. The first was a more mature bird, taken about 1912 (now mounted at the Long Point Club) showing vermiculation in the plumage, which the younger specimen lacks.

A fine adult male European Widgeon was taken here on October 12, 1914, and is also in the club collection.— LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES, Ithaca, N. Y.

Auk. xxxiii. Jan. 1916. p. 76.

Anas strepera.

The Ducks of Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

by Herbert K. Job.

Auk, XLII, July, 1896, pp. 197-204.

See under Anas obscura.

Rare Ducks in Massachusetts. — While looking over recently an interesting local collection of birds, belonging to Mr. Arthur C. Dyke of Bridgewater, Mass., consisting of birds taken within the limits of that town, I came across two very rare species of ducks for this locality.

Chaulelasmus streperus. GADWALL. — There were two well-marked specimens of this species, in immature plumage, both of which were taken by Mr. Harry Sturtevant, on Oct. 18, 1901, at Nippenicket Pond in Bridgewater. They came in to live decoys at a gunning stand on this pond, controlled by Mr. Joseph E. Bassett and Mr. Sturtevant. The Gadwall is a very rare or accidental visitor in this State. So far as I know there is only one other record.

Auk, XIX, April, 1902, p. 196.

A. C. Bent, Taunton, Mass.

The Gadwall and Yellow Rail near Springfield, Mass. — *Chaulelasmus streperus.* A Gadwall was taken October 14, 1904, in Glastonbury, Conn., thirty miles below Springfield. Individuals of this species appear in the Connecticut Valley only in very rare instances.

Auk, XXII, Apr., 1905, p. 207. Robert C. Mann, Springfield, Mass.

Chaulelasmus streperus.

near Bridgewater, Mass.

Oct. 18, 1901. Arthur C. Dyke,
Bridgewater, Mass.

Auk, XXII, 1905, 409.

Gadwall in Massachusetts. — Mr. Harry P. Sturtevant reports the capture at Nippenicket Pond, Bridgewater, Massachusetts, upon October 11, 1916, of two Gadwalls (*Chaulelasmus streperus*). — ARTHUR C. DYKE, Bridgewater, Mass.

Auk, Vol. XXXIV, 1917, p. 476.

GADWELL DUCK IN R. I.—A collector brought to us a fine Female Gadwell Duck which he shot at Newport, Sunday, Feb. 26. It is the first capture in this State as far as I am aware.—*Fred. T. Jencks, Prov., R. I.*

O. & O. VII. May. 15, 1882. p. 123

387. Gadwell [*sic*] Duck in R[hode] I[sland]. By Fred. T. Jencks. *Ibid.*, p. 123.—Shot at Newport, Feb. 26, 1882—its first capture in the State, so far as known to the writer. **O. & O. Vol. VII**

Point Judith, R. I.
Col. Boston Soc. Nat. History.

Chauleasmus streperus. GADWALL.—A specimen was taken December 1, 1902, at Point Judith, R. I.

Ank 25, Apr-1908, p. 234.

New England

Chaulelosaurus Stejnegeri

Dr. Samuel Cabot tells me that during his extended experience in New England, beginning about 1832, he has never killed a Gadsal, or known one to be killed by any of his friends. (Notes taken after a talk with Dr. Cabot, Jan'y 16, 1885)

me
27
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1

Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.

Anas strepera. GADWALL.—Presented by Col. Pike, who says: "Killed in a fresh water pond near Speonk, Long Island, 1841. Formerly common."

Auk X, July, 1893 p 270.

Birds of Adirondack Region - Merriam.

198. *Chaulelasmus streperus*. GADWALL.—Rare. Mr. Henry Prentiss shot one on Lake Champlain in April, 1882.

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

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

7. *Anas strepera*. GADWALL.—Mr. A. H. Helme, of Miller's Place, allows me to record a Gadwall Duck which was taken April 9, 1879, at Mount Sinai Harbor, Suffolk Co. It was shot by a gunner who reported having secured a similar Duck a few days prior. The last one shot was seen by Mr. Helme and positively identified; but the first one, although probably a Gadwall, may have been some other species. November 24, 1886, a female of this rare species was sent to me by Mr. Andrew Chichester, of Amityville, who subsequently sent to me the following note: "My brother and I were gunning in partnership; I was at the north end of Gilgo Island and he was about three-quarters of a mile west of me and to the windward. A flock of fifteen or twenty Black Ducks came to my decoys and I noticed among them one which I supposed was a Pintail or Widgeon, but as they do not sell as well in market as Black Ducks, I paid no further attention to it, but tried to make the best shot I could at the others. The flock passed on to my brother's blind, but would not come near enough for a shot, although they noticed the decoys. After passing, the Gadwall left the flock, turned back and lit among the decoys, when he shot it. Neither my brother nor myself ever saw one like it before, nor have we ever heard of one being killed around here." The Messrs. Chichester are professional gunners who are well acquainted with the wild fowl that frequent the western end of Great South Bay. Mr. Giraud says of this Duck: "In this vicinity, the Gadwall is quite rare. My first acquaintance with this bird was in 1834, while pursuing my favorite amusement of water fowl shooting in the celebrated South Bay. It was flying alone, seemingly wandering about as if in search of companions. It passed and repassed several times outside of my decoys, without approaching within gunshot, but sufficiently near to excite in me a desire for having a better opportunity to examine it. I concealed myself with great care, hoping that it would approach within shooting distance, as I was induced to believe that it would, from the desire it exhibited to join the motley flock which my 'decoys' represented; but as it advanced, it appeared to see that all was not right, and at the moment when my hopes were the brightest, it quickly changed its course, and alighted on a marsh about a half a mile from me. I gave quick pursuit, and after wading through the tall grass and mud, discovered it sitting on a bog, pluming and dressing its feathers, unconscious of its impending fate. Its perfectly neat appearance so engaged my attention, that I forgot that a gun was in my possession, until it took to wing, when the desire to obtain it returned, and I brought it down. On taking it up, although proud of this valuable acquisition to my collection, I could not forbear feeling that Nature had been robbed of one of her greatest ornaments. I have since killed a few along the south shore of Long Island."*

Auk, V, April, 1888. p.173 -174.

* Birds of Long Island, pp. 305, 306.

A Small Flight of Gadwalls (*Chaulelasmus streperus*) near New York.—

Early in the morning of October 16, 1909, my young friends Allan and James Hand were watching at a pond on the salt marshes near Lawrence, L. I. About sunrise a flock of seven odd looking ducks circled the pond several times and finally six of them came to the decoys, four being shot. The boys remained an hour or so longer, seeing two or three more flocks that they felt sure were the same kind of duck, but none came near enough for positive identification. They brought the birds to me — to be identified as young Gadwalls, rather poor in flesh, their average weight being under twenty-four ounces. The best one I preserved.

My friend Col. Franklin Brandreth of Ossining, N. Y., tells me of a single specimen brought to him, that was killed near that place about October 29, 1909.

The marshes of Lake Erie are the nearest points to Long Island where the Gadwall is regularly found, and there they are not very common. The carefully kept record of a shooting club at the western end of the lake shows that in twenty-one years, to 1908, but one has been taken in each two hundred ducks, or about one-half per cent. of the total score. This year (1909), however, they were more abundant than usual, I personally securing eleven specimens, which is exactly the same number I have secured, in the aggregate, on the same marshes, during the previous eighteen years.

— HAROLD HERRICK, *New York City*.

Auk 27. Jan-1910 p. 77

Anas strepera. GADWALL.—This species ~~was common on the mountains~~ ^{was common on the mountains} ~~1200 p.~~
Mountain Birds tains, where there was water in sufficient quantity, and was probably
of Arizona. breeding, although we failed to discover its nest. **Mearns, Auk, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 50**

penelope

Anas (Mareca) penelope.

1899 Mass.

Dec. 20

Halifax, Plymouth Co.

Mr. James T. Clark has mounted
an adult ♂ European Widgeon which was
shot by a Mr. ^{M.M.} Shindler in Monponsett Pond
near Halifax, Mass. on the above date. It came
into the pond in company with some
American Widgeon of which ~~three~~ ^{several} were killed
and two, an adult ♂ & ♀, sent to Mr. Clark
for preservation with the European bird.
All three specimens were received in fresh
condition. The A. penelope was very fat.
Its stomach contained a few fresh water
shells and a quantity of seeds of aquatic
grasses. Mr. Shindler keeps a small
shooting shanty or house for the accommodation
of sportsmen who visit the pond to
shoot water-fowl. (Mr. Clark bought the
A. penelope out to my museum on Apr. 3, 1900.
& it left it with me feeding vegetation
which he had used and in its possession.
It is a remarkably handsome specimen
in the highest plumage. The sides of the
head are rich chestnut finely spotted with
green; the creamy white of the forehead &
crown is also thickly tinged with
chestnut.

The bird was returned to Mr. J. T. Clark
on Nov. 30, 1900 at the request of Mr. ^{M.M.} Shindler
who would not sell it. He wrote to Mr. Clark
March 12, 1901 agreeing to sell it for \$30. Mr.
Clark bought the bird to the Museum, March 26, 1901
and Mr. Brewster gave him a chk for the amt.

M.S.D.

Peabrook New Hampshire

Capture of the European Widgeon in New Hampshire.— I received on Nov. 17, 1908, from Peabrook, N. H., a young male European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*). This bird was taken in company with a flock of Black Ducks by a market gunner in that locality. I intend to present it to the Boston Society of Natural History.— JOHN H. HARDY, JR., *Arlington, Mass.*

Aug 26, July-1909, 304

Mareca penelope.

[48600]

Halifax, Mass.

Oct. 20, 1899.

Auk, XVIII, Apr. 1901

p. 135.

Vol. XVIII]
1901

BREWSTER, *Rare Massachusetts Birds.*

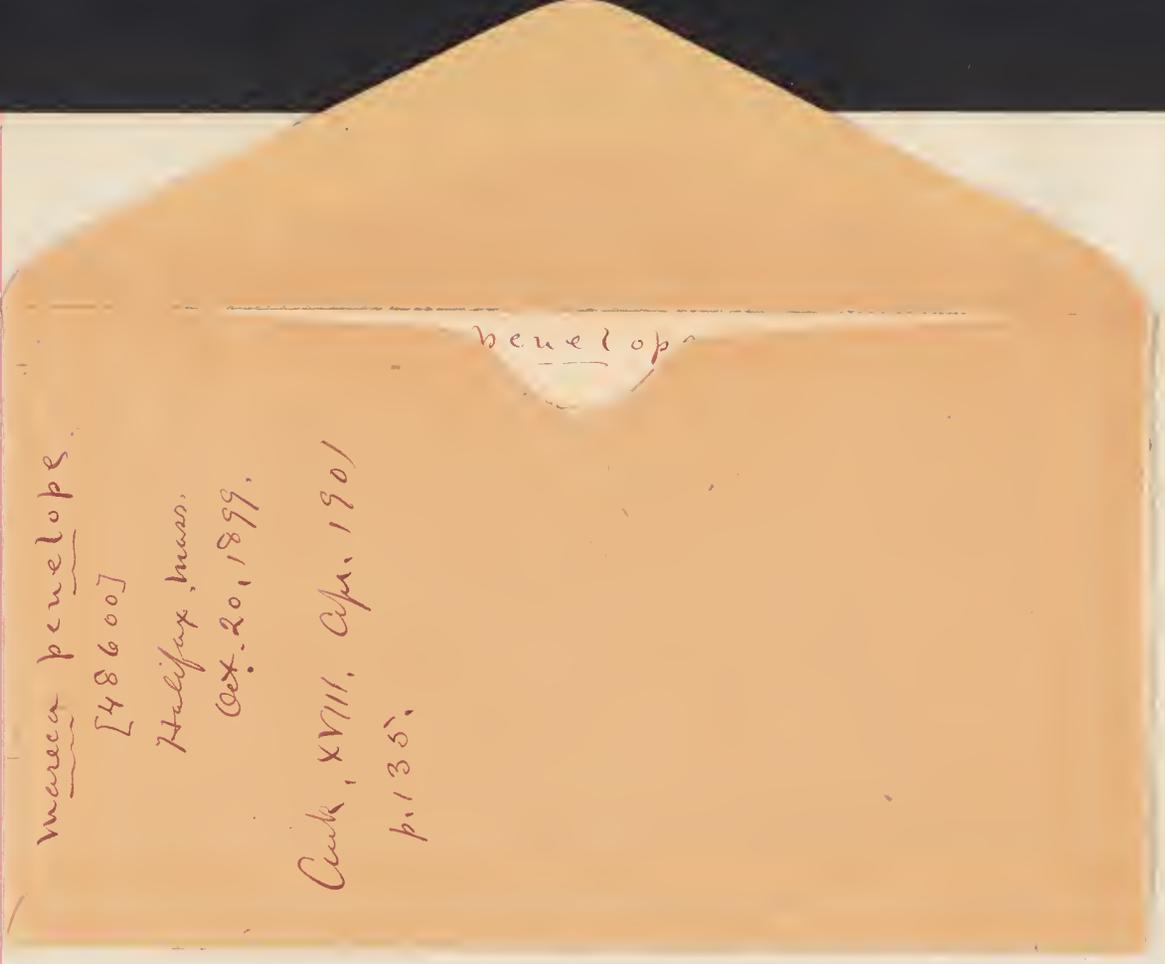
135

ON THE OCCURRENCE, IN MASSACHUSETTS, OF
CERTAIN RARE OR INTERESTING BIRDS.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

EUROPEAN WIDGEON (*Mareca penelope*). — Mr. James T. Clark, the well-known Boston taxidermist, has recently shown me a mounted specimen of this species which was shot in Monponsett Pond, near Halifax, Massachusetts, October 20, 1899, by a Mr. Shindler who keeps a small shooting shanty or house for the accommodation of sportsmen who visit the pond in pursuit of water fowl. The *M. penelope* came in to decoys in company with a small flock of American Widgeon of which several were killed at the same time and two, an adult male and female, sent to Mr. Clark for preservation with the European bird. The latter is a fine old male in remarkably handsome plumage. The creamy white of the forehead and crown is strongly tinged with chestnut; the sides of the head are rich chestnut finely spotted with green. Mr. Clark tells me that the bird was very fat and that its stomach contained a few freshwater shells and a quantity of seeds of aquatic grasses. It is, I believe, the first specimen that has ever been reported from any part of New England.

Auk, XVIII, April, 1901, p. 135.



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Auk, XVIII, April, 1901, p. 135.

Marca penelope

[48600]

Halifax, Mass.

Shot - Oct - 20th - 1899 at
Monponsett - Pond
near Halifax
Mass. - [48600]
by Mr. Shindler.

[Information supplied by J. T. Clark in regard to the
Marca penelope at present found to the museum. W. B. T. Jun 19/01]

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135

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Auk, XVIII, April, 1901, p. 135.

Mareca penelope

[48600]

Halifax, Mass.



JAMES T. CLARK,

Taxidermist

Large Animals and Game Heads
a Specialty.

FUR MATS AND RUGS.

.....ALL WORK GUARANTEED.....

409 WASHINGTON ST.,
BOSTON, MASS.

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Auk, XVIII, April, 1901, p. 135.

Mareca penelope, [48600]

Dear Sir: - His initials are
 M M. Schindler.

Yours truly
 James T. Clark

Boston, Mar. 28 1901.

ON THE OCCURRENCE, IN MASSACHUSETTS, OF
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Mareca penelope



Walter Deane
145 Brattle St.
Cambridge
Mass.

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Auk, XVIII, April, 1901, p. 135.

Mareca penelope [48612]
BUREAU OF NATURAL HISTORY. ESTABLISHED 1876 TELEPHONE CONNECTION

J. W. CRITCHLEY,

SUCCESSOR TO SOUTHWICK & CRITCHLEY.

W. A. Cash,

Mammal and Bird Skins, Fancy Shells, Fur Rugs,

NATURALISTS' SUPPLIES AND PUBLICATIONS.

Animals and Birds Mounted to Order either from Fresh Specimens
or Dry Skins.

354 WESTMINSTER STREET.

Providence, R. I. Apr. 15, 1901

W. A. Cash,

A. A. Cash,

Mr. Walter Deane.

Dear Sir, -

The date on label of European Widgeon is the day I got it in the market. The barrel it came in arrived in Boston on that day. So bird was probably shot two or three days before. It was quite fresh.

The market man objected to telling me who shot it. Probably for business reasons I made up the skin but it was very dry and did not

come out so well as a
fresh one would have done. ||
Am very glad Mr Brewster's
health permits him to be
away and to travel about.

The fine weather of Saturday
and Sunday gave the bird
migrations quite a start
in this locality.

I hope very soon to send you
full data of a Summer ^{anager}
(*Piranga rubra*) shot at Block
Island last week. We have
the bird. I skinned it myself.

Yours respectfully,
Harry A. Wash.

Maneca penelope.

Dec. 29, 1900 -

Marblehead, Mass.

[George O. Welch,
265 Essex St.,
Salem, Mass.]

You had better
press Mr. Welch
for the same
locality & date
whether in winter
or in spring
is Cambridge & Salem
Mass. N.H.

Salem, Jan 5/1901.

Dear Sir -

Do me the favor
when you have leisure to state
how often the English Widgeon
(*Maneca penelope*) has been taken in
this State?

Truly yours,

George Welch.

P.S. I had one brought to
me about a week ago, the
first one I have ever known to
be taken north of Virginia.

W. B.

J

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over over

Welch, George C.
Jan. 7, 1901

Mrs. E. W. Wagon

Maneca penelope.

Dec. 29, 1900 -

Marblehead

Dalem, Jan 14th 1901.

Dear Sir -

Just received your note of Jan 14th 1901.

The European Widgeon mentioned was taken at the Dry Breakers Marblehead, by W. G. Witham on that town Dec. 29.

The bird was brought to me to have the species identified and to know its value. When I priced it at \$4.50 or \$5.00, a price I would not have paid if I had the time to do so. But at that time it was simply out of the question.

I sent Mr. Witham with the bird to the Museum where it was refused as they thought the price was excessive. Just think of it!

He finally sold the specimen to some collector in Boston. Who I do not know.

Very truly yours,

George Welch

over me

Welch, George O.
Jan. 14, 1901.

In re Eu. Widgeon.

Maneca penelope.

Dec. 29, 1900 -

Marblehead



Marblehead, Mass. Jan 24th 1901

Salem. Jan 19th 1901

Dear Sir.

I have no idea who
is the owner of the specimen - Or who
made up the skin. There is no doubt
about the sex. Adult male. However,
the record of its capture is complete, which
is the most important of all.

White J.S. Witham

22 Parker St.

Marblehead -

Mass.

Very truly yours

George Welch.

In regard to the capture
the story is short. on Sat
Dec 29th 1900 while a friend and
myself were gunning for sea fow
on the Dry Breaker near Baker
Island this Bird flew in and
settled among the decoys

Old Ulla!

Welch, George O.
Jan. 14, 1901

In re Eu. Widgeon.



THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

Welch, Geo. O.
Jan. 19, 1901
Re Eu. Widgeon.

William Brewster

145



Mass.

Maneca penelope.

Dec. 29, 1900 -

Marblehead



Marblehead, Mass. Jan 24th 1901

W. Deane Esq.

Dear Sir

In reply to your favor of yesterday will say that I don't feel at liberty to give you the Gentleman's name that brought the Bird you refer to. But if you consider it of sufficient importance I will write to him.

In regard to the capture the story is short. on Sat Dec 29th 1900 while a friend and myself were gunning for sea fow on the Dry Breaker near Baker Island this Bird flew in and settled among the Decoys.

Yr. Obedt. Servant
W. Deane

Maneca penelope.

Dec. 29, 1900 -

Marblehead

Withum, J. S.
Jan. 24, 1901

more European Widgeon
which consisted of Goldeneyes, Black,
& duck & Mergansers & were
made of wood. I noticed at
once that it was not a common
Bird and so remarked to my
friend before shooting it. The
cream colored band running
up over the top of the head
contrasting very plainly against
the dark mahogany color of
the sides of head. The feathers
were in fine condition and
without injury and should
have made a fine specimen

Respectfully Yours
Joshua Withum
27 Pearl St



Marblehead, Mass., Jan 31st 1901

Mr Walter Leane

Cambridge Mass

Dear Sir

Mr Henry Miller is a
man who owns the Widgeon
or rather "what there is left
of it" for he informs me
that he had the Head Breeds
& Wings Cured and that they
are very handsome, of course
this will not suit you &
I am sorry that it happened
but it cannot be helped now
I think you could see the
Bird by calling on him at
his place of business

Yours truly
W. D. Miller

11.10.01 G.S. Co

Maneca penelope.

Dec. 29, 1900 -

Marble h

u He is manager of the
d Old Elm Restaurant #150 Tremont
st Boston.

Should you call on
him I think you would be
nicely treated as he is a
Gentleman

His Telephone
address is Oxford 580

Respectfully yours
Joshua S. Witham
22 Pearl St.

11.10.00
G. S. W.
to
u
r
h



Boston, Feb 11

Mr W. Deane
Dear Sir,

I send you
by mail the
feathers of the
Bird. I hope you
can be some
thing with
the Price you
can make
send & name
me.

Respectfully
Henry E. Deane
Old Elm.

Maneca penelope.

Dec. 29, 1900 -

Marble h

145 BRATTLE STREET,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

I called on Mr. Harry E. [unclear]
at 150 Tremont St., Boston
The Old Elm on February
to secure if possible the tail
and wings of the English [unclear]
shot by Mr. J. S. Wittman.
Mr. Miller and Mr. Julius F. [unclear]
the owner of the restaurant
They told me that Mr. Wittman
brought the bird in and so
in the flesh. Mr. Fellner [unclear]
thought of having the bird [unclear]
but he thought it would be
expensive and he finally
the bird up on the table to
customers who wanted it! for
Mr. Miller took home the
and wings and had them
prepared for a lady's hat.
was perfectly willing that I
should have them at any

9

11.10.10 G. S. C.

Dec. 29, 1900 -

Marble h

9

price I thought fit. I called the
 next morning but Mr. Miller had
 forgotten to bring the heads & wings.
 He mailed them to me, Monday
 the 11th and I received them the
 same day.

I wrote Mr. Miller the next
 morning and sent him my
 check for four dollars (\$4.)
 I copied the letter.

The heads with a bit of
 skin on the back were backed
 with silk and the heads bear
 glass eyes.

Walter Dennis,
 Feb. 12, 1901

11.10.00

Records from Nippinickett Pond, Bridgewater, Mass.— The captures of the following ducks on Nippinickett Pond seem worthy of record. European Widgeon, *Mareca penelope*, Nov. 7, 1902. Shot by A. C. Dyke.

Two European Widgeons, *Mareca penelope*, Oct. 22, 1910, from a flock of 4 birds. Shot by Harry P. Sturtevant.

European Widgeon, *Mareca penelope*, Oct. 23, 1910. Shot by A. C. Dyke.

*Ank. xxix. Oct. 1912. No. 536.
"Identified by Mr Brewster"*

Two Unrecorded Specimens of the European Widgeon from Massachusetts.— As the European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) has so rarely been taken in Massachusetts I wish to record a specimen in my collection taken at Ipswich, on October 25, 1909. The bird, an immature male, was shot by a gunner and sent into the Boston markets where it was recognized by Mr. John H. Hardy, Jr., through whose kindness it came into my possession.

Mr. A. C. Bent permits me to record another specimen, in similar plumage taken at Bridgewater on November 9, 1903, by Mr. J. E. Bassett and now in his collection (No. 1886, Coll. A. C. Bent). This is the first record of the occurrence of the species in Bristol County.— F. SEYMOUR HERSEY, Taunton, Mass. *Ank. xxxi, Apr. 1914. No. 243.*

European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) at Boston, Mass.— On October 24, 1913, two young male European Widgeon appeared on Jamaica Pond. When first seen, they were very shy and swam restlessly about in close companionship, occasionally giving the characteristic call of the species, consisting of two notes, "Whee-yoü." They were still present the following day and were afterwards viewed from time to time during the remainder of October and throughout November and December. When in early January ice was forming on the pond, one of the two left on the third or fourth day; the other remained to January 17, when ice had covered all but a few small areas of the pond. These young males showed little or nothing of the creamy buff crown upon their arrival, but they gradually developed this feature. So at first their true identification was difficult, but the two-note call and chestnut color of the head clearly differentiated them from Baldpates. By December the plumage of the adult male European Widgeon was quite fully developed, and at the time they left they lacked little of its completeness. One gained the adult plumage somewhat earlier than the other, so they could readily be distinguished. A female Baldpate joined them about December 1 and left on January 16, one day earlier than the later remaining Widgeon. A cold wave had brought the temperature at the pond down to 13° below zero on the thirteenth.

In early December their companions on the pond were 400 to 500 Black Ducks, the number varying from day to day, several Mallards, a few Scaup Ducks, 90 to 100 Lesser Scaup, a young male Bufflehead, 3 Ruddy Ducks, 25 to 60 Mergansers, 8 Coot, and a few Herring Gulls, a collection of water fowl, the numbers of which had been steadily increasing during November and were decreasing in late December.

This occurrence of European Widgeon on Jamaica Pond was the first in Boston and its immediate vicinity, if I am not in error. Like other wild ducks which visit protected waters, these Widgeons soon become unsuspecting and allowed near approach. They were objects of interest and pleasure to many observers throughout their long visit.— HORACE W. WRIGHT, Boston, Mass. *Ank. xxxi. July. 1914. No. 397. 398.*

Early European Widgeon on Long Island.— On Sept. 12, 1915, a European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) was observed by the writers on Moriches Bay under the beach meadows at Mastic, Long Island, with three American Widgeon (*M. americana*). It was examined carefully through binoculars in sufficiently good light to make out its gray dark-tipped bill. The head was chestnut, the sides of the breast cinnamon, and as it flew the white in the wing was of course conspicuous. It was probably an eclipse male. This is a very early, so far as we know, the earliest recorded date for this rare duck. Strangely enough on Sept. 12, 1914, at almost exactly the same spot, a reddish headed bird was observed by the senior writer among about fifty American Widgeon, which were associated with a large flock of Black Duck. This 1914 bird was, however, not satisfactorily determined.—J. T. NICHOLS AND LUDLOW GRISCOM, *New York City*.

Auth. xxxii Jan. 1916. p. 75-76.

The European Widgeon in Massachusetts.— Messrs. Angell and Cash, the well-known taxidermists of Providence, Rhode Island, have kindly given me permission to report that an adult male European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*), recently skinned and mounted by them, was shot at Chappaquiddick, Vineyard Sound, Massachusetts, October 6, 1917, by Mr. Arthur R. Sharpe. The specimen has been identified by Mr. Arthur C. Bent and Mr. John C. Sharpe, Jr. It would be interesting to know whether, as would seem to be the case, this old world species visits our Atlantic sea-board oftener now than formerly or is found there oftener merely because competent field observers of bird life are so much more numerous and omnipresent than they were thirty or forty years ago.— WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Auk xxxvi, Jan. 1918, p. 75.

The European Widgeon in Rhode Island.—Almost any large collection of birds is likely to yield occasional surprises in the way of rarities which have been previously misidentified or overlooked. An instance of this happened only a few weeks ago when I found in my series of American Widgeon a peculiarly colored specimen, labeled *Anas americana*, which I do not remember to have ever noticed before. My record books show that it was purchased, with a number of other birds, in 1896, from Mr. Edward Sturtevant of Newport, Rhode Island, and that one of my assistants catalogued and relabeled it with the others, possibly when I was absent from Cambridge. Its original label, still attached to the skin, reads as follows:—“♂ *Dafila acuta*, 22, Rhode Island, Middletown 20 Sep. 1889. Taken by Edward Sturtevant, Collection of Edward Sturtevant.” My assistant wrote in the Catalogue, between quotation marks:—“This is the only one I ever saw in this locality (salt marshes between 2d and 3d Beaches).” I am unable to Widgeon to which I have just called attention. In his text relating to the American Widgeon (which has been taken a few times in Great Britain) Millais says (on page 57):—“The old male in eclipse plumage more closely resembles the female of his own species than our drake Widgeon—his flanks are very grey-brown, and not that rich, red-brown colour seen in our bird.” The female, also, is described by him as differing from that of the European species in a similar way, having “not so much red-brown on the flanks and breast.”

Although it is not always safe to rely largely on plates and descriptions, however accurate, when identifying obscurely characterized birds, the evidence just given is sufficient, in my opinion, to warrant a rather positive reference of the Widgeon taken by Mr. Sturtevant at Middletown, Rhode Island, to *Mareca penelope*, of which, indeed, it seems to be a nearly typical representative. It is, I believe, the first European Widgeon known to have been obtained in New England. The second (hitherto supposed to have been the first) was shot in Monponsett Pond near Halifax, Massachusetts, on October 20, 1899. When I referred to the latter in ‘The Auk’¹ as a “fine old male in remarkably handsome plumage, I had not seen Millais’s book which, indeed, was not published until the following year. On re-examining this specimen in the light of his testimony, I find that I was not mistaken in regarding it as mature; for its wings closely resemble those of the Widgeon killed by Mr. Sturtevant although in most other respects it is very unlike his bird owing to the fact that it is in full winter plumage. It came into my possession not long after it was recorded in ‘The Auk.’ Soon after this I secured the remains of a third European Widgeon to which Dr. Townsend has alluded in the following words.² “There is in Mr. William Brewster’s collection the head and one wing of an adult male of this species shot at Marblehead on December 29th, 1900.” This statement is not quite correct for I have *both* wings of the Marblehead bird and they indicate plainly that it was not more than six or seven months old when killed, being essentially like those of a female Widgeon and wholly without the white patches which, according to Millais, are sometimes shown by the male soon after the close of his first winter and invariably assumed by him before the end of his second autumn; after which he never lacks them at any season,—even when masquerading, for a brief time in late summer, in the subdued garb so generally like that of his mate and so appropriately termed his “eclipse” plumage.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

¹ Auk, XVIII, No. 2, April 1901, p. 125.

² C. W. Townsend, Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts, Memoirs Nutt. Orn. Club, III, 1905, p. 129.

trace this statement to its source but it must have originated with Mr. Sturtevant and it may have been taken from one of his letters, afterwards destroyed.

In Millais's admirable 'Natural History of the British Surface Feeding Ducks' I find a figure (No. 3, Plate XVII) of an "immature male" European Widgeon, "coming out of the eclipse plumage into winter dress, age 16 months." Males of this age and condition somewhat resemble the females, from which they may easily be distinguished, however, by the presence of conspicuous grayish mottling on the scapulars and by a large white patch on the wing. From fully adult males in corresponding dress they differ, according to Millais, only in having the white on the wing somewhat less pure and widespread. Judged by this test my Rhode Island specimen is evidently mature, for the white on its wings is immaculate and of nearly maximum extent. In respect to every other detail of color and marking the bird agrees almost perfectly with the representation of the European Widgeon to which I have just called attention. In his text relating to the American Widgeon (which has been taken a few times in Great Britain) Millais says (on page 57):—"The old male in eclipse plumage more closely resembles the female of his own species than our drake Widgeon—his flanks are very grey-brown, and not that rich, red-brown colour seen in our bird." The female, also, is described by him as differing from that of the European species in a similar way, having "not so much red-brown on the flanks and breast."

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¹ Auk, XVIII, No. 2, April 1901, p. 125.

² C. W. Townsend, Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts, Memoirs Nutt. Orn. Club, III, 1905, p. 129.

European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) on Long Island, N. Y.— It gives me great pleasure to record the capture of an unusually fine adult male English Widgeon at Bostwicks Pond, Gardiners Island, Suffolk County, N. Y., on Wednesday, November 27, 1901. This duck, which was brought to me for identification, was killed by my friend, Mr. Thomas Newbold Rhinelander, while shooting over decoys from an island in Bostwicks Pond. The bird was entirely alone, rather wild and a little shy of the decoys.

On Saturday night and all of Sunday preceding there had been a heavy northeast storm followed on Monday and Tuesday by high northwest wind with clearing weather, and on Wednesday (the day the duck was shot) very high northwest wind, freezing hard. There was an unusually large flight of American Widgeon (*Mareca americana*) during the two days immediately following the storm, many flocks numbering over one hundred birds. A number of American Widgeon were killed. An old resident of Gardiners Island informed Mr. Rhinelander that every year the Widgeon came to the Pond in large numbers but usually later in the winter. The other ducks noted in great numbers were Black Duck (*Anas obscura*) and Red-breasted Merganser (*Merganser serrator*). A great many Black Ducks were also killed.— NEWBOLD T. LAWRENCE, *New York City*.

Auk, XIX, April, 1902, pp. 195-196.

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

Anas penelope. A specimen of the European Widgeon was killed on Gardiner's Island, Feb. 5, 1902, by Hiram Miller, of Springs. The capture of this bird was reported to me by Mr. Ivan C. Byram, a taxidermist of Sag Harbor, who mounted the bird and who identified it. To meet the question of possible error in identification I requested and received from Mr. Miller the following description: "Wing patch green; longer wing feathers and tail dark brown; head and neck chestnut shading to buff on forehead; breast gray shading to white belly; under tail-coverts black; legs and feet dusky lead." He adds: "There was another killed the autumn before I killed mine here, and another this autumn here." He states that the specimen in question was killed from a large flock of Baldpates.

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

Auk, X, 1, Apr., 1904, p. 288.

The European Widgeon at Gardner's Island, New York.— At Gardiner's Island, New York, on December 3, 1911, the writer, in company with Mr. Ludlow Griscom and Mr. Stanley Ladow, had the good fortune to see two adult male European Widgeons (*Mareca penelope*). They were in the North Inlet with a great flock of waterfowl numbering approximately 1000 Baldpates, and 300 Redheads, with a sprinkling of Buffle-heads, Golden-eyes, Red-breasted Mergansers, Lesser Scaups and Black Ducks.

The Widgeons were observed from a low hill overlooking the inlet, under unusually favorable conditions of light and position. They were watched through powerful binoculars for many minutes, at a distance of probably not over 150 or 175 feet, and were most satisfactorily identified.—W. DEW. MILLER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City*.

Auk XXIX. Apr. 1912. P. 235-

The European Widgeon in Central New York.— On April 11, 1915, Prof. A. A. Allen and I were in the Montezuma marshes at the outlet of Lake Cayuga, attempting to photograph the wild fowl. Leaving Prof. Allen in the blind I wandered over the marsh to "Black Lake" where a handsome drake of this species was discovered in a flock of Baldpate. An hour or so later we both returned, and the European Widgeon was observed at fairly close range through prism glasses for a quarter of an hour, every detail of plumage being satisfactorily made out. The species has not been recorded from the Cayuga Lake Basin in many years, and through Prof. Allen's courtesy I am able to record our observation.— LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

Auk. xxxiii. July 1916. p. 320.

Additional Records of the European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) in Indiana.— My last record of this duck for Indiana was noted in 'The Auk,' Vol. XVI, 1899, p. 270.

An adult male was killed March 27, 1903, on the Englis Lake marshes by Mr. James M. McKay and the mounted bird is now in his possession. While he came to the decoy alone, there were several flocks of his American cousins on the marsh at the time, in whose company he had undoubtedly been.

Mr. Harry Ehlers of Chicago, has in his collection of mounted ducks, an adult male which he shot April 7, 1898, and a female shot March 28, 1898. This pair was taken on the Kankakee marshes near Thayer, Indiana. Another male was killed by Mr. Peter Willem of Chicago, near the same locality on March 31, 1902, and the mounted specimen is in his possession.

As a specimen was captured on Licking Reservoir, Ohio, in 1902,¹ and three others on the Monroe marshes, Michigan, in 1900 and 1902.² These records bring the number to seventeen for the interior and nine for the State of Indiana. It is not a little strange that all these Indiana birds should have been taken along the Kankakee River during a period of twenty-two years.— RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Auk, XX, July, 1903, p. 303.

americana

Mareca americana

1891 Mass.

Feb. 22 Nantucket. - Mr. Geo. H. Mackay has given me a young ♂ Hunting in
Widgeon shot as above. He writes (under date Feb. 25/91) as follows: Mass.
"There were two Bald-pate Widgeon. The one I shot, & which you
now have, was killed February 22, at the Hummock Pond,
Nantucket."

1894

Poukepoog Pond. - "One of the Stand keepers has a wild
duck in his yard that he caught after
the pond 'frozen up'. I can't walk out just what it is
to give you a description: Bill; light slaty blue. Feet & legs;
gray. Sides of breast; barred with rufous. Back; mottled
grayish-brown & brownish-black. Wings; same as back with
greenish black patch and next above the green-black, a grayish
white patch. Tail; grayish-brown. Lower [tail] coverts
mottled brown & white. Lower breast and belly; white.
Head, neck & upper parts of breast; grayish-brown. It
is of a more slender build than the Wood Duck though of
about the same size with a longer neck." (J. H. Bowles
letter Dec. 20, 1894)

[Evidently an American Widgeon & apparently a young male.
Why did not the stand keeper recognize it? The bird is
not seen in Mass. W.B.]

"The Duck that I described was called a 'Blue-bill' by
the stand keeper and he tells me it comes in occasionally
with the Black Ducks. It was taken early in December."
(J. H. Bowles letter Dec. 25, 1894)

Nipanecket Pond, Bridgewater. - A Mr. Bassett who has shot Seaver in
one decoys on this pond for twenty years has killed during this Bridgewater
period only a very few Widgeon (H. K. Job in communication Dec. 26, 1894) ponds.

Anas americana [48491]

Cambridge, Mass.,
February [17] 1900.

Dear Mr. Brewster,-

In the evening of September 19, 1894, Mr. Hathaway went into Niles swamp on the edge of Pond pond. Soon after twilight three ducks circled around and flew past him. He fired and one fell into the pond. He swam in clothes and all into the dirty pool and got the duck which he brought down to me. I stuffed it the next day and identified it as an Anas americana.

On September 22 while ^{was} waiting for ducks in the evening, an odd duck flew by and had a peculiar kingfisher manner of hovering over the pool it wished to light in. But soon after night fall on September twenty-seventh I saw ~~against~~ the ^{clear} western sky was duck winging its way toward Niles. No sooner did it reach the western edge of the marsh, than just above the bank against the sky, it began to hover over several different pools. Finally it ~~dropped~~ like a stone in line between a tree and where I was standing. I quickly persuaded the fellow that was with me to let me take his ten-love, for I had just my .45 cal., and I went straight for that tree. At length I reached an impassible ditch, at that point particularly, so I stood a second and I waited not many, before I saw a duck

flying away, strike the light above the knoll. Such as a flash I fired. For a very short space under the smoke I saw my bird drop into darkness again. It was as dark as pitch and I tried in my hurry to cross on a plank, but fell in up to my waist. After coming to the place where I thought it dropped I set the dog to hunting and he found it high and dry on the bank.

I raised the bird up and it was not so dark but that I could see that it was a Noddy. At once I was able to identify the bird I saw on the twenty-second by the similar actions. I mounted the bird the next day finding it to be a female. This latter bird is the one I am presenting to you.

Very sincerely yours,
Olin S. Lothrop.

[Presented by O. S. Lothrop to
Wm Brewster, Feb. 17, 1900].

Lothrop, O. S.
Feb. 17, 1900.

[Aras americana]

Mareca americana

1890
Mar7-15

Florida,
Canaveral, Banana Creek.

Widgeon

The most abundant of fresh water Ducks found here. It associates freely with the ~~Gadwall~~ and to some extent with most of the other species, but is often found in flocks composed wholly of its own kind. It feeds in shallow water, ~~tilting~~ ^{tip} up the tail in the same manner as the Mallard. When swimming, birds of both sexes appear similar and of a ^{light} ^{forehead} ^{brown or} cinnamon color, the white color of the ~~tail~~ ^{tail} showing with great distinctness when the bird is facing the observer. On the wing the white belly, white speculum and black under-tail coverts are conspicuous features ^{and} which serve to distinguish the bird from any other species found here except the ~~Gadwall~~. Its flight is comparatively slow and heavy, the wings being moved much in the manner of those of the Black Duck. It is an exceedingly shy bird, but comes readily to the decoys and can be usually called by imitating its note. This note is a very singular one for a Duck, resembling the peeping of young birds, perhaps young ~~drakes~~ ^{Drakes}. It is a soft and rather pleasing sound, a whistle rather than a quack, varying from two or three syllables as follows:-- *phew-phew* or *phew-phew*

phew
Although not apparently loud it carries well and is ventriloqual to a high degree. The birds utter it almost incessantly at frequent intervals while flying. I heard it at all times of the night where these fowl were feeding in large numbers.

Mareca americana

1890 Maine

Oct. Orland - "A G. Dove of Bucksport Me. shot a young ♂ Widgeon at Luddy Pond, Orland, early in October" (Manly Hardy letter Oct. 20, 1890.)

Maine

1889 Rhode Island

Sept. 20 Middletown - Young ♂ ("the only one that I have ever seen in this locality") taken by Edward Sturtevant and now in W. B.'s collection.

1899 Mass.

Sept. 19 Cambridge - "Then Widgeon flew into Port Pond swamp after dark and A. H. Hathaway shot one of them" O. A. Lothrop.

" 22 I saw an American Widgeon in Port Pond Swamp " " "

" 27 I shot a ♀ " " " " " " probably the same bird seen on the 22nd " " "

Spring Sudbury Meadows - Mr. Chas. J. Paine tells me that a Widgeon was shot in these meadows in the Spring of 1899 but he does not remember the exact date.

December
in Spring

Springfield - Mr. Deane C. Holcomb tells me that the Widgeon occurs very regularly but only in small numbers in Spring, alighting in the Cornfield at Longmeadow. It is one of the earliest comers among the migratory ducks appearing as soon as the water opens, sometimes the last of February.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

34

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 444.

34. *Mareca americana*. AMERICAN WIDGEON.— Regular migrant;
not common; the only dates I have are April 12 and October 27.

Mareca americana

Moosehead Lake, Maine.

One ^{ad} taken on Moosehead Lake, in
coll of Mr. True. (See Marty Hardy in
Auk, May 15, 1884)

The Widgeon in Maine in February.—On the 20th of February last Mr. T. B. Davis, the gunsmith of this city, showed me a recently killed male specimen of the Widgeon (*Mareca americana*), which had been forwarded to him for preservation by a sportsman of Freeport, Maine. The bird had been dead several days. February, 1884, will be remembered as a month of mild and rainy weather. It appears probable, therefore, that this bird should be regarded as an early migrant rather than as a winter resident.

I have looked through the records in vain for specific notice of the Widgeon's occurrence in New England during winter. Dr. Coues, however, both in his 'List of New England Birds' and in 'New England Bird Life,' states, in general terms, that it is to be found at that season.—
NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN. *Portland, Me.*

Auk, I, Oct., 1884. p. 394-395.

Bowling Green, Warren, N.H.

1895.

Melospiza virens

June 7. 1895. A mounted specimen
of a young bird
a little of the
nest.

Cambridge, Mass.

Mareca americana

1832-1835

Dr. Samuel Cabot tells me that he used to shoot these Ducks regularly and in some numbers both on Fresh Pond and the then undisturbed reaches of Alewife Brook. They often occurred there in small flocks in the autumn at various places along the brook between Fresh Pond and the road to Menotomy (now Arlington).

Mass. (Salem)

Mareca americana

1875

Sept. 29

The Jeffries Bros. have two Widgeons, both ♀, which H. A. Jeffries shot from a flock of 5 in a salt creek in the salt marshes near Salem. They were seen in the same place several days in succession.

NOTE ON MARECA AMERICANA.—I shot at Wayland, Mass., October 1, 1881, a young male Widgeon (*Mareca americana*). It was flying in company with a flock of twelve others, apparently of the same species.—A. THORNDIKE, *Brookline, Mass. Bull. N. O. C.*, July, 1882, p. 185.

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

Anas americana (Linn.), Baldpate. Migrant,
rare.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 128

Ducks of Cohasset, Mass., 1860-92
O. H. E. Boston, Mass.

7. Baldpate (137). In all, five specimens
have been taken since 1860.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 90

Anas americana.

The Ducks of Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

by Herbert K. Job.

Auk, XLII, July, 1896, pp. 197-204.

See under Anas obscura.

Unusual records near Boston, Mass. -

Mareca americana. One spent April 17, 1904, on the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, Brighton, in company with two Black Ducks.

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

Auk, XXXII, 1905, p. 396.

In Rhode Island.

Mareca americana

(Dafila acuta et Anas boschas)

Providence, Rhode Island.
December 2, 1882.

Under date of Dec. 3, 1882, Mr. F. T. Jencks writes: "A man came into our store last night with a bunch of Widgeon; said he had killed twenty-four and I know of another man who has shot about as many and a lot of Pintails. More Mallards have been shot here this fall than I'm known for being killed for years."

THE BALDPATE IN RHODE ISLAND.—The American Widgeon or Baldpate (*Mareca americana*) has been unusually abundant in the waters of Southern Rhode Island during November, and the first week of December, 1882. About December 1 a gentleman brought in a bunch for identification, and at the same time informed me that he had just killed twenty-four.—F. T. JENCKS, *Providence, R. I. Bull. N. O. C.* 8, Jan, 1883, p. 61.

Birds of Adirondack Region Meriam.

200. *Mareca americana*. BALDPATE. — Rare along Lake Champlain.

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

For a note on a hybrid Mareca americana
see Lehaule's asmode streperus, under
"Hybrid Ducks" by. Mm. G. Smith.

Q. & C. XII. Oct. 1887. p. 169.

crecca

H. H. Brock, M. D.

687 Congress St.

Office Hours,
9 to 10, a. m.
2 to 4, p. m.

Portland, Me., April 20/13.

Mr Wm Brewster

My dear Sir

I have the chance to buy a European Green Winged Teal. That was taken here in Caco Bay. It is a beautiful specimen in full spring plumage. Can you tell me something in regard to its status here, and about what the bird would be worth. Thanking you in advance for the courtesy,

I am sincerely yours,

Henry H Brock

Stamp enclosed

Recent Occurrence of the European Teal and the Marbled Godwit near Portland, Maine.—My collection contains a male European Teal (*Nettion crecca*) which was shot in Casco Bay by a fisherman on April 6, 1903. I had the satisfaction of seeing it before it received the attentions of a taxidermist, thus making perfectly sure that no deception was practised in the case. It is a remarkably beautiful and highly typical specimen. So far as I am aware, it is the first of its kind recorded for this State. *Henry H. Brock, Portland, Me. Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 94.*

A Second European Teal (*Nettion crecca*) in Maine.—On March 26, 1910, I was called upon to examine a specimen of the European Teal in the flesh, which had been taken a day or two earlier at Scarborough, Maine. During the day, the bird was examined by Messrs. Nathan C. Brown and Walter H. Rich. It was a male in good plumage. The skin passed into the possession of Dr. Henry H. Brock, of this city. The sternum, shoulder girdle, and sacrum are in my possession.

The only other occurrence in the State known to me is the one recorded by Dr. Brock, as taken in Casco Bay, April 6, 1903 (*Auk*, XXIV, p. 94).—
ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Portland, Me.*

Auk 23. Apr-1911 p. 2637

Notes on Several Species of Water Birds at Muskeget Island, Massachusetts.—Anas crecca.—On March 16, 1890, I had the good fortune to shoot a European Teal at Muskeget. It was an adult male in full spring plumage, and was the only Teal seen there. The day before there had been a very severe northeasterly snowstorm. The bird's stomach contained nothing but a few seeds. These have been identified by Mr. Sereno Watson as no doubt belonging to some species of Ranunculus, most probably R. septentrionalis, which is common in swamps and ditches from New England to Florida and Texas. Little clue is afforded therefore as to the bird's last feeding ground. The skin is now in the collection of Mr. William Brewster. ~~Butcher~~ Geo. H. Mackay.

Ank, VII. July, 1890, p. 294.

A. B. Curator.
Seeds taken from Gizzard
of Green-winged Teal shot by Lodge 76
Mackay, on Muskeget March 16, 1890

HERBARIUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
BOTANIC GARDEN, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

March 31st 1890

My Dear Sir,

The seeds sent
belong to some species
of Ranunculus, I have
no doubt (achenes, with
minute didymlidous embryos
at the base of copious al-
bumen). As the soft integ-
ument is all worn off
the species is uncertain,
but it is most likely the
R. septentrionalis, which
is common in swamps

Notes on Several Species of Water Birds at Muskeget Island, Massachusetts.—Anas crecca.—On March 16, 1890, I had the good fortune to shoot a European Teal at Muskeget. It was an adult male in full spring plumage, and was the only Teal seen there. The day before there had been a very severe northeasterly snowstorm. The bird's stomach contained nothing but a few seeds. These have been identified by Mr. Sereno Watson as no doubt belonging to some species of *Ranunculus*, most probably *R. septentrionalis*, which is common in swamps and ditches from New England to Florida and Texas. Little clue is afforded therefore as to the bird's last feeding ground. The skin is now in the collection of Mr. William Brewster. ~~Butcher~~, Geo. H. Mackay.

Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 294.

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the coast from N. Eng-
land to Florida and
Texas. It gives little
clue therefore as to
the bird's last feeding
ground.

Yrs. very truly
Sereno Watson

Mr. Geo. W. Mackay }
25 Congress St. }
Boston }

The European Teal (*Nettion crecca*) again Returning to Wenham, Mass.— In 'The Auk,' 1911, page 366, I told of the migration and return of a European Teal raised in captivity here at Wenham. The bird arrived April 19, 1911 after an absence since December 6, 1910.

All summer of 1911 this bird was in or near the pond. On November 25 our captive fowl were placed in winter quarters, and our Teal vacated. Four other poorly pinioned European Teal escaped at the same time, having grown outer secondaries or new primaries long enough to enable them to fly. Our bird, however, did not leave until December 31, as she was seen several times about the pond and lake until that date. Wenham Lake closed during the first few days of January, 1912, the fall having been extremely mild.

On the morning of April 18, 1912, our bird was again back in the pond where she was hatched, having arrived during the night or early morning; thus completing her second migration. That day she was quite shy, and flushed immediately, but soon returned. I saw her first on April 20. She was then perfectly tame and could with difficulty be driven from the pond.

On April 23 another Teal appeared in the pond; whether an escape of last fall, or some other bird, can only be conjectured. This bird did not remain long, however.

It is fair, I think, to consider the first arrival the same bird as before reported, though there is no absolute evidence. The dates of spring arrival on the two years are I think interesting.— J. C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

Auk XXIX, Oct. 1912, p. 838.

A Case of the Migration and Return of the European Teal in Massachusetts.— The following facts must be taken only for what they are worth, for unfortunately the data are incomplete. There is, however, no doubt in my mind that we are dealing with a case of the migration, and return to the place of birth, of a non-indigenous bird.

In the spring of 1909, Mr. Thomas Johnston came over from England to enter my employment, and brought with him five pairs of live European Teal (*Nettion crecca*), together with some other water-fowl. These birds were bred in England on the estate of Sir Richard Graham in Cumberland County, where many interesting experiments in propagating water-fowl are in progress.

The teal suffered many vicissitudes of fortune, from various causes, and were reduced in 1910 to two pairs. These two pairs were kept with other water-fowl in a small, enclosed, artificial pond, in the orchard at Wenham, situated about 75 yards from the farm-house, 40 yards from the road, and a third of a mile from Wenham Lake. No other varieties of teal were kept.

About the middle of June, 1910, two downy young were led out into the pond by one of the female teal. These thrived amazingly and obtained their wings so soon that the first attempt at their capture, which was put off for fear of disturbing other fowl, resulted in finding that the youngsters were too spry for the net. They turned out to be both females, and were not disturbed again. They traded between the pond and Wenham Lake all the summer and fall, spending the greater part of their time in the enclosed pond and feeding on a mud flat on the eastern shore of the lake. They were perfectly tame while in the pond, and were only flushed with difficulty, but outside its boundaries they were as wild as any teal.

On December 6, the pond, and also the lake, froze. The other fowl were placed in winter quarters the day before the freeze, and our teal vanished, as we thought for good.

On the morning of April 19, 1911, a single female teal was found in the pond, none of the other fowl having yet been released from winter quarters. This teal was perfectly at home and absolutely tame. She allowed close approach, and when actually flushed made the same characteristic flight to the lake, keeping only a few yards off the ground. In a short time she returned. At the present date, May 17, she is still with us.

All that can be said is that this bird is a female green-winged teal, further identification being impossible as the plumage of the females of the American and European species is similar. I believe however that this returned bird is one of those that hatched in our pond, for the following reasons.

First, its actions are exactly similar to the birds of the previous summer, and very different from those which a strange teal would exhibit.

Second, it returned to a spot that no wild water-fowl have ever used.

Third, it shows no disposition to migrate north.

Fourth, the occurrence of Green-winged Teal in this locality in the spring is so rare that I have never met with one.

It seems also far more likely that our bird migrated to at least a much warmer latitude, for it could not possibly have wintered here, especially during such a severe winter as that of 1910-11. It returned nearly four weeks after the ice was out of the ponds and rivers.

Such cases, granted we are not mistaken, and also those where birds have successfully returned to their nests, when transported far beyond their natural range (see Watson, Carnegie Institute Publication No. 103, p. 227) force one to assume a directive sense in birds far beyond anything at present conceivable.— J. C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

¹ Munsell, Joel. The Annals of Albany. Albany, 1858, Vol. IX, p. 206.

Arch. Zool. Vol. XXVIII, 1911, p. 366-367.

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

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

Nettion crecca. EUROPEAN TEAL. — At a meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History, April 18, 1855, Dr. Bryant remarked that a specimen of the European Green-winged Teal had been sent to Mr. E. Samuels to be mounted. It was shot in Massachusetts, the first he had ever seen in the State. (Proc. Bos. Soc. Nat. His., Vol. V, p. 195.) This instance is cited by Allen (Proc. Ess. Inst., Vol. IV, 1864) and by C. J. Maynard (Naturalist's Guide, 1870). "A European species, but so often taken on the coast as to be fairly considered as more than an accidental visitor." (Coues, Proc. Ess. Inst., Vol. V, 1868.)

Bull. N.O.C. 2, Jan., 1877, p. 13-14.

Rare Massachusetts Birds.
by
William Brewster.

EUROPEAN TEAL (*Nettion crecca*). — On February 26, 1896, Mr. Clark brought to me in the flesh, in fresh condition, an adult male European Teal which he had received on the 24th from Rev. E. A. Phillips of Sagamore, Massachusetts. Mr. Phillips said that the bird had been caught, a few days previous to the date on which he sent it, in a steel trap and that, in company with two other Teal of similar appearance (but probably belonging to the American species), it had been seen repeatedly in the same place. This is, I believe, only the second known instance of the occurrence of the European Teal in New England, the first being that of the bird, also an adult male, taken by Mr. George H. Mackay at Muskeget, March 16, 1890 (see Auk, VII, 1890, p. 294). Both specimens are now in my collection.

Auk, XVIII, April, 1901, p. 135.

Anas crecca in Connecticut.—November 14, 1889, a resident gunner brought me a fine adult male of this species, which he said he shot as it was flying with another, apparently of the same species, over an open field. It is now in the collection of Mr. John H. Sage of Portland, Conn.

—WILLARD E. TREAT, *East Hartford, Conn.*

Auk, VIII, JAN, 1891, p. 112.

Nuttall's crecca

Silver Lake, Conn.,

Apr. 16 1901

Mr. William Brewster
Cambridge Mass.

I'm reading your very interesting article in "the Auk" for April 1901, "On the occurrence in Massachusetts, of certain Rare or interesting Birds". It occurred to me that perhaps you had overlooked my record of the *Nuttall's crecca*, in the "Auk" for January 1891 p. 112.

This specimen (no 1923) was shot while flying over an open field some two or three miles from any river or

Anas crecca in Connecticut.—November 14, 1889, a resident gunner brought me a fine adult male of this species, which he said he shot as it was flying with another, apparently of the same species, over an open field. It is now in the collection of Mr. John H. Sage of Portland, Conn.
—WILLARD E. TREAT, East Hartford, Conn.

ATZ, VII, Jan, 1891, p 112.

water except very small brooks.
There was another bird with it apparently of the same species.
The specimen is now in the collection of Mr. John H. Sage.
This, I believe, is the third recorded specimen in New England.

Hoping I am not intruding too much, I am

Very truly yours
Willard E. Treat

NOTES CONCERNING CERTAIN BIRDS OF
LONG ISLAND.

BY WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, M. D.

Nettion crecca. A number of years has passed since the publication of any record of the European Teal on Long Island. This species is included in Lawrence's 'List' (1866), but is not mentioned by Giraud in his 'Birds of Long Island' (1844). I am able to record two additional specimens for Long Island. These, together with one American Green-winged Teal, were shot by Mr. Sherman Smith of Merrick, on a small fresh-water pond at that place, about a week before Christmas, 1900. These birds were mounted by Mr. Albert Lott, a taxidermist of Freeport; one of them I found recently in Mr. Willis's shop at the latter place and traced the history of the specimens as related, finding the second specimen at Mr. Lott's house. Both are males in fine plumage. They are now in my collection of Long Island birds.

Auk, XIX, April., 1902, p. 145

Albinistic Plumages. R. Deane.

37. *Querquedula crecca*. ENGLISH TEAL. — Specimen in the Museum at Nice, France (*Merrill*).

Bull. N.O.C. 5, Jan., 1880, p.30

carolinensis

Anas (Nettion) Carolinensis.

Mass.

Bridgewater. - Mr. H. K. Job tells me (Dec. 26/94) that he has Rare occurrence
never seen this teal in Mass. and that a Mr. Bassett at Bridgewater
who for 20 years has shot each autumn on
Wipacocket Pond, Bridgewater has never seen a Green winged
Teal on that pond. This indicates that the bird is rarer
on the Cape than with us but Melvin & I killed one at
Moultown's Mills in Oct. 1872! (Of Job's list of records published in Auk)

1897

Dec. 11 Cambridge. - I saw a pair of Green-winged Teal this morning
swimming near the middle of Fresh Pond. By the aid of a powerful
double telescope I made out their characteristic markings to my entire
satisfaction. The ♂ seemed to be a young or immature bird just
passing into the full plumage. His head and forehead were strongly
tinged with chestnut although this was mixed with grayish. There
was no trace of the lunar mark on the side of the breast but the
creamy buff on the under tail coverts was rich and conspicuous.
Both birds rose and flapped their wings every minute or two, showing
their under parts plainly. For the first half-hour they kept
apart by themselves although ^{within 100 yards or less of the bed of one} there was ~~over~~ 500 Herring Gulls among
a bunch of five Black Ducks accompanied by a ♀ Mallard.
~~within 100 yards or less~~ At length the Ducks worked a
little outside the bed of Gulls & the teal joined the former.
The Black Ducks are in the pond every day in varying
numbers but both teal & Mallard were absent during my
subsequent visits on Dec. 13, 14 (Of course the teal may
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numbers but both teal & Mallard were absent during my
subsequent visits on Dec. 13, 14 (Of course the teal may
have been A. creca)

Anas carolinensis.

Cambridge, Mass.

1897. The Ducks (seen this morning on Fresh Pond among a large
Dec. 11. flock of Gulls) were scarcely less interesting for although
there were only eight of them they represented no less than
three different species; viz. Anas obscura, A. boschas, and A.
(Nettion) carolinensis.

The Teal were a pair or, at least, male and female. The drake was immature lacking the lunar markings on the sides of the breast and having the chestnut of the head somewhat obscured by grayish mottling but with the creamy buff patch on the under tail coverts fully developed. For the first half-hour these birds kept apart from the other water-fowl swimming rapidly to and fro as if nervous or apprehensive and frequently raising their bodies out of water and flapping their wings after the manner of most Duck; they finally approached and joined the Black Duck and Mallard.

1899. One in Fresh Pond on the 13th. It was a young male
December. changing into the full plumage, the head and neck being
strongly tinged with reddish and the tail markings nearly
completed although the body plumage was colored like that of
the female. It kept close company with a number of Black
Ducks.

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

109. *Querquedula carolinensis*. GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—Rare here,
but they breed at Manacougan.

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

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

Anas carolinensis, Green-winged Teal. Early
in September I saw two which an Indian had
just killed from a bunch of six, in the vicinity
of Esquimaux Point.

O. & O. XII, Feb. 1887, p. 19

Newfoundland Notes. A Trip up the
Humber River, Aug. 10 - Sept. 24, 1898.

7. *Anas carolinensis*. GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—Rather uncommon.
Several observed.

Louis H. Porter, New York City.

Auk, XVII, Jan., 1900, p. 71.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 444.

35. *Nettion carolinensis*. GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—Regular migrant,
March 28 to probably May 1, returning early in September; latest record
November 24, 1897.

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

98. *Nettion carolinensis*, (Green-winged Teal).

A few were seen at Flagstaff in September and three were shot by a hunter who gave them to me. They were seen at no other place, yet they occur at times in considerable numbers at the above lake, as many of the settlers informed me.

O. & O. XI. Dec. 1886. p. 178

1890

Jan'y - Mr. H. G. of Byam showed me to-day (Jan 31-90) a fine adult ♂ in perfect plumage which he received in the flesh in fresh condition, Jan. 25, from Chas. Hart a gunner who lives & shoots at West Gloucester. He is sure that the bird was killed there, he thinks about Jan. 20 judging from its condition.

Nettion carolinensis

Sunday 25

Anas carolinensis One shot by A. Hamilton Sunday, Nov. 10, '88 in a small pond hole in the woods near Sherman's pond, Mattham. There were two together one occupying

Birds which have appeared at Frammingham Mass., in notably increased numbers since the construction of the Reservoirs on Sudbury River. . . . J. C. Browne.

8. *Querquedula carolinensis*. Ratio of increase, say 2.

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

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

Anas carolinensis Gmel., Green-winged Teal. Migrant, rare.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 158

General notes.

1892.]

General Notes.

199

Anas carolinensis and *Gallinago delicata* in Winter.—Mr. John B. Rodgers brought into the Quincy Market, Boston, Mass., on February 2, 1892, one Green-winged Teal, and four Wilson's Snipe, which he had shot at West Barnstable, Cape Cod, Mass., probably a day or so before. Both the Teal and the Snipe were very fat.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, Nantucket, Mass. **Auk, 9, April, 1892. p. 199.**

Ducks of Cohasset, Mass., 1860-92
C. H. E. Boston, Mass.

5. Green-winged Teal (139). Formerly fairly common, but during the last ten years rarely met with.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 90

Mass. (Waltham)

Anas (Nettion) carolinensis

1888

At Sherman's Pond in Nov.

Nov. 10

A. L. Danielson started two Green wings from a rain water pool in the woods near Sherman's Pond and shot one of them. He tells me that it is the only Green-winged Teal which he has ever killed or known to be killed in this vicinity.

Anas carolinensis.

The Ducks of Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

by Herbert K. Job.

Auk, XIII, July, 1896, pp. 197-204.

See under Anas obscura.

Lynn May 14 1890.

Mr. Brewster Esq,

Dear Sir

I received a letter this morning
from the party that shot the
Green-winged Teal, he says that
you can have it at the
price you offered (\$50).

The bird's name that
killed it is Greater Heron of
Massachusetts. He was shot
on or about the first of Jan¹⁸⁹⁰
(we did not get the count yet)
He was shot a cold night
I don't look after Lynch's work
This bird was seen flying in
from the Essex River full the
month of Jan¹⁸⁹⁰ when

mean enough he shot &
killed it & burrowing it
was a black duck. I will
be picked it up. The bird
was about, round NW.
The locality is in Westchester
not a great distance from
the two sunny loof.

Will send the book to
you any time you wish

Yours Respectfully

J. M. Swift

Mr. Hart is the one that shot
the Brant. I have long seen a great
deal on my side. I have
found 5 or 6 in the same place
on his side. I have shot
it for him. It is quite a good
one.

In re Nettion carduensis
Hood Jan. 1890 at
Haverhill Mass & now
in my mounted collection.

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

158. *Nettion carolinensis* (Gmelin) Baird. GREEN-WINGED TEAL.
—Not common.

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

Birds Tioga Co, N. Y. Alden Loring.

612. Green-winged Teal. Rare. One was
shot here a time ago, only one ever seen around
here. *C. S. O. XV, June, 1880, p. 86*

847. *An Albino [Green-winged] Teal,* ' By W. N. B[yers]. *Ibid.,*
p. 7. *For. & Stream, XXII*

In England

H. Saunders - P. Z. S. 1888 p 469 -

(Ad. ♂ shot on River Dart Dec. 23 or
24, 1879) The first authentic British record

Nitidion carolinensis

discors

Anas discors.

Concord, Mass.

1898. Just as I was about to start up the river Gilbert came
Oct.10. in to tell me that he had seen a Duck on the opposite side of
 the river below the cabin. I paddled to the place and found
 a Blue-winged Teal swimming among the pickerel weed feeding
 busily. I shot it just as it raised its head and started off.
 It is probably the same bird that I saw on the 3rd near Dav-
 is's Hill.

Blue Winged Teal

1890.
Mar 7-15

Florida,
Canaveral, Banana Creek.

Common about the bays and creeks as well as in many of the ponds. As a rule, they go in flocks apart from other species of Ducks, but I saw a few flying with Gadwall and Widgeon. The males were all in perfect spring plumage, and it was a beautiful sight to see a dozen or more of them intermingled with about an equal number of females standing huddled together on a mud bar, or swimming close along the mangrove-bordered shores. Curiously enough, considering its tameness at the North, this little duck is here one of the wildest of its kind. It is impossible to get anywhere near a flock in a boat, and difficult to creep within range along the shore, unless the cover is very good. These Teal however, come fairly well to decoys, and all we killed were shot in this way. This bird is the swiftest flyer of the fresh water ducks found here except its Green-winged cousin, which easily outstrips it in speed. I did not hear it make any ~~unusual~~^{vocal} sound during this trip.

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

110. *Querquedula discors*. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.—Rare, but oftener
seen than the preceding. Has been shot early in May.

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

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

36

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 444.

36. *Querquedula discors*. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.—Regular migrant,
April 2 to May 15 (May 31, 1906) and from July 28 to October 5. Not as
common as it was; said to have formerly bred.

Luzquedula discors. - Aug. ⁴10, ⁴20, ³21, ³23, ⁶25, ¹27 Rye Beach, N. H. 1866.

Rye Beach, N. H. 1868.

Luzquedula discors. - Aug. ^{1 shot}26, ^{1 shot}31, ^{1 shot}Sept. 1, 2

Luzquedula discors. - Aug. ^{2 shot}21, ^{2 shot}25, ^{2 shot}27 Rye Beach, N. H. 1869.

Luzquedula discors. - Aug. ^{3 seen}23, ^{2 shot}26, ^{2 shot}27 Rye Beach, N. H. 1870.

Luzquedula discors. - Aug. ^{1 shot}12, ⁴18, ⁴20, ⁸21, ²22, ²31; Sept. ²⁷1, ³2 Rye Beach, N. H. 1871.

1882 / *Luzquedula discors*

Rye Beach
N. H.

August 19. On Aug. 21st

C. R. Lamb saw the wing
of a Blue-winged Teal which
was shot Aug. 19 ~~xxxx~~ in a
small pond about 20 ft by 12 ft.
from which water is pumped
by a wind-mill to the
Farragut House. This is the
earliest date I have heard of "

Birds which have appeared at Framingham, Mass. in notably increased numbers since the construction of the Reservoirs on Sudbury River - - - - F. C. Brown.

7. *Querquedula discors*. Ratio of increase, say 2.

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

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

Anas discors Linn., Blue-winged Teal. Migrant, fairly common.

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

Ducks of Cohasset, Mass., 1860-92
O. H. E. Boston, Mass.

6. Blue-winged Teal (140). Abundant thirty or forty years ago, but lately almost as rare as the preceding.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 90

Querquedula discors

Abundance in Mass.

Concord River, Mass.

Sept. 28, 29, 1882

During a shooting trip up Concord River with D. C. French, I saw hundreds of Blue-winged Teal between Concord and Wayland. They were in flocks containing from three or four to seventy or eighty individuals. We counted the birds in one flock pretty accurately and made the number to be seventy five. I never saw them in as large flocks before.

They were undoubtedly driven in by the heavy easterly storm which had

Anas discors.

The Ducks of Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

by Herbert K. Job.

Auk, XLII, July, 1896, pp. 197-204.

See under *Anas obscura*.

Birds which have appeared at Framingham, Mass. in notably increased numbers since the construction of the Reservoirs on Sudbury River - - - - F. C. Brown.

7. *Querquedula discors*. Ratio of increase, say 2.

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

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

Anas discors Linn., Blue-winged Teal. Migrant, fairly common.

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

Ducks of Cohasset, Mass., 1860-92
O. H. E. Boston, Mass.

6. Blue-winged Teal (140). Abundant thirty or forty years ago, but lately almost as rare as the preceding.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 90

provided for them or four days; they were very shy, almost as much so as Black Ducks, and to much to that I at first doubted their being teal at all. We killed only two, a pair which we found alone. The shots could not be approached nearer than one hundred yards. They were plentiful then on the flooded meadows when the water was only 2 feet inches deep. I have never seen teal nearly so abundant in Mass. before and their presence at the above lot date is remarkable, the bulk of the flight usually passing before Sept. 10th.

Anas discors.

The Ducks of Plymouth County, Massachusetts.
by Herbert K. Job.

Auk, XIII, July, 1896, pp. 197-204.

See under Anas obscura.

Rarity in Spring in Mass.

Quincy, Mass.

Mr. N. Vickary tells me he has had only 3 Blue-winged Teal killed in ^{in Spring} Mass. during his long experience as a taxidermist. He considers them very rare at that season.

Querquedula discors

1882 Querquedula discors. Cambridge
Mass.

Sept. 27. C. R. Bant saw a flock of 14 flying over the Glacialis and found 2 birds, one of which he shot, in this pond "at the further end"

" 30. A flock of about 8 alighted in the Glacialis just as day was breaking within 30 yds. of C. R. Bant who secured 3 of them.

(Note book C. R. Bant)

Topsfield, Mass.

Massachusetts Notes.— Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*).— Because this bird is considered a rare spring migrant near the coast of this State I would like to record having seen a pair on April 11, 1909, in a pond near Wenham Swamp, Topsfield, Mass. The male was in full adult plumage, the white crescent before the eye plainly visible. I observed them for some time with a pair of glasses and as they were not over a hundred yards distant there could be no question as to their identity.

Aug 27. Apr-1910 p. 219.

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Grounds, Brooklyn. G.H. Coates

59. *Querquedula discors*. BLUE-WINGED TEAL. Five specimens
seen.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 33

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

157. *Querquedula discors* (Linn.) Stephens. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.
—Occurs during the migrations.

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

Mr. H. Taylor, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., re-
ports with good evidence, the nesting of the
Blue-wing Teal, (*Querquedula discors*) at Black
Pond, Ulster Co., N. Y., in the summer of 1886.

O. & O. XII. Dec. 1887 p. 207

Mountain Birds of Arizona. *Anas discors*. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.—Several were seen on each of the mountain lakes that we visited, but no positive proof of their breeding there was obtained, although it is probable that they do. Mearns, *Auk*, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 57.

998. *Reported Occurrence of the Blue-winged Teal near Redcar.*
By T. H. Nelson. *Ibid.*, p. 113.—A specimen previously recorded (*Zoologist*, 1882, p. 92) by the same writer as *Querquedula discors* proves to have been a young Garganey (*Q. circa*). *Zoologist*, IX, March, 1885.

Albinism and Melanism in North
American Birds. Ruthven D. Lane,

Some specimens of *Q. discors*, bear strong
traces of albinism

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 23

For a note on a hybrid *Zonotrichia*
discors. see *Leucelasmus strepera*
under "Hybrid Ducks" by Mr. S. Smith.

Q. & C. XII. Oct. 1857. p. 169.

Vol. 33. 0524. p. 265 1815. *The Wives of a Mother Teal.* By Rex. *Ibid.*—*Anas discors.* For, & Stream.

Spatula
clypeata

Shoveller

1890
Mar 7-15

Florida,
Canaveral, Banana Creek.

Very common about the bays and to some extent, also, in the ponds, as well as throughout the creeks, frequenting sometimes very narrow and winding ones, bordered by overhanging mangroves. The Shoveller rarely associates, except incidentally, with other species of Ducks, but is oftenest seen in pairs or small flocks composed ~~entirely~~ of its own kind. The males were all in full plumage, and were decidedly the showiest bird found in these waters. While sitting on the water, the white collar around the neck, the green head, a white bar on the flanks, and the rich chestnut of the sides are all conspicuous. When flying the head looks very large, and black instead of greenish, unless the bird is very near; ~~The~~ chestnut seldom shows; the neck appears very long; the wing-beats are even, slow and heavy. I could discover nothing special about the feeding habits of this Duck. Like the members of the Anas group, they invariably feed in shallow water, submerging the head, neck and fore part of the body only, and never diving unless wounded. They are shy, and when shot at, rise with a single powerful spring, precisely like the Black Duck. They decoy very well indeed, and are taken easily in this way. We found them excellent table-birds, next in order in this respect to the Gadrel and Widgeon. During the entire time I spent in this region, although I was among these ducks almost continually, day and night, I did not once hear any of them make any sound whatever. ^{Mr. Quarterman} told me that they occasionally utter a short, ^{hooked} quacking note, not unlike that of the Gadrel.

Massachusetts.

Spatula clypeata

1892.

Oct 23 Concord. He found a Duck swimming in the river at the head of the Holt. It rose at about 100 yards & flew down river. An hour later what I took to be the same bird appeared on the river directly opposite my cabin. It kept near but outside the lily pads and fed about over an area of a few square yards for an hour or more stretching its neck out nearly level with the surface and swimming very slowly to & fro frequently turning. It was about the size of a Wood Duck but the neck was much longer, the bill very long and broad, the color brown like a ♀ Scaup. When it flew it cleared the surface with a single vigorous spring like a Teal, I could not identify it but think that it must have been a ♀ Shoveller although I saw no blue on the shoulders.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 444.

37. *Spatula clypeata*. SHOVELLER.— Rare migrant; spring records are unusual; all the fall records are between September 1 and 27.

Magdalen Islands

Notes from the Magdalen Islands.— *Spatula clypeata*. SHOVELLER.
— One shot at Grindstone Island by a native during the first week of September, 1906. It was examined by Mr. Stanley Cobb and myself but decomposition was too advanced to save the skin.

Auk 29, Jan 1912 p. 112.

EXCEPTIONAL ABUNDANCE OF THE SHOVELLER AT PORTLAND, ME.—
The Shoveller (*Spatula clypeata*) is so rare a bird in Mainè that I was not a little surprised to find five handsome males hanging in one of our city markets on April 18 of this year. Suspecting that the unusually bleak weather of the season might have driven others to the vicinity, I watched the markets closely for several days subsequent, and was rewarded by detecting two more birds, one of them a female. Four other specimens were received by Mr. A. Nelson, taxidermist, making a total of eleven birds taken between April 18 and 23. All of these, with the exception of one female, which was killed in a pond on Cape Elizabeth, were said to have been shot in Casco Bay.

Until this year, but three instances of the Shoveller's occurrence in this vicinity have come to my knowledge. In September, 1876, I examined two specimens which were taken on Scarborough marsh, and on April 14, 1879, I received a female from one of the littoral islands of the same township.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN. *Portland, Me.*

Bull. N. O. C. 6, July, 1881, p. 187.

Shatula clypeata. - ^{1 shot} Aug. 19; ^{1 shot} Sept. 1 Eye Beach, N. H. 1871.

Spatula clypeata

In Mass.

Spawick, Mass.

Nov. 12, 1883

Noticing a fine young ♂ Shoveller at A. H. Huffs I inquired about it. He told me it was shot as per above and by a Mr. Winslow. Mr. W. was rowing on Spawick River when he noticed big Ducks swimming in a cluster near the bank. Supposing them tame Ducks he was passing by when they rose. He shot down them and secured two, this young ♂ and a ♀ the other bird escaping.

Ducks of Cohasset, Mass., 1860-92.
O. H. H. Boston, Mass.

S. Shoveller (142). One adult ♂ taken by
Mr. B. C. Clark during the fall of 1863.
O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 90

General Notes.

Stray Notes from Massachusetts.
George H. Mackay.

Spatula clypeata.—Sept. 25. One immature Shoveller Duck shot to-day.

Auk XI. Jan. 1894 p. 84

into some tall hedge. He
is positive that all were
of the same species.
He says he had this bird
in the flesh on the 14th
and was told it was shot
two days before.

Ducks of Cohasset, Mass., 1860-92.
O. H. B. Boston, Mass.

8. Shoveller (142). One adult ♂ taken by
Mr. B. C. Clark during the fall of 1863.
O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 90

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George H. Mackay.

Spatula clypeata.—Sept. 25. One immature Shoveller Duck shot
to-day.

Auk XI. Jan. 1894 p. 84

Spatula clypeata.

Joseph M. Inaud.

October 1, 1880

I have obtained from Mr. J. W. Whiting a specimen in the flesh of the Spoonbill Duck. It is apparently an adult in full plumage.

Mr. Whiting told me that he found it in the market & suspecting from the freshness of the eyes & fleshy parts that it was killed in this State. I sought out the marketman & was by him assured that it came from Norwich. He had received it on the morning of October 2nd, & thought

Spatula clypeata.

The Ducks of Plymouth County, Massachusetts.
by Herbert K. Job.
Auk, XIII, July, 1896, pp. 197-204.
See under Anas obscura.

Rare Ducks near Bridgewater, Mass.—Ornithologists may be interested to know that Mr. Daniel B. Davis on Oct. 22, 1904, at Lake Nippinickett, Bridgewater, Plymouth Co., Mass., shot a Shoveller (Spatula clypeata). This bird, together with a number of others of different species, was about to be disposed of in ordinary ways when fortunately Mr. Joseph E. Bassett identified and purchased it.

Other interesting captures at this lake are as follows: Two specimens of the Ring-necked Duck (Aythya collaris), by Joseph E. Bassett, Nov. 20, 1895. A King Eider (Somateria spectabilis), Oct. 21, 1899, also by Joseph E. Bassett. Two Gadwalls (Chaulelasmus streperus), Oct. 18, 1901, by Mr. Harry P. Sturtevant.

With the exception of one of the Ringnecks the skins of the above are in the writer's possession.—ARTHUR C. DYKE, Bridgewater, Mass.

Auk, XXII, Oct., 1905, p. 407.

Two Unusual Massachusetts Records.—

Three Spoonbill Ducks (Spatula clypeata) came into Wenham Lake, Massachusetts, on October 15, 1910. I secured all of them. There are only two other records of this duck at Wenham from 1899 until the present date. All three specimens were males.—J. C. PHILLIPS, Wenham, Mass.

Auk 28, Jan-1911, p. 119.

it had probably been killed the day
before.

My Pipe Beach specimens are the only
N. E. ones I believe that have ever come
under my personal observation.

Spatula clypeata.

The Ducks of Plymouth County, Massachusetts
by Herbert K. Job.
Auk, XIII, July, 1896, pp. 197-
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Auk 28, Jan-1911, p. 119.

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

156. *Spatula clypeata* (Linn.) Boie. SHOVELLER.—Rare.

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

bericla

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

105. *Bernicla brenta*. BRANT GOOSE. — Breeds, and is by no means rare. Arrives in April, remaining into November and sometimes December.

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

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

37. *Branta bernicla*. BRANT. — Reported as very rare. One specimen from Dr. Grenfell, Nain, October, 1899.

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

Branta bernicla

1890 Mass.

June 15 Swampscott. - Saw a single bird on Pig Rocks where it was sitting near a large bed of Herring Gulls on a rock covered with seaweed on the water's edge. When our boat was within 100 yds. it took wing, flying strongly and out of sight low over the sea.

1891

April 15 Monomoy Island, Chatham. "Yesterday the wind hauled from the E. to Spring flight S.W. and blew hard both days from this quarter. Brant constantly going E. in flocks of 50 to 500. The lowest estimate that I can put on the total number that departed is 20,000 for each day or 40,000 for the two days yet this large number made no perceptible diminution in the number of birds which were "bedded" off the flats. We had our best shooting these two days killed 78 Brant during this time."

The men that run the Brant Boxes had a live decoy die last year that had been in their possession 32 years. He lost his voice two years before he died and his feet and legs "flipped up" (Notes made by Ostram Bangs)

Brant lives
32 years in
captivity.

1902.

Nov. 27 Ponkapog Pond. At a meeting of the Natural Club held Dec. - 1902

Mr. Mc. Keechie announced that two Brant had been seen in Ponkapog Pond on Nov. 27 (Thanksgiving Day) by the keeper of the shooting stand there. He is a game of long experience who knows the species intimately but has never noted it in Ponkapog before. The bird remained in the water for an hour or more but would not come in to the decoys. The weather was thick & rainy on the time

In Ponkapog
Pond.

Branting at Monomoy.

Monomoy Island lies four miles south of the southeast corner of Cape Cod. At its north end is a small island on which the club have a snug and comfortable house. The writer was the guest of L. O. Slocum, Esq., of the Monomoy Brant Club, from March 25th to April 1st.

The Brant, also called Brant Goose, (*Brenta bernicla*,) winters on the coast of the Southern States. They are said to be abundant off Currituck Sound, N. C., and very difficult to get except from batteries. Early in March they begin to appear in the bay formed by Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Monomoy and Cape Cod. In this large enclosure are the feeding grounds to which they repair each year. When feeding they tip up after the manner of many ducks, but I was not able to learn of their diving. They feed upon the tender shoots of a kind of grass that grows in shallow water.

Extensive flats are uncovered at low tide for a distance of one-half to three-fourths of a mile to the westward, and two miles to the northward of the island. Along the outer edge of this flat the gunners' boxes are sunken. They measure 6×4 by 3½ feet deep, and will contain three men. The boxes are occupied from the time the water begins to cover the flats until it subsides and leaves bare ground. The rising tide makes the Brant restless as they are put out of reach of their feed, and greater or less numbers visit the feeding grounds at the north of the island. A strong wind, particularly a sou'-wester, disturbs the water and causes them to seek a more quiet place, and is especially desirable. As Brant do not fly close to the shore it is only while the water covers the flats that they can be intercepted by the boxes. Each box is provided with about thirty wooden decoys and two live Brant, so fastened as not to impede their walking and swimming. They are held in check by a cord running to the box. The Brant tenders

say the sham decoys are worthless, as old Brants readily recognize the deceit, and large flocks are rarely tolled in by them. On the other hand, when the wild birds come near, the tame decoys are made to flutter by pulling the string. On a nearer approach they readily answer their calls, thus enticing their own species on to destruction. It was my fortune to get the best shot offered to our party. George Bearnse, a Brant tender, and myself went to the North Bar box. The day was cold and the wind northwest. Suddenly a flock of about 35 Brant came from behind at a distance of perhaps 200 yards to our left, and swinging around into the wind they dropped into the water, heading directly for us. Five were quite a distance in advance of the rest. Our two tame decoys gave their rolling guttural hawk in answer to the on-coming flock. The five ahead swam among the wooden decoys, discovered their true nature, and swam back to the rest. All were now turning to go away, and George said: "Ready! one, two, fire!"

The smoke settled so we could see nothing, but both held on to the spot. In an instant it cleared and the smoke from two more barrels shut off our view. In another second we saw what we had done. George sung out, "After the wounded!" and both sprang out into the water, only knee deep at first, but gradually growing deeper. After a tedious chase, four of the five wounded were secured and the nine dead, making thirteen. While on our way to the box with the dead in hand a single Brant was seen coming. It lit among the wooden decoys and was easily secured. Single birds are frequently found among the lifeless decoys, and apparently with no sense of danger. The Brant are generally very shy and will not permit boats within several hundred yards.

With every warm southerly wind new flocks arrive and alight among the others out in the bay, where long lines of them, and often acres, may be seen. Occasion-

Mass. (Gloucester) with arrow-head in breast.

Mr. A. W. Tufts tells me that sometime in 1888 he mounted a Brant shot by Mr. Chas. Hart of Gloucester which "held an iron arrow point 5 or 6 inches long bedded in its neck". The bird was sent to Mr. Hart & is probably still in his possession.

Branta branta.

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

Branta bernicla (Linn.), Brant. Migrant,
tolerably common.

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

Notes.

Two fine specimens of the Brant from Capt. Gould reminds us that the Branting season is now in its prime.

O & O. XIV, Apr. 1889 p. 63

A Few Spring Notes from Monomoy Island, Mass., 1890.

Brant shooting at Monomoy this spring has been good, better than for several seasons past. The birds arrived early owing to the mildness of the winter and for the same reason they did not linger about as long as usual, the latter part of the migration force leaving April 17th, fully a week or ten days earlier than former seasons. The weather was not violent enough to split the flocks up but this was offset by an influxion of young birds which always insures good sport. April 14th and 15th were exceeding fine days for shooting, the wind blowing very fresh on shore, which caused the birds to swing in over the boxes as the flood tide drove them from their feeding grounds. It was reported that seventeen Brant were stopped at one discharge by a member of the Monomoy Club.

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

Ducks of Cohasset, Mass., 1860-92
O. H. E. Boston, Mass.

25. Brant (173). Common, but hard to secure except during heavy storms.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 91

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

Branta bernicla.—Dec. 12, 1891. While at the extreme western point of this island, I saw one flock of nine, one of fourteen, and one of three Brant. On Feb. 22, 1891, there were about forty living in the harbor, and about seventy-five more living at Muskeget Island. A few winter here in ordinary seasons.

Auk 9, July, 1892. p. 305.

General Notes

Branta bernicla at Nantucket, Massachusetts.—I am informed by Mr. Charles E. Snow that on Nov. 22, 1892, while shooting at the extreme western end of Nantucket, he saw large numbers of Brant (*Branta bernicla*) flying towards the southwest. They passed mostly through the 'opening' between the islands of Nantucket and Tuckernuck. Some of the flocks contained from one to two hundred birds. He also noted several hundred American Eider Ducks (*Somateria dresseri*) well up in the air flying in the same direction. The wind was north-northwest and northwest.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Auk X, Jan, 1893. p. 77

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

Branta bernicla.—Muskeget and Tuckernuck Islands, March 26, 1893. I estimate the number of Brant living in these waters at this date at about six hundred. Two wing-tipped birds I have in confinement eat with avidity the alga *Ulva lactuca*. They also eat *Zostera marina*, preferring the white portion farthest from the extremity of the blade. They cut this up by chewing first on one side and then on the other of their mandibles which cuts the grass as clean as if scissors had been used. The motion reminds one strongly of a dog eating, the bird turning its head much in the same way. They are fond of whole corn and common grass. These confined birds drink after almost every mouthful from a pan of fresh water. The wild birds living in this neighborhood have no opportunity of obtaining fresh water.

Auk X, Oct. 1893 p. 370.

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

No Brant (*Branta bernicla*) wintered around Muskeget Island during the winter of 1893-94. The first that were noted were five birds on February 15, 1894. In less than one week the number increased to fifty, and on March 12 there were between four and five hundred, the larger half of which had come in since March 8. I noticed considerable diminution in the food supply, many acres of the eel grass (*Zostera marina*) having been killed. There was still remaining large areas that was good.

Auk XI, July, 1894 p. 224

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

Nantucket, winter of 1893-94.

There have also been about one hundred and fifty Brant living in the harbor this spring. On May 1 there were about thirty Brant in Muskeget waters.

Auk XI. July. 1894 p. 225

410. *Brantling at Monomoy [Island, Mass.]*. By Fred. T. Jencks.
Ibid., pp. 149, 150. O. & C. Vol. VII

Springfield, Mass., Bird Notes.—*Branta bernicla*. On the 11th of April last a Brant was taken on the river near Northampton; this bird is rarely observed in this part of the Connecticut Valley.

Robert O. Morris, Springfield, Mass.

Auk, XX, Oct., 1903, p. 437.

Bernice Grant

Secomett, Point, R. I.
April 16-21, 1890.

Only a very few seen, the greatest number on the morning of the 21st, when two flocks, each containing from 25 to 30 birds, passed, going to the eastward. They flew close to the water, in fact only about two or three yards above it, but when they came to the line of boats rose and, sheering sharply to one side, passed out around. It is very seldom that one of them comes within shot of the Goot-shooters, for they are much shyer than the Scoters. Their order of flight is somewhat similar to that of the Scoter, but it is less regular, and they fly more in clusters. They can be distinguished from the other sea-fowl at a great distance by the slower beats of their wings. They pass here during the spring migration in considerable numbers some seasons, but they never alight in the surrounding waters.

Albinism and Melanism in North
American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

A partial want of coloration in *B. bernicla* is an
interesting specimen;

Bull. N.O.C. 1, April, 1876, p. 23

319. *Those "Brants."—Corrections.* By W. H. Collins. *Ibid.*, VI,
p. 55.—The supposed Brant's eggs previously described in *Oölogist* as
found at St. Clair Flats, Mich., proved to be eggs of the Ruddy Duck.

558. *The Hills and Streams of Southern California.* By T. S. Van
Dyke . . . Chapter X. *The Black Brant.* *Ibid.*, XIX, No. 13, March 31,
1883, pp. 226, 227.—Its habits and abundance in the bays south of San
Diego. **American Field.**

561. *The Black Brant [Bernicla nigricans].* By W. A. P. *Ibid.*,
XIX, No. 21, May 26, 1883, p. 419.—Its abundance on the coast of
Alaska. **American Field.**

Branta bernicla.

Off Monomoy Point, Mass.

Copy.

409 Washington St., Boston, Mass.

April 22, 1902.

Mr. Wm. Brewster,

Dear Sir,

I have just received from Wm. Avery Cary a Brant which he shot off Monomoy Point. It is a bird of very remarkable plumage having a white ring straight around the throat, and the plumage under the belly is a brownish black way down to the feet, where it should be white.

I thought of letting you know, as it is not of ordinary plumage and not having seen one like it before in Mass.

Yours very truly,

James T. Clark.

glaucogastra

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

58

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 446.

58. *Branta bernicla glaucogastra*. WHITE-BELLIED BRANT.— Two records, a male taken November 12, 1899, and a female taken December 2, 1895; there are no specimens in the old collections.

nigricans

Bernicla nigricans

In Mass.

Chatham, Mass.
1883

I have just (July 5, 1883) examined a fine adult typical Black Brant in Goodale's shop. It was shot at Chatham either last fall or this past spring (undoubtedly the latter). It belongs to a lady in Cambridgeport but will doubtless come into the possession of C. B. Cory for whom Goodale is trying to secure it.

Bernicla brenta nigricans in Massachusetts.—In the spring of 1883, a specimen of this variety was sent to Mr. C. J. Goodale, of 93 Sudbury St., Boston, to be mounted. It was claimed that it had been killed at or near Chatham, Mass. The bird was perfectly fresh when received.—C. B. CORY, *Boston, Mass.* *Auk*, I, Jan., 1884, p. 96.

Forest & Stream,
LIX, Aug. 2, 1902, 86.
86

Second Occurrence of the Black Brant (*Bernicla nigricans*) in Massachusetts.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—I have just had the pleasure of examining a black brant which was shot by Mr. William Avery Cary at Chatham, Mass., on April 15, 1902, and mounted by Mr. J. T. Clark, who ascertained, by dissection, that the bird was a male. It is a fine specimen in fully adult and perfectly typical plumage, having the characteristic belt or collar of conspicuous white marking almost completely encircling the neck, and the normal amount of sooty slate on the under parts. In company with six other brant it came within long gun range of a shooting stand or box on the Monomoy Island Flats. As its companions escaped capture, and hence close examination, it is uncertain whether or not they were of the same kind, but the presumption is, of course, that they belonged to our common Eastern species, for the black brant is an exceedingly rare straggler (from the Pacific coast of North America) to our Atlantic seaboard. It has been taken once before, however, in Massachusetts—"at or near Chatham," in the spring of 1883 (Cory, *Auk*, I, 1884, 96). Mr. Cary, to whom I am indebted for most of the above details—as well as for permission to make them public—is, no doubt, personally known to many readers of FOREST AND STREAM, for he is Secretary of the Monomoy Branting Club, and one of our most prominent Boston sportsmen. He has, in his business office, a small but choice collection of mounted birds, chiefly waders and waterfowl, all of which have fallen to his own gun. The black brant will be added to this collection as soon as it leaves the hands of the taxidermist, Mr. Clark.

WILLIAM BREWSTER.

Brant (*Branta nigricans*) in Massachusetts.—As this bird is very rare in Massachusetts, and also is but a rare straggler on any part of the Atlantic coast, every instance of its being taken should be a record. I heard of one of these Brant being killed some years ago at Chatham, and upon further investigation found the bird in the collection of Mr. W. A. Carey of Boston. It was shot on April 15, 1902, and was one of a flock of seven Brant, and the only one killed. That spring there was an unusually small number of Brant at Chatham, and the party of the Monomoy Brant Club, the week that Mr. Carey was there, killed but a few birds. Curiously enough this was the only one that he himself supposed that it had been reported long ago and was much surprised to find that it had been overlooked, though a number of people knew its existence. This is only the second record for the State, the other being reported by C. B. Cory as killed in the spring of 1883, also at Chatham.¹ There seem to be but very few records for the Atlantic coast. One was shot in New Jersey on April 5, 1877²; one was shot by Augustus M. Carey on Oneida Lake, N. Y., on October 30, 1891,³ and only three have been reported from Long Island, all from Great South Bay. One was taken in 1840,⁴ one in 1889,⁵ and one in 1908.⁶ As far as is known these are only three from that locality. This then makes but seven records for the Atlantic coast, with a total of but eight birds.⁷—S. PRESCOTT FAY, *Mass.*

¹ C. B., *Auk*, Vol. I, 1884, p. 96.
² W. E. D., *Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club*, Vol. IV, 1879, p. 226.
³ Egbert, *Auk*, Vol. XI, 1894, p. 163.
⁴ Carey, William, *ibid.*, Vol. X, 1893, p. 271.
⁵ Carey, William, *ibid.*, Vol. X, 1893, p. 266.
⁶ Erick, N. L., *ibid.*, Vol. XXV, 1908, p. 473.
⁷ These should be added the type specimen of the species, taken at Great Egg Bay, New Jersey, in January, 1846 (*cf.* Lawrence, G. N., *Ann. Lyc. N. H.*, Vol. IV, 1846, p. 171, pl. xii), and two others taken later the same winter. There are also several later records for New Jersey in addition to those given above (*cf.* *Birds of New Jersey*, 1908 (1909), p. 96).—Ed.]

Auk 27, July-1910 p. 337.

Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.

Branta nigricans. BLACK BRANT.—There is an exceptionally fine specimen of this species in the collection, which was shot by Col. Pike in Great South Bay, off Islip, Long Island, in 1840. He tells me: "I had the skin some years before Mr. Lawrence described the Black Brant as a new species.¹ The late Professor Baird saw it while on a visit to my house and remarked that it was an interesting specimen; this was in 1844 when I resided in Henry Street, Brooklyn. Some years after, but subsequent to the date Mr. Lawrence separated the Black Brant, he saw my specimen and gave me its correct name. Prior to that time I had considered it only an exceptional Brant."

¹1846. Lawrence, George N. — Description of a new species of *Anser*. By George N. Lawrence. Read March 16, 1846. Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, Vol. IV, 1847, pp. 171, 172, plate xii, of *Anser nigricans*. Issued in Nos. 6, 7, August, 1846. 1. *Anser nigricans*, n. s., Egg Harbor, N. J., pages 171, 172.

Auk X, July, 1893 p 271.

Dutcher, Long Island Birds.

Branta nigricans. BLACK BRANT.—The following letter from Mr. George N. Lawrence, dated September 9, 1889, is of great interest: "I send an account of a Black Brant I saw lately at Babylon. I think this is the second specimen obtained on Long Island, the other being in the Museum of the Long Island Historical Society. In the office of the Watson House I saw a fine specimen which was killed this spring in the Great South Bay. On inquiry I found it was shot by William Saxton, a noted gunner and bayman. I went to see him to get any facts concerning its acquisition that he was able to give. He said Brant were unusually plenty in the spring, and one day while lying at his decoys he saw a flock of about thirty individuals approaching, and as they were passing at a long range he fired and knocked out five. On picking them up he noticed one very black in color and of rather larger size than the others; he at once concluded it was a Black Brant, of which he had often heard his father speak, though he had never seen one. He sold it with other birds to a dealer, from whom it was purchased by Mr. Stetson."

Auk X, July, 1893 p 266.

Birds of Oneida County, New York. Egbert Bagg.

Branta nigricans.—A fine specimen of this rare bird was killed by Mr. Augustus Dexter of Utica at Lewis Point, Madison County (on Oneida Lake), Oct. 30, 1891. The bird flew in from the lake and alighted on the sand beach, where it was attacked by Crows. These birds attracted its attention so that Mr. Dexter easily walked within range and secured the bird.

Auk XI. April. 1894 p. 168

Long Island, N. Y.

Black Brant and Marbled Godwit on Long Island, N. Y.—On March 31, 1908, in a heavy southeaster, while lying in a battery for Brant in the Great South Bay, near Babylon, L. I., a flock of seven came to the decoys. All were seen plainly. Six were of the common variety, while the seventh was so much darker in appearance than the rest, that I immediately shot and secured it. The bird proved to be a remarkably fine old male Black Brant (*Branta nigricans*). I think this is the first Long Island record in a number of years.

The Great Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*), while never common on Long Island, has become now quite rare, so I wish to record a specimen taken by my brother, Harold E. Herrick, at Lawrence on August 21, 1907, and another taken by myself at the same place July 21, 1900.—NEWBOLD L. HERRICK, New York City.

Auk 25 Oct. 1908, p. 473.

HABITS OF THE BLACK BRANT IN THE VICINITY
OF ST. MICHAELS, ALASKA.

BY E. W. NELSON.

The long reign of ice and snow begins to yield to the mild influence of the rapidly lengthening days; the middle of May is reached, and the midnight sky over the northern horizon blushes with delicate rose tints, changing to purple toward the zenith. Fleecy clouds passing slowly across the horizon seem to quiver and glow with lovely hues only to fade to dull leaden again as they glide from the reach of fair Aurora. The land, so lately snow-bound, becomes dotted with pools of water and the constantly narrowing borders of the snow soon make room for the Waterfowl which, with eager accord, begin to arrive in abundance, some upon lagging wings, as if from far away, others making the air resound with joyous notes as they recognize some familiar pond where, for successive seasons, they have reared their young in safety, or, perhaps, a favorite feeding ground. At this time the White-fronted and Hutehins's Geese take precedence in numbers though, to be sure, they have been preceded for two weeks by the hardy Pintail Duck, the Common Swan and, lastly, that ornithological harlequin, the Sandhill Crane, whose loud rolling note is heard here and there as it stalks gravely along, dining upon the last year's berries of *Empetrum nigrum*, when, meeting a rival, or perchance one of the fair sex, he proceeds to execute a burlesque minuet.

A few days later, upon the mirror-like bosoms of myriads of tiny lakelets, the graceful Northern Phalaropes flit here and there or swim about in pretty companies. At length, about the 20th of May, the first Barn Swallow arrives and then we begin to look for the Black Brant, the "*Nimklee*," as it is called by the Russians, the "*Lük-lüg'-ü-nük*" of the Norton Sound Eskimo. Ere long the *avant-courier* is seen in the form of a small flock of ten or fifteen individuals which skim along close to the ice heading directly across Norton Sound to the vicinity of Cape Norne, whence their route leads along the low coast to Port Clarence where, I am told by the natives, some stop to breed; but the majority press on and seek the ice bordered northern shore

Leucopsis

Mass. (Cape Cod)

Bernicla leucopsis

1885

"Have you ever known the Barnacle Goose to be taken in Mass.? I have a fine one shot on Cape Cod." (N. Vickary in letter of Nov. 23. 1885)

"I am sorry I did not write you about the Goose before. I have sent it away as the owner is in a great hurry for it. It was taken at North Eastham. I tried my best to buy it but could not." (N. V. letter Nov. 30. '85)

The Barnacle Goose was sent to me by P. M. Dill of North Eastham, Mass. He would not sell it. (N. V. let. Dec. 17/85)

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

OLOGIST

[Vol. 11--No. 1

BARNACLE GOOSE, (*Bernicla leucopsis*.) A Barnacle Goose was shot November 1, '85, at North Chatham, Mass., and mounted by N. Vickary.



A. H. KIRKLAND
SUPERINTENDENT

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

OFFICE OF

SUPERINTENDENT

FOR SUPPRESSING THE

GYPSY AND BROWN TAIL MOTHS

6 BEACON STREET

Boston, Mass.,

September 29, 1906

SPECIMENS of insects suspected of being either gypsy or brown tail moths should be packed in a small wooden or tin box, plainly marked with address of sender, and mailed to the Superintendent for identification. A letter giving full particulars should accompany each sending.

Mr. Warren Freeman informed me some time in 1905 that he recalled seeing as a lad a mounted specimen of an alleged Blue Goose at the home of Mr. Joseph Dill, North Eastham, Mass.

On September 2, 1906, I went with Mr. Freeman to the home of Mr. Dill, and found instead of a Blue Goose a well-mounted and well-preserved specimen of the Barnacle Goose of Europe Branta leucopsis.

The following facts were obtained from Mr. Dill by Mr. Freeman and myself:-

The Barnacle Goose was shot about Nov. 1, 1885, by Mr. Dill at North Eastham, Mass. Mr. Dill who has always lived at North Eastham and who has been a gunner there for fully fifty years, has never seen this species on any other occasion. The specimen which he shot was one of a flock of five of the same species which had been seen for several days to come into a little pond in a piece of salt marsh known as "Sunken Meadow," bordering on Cape Cod Bay. He went to his blind on the shore of the pond one day expressly to secure a specimen or more of these apparently strange Geese. The flock came in at about dusk. He saw the white faces

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ALLSTON, MASS.

[Sept 4, 1906]

Mr William Brewster

Dear Sir:

I have just returned with Mr. John Farley from our search for what I thought might be a blue goose, it being some ten years since I saw the specimen. I was mistaken but it was ^[Brewster] ~~blue~~ leucopsis in very best of plumage and preservation. Of course some soiled which will no doubt cleave off.

After reading Allen's book of Rarer birds of Mass. I found a note of 1 specimen being taken at Eastham Nov. 1 - 1895 with note

Mr. Bill the punner, stated that he shot the bird "14 years ago" in October at North Eastham. It was one of a flock of five which had been coming into

Sept. 5, 1906

you may recall that the two young men (Rail) to the Museum of a "blue Goose" he had.

to see the specimen. In case last fall affairs prevented, at Sunday that we took to Eastham. some of an old and well-preserved blue Goose, but old Goose.



say he could be induced to
see it. I mentioned 10.⁰⁰ and
he laughed and said he paid that
to have it mounted.

What I desire to know is you
would you advise paying much
for it in case I have to, to obtain
it. He is a most stubborn man
and hard to deal with. but I feel
that I may be able to obtain it,
for your collection. How high
ought I to pay? In case I
should have to. Mr. Farley
and myself are quite confident
that we would a gray -

to consult O+O. vol XI page 16, but
this parcel of no assistance as his
(Allen's) note was taken from O and O.

L. J. C. W. Townsend in reference
to ^[Grant's] ~~Allen~~ Leucopis records the
1 specimen but as this bird was
not to be found he placed it
among the doubtful for this state.

This bird that I find was
one of a pair killed from a bunch
of five, fourteen years ago in
October. I knew the man well
who has it and I tried to get the
bird for you but he and his
family regard it as made of
solid gold. However I made
an appointment to meet him
Monday on the marsh to go for
shore-birds and I talked to
him and finally got him to

Mr. Bill the pun
he shot the bird "14 years
at North Eastham. It was
of five which had been



A. H. KIRKLAND
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GYPSY AND BROWN TAIL
6 BEACON STREET

Boston, Mass.,

Kingbird but of course not
finding the specimen we
are not positive.

Should have consulted you
in person but learned that
you were on a vacation

Very truly yours
Warren E. Freeman
11 Alcott St
Boston
Mass.

Dear Mr. Brewster:—

You
Mr. Warren Freeman, one of the
who came with me (and the King
a year ago, spoke of having heard
which was shot years ago on Cape

You expressed a desire
we planned to run down to
and again last spring but
and it was not until last
managed to make the trip
we found then at the house
found a well-mounted
specimen, not of the Blue
undoubtedly of the Barnard

Mr. Bill the gunner
he shot the bird "14 years
at North Eastham. It was
of five which had been



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A. H. KIRKLAND
SUPERINTENDENT

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H. L. FROST
W. E. FREEMAN

Mr. Will
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by Allen & F
Alfred S
writing me

OCCURRENCE OF THE BARNACLE GOOSE (*BERNICLA LEUCOPSIS*) ON LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

BY GEO. N. LAWRENCE.

I WAS recently informed, by Mr. Harold Herrick, that a specimen of this species could be seen, at the store of Mr. Conway, taxidermist, in Carmine Street, said to have been killed on Long Island. I called there and was shown a nicely mounted example of this Goose in perfect plumage. Mr. Conway said that it was brought to him in the flesh, in good condition, and was eaten by his family; he spoke very favorably of its edible qualities.

I learned from him that its possessor was Mr. J. K. Kendall of this city. I had an interview with this gentleman, and requested that he would ascertain all the facts possible as to its capture, and send me the information. I received from him the following letter giving the result of his inquiries:—

NEW YORK, November 29, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—About October 20 I saw a specimen of the Barnacle Goose hanging in a restaurant in this city,—bought it and had it stuffed. I questioned the proprietor, and learned from him the place where he bought it,—from a produce-dealer near Washington Market. Afterwards I interviewed the marketman, and he recollected the bird well, although he had no idea what it was. He told me he bought it from a Long Island farmer, who brought it to the city in his wagon, and who said that it was killed by a boy in Jamaica Bay. Unfortunately he did not know the farmer,—never saw him before nor since, so I was unable to trace the bird any farther, but I am fully satisfied the story was true.

Yours truly,

J. K. KENDALL.

This is the second instance of this species having been procured on the Atlantic coast; the first was obtained in Currituck Sound, North Carolina, in 1870, and is recorded in Vol. V, p. 10, of the "American Naturalist."*

* In Dr. Brewer's "Catalogue of the Birds of New England" (from Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, Vol. XVII, March 3, 1875) he excludes this species from our New England list, and also states that the specimen recorded by Mr. Lawrence as having been taken in North Carolina was probably one of eight specimens which escaped from the grounds of a gentleman in Halifax in the fall of 1871 or 1872.

From Mr. Lawrence's record (Am. Naturalist, Vol V, p. 10) we find this Goose was captured on October 31, 1870, one or two years previous to the escaping of the Halifax birds.

In view of this fact may not Mr. Lawrence's specimen still remain as the first authentic instance of the occurrence of the Barnacle Goose in the United States; at all events, until we hear of a confined specimen having escaped previous to that date?—RUTHVEN DEANE.

Bull. N.O.C. 2, Jan., 1877. p. 18-19.

951. *Black Brant* [in *Washington Territory*]. By Alki. *Ibid.*, Nov. 13, p. 304. *Bull. & Special. XXIII*

*Anas
boschas*

Anas boschas

1892 Mass.

Dec. 27 Tuckermuck Island. A male in full plumage but showing signs of immaturity and probably really a young bird was sent me in the flesh by Mr. G. S. Miller, as a present, from Tuckermuck. It was given to Mr. Miller by Mr. E. W. Danham who shot it Dec. 27 in a salt lagoon on the north side of the island. Like some Black Ducks killed at the same time it was somewhat emaciated the weather having been cold for the past week & most of the feeding grounds covered with ice.

1893.

Oct. 30

Bedford. Mr. Heber Jones of Concord came upon a flock of twelve Mallards to-day at about noon in a pond hole in the river meadows nearly opposite but a little below Davis's Hill. Firing into them he killed three a duck and two drakes. The latter were in full plumage and one of them is said to have been a remarkably beautiful bird but alas! all three were plucked and eaten. The specimens were examined in the flesh by George Myler and several other sportsmen who know the Mallard well. I saw only one feather but that was diagnostic of the species - a secondary from one of the drakes.

A decided flight through
E. Mass.

After Jones left the pond the flock returned to and creaked over it many times but did not re-align. ^{On} the evening of the next day, however, Mr. Jones's son flushed from this same pond six large ducks which he took to be Mallards. His testimony is of little value, however.

Nov. 6

Concord. Edward Neely started a pair from a brook & shot the ♂ (a young bird changing to full pl.) which I afterwards saw at Fraser.

" 17

M. A. Fraser tells me that he has received 5 Mass. shot Mallards & has heard of a number of others. One came from ^{Wetfield} ~~Wetfield~~ (recd. Oct. 30)

Nov. 8) two others (rec'd Nov. 8) from Whitman. The Wetfield bird was a fine old drake in perfect plumage. Wetfield also tells me that he has shot three Mallards at Wetfield.

Ardea boschas

1894 Maine
 Sept. 15 L. Uruboy - On this date I saw a young male in full
 autumn plumage in company with four Black
 Ducks on Rapid River (see fuller notes on slip in
 note pocket)

Mass.
 Nov. 6 Nantucket - Two killed on Hummock Pond by
 Geo. H. Mackay (and a friend). Skins in my
 collection - Both female birds.

Poukepooy Pond - "Mallards have been very scarce [this year].
 Six x x being all [that have been] taken on Poukepooy
 Pond" (J. H. Bowles in letter Dec 20, 1894)

1893
 Oct. - Nov. Bridgewater. Mr. H. K. Job tells me (Dec. 26/94) that a Mr. Bassett
 who shoots from a stand on the shore of Nipanecket Pond
 reports that in the autumn of 1893 Mallards & Pintails were abundant.
 The Mallards were even more numerous than Black Ducks. This year (1894) very few Mallards or
 Pintails were seen. More nu-
merous than
Black Ducks

1895 Canton
 Sept. 29 "One Mallard Duck ♂ on Poukepooy Pond" } Abstract of notes by
 Oct. 2 "Two Mallards ♂ & ♀ " " " } J. H. Bowles. Cf letters
 " 4 " " ♂ & ♀ " " " } Oct. 10, 1895 & Jan. 6, 1896.
 " 23 One " ♂ " " " }

1893 Sudbury Meadows
 Oct. 16 flock of eight seen, three birds shot } By Mr. C. Paine
 1895 } member of Metall Club.
 Oct. 5 three birds shot
 " 19 One bird "

Anas boschas.

1897. Mass.

Dec. 11 Cambridge. Saw a ♀ Mallard this morning swimming near the middle of Fresh Pond in company with five Black Ducks and a pair of Green-winged Teal. My identification was absolutely satisfactory, thanks to a powerful double telescope which enabled me to make out the characteristic color and markings of all three water fowl with almost as much ease & certainty as if I had had them within a few yards instead of at least 400 yards away. The Black Ducks have visited the pond in varying numbers every day for a month past & I am satisfied that they are all birds that have settled for the winter at some place near-by on the sea coast. Whether the Mallard is also wintering or not I cannot, of course, tell. (She was not in the pond during my subsequent visits on Dec. 13, 14,

1898

Oct. 25 Cambridge. "A beautiful adult ♂" seen in Fresh Pond by O. A. Botsford.

Sudbury Meadows.

Oct. 16, 1893 Three shot from a flock of eight by Charles Paris
 " 5, 1895 " " " " " "
 " 19 " One " " " " " "

1899

Oct 30 - Nov 9 Cambridge. An adult ♂ seen by O. A. Botsford in Fresh Pond on October 30 & Nov. 6 & 9 ^{was also perhaps Mallards}

1899. Two dark-headed, grayish-backed Ducks seen in the pond Nov. 20 & on Nov. 24, 25

Nov. 28 Cambridge. A bird which I took to be a drake Mallard in Fresh Pond
 " 29 " " A drake Mallard fully identified to-day " " "
Dec. 13 " " " " " " no doubt the same seen before " " "
 " 14 " " " " " " " " " " "
 " 17 " Two Mallards, an old drake & a ♀, " " "
 " 21 " A ♀ Mallard " " "
 " 25 " An old drake & two ♀♀ " " "

(Cf. journal for further details)

Anas boschas.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899. I think I saw an adult male in Fresh Pond on the 24th November. and again on the 28th but it was so far away that I could not make sure of its identity. No such doubt is attached to a male in full plumage (probably the same bird seen on the 24th and 28th) which I watched for an hour or two on the 29th and identified beyond any question. This was the first male Mallard in perfectly mature plumage that I have ever seen living. At a distance its head looked black and its back very light grayish giving it a general resemblance to a Scaup. In view of this fact it is not impossible that two Ducks which were swimming near the middle of the Pond on the 20th and which I took at the time to be Scaups were really, as Lothrop (O.A.), who was with me, insisted, Mallard Ducks.

Nov. 29. In company with the Black Ducks in Fresh Pond this morning was a male Mallard in fully adult plumage. Through the glass I could easily make out his shining green head and clear yellow bill but to the naked eye his head looked black for he was at no time nearer me than three or four hundred yards. Although I watched him for a long time I noticed nothing of particular interest connected with his carriage or behavior which, indeed, seemed to me to be in every way essentially the same as those of the Black Ducks by which he was usually surrounded.

Anas boschas.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899. A fine Mallard drake, no doubt the same that was noted
December. among
 in November, was swimming ^{among} the Black Ducks during all the
visits but one that I made to Fresh Pond this month. The
date of his absence was the 21st when I feared that something
had befallen him, but I found him back in the pond on the 25th.
He was a wary old fellow and invariably kept at a safe dis-
tance from shore. On the 17th a female Mallard appeared in
the pond and I saw her there again on the 21st. On the 25th
there were two females one of which kept the drake close com-
pany. The ^{other} avoided him as did the female seen on the 17th
from which I concluded that the bird was one and the same on
both occasions as well as the 21st and that the female which
was with the drake on the 25th was the newcomer. The female
seen on the 17th went ashore in company with some Black Ducks
and spent upwards of fifteen minutes walking about or stand-
ing on the rocky pavement near the water's edge.

Ponkapog, Mass.

Nov. 24, 1893.

Dear Mr. Brewster,

My brother and I will be very happy to come and look at your birds and eggs at any time after Dec. 5th (the date you mentioned). If you could mention some day and hour, I think it would simplify matters.

Today is the first opportunity I have had to visit the duck-stand at Ponkapog, and I give the dates of Mallards as entered in their "log book", from which I also took the Red-head dates.

Oct. 15th, 1893: nine came in, six killed.

" 16th, " : twelve " " , ten "

" 23rd, " : one " " , one "

Nov. 1st, " : nine " " , seven "

" 3rd, " : one " " , one "

" 18th, " : one " " , not killed as there were

Geese in the pond at the time.

Last year I think they did not kill more than ten. They believe that the Red-head flight was due to the southerly winds which prevailed at that time.

Yours sincerely,

J. H. Bowles.

Anas boschas

Under date Nov. 1st, 1883 Manly
hardy writes: I have to-day received
a young ♂ Mallard in the flesh
from Megantic Lake, Lower Canada.

Birds of Southern New Brunswick.
M. Chamberlain.

18. *Anas boschas*. MALLARD.—A pair in the museum of the Natural History Society were shot near Hampton by the late Col. Otty some fifteen years ago. The only late occurrences of this species are of one mounted by J. H. Carnell, taxidermist, and a flock of some six or eight seen by Mr. Henry Gilbert on the Kenebecasis River in August, 1880, from which he obtained a male and female.

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

Records from Toronto. E. E. T. Seton.

HYBRID MALLARD AND DUSKY DUCK (?).—In the rooms of the Gun Club there is also a supposed hybrid between these two species. Certainly it answers the description of no Duck ever found in this region, while it combines, in a remarkable degree, the characters of the two mentioned. It is known to the sportsmen here as a 'Brewer.' It was shot in this locality. No data.

Auk, 2, Oct., 1885, p. 336

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 444.

30. *Anas boschas*. MALLARD.—Rare migrant; I have records only for November, but my records are incomplete.

Anas boschas

Mallards

Dec. 1880

Mr. George H. Mackay tells me that during an epidemic of the Pontic form he had not only the specimens of the Mallard in New England. Both of these were killed. In the first and one of these from a flock of Geese (Columia)

Mr. Joyce informs assured me that the Mallard is not uncommon in the ponds about Weymouth during the migrations. He had known of twenty or more being killed there in a single season.

Boxford, Mass.
Jan. 1, 1883

Anas boschas

An adult pair shot in Front Brook by Amos Willam are in the collection of the Peabody Academy at Salem, Mass.

HYBRID DUCK. E. C. Greenwood, Ipswich, Mass., reports having bought a strange Hybrid Duck in that town, probably a cross between a Black Duck and Mallard. It is particularly fine and interesting. O. & O. X. Feb. 1885. p. 32.

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

Anas boschas Linn., Mallard. Migrant, rare.

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

O. & O. vol 14
no 1 Jan. 1889
p. 14
A ♂ Mallard was shot at Chatham, Mass., December 14, by Rufus F. Nickerson.

Notes.

A ♂ Mallard was shot at Chatham, Mass., December 14, by Rufus F. Nickerson.

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

Nov.
on the 16th a fine Drake Mallard, was taken on
Lake Quinsigamond, Worcester.
R. H. Holman.
O. & O. XV. Jan'y. 1890. p. 15.

Wareham Apr. 3.

Dear Mr. Brewster
F. P. Washburn
Wareham, Mass.
has in his shop
a fine adult
Mallard Drake
killed at
Sandwich. If you
want him write
to him and see
what you can do.
Yours etc. O. Bangs.

Ducks of Cohasset, Mass., 1860-92
O. H. E. Boston, Mass.

3. Mallard (132). Uncommon. Taken
yearly, but in small numbers.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 90

Winter Birds in South-eastern Mass.
Harry G. White

18. Mallard. Tolerably common, and
occurs on the Cape every fall and winter. One
was seen at Wood's Holl on December 9th
and three on January 3d.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 86

Auk, XII, July, 1895, p. 310
Nantucket notes.
Anas boschas.

November 6, 1894, I shot two female Mallards (*Anas boschas*); they
were in company with some Black Ducks (*Anas obscura*), but seemed
to feel out of place, keeping a little apart.

George H. Mackay, Nantucket, Mass.

Anas boschas.

The Ducks of Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

by Herbert K. Job.

Auk, Xl11, July, 1896, pp.197-204.

See under Anas obscura.

Notes from Springfield, Mass.—Anas platyrhynchos.—Sixteen years ago about a dozen Mallard Ducks were placed in Forest Park, a public reservation in Springfield, bordering on the Connecticut river, consisting of about four hundred and sixty acres of land, and containing a number of small ponds and streams. For the first few years after their introduction into the park, these Mallards were kept in confinement for a portion of the time, and wandered at pleasure only when their wings were clipped, but during later years they or their descendants have been free to go and come as they pleased, with unclipped wings. Many of these ducks have bred in the park, and others have disappeared in the spring and reappeared in the autumn in increasing numbers. Last winter, at one time, the park contained between sixty and seventy of these ducks. This year and last several nests of Mallards have been found in the vicinity of Springfield, but a number of miles from the park. In former years this species of duck was not known to breed in Massachusetts, although it was a regular migrant in the western part of the state, appearing in spring and autumn on the waters of the Connecticut river and its tributaries in more or less numbers.

Florida cærulea.—On the twenty-second day of July, of the present year, a Little Blue Heron, in its white plumage was captured in West Springfield.

Auk. xxx1 Oct. 1914. p. 543, 544.

A Few Notes from Cape Cod.

According to sportsmen informants "game" birds have been more numerous this winter than for a number of years. I have myself shot or obtained by picking them up on the beach, where large numbers are sometimes found, the following: American Merganser, American Golden Eye, Red-throated Loon, Dusky Duck, Mallard, Old Squaw, American Eider, Horned Grebe, Puffin, Guillemot, Little Auk, Shoveller, Razor-bill Auk. Besides these I have noticed Kittiwake, Glaucous, Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls.

Frederick L. Small

930, XVI, March, 1891, p. 42

Boston, Nov 9. 1894

Dear Brewster.

I carried up to Mr
Frazar's two Mallard ducks
to be made up into skins.
They were shot at the
Hammuck pond on Nov
6th 1894. Nantucket, Mass.

If you will send me two
dollars for them, and pay
Frazar for the skinning
they are yours. Remember-
ed you said you wished
such "New England Spec-
imens".

Yours truly
Geo A Mackay

25 Congress St

March, 1891, p. 42

Small Fishes

Rhode Island
1881

Mr. Jencks of Providence tells me that one or two Mallards are yearly killed at Point Judith R.I. But they are more common there.

On the 5th of March, 1881, I found a superb ♂ Mallard in Boston Market which the Game Warden assured came from the State of Rhode Island. But from its spotted condition and some other suspicious circumstances as well as my slight acquaintance with the species

Chauvete. I suspected it might be a tame
bird (I know no distinguishing marks) and
accordingly did not buy it.

NOTES FROM CONNECTICUT.—A pair of Mallard Ducks, (*Anas boschas*), male and female, were shot in this town Oct. 30, 1882. A man saw them fly over to a little pond near his barn, and was lucky enough to take them both at one shot. This is the first time that I have ever known of this species occurring here. 68

C. W. Jones, Eastford, Conn.
O. & O. VIII. Apr. 1883. p. 21

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

154. *Anas boschas*, Linn. MALLARD.—A rare migrant.

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

Notes, Shelter Island, N. Y.
W. W. Worthington.

During this past winter a fine male Mallard was brought me to be mounted, which was shot near Long Beach.

O. & O. X. May. 1885. p. 80.

Capture of a Pair of Wild Hybrid Ducks (Mallard + Muscovy) on Long Island.—Mr. G. C. Morris, of Sag Harbor, New York, had at the annual exhibition of the New York Fanciers' Club, held in New York City, February 3 to 10, 1886, a pair of 'strange Ducks' which no one had been able to name. My attention was directed to them by Mr. Morris, who called upon me at the American Museum of Natural History in relation to them. From the clear account of them he was able to give me, I had no difficulty in deciding as to their character, and an examination of the birds themselves the following day confirmed my identification of them. Unlike most previous examples that have been reported of this interesting cross, they showed no tendency to albinism, there being no abnormal white markings, but presented just the combination of features one would look for in a cross between a wild Mallard and a Muscovy unchanged by domestication. The birds, both male and female, were in perfect plumage, exceedingly beautiful, and presented in nearly equal degree the characteristics of the two species.

I learn from Mr. Morris that the drake was first seen about September 1, 1884, in Poxibogue Pond, in the village of Bridge Hampton, on Long Island, in company with some domestic ducks owned by a Mr. Topping. This gentleman at first tried to shoot him, but he proved to be very wary, and when approached would fly away toward the ocean, about two miles distant. Several other persons saw him and tried unsuccessfully to capture him. He showed a liking for the pond, and finally came regularly every morning to feed with the tame ducks, returning to the ocean at night. One day during a severe thunder squall the tame ducks left the pond and ran into their pen for shelter, the wild bird accompanying them. The owner closed the door and thus captured him. He simply clipped his wing-feathers and let him run with his flock.

The duck, or female hybrid, alighted in Otter Pond, near the upper part of Main Street in the village of Sag Harbor, early one morning in October, 1884. She accompanied some tame ducks on shore, and several men attempted to drive her with the others into a duck pen, but she took wing, struck against a fence, fell back, and was captured before she could recover herself. Her wing was also clipped and she remained a captive.

Several persons who saw the strange birds thought they were of the same species; so the two were brought together. They mated, and the female laid two clutches of eggs and sat upon them, but they proved infertile. They were allowed their liberty, kept together, and associated with a flock of tame ducks. They are now owned, Mr. Morris informs me, by Mr. A. L. Thorne, of Whitestone, Long Island.—J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City. Auk, 3, April, 1886. p. 274-76.*

Mr. Allen's description was already prepared for the hybrid for record. "In the male hybrid between *boschas* and *obscura* there is, on the whole, a fairly equal division of the characters of both parents; the crown, hind-neck, and nape are as in *boschas*; the sides of the head, the throat, and neck resemble more those of *obscura*, but there is a wash of green on the first named region, and the chin is blackish.

The lesser and median wing-coverts and tertials are similar to those of *boschas*, while the speculum is that of *obscura*, with the terminal border of white more as in *boschas*. The upper and lower tail-coverts resemble those of *boschas*, but the tail differs very slightly from that of *obscura*. Below the ground work is nearly as in *obscura*, but there is a suffusion of chestnut over the entire breast."

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

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I learn from Mr. Morris that the drake was first seen about September 1, 1885, on Shelter Island in the East Sea (lat. about 60° 20' N., long. 173° 17' W.). It was shot by Mr. Townsend, with others of the 'Corwin's' party, September, 1885. Mr. Townsend, in a paper published in the *Auk*, (p. 135), mentioned the fact that the breeding range of this species was "not polar," but on the other hand "considerably south of the Arctic Ocean," at the same time intimating that I was not at liberty to explain the nature of the evidence upon which the statement was based. Since his return from an extended cruise on the U. S. Revenue Cutter 'Corwin,' Mr. Chas. H. Townsend has given me permission to publish the facts bearing on the case. On the 8th of September, 1885, Mr. Townsend, with others of the 'Corwin's' party, captured a pair of Wild Hybrid Ducks (Mallard + Muscovy) on Long Island. From the clear account of them he was able to give me, I had no difficulty in deciding as to their character, and an examination of the birds themselves the following day confirmed my identification of them. Unlike most previous examples that have been reported of this interesting cross, they showed no tendency to albinism, there being no abnormal white markings, but presented just the combination of features one would look for in a cross between a wild Mallard and a Muscovy unchanged by domestication. The birds, both male and female, were in perfect plumage, exceedingly beautiful, and presented in nearly equal degree the characteristics of the two species.

Discovery of the Breeding Place of McKay's Snowhake (*Plectrophenax hyperborea*).—In the January 'Auk' (p. 135), I mentioned the fact that he having sent out collectors on several occasions especially in quest of the species.—J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

William Dutcher.

4. *Anas boschas* + *obscura*. HYBRID.—March 17, 1888, Andrew Chichester, a professional South Bay gunner and bayman, sent to me from Amityville, Suffolk Co., the above-indicated very beautiful hybrid. His letter accompanying it I give in full: "I send you a Duck different from anything I ever saw in my experience as a gunner. It looks to me like a mongrel, half Mallard and half Black Duck. It was in a flock of five, I think. They came in wide, so I only shot at the one, and I did not see that it was different from a common Black Duck until I picked it up, so I cannot tell whether the remainder of the flock were similar to it or not." Mr. F. M. Chapman has kindly prepared the following description of this hybrid for record. "In the male hybrid between *boschas* and *obscura* there is, on the whole, a fairly equal division of the characters of both parents; the crown, hind-neck, and nape are as in *boschas*; the sides of the head, the throat, and neck resemble more those of *obscura*, but there is a wash of green on the first named region, and the chin is blackish.

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A Hybrid Duck. — After ten years of hunting for real wild hybrids, the writer has finally succeeded in securing a drake which he regards as an even mixture of Mallard and Northern Black Duck. The bird was shot by the writer about a year ago, and he has waited some time for the experience to be repeated — as often happens after one has once succeeded in finding a bird or flower new to him — but I have caught no mate for my drake.

Several thousands of ducks have been examined in the hope, not merely of finding rare ducks in the market or in the strings of gunners, but especially for indications of a crossed breed. Often I have found 'blue bills' which could be assigned only with great difficulty to the species *Aythya affinis* or to *A. marila*. Especially was this true of females. Measurements have been found quite unreliable in deciding these cases, for it is a common thing to find a male of *A. affinis* which is up to the smaller measurements of *A. marila*, and often the flank markings are so indefinite, and the head iridescence also, that no one could say with precision what the bird was. Hybrids in these races are practically indefinable.

But between the Mallard and Black Duck we expected to find crosses, and also to be able to distinguish them with certainty. While it has been a common experience to come across Black Ducks which show traces of Mallard blood, as was Mr. Brewster's experience, I have been unable to find any Mallard which could be said to bear traces of a Black Duck infusion. It is true that these latter forms would be harder to distinguish, but the young drakes and females were carefully examined with the possibilities fully in mind.

These traces of Mallard blood we have found most common in the form recently described by Mr. Brewster as *Anas obscura rubripes* — birds which we have habitually called "Winter" or "Big" Black Ducks in this vicinity.

The hybrid here under notice exhibits strong Black Duck characters on the head, neck and back. The pattern and dusky shade of the Black Duck are also shown on all portions of the plumage, even where the Mallard affinities are strongest. Mallard blood shows strongest in the white frame of the speculum which is about one-half the typical width of white seen in the Mallard, in the light shade and wavy cross vermiculations of the scapulars, flanks and belly, in the blackish upper and under tail-coverts, and in the green of the nape and sides of the crown.

This specimen was in prime physical condition, an adult male with the testes unusually well developed considering the time of year. — ELON HOWARD EATON, Rochester, N. Y.

Auk, XX, Jan., 1903, p. 64.

notes concerning certain birds of Long Island, N.Y.

By William C. Boastlin, M.D.

Anas boschas

Auk, XXII, Apr., 1906, p. 167.

see Aythya americana -

Hybrid Ducks
Wm. S. Smith, Soudand, Colo.

I have also killed recently a very fine Albino
Mallard drake, a light cream color throughout.

O. & O. X 11. Oct. 1887. p. 169.

About plumage of the Mallard Drake: does not everybody know that the "green wing-patch" is *constant* with both sexes in all plumages? The Drake does not *always*, at least, don his bachelor coat in May, else the expression "breeding plumage" is a misnomer. I have seen the drakes in full plumage as far south as Central Kansas, as late as the middle of June.

The moult of the summer plumage is really *not* a moult but a chromatic change, such as certain hares and Ptarmigans undergo. Hence, the effect is often "patchy," as often in the case of hares. This effect is the most noticeable on the head and neck, which are the last parts to change. I have heads, preserved for the study of these very conditions, the birds being taken in Kansas as late as November. At that date and in that locality the proportion of perfect male plumages, among the male birds, was from one-third to one-fourth, roughly speaking. In some heads the green feathers are generally diffused, in others distributed in patches, none of them having a "budding" appearance. Of all this, more later.

A gentleman who kept a pair of American Goldfinches in confinement lately told me that the color of the plumage turned, in the spring, from drab-olive to golden yellow, in less than a week. Perhaps these changes have much in common; though the age of the Mallard Drake is certainly an important factor.

O. & O., Vol. 17, Mar. 1892 ^{P. B. Peabody.} **p. 39**

Albinism and Melanism in North
American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

Some specimens of *A. boschas*, bear strong traces of
albinism.

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 23

Melanistic Plumages. R. Deane.

2. *Anas boschas*. MALLARD. — Naumann (Vol. II, p. 589) says :
"A very beautiful and very rare variety is black." He mentions a male
in high breeding plumage, in which the whole plumage is so dark that it
appears as though one saw the usual coloration through a pretty thick
black veil.

Bull. N. O. C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 30

Brief Notes.

Much discussion was evoked sometime since
by the question of the change of plumage by
the Mallard Drake. Mr. Geo. E. Boardman, a
veteran naturalist and a careful observer, on a
recent visit to our office, stated that the ♂ Mal-
lard loses its green head every season about May,
and resumes it again in the fall. In the inter-
im it does not particularly resemble the ♀
as it has the green wing-patch, and the curled
tail, with a sort of mottled gray plumage. Mr.
Boardman has shot this bird in New England
and in the West at all seasons of the year, and
is positive whereof he speaks. It is somewhat
curious that this fact has so long been hidden
from the ken of the run of collectors if it has
been known.

O. & O. Vol. 17, Jan. 1892 p. 12

BREEDING OF THE MALLARD IN NEW ENGLAND.—With reference to
the statement in Stearns's "New England Bird-Life," that the authorities
do not appear to be aware of the breeding of the Mallard in New Eng-
land, I receive a note from Mr. Elisha Slade of Somerset, Mass., to the
effect that the bird is a regular breeder in his neighborhood.—ELLIOTT
COUES, Washington, D. C. Bull. N. O. C. 8, July, 1888, p. 186

1216. *A Mallard Duck's Nest in a Tree*. By E. O. Brauns. *Ibid.*, No.
23, June 6, p. 536.—Near Tracy, Minn., a Mallard appropriates an old
Hawk's nest placed twenty feet from the ground in an oak tree twenty feet
from the nearest water. *American Field*, XXII
1379. *Plumage of the Mallard Drake*. By F. H. Stead. *Ibid.*, No.
22, Dec. 22, p. 428.—"In the summer the drake loses his green head
... and the tuft of curly feathers on the tail." *For. & Stream*, Vol. XXIX
1382. *Grouse and Mallard Plumage*. By Robert Ridgway. *Ibid.*,
No. 24, Dec. 25, p. 463.—"Specimens [of Grouse] not unfrequently occur,
which it would be impossible to determine the sex of without dissec-
tion." The male of several species of Ducks assumes the plumage of
the female in the summer. *For. & Stream*, Vol. XXIX
704. *Notes from Connecticut*. By C. M. Jones. *Ibid.*, p. 32.—A pair
of Mallards shot at Eastford, Conn., Oct. 30, 1882. *O. & O.* Vol. VIII
June 28, p. 463.
1711. *Plumage of the Mallard*. By J. L. Rooney. *For. & Stream*, Vol. 30
1219. *Domesticating Wild Mallards*. By James P. Leach. *Ibid.*, No.
12, Sept. 19, p. 270. *American Field*, XXIV
1822. *A Tame Wild Duck*. By H. C. Newell. *Ibid.*, Nov. 7, p. 303.
—*Anas obscura*. *For. & Stream*, Vol. 33
1241. *Mallards Breeding in Confinement*. By A. A. Bogen. *Ibid.*,
No. 3, July 17. *American Field*, XXVI

Anas boschas. MALLARD.—This was found commonly on several
lakes and streams in the Mogollons, during the months of May and June;
of Arizona. and I think they were breeding, although I did not secure nestlings or eggs.

Auk, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 50.

Mallard's eye ting Place. By Burr H. Polk. *Ibid.*, *For. & Stream*.
XVIII, No. 22, p. 427. — On the open prairie, in eastern Colorado.

Anas boschas.

Tahant-Madd

167

Mr. Lufts of Lynn had an adult ♂
of the above species which was killed
at Tahant about 1877. Examined it
closely and it seemed to have been
moulting for the plumage is thin
and worn.

Subsequently bought this specimen for the
Bos. Soc. of Nat. Hist. where it is
deposited in the N. E. Collection.

obscura

Anas obscura.

1889

June Wayland
7² (Hurray & Faxon) (seen only). 9⁶ 1889

May B. Rock M.; M.V. B. Rock M. Wuy E. Long
2⁷ (Fay) 1890 10³ (Fay) 17² (Fay) 23¹ 1891 15nd 1894

July Muskeget Id. Martha's Vineyard
2^{1st} 30⁽¹¹⁾ 18⁽¹²⁾ 19⁽²³⁾ 1890 6^(?) (River) Concord 1893.

Aug. m.v.
3⁽³⁾ 1890.
20⁽⁵⁾ 30⁽⁴⁾ Concord 1892

Sept. Concord
24⁽⁷⁾ 1892

Oct. Concord
6⁽¹⁾ 12⁽²⁾ 1892

Dec. Concord
4⁽²⁾ 1891.

Jan'y Bos. Har.
19⁽¹⁾ 1893

March Spowick (Bella) Wm (Shannon) B. Rock M. Wuy Wuy
20 21 22 29⁽²⁾ 26⁽²²⁾ (Faxon) 30⁽³⁾ 31⁽²⁾ 1891

" 8⁽²⁾ 10⁽³⁾ 23⁽²⁾ 24⁽²⁾ 25⁽⁴⁾ 28⁽⁵⁾ 31⁽⁴⁾ Concord 1892

" 18⁽²⁾ (Hoff) 25^(Fay) 26³⁰⁺ 31⁽²⁾ 1893 B. Rock M. & first seen (Hoffmann) 1895.

April J. Id. Id. Id. Wuy
2 12 6⁽⁷⁾ 9⁽³⁾ 12⁽³⁾ (Fay) 26⁽⁵⁾ 1891 7⁽⁸⁾ 17⁽⁸⁾ 28⁽¹⁾ Concord 1892.

1⁽¹⁾ 2⁽²⁾ 4⁽⁷⁾ 8⁽⁶⁾ 9⁽⁴⁾ 10⁽⁴⁾ 11⁽⁸⁾ Concord 1893.

Nov Concord
14⁽⁴⁾ 15⁽⁴⁾ 1894

A. obscura.

Anas obscura.

January C. Fresh P. Swamp 11⁽¹⁾ O. A. Botsch 1898
March B. (Rock M.) do, Concord 7⁽²⁾ (Hoffmann) 24⁽¹⁾ 27⁽³⁾ 1895. 7⁽¹⁾ Botsch 1899.

April C. Fresh Pond 11⁽²⁾ O. A. Botsch 17⁽⁶⁾ Bedford 17⁽⁶⁾ Bedford Swamp 28⁽⁴⁾ Concord 30⁽⁴⁾ Ball's Hill 1898

May 1⁽³⁾ 4⁽²⁾ 6⁽⁷⁾ 1895
 1⁽¹⁾ 2⁽²⁾ 3⁽³⁾ 4⁽⁶⁾ 14⁽²⁾ 21⁽¹⁾ 25⁽²⁾ 26⁽²⁾ 27⁽¹⁾ 28⁽¹⁾ 29⁽¹⁾ 30⁽¹⁾ 1896
 2⁽²⁾ 3⁽³⁾ 4⁽⁶⁾ 19⁽²⁾ 13⁽¹⁾ 1897
 1⁽²⁾ 2⁽¹⁾ 3⁽²⁾ 4⁽¹⁾ 5⁽¹⁾ 6⁽²⁾ 8⁽³⁾ 10⁽²⁾ 14⁽²⁾ 15⁽⁸⁾ 16⁽²⁾ 17⁽⁴⁾ 23⁽²⁾ 1898
 5⁽²⁾ 8⁽²⁾ 11⁽²⁾ 12⁽¹⁾ 14⁽¹⁾ 24⁽²⁾ 1899
 1⁽⁶⁾ 17⁽¹⁾ 18⁽¹⁾ 19⁽³⁾ 1898
 6⁽⁶⁾ 7⁽¹⁾ 8⁽¹⁾ 10⁽²⁾ 20⁽²⁾ 21⁽³⁾ 1899

June 5⁽¹⁾ (Pat Fleming) 12⁽¹⁾ off Ball's Hill 23⁽¹⁾ 28⁽²⁾ 30⁽¹⁾ 1898
 1⁽¹⁾ 2⁽¹⁾ 3⁽¹⁾ 4⁽¹⁾ 5⁽¹⁾ 6⁽¹⁾ 7⁽¹⁾ 8⁽¹⁾ 9⁽¹⁾ 10⁽¹⁾ 11⁽¹⁾ 12⁽¹⁾ 13⁽¹⁾ 14⁽¹⁾ 15⁽¹⁾ 16⁽¹⁾ 17⁽¹⁾ 18⁽¹⁾ 19⁽¹⁾ 20⁽¹⁾ 21⁽¹⁾ 22⁽¹⁾ 23⁽¹⁾ 24⁽¹⁾ 25⁽¹⁾ 26⁽¹⁾ 27⁽¹⁾ 28⁽¹⁾ 29⁽¹⁾ 30⁽¹⁾ 1899

July All through summer 5-10 seen every evening & visited Fresh Pond swamps - O. A. Botsch 1898.

August 19⁽¹⁾ 1897

September 5⁽³⁾ 6⁽²⁾ 9⁽³⁾ 11⁽³⁾ 14⁽¹⁾ 24⁽¹⁾ 15⁽³⁾ 17⁽²⁾ 19⁽⁸⁾ 1898
 15⁽³⁾ 17⁽²⁾ 19⁽⁸⁾ 1899

October 20⁽¹⁾ 21⁽³⁾ 22⁽¹⁾ 23⁽¹⁾ 24⁽¹⁾ 25⁽¹⁾ 26⁽¹⁾ 27⁽¹⁾ 28⁽¹⁾ 29⁽¹⁾ 30⁽¹⁾ 1895
 1⁽²⁾ 2⁽¹⁾ 3⁽¹⁾ 4⁽¹⁾ 5⁽¹⁾ 6⁽¹⁾ 7⁽¹⁾ 8⁽¹⁾ 9⁽¹⁾ 10⁽¹⁾ 11⁽¹⁾ 12⁽¹⁾ 13⁽¹⁾ 14⁽¹⁾ 15⁽¹⁾ 16⁽¹⁾ 17⁽¹⁾ 18⁽¹⁾ 19⁽¹⁾ 20⁽¹⁾ 21⁽¹⁾ 22⁽¹⁾ 23⁽¹⁾ 24⁽¹⁾ 25⁽¹⁾ 26⁽¹⁾ 27⁽¹⁾ 28⁽¹⁾ 29⁽¹⁾ 30⁽¹⁾ 1899
 12⁽¹⁾ 13⁽¹⁾ 14⁽¹⁾ 15⁽¹⁾ 16⁽¹⁾ 17⁽¹⁾ 18⁽¹⁾ 19⁽¹⁾ 20⁽¹⁾ 21⁽¹⁾ 22⁽¹⁾ 23⁽¹⁾ 24⁽¹⁾ 25⁽¹⁾ 26⁽¹⁾ 27⁽¹⁾ 28⁽¹⁾ 29⁽¹⁾ 30⁽¹⁾ 1896
 20⁽¹⁾ 21⁽¹⁾ 22⁽¹⁾ 23⁽¹⁾ 24⁽¹⁾ 25⁽¹⁾ 26⁽¹⁾ 27⁽¹⁾ 28⁽¹⁾ 29⁽¹⁾ 30⁽¹⁾ 1897
 20⁽¹⁾ 21⁽¹⁾ 22⁽¹⁾ 23⁽¹⁾ 24⁽¹⁾ 25⁽¹⁾ 26⁽¹⁾ 27⁽¹⁾ 28⁽¹⁾ 29⁽¹⁾ 30⁽¹⁾ 1898
 6⁽⁵⁾ 7⁽¹⁾ 8⁽¹⁾ 10⁽¹⁾ 11⁽¹⁾ 12⁽¹⁾ 16⁽¹⁾ 17⁽¹⁾ 30⁽¹⁾ 1898
 20⁽¹⁾ 21⁽¹⁾ 22⁽¹⁾ 23⁽¹⁾ 24⁽¹⁾ 25⁽¹⁾ 26⁽¹⁾ 27⁽¹⁾ 28⁽¹⁾ 29⁽¹⁾ 30⁽¹⁾ 1899

November 5⁽¹⁾ 19⁽¹⁾ 20⁽³⁾ 21⁽¹⁾ 22⁽¹⁾ 23⁽¹⁾ 24⁽¹⁾ 25⁽¹⁾ 26⁽¹⁾ 27⁽¹⁾ 28⁽¹⁾ 29⁽¹⁾ 30⁽¹⁾ 1897
 4⁽²⁾ 6⁽²⁾ 12⁽²⁾ 13⁽²⁾ 14⁽²⁾ 15⁽²⁾ 16⁽²⁾ 17⁽²⁾ 18⁽²⁾ 19⁽²⁾ 20⁽²⁾ 21⁽²⁾ 22⁽²⁾ 23⁽²⁾ 24⁽²⁾ 25⁽²⁾ 26⁽²⁾ 27⁽²⁾ 28⁽²⁾ 29⁽²⁾ 30⁽²⁾ 1899

December 11⁽¹⁾ 13⁽¹⁾ 14⁽¹⁾ 17⁽¹⁾ 18⁽²⁾ 19⁽²⁾ 20⁽²⁾ 22⁽²⁾ 23⁽²⁾ 26⁽²⁾ 1897
 10⁽¹⁾ 11⁽¹⁾ 12⁽¹⁾ 13⁽¹⁾ 14⁽¹⁾ 15⁽¹⁾ 16⁽¹⁾ 17⁽¹⁾ 18⁽¹⁾ 19⁽¹⁾ 20⁽¹⁾ 21⁽¹⁾ 22⁽¹⁾ 23⁽¹⁾ 24⁽¹⁾ 25⁽¹⁾ 26⁽¹⁾ 27⁽¹⁾ 28⁽¹⁾ 29⁽¹⁾ 30⁽¹⁾ 1898

1898 A. obscura 125

Anas obscura.

Boston Harbor, Mass.

1879. We next steamed in by Hull and thence through intricate
Jan.24. channels between the islands, back towards Boston. It was
here that we saw the greatest number of Ducks and in some
places the flats and coves fairly swarmed with them. In one
place an immense flock of Black Ducks rose from the shallows
near a point. They filled a half-acre of air in their flight
and there must have been at least five hundred in that one
flock. There was no mistaking their vigorous spring as they
started from the shallow water and as they turned in their
flight the light whitish under lining of a thousand ^{wings} flashed for
a moment in the sunlight. They were all of this species that
were seen during the day.

Anas obscura

1889 Mass.

April Concord & Wayland. - Chas. Richardson tells me (Apr. 30) that Black Ducks Unusual
have been unusually abundant on the river this abundance
spring. Albert Brown confirms this statement and says that he saw
at least 100 in one day on the Sudbury Meadows below Wayland.
Most of them were in pairs scattered about among the grass and
bushes.

June 7 Wayland. - Two Ducks supposed to be of this species seen In breeding
flying over the marshes by Messrs. Torrey & Faxon. Season

" 9 Cambridge. While standing on the Mass. Central R. R. north
of the Glacialis at about 11 A. M. talking with Faxon
& Spelman I suddenly heard a Duck quack hoarsely eight or
ten times in succession. The next instant a Black Duck
sprang from the grass about 150 yds. off. It "climbed"
straight up to a height of about 20 ft. then scalded down
again alighting in the grass about 30 yds. from where it
started. We did not see or hear it again. As it rose I
distinctly made out its coloring & noticed the characteristic
white under lining of the wings. This meadow is covered with
water a foot or more deep.

Belmont. - Faxon tells me that last spring (March or April In Rock
1889) ~~the~~ flock of ten or a dozen Black Ducks spent Meadow
nearly two weeks in Rock Meadow.

Wayland. Mr. Sherman (the cobbler who lets boats) tells me Nest, 11 eggs
that 18 years ago he found a nest with eleven eggs.
Nest in a wood lot where the trees had been felled the previous
winter under a bushy top. Locality a dry hillside fully 1/2
mile from any water. He thinks this Duck still breeds in Wayland.

Anas obscura

1889 Mass

Dec.

Marston's Mills. - Mr. Bernard Hinckley of this place tells me that Black Ducks have almost wholly deserted the numerous creeks, bays & rivers that indent the south side of the Cape in the towns of Cotuit and Oysterville. Now are they often seen in the sound of these shores. In fact the only resort that he knows on the south shore is Great Island. Fifty years ago they wintered in immense numbers near Marston's Mills feeding in the creeks and bays & flying inland to the fresh-water pond whenever that was open.

They are still very numerous on the north shore especially off West Barnstable. They are never seen in the bay or its creeks & marsh ponds excepting at night or during very heavy weather. During the day they lie bedded well off shore in the open sea. They fly in to their feeding grounds as soon as it is fairly dark provided the tide is low enough to expose the flats. The gunners shoot several hundred each winter. They sink a barrel in some island or bar and for decoys use balls of eel grass rolled to a tin and shaped as nearly as possible resembling Ducks. These are placed in clusters on the mud on the edge of a pool. A dozen or so are sufficient. In the dim twilight or even in bright moonlight Black Ducks are readily decoyed by them in fact better than by wooden stools for the latter usually alarm them as soon as they discover their true character whereas they see nothing suspicious in a few bunches of eel grass after they have learned that they are not Ducks. They are always shot killing here as the light is seldom strong enough for wing shooting.

(Continued)

Anas obscura

1889 Mass.

(Marston's Mills) Formerly they used to feed in the bay by day but now it is rare to see even a single bird there by daylight. They are shot in the greatest numbers during long continued periods of extreme cold when most of their feeding grounds are frozen over and they are restricted to a few places kept open by springs or the action of the tide. Two years ago three guns bagged over one hundred birds in two nights shooting in N. Barnstable bay. Mr. H. has been shown the wagon body in which they were hauled up from the creek and which they filled "com full". Many of the Ducks killed on this occasion were so emaciated as to be nearly worthless.

Capt. S. D. Boyter tells me that these Ducks have to get fresh water to drink at least once each twenty-four hours. In the old days they used to fly inland to springs & brooks which were frozen. Incessant persecution has driven them away from such places and they now depend on the springs which bubble up around the edges of the salt marshes. Capt. B. also asserts that there are two kinds of Black Ducks. Of these the bird called the Winter Duck by Cape Codmers is larger, denser plumaged, grayer about the head & neck, and has red legs.

Anas obscura

- 1890 Mass.
- Nov. 4-9 Medfield Meadows (Charles River). Mr. R. W. Denton saw about a dozen Black Duck during a stay of five days on these meadows.
- " 13-18 Martha's Vineyard. Mr. Wm. Stocomb saw a good many in Squibnocket Pond. A hybrid between this species and the Mallard was shot by his party. The local gunners told him that such cross-bred birds were of by no means infrequent occurrence. Hybrid
- 1885- Mass.
- May 9 Readville. - Mr. Reginald Bangs took a nest and set of nine Nest at
eggs in the Neponset River marshes. The nest found by a bandal Readville.
gunner who saw the bird sitting and shot her. The shot ruined
three of the eggs and pierced several of the remaining six which
were saved. The nest was on a high dry part of the meadow
at the foot of a small cedar which arched over it.
- I have examined this nest to-day (Feb. 8, 1886). It is an
unmistakable Black Duck's nest and the eggs are typical. The
nest is a bulky mass of dry meadows grass of coarse quality and
broken into rather short pieces. It is built up high on the
sides which arch partly over the eggs. The grass is intermixed
with a quantity of Black Duck down. The eggs were nearly
or quite fresh.
- 1891
- March 20 Essex. - Immense numbers of migratory birds seen by Spring migration
Faxon, Bolles, & Miller. - "clouds of them rising from the
sand bars when disturbed" (Miller). On the 21st they were
much less numerous and on the 22nd only a few were
seen.
- " 26 Waltham. - A flock of 22 started by Faxon at the lower end
of Rock Meadow just above the upper mill-pond.
- " 29 I saw a pair circling over Sherman's Pond about noon
- " 30 Faxon started a pair from Rock Meadow. It is
evidently a favorite haunt. He has seen them there for
several years, every Spring.

Anas obscura

1891 Mass.

April 30 Waltham. - This evening a little after sunset saw three rise from the little pool surrounded by swamp white oaks at the head of the Warren run. They mounted in an irregular spiral to a height of nearly 1000 ft., doubling and twisting, then, after circling once, set their wings and descended with frightful velocity apparently alighting again in the pond. As nearly as I could make out the trio was composed of two drakes which were pursuing the third bird, a duck. The latter uttered a succession of loud, full quacks as they rose above the trees but afterwards, during the irregular upward flight, I heard only the hoarse, broken notes of the drakes, a "talking" qua-qua-ca-ca-cae. As these birds were manœuvring, high in the dusky sky, a pair of Black Ducks, the drake leading, shot past me low down flying north and apparently starting on migration.

Aerial
evolutions
of courtships

1894

May 12

Waltham. - M. A. Faxon received to-day in the flesh two young Black Ducks only a few days old which were taken, early this morning, in an artificial pond (the one formed by damming Beaver Brook I believe) on the Byman place by two small boys who told F. that there was a large brood of young in the pond. They also said that the old bird was with the young at first but flew away as they approached. Faxon tells me that another brood of young Black Ducks was found in Rock Meadow this week by a farmer who caught & took home five of them, also that a nest with eggs was found last year among bricks on the top of the ridge just north of the pond where the Grebes breed in E. Buxington.

Breeding
near Boston

H. M. Shelman saw a brood of three young in the Shawsheen R. on April 29, 1894

Massachusetts,

Anas obscura.

1892.

Mar. 8. Concord. At 4.45 P.M. as I was about to launch my boat from Bemis's landing I happened to look out over the Great Meadows (still an unbroken expanse of ice) when I saw a pair of Black Ducks nearly half a mile away coming directly towards me. As they spied the open water in the river they set their buoys & sealed down but rose again and passed directly over my head within fair gun range. They next turned to the E. and disappeared around Ball's Hill. They came directly from the S. and I cannot doubt, were migrating. Curiously enough they are the first spring birds I have seen this year.

Anas obscura.

Concord, Mass.

1893

March 31
(no 3)

Just after passing Dabbin's Hill (I followed the channel down to take advantage of the current) I came in sight of a large number of Black Ducks which were swimming and feeding on Holden's meadow close to ^{the} edge of the water. They did not appear to notice me at first and I worked the canoe slowly across to the wood edge and up to within about 100 yards of them when all flew. Four which had kept apart from the rest on the water went off together in a different direction from that taken by the others. There were thirty six birds in all. I saw several pairs flying about later in the day.

Black
Ducks.

Concord, Mass.
April, 2. 1893.

Most of the Black Ducks appear to have left. We saw only three, a single bird and two together. The latter came in over Great Meadows and alighted in the open water. Just before descending they sailed in a large circle on set wings.

Black Ducks

Concord, Mass.
April, 8. 1893.

The ducks were in a pond ~~in the~~ behind ~~the~~ bottom back at the head of the pond. I saw one of the females quacking loudly and continuously and gradually ~~attracted~~ ^{attracted} ~~the~~ ^{that} flock before long but was ~~attracted~~ ^{attracted} ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~the~~ ^{by} in loose order, ~~attracted~~ ^{attracted} ~~by~~ ^{by} Black Ducks.

Black
Ducks.

Concord, Mass.
April, 9. 1893.

Several Black Ducks also flew over coming from the westward & disappearing beyond Cochichewick Bridge. They sometimes "cloned" in together but as a rule flew in three bunches of six, four, and two birds each.

Black Duck

Anas obscura.

Concord, Mass.

1894. Late on October and early in November Mr. Heber Jones and
Oct. 11. his son made a number of visits to the pond hole in the mead-
 to
Nov. 21. ows just below Davis's Hill and on nearly every occasion they
 found Black Ducks there. They killed six or eight in all and
 two or three others were shot at about the same time in Goose
 Pond but although I was constantly on the river I did [not] see
 a single bird of this species until Nov. 14, when I found a ~~fl~~
 flock of four in the little bayou at the head of Beaver Dam
 Rapid. I flushed them from the same place on the evening of
 the 15th and Pat's son Jimmie said that he saw them on the
 18th.

Anas obscura

1897 Mass.

April 19

Cambridge. Sometime in April of last year (1896) a Duck's nest containing 12 eggs was found in the meadow between the eastern and western divisions of the Maple Swamp by an Irishman who lives near the Fresh Pond crossing and who took the eggs and put them under a hen. They hatched a day or two later. The young Ducks remained with their foster mother but they did not seem to thrive and although several of them lived for a number of weeks not one arrived at maturity. Oliver Ames Botthrop hearing of these facts called on the Irishman who showed him some of the young birds all of which were dark & uniformly colored. The man said that he flushed the bird from the nest & that she flew directly off & was evidently a wild bird. He then took Botthrop to the nest which proved to be lined abundantly with blackish down. Botthrop feels sure that it was a Black Duck's nest.

This spring Botthrop and a young friend of his determined to try to find a nest for themselves. Visiting the swamps at frequent intervals they saw Black Ducks on nearly every occasion after the water opened, usually in or near Pond Pond. To-day they spent the whole forenoon searching the thickets of bushes and cut-logs in this particular swamp. At about noon they became discouraged and were naturally on their way out of the swamp when Botthrop turned aside to look at a last year's Redwing's nest. While on his way to it a Black Duck rose within ten or four yards of him and the next instant he discovered the nest which contained 13 eggs. The Duck flew off towards the north & while passing over the Fitchburg Railroad was fired at by some gunners but cackling she came back a moment later apparently unharmed and alighted in Pond Pond.

Anas obscura

1897 Mass.

April 19
(No 2)

Cambridge. - Lothrop did not disturb the nest further than by taking out one of the eggs and looking at it but when he took W. Deane and me to the place at 3.30 P. M. the bird was absent and the eggs were cold. On blowing them afterwards I found that two had the yells slightly streaked or veined with blood, the remaining eleven being perfectly fresh but with the yells clotted & lumpy so that they were difficult to blow (this, if I remember rightly however, is a characteristic of fresh eggs of most of the Ducks)

The nest in situ measured 10 inches across the top by 6 inches in total depth; the egg cavity or cup was $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches across by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. The nest was on a large, flat tussock (2 ft. long by 15 inches across) into which it was so deeply sunk that its bottom was almost level with the water which, to the depth of about a foot, surrounded the tussock on every side. The top of the nest was raised a little above that of the tussock. The bird had evidently always entered it on the south side where she had worn (or made) a smooth, steeply sloping path eight or ten inches in length. On every side but that where the path entered it the nest was surrounded & ^{unshaded} strongly supported by the stems of young alders, wild rose bushes and Spice Sambucus which had pushed their way up through the tussock to a height of four or five feet. These bushes also grew plentifully over a space of 20 or 30 yards square about the nest but they were intermingled with rank & dense beds of cut tail flags. The water over the entire swamp was at this season about a foot in depth. The nest was about forty yards due north of Point Pond and was over 20 yards from the spot where I took the nest of the Florida Gallinule in 188.

Anas obscura.

1897 Mass.

April 19
(no 3)

Cambridge. The character of this part of the Swamp has changed considerably since then, however, for the cat-tails have spread and increased to such an extent that they now cover all the spaces which were then open water or tattered meadows. The tussocks still remain hidden under or among the flags but they seem to be dying. Indeed the whole bottom of the Swamp appears to be rotting out under the foul stagnant water.

None of the eggs were covered with down but the rim of the nest was raised and slightly overarched the center or upper tier of eggs. They filled the nest brimming full but yet one of them was on top of the others (i.e. all of them rested on either the bottom or against the sides of the nest).

I am indebted to Mr. Lothrop not only for the opportunity of seeing this nest before it was disturbed but also for that of adding it to its unusually large set of eggs to my collection. He was very generously insisting on my keeping the set intact although it is the first Drell's nest that he has ever found.

Anas obscura.

Nest taken by William Brewster, April 19th, 1897, in the middle of a Cat Tail swamp off Concord Ave. between the Slaughter House and the Fitchburg R. R. tracks.

Nest 10 in. across on the outside; 6 1/2 in. across on the inside; 5 1/2 in. deep. There were thirteen eggs in the nest.

The nest was on the top of a tussock surrounded by water a foot deep. The tussock was slightly oblong in shape and was 2 ft. across. The nest was overshadowed by *Spiraea salicifolia* and *Rosa* and it had a runway on one side quite clear of grass and bushes.

The swamp is a typical Cat Tail swamp, full of tussocks of a *Carex*, presumably *C. stricta*. Scattered over the swamp is a good deal of Alder, wild Rose and Meadow Sweet. At this season the water is a good foot deep over the entire swamp, and in wading through it one sinks in a good deal more.

I was one of the party on this trip.

Walter Deane.

Anas obscura.

Concord, Mass.

Migrating.

1897. Late in the afternoon as I was standing under a green
Nov.20. and white dome of pine foliage in the rear of Ball's Hill I
heard the call of a Robin. I at once stepped out into the
open and looked up hoping to get a sight at the bird. I saw
instead a swarm of Black Ducks flying northward. Gilbert who
was near me at the time counted them twice making the number
33. I got only one count and made it 34. No doubt he was right.
The birds presently returned and circled over Holden's meadow,
then passed out of our sight towards the south. Migrating
Black Ducks nearly always go directly south past here in au-
tumn and due north in spring.

Anas obscura.

Cambridge, Mass.

1897. The Ducks (seen on Fresh Pond this morning among a large
Dec.11. flock of Gulls) were scarcely less interesting for although
there were only eight of them they represented no less than
three different species; viz. Anas obscura, A.boschas, and A.
(Nettion) carolinensis.

There were five Black Ducks and one Mallard; the latter, a female, looked much brighter and browner than the Black Ducks, and showed the white on the speculum distinctly. These six birds kept together and well within the outer ranks of the Gulls. Conscious, no doubt, of their absolute security while surrounded by the alert, wary Gulls, the Ducks spent most of their time sleeping with their heads buried in the feathers (scapulars) of their backs rising and falling on the waves and drifting before the wind like so many pieces of floating bark for which, indeed, they might have been easily mistaken. But every now and then they would raise their heads, close in together, and swim back to the point whence they had drifted.

1899. Spent most of the forenoon at Fresh Pond watching the
Nov.29. water fowl assembled there. Gulls and Ducks intermingled
covered an area of at least twenty acres. W.Deane counted
770 Gulls and 1 150 Ducks. ----- The Ducks with a single
exception (see note on Anas boschas) were all Black Ducks.
They have been haunting the pond constantly, I am told, since

Anas obscura.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899. early in October, but their numbers have increased of late
Nov. 29. and they are gradually getting bolder and approaching the
(2). shores nearer. On the 24th I saw a dozen or more within gun-
shot of the shore off the hemlock grove and yesterday others
had worked in equally near the Tudor shore. This morning they
were farther out and scattered everywhere among the Gulls al-
though not at all evenly for in places there were single birds
or pairs only while in others fifteen or twenty were collected
in a close bunch. They were very active and noisy at times
swimming rapidly to and fro and quacking loudly but they did
not seem to be feeding. Sometimes two birds would meet and
go through a curious performance nodding their heads up and
down either together or alternately as if saluting one another,
keeping this up for a minute or more. Again a single bird
would swim very rapidly for yards with its head and neck
stretched out flat on the water and its body deeply immersed
looking like a dark line drawn on the surface. Of course
there was much plunging, feather-preening and thrashing of
the water and not infrequently several birds would plunge
their heads and necks beneath the surface and raising them
suddenly scatter a shower of drops over their backs, at the
same time beating the water with their wings. Once six or
eight birds rose and flew up to windward diving from on wing
in rapid succession and not only disappearing beneath the

Anas obscura.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899. surface but remaining under in some instances for nearly
Nov.29. half-a-minute then rising on wing and diving again, never
(3). from a greater height than five or six feet.

Constantly present by day in Fresh Pond up to the time
December. its surface was completely closed by ice (the night of the
28th) in numbers usually exceeding 100 and sometimes reaching
150 to 160. They became tamer or more daring as the season
advanced approaching the shore to within a few yards and
sometimes swimming quite in and landing on the rocky beach
where they would walk about or stand erect preening their
feathers and basking in the sun until startled by the ap-
proach of a carriage, bicycle or pedestrian when they would
fly out and alight in the middle of the pond. The flock
scattered over nearly the whole pond at times but I saw no
birds in the cove where the fountain discharges the incoming
water although the whole assemblage often drifted well down
into Cambridge nook. The place often rang with their quack-
ing when the air was still.

Anas obscura

1896 Penobscot Bay, Maine.

Jan.-July. Capt. Conroy tells me that up to & including 1894, a pair of these Ducks bred regularly on Spirit Lodge. The nest was invariably placed under a flaking rock (the ledge is totally devoid of vegetation) and was usually robbed by some one of the fishermen. In 1892 another Conroy (brother of Mrs. Conroy) took a large lot of eggs here & bringing them home hatched them under a hen. The ducklings were wild, timid creatures but all grew to full size when they escaped. Spirit Lodge is one of the outermost islands of this group. Black Ducks used also to nest in some of the fresh water ponds on Stinson's Neck as well as on wooded points along the Bay but within the last two or three years they have nearly if not quite deserted this region. Of course the fishermen thought that they might ^{still} be found about fresh water ponds "up the Bay" but on visiting Frost's Pond in Sedgewick & Walker's Pond in Brooksville I found no signs of the birds & was told by people living near that it was doubtful if any now nested there. A man who fishes & shoots a great deal on Frost's Pond & who directed me to a loon's nest said that one or two birds were still occasionally seen there in summer & he thought it possible that there might be a brood there this year but had seen none himself for several years. The pond is a perfect paradise for Black Ducks being wholly surrounded by woods with an extensive bog at one end.

~~DR. FRED'K C. SHATTUCK,~~
135 MARLBOROUGH ST.,
OFFICE HOURS, 1.30 TO 3 P. M.
Boston, Mass. 189

Feb. 18, 1897.

Dear Mr. Brewster,

I at last send

you that map of Clematis Brook
showing the place where the young
ducks were found. I do not know the
place well enough to make a map, ^{the} so
enclosed was made by my friend who
caught one of the ducks. He says he is
sure that he found them on either the
12th or 15th of May, 1894. He found
it out from other data which he has.
If there are any other particulars that
you want to know about, please let
me know, & I will do as much as

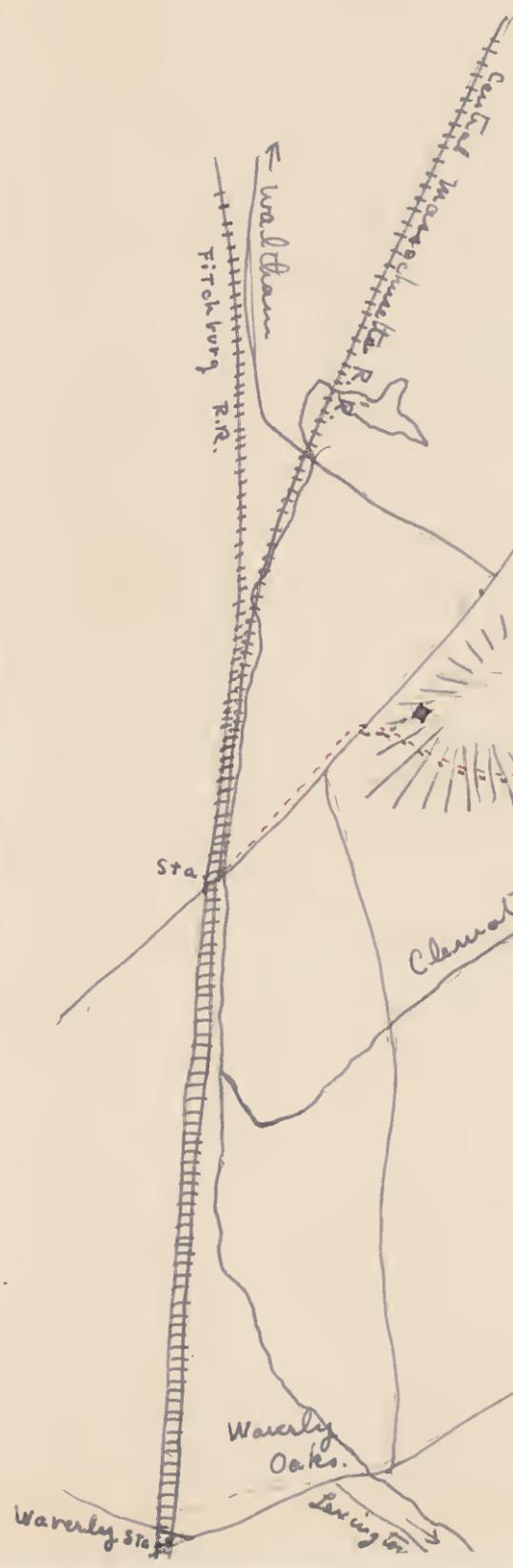
as I can to find out about them,

Yours Very Sincerely
G. C. Matthews.

Anas obscura.

Clematis Brook
Waltham
Mass.

R. W. G.



Plan of [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

Anas obscura.

1897 Mass

May 16 Cambridge. A nest with 10 eggs found in a wet, bracing thicket in the place where two Green Herons breed on the south side of the Maple Swamp ~~and~~ or between the Cotton & Concord Townships by some vagrant boys who took ~~the~~ eggs and broke all but 3 which are now in the possession of O. A. Botsford and his friend Alton Hathaway. This nest may have been a second one of the pair that belonged to the nest with 13 eggs hatched in by Botsford on April 19. A brood of young must have been heard either by them or some other pair for I saw a flock of 14 ducks on Fresh Pond in August.

nest with
10 eggs found in
Maple Swamp

Sudbury Meadows. Nest containing egg shell & down found by Mr. Paine ^{about 10 ft above the ground} on the top of a large hay stack in Sept. 1897. The eggs had evidently hatched sometime during the preceding spring.

nest on
hay stack

May 31 - Martha's Vineyard. H. R. Job reports finding a set of 12 eggs.

June 3 (H. R. Job, letter, July 22, 1897).

1895

Oct. 19-31 Concord. "Saw 10 on the 20th, & 15 on the 27th on the river." Journal

1898

Mar. 11 Cambridge. A pair were seen by a friend of O. A. Botsford's flying over the Glacialis on the evening of Mar. 11.

W. B.'s Journ. Mar. 12, 1898.

Mar. 17 Concord. Pat tells me that Gallant shot four in the Bedford swamp yesterday [Mar. 16]. [Journ.]

Mar. 18 Concord. Gallant says that between 60 & 100 have come into this meadow [the large meadow north of the prairie by the great Bedford swamp] every evening of late and that he killed 3 there last evening. Geo. Hudson, whom I met later, confirmed this statement as to the evening flights. [Journ.]

Anas obscura

1901	L.	Sex	Legs	upper mandible	lower mandible	weight in oz.	
Feb. 20, <u>1</u>	♂	21½	35	red	sides & base chrome-yellow tip & line on top black	dark chrome-yellow soft center light red	34½
" 19, <u>2</u>	♂	25	39	bright red	basal 2/3, chrome-yellow end 1/3, dark green. tip black	black	44
" 21, <u>3</u>	♂	23½	37	red	basal 1/4, chrome-yellow end 3/4, dark green. tip blk.	dark (dried)	38
" 24, <u>4</u>	♂	24	37	bright red	chrome-yellow. tip blk.	light chrome-yellow soft-center & line on each side & the tip blk.	44
" 22, <u>5</u>	♂	24	36	" "	" " basal 1/3 darker. tip blk.	light chrome-yellow soft-center & tip blk.	38
" 22, <u>6</u>	♀	23	36	light "	chrome-yellow. tip blk.	flesh color. tip blk.	33½
" 22, <u>7</u>	♀	21½	36	" "	chrome-yellow. tip blk. darker towards the base.	chrome-yellow. tip blk.	34½
" 19, <u>8</u>	♀	22	35	" "	chrome-yellow, darker towards base. blk. glip on culmen. tip blk.	olive brown, tip blk.	33
" 18, <u>9</u>	♂	22	34½	" "	" "	" "	31½
" 20, <u>10</u>	♂	23½	37	" "	basal sides, chrome-yellow. rest dark green. tip blk.	dark, almost black	43
" 19, <u>11</u>	♀	21½	34	" "	" "	" "	25½

Shot by N. A. Elouise, February 18-24, 1901, at Heatham, Mass.
Rec'd at Museum, and colors + measurements taken February 26.
Sent immediately to J. T. Clark to be made into skins.

The color red in the legs & toes is a salmon-red.
chrome-yellow is acc. Chapman, Handbook, {Miss Sumner calls it an olive-yellow
 " eyes were too sunken to see the color.
 " webs were a dark brown or Chapman's fuscous. 190
 " data is on the labels on the birds, written by Mr. Elouise. Walter Deane

Anas obscura.

	L.	Ex	Eye	Legs	Upper mandible	Lower mandible	Weight in oz.
12. ♀	24	36	iris brown pupil blue	"red when killed"	chrome-yellow tip black	chrome-yellow, tip blk soft center black	
13. ♂	23	36	"	red	"	"	
14. ♂	25	35½	"	"red when killed"	"	"	
15. ♀	22½	35	"	"	light olive-green dark blotches tip blk	flesh color, tip blk	
16. ♂	24½	37	"	"brown" light red	chrome-yellow tip blk	chrome-yellow, tip blk soft center blk.	
17. ♂	23½	36½	"	"	light chrome-yellow tip blk.	"	
18. ♂	23	37	"	"	light chrome-yellow tip blk. Two blk spots each side near tip	"	
19. ♂	23	35	"	red	chrome-yellow tip blk	with yellow stripe in center of soft part	43
20. ♂	23½	37½	"	"	"	dark chrome-yellow tip blk, soft center + stripe on each side blk	39
21. ♀	23	36½	"	gray with tint of red	black blotches	blackish	34½
22. ♀	22½	35	"	"	"	"	33½
23. ♂	22½	35½	"	light gray with tint of red	"	"	33

Shot to Tom C. Wilson, February 23, 24, 26, 1901. Springfield, Mass.
 Received at Museum and measured, (12-18) Feb. 27, (19-23) Feb. 28.
 Sent immediately to J. T. Clark to be made into skins.
 The color red in the legs & toes is a salmon red, webs dark brown or fuscous (Chapman's
 Hand Book).
 " chrome-yellow is see. Chapman's Hand Book. Miss Simmon calls it
 olive-yellow.
 (12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20), (16, 17, 18), (21, 22, 23) exhibit a gradation of the
 same general color, a salmon-red tint prevailing in all.
 The quotations are from Mr. Wilson.
 13 has gray feathers scattered on the breast.
 Walter Deane

Anas obscura

12.	Rowley River, Ipswich,	February 24, 1901,	Tom C. Wilson
13.	Rogers Island	"	" " "
14.	" "	"	" " "
15.	" "	"	" " "
16.	Rowley River,	"	" " "
17.	" "	"	" " "
18.	" "	"	" " "
19.	Plumb Island Sound,	"	" " "
20.	" "	"	" " "
21.	" "	"	" " "
22.	" "	"	" " "
23.	" "	"	" " "

(12-18) data on the newspapers wrapped round the ducks, when sent.

(19-23) " sent on a tag with the ducks,

24 ♂	Chatham	January 7, 1901	N. A. Elridge	Red legs
25 ♂	"	" " "	" " "	Dark "
26 ♀	"	" " "	" " "	"
27 ♀	"	" " "	" " "	Dark "

24 to 27 were sent directly to J. T. Clark to be made into skins.

Anas obscura

Northern -

♂

	Wing	Tarsus	middle toe without nail	Culmen from base	Culmen from nostril
167006, Dpt. Agr. Hudson Bay, Ft. Churchill, Jy 28, 1900, E. C. Preble	—	1.70	2.32	2.02	1.65
30780 W.B. Chatham, Mass. Jan. 7, 1901, W. A. Elouisy	10.00	1.63	2.07	2.09	1.55
5070? C.F.B., Castlett, Newfoundland, Nov. 6, 1890, J. C. Colburn	10.50	1.77	2.18	2.05	1.50
178 R.H.N. pi. Ipswich, Mass. May 2, 1896, G. C. Shattuck	10.51	1.58	2.27	2.12	1.69
30796 W.B. " " Feb. 23, 1901, T. C. Wilson	10.54	1.62	2.27	2.26	1.71
30785 W.B. Chatham, " " 21, " " W. A. Elouisy	10.56	1.56	2.44	2.13	1.71
5181 W.B. Orleans, " Nov. 15, 1881, Wm Brewster, ad.	10.69	1.56	2.22	1.90	1.49
30795 W.B. Ipswich " Feb. 23, 1901, T. C. Wilson	10.82	1.67	2.31	2.16	1.76
30798 W.B. " " " 24, " " " "	10.85	1.65	2.11	2.06	1.60
9589 W.B. Lake Umbagog, Me., Oct. 22, 1884, ad.	10.91	1.69	2.33	2.13	1.74
30786 W.B. Chatham, Mass. Feb. 22, 1901, W. A. Elouisy	10.94	1.66	2.10	2.00	1.61
30799 W.B. Ipswich, " " 26, " " T. C. Wilson	11.00	1.70	2.40	2.33	1.73
8135 W.B. Lake Umbagog, Me., Oct. 31, 1883	11.05	1.65	2.21	2.23	1.71
30800 W.B. Ipswich, Mass. Feb. 26, 1901, T. C. Wilson	11.10	1.56	2.14	2.04	1.56
42944 W.B. Shelter Id. N. Y. Dec. 3, 1890, W. W. Northampton	11.15	1.90	2.43	2.23	1.81
733 R.H.N. pi. Cobbs Id. Va. " 28, 1898 G. C. Shattuck	11.27	1.55	2.20	2.18	1.73
30252 W.B. Lake Umbagog, Me., Oct. 8, 1887,	11.28	1.82	2.28	2.19	1.71
30782 W.B. Chatham, Mass. Feb. 19, 1901, W. A. Elouisy	11.63	1.77	2.36	2.07	1.71
1429 O.B. " " Mar. 23, 1892, O. Bangs	11.80	1.70	2.17	2.05	1.58
433 R.H.N. pi. Cobbs Id. Va. Dec. 31, 1898, G. C. Shattuck	11.80	1.80	2.41	2.27	1.81
1245 J.D.S. Main, Labrador, May 2, 1898, C. Schmitt. ♂?	11.45	1.70	2.29	2.15	1.48
inland, Mitteltele.					
Average	10.99+	1.68-	2.26+	2.13-	1.66-

R.H.N. pi. = R. N. Howe pi. coll. of.
 C.F.B. = C. F. Batchelder " "
 O.B. = O. Bangs " "
 J.D.S. = J. D. Sawbrey " "
 Dpt. Agr. = U.S. Dpt. Agr. " "
 W.B. = Wm Brewster " "

all birds taken by A. E. Colburn & J. C. Colburn
 were sexed by him.

Anas obscura

wing.

tarsus

middle toe
without nail

culmen from
base

culmen from
nostril

Northern

♀

101188	nat. mus.	Ungava, Labrador,	July 1, 1884,	L. M. Turner, ad.	—	1.75	2.20	2.07	1.65
30791	W.B.	Chatham, Mass.	Feb. 19, 1901,	W. A. Elouge	9.59	1.67	2.00	2.00	1.58
4101	W.B.	Pt. Lepreau, N.B.	Apr. 12, 1876,	ad.	10.00	1.50	1.99	1.96	1.52
734	R.H.N. jr.	Cobb's Isl. Va.	Dec. 27, 1898,	G. C. Shattuck	10.08	1.63	2.10	2.08	1.61
30788	W.B.	Chatham, Mass.	Jan. 27, 1901,	W. A. Elouge	10.18	1.53	2.06	1.95	1.46
8122	W.B.	Lake Umbagog, Me.	Oct. 26, 1883		10.31	1.55	2.20	2.05	1.58
30802	W.B.	Ipswich, Mass.	Feb. 23, 1901,	T. C. Wilson	10.38	1.51	2.05	2.00	1.55
30790	W.B.	Chatham, "	" 19, "	W. A. Elouge	10.40	1.44	2.05	2.01	1.60
30793	W.B.	" "	" 22, "	" "	10.43	1.54	2.11	1.99	1.52
1430	C.B.	Wayland, "	Mar. 30, 1892,	C. Bangs	10.45	1.59	2.08	2.00	1.56
30789	W.B.	Chatham, "	Jan. 27, 1901,	W. A. Elouge	10.52	1.60	2.26	2.02	1.60
30792	W.B.	" "	Feb. 22, "	" "	10.60	1.65	2.18	2.03	1.61
30804	W.B.	Ipswich, "	" 26, "	T. C. Wilson	10.60	1.69	2.10	1.93	1.52
30251	W.B.	Lake Umbagog, Me.	Sept. 28, 1889		10.62	1.51	2.10	2.11	1.68
8119	W.B.	" "	Oct. 25, 1883		10.62	1.70	2.34	2.05	1.71
30253	W.B.	" "	" 12, 1889		10.68	1.64	2.21	2.06	1.57
30803	W.B.	Ipswich, Mass.	Feb. 24, 1901,	T. C. Wilson	10.88	1.77	2.22	2.11	1.65
9588	W.B.	Lake Umbagog, Me.	Oct. 21, 1884		10.98	1.72	2.32	2.18	1.79
490	C.B.	Barnstable, Mass.	Dec. 30, 1887,		11.17	1.76	2.30	2.05	1.61
Average					10.47+	1.60+	2.15+	2.03+	1.60-

— not sexed —

17971	U.S. Nat. Mus.	Moose Factory, James Bay	June 19, 1860,	J. McKensie	10.72	1.70	2.24	2.24	1.73
20757	" "	(head & wing) Cape Hope, Severn Bay,	June 19, 1860,	C. Drexler.	10.48	—	—	2.02	1.55
					with young				

Anas obscura
wing

Southern

♂

			Tarsus	middle toe without nail	culmen from base	culmen from nostril	
30783	W.B. Chatham, Mass	Feb. 20, 1901. W. A. Elouder	9.89	1.64	2.13	1.98	1.50
30801	W.B. Ipswich	" " 26 " T. C. Wilson	10.08	1.64	2.22	2.00	1.60
30781	W.B. Chatham	" " 18 " W. A. Elouder	10.11	1.43	2.07	1.91	1.46
4009	W.B. Upton, Me.	Sept. 1, 1874	10.78	1.64	2.14	2.03	1.55
10187	W.B. Rye Beach, N.H.	Aug. 28, 1879. H. M. Spelman	10.89	1.65	2.30	2.18	1.67
30250	W.B. Lake Umbagog, Me.	Sept. 25, 1889	10.93	1.71	2.33	2.11	1.57
45968	W.B. Cambridge, Mass	Oct. 3, 1874	10.98	1.81	2.18	2.11	1.70
			10.52+	1.65-	2.20-	2.05-	1.58-

Anas obscura
wing

Southern

♀

tarsus

middle toe
without nail

culmen from
base

culmen from
nostril

45969	W.B. Upton, Me.	Aug. 22, 1874	8.95	1.63	2.12	1.86	1.37
4432	C.B. Lane on Long Island, N.Y.	Apr. 25, 1900. E. Doane.	9.65	1.63	2.18	1.93	1.47
4610	W.B. Lake Umbagog, Me.	Oct. 30, 1884	9.84	1.59	1.96	2.01	1.59
14052	W.B. " "	Sept. 25, 1887	9.93	1.79	2.06	2.11	1.60
6488	C.F.B. near Deer Pond, New Brunswick,	July 3, 1894. A.E. Colburn	10.00	1.57	2.00	1.97	1.53
6490	" " " "	" 26 " " "	10.05	1.58	2.16	2.06	1.53
48436	W.B. West Tisbury, Mass.	Sept. 2, 1899. Sk. by C. Bangs f?	10.06	1.55	2.38	2.08	1.56
6487	C.F.B. near Deer Pond, New Brunswick,	June 29, 1894. A.E. Colburn	10.18	1.55	1.98	2.06	1.53
19148	W.B. Lake Umbagog, Me.	Oct. 8, 1888	10.33	1.65	2.06	2.10	1.66
48435	W.B. West Tisbury, Mass.	Sept. 2, 1899. Sk. by C. Bangs	10.34	1.50	2.14	1.89	1.48
6489	C.F.B. near Deer Pond, New Brunswick,	July 21, 1894. A.E. Colburn	10.44	1.61	2.00	2.02	1.51
5958	" " *Custlett,	Oct. 11, 1890. J.C. Caborn	10.46	1.60	2.25	1.91	1.47
9584	W.B. Lake Umbagog, Me.,	" 18, 1884.	10.48	1.56	2.02	1.76	1.40
1246	J.D.S. Okech, Labrador, Mitterlutz,	July 8, 1896. C. Schmitt	10.48	1.56	2.16	2.00	1.54
11938	W.B. Concord, Mass.	Sept. 24, 1886.	10.49	1.56	2.12	2.17	1.56
6491	C.F.B. Upper Hunter River, New Brunswick,	Aug. 2, 1894. A.E. Colburn.	10.51	1.72	2.14	2.08	1.62
Average			10.14+	1.61-	2.09	1.93-	1.52+

1. This bird was accompanied by eight young which were taken with the adult.

* ♀? left out in taking the average - "Feet & Tarsus rufous-cinnamon; nails & webs black; upper mandible dark olive green."

(*) "Feet & Tarsus very dark cinnamon, dusky in places; upper mandible dark olive green"

164 Coll. of Louis R. Shaw, West Chops, Mass. Aug. 15, 1901 [♀ ad. W.B.] 10.80, 1.75, 2.17, 1.92, 1.43
throat immaculate, crown black, side of head streaked. loaned by R.N.H. jr.

* spelled on the label Custlett but
Caborn collected on Nov. 6, 1900
in Custlett (5070? ♂) the name
being printed on the label.

~~17971 W.B. West. Mass. Moose Factory, from West Mass~~

Measurements of these skins, ♂ & ♀ Northern & Southern
made by Walter Deane in the winter of 1901-2.

Anas obscura.

Collection of Reginald Heber Howe, Jr.

A.O.U.No.	133.	133.	133.
Coll.No.	733.	433.	734.
Name.	Anas obscura.	A.obscura.	A.obscura.
Locality.	Cobb's Isl.Va.	Cobbs Isl.Va.	Cobbs Isl.Va.
Date.	Dec.28,1898.	Dec.31,1898.	Dec.27,1898.
Sex.	Male.	Male.	Female.
Length.	24.54.	25.40.	22.60.
Wing.	11.70.	11.90.	10.61.
Tail.	4.50.	4.65.	4.00.
Tarsus.	1.75.	2.10.	1.75.
Bill (Culmen).	2.15.	2.30.	2.10.
Color of Upper Mandible.	Yellow, black tip.	Yellow.	Yellow, black tip.
Color of Lower Mandible.	Yellow, black tip.	Yellow.	Yellow, black tip.
Color of Tarsus.	Orange.	Carmine.	Orange.
Color of Feet.	Orange.	Carmine.	Orange.
Color of Web.	Black.	Black.	Black.
Color of Iris.	Brown.	Brown.	Brown.
Contents of Stomach.	{ Shells and eel grass.	{ Small shell fish, eel grass and gravel.	{ Sand and eel grass.
Collected by	G.C.Shattuck and party.		G.C.Shattuck and party.

Copy of three labels belonging to R.H.Howe, jr.

Anas obscura

Comparison of averages

Northern males (21)	10.99+	1.68-	2.26+	2.13-	1.66-
Southern males (7)	10.52+	1.65-	2.20-	2.05-	1.58-
Northern females (19)	10.47+	1.60+	2.15+	2.03+	1.60-
Southern females (15)	10.14+	1.61-	2.09	1.93-	1.52+

1. exactly $1.602 \frac{12}{19}$

2. " $1.606 \frac{2}{3}$

Circus abscurus

wing, tail, mid. toe without nail, culmen + base, cul. p. nostril

♂

*1245	Labrador, Main, May 2/192	11.45	1.70	2.29	2.15	1.48
	inland, E. Schmitt, Mittelluk					
#6486	Newfoundland (near Deer Pond) May 29/194	10.68	1.71	2.10	2.10	1.68
	A. E. Colburn					
#5070	" Curstlett, Nov. 6/190	10.50	1.77	2.18	2.05	1.50
	J. E. Colburn					
o167006	Hudson Bay, Ft. Churchill, 7/28/1900	—	1.70	2.32	2.02	1.65
	E. A. Preble					
	Aves.	10.88	1.72	2.22+	2.08+	1.58-

♀

#6491	Newfoundland, (Upper Humber River) Aug. 2/194	10.51	1.72	2.14	2.08	1.62
	A. E. Colburn					
#5958	" (Curstlett) Oct 11/190	10.46	1.60	2.25	1.91	1.47
	J. E. Colburn					
#6489	" (near Deer Pond) 7/21/194	10.44	1.61	2.00	2.02	1.51
	A. E. Colburn					
#6487	" (near Deer Pond) June 29/194	10.18	1.55	1.98	2.06	1.53
	A. E. Colburn					
*6490	" (near Deer Pond) 7/26/194	10.05	1.58	2.16	2.06	1.53
	A. E. Colburn					
#6488	" (near Deer Pond) 7/3/194	10.00	1.57	2.00	1.97	1.53
	A. E. Colburn					
*1246	Labrador, Okak, Mittelluk, 7/8/196	10.48	1.56	2.16	2.00	1.54
	E. Schmitt					
	Aves.	10.30+	1.60-	2.10-	2.01+	1.53+

x loaned by J. E. Soubryer Jan. 20, 1902

" " C. F. Batchelder Jan. 20, 1902

o " " E. A. Preble U.S. Dept. Agric. Jan. 29, 1902

Mr. Soubryer loaned }
2 ad. + 8 chicks }

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

107. *Anas obscura*. BLACK DUCK.—A tolerably common summer
resident, breeding about the fresh water lakes.

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

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.
A. H. Alberger.

133. Black Duck. Black Mallard. Abun-
dant. Breeds.

O. & O., XV, June, 1890, p. 87

972. *The Ducks of this Locality* [Ottawa, Canada]. By W. P. Lett.
Trans. Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, No. 4, pp. 52-64.—The following
species are treated at length: *Anas obscura*, *A. boschas*, *Aix sponsa*,
Querquedula carolinensis, *Q. discors*, *Dafila acuta*, *Fuligula ferina ameri-*
cana, *Mergus merganser*, *M. serrator*, *M. cucullatus*, and *Clangula*
glauca. Various other species are mentioned more briefly, the paper
altogether forming an important review of the Anatidae of Ottawa.

Breeding Dates of Birds in Kings
County, N. S. Watson L. Bishop.

* Dusky Duck, May 25, 26, 28. These were
also found on the Gaspereaux Lakes.

O. & O. XIII. Mar. 1838 p. 45

Dwight, Summer Birds of
Prince Edward Island.

Anas obscura. BLACK DUCK.—This is the only Duck of whose
presence I have conclusive evidence. I saw a brood on a fresh water lake
near Souris, and I found dried up on the sand one day the carcass of an
adult. In several other localities I heard of nests having been found.

Auk X, Jan. 1893. p. 8

General Notes.

Notes on Cape Breton Summer Birds.
Francis H. Allen.

Anas obscura.

Auk XII. Jan. 1895 p. 89

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

27. *Anas obscura*. BLACK DUCK.—Rather rare. We saw very few
Black Ducks, and of those few most were south of Hamilton Inlet. Ap-
parently restricted to the inland ponds. Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 27.

Some Winter Birds of Nova Scotia. By C. H. Morrell.

3. *Anas obscura*. BLACK DUCK.—Common along shore all winter.

Auk, XVI, July, 1899, p. 257.

Newfoundland Notes. A Trip up the
Humber River, Aug. 10-Sept. 24, 1899.

6. *Anas obscura*. BLACK DUCK.—Breeds abundantly.

Louis H. Porter, New York City.

Auk, XVII, Jan., 1900, p. 74

Unusual Nesting Site of the Black Duck (*Anas obscura*).—During the past two years I had the pleasure of discovering two instances of remarkable deviation from the hitherto well known and universally recognized nesting habits of our common Black Duck (*Anas obscura*). The first instance occurred June 10, 1904, when, on a small island in the St. Lawrence River, a pair of these ducks had taken possession of an old crow's nest, and on the date of discovery had laid ten eggs. The nest was saddled on a limb of a large elm, forty-five feet from the ground. With the exception of a liberal supply of down furnished by the bird the nest was in its original condition and so completely was it concealed by the foliage that the presence of the duck in her snug retreat would never have been suspected had she not been accidentally observed flying to the tree. The difficulty I experienced in photographing the nest adds to the value of the excellent negative I secured.

April 29, 1905, I located the second nest; in this case, owing to the bareness of the trees, concealment was impossible. The duck had laid ten eggs in a last year's nest of the Red-shouldered Hawk in a basswood tree fifty feet up, and the appearance of this large bird sitting on her nest among the naked branches was truly most unique.

In the different works on American ornithology to which I have had access, none of the writers refer in any way to this phase of the bird's life, but in a book on English natural history entitled 'Lakes and Streams' by C. O. G. Napier, published in England in 1879, the writer speaks of the Mallard (*Anas boschas*) as having been found nesting "in a crow's nest at least thirty feet from the ground."

In the two cases I have cited the ducks successfully brought off their broods but by what means they conveyed them to the neighboring marsh I could not ascertain. Both nests were in trees overlooking extensive marshes and in different parts of the county being, possibly, twenty miles apart.—EDWIN BEAUPRÉ, *Kingston, Ont.*

Auk, XXIII, A. S., 1906, p. 218-219.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 444.

31. **Anas obscura.** BLACK DUCK.—Common migrant, March and April; the first return in August (rarely in July), plentiful in October and November; earliest record March 15, 1899, latest December 6, 1897.

This is the breeding form in southern Ontario north at least to the Muskoka Lakes; a female taken alive on her nest at Barnsdale, Lake Joseph, in May, 1905, belonged to this form, and it is no doubt the breeding form much further north.

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

16. **Anas obscura.** BLACK DUCK.—Common summer resident, breeding in the marshes bordering the small fresh-water ponds in the close neighborhood of the salt water.

Auk, VI, April, 1889, p. 146

Kingsville, Ontario.

Another Tagged Bird heard from.— Mr. J. T. Miner of Kingsville, Ont., has a number of wild ducks in semi-domestication along with geese and pheasants. Each year he has interesting experiences with wild birds, which are attracted by the presence of their kind.

Last fall his Black Ducks attracted a wild one of the same species on August 5, and within a few weeks the bird became so tame, that it could be handled. Mr. Miner then put a ring around its leg, and left it at liberty as before. About Dec. 15, it left, and the following letter from Mr. W. E. Bray, Anderson, South Carolina, gives subsequent history.

Anderson, S. C.

On Friday evening, Jan. 14, I was hunting on Rokey River near this city, and killed a wild duck, with a band on his leg marked Box 48 Kingsville, Ont.

I supposed who ever sent him out wanted to hear from him, so I am writing to let you know where he came to his end. He was a very fine specimen. I must commend him for his judgment, for he came to the best county in the best state in America.

If you will let me hear from you, I will return the band I took from his leg. So hoping you will send me his pedigree, I will close until I hear from you. Send me your address in full. W. E. Bray.

Mr. Miner writes that Mr. Bray has since sent him the identical ring which was on the Duck's leg.

Kingsville lies on the north shore of Lake Erie, about twenty-five miles from the east end of the lake.— W. E. SAUNDERS, *London, Ontario.*

Aut 27. Apr - 1910 p. 221 - 222.

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

Maine

99. *Anas obscura* Gm. BLACK DUCK. — "Very common, breeding"
at Houlton.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, July, 1882, p. 151

Summer Birds Tim Pond Me. by F. H. C.

Black Mallard, (*Anas obscura*). A small flock
remained in "Mud" pond for about a week. This
pond is separated from Tim Pond by a beaver dam.

O. & O. XI. Feb. 1883. p. 257

Shelburne, N. H. Aug. 8-29-1865. E. D.

Anas obscura? "Ducks". - Saw two flying very swiftly up
the river. Heard of two flocks seen
wintering in the river.

Anas obscura. - Aug. ¹17, ¹22 Eye Beach, N. H. 1866.

Anas obscura. - Aug. ²21, ⁵22, ¹24 Eye Beach, N. H. 1867.

Anas obscura. - Aug. ^{3 P.}15, ^{3 P.}17 Eye Beach, N. H. 1868.

Anas obscura. - July ^{8 P.}30; Aug. ²4, ¹⁰9, ¹⁵10, ⁵20, ³26, ⁵29 Eye Beach, N. H. 1871.

Anas obscura. - July ¹29; Aug. ⁴8, ²9, ¹³15, ⁴16, ¹23, 24 Eye Beach, N. H. 1872.

North Readfield, Mass.

Anas obscura.

1885-

Aug. 2

Our tenant Mr. Moore told me to-day that several pairs of Black Ducks have bred this season in the meadow on our farm (Ware River). He has heard them nearly every evening quacking loudly and has often seen them flying up and down the stream.

31. *Anas obscura*. - April 1⁵ - 6²⁰ E. Mass. 1885.

Princeton & Rutland, Mass. Aug. 2-1885

33. *Anas obscura*. - Seen daily in our meadow } *Hoar*

Nov. 21-23. 21. *Anas obscura* - 21³⁰ In salt creek. Great Id. Mass. ¹⁸⁸⁶

Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.

Anas obscura. Barley found egg shells bank of brook

Great Id. Mass. Dec. 1888. 18⁵⁰ - 16²⁰⁰

Anas obscura - 18⁵⁰ - 16²⁰⁰

Mass. (near Concord). 1887

1887

April 7⁵⁰ - 12²

May 28¹

Anas obscura

Mass. (near Concord).

MAY 28 1887 - At sunset a Black Duck
passed over me within gunshot
flying down river.

Anas obscura.

Mass. (near Concord).

1888

APR 5²⁰ - 9²⁵ - 12⁵

Anas obscura.

Mass. (near Concord).

1888

Oct. 27²

Anas obscura.

ESQ

Anas obscura

Shooting & Fishing vol 19,
no 9, Dec. 19th 1895
pp. 172-173

A capital description
by F. W. Benson of
Black Duck shooting
in Mass. especially
of Cape Cod winter
shooting in winter.

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

Anas obscura Gmel., Black Duck. Mi-
grant, common. A few breed.

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

Notes on Birds of Winchendon, Mass.
William Brewster.

Anas obscura.—Mr. Bailey sees a few Black Ducks every summer but they are much less numerous at that season than in spring and autumn. Early in June, 1888, he found on the bank of a brook, the shells of several eggs that had probably hatched a few days before.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888, p. 390

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

2. *Anas obscura*.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888, p. 389

Ducks of Cohasset, Mass., 1860-92
O. H. B. Boston, Mass.

4. Black Duck (133). Common during the
fall migration.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 90

Mass. (near Concord). Nantucket

1890

June 1 - ♀ with young in breeding
beds - Nantucket seen by Geo. H.
Mallory. He saw only 2 young, any small
Anas obscura

General Notes.

From the 13th to the 20th of October, 1894, was the flight week for
Black Ducks (*Anas obscura*), about 300 birds being noted passing south,
the largest flock containing over fifty. *Geo. H. Mackay, Nantucket, Mass.*

Auk XII. Jan. 1895 p. 77

General Notes.

Summer Birds of Central Berkshire ~~Ralph Hoffmann~~
Country, Mass. ~~Francis H. Allen.~~

1. *Anas obscura*. BLACK DUCK. — One pair seen in Stockbridge.

Auk XII. Jan. 1895 p. 88

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

Sundry notes.

Anas obscura. — Ponkapog Pond, Massachusetts, October 21, 1895. The
first flock of migratory Black Ducks (eighteen in number) of the season
came into the pond to-day, thirteen of which were killed. — **GEORGE H.
MACKAY, Nantucket, Mass.**

THE DUCKS OF PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MASSACHU-
SETTS.

BY HERBERT K. JOB.

WHATEVER may be the claims of other sections of New England, it is certain that Plymouth County, Mass., especially the southern half, is notably a favorite resort of the Ducks. Every one of the twenty-eight species attributed to New England has been noted within the last ten years.

The topographical conditions are specially favorable for their occurrence and capture. The county has an extended and varied coast-line, with good feeding grounds. Of the latter there are two specially notable,—Plymouth Bay on the east, and Buzzard's Bay on the south. Another minor feeding ground is in the southwest corner of Cape Cod Bay, where the townships of Plymouth and Bourne adjoin,—the South Plymouth resort. A few miles south of Plymouth Bay is a projection called Manomet Point, one of the finest spots for sea shooting on the whole New England coast. Vast hordes of ducks go by here in the autumn into Cape Cod Bay. The number is less in the spring, as the greater body, flying north, is deflected seaward by the convex side of Cape Cod, while in the flight south they suddenly find themselves hemmed in by the up-curving arm of the Cape.

Southern Plymouth County is well termed the 'Lake Region of Massachusetts.' It is full of ponds, and is drained mainly by the Taunton River and its tributaries. The largest bodies of fresh water in the State are found here. Assowompsett Pond, the greatest in area, is a broad oval sheet, shallow, three miles long by two across. The next is Long Pond, close by, four miles long by over a mile in width. These and a number of others comprise a distinct group, known as the Lakeville Ponds. Eastward, in the southern part of old Plymouth town, a region of veritable wilderness, is another large group. Then, north and west, in Kingston, Halifax and vicinity, is still another group, the largest being Monponsett Pond and Silver Lake, the latter a noted spot for shooting geese. Many of the Fuliginæ daily enter these ponds lying near the coast to obtain fresh water and to feed.

Anas obscura abnormal.

C. A. PORTER, M. D.
OFFICE HOURS:
UNTIL 9 A. M., 2 TO 3 AND 7 P. M.
TELEPHONE.

254 BEACON STREET.

March 26, 1902.

My dear Mr. Brewster:--

Mr. Richie Simpkins sent me a duck two weeks ago, which he shot at Palmer's Island, Currituck. I do not know in just what condition the bird is, but I thought I would tell you about it, and see if you would be interested to send your man in to get it. The bird is undoubtedly a black duck, the head, wings, tail and feet are normal, and appear to have belonged to a bird in the second year.. The whole body and lower part of the neck is covered with fluffy down, which one would expect in a duckling of a few months.

I have had Dr. Harding, a dermatologist see the specimen, and he said

over

that it appeared to him to be an anomaly of growth, so that feathers could not be formed, and in their place only down grew. It seemed to me that the bird might be suffering from some dermatitis or similar skin disease.

The specimen interested me, and I thought that it might you. Should you care to see it, and to send in your man, I will leave word with the servant to give it to you, and I am curious to know what you think about it.

Faithfully yours,

Allen S. Porter

C. F. Batchelder says that the above relates to a hoop fastened on Mrs. Porter by some young man who carefully plucked the outer feathers from the bird in question. He thinks A. P. Audubon was concerned in this. W. B.

Readville, Mass.

Anas obscura

1885

Breeding in E. Mass.

Ortram Bangs tells me (July 30) that during the past spring his brother took a set of nine Black Ducks eggs in the marshes (fresh) bordering the Neponset River in Readville. He met a man who was carrying a freshly-killed Black Duck and who, in reply to his questioning, said that he had flushed the bird from her nest which he offered to show Mr. Bangs. Upon reaching the spot he (Mr. B.) found three of the eggs broken and one or two of the

Mass. (Worcester Co.)

Anas obscura

1886

Breeding

Mr. S. Perry tells me that Black Ducks still breed generally but sparingly throughout Worcester Co. A pair or two can be usually found about each pond or meadow.

N. H. (Lake Winnepesaukee)

Anas obscura

1887

Breeding

Jan 11

Mr. Thompson of Wolfboro tells me that Black Ducks still breed in some numbers about the shores of the lake.

others joined by rust legs
showing that the loon birds
had been really killed on
the nest.

Mass. (Worcester Co.)

Anas o

1886 Breeding

Mr. J. Perry tells me that
still breed generally but sparse
Worcester Co. A pair or two can
found about each pond or

N. H. (Lake Winnepesaukee)

Anas

1887 Breeding

Jan 11 Mr. Thompson of Wolfboro
tells me that Black Ducks still
were numerous about the
of the lake.

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Anas obscura

June 9th Saybrook

Black Duck found about Saybrook but early in season reduced numbers. Mr. Clark took a fine set of 11 eggs this season on the top of a hill just outside of town. It showed us the nest site on June 6. It was built on the ground in a thicket of ^{small tree bushes} ~~dry brush~~ ^{oaks} with bull trees. The bird had worn a path or run way from the nest to the nearest opening a distance of 50 ft. The locality was a dry rocky pasture with no pool or stream more than half a mile. The nest contained an abundance of down when found.

Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

Anas obscura, (Black Mallard). Common in ponds of the region in September afford good shooting. Several pairs were seen in June along the and several farmers informed me of the nests and eggs of this species, subsequent attempts at hatching and juveniles.

D. & O. XI. Dec. 1886. p. 173

Biologist's Summer in Labrador
M. Abbott Frazar.

Anas obscura, Black Duck. Not common, but a few pair found breeding on the islands; the nests being generally placed upon the out-reaching branches of stunted spruces, which seldom attain at highest, above four feet. One nest was fully two hundred yards from the sea, and another which contained nine eggs, was distant at least one hundred yards from the water. The natives say they return year after year to the same nest.

O. & O. XII, Feb. 1827, p. 19.

them at liberty, and together they started on a run through Main street, continuing for forty rods before they turned aside, a distance which they accomplished inside of five minutes; for the little things could run like squirrels. This occurred on the 5th of May, and implies that the eggs must have been laid much earlier than I supposed was customary with the species. There was no water near and they seemed traveling from one creek overland to another, nearly a half mile away.—J. N. Clark, Old Saybrook, Conn.

O. & O. VII. Jul. 1882. p. 144

The Dusky Duck breeds sparingly. A nest was found April 30. It was hollowed out at the foot of an old haystack, and

extended in twenty-seven inches, being completely hidden by a curtain of hay hanging over the entrance. It contained ten eggs; incubation slight. The nest would not have been found had it not been for the old bird hissing like a snake as I passed by it. A farmer found a set of thirteen eggs of this Duck and hatched them all under a common hen, and at latest information all were living, awaiting the ignoble end of perishing at the block.

Notes from Rehoboth, Mass
J. H. Co.

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

1036. Successful Rearing of some Young Dusky Ducks. By J. N. Clark. *Ibid.*, No. 12, p. 93.—J. A. A. **Band. Notes Nat. His. II**

1212. A Hybrid Duck. By G. Frean Morcom. *Ibid.*, No. 16, April 18, p. 368.—*Anas boschas* + *Anas obscura*. **American Field, XXIII**

1285. [A Hybrid Duck.] By F. L. C. *Ibid.*, No. 24, Dec. 10, p. 560. —*Anas boschas* + *Dafila acuta*. **American Field, XXVIII**

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Anas obscura

June 9th

Saybrook

One of my neighbors, sitting by a window, had his attention called to a brood of young ducks running across the street. It was an old Black-duck and her young. He saw them enter a cow-yard, and in one corner she called her brood under her wings and covered them. As he went near she flew some fifteen rods and watched his movements, quacking her displeasure as he proceeded to capture her young ones. He secured ten of them, all the brood but two. After he had examined all he cared to he set them at liberty, and together they started on a run through Main street, continuing for forty rods before they turned aside, a distance which they accomplished inside of five minutes; for the little things could run like squirrels. This occurred on the 5th of May, and implies that the eggs must have been laid much earlier than I supposed was customary with the species. There was no water near and they seemed traveling from one creek overland to another, nearly a half mile away.—*J. N. Clark, Old Saybrook, Conn.*

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*Notes from Rehoboth, Mass
 J. H. Co.*

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

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

97. *Anas obscura*, (Black Mallard). Common in the numerous ponds of the region in September, when they afford good shooting. Several broods of flappers were seen in June along the Dead River, and several farmers informed me of the finding of the nests and eggs of this species, and their subsequent attempts at hatching and rearing the juveniles.

O. & O. XI. Dec. 1886. p. 178

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

Anas obscura, Black Duck. Not common, but a few pair found breeding on the islands; the nests being generally placed upon the out-reaching branches of stunted spruces, which seldom attain at highest, above four feet. One nest was fully two hundred yards from the sea, and another which contained nine eggs, was distant at least one hundred yards from the water. The natives say they return year after year to the same nest.

O. & O. XII, Feb. 1887. p. 19.

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THE NESTING OF THE BLACK DUCK ON PLUM
ISLAND.

BY CHARLES SLOVER ALLEN.

(Plates I and II.)

ALTHOUGH having an area of but a few hundred acres, Plum Island is so varied in its topography and so rich in bird life that it proves a most interesting little world of its own. The narrow eastern portion consists of high, rocky, upland pastures, without a tree or bush. In the miniature valleys each tiny pond has its pair of noisy Killdeers whose nearest neighbors are the Plovers on the hillside and the Nighthawks breeding on the rocky ledges. The whole north shore forms a long, irregular sand cliff of considerable height, thickly studded with huge glacial boulders; some stranded on the beach were thirty feet high, while others showed great rocky masses far out in the water. Prior to 1885, when 'Old Jerome' still owned the island and his law of absolute protection was in full force, there were but few of these boulders that were not crowned with Fish Hawks' nests, to which the Kingfishers paid their visits, like the minstrels of old to the castles of the Vikings. The Swallows had located their colonies in the lesser sand banks of the southern shore that gradually became a broad beach with low scattered sand hills to the westward where the island broadened out into a great rolling sandy plain. Terns were breeding in the drift and sedge close to the beach at South Point. As everywhere else upon this island, Fish Hawks were nesting here by the hundred, on the few isolated and dwarfed trees, and on the ground wherever there was a little sand hill or by the side of each convenient stump, stake, or piece of stranded timber. Sandpipers, Meadowlarks, Sparrows and the like were fearlessly nesting within a few yards of them. Even in the densely populated strip of fairly heavy timber, some eight or ten acres in extent, the Fish Hawks were on the very best of terms with all their smaller neighbors, save only the Crows that represented the criminal element of this community, and a large rookery of Night Herons that persisted in occupying that swampy corner of the woods that merged into and were in part surrounded by the great fresh water marsh in the centre of the island. In this marsh it was that I finally found my

Habits in winter -

Swampscott, Mass.
January 27, 1883

During a cruise off and along shore to-day I saw several very large flocks of Black Ducks. One body, comprising at least two hundred individuals, settled on the top of an isolated rock that rose at least thirty feet above the water. There was a little grass on the top but its sides were bare and nearly vertical. The Ducks settled all over the top in solid masses but very few moments they would rise, as if startled or fearful of danger,

Ducks transporting Fresh-water Clams.—In a conversation with Mr. J. W. Freese of Cambridge in relation to birds transporting bodies in their claws, my attention was called to an interesting observation made by Mr. Eugene Barry of Lynn. As the observation seems an important one, touching a possible cause of the distribution of these mollusks, I have asked Mr. Barry, through the kindness of Mr. Freese, to write out his experience, and from the letter which he has kindly sent in reply the following abstract is made.

While gunning on the Sebec River, Maine, he noticed among a flock of Ducks on the wing, one bird which flew more heavily than the others. This he shot, and on picking it up found a common 'fresh-water clam attached to the penultimate joint of the 'middle toe.' He cut off the leg with the clam adhering to it, and noticed that the articulation to which the mollusk had fastened itself was chafed as if the clam had clung to it for sometime. After a day or more the leg of the Duck and the clam, which had not yet released its hold, were put into a basin of water, when the mollusk opened its shell and released the imprisoned foot. Mr. Barry afterwards learned from boys of the neighborhood that the same Duck had been noticed flying about on several mornings and evenings previous to the day upon which he shot it. The clam was probably clinging to the Duck's foot at that time, and had not released its grip even when the Duck lit upon the water, as it must frequently have done in the intervals of time between observation.—J. WALTER FEWKES, Cambridge, Mass.

Auk, I, April, 1884. p. 195-196.

and making several whirrs
in the air alight again. I
was nearly as much surprised
if they had alighted on trees
or the tops of houses.
At this season they feed
mostly by night, in thorn,
oak, when some fresh-water
brook unites. They are so
extremely wary that they are
 seldom killed in any numbers.

Ducks transporting Fresh-water Clams.—In a conversation with Mr. J. W. Freese of Cambridge in relation to birds transporting bodies in their claws, my attention was called to an interesting observation made by Mr. Eugene Barry of Lynn. As the observation seems an important one, touching a possible cause of the distribution of these mollusks, I have asked Mr. Barry, through the kindness of Mr. Freese, to write out his experience, and from the letter which he has kindly sent in reply the following abstract is made.

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Auk, I, April, 1884. p. 195-196.

1832-35

Dr. Samuel Cabot tells me that during these years he used to have fair shooting Black and Wood Ducks along Alewife Brook between Fresh Pond and Little Pond. The brook was then navigable for small boats and abounded in secluded pools and sedge-margined nooks sure to be filled with various species of Ducks at the proper season. He used to paddle from Fresh Pond to Spy Pond reaching the latter and after dining at Menotomy Tavern

Massachusetts

The Black Duck Controversy Again.— During the last two years, 1911 and 1912, I have been much interested in a pair of wild Black Ducks, apparently adult birds, that nested near a shallow pond back in the woods at my place, Newton Centre, Mass. In 1911 they raised a brood of ten young flappers, and while in 1912 they again nested there, I am unable to say what became of the young, as I was forced to let the water out of the pond before the time of their hatching. The old birds from their habits were very apparently the same pair that returned each spring, and they were of the so-called green-legged kind.

While at Monomoy Island, Mass., during the last two weeks of October, 1912, with a couple of friends, we shot a number of Black Duck of the red-legged kind (there were no green legs), among which were several that were apparently young birds; and on October 25 there fell to one of our guns a female, which from its size, plumage, and general characteristics, was so evidently young that there could be no possible doubt about it. I personally skinned and sexed this specimen, which showed its immaturity in all those ways familiar to those who handle birds. It must have been one of a very late brood, for its upper mandible was a steel gray, and had not yet begun to show those shades of light olive green of the adult bird, and the 'nail' at the end of the upper mandible was hardly darker than the rest of the bill, and nothing like the dark and glossy black of the adult bird. The lower mandible was pinkish and still quite soft and pliable, as in the case of very young ducks, and *the bird had red legs.*

Let us hope that this is the final nail in the coffin of the Black Duck controversy, and that it may hold so securely that even Dr. Dwight may not again resurrect the corpse in some post-mortem or pre-cherubic plumage.— F. H. KENNARD, Boston, Mass.

Auk. xxx. Jan. 1913. p. 106.

(I am about the only person in
the night of the pond) returning in
the afternoon. In our pool
I think he remembers saying he
Ducks of several species, chiefly
Black & Wood Ducks.

During those years he did
not see any young Ducks of
any species in their broods
and remembers taking a
egg (with hard shell) from
the side of a Black Duck
which he shot there in
the spring. He believes that
this egg is still in his
collection. (Notes taken after a
talk with Dr. Cabot Jan, 18, 1885)

Massachusetts

The Black Duck Controversy Again.—During the last two years, 1911 and 1912, I have been much interested in a pair of wild Black Ducks, apparently adult birds, that nested near a shallow pond back in the woods at my place, Newton Centre, Mass. In 1911 they raised a brood of ten young flappers, and while in 1912 they again nested there, I am unable to say what became of the young, as I was forced to let the water out of the pond before the time of their hatching. The old birds from their habits were very apparently the same pair that returned each spring, and they were of the so-called green-legged kind.

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Auk. xxx. Jan. 1913. p. 106.

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Grounds, Brooklyn, G. H. Coues

58. *Anas obscura*. DUSKY DUCK. — One specimen seen.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 33

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

155. *Anas obscura*, Gmelin. BLACK DUCK. — A tolerably common summer resident.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct., 1881, p. 284

1700. *Museum of N. Y.*, 88-89

Dr. C. S. Allen also exhibited two nestlings of the Black Duck (*Anas obscura*) and fragments of one of the eggs, showing the perforated line around the larger end made by the young bird for escaping. This line is always made to the right.

Auk, 8, 1889, p. 197.

Birds Toga Co, N. Y. Alden Loring.

602. Black Mallard. Occasionally found in the spring in the ponds and standing pools from overflows.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 68

Winter Notes from Stephentown, N. Y.
Benjamin Hoag.

Flocks of Black Ducks noted as late as Christmas.

O. & O. Vol. 18, Jan. 1893 p. 11

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the
Northern Adirondacks [Axtell], New York [1901].
April 30 to May 5.

Black Mallard. Not common.

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.
Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 296.

Nesting of the Black Duck in Yates County, N. Y. — May 26, 1907, I found a nest of the Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) in Potter Swamp. The locality was a young second growth of maple, beech and ash of four to eight inches in diameter. The ground was nearly dry and covered with a rank growth of ferns and skunk cabbage. The female was flushed from a bunch of six small maples growing from a mound about three feet above the surrounding ground and there in the center of the bunch of trees were six eggs layed on a few broken fern stems and dead leaves.

On my next visit (June 2) there were nine eggs and a nice lot of down had been placed around and among the eggs. A farmer told Mr. C. F. Stone of finding a nest of this duck in Potter Swamp in 1892 or 1893, but this is the first authentic record to my knowledge. — VERDI BURTON,
Branchport, N. Y.

Auk 27, Apr-1910 p. 205

Albinos.
Geo. G. Bryantwell, Minneapolis, Minn.

But the best specimeu of an Albino that has ever come to my notice, is to be seen in the window of Mr. H. Krueger's gun store of this city, in the shape of an almost pure Albino Mallard which was killed by H. Rippe on Oct. last near this place.

The general color is a pure snow white with the exception of a few traces of brown on the breast, and light gray marking on the back, the top and sides of head are the normal color of a ♀ Mallard, the wings show slight greenish reflections in the proper place, the tail is also slightly mottled with dark. I was unable to find out the sex, but think it is a female.

O & O. XIII. Dec. 1888 p. 184

Editor of O. & O.:

Knowing you to be well acquainted with the birds of this region, I am going to impose upon your time for a few moments to ask a question or two about the "Black Duck," as we call it here, the *Anas obscura*, and to give you an observation which perhaps may be so well known to you that you will think it scarcely worth the trouble to answer.

During the first two weeks in December, 1890, I shot a good many of the above-named ducks upon a small stream in this vicinity, and upon two occasions, when the thermometer was very low, I found the bills of the ducks were a very *bright orange yellow*, and the feet were much more brilliant red. Saturday, December 13th, I shot five of these birds and three, which were males, had these brilliant yellow bills. The temperature on this day was -5° at 7 A.M., and did not rise above $+6^{\circ}$ at any time during the day. On bringing the birds into the house and laying them on the rug before an open fire the bills and feet became their usual color. This has occurred to me several times this winter and only upon very cold days.

Now I would like to ask if this is a usual occurrence, or was it only accidental that the cold weather and the color of the bills were as above stated? I never in the course of my reading noticed any remark about the matter, and do not suppose it of much consequence, but never have I seen in such horny matter as the bill so complete a change in a few moments.

I hope I have not troubled you too much, and that you will deign to answer some time when you have leisure.

Arthur Talbot Lincoln, M.D.
Dennysville, Me.

[A few days since the writer had occasion to call on a party who had just received a number of Eider Ducks. As they lay spread out on a board the bright chrome bills of the males were very noticeable. Two days later when they came into our office not a trace of the color was to be seen; all had turned to the slaty shade. The bills of the Scoters, Wood Ducks, etc., all lose their brilliant color in a few hours after death.—Ed.]

O & O, XVI, March, 1891, p. 48

BLACK DUCKS FROM A BATTERY.

THE dusky or black duck—*Anas obscura*—is as cunning and wary in his haunt among the wild oats or in the ponds, or wherever he may be found, as the fox is on the land. By carefully studying their habits and necessities thousands are shot every year along our coast notwithstanding their wariness.

Many are shot by "laying for black ducks" concealed in the shade under a bank or in a hole dug near their favorite feeding grounds. In the evening many are shot while flying up the course of the rivers to the ponds or river banks, where the wild oats are plenty. But perhaps the best time is when a snowstorm is coming on late in the fall. They leave the salt water and fly up the rivers to get the shelter of the wild oats or any other place that will protect them. They seem to be partially blinded by the snow or sleet, the snow prevents their seeing everything they always do, under ordinary circumstances. The shooter by lying down or hiding behind a haystack will get many good shots in a short time. One of the best places that I ever knew in the vicinity of New Haven is on the Quinnipiac River, just above "the brickyards," where there are hundreds of acres of wild oats stretching far and wide, where they feed every night. (It is also a most famous place for rail shooting in the fall.)

Many black ducks are shot in the winter by the shooter covering himself with a white sheet when the snow covers the shores, and also by lying on a big cake of ice on a blanket near the channel. When the tide rises the ducks swim up the channel to feed on the roots of the sedge and to dig up with their bills the small long clams that are found along the shores.

This practice of shooting black ducks in the dead of winter should be prohibited by law. The ducks are then miserably poor and rank in flavor. The black duck is too good, in its season, to be destroyed in this way. In the fall they are fully as good, and many think better, than the tame duck or the mallard.

Alluding to the extreme wariness of the black duck I never knew of but one exception, and that was nearly thirty years ago.

At New Haven in our open harbor, contrary to their usual habits, a flock of about fifteen black ducks were to be seen feeding every day not more than thirty rods from Long Wharf, nor more than fifteen rods from where the N. Y. & N. H. R. R. depot now stands. Although men and teams were passing every few minutes on the wharf, the ducks seemed to pay no attention to it. This was early in the season.

Whether these ducks were reared near some farmhouse where they saw men and teams every day, with all the usual noises about a farmhouse, and were not disturbed, and so had more confidence and faith in mankind than they did soon afterward, is more than I can say, but it looks to me like the most probable solution of the question. They fed and played about there "with such a shocking tameness" as to attract considerable notice. And I am sorry to say (?) that I was the first one to destroy that faith.

But as all men and ducks find out sooner or later that they cannot put much faith in man, I thought it best to disabuse their minds of that idea at once, and to see its utter folly.

At this time I had a battery, the same as those used on the Chesapeake Bay. I proposed to a storekeeper on Long Wharf, and he was an old duck shooter, the bringing down to his store of my battery, and there to launch it, and he to let his man assist me and to pick up any ducks that I might shoot, which he agreed to do; but he remarked that "Their man would have no ducks to pick up," and all that. "Who ever heard of black ducks being shot on their open feeding grounds from a battery." Well, the battery was launched and towed out to the place I selected. The decoys, about a dozen of white-winged coot decoys, the nearest thing I had, were properly set.

I lay down flat on my back with my head resting on a sandbag, so that I could just look over the edge of the battery, and facing the mouth of the harbor. In less than an hour I saw the ducks coming, a half mile away. On they came, straight toward me, flying very high. I had made up my mind to shoot on the first reasonable chance. As they came it seemed as though they eyed those old coot ducks with suspicion; at any rate they could claim but slight relationship.

They flew past rather out of shooting distance, and circled around toward Long Wharf; it looked to me as though it was my only chance, so I let go, and down came one, winged. The next moment I saw John, my assistant, coming in his sharpie to pick up the first "black duck ever shot on their open feeding grounds from a battery." He had a long chase as he sailed partly on the water and partly on the mud, but he got him.

The next day I went again and had the decoys set as usual. I then lay on my back waiting for anything

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that might turn up—or come down. I waited long, but no duck appeared.

Knowing it to be the habit of black ducks to fly up if they hear a gun fired anywhere within a mile, I rose to a sitting position and fired one barrel and immediately dropped back, and peering over the edge of the battery I saw the flock rise straight up, a half mile away, and fly toward the old spot.

I had but one barrel (I used a percussion gun in those days) and they came in the same way they did before, very high up and almost right over me. I pulled and down came one, dead, and struck within 30ft. of me. The wind being favorable, he drifted within reach and I secured him.

In shooting from a battery or a boat it is very desirable to be able to shoot from both the right or the left shoulder. When shooting from the right shoulder, while in a sitting position in a battery, you will find that you cannot also from the left shoulder and shoot to the right; but if you can shoot quite well after some practice, by bringing up the gun quickly and aiming at some object without firing. I met with a funny incident in my first practice at shooting to the right from my left shoulder. I had selected one of my decoys that was furthest to the right, but it being awkward work at first I happened to touch the trigger and the decoy went end over end, full of shot.

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