

Dafila
acuta

Br. 274 (52)
v. 59

Dafila acuta

1890 Mass.

Nov. 14 Martha's Vineyard. - Mr. Wm. Stocomb shot two this morning in Squibnocket Pond. They came in to his decoys in company with Black Ducks.

1893

Sept. 11 Ipswich. A young ♂ shot by a gunner who gave it to Mr. W. Faxon of whom it afterwards passed & found in the mounted coll. of the Mus. Comp. Zoology.

1892 Maine

Oct. Bangor. "A Pin-tail Duck was in our market last week the first I ever knew taken here" (Mr. Hardy letter Oct. 17, 1892.)

1893 Mass.

Autumn Bridgewater. Mr. H. R. Job tells me (Dec. 26/94) that in the autumn of 1893 a Mr. Bassett who shoots from a stand on the shore of Nipanechet Pond found Pintails abundant & killed a great many of them. This year (1894) but few were seen.

1889

Rhode Island

Sept. 20 Middletown. - A ♂ taken by Edward Startzman "the only one that I have ever seen in this country (salt marsh between 2nd & 3rd beaches)" Coll. Mr. C. S. G. I afterwards bought this specimen & on examination it proved to be a Widgeon (Marica americana)

1899. Mass.

Dec. 13 Cambridge. - Saw an fair old drake & a young ♂ passing in Fresh Pond into mature plumage swimming together in Fresh Pond in the midst of a lot of Black Ducks.

" 21 The same two Pintails again in Fresh Pond. They came within 100 yards of shore at one time (G. journal for further details)

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

108. *Dafila acuta*. PINTAIL.—The only one Mr. Comeau ever saw
here he shot June 7, 1882.

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

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

38

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

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

38. *Dafila acuta*. PINTAIL.—Regular migrant, not very common.
April 6 is my only spring record; in the fall, October 20 to December 6.

The Pintail Duck (*Dafila acuta*) in Winter near Portland, Maine.—
The Pintail, as it occurs in Maine, is one of the less common, and less hardy migrants, of more frequent occurrence in fall than in spring. Although Mr. George A. Boardman, cited it as "rare in winter"¹ he gave a different statement for the History of North American Birds,² and we must regard his first statement as unverified, according to existing literature.

The next definite consideration, perhaps was that of E. A. Samuels, who gave its New England status, as "September 10 to the last week in October."³

Finally⁴ Mr. N. C. Brown showed that it had been known to remain in the vicinity of Portland, Maine, on one occasion until November 7.⁵

In 1893, Capt. Herbert L. Spinney entered in his private journal, on November 25 the capture of one at Small Point, Maine, and in 1895, Mr. Walter H. Rich secured a pair, male and female, which had been shot February 10, at Cow Island, Casco Bay. One was taken November 20, 1901, at Cape Elizabeth, Maine, but was not preserved. A female was shot at Scarborough, December 9, 1911, the skull of which is preserved.

On February 15, 1912, in company with Messrs. I. W. and E. B. Pillsbury—both men of long experience and familiarity with our shore and water birds—I saw a Pintail drake among many Black Ducks near Martain's Point Bridge between Portland and Falmouth. This was at noon of a bright day, and with glasses, the markings, its dark head, and crissum, attenuated tail and slender outlines, its manner of feeding, rendered both its species and its sex unmistakable. On the day previous Mr. E. B. Pillsbury and game warden George Cushman had seen it at the same place, when it was observed to fly for several hundred yards, with characteristic speed and strength. That it was not a new comer is indicated by the fact that Mr. John Whitney, a man with a gunner's keen knowledge of the Anatinae, had reported some weeks earlier, a Pintail wintering in the vicinity. That the bird was strong of wing, after, evidently, surviving the low temperature, of the previous week, which ranged each night below zero Fahrenheit, indicates that it had remained through choice, rather than necessity, and with the foregoing notes, shows that the Pintail occasionally spends at least a considerable part of the winter as far northeast as Portland, Maine.—ARTHUR H. NORTON. *Portland, Me.*

¹ 1862. Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H., IX: p. 129.

² 1884. Water Birds 11: 514.

³ 1870. Birds of New Eng. and Adjacent States, p. 492.

⁴ In his Feathered Game of the Northeast, 1907, p. 314, Mr. W. H. Rich without specifying time, or place, mentions a pair, "shot in some of the severest winter weather." These birds, now in his possession, were taken in this vicinity, and he has most kindly given me the data credited to him, in this article.

⁵ Proc. Portland Soc. N. H. ii: pp. 31.

[Handwritten signature]

1884

Daphia acuta

R. R. Knobell
2. 19

835, ♂, Sept 6? 1884

" 6? "

836 ♀

(Field coll. C. R. Knobell.
Collector's name not given
But probably George N. Knobell)

Dafila acuta

In Cambridge

Cambridge, Mass.
Oct. 1882.

Charles R. Lamb shot one from
a flock of five that passed through
the "Artificial" Pond without alighting.

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

Dafila acuta (Linn.), Pintail. Migrant, rare.

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

O. & O. Vol. 14 no 3
March 1889
p. 47

A ♂ Pintail Duck was killed on Lynn, Mass., marshes,
Feb. 21st. There were twelve in the flock. A. M. Tufts.

Notes.

A ♂ Pintail Duck was killed on Lynn, Mass., marshes,
Feb. 21st. There were twelve in the flock. A. M. Tufts.

O. & O. XIV, Mar. 1889 p. 47

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

9. Pintail (143). Occasionally met with,
usually in company with flocks of Scoters.

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

General Notes. During the first half of November, the most common Duck about here
Auk, 9 Jan. was *Dafila acuta*; this was something quite unusual. One day I was one
of a party that captured nine specimens, and we could easily have taken
1892. p. 74 more if we had cared to do so. There were a few *Anas obscura* in com-
pany with the *Dafila acuta*, instead of the reverse as is usually the case if
any of the latter kind are in this locality. Robert O. Morris, Springfield, Mass.

General Notes.

Stray Notes from Massachusetts.
George H. Mackay.

Dafila acuta.—Sept. 21. An immature bird shot to-day.

Auk XI, Jan. 1894 p. 84

1882 Dafila acuta Cambridge
October 2. To-day clear. Went
shooting early around
Artificial [in Glacialis] over
Willie Gooch. We saw a flock
of 5 Pintails one [♀] of which
I shot! Answer was wounded
by another gunner
(not book C. R. Lamb)

Dafila acuta.

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

Old Records for Mass. & Rhode Id.

November 5, 1875. Shot one Pintail Duck (*Dafila acuta*).

Auk 28, Jan-¹⁹¹¹~~1875~~, p. 119.

Dafila acuta.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899. Two in the Pond (Fresh Pond) on the 13th and again on the December. 21st. There can be little doubt that they were the same birds on both occasions for one was a fine old drake, the other a young male in a plumage about intermediate between that of the adult of its own sex and the female. The adult male showed the white on the neck conspicuously at all times. Both birds swam about among the Black Ducks but invariably kept close to one another. I did not see either of them stretch up its neck to the full length. Indeed they usually carried their heads quite as low as did the Black Ducks. I had an excellent view of them and their identification was wholly satisfactory.

Birds of Adirondack Region - Merriam.

199. *Dafila acuta*. PINTAIL.—Rather rare. Occurs both in spring and fall.

Bull. N.O.C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 258

Notes concerning certain birds of Foy Island, N.Y.

By William C. Brailsford, M.D.

Dafila acuta

Auk, XXII, April, 1885, p. 169.

See *Cerythra americana*.

326. *Pintail Duck* [*Dafila acuta*]. Its Nest and Eggs. By D. H. |
Eaton. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 63.

*aix
Iponsa*

his spouse

1890 Mass.

May 24 Cambridge. Since early in April I have seen Hood Ducks nearly every evening that I have spent near Pont Pond. There are at least three, apparently a pair and a single drake. They all come, in the evening twilight, to Pont Pond which is apparently their feeding ground at night. Almost invariably they come directly from the swamp N.W. of Beach Island. On one occasion I saw all three rise from ^{among the} flooded maples in this swamp and know they are doubtless nesting. A man who lives on the west side of Pont Pond swamp tells me that Hood Ducks have ~~appeared~~ ^{has} summered in or near this swamp for the last three years. He ^{seen} several broods of young (or the same brood several times) each of these summers. Last summer his son found a nest with ten eggs "in a hollow root" on the shore of Pont Pond. The young were associate with his tame Ducks which breed in this swamp but a large brood of Blue-winged Teal (!) which was hatched in this swamp last season joined his Ducks with this mother and often came on shore near the duck yard. The son, a bright truth-telling boy, corroborated the story of the nest with ten eggs. Several sportsmen shot in this swamp in autumn & kill a good many Hood Ducks there, the man says.

Cohasset. Mr. Ellery H. Clark tells me that his brother once shot a Hood Duck over ^{on the} decoys off Cohasset. This is the second instance of this that has come to my notice, the first being ^{on the} ocean. of a ♂ shot at Seaview Point, R.I., by Mr. Mackay. The latter bird was in the midst of a flock of Scoters.

1891

April 11 Cambridge. Saw a pair this evening, just as it was getting dark, rise from the flood swamp N. of Beach Island and circle over the trees. The ♂ performed the curious evolution characteristic of this species suddenly checking his flight by a ~~few~~ twisting motion of the wings at the same time rising sharply, then dipping and resuming the normal flight.

Aix Sponsa

1891 Mass.

Massachusetts,

1892.

Aix sponsa. (no. 1)

March 10. Concord. The Wood Ducks were also among flooded brush. I came suddenly on them just as I turned the bend at "Hunt's pond" and they were before I saw them flying a few yards directly towards me before they could clear the bushes and then turning down river. The ♂, a superb bird, uttered the oh, ooch and the ♀ the Guinea-hen-like kei á, kei á.

June 3. As I rounded the bend opposite Holden's Hill, three Wood Ducks started from the flooded maples on the right where I used to see them in 1886. As nearly as I could make out these birds were all drakes in faded plumage.

July 1. As I am listening to them there is a sudden crash and heavy fluttering within a few yards of me on the right and a Wood Duck bursts up through the foliage of the button bushes and comes but almost in my face, then shuns off down river just above the water, its wings emitting a light, silvery whistle. It must have started up two others just below Dakins bend and wheeled back with them for the next instant I saw three of these ducks flying up Holden's brook. They all look plain grayish brown as I get the light on their sides but they may be drakes in summer plumage. I see what a doubtless the same three birds later, (as I come up the river in the evening twilight) flying down stream over the Beaver-dam rapids. They have haunted this stretch of river for several weeks.

Massachusetts.

Aix sponsa, (no. 2).

1892.

Sept. 9. Concord. A little below Hurl's Pond I started a Wood Duck from the bushes on the right bank, I was paddling silently and keeping close in so that the bird did not discover me until it saw the bow of the canoe within a few yards when it rose with a heavy flutter and came out past me within ten or fifteen feet. It was, as I could plainly see, a drake in mixed plumage probably an old bird moulting & changing from the summer plumage to the full autumnal dress.

Oct. 15 On the way down river I started two Wood Ducks from the Holt. They flew scarce 200 yards and dropped in again directly opposite Dahur's Hill, where I came upon them under an overhanging maple, as they swam out from the bank to get a good look at me I put my glass on them and saw that both were drakes in full plumage beautiful creatures. I saw them a third time as I came up river at evening.

Oct. 17 On the way down we saw three Wood Ducks, at least two of which were drakes in full plumage. They were swimming in the middle of the river just above Hurl's Pond and flew when we were about 100 yards off. An hour later I started them again opposite Holden's Hill.

his spouse.

Concord, Mass.

1893.

March 31 Early in the afternoon I heard several shots Wood Duck
(no 4) fired on the river below the hill and shortly afterwards Henry Lawrence appeared in his old flat-bottomed boat with his Shepard dog sitting in the prow. He had two musk rats and told of shooting at a Wood Duck which rose from the brush near Davis Hill and which he claimed to have wounded severely. After he had passed on up river I put my canoe in the water and paddled to Davis's Hill. Just as I was approaching the landing a beautiful male Wood Duck swam out of the bushes and being me rose and flew off down river uttering the pe-e-e-e call repeatedly. It evidently was not in the least injured although it must have been the bird at which Lawrence had fired less than an hour before. He told me afterwards that he saw three more Wood Ducks flying together near Holden's meadow.

Concord, Mass.
April, 10. 1893.

I started a Wood Duck for the two brothers on Great Meadow. The distance is about one mile. The weather is very cold.

Concord, Mass.

1893

May 11 As I was up, I'll take the day off. Wood Duck
(no 4) We're in the boat, I'm holding the oars, and the dog is riding in the bow. We're in 7 miles in the boat now. The water is 18°.

Aix sponsa.

Concord, Mass.

1894. Wood Ducks were more numerous in the river than usual
Oct. 11 owing probably to the fact that many of the smaller ponds and
to brooks were nearly or quite dry this autumn. On Oct. 17th a
Nov. 21. pair of these beautiful Ducks appeared on the reach known as
the Holt, and remained there constantly until the 20th when I
shot them both. At first they were rather shy but as they
were not molested and became accustomed to the frequent ap-
pearance of boats and canoes they soon allowed us to paddle or
row within short gun range before taking flight. After the
first day they frequented the Holt and the wooded reach just
above Hunt's Pond, indifferently, flying from ^{one} place to the
other and back again as often as they were disturbed, regular-
ly doubling back over the land to avoid the approaching boat.
I should not have killed them but for the fact that the 20th
was Saturday and it was practically certain that the meadows
would be alive with gunners on the Sunday. Although I had
had numerous easy shots at them through the week they gave me
no little trouble when I went in pursuit of them on the 20th.
It happened in this wise:-

As I was launching my canoe Herbert Holden came past and
of course we paddled down river together. We found the Ducks
at Hunt's Pond but they rose out of range and flew to the
Holt. Here again they started wild and went back to Hunt's

Aix sponsa.

Concord, Mass.

1894. Pond. Holden very generously now agreed to leave them to me
Oct. 11 and kept on down stream while I paddled back nearly to Hunt's
to
Nov. 21. Pond and landing stole cautiously along the meadow behind the
(No. 2). fringe of trees and bushes which made an excellent cover but
which, in connection with the height of the bank, prevented
me from getting more than occasional glimpse of the river.
Once or twice I approached the bank and peered down through
the branches but even then I could scarcely see the water. I
must have passed within a few yards of the Ducks, however,
for when I reached the end of the belt of trees and looked
back I at once discovered the birds swimming close under a
cluster of birches. I did not think that they saw me but
when I got to the birches they were gone, and a moment later
I heard the whistling of their wings and saw them coming up
the river flying about on a level with the tops of the trees.
They dropped into the river directly opposite where I was
standing making a loud splash but very foolishly I crouched
just as they were descending and when I rose to my feet again
they had swum in under the bank and were as invisible as be-
fore. Knowing that they were very near me, however, I waited
patiently and presently light ripples (very unlike the deep
furrows made by a swimming Muskrat) rolling out from under
the bushes warned me that they were coming past me. It was

Aix sponsa.

Concord, Mass.

1894. highly exciting and I had no little difficulty in controlling
Oct. 11 my nerves when, through an opening in the branches, I saw first
to
Nov. 21. the female and then the superb old drake appear directly be-
(No. 3). neath me and begin dabbling with their bills among the float-
ing leaves. At this moment they were not more than ten or
twelve feet from me, and in the full sunlight, which brought
out the gorgeous coloring of the drake to great advantage.
When he turned his head I could see the exquisite sheen of
his crest as distinctly as if I had held him in my hand.

Of course it was out of the question to shoot at such
short range so I waited motionless hoping that the birds
would swim farther off, but when at length they did so they
kept close along under the bank and were again lost to sight.
After ~~I~~ a little while I followed them and again the ripples
betrayed their position but this time they saw me when I
raised my head and at once flew. I brought down the duck
easily enough but the dense bushes saved the life of the drake
for the time although I fired the second barrel at him. He
went directly down to the Holt where I found him, twenty min-
utes later, under an overhanging maple floating in the middle
of a raft of newly fallen leaves. So still did he sit that I
looked at him for some time through the glass before I felt
sure that he was not a piece of drift wood. I then made a

Aix sponsa.

Concord, Mass.

1894. detour over the meadow, came out on the bank directly above
Oct. 11 him, and killed him as he flew off. I have been thus circum-
to
Nov. 21. stantial in describing the shooting if these birds for the
(No. 4). reason that they have been given to Clark to be mounted for my
New England collection.

I saw the next Wood Duck, a female, on Oct. 25th, swim-
mong close to the shore at Ball's Hill a little above the cabin

Saw a pair on the evening of the 1st Nov., and a drake
in the river at the Holt on Nov. 16th.

Aix sponsa.

Sept. 7 Oct. It seems that the unusual abundance of Wood Ducks at Umbagog this year was not a local phenomenon for on returning to Cambridge Nov. 1st I found that there had been an extraordinarily heavy flight throughout eastern Mass. (so late and Fraser had received in the flesh for mounting the unprecedented number of 34, nearly all of these ducks of all shot in Eastern Mass. They have never had so many before in one season.)

Abundance
in Mass.

Wood Duck -

1890

Florida,
Suwanee River.
Mar 20-Apr. 1, 1890.

Common along the entire course of the river to within two or three miles of its mouth, as well as throughout all the connecting creeks. It seemed to me to be shyer here than at the north, invariably flying the moment it caught sight of us, or heard the least sound which we made in rowing or paddling. On several occasions, we started the birds from the upper branches of tall trees bordering the water. As a rule, they were in pairs, but on one occasion I saw five together, two drakes and three ducks. A bird killed about March 15th had an egg in the overduct, ready for the shell, from which I inferred that they were laying at about this time. These southern Wood Ducks seemed to me to be noisier than the northern birds. Their notes however are in ~~no~~ way similar. When swimming, they ~~nodd~~^{wag} their heads emphatically at each stroke of the foot very much in the manner of a Coot, but this is not invariably the case. On several occasions when they discovered us a long distance off, they would swim ashore and run off into the woods instead of taking wing. They were usually found when feeding in or near large beds of bonnets.

Aix sponsa

1891 Mass.

- April 19 Waverley. - the little brook that forms its outlet down past
(no 2) where Bolles was sitting with his back against the wall, his
entire body exposed, passing within 20 yds. of him, half
swimming, half wading.
- " 22 Waverley. - At about 7 a. m. Bolles saw four Wood Ducks ^{In Waverley} in the Waverley oaks just behind the barn on the Thayer place. A pair were sitting together on a large branch and a single female on another branch of the same tree. After awhile all three flew when a fourth followed them coming out of a hole Bolles thought although he did not make sure of this. He tells me that he saw a single Wood Duck early in March fly over his house on Brinkley St. in Cambridge and alight on the branch of a large tree growing on the Hastings place. After sitting there awhile it flew off. He heard its unmistakable squeaking cry repeated a number of times. He was shooting now at the time there having been a considerable fall the night before.

1895

- Oct. 19-31 Concord. "Saw 4 Wood Ducks on the 15th & as many on the 19th"
(2) Journal.

1898

- Mar. 17 Concord. "As I was sailing along the shore directly opposite the cabin this morning I started a pair of Wood Ducks from the flooded thickets bordering Kevin's pasture. They flew across the river and in behind Ball's Hill probably alighting in the swamp which is full of water just now. [Journ].

Young Wood Ducks leave the nest by climbing to the entrance ^{How young} and tumbling to the ground. ~~I had~~ ^{Malline} Forest Stream, Vol II, no 11, Feb. 1899, p. 204 ^{leave nest}

Aix sponsa.

Fair Haven, Mass., July 9, 1900.

Mr. William Brewster,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:— I have received from Fred B. McKechnie the following data in regard to the Wood Duck's nest which he found in Canton, Mass., this last spring. I visited the tree on May 30th, and found it occupied by a pair of Gray Squirrels. It was an old hickory stub on a side hill back of a wet meadow, and a scant quarter of a mile distant from it. The heavy timber about the tree was on dry ground, except for a small puddle at the foot of this tree. The tree was about twenty inches in diameter at the butt, and the hole was about twenty-two feet up. Mr. McKechnie says —

"The Wood Ducks" I found Apr 15th with four eggs. Apr 22nd took eleven ducks and substituted eleven hens. Apr 29th - six more ducks. Male bird was not seen at all and the female not until 29th, when she was sitting. I visited the stub several times but no amount of rapping would drive her off. It was not until I got within a few feet of the hole that she scrambled out open ~~knock~~ the ~~hole~~ tree, - hollow one foot in diameter and nest two feet down from first hole. Nest of dead oak twigs and leaves and a hollow thickly matted with down on one side 6" x 6". On Apr 15th, there was no attempt at hollow, - the four eggs were completely buried in ^{dead} leaves - no down. The 22nd, the eleven eggs were buried in the same manner but some down as well as leaves was used. The 29th, found the well formed down nest with eggs arranged and of course bird sitting and no attempt at burying them, - lying the same as any set of eggs."

Mr. McKechnie has recorded 13 eggs here in 14 days. [Owen Durfee]
Extract,

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

144. Wood Duck. Occasional. ²²
O. & O., XV, June, 1890, p. 87

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

39

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

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

39. *Aix sponsa*. Wood DUCK.—Regular migrant; April 1 to May 10; in the fall from late in August to October 27.

Fall Birds of Northern Maine.
F. H. Carpenter.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*). Two seen.

O. & O. XII. Nov. 1887 p. 188

Aix sponsa

On the ocean

Under date of Nov. 25, 1882 Manly
Hardy writes that he has had a pair
of Wood Ducks sent in the flesh from
Matinicus Island, six miles off
Rockland, Me. The gunner who shot
them (they were killed on the sea) had
never seen the bird before & thought
it something very rare. A ♂ *Nettion*
carolinensis was also received from the
same place, Nov. 24, 1882. It is the
first Mr. H. has had from the sea-coast.

Matinicus Id. Maine

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

Maine.

100. *Aix sponsa* (Linn.) Boie. WOOD DUCK.—"Quite common" at
Houlton.

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

Cambridge, Mass.

Aif Spousa

1832-1835

Dr. Samuel Cabot tells me (Jan'y 18. 1885) that Woods Ducks were found in great numbers in and near Fresh Pond during the years that he was in College. His favorite haunts were the retired pools and reaches along Aluvial Brook. Here he has killed as many as twelve in a single afternoon. (See in this connection notes on card labeled Anas obscura)

Mass. (Concord.)

APR 5 1888

Aix sponsa

188

Apr. - 5

Flight in three bunches (3.3-2), all flying over or near flooded woods bordering the river meadows. Noticed again the peculiar stopping in flight with a sharp twitching motion of the wings which seems to be characteristic of this species.

Mass. (Concord)

Aif Spousa

Wet Breeding?

1886

Mass. (near Concord).

1888
APR 5⁸

Aix sponsa.

Mass. (near Concord). 1887

1887
June 16¹⁸⁸⁷

Aix sponsa
Mass (Winchendon)

1887

June. Mr. Bailey thinks about six pairs
are breeding this season in the township.
He found a nest with eggs last year.

Aix sponsa

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

Aix sponsa (Linn.), Wood Duck. Summer
resident, common. Breeds.

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

A LATE WOOD DUCK.—A gentleman living on
the outskirts of the city brought me a male
Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), which his hound pup
caught in a brook about January 1st, while out
for a run. It was kept in a cage a short time
and then died. Upon examination I found that
the primaries of one of the wings had been cut
off, probably by a shot, and this was the reason
of its late delay at this place. With the excep-
tion of the loss of the primaries, and its tail,
which was worn ragged by confinement in the
cage, it was in perfect plumage.

Taunton, Mass., 1888. J. C. Cahoon.

O. & O. XIII. Apr. 1888 p. 64.

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

3. *Aix sponsa.** *Not common.*

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

Wood Duck at South Weymouth, Dec. 31, an adult male in full plumage.

O. & O. XVI, Jan, 1891, p. 15

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

10. Wood Duck (144). Dr. G. G. Sears shot an adult ♂ in October, 1881 while eotting. Occasionally taken on small inland ponds.

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

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

19. *Wood Duck.* This bird is sometimes found in winter, although I am unaware of its presence near any station this year. A full plumage, adult male was taken alive at Taunton on January 11, 1888.

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

General Notes.

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

2. *Aix sponsa.* WOOD DUCK.—A female with young in Stockbridge.

Auk XII. Jan. 1895 p. 88

Aix sponsa.

The Ducks of Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

by Herbert K. Job.

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

See under Anas obscura.

1901. Aix sponsa
Brewster, Mass.

John Thorpe tells me that
Wood Ducks used to breed
regularly along the wooded banks
of the rivers that flow through
the interior farms of this town
but they have ceased to
do so within the past ten
years.

Old Records for Mass., & Rhode Id.

October 2, 1880. Saw six Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) in the north head
of the Hummock Pond and shot three of them; they were not in full
plumage.

Auk 28, Jan-1911, p. 119

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

159. *Aix sponsa* (Linn.) Boie. WOOD DUCK.—Tolerably common summer resident.

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

Birds Tioga Co, N.Y. Alden Loring.

613. Wood Duck. Rare.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 80

Mass.

Aix sponsa

1886

Drake in nearly full pl.

Sept. 8

At Goodale's saw a ♂ Hood Duck which he had just mounted which was in nearly perfect nuptial plumage (= late autumn pl.) but with the moult not quite perfected. There were no traces of the brown & gray summer plumage left.

been noticed in the county, but I have not heard of any nests being found. A few nests of this bird were found here several years ago, but we can only class them as casual visitors, until more certain evidence of their nesting is obtained.

The collectors of the county all complain of having had poor success this season.—*W. S. M., West Chester, Pa.*



The Wood or Summer Duck.

This is considered the most beautiful of the many species of Ducks in the United States.

It is well known for the brilliant coloring and metallic lustre of its feathers, and abundant wherever there are fresh water ponds and streams.

The birds are shy, and it is not often they can be observed very closely. We once surprised a flock of about twenty-five, when gunning in New Jersey. Rowing up the stream, we came, about daylight, to a sharp bend, where bushes hid our approach. The flock were on their feeding grounds, and, though not fifty feet from our boat, did not appear to notice us.

It was in the Fall of the year, the birds were mostly young. For several minutes we watched them washing and pluming, diving and feeding, and then spinning around like downy balls on the water, uttering at times their peculiar notes.

The plumage of the birds, old and

young, was not so brilliant as it would have been in the Spring, when they are decked out in their almost gorgeous uniform.

It is not often they are caught in this way. After having watched them sufficiently, it took but a second to destroy the picture, as the two barrels of our gun rudely startled them.

They come in the Spring, as soon as the ice is out of the ponds, and commence to build their nests in April. A hollow tree is their favorite spot, and well up in the tree. They sometimes will enter by what appears to be a very small hole in the trunk, and go down, four, or even six feet until they find a solid spot to build their nest upon. They carry some twigs or grass, and line the nest with a thick felt of their own down, which becomes so matted that the eggs can be lifted up in it as if it was a felt hat. We have never known any nests except in a hollow tree or stump. If the first nest is broken up, they will lay a second, and again, if that is robbed, a third time.

The largest number of eggs found in a nest as stated by reliable parties is eighteen. Eleven to thirteen is the usual average, and late nests (second or third) rarely have more than eight or nine.

If the first nest is destroyed, they will not desert the neighborhood. A friend of ours found a nest on the Passaic River and took the eggs, but having pity on the old birds, he carried back a dozen of common duck's eggs as a fair exchange. The duck continued to sit until some one, seeing the nest, carried off the eggs. In a few days, our friend was invited to see a brood of young Wood Ducks at a neighbors, who had built them a beautiful house and was very proud of his prize. Our friend said little, but smiled a grim smile as he told his neighbor that it would not be necessary to pinion the young ducks, as they would never go far. As they grew they developed into the most common of

Rhode Island.

Aix sponsa

1889 With Scoters on salt water.

April

"While shooting off Seconnet Point last week I killed a fine adult drake Wood Duck. He was among a flock of about twenty-five Coot and seeing that he was a different bird from the rest I shot him out as they went by the boat." (Geo. H. Mackay letter of Apr. 23, 1889)

May 2d, while Perch fishing on Palmer's river, I found two nests of the Wood Duck, both in hollow "Buttonwoods" with a surprisingly small entrance for the size of the Duck. These same trees have been occupied by this species of Duck ever since my acquaintance with the locality, some five years or more. The sets numbered eleven and nine respectively, the contents of the nest being easily seen, as there were two holes in each near the bottom of the cavity, as though worn through by long usage.

A nest of twelve eggs of this Duck was taken April 23, 1880. Incubation unknown. They were set under a domestic Pekin Duck. May 14th, nine little ducklings rewarded me for my pains, and very proud was I of my success. Having kept the old Duck in confinement, I turned the little brood over to her care, and was surprised and gratified to see her take kindly to them.

I tethered the mother with a liberal cord and showed my quaint looking youngsters to admiring friends. For about a week matters thus proceeded, when I awoke one morning to find that Mrs. Duck had severed the string which held her foot, and together with her little family, had swam peacefully down Rocky-brook—to her fate—for as I afterwards learned, as they passed under the highway bridge, in the gray dawn, a sportsman (?) shot the parent bird, and left the ducklings to the more merciful mink and turtle.

Notes from Rehoboth Mass. ^{Y.H.C.}
O.&O. IX. Oct. 1884. p. 125-

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

99. *Aix sponsa*, (Wood Duck). These Ducks were common on Dead river and Spencer stream, where they nested in the hollow stubs on the banks. I saw many old nesting sites and young broods in June. They were frequently seen sitting on logs in small flocks of three or four, when canoeing on the streams.

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

RAISING WOOD DUCKS.—HOW AN EGG-COLLECTOR BEAT A SALEM FARMER.—Collectors of natural history objects find the cultivation of shrewdness a help in their chosen field. This spring a Salem farmer showed a Norwich oologist a wood duck's nest with a fine clutche of eggs in it and assured him he proposed at the proper time to take the eggs, hatch them under a hen and have a flock of ducks not readily duplicated. The egg-collector felt that the scheme of his friend was barbarous, and was doubtful of its feasibility, but he did not question it, he simply spoke an encouraging word to his farmer friend, and then set to work to decide how he should capture those eggs for himself. Fair exchange he thought was no robbery, so he purchased half a dozen domestic ducks' eggs of about the same color and size, and going to the wood duck's nest in the hollow tree, substituted them for the coveted clutch which he took home and added to his collection. The farmer bided his time, and then took the eggs from the wood duck's nest and placed them under a hen. The hen hatched the eggs, and the ducklings are running about the farm the admiration of the farmer who has built for them a pretty duck-house, and who is waiting for them to take on the beautiful plumage for which the wood duck is noted. The wicked oologist is smiling in the meantime over his own shrewdness and his friend's child-like faith in eggs of which he knows nothing.

O. & O. XIV, Jul. 1889 p 111-112

950. *Domesticating Wildfowl*. By Fred Mather. *Ibid.*, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4, pp. 286, 366.—Wood Duck, Teal, Widgeon, Pintail, etc. *For. & Stream.* Vol. XXIII

1383. *The Wood Duck in Winter*. By Fred Mather. *Ibid.*, No. 24, Dec. 25, p. 463. *For. & Stream.* Vol. XXIX

1386. *Wood Duck in Winter*. By Robert T. Morris. *Ibid.*, No. 25, Jan. 12, p. 485.—On Hackensack marshes. *For. & Stream.* Vol. XXIX

563. *The Wood Duck—(Aix sponsa)*. By Byrne. *Ibid.*, XX, No. 1, July 7, 1883, p. 9.—Original and interesting account of its habits.

American Field.

1719. *The Foot of the Wood Duck*. By Fred. Mather. *Ibid.*, Oct. 4, p. 205.—Climbing powers of the young. *For. & Stream.* Vol. 31

1332. *Domesticating Wood Ducks*. By M. M. Benschoter, M. D. *Ibid.*, No. 17, May 19, p. 367. *For. & Stream.* Vol. XXVIII

Aythya
americana

Aethyia americana

1888

Nov.

Martha's Vineyard. — Mr. Wm. Slocomb of Jamaica Oceans regularly

Plains tells me that a party of several in autumn gentleman with whom he shot for several weeks in November (the party returned Nov. 23rd) on Martha's Vineyard on Martha's killed no less than 19 Red-heads in a large fresh water pond (about two miles long) near the south-western end of the island. In this pond about 200 Red-heads resorted daily bedding near the middle where they fed by diving in perfect security owing to a local law which prohibits shooting except from the shore.

They came in early each morning singly, in pairs and by small bunches and went out at evening all together in one great flock. During their passage over a narrow strip of land which separates the pond from the ocean they were several times waylaid by ~~Otters~~ the sportsmen. Others alighted to the decoys, one was flushed from a post in the marsh and shot and still another was taken in by an escaped decoy which swam out into the pond, joined the Red-head and finally brought the latter back with it.

Mr. Slocomb's friends have shot at this pond each autumn for several (three or four) years past. They have always seen and killed Red-heads there. They did not consider them more numerous this year than usual.

Mr. Slocomb has elsewhere ^{in N. England} found the Red-head to be a very rare bird.

Aythya americana

1890 Mass.

Nov. 13-18 Martha's Vineyard, Mr. Wm. Slocomb tells me that he found Red-heads abundant or quite as numerous this year as in 1888 in Squeebnocket Pond. Between Mar. & Vinyard the above dates they were seen daily in this pond in flocks numbering upwards of one hundred. With them were Scaps and Ruddie Ducks.

Nantucket.—In mentioning the above to Mr. Geo. H. Mackay I ^{deems specially} was assured by him that one or two small flocks of Red-heads visit on Nantucket Nantucket each autumn and spend a few days in one or other of the numerous fresh-water ponds on that island. Mr. Mackay says that the ordinary note of this duck is curiously like the ^{notes} meow of a cat. It also makes a cat-like purring sound. It feeds much at night, more, he thinks, than most other ducks ^{Nocturnal habits} Cambridge "An intelligent gunner tells me that he shot a ^{In Middlesex Co.} Red-headed Duck in Little Pond last autumn, 1889 [I think]" (Mr. Tabor letter Sept. 23. 1890

1894

Ponkapog Pond.—"Red-headed Ducks have been very scarce this year, four being all [that were] taken on Ponkapog Pond" (J. W. Bowles, letter Dec. 20, 1894) [An interesting note from Mr. Bowles about the occurrence of this species in numbers on Ponkapog in 1893 is filed in my note book.]

1893-94 Nipaneket Pond, Bridgewater. Abundant in large flocks ^{autumn?} (This one Autumn " " " Only a few seen in 1894 (autumn of Assawompsett Pond, Middleboro'). Visited by a large flock in 1894) H. K. Job

Ruth, etc.

Florida,
Canaverel, Banana Creek,
Mar 7- 15.

On March 9th, I watched a few males of this species for nearly an hour at a distance of 100 to 200 yards. He was in company with eight or ten Widgeons which alighted in shallow water in a cove of Banana Creek, where I had made a stand. He fed precisely like the Mallard, tipping up his tail and kicking with his feet, while his head, neck and fore parts of the body were submerged. The rich, chestnut color of his head and neck, dark, ashy gray back, the bluish color of the bill were all conspicuous characteristics. His head and neck looked very short and thick.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

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

40. *Aythya americana*. REDHEAD.—Common migrant, and an irregular winter resident; a flock remained during the winter of 1901-02, leaving on March 15. A small flock of non-breeding birds remained through the summer of 1906, but they usually leave before April 16.

This duck decreased till about 1890 when no birds were seen; the increase began soon afterwards and they rapidly regained their old numbers.

Martha's Vineyard, Mass. Aythya americana

1889 Nov. 13 - 27

Mr. W. Slocomb tells me that his friends killed only one Red. head Duck this autumn (he did not go to the vineyard himself). Between above dates, however, they saw many Red. heads in their pond but as they are allowed to shoot only from the shore and as the weather was mild & fair they had no chance to kill them.

Birds of Framming-ham, ^{Mass.} which have appeared since the construction of the Reservoirs on the Sudbury River. F. C. Browne.

12. *Fuligula ferina americana*. One obtained by a friend, Oct., 1879.

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

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

Aythya americana (Eyt.), Redhead. Migrant.
Rare, a few instances.

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

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

11. Redhead (146). Rare. I have records of two or three which were taken previous to 1886. Since then none have been shot.

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

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

General Notes.

Aythya americana.—Feb. 22, 1891, I saw three male Redheads in full plumage which were shot from a flock of about forty. They had been frequenting Coskata Pond in the eastern part of the island. These Ducks were fairly numerous here in former years; a few are at times seen here during the winter.

Auk 9, July, 1892. p.304.

Aythya americana

In Mass.

Punkapog Pond, Mass.
Nov. 20. - 1882

At Aldrich's to-day I saw a fine ad ♂ Red-head Duck which had just come to him from John at Punkapog Pond. It was perfectly fresh and Aldrich said had been killed this morning. There seems to have been an exceptional flight of these ducks this year.

Aythya americana.

The Ducks of Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

by Herbert K. Job.

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

See under Anas obscura.

1903

Aythya americana

Fresh Pond,
Cambridge, Mass.

December 6th seen very near, bill blue, tip black
head rufous red, breast black
belly white, back & wings grey. (W. Deane)

11 (H. Bowditch)

17 (H. Bowditch) 21 (H. Bowditch) .

1902
Nov. 14

Aythya americana
Cambridge, Mass.

At 8.30 this morning I found two Red-heads in Fresh Pond, swimming about 200 yds. off the point of Harvard Grav in company with seven Black Ducks & very near a large body of Gulls. Both birds were males in full winter plumage with clear red heads & necks & gray & black bodies. Through a powerful glass I saw distinctly that their bills were bluish scarcely tipped with black. They were about with the Black Ducks & kept a good deal of the time with them keeping company with them further. I did not see either of them chin. I hear that Richard Gould has seen Red-heads in this pond before this autumn.

288 v. - Oct 1.

Feeding Wild Ducks on Sodus Bay, N. Y.—Sodus Bay, one of the largest bays on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, was the scene of an interesting experiment in the feeding of wild ducks during the months of February and March, 1913. The bay, which is a large irregularly shaped body of water, containing several islands, is frequented in the spring and fall by large numbers of ducks. The winter was unusually mild up to the first of February, and many ducks remained on a large area of the bay which was open, and where they apparently found plenty of food. About February 1 the weather turned suddenly cold, with heavy snow storms and high winds. This caused the bay to freeze entirely over, preventing the ducks from reaching there feeding grounds. On February 4 the weather was very stormy, and several thousand ducks were noted in places still remaining open. On February 5 Mr. Claude T. DeVille, the state game protector at Sodus Point, noted that the ducks were flying to places kept open by men harvesting ice. The ducks were very fearless and were apparently suffering from lack of food. On the succeeding day, February 6, he obtained a quantity of wheat, and tried feeding the ducks. The grain was readily eaten and he immediately wrote the New York State Conservation Commission, notifying them of the presence of the ducks and the necessity of relief measures. The Commission promptly responded, and on February 10, Mr. DeVille received word to purchase grain and feed the ducks. He first tried feeding by throwing the grain in the water, but the ducks were so weak that they apparently had difficulty in reaching bottom in sixteen feet of water. This fact alone shows the extremes to which the ducks were reduced, as they were mainly Bluebills, Redheads and Canvasbacks, all of which feed at considerable depths. He then tried placing the grain on the ice on a place scraped clear of snow near the edge of the open water. This proved successful, as the ducks immediately came out on the ice, feeding like barnyard fowls. At one place near where men employed by the Northern Central Railway Co. were harvesting ice, there were often six or seven hundred ducks feeding at one time. The ducks were fed in this manner at all the places which remained open, which varied from three or four to six or eight. They were fed at least once and often twice each day, and during the period from February 10 to March 10, when the feeding was discontinued, thirty-eight bushels of wheat were fed.

The ducks soon learned to look for the grain and upon seeing Mr. DeVille starting out on the ice, would fly to the places where the grain was placed.

At one time all the holes had frozen over, and the grain was placed on the bare ice, the ducks coming in from the lake and lighting on the ice to feed. This was at a distance of about a quarter of a mile from the open water in the lake. On February 21, being temporarily out of wheat, cracked corn was tried, but the ducks apparently did not relish it, and did not clean it up, as they did the wheat. During a period from February 12 to 16, Mr. DeVille estimated the number of ducks was at least ten thousand. They gradually scattered with the coming of milder weather, but there were several thousand still present on March 18.

The ducks were about seventy-five per cent Bluebills, or Seaups, the remainder being about evenly divided between Canvasbacks and Redheads, with a few Whistlers.

On March 13 when the writer visited the bay he counted in an open place between the outlet of the bay and Sand Point, about five hundred Bluebills, one hundred Redheads, a few Canvasbacks, about a dozen Mallard, three or four Black Ducks and several Holbells and Horned Grebes. At this time the ducks were apparently able to take care of themselves, were feeding in the usual manner, and did not come for the grain.

Mr. DeVille stated that the ducks were in such poor condition, that he had seen many with ice frozen to their feathers, the wing feathers being sometimes frozen together. Many also had balls of ice over the bill, often extending to the eyes. Fourteen ducks were found dead, eleven Bluebills, one Canvasback and two Redheads. One Bluebill drake found in full plumage weighed one pound and three ounces.

Great credit must be given to both Mr. DeVille, who is a game protector of a type we need more of, and the New York State Conservation Commission, for their prompt action in this matter, for there is no doubt that if they had not acted in time, thousands of ducks would have died of starvation.—H. E. GORDON, Rochester, N. Y. *AM 30, Oct. 1903. Pg 579*

Birds of Adirondack Region - Merriam.

204. *Fuligula americana*. REDHEAD.—Rare. Has been killed on Lake Champlain in November.

Bull. N.O.O., 7 Oct., 1882, p. 257

Notes concerning certain birds of Long Island, N.Y.
By William C. Brainerd, M.D.

Aythya americana, *Aythya vallisneria*, *Aythya marila* *nearctica*. During the last week of August, 1904, Scaup Ducks and Red-heads were present in the South Bay opposite Speonk and the vicinity, the larger number being the first. Both these have continued to be abundant during October and November. Gunners, quite a number of whom have been questioned by the writer, report them more common than they remember them to have been before.

During October, 1904, Mr. J. A. Fonda saw in the eastern end of the Great South Bay a flock of six Canvas-backs, two of which were secured, and later a single Canvas-back was killed from a flock of Scaup Ducks.

Among other ducks more common here in October than usual were *Anas boschas*, *Dafila acuta* and *Erismatura jamaicensis*.

Auk, XXII, Apr., 1905, p. 169.

*Albino Specimens in the Museum
of the Philadelphia Academy.*

, two Red-head Ducks (*Fulix ferina americana*) that have
the head and neck white: C. H. Townsend.

Bull. N. O. C., 8, April, 1883, p. 126.

Auk, XV, Jan., 1898, p. 50.

The Redhead (*Aythya americana*) in post-nuptial Plumage in Autumn.—On November 10, 1896, I received from Walter I. Jackson of Havre-de-Grace, a male Redhead (*Aythya americana*) shot the day previous on the Susquehanna flats. This bird, for some reason, had failed to moult at the proper time, and appears in the old worn-out feathers characteristic of the post-nuptial period. All the feathers are very short, but those on the head and the tail-feathers show most abrasion, being reduced to less than one-half the usual length. Examination showed the bones perfect and the flesh normal, though without a particle of fat, indicating that the bird was not a 'crippler.' It was flying with the other ducks when shot.—F. C. KIRKWOOD, Baltimore, Md.

NOTES ON THE BREEDING HABITS OF SOME OF THE WATER-BIRDS
OF ST. CLAIR FLATS, MICHIGAN.—The past season I had the good
fortune to find two nests of the Red-head Duck (*Aythya americana*), con-
taining respectively seven and eight eggs. The nests were situated as
follows. The first was placed on some drifted rushes on a sunken log, and
was composed of flags and rushes evidently taken from the pile of drift
upon the log, as they were short pieces, so short, in fact, that the nest when
lifted with the hands fell in pieces. The nest was about four inches
deep, and lined with down from the female. This nest contained seven
fresh eggs of a creamy color, and varied in measurements from 2.30×1.75
to 2.22×1.66 inches, and were of a uniform oval shape, very little
smaller at one end. The other nest was built similar to a Coot's nest,
that is, of flags and grass interwoven at the base of a bunch of flags, grow-
ing in water three or four feet deep. It was built in such a way that the
nest would rise and fall with the water. This nest also contained down
and eight fresh eggs, uniform in size, shape, and color with the others.
The birds, male and female, were flying around, and often came quite close
to me. The cry of the female resembled the cry of the Mallard so nearly
that, had I heard and not seen the bird, I should have supposed it to be
the Mallard.

W. H. Collins, Detroit, Mich.

Bull. N.O.C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 62.

Nov. 17, 1893.

I have just returned from Ponkapog Pond where I was lucky enough to shoot a large Canada Goose.

They keep a diary at the shooting-lodge so I had no difficulty in getting the dates of the Red-heads which are as follows:

Oct. 1, 1893: 8 Red-headed Ducks came in, of which 6 were killed.

" 4, " : 1 " " " " " was " .

Nov. 4, " : About 70 ducks came nearly in gunshot at dusk, but were frightened and flew out into the pond. Immediately after, 5 Red-heads came in and were killed. Since not one of the big flock quacked (which they would have done if they were Blacks or mallards) and since the 5 Red-heads came in immediately afterwards, they have no doubt, ^{at the "stand"} that the birds were Red-heads as they could think of no other ducks that they could be anyway.

Nov. 5, 1893: 11 adult Red-heads in fine plumage came in, and all were shot.

" 6, " : 1 " " " " " was " .

Nov. 7, 1893: 1 Red-head came in and was killed.

There are two "stands" on the pond and, curiously enough, this was the only one from which a Red-head was shot.

Sincerely yours,
J. H. Bowles.

Young Oologist, 1563. The Redhead. By A. M. Shields. Ibid., pp. 32-33. Nesting of Auk, VII, Jan.
1890. p. 48.

530. Notes on the breeding of the Red-headed Duck at Lake St. Clair. By John M. Morden. Ibid., III, pp. 218, 219. *Sport & Naturalist*

Athya americana

Occurrence in Mass.

Canton, Mass.

Oct. 21, 1882

I have seen two adult ♂ Red-heads which with seven others were shot on Ponkapog Pond, Canton, on the above date. They are both adult ♂'s in fine plumage. Aldrich who has them could give me particulars save that they were killed by a man named Jones who controls the shooting of the pond and who brought them to Aldrich the next day.

Oct. 28, 1882. I found two female Red-heads in Boston Market to-day

Mass (Martha's Vineyard)

Athya americana

1888

Occurs regularly & abundantly in late autumn

~~Oct.~~

Nov.

Mr. Wm. Slocumb of Jamaica Plains tells me that while shooting with several friends on Martha's Vineyard during ~~late Oct.~~ ~~early~~ Nov. 1888 (they returned to Boston Nov. 24) the party killed no less than 19 Red-heads. These were shot in a large fresh water pond (about two miles long) near the western end of the island. In this pond a flock of about 200 resorted each morning "bedding" there during the day keeping out near the middle and feeding by diving. There is

and noticing that they were
freely shot I made inquiry
as to their locality where
was referred to the ~~expedition~~
who had just brought them
in. He told me that he
had them off P. P. Pea of
Wanton, Mass., and that
he had no doubt that Pea,
who is a gunner, had shot
them near that city. The

There was great activity.
C. P. Goodale also telephoned
me and then yesterday, Oct
27th, thought they were not
very far wrong. I bought
both. Received one from an
collection & had the other
mounted for the Boston Soc.
C. P. Goodale also tells me
that there were about a few
days ago at Newburyport,
Mass., C. H. Battell saw two ad-
mireable shot or bullet markings.
Mine, Oct 20, 1882.

there and these waves
break with it. During the
morning light the birds came
into the pond singly and in
pairs & small bunches.

Mr. Gleason's companions said
that they had ~~to~~ found kid-heads
at this place every year for three or
four winters: They have ~~not~~ sufficiently

The law against disturbing
bedded "drift in this pond
and shooting is allowed only
from the shore. At evening
all the Red-heads apparently
went out in a body crossing
a stiff & sand bar on their
way to the sea. Several shots
were had at them during this
passage. Others alighted to
the decoy. One was flushed
from a hole in the marsh.
One was shot in by an unskilled
decoy which burst out into
water & went the Red-head

in Swanage Bay on June 23rd. My attention was attracted to a bird approaching me whose flight resembled that of a Cormorant with a Gannet's plumage; it fortunately passed within fifty yards of me, and I had no difficulty in identifying it. That it was a Cormorant I have no doubt, and corresponded with Mr. Gatcombe's account of the Wembury bird, with this difference—the wings and body appeared to be the normal colour of the species, rather than "silvery gray." The difference might only have been, through optical delusion, caused by reflection, the sky at the time I saw it being clear and unclouded. If it is the same bird, and seen in three successive counties, it must be making a tour of the English coast, and by practical experience finding the most favoured spots to satisfy its voracious appetite. Two colonies of Black-headed Gulls have established themselves on lakes between Poole and Studland. At one of these lakes Pochards have bred for the last three years. In the spring of 1875, a male Pochard, incapacitated from accompanying his companions northwards by a fractured wing, was fortunate enough to induce a female to remain with him, and a brood of young red-heads appeared on the lake, which was so carefully and successfully watched that the following year (1876) three broods were hatched. Having only just returned after a long absence from home, I have been unable to assure myself of the progress made in the further propagation of this bird. My friend Mr. W. M. Calcraft writes me word that a few weeks since he observed a hawk (a Peregrine probably) swoop down upon a Black-headed Gull on the wing, but failing to capture the bird he quickly returned and took it up as it floated on the water, and alighted on the ground a short distance off, with the intention of making a repast on the remains, but on the approach of Mr. Calcraft he flew away, leaving the gull in his possession. Curlews have bred this season on the heaths between Poole and Wareham. An egg of this bird was sent me last April, containing a chick just ready to enter upon subaërial life: its length was four inches; bill, three-quarters of an inch. Choughs and Ravens have returned to their old nesting-places on the rugged coast of Purbeck, after extermination before the passing of the Wild Birds Preservation Acts. The Peregrine breeds in Gadcliff (the noble headland on the western side of the so-called "island"), which is happily so steep and precipitous that no human hand can rob it of its young, although it not unfrequently falls to the gun or trap of the inexorable gamekeeper.—J. C. MANSELL-PLEYDELL (Long-thorns, Blandford). *The Journ. 8 Apr. 1887 Vol. I. no. 9.*

BREEDING OF THE POCHARD AND BLACK-HEADED GULL IN DORSETSHIRE.
—In the early part of June, I was informed that there were some curious birds breeding at a pool well known as a favourite resort of wild fowl in this vicinity, and that the keeper had never seen any like them there before. So one fine morning I got on board a sailing-boat, and ran down the harbour to the point of land nearest to the pool. From here a short walk

vallisneria

Aythya valisineria

1883 Mass.

Cohasset. Mr. Elery H. Clark of Boston writes me that an adult ♂ Canvas-back was taken off Cohasset, by his brother, November 1, 1883. The specimen, unfortunately, was pickled and eaten. "A Mr. Estes, with a companion, also killed two Canvas-backs October 19, 1883, off Cohasset". These, also, were, I believe, lost to science although Mr. Clark does not say so in his letter. All other birds were killed over lead decoys.

1895-

Nov. 6 Wayland. Mr. C. Paine (a member of the Nuttall Club) shot a Duck which he feels sure was a Canvas-back on the Sudbury River about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below the Stone Bridge. It was either a ♀ or a young ♂ and was a solitary bird. It came flying past his shooting stand & seeing his live decoys turned in & alighted with them. The meadow was flooded at the time. He intended to preserve the specimen but the Cook, through a misunderstanding, plucked & dressed it. Fortunately, however, he had made an entire drawing of the head & neck. He has compared this with the figure in Coues; they & it agree closely. An old sportsman who has seen the sketch also pronounces the bird to have been without question a Canvas-back.

1896

Dec 4 Plymouth. Arthur C. Bent has reported to the Nuttall Club at meeting of Dec. 7th/ the acquisition of a pair of young Canvas-backs taken as above, by a local gunner from whom he bought the birds in the flesh & in fresh condition. They were killed in West Pond at a shooting stand. They came into the pond together & alighted near some wooden decoys being afterwards lured in by a pair of live decoys. Since the above was written Mr. Bent tells me that he actually secured only one of these birds. The other was sent to market. The gunner said it looked exactly like his bird which proved to be a ♀.

Avthya vallisneria.

Manomet Point, Mass.

1897. " I have had it in mind for some time to reply to your inquiry regarding the ownership of those mounted Canvas-backs, but, as it was mentioned in the Auk, I thought I would wait till the end of the nesting season, and tell you of what I found. The gentleman referred to above is Mr. Thomas Arnold, North Abington, Mass., who owns a duck and goose stand at Silver Lake and a nice cottage at Manomet Point."

Extract from a letter from H.K.Job, July 22, 1897,

North Middleboro', Mass.

Birds of Southern New Brunswick.
M. Chamberlain.

19. *Aythya vallisneria*.—CANVAS-BACK.—Carnell has mounted one of this species taken within the Province, and E. C. Sutton, Esq., of Sutton, who is familiar with their appearance, saw a flock on the St. John River, about four miles from the city, several times during the fall of 1879.

Bull. N. O. O., 7, April, 1882, p. 106

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

4

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 444-445.

41. *Aythya vallisneria*. CANVAS-BACK.—Rare winter resident. A small flock was here in the winter of 1900-01; a male was taken on February 23, 1901, and a flock was reported on November 21; another male was taken on March 31, 1905.

Canvas-backs were practically unknown here for many years, due no doubt to the general decrease that took place soon after that of the Red-heads in eastern North America; the increase has resulted in a wide extension of range, and recently Lake Ontario has been visited regularly by small flocks. Lake Erie seems to be still the center of abundance on the Great Lakes.

Aythya vallisneria.

Aythya vallisneria

Dec. 1880

Mr. George St. Mackay tells me that he has seen a pair of the Canada's Duck in Mass. on only one occasion when three were killed at Peconic on the ocean. He saw the birds and is certain of their identity.

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

Aythya vallisneria (Wils.), Canvas-back. Migrant, very rare.
O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 138

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

12. Canvas-back (147). Very rare. One taken by Mr. B. C. Clark, November, 1883.

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

Auk, XIV, Apr., 1897, p. 206.
The Canvas-back Duck in Massachusetts.—Four specimens of this species (*Aythya vallisneria*), two of each sex, were shot in Silver Lake, Pembroke, Plymouth County, Dec. 18, 1896, from the stand of Mr. Thomas Arnold of North Abington. I have seen a pair of them that he has had mounted. There were five in the flock. Mr. Arnold authorizes me to report this capture.

A single Canvas-back, a male, was seen by Mr. J. E. Bassett in Nippenekett Pond, Bridgewater, Nov. 26, 1896, accompanying two Dusky Ducks (*Anas obscura*). The three swam almost within gunshot of the stand, allowing a protracted scrutiny of them through a field glass, and another later in the day. Mr. B. has shot hundreds of Red-heads, and at once saw that this was a different bird, and described to me all the characteristics of *A. vallisneria* with perfect accuracy. These, with other reported occurrences, indicate a phenomenal flight of the species in Massachusetts in the late fall of 1896.—HERBERT K. JOB, North Middleboro', Mass.

The Canvasback at Bridgewater, Mass.—For many years until the 19th of October, 1907, there is no record of the Canvasback (*Aythya vallisneria*) at Nippenekett Pond, Bridgewater, Mass. Upon the above date Elbert L. Hall and Irving Hall shot six birds of this species from a flock of thirteen. All the captured ones, and as nearly as could be learned all those escaping, were in either the female or immature male plumage.—ARTHUR C. DYKE, Bridgewater, Mass. Auk 25, Jan. 1908, p. 80.

Aythya vallisneria.

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

1903

Aythya vallisneria

Nov. 18¹<sub>(R.S.E.
H.B.)</sub> 19¹<sub>(R.S.E.
H.B.)</sub> 23¹_(H.B.) 25¹_(H.B.)

Nov. 30¹<sub>(W.D.
H.B.)</sub>

Fresh Pond
November 30th

Cambridge, Mass
Fresh Pond

R.S.E. = Richard S. Eustis
H.B. = Harold Bowditch
W.D. = Walter Dean
W.B. = William Brewster

157. *Canvas Backs in Rhode Island.* By Fred'k Skinner. *Ibid.*, XV,
p. 417.—Two killed at Point Judith early in November. 

Birds of Adirondack Region - Merriam -

203. *Fuligula vallisneria*. CANVAS-BACK. — Rare fall migrant.

Bull. N.O.O., 7, Oct, 1882, p. 257

Some Rare Occurrences in Yates Co., N.Y. —

Aythya vallisneria, CANVAS-BACK. — During the first week of December, 1897, Canvas-back Ducks began to appear in couples and small flocks and by the middle of January the local sportsmen estimated that there were about 200 flocked in this end of the lake (Kevka). However, a week's despicable night shooting soon drove them away. Old sportsmen inform me that these were the first Canvas-backs that they had seen in about fifteen years.

Clarence Freedom Stone, Branchport, N.Y.
Auk, XVI, July, 1899, p. 285.

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

Aythya vallisneria. The Canvas-back is sufficiently rare on Long Island to be worthy of record. It is perhaps unnecessary to say that the not infrequent reports of large flocks of Canvas-backs on Long Island sent from gunning resorts to the daily press, with the evident desire of attracting the city sportsmen thither, may safely be set down to the presence of its near relative, the Red-head. I have never interrogated a reliable Long Island gunner, bayman or guide, who had ever observed a flock of any considerable number of Canvas-backs on Long Island. Abundant as this bird is on the Chesapeake, its rarity on Long Island is very firmly established. Mr. Andrew Chichester, a veteran gunner of Amityville, sent me a pair (δ and φ) of fine, fresh birds shot by his son Arthur at that place, March, 1903.

William C. Braislin, M.D., Brooklyn, N.Y.
Auk, XXI, April, 1903, p. 288.

Notes concerning certain birds of Long Island, N.Y.
By William C. Braislin, M.D.

Aythya vallisneria

Auk, XXII, April, 1904, p. 169.

See *Aythya americana*.

Birds of Adirondack Region. — Merriam.

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Bull. N.O.O., 7, Oct, 1882, p. 257.

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William C. Braislin, M.D., Brooklyn, N.Y.
Auk, 1903, p. 288.

Miscellaneous

2d

Albinism and Melanism in North
American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

Some specimens of *F. vallisneria*, bear strong
traces of albinism.

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

nearctica

Aythya m. marctica.

Concord, Mass.

1893

April 9 A little below Davis's Hill just as the sun was setting ^{greater} ~~Greater~~ I started a flock of eight Scamp Ducks from the flooded ^{Scamp} ~~Scamp~~ meadows. Through my glass I could see their markings with perfect distinctness and easily made out that there were four males and four females. They looked very large and were, I am very sure, Greater Scamps. Flying in a great circle to above the tops of the trees they flew out of sight in the direction of Sudbury Meadows. I have never before seen either species of Scamp in Concord River in the spring.

Notes from the Magdalen Islands.

Aythya marila nearctica

nest / 9 June 29, 1900

H. R. Job, Kent, Conn.

Auk, XVIII, Apr., 1901, pp. 199, 200.

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

28. **Aythya marila.** GREATER SCAUP.—I received one from Dr. Grenfell. It was shot near Nain in October, 1899. So far as I can find out this is the only record from the east coast. Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 27.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

42.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 445

42. **Aythya marila.** SCAUP DUCK.—Common migrant and regular winter resident, from October 18 to March 4 (April 16, 1906). A small flock of non-breeding birds remained during the summer of 1906.

Aythya marila was shot on Oct. 25.
by Mr. & Mrs. E. O. G.

Aythya marila. AMERICAN SCAUP DUCK.—1911, Oct. 25, one
shot.

Adv. 20, May, 1912, p. 436

Mass. (Wayland)

Aythya marila?

1888

In late October on the bddy marshes.

Oct. 26, 27

Seven Ducks certainly Scaups (but possibly *F. affinis*) seen flying about over the bddy marshes on the evening of the 26 and morning of the 27th. They flew very fast, now rising against the sky, now putting down as if to alight but not actually settling over as far as we could see. The Scaup Duck can be recognized at some distance by its large head. It looks a very black bird, but shows the white belly conspicuously when above the brown's line of flight.

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

Aythya marila nearctica Stejn., American
Scaup Duck. Migrant, tolerably common.

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

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

13. American Scaup Duck (148). fairly
common during fall.

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

Water Birds, Nantucket, Mass.

George H. Mackay. General Notes.

Aythya marila nearctica.—May 1, 1892, I saw two flocks of American Scaup, about twenty-five in each flock; they were resting in the Hummock Pond. They were probably the remainder of those which have been in this locality all winter, numbering fully five hundred. I saw several hundred of them in the same pond on Feb. 21. There have been more of these Ducks about the island during the winters of 1891 and 1892 than for many years. In times past they were abundant every year. I noted a good many more of them during the past autumn, winter and spring than in the previous year. They appear early in November and are mostly gone by May 1.

Auk 9, July, 1892. p. 304.

Auk, XV, April, 1898, p. 189.
The Seaside Sparrows on Cape Cod in Winter, and
other Notes.

1898

On the same day, February 7, two Scaup Ducks (*Aythya marila nearctica?*) came in to the decoys put in the harbor of Barnstable, and although neither of the birds were taken, Mr. Shattuck feels confident of their identity as he knows the bird well. The usual northern limit of the Scaup Duck's winter range is Long Island, N. Y.

R. H. Howe, Jr., Longwood, Mass.

Auk, III, July, 1895, p. 310.
Nantucket Notes.

November 1. Twenty-five Broadbills (*Aythya marila nearctica*) seen at the Long Pond to-day.

George H. Mackay, Nantucket, Mass.

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

Aythya marila. AMERICAN SCAUP DUCK.—I saw large numbers in Madaket harbor Nov. 1,—about one thousand (estimated) birds.

In passing through Nantucket Sound I saw, Nov. 11, about two thousand Old Squaws (*Harelda hyemalis*) in one body. I also saw a great many White-winged Scoters (*Oidemia deglandi*) in groups scattered over the sound; also a much less number of Surf Scoters (*O. perspicillata*). I did not observe any American Scoters (*O. americana*). I do not see many of the latter nowadays; they are getting to be a rather scarce bird on the Massachusetts and Rhode Island coasts. *Geo. H. Mackay, Nantucket, Mass.*

Aythya m. nearctica.

The Ducks of Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

by Herbert K. Job.

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

See under Anas obscura.

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

There have been a good many of the larger Scaup (*Aythya marila nearctica*) living about the waters between Muskeget Island, and Madaket harbor, which is on the northern side of Nantucket Island. They also frequented the ponds at the western part of the latter island during the winter and spring of 1894, although there have been fewer there than there were last season during the same period. On March 11, 1894, some four hundred still frequented Madaket harbor. I shot a male and female *A. affinis*, all I saw, on the 13th. They were in company with *A. m. nearctica*. There were still thirty of the larger variety in the Hummuck Pond, Nantucket Island, on April 29. They flew out at my approach, mounted to a very high altitude and went towards the west. I did not see them again.

Although I have shown by these notes that there have been very large bodies of wild fowl concentrated in restricted localities, I would add that I have rarely observed fewer in the localities they have heretofore been accustomed to haunt. I account for it by the scarcity in these localities of the shell-fish food, which they consume in enormous quantities.

Auk XI. July. 1894 p. 225

Unusual records near Boston Mass.—

Aythya marila. A flock estimated to number about six hundred wintered about Moon Island. We have not found them wintering at any other point in Boston Bay.

Francis G. and Maurice C. Blake, Brookline, Mass.
Auk, XII, July, 1894, p. 391.

Birds of Adirondack Region - Merriam.

201. *Fuligula marila*. SCAUP DUCK.—Occurs during the migrations, but is not common.

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

Birds Tioga Co. N.Y. Alden Loring.

614. Big Black Head. Not common. Found in the spring and fall in pairs or small flocks of three to five.

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

Notes concerning certain birds of Long Island N.Y. By William C. Graislin, M.D.
Cyathya marila nearctica.

Auk, XXII, Apr., 1905, p. 169.

See Cyathya americana.

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS BREEDING IN
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

BY CHARLES W. RICHMOND.

IN treating of the fauna and flora of the District of Columbia, authors generally extend the limits twenty miles from the Capitol in all directions. Owing to the fact that his experience does not extend far beyond the District limits proper, the writer has preferred to restrict the present notes, as much as possible, to within that boundary. Some species are left out, therefore, which would otherwise be included. Among such birds are the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), the Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), and the Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), which are known to breed at Mt. Vernon, Va., about fourteen miles from Washington; the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), and the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), breeding near Wilson's Station, Md., about seven miles from here, as the writer is informed by Mr. Frank White. The Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis*) has been found breeding at Sandy Spring, Md., about eighteen miles distant, by Dr. A. K. Fisher.

Mr. Hugh M. Smith kindly contributes the following interesting note on the breeding of the American Scaup Duck (*Aythya marila nearctica*) at Mt. Vernon: "In May, 1881, a female duck was often noticed swimming to and from a marshy tract near Mt. Vernon Springs, and in June was flushed from the nest by Mr. L. P. Pumphrey, an experienced gunner and duck shooter. The nest contained fourteen eggs, which were not disturbed. Later in the same month they were found to have hatched (with the exception of one), and the young ducks were transferred to the care of a hen. The ducks grew, and when old enough to fly, went off one at a time and never returned. At no time was the male bird seen. Mr. Pumphrey's identification of the bird was complete, and his great familiarity with the birds of the river makes his *dictum* reliable." This instance, of course, was purely accidental, the bird probably being wounded and obliged to remain where it was discovered.

Three birds given as breeding in 'Avifauna Columbiana,' by Drs. Coues and Prentiss, are here omitted, viz: Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris americana*), Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), and Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*). The first is a winter resident, being common from the middle of October until the first week in April. The Tree Swallow is said to be "a common summer resident," whereas it does not occur as such, although small scattered flocks of migrants are often seen flying over the city during the latter part of July. The Bronzed Grackle is little more than a straggler, and individuals passing through here hardly remain to breed. However, the writer has a male, taken on April 17, 1886, a date when *ordinary quiscula* is nesting, and a female shot on April 6, 1887, about the time the Purple Grackles are laying their first eggs. Both of these birds were taken in a grove of cedars occupied by a colony of Purple Grackles.

The writer desires to thank Mr. H. W. Henshaw, Mr. Robert Ridgway, and others whose names are mentioned in connection with the following notes, for information and assistance in preparing the list. The notes apply to the breeding season only.

Auk, XII, July, 1895, pp. 293-5.

Aythya marila or *A. m. nearctica*?—In separating the American Scaup Duck as a subspecies from its European cousin Dr. Stejneger (Orn. Expl. Kamtsch., 1885) gives as the characteristic difference between the two forms the coloring of the primaries from the fourth quill, which have "a distinct white area on the inner web" in *A. marila*, and "a grayish—but not white—area on the inner web" in *A. m. nearctica*. *A. marila* has not, I believe, been as yet recorded from this country.

Early in December last Mr. A. H. Verrill called my attention to the extensive white spaces on the primaries of a male Scaup Duck, which had been sent him by Mr. E. M. Cooper of Stony Creek, Conn., whom we had asked to forward us ducks in the flesh, and suggested that it might be the European bird. We determined to investigate the subject, and requested Mr. Cooper to send us male Scaup Ducks noticeably white on the primaries. The following small series was selected by Mr. Cooper in accordance with our wishes, all having been killed at Stony Creek on or about the dates given with the specimens, and most of them having been shot by Mr. Cooper himself.

In the following descriptions of this bird I have merely attempted to point out the main differences between them, giving particular attention to the coloring of the light spaces on the primaries.

No. 1330, Coll. L. B. Bishop, Dec. 15, 1894. Interscapulars brown spotted with white, with a few black feathers spotted with white intermixed. Feathers of chest whitish barred with brown and tipped with white, a few black feathers interspersed; flanks white heavily vermiculated with black, mixed with many entirely brown feathers; abdomen posteriorly hair brown with most of the feathers tipped with white. Rump, tail-coverts and tail brown with many black feathers interspersed, under tail-coverts tipped with white. Pale space on inner web of primaries becoming distinctly white only on the inner edge of the basal portion of the outer web extending toward tip of feather, and only on right side of chest, and only one brown feather on left flank; black vermiculation of flanks more distinct. No white-tipped feathers on under tail-coverts. White distinct on inner web of all the primaries but narrow on ninth and tenth, and on outer web of inner six.

No. 1354, Coll. L. B. Bishop, Jan. 11, 1895. Like last, except faint edging of white on posterior feathers of chest; flank pure white faintly vermiculated with black. Inner web of all the primaries with large space of pure white extending on six inner quills well toward tip of feather, the white mixed with a little gray on ninth and tenth feathers; outer webs distinctly white on six inner quills.

In comparing these specimens it will be noticed that they vary greatly in the coloring of the inner webs of the primaries, Nos. 1330 and 1329 coming fairly under the head of *A. m. nearctica*, Nos. 1348, 1349, and 1350 being intermediate, and Nos. 1328 and 1354 typical examples of the old world form *A. marila*. If, however, all except Nos. 1328 and 1350 are left out of consideration on account of their obviously immature plumage the

affinis

Beaufort Neck

Tulix affinis (et marina)

1890.
Mar 7-15

Florida,
Canaveral, Banana Creek.

The most numerous representative here of any species of Duck tribe, but confined to the broad creeks and bays, never visiting the smaller ponds in the marshes. They associate freely with all other ducks, and even with the Coots, few large beds of whom are without a greater or lesser sprinkling of Scaups. Under ordinary conditions, that is to say when the water throughout these bays and creeks ranges from one to two feet in depth, they get their food by diving. But after a north wind has blown for several days and the depth of water is reduced to from two or three to eight or ten inches, they feed precisely in the manner of the true fresh water duck-- that is, by tipping up the tail and immersing the head, neck and fore part of the body. During this trip I frequently saw dozens thus engaged. They are fond of sleeping in the sun on mud or sand bars. On several occasions I saw numbers walking about on the mud flats, carrying their bodies rather erect, with legs wide spread and waddling terribly, perhaps ^{because} their feet stuck in the soft mud. They decoy better than any other species of duck found here, and we killed in this way many of them. As nearly as I could make out from careful examination and comparison of all the specimens which passed through my hands, about 80% belonged to the form

affinis the remaining 20% being *marina* A
good many specimens, ~~killed~~ however, were apparently more or less intermediate between these two forms. The Scaup duck ^{is} ~~is~~ the swiftest flying duck in this region; in fact, I think its speed is exceeded only by that of the Green-winged Teal and the Hooded Merganser. It was rarely that flocks of any size came to the decoys, but sometimes pairs or bunches of three or four would draw in over them, and, if not shot at, would ~~settle~~ among them. As they came in they would set ~~their~~ wings and scale, dropping their legs, the feet wide-spread, just before they alighted. The only note I identified with certainty was ~~a krr-r-r, krr-r or krr-krr~~. This seemed to be a note of alarm, and was uttered usually while the bird was sitting on the water, with head and neck erect, suddenly suspicious of danger. A female which I shot in the act of making this sound belonged to the smaller form. This duck may be distinguished at a good distance when sitting on the water by its black head and grayish back. The sides appear nearly pure white, for the feathers of the flank are habitually carried well up over the folded wings.

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

III. *Fuligula affinis*. SCAUP DUCK.—Tolerably common in October.

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

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

8. *Aythya affinis*. LESSER SCAUP DUCK.—Sept. 17, one killed at
Adies Pond.

Louis H. Porter, New York City.

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

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

43

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 445.

43. *Aythya affinis*. LESSER SCAUP DUCK.—Common migrant; does
not winter here; arrives in March, remaining till May (May 22, 1894);
earliest fall record July 21, 1890, latest October 29, 1895.

Summa Birds of the Cobalt mining Region,³
Nipissing District, Ontario.
by Frederick C. Hudel. Auk, XXIV, Jan
1907, p. 49.

3. *Aythya affinis*. LESSER SCAUP DUCK.—Several birds observed
with their young on Lake Temiskaming.

Birds of Frammingham, Mass. which have
appeared since the construction of the
Reservoirs on Sudbury River....J.C. Bronne.

13. *Fuligula marila affinis*. One obtained by self. Oct., 1880; several
by others.

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

Mass. (near Concord).

1888
Oct. 26² - 27²

Fulix affinis (?)

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

14. Lesser Scaup Duck (149). Rather less
common than preceding.

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

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

General Notes.

Aythya affinis.—Feb. 22, 1892.—I have not noted any of these Ducks
here before. While shooting at the Hummuck Pond on the above
date, a single Lesser Scaup came to the decoys and was secured.
There were a number of *A. m. nearctica* in the pond at the time.

Auk 9, July, 1892. p. 304.

Aythya affinis.

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

Aythya affinis Spy Pond Mass.

Arlington Feb. 9.

Dear Mr Brewster,

As near as I
can remember there are
the birds that have
been seen & shot on
Spy, Hythe & E. Lexington
meadow in the last 12
years. Have seen two
specimens of Hoollibell's
grebe & outside of that
know of no other rare bird
that would especially

Avthva affinis.

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

interest you. The lesser Scaup duck
is about myself in Weymouth Pond and a
black gosling that came in one
rainy day on the last week of Oct
1899.

Yours very truly

[Signed Feb. 9, 1903] John St. Hardy Jr.
P. S. Don't use my application for
the Nuttall Club coming on 2^d of April

1882

Aythya affinis G. Wilson

April 8 "On April 8 I

shot a Green Blackhead
on the Charles River,
East Watertown"
had b. C. R. band.

(The above specimen, no 50 Colle.
C. R. band, is an adult ♀
now in my collection I have
quoted all that Mr. Barnard
had to say of it in his
notes.)

Aythya affinis.

Jamaica Pond, Mass.

Estabrook & Co.

35 Congress Street,

Boston. June 4/02

21 NASSAU STREET.
NEW YORK.

Dear Harold,

The Scaup Ducks' regular visits to Jamaica Pond started a few years ago with a small number one Autumn, which staid I think till driven out by the ice. Each Autumn since, the number has been larger and the birds have fed nearer to the shore, though being disturbed have become tame, or the larger number have made the search for food keener.

The Spring visits have been more irregular, shorter in time & less in numbers. Last spring

Estabrook & Co.
35 Congress Street,
Boston.

21 NASSAU STREET.
NEW YORK.

Very few have been. I
I have kept no record
of dates or numbers, so
that I am afraid that
the above will not be
of very much use to Mr.
Bracebridge.

When you see him, please
give him my regards.

If he has any special
questions he wishes to ask
I will gladly answer them
if I can.

Yours truly
Mar 18 W. C. W.

Birds of Adirondack Region—Merriam.

202. *Fuligula affinis*. LITTLE BLACKHEAD.—Tolerably regular fall migrant. Taken on Lake Champlain.

Bull. N.O.C., 7, Oct, 1882, p, 257

Bird Notes from Shelter Island, Long Island, N. Y.—LESSER SCAUP DUCK (*Aythya affinis*).—This duck has been noted in this vicinity several times in midsummer. A specimen was shot by a friend of mine on Aug. 18 of last year (1903). A pair were seen by Dr. Braislin and myself at Napeague Harbor on June 20, 1902. None of these were crippled birds, and all possessed normal powers of flight, so that their failure to migrate with their fellows was surely owing to no physical disability.

Willis W. Worthington,
Shelter Island Heights, N.Y.,
Auk, XXI, Apr., 1904, p. 287.

Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

Some specimens of F. affinis bear decided traces of albinism.

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

Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

In Mr. Boardman's collection is a Lesser Scaup Duck in white plumage.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 30

O and Q. 280. *Catching a Tartar.* By F. T. Jencks. *Ibid.*, VI. p. 14.—A Little Black-head Duck (*Fulix affinis*) caught by the tongue by a mussel.

collaris

Ring-necked Duck

1890.
Mar 7-15

Canaveral, Banana Creek.
Florida.

Common, but much less numerous than the lesser Scaup Duck. It associated freely with this bird, but it resorted mostly to narrow creeks bordered and in places overhung by mangrove. Its habits seemed to be very similar to those of the Scaup Duck, and the only note which I heard was a krur, kr-ur-ur precisely like that of

F. affinis. This note was identified beyond question by shooting the bird, a female, in the act of producing it, no other Duck being near. It is difficult for a novice to distinguish a Ring Neck from a Scaup when flying, for the two are very closely alike in general form and color. The female Ringneck, however, is much browner, ~~and~~ the breast and sides ~~of~~ back and lacks the white patch in front of the eye. The male is much darker on the back. The Ring Neck is a better table-bird than either of the Scaups - a fact well known to all the Duck-hunters here.

It is evident that this species is more addicted to feeding in narrow, winding creeks than is either of the Scaups. Near Oak Lodge, on Mosquito Bayou, Mr. Gann finds the Ring-neck composing fully 90% of all the Ducks which he shoots on a narrow stream that winds back among the marshes.

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

112. *Fuligula collaris*. RING-NECK DUCK.—Mr. Comeau has killed
two in spring.

Ball, N.O.O., 7, Oct., 1882, p. 289

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

44

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 445.

44. *Aythya collaris*. RING-NECK DUCK.—Rare migrant, April 1 to
May 15.

Notes on Maine Birds.

In the Proceedings of the Portland Society of Natural History for April, 1882, I spoke of the Ring-necked Duck (*Fulix collaris*) as having but once been taken in the vicinity of the city within my experience. On the very morning upon which my paper left the press, I found in one of the city markets two adult males which were killed in the Presumpscot River, March 31, 1882. On April 12 I found another male in the market; the next day I purchased a pair from a sportsman in Deering; and on April 17 detected another male in the market. That the bird's occurrence in such numbers is very unusual there can be no doubt. In fact, so far as I have been able to learn, our most experienced hunters of wild fowl either knew the species only by tradition, before this year, or else were wholly unacquainted with it.

N. C. Brown, Portland.

Bull. N.O.C., 7, July, 1882, p. 190.

A hand-drawn sketch of a mountain range. The mountains are labeled from left to right: "West", "Laytonville", "Caldwell", "West", and "East". Below the mountains, a road is labeled "Dove Road".

Bucksport Mar 30th 87

Friend Brewster I shot a pair of ducks
this day different from any that I
ever killed before. I have noted out
the two hills. This is a little large
head and neck and breast of male
black reddish brown ring & nearly
around the neck of male. And color
patch on wings belly white eye of
male very yellow length of male wing

July 11. 1901

Book

Book

Aug 9th 1878

My dear female year
young about same length as male eyes not so
yellow & suppose they are a species of the Sparrow
how much are they worth to you & want to know
the value of them & have an order for a pair of the Lesser
Sparrow
Yours truly Abraham G. Darrow

POSTAL CARD - ONE CENT.

United States of America



THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

Wm Brewster
145 Brattle Street
Cambridge
Mass

ACKS P.O.
P.M.
1897

General notes.

Ack.
9 Jan. 1892.
p. 74.

Notes from Springfield, Massachusetts.—November 14, 1891, I captured on the Connecticut River near Springfield an adult male *Aythya collaris*. Occasionally in autumn a small flock of this species will locate their feeding grounds in this vicinity and remain a month or so, but as far as my experience goes they have heretofore been young birds. *Robert O. Morris,
Springfield, Mass.*

Aythya collaris.

The Ducks of Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

by Herbert K. Job.

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

See under *Anas obscura*.

Aythya collaris Fresh Pond,
Cambridge, Mass.
1903.
Nov. 30 ♂ plain breast apparently ♀
(W.B. & W.D.).

Aythya collaris

near Bridgewater.

Nov. 20, 1895, Mass.
Arthur C. Dyke, Bridgewater, Mass.

Auk, XXII, 1905, 409

Eastham, Mass.
Coll. Boston Soc. Nat. History.

Aythya collaris. RING-NECKED DUCK.—Mr. Dwight Blaney presented a female taken at Eastham, Mass., October 28, 1903.

Auk 25, Apr 1908, p. 234.

Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.

Aythya collaris. RING-NECKED DUCK.—There are two specimens, male, in full breeding plumage, labelled "From south side of Long Island." Mr. Akhurst mounted both, and states that they were purchased in Fulton Market, New York City, of Messrs. A. & E. Robbins who said they came from the south side of Long Island. No date is given.

Auk, X, July, 1893 p 270.

Notes on Long Island Birds.

Aythya collaris. The Ring-necked Duck has been so infrequently recorded from Long Island that it is well worthy of mention. The gunner above mentioned sent me this specimen, a male, which he believed to be a "cross between a Red-head and a Broad-bill." He had "never seen one like it before," and consequently it must be rare on Long Island, as during his long experience as a gunner in the Great South Bay he has met with many rare, as well as the ordinary, species which frequent this famous resort of water-fowl. The bird came alone to the decoys.

W^W C. Braeslin, M.D.,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Auk, XVI, April, 1899, pp. 190-193.

1889

Banana River, Florida

Fulix collaris

Feb 19

abundant. In shot gun, all females. They decoyed readily and came in with set wings after the usual Duck fashion. The flight of this Duck is very swift and somewhat erratic.

Undescribed Plumages of N. A. Birds.
G. B. Sennett

Aythya collaris. RING-NECKED DUCK.

Downy Stage: — Underparts very pale yellow; forehead and sides of head and neck the same, washed with dark fulvous yellow; the same yellow is on underside of wing and, alternating with brown, covers the side of body. The crown, line down back of neck, wings, and line down tibia to tarsus, whole of centre of back, and spaces between the yellow patches, a rich brown.

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887. p. 24.

BREEDING OF *FULIGULA COLLARIS* IN SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA,
AND A DESCRIPTION OF ITS NEST AND EGGS.—On the 1st of June,
1876, I took a nest and nine eggs of the Ring-necked Duck, about eight
miles from Minneapolis, Hennepin Co., Minn. The nest was found on
May 27, with its full complement of eggs, but on account of the absence of
the parent it had to be left for further identification. It was not until the
third visit that the bird was found on the nest, when she was shot as she flew
off, and proved to be the female Ring-neck. The skin is now in my col-
lection. This species is always sparingly represented in this locality dur-
ing the summer months, and I have no doubt breeds here quite regularly.
As I can find no account of the nest and eggs I give a description of these
before me. The situation chosen for the nest was in a narrow strip of
marsh bordering a large shallow pond or slough. About half-way between
the shore and the edge of the open water was a mass of sunken *débris*,
probably the remnants of an old muskrat house, which reached nearly or
quite to the surface of the water, here about eight inches deep. On this
foundation was the nest, a rather compact, bulky structure, built mainly of
fine grass with a little moss intermingled. Outside, the grass is long and
circularly disposed, while the bottom, inside, is composed of short broken
pieces, and the inside rim of fine grass bent and loosely tangled together
with considerable down among it. Measurements were not taken before
removing the nest, but in its present condition the walls and base are two
and a half inches thick, the diameter inside six inches, and the depth of
the cavity three inches. The clutieh was nine eggs, which contained small
embryos. The eggs are perfectly smooth, and of a light greenish-white color,
wholly unmarked. The measurements of seven of them are as follows:
 2.19×1.58 ; 2.19×1.60 ; 2.23×1.58 ; 2.27×1.60 ; 2.23×1.62 ; 2.24
 $\times 1.58$; 2.25×1.62 . The general average is 2.23×1.60 .—Tuos. S.
ROBERTS, *Minneapolis, Minn. Bull. N.O.C.* 5, Jan., 1880, p. 61

Clangula
americana

1889

Boston

Dec. 31

Back-Bay. For several weeks Murres have resorted to this ^{Flocks in} bay in somewhat unusual numbers although the weather ^{Back Bay.} has been very mild. Probably they are learning that there is little or no chance of molestation here. They may be often seen from the horse cars that cross W. Boston bridge "fishing" within gunshot. This evening, just after sunset, as I was crossing the bridge I saw at least one hundred and fifty rising in a broad spiral and starting off towards the lower Bay. They were divided into eight different flocks of from ten to thirty birds each: A week or two ago, ^{at about the spring time of day} I saw about an equal number flying over Boston common at a considerable height evidently coming from the Back Bay & heading towards the harbor. Probably all these birds leave the Back Bay regularly before it becomes fairly dark.

1892-93

Dec.-Jan.

Boston. - Cold weather set in a few days before Christmas and the winter since then has been the most severe for many years. During the first three weeks of January the mercury did not once rise to 32° (I did not see it above 24°) and it went to or below 0° frequently. The Back Bay and most of the harbor froze over solid but the tugs, steamers & ferry boats kept the ship channels open to the sea.

Before the Back Bay froze over Murres were seen there daily in larger numbers than ever before. W. A. Jeffris tells me that there were frequently as many as 500 birds in the water between the W. Boston & Harvard Bridges at one time. They are perfectly safe here and evidently have learned to appreciate this security for they are very tame.

Glaucisiotha americana

1893 Mass.

Jan'y 19 Boston Harbor. - Went down the Harbor this morning and out to beyond the Graves. Saw fully 500 Whistlers & perhaps more. Most of them were in the harbor, scattered in flocks of from six or eight to seventy or eighty birds each all the way from Rowes Wharf to Boston Light, wherever they could find open water. There was one large flock within half gunshot of the N.Y. & N.E. R.R. wharf. They were evidently hard put to it for food. (See Journal) Boston Harbor.

" 22 Cambridge. - Found six Whistlers swimming about and diving for food in Fresh Pond where the fountain has kept the water from freezing over a space of perhaps half an acre. About the High Pond fountain

Bolles saw these birds here yesterday and the Park policeman tells me that they ^{first} appeared about 8 days ago and have since been almost constantly in the hole. There were five females & young males and one fine old drake in full plumage, this morning. (See Journal for further particulars.)

" 24 The drake Whistler seen on the 22nd has not left the fountain since according to the Park policeman whom we found shooting at the poor bird this evening, the reason being that it was wounded & if left to die would pollute the water! Certainly there was something wrong with it but I think that is evident feebleness was probably due to starvation rather than any injury.

" 29 Three young ♂ or ♀ Whistlers in the opening about the fountain. They were diving near shore & evidently getting some kind of food. They would not permit me to approach within gun range but when driven out returned ~~in~~ the course of two or three minutes. When diving they sprang perfectly clear of the water Diving entering it at a point fully twelve inches from that where they sat before making the spring. I could not see that the wings were opened in the least.

Elanciovetta c. americana.

Concord, Mass.
April, 9. 1893.

Soon after the Scaly Ducks had disappeared I discovered by means of my glass four Golden eyes, then of three old drakes, swimming in the rough water of the channel of the river. They were soon afterwards and followed the Scalps making a loud, steady whistling.

Golden eye

nearly all the scattered
birds were males
Total number counted
396. I am sure consider that
many must have been under
water when I counted & above
that I could only see those
birds near the water with
as the water was rough. I believe
the actual number on the river
today must have been well up
to the 1,000 mark

One or more of the
clocks in the large flock gave
a short grating call on rising
very,

Ma Spurio

Jan 24-

Glaucionetta americana
1897 Mass. (Charles River Basin)
This morning on
my in town. I counted 67
whistlers with following
result

I saw a large flock
in the narrow part of the river
about mid way between
Harvard bridge & Nip & Lanks'
bridge house. They flew
down the river and landed
I counted here 210 as there
one half being males. Following
along to the east they were
scattered in twos & threes or
singlets all the way to Brattleby
Street. where again a good
size flock (50) was hocking

Count of
Jeffries.

Clangula c.americana.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899. Three adult males in Fresh Pond on the morning of the December. 14th and a solitary female on that of the 17th. These are the only occasions on which I have seen Whistlers in Fresh Pond since January, 1891 when during a protracted spell of severe cold a small flock frequented a space of open water about the fountain for several days in succession. Those noted this month kept rather apart from the Black Ducks. I did not see any of them dive.

On the Back Bay between the two bridges that connect Boston with Cambridge Whistlers have been present about daily during the present month but in rather smaller numbers than usual. I counted 40 birds there on the 29th. Their favorite feeding grounds this autumn are just below Harvard Bridge on the Boston side. On the Cambridge side where they used to congregate the water has been deepened considerably by dredging during the past two years and, no doubt, most if not all of the feed destroyed.

Please accept my thanks for two papers you kindly sent me. I suppose no one has ever tried to see whether your Golden-eyed Duck will take to an artificial nest-box, as ours does in Lapland? In that country the people have a common practice of letting up hollow segments of a branch, with a suitable hole cut on one side - as shown in this rough sketch - nailing them to the trunk of a tree, & they are occupied by the ducks almost immediately.

Mus. Coll. Cambridge
25 Jan. 1901.

A.



POST CARD CARTE POSTALE
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND STATION
THIS SIDE FOR THE ADDRESS MASS.



Dr Brewster Esq.

Dean of Comparative Zoology

Cambridge Mass.

United States of America.

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

101. *Clangula glaucum americana* (*Bp.*) *Ridgw.* GOLDEN-EYE.—
A few seen at Grand Falls.

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

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

113. *Clangula glaucum*. GOLDEN-EYE.—A resident species, and
tolerably common. Breeds on fresh water only. Remains throughout
the winter.

Bull. N.O.C. 7, Oct., 1882, p. 240

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

151. Golden-eye Duck. Occasional or rare.
Breeds. With large, downy young on July 18th.

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

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

9. *Glaucionetta clangula americana*. AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE.—
Breeds abundantly.

Louis H. Porter, New York City.

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

Birds of Newfoundland of Labrador
by Henry B. Bigelow.

29. *Glaucionetta clangula americana*. GOLDEN-EYE.—Reported com-
mon in late autumn. I saw only one specimen, near Port Manvers,
August 11.

Auk, LX, Jan., 1902, p. 27.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 445.

45. *Clangula clangula americana*. AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE.—Common
migrant, and a regular winter resident, November 23 to April 27; Mr. Nash
gives May 6 as latest date.

Winter Birds of Southwestern Vt. 1885.

Golden-eye Garrot.
A. L. Johnson. Hydeville, Vt.

O. & O. X. Apr. 1885. p. 63

Great Id. Mass. Dec. 1888. fast 16²°
Blawden ~~comes~~ 18¹²° 16²°

E. Man.

12 *Bucephala americana*, Nov. 11, E. Mass. 1884.
^{7 Rev.}

29. *Bucephala americana*. Ap. 1, 6⁷⁵ E. Mass. 1885.
^{Rev.}

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1888

March 20 30 (River B) 3^o 50 (Garrison)

April 5³ 9¹⁰ 12¹⁰
~~Concord~~

Bucephala americana.

1889 Mass.

July 26 - Boston - A single bird off W. Boston bridge in the usual place diving for food at high tide. I saw it from the horse car. It was within 40 yds. of the bridge. It looked like an adult ♀.

Anarhynchus acutirostris

Food

Mass.

1889 Marston's Mills. - Mr. Bernard Hinckley of this place tells me that Mergansers feed during the winter here exclusively on the roots of eel grass. He has opened the stomachs of a great many within the past few years & has never found any other food. They used to feed largely if not chiefly in the bays and creeks where this "grass" grows abundantly but they have been so persistently shot at here that they feed now, much of the time, in the vineyard bounded where eel grass occurs in many shallows at a safe distance from land

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

Glaucionetta clangula americana (Bonap.),
American Golden-eye. Winter visitant, very rare.

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

Brief Notes.

(Golden eyed Ducks.)

The number of wild ducks which are seen in Charles River this season since cold weather began is said to exceed all previous seasons.
—Boston Transcript.

This is within city limits.

O. & O. Vol. 17, Jan. 1892 p. 10

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

15. American Golden-eye (151). Common during fall and winter, but much scarcer than formerly.

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

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

There have been fewer Golden-eyes (*Glaucionetta clangula americana*) about Nantucket Island during the past winter than usual.
Auk XI. July. 1894 p. 226

Auk, XIV, Apr., 1897, p. 228.
Sundry Notes.—*Clangula americana*. AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE.—A pair, the first seen this season, were observed in the harbor of Nantucket, Mass., Oct. 26, 1896; one was also seen Nov. 1; both early dates.

George H. Mackay, Nantucket, Mass.

Clangula c. americana.

The Ducks of Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

by Herbert K. Job.

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

See under Anas obscura.

Clangula c. americana ♀

South Orleans Mass.

Bird rec'd in Boston Market on
March 28, 1907. Eyes not sunken hence
killed very recently. I weighed it
on March 28 at the Museum when C.R.
Lamb brought it for identification. Weight, 25 1/2 oz.
in scale

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

160. *Clangula glaucium americana* (Bonaparte) Ridgway. GOLDEN-EYE.—Summer resident, breeding at various places.

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

For a note on Golden-eye Ducks see
Long-tails, under Notes, Shatto & al. N. Y. 1881
W. W. Worthington.

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

Birds Tioga Co. N. Y. Alden Loring

620. Whistle-wing Duck. Common. This duck is one of the most common of the ducks which inhabit this part of the country. It may be found in the spring, fall and winter on our Susquehanna river. It is called Whistle-wing because after attaining the height of about fifteen feet its wings make a whistling sound, which may be heard for fully a quarter of a mile. When slightly wounded this duck dives and sticks just the end of its bill out of water. They are expert swimmers, divers and fliers. Their food consists of small fish and mussels. Out of the crop of a full-grown male I counted sixty-one small shells and three pebbles. The full-grown males are very beautiful, their head being of a glossy green, with a white puffy spot at the root of the bill. Their weight is from two pounds to two pounds and a half. They are fair eating.

O. & O. XV, June, 1880, p. 86

Brief Notes.

Large flocks of wild ducks have been going over Niagara Falls for the last week. The birds have been gathering in large numbers above the falls for two or three weeks past. They float out and down the river until they are caught in the rapids and are whirled along over the brink. Those that are not killed are stunned and seem bewildered. The largest bags of this game were made the other night, when a dozen men picked up some four hundred in the river below the falls. The game is shipped to Eastern markets.

O. & O. Vol. 17, Jan. 1892 p. 10

Albinism and Melanism in North
American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

Pure white specimens of *B. clangula*, have been taken.

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

Bucephala americana.

Winter habits.

Boston, Mass.
January 24, 1879

For the past three weeks the "Basin" lying between West Boston Bridge and the Mill-dam has been frozen over with the exception of a few spaces of open water. Two of these spaces have been resort to regularly by small flocks of Golden-eyes. The larger space is formed by the rushing volume of water that passes thro' the gates beneath Beacon St. It extends about 150 yds. out into the ice. Here at all hours from three to a dozen Whistlers may always be seen. They are constantly diving and reappearing at different points in their restricted domain. Sometimes they

Maine

Bucephala americana

1888

Specimen with only one leg.

Sept. 17

"I have lately." Yesterday at Crosby's I examined in the flesh a ♂ Whistler which had only one ♀ leg. It seems never to have had any trace of hip or leg as it [the body] is perfectly smooth where the leg should be." (M. Hardy letter Sept 18/88.)

Amer. Naturalist, Vol. XI. Jan.

the Whistling Duck, *Bucephala americana* (p. 44), by J. F. LeBaron,

1878. Food of the Golden-eyed Duck. *Ibid. & Museum.* Vol. 3, Feb 27. p. 104.

live nearly within gun-shot of the road apparently careless of the numerous passing drivers.

The other pond is within 80 yds. of West Boston Bridge. See also the Whistler resort daily their presence being generally noticed and commented on by the habitués of Cambridge "work-carts."

While watching this duck from the hill-side, no ad I was struck by their surprising agility in diving. Each bird would spring entirely clear of the water and describing a curve clear the surface with bill depressed almost like a fish. The propulsion was evidently furnished by the broadly-webbed feet as the wings were not spread, at least before the bird dived head.

Maine

Bucephala americana

1888

Specimen with only one leg.

Sept. 17

"~~I have lately~~ Yesterday at Crosby's I examined in the flesh a ♀ Whistler which had only one ♀ leg. It seems never to have had any trace of hip or leg as it [the body] is perfectly smooth where the leg should be." (M. Hardy letter Sept 18/88)

Amer. Naturalist, Vol. XL, Jan.
the Whistling Duck, *Bucephala americana* (p. 44), by J. F. LeBaron,

a note on
1878. Food of the Golden-eyed Duck. *Ibid. & S. G. M.*, Vol. 32, Feb 27, p. 104.

BUCEPHALA ISLANDICA AND BUCEPHALA CLANGULA.—Recently my attention was drawn, by Mr. Welch, to the peculiar shape of the feathers which form the white scapular band in the male Barrow's Golden-eye. In this species the scapular feathers are white along the shaft, and black on one or both edges, usually both. In the second species these feathers are also white along the shaft, and black-edged, but in the Barrow's Golden-eye the terminal part of the white breaks off, and leaves the black edges projecting beyond; so that the end of the feather is of much the same shape that a longitudinal section of the lower half of a champagne bottle would be. This breakage does not take place in the common Golden-eye.

In view of the general similarity of these two birds, such a simple character of the male Barrow's Golden-eye is not without interest. That the light-colored barbs of a feather break more easily than the dark barbs is well shown in the worn plumages of our Golden Woodpeckers and in the genus *Totanus*. But the shedding that takes place in the Golden-eyes is not of this class, but belongs to the same class as that which takes place in the red nuchal patch of some Woodpeckers. In the case of the Golden-eyes the color of the back is considerably darkened.

This peculiarity has held good for all the specimens examined by me, some seven or eight in number.—J. A. JEFFRIES, *Boston, Mass.*

Bull. N.O.C. 5, July, 1880, p. 189.

FOOD OF THE GOLDEN-EYED DUCK.—We are indebted to Dr. B. H. Warren, State Ornithologist of Pennsylvania, for the opportunity to determine one of the food resources of the golden-eyed duck (*Glaucionetta clangula americana*). On the 18th of January Dr. Warren bought an adult male of this species in a market at Philadelphia, Pa., and, on the following day, forwarded to us the contents of its crop and gizzard. He wrote that the "small rounded and egg-shaped bodies when the bird was opened seemed to be held together by a greenish colored membrane." The bird was shot on the Susquehanna River in the neighborhood of Port Deposit. Dr. A. K. Fisher, of the Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy of the Department of Agriculture, submitted the food materials to one of the botanists of the Department and learned that they were composed of tubers from the subterranean stems of *Chara*. The circular tubers are scarcely one-eighth of an inch in diameter and consist of a thin and brittle shell inclosing a snow white mass of starchy crystals. We did not ascertain the species constituting this food mass. One species of *Chara* is popularly known as "feather-beds" and another is called "stone-wort."

islandica

BREEDING OF BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE IN LOWER CANADA.—During the middle of July last (July 11-19, 1881) I several times came across a female, with several young, of Barrow's Golden Eye (*Clangula islandica*) in the Godbout River, about a mile above its mouth. Mr. N. A. Comeau showed me skins of the adults of both sexes that he had taken here, and assured me that the species breeds regularly in this region. The Godbout River empties into the St. Lawrence, from the north, six miles west of Pt. de Monte which guards the mouth of the Gulf on that side. The place falls a trifle short of 50° north latitude. Dr. Coues says (Birds of the Northwest, p. 577) "It is the most northerly species of the genus, having apparently a circumpolar distribution, breeding only (?) in high latitudes." etc.—C. HART MERRIAM, M. D., *Locust Grove, New York*, Bull. N. O. O., 6, Oct., 1881, p. 249

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

114. *Clangula islandica*. BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE.—A common resident, breeding, like the foregoing, on fresh water, and remaining on the Gulf all winter.

Bull. N. O. O., 7, Oct., 1882, p. 240

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

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE. *Bucephala islandica*.—A fine male specimen of this Duck was killed here by Mr. Charles Pickering on the 18th of April, 1885. This I examined in the flesh. It is the only one ever taken in this locality.

Auk, 2, Oct., 1885, p. 336-337.

L. Umbagog, Maine.

This record was based on a bird
in my collection which I now regard
as an ephemer of americanus

1884

Bucephala islandica, Oct. 28

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 445.

46. *Clangula islandica*. BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE.—One record, a male, taken April 18, 1885, recorded by Mr. Ernest Seton¹; this specimen was not preserved.

¹ Auk, II, 1885, 337.

Clangula islandica.

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

Nantucket, Mass.

Barrow's Golden-eye (*Clangula islandica*) in Massachusetts.—As this bird seems to be of rare occurrence in Massachusetts I would like to call attention to its having been taken at Nantucket on December 17, 1906. It was a male specimen in the adult plumage and was shot by Charles C. Chadwick, a native of the island, and whom I have had occasion to go shooting with several times. The bird was shot at the eastern end of the harbor where there is an opening into the ocean known as Haulover Break. At daylight and until sunrise a large flight of sea fowl streams through here on their way to the feeding grounds in the harbor. They consist mostly of White-winged Scoters (*Oidemia deglandi*), American Golden-eyes (*Clangula clangula americana*), Old-squaws (*Harelda hyemalis*), and a few Red-breasted Mergansers (*Merganser serrator*); this latter bird being very common later on in the spring. The bird in question was shot at this time during the flight, and was flying singly. Chadwick was unable to identify the specimen but supposed it to be a freak *Clangula clangula americana*. He showed it to several of the oldest gunners on the island but none had ever seen one like it before. Unfortunately the bird was destroyed in ignorance. I have been unable to find any recent records of the capture of this bird in Massachusetts and I believe it is considered a rare bird here, though a few are occasionally taken in Maine.—S. PRESCOTT FAY, Boston, Mass.

Auk 25, Apr 1908, p. 217

Barrow's Golden-eye at Wareham, Mass.—I am indebted to Mr. C. A. Robbins for the freshly-prepared skins of a female Barrow's Golden-eye and for permission to report that the bird was killed in Wareham by L. P. Hackett, a local gunner, on November 27, 1915. Mr. Robbins states further that "it was shot from a stone breakwater within one hundred yards of the shore and at a point almost exactly at the head of the broadest expanse of Buzzard's Bay. Although other Golden-eyes were feeding or in flight near by, this bird was accompanied by but one other (a female or young male)." On comparing the specimen with series of skins in my collection I find that with respect to every essential characteristic of both form and coloring it is a perfectly typical representation of *C. islandica*. The interest attaching to its occurrence is enhanced by the fact that so few birds of its sex and species have heretofore been reported from anywhere along the Massachusetts Coast. No doubt they visit this oftener than we realize, being overlooked because so closely similar to female Whistlers.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

Auk XXXIII. April. 1916. p. 197.

Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.

Glaucionetta islandica. BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE.—This specimen was presented by Mr. Akhurst who states that it was purchased in the flesh from 'Old Jake,' who procured it from one of the gunners on the south side of Long Island. There is no date attached to the specimen, nor any locality except as above stated. This is the only specimen of this species ever procured by Mr. Akhurst.

Auk X. July, 1893 p. 270.

NOTE ON BUCEPHALA ISLANDICA.—Dr. J. Bernard Gilpin has published* an interesting article on the specific distinctions of this species from *B. clangula*. Besides the well-known outward marks of differences especially observable in the head, he finds important anatomical characters in the structure of the trachea, bronchi, and lower larynx. According to the plate, the difference is very strongly marked. In the words of the text: "In the male common golden-eye, the wind-pipe, soon after leaving the throat and before it enters the breast, has a very sudden enlargement, almost as it were a broad hoop thrown obliquely around its stem; on the inside this leaves large circular pouches on the posterior surface before the restriction of the pipe takes place again. In the Rocky Mountain species, the wind-pipe simply and gradually enlarges itself, becoming restricted again before it enters the breast. In one the enlargement is suddenly from 2-8 of an inch to an inch and 1-8, while in the other from 2-8 to 5-8 of an inch, and that with no protuberances. In the males alone of both species there is, after the wind-pipe has entered the breast, that very complicated sub-quadrangular knob, from which the bifurcation of the pipe proceeds." — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

* Pages 390—403, with a plate, in some periodical not named in the over-sheets which have reached me. Doubtless the publication of the Nova Scotia Institute.

BULL. N.O.C. 4, April, 1879, p. 126-127.

the nest. The eggs, from nine to twelve in number, resemble those of the common Golden-eye, but are larger.

In my own collection I have four examples, all of them well identified, but all from Iceland. These vary from a grayish-green to a bright sea-green; the faded hue of the former is perhaps due to age and exposure. These measure 2.49×1.80 ; 2.44×1.74 ; 2.50×1.85 ; 2.50×1.75 .

The set of seven eggs belonging to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Cambridge, Mr. Allen describes to me as having a pale bluish-green color, or "sea-green." Their measurements are, 2.60×1.68 ; 2.58×1.70 ; 2.48×1.70 ; 2.48×1.70 ; 2.45×1.72 ; 2.43×1.70 ; 2.43×1.66 .

Bull. N.O.C. 4, July, 1879, p. 147 - 152.

NOTES ON SOME MINNESOTA BIRDS.

BY T. S. ROBERTS.

THE following species have been selected for brief note at this time, either because they seem to offer points of special interest, or because previous notices have been particularly unsatisfactory. So far as the writer is aware, the two varieties, Alice's Thrush and Ridgway's Sparrow, are here given from Minnesota for the first time. Most of the observations have been made in the vicinity of Minneapolis, and this locality is to be understood when no other is specified.

1. *Turdus swainsoni aliciae*. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH.—As was expected, this form, as well as *swainsoni* proper, is found here. I have several specimens taken about Minneapolis,—the first on May 11, 1876. The species is a summer resident, and breeds; but is not very common, being much outnumbered by *T. fuscescens*.

2. *Coturniculus lecontei*. LECONTE'S BUNTING.—Three regular notices of the occurrence here of LeConte's Bunting have appeared; but as the bird is one to which much interest attaches, a fourth and perhaps fuller account may not be unacceptable.

The species was first secured on June 20, 1877, by Mr. C. L. Herrick. Between this date and August 15 of the same year five more specimens were taken, one by Mr. Herrick, two by Mr. R. S. Williams, and two by the writer. A brief notice of the capture of Mr. Herrick's two specimens appeared at the time.*

* Bull. Minn. Geol. and Nat. Hist. Sur., 1876, p. 237.

Charitonetta
albocula

Charitonetta albeola.

Concord, Mass.

1897. Nearly opposite Bensen's landing (as we were proceeding
Nov. 24. up river this afternoon) we started a Buffle-head Duck, a
young bird which behaved in a curious manner keeping at a very
safe distance but taking very short flights, often going not
more than fifty or sixty yards before realighting and diving
in the same spot a number of times until again startled by
our approach. We drove the bird on ahead in this manner
nearly to Dakin's Hill when it doubled back past us.
- Dec. 9. Took the 9 A.M. train to Concord and launching the open
canoe paddled down to Ball' Hill. ***** Along the river I saw
two Buffle-head Ducks. They were swimming together at the
head of the reach just above Ball's Hill. They were too shy
to let me get within gun shot. When I was returning in the
afternoon I came suddenly on them close in shore just above
the big, fallen maple at the head of Beaver Dam Rapid. They
doubled back passing me within forty yards or so less but
having no gun I did not molest them.
- Dec. 10. Saw two Buffle-heads on Concord River. They were no
doubt the same birds which I saw yesterday for they were in
the same place and they behaved in the same manner.

Charitonetta albota

1891 Mass.

April 11 Nahant. - A flock of five seen by Faxon swimming on the sea near the rocks. One was a drake in full plumage, the other four females or young males.

Nov. 2 Waltham. - At about 10 a. m. while driving from Concord to Cambridge I saw a young ♂ Buff-head in a small ice pond near the foot of Prospect Hill. It "fishing" near the middle of the pond and dove at regular intervals seeming to pay no heed to the wagons which frequently passed along the road which skirts the N. shore of the pond.

1893

Oct. 30 Concord. Hebr Jones's eldest son shot two Buff-heads to-day in Concord River off the mouth of Dyer Brook. There were only two of them.

1896

Nov. 21 Concord. Hebr Jones's eldest son shot a Buff-head in Concord River to-day. Gen. Hayes saw the bird but did not know anything further than the above.

1897.

Nov. 24 Concord. A young bird swimming in the river opposite Ball's Hill

Dec. 9 " Two " " " " " " "

" 10 " " " " " " "

Nov. 24 Cambridge. An adult ♂ in Fresh Pond - O. A. Bottnay.

1898.

Nov. 9 Cambridge. An adult in Artificial Pond [Glaciolis] " O. A. Bottnay.

" 12 " " " ♂ " Fresh " Walter Dean.

" 21 " " One in " " O. A. Bottnay.

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

115. *Clangula albeola*. BUTTER-BALL.—Rare. Has been shot in October.

Bull. N.O.C., 7, Oct., 1882, p. 240

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

BUFFLEHEAD DUCK. *Bucephala albeola*.—An albino of this species was killed about thirty miles east of here, and is now to be seen in the possession of Mr. Jos. Taylor of Toronto.

Auk, 2, Oct., 1885, p. 33⁷

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

153. Butter-ball Duck. Occasional. Breeds.
O, & O, XV, June, 1890, p. 87

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

47

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 445.

47. *Charitonetta albeola*. BUFFLE-HEAD.—Common migrant, April 20 to May 1; earliest February 27, 1894; latest November 13, 1900.

Bucephala albeola

Occurrence in winter -

Swampscott, Mass.

January 27, 1883

In Swampscott Harbor to-day I saw a flock of about forty Buffle-heads. There can be no question of their identity for as they rose they crossed our bows nearly within gun-range. They flew in a close body and looked even smaller than Teal. Their short necks and compact bodies were clearly seen.

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

Charitonetta albeola (Linn.), Buffle-head. Migrant, common. Seen in winter.

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

Nov. 2. Several Buffle heads were taken, on Lake
Quinsigamond, Worcester.

R. H. Holman

O. & O. XV. Jan. 1890. p. 15.

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

19. Buffle-head (153). Fairly common.
O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 90

General Notes.

Stray Notes from Massachusetts.
George H. Mackay.

Charitonetta albeola.—Oct. 30. The first Buff-heads this season were noted here to-day; no others have been seen, which is very unusual. Three birds noted up to Dec. 1st.

Auk XI, Jan., 1894 p. 84

Charitonetta albeola.

The Ducks of Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

by Herbert K. Job.

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

See under Anas obscura.

1903 Charitonetta albodes Charles River Basin,
opp. Berkeley St.
December 19['] (C.W. Townsend) 21['] (C.W. Townsend) 23['] (probably in 3rd
(W. Townsend)

Census records near Boston, Mass.—

Chairtonetta albeola. A small flock remained at Moon Island, Boston Bay, during the winter.

Francis G. and Maurice C. Blake, Brookline, Mass.
D. 392.

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

57. *Bucephala albeola*. BUFFLE-HEAD DUCK.

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

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

161. *Clangula albeola* (Linn.) Stephens. BUTTERBALL.—Occurs, but not so common as the above.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Oct., 1881, p. 235

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

During the past winter

A few Buffleheads have been reported by gunners,
O. & O. X. May, 1885, p. 80.

Birds Tioga Co., N. Y. Alden Loring

621. Butter Ball. This little duck is not rare but may be found in small flocks of three to six. It is very tame until after it has been shot at a number of times. Makes fine eating.

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

Albinism and Melanism in North
American Birds. Ruthven Drane.

Pure white specimens of *A. albeola*, have
been taken.

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

In the collection of Henry Chapman, one of San Francisco's oldest naturalists and taxidermists (now deceased), was a fine mounted Albino Buffle-Head (*Charitonetta Albeola*), being as pure white as a Snowy Goose, none of the characteristic markings of the duck's feathers showing in the mantle of white. It was brought in to Mr. Chapman by one of the many bay pot hunters.

W. O. Emerson

O + O. XIII. June, 1888. p. 82.

Harelda
hyemalis

1890

Harelda glacialis.

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

As far as I can make out, there was no migratory movement of these birds during my stay. About 50 or 75 were always to be found in flocks of about ten or a dozen each, fishing close in to the rocks, about the point, and single birds were frequently observed flying to and fro, but not in ~~any~~ one direction more than in another. On several occasions I saw one or two birds flying in company with Scoters, but this was not common. Those observed near the rocks usually dove about submerged ledges, where they would collect sometimes to the number of fifteen or twenty. They were very shy when thus engaged, and I found it impossible to stalk them, for one or the other of them was sure to see me and give the alarm when the flock would swim out of range, returning after I had retired. Sometimes a single bird or a pair would "draw into our Coot decoys, and in this way we shot one or two. We also got several shots while rowing through narrow channels between the ~~high~~ islands. One flock of a dozen birds passed ~~us~~ and repassed us several times within close range, although we fired at them each time. They seemed to become confused, scattering and dashing back and forth as if they had lost their heads completely. The flight of this Duck is ~~very much~~ swifter than that of any bird which I have found along our coast. It is also more erratic. The bird's long, pointed wings and elongated tail-feathers give it very much the appearance of a wild pigeon when on the wing, and its flight is not at all dissimilar. A small proportion of the males seen appeared to be in full nuptial plumage, and an equally small number in white winter dress, the majority representing ~~various stages~~ intermediate between these two conditions. During still, warm weather, these Ducks were at times very noisy, calling "Haw! Haw! Erlit" and sometimes "Haw! Haw!" a number of times, without the other two syllables. The tone or quality of this cry was sonorous, ~~nsome~~ somewhat nasal, resembling a little the Honking of a Goose. The sound carries well and I should think could be heard for more than half a mile. If the birds are not too near it is not at all an unpleasing sound and goes well with the moaning of the sea breaking on the ledges & reefs.

Clangula hyemalis?
228 Brattle Street, Mass.
Cambridge.

Mr. William Brewster,

Dear Sir;—

Will you kindly tell me if the Old Squaw Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) is ever found on Fresh Pond? On Christmas morning I saw a bird there among the gulls very distinctly marked in black and white and yet too far out for me to distinguish in its minor

markings. It had a white head and neck, a black breast, white belly, black wings with which showed white once when it stretched them. I went there again the 27th and 28th, but it had gone.

I hope I do not trouble you in asking you this.

Very truly yours,

Anna M. Scorgie

December 28, 1908.

Point Lepreau, N.B.

Harelda glacialis.

1885

Sept. 9

Five Old Squaws fishing at high tide close in to the rocks through a powerful gale I could see that they were all in black plumage. Four were certainly ♀s, but only one of them had the long tail feathers. They would dive in quick succession, leaping nearly clear of the water with bills depressed and backs strongly arched, clearing the surface so skilfully as to make very little splash.

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

116. *Harelda glacialis*. OLD WIFE.—Resident. Very abundant in winter, the largest flocks being seen in December, January, and February. Mr. Comeau took one in full summer plumage as early as April 23, 1882. Tolerably common in summer, and supposed to breed.

Bull. N. J. S. 7, Oct. 1882, p. 240

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

Clangula hyemalis, Old-squaw. Only a migrant, and I saw none after about June the 5th.

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

General Notes.

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

Clangula hyemalis. (Doubtless migrants.)

Auk XII. Jan. 1895 p. 89

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

4. *Harelda hyemalis*. OLD SQUAW.—Frequently seen about the shores at Parrsboro.

Auk, XVI. July, 1899, p. 251

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 445.

48. *Harelda hyemalis*. OLD-SQUAW.—An abundant winter resident, November 15 to May 12 (latest June 2, 1899). Whenever the western channel is free of ice, flocks of many hundreds of Cowheen, as they are called here, assemble to feed on the sewerage that flows into Toronto Bay at that point, and become very tame, allowing a close study of their habits; many die of starvation during the winter. In 1894 birds taken on May 2 were in full winter plumage, and by May 12 some were in full summer plumage and others had only partially changed, but as a rule they leave before changing.

First Observed at Tom's Station
by Mr. & Mrs. M. S.

Harelda hyemalis. OLD SQUAW.—1911, Nov. 13, one shot.

Ank 50, July, 1912, p. 436

Mass.

Harilda glacialis

Rockport. Mr. Geo. H. Mackay tells me that many years ago while shooting off Rockport he had a ♂ Old Squaw alight among his wooden decoys. After swimming about among them "talking a good deal" it repeatedly attempted to "mount" one of the wooden birds. This happened in Spring.

100 *Harilda glacialis*. Nov. 28th (1885)

23 *Harilda glacialis* Nov. 10th. E. Mass. 1886.

Nov. 21-23. 22. *Harilda glacialis*. 21²-22¹ Great Id. Mass. 1886.

Great Id. Mass. Dec. 1888.

Harilda glacialis. 10th

Mass (Swinich)

Harilda glacialis

1885-

Nov. 28 A flock of about a dozen diving close in to the beach. They disappeared one after another in quick succession each making a perceptible splash. Very soon after the last had disappeared the first would come to the surface. When we approached they collected in a close bunch and swam rapidly out returning soon after we had passed. A number of Scoters were diving near them but the two species intermingled only once and then but for a moment.

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

Clangula hyemalis (Linn.), Old-squaw. Mi-
grant, common. Seen in winter.

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

Oct. 26th a ♂ Long-tailed duck was shot on Lake
Quinsigamond, Worcester

R. H. Holman

O. & O. XV. Jan. 1890. p. 167.

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

16. Old Squaw (154). Abundant during fall.
A number remain until spring.

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

Water Birds, Nantucket, Mass.

George H. Mackay General Notes.

Clangula hyemalis.—There have been a large number of Old-squaws frequenting most of the larger ponds on the Island this winter (1891-92), —in the Long Pond as many as seven or eight hundred,—also a large number in the Hummuck and Miacomet Ponds. They came in from the outside (Sound) before sunrise and went out again about sunset to roost at night in the Sound. While they frequent the ponds more or less every winter, nothing like the present numbers have been noted before. They preferred to submit to almost any amount of shooting at them rather than abandon the ponds where they had been living. Even on May 1, 1892, I noted as many as forty or fifty in each of the three ponds above mentioned.

Auk 9, July, 1892. p. 305.

Harelda hyemalis.

Sundry Notes.

In passing through Nantucket Sound I saw, Nov. 11, about two thousand Old Squaws (*Harelda hyemalis*) in one body. Geo. H. Mackay, Nantucket, Mass.

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

Harelda hyemalis.

The Ducks of Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

by Herbert K. Job.

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

See under Anas obscura.

The Old-squaw (*Harelda hyemalis*) on the Connecticut Coast in Summer.—Since there seem to be but few published notes concerning the occurrence of the Old-squaw south of its breeding grounds in summer, the following notes will probably be of interest. I first observed this species in summer on August 2, 1906, in a small bay at the mouth of Oyster River, West Haven, Conn. There were three of the birds at this time. They were observed very closely and seemed disinclined, and perhaps unable to fly. When I threw stones close to them they paid no attention, and when I ran at them suddenly, to try to make them fly, they merely dove.

My second meeting with this species in summer occurred recently at Compo, Conn., near Westport. On the evening of July 14, 1913, I was out rowing with three friends. It was a warm, moonlight, summer evening without a breath of wind. When nearly a mile from shore we heard the calling of a flock of Old-squaws. As we drew nearer they called repeatedly, and we soon saw them, seated on the water. It was too dark to see any but the nearest birds, so that an accurate count was impossible. The most that I counted at one time was twelve, but I believe it more likely that the number was somewhere between fifteen and twenty. When we got close to them, some of the birds flew, but most of them beat along the surface of the water with their wings as if unable to rise, and finally dove instead. The birds called repeatedly, the "south south southerly" call. Although we were unable to see them clearly enough in the moonlight to make out anything, except that they were ducks, this call is so characteristic and unmistakable that the identification from it alone is certain.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.

Ank 30, Oct, 1913. Ds 577, 578.

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

162. *Harelda glacialis* (Linn.) Leach. OLD SQUAW.—Occurs during migration.

Bull. N. O. O., 8, Oct, 1881, p. 235

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

During the past winter The Ducks were nearly all driven to other localities by the bays being frozen completely over, a few Long-tails and Golden-eyes remaining in the tide-holes, the former shy, but the latter affording fair shooting over the decoys.

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

Unseasonable Birds on L Island.

3. *Harelda glacialis*.—While yatching in North Oyster Bay, Long Island Sound, on July 12, 1884, I shot a fine male 'Old Wife.' The bird was apparently well and uninjured, and was swimming about in a lively manner as we approached. My first shot either missed or only wounded it slightly, for it instantly rose and was flying off rapidly when I killed it with my second barrel. I skinned it, and could not find any marks of old wounds or other injuries. It was in full plumage and differed from the adults usually taken in this latitude by the greater amount of orange brown on the back and scapulars. The dark zone on the breast was also of a lighter shade than usual.—DE L. BERIER, 52 Broadway, New York City.

Auk, 3, April, 1886. p. 281.

Birds Tioga Co, N.Y. Alden Loring.

623. Old Wife or South Southerly. Common. Comes up the Susquehanna in the spring and fall in flocks of fifteen to thirty. They are expert swimmers, divers and fliers. Living on small fish. Like numbers of other ducks when wounded it dives and puts just the end of the bill out of water. They are very tame but are not good eating. Out of the crop of one of these birds I took 52 small pike, most of them an inch long, and six or seven two inches long. A full-grown male often weighs two pounds. The favorite days for these ducks are when it is cold and the wind is blowing just after rain.

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

Old Squaw (*Clangula hiemalis*).

This bird is in my opinion the most abundant duck in this locality, during migrations generally appearing in immense flocks after a blow. Last November these birds were caught in the herring nets on Lake Erie by the thousand. At Dunkirk, N. Y., between five and seven thousand were taken at one haul. At this port (Erie) the largest haul, to my knowledge, was eight hundred. A very few American Black Scoters were also taken, but no other species. Lake Erie is, to be sure, a shallow lake, but the fishermen informed us that most of the ducks were caught when the nets were set 15 fathoms (90 feet) of water, a few being caught in 18 and 20 fathoms. One captain told me that he caught three ducks of this species in 27 fathoms, and I do not doubt his word. One of our daily papers printed a long article on this subject, claiming that the fishermen set their nets on purpose to catch ducks, but I had ample proof that such was not the case, for the ducks were invariably so badly entangled in the nets, as to cause considerable trouble in getting them out; besides, after the first large haul the markets were glutted in all directions, and many were thrown away.

This bird is well known to be an expert diver, yet the fact that they can descend to such depths as I have noted seems quite remarkable to me. Their flesh is very poor, still it seems a pity that they should be slaughtered in this way, and while I do not think they are liable to be exterminated, last fall's catch must have made quite a diminution in their ranks. *Samuel E. Bacon, Jr.*

Erie, Pa.

O. & O. Vol. 17, Mar. 1892 p. 45

Auk, X-1, July, 1895, pp. 292-3.
The Old Squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) in Colorado.—While this Duck occurs regularly in greater or less numbers on Lake Michigan in winter, and is occasionally found on the larger rivers and lakes of the adjacent States, I can find no record of its occurrence west of the Mississippi River. I am indebted to my friend, Mr. John B. Sibley, of Denver, Colorado, for information regarding the capture of a pair, male and female, which he shot on McKay Lake, sixteen miles north of Denver, on November 13, 1892.

Mr. Sibley, who is an ardent sportsman, and shoots large numbers of ducks every fall in this same location, writes that he has never seen but this one pair of Old Squaws, though he has heard of two single birds killed at different times in the State. The pair in question, Mr. Sibley had mounted, and they are now in possession of a friend in Denver.—*RUTIIVEN DEANE, Chicago, Ill.*

The Old Squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) on the Coast of South Carolina.—The winter of 1894-95 was remarkable for its severity. The thermometer in December was 8° above zero, and in February 15° above zero. Several flocks of Old Squaws were daily seen near the ocean, and among them many adult males. They were very wild, and it was very difficult to get a shot at them, even at long range. On February 26, I was fortunate enough to shoot an adult female. This was the only one taken. I can find but one record of this duck being taken in the State, viz.: Smythe, Auk, Vol. V, 1888, p. 203.—*ARTHUR T. WAYNE, Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

Albinism and Melanism in North
American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

Some specimens of *H. glacialis*, bear strong traces
of albinism.

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

1040. *Harelda glacialis* at New Orleans. By G. Kohn. *Ibid.*, Sept.
1885, p. 896.—An old male in winter plumage was shot on Lake Catherine
Feb. 28, 1885. Amer. Naturalist, XIX

Harolda glacialis

Notes & habits.

River Beach, Mass.

Feb. 20, 1883

At River Beach to-day I heard for the first time the remarkable cries of the Old squaws. The day was clear, warm and perfectly calm the surface of the sea being as smooth as a mirror. There were signs of a coming storm in the cloud bank gathering in the east but the sunshine lay warm on the still water and motionless trees behind. Off the beach were hundreds of Old squaws; single birds scattered among the drift ice; small

Harolda glacialis

Habits.

Savannah, Mass.
January 27, 1883

During a cruise along the New Bedford shore we found this by far the most abundant water-fowl. We must have seen four or five hundreds. They usually fished in shallow water well in shore & the greatest numbers were seen in New Bedford harbor. They were very shy and we did not get within shot of any of them. They rise from the water with perfect com- often bounding directly upward to a height of six to ten feet, before starting

on their comas. Their flight
is swift, erratic, and unlike
that of any other Duck. Their
broad, yet pointed wings, are
differently used from those of
the other species, and the strokes
recall those of a Pigeon. They
have very quickly and slender
wings surprising facility. The
old males are very conspicuous
when flying. At a distance
they have to have white heads
and tails, and black wings.
They frequently uttered a
soft, musical rolling cry.

Storks fishing on the shore places,
and solid means or bed
"sitting at anchor" on the
glossy swell. Every now and then
a bird would utter a distinct
sonorous haw-haw or lit lit -
haw - or lit when the call would
be immediately answered by
several others until the water.
word was passed along toward,
laying in the distance. A
few come up miraculously guided
by a general chorus of voices,
the blundered sound resembling
the notes of a flock of Geese. Star-
fin or lit birds would rise &
wing their erratic flight hither
and thither, last calling among
them had another note: a
long-drawn hawow very like the
howl of a Goat. These calls had
a sonorous quality that was very
a sonorous; - in fact, so strong by
distance they are, daily musical.

Harelda glacialis

Food

1889 Mass.

Mastors Mills. - Mr. Barnard Hinckley of
this place tells me that he has examined
the stomachs of many Old Squaws and
has never found anything in them except
land eels and small fishes. He believes that
these constitute their chief if not only food
during the winter.

Distribution

Old Squaws he says are more common in
the Sound but on the North Shore off Barnstable
they winter regularly in immense numbers.

HABITS OF THE OLDSQUAW (*CLANGULA HYEMALIS*) IN NEW ENGLAND.

BY GEORGE H. MACKAY.

THIS sprightly little salt water Duck frequents the New England coast during the colder half of the year, where it is well known under the cognomens of Oldsquaw, Oldwife, and Quandy. It is the swiftest flying as well as the noisest (in the spring) of all the sea fowl which tarry with us. While flying, their wings are moved with such short and rapid strokes that it is difficult to follow the movement with the eye. As a result they pass from one place to another in an incredibly short time, especially if flying with the wind; and even when flying against it, I have found it necessary when shooting to make an allowance of six to eight feet ahead and two feet over them in order to land my charge of shot in a passing flock at fifty yards, which serves as an illustration of the rapidity of their movement under such conditions. Their flight is frequently uneven, being on an upward and then on a downward plane, and as a rule near the water, generally dodging when a shot is fired at them.

In the spring as flocks flew past my boat, I have often been much interested and amused at their scolding or talking, if I may so designate their curious notes, *o-onc-o-onc-ough-egh-ough-egh*. In calm warm mornings in April and May I have often seen them playing together, rushing at each other half out and half under water, and so vigorously engaged as to cause the water to fly in every direction. When wounded, they are most difficult to capture and extremely tenacious of life, diving at the flash of a gun, skulking with body submerged and head and neck extended and level with the surface of the water, and displaying an endurance almost incredible. When shot at while flying, although unhurt, they will occasionally dive from the wing; if wing-broken, they will frequently do so. An attempt to retrieve them under such conditions is usually unsuccessful, and if it is a male bird and the long tail feathers are perceived to be erected as it sits on the water, prepare for a long and doubtful chase, for such birds will turn around while under water and swim in an opposite direction, and have recourse to every stratagem to escape capture.