

Puffinus
borealis

B. 97.4.9.58
v. 65

The Possibility of *Puffinus bermudæ* Nichols & Mowbray in the North Atlantic.— An old Shearwater skin presented by G. A. Boardman in 1867 to the Boston Society of Natural History, now M. C. Z. 73408, taken on the coast of Maine or New Brunswick by Dresser, was originally determined as *Puffinus puffinus* (Brünnich). Recently Mr. R. C. Murphy compared this specimen with the type of *P. f. bermudæ* Nichols & Mowbray, and found it very similar.

It therefore seems reasonable to suspect that former records of the Manx Shearwater in the northwest Atlantic might really have been this Bermuda form.— W. SPRAGUE BROOKS, *Boston Society of Natural History*.

Auk, XXIV, Apr. 1917, p. 206.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF THE
FAMILY PROCELLARIIDÆ.

BY CHARLES B. CORY.

Puffinus borealis. Above brownish-ash, the feathers of the back becoming pale at the tips, those on the nape and sides of the neck narrowly tipped with white; on the sides of the neck and head the ash and white gradually mingling as in *P. kuhlii*. Tips of the upper tail coverts, white. Under eyelid, white, showing clearly in contrast with the ashy gray of the head. The first three primaries are light ash on the inner webs. Wings and tail brownish-gray. Under parts, white, slightly touched with ash on the flanks, lining of wings white. Under tail coverts white, the longest tinged with ash near the ends, which extend nearly to the tips of the longest tail feathers. Outside of foot greenish-black, inside and webs dull orange, bill pale yellowish at the base shading into greenish-black but again becoming pale near the tip.

Length, 20.50 inches; wing, 14.50; bill (straight line to tip), 2.25; depth at base, .75; tail, 6.50; tarsus, 2.20.

The type specimen of this Shearwater was killed near Chatham Island, Cape Cod, Mass., on the 11th of October last. Being unacquainted with it I showed it to some fishermen and requested them to procure any birds they might meet with resembling it. During the afternoon one of the boats returned bringing a number of birds of this species. The men stated that they had met with a flock a short distance from shore and had shot several and knocked others down with their oars. According to their statement, after firing the first shot, the birds flew about them in a dazed manner often passing within a few feet of the boat.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, April, 1881, p. 84.

Mass (off & near Woods Hole)

Puffinus borealis

1886

Prof. Baird's specimen.

Aug, Sept. Oct.

Prof. Baird tells me (Nov 15) that the Albatross collectors took about fifty specimens of *P. borealis* near Woods Hole this season. They might have collected any desired number for the birds were in thousands and stayed nearly three months. They came in with the herring which were in unusual numbers this year. Most of these Petrels were seen outside Gay Head.

CORY'S SHEARWATER (*Puffinus borealis*) OFF THE COAST OF MASSACHUSETTS.—On the 2d of last August I was out in a yacht collecting sea-birds, about thirty miles eastward from the southeast end of Cape Cod. Wilson's Petrels, Pomarine Skuas, Greater and Sooty Shearwaters were abundant. Both these Shearwaters were often seen sitting on the water in flocks, associating freely with one another, and were easily approached.

On one occasion I sailed up to quite a large flock, and shot a *P. fuliginosus*. As the rest rose, I suddenly perceived amongst them a Shearwater entirely new to me, and my other barrel soon brought it down. The yacht was put about, and I was on the point of laying hands on the prize, when it suddenly started up, and was gone,—much to my chagrin. Soon, however, I saw a similar one flying about in company with several of the common Shearwaters. It presently came near, and was shot, proving to be a Cory's Shearwater. This was enough to keep me on the lookout for more, and when about half way in to land, another came scaling along over the water, and was also secured. These were all that I saw. One of the fishermen, to whom I showed the birds, reported having seen a few others the next day. This, however, may be open to some doubt.

In habits they perfectly resemble the other species, but are readily distinguished from *P. major* by their lighter colors, and conspicuously large, yellow bill. They are very tame, and when engaged in feeding may almost be run down by a boat. Considerable effort is shown in rising from the water, but when once a-wing, they fly with great swiftness.

Nothing is known of them by the fishermen, who perhaps overlook them among the thousands of the other commoner varieties. Specimens were first taken by Mr. Charles B. Cory in nearly the same locality where mine were captured, and were described by him in the Bulletin of April, 1881.—HERBERT K. JOB, *Boston, Mass.*

Bull. N. O. C. 8, Oct. 1883, p. 244.

GENERAL NOTES.

Occurrence of Cory's Shearwater (*Puffinus borealis*) and Several Species of Jaegers in Large Numbers in the Vicinity of Gayhead, Mass., during the Autumn of 1886.—In the early part of the summer of 1886, both mackerel and bluefish were very scarce near the coast of the Middle States, and it was ascertained that they were busily engaged in feeding on a small white fish, three or four inches long, occurring in immense numbers, 150 to 200 miles off the coast. This fish proves to be young sea herring (*Clupea vulgaris*). Towards the end of September this herring came inshore in large numbers, from Point Judith to Buzzard's Bay and Vineyard Sound, where they remained until the end of October, and perhaps still later. They were accompanied by mackerel of unusually large size and fatness, which furnished for many weeks an ample supply to fishing crafts of various kinds, and they were captured, for the most part, with the hook and line.

With the herring came also enormous numbers of *Puffinus* and *Stercorarius*, the former proving to be almost exclusively the *Puffinus borealis* Cory, with a few *Puffinus stricklandi*. None of the *P. major* were seen.

The *Stercorarius* consisted principally of *S. parasiticus* and *S. pomarinus*; these in every imaginable stage of coloration; some being entirely dusky and others in various grades of immaturity; very few, if any specimens in full plumage being seen.

The Shearwaters occurred in flocks of perhaps from fifty to two or three hundred, the bunches being generally found quietly resting on the water and feeding, while swimming, upon the herrings that were so abundant in the vicinity. They were very tame, but approach to them could be best made by a steam launch, which would almost run over them before they would start to fly. A dozen birds were killed by the discharge of two guns from a launch. About a hundred specimens were secured, and thousands could easily have been killed if necessary.

When last heard from, towards the beginning of November, the birds were still with the herrings, and were found very abundantly off Gay Head, Menemsha Bight, Cuttyhunk, and elsewhere, both in Vineyard Sound and Buzzard's Bay.

The Jaegers were shy, and were generally killed singly as they flew past. They did not seem to associate closely with the Shearwaters.—

S. F. BAIRD, *Washington, D. C.* *Auk*, 4, Jan., 1887, p. 71-72.

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

Puffinus borealis Cory., Cory's Shearwater.
Mr. F. B. Webster reports some specimens sent
to him from Bristol, R. I. in summer of 1886.
"They were taken off the coast of this county."

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

Cory's Shearwater at Newport, R. I.—In the Auk for January, 1887, an account was given by Prof. Baird of the occurrence of great numbers of Jaegers and Cory's Shearwaters, found feeding upon the young herring, which, towards the end of September, 1886, abounded from Point Judith to Vineyard Sound. On the 30th of the same month, I received from J. Glynn, Jr., of Newport, a Shearwater which appeared to me to be *Puffinus borealis*, and Mr. Cory has since kindly confirmed the identification. This furnishes some evidence to show that the flight of these birds extended as far west as the mouth of Narragansett Bay.—WILLIAM C. RIVES, JR., M. D., *Newport, R. I. Auk*, V. Jan. 1888. p. 108.

Bristol, Rhode Island

Puffinus borealis

1886

Sept. 15

Thirteen killed by E. A. Bangs in the Sound off Bristol. Mr. B. was cruising in his yacht when he came upon a flock composed entirely of this species killing on the water. He ran in to Bristol, got a gun, returned and killed the greater part of the flock. I saw his specimens freshly skinned at Webster's. Gosner who skinned them tells me they have the same rank musty smell as *P. borealis*, Gannets & Cormorants.

Mass. & Rhode Island

Puffinus borealis

1886

Occurrence in thousands - Experience of E. O. Bangs

Sept

On Sept. 14 Mr. E. O. Bangs returning from New York in his yacht met with a flock of about eighteen of these birds off Point Judith. He recognized them at once by their yellow bills which, as they sat on the water, were conspicuous a long distance off. From this flock he shot eight, on Sept. 16

On Sept. 27 while running for Buzzards Bay his yacht passed thousands of Cory's Shearwaters which, in company with Gulls (*L. argentatus*) were feeding on herring. Over miles of ocean they were literally swarming. There were no

Puffinus borealis at Gardiner's Bay, N. Y. — Stragglers from the large flight of Cory's Shearwaters, which occurred in September and October, 1886, off Gay Head,* Mass., seem to have reached Long Island, N. Y. I recently obtained a specimen taken by Mr. W. W. Worthington, in Gardiner's Bay, Long Island.

This is, I believe, the first recorded specimen from New York.—ARTHUR P. CHADBOURNE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

* Baird, *Auk*, Vol. IV, 1887, p. 71.

Auk, V. April 1888. p. 202

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

4. *Puffinus borealis*. CORY'S SHEARWATER.—Ever since the discovery of this species I have felt sure that it eventually would be added to the list of Long Island birds. When I read in 'The Auk' for January, 1887, the note by the late Professor Baird, recording the occurrence of Cory's Shearwater in numbers between Point Judith (Rhode Island) and Vineyard Sound, I was certain that the time was near at hand. It was with great pleasure, therefore, that I received from Messrs. Lucas and Buck, two specimens, a male and female, which, with four others, were shot off Amagansett, Suffolk Co., about October 18, 1887.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 173

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

5. *Puffinus borealis*. CORY'S SHEARWATER.—But two individuals of this species were noted, one of which was secured. The Shearwaters seemed always to keep in company with the Jaegers, and to be engaged in the same occupation,—that of robbing the Terns. In fact their habits all through were much the same as those of the Jaegers, although I cannot say positively that I ever saw one alight on the surface of the water. Speaking of the Jaegers and Shearwaters collectively, Chas. B. Field said that they stayed while the bluefish were there, but as he had not before distinguished one species from the other, he could not be certain whether only one stayed, or whether both remained. It is probable, however, that both remain all summer. The stomach of the specimen secured contained only fish bones.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 128.

Notes Concerning Certain Birds of Long Island, N. Y.—*Puffinus borealis*. Mr. Andrew Chichester shot two birds (♂ and ♀) of this species on the ocean some distance off Fire Island Inlet, on Oct. 4, 1902, and sent them to me in the flesh.

William C. Braislin, M.D., Brooklyn, N.Y.
Auk, XXI, Apr., 1904, p. 287.

Cory's Shearwater in abundance off Long Island.—On October 2, 1911, I shot two Shearwaters off the coast of East Hampton, Long Island. I took them to be Cory's Shearwater (*Puffinus borealis*) but to make sure I brought them to Mr. W. DeW. Miller, Assistant Curator of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History who confirmed my identification. There were any number of them, together with some Greater Shearwaters (*Puffinus gravis*). The difference between the two species was apparent at quite a distance, the commoner bird appearing darker.—WILLIAM TOD HELMUTH, JR., *New York City. Auk XXIX. Apr. 1912. p. 234.*

1455. *Notes on the Differences between Cory's Shearwater, Puffinus borealis, and the Greater Shearwater, Puffinus major.* By C. J. Maynard. *Ibid.*, pp. 53,55. **Quar. Jour. Bos. Zool. Soc. II**

gravis

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

The next day (August 30)
the first Shearwater (*Puffinus major*), the "Hagdon" of the fishermen,
was met with, the vessel being then just out of sight of land.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, April, 1879, p.127

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

The men were dressing fish, and 'Hags' were numerous
and bold, coming within six feet of me to pick up fish livers. ~~Details by the~~
~~handbook and record.~~"

* *Puffinus major*.

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

Rare Birds in Nova Scotia.
J. B. Gilpin

In July,
1881, Wm. S. Gilpin shot a Shearwater, or
Puffinus major. This pelagic species, com-
mon on the banks, had evidently been
blown in.

Q. & C. VII. May 15. 1882 p. 122.

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

20. *Puffinus major*. GREATER SHEARWATER; HAGDON.— Common
in large flocks offshore. We occasionally ran into great flocks of these
birds a good way offshore. They were very tame and would hardly take
wing before the schooner ran them down.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p.27.

Notes on the birds of Cape Breton Island.
by Charles M. Townsend, M.D.

Puffinus gravis. GREATER SHEARWATER. *Puffinus fuligi-
nosus*.—SOOTY SHEARWATER.— Four of the latter and one of the
former were seen at sea south of the island, the numbers of the two
species being in inverse order to their usual proportion.

Auk, XXI, Apr., 1906, p.172.

Winter Notes From Wellesley,
Mass.

BY S. W. DENTON.

I have the pleasure of recording the capture of a specimen of Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus major*), about Nov. 25, 1887, in the town of Dover, near the Wellesley line, by a young man in the employ of B. P. Cheeney. The night preceding the day of its capture had been a very windy one, accompanied by heavy rain. As Mr. Nilan was passing a hedge near the barn, he noticed this strange bird crouched behind it. It was easily caught, but bit furiously when taken in hand. Mr. Nilan, however, took it home in the hope of being able to keep it alive, but as it refused all food and was so ugly, snapping at any one who approached the cage, he gave it to Mr. Thomas Smith of Wellesley, who mounted it for his collection. Mr. Smith endeavored to kill the bird as one would a Sparrow, by pressing tightly with his fingers and thumb on each side of its body, and though finally successful, he assured me he never wanted to try another, the bird coming to life several times after he supposed it dead. It was a male, no doubt blown in from the sea by the storm, and had evidently been without food for some time, as it was in poor condition, and the stomach contained absolutely nothing.

O. & O. XIII, July, 1888 p. 104

Puffinus major et feligiurus

Not found in winter in Mass.

In a conversation with some intelligent and trustworthy fishermen at Hampscott, Mass. to-day I was assured that Haggdons or, as they called them Haglets, are never found on the fishing-grounds in the winter. This coincides with all the testimony that I have previously had on this subject.

Reference made to Committee of Oct. 17

WELLESLEY COLLEGE.
WELLESLEY, MASS.

W. H. Henshaw
Mar. 27, 1887

Dear Mr. Brewster,

You will notice in my "List"
(forwarded yesterday by Mr. Henshaw) that
I correct the date of capture of the Dove
specimen of the Greater Shearwater
(No. 89) as given in O. & O.

Mr. Thomas Smith and Mr. Nyland
at my request looked up the matter
carefully, and by obtaining the date
of a funeral which occurred at the
time secured the exact date of cap-
ture of the specimen. It was taken
alive Aug. 16, 1857, and given, living,
to Mr. Smith, Aug. 18.

The date published by Mr. Denton in
O. & O. was doubtless given simply on the
recollection of Mr. Smith, who also gave

WELLESLEY COLLEGE.
WELLESLEY, MASS.

me to understand that it was taken
in late autumn, before looking up the
date carefully. This earlier date is
entirely in keeping with its character
of summer visitant.

Thank you very much for the reference
to the O. + O., and other favors. I hope
you have entirely recovered from your attack
of the grippe by this time. Dr. Furson
kindly looked up the Redpolls at the
Museum for me, but found no example of
Hollivell's.

Very truly yours,

A. P. Morse.

NOTES ON CERTAIN LARIDÆ AND PROCELLARIIDÆ OF THE NEW ENGLAND COAST.

BY CAPT. J. W. COLLINS.

IN the second volume of 'New England Bird Life,' edited by Dr. Elliott Coues, statements are made concerning the habits of certain species of our sea-birds to which it seems desirable to call attention, since, as I am informed, similar statements, though erroneous, have generally been put forth as facts by the majority of American ornithologists.

It is stated that the Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus major*)—the 'Hag' or 'Hagdon' of the fishermen—and the 'Black Hag' (*P. fuliginosus*), both of which usually come and go together, are winter birds on our coast. Though it may appear egotistical for me to question such high authority, I am, nevertheless, compelled to say that these birds are not found with us in winter, unless, indeed, a stray specimen might be seen. In thirty years of sea-life off the coasts of New England and the British North American Provinces, I have never seen any 'Hags' in winter, nor have I learned of their occurrence at that season. They usually come in May, the time of arrival being slightly varied by the condition of the weather. In the spring of 1879 I saw the first 'Hagdon' (*P. major*) on May 26, and three days later they were abundant, sitting on the water in large flocks, as is their habit when they first reach the fishing banks, or when they are about to depart in the fall, though at other times they rarely congregate except they may be attracted together by the presence of food. They usually leave the fishing grounds—from Cape Cod to the Grand Bank—in October and November; the first snow starts off any of these birds which have remained behind their companions.

I have no knowledge of where or when they breed. I have opened many hundreds (it would not, perhaps, be an exaggeration to say thousands), and I never found one with sexual organs in a condition which would indicate that the birds were breeding.

Quik I. July. 1884. pp. 236-237.

Stricklandi

Point Lepreaux, N. B.

Puffinus fuliginosus.

1885

Aug. 30

During a south wester this morning a pair passed within a few hundred yards of the point. I watched them for a mile or more as they sailed close over the waves, dipping slightly into each hollow and rising on the succeeding crest, their long narrow wings cutting the air like knife-blades and changed slightly in position as the birds varied their course, but not once flapped. Every now and then one or the other would rise twenty yards or more above the sea, and circle once or twice. Their flight was superlatively swift, easy and graceful. It resembles that of the Mississippi Kite (especially in the peculiar way

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

21. *Puffinus stricklandi*. SOOTY SHEARWATER.— Common, among the Greater Shearwaters. The shearwaters were the only sea fowl which proved to be totally inedible.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p.27.

Notes on the birds of Cape Breton Island
by Charles W. Townsend, M. D.

Puffinus fuliginosus see above

P. gravis Auk, XXIII, Apr. 1906
p. 172,

the wings are extended, flat, straight, and
at an exact right angle with the body, and
fully square at every way. These birds
dove perfectly black.

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador
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Puffinus fuliginosus see under

P. gravis Auk, XXIII, Apr. 1906
p.172,

Brief Notes.

A sooty Shearwater was shot at Nahant, Mass., July 4th. N. Vickary.

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

Puffinus Tetricus

Among some other good birds I found a beautiful adult specimen of the above species in the collection of Mr. Tufts of Lynn. It was shot at Egg Rock, Trampscott by Gould's Coats a fisherman and brought to Mr. Tufts in fresh condition. My companion Dr. E. D. Scott bought the specimen it will be placed in the collection of Princeton College.

The sex (ascertained by dissection) was ♂ and the bird is in uniformly sooty plumage.

Trampscott Mass.
May 1879.

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

Sundry Notes.

Puffinus stricklandi. SOOTY SHEARWATER.—Four were seen in company at Nantucket Sept. 3, 1896, as they passed by the south side of the island, flying towards the west.

Geo. H. Mackay, Nantucket, Mass.

Mass. Notes By Charles R. Lamb.

Puffinus griseus. SOOTY SHEARWATER. On May 29, 1916, about six miles east of Pigeon Cove, Mass., a female specimen was taken.

Auk, Vol. XXXV, 1918, p. 235.

Black-capped Petrel in New Hampshire.—Recently Mr. Henry W. Osgood sent me a photograph (see Plate XXII) of a Black-capped Petrel (*Aestrelata hasitata*) taken at Pittsfield, N. H., August 30, 1893, but not hitherto recorded.¹ The locality of capture is forty miles from the sea. The specimen was a male, and fell, in an exhausted condition, near Mr. Osgood's home. Its stomach was empty. This is the first record of the species for New Hampshire, though previously reported from Vermont.

This straggler from tropical seas has the following North American records: (1) Near Indian River, Florida, winter of 1846 (Lawrence, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, IV, p. 475). (2) Quoque, Long Island, N. Y., July, 1850 (Lawrence, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, V, 1852, p. 220). (3) Blacksburg, Va., Aug. 30, 1893 (Smyth, Auk, X, 1893, p. 361). (4) Oneida Lake, N. Y., Aug. 28, 1893 (Bagg, Auk, XI, 1894, 162). (5) Toronto, Canada, Oct. 30, 1893 (McIlwraith, Birds of Ontario, 1894, p. 414). (6) Vermont, place and date not recorded (Allen, Auk, XI, 1894, p. 241). (7) New Paltz, Ulster Co., N. Y., Jan. 26, 1895 (Foster, Auk, XII, 1895, p. 179). (8) Cincinnati, Ohio (two specimens), Oct. 5, 1898 (Lindahl, Auk, XVI, 1899, p. 75). (9) Augusta, Ky., Oct. 4, 1898 (Lindahl, Auk, XVI, 1899, p. 75). (10) The New Hampshire specimen recorded above—ten records, eleven specimens.—J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City*, July, 1904, p. 383.

¹Since this note was sent to the printer I have received a copy of Mr. Glover M. Allen's 'A list of the Birds of New Hampshire' (Proc. Manchester Institute of Arts and Sciences, IV, Pt. 1, pp. 23-222), in which (p. 69) occurs the following: "A single specimen was captured at Pittsfield, in Merrimack County, in August, 1893, and beyond an anonymous paragraph in the Boston Sunday Herald ('93), appears not to have been recorded. The bird is now in the mounted collection of Mr. William Brewster, No. 46,076, catalogued under date of August 30, 1893. Doubtless the bird was blown up the coast by the tropical hurricane of the last week of August in that year," with also Nos. 3, 4, and 6 of the above list.

In a letter just received Mr. Osgood confirms Mr. Allen's statement that the New Hampshire specimen, recorded above, is now in Mr. Brewster's collection.

Ostrelata
hasitata

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

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

24. *Æstrelata hasitata*. BLACK-CAPPED PETREL.—I have in my collection two specimens, one a male picked up dead on Toronto Island by Mr. George Pierce, October 30, 1894¹; the other taken seventeen miles west on the lake shore by the late Mr. H. J. Baker, at about the same time, but the date is uncertain. The first bird was in very bad condition and must have been dead some days.

The first bird is much grayer on the back and head than the second; the ash-gray edging of the feathers is very pronounced on the back, while in the second the edging is browner and scarcely visible, the whole back being dark brown instead of gray as in the first. In the second bird the crown is brown, almost black, shading to grayish brown on the back of the neck, which is not divided by a white band; the cheeks and ear coverts are like the crown; the feathers of the forehead are sooty brown edged with white. In the first the tarsi and toes are as described, but in the second they differ; the exposed portion of the tibia to just above the heel joint is yellow (in the dried skin), the joint itself all around, and the back of the tarsus brownish black, the front yellow, the toes and webs yellow to the first joint, the rest black. ¹ Biological Review of Ontario, I, 1894, 11, 12.

Birds of Oneida County, New York.
Egbert Bagg.

Æstelata hasitata.—A male of this rare straggler was shot at Verona Beach, on Oneida Lake, August 28, 1893, by the Rev. G. A. Biederman, who presented it to Alex. H. Moore, a young ornithologist of Utica, who mounted and preserved it. Mr. B. reports that there were two birds together, but careful search shortly afterward failed to find the other, and it may have been some other species. Through the courtesy of Mr. Moore, who brought the bird to me for identification while in the flesh, and who loaned it to me after it was mounted, I was able to secure accurate measurements and fairly good photographs of this bird.

The stomach was empty. The coloration was exactly as given by Dr. Coues, as quoted by Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway. The measurements were as follows: Length, 16 in.; wing, 10; tail $5\frac{1}{2}$, its graduation, $1\frac{1}{2}$; bill, $1\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{2}{3}$ deep, $\frac{1}{2}$ wide; tube, $\frac{3}{8}$; tarsus, $1\frac{1}{2}$; middle toe and claw, $2\frac{1}{4}$.

Auk XI. April. 1894 p. 162-63.

*Procellaria
pelagica*

Pres. Transcript

*March 25
1893*

(4076.) Will you kindly tell me the origin of the expression, "Mother Carey's chickens"?

L. W. L.

[This is a term applied by sailors to flocks of the stormy petrel. Mother Carey is "mother dear" (*mater cara*), and the term signifies the Virgin Mary, who is the patroness of sailors. Roman Catholic sailors believe that she gives notice of approaching storms by sending flocks of the stormy petrel to warn them.]

Oceanodroma leucorhoa.

1896 Maine

June 16-22 Mattawin Islands. An immense colony breeding on Seal Island - several thousand pairs certainly. The light keeper said that a few pairs also nested on Mattawin Rock. None were found on any of the other islands of this group. (H. H. Jobb's experience in 1896.)

1896 Mass.

Nov. 13 Lake Quinsigamond, Worcester Co.. C. K. Reed of Worcester writes me both occurrences inland that he has a Leach's Petrel which was taken as above. "It was in very poor condition & was completely exhausted so that it was caught alive"

1897 N.H.

Oct. 13 Blood Pond, Lancaster, Coos Co. Fred B. Spaulding writes W. Deane Oct. 13 - 1897 "Mr. Shute brought me a very rare and interesting bird Oct. 2 a Leach's Petrel, shot on Blood Pond. It was a terribly poor specimen, having been shot with a rifle, one wing being almost shot away, and its head was all crushed out of shape. On account of its rarity I made a skin out of it, but it is a very shabby affair" - & Nov. 1 - 1897 "Mr. Shute says there were two of them (Leach's Petrels) together and he might have shot the other easily". The bird was shot Oct. 2 by Harry Shute son of Fred A. Shute.

Cymochorea leucorhoa

1896 Penobscot Bay, Maine.

July 3

Spoon Island. - Watsons landed on this island yesterday & in a short time dry up nine Petrels burrows getting a fresh or nearly fresh egg from each. Knight (of Deer Isle ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~the~~ Knight of Boston) had been there before him (about three weeks ago Cooney says) and, according to the fishermen, had taken away over one hundred eggs.

We all went to Spoon Island to-day and spent about four hours there. We found Petrels nests wherever we looked for them along both sides & on the summit of the ridge which extends along the western shore of the island. This ridge is about 1000 feet long & from 50 to 150 feet above the sea. It is strewed with light gray, slab shaped stones & boulders and numerous stumps & bleached trunks of large trees show that it formerly supported a heavy growth of woods but a few, ^{small} scattered, green balsams and a cluster of dead shrubs near the southwestern end are all the trees that remain standing. The soil is a dry, light, vegetable humus chiefly composed, apparently, of rotten wood and of a reddish brown color. It varies in depth from 6 to 12 or 15 inches and when it overlies the rocks large mat like sections can be easily detached while everywhere it is so loose & friable that one can dig through it rapidly by the aid of the hands alone. ~~Some~~ In this soil the Petrels had dug their burrows, in places three or four could be found within the space that a blanket would cover. In others they were several yards apart. Some descended almost vertically for 6 or 8 inches into level ground but as a rule they entered the side of a more or less decided slope either that of the hillside or of a mound or at the base or side of a rock. A favorite place was at the foot of a stump or beneath a fallen tree trunk or slab of half-decayed wood. The entrance hole when it could be easily seen was sometimes clean and sharply defined, sometimes choked up with loose dirt as if the bird had designedly left it so (we found birds & their eggs in several of these stopped up holes). Some holes were nearly or quite round, others holed as with as they were high. Around some of the holes the reddish brown

Cyanochoa lucorhoa

1896 Penobscot Bay, Maine.

July 3 (Spoon Island) Soil was wholly free from vegetation for yards in
(no 2) any direction, about others grass or horrid or plants of various
kinds grew luxuriously, often nearly or quite concealing the entrance.
As this vegetation was very dense over large areas and as there
were evidently many holes under rocks, stumps & fallen trunks which
could not be easily overthrown & examined we found it impossible
to make any approximate estimate of the total number of birds
nesting on the island. One of the fishermen camping there said
that judging by the noise which they made all night long &
which often prevented him & his companions from sleeping there
must be over a million! Conway, judging by his experience
with the large colony at Seal Island, thought there might be
somewhere between 200 & 300 pairs which, I fancy, is not an
exaggerated estimate. Certainly the twenty-odd occupied nests which
we opened seemed as nothing, numerically, to those which we
saw but did not disturb and the latter must have been
few indeed, ^{as compared} to those which we did not find at all.

To return to the holes: they varied in length from one to three
or occasionally four feet and rarely descended more than 8 or 10
inches beneath the surface ordinarily preserving (after attaining) this
depth the whole distance to the nest and often where the ground
sloped upward rising with the slope. A very few of the shorter
ones were nearly or quite straight but nearly all curved sharply
to one or the other side and sometimes there was a double curve. S

~~Some~~ The single curves ~~was~~ often in some instances so nearly
attained circles that, after following them ^{two or three feet,} ~~to the end,~~ we found
the nest within 5 or 6 inches of the entrance hole. Conway tells
me that at Seal Island he has opened burrows which, after
going in a foot or two, divided, each fork leading to a
nest, ^{with its} bird & egg. Some of the burrows opened to-day divided
but ^{only} one of the forks led to a nest, the other simply ending in the ^{earth.}

Cymochorea leucorhoa

1896

Penobscot Bay, Maine.

July 3
(no 3)

(Spoon Island). The nest-chamber was circular or oblong in shape and from 6 to 8 inches across. It did not form the end of the burrow for just beyond & sometimes a little above it we invariably found another chamber of similar shape but usually a little smaller and not so high. In this inner chamber the sitting bird doubtless retreated when we began digging out the hole for we usually found her crouched back into the extreme end with the tips of her folded wings and her tail pointing outward & palpitating markedly with her frightened breathing. If seized in the hand she would struggle rather feebly, bite vigorously but with not sufficient force to cause much pain, and eject from her mouth about a teaspoonfull of clear, dark brown oil. This would be thrown out with sufficient force to be propelled from 4 to 6 inches. Some of the birds would send out their whole supply of oil at once; others would divide it into two or three jets ejected in rapid succession or at intervals of a half minute or so. They would also eject a quantity of semi-liquid excrement which varied in color from dark greenish to nearly white. After exhausting these means of defence some of them would utter a low kee-r-r- ending in a peevish & rather musical chuckling whistle not unlike that of a Chipmunk. If removed from the burrow & placed on the ground the bird would scuttler off among the weeds & grass & finally hiding. It moved slowly tripping over every obstacle & frequently falling down. If thrown into the air it would fly off towards the sea skimming low over (within a foot or so of) the ground, alternately flapping & sailing, inclining now to one side next to the other, moving in a leisurely, listless manner as if in no haste & quite indifferent as to where it went. This flight over the land was almost exactly like that of a Night hawk. But when the bird reached the water its flight became at once keener & more decided & energetic - more like that of a Swallow.

Cymochorea leucorhoa.

1896

Penobscot Bay, Maine.

July 3
(No 4)

(Spoon Island). Conway says that he has repeatedly found two birds in one hole but this did not happen to-day. I killed and skinned twelve birds caught on their nests and of these there proved to be males. They had large bare incubating spots on their abdomens (this bare space covers nearly the entire abdomen & over it the skin is white, perfectly free from feathers & slightly thickened & wrinkled). All these were smaller than any of the females.

In the case of every occupied hole examined the egg lay on a small, round, flat but very substantial nest. With a single exception all the nests were very similar in character & composition being made of ^{coarse} pieces of bark & ^{pieces of} rotten wood. The exception was a nest composed chiefly of dry, bleached grass or straw but under this there was a little bark & wood. Watrous found the skeleton of a Petrel in one of the nests which he took yesterday.

In many of the holes which were opened by Knight several weeks ago & presumably robbed with found birds & their eggs to-day. The hole had been simply carried in a foot or so beyond the former nest.

I think the Petrels must remove the earth they excavate. At all events there was little or none about the entrances to most of their holes. This was sometimes a little excrement about the mouth of the hole. The burrows smell strongly - the same odor as that of the birds & their eggs.

When a burrow was opened to its extremity and the bird would sometimes waddle its way rapidly into the earth beyond digging entirely with its feet & throwing the loose mould out behind it in showers. The sunlight seemed to dawn and pain its eyes. Several birds which I was trying to photograph in opened burrows took flight & made off after a little while. I found that they could not be trusted after having been exposed to the sunlight for 8 or 10 minutes.

Cymochona leucorhoa

1896 Penobscot Bay, Maine.

July 3 (Spoon Island) Of the twenty odd nests that we opened (no 5) a few contained fresh eggs but most of the eggs had embryos of some size & several were near hatching. The eggs when found were dirty & stained with earth but then we nearly always buried them with earth in opening the burrows.

July 16 Spoon Island. Landed on the island to night at 8.45 and stayed until 9 o'clock hoping to learn something about what the Petrels do & say after dark. The fishermen camping there told me on July 3rd that the birds do not come to or from their holes until it is too dark to see them but that they begin making a tremendous racket soon after 8 P.M. & keep it up through the night so that the men are often unable to sleep. R. N. Knight, who spent a night at the fishing camp last month, said, on the other hand, that he heard only two or three birds cry and they made but little noise. He thought he saw two fluttering about in the gloom.

My experience was very disappointing & unsatisfactory. The weather was favorable clear with a light breeze from the S.W. to N.W. and a moon in the first quarter. There was a strong afterglow which had not wholly faded from the west at 9 P.M. Just as we were landing a Petrel that had evidently come from the hill top passed us skimming low over the little harbor & disappearing out over the Bay towards the N.E. We ascended the hill and for an hour I sat or walked slowly about near or among the nests visiting every part of the breeding ground. Twice something which I took to be a Petrel shot past very head but on both occasions Watson thought the creature was a Bat & he may have been right. I saw nothing else. As for sounds I heard six or eight times the peculiar kur-r-r with its whistling chuckle termination but always faintly & apparently afar off. The fishermen generally affirm that the Petrel says "chew-tobacco". Perhaps this reading could be drawn from the kur-r-r or chew-r-r & chuckle.

Notes on Some Birds of Grand
Manan.

EDITED BY F. H. CARPENTER.

By Leach. Th. Andros.

Leach's Petrel, (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*). This species we found breeding by thousands on Wood's and the White Horse Islands. A few pairs remain on Low Duck. The island of the White Horse is completely honey-combed, as are tracts on Wood's by their burrows which extend from seven or eight inches to two feet in length, taking all sorts of courses and often crossing and bisecting the passage of other pairs. The consistency of the loam is a damp fertile mold which enables the bird not only to excavate without difficulty but renders the burrows proof against cave-ins from a natural cause. At the end of the burrow is a thin lining of dry reeds, straw or twigs on which the single egg is placed. We usually made an entrance by running in the arm to the elbow and then raising up and the nest was usually reached by the second time if not the first, though in a few cases we were obliged to work some time, often running off the scent into deserted cavities ere we struck the right one. The birds when set free by a starting toss into the air took a direct course out over the water and were soon out of sight, but if not thus aided they waddled about in the grass trying to hide their heads in a very stupid manner.

The eggs are exceedingly brittle and require a month's sitting to hatch. The young are fed during the night, and though the parents swarm forth by thousands at this time in search of food for their progeny, they never seemed to mistake their home for that of another on their return; still to the human eye their burrows are as similar to each other as the borings of an auger and it seemed hardly possible that distinction could be made. The tracts inhabited are permeated with the odor of the birds which can be felt by delicate olfactory nerves a long way out to sea.

O & O. XII. Oct. 1887 p. 172-3

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

"September 12. Shot eight Carey Chickens at once to-day; they were very numerous.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, April, 1879, p. 118

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

Sept. 2, (1878) saw several Mother Carey's Chickens,

Bull. N. O. C. 4, April, 1879, p. 127

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

"September 8. Saw several
this A. M. These birds evidently follow vessels for the garbage. 'Carey Chickens'

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

Birds of Newfoundland of Labrador
by Henry B. Bigelow.

22. *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. LEACH'S PETREL.—Very common locally south of Hamilton Inlet. North of that they were rare. We visited several islets where the turf was riddled with their holes, and the air reeked with their sharp musky odor. Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 27.

Oceanodroma leucorhoa se Sula bassana
under "Bird Rocks of the Gulf of St. Lawrence".

Auk, v. April, 1888, p. 129-135.

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

Sept 3, shot several Petrels (*Cymochorea leucorhoa*),

Bull. N.O.C. 4, April, 1878, p. 128

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

138. *Cymochorea leucorhoa*. LEACH'S PETREL.—Common in
summer.

Bull. N.O.C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 241

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

12. *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. LEACH'S PETREL.—Breeds in small
numbers on Great Bird Rock, Bryon Island, and probably on most of the
other islands, although we were unable to find nests. I am indebted
to Mr. Lucas and Mr. Palmer for the knowledge of the presence of this
species on the Bird Rocks.

Auk, VI. April, 1889, p. 146

Notes on the birds of Cape Breton Island
by Charles W. Townsend, M.D.

Oceanodroma leucorhoa. LEACH'S PETREL. Oceanites oce-
anicus. WILSON'S PETREL.—Petrels, apparently of both species,
were seen at a distance off the Nova Scotia coast south of Cape
Breton. *Auk*, XXIII, Apr., 1906, p. 173.

NOTES ON LEACH'S PETREL (*Cymochorea leucorhoa*).— Under date of July 29, 1880, Mr. Manly Hardy of Brewer, Maine, gives me the following notes on Leach's Petrel. The facts regarding incubation, are I think, new, and go to show that, as with the Phalaropes, the female Petrels have strongly imbibed the spirit of the nineteenth century.

"I have lately had quite a number of Leach's Petrels taken on the nests and find some things which are not mentioned in such books as I have access to. In the first place, the males do most, if not all, of the incubating. In a number received the 1st of June, five out of six were males. Thinking that, like Pigeons, the males might perhaps all sit at the same time, I had another lot sent me about June 15, and again, of twelve specimens seven proved to be males. A careful examination showed that while the under plumage of the females was in every case perfect, each male had on the lower part of the breast a bare spot large enough to cover the egg.

"Some writers mention their ejecting oil when *irritated*. I find that either sex can eject at least one-eighth their bulk of very pure reddish oil, and that it is given forth equally freely when the bird is killed by chloroform. I think that it is probably intended to serve as food for the young."

— WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge*, *Bull. N.O.C.* 6, April, 1881, p. 125

Cymochorea leucorhoa

In a letter dated Oct. 26, 1882, Mr. Hardy writes: "A Leach's Petrel was taken this week five miles south of Bangor. It was in a stream & allowed itself to be taken in the hand: I have the bird". (The week began with the 22nd)

Bangor, Maine

Oct. 24, 1882

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

106. Leach's Petrel. Common out at sea. A few come into Boothbay Harbor.

Bull. N.O.C. 15, Nov. 1890, p. 161

Leach's Petrel at Lancaster, N. H. — October 1, 1897, a pair of Leach's Petrels (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) were seen on a small pond in this town; one of them was shot, and its skin is now in my possession. The bird was very fat, and it seems remarkable that it should be found here, at least 100 miles from the nearest coast. — F. B. SPAULDING, *Lancaster, N. H.*

STORMY PETREL (*Thalassidroma pelagica*) was shot on the Connecticut River, opposite Springfield, Mass., a few years ago. The specimen is about six inches long, its plumage, rusty black, except back of the thighs and above the tail, which is of white. The upper mandible is long and terminates with a short hooked nail. The wings resemble the swallows and are large for the bird. The feet are small, anterior toes webbed, hind toe only a claw. The oily nature of the bird is very noticeable in this specimen. Before it was skinned its presence was very perceptible by the smell, reminding one of an old-fashioned oil lamp.—O. B. Deane.

O. & O. VIII, June, 1833, p. 47.

718. Stormy Petrel (*Thalassidroma pelagica*). By O. B. Deane. *Ibid.*, p. 47.—Shot at Springfield, Mass., "a few years ago." (The species was evidently a 'Stormy' Petrel, but probably not *T. pelagica*.)

O. & O. Vol. VIII

Oceanodroma leucorhoa.

Concord, Mass.

1878. Dan French told me of his seeing a Leach's Petrel at
Oct. 13. Fairhaven Bay last week. It dipped along over the miniature
waves as if on the ocean and finally settled on the water
when he sailed nearly within arm's length of it.

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

Oceanodroma leucorhoa (Viell.), Leach's Petrel. Resident, occasionally seen off the coast.

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

On September 14, 1889, I shot and captured a Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) upon the Connecticut River, four or five miles below Springfield. Its presence so far inland can undoubtedly be accounted for by the very violent northeast storm that had prevailed for the preceding two or three days. The bird sat upon the water and permitted me to approach in a boat within fifteen or twenty yards,—it would then arise and fly perhaps a quarter of a mile, then alight, repeating this action several times, until I finally shot it.

Robert O. Morris.

Auk VI, Oct. 1889, p. 340.

Leach's Petrel at Westford, Mass. — Mr. E. Abbot informs me that a specimen of *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* was shot on Forge Pond, September 25, 1902, and that the bird is now in the Westford Public Library.

— REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*
Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 284.

Mass.

1904.

Oct. 14.

Oceanodroma leucorhoa

One shot in Wayland, just below stone bridge, as it was flying over the marsh, by John B. Daine. Presented to Mr. Brewster by Chas. J. Daine.

Leach's Petrel inland in Massachusetts.—A boy picked up a Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) on one of the streets in Clinton, Mass., Sept. 27, 1905. The bird was alive and apparently uninjured, but it refused to eat anything and died October 2. When it was skinned, a wound was found on the head, as if the bird had flown against a wire. This may explain why it was so easily caught, when apparently there was nothing the matter with it. The town of Clinton is thirty-five miles from the sea. The bird is now in the Thayer Museum.—JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*

Auk, XXI, Jan., 1906, p. 97.

Springfield, Mass. Robert O. Morris

Oceanodroma leucorhoa. The last of October a Leach's Petrel was captured alive on the Connecticut River, in the extreme southern part of Northampton. There are numerous records of the presence of this bird here, the earliest being previous to 1839, when W. B. O. Peabody stated that although this bird seemed so bound to the ocean by all its habits and wants, he had one brought him that was taken near Chicopee River, in Springfield, seventy miles from the shore. It has been supposed that these petrels were driven inland by storms, but in October of this year we had no severe gales in New England that were noticed inland at Springfield; in fact, generally currents in the upper air were so sluggish that the numerous balloons that were sent up from this point were unable to cover any great distance, and it is also singular that if the appearance of these birds inland depends on storms, that they should be found here only in autumn and usually in October.

Auk 26, Jan. 1909, p. 84.

The Breeding Range of Leach's Petrel.— In 'The Auk' for April, 1915, p. 173, Mr. R. C. Murphy states that the breeding range of *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* should be given as follows:—"Southern Greenland and the Faeroes south to Maine and the Hebrides." Curiously enough the breeding range of this species is incorrectly given in both the 'Hand List of British Birds' and also in the 'B. O. U. List of British Birds.' In the former it is said not to breed in Europe outside the British Isles, and in the latter to "occur," in Iceland. As a matter of fact there is a large breeding colony on the Westmann Islands, southwest Iceland, but as far as I am aware there is no evidence of nesting anywhere on the Faeroes. Laubmann in his recent paper, 'Fauna Faeroensis,' makes no mention of it, and Müller & Feilden state that it is not known to breed there. If Mr. Murphy

has more recent information on the subject, it would be as well to publish it. The only known breeding places on the East Atlantic are the Westmann Isles in Iceland, the Flannans, St. Kilda group and N. Rona in Scotland and islets off the Kerry and Mayo coast in Ireland.— F. C. R. JOURDAIN, *Appleton Rectory, Abingdon, Berkshire, England.*

Auk XXXIII, Apr. 1916, p. 196-197.

CAPTURE OF LEACH'S PETREL 160 MILES FROM THE SEA.—In October, 1879, a Leach's Petrel (*Cymochorea leucorhoa*) was shot in the Hudson River, about six miles north of Troy, by William Clark, of Waterford. The bird was mounted by William Gibson, of Lansingburg, and is in his collection. — AUSTIN F. PARK, *Troy, N. Y.*

Bull. N. O. C. 5, July, 1880, p. 190.

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

6. *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, or
7. *Oceanites oceanicus*. LEACH'S OR WILSON'S PETREL.—Petrels, one or both of these species, were very common in the 'Race,' or anywhere at some distance from land. But two individuals were noted near Little Gull, while farther to the north, out in the roadstead, they were very common, and rather wild. Most of those seen while I was crossing over to New London seemed to be feeding, and to be working westward at the same time.*

*Later.—Aug. 17.—Chas. B. Field secured and gave me a Petrel that proved to be the last-named of these species, thus warranting what has been said above to be true of Wilson's, if not of Leach's Petrel.

Auk, VI. April, 1889, p. 128.

BIRD NOTES FROM LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK.

BY WILLIAM DUTCHER.

1. *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. LEACH'S PETREL.—Three Petrels are included in Giraud's Long Island list, as follows: Wilson's, Fork-tailed, and the Least, the two latter being now known as Leach's and the Stormy Petrel. Mr. Lawrence included these, and added the Tropical Fulmar, now known as the Black-capped Petrel, a straggler of this species having been taken at Quogue, L. I., in 1850.* That the Stormy Petrel (*Procellaria pelagica*) was included on insufficient grounds is indicated by our present knowledge of its distribution. The general resemblance to each other of the three species of this family included by Mr. Giraud in his list is so great, and as they are not usually found near the shore, it is not strange that they have been confounded in the earlier records. Mr. Giraud considered Leach's Petrel rare, as he records it in the following words: "Is of rare occurrence on the shores of Long Island."† The only specimen of this species that I have been able to procure, thus far, is a male, which struck Fire Island Light on the night of May 4, 1888, between the hours of 10 P. M. and 2 A. M. The weather was thick, with a brisk southwest wind.

* Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist., Vol. V, p. 220.

† Birds of Long Island, p. 372.

Auk, VI. April, 1889, p. 131-132.

Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) on the Long Island Shore.—On October 21, 1904, while walking along the Sound beach off Mt. Sinai Harbor, about six o'clock P. M., I observed a long-winged bird flying low over the waves, a short distance from shore. I shot the bird, which proved to be a male Leach's Petrel. Early next morning, two miles further west on the same beach, I secured a second specimen, which was found to be a young female. Both birds were flying westward when shot. These are the only cases I know of in which Leach's Petrels have been found so near land. One of the skins is now in my possession; the other is in the collection of Mr. Arthur Helme of Millers Place, L. I. — ROBERT C. MURPHY, *Mt. Sinai, Long Island, N. Y.*

Auk, XXI, A. P., 1905, p. 205-206.

5. *Thalassidroma leachii* Bonap. LEACH'S PETREL.—This Petrel breeds in large numbers on several of the outer islands of Casco Bay, southeast of Portland. Although I have often been told by fishermen and sportsmen of the existence of colonies of these birds on certain of our islands, I never was able to verify their reports until the middle of last August, [when I made three visits to two barren rocks known as the "Green Islands," once in company with Mr. E. N. Atwood of Cape Elizabeth. I found about forty nests, half of which at this late date were empty, the remainder containing squabs in different stages of development.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Me.*, November 12, 1876.

Bull. N. O. C. 2, Jan., 1877, p. 28.

Notes on Maine Birds.

Cymochorea leucorrhoea. LEACH'S PETREL.—During a visit to the coast last June in search of ornithological and oölogical specimens I went to a well-known breeding ground of Leach's Petrel. We found the birds breeding by hundreds and out of some fifty burrows that we dug out, all but two or three contained a single bird sitting on its egg. One burrow contained two birds but no egg. When taken from the holes the birds showed no disposition to fly but on being released would scurry back into their holes or under some log. They appeared to be completely dazzled by the light, and if thrown into the air would fly in an aimless and dazed way for a few moments, very much after the manner of a Night Hawk when thrown from the limb of a tree.

In a letter written by Mr. Manly Hardy of Brewer, Me., to Mr. William Brewster, and quoted by the latter gentleman in the Bulletin for 1881 (Vol. VI, p. 125), Mr. Hardy says "the males do most if not all the incubating," but he further says that of twelve specimens taken from the nest and sent him June 15, 1880, *five* proved to be females. Having this communication in mind, my friend (Mr. N. A. Eddy) and myself thought to investigate a little, and to this end took twelve birds from their nests. None of the forty-three found on their nests showed bare spots on the breast as described by Mr. Hardy, though our visit was on June 23, or about a week later than when Mr. Hardy's birds were secured the year before, so our selections were entirely at random. Of the twelve birds *eight* were females and *four* males. One female and one male of those counted were from the burrow spoken of as *without* an egg, leaving to those taken from their eggs, seven females and three males. I have had others taken from the nest and sent me, and have found that the number of males and females was about equal. This would seem to indicate,—by Mr. Hardy's testimony above quoted,—that both male and female share about equally the task of incubation and *not* that the male alone does most if not all of it.

Harry Merrill; Bangor, Me.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 250.

before they commenced to rise until the air was literally alive with the terns. They rise up hundreds of feet and then dart down to within a few inches of our heads, swinging around here and there so thick and fast that it is almost impossible to follow one with the eye, and all the time keeping up such a chattering that one can hardly hear himself talk. Their cry is beyond description on paper.

We found their nests in all places imaginable; some on small hammocks with a matting of grass for a nest, others on the bare rocks that feel quite warm to the touch, and they were also in slight depressions amongst the drift stuff and sand, in a small cove where it had been thrown up by the last full tides. There were one, two, and three eggs in a nest, mostly twos, and they were in all stages of incubation, as we found on blowing a few sets. One young one was found which was apparently not over one day old. The identification of the eggs could not be positive without some means of trapping the bird on the nest which we did not have.

We found the burrows of the Leach's Petrel without any difficulty; they were generally near small clumps of bushes and twisted around amongst the roots, often being three or four feet long, though most of the time only just under the sod. We dug out a number, and in each case found the bird and one egg at the end of the burrow where it was hollowed out to a considerable extent. The dirt in these nests was perfectly dry, and in some cases there were a few feathers and small fish bones such as would be left by a sitting bird. The birds would bite some when putting the hand in, which would be the only demonstration they made, with the exception that some of them would squirt from their mouth a half tea-spoonful of oil which had a very rank smell. After letting them go they immediately took off and did not appear again.

The fishermen say the males are never seen near the breeding place. A few days after we had a chance to see where they kept themselves. While sailing several miles out at sea, we ran on to a very large flock of Petrels sitting in the water, only getting up as we came too near. They shifted along a little way and then settled down again; there was only a light breeze and we had a fine chance to watch them. One thing in particular which attracted our attention was seeing them rise up and run on top of the water with elosed wings, often as far as five or six feet, something I have never seen any account of. By

Pumpkin Rock and its Summer Residents.

It was my good fortune to have the chance of visiting a breeding place of the Wilson and Arctic Tern and Leach's Petrel, during the past summer, and it was July 9, 1888, that I, in company with three friends, rowed a 16-foot dory three or four miles, from an island we were camping on, to Pumpkin, as it is called by the fishermen.

This island is the end of a chain that puts out from the mainland about eight miles into the ocean, and is a number of miles east of the mouth of the Kennebec river on the coast of Maine. The southern and outer end of the island rises rather sharply to a height of at least forty feet above sea level, and is a solid mass of whitish quartz rock, sloping to the north till it ends in low lying reefs that are covered by the water at high tide. It is not over two acres in extent, including sides. Part of the northern slope is covered by a thin turf, with here and there small clumps of the low bushes commonly found on the seashore.

When we first landed, there were but few birds to be seen, but we did not have to go far

cutting up fish liver, we could toll them right alongside of the boat, and we could have caught them in our hands if they had only kept still long enough. We also found on the island quite a large colony of Bank Swallows, which had burrowed under the sod right on top of a ledge, their nest being on the rock with not over three inches of turf over them. The young had all left the nests in all that we examined. I mention this as I think it an unusual nesting site of this swallow. To end up I want to enter a protest against the practice of so-called city sportsmen who go on to such islands as this one and shoot birds until they are tired, break eggs for fun, and dig up the Petrels and wring their necks. The Terns they sometimes take, oftener just the wings, leaving the bodies to rot; evidence of which I saw. The fishermen claim they have driven the Terns off one island, and that they are only as one to ten to what they were ten years ago on this island, since which time some of the larger islands near by have become summer resorts. Such as these are the ones that are doing the most towards exterminating and driving away our birds from their accustomed breeding places; not, as is often made the hue and cry of the daily newspapers, the hunters and taxidermists. *Elmer T. Judd.*

Fairfield County, Conn.

O. & O. XIV. June. 1889 p. 91-92

BREEDING OF LEACH'S PETREL ON THE COAST OF MAINE.— In the January number of the Bulletin (Vol. II, 1877) Mr. N. C. Brown refers to the Leach's Petrel (*Thalassidroma leucorrhoa*, Linn.) "as found for the first time breeding on the New England coast," and mentions meeting with its nests on the Green Islands in Casco Bay. That Mr. Brown was not the first person to find it breeding even on the Green Islands would not be a fact of sufficient moment to call for correction did not his statement suggest the quite important error implied: that it is not known, and has not been known, to breed elsewhere on the coast of Maine. That this Petrel breeds along the greater part of the coast of Maine has been known as a fact for many years. Whether Casco Bay is its most western point remains to be ascertained.

In June, 1850, I made several weeks' explorations in the neighborhood of Eastport, and found this bird breeding in all the Grand Menan group—which geographically, if not politically, are part of the Maine coast—on the island of Eastport itself, and on a small island between Eastport and Machias. An account was published (Bost. Jour. Nat. Hist., Vol. VI, p. 297). On the following year, in company with Dr. H. R. Storer, I continued these explorations, and ascertained that this species breeds abundantly on every suitable island as far west as Mt. Desert. Several years afterwards, in the summer of 1855, and again in 1856, in company with Dr. Dixon, of Damariscotta, we traced their breeding, in considerable numbers, as far west as Round Pond harbor, in Bristol, and in the Damariscove Islands, in the ocean, not far from the mouth of the Kennebec. In 1873, on Peakes Island, I saw specimens of the eggs and birds taken by Messrs. Franklin Benner and Spencer Baird Biddle in Casco Bay the same summer. On the strength of these observations, made by others as well as myself, in my Catalogue of the Birds of New England (Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. XVII, p. 450), I spoke of this Petrel as a summer resident on the coast of Maine. I have by me, in MS., the letters of both these gentlemen in regard to their observations. I subjoin a brief extract from the notes of Mr. Benner:—

"The first visit was made to Junk-of-Pork Island, about three miles northeast of Peakes, in Casco Bay, on July 16, 1873. The island has an area of half an acre at low water, and in the centre is an almost perpendicular piece of rock about forty feet in diameter and nearly twenty-five feet high. A dozen or more burrows of this Petrel, each with their single egg, were found in the earth that had accumulated on the top of this rock. The eggs were about half incubated. In two nests young were found only a day or two old. One of the parent birds was found in each burrow, and in one instance both.

"On the 22d of the same month I visited White Bull Island, located twelve miles farther to the eastward, and comprising a much larger extent of surface than the first. Here were also found the nests of the Petrel among many of the Terns. Young birds were found in many of them, and some eggs."

He speaks of having found them "abundant," and probably breeding in several other "of the many barren islands in the neighborhood."—T. M. BREWER, *Boston, Mass.*

Bull. N. O. C. 2, July, 1877. p. 80-81.

Vol. 31. Dec. 20. 1735. Nesting of Leach's Petrel. By F. H. Carpenter. *Ibid.*, p. 436. For, & Stream.

Bryant's "Additions to the Ornithology of Guadalupe Island." by J. P. N.

3. *Oceanodroma leucorrhoa*, Leach's Petrel. Abundant. A large series obtained, and also many eggs. Nest in hillside, and burrow extending from one to three feet; at the end of this, on a few pine needles, Mr. Bryant found the single egg always laid by Petrels. Average measurement of fifty eggs taken March 4th and 5th is 35.7 x 27 millimeters.

O. & O. XII. Apr. 1887 p. 52

Oceanites
oceanicus

1103. *Water Birds of Nova Scotia*. By J. Matthew Jones. *Ibid.*,
Aug. 13, pp. 43, 44; Aug. 27, p. 83; Sept. 10, p. 123.—An annotated list of
105 species. Includes several obvious malidentifications. The account
given of "Wilson's Petrel" doubtless relates to Leach's Petrel, to which
latter there is no reference. The list includes the "Crested Grebe (*P.*
cristatus)"! Fox, & Stream. XXV

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

Sept 8, (1878) :

The Petrels
seem to be flying about all night, as when on deck at night I have often seen a
black shadow flit by close to me, and on moonlight nights they come up very
close, even picking bits of gurry off the rail.

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

Notes on the birds of Cape Breton Island.
by Charles W. Townsend.

Oceanodroma leucorhoa, Leach's Petrel.

Oceanites oceanicus, Wilson's Petrel.

Petrels, apparently of both species, were
seen at a distance off the Nova Scotia
coast south of Cape Breton.

Cook, XXIII, Apr., 1906, p. 173.

Oceanites oceanica - ^{a. i. shot. l.} Aug. 24 Rye Beach, N. H. 1871.

Oceanites oceanica - ^{See O.} July 29 Rye Beach, N. H. 1872.

Auk, XI, July 1895, p. 311.

Bird notes from St. Albans, Vermont,

Wilson's Stormy Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) has also been taken here.

Nelly Hunt Woodworth.
St. Albans, Vt.

Mass. (Nahant)

Oceanites? oceanica?

1885.

Nov. 28

Dr. Goodale's son tells me that he saw a small black Petrel with a white rump flying about over the sea within about one hundred yards of the rocks at Nahant. He did not pretend to fix the species but felt sure it was either this or *C. ~~brachy~~ leucorhous*. The 28th was two days after the cessation of the heaviest north-easter known on this coast for upwards of thirty years.

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

Oceanites oceanicus (Kuhl.), Wilson's Petrel.
Resident, occasionally seen off the coast.

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

Leach's Petrel at Brockton Heights.

On October 16th a boy brought me a Leach's Petrel which he said a gentleman had shot while resting on an apple tree (the gentleman of course). This is the first time I ever heard of a Petrel being twenty miles inland, in Massachusetts at least.

He was probably driven in by the north-east storm which existed at the time. But I have always supposed that a Petrel could withstand the fury of the wildest tempest and this was only an ordinary storm. Still the fact remains that this one was twenty miles from the nearest salt water and in an apparently exhausted condition when captured. Let us hear from others on the subject, and if it is a common occurrence, I, at least, shall learn something new.

R. H. Carr.

[One was taken in Boston, on October 18th, in the Back Bay district, hung to the telegraph wires.—B.]

O. & O. XIV, Nov. 1889 p. 162

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

2. *Oceanites oceanicus*. WILSON'S PETREL.—Of this species Mr. Giraud says: "Are not uncommon off Sandy Hook, within sight of land, and occasionally stragglers are seen coasting along the shores of Long Island."‡ Petrels are not uncommon off the Long Island coast during the summer months, and that they are mostly of this species I am led to believe from the present evidence. Gunners and baymen on the south side tell me that they have seen Petrels off shore while bluefishing, but that they rarely see them near the surf line, or on the bays, except after very heavy blows. A letter written by Mr. W. L. Breese, § who owns and resides on an extensive estate called Timber Point, near Islip, L. I., proves that they are sometimes found in Great South Bay. In a communication to Dr. A. K. Fisher, June 25, 1888, he says: "I saw a flock of about twenty-five Petrels in the bay, this week, the only ones I have ever seen down here. I do not know what they were doing here so late in the season and so far up the bay."|| July 20, 1888, Mr. N. T. Lawrence, B. H. Dutcher, and the writer sailed through Rockaway Inlet in a bluefish smack, for the purpose of ascertaining what Petrels, if any, were to be found off Rockaway Beach and Coney Island. We went out on the last of a strong ebb tide and with a very light breeze, that hardly filled our flapping sail. When about a mile off shore we saw a single Petrel, which passed us out of gunshot, flying parallel with the shore. In a short time this or another individual passed us going in an opposite direction. Until we were nearly two miles off shore we saw single individuals at short intervals, always just skimming the tops of the long ground-swells, apparently in search of food. When about two and one half miles off shore, we changed our course and sailed parallel with the beach; almost imperceptibly the Petrels became more numerous. We would see a pair flying in company, or a small flock of six or eight scattered in an irregular but following manner. Sometimes one or two would rest for a moment on the water, floating buoyantly, like a tossing cork. Where the ebbing tide made slick, greasy looking streaks on the water, and also in eddies where drift and floatage gathered, these birds seemed most fond of congregating, evidently for the particles of food they there found. We remained on the ocean about three hours, when the gathering wind and clouds warned us to return to the more quiet waters of the bay. While the wind was light the Petrels were quite shy and would rarely come within gunshot, but as the breeze became stronger and the water rougher, they seemed to lose their fear of our boat and we could sail within gunshot without difficulty. Six specimens were secured, all proving to be of this species. Many more could have been shot, but unfortunately we were without a landing-net and so could not recover them. While returning to the beach we saw them in gradually lessening numbers, the last one being just inside the mouth of the inlet. While feeding, their movements were extremely graceful. On finding floating matter they would hover over it, dropping their feet to the water and apparently patting it, and, with partially extended wings, bend their necks so that their bills would point downwards at a right angle to the body. During the early part of August, Petrels were common at the entrance to Long Island Sound, as per report of Basil Hicks Dutcher;* the only one he secured was of this species. That they sometimes wander westward through the Sound is established by the record made by Robert B. Lawrence, of one taken near Sands Point, Queens Co., August 7, 1881.†

‡Ibid., p. 371. = *Birds of Long Island, p. 371.*

§Deceased since this was written. See Auk, Vol. VI, p. 81.

|| About eight miles northeast from Fire Island Inlet and near the main land.

*See *antea*, p. 128.

† Forest and Stream, Vol. XXVII, p. 428.

Auk, VI, April, 1889. p. 132-133

Wilson's Petrel in Western New York.—In my report to Dr. A. K. Fisher of the birds that occur in this vicinity, I mentioned among the Accidental Visitants a 'Stormy Petrel,' and gave him the particulars of its capture. He asked me to report it to 'The Auk'. The specimen is in my collection, and was taken by Mr. J. A. Newton of this city in Oct., 1875, while shooting Golden Plover in a field just outside the city limits. On examining it I find it is a Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanica*) instead of Stormy Petrel as reported. It was presented to the Jewett Scientific Society and lately came into my possession.—J. L. DAVISON, *Lockport, N. Y.* Auk, I, July, 1884. p. 294.

Proc. Linnean Soc., N. Y., 88-89

Mr. William Dutcher remarked that contrary to the usual published statements, he believes that Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) is the common one off our coast, as the majority of Long Island records are of this species. They were common at Little Gull Island in August, 1888.

Auk, 6. Apr. 1889. p. 197

Oceanites oceanica

Off the Middle States.

Block Id. to Chesapeake Bay

Aug. 2 - 4, 1882

During a trip from Boston to Bathineon
Wilson's Petrels were abundant after
leaving Block Island. They followed the
wake of our Steamship in numbers varying
from five or six to fifty, at different times.
They kept us company to a point about
fifteen miles west of Cape Charles and hence
actually within the Chesapeake. Off the
mouth of this Bay they were most abundant
All seemed to be adults and I saw
no Leach's Petrels among them.

*Columbus
kolboellii*

Colymbus holboellii.

Boston Harbor, Mass.

1879. On our return (from a day's shooting in the harbor on a
Jan.24. little tug by invitation of Mr. Andrew Ward) we shot and se-
cured an immature P.g.holboellii, a tame, stupid bird that al-
lowed us to run the tug within thirty yards before taking to
diving.

Olynthus volboelli

1893

Mass.

March 19

Tyringham (nearby). "On Sunday, the 19th, a young man in Tyringham (an adjoining town) saw a bird sitting on the snow in the yard and went out and lifted it, bringing it into the house. Word was sent to my Ned that the Tyringham boy had a 'dipper - duck or loon' & in a day or two the bird was brought to him. It proved to be a very beautiful specimen of the American Red necked Grebe. It is very tame, would let us handle it, would swim in the wash tub and catch crumbs which we dropped in to him, and would give a little squawk occasionally. Ned was about to chloroform it & stuff it when the drug-store keeper begged the loan of it & it is now on exhibition in the window with a little home [sic] & a large tank & he is either swimming or preening his feathers or eating bait fish the day through & every boy in the village has made his acquaintance. His fame has spread & another one was reported captured in another part of Tyringham, the drug-store man sent for it but found that the farmer had released it about an hour before.

To-day a boy reported that he had 'found one dead hanging on a tree' in a clump of woods near the village and Ned has it here at home x x x x Bill 2 inches; length 22 inches; extent of wings stretched 32 inches. Upper mandible black except at the joining where it is yellowish. Top of head above the eyes and all down the back, dark brown not black but with an olive rather than a reddish shade. Underneath from the bill to the beginning of the long neck ashy white growing darker in the slender part of the neck then lighter again till it joins the pure white breast and belly, growing a little darker around the tail. Full

Columbus holboellii

1893 Mass.

March 19
(No 2)

Tyringham - "ten inches by five or six inches, below white, mottled with brown under the wings. Each of the dark feathers on the back has a lighter edge. Wing as it joins the body white and the secondaries (if I understood the term) apparently pure white but in reality the quill part or midrib is brown but the overlapping white feathers cover the brown. The wings underneath are nearly white or pale dove-colored xxxx. The eye is dark and all that shows is a yellowish rim. There is a place on the side of the head almost white.

The bird was found on the tree Friday (24th) or Saturday (25th); the other two the Sunday before. [There is a discrepancy in these dates as compared with that ("Sunday, the 19") given at the beginning of the latter.] It seems as if a great many of these birds must have passed over us when two could be ~~seen~~ belated in Tyringham and one drop in Bee & be impaled on a tree. It cannot be a bird that often tumbles down in Berkshire for nobody of all the visitors to the drug store window has ever seen the one with the coffee colored neck, nor can I find any one to identify this white-breasted one" (Copy of portions of letter dated March 27, 1893, from (Mrs.) Elizabeth M. Rowland to Bradford Torrey loaned me by Mr. Faxon in whose possession it now is.) The description of plumage last quoted are accompanied by diagrams showing wing & head markings. Then with the description show clearly that the "white breasted" bird was an immature example of the ~~Ass.~~ Red necked Gull.)

Colymbus holboellii.

Concord, Mass.

1899. As I was paddling out into Great Meadow at about 5 P.M.
April 14. I saw what I took to be a large Duck floating on the water
near the head of Beaver Dam rapid. On getting nearer I made
it out to be a Red-necked Grebe the first I have ever found
here. It was preening its feathers and paid no attention to
me until I was within about 80 yards, when it stretched up
its long, slender neck and a moment later took wing, rising
heavily like a Loon. It circled low over the meadows flying
very swiftly with its neck extended in front and its legs
behind looking exceedingly like a Red-throated Diver. Before
it left the water I saw distinctly that its neck was light or
faded chestnut, its throat ashy, its crown dark brown. It
finally realighted farther up the meadows but when I reached
the place it had disappeared.

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

141. *Podiceps griseigena holboëlli*. RED-NECKED GREBE. — Rare;
one shot in September.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct., 1882, p. 241

CAPTURE OF A RED-NECKED GREBE, (*Podiceps holboëlli*), IN WESTERN ONTARIO.—On the 11th of February, 1885, on bank of river Thames, two miles north of Plover Mills, county of Middlesex, Ontario, an individual of the above species was captured under the following circumstances. Mr. Hartwick, a farmer, noticed near his house the bird in question, sitting on a snow bank, and completely enveloped in ice. Although alive, its wings were so firmly fastened by the frost that it was compelled to submit to be taken by hand. Carried to the house, it was placed in water, when it at once revived, dipping, diving and preening its feathers in the liveliest manner. It refused, however, to eat any of the food placed before it, with the exception of some fir leaves (*abies*) of which it partook sparingly. Placed outside the house and allowed full liberty, it refused to leave, walking deliberately, nonehalently and in the characteristically erect position back to the place which had proved such a pleasant retreat from the wintry storm. At the end of its third day in captivity the poor Grebe died, after which event it came into the possession of my friend, Mr. S. R. Reynolds, who has had it mounted and placed in his collection. It should be stated that on the day previous a flock, estimated to comprise ten or a dozen birds of presumably the same species, was observed flying low in the vicinity. They appeared much confused, dispersing and gathering together alternately, and uttering cries of distress. The weather was extremely cold.—*Robt. Elliot. O. & O. X, June. 1885. p. 95.*

Notes on some northern birds
by Rev. C. W. G. Zifrig -
Auk, ~~XVII~~, July, 1906, 314-315.

HOLBÆLL'S GREBE (*Colymbus holboëlli*).—Oct. 16 a local gunner took a male on the Ottawa River of this rather rare species. What interested me was its stomach contents, which consisted of a bunch of feathers. As it is not known to feed on anything having feathers, it is somewhat surprizing. I looked up the matter in books at my command, but found little in explanation. Warren in his 'Birds of Pennsylvania' states that he found feathers in the stomachs of two of these grebes. In the ancient 'Knight's Pictorial Museum of Animated Nature,' I found it stated that this grebe plucks out some of its own feathers either purposely to "aid in digestion" or inadvertently while preening. I cleaned the feathers therefore, and on close inspection and comparison it is seen that they undoubtedly are some of its own feathers. But why these birds should swallow so many of their feathers while preening, whereas none are found in the gizzards of other birds that preen just as much, would, I think, be hard to say. Or do they really eat them purposely to 'aid digestion'?

Holboëll's Grebe at Niagara Falls.—While on a trip to Niagara Falls this past fall (Sept. 20, 1903) in company with Mr. Frederick C. Hubel, I picked up a fine specimen (ad. ♂) of Holboëll's Grebe (*Colymbus holboëllii*) on the Canadian side just opposite the American Falls. Upon questioning the proprietor of a curio shop, a few feet from the spot, he informed me that he shot the bird early that same morning swimming out in the rapids. Personal examination proved that the grebe had been dead only a few hours.—ALEXANDER W. BLAIN, JR., *Detroit, Mich.*

Birds of the ...
by ...

Colymbus holboëllii. HOLBØLL'S GREBE.—1904, Feb. 18, seven
taken alive on the snow — unable to fly. 1910, Jan. 1, one taken alive.
1912, Feb. 12, one taken alive. 1913, Mar. 14, one taken alive.

Auk 30, July, 1913, p. 436

Mass. (Worcester)

Podiceps holboellii

1886

Nov. 1

Upwards of 100 of these Grebes were found this morning in a pond about two miles from Worcester. One man counted 50 in flight at once. One sportsman shot 8, another 10, a third 17. The survivors stayed in the pond several days (Mr. Perry) [There had been an easterly storm of five days duration preceding this date] Mr. Perry tells me further that all the specimens (about 20) which he examined were ^{young} birds. There were a few Horned Grebes with ~~them~~.

Podiceps holboellii 14¹ ^{on 20th} Great Id. Mass. Dec. 1888.

Auk, XIV, July, 1897, p. 327.

Three Birds rare in Framingham, Mass.

Colymbus holboellii.—A fine adult female of this species in perfect plumage, was brought me by a boy who said he shot it in a pond entirely surrounded by a medium growth of hardwood trees located at the westerly part of the town. It was accompanied by a second, possibly the male, which remained near by for some time, but he was unable to get a shot at it. Two young birds of this species in fall plumage were shot on the Sudbury River this last fall. H. D. Eastman, Framingham, Mass.

Cat. Number

N. E. Coll. Bos. Soc. N. H. U

* 511 Am. Red-necked Grebe. juv.

Charles River near Cambridge bridge

(In N. E. Coll. Bos. Soc. N. H.)

Jan 4. 1869

Colymbus holboellii

Upper Mystic Pond, Mass.

1893,
Apr. 27.

One seen by Dr. W. L. Gifford

Holboell's Grebe in Lancaster, Mass.— A live Holboell's Grebe (*Colymbus holboellii*), a young male, was found in Lancaster, Mass., February 15, 1904, by one of the local sportsmen and given to me. It did not seem injured in the least, and lived in confinement for nine days. It was found in a marshy meadow near the main street, near several houses.— JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.* *Auk*, XXI, July, 1904, p. 383.

Holboell's Grebe in Concord, Mass.— On December 15, 1912, Bateman's Pond froze over with black ice, but a thaw and rain resulted on the 17th in covering the ice with nearly an inch of water. During the moonlight night that followed a Holboell's Grebe (*Colymbus holboellii*) attempted to light in the pond and I believe settling on the ice and was unable again to take wing. On the following morning, it having turned cold during the night, the bird was found with its breast feathers frozen in the ice. The wrists of its wings were badly lacerated by beating against the ice to free itself, but in other respects the bird was uninjured. After much piteous squawking, its feathers were cut from the ice and the bird liberated. Its wings, however, were injured so badly that it was killed and is now preserved in this Museum.— R. HEBER HOWE, Jr., *Thoreau Museum, Concord, Mass.* *Auk* 30, April, 1913, p. 267.

CORRECTION. — On page 137 of my late "Review of the Birds of Connecticut," mention is made of the capture of half a dozen specimens of *Podiceps cristatus* in Connecticut. My attention having been called, through the kindness of Dr. Brewer, to the improbability of its occurrence at all within our limits, I immediately made inquiry of my friend, John H. Sage, Esq., of Portland, Conn., concerning the identity of the specimens in question. He writes me that a thorough re-examination of the birds proves them all to be more or less immature examples of *P. griseigena*, var. *holbelli*. — C. HART MERRIAM.

Bull. N.O.C. 3, Jan., 1878. p. 47.

Holbell's Grebe in Connecticut.— An unusual flight of *Colymbus holbelli* was noticed here during the month of February, 1912. A specimen was picked up alive in a mowing lot, perhaps two miles from the Connecticut river, on the 9th, the ground at the time being covered with snow and the thermometer near the zero point. The bird could not, apparently, arise from the ground. From the 12th to the 15th, inclusive, nine of these grebes were captured alive on the ice in the Connecticut river. Some of them in trying to escape simply moved along the ice in a rapid manner using their feet for power, but making no attempt to fly. Two of them, however, arose from the ice and flew at a height of from eight inches to two feet for a short distance and then dropped down. Between the dates referred to the river was entirely covered with ice, there being, so far as could be seen, no open water where the birds could obtain food.— JNO. H. SAGE, Portland, Conn. *March XXIX. Apr. 1912. p. 233.*

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

174. *Podiceps holboëlli*, *Reinh.* RED-NECKED GREBE.—Occurs during the migrations—in spring about the last of April.

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

Some Birds of Unusual Occurrence in Orleans County, N. Y. — During the past week the writer has accomplished a casual reading of a complete file of 'The Auk', from Vol. I, No. 1 to date, and finds that during the entire fifteen years of its publication it has contained only two items which pertain to the ornithology of this county, and those were of but a paragraph each. Our county has not, however, been so free from rare avian visitors as this sparsity of record would seem to indicate. On the contrary, there have been many occurrences well worthy of mention, although it does seem that no one has taken the pains to have them properly recorded. Permit me now to make mention of some of the most interesting of these, as follows:—

Colymbus holboëlli. HOLBOELL'S GREBE.—A somewhat ancient record, dating back to May 1, 1873, on which day, Mr. David Bruce of Brockport secured a specimen near Murray. This bird was somewhat above the ordinary in size, measuring twenty-one inches in length.

Neil F. Rossom.

Medina N. Y.

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

Proposed Changes in N. A. Fauna.

J. M. Brewer.

4. The Subtraction of Podiceps cristatus.

Podiceps cristatus, Latham. CRESTED GREBE. This has been counted as a North American bird by Bonaparte (Syn. p. 417), by Richardson (Faun. Bor. Am. II, p. 410), by Nuttall (Water Birds, p. 250), by Audubon (Orn. Biog. III, 595, pl. 292), and others. It is retained by Mr. Lawrence in the ninth volume of Pacific Railroad Reports, and is even given by Dr. Coues in his "Birds of the Northwest," without any expression of doubt as to its existence in North America; indeed, he ventures the remark that he sees no difference between American and European specimens. Nevertheless it is now universally conceded that not a specimen is in existence of American origin, and that there is no authentic record of the capture of a single specimen in America. Every specimen that has been referred to this species, where in existence, proved to be either immature examples of *P. griseigena*, or to be foreign examples, and by no one is this now more cheerfully conceded than by Dr. Coues himself.

It is very obvious now, in reading Mr. Audubon's notes by the light of our present knowledge of the habits of the American form of the Red-necked Grebe, that all he wrote in reference to the supposed American *P. cristatus* relates exclusively to the former species, of which he makes but a brief mention, and with which he appeared to regard himself as unfamiliar, although it is so common about Eastport and the provinces where he spent the spring of 1833.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1878, p. 52.

On Podiceps occidentalis and P. clarkii Henshaw.

P. clarkii See under P. occidentalis

Oct.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, ~~1881~~, 1881, p. 214-218.

auritas

Todiceps cornutus

1890

Rhode Island.

April 18

Scout Point. - About five or six constantly about the island. They feed down in under the rocks. Saw one to-day dive repeatedly near the base of the cliff (40 ft high) directly beneath where I stood. It went down at about this angle, and I could see that it used its wings. It looked under water like a fish and descended very swiftly. We could follow its course for about ten feet. The water was green & I could not see the bottom. On coming to the surface it would look keenly around turning its head sharply from side to side then dive again. It floated high on the surface & when it dove cleft the water so deeply as scarcely to leave a ripple behind. All these Grebes are in full plumage apparently. The dominant note is conspicuous & there is a white patch on the side of the crest which is frequently erected & expanded.

Timed the dives of several feeding Grebes. They varied from 25 to 34 seconds. They were diving in water 20 to 30 ft. deep. One brought up a fish about 4 in long by 1 inch wide. He bit it vigorously and dropping it in the water pecked it many times in succession. This was probably to break the bones or at least to soften it. Once it sank & he had to make a short dive to recover it. Finally he raised it until his bill pointed straight up & then swallowed it. I saw a dove do the same thing yesterday.

I shot at one of these Grebes at 50 yds. He apparently got entirely under water before the shot reached him although swimming with back out when I the spot. He had seen me, however.

Swims under water.

Washes a fish before swallowing it.

Dive before

Colymbus auritus.

Concord, Mass.

1899. As I was crossing Holden's meadow this afternoon I came
April 15. upon a Horned Grebe, the first that I have ever found in Con-
cord River. It had discovered me and was swimming rapidly
out into the rough water of the tidal current but it did not
seem to be very much alarmed and after I had worked the canoe
close in shore it began diving for food springing nearly clear
of the water like a Merganser and remaining beneath the sur-
face for periods varying from thirty to forty-two seconds.
It remained in nearly the same place, an eddy very near shore
but really in the river itself off the south end of Davis's
Hill. I watched it for fifteen or twenty minutes through my
glass. It was in the very fullest and richest ^{nuptial} plumage. Its
head looked very large and fluffy - as large as a drake Whist-
ler's - and the chestnut patch showed distinctly. The neck
was slender and gracefully held.

When I started towards it again it swam out into the

Colymbus auritus.

Concord, Mass.

1899. choppy sea and directly down stream keeping in the swiftest
April 15. part of the current and making a succession of remarkably long
(No.2) dives. Although I paddled hard I did not succeed in overtak-
ing it until it turned into the meadow and then I did not get
nearer at any time than about 100.yards for it doubled on me
continually and went almost as far under water at each dive
as a Loon. When it came to the surface it invariably showed
its whole body or at least as much of it as a Whistler or Old
Squaw would have shown under similar circumstances. But from
the moment I began chasing it the loose, ruff-like plumage of
the head was pressed down so tightly that the head looked
scarce thicker than the slender neck. I could not make it
fly and finally left it swimming and diving.

Colymbus auratus

1891 Mass.

April 11 Nohant. Three seen together by Foxon, swimming and diving close to the rocks. They were apparently in full spring plumage showing the head tufts and constant quackings plainly. In Spring
off Nohant.

Marionet, Chatham, Middleboro' ponds. Very common migrant. Passes south of
Practically all pass south of Chatham before end of December. Chatham in Dec
Visits and feeds alights in the fresh water ponds about visits fresh water
Middleboro' (H. K. Job in conversation Dec. 26, 1898) ponds freely

Medford

Lower Mystic Pond. - Mr. Geo. B. Frasca has just (March 28/96) shown Spring & fall
me a Horned Grebe in winter plumage which he shot in this records for
pond Oct. 2, 1894. He also tells me that a remarkably beautiful Lower Mystic
specimen in full breeding plumage was shot in this pond on Pond.
March 26, 1896 by a boy (Arthur Franklin) who sold the
bird in the flesh to Mr. Abbott Frasca. (I afterwards purchased
the March bird & it is now in my collection)

1902 Cambridge

Oct. Nov. Fresh Pond. - Mr. Harold Bowditch tells me that he saw a Autumn record
Horned Grebe in Fresh Pond on October 25, 28, 29 & 30 and on for Fresh Pond.
November 3 which it was seen by a friend (Mr. ^{Phillips} Coolidge)
on November 9th. It was very tame & approached so near
the shore on one occasion that Mr. Bowditch distinctly
saw over the red iris. He has shown me an accurate &
very pretty colored sketch of the bird which was, of course,
in winter plumage.

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

1. *Colymbus auritus*. HORNED GREBE.—One seen in a small pond at East Point on June 29, and the fragments of an egg of some species of Grebe were found on the beach near by. The people living on the islands call this bird the Water-witch. It undoubtedly breeds, but is not at all common.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 145.

*Birds of Toronto, Ontario.
By James A. Fleming,
Part I, Water Birds.
Auk, XXIII, Oct. 1906, p. 441.*

2. *Colymbus auritus*. HORNED GREBE.—Common resident in spring and fall, March 14 to April 23 (probably to May); and from middle of September to end of November (October 27, 1896). Spring birds are in full plumage, or nearly so, when they arrive.

Maine (near Bangor)

Podiceps cornutus

1886

in full breeding plumage.

April 2

"A Horned Grebe in full breeding plumage (the first I ever knew to be taken in this state) was brought alive to me April 2. It was found (and wounded) in an open place in the river where it must have settled the night before" (Manly Hardy in letter of Apr. 6-1886)

5' 2" 29' 30"
1000
1000

Podiceps cornutus

Captured alive.

Milton, Mass
Oct. 26, 1882

At Aldrich's I have seen a Horned Grebe which had been killed only a moment before I entered the building. It was brought in alive by a man who captured it on the gravelled walk of his garden which adjoins a small fresh water pond. He kept the bird alive for several days. It was exceedingly active, even on the ground, propelling so rapidly by short & hops that it was hard to catch. It used its wings, he said, in this exercise.

very much as a mammal
does its fore legs. When placed
in a tub of water it swam
about gracefully and often
dived. It was very shy and
wild. They only lay on which
I could discern was the
escape of a shot on the
bill but doubtless it was
really wounded elsewhere.

1895
29 30
20
25

Podiceps cornutus.

Habits in winter -

Swampscott, Mass.
January 27, 1883.

During a cruise along-shore to-day I saw about a dozen of these Grebes. Our men called them "Water-witches" and also gave them another title too indecent for record but which was bestowed on account of the hair-like character of the feathers about the posterior.

They were usually rather shy but seemed to depend on flight, rather than diving. They would rise with great difficulty after striking wave after wave even when they had fairly cleared the surface, and

Podiceps cornutus

In breeding pl. in Mass.

Nahant, Mass.
April 1883

Mr. Tufts of Lynn has shown me the finest Horned Grebe I ever saw. It is in perfect breeding plumage, the ruffs being very large and the rich coloring of head and neck absolutely pure.

Mr. Welch tells me that he has killed many of these Grebes in April but he has never seen one before in which the plumage was not more or less imperfect.

sometimes, finally, dropping back into the water as if exhausted by their vain attempt to lean it.

One of these Grebes rose on our board bows and attempted to cross us. ~~My~~ ^{My} ~~then~~ ^{then} ~~bow~~ ^{bow} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~aimed~~ ^{aimed} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~third~~ ^{third} ~~report~~ ^{report} it plunged headlong, killed as we supposed, but probably only wounded, for it left the water like a leaf and instantly disappeared, nor was it seen again.

Another, which may compare heron in a long down on a hie and at length taking near his boat at our bow; he fired both barrels at close range and at the second report the bird plunged headlong forward as the other had done. He all appeared it was killed but it instantly disappeared, a while afterwards we discovered it hiding in there at the end of a little run of water at the base of a rocky bank. It sat perfectly motionless being & looking with the breast until first as I was about to fire when it down & started under the boat to a short when it was outside. ^{These observations confirm the} ^{made at Ludlow's & compare with that the} ^{which flies more readily than the Gadwall.}

Podiceps

In breeding pl. in Mass.

Mr. Tufts of Boston has shown Horned Grebe I ever saw. It is in breeding plumage, the ruffs being and the rich coloring of head absolutely pure.

Mr. Welch tells me that he saw many of these Grebes in April but seen one before in which the plumage was or less imperfect.

Nahant, Mass.
April 1882

Podiceps cornutus.

In Spring.

Vineyard Sound, Mass.

April 18, 1862

Crossing from Nantucket to Wood's Hole by steamer I saw perhaps fifty of these Grebes. They usually occurred in flocks of from six to twenty. Upon our approach they generally took to diving; indeed I am not sure that I saw any of them fly. The greater number seemed to be still in winter plumage.

1862

Colymbus auritus

Cambridge

October. "Horned Grebe was common on Fresh Pond [during this month] from about ten 8th to ten 25th or a not quite so late. I saw 2 or 3 nearly every morning during that time, and should say that at least 10 or a dozen were there. They were, as a rule, very wild during or flying before [we could get] within gun shot. However on the 17th George [Lomb] & Melton saw a flock of 3 which were quite tame. These were the only tame ones xxx and the only flock. George shot 2 that morning. Our peculiarity I noticed was that a long distance off they appeared nearly twice as large as when near to."
No 97, ♀, Oct. 13. C. R. Lomb
Note Book C. R. Lomb.

Podiceps cornutus

On Fresh Pond -

Cambridge, Mass.
October, 1882.

Charles R. Lamb tells me that eight or ten Horned Grebes were shot on Fresh Pond about the middle of October. There were seen together in the first instance; afterwards single birds came in. They were very shy, kept well out in the pond, flew freely, dove adroitly and altogether were very difficult to shoot.

192. ^{E. Mass. 1885.} Podiceps cornutus. Nov. 28² (1885)

22. ^{Ms.} Pod. cornutus Nov. 10²: E. Mass. 1886.

Mass. (Grove)

Podiceps cornutus.

1885

Nov. 28 100 in the river near its mouth. We chased them in a clumsy, noisy row-boat and got a very good shot at one. Like the birds on L. Umbagog they were not very shy, took to diving when pursued and made very short dives - rarely more than 100 yds. each. They invariably showed the entire neck and usually the back also.

E. H. Forbush & Co., the Worcester taxidermists, have just received a living grebe, or diver, which was captured in Shrewsbury a few days since. This bird is unable to walk upon land except with the aid of its wings, and it is also unable to fly unless starting from the water. Its capture alive is a rare occurrence. It was probably sleeping on the shore of some pond, when the water froze over during the night, and the bird, being unable to walk far or to rise from the shore, was easily taken.

Rev. Louis Brewster
Feb. 7, 1884

Holboell's Grebe (*Colymbus holboelli*) at Bedford, Mass.— Feb. 15, 1913, Mr. William H. Simonds found a Holboell's Grebe on the ice of Concord river. The bird was in good condition but apparently exhausted. It was brought to the village and identified and on the next day, the 16th, was carried back to the river bank and apparently there took care of itself and was *thought* to have been seen a day later in open water.— CHARLES W. JENKS, Bedford, Mass.

Am. Orn. Soc. p. 429.

Horned Grebe in Conn.

While in the fields, July 26, my spaniel flushed a peculiar looking bird which I easily captured alive and found to my surprise it was a male Horned Grebe, *Dytes auritus*.

I kept it in a tank of water and fed it flies and bugs, and for nine days it did well and seemed to be very contented and would dive with great dexterity. When approached it would utter a pitiful cry. Upon the tenth day it refused food and died.

It was very graceful in water, but when out it could not walk; but by the aid of its wings could travel three or four feet, then would tumble. When found by the dog it was in an open lot and nearly one-half a mile from any water. I am unable to find any one that has ever seen or heard of this species being found in this vicinity before. I now have it mounted and it makes a valuable addition to my case of water birds.—*Chas. A. Thompson, Melrose, Ct.*
O. & O. VIII, Jan. 1882, p. 3

671. *Horned Grebe* [*Dytes auritus*] in *Conn[ecticut]*. By Chas. A. Thompson. *Ibid.*, p. 3. *O. & O. Vol. VIII*

New York

Podiceps cornutus

1888

Occurrence on fresh water in spring

April

Mr. G. S. Miller Jr. tells me that he found large numbers on Seneca Lake. They were in all stages of plumage from the winter to the breeding dress. He secured nearly fifty specimens. They rarely flew unless pursued by a boat but usually down when alarmed. He shot most of them from shore.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.

185. *Dytes auritus* (Linn.) Ridgway. HORNED GREBE.—On Little Tupper's Lake (Hamilton Co.). Oct. 22, 1881. Dr. A. K. Fisher and I saw about eight Horned Grebes and I killed one of them. While crossing Raquette Lake, the same day, Dr. Fisher shot another. At Big Moose Lake (in Hamilton and Herkimer Counties) we saw this species every day from Oct. 26 to Nov. 8, 1881. Nov. 5 I shot one out of a flock of nine. They were all in the plain fall dress, so that the size alone enabled us to distinguish young from old. In all the iris was of a bright orange red. They are excellent divers and can remain under water an astonishingly long period.—C. HART MERRIAM, M.D., *Locust Grove, N. Y.*

Horned Grebe Rising from the Ground.—The possibility of any grebe rising from a hard, level surface seems so generally doubted, that the following account (taken from my field notebook) of an actual instance appears to me worthy of permanent record. Of course it does not prove that any other species of the family can do so. Even Holbæll's Grebe, of the same genus, may not have the ability, as Mr. F. Seymour Hersey tells me that it is much more loth to rise from the water than its smaller brother; he has approached by boat many of each species, and while the Horned Grebe has frequently flown away, Holbæll's has invariably dived. There are also published stories of Holbæll's and other species that were unable to leave after coming down onto a frozen lake or on the land.

On October 28, 1917, at Long Beach, Nassau County, Long Island, N. Y., Mr. Walter Granger and I met a gunner who had just shot a Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*). A little further on we found another Horned Grebe sitting on the beach, on the hard part but well away from the water, in a horizontal, swimming position, not upright like an auk. On our approach it raised itself, and when we were within a few feet uttered a little, whining, protesting note, then scuttled rapidly away several yards, into the rather brisk wind and away from the water. On our second approach it repeated the performance, but kept on going, and rose from the hard beach into the wind. Flying strongly and swiftly, though it seemed to wobble somewhat, it made a circle to the right several hundred yards in diameter, turned and again with the wind came down onto the hard sand on the inner side of the bar. It landed on a long slant but so hard that it rolled over and over, until it finally sat up and settled itself comfortably. It was still there when we passed again about two and a half hours later.—CHARLES H. ROGERS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Auk xxxv. 1918. p. 218.

*Podilymbus
podiceps*

Podilymbus podiceps.

1889

Aug. 17 (D.C. French) 1889.

Sept. 16^{juv} 24^{3-9 juv} (Ball's H.) 26 (Ball's H.) Concord 1892

Oct. Concord 4¹ 17¹ 1892 Concord 27³ 1893 18 (Ball's H.) Concord 20 (y. tree) 1894 11^{juv} (Ball's H.) 24² 25¹ 26² 31¹ 1896
 Off. Ball's Hill Birch Id.
 " 19³ 20² 22¹ 27³ 28¹ 30¹ Concord 1897 7^{2 juv} (near dam / reports) Concord 1898.
 " 16¹ in river off mouth of Mill Brook Concord 1899.

P. podiceps

Nov. Concord River 2¹ 11¹ 1893 Concord River 3¹ 1894 Concord River 19^{1 juv} (off. Holden's Hill) 1896 4² 12² Concord 1897 22^{1 ad} (O. A. Boston) 1897
 Swimming in river off. est. Ball's Hill
 " 3¹ 4² 5³ 12 (O. A.) 14^{1 ad} 26^{1 juv} (near dam / feeding) Concord 1898
 C. Fresh Pond
 22^{1 ad} (O. A. Boston) 1897
 Swam low not seen

April E. Bay 6¹ (Faxon) 9¹ (under meadow below Red bridge (near Burnson)) 12^{2 juv} (below Red bridge) Concord River Concord 1893
 E. Bay 3¹ (Faxon) 8^{1 ad} (Ball's H.) 9^{1 ad} (Ball's H.) 10^{1 ad} (middle head) 3^{1 juv} 9³ 23² 28³ 1893
 " 16¹ opposite Ball's H. 21 to 30 Nov. 7 June Apr 29 1895
 " 11¹ opposite Ball's H. 14¹ seen just above Ball's Hill. 16¹ in river off. Ball's Hill. 19¹ do 20¹ do. 21¹ do 22¹ do 23¹ do } Ball's Hill, Concord River 1896
 10¹ (river off. Ball's Hill) 11¹ (do do) 30¹ river just below Birch Id. Concord 1897 17¹ (off. Holden's Hill) Concord 1898 12² (O. A. Boston) 1899
 E. Bay 18¹ (with young) 25¹ seen. 1893
 E. Bay 10¹ 14³ 15⁴ 16⁴ 1894
 East Billerica Bottom Brook flowing near Lowell R.R. 2¹ (Faxon) 1895
 E. Bay 6¹ (with eggs) 1899. 44
 E. Bay 7¹ "

May 18¹ (with young) 25¹ seen. 1893
 " 10¹ 14³ 15⁴ 16⁴ 1894
 " East Billerica Bottom Brook flowing near Lowell R.R. 2¹ (Faxon) 1895
 " E. Bay 6¹ (with eggs) 1899. 44
 " E. Bay 7¹ "

March 22 Fay, 1894

April 19¹ (first note from nest) on with 4 f. eggs. O. A. Boston 30¹ (nest 3 f. eggs) O. A. B. 1898.

Podilymbus podiceps

Lexington, Mass.

On the 13th of June I explored a shallow pond grown to button-bushes, in Lexington. I had hardly got off from the shore when I heard a new (to me) note among the bushes, --cuk-cuk-cuk-cuk-cuk-cow, cow, cow (the cows with a falling inflection). It sounded like a Florida Gallinule trying to sing like a Cuckoo. I could see nothing of the birds, but the notes came from the bushes on all sides. Thinking I might possibly find a nest I waded through the bushes in water from hips to waist; but neither found nest, nor saw bird. I then returned to boat and kept perfectly still when, presently, a Pied-billed Grebe sailed out into the open with two newly-hatched young at her heels. Soon a solitary male swam out and gave a diving exhibition. I estimated the number seen or heard that morning at 8 to 10. On the 20th my estimate was 12. What a pity I did not "get on to" them earlier in the season, in time to find the nest and eggs. From the character of the notes I anticipated seeing Coots or Purple Gallinules rather than Grebes.

Walter Faxon (letter July I, 1891).

From the top of a knoll I had four Grebes in view at once, and simultaneously heard two more calling in other parts of the meadow six at a lick. It is absolutely impossible to estimate the number of Grebes in this body of water, as they move from place to place with such celerity. I had begun to think from recent experience at the meadow, that the number was much less than last year. But today I feel more cherrful about it. The best time to see and hear them is when the water is perfectly calm. One day they will show up--the next you would hardly know there was a Grebe in the swamp.

Walter Faxon (letter May II, 1893).

5. Lexington,
~~Cambridge~~, Mass

Podilymbus podiceps

I took my first turn on the Great Meadow, East Lexington, in a boat this morning, and found a Pied-billed Grebe's nest within 15 minutes,-- it contained 5 eggs, which I delivered to Denton this afternoon. The nest, which I shall get tomorrow morning, is on the water, but attached to button-bushes, perfectly exposed. I saw the nest and the eggs in it several rods away. The Gallinule story over again. My boat was leaking to the point of sinking, so that I was unable to look around the meadow further.

Walter Faxon (letter April 27, 1892).

6. Lexington, Mass.

The Grebe's nest now reposes before me in a milk-pan. It is 4" in diameter, 6 inches thick; depression for eggs, 6 inches in diameter and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. The bottom of the cavity was on the level of the water. The nest is composed of what I take to be yellow water-lily stems mixed with pond-weed and bunches of grass etc. pulled up by the roots with the soil attached so that the whole mass contains a good deal of mud, which gives to the nest great solidity and weight. The whole structure was attached to a few stems of button-bush. By sawing off these stems under the nest I was able to lift up the whole thing, with the button-bush stems in place. The water in that place was 2' 5" deep. As the nest lies on the water it has the appearance of an almost submerged Musk-rat's nest, or of a big pan-cake with a shallow cavity punched in the middle with one's fist.

Walter Faxon (letter April 29, 1892).

Massachusetts.

Podilymbus podiceps.

1892.

May 26-27. Cambridge. On my way down I saw two Carolina Grebes swimming together in the pond in E. Lexington where Fayou took a nest last month. One chased the other, flapping its wings vigorously and half-running half-flying over the surface, before my train passed out of sight of the pond.

Sept 24 Lowell. On returning to the cabin I discovered two Carolina Grebes swimming on the opposite side of the river close in to the lily pads. They did not seem to notice me, even when I walked along my shore in plain sight. One looked nearly twice as large as the other. Both were young birds. They kept close together and floated buoyantly like ducks.

Podilymbus podiceps (Linn.)

Concord, Mass.

1893.

April 8
(No 5)

A Pied-billed Grebe, a fine old bird in full breeding plumage with black throat and gray head, spent the day in the river in front of the cabin diving at times for food in deep water about mid-way of the channel but for the most part cruising up & down turning its head continually, from side to side & widthly, keeping a sharp watch for danger. I watched it at intervals through my glass. It is the first Pied-billed Grebe I have ever seen in Massachusetts in Spring.

Pied-billed
Grebe

Concord, Mass.
April, 9, 1893.

George Holden who called at the cabin in the afternoon told me that he had just seen a Pied-billed Grebe in the flooded meadow above Benson's Landing.

Concord
Grebe

Concord, Mass.
April, 16, 1893.

April 17

A Carolina Duck spent the day in the flooded meadow above Benson's Landing. I am very sure that I can hear him utter the guttural notes and perfectly certain that I heard this very from another bird of the same species which appeared to be among the latter notes opposite Davis's Hill.

Carolina
Grebe

Podilymbus podiceps. (2002)

East Lexington, Mass.

1893

May 18
(No 7)

There are this season, as one by us is called a Red-billed
 this numbers today at least six, and probably eight Greets
 or ten, and possibly as many as twelve, pairs of
 Carolina Greets breeding in the reservoir pond. They
 inhabit every part of it and were about a good deal
 appearing and disappearing in the spaces of some water but
 it seemed to me that each pair occupied their own
 within certain limits. With the exception of a few
 with young of all were very shy and suspicious. Though
 themselves in the open water only when all was quiet
 about the pond and if they caught sight of us on
 shore looking quickly beneath the water and making the
 necessary depths of the thickness of both bushes. They
 were alarmed or offended they were at a bidding
 in the open water and their approach, within a
 few yards of the shore & diving a great deal for food.
 At times they floated as high out of water as ducks,
 & looked nearly as large as A. W. C. The shape and
 carriage of the head and neck reminded us strikingly
 of those of the Loon. Every now and then one would
 call co co co co co - though, though, though the series
 of notes varying from ten or a dozen to twenty or twenty
 five. This series in both form and tone resembled
 that of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo but the notes are
 all lower and the keighs deeper and hollower.
 This call was almost invariably answered by another
 Greets and frequently three or four would cry out
 in quick succession from various parts of the pond.
 Another sound less frequently given but still very
 common was a low, somewhat the whining of a
 crow. I have observed it also.

For description of breeding place and other notes
 of the pond, see Journal 1893, May 18, no. 576

Podilymbus podiceps (No. 3.)

(and, Mass.)

1893

May 18

(No. 4)

Bill and/or cry, was a monosyllabic but something Red-bill
 like a short blast on a deep toned willow whistle. Numbers
 This we heard only from a bird, presumably a
 female, which was accompanied by several young and
 Papa like that it is given only by the mother
 bird when anxious about her young. He has heard
 it several times before, always from a bird & its young.
 It is usually uttered in other circumstances and
 I have recorded one of the calls of the Call Duck.
 On this occasion the Grebe started out of her
 brood bushes near a mass of floating vegetation which
 looked like a Grebe's nest but which we could not
 get very close to with our club of bent. She swam
 a few yards and then down leaving a chick on the
 surface. The chick she loved, and soon afterwards
 came up in nearly the same place where the
 mother bird also hopped on a small distance to him.
 When she reached him she stopped and turned and
 he at once scrambled under her closed wing to her back.
 I was sure that there were ~~two~~ ^{two} ~~back~~ ^{back} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ the
 more young on her back, nearly over the flat. She
 kept the tips of her wings folded over the probably
 or part of them, but they raised their heads
 with as a ^{as} weather or melted about their bills
 appeared to be white with a dark bar near the tip.
 The water was black on the surface down
 near of course the side of me by her side & I saw
 The old Grebe kept cruising back & forth looking at a
 distance of us in open water for five or six minutes
 being incessantly ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~apart~~ ^{apart} ~~doing~~ ^{doing}. Finally she
~~came~~ ^{came} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~bank~~ ^{bank} & hopped down just before

Podilymbus podiceps (W.H.)

East Longmeadow

1893

May 18
(No 9)

This enormous robe, her mate probably, answered her
loud wailing notes with a piercing, but low call and
showed himself near us, diving, however, as soon
as we were within sight of him. The female while crossing
back of the pond sat high on the water and carried
her neck erect and stretched up to its full length.
She was in full breeding plumage with black throat
and a gray neck.

Red-billed
Grebes

I saw the first Grebes in this pond this
season on April the day after the ice was out!
Their presence is widely known to the people of
Longmeadow and to the passengers and trainmen of
the railroad which skirts the edge of the pond by
most of whom they are called "Dipper Grebes." They
are so wary, however, and their better breeding features
are so difficult to access that they are probably
never observed here unless in pairs. Tuxon first
found them in 1891. Guess when they began breeding
in this pond is unknown to us.

E. Longmeadow, Mass.

1893

May 25
(No 2)

From 9 to 10 a. m. the Grebes in the Reservoir pond
were very noisy, giving the Cuckoo notes at frequent
intervals. After 10 o'clock I did not hear them over.
The number of notes in the Cuckoo call varied to-day
from 5 to 21. When the number exceeded ten the first
six or seven were usually given so rapidly that it
was difficult to count them, after the seventh the intervals
increased and the last notes were given very slowly.

Red-billed
Grebes

Podilymbus podiceps. (No. 5)

^{trunk} and, in a drowning tone. The first cry or scream by itself may be rendered by the word crack or kuh. After the scream they are changed to know, hollow & guttural in tone. I heard the other call only twice. It may be best described as a quavering cry or whining, all on the same key. - It may be imitated by holding the breath in chest, & just puff through the nose.

I saw three Grebes, one diving near bottom beds; the other two were ^{quite clear} ~~from~~ the water and flew high across the pond carrying their necks stretched out & their legs dangling & finally dropping abruptly into some flooded beds.

Podilymbus podiceps

1890 Rhode Island

April 16 Secommet Point. - While driving past a fresh water pond bordered by cut-tails and within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the point I heard a Carolina Grebe give the unmistakable succession of loud quacks-like notes with which I became so familiar last year at Tallahassee. Of course it may have been a migrant but the shallow pond with its extensive bordering belt of cut-tails is so favorable for a breeding ground that I believe the bird was settled there for the summer. Probably
breeding in
R. I.

Vermont. - An adult bird with 5 chicks in the down in the mounted collection (representing one of the special groups) breeds in of the American Museum of N. Y. were taken in E. Bonbosein, Rutland County, Vermont, by James Richardson.

1893 Mass.

April 3 E. Lexington. "Heard one Pied billed Grebe at E. Lexington on the 3rd. (the ice went out April 2)" - W. Faxon letter Apr. 6. 93

1894

Oct 11 - Concord. Decidedly scarce on the river this autumn. Saw Nov. 21. but three in all, one, Oct. 18, one, Oct. 20, and one, Nov. 1st

1898

April E. Lexington. - On Apr. 19th Bothrop & Halthorn examined the Reservoir Pond carefully for Grebe's nests. They found six freshly made ones near together in sweet gale bushes near the railroad. Five nests were empty; the sixth had four fresh eggs. On the 30th Bothrop & Dean visited the Reservoir again. They found one nest with 6 fresh eggs and one with three fresh eggs. These nests were less than 12 ft. apart & there were other empty nests all around. Bothrop thinks all the birds in the Reservoir nest in a colony near the dam. The birds were noisy on Apr. 19th but silent afterwards.

Podilymbus podiceps.

Concord, Mass.

1898. As I approached Beaver Dam Rapid I saw two Pied-billed
Oct.7. Grebes at the entrance to the lagoon on the right. ×××××

The two Grebes, meanwhile (I had been following a Fulica which I saw a moment after I had seen the Grebes), had passed me under water and gone to the head of the lagoon where I cornered them and had a fine view of them through the glass. They kept diving and reappearing in nearly the same place evidently hoping that the pickerel weed concealed them. At length they swam out past me under water.

Nov.5.

Take wing.

At noon two Grebes paid us a visit, doubtless the same as those seen yesterday. They approached the cabin within 30 yards coming from across the river and swimming very fast with heads and necks erect. Suddenly both took wing rising from the water with slight difficulty. One led the other by twenty yards or more having started first. It alighted in the middle of the river and, just as its companion was passing over it, at a height of six or eight feet, it dived making a great splashing. As nearly as I could make out all this was done in play for neither bird showed any signs of having seen us although we were standing, at the time, in the open door of the cabin.

Podilymbus podiceps.

Concord, Mass.

1898. A few minutes later (just after sunrise) a Carolina Grebe
Nov. 26. came swimming down river skirting the cabin shore closely, and
even entering the thicket of submerged bushes directly in front
of the open door at which I was standing. I stepped out,
clapped my hands and shouted, but the bird would not dive nor
did it appear to notice me in the least for it kept steadily
on its way chiefly within the belt of bushes through which it
pursued a devious course moving very rapidly. Once or twice
it stopped and preened its feathers or rose and flapped its
wings. Had I not had such a good view of it I should have
doubted its being a Grebe its behavior was so very peculiar.
It was a young bird without trace of black on the throat.

East Lexington, Mass.

Nesting of Pied-bill^s Grebe.

1899. Took the 8.34 A.M. train to East Lexington where I met
May 6. O.A. Lothrop and A.H. Hathaway by appointment. They had brought
their boat in a wagon and had launched it in the flooded mead-
ow where we were to spend the forenoon looking for Grebes's
nests. Within fifteen minutes from the time we left the shore
we found two, one with 7, the other with 3 eggs. Both were
in thickets of Sweet Gale, within thirty yards of the rail-
road embankment, anchored securely among the stems of the
bushes but floating in clear water about two feet deep.
The set of seven was uncovered, that of eight almost com-

Podilymbus podiceps.

East Lexington, Mass.

Nesting of Pied-bill^s Grebe.

1899. pletely hidden by a thin layer of moss and water plants which
May 6. the bird had evidently drawn over the eggs just before leaving
(2). them. Both nests were very neat and compact and very bouyant
also as I found by pressing them down with my hand. The eggs
lay in a saucer-shaped depression the bottom of which was on-
ly slightly (less than an inch) above the surface of the water.
The entire nest was soaking wet and its materials fresh and
green save on the very top where there was a thin layer of
light brown material that gave it the appearance of floating
meadow "trash". Each nest was almost perfectly round and the
covered one was slightly dome-shaped but its top rose scarce
two inches above the water and it would not have attracted
the attention of any one who was unfamiliar with the Grebe's
peculiar manner of nesting. Indeed I did not see either nest
until it was pointed out to me although I was looking "with
all my eyes". The Sweet Gale, already in half leaf, gave
some shelter, of course, but even had it been leafless the
character of the nests was such that they might have been
easily overlooked at a distance of a few yards.

Later we found a third nest with seven eggs, in a more
open place among scanty, leafless Button Bushes. This nest
was similar in every way to the other two. Very near it was
a partly finished nest which the boys considered a "bluff
nest". We saw many of these "bluff nests" elsewhere.

Podilymbus podiceps.

East Lexington, Mass.

Nesting of Pied-billed Grebe.

1899. They were evidently the work of the Grebes but whether built
May 6. to draw attention away from the real nest or merely struc-
(3). tures which had been abandoned because the sites proved for
some reason unsatisfactory I was unable to determine. The
eggs in this last nest were fresh for they sank when placed
in the water, but the set of eight which I took were incubated
to judge by the way they behaved when subjected to the test
just mentioned.

We did not catch sight of a single Grebe the whole forenoon
but they were very noisy at times. Almost invariably after
we had left a nest the birds set up a loud cattery near it in
tones, as it seemed to me, of triumph over our supposed in-
ability to discover it.

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

105. *Podilymbus podiceps* (Linn.) Lawr. PIED-BILLED GREBE.—
Rare, breeds, Houlton.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, July, 1882, p. 152

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

142. *Podilymbus podiceps*. DAB-CHICK; HELL DIVER.— Not
rare; killed both spring and fall.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 241

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

6. Pied-billed Grebe. Tolerably common.
Shot a well developed young ♂ on August 5th.

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

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.
By James N. Fleming.
Part 1, Water Birds.
Cuck, XXIII, 68, 1906, p. 441.

3. *Podilymbus podiceps*. PIED-BILLED GREBE.— Common resident
in spring and fall, April 4 to end of May; September 7 to December 15.
Mr. C. W. Nash took a male June 28, 1898; and it has been reported as
breeding.

BIRDS OF TORONTO, ONTARIO.

BY JAMES H. FLEMING.

Part I, Water Birds.

TORONTO, the capital city of Ontario, is situated on the north shore of Lake Ontario, about forty miles east of the western end of the lake, in Lat. 43° 39' 35" N., Long. 79° 23' 39" W. The lake is at this point about 240 feet (Harbor Commissioner's gauge, zero, 244.8) above sea level.

The topography of the city and the country surrounding it is peculiar and a review will aid in understanding the ornithological conditions. The city for a greater part of its width is protected from the lake by a sandbar and island, once continuous. The sandbar runs west from near the eastern city limits for nearly three miles till it is divided by the Eastern Channel, and sending a spur north encloses what is known as Ashbridge's Bay. This is really a marshy lagoon of considerable size, and though filled in, in places, still affords food and shelter for many species of birds. Into this bay originally drained some eleven creeks, and at its western end the River Don, which now is confined to an artificial channel and flows into Toronto Bay somewhat further north than where the original outlet of Ashbridge's Bay was. The narrow sandbar that divides this bay from the lake is an important feature in the ornithological history of Toronto. It has been divided by an artificial cut giving access to the lake; the western portion is known as Fisherman's Island, and from here as well as the bay itself have come many unusual records. The building up of this portion of the bar with houses has seriously affected the freedom of several species of waders, which no longer call here on migrations.

From the Eastern Channel, Toronto Island runs in a westerly direction for nearly three miles, till about two miles south of the city, then turns north towards the city, giving the island a more or less triangular shape, and ending in the Western Sandbar, which is divided from the city by the Western Channel, the original outlet of Toronto Bay, which is itself inclosed on the south and west by the island, and on the east by Ashbridge's Bay. The island, originally covered with pine, has been invaded by sand, and

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

101. *Podilymbus podiceps*, (Pied-bill Grebe).
Numbers were seen at the ponds and lakes of the
valleys. Too much time is wasted in pursuit of
these little divers to allow extended observation,
as they are common at any Duck shooting resort
in Massachusetts, but I am confident I saw the
Horned Grebe, (*Dytes auritus*), at Flagstaff, but
cannot record it.

O. & O. XI. Dec. 1886. p. 179

Podilymbus podiceps. - ^{1 shot} Aug. 23 Rye Beach, N. H. 1870.

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

9. *Podilymbus podiceps*. Ratio of increase, say 2.

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

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

Podilymbus podiceps (Linn.), Pied-billed Grebe.
Migrant, common during the fall.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 137

Podilymbus podiceps 1654 Mass. Ave.
Jan 5, 1904.

Dear Mr. D. -

The record you
wished was of an adult
Pied-billed Grebe with a
black throat that was shot
in Fresh, late ^{in the day,} of November
22, 1897, and early the
next morning it could not
be found.

Do I understand you to mean
that Mr. B. is going to stay in
Cambridge and finish his list?

O. A. L.

Springfield, Mass. Bird Notes.

Podilymbus podiceps. In this section of the country the Pied-billed
Grebe has been a rare breeder, usually locating its nest in remote places
away from the habitations of man. In the spring of this year, a pair
chose as their home a small pond in the suburbs of Springfield near a
number of houses, and at a place which was a rendezvous for boys, and
there nested and succeeded in raising two young.

Robert O. Morris, Springfield, Mass.

Auk, 1903, p. 439.

1881 *Podilymbus podiceps* C. H. Johnston

Sept. 24 "Went shooting to-day
with Frank Moulton up the
Charles River. Saw a number
of 'Dippers' one of which
I shot in West Water.
I am indebted to Chas. H. Bond

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

9. *Podilymbus podiceps*. Ratio of increase, say 2.

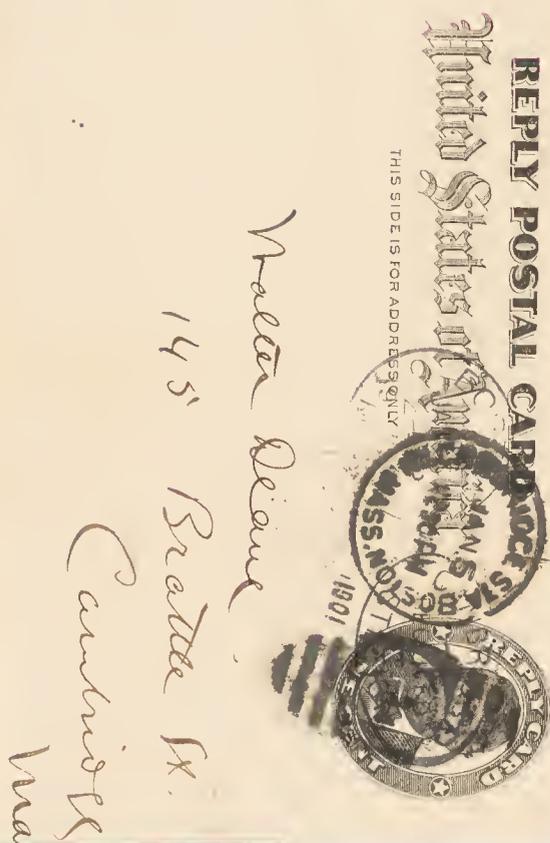
Bull. N. O. C. 6, April, 1881, p. 127

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

Podilymbus podiceps (Linn.), Pied-billed Grebe.
Migrant, common during the fall.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 137

1881 *Podilymbus podiceps* E. Waterhouse
Sept. 24 "Went hunting to-day
with Frank Moulton up the
Charles River. Saw a number
of 'Dippers' one of which
I shot in West Waterhouse
from Waterhouse Pond.



Springfield, Mass.. Bird Notes.

Podilymbus podiceps. In this section of the country the Pied-billed Grebe has been a rare breeder, usually locating its nest in remote places away from the habitations of man. In the spring of this year, a pair chose as their home a small pond in the suburbs of Springfield near a number of houses, and at a place which was a rendezvous for boys, and there nested and succeeded in raising two young.

Robert O. Morris, Springfield, Mass.
Aud. 1, vol. 1, 1902, p. 439.

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

175. *Podilymbus podiceps* (Linn.) Lawrence. HELL-DIVER.—
Common summer resident.

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

But - Bill Grebe! But why the
 nest has been seen from
 in the pond in former years; why
 it is now found empty and why
 frequently by night (when the Grebe
 is usually water) and why
 it is made only and not apparently
 usually of but the Grebe are
 this frequent mistake.
 much harder than the normal
 Grebe say of the Grebe & the Grebe
 is usually different. On an occasion
 we heard it at a distance of

Lexington, 3 May, 1892

My dear Brewster:

I have been watching
 a pair of Carolina Grebes build-
 ing their nest! If you are fa-
 miliar with the Louisiana Grebe

I have been watching
 a pair of Carolina Grebes build-
 ing their nest! If you are fa-
 miliar with the Louisiana Grebe
 I have been watching
 a pair of Carolina Grebes build-
 ing their nest! If you are fa-
 miliar with the Louisiana Grebe

669. Breeding Habits of the Carolina and American Eared Grebes.—
 Podilymbus podiceps and Dytes nigricollis californicus. By B. F. Goss.
 Ornithologist and Oölogist, Vol. VIII, pp. 1, 2. **O. & O. Vol. VIII**
 62. Breeding of Podilymbus podiceps at St. Clair Flats, Mich. By
 W. H. Collins. Ibid., V. p. 19, Sept. 1879.—Description of nest and
 eggs. **Oölogist**
 The Oologist. 1629. The Thick-billed Grebe. By L[eslie] Dart. Ibid., No. 11, Nov.
 1889, pp. 205-206. **Auk**, VII, Jan. 1890. p. 86.

Brief Notes.

PIED-BILLED GREBE IN MASSACHUSETTS. Geo.
 F. Tew found a nest of the Pied-billed Grebe
 at Whitman, Mass., May 1. It contained
 eight eggs. Again, on May 13, he found a set
 of eight eggs. The nest was made of rushes
 and grass and was built so as to rise and fall
 eighteen inches with the water.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 95-96

Lexington
April May 1/94

Dear Brewster:

Another mystery!
March 31st I walked around
the Great Meadow, East Lex-
ington between 8 & 9 A. M. and
heard a new bird-note, a loud
cry that reminded me somewhat
of a Dove and that might
be rendered by the syllables
wah'-ho or wah'-hoo, the
second note an octave lower
than the first. A loud cry,
startling when heard at
near range. The maker of
it either moved very rapid-
ly over the meadow, or else
there were two birds. My guess

Lexington, 3 May, 1842

My dear Brewster:

I have been watching
a pair of Carolina Grapes build-
ing their nest! If you are fa-
miliar with the Lexington Great
meadow you may remember
that at its extreme northern end
there is an almost isolated
area which is entirely cut off
from the main meadow when
the water is low. As I was pass-
ing along the shore of this sub-
ordinate pond to-day, I heard the
low laughing note of a Grebe &
thought it would be an excel-
lent opportunity to watch the
birds from the shore. Conceal-
ing myself behind some birch-
es I soon saw a pair of the

Brief Notes.

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and grass and was built so as to rise and fall
eighteen inches with the water.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 95-96

Or what can it be, this
Wah'-hoo?

Yours sincerely,
W. Faxon

The sound easily carries across
the Great Meadow. Please
give me your surmise, or
let better your certain ex-
clusion.

[I afterwards heard this sound a
great many times. It usually began
wah, wah, wah, wah, wah, ^{then changed to} wah-hoo
wah-hoo etc. From 12 to 15 calls were
usually given in as many seconds. (They were
regularly uttered one to the second). Sometimes
the cry began like a Grebe's & ran into
the wah-hoo. The birds (there were two)
called about once every half-hour by
daylight on morning & evening. But after
dark frequently every two or three minutes.
They called through the entire night
apparently at lengths after much
trouble in sound that they were

at the time was, a migrant
Red-throated Loon or possibly
a Holboell's Grebe.

To-night the same bird
was crying on the meadow
between 7 and 8 o'clock, the
water being perfectly calm.
At a great distance the sec-
ond note tends to be lost
and the cry appears to be

o y o y
~~wah, wah~~
cow, cow

but when nearer the two
notes are distinct: wah'-ho,
wah'-ho.

It is now a month since
the bird appeared here and I
begin to hope it is here to stay.
Can it be a Coot (Fulica)?

birds. After a while they approached
a struggling line of bushes about
as far from the shore as the
spot where we watched the
Gallinules at F. P. Then one of
them got up out of the water
and sat upon what could
barely be discerned ^{to be} a small
mass of earth or weed, poking
about the edge of it with its
bill. Then it slid off and
the other one got up on the
same place. Then they
swam off a long distance,
one going to the extreme end
of the little pond while the
other returned & mounted
again upon what I now no
longer doubt was the nest and,
facing me, gave forth the

stentorian cuckoo-note, doubtless
intended, not for me, but for his
wandering spouse. I now
got out the boat, rowed to the
spot & found a nest not yet
completed. It was like a
flap-jack - perfectly flat, the
top on the level of the water. It
was anchored merely to a few
blades of grass and a leaf of a
flag - more completely floating
than the first one that I saw.
After hastily examining the nest
I returned to the shore and
again watched their manue-
vers about the nest. They both
remained close by, now &
then plunging the surface
of the water with their bills
(collecting material for the
nest, I inferred). Then one of

Brief Notes.

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O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 95-96

Pied-billed Grebes! But why the
wee. too cry has never been heard
 in this pond in former years; why
 it is now heard chiefly and very
 frequently, by night (when these Grebes
 are usually wholly silent); and why
 it is made only and yet apparently
 invariably by but two birds are
 still profound mysteries. It is
 much louder than the normal
 creaking cry of the Grebe & the quality
 is wholly different. On one occasion
 we heard it at a distance of
 fully a mile. There is something
 uncanny about it.

W. B.

Then would mount the nest and
 cover & shake its head about
 the edge of the nest. I imagine
 from what I saw that after
 building a flat platform the
 grebe sits in the middle of it &
^{raises} ~~raises~~ up the margin so as
 to form the shallow depression
 which holds in the eggs. I shall
 be much interested to know
 whether, as some of the books
 say, the birds cover up their
 eggs ~~at~~ during the day time
 when they are not sitting. I be-
 lieve that I surprised the bird
 on the 1st nest just as she was
 laying her 5th egg, for the sodden
 mass of weed & mud quickly soil
 the eggs after they are laid & my
 5th egg was immaculate.

Would you care to come down
 some day if the nest progresses
 favorably?

As sincerely
 W. B.

Brief Notes.

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O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 95-96

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 1889, pp. 205-206. *Auk*, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 46.

Podilymbus podiceps

Sudbury River, Mass.

August 16, 1899

The Messrs. Baugs tell me that they saw a Grebe accompanied by a large brood of newly hatched young on the Concord (Sudbury) River at Mayland. The Grebe was scattered & dove so nimbly that all escaped.

A floating nest which showed signs of having been just vacated by the young was found among the reeds near the spot.

1893 Podilymbus podiceps Concord Mass.

Nov. 2

I went in the river opposite Ball's Hill spent an hour or more diving for food just outside the city park where the water is then a few feet deep. Just before disappearing he would regularly stretch up his neck and look keenly about in every direction. Then his head went down like a flash and he was gone. Sometimes he sprang nearly or quite clear of the surface arching his back & showing his legs & feet. Keeping them up behind as it were. He stayed beneath the surface from 12 to 15 seconds never longer. When he reappeared his body glistened in

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—AND—

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BOSTON, JANUARY, 1883.

No. 1.

Breeding Habits of the Carolina and American Eared Grebes.

Podilymbus podiceps and *Dytes nigricollis Californicus*.

For several years I have given some attention to the Grebes, and am satisfied that the eggs of the smaller species are often confounded. Have carefully examined more than a hundred nests of the Carolina, and a large number of the Eared, but know nothing of the Horned, having never seen a nest, and offer these notes for publication hoping they will draw out some further information, and that some competent person will give us in the O. and O. a full description of the nest of the Horned Grebe. The eggs of all three are very similar, but I think the nests, when well understood, will afford a certain means of identification. It certainly will of the two species under consideration. The Carolina breed plentifully in Wis., and at least as far west as middle Dakota. I have only found the Eared breeding in Dakota, but learn from good authority that they are common in Minn., but have never heard of their breeding east of the Mississippi river. Do not think the Horned Grebe breeds in any part of this region. The most remarkable thing about the Carolina is their shyness in the breeding season. Weeks may be spent in their haunts without seeing a single one, and they are often quite common where their presence is not suspected. Was among them in Dakota five weeks; found numerous nests and do not remember to have seen a single bird, except when caught in traps set on nests. This applies only to the breeding

season; at other times they are tame enough, and can be seen anywhere. It is doubtless this feature, more than anything else, that has confused collectors. On many of the small lakes the Eared Grebes are seen in pairs, or small flocks, and on searching in the adjoining weeds and rushes Grebe's nests are found which it is natural to suppose belong to the birds seen, and to make the confusion worse, the Eared is sometimes taken for the Horned, and the eggs marked accordingly. So it may happen that the eggs of the Carolina Grebe are marked Eared, or Horned, as the collector calls the birds seen.

I will try to describe the nest of each species minutely enough to enable anybody to identify them on sight. The Carolina, or thick billed Grebe, breeds in lakes and sloughs, among thick rushes, reeds or grass where the water is two or three feet deep. The old decaying rushes or reeds are pulled together by the bird, and continually piled upon each other till the fabric rises above the water. On this the nest is built, made of moss and debris brought up from the bottom. The structure is large under water, often as large as a bushel basket. It generally floats, but sometimes reaches the bottom. Above water the nest is small, just large enough to hold the eggs, and is almost always wet. The eggs, six to nine in number, are clear, bluish-white at first, but soon become stained by contact with the wet nest. They are always covered in the absence of the bird. It is surprising how quick and effectually they will do this and get away without being seen. The nest when filled

The Thick-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) Breeding in Kansas.—
B. L. Bennett and V. L. Kellogg of Emporia, Kans., both report finding,
May 26, 1885, in a pond or slough near the city, quite a number of the
nests of this bird containing from five to ten eggs each.—N. S. Goss.
Topeka, Kans.

Auk, 2, Oct., 1885. p. 388.

with eggs nicely covered, resembles a floating bunch of half decayed moss, showing above the water about the size of an inverted soup-plate, and would be rarely noticed by a person unacquainted with it. I found my first nest by accident, and could hardly believe that little bunch of wet stuff was a bird's nest, but I secreted myself and watched with a glass until the bird returned, which I at once recognized as a Carolina Grebe. After this I had no trouble in finding more nests, and by setting traps upon them caught several birds and fully identified the species. The nests are all much alike, and entirely different from any other with which I am acquainted. They are always built in places protected from high waves, or they would be speedily overwhelmed.

The Eared Grebe breeds in communities. The first colony that I found was in a small lake in northern Dakota. The nests were built on floating debris about fifteen rods from shore, where the water was perhaps three feet deep. Old flag leaves, rushes, reeds, etc., had been driven by the wind into the point of a bay, forming a mass two or three inches deep and several square rods in extent. This mass was firm enough to hold up the birds in most places, but was full of holes where they could dive through. There were at least twenty-five nests, on an area of ten by twenty feet. They were made of partly decayed moss and reeds brought up from the bottom, were small, not more than a handful of material to a nest. The eggs are clear, blueish-white at first, but soon get discolored by the wet nest. No nest in this colony contained more than four eggs, but in other places five have been found. The birds generally cover all. The situation of their nests was entirely open, the shore was high and completely overlooked them. I sat on the shore and with a glass saw the birds building nests and setting on their eggs. As we approached in a boat they did not seem very shy; did not

begin to leave till we were quite near them. Most of them covered their eggs more or less before leaving. They mostly dove directly from nest and came up near in a flock. A few ran out and joined the flock without diving. Another small colony of these birds built their nests on bunches of broken down rushes. The nests were small and just above the water. No person familiar with the breeding habits of these birds could mistake the nest of one for the other. The Carolina nest singly, in thick rushes, weeds or grass, sometimes a long distance from open water, build the foundation of nest, which is large, always cover their eggs with great care when leaving them, are very shy, never seen near their nest, lay from six to nine eggs, begin laying in Wisconsin by the 10th of May, in Dakota about the 20th.

The Eared builds in communities, in open situations near open water, make a small nest, on some existing foundation, cover eggs partly, or not at all, are not particularly shy, are often seen near nest, lay four or five eggs, do not begin laying till June. I have carefully measured thirty eggs of each variety. The Carolina average: 1.69×1.17 . The Eared 1.75×1.19 . Contrary to my expectations the Eared are the largest.—*B. F. Goss, Pewaukee, Wis.*

—*O. & O. VII. Jan. 1883. p. 1-2*

~~EXPLANATION.—The ground owls do not always lay more eggs than those inhabiting trees, for I have known Wilson's Short-ear to lay five, the Barn Owl seven, and heard of Great Horned Owls with four. The Barn Owl does not seem to lay more in the ground burrows than in trees or caves, but varies much in number. I think it is dependent on amount of food and perhaps of room. I suspect the little Burrowing Owl of Polygamy in some cases, or perhaps it is parasitism.—*J. G. Cooper, M. D., Hayward, Cal.*~~

~~[We thank Dr. Cooper for his reply, for it is in that way we can get at facts. We have in our collection Burrowing Owl 10, Barn Owl 8 and 7, Short-eared Owl 8, Snowy Owl 6, Gray Owl 4, Long-eared Owl 5, Hawk Owl 6, Mottled Owl 4, Great-horned Owl 3 and Barred Owl 3. The remarks on Burrowing Owl will call for further careful observations.—*Ed. J.*~~

The Thick-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) Breeding in Kansas.—*B. L. Bennett and V. L. Kellogg of Emporia, Kans.*, both report finding, May 26, 1885, in a pond or slough near the city, quite a number of the nests of this bird containing from five to ten eggs each.—*N. S. Goss, Topeka, Kans.*

Auk, 2, Oct., 1885. p. 388.

Nesting of the Pied-billed Grebe.

The doubts that existed in my mind in regard to whether Grebes sit on their eggs to incubate them are entirely eradicated. A good opportunity has presented itself in both the Eared Grebe (*Colymbus nigricollis californicus*) and the Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) and I took advantage of it to watch their nidification.

A pair of Pied-billed Grebes built their nest in the moss in a lake in full view of my house, and near enough to distinctly see the eggs of which six were laid. The old birds sat on them persistently for about four weeks, and only on three occasions during that time did I see the nest vacated, and then only for a few minutes, and this July has been the hottest month I ever experienced here. They have hatched out their brood and there is now a pair that has a nest with four eggs that have been sitting two weeks, and I have not known the old bird to voluntarily leave the nest yet. I have been out in a boat twice to look at them, and as in the case of the others the old bird gets the eggs pretty well covered up by the time I get to them. The eggs, as in the case of the others, were always warm on the upper side and cool on the under, although I once visited them before the sun was up to make sure that that was not the direct cause of their upper side being warm.

The eggs are placed about on a level with the water, and when first laid are of a pea green, but soon become brown through contact with the decaying matter of which the nest is generally composed.

I took a large series of sets of the Eared Grebes about a month ago that all retained their natural color owing to no decaying matter being used in their nests but live grass. That alone would upset the decomposing theory, plenty of decaying material was at hand, but they chose a variety of grass that grew on the bottom of the lake in water six feet deep, and this they deposited on this water moss, but a gale of wind a few days after I had visited them carried away all their nests and eggs.

I shall attentively watch the new colony near my residence and will inform the readers of O. & O. later.

Wm. O. Smith.

Loveland, Colorado.

O. & O. XIV, Sept. 1889 p. 138-9

Nesting of the Pied-billed Grebe.

I noticed that in the September O. & O. Mr. Wm. G. Smith had an article on the nesting of the Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) in which he gave it as his opinion that this Grebe incubates its eggs by the warmth of its own body rather than allowing them to hatch by the heat being generated by the decaying vegetation which usually composes the nest.

We should all feel indebted to Mr. Smith for this new information as it has hitherto been supposed that the Grebe invariably relied on the decaying vegetation to furnish the heat necessary to hatch the eggs.

At Minneapolis, Minn., I had ample opportunities to observe the nesting habits of this bird, and in that locality, as far as my experience went, I found that the birds never sat on the eggs in the daytime. Whether or not they do so in the night I am unable to say.

I have examined hundreds of their nests, and in every case where the set was complete the eggs were covered with the vegetable matter. Incomplete sets of three, four or five were generally found uncovered. This is a good point for the decaying theory it seems to me, as the birds did not want the eggs to begin to incubate until the full complement had been deposited.

I have also noticed that the deeper the eggs are imbedded in the refuse matter the more incubated they are, a fresh set having just a thin layer over them. I cannot account for this unless the layer first put on loses its heat after a time, and more is heaped on, for if we dig into it we find that the deeper we go the warmer it gets; and perhaps the Grebe realizes that it is best to be certain that her already incubated eggs do not become cold. But this is only theory and will not be tolerated; facts are what are wanted.

I have never seen a Grebe on her nest, although I have often come suddenly and noiselessly upon it. At other times I have been on the edge of swamps where the reeds were thin, and I could see three or four nests at a time, and although the birds were sometimes around they were never on or very near them. I think it will be safe to say that the Grebe does not sit on her eggs in that locality, but relies on the decaying matter to hatch them. Let us hear from others on the subject.

Geo. G. Cantwell.

Lake Mills, Wis.

O. & O. XV, Feb. 1890 p. 19.

Nesting of the Grebes.

I read with interest Mr. Cantwell's comments in a recent O. & O. relative to the nesting of the Pied-billed Grebe. I am glad the subject has been taken up, as the discussion may lead to the settlement of some disputed points. That the Pied-billed Grebe sits on the nest in this locality seems quite evident. At least my observation will corroborate that of Mr. Wm. G. Smith. The first nest discovered last summer contained seven eggs about two thirds incubated. They were exposed; quite probably the bird had left the nest without covering the eggs as my approach was sudden. On August 3d Mr. Smith called my attention to a Grebe sitting on a nest upon a lake within a few yards of his house. He claimed it was the Pied-billed Grebe, and I had no reason to doubt the correctness of his claim, as the bird was in full view, and could easily have been identified with the excellent field glass in his possession.

In the afternoon of the same day we visited a large swamp to secure some sets of the American Eared Grebe. At one end of the swamp among some reeds we found at least thirty nests. Nearly all contained three eggs each, yet a few contained four eggs. They were uncovered with but few exceptions, and in the four sets which I took for my collection incubation was quite well advanced. Upon Mr. Smith's suggestion I examined the eggs and found the upper side to be the warmer, which would hardly have been the case if they had been heated through vegetable decomposition. The nests were made of flags and a kind of swamp grass which grows abundantly in the lakes in this vicinity. This grass is not of a nature to easily decompose. I discovered no evidence of heat from that source. Further observation may lead to a change in views but from present light I must believe, first, that the Grebes sit upon their eggs for the purpose of incubation, and second that their eggs are not incubated through the heat generated by vegetable decomposition. Testimony from careful observers in the approaching season will dispel all uncertainty. Wm. Osborn.

Loveland, Colorado.

O. & O. XV, May, 1890 p 68.

Nesting of the Thick-billed Grebe.

In the February number of the O. & O. there is an article on the nesting of the Thick-billed Grebe by George G. Cantwell that does not agree exactly with my experience with that bird. There have been several articles advocating the theory that the eggs were hatched by the heat of the nest.

I have on three different occasions seen the Grebe on her nest, and once my friend raised his paddle to kill a bird on her nest, but I stopped him, and the bird seemed to slide off the nest and under the water. It scarcely made a ripple.

At another time I ran on a nest that was just hatching, and the Grebe ran away in the grass (the nest was on the edge of a large bog) and made a great fuss calling, etc.

The nests here are usually in the water, loosely made of moss, grass, roots and mud, and are about as large as a bushel basket, and completely saturated with water, which would prevent generating heat sufficient to hatch the eggs.

Cantwell says completed sets are covered. I never have noticed any difference in the covering as nearly all are covered, but the eggs can usually be seen through the covering. He also says he has stood on the edge of the marsh and could see three or four nests.

In a day's collecting in a boat I have taken ten nests and would probably travel five to seven miles. I do not think I ever found two nests nearer than twenty or thirty rods apart.

D. Hatch.

Oakfield, Wis.

O. & O. 15, July, 1890, p. 111.

Nesting of the Pied-billed Grebe.

I have read with interest in the O. & O., from time to time, notes from collectors of different localities on the nesting of the Pied-billed Grebe. I have made this bird a special study for some time, and am always glad to see any notes of interest any collector may bring out.

During the past season (1890), I had a good opportunity to observe them during the nesting season, and although I have often cautiously approached to where I could obtain a good view of the nest I have never yet been able to see a bird sitting.

The first nest found this summer was May 8th, and it contained two fresh eggs. Later in the day another nest was observed containing one egg. The eggs of both nests were only partially covered, and no old birds were in sight.

Returning to the same locality on the 18th of the month one nest was found to contain five, the other four eggs. Incubation was begun in both sets. This time the eggs were completely covered and were warm when taken from the nest.

Of fifteen nests examined this year six eggs were the most found in any one nest, and that only in one instance, the number being usually five, but occasionally only four were found. I have never yet found a complete set of eggs that was not entirely covered with decaying vegetation and the eggs always warm.

I have for some time been of the opinion that the Grebe in this locality does not sit on her eggs in the daytime for the purpose of incubating, I having never seen or heard tell of one being seen so engaged.

And although further observations may lead me to change my views, for the present I must believe that the Grebe does not sit on her eggs in the daytime for the purpose of incubating; but that the incubation is carried on largely by heat generated from the decaying vegetation of which the nest is composed.

I should like to hear from others, on this subject, who have observed them breeding, for if I am not right I wish to know it.

F. G. Pearson.

O. & O. 15, Oct. 1890, p. 152-153.

Chippewa Bird Names, *Conte.*

126. THICK-BILLED GREBE. *Podilymbus podiceps*. Shin'-gi-bis, deformed.

We may close these notes by giving one of the Indian stories by which they account for this name as applied to the Grebes.

Once on a time the Great Spirit looked down on all the beasts and birds and saw that their lives were one dull round of monotonous toil. So he told them to assemble at a certain place and he would teach them many beautiful games. He built an immense wigwam, and at the appointed time all were there except the Grebe. He made fun of the whole matter, and said he knew tricks enough already. While the Great Spirit was instructing the assemblage, the Grebe danced in derision before the door, and finally, emboldened by the forbearance of his master, ran into the room, and by dancing on the fire, put it out and filled the wigwam with smoke. Then the patience of the Great Spirit could stand it no longer, and giving the Grebe a kick, he exclaimed, "Deformed shalt thou go through this world for the rest of thy days!" The imperial foot struck him just at the base of the tail. It knocked the body forward, but the legs remained behind, and the Grebe has ever since had the legs set so far back on the body that it cannot walk.

Auk, 1. July, 1884. p. 249-250

W. W. Gilman asks, June O. and O. "the scientific name of what is called the Hell-diver round here." In this section that name is given to the *Dabchick*—*Podilymbus podiceps*—*Linn.* *Podiceps carolinensis*—*Lath.*—*Wm. Wood, East Windsor Hill, Conn.*

O. & O. IX. July, 1884. p. 90.

Uringtor
imber

Urinator imber.

North Truro, Mass.

1891. As we were strolling near Eel Pond in the late afternoon
May 31. we heard in the distance but evidently approaching rapidly,
a loud, continuous chug-chug-chug almost exactly like the puff-
ing of a steam-tug and presently a Loon came hurtling overhead
and was almost immediately lost to sight again in the fog.
The sound was evidently made by his wings but I cannot remem-
ber ever hearing anything like it from a Loon or indeed from
any bird before. It seemed to us fully as loud as the puffing
of a tug a few hundred yards off. The bird was in full breed-
ing plumage.

Urinator inber

Secomnett Point, R.I.,

April 16-21, 1890

More or less migrate every morning from sunrise till nine o'clock a.m., the heaviest flight being on the 20th, when thirty or forty birds were seen. Sometimes two or three ~~flocks~~ were in sight at once, but ~~all~~ ^{moving} flying separate and independantly of one another. They usually flew rather high, seventy-five to one hundred yards above the water, their legs stretched out behind under the tail, their necks carried ~~at~~ full length, as straight as a ram-rod. The wing-beats were regular and rapid and the flight swift, although apparently slower than that of most of the Ducks. They rarely or never turned out for a boat, but kept straight on, ^{without} even when fired at and wounded. They often ^{flew} lighted off the Point and spent the day fishing in the neighboring waters. On the 18th as we were sitting on the cliff on the south side of West Island, a fine adult ~~fish~~ suddenly came to the surface below us and perhaps one hundred yards away, having a flounder fully eight inches long by five inches wide in his bill. For five or six minutes, he paddled about in plain view of us, working hard, apparently, to reduce his prize to a sufficient degree of softness to be easily swallowed. He would pinch the fish fiercely in his bill, then ~~droppittand~~ strike it a number of hard blows in quick succession, arching his neck and darting out his bill nearly horizontally, instead of striking downward. Twice the fish sunk, and he had to dive after it. Finally he raised it in his bill and, stretching his neck to its full length, his bill pointing straight upward, he gave two or three vigorous gulps and swallowed the fish.

Massachusetts,

Urinator imber.

1894.

Oct. 14

Concord. Landed at Staples camp and lunched there while thus engaged we saw a *Loon* rise, apparently from the water near the inlet and after circling several times to attain a sufficient elevation, go out over the woods to the north in the direction of Walden Pond where however we could not find it later. Perhaps it went to Sandy Pond instead. It was a rather large bird with pure white throat & fine neck. When first observed it was not more than 20 ft. above the water.

Urinator inber

* = wooo-lee cry

1896. Penobscot Bay, Maine.

Deer Island. June 22. ^(1 ad 1 gray)
*

July 3¹

Little Spoon Island June 24¹ July 15¹

Eggemoggin Reach. July 11. An adult bird swimming near shore.

Sedgwick. July 15. Nest with two eggs on point of landing at head of Frost's Pond (Detailed account in another journal) Both old birds seen in pond.

Brooksville. July 16. One old bird seen in Walker's Pond. He was assured by natives that a pair of old birds with two young were in the pond & were shown the nest which the young had left about a week ago. Cf. journal.

June 22 An adult & a gray loon swimming together about 1/2 mile off Deer Island rose ahead of our boat & flew off clearing the water with unusual ease although it was dead calm. There was, however, a slight swell running.

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

139. *Colymbus torquatus*. LOON.—Common. Breeds about the fresh-water lakes of the interior. I saw many, and heard others, in the Gulf, near Point de Monts, in July. Earliest seen April 12, 1882.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct., 1882, p. 241

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

Urinator imber, Loon. Rather rare. Said to breed exclusively on fresh water lakes on the mainland, but seen at intervals on salt water where they come to feed.

O. & O. XII, Jan. 1887, p. 2.

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

Great Northern Diver (*Colymbus torquatus*).
June 5. Nest, a depression in the sand, a few feet from the water's edge, without lining of any kind. Eggs, two in number, measuring 3.62 x 2.44, and 3.60 x 2.43.

O. & O. XIII, Mar. 1888, p. 45

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

2. *Urinator imber*. LOON.—One seen in the waters of the Gulf off Grosse Isle on June 25. Probably breeds.

Auk, VI, April, 1889, p. 145

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

7. Common Loon. Common. Breeds. Set of fresh eggs taken July 6th.

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

Allen, Summer Birds Bras d'Or Region

Urinator imber.—One seen on Bras d'Or Lake.

Auk, 8, April, 1891, p. 165

SOME WINTER BIRDS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

BY C. H. MORRELL.

Auk, XVI, July, 1899, pp 250-3.

I was in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, from the first of December, 1897, until the fourth of April, 1898, and though collecting was not the object of my visit, careful observations were made and notes taken of the birds seen during that time. The variety of species to be found there at that period is not extensive. December, the first week in January, the last week in February and the month of March was spent on the shore of Chignecto Bay, principally at Shulee, though some time was spent at Joggins, River Hebert and Amherst. During the greater part of January and February I was at Parrsboro on the Basin of Minas. There was little snow in December, the ground being bare most of the time, and no very cold weather. The principal snowfall was in January and February, and the coldest weather was during those months. Several severe storms occurred. March was exceptionally fair and pleasant. The sun shown warm from almost cloudless skies and under its influence the snow melted rapidly, the migrants began to arrive, and the winter birds were soon in full song.

The growth from Joggins to Shulee is mainly spruce, though some hard wood grows on the higher ridges. The shore is lined with rugged cliffs which are wooded to the edge in most places. Spruce also prevails about Parrsboro though there the woods have been cut away and there is more open country. Amherst is in the midst of rich farming land and is surrounded by broad fields and marshes.

In addition to those mentioned, several species of Gulls and Ducks were seen but as no specimens were taken they could not be positively identified. A list of the species seen is appended.

1. *Gavia imber*. LOON.—One seen in the bay near Joggins, Dec. 7. p. 251.

Newfoundland Notes.—The following list of birds was observed on a trip up the Humber River in Newfoundland, which lasted from August 10 to September 24, 1899. The list is not intended as in any way a complete one of the birds to be seen at that time on the island, but merely of those which I happened to observe in the course of a fishing and hunting trip, and as such it is offered for what it may be worth.

1. *Gavia imber*. LOON.—Abundant.

Louis H. Porter, New York City.

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

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

by James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 441.

4. *Gavia imber*. LOON.—Regular migrant, April 16 to May 31 (abundant May 22, 1894); earliest fall record, September 7, 1895; a bird taken October 19, 1904, is young, and one taken November 4, 1899, is an adult in winter plumage. Loons probably remain on the lake till the end of November.

BIRDS OF THE NORTHEASTERN COAST OF
LABRADOR.

BROWN-HARVARD EXPEDITION OF 1900, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP
OF PROFESSOR DELABARRE.

BY HENRY B. BIGELOW.

THE OBSERVATIONS noted in the following list were made on the Brown-Harvard Labrador expedition of 1900. The area embraced was that portion of the eastern coast from Belle Isle, Lat. $51^{\circ} 53'$, to Nachvak Fiord, Lat. 59° . The birds noted are strictly those of the immediate coast region, for we did not penetrate much farther into the interior than the heads of the bays.

The coast fauna combines both arctic and sub-arctic forms, comprising such arctic species as the polar bear, arctic wolf, white fox, Hudson Bay lemming, barren ground caribou, and at the same localities the black bear and the red fox. Among the birds the same combination can be noted. It will be seen at once that the list does not contain many species given by Turner as occurring at Ungava. This is explained by the fact that the eastern coast is absolutely cut off from the interior by the range of mountains which follows the shore. This range, which attains an extreme height of perhaps six or seven thousand feet, rises abruptly from the water's edge, so that the coast region proper is restricted to a narrow strip, merging at once into the barren hillsides and boulder slopes of the uplands. This ridge is an insurmountable barrier to the wanderings of most of the small birds. The hilltops were inhabited only by a few Titlarks, Snow Buntings, Longspurs, and Rough-legged Hawks.

The vegetation of the coast region, especially of the islands, is very scanty. The timber line, for the immediate seacoast, is near Hamilton Inlet. About the heads of the bays we found timber as far north as Nain, beyond which the trees dwindled to scrub spruces, and dwarf willows and birches along the lower water courses. Most of the barren country is covered with caribou moss, with blueberries and Labrador tea growing profusely in the boggy places.

The climate is cold, the mean temperature for the year being about 29° Fahrenheit. During the summer it ranged from 29° to about 55° . Twice we got temperature of 70° , but this was only in very sheltered spots, and for an hour or two at a time.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, pp. 24, 25

1. *Urinator imber*. LOON. — Fairly common along the coast, particularly in the deeper fiords and on the larger lakes. Breeding locally. The skins from the necks of adult loons are much used by the Eskimo for ornamental work.

Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 48-49.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE SUMMER BIRDS OF THE
COBALT MINING REGION, NIPISSING
DISTRICT, ONTARIO.

BY FREDERICK C. HUBEL.

THE following annotated list of birds is based on observations made within a radius of ten miles of what is now known as the town of Cobalt, Nipissing District, Ontario, by Mr. J. Wilbur Kay and myself between July 15 and August 18, 1905. Cobalt, situated on Cobalt Lake, is about 100 miles from North Bay junction on the transeontinental line of the Canadian Pacific, and 330 miles almost north of the City of Toronto. When we entered this region, Cobalt was merely a small mining camp consisting of about two dozen huts, a few stores and a station. It has since grown to be a mining town of considerable size, owing to the large deposits of silver for which this region is now famed.

About three miles south of the town is the Montreal River. There are numerous lakes in this region. Lake Temiskaming, by far the largest, lies but a few miles to the east, and although this lake has been a well traversed route to the north by white men for the past two hundred years or more, very little ornithological data has come to light from this region.

This country is a rocky wilderness, much of the field being covered with drift deposits and the exposures of compact rock are frequently clothed with moss. Here and there hills with steep faces rise to a height of a hundred feet or more. Although lumbering operations have been conducted over almost all of this area, very few clearings exist, as the surface is unfit for agriculture. Here and there forest fires have left their ghastly trails behind.

Among the principal forest growths are Norway, white and jack pine, tamarack, cedar, balsam, and other hardy timber. The second growth is usually birch and poplar, principally the former. The small shrubs are of various species. Although the shores are generally rocky and wooded to the water's edge, considerable marsh land is to be found which affords suitable breeding grounds for water-fowl. The largest of these is at the head of Lake Temiskaming, which covers several hundred acres.

While the present list is in no sense complete, I have preferred to exclude many species which in my mind were doubtful, especially where specimens could not be procured.

1. *Gavia imber*. LOON.—Nearly every day one or more of these birds were observed flying over the lakes. They undoubtedly breed.

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

Loon, (*Colymbus torquatus*). Saw a couple on the lake each year, their wailing cry making sad music in that lonely wilderness. They were quite tame and one—a young one—would admit of being stroked by my hand. But at last a sportsman, freshly arriving from Boston, deemed it a fine thing to shoot it, and it fell a victim to misplaced confidence. For two days and nights the remaining one constantly uttered its mournful cry, and a week later I found it lying dead on the shore. My guide, Mart. Fuller, an intelligent Yankee backwoodsman, stoutly asserts it died of a broken heart, but I am suspicious of the aforesaid cockney sportman.

O. & O. XI, Feb. 1886, p. 25.

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

102. *Colymbus torquatus*, (Loon). Nearly every lake in this country was occupied by one or more of these birds. I received sufficient evidence of their breeding at Flagstaff Lake and Big Island Lake, one of the Seven Ponds.

At the mention of this bird there comes a memory of reposing on fragrant hemlock "sapin" in the *quaint* companionship of my guide, and with the weird midnight cry of the Loon it resolves itself into an ideal; the shadows of the Dead River region of Maine.

O. & O. XI, Dec. 1886, p. 177-179.

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

7. Loon. Saw one of this species near Seal Harbor, Mt. Desert. It seemed to be a young bird.

O. and O, 15, Nov. 1890. p. 161

Colymbus torquatus. - ^{4 J.} Aug. 16 Rye Beach, N. H. 1868.
Colymbus torquatus. - Aug. 27¹ Rye Beach, N. H. 1866.
Colymbus torquatus. - ^{20.} Aug. 16 Rye Beach, N. H. 1871.

Wolfeboro, N. H. June. 17. 1887.
Colymbus torquatus birds numerous (Horn)
N. H. (Lake Winnepesaukee) *Colymbus torquatus*

1887

June 11 At Wolfeboro I was told that Loons are abundant on the lake and breed on the retired points & islands. They are not much disturbed and hold their numbers well from year to year.

List of Birds observed near Squam Lake, Holderness, N. H., June 4-12, 1885, and June 4-11, 1886. By Walter Faxon.

1. *Urinator imber*. LOON.—Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.149

Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N. H.
July 21 - Aug. 11, 1883. F. H. Allen

Urinator imber.—Several seen; one young in down captured.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 78

Wolfeboro, N. H. June. 18. 1889.
Colymbus tor. Two seen waiting on bank at night.

101. E. Mass. 1885. *Colymbus torquatus*. - Nov. 28² (1885)

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

Urinator imber (Gunn.), Loon. Winter visitant, occasionally seen off the coast.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 137

Mass (Winchendon) *Bairley*

1887

A few breed on a large pond in the town. Bairley has seen their egg-shells on the shore.

Colymbus torquatus

Colymb. tr. Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.

in 1888 seen by Albert Henry & Gardner, some breed on a large pond near Gardner's house. In November 1888 at Middleburg & Upper Waukegan. Several pairs in Wellington's Reservoir breeding.

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

1. *Urinator imber*.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 329

Gavia immer [30445]

1902
Dec. 1

Belmont Mass
Shot by Dr. Mahoney.

BUREAU OF NATURAL HISTORY.

ESTABLISHED 1876.

ANGELL & CASH,

Taxidermists.

(Successors to Southwick & Critchley.)

Birds, Mammals, Heads, & Fish, Mounted.

FUR RUGS, FANCY SHELLS & MINERALS.

All Naturalists' Supplies. Raw Furs Bought and Sold.

354 WESTMINSTER STREET.

Providence, R. I., DEC 10 1902 190

Mr. William Brewster

Dear Sir

We are very busy now and so had Swan and Loon frozen and have only just skinned them or we should have written you about them before.

The swan was killed with a shot gun. It was very fat and stomach contained a few shears of green grass and a few small pebbles.

The loon was also killed with a shot gun there were half a dozen shot holes on

Guirina inber [

1902

Dec. 1

BUREAU OF NATURAL HISTORY.

ESTABLISHED

ANGELL & CASH,

Taxidermists.

(Successors to Southwick & Critchley.)

Birds, Mammals, Heads, & Fish, Mounted

FUR RUGS, FANCY SHELLS & MINERALS.

All Naturalists' Supplies. Raw Furs Bought and Sold

354 WESTMINSTER STREET.

Providence, R. I.,

the neck. The body was emaciated, stomach contained a few pebbles and a quantity of fish scales about  size. near the tail under neath were two large ulcers each containing a small quantity of pus. The birds poor condition may have been due to these so

Respectfully yours
Angell & Cash,

Garin inber [3]

1902

Dec. 1

BUREAU OF NATURAL HISTORY.

ESTABLISHED 1862

ANGELL & CASH,

Taxidermists.

(Successors to Southwick & Critchley.)

Birds, Mammals, Heads, & Fish, Mounted

FUR RUGS, FANCY SHELLS & MINERALS.

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354 WESTMINSTER STREET.

Providence, R. I., **DEC 11 1902**

Mr. William Brewster,
Dear Sir,

In writing you
of the Swan and Loon I
neglected to state both
were male birds. [Angell & Cash]

Gavia immer ♂

Belmont, Mass.

1902

Dec. 1 Shot in Perry's Clay pit by Thos.

Mahoney, a boy, who took it to Mr Brewster later in the afternoon of the same day and received 75¢ for it. The bird was sent to Cuyll & Cash, Providence the next day to be mounted.

The following measurements were made at the Museum by Mr Brewster on Dec. 2.

Length 30½. Extent 56. Wing 14½.

Weight 76.8 oz.

Iris bright reddish hazel

Bill very bright plumbeous, ridge horn color
save at base which is light plumbeous.

Legs } Outer surface of legs and outer toe dark
Toes } horn color.

Web } Inner surface of legs and toes with most of
webs pearl gray.

Outer & middle toes bordered by dark
horn color on the webs.

Returned mounted Feb. 12 / 1903

Cat no. [30445].

1902

Gavia imber

Fish Pond

An immature Loon seen in
Fish Pond by Harold Bowditch
on November 20, 21, 25 and
December 1st by Walter Deane &
Samuel Hubbard on Nov. 30th

On December 1st Mr. Bowditch
saw it standing on a rock on
the shore at 10.30 a.m. at
7.30 P.M. of this day it was
brought to me freshly killed by
Thos. Mahoney, a young Irishman
who said he had killed it later
that afternoon in Perry's cove, etc.,
Behaviors. It differs from the species
which although in gray plumage has
some black & white spotted feathers
on the wings & back. Bowditch
tells me that he visited some
nesting in the cove in 2000.

Gavia imber

1902

Nov 19, 20, 21, 25, 30
Dec 1, 7, 30

When he was 7 weeks old
a time from 1/2 to 1
the water out

Seen by Richard
Buster

GENERAL NOTES.

Migration of Urinator imber.—Seconet Point, Rhode Island, April 16, 1892. Clear weather, sea calm, wind light, northwest. I saw twenty to twenty-five Loons today flying toward the east, on migration, at an elevation of about sixty yards; there were five in one flock, and six in another, the others scattering. April 17, I saw six flying east on migration, with a light west wind. April 18, wind east to southeast, I saw only two or three today flying east. April 19, I saw four flying east; they were well up; wind light, northwest. April 20, no air moving, vane pointed northwest, I saw six, four of which were in company, all flying east; they were up about seventy-five yards. April 21, I saw two flying east, about sixty yards up. I shot one, an adult in full plumage, weighing eleven pounds; I have shot them larger and heavier.

Loons fly in large numbers all through May up to June first, when the migration seems over for those going north, the height of abundance being from the fifteenth of May to June first. A southwest wind is particularly favorable for such northern migration. One of their principal lines of flight is up Buzzard's Bay, crossing the land (the narrowest part) to Cape Cod Bay. While making this flight a great many are killed between Tobey and Mashnee Islands. I have seen here years ago three tiers of ten or a dozen boats each (and I am informed such is often the case at the present time) stretched across the strait between the above islands. Fifty to sixty Loons are killed sometimes, on a good southwest morning (they fly again at about dark), and as many more wounded ones are shot down which are not recovered. When the wind is from any other quarter than southwest, they pass overhead very high up.—GEORGE H. MACKAY,
Nantucket, Mass. **Auk 9, July, 1892. p. 292.**

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER OR LOON, (*Colymbus torquatus*).
A fine specimen was brought to me alive to be stuffed. It was captured in a somewhat curious manner on Lake Wana-
ramaug, Litchfield Co., Conn. Some fishermen observing
him upon the lake, gave chase in a sail boat, and after some
time they succeeded in coming up with him and taking him
alive. He was brought to me from New Milford, a distance
of nine miles, in the back end of an open buggy, untram-
meled in any way, making no effort to escape. When taken
from the wagon he gave utterance to two or three long,
monrful cries, as if singing his own requiem. I could not
discover that he was injured in any way, and am at a loss to
account for his passive condition. *Geo. C. Jones, Brookfield*
Center, Conn. O. & O. IX. Jun. 1884. p. 76.

The Birds of Long Point.

Much romancing is in print about Loons on
fresh water ponds, and killing one is chron-
icled as a great feat. The fine specimen on
my study table was shot with a pistol at
short range. They abound at salt water, and
their eerie cry is very common in Fisher's
Island Sound in June. Flying over the duck
blinds they are easily "downed." Half a
dozen at a time are taken in the fish-traps with-
in twenty feet of the shore off Groton Long
Point. The Loons drop into the traps after
the imprisoned fish, but in taking flight can-
not get rise enough to clear the walls of the
netting. *J. M. W. Norwich, Conn.*

O. & O. XVI. Apr. 1891. p. 59-60.

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

In the Eastern (Adirondack) districts are found
breeding - *Colymbus torquatus*,

Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1878. p. 53

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

176. *Colymbus torquatus*, Brännich. LOON.—A common summer
resident.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 225

Birds Tioga Co, N. Y. Alden Loring.

760. Great Northern Diver or Loon. Not
rare, occasionally seen during the spring and
fall; is an expert diver and swimmer.

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

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the
Northern Adirondacks [Axtell], New York [1901].
April 30 to May 5.

Loon. Rare.

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Auk, XIX, July 1902, p. 296.

Columbus torquatus

Mass

Feb - 1884

A frigidus loon in the market to-day. It was in process of changing from the young to the adult plumage. The head and neck were as in the autumnal adult. The back was dull black with no light margining on any of the feathers but with small round white spots on many of the scapulars and wing-coverts. Possibly it was an adult in winter as I never saw one in full plumage at

that season. The bird was
killed, otherwise I should
have heard the bird. It
was one of the smallest
specimens I ever saw - not
much larger than an
average C. arcticus

Long Pond, Maine,

Colymbus torquatus

1885.

June -

Mr. William - Dodge of Cambridge has shown me a set of three Loon's eggs which he took late in June on Long Pond near Greenville, Maine. The nest was on the gravelly shore of an island about two feet from the water and under a bush. It contained two eggs when found and early next morning, three. Two of the eggs are large, decidedly greenish, and of precisely the same size and shape. The third egg is smaller

diffusely stippled and strongly
brownish - instead of greenish -
stain in color. ~~At: 10:30~~
noticed it when he first
found the nest so that ~~the~~
of the greenish eggs must
have been laid last. All
these were perfectly fresh.
He saw no bird on either
visit.

1886

Breeding

Mr. Wm S. Perry tells me that in two ponds in Hubbardston Loons breed regularly each season. J. H. Forbush of Worcester has two sets of eggs '2 eggs each' taken there.

THE GREAT NORTHERN DIVER OR LOON, (*Colymbus torquatus*.) One of our well-known writers on ornithology gives this bird "as known to breed occasionally within the limits of New England," "but more conspicuous in Winter than Summer." If this is the case, our section must be one of those favored places; for with us it is a common Summer bird and rarely seen in Winter. It is known to breed regularly at Bow Pond, Strafford, where numbers of birds and nests are annually seen. I myself possess an egg which was obtained from there, measuring $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$, and of the usual color.—*W. E. Jenkins, Northwood, N. H. O. & O. IX. Feb. 1882, p. 23*

Loons at Poland, Me.

BY G. H. R., BOSTON.

The writer took advantage of an opportunity that enabled him to spend the collecting season of '85 at Poland, Me., where he arrived on the afternoon of June 22d.

The place, to his thinking, promised much as a field of ornithological research, (which promise was afterwards abundantly verified,) being situated in the midst of large woods and fields, with numerous lakes and ponds lying almost at the door. Without much trouble, an able assistant, whom we will call Ross, was found in the person of an enthusiastic and experienced local sportsman who was thoroughly acquainted with the surrounding country. Monday, June 29th, was the day set for an excursion after Loons' nests, which, as he was informed, were to be found in the "Range Ponds," one or more pairs regularly nesting there every year. We started in the morning, I with my little 32-calibre skeleton rifle and Ross with his 22, with which I soon found he could do remarkable work, and after twenty minutes brisk rowing, emerged into the head of the pond, but nothing in the shape of a Loon could be seen or heard. We pulled up the right hand side of the pond until we rounded a point, disclosing what appeared to be the mouth of a small stream, which terminated in a circular-shaped basin of water or swamp so thickly filled with rank grass, dead trees and floating islands that a boat could barely be forced through.

The stream and basin were surrounded by a

heavy growth of tall Pines and Birches, dead at the water's edge, making the whole place damp and gloomy in the extreme. Just as we reached the edge of the basin the loud cry of a Loon was heard at the mouth of the stream, directly behind us. Seeing us approach, she had slipped off her nest, and diving, swam under us, came up away in our rear. "There she is," said Ross, "and she has a nest somewhere in this place close to the water." Standing up for a better view, the first sight upon which the writer's eyes rested, within ten feet of the boat, was a mound-shaped hillock, with a slight depression at the top, in which were two large dark colored eggs, which were immediately appropriated. The nest was built upon the extreme edge of a floating island, of weeds, sods and water grass, among which were to be seen some dead sticks, evidently put there to give solidity to the structure, and was nearly as large around as a bushel basket and about eight inches high. The eggs were beauties, averaging 3.76×2.37 , of a dark drab color and covered with darker spots, thickest at the greater end. When found, the under part of the eggs was wet, showing that the weight of the bird, when on, sunk the nest partly under water.

While I was jotting down minutes in my note book a second Loon was heard, and both birds were seen at the mouth of the stream, trying to attract our attention from the nest by loud cries and flapping of wings. Ross set me ashore and went back to the nest while I crept through the underbush until I got within fifty yards of them. Waiting until the female rose in the water, presenting a good mark, I fired. The report had not died away before the head of the bird dropped forward into the water and I knew I had bagged her, as it is a peculiarity of these birds when shot that only the head settles forward and the body continues to float, like a Duck with its head under water. Slipping another cartridge into the barrel I waited for the other to rise. He was down only a few seconds and came up a little way off, but immediately swam to his mate. Again getting a fair shot I fired, and although I heard the thud of the bullet as it struck him, he dove and came up nearly half a mile out into the pond. Ross came up with the boat and we gave chase, but it was only after half a day's hard work and a large expenditure of cartridges, that he was finally brought to by a splendid shot by Ross.

O. & O. X. Nov. 1885. p. 165

Notes on birds of Winchendon, Mass.
William Brewster.

Urinator imber.—One or more pairs of Loons breed regularly in every pond of sufficient size near Winchendon. Mr. Albert Henry, of Gardner, took a set of two eggs at Blue's Reservoir in 1887. At Wellington's Reservoir, a large sheet of water about five miles north of Winchendon, a farmer living near the shore assured us that he saw several of the birds daily through the entire summer. He thought that there were at least three pairs in the pond in 1888.

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

Editor of O. & O.:

It may be new to the readers of the *O. & O.* to know that the *Loon* will breed in the same nest after being disturbed; so here goes. It was my good fortune to be up on the Grand Manitoulin Island, Canada, trouting early in July, this season (1890).

Sunday, July 6th, being a day of rest, our guide who had taken two sets of Loon from the same nest for me this season late in May and June, said, "Boss, if you would like to see a Loon's nest we will take the old boat and go over and see if she has laid any more." This, of course, was very welcome news, so off we put to a mucky deposit of, say, twenty-five acres in the rear of our guide's home. At the lower corner of the lake on a shoal forty feet from shore was a pile of lily roots, etc., from the bottom of the lake similar, "only smaller," to a muskrat's house. Mrs. Loon vacated it by sliding off into the water and coming up at safe distance, where she set up a mournful shriek for a few moments, later on taking wing and going to the next lake for a "visit with a neighbor," as the guide styled it, saying "every morning both pair visit each other." Judge my surprise at so late a day to see deposited on the flat pile of rank trash two fine showy eggs. My guide took for me, in 1889, two sets of two from a nest within two rods of same spot, and again, in 1888, two from almost the same spot. Do not know if it is the same pair of birds, but for the past three years one pair of birds have located in this lake, building their nest in nearly the same spot.

The last set of eggs varied greatly in size, one being large as eggs in the May set, but the other so small that you would not think them a set if not positive as I am.

George E. Harris.

O. & O., 15, Oct. 1890. p. 160.

Colymbus torquatus

Spring flight - Mass.

Weymouth, Mass.

April 16, 1883

Crossing from Nantucket to Wood's Hole I saw perhaps fifty Loons, most of them in full plumage. They were nearly all sitting and were not as shy of the steamer as the Coots. They invariably dove as we approached when the C. septentrionalis usually tried to fly (see card). I saw a few, however, flying northward.

Colymbus torquatus

Abundance on Lake Winnepesaukee

Lake Winnepesaukee, N.H.

Sept. 14, 1883

During a trip by steamer from Alton Bay to Center Harbor I counted twenty-seven loons. Twice I saw seven collected together ^{they} being apparently two pairs of old birds and their young. In the other instances there were usually ~~two~~ old birds and one or two young. All were swimming in the lake. They were rather tame and were said not to be molested here to any extent.

GENERAL NOTES.

Auk, XIII, Jan., 1896, pp. 77-78.

Do Young Loons eat Fresh-water Clams?—On July 5, 1895, while paddling with my brother along the northern end of Lake Utopia, in the Province of New Brunswick, we saw near our canoe a young water bird which by its size and actions and especially by the cries of its parents near by, was proven to be a young Loon, the Great Northern Diver (*Urinator imber*). Wishing to examine it more closely we chased, and in spite of its game efforts to escape, caught it. When near by we noticed something hanging to its bill which plainly much retarded its movements and which proved to be a fresh-water clam or mussel of two inches in length. Closer observation after the bird was carried ashore showed that nearly all of its lower bill was gone and that its tongue was caught between the tightly-closed valves of the still-living mollusk, and was the means of attachment of the one to the other. I cut the tongue close to the shell and released the bird which went splashing and diving away to rejoin its parents, though without tongue or lower bill it could scarcely have survived for long. I broke the clam-shell and inside found the missing bill with the remainder of the tongue attached. The ragged end of the bill made it seem plain that having been thrust into the gaping shell, which promptly and firmly closed, it had been wrenched and torn off by the efforts of the bird to free itself, but the tongue yielding elastically to the strains did not give way. The Loon was a very young one in the downy stage with pin-feathers just appearing in the wings. The mussel and bill I now have preserved for the inspection of the curious.

Since then I have looked in many books for something about the feeding habits of Loons but have found nothing. If it is a habit of theirs to eat these mussels, my specimen simply began too early; if not, either it was too enterprising or too curious and tried to pick out the inmate from its shell gaping open upon the bottom, or else while probing for something else in the sand it accidentally pushed its lower bill into the open shell, with the results above detailed. At all events the incident may show something to those fitted to interpret it.—W. F. GANONG, Northampton, Mass.

The Question of the Generic Name *Gavia*.—In the September, 1900, number of the 'Ornithologische Monatsberichte' (Vol. VIII, page 135), Dr. Anton Reichenow claims that the name *Gavia* Forster is a synonym of *Urinator* Cuvier, basing his assumption on the use of the name *Gavia* for a species of Gull by S. G. Gmelin in his 'Reise durch Russland' (Vol. I, page 152).

An examination of Gmelin's work shows that he used the name *Larus* for the Gulls systematically throughout his 'Reise' and only in one instance makes use of the name *Gavia*, and in this case merely as a quasi citation from Brisson, and having no reference whatever to *Gavia* Möhring. The passage in which *Gavia* is used, so far as it has any bearing on the case in point, is as follows: "*Gavia ridibunda phaenicopos*. Die Grosse Lach-Möve. Sie ist von Brisson schön beschrieben worden, und ich habe bey ihr nur zwey Anmerkungen zu machen. Die eine betrifft den Unterschied des Geschlechts, und diese besteht in Schnabel. . ."

On referring to Brisson I find in Vol. VI of his 'Ornithologie,' page 196, that he describes a Gull to which he applies the name *Gavia ridibunda phaenicopos*, to which Gmelin here refers. Brisson, however, did not recognize a genus *Gavia*, but placed all the Gulls under *Larus*, beginning in every case his diagnoses "*Larus supernæ cinereus*," etc., as the case might require. Brisson's genus *Larus* is his genus "No. CII," under which he has 15 species, the technical name of 5 of which begins with the name *Larus* and the remaining 10 with the name *Gavia*, an eccentricity not confined to the genus *Larus*, and of no nomenclatural significance (see, for example, under Brisson's genus *Anser*, where *Cygnus* and *Bernicla* are employed in place of *Anser*).

The use of the name *Gavia* by Gmelin is merely in the sense of a reference to Brisson, he nowhere adopting *Gavia* in a generic sense for any Gull. It is evident, therefore that by no fair construction can *Gavia* be considered as established in a generic sense by S. G. Gmelin in 1770, and that it, "therefore, must be considered as a mere synonym of *Larus*."—J. A. ALLEN, American Museum of Natural History, New York City.

Auk, XVIII, July., 1901, pp. 270-271.

NOTES ON THE EARLY LIFE OF LOON CHICKS.

BY C. WILLIAM BEEBE.

Curator of Ornithology, New York Zoölogical Society.

Plate II.

ON AUGUST 4, 1906, two eggs were taken from the nest of a Loon, *Gavia imber* (Gunn.), on a lake of the Muskoka District, Ontario. The eggs were cold, and from observation it was judged that the parents had deserted them some 48 hours previously. Packed in a suit-case, the eggs were brought to New York City and on the evening of August 6, one young loon hatched. The following day this chick was brought to the New York Zoölogical Park, together with the second egg, which was chipped.

¹ Cf. Chapman, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., IV, 1892, pp. 1-20.

sound is made through the nostrils and sounds like *wnew-weeo*.

He settles contentedly down on a bed of dampened leaves. Frequently one of the legs is given a violent shake and lifted high up on the side of the body, the wing then being raised and placed over the foot. Again a leg is stretched out straight behind and held in this position for several minutes.

When placed in a deep tub of water the loon chick swims at once, with very quick, short strokes, alternating with first one, then the other foot. While swimming along, without warning, he pushes his head clear under and looks about beneath him. This is repeated several times during his first ten minutes of aquatic experience.

In the afternoon the loon is given a second swim, this time with a hundred small live fish beneath him. Although he ducks his head several times, he does not see, or at least does not notice, the fish.

Urinator imber
 Re Examination (Feb. 10/1889)
 A specimen sent me by
 Mrs. F. C. Moore taken at
 Plymouth, Mass, Oct. 7, 1887
 On comparing this bird
 with specimens in the Mus. Soc.
 Nat. Hist. I am satisfied
 that it is true *imber* although
 the bill is very small. I
 am also nearly as well
 satisfied that the bird in
 the New Eng. Coll of the Mus. Soc.
 labeled *arcticus* (and mentioned
 under that name in one of
 the reports of the Society) is
 also *imber* although it
 certainly approaches *arcticus*
 very closely. The character given
 by Ridgway of the posterior of the
 bill fails partially with one extreme
 in the Coll. but it is a good
 average character.

The Oologist. 1606. Loon; Great Northern Diver. By 'Scolopax' [=Morris Gibbs].
Ibid., No. 7, July, 1888, pp. 103-105. *Auk*, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 75.
 1316. Mother Care. By H. A. C. *Ibid.*, No. 9, Mch. 24, p. 176.—On
 the breeding habits of the 'Great Northern Diver' [?]. See also *ibid.*,
 No. 10, Mch. 31, p. 200. *For. & Forest*, Vol. XXVIII

532. New Brunswick Notes. Loon. (*Colymbus torquatus*.) By Mon-
 tague Chamberlain. *Ibid.*, III, p. 231. *Can. Sport. & Naturalist*