

reproduction of his own cry. The third pair I saw on a sand-bar at Shinnecock Inlet. They were in company with some American Herring Gulls. They also were adult and young.

14. *Alle nigricans* Link. SEA DOVE; DOVEKIE.—December 7, 1882, Mr. C. A. Blydenburgh, first assistant keeper of Fire Island Light, sent me a female of this species, which he found dead on the beach. Ten days later he sent me another, and wrote as follows: "I found one Sea Dove which I will send you with this. The men at the Life Saving Station had three Sea Doves before I got one. One of the men from the next station east told me they found one this winter. That makes six picked up along here." In answer to an inquiry, Mr. L. S. Foster, of New York City, wrote me as follows: "My Long Island information concerning 752, *Alle nigricans*, is as follows: The specimen in my cabinet 'was caught on my patrol, in my midnight watch, the night of the 23d of December, 1881. June Bishop, Life Saving Station, off Centre Moriches, L. I.' One was found dead in the meshes of a net near the same locality, November, 1882. One was brought on the cars of the Long Island railroad at Bayport by a gunner, November, 1882, 'having been shot in a pool.'"

DENDROCOPOS PURUS, A NEW SPECIES OF WOODPECKER FROM KAMTSCHATKA.

BY LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

Dendrocopus purus, n. sp.

DIAGN: Similis *D. majori* (L.) a quo differt: pectore et abdomine superiore purissime albo, rectricibus lateralibus albis fere immaculatis et pogonio externo remigum primum longissimarum apice albonotato.

HAB: Kamtschatka; accid. Insula Beringii.

This species is closely related to *D. major* (L.) but differs in having the breast and upper abdomen very pure white, the white of the lateral rectrices without or almost without dark markings, and possessing a white spot on the outer web of the longest primaries near the tip.

The types of this form, two males and one female (U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 92701. 92702 and 92703), were collected by me on Bering Island, off the

coast of Kamtschatka, where this bird is rather common and whence it accidentally visits the said island. It is the *Picus major* of Kittlitz (Denkwürd. Reise, I, p. 321).

The greater purity of the white of the lower surface and the greater extent of the same color on the lateral tail-feathers distinguishes this species easily from its allies. In the description of *T. cissa* Pallas expressly says that the lateral rectrices are white "nigro transversim variegatae" and "pectore sordescente." Specimens of *D. major* from Central Europe, the only ones at present accessible to me, have the lateral tail feathers strongly barred, and lack the white spot near the tips of the outer web of the longest primaries. These markings are, however, also found in *Dryocopus japonicus* (Seeb.), but the Japanese bird has a very dark lower surface, and transverse markings in all the lateral tail-feathers; besides, the Kamtschatkan form has a stouter and longer bill.

Dryocopus purus is especially conspicuous for the uniform white color on the lateral tail-feathers. In two of the specimens are seen some traces of transverse bars on one or both of the two external feathers, but no traces of similar bars or spot are found on the two following pairs.

There is a possibility that the different forms of *D. major* may be found to intergrade so as to become only races. If that can be proved, the names would stand as *Dryocopus major*, *D. major cissa* (Pall.), *D. major japonicus* (Seeb.) and *D. major purus*. But until this question is satisfactorily settled the above binomial appellation will stand.

U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

THE COUES LEXICON OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

BY AUGUSTUS C. MERRIAM.

THE "Coues Check List and Lexicon of N. A. Birds" (1882) deserves in one of its features some further consideration than appears yet to have been given it. This feature is its philological treatment of the nomenclature of ornithology. Dr. Coues has here entered upon a field which has long demanded attention. Scientific nomenclature is becoming so vast and so important, and the haphazard way in which much of it has been coined and applied is so provoking, that it imperatively commands from its votaries intelligent and scientific review. Living vernaculars