

September, 1877, by Mr. George B Dunbar. I have been unable to ascertain the exact date of its capture, but it was little later than the 7th of the month, doubtless within two or three days of that date. The bird, which is in immature plumage, was in company with another apparently of the same species and age, as no difference could be detected between them. It was shot on Screwdriver Pond, a pond of about a mile in length, half a mile from Lake Bomaseen, which is a body of water some nine miles long, situated about ten miles east of the southern end of Lake Champlain.

The occurrence so far inland of a species that usually is found only off our coast, seems to demand some explanation, but that which always first suggests itself in the case of sea-birds taken in the interior, viz., that the bird has been driven from its accustomed haunts by a storm, seems in this case to be insufficient. Although the U. S. Signal Service recorded "heavy northeast gales" as prevailing along the New England coast during the 7th, 8th, and 9th of the month, yet the chances are extremely small that two individuals of the same species should have been blown by the same gales to the same pond at a distance of a hundred and thirty miles from the coast. I should prefer to suppose that in their youth and inexperience they had wandered in company from the Gulf of St. Lawrence up the St. Lawrence River, and then, guided only by an instinct that impelled them southward, they had followed up the Champlain Valley to the point where they were found—CHARLES F. BATCHELDER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

A newly-discovered Breeding Place of Leach's Petrel (*Cymochorea leucorrhoa* (Vieill.) Coues) in Scotland.—A friend of mine, Mr. John Swinburne, when on an ornithological yachting cruise during the past summer, visited the little-known island of Rona, lying about forty miles to the northeast of the Island of Lewis, in the Hebrides, which had not been previously visited, so far as known, by any ornithologist. He found about twelve or fifteen species of birds inhabiting the island, chiefly, of course, sea-birds. Among them he found, on 20th June, the Fork-tailed Petrel breeding in considerable numbers, and took a number of their eggs, which were quite fresh. He tells me he found them breeding in burrows in companies, several pairs of birds inhabiting the same main burrow, off which each pair had a separate and smaller burrow formed at right angles to the main one, at the extremity of which their single egg was laid. The only European breeding place of this species hitherto known is St. Kilda, where Sir William Milne found their nests in 1847. The common Stormy Petrel, *Procellaria pelagica*, also breeds at St. Kilda, although it does not appear to do so on Rona, so far as observed by Mr. Swinburne.—JOHN J. DALGLEISH, *Edinburgh, Scotland.*

Black-throated Auk (*Synthliborhamphus antiquus*) in Wisconsin.—If my readers will look at a map of North America they will be surprised, to say the least, that a North Pacific sea-bird should find its way, even by accident, to the State of Wisconsin. The great range of the Rocky Mountains, extending to the very verge of the Arctic Ocean, acts as a

natural barrier against all Pacific sea-birds reaching the Atlantic Watershed. That the species under consideration extends its summer migration to the shores of the Arctic Ocean, and even east from Bering Strait, no one knows to what extent along the southern shores of the great Polar Sea, there can be little doubt. It seems to me, then, much more reasonable to suppose that this rare straggler should come south along with the great horde of Swans, Geese, and Ducks which annually pass up the Mackenzie River, through great Slave Lake, thence from lake to lake, until it reached the great Mississippi Valley, than that, being eminently a bird of the sea, it should leave its natural element to cross a great mountain range. Be this as it may, the fact remains that a full plumaged adult Black-throated Auk (*Synthliborhamphus antiquus*) was shot on Lake Koshkonong, Wis. It was shot by Rev. G. E. Gordon of Milwaukee, and the stuffed specimen is beautifully preserved under a glass shade at 'Koshkonong Place,' a private shooting preserve, where I had the pleasure of visiting this fall. The circumstances of the capture are as follows: Late in October, 1882, during a northern 'blizzard'—a storm so severe that it drove most of the Ducks out of the lake—Mr. Gordon was concealed in his blind, shooting Ducks, when he noticed this strange bird circling around his decoys, and he shot it while on the wing. No others were seen in company with it, and at no other time in the memory of the oldest hunters has its like been seen there before. It may well be called a 'strange bird' by the residents and visitors frequenting this charming spot, and the fact of its capture so far away from its habitat will be no less interesting to ornithologists throughout the length and breadth of our land. Many queries could be started here in connection with the eccentricities of straggling birds not quite in place in connection with this short notice. The more I ponder on the facts of the capture of this straggler, the more wonderful it seems to me. Take notice that Lake Koshkonong is in the south-eastern part of Wisconsin, three degrees east of the longitudinal line of the western shore of Lake Superior, and about sixty miles west of Lake Michigan. If the bird had its habitat in the Atlantic Ocean it would be more natural that it should drift with the fresh waters of Hudson's Bay and thence by the Great Lakes to this small lake, whose waters flow into the Mississippi, than that, being as it is a North Pacific bird, it should be found here.

For the benefit of those wishing to compare the species, I will give description and measurements carefully taken from the stuffed specimen. I have compared my observations with specimens from the Smithsonian Institution and my own collection, and I see no chance for being mistaken about the species. Bill black at base and along ridge of culmen, sides light brown running to blue at tip, .6 of an inch long, .25 inch deep at base and less in width, feathered to, and partly over, nostril. Gape 1.12 inch. Feathers of throat extend to within .19 inch of angle of gonyes. Distance from eye to nostril, .87. Tarsus 1 inch, scutellate in front and on sides, and very much compressed. Middle toe, without claw, same length as tarsus. Wing 5.50, brown-black. Tail 1.50, black. Black of head extending .37 inch

below eye and down nape to shoulder, where the smoky-ash mantle extends over back and wing-coverts to tail. Whole under parts white up to throat, which is mixed sooty-brown and white, showing less and less white as the under mandible is reached, where the feathers are clear sooty-brown.—GEO. B. SENNETT, *Meadville, Pa.*

Birds New to the Fauna of Kansas, and others Rare in the State, captured at Wallace, Oct. 12 to 16, 1883.—The following four species are new to the State:—

Merula migratoria propinqua *Ridgw.* WESTERN ROBIN.—Saw a flock of seven. Killed two.

Zonotrichia gambeli intermedia *Ridgw.* INTERMEDIATE WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.—The birds were quite common along the railway in the ditches and cuts, which, from the weeds growing and blown in from the plains, afford both food and shelter. Shot several. Professor D. E. Lantz writes me that he killed one of these birds at Manhattan, Oct. 9, 1883. The Professor is therefore entitled to the credit of adding the bird to our State list. Its capture so far east is a rare find.

Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis *Baird.* RED-NAPED WOODPECKER.—Killed a pair out of three young birds found in the willows and cottonwoods thinly skirting the south fork of the Smoky Hill River.

Buteo borealis krideri *Hoopes.* KRIDER'S HAWK.—Killed a female. I think I saw another bird, but am not positive, as they closely resemble, at a distance, the light phase of *Archibuteo ferrugineus.*

The following three species of birds are rare in the State:—

Myiadestes townsendi (*Aud.*) *Caban.* TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE.—I saw ten and shot four of these birds.

Dendroeca auduboni (*Towns.*) *Baird.* AUDUBON'S WARBLER.—Shot several; quite common.

Corvus cryptoleucus Couch. WHITE-NECKED RAVEN.—Saw a flock of six, and another of seven birds; shot three.

I have specimens of the above species in my collection.

I rejoice to know that we are at last to have a standard classification and nomenclature, as it will do away with the present confusion in arrangement and in names. I shall, in accordance with same, issue a new edition of my 'Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas.'—N. S. Goss, *Topeka, Kansas.*