

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

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

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

Tringa damacensis (Horsf.) in Alaska; a Sandpiper new to the North American Fauna.—Among the birds collected by Mr. Chas. H. Townsend, during his trip on the U. S. Revenue Cutter 'Corwin,' is an example of this species, obtained on Otter Island, Bering's Sea, June 8, 1885. The specimen is an adult female, in breeding plumage. An account of this species, embracing full synonymy, a comparison with allied species, critical remarks, and observations on habits, may be found in Dr. Stejneger's 'Ornithological Explorations in Kamtschatka' (Bulletin No. 29, U. S. National Museum), pp. 116-118.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

The Masked Bob-white (*Colinus ridgwayi*) in Arizona.—In 'The Auk' for April, 1885 (Vol. II, p. 199), Mr. William Brewster described a new species of Bob-white, under the name *Colinus ridgwayi*, based on a male specimen taken by Mr. F. Stephens in Sonora, Mexico, a few miles south of the Arizona line. Mr. Stephens, according to Mr. Brewster, had "recently examined two specimens which were actually taken in Arizona, thus adding the species to our fauna." Through the kindness of Mr. Herbert Brown, of Tucson, Arizona, I have recently had the opportunity of examining thirteen specimens of this interesting species, all taken within the last few months in the Barboquivari Mountains, Arizona, about

ten miles north of the Mexican boundary. These specimens consist of males and females in nearly equal number, and furnish material for a very satisfactory account of the species, which will form the subject of a special paper soon to appear in the 'Bulletin' of the American Museum of Natural History. The paper will be illustrated with a colored plate, giving figures of both sexes. In this connection I will therefore merely state that the original specimen on which the species was based proves to be rather exceptional in certain features, most of the specimens before me showing a more or less well-marked white superciliary line, which is quite absent in the type. The female proves, rather curiously, to be scarcely distinguishable from the female of *Colinus virginianus texanus*, differing less from this than the latter does from the female of *C. virginianus verus*.

Great credit is due Mr. Brown for his efforts, in securing these specimens he having sent out collectors on several different occasions especially in quest of the species.—J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City*.

Discovery of the Breeding Place of McKay's Snowflake (*Plectrophenax hyperboreus*).—In the January 'Auk' (p. 135), I mentioned the fact that the breeding range of this species was "not polar," but on the other hand "considerably south of the Arctic Ocean," at the same time intimating that I was not at liberty to explain the nature of the evidence upon which the statement was based. Since his return from an extended cruise on the U. S. Revenue Cutter 'Corwin,' Mr. Chas. H. Townsend has given me permission to publish the facts bearing on the case. On the 8th of September, 1885, Mr. Townsend, with others of the 'Corwin's' party, landed on Hall Island, in Bering's Sea (lat. about 60° 30' N., long. 173° W.), a small island lying just north of St. Matthew's Island. Although the greater portion of the day was consumed in the hunting of polar bears, a 1600 lb. specimen of which was shot and skinned, Mr. Townsend had time to get a small number of birds, two of which were *Plectrophenax hyperboreus*, one of them a young bird in first plumage, though full-grown, the other, an adult just moulted into the fall plumage, the moult in fact not quite complete. These specimens will be described in the current volume (Volume IX), of the 'Proceedings' of the U. S. National Museum. These birds were fairly abundant on the island, but much scattered, not having yet collected into flocks. Mr. Townsend regards it as very probable that on St. Matthew's Island, less than five miles to the southward, and many times larger than Hall Island (being, in fact, about thirty miles long, and mountainous), the species may have its centre of abundance. The occurrence of *P. hyperboreus* in winter at St. Michaels and at Nushagak, points on the Alaskan coast to the northeast and southeast, respectively, from St. Matthew's and Hall's Islands, and not at Point Barrow or other portions of northern Alaska, is thus accounted for. It is a very singular circumstance, however, that the Snowflakes breeding on the Prybilov Islands, only two hundred miles to the southward, are *P. nivalis*, as is attested by numerous specimens brought from St. Paul's and St. George's by Mr. Henry W. Elliott, and from Otter Island by Mr. Townsend. It would be