

GENERAL NOTES.

An Early Date of a Rare Bird in South Carolina.—I shot on October 15, 1889, at Mt. Pleasant, S. C., a young male Red-throated Diver (*Urinator lumme*). The bird was very shy, and it was with great difficulty that secured it. It was in good condition, and had apparently been in the neighborhood for some time, as it was seen several times at a distance, but it was mistaken for a Florida Cormorant. The Red-throated Diver is one of the rarest of the winter birds that visit South Carolina. During the severe winter of 1886 several were taken, but they have not been found here since. This early date of capture is certainly surprising, as they have only been seen for a few weeks in January.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Charleston, S. C.*

The Mottled Duck in Kansas.—In my 'Revised Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas' I entered this bird as the Florida Duck (*Anas fulvigula*). Mr. Sennett, in the July number of 'The Auk' for 1889, describes a new Duck from Texas, viz., Mottled Duck (*Anas maculosa*) to which, I find upon examination, the Kansas bird should be referred, instead of to the Florida Duck as given.—N. S. Goss, *Topeka, Kansas.*

Capture of the Widgeon (*Anas penelope*) on the James River, Virginia.—At Washington Market, New York City, on January 25, 1879, I saw a male Widgeon among a lot of American Ducks which had just been received from a gunner on the James River, Virginia, by a dealer who was positive that the Widgeon had been killed with the other Ducks, as he had never handled any foreign game. The specimen was exhibited, in the flesh, to the Linnæan Society of New York, and is now in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, New York. It is a young adult, and can be exactly matched in size and coloration from a series of Widgeons from Europe. Its fresh measurements were as follows: length, 495 mm.; alar expanse, 850 mm.; wing, 244 mm.; tail, 102 mm.; culmen, 35 mm.; tarsus, 39 mm.—EDGAR A. MEARN'S, M. D., *Fort Snelling, Minn.*

The King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) at Erie, Pennsylvania.—The great storm of Nov. 28 and 29, 1889, on the Great Lakes, brought into the Bay of Erie a flock of fifteen to twenty King Eider Ducks. They were seen about noon of Nov. 30 swimming in close to the Iron Ore Dock where numbers of men were at work unloading vessels. The hunters were soon down on the dock with guns and others put out in boats. So fearless or stupid were the Ducks that it was no trouble to shoot them, and at one discharge three were killed. Mr. James Thompson very kindly took two of the birds home with him and telephoned me that some very queer looking Ducks had been shot that day, placing at my disposal the pair he

had secured. The next day, Dec. 1, we went to the dock and to all the hunters we could get track of and captured all the specimens that had not already gotten into the pot. Out of fourteen that we could trace as having been killed, we were fortunate enough to obtain seven in good condition. The oldest hunters here do not remember to have seen any of the kind before. They call them Boobies, the same name they give to the Surf Ducks that are frequently taken here. No other Ducks were seen in the bay when the Eiders appeared. They are in all varieties of immature plumage, none appearing in anything like the breeding condition. The nearest approach to it was one male that showed pearl gray mixed with dark on top of head; he also had a distinct black V-shaped mark on the white throat. The other males had browner heads and fainter black V-shaped throat markings. Of the seven, six are males, and one a female in good typical plumage. I believe that none of this species has been recorded as taken on Lake Erie since 1879, when eighteen were shot at Buffalo, N. Y. (See note by J. A. Allen in Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club, Vol. V, p. 62.)—GEO. B. SENNETT, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

The Little Brown Crane (*Grus canadensis*) in Rhode Island.—Under date of Oct. 14, 1889, Mr. F. T. Jencks writes me: "I saw today at Mr. J. M. Southwick's natural history store in Providence a finely mounted specimen of the Little Brown Crane (*Grus canadensis*) which Mr. Southwick informed me was shot the 8th or 9th of October by Benjamin Burlingame, at Natick Hill, Rhode Island."

I have since learned from Mr. Southwick that the bird belongs to the Superintendent of Public Schools at Natick where it will be preserved in an educational collection. As far as I am aware this species has never previously been reported from any part of New England, although the Whooping and Sandhill Cranes are supposed to have occurred rather numerous in the early colonial days.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Baird's Sandpiper at New Haven, Connecticut.—On October 19, 1889, I took a male *Tringa bairdii* at New Haven, Conn. It was flying high over a sand spit running out into New Haven harbor, in a flock of about twenty other Sandpipers, of what species I am unable to say.

Another specimen of this species, a female in the young plumage, now in the collection of Mr. C. C. Trowbridge, New Haven, was shot at the same locality, Oct. 28, 1887. These make the second and third records * of Baird's Sandpiper for Connecticut.—LEWIS B. WOODRUFF, *New Haven, Conn.*

Callipepla squamata in Northeastern New Mexico.—During the month of October, 1889, I found the Scaled Partridge to be a not uncommon bird at a place called 'Point of Rocks,' about eight miles south of Chico Springs, Colfax Co., New Mexico. They are probably extremely local, as

*For the first record see Averill, Auk, VI, 189,