

female Ruff near here on May 6, 1892. I was wading a fresh water marsh, not more than a mile from town, after marsh birds in general, and while I was struggling through the mud, water and cat-tails, a Sand-piper passed behind me. It had apparently flushed from a patch of bare mud about twenty yards from where I then was, and I at once set it down as a Lesser Yellowlegs, both from its size and its flight. It uttered no cry. After circling around the further edges of the marsh, it turned and headed, straight as an arrow, to where I crouched, so that when shot it fell in the water within reach of where I stood. I identified it as a Ruff, and, to make sure, it was sent to Mr. Robert Ridgway who promptly confirmed the identity. The bird was in fair condition, somewhat below the average of our spring shore-birds in this respect, but not by any means poor. The ova were somewhat enlarged, the largest being about the size of No. 6 shot.—H. H. BRIMLEY, *Raleigh, North Carolina*.

Correction.—In my article on the Black-bellied Plover, on page 148 of 'The Auk' for April, 1892, speaking of the abundance of these birds in the neighborhood of Tuckernuck Island, Mass., it reads, "a flock of about twenty-five birds, which served as the nucleus, they continued to increase until six to eight hundred had collected, the average number in the spring for fifteen years previous being two to three hundred." It should read, "They continued to increase until about two or three hundred had collected. The average number in the spring for fifteen years previous being about one hundred." On page 143 it reads, "The adult female is rather smaller than the male." It should read, "The adult female is about same size as the male. These errors are entirely my own.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Lagopus lagopus in Maine.—A male Willow Ptarmigan in full winter plumage was shot at Kenduskeag, Maine (a village about eight miles from Bangor), on April 23, 1892. It was brought into this city to be mounted. The man who killed it reported that it showed little or no alarm at his approach, and in fact seemed quite as tame as a domestic fowl. This is, I believe, the first instance of this species being taken in Maine, and will therefore probably be of interest.—HARRY MERRILL, *Bangor, Maine*.

Occurrence of the Black Gyrfalcon in Rhode Island.—I beg to report the occurrence on November 22, 1891, of the Black Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus obsoletus*) on the little island of Conanicut near Newport, Rhode Island. The specimen secured was a female, in splendid black plumage. It was shot while perched on a haystack on Capt. Audley Clarke's farm, not far from Jamestown, which is a seaside town right opposite Newport on Conanicut Island in Narragansett Bay. The person who shot it