

The bird-dealer from whom Mr. Brown purchased this specimen told him it was one of a nest of four he procured in June, 1891, and the following December or January they all changed to the same color as the example just described. There are a number of recorded instances of black Robins,* but so far as I am aware melanism has not before been noticed in the Wood Thrush.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Water Birds at Nantucket, Massachusetts.—*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*.—May 1, 1892, I saw eight Herring Gulls, two of which were adults, the others young in the gray plumage, resting in the Hummuck Pond. They frequent the large ponds to rest, as do also the Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*).

Larus philadelphia.—At Tuckernuck and Nantucket Islands the first Bonaparte Gulls this spring appeared May 10, 1892, four or five pairs, during a heavy southeast rainstorm.

Sterna hirundo.—At Tuckernuck and Nantucket the first arrivals this spring of the Common Tern appeared May 10, 1892. They came in flocks of fifty or more, drifting sidewise before a heavy southeast rainstorm. They scaled around several times, screaming, before alighting.

Merganser serrator.—May 1, 1892, I saw about thirty Red-breasted Mergansers in the Hummuck Pond, and on May 4 there were still quite a number living there.

Anas americana.—Feb. 22, 1891, I saw two Baldpates and shot one, a young male, the stomach of which contained only a little white sand. In former years they used to be fairly abundant here, but are now rather scarce.

Aythya americana.—Feb. 22, 1891, I saw three male Redheads in full plumage which were shot from a flock of about forty. They had been frequenting Coskata Pond in the eastern part of the island. These Ducks were fairly numerous here in former years; a few are at times seen here during the winter.

Aythya marila nearctica.—May 1, 1892, I saw two flocks of American Scaup, about twenty-five in each flock; they were resting in the Hummuck Pond. They were probably the remainder of those which have been in this locality all winter, numbering fully five hundred. I saw several hundred of them in the same pond on Feb. 21. There have been more of these Ducks about the island during the winters of 1891 and 1892 than for many years. In times past they were abundant every year. I noted a good many more of them during the past autumn, winter and spring than in the previous year. They appear early in November and are mostly gone by May 1.

Aythya affinis.—Feb. 22, 1892.—I have not noted any of these Ducks here before. While shooting at the Hummuck Pond on the above date, a single Lesser Scaup came to the decoys and was secured. There were a number of *A. m. nearctica* in the pond at the time.

*Deane, Bull. N. O. C., I, 1876, p. 24; Coues, *ibid.*, III, 1878, p. 48; Barrows, Auk, I, 1884, p. 90; II, 1885, p. 303; Faxon, *ibid.*, III, 1886, p. 284.

Clangula hyemalis.—There have been a large number of Old-squaws frequenting most of the larger ponds on the Island this winter (1891-92),—in the Long Pond as many as seven or eight hundred,—also a large number in the Hummuck and Miacomet Ponds. They came in from the outside (Sound) before sunrise and went out again about sunset to roost at night in the Sound. While they frequent the ponds more or less every winter, nothing like the present numbers have been noted before. They preferred to submit to almost any amount of shooting at them rather than abandon the ponds where they had been living. Even on May 1, 1892, I noted as many as forty or fifty in each of the three ponds above mentioned.

Oidemia deglandi.—Feb. 20, 1891.—Off the entire north side of the island from Great Point to Muskeget Island where they had been living during the winter, I saw so many thousands of these Ducks, that for the first time in my life I gave up in despair at being unable to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion regarding their numbers. I will, however, state (for that I am certain of) that there were several hundreds of thousands. They remained until March 22, 1891. Nothing like such numbers has ever before been seen here. They were for the greater part, as far as my observation showed, immature birds. In November, 1890, some five or six hundred (estimated) frequented the Hummuck Pond until driven out by continual shooting at them. On Oct. 6, 1891, during a severe storm about four hundred came into the Hummuck Pond, and continued to frequent it, increasing to about fifteen hundred by Nov. 1, 1891. During the entire winter of 1892, there have been none to speak of living along the north shore of the island, and I account for it by their having eaten up all the shell-fish food last winter. In February, 1892, however, some thousand Scoters were in the habit of coming into the harbor in the early morning to pass the day, returning again to the Sound about half past three to four o'clock in the afternoon. Many of them were mated at this date.

Somateria dresseri.—April 2, 1892. The American Eiders which have been living off the north shore of this island departed last night. (Last year they left on March 28, 1891.) On the previous afternoon I saw one hundred and fifty (estimated). On the afternoon of May 1, 1892, I saw nine at the south side of the island, flying east.

Branta bernicla.—Dec. 12, 1891. While at the extreme western point of this island, I saw one flock of nine, one of fourteen, and one of three Brant. On Feb. 22, 1891, there were about forty living in the harbor, and about seventy-five more living at Muskeget Island. A few winter here in ordinary seasons.

Bartramia longicauda.—May 1, 1891, I saw in the western part of the island four Bartramian Sandpipers, and shot a pair of them, male and female. They were in beautiful plumage. I have reason to believe that a few of these birds breed regularly here every year, the nest, eggs and young having been taken. They also breed on Tuckernuck Island. When the nest is discovered the female exhibits much solicitude, hovering

in near proximity. One of the birds seen by me alighted on a rail fence, which I have frequently observed them do before. In May they will at times mount up into the air, say one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet, where they will quiver in nearly the same place and give vent to a song, or perhaps I might say a good clear whistle with a varied trill of three or four notes, lasting ten or twelve seconds. I have never known of their uttering it at any other season of the year than in the spring. At Essex, Mass., April 28, 1892, one of my friends saw one flying.

Tringa canutus.—Three Knots, the first noted this spring were seen on Tuckernuck Island, May 11, 1892. Three also were seen on the 27th. On the 28th I saw a full-plumaged adult flying, well up, towards the south; the wind was southwest, strong breeze.

Numenius hudsonicus.—A Hudsonian Curlew was seen on or about April 10, 1892 (I cannot fix the exact date), flying towards the west. It had probably been here for several days.

Charadrius squatarola.—During the northwest rain storm of May 19, 20, and 21, 1892, about one hundred and fifty Black-bellied Plover landed on Tuckernuck Island. By the 26th more than half of them had departed. The first one this spring was noted on the ninth of May in this locality. The birds in the vicinity of Tuckernuck have resorted to the uplands more than usual this year. The first one noted on Cape Cod was on April 20, 1892. It was alone, and was an adult male. No others were seen for several weeks after, but this one remained around undisturbed. This is the earliest date I have ever heard of.

Ægialitis meloda.—May 1, 1892, I saw one Piping Plover on the beach at the south head of the Hummock Pond. On March 29, 1891, I saw one at the same place.

Arenaria interpres.—May 1, 1892. There were four Turnstones in full adult plumage, standing on the rocks of the Western Jetty this morning. They are the first arrivals this season, and it is an unusually early date for them to appear. On May 27, 1891, I shot eleven at the west end of the island.

On Tuckernuck Island during the northeast rainstorm of May 19-21, 1892, about three hundred Turnstones landed. By the 26th about two thirds of them had departed. Strong southwest winds prevailed for the period after the 21st.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Brief Notes from Long Island.—The spring of 1892, peculiar in many respects, has brought a number of rare birds to Long Island. On May 16, at Parkville, Queens County, I secured a typical male of Brewster's Warbler (*Helminthophila leucobronchialis*). So far as I can find out, this form has never before been taken on Long Island, though found occasionally in New Jersey and the Hudson River valley. I had no opportunity to observe its habits, as it was migrating with other species in the tree tops, and I shot it at once for identity.

On April 30, in the same locality, I secured a male Hooded Warbler (*Sylvania mitrata*), and Mr. A. H. Helme, of Miller's Place, Suffolk