

It may be added that it seems a little singular not to find *Careba flaveola* Vieill. anywhere cited in Volume XI of the 'Catalogue.'—J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

Stray Notes from the vicinity of Muskeget Island, Massachusetts.—

Charadrius squatarola.—Tuckernuck Island, May 10, 1893. While in my stand today, which faced a large sand flat recently exposed by the retreating tide, I perceived Black-bellied Plover picking up some large worms which they held wriggling in their bills before swallowing. Never before having seen them eat such, I secured several for identification. They are locally known as 'cod worms,' and resemble a centipede, being flat to oval, their sides being fringed with legs. In color they vary from a blood red to a dirty brown. They are from four to six and a quarter inches long. These worms first make their appearance on the flats in shoal water during the latter part of March, and they disappear early in June. Mr. Samuel Henshaw of the Boston Society of Natural History has kindly identified them as *Nereis*, the clam worm of the fisherman.

Somateria dresseri.—Muskeget and Tuckernuck Islands, March 30 and 31, 1893. Almost all the American Eiders which have been living in these waters, and which I estimate at about six hundred, departed on these dates.

Ægialitis meloda.—While walking along the shore of Muskeget Island, March 26, 1893, I saw a Piping Plover and heard it whistle. On the 29th I saw two near where I saw the first. These dates are earlier than I have before remarked.

Tachycineta bicolor.—At Muskeget Island, March 26, 1893, I saw a White-bellied Swallow apparently flying due north on migration; it was at an elevation of about sixty feet.

Circus hudsonius.—Muskeget Island, March 26, 1893, I saw a Marsh Hawk in the red plumage, apparently flying on migration northward, at an elevation of about ninety feet.

Branta bernicla.—Muskeget and Tuckernuck Islands, March 26, 1893. I estimate the number of Brant living in these waters at this date at about six hundred. Two wing-tipped birds I have in confinement eat with avidity the alga *Ulva lactuca*. They also eat *Zostera marina*, preferring the white portion farthest from the extremity of the blade. They cut this up by chewing first on one side and then on the other of their mandibles which cuts the grass as clean as if scissors had been used. The motion reminds one strongly of a dog eating, the bird turning its head much in the same way. They are fond of whole corn and common grass. These confined birds drink after almost every mouthful from a pan of fresh water. The wild birds living in this neighborhood have no opportunity of obtaining fresh water.

Asio accipitrinus.—At Muskeget Island, March 27, 1893, I saw a Short-eared Owl, which appeared to be domiciled.

Numenius hudsonicus.—Nantucket Island, July 17, 1893. The first Jack Curlew were observed today. They were at the western extremity

of the island. Two birds were seen first, and soon afterwards twenty-two more. On the 23d two birds were seen towards the western, and twenty-four towards the eastern part of the island, and I lean to the opinion that they are the same birds noted on the 17th.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Notes on some Connecticut Birds.—*Erismatura rubida.*—On June 5, 1893, three adult Ruddy Ducks were killed here and brought to me. Two were males. The eggs in the female were larger than 'buck-shot.' The flock contained five individuals. I find no previous record of the species being found in our State at such a late date. Several of these Ducks have been taken at Seaconnet, R. I., in July (Miller, *Auk*, VIII, 1891, 118).

Ceophlœus pileatus — Through the kindness of Mr. Gurdon Trumbull I am able to record a recent capture of this rare Woodpecker. One was shot at Granby, Conn., Nov. 1, 1890, by Mr. Lewis S. Welch of Hartford. Mr. Trumbull saw the bird soon after it was mounted.

Empidonax pusillus traillii.—A male was killed at Norfolk, in the northwestern part of the State, June 20, 1893, by Mr. W. E. Treat. It was in low alders. Others were heard.

Vireo solitarius.—Mr. Treat found a nest at Norfolk, June 23, 1893, containing four fresh eggs. It was in a small hemlock and about six feet from the ground. The female was secured.

Turdus aonalaschkæ pallasii.—Two nests of the Hermit Thrush, each containing three fresh eggs, were taken at Norfolk, June 20 and 23, 1893, by Mr. Treat. He found this Thrush common there. I think the actual nesting date in Connecticut has not previously been recorded.—JNO. H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*

Connecticut Notes.—On August 24, 1893, after the severe storm which swept the Atlantic coast, I visited the West Haven shore in the hopes of finding some shore birds. I had gone but a short distance when I noticed a large Hawk in pursuit of some small bird, apparently a Sandpiper. As they passed within a few yards of me I shot the Hawk, which proved to be an American Goshawk in immature plumage.

The bird which he had pursued settled in the grass near the edge of a small pool. On walking to the spot I flushed and shot the bird which was a Northern Phalarope in high summer plumage. Both birds were in excellent condition, but neither had anything in the stomach.—A. H. VERRILL, *New Haven, Conn.*

Rare Birds near Baltimore, Maryland.—I wish to record the occurrence of several rare birds in the neighborhood of Baltimore during the past few years. As far as I can learn *Geothlypis philadelphia* and *Dendroica cærulea* have not been previously observed in this locality, and in the case of the latter the range of this species in summer is also considerably extended by the capture here of an adult and young in July.