

failed to find only a very few birds, although the grounds were extensive. Mr. Stone has shot over this ground for twenty-five years and this is the only year in his experience that no defined flight of Woodcock has been noted by him. From what I have learned I am of the belief that the flight in Massachusetts passed during the last few days in September and first few days in October.

Sterna tschegrava.—Cape Cod, Mass., Sept. 20, 1893. Two Caspian Terns recently came into my possession which were taken on or about the above date. Both birds proved to be females on dissection, one being an adult, the other immature.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Effect of the Great Cyclone of August 26-27 upon Certain Species of Birds.—The cyclone which devastated the coast of South Carolina was the most destructive which has ever been recorded. About 3 o'clock P. M., a Frigate Bird (*Fregata aquila*) was seen, and shot at twice but unfortunately was not secured. A few days after the cyclone I made a trip to Long Island, S. C., which lies east of Sullivan's Island, and saw and examined countless numbers of *Puffinus major* dead upon the beach. Only a single example of *Puffinus auduboni* was observed, while a great many *Pelecanus fuscus* were found strewn along the beach for miles. Royal Terns (*Sterna maxima*) were shot at Barnwell C. H., which is about eighty-five miles from the sea.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents are requested to write briefly and to the point. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.]

Popular vs. Scientific Ornithology.

EDITORS OF 'THE AUK':—

Dear Sirs,—Mr. Brewster's gentle admonition in 'The Auk' of October last (Vol. X, p. 365) seems to call for an explanation of my position. The reasons I turn more readily to a literary than to a scientific channel of expression are several, not to speak of the fact that I am naturally of literary rather than scientific proclivities. There is, first, my great desire to bring into the lives of others the delights to be found in the study of Nature, which necessitates the using of an unscientific publication, and a title that shall attract, even though it may, in a measure, "ambush" my subject.

Again, never having studied scientific ornithology, and having no time at present if I had the wish to do so, and, moreover, having an intense love of live birds, and an almost Buddhistic horror of having them killed, I must admit to feeling the least bit out of my element among those who—to put it mildly—feel otherwise. Let those who will spend their days killing, dissecting and classifying; I choose rather to give my time to the study of life, and to doing my small best toward preserving the tribes of the air from the utter extinction with which they are threatened.

And lastly, a confession: I should take pleasure in “sharing my discoveries” were I so happy as to make any; but to me everything is a discovery; each bird, on first sight, is a new creation; his manners and habits are a revelation, as fresh and as interesting to me as though they had never been observed before. How am I to tell what is an old story and what a new one? What to announce in a scientific journal, and what to proclaim with delight to my fellow ignoramuses?

I could study; I could learn? Doubtless; but that would take the enthusiasm out of my work. Could I enjoy and sympathize with the raptures of a little pair in feathers, if my mind was filled with doubts and queries as to their proper niche in the world of classification?—if I concerned myself about the number of their tail feathers, the exact shade of their plumage, or whether they were a species or a subspecies, and entitled to two or three Latin names?

No—forever no! Study these things who will. I study the beautiful, the living, the individual bird, and to my scientific confreres I leave his skin, his bones, and his place in the Temple of Fame.

OLIVE THORNE MILLER.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Nov. 7, 1893.

NOTES AND NEWS.

CHARLES SLOVER ALLEN, M. D., an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died in New York City on October 15, 1893, after a brief illness. Dr. Allen was born at New Bern, North Carolina, in 1855. After graduating with honors from Columbia College, New York City, he studied medicine under Dr. James B. Wood and obtained his degree of Doctor of Medicine from Bellevue Hospital. As the result of a competitive examination, in which he took the highest rank, he was appointed interne in the Charity Hospital on Blackevell's Island. At the completion of his term of service in this institution, he went abroad and continued his studies at Heidelberg.