

either—probably a branch from the early part of the Strigine stem.” The weight of authority, he admits, is directly opposed to this view; and he considerably adds, that “if the other characters are all against” his conclusions based on “a comparative study of the pterylography of the two groups as represented in North America,” they should be set aside. Mr. Clark is doing careful work in a useful field, but he hardly appears to realize that it is rather early to generalize on broad questions when, as in these two groups, and particularly in the Caprimulgi, so small a portion of the field has been covered by his investigations. It is well to have a good collection of facts before entering too freely into the field of speculation.—J. A. A.

**Verrill on Antarctic Birds.**<sup>1</sup>—This valuable paper is based upon the notes and collections of Mr. George Comer who, while on sealing voyages, visited South Georgia from October 9, 1885, to February 11, 1886; Kerguelen Island from November 24, 1887, to February 5, 1888; and Gough Island from August 22, 1888, to January 23, 1889. This long period gave Mr. Comer unequalled opportunities for observation and his notes on the breeding season are beyond comparison more detailed as to dates than any we have previously had from this region. Twenty species belonging to the following families are treated: Anatidæ, one; Rallidæ, one; Chionidæ, one; Diomedeidæ, four; Procellariidæ, four; Pelecanoididæ, one; Stercorariidæ, one; Laridæ, three; Sphenicidæ, four. Almost all of these are represented by skins and eggs. One, *Porphyriornis comeri*, a flightless Gallinule, common on Gough Island, has been made the type of a new genus by Dr. J. A. Allen<sup>2</sup>, while *Thalassogeron eximius*, an Albatross allied to *T. chlororhynchus* and *T. culminatus*, is here described as new and figured.

Mr. Comer reports two kinds of small sparrow-like birds from Gough Island and a third kind from Kerguelen Island, but unfortunately did not procure specimens of these, doubtless, undescribed species.

The paper, which concludes with extracts from Mr. Comer's journals, is a most important addition to our scanty knowledge of Antarctic birds.—F. M. C.

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<sup>1</sup> Notes on Birds and Eggs from the Islands of Gough, Kerguelen, and South Georgia. With two plates. By G. E. Verrill. Trans. Conn. Acad. IX, 2, Mch. 1895, pp. 430-478.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., IV, 1892, p. 57.

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## GENERAL NOTES.

**Brünnich's Murre near Johnstown, New York.**—I recently examined a specimen of Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*), that was taken about thirty miles north of this place. The bird seemed somewhat exhausted, and was captured alive.—DONALD FRASER, *Johnstown, N. Y.*

**Gavia alba on Long Island, N. Y.**—In the summer of 1893, Mr. John C. Knoess, taxidermist, of Riverhead, Long Island, called my attention to a "rare gull" which he had received and mounted January 5, 1893, for John Goldsworth of Sayville, Suffolk County, Long Island. From the