

The Canvas-back Duck in Massachusetts.—Four specimens of this species (*Aythya vallisneria*), two of each sex, were shot in Silver Lake, Pembroke, Plymouth County, Dec. 18, 1896, from the stand of Mr. Thomas Arnold of North Abington. I have seen a pair of them that he has had mounted. There were five in the flock. Mr. Arnold authorizes me to report this capture.

A single Canvas-back, a male, was seen by Mr. J. E. Bassett in Nippenickett Pond, Bridgewater, Nov. 26, 1896, accompanying two Dusky Ducks (*Anas obscura*). The three swam almost within gunshot of the stand, allowing a protracted scrutiny of them through a field glass, and another later in the day. Mr. B. has shot hundreds of Red-heads, and at once saw that this was a different bird, and described to me all the characteristics of *A. vallisneria* with perfect accuracy. These, with other reported occurrences, indicate a phenomenal flight of the species in Massachusetts in the late fall of 1896.—HERBERT K. JOB, *North Middleboro', Mass.*

Type Locality of *Fuligula collaris*.—It has sometimes happened in the annals of ornithology that a species has been discovered or first described from a locality remote from its subsequently ascertained normal range—I do not mean by mistake, such as that which originated *Picus cafer* for a Mexican bird, supposed to be South African, but from actual capture of an individual far from its proper habitat. We have a striking case of this happening to Barrow's Golden-eye, properly a North American bird, of only casual occurrence in the locality whence its name *islandica* is derived. In fact, the original appearance of this bird in print is as the *Clangula* of Brisson, Orn., 1760, VI, p. 416, pl. 37, fig. 2, where it is incontestably described and figured, along with a copious synonymy of the Common Golden-eye or Garrot, which Brisson thought he had in hand, though his bird was actually a Barrow's Golden-eye, in the Réaumur Cabinet. This is clear from the description of the white eye-spot, which Brisson says is "*versus synciput in acumen producta*"—runs up to the forehead in a point, and his plate shows the point plainly. Another case, which it is the object of this note to explain, is the original naming and describing of the Ring-necked Duck from a British-killed individual, far from its normal range, in one part of which, however, the bird had before been actually discovered. As is well-known, *Anas collaris* of Donovan was first named and published in 1809 (Brit. B. VI, pl. 147), upon a specimen taken in England (found fresh in Leadenhall Market, if my memory serves me rightly). But before that date, near the mouth of the Columbia River, this species was discovered by Lewis and Clark. It is described with unusual particularity by them, in the orig. ed. of Biddle's History of the Expedition, Vol. II, 1814, p. 195; but the description as then rendered was so mangled by the ostensible editor, Paul Allen, that it became almost unrecognizable, and it was not until I examined the explorers' original MSS. that what they meant was made clear: see my ed. of 1893, p. 888. The bird was killed by one of their men at Deer Island

in the Columbia, a little below the mouth of the Willamette, March 28, 1806; and the description in full is found in Codex Clark Q 81-83, Codex Lewis K 10. This is unmistakable. The bird is smaller than the duckinmallard (*Anas boscas*); head and neck purplish-black; belly and breast white; flanks of a pale dove-color with fine black specks; beak remarkably wide; . . . "a narrow stripe of white garnishes the base of the upper chop; this is succeeded by a pale sky-blue color, occupying about an inch, which again is succeeded by a transverse stripe of white, and the extremity is a fine black," etc. This is obviously diagnostic of *Fuligula collaris*, even though no mention is made of the orange-brown collar, which was either overlooked, or not developed in the specimen handled. I have of course set forth the case in my work as cited, but this note will serve to throw it into the current of ornithological literature, to which the celebrated History does not distinctively pertain. No question of nomenclature is raised; the matter is simply historical.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

Dafilula, a New Subgenus.—Type *Querquedula catoni* Sharpe, Ibis, 1875, p. 328, Kerguelen Island.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

The Lesser Snow Goose in New England.—I have lately added to my collection three New England specimens of the Lesser Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea*); one taken at Toddy Lake, Maine, October 4, 1893, by Mr. Alvah G. Dorr of Bucksport, Maine, another at Lake Umbagog, Maine, October 2, 1896, by Mr. Charles Douglass, the third at Ipswich, Massachusetts, October 26, 1896, by a local sportsman who sent the bird in the flesh to Mr. M. Abbott Frazar of Boston. The specimen first named was not sexed; the other two birds were males. All three are young in fresh autumnal plumage and all are perfectly typical examples of *hyperborea* which, evidently, is of much commoner occurrence in New England than the large form *nivalis*.

The Umbagog specimen was accompanied by a young Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) which was also killed, both birds coming into my possession less than an hour after their death.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Branta bernicla glaucogastra.—While I was in London in 1884 I examined with Mr. Seebohm his collection of Brant Geese, and was favorably impressed with his view that there are three recognizable forms, two of which occur in North America, though neither of these is the ordinary Brant of Europe. We have the two extremes of the White-bellied and Black-bellied, between which typical *B. bernicla* is intermediate. It is probably because we have only compared these extremes that we have found *B. nigricans* so decidedly different from what we call *B. bernicla*. The stock is one of the most thoroughly circumpolar of all birds, perhaps more decidedly hyperborean than any other excepting