

## GENERAL NOTES.

**Notes on the Egg of the Marbled Murrelet.** — While collecting this season off the Alaskan coast in the Prince of Wales Archipelago, it was my good fortune to take an egg of the Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), the first I believe that is known to science. My headquarters at that time were at the Indian village of Howkan, on Long Island, near the open end of Dixon's Entrance. The birds had been very abundant all winter and by May had taken on their rusty summer dress. Females taken at that time plainly indicated that they were about to nest, the ovaries containing eggs nearly formed. A careful watch failed to reveal any nesting sites and on inquiring of the Indians about it, they told me that they had always supposed the bird to breed high up on the mountains in hollow trees; one old fellow declared he had found the young in such places. As I had previously noticed the birds flying about high overhead at dusk I resolved to look into the matter, and spent many hours searching for them in the woods, but without success.

One day, the 23d of May, an Indian boy came to the cabin and wanted to borrow my 'scatter gun' to shoot ducks. I gave him the gun and some shells, I also asked him to bring me back some 'divers' if he could. He returned in the afternoon with four Marbled Murrelets and said, in Chinook, that "he thought one had an egg in it," and suiting the action to the word, squeezed the bird's abdomen, and before I could prevent it I heard the egg break between his fingers. On opening the bird I found the remains of a large clear green egg spotted with black and brown, which I patched up the best I could and sent to the Smithsonian Institution.

By a promise of a reward for eggs I soon had all the Indian boys of the place after them. Many of the birds they got had incomplete eggs in them and others had already laid, but I never secured another perfect specimen.

The birds were in the channels the entire summer, and on August 5 I noticed the first young in the immature white plumage, and by the middle of October the old birds had also assumed the winter dress. — GEO. G. CANTWELL, *Juneau, Alaska.*

[The above mentioned egg, kindly sent to the National Museum by Mr. Cantwell, measures about 2.48 inches (length) and 1.38 (width). In shape it is elongate ovate. The color is a greenish yellow, with brownish violet and dark brown spots, the latter being larger at the base. — W. L. RALPH.]

**Gull Dick.** — The American Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*), known as 'Gull Dick' (see Auk, Vol. IX, p. 227; Vol. X, p. 76;

Vol. XI, p. 73; Vol. XII, p. 76; Vol. XIII, p. 78), was observed for the last time in the vicinity of the Brenton Reef Light-ship on April 7, 1896, making twenty-four summers the bird had passed in this immediate locality. Captain Edward Fogarty, at present in charge of the ship, has known Dick for ten years.

The failure of this bird to put in an appearance as usual in October, 1896, and his continued absence ever since, leaves but little doubt that he is dead, as are all the captains of the Light-ship except the present incumbent, Captain Fogarty. Having recorded this bird's movements while alive for several years past in 'The Auk,' I now feel called upon to record his probable demise. — GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

**An Uncommon Gull in Massachusetts.** — On March 24, 1897, I received from Manomet, Plymouth, a specimen of the Glaucous Gull (*Larus glaucus*), shot several days before. It is in nearly full plumage, — creamy white all over, save for faint, indistinct markings of brownish on the wing-coverts and lower parts. — HERBERT K. JOB, *North Middleboro, Mass.*

**Leach's Petrel at Lancaster, N. H.** — October 1, 1897, a pair of Leach's Petrels (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) were seen on a small pond in this town; one of them was shot, and its skin is now in my possession. The bird was very fat, and it seems remarkable that it should be found here, at least 100 miles from the nearest coast. — F. B. SPAULDING, *Lancaster, N. H.*

**The Redhead (*Aythya americana*) in post-nuptial Plumage in Autumn.** — On November 10, 1896, I received from Walter I. Jackson of Havre-de-Grace, a male Redhead (*Aythya americana*) shot the day previous on the Susquehanna flats. This bird, for some reason, had failed to moult at the proper time, and appears in the old worn-out feathers characteristic of the post-nuptial period. All the feathers are very short, but those on the head and the tail-feathers show most abrasion, being reduced to less than one-half the usual length. Examination showed the bones perfect and the flesh normal, though without a particle of fat, indicating that the bird was not a 'crippler.' It was flying with the other ducks when shot. — F. C. KIRKWOOD, *Baltimore, Md.*

**The Glossy Ibis in Western New York.** — During the second week of October, 1897, J. W. Ware shot and killed a Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis autumnalis*) in the upper end of the harbor at Dunkirk, N. Y. I have examined the bird carefully and can vouch for its identity. It is an adult bird in excellent plumage, the chestnut and green being very pronounced. — H. D. KIRKOVER, JR., *Fredonia, N. Y.*