

it has a shorter wing and shorter tarsus, though its entire length is greater; it has also a square tail instead of a forked one. It measures seven inches and a half entire length; from the carpus to the end of the wing, five inches and three quarters; tarsus, three-quarters of an inch. I have called it *Thalassidroma castro*, as I am not aware that it has ever been described before." (A Sketch of Madeira, 1851, 123.) The specific name is derived from that of "*Roque de Castro*," given by the natives. The type locality is the Desertas Islands, near Madeira. — CHAS. W. RICHMOND, *Washington, D. C.*

Pelecanus occidentalis vs. P. fuscus. — Although "*Pelecanus fuscus*," credited to Linnæus, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1766, 215, has stood in our 'Check-List' since 1886, a glance at the first-mentioned work will convince any one that Linnæus used no such name. He divides *Pelecanus onocrotalus* into two varieties, α . *orientalis*, and β . *occidentalis*; under the latter are cited the "*Onocrotalus s. Pelecanus fuscus*" of Sloane's 'Jamaica,' the "*Onocrotalus americanus*" of Edwards, the "*Pelecanus subfuscus, gula distensili*" of Brown's 'Jamaica,' etc. The habitat of β is given as "America," and the references belong mainly to the Brown Pelican of Eastern North America. Varietal names, as used by Linnæus, were italicized and designated by a Greek letter instead of a separate number, but all such names were binomial marginal ones, and ought to be recognized. If ornithologists accept this view our Brown Pelican should stand as *Pelecanus occidentalis*; otherwise the *P. fuscus* of the 'Check-List' must be credited to Gmelin. — CHAS. W. RICHMOND, *Washington D. C.*

Old Squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) in Indiana. — A few records have been given of individuals taken in the State, and in all instances they were probably blown inland by severe storms off Lake Michigan, where they are usually abundant in the winter season.

On Feb. 12, 1899, during intensely cold weather, a flock of thirteen was killed at English Lake, Ind., some thirty-five miles directly south of Lake Michigan. There was no open water, except a small space, some thirty yards square, where the ice had been cut and taken out for storing, and here the flock suddenly alighted. They were evidently in an exhausted condition, hunting for open water, as they paid no attention to twenty or thirty men working around the hole and floating out the ice, and only dove when struck at with pike poles. A gun was soon procured, and the whole flock dispatched, and a male specimen was sent to me. The following morning, February 13, three more Ducks of this species attempted to alight in the same hole, which had been kept open by the ice cutters, but a hungry Bald Eagle, who has a nest a half mile distant, stooped to them, without success however, and they continued a hurried flight over the frozen marshes.

I have never known of a specimen taken before on the Kankakee Marshes. As they do not appear in any numbers at the southern end of Lake Michigan until early in December, an unusually early record is one killed at Calumet Heights, Ind., near the lake shore, on Oct. 29, 1898, by Dr. A. W. Harlan. — RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

White-winged Scoters (*Oidemia deglandi*).—I am informed that a large flight of adult White-winged Scoters going south was seen at Cohasset, Massachusetts, Oct. 2, 1898. The birds were flying high, with a gentle southeast wind. A dense fog in the afternoon prevented them from being seen, up to which time the flight continued.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Gallinago major versus Gallinago media.—In 'The Auk,' for April, 1897, Dr. Coues sets forth the proper claims of the Greater Snipe to a place in the A. O. U. Check-List, to which it has accordingly been admitted by the Committee (Auk, Jan., 1899, XVI, 105), under the name *Gallinago major* (Gmelin). But as Dr. Coues himself admits, *major* is not the earliest name for the species; yet in spite of this he urges its adoption,—a clear violation of the law of priority. *Scolopax media* Frisch (Vorst. Vög. Deutschl., 1763, pl. 228) as also *Gallinago media* Gerini (Orn. Meth. Dig., 1773, IV, 59, pl. cdxlvi) seem to apply to this bird, and although I have not been able to verify these references, there is apparently no valid reason for rejecting the specific name they impose. Even should this not be so, *media* must still be used for the species, since *Scolopax media* Latham, Gen. Syn. Suppl., 1787, I, 292, is of undoubted pertinence, and antedates *Scolopax major* Gmelin by one year. — HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington D. C.*

Sexual Difference in Size of the Pectoral Sandpiper (*Tringa maculata*).—I have for a number of summers noticed that the local shore bird gunners at Newport and Jamestown, R. I., speak of two sizes of Pectoral Sandpipers or, as they call the bird, Kreikers. They go so far as not only to say this is a big or little Kreiker after the bird is in hand, but say here comes a big or little one as the bird is seen flying toward the blind. I have just examined a large series, fifty specimens, from throughout the range of the species including both spring and autumn birds, in regard to this point of size and find that twenty-five females average: Wing, 4.95; tarsus, 1.05; and bill, 1.07; and twenty-five males: Wing, 5.45; tarsus, 1.11; bill, 1.12; or, that in the males the wing averages .50, the tarsus, .06, and the bill .05 larger than in the females. Mr. H. B. Bigelow, who has taken a great number of these birds, calls my attention to the fact that the little and big, that is females and males, flock together and that the little birds always appear in the autumn a week or so before the big ones; the latter has not been my experience. I cannot find a manual