

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

that mentions any difference in the size of the sexes of this species and therefore believe it worthy of note.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR.,
Longwood, Mass.

The 1898 Migration of the Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*) and Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) in Massachusetts.—I have little to communicate this year regarding the movements of these birds going south. Their scarcity here for a number of years past is most discouraging. During the migrating period weather favorable for their landing occurred several times, notwithstanding which only scattering birds have been noted. Personally I have not seen any flying. As far as I am aware the first Golden Plovers seen on Nantucket this season were four birds on August 12. On August 18, a flock containing about twenty-five birds, was reported to have been seen, two of which were said to be Eskimo Curlews. (As far as I know these two birds were the only ones seen during the entire season.) On August 28, three Golden Plovers were seen at the extreme west end of Nantucket Island, one of which was killed. On September 1, twelve were seen flying south on migration; on September 12, wind northeast and cold, a flock of Plovers estimated to contain sixty birds, were said to have been seen at the north side of Nantucket. On this same date eleven Plovers were killed from a flock of sixteen on Tuckernuck Island. These birds were sent to me; ten of them were young, the other was an adult. On September 15 seven young Plovers were seen at the eastern end of Nantucket, two of which were shot. On September 16, thirteen young birds were shot at the eastern end of the island. On Marthas Vineyard I have heard of but two Plovers being taken, one a young bird too emaciated to eat; no Eskimo Curlew seen. I have made enquiry of several of the large game dealers in Faneuil Hall Market, Boston, and have only learned of a stray Golden Plover or so, and not any Eskimo Curlew. The spring shooting of both these birds in the West, as also of the Bartramian Sandpipers, is to be greatly deplored.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Hybrid Grouse.—A hybrid *Dendragapus obscurus fuliginosus* × *Phasianus torquatus* was recently shot near this city and is at present on exhibition in one of the local gun stores. I could gain very little information as to the history of the specimen, save that it was alone, and was regarded as a freak, of more or less common occurrence. The bird was evidently a young male of the year, and had just begun to take on the fall garb, traces of which show through the young plumage. Above the bird shows the Grouse parentage more strongly than the Pheasant, the plumage being slaty black, somewhat barred with gray and buffy. Tail slaty, central feathers mottled, and lateral more or less edged with grayish brown. Central rectrices tipped with same. The tail is longer than in *Dendragapus*, and the central feathers show some tendency to extend