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Sub-committee on Laws.

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GENERAL NOTES.

The Paroquet Auklet in California.—In the collection of the California Academy of Sciences there are five specimens of *Cyclorhynchus psittaculus* from the bay and ocean at San Francisco. Three of these were captured by Dr. John Hornung—a male, Jan. 10, 1895, and a male and female, Jan. 8, 1899. The remaining two specimens (a male and female) were secured by Mr. William J. Hackmeier, Dec. 17, 1899. The white feathers behind the eyes are well developed in the three January specimens. So far as I am aware this species has not been recorded from California waters.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.*

On the Southern Limit of the Winter Range of Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*).—In the first edition of the A. O. U. Check-List the habitat of *Larus philadelphia* is given as follows: "Whole of North America, breeding mostly north of the United States; south in winter to Mexico and Central America." In the second edition the closing clause is omitted and the following substituted: "Not yet recorded from south of the United States, though reported from the Bermudas."

Nevertheless, it has long been a matter of record (Lawrence, *vide* Grayson, Mem. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. II, 1874, p. 317) that this species occurs at least as far south as Mazatlan, Sinaloa. A recent instance of occurrence is not lacking to confirm this record, there being in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences three specimens from

Mazatlan taken by Mr. P. O. Simons in December, 1896. — LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.*

Mother Carey's Chicken. — Knowing that the Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) migrates for the breeding season, through the autumn until March perhaps, to the South Atlantic, I was interested to note during my return voyage from Liverpool—November 17, I think it was—in mid-Atlantic, that the familiar Petrels which I had hitherto seen only solitary or unattached, were now flying in flocks of two dozen or so. The bird seemed to be the Mother Carey's Chicken of our New England summer coast waters, but did not appear singly. I could detect no special southward movement, but the ship might well have interrupted this course among birds which fly so low. It might be interesting to add my observation, that both in August and in November, the only other bird which might be met with at any hour of the voyage from landfall to landfall was a Shearwater, presumably *Puffinus major*.

If anyone has observations counter to this last I should gladly hear of them.—REGINALD C. ROBBINS, *Boston, Mass.*

The Yellow-billed Tropic Bird in the Hawaiian Islands. — This Tropic Bird (*Phaëton americanus*) or 'Kooi,' as the natives call it, is rather common upon the windward side of the island of Hawaii where it breeds in holes in the cliffs. I have secured three specimens and have seen many more. So far it is the only Tropic Bird I have been able to discover on Hawaii, although there is little reason to doubt that both *P. athereus* and *P. rubricauda* occur, at least casually. None of the present day natives of Hawaii whom I have questioned appear to know anything of the Red-tailed Tropic Bird, although Mr. Wilson states that he shot several specimens of this species in the caldera of Kilauea. Both Kauai and Niihau are inhabited by *P. rubricauda*, while, according to Wilson, Mr. Perkins found *P. athereus* breeding in the cliffs about Honolulu. It thus appears that the Hawaiian Islands are unusually favored in having three resident species of Tropic Birds. — H. W. HENSHAW, *Hilo, Hawaii.*

The Old Squaw at San Francisco. — A female *Harelda hyemalis* (No. 12892, Calif. Acad. Sci.) was taken by Dr. John Hornung at San Francisco, December 26, 1898. Notices of the occurrence of this duck in California are so few as to render an additional capture worthy of note. — LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.*

The Emperor Goose in the Interior of California. — In the fall of 1895, Mr. Lyman Belding presented to the California Academy of Sciences an immature specimen of *Philacle canagica*, which had been shot by a market hunter on November 1 of that year near Gridley, in Butte County, on Butte Creek, a tributary of the Sacramento River.