

Early Occurrence of the Black Scoter in Maryland and Virginia.—On Aug. 26, 1900, I came across a male and four females of the Black Scoter just inside the surf at Gargathy Inlet, Accomac County, Virginia. They were quite tame and allowed of close approach. On being flushed they flew outside the breakers and pitched. On Aug. 29 I reached Ocean City, Maryland, and saw 20 in a bunch just outside the surf. Capt. Christopher Ludlam, a most careful observer, told me that he had first observed them at this point on Aug. 27, when a bunch of about 100 were just outside the surf. On Aug. 30 I saw a bunch of about 20, and possibly the same bunch of about 20 on the 31st. These were carefully observed through a strong field glass, so the identity is assured.—F. O. KIRKWOOD, *Baltimore, Md.*

The Purple Gallinule in Massachusetts in the Breeding Season.—In August, 1899, I saw at the farm of Mr. A. J. Severance in Rowley, Mass., a mounted specimen of the Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*). The bird was caught in June, 1897, by a cat at a pond in the adjoining town of Boxford. Another bird, supposed to be of the same species and the mate, was seen at the pond. This appears to be the second record of the occurrence of *Ionornis martinica* in Essex county, the specimen previously noted being preserved in the collection of the Peabody Academy of Science at Salem.

Another hitherto unpublished record of *Ionornis martinica* in Massachusetts is that of a beautiful specimen which I saw in the flesh in April, 1890, at the stall of W. W. Palmer, Faneuil Hall Market, Boston. The bird had been caught in a muskrat trap at Chatham.—J. A. FARLEY, *Malden, Mass.*

Occurrence of Baird's Sandpiper in Sussex, England.—An immature female of *Heteropygia bairdi* (Coues) was shot by Mr. Michael J. Nicoll, on the shingle to the west of Rye Harbor, on the 11th of November, 1900. The bird was seen in the flesh by the present writer on the day following, and upon examination it soon became obvious that it was a stranger. Upon being submitted to Mr. Ernst Hartet, the accomplished ornithologist of Tring Museum, it was pronounced to belong to the above species. Baird's Sandpiper is not known to have previously occurred in the British Islands. The specimen was exhibited by Mr. Hartet at a meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club, on 21st Nov., 1900. (Bull. B. O. C., Vol. XI., p. 27).

It may be added that Mr. Nicoll's curiosity was aroused by the strange cry and flight of the bird. He states that when approached it flew some distance, and then, after rising, it suddenly dropped to the ground.—W. RUSKIN BUTTERFIELD, 4, *Stanhope Place, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, England.*

Ruffed Grouse in Snow.—From records in the snow I have come to the possibly trite conclusion that the Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*),