

come into my possession, and as the species is of comparative rarity on the Pacific coast, its occurrence at San Diego seems worthy of record. The three birds are in juvenal plumage, with a few feathers of the first winter dress beginning to appear, and were obtained, a male and a female October 7, and a female October 9, 1903. — JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR., M.D., *New York City*.

**A Sanderling with Hind Toes.** — On September 11, 1903, I obtained from a gunner at Ipswich, Mass., a Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*) which had rudimentary hind toes. The bird was one of eleven shot in my presence out of a passing flock. None of the other birds secured had this peculiarity. The hind toes are only about .05 of an inch in length and have no claws but they were very noticeable in the fresh bird and are equally so in the skin, which is now in the collection of Dr. Charles W. Townsend of Boston. I suppose this to be a case of reversion, as the ancestors of the Sanderling were doubtless four-toed sandpipers. — FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *Boston, Mass.*

**Black-bellied Plover and Hudsonian Godwit on Long Island, N. Y.** — On July 1, 1903, while walking along the beach at Quogue, Long Island, I shot a young Black-bellied Plover (*Charadrius squatarola*). It was quite tame but in good condition. None have been taken here before July 20, and they do not occur regularly until later.

On August 31, a flight of Hudsonian Godwits (*Limosa hæmastica*) occurred. Many gunners shot a dozen or more. Such a flight of these rare birds has not taken place within the memory of the oldest gunners, and they will probably not come again after their warm reception. — T. W. KOBBE, *New York City*.

**The Ani in Florida.** — Mr. Thomas Barbour has sent me an Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) which he shot in Brevard County, Fla., during the winter of 1901. The bird was taken in either February, March or April; the exact date was lost. — REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Concord, Mass.*

**The Pileated Woodpecker in the District of Columbia.** — On the 21st of November, 1903, while hunting in a piece of woods adjacent to Mt. Pleasant, a local name for a suburb lying just north of Washington, Mr. H. J. Saers of this city secured a fine male specimen of *Ceophlæus pileatus*. Subsequently it was learned through Mr. H. C. Oberholser that Mr. F. H. Kent of the Biological Survey had seen an individual of this species, presumably the same bird, in approximately the same locality, on the 8th of last August.

The capture of this wild, forest-loving bird so close to Washington is a matter of considerable interest to local ornithologists, as it is somewhat doubtful that this species has actually occurred within the limits of the District, during the last forty-five years. Drs. Coues and Prentiss, in

'Avifauna Columbiana,' state (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 26, 1883, p. 81): "It was rare in 1862, having already responded . . . to the encroachment of the city upon its favorite haunts. . . . The only one we remember to have ever seen alive was in a piece of heavy timber known as 'Gales' Woods'; but that was about 1857 or 1858." They state further: "Mr. Shoemaker informs us that one was seen a year or two ago," which was in 1881 or 1882. As there was no locality given with this last record, it is somewhat difficult to say whether the bird recorded was seen within the District or in the surrounding country, as the authors in listing the rarer species, frequently gave records for the vicinity as well. However, giving the record the benefit of the doubt, it is quite safe to assert that until the bird forming the subject of this note made its appearance, the species had not been observed for the past 21 or 22 years.—GEORGE W. H. SOELNER, *Washington, D. C.*

*Empidonax griseus* Brewst. = *E. canescens* Salv. & Godm.—In the 'Biologia,' II, p. 79, March, 1889, Salvin and Godman described *Empidonax canescens* from specimens taken at Mexicalcingo and various other places near the City of Mexico.

In 'The Auk' for April of the same year (p. 87), Mr. Brewster described *Empidonax griseus* from specimens taken at La Paz, Lower California.

The Biological Survey Collection contains specimens of *canescens* from near the type locality in the Valley of Mexico which have recently been compared with the type by Dr. Sharpe and his assistant, Mr. Chubb, of the British Museum, and pronounced to be identical with it.

Before these specimens were sent for comparison with the type of *canescens* they were compared by Mr. Brewster with the type of *griseus* and pronounced to be indistinguishable. It follows, therefore, that *griseus* and *canescens* apply to the same bird, and the latter name has a month's priority.

The range of *E. canescens* extends from southern Puebla through the Valley of Mexico northwesterly to southern Sonora, and from Cape St. Lucas north through Lower California into southern California.—E. W. NELSON, *Biological Survey, Washington D. C.*

**A Preoccupied Generic Name.**—Mr. G. E. Shelley in Vol. III of his 'Birds of Africa' (London, 1902) finds a new genus *Botha* (to Louis Botha) for a new species of Lark from the Orange River Colony,—*Botha difficilis*. Nearly a century ago Rafinesque (Caratteri di Alcuni Nuovi Generi, etc., 1810, p. 23) proposed the generic name *Bothus* for flounders allied to the European turbot (*Pleuronectes*). As these two terms (*Bothus* and *Botha*) are practically almost identical, it would be better to drop *Botha* and take for this Lark another generic name, for instance *Dewetia* (to Christian De Wet, another gallant Oranjestaat chief).—S. A. BUTURLIN, *Wesenberg, Esthonia, Russia.*