

Bird Notes from Shelter Island, Long Island, N. Y.—**LESSER SCAUP DUCK** (*Aythya affinis*).—This duck has been noted in this vicinity several times in midsummer. A specimen was shot by a friend of mine on Aug. 18 of last year (1903). A pair were seen by Dr. Braislin and myself at Napeague Harbor on June 20, 1902. None of these were crippled birds, and all possessed normal powers of flight, so that their failure to migrate with their fellows was surely owing to no physical disability.

WILSON'S WARBLER (*Wilsonia pusilla*).—A specimen was taken on August 22, 1903,—the earliest I have ever observed it in the autumnal migration.

WATER THRUSHES (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) arrived on the same date as the last.

WILLET (*Symphemia semipalmata*).—A single specimen was taken Aug. 22. This bird has become very rare in this vicinity of late years.

MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis trichas*).—A fine male of this species was noted and watched for some time on November 13, 1903. His late stay was owing, no doubt, to the congenial surroundings, formed by a thick growth of a species of wild honeysuckle, covering the ground and low bushes in a sheltered spot, remaining green late in the winter, and containing many warm and sunny sheltered nooks.

PINE GROSBEAK (*Pinicola enucleator*).—A few of these rare visitors from the north have been about this winter. A single one was seen November 28, 1903. I received a pair to mount, shot on Dec. 22, the male in the full red-washed plumage, the female gray. They were found feeding around a garbage heap near the back door of a dwelling house, and were very tame. Two more were seen near the same place, but not taken, on January 3, 1904.

HERMIT THRUSH (*Hylocichla guttata pallasii*).—Very scarce during their usual migration dates. For some unaccountable reason their movements to the south seem to have been postponed so long that, by the advent of severe weather, many of them came to grief. A single specimen was noted on Nov. 13, 1903; next seen on Dec. 26, and again on Dec. 31. The weather was then very cold, the ground covered with snow, and the specimens were in an emaciated condition. The last chapter in the tragedy was revealed by a specimen found under the edge of a sheltering embankment, frozen to death, on January 5, 1904. The ground was then covered with snow, about a foot deep on the level, and traveling was very hard, so that I covered only a small section of country during my observations, but, judging by the several instances in which I noted the birds, many hundreds must have perished, in the aggregate.—**WILLIS W. WORTHINGTON**, *Shelter Island Heights, N. Y.*

Notes Concerning Certain Birds of Long Island, N. Y.—**Puffinus borealis**. Mr. Andrew Chichester shot two birds (♂ and ♀) of this species on the ocean some distance off Fire Island Inlet, on Oct. 4, 1902, and sent them to me in the flesh.

Cathartes aura. Mr. Robt. Peavey, who killed the two specimens of

this species before recorded by me, shot two additional specimens, one of which he has presented to the Museum of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

Anas obscura rubripes. Soon after the publication of Mr. William Brewster's description of this newly defined subspecies I made inquiries regarding the presence of a Black Duck on Long Island answering the description of *rubripes*. I found that the difference in external characteristics was sufficient to have attracted the notice of certain sportsmen and baymen. Mr. Brewster found that the red-legged form is well known to baymen in Massachusetts and that it is regarded by them as a distinct variety of the Black Duck. I find substantially the same facts to apply on Long Island. In answer to my request, from one of whom I had made inquiries, that specimens of this variety of Black Duck be furnished me, I received a few days later two fine specimens answering in every respect to Mr. Brewster's description. This subspecies is, therefore, herewith definitely recorded for Long Island.

Anas penelope. A specimen of the European Widgeon was killed on Gardiner's Island, Feb. 5, 1902, by Hiram Miller, of Springs. The capture of this bird was reported to me by Mr. Ivan C. Byram, a taxidermist of Sag Harbor, who mounted the bird and who identified it. To meet the question of possible error in identification I requested and received from Mr. Miller the following description: "Wing patch green; longer wing feathers and tail dark brown; head and neck chestnut shading to buff on forehead; breast gray shading to white belly; under tail-coverts black; legs and feet dusky lead." He adds: "There was another killed the autumn before I killed mine here, and another this autumn here." He states that the specimen in question was killed from a large flock of Baldpates.

Aythya vallisneria. The Canvas-back is sufficiently rare on Long Island to be worthy of record. It is perhaps unnecessary to say that the not infrequent reports of large flocks of Canvas-backs on Long Island sent from gunning resorts to the daily press, with the evident desire of attracting the city sportsmen thither, may safely be set down to the presence of its near relative, the Red-head. I have never interrogated a reliable Long Island gunner, bayman or guide, who had ever observed a flock of any considerable number of Canvas-backs on Long Island. Abundant as this bird is on the Chesapeake, its rarity on Long Island is very firmly established. Mr. Andrew Chichester, a veteran gunner of Amityville, sent me a pair (♂ and ♀) of fine, fresh birds shot by his son Arthur at that place, March, 1903.

Chen hyperborea nivalis. A Goose (♀ im.) sent in the flesh, by Mr. Ivan C. Byram of Sag Harbor, was shot Nov. 18, 1903, at Noyac, a hamlet three miles west of Sag Harbor, by Cornelius Bennett. I refer the bird to *C. hyperborea nivalis*, since it more nearly approaches the description of the immature of this species than that of *C. caerulescens* in the same stage of plumage.

As the bird represents an interesting phase of plumage the following details are given: Top of head and back of neck slaty black shading to lighter on sides and in front except some of the feathers of the fore neck which are dark like the former. The tips of some of the (new) dark feathers of this region are whitish. Back, grayish blue, the tips of these broad feathers edged with gray. Lower back and rump and upper tail-coverts white. Wing-coverts grayish blue to fuscous and edged with white. Tail fuscous gray, edged broadly with white. Chin, sides of head, neck, breast and belly washed with bright ochraceous buff, most deeply so on the head. Length, 29.50; wing, 16.25; tail, 5.50; bill, 2.50; tarsus, 3.12.

Crymophilus fulicarius. Three Red Phalaropes (females) which struck the Montauk Point Light were picked up at the foot of the tower, Nov. 27, 1902, by Capt. James J. Scott, the Keeper of the Lighthouse, and kindly forwarded to me.

Numenius borealis. A bird of this species (♂) was shot at Rockaway Beach Sept. 14, 1902, by Mr. Robt. L. Peavey of Brooklyn and is now in his collection of mounted birds, and has been examined by the writer. Mr. W. F. Hendrickson in a recent communication to Mr. William Dutcher referred to a strange bird which was shot from a flock of about fifteen as they were passing along the beach, near Zach's Inlet Life Saving Station on August 29, 1903. From the description furnished Mr. Dutcher was inclined to believe the bird one of this species and referred the matter to me for investigation. The captain of the life saving crew, Philip K. Chichester, who saw the bird, is certain the bird was an "English Fute," that is, an Eskimo Curlew. The life-saver is an old-time gunner who in former times saw the bird in much greater numbers than it is now known to occur anywhere. There seems to me no reasonable doubt that this bird, which unfortunately was promptly plucked and eaten, was also a specimen of the Eskimo Curlew.

Sturnus vulgaris. As a fulfillment of predictions that the Starling would gradually widen its range on Long Island, it is perhaps worth while to note that a specimen has been taken as far east as Hicksville. Mr. Lott, a taxidermist of Freeport, informed me that a bird strange to him had been sent for mounting, with a report that it had been shot at Hicksville. On examining the specimen I found it to be a Starling.—
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British Columbia Notes.—The following records were made at Comox, Vancouver Island, B. C., during the latter part of 1903 and early part of 1904.

Larus barrovianus. POINT BARROW GULL.—I shot an immature specimen of this gull in Comox bay, on the 15th December, the first record for the Province.

Sterna hirundo. COMMON TERN. Two adults taken on the 24th September by Lieutenant E. N. Carver, R. N.

Branta bernicla. BRANT.—On the 13th December I noticed a bunch of