

GENERAL NOTES.

The Dovekie in Maine in Summer.— On July 15, 1911, while Mr. G. Gilbert Pearson and the writer were taking passage, with a local fisherman, from Machias Seal Island, which is about twelve miles south from Cutler, Maine, when about half way between the Seal Island and Cross Island, Me., or about six miles from either point, we came upon a pair of Dovekies (*Alle alle*) swimming in close company. We found them in one of the eddies of the numerous tide rips, caused by the tidal currents of the Bay of Fundy.

They proved to be a male and female in an interesting stage of plumage. The head, neck, underparts, interscapular region, and tertials of the male were of the nuptial plumage, the neck entirely around being uniformly velvety, sooty brown. The rump and tail were of the winter plumage, faded grayish, and worn. The wings were much worn, some of the primaries with bare shafts for half their length.

The female was similar, except that the winter plumage remained over the entire back behind (caudad) the scapular region; the rectrices had been renewed. The throat and sides of the neck, at the place of the winter half-collar of white, were well sprinkled with white.

Though two leading manuals make no distinction between the sexes, this last feature had the appearance of a sex character, and the female was noticeably smaller than the male.

Though the birds were in fair bodily condition and had not been crippled they showed no indication of breeding, and it is doubtful if they could have flown.

I am told by Capt. Merton Tolman, until recently keeper of Matinicus Rock light station, a man whose word in such a matter is not to be doubted, that during the summer of 1910, one of these birds was frequently seen near Matinicus Rock.

So far as known to me, these are the only instances recorded, of the verified occurrence of the bird in summer south of Newfoundland. (Cf. Townsend and Allen, Proc. Boston Soc. N. H., XXXIII, p. 309.)—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Portland, Me.*

The Greater Shearwater on the Coast of Georgia.— On June 11, 1911, I found a dead bird on the beach at Tybee in an advanced state of decomposition. The head only was saved and has been identified by Prof. W. W. Cooke as the Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus major*). As this is the first record of the species in this State he suggests my sending the record for publication in 'The Auk.'

It may be of interest, too, to note a second breeding record of the Savannah Sparrow on Tybee Island. The locality was about half a mile from the nest recorded last year (Auk, XXVII, p. 458), and, as in that case,