

specimens of *B. l. lineatus* from Connecticut, having the chest and breast uniform bright cinnamon rufous and the abdomen, tibiae and lower tail-coverts bright buff heavily barred with cinnamon rufous. They are larger than *B. l. alleni* from Florida and have the head and neck not grayish but even more rufous than *lineatus*.

Six young birds collected at the same time differ from the description of young *B. l. elegans* by having the pale spaces on the outer webs of the primaries as large as in *B. l. lineatus*. From the latter they differ by having the lower parts, especially the tibiae, more buffy and the dark markings larger — sagittate or cuneiform instead of oval — and numerous even on the tibiae, which are slightly if at all spotted in *B. l. lineatus*. Young *B. l. alleni* is smaller and has less buff in the plumage, and the dark markings below are even heavier than in the Texas race.

GENERAL NOTES.

Holboell's Grebe in Connecticut.— An unusual flight of *Colymbus holboelli* was noticed here during the month of February, 1912. A specimen was picked up alive in a mowing lot, perhaps two miles from the Connecticut river, on the 9th, the ground at the time being covered with snow and the thermometer near the zero point. The bird could not, apparently, arise from the ground. From the 12th to the 15th, inclusive, nine of these grebes were captured alive on the ice in the Connecticut river. Some of them in trying to escape simply moved along the ice in a rapid manner using their feet for power, but making no attempt to fly. Two of them, however, arose from the ice and flew at a height of from eight inches to two feet for a short distance and then dropped down. Between the dates referred to the river was entirely covered with ice, there being, so far as could be seen, no open water where the birds could obtain food.—JNO. H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*

The Forked-tailed Gull (*Xema furcatum*).— Recently in looking over some notes taken at sea a number of years ago (1885) and which had been forgotten I came across the following in relation to the Forked-tailed Gull.

In making a passage from Callao, Peru, to Acapulco, Mexico, we passed in sight of Chatham, one of the Galapagos Islands. When three to four hundred miles distant from the island — both when approaching and when

leaving it — I observed gulls with a forked tail. Their line of flight was always in the direction of the islands — in the evening going to and in the morning going away from them. Morning and evening for three days I saw them.

I sat on deck with gun in hand for parts of the three days trying to procure a specimen of these birds. Twice they came near enough to tempt me to risk a shot; but in both instances the distance was too great for success. One of the birds shot at dropped its feet and shook its feathers as if it were hit.

They were so well marked that I do not think I could have been mistaken in my identification — a forked-tail, a black head, the entire under part of the body white, the back of a darker color I could not determine the shade, and with streaks of black and white on the wings.

I desire to direct attention to another peculiarity in which these gulls differed from the square-tailed gulls. They are not littoral in their habits, but go to sea seeking their food like the gannets. In an experience of fifteen years at sea I have rarely seen the square-tailed gulls far from land. Besides the forked-tailed were quite shy, as is shown in my efforts to procure a specimen. It is the habit of the others to hover about vessels quite near.— THOMAS H. STREETS, *Medical Director, U. S. Navy, Retired, Philadelphia, Pa.*

Cory's Shearwater in abundance off Long Island.— On October 2, 1911, I shot two Shearwaters off the coast of East Hampton, Long Island. I took them to be Cory's Shearwater (*Puffinus borealis*) but to make sure I brought them to Mr. W. DeW. Miller, Assistant Curator of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History who confirmed my identification. There were any number of them, together with some Greater Shearwaters (*Puffinus gravis*). The difference between the two species was apparent at quite a distance, the commoner bird appearing darker.— WILLIAM TOD HELMUTH, JR., *New York City.*

Black Ducks which became very tame.— Four Black Ducks (*Anas rubripes*) have been spending the winter in one of the coves at Hadlyme, Conn. The cove has been frozen over with ice from 18 to 24 inches thick. At the north shore of the cove are two spring holes which are near the main road in the town and every day these ducks have been seen by a great many people. Late in the afternoon of Feb. 15 I carried to the spot about a peck of cracked corn and spread around on the ice and placed some in the spring holes, the next morning some crows came and started to eat the corn, but the ducks drove them away, they were too much for the crows.

Soon after the grain was placed there, two more ducks arrived, the second day two, the third day fifteen, and finally thirty arrived to feed, they are very tame allowing one to approach very near before taking flight.

This shows how tame our wildest birds will become, if not shot at or molested.— ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, *Hadlyme, Conn.*