

The European Widgeon at Gardner's Island, New York.—At Gardner's Island, New York, on December 3, 1911, the writer, in company with Mr. Ludlow Griscom and Mr. Stanley Ladow, had the good fortune to see two adult male European Widgeons (*Mareca penelope*). They were in the North Inlet with a great flock of waterfowl numbering approximately 1000 Baldpates, and 300 Redheads, with a sprinkling of Buffle-heads, Golden-eyes, Red-breasted Mergansers, Lesser Scaups and Black Ducks.

The Widgeons were observed from a low hill overlooking the inlet, under unusually favorable conditions of light and position. They were watched through powerful binoculars for many minutes, at a distance of probably not over 150 or 175 feet, and were most satisfactorily identified.—W. DEW. MILLER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

The Pintail Duck (*Dafila acuta*) in Winter near Portland, Maine.—The Pintail, as it occurs in Maine, is one of the less common, and less hardy migrants, of more frequent occurrence in fall than in spring. Although Mr. George A. Boardman, cited it as "rare in winter"¹ he gave a different statement for the History of North American Birds,² and we must regard his first statement as unverified, according to existing literature.

The next definite consideration, perhaps was that of E. A. Samuels, who gave its New England status, as "September 10 to the last week in October."³

Finally⁴ Mr. N. C. Brown showed that it had been known to remain in the vicinity of Portland, Maine, on one occasion until November 7.⁵

In 1893, Capt. Herbert L. Spinney entered in his private journal, on November 25 the capture of one at Small Point, Maine, and in 1895, Mr. Walter H. Rich secured a pair, male and female, which had been shot February 10, at Cow Island, Casco Bay. One was taken November 20, 1901, at Cape Elizabeth, Maine, but was not preserved. A female was shot at Scarborough, December 9, 1911, the skull of which is preserved.

On February 15, 1912, in company with Messrs. I. W. and E. B. Pillsbury—both men of long experience and familiarity with our shore and water birds—I saw a Pintail drake among many Black Ducks near Martain's Point Bridge between Portland and Falmouth. This was at noon of a bright day, and with glasses, the markings, its dark head, and crissum, attenuated tail and slender outlines, its manner of feeding, rendered both its species and its sex unmistakable. On the day previous Mr. E. B. Pillsbury and game warden George Cushman had seen it at the same place, when it

¹ 1862. Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H., IX: p. 129.

² 1884. Water Birds 11: 514.

³ 1870. Birds of New Eng. and Adjacent States, p. 492.

⁴ In his Feathered Game of the Northeast, 1907, p. 314, Mr. W. H. Rich without specifying time, or place, mentions a pair, "shot in some of the severest winter weather." These birds, now in his possession, were taken in this vicinity, and he has most kindly given me the data credited to him, in this article.

⁵ Proc. Portland Soc. N. H. ii: pp. 31.