

by Salvadori in the Catalogue of Birds, Vol. 27, it occurs 'from Java and Timor to Southern New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand sub-region, and Polynesia, including the Pelew Islands.'

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews writes me under date of Aug. 14, 1912, that there are several subspecies of this duck outside Australia which he is inclined to admit as valid because this bird is not a real migrant, although it flies long distances at times.

The return of one of my Australian ducks on February 20, suggests that there was no attempt at migration, and that the birds were either starved out or shot in this neighborhood.— J. C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

The European Teal (*Nettion crecca*) again Returning to Wenham, Mass.— In 'The Auk,' 1911, page 366, I told of the migration and return of a European Teal raised in captivity here at Wenham. The bird arrived April 19, 1911 after an absence since December 6, 1910.

All summer of 1911 this bird was in or near the pond. On November 25 our captive fowl were placed in winter quarters, and our Teal vacated. Four other poorly pinioned European Teal escaped at the same time, having grown outer secondaries or new primaries long enough to enable them to fly. Our bird, however, did not leave until December 31, as she was seen several times about the pond and lake until that date. Wenham Lake closed during the first few days of January, 1912, the fall having been extremely mild.

On the morning of April 18, 1912, our bird was again back in the pond where she was hatched, having arrived during the night or early morning; thus completing her second migration. That day she was quite shy, and flushed immediately, but soon returned. I saw her first on April 20. She was then perfectly tame and could with difficulty be driven from the pond.

On April 23 another Teal appeared in the pond; whether an escape of last fall, or some other bird, can only be conjectured. This bird did not remain long, however.

It is fair, I think, to consider the first arrival the same bird as before reported, though there is no absolute evidence. The dates of spring arrival on the two years are I think interesting.— J. C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

Northern Eider in South Dakota; a new record for the interior of North America.— It is my privilege to announce the capture, November 4, 1911, of a Northern Eider, *Somateria mollissima borealis*, in Lake County, eastern South Dakota. The identification is by the Biological Survey. Wells W. Cooke writes 'not only the first record for South Dakota, but the first record for the whole interior of North America.' Adrian Larson of Sioux Falls, who at my suggestion sent the specimen to Washington for identification, supplies the following notes: This bird, which is either a female or an immature male, was shot about forty miles north in a lake region 'locally called Madison Pass.' The severe cold

wave of November 1 and 2, 1911, brought the ducks south almost by the millions. The Eider was shot by a Doctor Page of Sioux Falls and is now in the possession and displayed in the place of business of William Sweet of this city.—S. S. VISHNER, *University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S. D.*

Records from Nippinickett Pond, Bridgewater, Mass.—The captures of the following ducks on Nippinickett Pond seem worthy of record. European Widgeon, *Mareca penelope*, Nov. 7, 1902. Shot by A. C. Dyke.

Two European Widgeons, *Mareca penelope*, Oct. 22, 1910, from a flock of 4 birds. Shot by Harry P. Sturtevant.

European Widgeon, *Mareca penelope*, Oct. 23, 1910. Shot by A. C. Dyke.

Hutchin's Goose, *Branta canadensis hutchinsi*, Oct. 8, 1910, from a flock of six birds, the other five being Canada Geese. Shot by Messrs. Frank C. Drake and Irving A. Hall.

All the specimens were obligingly identified by Mr. Wm. Brewster of Cambridge.—ARTHUR C. DYKE, *Bridgewater, Mass.*

Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*) in New Mexico.—On the morning of August 27, 1912, at State College, New Mexico, I picked up, dead, an immature Sora Rail that had flown against a telephone wire and broken its neck. On the night of August 23, 1912, about 10 o'clock P. M., a flock of birds flew over me on the mesa, headed northeast—away from the Rio Grande. The size of the birds and their manner of flight, as seen by the moonlight, in conjunction with the finding of the above specimen, lead me to believe these birds were of the same species.

To my knowledge, this is the first specific record of this species in the state, certainly in this locality. There has been an unusual amount of rainfall in this region during the month of August, which may account for their presence here at this time, for our mesa country offers no inducements to them naturally.—D. E. MERRILL, *State College, N. M.*

Early Occurrence of the White-rumped Sandpiper (*Pisobia fuscollois*) in Maine.—A male White-rumped Sandpiper in nuptial plumage was secured on April 27, 1912, at Scarborough Maine. The bird was alone.

The only other instances of its occurrence in the state in spring, known to me, are those recorded by Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown, May 30, 1881, and May 29, 1882.¹ Both of these recorded by Mr. Brown are in the collection of the Portland Society of Natural History, and the one here recorded in that of the writer.

The bird according to Mr. W. W. Cooke is rare on the Atlantic coast of the United States, in spring, north of Virginia,² and its occurrence at this

¹ Proc. Portland Society of N. H., II, p. 27.

² Bull. 35, U. S. Biol. Survey, p. 38.