

BIRDS NEW OR RARE TO THE FAUNA OF MAINE.

BY ARTHUR H. NORTON.

THE following records which have come under my observation during the past few years represent additions to the avifauna of Maine or additional occurrences of species rarely found in the state.

Xema sabini. SABINE'S GULL.—On September 11, 1912, Mr. Everett Smith and I saw one of these birds near Bluff Island, Saco Bay, Me. It came in from the eastward with a few terns attracted by fish livers which we were throwing out, but it did not come quite within gunshot. Its slaty mantle, small size, and black edged wing were carefully noted. Its flight resembled that of the terns, but its manner of feeding that of Bonaparte's Gull. Mr. Smith secured a specimen near this spot May 31, 1877.¹

The only other Maine record seems to be one near the Brothers Islands, Casco Bay, September 22, 1899.²

Sterna dougalli. ROSEATE TERN.—Since there are but few records of this tern for Maine and none of these are recent, it seems suitable to publish this occurrence. While Mr. Everett Smith and I were near Bluff Island, Saco Bay, August 19, 1912, Mr. Smith secured an adult specimen of this bird, which he presented to the collection of the Portland Society of Natural History. The other records are as follows:

A small flock was seen upon the Green Islands in Casco Bay on the 20th of July [prior to 1879].³

A few once bred on a small island near Tenants Harbor, St. George, and at the Isles of Shoals.⁴

The two following reports are in print. "A few seen, Fox Island, August 6 [and] 12 [18] 99, identification not absolute"⁵ and "Three seen on August 31, 1900 [near Isleboro] by G. C. Shattuck."⁶

Mareca penelope. EUROPEAN WIDGEON.—Mr. E. B. Pillsbury brought me a female of this bird, in the flesh which was taken at Scarborough November 13, 1912, the first of the kind to be detected in the state.

There is another specimen in the state museum at Augusta taken at Swan Island, Merrymeeting Bay, September 20, 1911. I am obliged to

¹ 1883, Smith, *Forest & Stream*, XX: 205.

² 1900, Knight, *Journ. Me. Orn. Soc.*, II: 2.

³ 1879, Brewster, *Bull. Nutt. Orn. Cl.* IV: 15.

⁴ 1884, Brewer, *Hist. N. Am. Bds., Water Bds.*, II: 305.

⁵ 1900, Howe, *Journ. Me. Orn. Soc.*, II: 28.

⁶ 1901, Howe, *Journ. Me. Orn. Soc.*, III: 14.

Mr. Thomas James, curator of the state museum, both for the privilege of making a careful examination of the specimen and for permission to record it. Additional specimens are to be expected.

Clangula islandica. BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE.—Barrow's Golden-Eye is well known to occur regularly on the Maine coast westward to upper Penobscot Bay. West of this region there have been no records for the state. It is with considerable interest then that the following records of its occurrence at Scarborough, are presented.

Among the heads of a number of Ducks brought me for the preparation of skulls, were a young male and a female of this species. Mr. E. B. Pillsbury who secured the birds was certain that they were taken either December 30, or December 31, 1911, but the two were not in each others company. Mr. Pillsbury very kindly offered to aid me in looking for more and in the attempt to secure specimens, with the result that we secured two females Jan. 11, a superb adult male March 26, and an immature male March 28, 1912.

Chen hyperborea hyperborea. SNOW GOOSE.—Through an oversight, which has passed unchallenged, in recording a specimen of this bird taken in Gorham, Maine, in November, 1908,¹ the technical name of the next subspecies was used together with the common name of the present form, rendering the record void.

As the original records of Snow Geese in Maine are scattered, if not somewhat obscured, the following summary is presented:

C hyperborea hyperborea.—One near Portland, December, 1880.²

A male, Toddy Lake, Hancock Co., October, 4, 1893 and a male Lake Umbagog, October 2, 1896.³

One at Pushaw [Pond] and one at Nicatous. [Prior to 1897].⁴

Two were taken near Merrymeeting Bay, one October 10, the other a short time later in 1897.⁵

Of this total of eight specimens which have been identified, all have been autumnal, occurring singly or in pairs.

The following fall records, and reports of Snow Geese not identified, are presented under this subspecies.

One at Glenburn, October 18, 1881, and one near Hallowell, November 25, 1881.⁶

The late Alphaeus G. Rogers of Portland gave me information of one seen by him at Cape Elizabeth, October 9, 1911.

Chen hyperborea nivalis. GREATER SNOW GOOSE.—On April 4, 1913, a flock of upwards of thirty Snow Geese were seen at Pine Point. Scarborough by Mr. I. W. Pillsbury, and others. They alighted and

¹ 1909, Norton, Auk, XXVI: 304.

² 1882, Brown, Abstr. Proc. Portland Soc. N. H., II: 2.

³ 1897, Brewster, Auk, XIV: 207.

⁴ 1897, Knight, fide Hardy. Bull. 3, Univ. of Me., 36.

⁵ 1898, Knight, fide Day. Maine Sportsman, Sept. 1898, p. 14.

⁶ 1883, Smith, Forest & Str., XX: 125.

though frightened several times, remained in the vicinity a few hours and finally passed to the eastward. The following day several smaller flocks were reported in different parts of Casco Bay. From one of these flocks four birds were shot, at Great Chebague Island. After considerable effort I succeeded in securing one of the heads (all of the available remains) and it proved to be of this form.

The previous records are:

One, Heron Island, Phippsburg, April 7, 1890.¹

One, Back River, Georgetown, April 25, 1903.²

One, Lubec, April 30, 1906.³

Since all spring specimens so far identified (totaling four) have been of this form the following spring records and reports of Snow Geese are arranged here.

A flock of about two hundred on the ice of Long Pond between Bridgton and Harrison, April 13, 1908, and similar flock on Sebago Lake the following day.⁴

There is also a published report of "A flock" which "remained undisturbed half a day" on Nonesuch River, Scarborough"⁵ [prior to 1883], but without mention of season or date.

Macrorhamphus griseus scolopaceus. LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER.— Though long anticipated,⁶ and probably of casual occurrence, material for the first positive record of the Long-billed Dowitcher, comes to hand in a specimen in fresh winter plumage taken at Scarborough in the first half of October, 1912, by Mr. John Peterson. Mr. Peterson had the specimen mounted, and presented it to the museum of the Portland Society of Natural History.

Machetes pugnax. RUFF.— On October 16, 1912, a female of this species was shot on the Nonesuch River, Scarborough, by Mr. I. W. Pillsbury from whom it came into my possession. This is but a short distance from the spot where Mr. Everett Smith, shot the first Maine specimen in 1870.⁷ In both instances the birds were alone, the last one came in from the sea, and alighted. This supplies material for the fourth record for the state, the others being:

The Smith specimen referred to April 10, 1870.⁸

A female taken at Upton, Me., September 8, 1874,⁹ (the second specimen, but first to be published.)

A specimen is recorded as taken at Camden, Maine, September 14, 1900.¹⁰

¹ 1890, Batchelder, Auk VII: 284.

² 1904, Spinney, Journ. Me. Orn. Soc., VI: 69.

³ 1906, Clark, Journ. Me. Orn. Soc., VIII: 48.

⁴ 1908, Mead, Journ. Me. Orn. Soc., X: 59.

⁵ 1883, Smith, Forest & Str., XX: 125.

⁶ 1882, Brown, Proc. Port. Soc. N. H., II: 26.

⁷ 1883, Smith, Forest & Str., XX: 85.

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⁹ 1876, Brewster, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Cl., I: 19.

¹⁰ 1905, Thayer, Auk, XXII: 409.