

Mr. McAtee, and recently winged one of a flock of five, which he followed and almost overtook. He was within a few feet of it before it got under the ice and escaped, and is confident of the identification.

The Barnegat specimen of the Ruddy Shelldrake secured by Mr. Eddy was killed November 14, 1916, while he was gunning on the east point of Sloop Sedge in Barnegat Bay. It was mounted and is still in his possession. It was recently again examined by Dr. Stone, who detected in the specimen no evidences of past captivity. It seems in all respects normal.

A "Yellow" Duck, quite unlike any bird known to old gunners who saw it, was killed last winter near Poplar Branch, Currituck Co., N. C., but the specimen was not preserved.

These reports suggest that at any time we may learn of other examples of *Casarca ferruginea* taken on the Atlantic Coast.—GEO. BIRD GRINNELL, *New York City*.

***Exanthemops* Elliot an Excellent Genus.**—The name *Exanthemops* Elliot (New and Unfig. Birds North Amer., II, pt. IX, 1868, pl. XLIV and text; type, by original designation, *Anser rossii* Cassin) is now used in subgeneric sense under the genus *Chen*, for *Anser rossii* Cassin. It was, however, originally proposed as a generic term; and the group somewhat recently has been rediagnosed and revived by its original describer (Elliot, Wild Fowl U. S. and Brit. Poss., 1898, pp. 268, 269). That this, moreover, is well justified is evidenced from an examination of the three species, *Chen hyperborea* (Pallas), *Chen caerulescens* (Linnæus), and *Chen rossii* (Cassin). The first and second of these are strictly congeneric and constitute the genus *Chen* Boie; but the last differs so much and so fundamentally, that it ought not to remain in the same genus. The group that it represents, to which of course the name *Exanthemops* Elliot is applicable, may be diagnosed as follows: Similar to *Chen*, but bill relatively as well as actually shorter and not as long as the head; commissure not widely gaping; base of maxilla much wrinkled and warty in adult; anterior outline of the feathering on the sides of the base of the maxilla nearly straight, instead of triangular or strongly convex; tarsus  $1\frac{3}{4}$  (instead of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ) times the exposed culmen; wing about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  (instead of 7) times the exposed culmen. One of the characters given by Elliot (Wild Fowl U. S. and Brit. Poss., 1898, p. 268) — "depth [of bill] at base less than half the length of the culmen," appears not to hold, since there is no difference in this respect between *Exanthemops* and the species of *Chen*. The genus *Exanthemops* as here recognized is monotypic, and its only species will now stand as *Exanthemops rossii* (Cassin).—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

**Notes on the Structure of *Anseranas semipalmata*.**—The remarkable Australian Pied or Semipalmated Goose has been variously regarded as a member of the Anserinæ (Newton, Dictionary of Birds), as an independent subfamily, Anseranatinae (Salvadori, Catalogue of Birds), and as of family rank, Anseranatidae (Stejneger, Standard Natural History).

In spite of its pronounced characters, it bears a general resemblance to the African Spur-winged Goose (*Plectropterus*), and as in two or three structural features the latter evinces a slight approach to *Anseranas*, the resemblance is possibly more than a superficial one.

The most evident peculiarities of the Pied Goose are the semipalmate feet, long, incumbent hind-toe, and long, sharp claws. The bill is peculiar, the face bare, and the top of the skull is elevated into a large, feathered protuberance. Internally a remarkable feature is the very long, coiled trachea. Pycraft states that the convolutions of the intestines are comparatively primitive in style.

In addition to these characters, I wish to call attention to several others some of which at least have probably not been recorded.

Gadow states that in the *Anseres* the oil-gland has but a single pair of orifices. I have examined several genera, including *Plectropterus*, *Cygnus*, *Branta*, *Dendrocygna*, and *Nettion*, and have found no exceptions to this statement except in *Anseranas*. Of the two individuals of this goose seen, one had eight, the other sixteen orifices in the large, heavily tufted oil-gland.

In the *Anseres* the standard number of middle primary coverts on the under side of the wing is six. I have determined this character in twenty-three genera belonging to nine of the eleven subfamilies recognized in the British Museum Catalogue, including *Cereopsis*. With the exception only of *Anseranas*, and *Plectropterus*, I have found invariably six of these coverts. The single specimen of *Plectropterus* examined had five; the two individuals of *Anseranas* had but two and three respectively.

Every one of the numerous genera of the order inspected, including *Cereopsis* and *Plectropterus*, has had the pollex furnished with a sharp claw, with the sole exception of *Anseranas*, both specimens of which agreed in the entire absence of a claw.

I have investigated the arrangement of the deep plantar tendons in *Nettion*, *Cygnopsis*, *Plectropterus* and *Anseranas*. In all but the last the two tendons are thoroughly fused for a variable distance above the base of the toes. In *Anseranas* there is no such fusion, the two tendons being loosely connected by two thin bands of tendinous tissue.

Of skeletal peculiarities, it may be noted that the furcula is V-shaped rather than U-shaped, as is usual in the *Anseres*, and with the symphysis enlarged; also that the palatines are very narrow, the rear edge of the metasternum only slightly notched and the pelvis of peculiar shape.

In the 'Cambridge Natural History' the misleading statement is made that "*Anseranas* and *Cereopsis* alone" have "the foot semipalmated." The former alone is truly semipalmate; in *Cereopsis* the webs are rather deeply incised, but this is also the case in the genus *Nesothen*.

A more serious error originated with Yarrell in 1827 (Trans. Linn. Soc., XV, 383). This has been quoted by various authors, the latest being Mathews in his 'Birds of Australia' (1914), and so far as I know has never been corrected. Yarrell described and figured the coracoids in two indi-

viduals of this Goose. The right coracoid was unlike the left, and the two birds differed greatly from each other in the form of these bones. I have recently had the opportunity of examining the skeletons of two adult males received from the New York Zoological Park. In both, the coracoids are symmetrical, alike, and of normal Anserine form. There can be little doubt that in Yarrell's specimens the coracoids were diseased and abnormal. Furthermore, Yarrell designated the coracoids as "clavicles," and the quotations of his description have given no hint of his erroneous use of this term.

Several other Anatine genera or groups of genera are strongly marked, such as the Mergansers (*Merginæ*), the Torrent Ducks (*Merganettinæ*), the Cape Barren Goose (*Cereopsinæ*), and the Swans (*Cygninæ*). The last two are probably the most distinct. The Swans are distinguished by their bare lores, large number of neck vertebræ, very long necks, great size, and wholly white or black and white plumage.

*Anseranas* is in my opinion by far the most aberrant member of the Anseres. None of the other groups mentioned approach it in the number of unique distinctive characters, and there can be little doubt that it is entitled to family rank. It is surely better characterized than certain commonly recognized families of Gallinæ, Limicolæ, and Psittaci.—W. DEW. MILLER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

***Sarkidiornis sylvicola* in British Guiana.**—I was very much interested in Mr. Crandall's note (*The Auk*, XXXVI, No. 3, July, 1919, p. 419) relative to the occurrence of *Sarkidiornis sylvicola* Ihering near Barcelona, Venezuela, in November, 1918, because I had previously learned of the presence of this species in British Guiana in the same year.

On July 12, 1918, Mr. James Rodway, Curator of the Georgetown Museum, wrote me that he had just received for the Museum "a pair of Ducks, *Sarcidiornis carunculata*, shot on the East Coast, but hitherto not recorded for the Colony." Upon my inquiry for further details, Mr. Rodway, under date of September 13, 1918, wrote: "In regard to the *Sarcidiornis* we have a pair shot on the East Coast, Dem. at Pln. Hope, by Mr. W. Mearns, who saw flocks of 25 or more and killed several for the table. He says they are excellent eating." In the meantime a note had been published in 'Timehri' (Vol. V, Third series, Aug., 1918, p. 168) stating that, through the kindness of Mr. W. Mearns of "Hope," the Museum had received a head of a male *Sarcidiornis carunculata*.

It is apparent from the dates of the records that the ducks were on the north coast of South America for at least five months, from July to November. So far as I know they have not been observed in Surinam. Von Berlepsch (*Nov. Zool.*, XV, 1908, p. 313), however, lists the species in his 'Birds of Cayenne' (ex Eyton).—THOMAS E. PENARD, *Arlington, Mass.*

**An Overlooked Record of the Trumpeter Swan.**—In 'The Auk,' Vol. XXXII, January, 1915, Mr. Henry K. Coale had a very interesting