

be the exact time of the Hell Gate explosion. It is practically certain that Mr. Wooley's memory became confused after a lapse of twenty years and that he was thinking of some other bird, especially since it was he who gave Mr. Purdie the original data for 'New England Bird Life' stating that the bird was taken at Harpswell, Casco Bay, and this when the record was only a few years old. Unfortunately the label has been replaced by another following in part the Wooley letter of 1897.—ARTHUR H. NORTON.

Cory's Shearwater off Newfoundland, with Remarks on its Identification in Life.—On August 11, 1920, while on the Labrador steamer a few miles north of Bonne Bay, western Newfoundland, and about one mile off-shore, we came across quite a gathering of water-birds, Terns, Gulls of 3 species, some Gannets, and a flock of Leach's Petrels. Suddenly a Shearwater cut across the bow and joined the Petrels, all flying along with the boat and not more than 100 yards distant. Any Shearwater would have been unexpected, but we were very much surprised to immediately recognize Cory's Shearwater, a species not recorded previously in such a northern latitude.

This bird is little known to American field ornithologists, and as the characters given in Chapman's 'Handbook', for instance, make it appear a difficult species to separate from the Greater Shearwater, a note on this subject may be welcome, as we were well acquainted with both species prior to the observation above recorded. There is no difficulty whatever in distinguishing them even at a considerable distance. In the Greater Shearwater the dark fuscous cap extends down to a line just below the eye, where it gives way abruptly to the white of the underparts, this white forming an incomplete collar on the neck. In the field the cap appears black, and the bird has, consequently, a strongly bicolored appearance on the side of the head, while the invasion of the white half-collar in the darkly colored upperparts is equally noticeable. The head and neck of Cory's Shearwater is a lighter ashy fuscous above. This color extends much further below the eye on the side of the head than does the dark cap of the Greater Shearwater, and then fades *very gradually* into the white of the throat and breast. There is no trace of a half-collar. In the field, therefore, Cory's Shearwater appears as a grey-headed bird with a white throat, without any contrast of color. Cory's Shearwater has a longer, stouter, yellow bill, the Greater Shearwater, a shorter, slenderer, blackish bill. The difference in color in the bill is not very satisfactory, but the difference in proportions is about as good between these two Shearwaters, as for instance, between the Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, or the Glaucous and Iceland Gulls. We have not found the difference in color of the under tail coverts of any value in the field, and do not believe this character could be used except under most unusual circumstances. Cory's Shearwater is a slightly larger bird throughout, but the degree of difference is small, and we do not regard this as a reliable field character.

To return to our Newfoundland bird, the characters discussed above were all duly noted. It remains to add that the weather was extraordinarily hot, over 90°, and that a strong southwest gale had been blowing for two days.—LUDLOW GRISCOM AND E. R. P. JANVRIN, M. D., *New York City*.

The Old Squaw (*Harelda hyemalis*) at San Diego, Calif.—In 1896 the late Lyman Belding shot an Old Squaw in San Diego Bay, the capture being recorded in 'The Auk,' by the undersigned as being the most southerly record for the species on the Pacific coast. For 24 years this remained the only recorded capture of the species so far from its normal winter habitat. We now, however, have several records that would seem to indicate that this duck might be of more frequent occurrence than was supposed. On January 4, 1920, a female was taken on Mission Bay and on December 3, of the same year a male was shot at the same place. Again on the 2nd and 19th of November, 1921, two females were taken, four records in all for the same body of water and all by Mr. Ad. Pearson, a local sportsman-naturalist. Mission Bay, which appears on most maps as False Bay, is about a mile north of San Diego Bay and is an extensive body of shallow water offering unusual attractions for water and shore birds. Mr. Pearson has shot over these waters for the past 35 years and states that he has not seen any of these ducks prior to January 1920.—A. W. ANTHONY, *Natural History Museum, San Diego, Calif.*

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) in Southern Michigan.—The note in the July 'Auk' of the occurrence of King Eiders near Detroit reminds me that a specimen came into my hands in November, 1911. It was a young male and was shot out of a small flock on Gun Lake, Barry County, Mich. The skin is now in the museum of the University of Michigan.—W. E. PRAEGER, *Kalamazoo, Mich.*

Sheldduck (*Tadorna casarca*) in Massachusetts.—Last October Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner, Carl E. Grant, of Gloucester, brought in to me a Sheldduck (*Tadorna casarca*) in the flesh, a young female killed October 5, 1921, near the mouth of Essex River, Ipswich Bay, Essex County, Mass., by a sea captain of Gloucester, Howard H. Tobey. He states that when first seen, it was alone over his decoys about half a mile from shore and was very shy. The bird was somewhat pin feathered and had not quite finished molting, although its wings consisted entirely of new feathers. There were one or two rectrices missing, perhaps three, and three more only partly grown.

The question at once arises whether this bird had escaped from captivity. I looked the plumage over very carefully and its perfect condition indicated that the bird had not been in captivity, at least since the molt.

The specimen will be presented to the Peabody Museum. A description