

ON THE PALEARCTIC ELEMENT IN THE A. O. U.
'CHECK-LIST' (4th EDIT.)

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THE following notes refer only to the Palearctic forms which figure in the new 'Check-List', and relate chiefly to questions of distribution. Nomenclature is outside the scope of this paper.

Gavia immer immer (Brünn). COMMON LOON. The breeding range of this species is now (1932) known to include Bear Island. It is also a summer visitor (not yet recorded as breeding) to Spitzbergen.

Gavia adamsi (Gray). YELLOW-BILLED LOON.—There is little doubt that the breeding range of this species extends west of Novaya Zemlya to the coast of North Russia and North Finland. Eggs which can only belong to this form or *G. immer* have been taken in Finland.

Colymbus grisegena holboelli (Reinhardt). HOLBOELL'S GREBE.—Also accidental in Scotland.

Colymbus auritus L. HORNED GREBE.—Also breeds in Scotland.

Thalassogeron chlororhynchos (Gmel). YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS.—Stated to breed "probably" on Falkland as well as the Tristan da Cunha group. I do not know of any evidence of nesting in the Falklands.

Puffinus puffinus puffinus (Brünn). MANX SHEARWATER.—The last part of the paragraph reads "Additional races occur off Great Britain and in the Mediterranean." This would be better expressed thus: "Additional races breed in the Mediterranean and one of them has occurred north to Great Britain."

Fulmarus glacialis glacialis (L.). ATLANTIC FULMAR.—For "east at least to Franz-Josef Land" read "east to at least one locality in Norway."

Hydrobates pelagicus (L.). STORM PETREL.—Stated to breed on "Lofoten Island" but it is only a casual visitor to this group, and is not known to breed anywhere on the Norwegian coast.

Morus bassana (L.). GANNET.—Add to breeding range the Faroes.

Ardea cinerea cinerea L. EUROPEAN HERON.—Also accidental in Spitsbergen.

Cygnus cygnus (L.). WHOOPER SWAN.—The place of this species in the American list rests upon its occurrence in Greenland, where it formerly bred; the Iceland bird has been separated under Brehm's name of *islandicus* on account of its superior size. (Schjelder, Danmarks Fugle, Vol. I.)

Branta bernicla hrota (Müller). AMERICAN BRANT.—"Breeds . . . apparently [in] the Spitzbergen Archipelago." The force of "apparently" is not clear, for this race was named by Müller on the Iceland birds, which are passage migrants to East Greenland and are identical with Spitsbergen

birds. Koenig and Le Roi had no Russian or Siberian material for comparison when writing the 'Avifauna Spitzbergensis.'

Branta leucopsis (Bechst.). BARNACLE GOOSE.—"Possibly" after Novaya Zemlya should be deleted, as a large breeding colony has now been discovered there: the Lofoten Islands should also be deleted. If breeding ever took place there (which is very doubtful) it could only have been by a pair of pricked or domesticated birds.

Anser albifrons albifrons (Scop.). WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.—American arctic breeding birds are united with those from Siberia. This may possibly be correct, but there is an enormous gap in distribution between West Greenland and the Kanin peninsula and the North Russian islands. No authentic case of breeding in Iceland is known and the supposed breeding in Lapland is now discredited.

Anser fabalis (Latham). BEAN GOOSE.—Said to be accidental in Greenland, but has no claim to a place in the American list, as it is only recorded in error for *A. brachyrhynchus*.

Chaulelasmus streperus (L.). GADWALL.—Iceland is not included in the breeding range and should be added.

Nettion crecca (L.). EUROPEAN TEAL.—Also accidental in Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemlya.

Nyroca fuligula (L.). TUFTED DUCK.—Add to breeding range: Iceland and Faroes.

Glaucionetta islandica (Gmel.). BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE.—Add: also accidental in Europe (Norway, Finland, Faroes and Belgium).

Charitonetta albeola (L.). BUFFLE-HEAD.—Add: also accidental in Great Britain.

Clangula hyemalis (L.). OLD-SQUAW.—Add to breeding range: Spitsbergen, Bear Island, Orkneys.

Polysticta stelleri (Pallas). STELLER'S EIDER.—Stated to breed on the Arctic coast of Siberia from the Taimyr Peninsula eastward, but has of late increased its range westward and is present in some numbers in summer annually in the Varanger Fjord. Young are said to have been seen there, but as yet confirmatory proof is not forthcoming.

Haliaeetus albicilla (L.). GRAY SEA EAGLE.—All the American records of this species (with the possible exception of the Massachusetts specimen and of course the Unalashka bird) must belong to the race inhabiting the West Coast of Greenland which has been separated on account of the size under Brehm's name of *groenlandicus* (See Danske Fugle. Vol. III). The breeding range of the species is stated to extend "to Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemlya." It has never been recorded from Spitsbergen, even as a casual visitor, but is believed to breed in the South Island of Novaya Zemlya. Its range is not confined to "Northern Europe" or "Northern Asia" as stated, for it breeds freely in Roumania, Asia Minor, Northern Syria and Iraq.

Falco rusticolus candicans Gmel. WHITE GYRFALCON.—Stated to be resident in Spitsbergen, but this is not the case, as it is only an occasional

summer visitor not recorded as breeding. On Franz Josef Land where it is described as "resident (probably)" its occurrence rests solely on two sight records. Probably both are correct, but there is nothing to show that it is more than a casual visitor in summer.

Falco peregrinus peregrinus Tunst. PEREGRINE FALCON.—The sole authority for including this race in the American list is the statement of Helms, that of two birds shot from the nests in 1909 and 1911 in the same district of East Greenland, one closely resembled the American form while the other was more like the European race! Schiøler had an unrivalled series of 79 Greenland skins for comparison and gives full details of them as well as four colored figures in 'Danske Fugle,' Vol. III.

Falco aesalon aesalon Tunst. MERLIN.—Schiøler assigns the only Greenland record to the Iceland race. *F. columbarius subaeson* Brehm and gives measurements (*tom cit.*)

Falco sparverius sparverius L. EASTERN SPARROW HAWK.—Add: accidental in Denmark.

Fulica atra atra L. EUROPEAN COOT.—Recorded as 'accidental' in Iceland, but it has been known to breed there on at least two occasions.

Charadrius hiaticula hiaticula L. RINGED PLOVER.—Also breeds in Spitsbergen in small numbers.

Charadrius dubius curonicus Gmel. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER.—This species does not breed in the British Isles, Northern Scandinavia, North Finland or North Russia, it is a central and southern European form.

Eudromias morinellus (L). DOTTEREL.—It is misleading to say that it "Breeds in the Alps" for it has never been known to breed there, though a few pairs apparently nest in the High Tatra and Carpathians.

Pluvialis apricaria apricaria (L.). EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER.—It is the northern race (*P. a. atrifrons*) which breeds in Iceland and perhaps occasionally in East Greenland though no actual proof of nesting has come to my knowledge. The southern race (typical locality Öland) breeds in the British Isles and Central Europe—but has not occurred in Greenland.

Arenaria interpres interpres (L.). EUROPEAN TURNSTONE.—Also breeds in Spitsbergen. In Europe its breeding range extends to the southern islands in the Baltic.

Pelidna alpina alpina (L.). DUNLIN.—Although no eggs have as yet been obtained, there is no doubt that this species breeds in Spitsbergen.

Limosa limosa limosa (L.). BLACK-TAILED GODWIT.—If the Iceland race (*islandica* Brehm) is recognized it must be this form which has occurred in Greenland. In Europe its northern range does not extend to anywhere near the Arctic Circle, reaching only to about lat. 60° N. and even in Iceland only to 64° 30'.

Crocethia alba (Pallas). SANDERLING.—There is no definite proof of breeding in Iceland.

Lobipes lobatus (L.). NORTHERN PHALAROPE.—Also breeds in the Shetlands.

Stercorarius pomarinus (Temm.). POMARINE JAEGER.—Stated to breed "from Iceland and Spitsbergen along the Arctic coast of Norway,"

etc. There is no breeding record of this species from Iceland, Spitsbergen or Norway. Possibly it breeds in N. Russia, but the only known breeding places are the Yamal Peninsula, Novaya Zemlya and from the Taimyr eastward.

Stercorarius longicaudus Vieill. LONG-TAILED JAEGER.—“Arctic coasts and islands of Europe” is too general a statement. This species does not breed anywhere between Greenland and Northern Scandinavia except in small numbers on Spitsbergen.

Larus marinus L. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.—Breeds not only in “northern British Isles,” but south to the Scillies and Cornwall. Also breeds on Bear Island.

Larus fuscus graellsii Brehm. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL.—By an unfortunate transposition the British Isles have been omitted from the breeding range, and included in the winter range. The place of this form in the American list rests on Reinhardt’s single occurrence in Greenland, but the specimen which is in the Museum at Copenhagen has been shown to be *Larus argentatus*! *L. fuscus graellsii* should therefore be deleted from the list altogether. (Cf. Novit. Zool., XXXV, 1929, p. 82.)

Larus minutus Pall. LITTLE GULL.—Said to breed “from Iceland to the Sea of Okhotsk.” It has occurred once only on the Westmann Islands near Iceland, and only breeds in Europe in the neighborhood of the Baltic Sea and in Russia.

Pagophila alba (Gunner.). IVORY GULL.—The only Arctic islands in Europe on which this species breeds are Spitsbergen, Franz Josef Land and Novaya Zemlya.

Sterna dougalli dougalli Mont. ROSEATE TERN.—The breeding range extends in the Atlantic south to the Azores and Madeira.

Chlidonias leucoptera (Temm.). WHITE-WINGED TERN.—Hungary is the western limit of the normal breeding range.

Plautus impennis (L.). GREAT AUK.—For “Elderey” read “Eldey” Island.

Uria aalge aalge (Pontopp.). ATLANTIC MURRE.—Also breeds along the greater part of the coasts of Scotland.

Cepphus grylle grylle (L.). BLACK GUILLEMOT.—Also breeds in Ireland.

Fratercula arctica arctica L. ATLANTIC PUFFIN.—Is replaced in the British Isles, Faroes and S. Scandinavia by *F. a. grææ* (Brehm).

Corvus frugilegus frugilegus L. ROOK.—“Europe in general including Great Britain.” For “Great Britain” read “the British Isles.” It is absent in the extreme north of Europe and lacking as a breeding species in Spain, southern France, southern Italy, and most of the Balkan Peninsula.

To economize space I have made the foregoing notes as brief as possible, but shall be glad to furnish full particulars and references on any doubtful point.

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