

no difference of plumage color between the adult female and the young of the year. The young female, here taken so early that the first two primaries were short, the tail also abbreviated, and evidences of down still on the head, differed only in the color of the soft parts; the toes and tarsus, cere and eye area were pale greenish in the young and more yellowish in the adult female. In neither is there the rich yellow of the soft parts of the adult male. The latter alone assumes the wondrous blue slate of the upper parts. These in adult female and young of both sexes are dark sooty blackish. In the matter of the markings of the primaries of these specimens, though the Campbell Lake juvenal male carries the spots or 'islands,' the Owikena Lake specimens, both adult and young, rather favor the cross-bar markings: the adult female was barred but faintly 'islanded,' while the young female—though the outer primaries are not fully grown—was even more distinctly barred. Just what may be considered typical of *Falco c. suckleyi* in this respect is a matter of opinion. In a series of eighteen Vancouver Island specimens of this black race in my collection, these primary spottings range from the well-defined bar as in the eastern race, to an almost complete absence of marking in both adult and young. But despite this variable marking of wing or varying width of outermost tail-band, these dark-plumaged birds resident and breeding in a wide area where the more eastern race of *Falco columbarius* is absent or rare, must be referred to *Falco c. suckleyi* and these notes are offered to establish more completely this race in its home in the coastal strip.—HAMILTON M. LAING, *Comox, British Columbia.*

**Two specimens of the Heath Hen from New Jersey.**—The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia has recently acquired two mounted specimens of the Heath Hen (*Tympanuchus cupido cupido*), both killed in Burlington County, New Jersey.

On October 1, 1937, Mr. R. J. Sim of Riverton, New Jersey, while photographing old houses, was shown by Mrs. Thomas Harrison near Wrightstown, a mounted Heath Hen which was given to her by her father. Mr. Sim told me of his find and together we drove down to see it. Mrs. Harrison said, later confirming by letter, "There were three Heath Hens together; my father shot one and had it mounted. He killed it at least forty-five years ago on the farm where he lived, known as 'Howard Hill.' This farm is located in the northeast corner of Burlington County, New Jersey, where Mercer and Monmouth Counties join Burlington County. It is in North Hanover Township, which was then called New Hanover Township. It being an unusual bird, he had it mounted." It is a male bird and in very good condition. As Mrs. Harrison is well past sixty years of age the "at least forty-five years ago" is a modest way of expressing lapsed time, for she told me it had "always been in the parlor." I brought the specimen to the Academy and compared it with our series from Martha's Vineyard. Later I took it to the American Museum of Natural History, New York, where Dr. Frank M. Chapman very kindly compared it with the series in that institution. It apparently answers all of the requirements of *cupido*.

About ten days after acquiring the above specimen, I received a letter from Mr. Thomas C. Shreve of Moorestown, New Jersey, saying that he had a Heath Hen. This second specimen is in better plumage and is apparently an older male bird than the one from Wrightstown. The Shreve family for the past three generations, were all enthusiastic sportsmen, owning bird dogs and hunting throughout New Jersey. Mr. Shreve wrote me as follows: "This Heath Hen was killed by Joshua E. Shreve prior to the year 1850 at Onga Hat, Pemberton Township, Burlington County, New

Jersey. Joshua E. Shreve was my grandfather. This information was given to me by my father, Borgillea R. Shreve."

I feel sure there are more Heath Hens hidden away in some of the old houses in Burlington County. It is to be hoped they will find their way eventually into museums where they may be preserved.—WHEARTON HUBER, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

**American Coot in Puerto Rico.**—Although a number of references to the American Coot (*Fulica americana americana*) in Puerto Rico may be found in the literature, these are all either erroneous or at best extremely doubtful, and in most, if not all cases pertain to *Fulica caribaea*. Accordingly *F. a. americana* has not been included in recent lists of the birds of the island. As this species is known from Hispaniola to the west and St. Croix to the east of Puerto Rico, it was no great surprise when on January 4, 1936, Mr. J. A. Ramos collected a male at Cartagena Lagoon. It was in a large flock of coots from which he also collected several *F. caribaea*. The specimen is now in my collection. It weighed 497.6 grams.—STUART T. DANFORTH, *University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.*

**Purple Sandpiper in Ohio.**—On December 27, 1937, we found on a partially ice-covered breakwater at Fairport Harbor, which is about thirty-five miles east of Cleveland, Ohio, on Lake Erie, a lone Purple Sandpiper (*Arquatella maritima*). We approached to within thirty-five feet and could see clearly the characteristic slaty coloration of the back and throat, and the whiteness of the under parts. Back on January 2, 1938, we again found the bird. This time it came closer and closer until it was but a scant six feet from where we crouched against the icy rocks. Now we could see clearly the bright yellow of the legs and of the base of the bill. After a minute or so, the sandpiper became alarmed, and flew off down the breakwater.—JAMES AKERS AND GORDON SPARE, *East Cleveland, Ohio.*

**Red Phalarope at Oyster Bay, Long Island.**—On April 25, 1937, Mr. Richard Allyn of the Columbia Medical School, and I observed two Red Phalaropes (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) in the pond of the Oyster Bay Bird Sanctuary at Jones Beach, Long Island, New York. The bird first seen was in the pale winter plumage and was observed at a distance within twenty feet as it was feeding along the shore like a sandpiper. It then flew a short way over the water showing plainly its white wing stripes. On the water the bird rode the small waves jauntily, but occasionally darted here and there, with searching bill, dipping into the water for food. At other times, it spun rapidly for one or two revolutions as if on an axis. The second bird was a female in breeding plumage. Its reddish breast, white area on the sides of the head, and the yellowish bill were readily seen with the binocular at a distance of about one hundred feet. On May 9, Mr. Allyn and I again found the female Red Phalarope and three others in winter plumage on the Sanctuary pond. This is a very rare bird on fresh water in the Long Island area in spring.—CLEMENT B. P. COBB, M.D., *1261 Madison Ave., New York City.*

**Red Phalarope in Michigan.**—On the early evening of September 6, 1937, I found a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) at Whitmore Lake, Michigan. During my half-hour of observation, the feeding bird was frequently disturbed by motor-boats and other craft, which forced it to fly from one portion of the lake to another. In flying about, the phalarope alighted in both Washtenaw and Livingston Counties, the two counties in which the lake is situated. The specimen was collected, and has been deposited in the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan. Examina-