

about this many birds have nested on Lake Bowdoin for the past ten or twelve years. The first authentic record that I can find comes from Mr. George E. Mushbach, Superintendent of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, and dates back to June, 1927. In a recent letter Mr. Mushbach states that in 1927, when at Lake Bowdoin, Mr. L. Minugh, who had been Game Warden on the lake for many years, told him that Cormorants had nested on the lake for a number of years. No specimen has been taken and preserved from Lake Bowdoin, though I have seen several that have been shot during the hunting season. The accompanying picture (fig. 38) should serve as well as a specimen.—V. L. MARSH, *Great Falls, Montana, May 26, 1934.*

The Status of *Phalaropus fulicarius jourdaini* Iredale.—Mr. Tom Iredale's race of *Phalaropus fulicarius* has indeed been unfortunate in its critics! I have just read with interest Mr. J. L. Peters' note in the Condor (36, 1934, p. 85) in which he gives the results of his inquiry into the validity of this form. As far as can be ascertained from this paper the material consisted of birds from Southampton Island, the coast of Labrador, and the west coast of Greenland (all breeding birds). There were also specimens from the Massachusetts coast on spring migration, and others from northeastern Asia and northern Alaska. To which place the East Siberian and Alaska birds belong I am unable to say, as I have never examined series from these localities; but leaving these out of the question, all the material examined belongs to the typical race, and apparently there is not a single specimen of *P. fulicarius jourdaini* among them! The only known breeding places of this race are Spitsbergen, Iceland and the northeast coast of Greenland. Surely before passing judgment on the validity of a form, it is desirable to have specimens available for comparison. The late Mr. E. Lehn Schioler had beautiful series from both the northeast and northwest coasts of Greenland, collected during the breeding season, and every ornithologist who has examined these series has noticed the differences pointed out by Iredale. It is a well known fact that the avifauna of northeastern Greenland is Palearctic, and birds arrive there from the east Atlantic; while the northwestern coast is predominantly Nearctic and breeding birds arrive from the west side of the Atlantic.

That gradual bleaching takes place as summer advances in both forms is admitted, but Colonel Meinertzhagen, who disputed the validity of the new race on the same grounds as Mr. Peters, was forced to propound a theory that the warm current off the east coast induced earlier breeding and bleaching than the cold climate of the west coast of Greenland, to account for the paler color of the east Greenland birds. As this is exactly the reverse of the facts, the northeast coast being icebound with a cold Arctic current, and the west coast ice-free owing to the warm stream from the south, the argument recoils against its author.

Dr. E. Hartert, too, made an unfortunate slip in his *Vögel d. pal. Fauna* (III, 1922, p. 2212) when he stated that pale summer birds had been compared with fresh dark autumn specimens. In autumn this species has of course already assumed its winter plumage. It is only fair to add that at Copenhagen in 1926 he examined Mr. Schioler's series and admitted his mistake, but unfortunately did not live to correct it in his *Ergänzungsband*.

Comparisons based on series of one form only are certainly "misleading and only create erroneous impressions", to quote Mr. Peters' words.

It is perhaps not without interest that while the typical race migrates south at least to the Falklands, the east Atlantic form does not occur south of the equator, while the supposed records for the Indian Ocean are due to confusion with *Phalaropus lobatus*. It has also been recorded from the British Isles in every month of the year except July.—F. C. R. JOURDAIN, *Whitekirk, Southbourne, Bournemouth, England, May 5, 1934.*

Further Comment on *Phalaropus fulicarius jourdaini*.—To Mr. Jourdain's criticism of my disposal of the name *Phalaropus fulicarius jourdaini* Iredale I would reply as follows:

Mr. Jourdain bases his defence of this subspecies chiefly on the fact that I did not have a topotypical specimen at hand. He overlooked my statement, however, (6th line from bottom of third paragraph, p. 85 of this volume of the Condor) that I had