

GENERAL NOTES.

Occurrence of the Yellow-billed Tropic Bird in Florida.—Although this species is common enough in the West Indies, it does not seem to have been observed many times on the mainland of North America, even along the coast of Florida. On this account a specimen, shot April 21, 1886, on Bananna River, at the southern end of Merritt's Island, Florida, may be worth recording. I had the bird of Mr. C. J. Maynard, for whom it was collected by a Mr. Peterson. It is a female, in immature and rather ragged plumage. Mr. Maynard tells me that it was captured just after a series of southeast gales.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Breeding of *Branta canadensis* at Reelfoot Lake, Tenn.—On the 7th of June, 1886, I took a trip to Reelfoot Lake, situated in the extreme northeastern part of Tennessee and distant about twelve or fourteen miles from Hickman, Ky. My first intimation of the breeding of the Canada Goose at that place was while I was waiting for dinner at Mr. Carpenter's, who keeps a hotel for the benefit of persons visiting the lake, and also of himself. While watching some small birds in a tree near the house, I was attracted by the appearance of a flock of six Geese wandering about in the yard, and after looking at them a moment, I said to Mr. Carpenter "Are not those Wild Geese?" "Yes," he said, "I found six eggs on a stump in the lake and brought them home, set them under a tame Goose, and every one hatched." "Why," I said, "I did not know they would breed so far south." "O, yes," he answered, "they breed here every summer." These Geese were tamer than the common domestic Geese, eating out of his hand, etc. They made no effort to get away, though, had their wings not been clipped, they would probably have flown to the lake very soon.

Then after dinner when I was paddling a little plank canoe, a full grown Goose came flying along a little to one side of the canoe. I did not mistake it for any other bird. It was too close for that. I do not think it was hurt or sickly, it flew too swiftly and well for that.

Wishing to have still more proof on the subject, I asked a boy who often goes to the lake to fish and hunt, if he knew that the Wild Geese stayed there all summer. He answered, "Yes, I do. I've seen the young Geese round in the water many a time."

I think these facts go far to prove that the Wild Goose breeds at Reelfoot Lake.—L. O. PINDAR, *Hickman, Ky.*

Breeding of the White-faced Glossy Ibis in Florida.—I have lately obtained from Mr. C. J. Maynard a set of three eggs of the White-faced Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis guarauna*), taken April 18, 1886, at or near Lake Washington (the head of the St. Johns River), Florida. The nest was "in bushes, a few feet from the ground." The identity of the eggs is open

to no doubt, for they are accompanied by the skin of the female parent, which was shot on the nest. Mr. Maynard had the specimens directly from the collector, a young man by the name of Lapham.

If no mistake has been made in the authentication of the alleged eggs of *P. autumnalis* (= *falcinellus*) from Florida (see B. B. & R., Water Birds, Vol. I, p. 96), both species of Glossy Ibis breed together in that State. The *P. guarana* has not been previously found breeding east of the Mississippi, as far as I can ascertain.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Red Phalarope in the District of Columbia.—A Correction.—In 'The Auk' for January, 1886, the writer noted the occurrence of a Northern Phalarope on the eastern branch of the Potomac River, near Washington, in October, 1885. The statements made at that time regarding the capture and identity of the bird were given on the authority of the collector, Mr. Webster, who then had the specimen. A short time ago the bird in question came into the possession of the National Museum (catalogue number 109,213) and has been identified as a young specimen of the Red Phalarope (*Crymophilus fulicarius*). In making this correction I at the same time add this rare species to our avian fauna.—HUGH M. SMITH, *Washington, D. C.*

***Ægialitis meloda circumcincta* on the Atlantic Coast.**—During a recent hurried visit to the Museum of the College of New Jersey, at Princeton, N. J., I noticed, in looking over the beautifully mounted Scott collection of birds, two specimens, male and female, in adult spring plumage, of the Belted Piping Plover, taken by Mr. W. E. D. Scott at Long Beach, Barnegat Bay, N. J., in April, 1877. On referring to the series of skins two other specimens were found, taken at the same time and place as the above, in which the pectoral band was complete but narrow. The specimens first mentioned above have the pectoral band broad and continuous—typical representatives of var. *circumcincta*.

In the same collection I found also two skins of typical *circumcincta* taken by Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown, on the Scarborough marshes, near Portland, Maine, respectively May 17, 1878, and May 2, 1880. This in a series of thirteen specimens of the Piping Plover taken on the Atlantic Coast, contained in the Museum of Princeton College, four were typical of var. *circumcincta*. These specimens appear to have been unrecorded till briefly mentioned by me in the 'Additions and Corrections' to my 'Revised List of the Birds of Massachusetts,' recently published in the 'Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History,' Vol. I, No. 7.

Mr. Ridgway and Dr. Brewer (Water Birds of North America, Vol. I, 1884, pp. 161, 163) mention this variety as occasionally occurring along the Atlantic Coast, though mainly restricted to the Missouri River region. Mr. Cory (A Naturalist in the Magdalen Islands, 1878, p. 61), however, has recorded it as "abundant" in the Magdalen Islands, and judged it