

ON THE OCCURRENCE, IN MASSACHUSETTS, OF
CERTAIN RARE OR INTERESTING BIRDS.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

EUROPEAN WIDGEON (*Mareca penelope*).—Mr. James T. Clark, the well-known Boston taxidermist, has recently shown me a mounted specimen of this species which was shot in Monponsett Pond, near Halifax, Massachusetts, October 20, 1899, by a Mr. Shindler who keeps a small shooting shanty or house for the accommodation of sportsmen who visit the pond in pursuit of water fowl. The *M. penelope* came in to decoys in company with a small flock of American Widgeon of which several were killed at the same time and two, an adult male and female, sent to Mr. Clark for preservation with the European bird. The latter is a fine old male in remarkably handsome plumage. The creamy white of the forehead and crown is strongly tinged with chestnut; the sides of the head are rich chestnut finely spotted with green. Mr. Clark tells me that the bird was very fat and that its stomach contained a few freshwater shells and a quantity of seeds of aquatic grasses. It is, I believe, the first specimen that has ever been reported from any part of New England.

EUROPEAN TEAL (*Nettion crecca*).—On February 26, 1896, Mr. Clark brought to me in the flesh, in fresh condition, an adult male European Teal which he had received on the 24th from Rev. E. A. Phillips of Sagamore, Massachusetts. Mr. Phillips said that the bird had been caught, a few days previous to the date on which he sent it, in a steel trap and that, in company with two other Teal of similar appearance (but probably belonging to the American species), it had been seen repeatedly in the same place. This is, I believe, only the second known instance of the occurrence of the European Teal in New England, the first being that of the bird, also an adult male, taken by Mr. George H. Mackay at Muskeget, March 16, 1890 (see *Auk*, VII, 1890, p. 294). Both specimens are now in my collection.

AMERICAN WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons gambeli*).—Mr. Clark has also obtained for me a male of this species in fully

mature plumage. He received it in the flesh November 26, 1897. It was taken a few days before this date at Plymouth, Massachusetts. Mr. Paul W. Gifford who shot the bird reported that it came in alone to his decoys and that it appeared to be very weak. Mr. Clark on skinning it found that it was so thin as to be almost emaciated. I saw it soon after it was mounted and Mr. Clark attempted to purchase it for me but Mr. Gifford would not then part with it. He placed it on a desk in his office in Boston where the rats got at it and ate off both its feet with most of the legs and a part of one wing. In this mutilated condition the bird has just come into my possession. Save for the injuries just mentioned it is a remarkably handsome specimen.

CLAPPER RAIL (*Rallus crepitans*).— I am still further indebted to Mr. Clark for a finely mounted specimen of the Clapper Rail which has an interesting history. It was taken November 30, 1895, at East Orleans, Massachusetts, by Mr. John Greenough Rodgers who started it on the edge of a marsh during a snow storm. It flew a short distance and plunged into a snow bank. Mr. Rodgers, seeing the hole by which it had entered, thrust in his hand and pulled it out. He sent it to a Mr. Seaver who kept it alive for a day or two. It ate at first but finally refused all food and died, when Mr. Seaver took it to Mr. Clark who found it much emaciated. It is a male, quite typical of the form *crepitans*, and in fresh and remarkably perfect autumn plumage.

AMERICAN OYSTER-CATCHER (*Hematopus palliatus*).— Mr. Charles A. Hardy of Auburndale, Massachusetts, has very generously contributed to my New England collection an adult male Oyster-catcher which, with a female, also said to be an adult and probably the mate of the first, he shot at Chatham, Massachusetts, August —, 1899. He writes me that "they came in beautifully to decoys and my whistle and were the only ones I have ever seen there," *i. e.*, at Chatham. Both specimens were skinned by Mr. M. Abbott Frazar; the female remains in Mr. Hardy's possession. I have an impression that a brief mention of the capture of these birds has already appeared in print, but my assistant, Mr. Walter Deane, has searched in vain for such a record.

AMERICAN BARN OWL (*Strix pratincola*).— Although Massachusetts records of this owl have multiplied of late, there is per-

haps still room for one of a bird which was taken at Worcester, Massachusetts, May 23, 1891, by a young son of Mr. Charles K. Reed, the well-known taxidermist. Mr. Reed mounted the bird and afterwards sold it to Mr. John E. Thayer in whose collection, at Lancaster, Massachusetts, it has been for some time. A few months since, Mr. Thayer, learning that I was anxious to obtain a New England example of the Barn Owl, most generously sent me this Worcester bird with his compliments. The specimen, a male, is well mounted and in fine condition in every way.

THE CERULEAN WARBLER (*DENDROICA CÆRULEA*) AS A SUMMER RESIDENT IN
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND.

BY FRANK COATES KIRKWOOD.

As a live bird the Cerulean Warbler was unknown to me until June 11, 1899. That year they were noted until August 15, and a nest supposed to be of this species was found. In 1900 it was carefully watched for and recorded from April 29 to August 19, and a nest with four eggs was collected on June 10.

Ravenshurst farm, where I have spent nearly every Sunday and occasionally other days for the last twelve years, is situated at the head of Dulany's Valley in Baltimore County and is thirteen miles N. N. E. from the centre of Baltimore City. The house stands at an elevation of 480 feet above tide-water and a sharp declivity in front of it gives an uninterrupted view of the entire length of the valley (lowest point 170 feet above tide), with Towson, seven miles from Baltimore City, on the horizon at the other end, on an elevation of about 500 feet. Near Towson, at a similar elevation, is the point, where Mr. J. Hall Pleasants on July 14, 1893, collected the adult and immature male birds recorded in 'The Auk' (Vol. X, 1893, p. 372). This remained as our only Maryland Record until the present.

My experience during the last two summers leads me to suppose that the species has a decided preference for high open