

BIRD NOTES FROM LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

BY WILLIAM DUTCHER.

1. **Passerculus princeps.** *Maynard.* IPSWICH SPARROW.—While collecting, January 1, 1883, on Jones Beach*; I was fortunate enough to secure four specimens of this Sparrow. The first one seen was shot while running through the short beach-grass, between two sand-dunes. The others were flushed in similar localities and shot while flying. Another was seen but escaped. February 14, 1883, the gunner who usually accompanies me on my collecting trips, shot on the same beach two more specimens, which he sent me. He wrote that he saw one other, which he could not secure. February 22, 1883, I again visited this beach and saw two more specimens, both of which I secured. The following measurements were carefully taken while the birds were in the flesh:

<i>Sex.</i>	<i>Extent.</i>	<i>Length.</i>	<i>Wing.</i>
♂	6.12	10.00	3.00
?	6.25	10.00	3.06
?	6.25	9.50	2.88
♂	6.25	9.75	3.00
♂	6.50	10.25	3.06
♂	6.00	9.50	2.88
?	6.00	9.75	3.00
♂	6.00	9.50	2.88
Average	6.17	9.78	2.97

2. **Poœcetes gramineus** (*Gm.*) *Baird.* GRASS FINCH.—One was taken February 22, 1883, on Jones Beach. It was not in company with the Ipswich Sparrows, taken the same day and in the same locality. Noted as being an early date.

3. **Melospiza lincolni** (*Aud.*) *Baird.* LINCOLN'S FINCH.—Three individuals of this species were killed by striking Fire Island Light the night of May 9, 1882, and were sent me. The testes of two dissected were well developed. I have never taken

* Jones Beach is part of the Great South Beach of Long Island, distant about 28 miles east from New York City.

this species on Long Island while collecting. It was not included by Mr. Giraud in his list published in 1844,* but was by Mr. G. N. Lawrence in his catalogue published in 1866.†

4. **Herodias alba egretta** (*Gmel.*) *Ridgw.* AMERICAN EGRET.—August 3, 1882, Nelson Verity, a gunner, shot on the marshes at South Oyster Bay, and sent me, a male of this species. He tells me that they usually arrive about August 1, and remain until the latter part of September. In the course of the season he sees, perhaps, 25. During the summer of 1882 a few were shot, a lad killing two in one day. Verity also tells me that they are invariably found in company with the Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*.

5. **Garzetta candidissima** (*Gmel.*) *Bp.* SNOWY HERON.—July 11, 1881, while on the marshes at South Oyster Bay, I saw seven individuals of this species, but they were so wild I could not get a shot at them. On the following day I saw but one. July 17, Nelson Verity, a gunner, killed three, one of which, a female, he sent to me. Verity afterwards informed me that his father, who is also a gunner, killed seven on the same marshes in one day, later in the summer of 1882. About July 1, 1883, Verity saw a flock of five near Fire Island, and on the 3d of July he shot one on the South Oyster Bay marshes.

6. **Macrorhamphus griseus scolopaceus** (*Say*) *Coues.* RED-BELLIED SNIPE.—A female of this species was shot September 19, 1882, by a sportsman stopping at "Lane's" on Shinnecock Bay, who kindly presented it to me. September 26, 1883, I secured another in the same locality. The gunners about Shinnecock Bay claim that they can distinguish the note of this bird from that of its congener, *Macrorhamphus griseus*. The measurements of these two specimens are as follows:

<i>Length.</i>	<i>Extent.</i>	<i>Wing.</i>	<i>Gape.</i>
11.87	19.00	6.00	2.75
11.00	18.50	5.75	2.50

7. **Pelidna subarquata** (*Guld.*) *Cuv.* CURLEW SAND-PIPER.—A specimen of this species was shot by Charles A. Lane at Shinnecock Bay and sent to me. He wrote, "The Snipe

* The Birds of Long Island. By J. P. Giraud, Jr. 1844.

† Catalogue of Birds observed on New York, Long and Staten Islands, and the adjacent parts of New Jersey. By Geo. N. Lawrence. 1866.

I send you was shot May 24, 1883; it was alone. "Neither my father or either of my brothers ever saw one before." I may add, that Capt. Lane, the father, has been a professional gunner, on the south side of Long Island, for over forty years. His three sons are also professional gunners.

8. *Phalaropus fulicarius* (Linn.) Bp. RED PHALAROPE.—May 19, 1883, I received from Geo. A. Lane, of Shinnecock Bay, a Red Phalarope that had evidently been shot some three or four days. He wrote me, "The bird was alone. I never saw but one before."

9. *Lobipes hyperboreus* (Linn.) Cuv. NORTHERN PHALAROPE.—May 24, 1883, Geo. A. Lane, sent me some specimens of this Phalarope. He wrote, "There have been more Phalaropes this spring than I ever saw before. My brothers killed nearly 50 and sent them to market with other Snipe." Subsequently, while at South Oyster Bay, I questioned some of the gunners regarding the flight of Northern Phalaropes this spring, and ascertained that on the 23d and 24th of May there was a large flight of them. Three gunners said they shot about 20, and then desisted because they did not want any more. They remarked "that they were very gentle, almost always alighting among the decoys, swimming lightly and gracefully about." The very unusual number of these birds found on Long Island this spring may possibly be accounted for as follows: During the northward migration they were driven out of their usual course by head winds. The facts are these: On the 18th of May it commenced to blow from the north-east and continued blowing from that quarter to south-east steadily until the 21st, when it culminated in an easterly storm which lasted about twenty-four hours. On the 23d and 24th, the Phalaropes were seen, but disappeared as suddenly as they came. They are more commonly seen in the fall, but then only occasionally.

10. *Steganopus wilsoni* (Sab.) Coues. WILSON'S PHALAROPE.—Mr. Charles E. Perkins, of Hartford, Conn., wrote me: "While at Shinnecock Bay, L. I., August 20, 1883, I shot a bird which none of the gunners recognized, and I ordered it sent to you. I should like to know what it is." It proved to be a Wilson's Phalarope. Subsequently one of the gunners informed me that a similar bird was shot a few days later by another sportsman, but he could not secure it for me.

11. **Chen hyperboreus** (*Pall.*) *Boie*. SNOW GOOSE.—October 8, 1881, a young bird was shot at Shinnecock Bay by C. A. Lane, which he sent me. In answer to a letter requesting information about the circumstance, Capt. Lane wrote: "The bird was alone. I have never shot any, and have seen only one prior to the one sent you, nor have either of my sons shot or seen any before." Nelson Verity, gunner, of South Oyster Bay considers them very rare, but remembers having seen a few. Carman Cornelius, gunner, of the same place, does not recollect having seen one on Long Island for twenty years. He is familiar with this Goose, having seen them in numbers in North Carolina, where he has been employed for many winters by one of the clubs.

12. **Sterna anglica** *Montag.* GULL-BILLED TERN.—I became the fortunate possessor of a male and female of this species July 4, 1882. While on an extensive mud flat, on the inside of the beach, at South Oyster Bay, Nelson Verity called my attention to the cry of a pair of Terns that were flying past. He winged one so that it fell some distance off. Its mate would not desert it, so was easily secured. On examining them Verity said they were the first he had ever seen. Giraud says,* "In this vicinity it is rare; during my excursions I have never met with it."

13. **Sterna caspia** *Pall.* CASPIAN TERN.—During a collecting trip to Shinnecock Bay, in September, 1882, I saw six individuals of this species, three of which I secured. None of the professional gunners about the bay knew what they were, and but few of them had ever seen any before. They are birds that would be likely to attract attention, from their large size, large, bright coral-red bills, and peculiar cry. The first specimen procured, September 7, was one of a pair, an adult male and a young bird, the former of which came near enough for me to break a wing and thus secure it. The next pair were seen and taken on the 13th. They, too, were an adult and young. Before they were seen, the harsh rolling cry of the adult was heard, and also the sharp whistle of the young bird. The old bird came near enough to shoot, and my gunner, Geo. A. Lane, called back the young bird by imitating the whistle of the Esquimaux Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) which was a perfect

* The Birds of Long Island, pp. 353, 354.

reproduction of his own cry. The third pair I saw on a sand-bar at Shinnecock Inlet. They were in company with some American Herring Gulls. They also were adult and young.

14. *Alle nigricans* Link. SEA DOVE; DOVEKIE.—December 7, 1882, Mr. C. A. Blydenburgh, first assistant keeper of Fire Island Light, sent me a female of this species, which he found dead on the beach. Ten days later he sent me another, and wrote as follows: "I found one Sea Dove which I will send you with this. The men at the Life Saving Station had three Sea Doves before I got one. One of the men from the next station east told me they found one this winter. That makes six picked up along here." In answer to an inquiry, Mr. L. S. Foster, of New York City, wrote me as follows: "My Long Island information concerning 752, *Alle nigricans*, is as follows: The specimen in my cabinet 'was caught on my patrol, in my midnight watch, the night of the 23d of December, 1881. June Bishop, Life Saving Station, off Centre Moriches, L. I.' One was found dead in the meshes of a net near the same locality, November, 1882. One was brought on the cars of the Long Island railroad at Bayport by a gunner, November, 1882, 'having been shot in a pool.'"

DENDROCOPOS PURUS, A NEW SPECIES OF WOODPECKER FROM KAMTSCHATKA.

BY LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

Dendrocopus purus, n. sp.

DIAGN: Similis *D. majori* (L.) a quo differt: pectore et abdomine superiore purissime albo, rectricibus lateralibus albis fere immaculatis et pogonio externo remigum primum longissimarum apice albonotato.

HAB: Kamtschatka; accid. Insula Beringii.

This species is closely related to *D. major* (L.) but differs in having the breast and upper abdomen very pure white, the white of the lateral rectrices without or almost without dark markings, and possessing a white spot on the outer web of the longest primaries near the tip.

The types of this form, two males and one female (U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 92701. 92702 and 92703), were collected by me on Bering Island, off the