

district extant, except those on which Coues and Prentiss had evidently entered the species, and which differed from *carolinensis* only on the label; (3) the improbability that, if such accurate observers as our authors had proved themselves to be, had ever seen an *atricapillus* they would allow a *carolinensis* afterwards to bear a wrong label.

In the severe winter of 1878-79, Mr. William Palmer obtained several specimens of *atricapillus* in the District, and now Coues and Prentiss replace the bird, remarking that "Mr. Jouy subtracted the species wrongly, as now appears" (p. 9); and again (p. 37), "in the original edition we gave this species as a winter resident, and correctly so, though the name has recently been expunged from the list by Mr. Jouy (Cat. B. of D. C., 1877.) . . . It seems that after all the two boys may have been right in stating, as they did with hesitation in 1862, that *P. carolinensis* is the ordinary summer Tit; and that specimens indistinguishable from ordinary *atricapillus* occur in winter." If any hesitation was felt by the authors in 1862, they fail to show it in their text, but entered both species on an equal footing as summer or winter resident. And they perpetuate the error in the present edition, instead of placing *atricapillus* among the rare winter stragglers, and *carolinensis* as a permanent resident.

Had the authors asked for general notes from even the few collectors they did consult, they could not have kept some of their species so rare as they did, their unique specimen of Cape May Warbler, for instance, being duplicated some years before the phenomenal season of 1882.

As purely local lists draw their chief scientific value from the record they afford of the geographical distribution of species, and their principal interest from the amount of progress in investigation they mark, it is to be hoped that the next list may be compiled by some one not interested in keeping work done nearly a quarter of a century ago from becoming antiquated, or willing to rest on ever so well earned laurels.—L. M. McCORMICK, *U. S. Nat. Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**Notes on Certain Birds observed on a Voyage from Liverpool to Quebec in September, 1883.**—About the middle of September, 1883, I left England for Canada, and when far out on the ocean, was agreeably surprised to notice several well-known species of birds flying around and alighting on the rigging of the vessel. It may interest the readers of 'The Auk' to hear something of these migrants; as although it probably often happens that birds are met with by vessels crossing the Atlantic at that period of the year, there may be no passengers on board who take sufficient interest to note the various species.

The first bird that joined company with our vessel was a common British Hawk, the Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*); this was on September 23, when we were about 500 miles from the Irish coast, in fine and comparatively calm weather. It did not stay with us long; but on the following day, Sept. 24, several other birds appeared, viz., three Hawks, a Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla yarrelli*), and two *Saxicolæ* (probably *Saxicola œnanthe*, the Wheatear). We were now nearly a thousand miles from

the Irish coast, and the Hawks and other small birds continued to follow the vessel, one of the former catching a Stormy Petrel, which it proceeded to devour on the rigging of the ship. That evening two of the Hawks were captured by a sailor, and one of them survived the voyage. On the day after their capture I saw them, and believe they belonged to the American species of Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius*). On the following day I caught two *Saxicolæ*, and as there was no chance of keeping them alive, preserved their skins, for I did not feel quite sure about the species. [\*] On the 25th a third *Saxicola* appeared on the scene; and when in latitude 52° N., longitude 30° W., I noticed two more birds, the Land-Rail (*Crex pratensis*), and the Turnstone (*Strepsilas interpres*). These were particularly interesting to me, and I was able to obtain both of them soon after they alighted on the deck of the ship. The former was in fair condition; I kept it alive until the 28th, stuffing it with small scraps of raw meat, but owing to stormy weather it died on that day. The Turnstone was miserably thin and died in a few hours, though fed as the Land-Rail was. Harting, in his most useful 'Handbook of British Birds,' says of the Rallidæ: "Audubon gives two instances of this species [*i. e.*, the Carolina Crake (*Crex carolina*)] having been met with at sea, and as a proof that the short-winged Rallidæ are not incapable of sustained flight, it may be noted that during the voyage of the steamship Nova Scotia, from Liverpool to Quebec, in October, 1865, when in lat. 26° 28' N. (?); long. 23° 24' W., more than 500 miles from the Irish coast, a Virginian Rail (*Rallus virginianus*), came on deck and was captured. Both this and the last-named species visit the Bermudas annually, although this group of islands is distant from Cape Hatteras, the nearest point of the North American coast, about 600 miles. The well-known Corn Crake (*Crex pratensis*), too, is a summer visitant to Greenland, and has been met with on several occasions on the eastern coast of the United States."

I know nothing of the migration of the Turnstone on the American continent, but it usually arrives on the British coast in August, and last summer I shot many specimens on the 11th and subsequent days of that month, near the estuary of the River Mersey. At all times during our voyage, I noticed Gulls around the ship, and when in mid-ocean a small flock followed for several hours.—C. J. YOUNG, *Montreal, Can.*

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[\* It proved to be *Saxicola ananthe*, the Wheatear or Stonechat. These specimens, which are in fall plumage. I have had the pleasure of examining, thanks to the kindness of Mr. Young.—J. A. A.]