

The Common Cormorant off Boston Harbor.—On the 22d of September, 1884, while shooting on the 'Graves,' a dry reef a few miles off the entrance to Boston Harbor, I secured a Common Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). It was the only one seen, the rest of the Cormorants being *P. dilophus*, and at once attracted my companion's notice by its large size and whitish underparts. Inquiries made of local collectors and fishermen failed to elicit any proof of its occurrence at this point, although 'way north' they 'saw them often.'—WM. A. JEFFRIES, *Boston, Mass.*

The Common Cormorant in Massachusetts.—Although several recent authors have characterized *Phalacrocorax carbo* as a common fall or winter visitor to this State, the specimen recorded by Mr. Jeffries in the preceding paragraph is the only authentic Massachusetts one of which I have any present knowledge. Very probably there are a few others scattered about in collections, but it is nearly certain that the bird, so far from being common, is extremely rare here. Along the coast of Maine, however, it winters regularly and in large numbers, especially at some small islands near the mouth of the Penobscot River, whence I have received several specimens through the kindness of Mr. Manly Hardy. This gentleman writes me that *P. dilophus* is not found there in winter, nor have I any record of its wintering in Massachusetts, although it is a common spring and fall migrant here.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Rare Summer Residents in Kansas.—On the 26th of June, 1884, at Fort Wallace, on and about a pond made by damming the Smoky Hill River, I saw four pairs of American Coots (*Fulica americana*), six pairs of Shovellers (*Spatula clypeata*), one pair of Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*), a female Gadwall (*Chaulelasmus streperus*), and a small flock of Yellow-headed Blackbirds (*Xanthocephalus icterocephalus*). From the actions of the birds I think their breeding grounds were on the small, bog-like islands, covered by a thick growth of grass and weeds, and also flags in places. The next day near Ellis, on Big Creek, I saw a female Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*).

On July 5 following, near Lawrence, in an old channel of the Kansas River, I saw several pairs of American Coots, one pair of Mallards (*Anas boscas*), and, skimming over and about the water, a Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon lariformis surinamensis*), and, at the edge of the timber bordering the slough, an Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax acadicus*), a Black-and-white Creeper (*Mniotilta varia*), feeding its young, and a pair of Blue Grosbeaks (*Guiraca cærulea*), with three young birds following them in their flights, clamorous for food; and on the 11th of the same month, at Topeka, a male Black-headed Grosbeak (*Zamelodia melanocephala*).

Both of the Grosbeaks mentioned are quite common in the western and middle parts of the State, the Blue breeding as far east as Manhattan. Their occurrence east of that locality is rare. Prior to this I had not observed the Black-headed east of Ellis, but Professor D. E. Lantz writes

me that on the 14th of August last he saw at Concordia quite a number, mostly young birds, and that Dr. C. P. Blachly has in his collection a female shot some three years ago at Manhattan.—N. S. Goss, *Topeka, Kan.*

Third Addendum to List of Birds Ascertained to Occur within Ten Miles from Point des Monts, Province of Quebec, Canada; Based Chiefly upon the Notes of Napoleon A. Comeau.—(For the original list and first and second addenda see Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club, Vol. VII, No. 4, Oct., 1882, pp. 233-242; Vol. VIII, No. 4, Oct., 1883, p. 244; and The Auk, Vol. I, No. 3, July, 1884, p. 295.)

171. *Anorthura troglodytes hyemalis*.—A pair of Winter Wrens spent the past summer (1884) at Godbout. They were first seen July 7. This species was not observed in the Gulf by either Mr. Brewster or myself, though it is common in Newfoundland.

172. *Somateria dresseri*.—Mr. William Brewster has recently called my attention to the fact that among the skins of Eider Ducks sent me by Mr. Comeau are examples of both *S. mollissima* and *S. dresseri*.

173. *Tachypetes aquila*.—A Frigate Pelican was seen and shot at by Mr. Comeau at Godbout August 13, 1884. It had previously been seen (about the end of July) by the keeper of the lightship at Manicougan, about forty miles higher up the river.

A second specimen of the Wheatear (*Saxicola œnanthe*) was taken at Godbout, September 19, 1884, and was exhibited by Mr. Comeau at the late meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union.—C. HART MERRIAM, *Locust Grove, New York.*

Albinism.—My attention was drawn to a note in the 'Oölogist' for April last, in which the writer gives his experience in albinism and asks for an explanation of these freaks of nature. In order to air my experience, and at the same time to give a probable cause, which I would like, for the sake of possible verification, other observers to look for in the future, is the object of the present note.

True albinism is of course congenital, and is a condition in which the normal pigmentary matter is deficient in the system of the individual affected; in such cases the eyes are pink, and the skin with its appendages are white or nearly so. In the case of partial albinos, however, it is difficult; their condition can probably be explained by some circumstances occurring after birth which will account for the change in the color of the skin, such for instance as the case given by the writer in the 'Oölogist,' in which the skin had been injured on the back of a Swift, and next year the patch of white feathers indicated the situation of the injury. The same thing is familiar in the case of the horse whose back or shoulder is galled by the harness; white patches appear, owing to lowered vitality of the injured part. These cases are familiar, but I wish to give possibly another cause acting in the same way, only more general. It is this. When a boy I shot among others a black squirrel peculiarly marked, it having a per-