

167. *Gallinula galeata*. COMMON GALLINULE; FLORIDA GALLINULE; RED-BILLED MUD-HEN.—An adult male bird was taken, on the grassy banks of a small mill-pond, May 19, 1884.

168. *Cygnus columbianus*. COMMON AMERICAN SWAN; WHISTLING SWAN.—Winter visitant. Not common.

169. *Bernicla canadensis*. CANADA GOOSE; COMMON WILD GOOSE.—Winter. Common. Mainly restricted to the Broad and Catawba.

170. *Dafila acuta*. PIN-TAIL DUCK; SPRIG-TAIL.—Only in a single instance, March 12, 1883, have I met with this species.

171. *Querquedula carolinensis*. AMERICAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—Winter visitor. Tolerably common.

172. *Spatula clypeata*. SHOVELLER DUCK; BROAD-BILL.—Winter, but particularly spring and fall. Not uncommon.

173. *Aix sponsa*. WOOD DUCK; SUMMER DUCK; 'THE BRIDE.'—Permanent resident. Breeds. Individuals have been seen during June in a little carp pond in the town. Several crowded tenement houses near by make the situation a very exposed one.

174. *Fuligula affinis*. LESSER SCAUP DUCK; LITTLE BLACK-HEAD.—Of regular occurrence in winter; but not abundant.

175. *Fuligula collaris*. RING-NECK DUCK. Winter sojourner. Rather numerous. Specimen taken May 7.

176. *Fuligula ferina americana*. RED-HEAD; AMERICAN POCHARD.—One case, March 1, 1883.

177. *Clangula albeola*. BUFFLE-HEAD; BUTTER-BALL; SPIRIT-DUCK; DIPPER.—Frequently taken during winter.

178. *Mergus cucullatus*. HOODED MERGANSER.—Winter resident. Plentiful. I am not aware that any remain during the breeding season in this immediate locality.

179. *Rhynchops nigra*. BLACK SKIMMER.—A female bird-of-the-year of this maritime species was taken, Sept. 10, 1882, in the town of Chester. During the morning, and on the previous day, there had been a heavy easterly gale, which evidently had driven it in from the coast; the nearest point, as the birds fly, Long Bay, Georgetown County, being about one hundred and fifty miles distant.

180. *Podiceps cornutus*. HORNED GREBE.—Noted merely on one occasion, March 4, 1880, when a specimen was secured.

THE ROCK PTARMIGAN OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

IN the summer of 1883 Mr. George O. Welch, of Lynn, Mass., collected a number of Rock Ptarmigan on Newfoundland. The series showed little variation, aside from that dependant on

age and season, and supposing them to be merely our common *L. rupestris*, with the summer plumage of which I was then unfamiliar, I bought only a single pair for my collection. It turns out, however, that they are not only distinct from *rupestris*, but very different from any other known form. As there is good evidence that their habitat is strictly isolated, intergradation with any of their allies is so improbable that I have thought it best to describe the bird as a full species, which I name after the collector of my types.

Lagopus welchi, nov. spec.

SP. CHAR.—♂ *adult, summer plumage* (No. 8246, Coll. W. B. Newfoundland, June 25, 1883. George O. Welch). Throat, wings (except inner secondaries), legs, and central portions of the body below from the breast to the crissum, white; jugulum, præpectus and sides dark brownish-gray; entire upper parts still darker gray, many of the feathers having black centres; all the feathers of the dark areas of the body, both above and below, tipped with white and crossed by numerous fine, wavy, more or less broken lines of white, grayish-white, and grayish-ochraceous; feathers of the head, neck, and sides more broadly tipped and barred, giving these parts a lighter appearance; tail uniform deep grayish-plumbeous with narrow spaces of concealed white at the bases of all the feathers and a rather broad white tipping on the central pair; upper tail-coverts like the back; under coverts plumbeous tipped with white; a broad, conspicuous, black loral stripe; bill and claws black. Wing, 7.48; tail, 4.95; tarsus, 1.40; culmen from base, .97; culmen from nostril, .40.

Adult ♀ (No. 8248, Coll. W. B. Newfoundland, May 19, 1883. George O. Welch). Similar, but lacking the black loral stripe, and of generally lighter color; the transverse lines broader, whiter, and in places yellow, those of the breast and under tail-coverts being clear but pale orange-yellow. The shafts of the primaries, also, are brown instead of white, as in the ♂. Wing, 6.98; tail, 4.15; tarsus, 1.50; culmen from base, .85; culmen from nostril, .42.

Habitat:—Newfoundland.

The colors in the male of this Ptarmigan are confused and blended to such a degree that a detailed description, however carefully drawn, fails to do them justice. The general effect is that of a dark, grayish-plumbeous bird (colored not unlike the Oregon form of the Dusky Grouse), plentifully besprinkled with fine dots of 'pepper-and-salt color.' Dr. Stejneger, who has very kindly compared both specimens with the extensive material in the National Museum, writes me as follows regarding them:

“Of all the specimens in the National Museum no American ones show even an approximation toward these. The nearest approach is the *female* of the Greenland and Cumberland Gulf form, *reinhardtii*, but the gray is even less tinged with yellowish than in the latter. Nearer in color come our specimens of the European *mutus* and its forms, but not even the Scandinavian specimens have so much gray in their early plumage, the Newfoundland bird being darker; besides, the amount of white at the *base* of the external rectrices is also very small. This character is of rather small account because of its variability (according to age?), but I have found that on an *average* it may be regarded as of some value in large series. From both European forms—showing that it belongs to the *rupestris* type—the Newfoundland bird may be easily distinguished in the pre-æstival plumage by the dense barring on the præpectus. With the Pacific Island forms it hardly needs comparison. It lacks the pure vermiculation of both *athkensis* and *nelsoni* in the corresponding plumage, while the latter and *ridgwayi* are the direct opposites of the Newfoundland birds as far as general color is concerned, they being the two extremes on the color-scale, *ridgwayi* being deep umber-brown—nearly black—without traces of gray.

“I therefore conclude that your Newfoundland *rupestris* is distinct, and, judging from the material, comparatively very strongly so. Should the characters prove as stable as they have in *ridgwayi*, of which I have just received additional material, it should undoubtedly stand as a species, and I think it is safest to establish the form as a binomial until further material should prove intergradation.

“The tendency to dark primaries, even in May, is an interesting parallel to *alleni*!”

According to Mr. Welch these Ptarmigan are numerous in Newfoundland, where they are strictly confined to the bleak sides and summits of rocky hills and mountains in the interior. Unlike the Willow Grouse of that island, which in winter wander long distances, and frequently cross the Gulf to Labrador, the Rock Ptarmigan are very local, and for the most part spend their lives on or near the hills where they are reared.