

This species seems to most nearly resemble *C. coyolcos*, but differs in the restriction of the black to the head, neck and throat, in the absence of white frontal and superciliary stripes, and in its decidedly larger size.

The type specimen was taken by Mr. Stephens, Aug. 11, about eighteen miles southwest of Sasabe, Sonora, Mexico, and hence very near the boundary. Mr. Stephens on the same trip saw a precisely similar bird a few miles *north* of the line, and within Arizona and he writes me that he has recently examined two specimens which were actually taken in Arizona, thus adding the species to our fauna.

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## NOTES ON SOME SPECIES OF BIRDS ATTRIBUTED TO POINT BARROW, ALASKA.

BY JOHN MURDOCH.

MR. E. W. NELSON, in his paper on 'The Birds of Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean,'\* mentions several species of birds as occurring at Point Barrow, which were not afterwards observed there by our party.

His opinions are based upon observations made during a hasty visit of a day or two, when on board of the Revenue-cutter *Corwin* in 1881, and upon generalizations from the abundance of the species in more southern parts of the Territory. The results of two years' careful and continuous observation and collecting in this locality lead me to consider Mr. Nelson in error on these points, and it seems to me desirable that the correction of these errors should be published before the statements have gained currency from length of time and frequent quotation. The following are the species in question :

*Ægiothus linaria*. Of this species, Mr. Nelson merely says, "We found it with the preceding at East Cape, Siberia, Point Barrow, and at nearly every place we landed." As he does not appear to have obtained specimens, and as we did not obtain it in either season, his statement of its occurrence must have been founded on the supposition that the two species would always be found together. It is worthy of note that the preceding species (*Æ. canescens exilipes*) which he speaks of as "perhaps the most abundant of all the land birds . . . on the Alaskan shore . . . north to Point Barrow," was decidedly rare at Point Barrow in the season of 1882 and was not observed in 1883.

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\* Cruise of the Revenue Steamer *Corwin* in Alaska and the N. W. Arctic Ocean in 1881. Washington, 1883.

*Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus.* This species, referred to as probably common at Point Barrow, does not occur there.

*Asio accipitrinus.* Mr. Nelson says, "On the Alaskan coast of the Arctic, it is found nearly if not quite to Point Barrow." It was not found at Point Barrow.

*Ægialitis semipalmatus.* This species was not seen, although Mr. Nelson's remarks would lead to the inference that he saw a pair there in 1881.

*Ereunetes pusillus.* This bird, which is said to breed at Point Barrow, only occurs in the autumn migrations, when large flocks of the young appear among the mudholes at Elson Bay, moving southwest along the coast.

*Numenius hudsonicus.* Referred to as occurring "north to the vicinity of Point Barrow." We did not see it, and the only species of Curlew observed (*N. borealis*) was rare and irregular.

*Dafila acuta.* Referred to as nesting "in the greatest abundance . . . to the farthest northern extreme of Alaska in the vicinity of Point Barrow." We found the bird comparatively rare and none breed. The natives say they are abundant inland on the rivers.

*Nettion carolinensis.* It does not reach Point Barrow, as Mr. Nelson thought might be the case.

*Mergus serrator.* Referred to as found "along the Alaskan coast of the Arctic to Point Barrow." We neither saw nor obtained it.

The following species, supposed by Mr. Nelson not to reach Point Barrow, were obtained by our party.

*Limosa lapponica novæ-zelandiæ.* A few immature birds were obtained in the autumn migrations.

*Grus canadensis* (= *fraterculus* Cass.). These birds were seen and two taken in June, 1883.

*Lampronetta fischeri.* This species occurs sparingly with the other Eiders in the great spring flights, and a few remain on land and undoubtedly breed, as a female was shot with an egg ready for laying in the oviduct, and half-grown young were taken in August, 1883.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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## CHANGE OF COLOR IN THE WING-FEATHERS OF THE WILLOW GROUSE.

BY C. HART MERRIAM, M. D.

AT the last meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union Dr. Leonhard Stejneger exhibited the type specimen of 'A new subspecies of Willow Grouse from Newfoundland,' which he named *Lagopus alba alleni*. He characterized it as follows: