

referring the Ptarmigan of Anticosti to *Lagopus albus*. My single adult specimen from that Island was a female, which, of course, lacked the black loreal stripe so diagnostic of the male of *L. rupestris*. Upon comparing it with some Rock and Willow Ptarmigan from Newfoundland (the only material available at the time) I found it resembled the latter rather closely in general coloration and in this respect differed very decidedly from the former. Accordingly I concluded that it must be *L. albus*, quite overlooking certain important discrepancies in size and proportions. To tell the truth, the comparison was made very hastily, for, from the fact that the bird had been shot in a dense forest, miles from any open rocky country such as the Rock Ptarmigan is said to inhabit, I had already quite made up my mind regarding it.

A re-examination, however, convinces me that the specimen in question is really *L. rupestris*; indeed, Mr. Ridgway, who has kindly compared it for me with the material in the National Museum, decides that it is indistinguishable from the bird found on the mainland of North America at large.

It has further transpired that the Willow Ptarmigan of Newfoundland is varietally separable from true *albus*, while the Rock Ptarmigan of that island is apparently even specifically distinct from *L. rupestris*. Thus I was misled by material which, to say the least, was far from typical.

Of course it is by no means settled that all the Ptarmigan on Anticosti are *L. rupestris*, but in view of these developments Verrill's record of *albus* there (he saw no specimens) requires confirmation. — WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**A Blue Heron's Meal.**—There is a heronry not far from my home, and during the breeding season the great broad-winged birds can be seen day and night flying between their nests and the seaside. I once surprised one ready to start back with its finny burden, and becoming alarmed it disgorged ten good-sized fish before it mounted into the air. Is this not an unusual load for this bird to carry?—FRANCIS BAIN, *North River, P. E. I.*

**Wood Ibis (*Tantalus loculator*) in Eastern New York.**—Mr. Howard Burhans, of Glasco, Ulster County, N. Y., informs me that he had a fine adult Wood Ibis sent to him for mounting. The bird was shot by the late Howard Tipp, on July 8, 1884, near Glennie Falls, which is west from Glasco, and about one and a half miles from the Hudson. It was discovered in a low swampy meadow, and was so tame that it was easily approached.—A. K. FISHER, M. D., *Sing Sing, N. Y.*

**Wilson's Plover in Nova Scotia.**—I shot on Brier Island, April 28, 1880, a female *Ochthodromus wilsonius*, and have the same in my collection. The wind was blowing very hard from the southeast, and I think carried the bird off the shore by and beyond her intended destination; at any rate she appeared tired, alighting directly on reaching the shore, resting

a few moments, and then running to the edge of the water and bathing freely. After dressing her feathers she started along the beach in the direction in which I was sitting, a mistake not noticed by her until too late. I can find no record of the occurrence of this species so far north, therefore think its capture worthy of note.—N. S. Goss, *Topeka, Kansas*.

**The Occurrence of *Chroicocephalus franklini* in Wisconsin.**—October 22, 1884, I took a female specimen of this Gull near the mouth of Fox River. Two other Gulls accompanied it, which I was unable to secure. They were probably the same species.—SAMUEL WELLS WILLARD, *West De Pere, Wisc.*

***Rissa tridactyla kotzebuei* in Washington Territory.**—I can find no mention of the occurrence of the Pacific Kittiwake Gull south of Alaska, and therefore think it will be of interest for me to say that I killed a pair of the birds March 2, 1882, at Port Townsend, the only ones observed by me on the coast. I have the male in my collection.—N. S. Goss, *Topeka, Kansas*.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents are requested to write briefly and to the point. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.]

### Indian Bird Names.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AUK:—

*Sirs:* Under the head of 'Correspondence' in the October number of 'The Auk' Mr. Henshaw notes with surprise my statement that "They [the Chippewa Indians] have no specific name for fully one-half of those [birds] which yearly nest before their eyes or pass by in migration." He goes on to say, "That Indians should know little of the birds, especially of the smaller kinds, that visit this country only as migrants, is not perhaps surprising, but that any considerable number of birds inhabiting their country, even of the smaller and inconspicuous kinds, should not be known to Indians and be named by them *is* surprising." At the time I made my statement I based it on the following facts. There occur in that part of Minnesota about 250 species of birds; as the Chippewas have less than 125 bird names, they name less than half of those "which yearly nest before their eyes or pass by in migration." I did not mean by this, less than half of the migrants and less than half of the breeders, but less than half of the sum total. Since reading Mr. Henshaw's letter, I have gone over the subject again, with the following results.

Dr. Hatch, in his 1880 list of Minnesota birds, gives 281 species. Of these, at least 240 occur during some part of every year at White Earth