

appearance of the bill alone. I have found that birds of 24.50 inches in length or less are females, and those 25.50 inches or more in length are males. No. 199, a female, which in Mr. Henshaw's article is given as 26.25 inches in length, is an apparent exception. The longest bill I have measured was 3.20 (chord of culmen), and the shortest 2.13, the average being 2.50. The lores vary in tint from white to the color of the head, in both sexes; and I have seen January specimens with white lores, and June birds with dark lores, and the reverse.—WALTER E. BRYANT, *Oakland, Cal.*

**The Western Grebe in Manitoba.**—In Coues's 'Key' I find the Western Grebe (*Podiceps occidentalis*) described as a bird of the Pacific Slope. It will then be not a little surprising to readers of 'The Auk' when announcement is made that this bird is common in Northern Manitoba. After I had made the discovery for myself I was a little disappointed to read the following in Professor Macoun's 'Report': "This bird [the Western Grebe] seems to be altogether unknown in the interior, and yet it has bred in thousands at Water Hen River. From time immemorial up to the present it has only been known from the Pacific Coast."

I examined specimens taken at Long Lake, Winnipeg, where it is common, and others from Shoal Lake, further north, where it is abundant. Thus it will be seen that its numbers increase as we go north towards the Saskatchewan Valley, for Water Hen River is much farther north still.

The following completes my list of Manitoba Grebes:—

*Podiceps griseigena holbælli*. RED-NECKED GREBE.—Scarce.

*Podiceps cornutus*. HORNED GREBE.—Very common.

*Podilymbus podiceps*. DAB-CHICK.—common.—ERNEST E. T. SETON, *Toronto, Canada.*

**Capture of Escaped Cage-birds.**—Mr. Forrest Ball, of San Bernardino, Cal., writes that on Jan. 12, 1884, he took at that place "a Cockatoo Paroquet (*Nymphicus novæ-hollandiæ*). It was resting on a tall cottonwood tree, basking in the sunshine, and was apparently perfectly at home in its strange surroundings. As it is an Australian species, it was no doubt an escaped cage-bird, but from its perfect condition it had, I surmise, been out of captivity a considerable time. The specimen is now in my collection."

Mr. Joseph L. Goodale also writes me that on Nov. 2, 1884, he shot, in the Belmont (Mass.) orchards, a Java Sparrow, "which was lively and in good condition." The capture of exotic, even tropical, species of birds, more or less common as cage-birds, in various parts of the United States, has been from time to time recorded, while other instances that have never been published have come to my knowledge. Generally the birds thus taken, even when captured in the colder parts of the year, are reported as found in good condition, and as showing rarely any trace of previous confinement. The fact that their natural habitat is generally very remote—not unfrequently south of the equator—and that they are species often met with in confinement, seems sufficient evidence that they are in reality 'escapes,' and therefore not to be counted as stragglers to our fauna. Yet it is of interest to know that such species are so well

able to maintain an apparently comfortable existence, unaided by man, under, to them, such strange environment. — J. A. ALLEN, *American Museum of Natural History, Central Park, New York City.*

**Introduced Game Birds in Oregon and Idaho.**—Several years since our consul to Japan sent over quite a number of Japanese Pheasants—exact species to me unknown. The birds were liberated below Portland, Oregon, on Sanvie's Island, and are known to have bred. While on duty at Vancouver Barracks I met a gentleman who informed me that he had seen, not long before (the summer of 1883), an old bird with several young near where the Pheasants were first liberated. In the autumn of 1883 a female was killed just below Vancouver. I saw this one, and the skin is now in the possession of Mr. John Jaggyat. The bird killed was one of a pair seen flying across the Columbia from the Oregon side to Washington Territory. The river at this point is nearly a mile wide, and the point of crossing was at least fifteen miles above the place of *planting*. By this it appears that the 'plant' has been established. The bird is a strong flier and bids fair to be a valuable acquisition. Oregon and Washington Territory have passed laws protecting these birds.

The Bob White (*Ortyx virginiana*) has been successfully introduced to the Boise Valley, Idaho. Three years since I found a covey on the west side of the Snake River, fifty miles below Boise City, where they were first liberated. I never saw coveys so large or numerous as I found them about Boise. Cover and food, as well as climate, are all favorable.—TIMOTHY E. WILCOX, *Assist. Surg., U. S. A.*

**Fourth Addendum to List of Birds Ascertained to Occur within ten miles from Point de Monts, Province of Quebec, Canada; based chiefly upon the notes of Napoleon A. Comeau.**—(For original List and previous 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; Vol. II, No. 1, Jan. 1885, p. 113.)

Mr. Comeau has recently sent me skins of the five following species:

- 174. *Dendroeca castanea*.—♂ shot at Godbout the last week in May, 1885.
- 175. *Dendroeca palmarum hypochrysea*.—♂ shot at Godbout, May 21, 1885.
- 176. *Cotile riparia*.—Shot at Godbout, June 8, 1885.
- 177. *Poocetes gramineus*.—Shot at Godbout, April 24, 1885. Others were seen the same day and the next, and on May 10.
- 178. *Falco islandus*.\*—A very handsome ♀ shot at Point de Monts, Jan. 7, 1885. Another was seen at Godbout, March 23, 1885.
- 179. *Bartramia longicauda*.—♂ shot at Godbout, May 7, 1885.
- 180. *Lobipes hyperboreus*.—Shot at Godbout, May 27, 1885.—C. HART MERRIAM, *Locust Grove, New York.*

\* For authority for the name *Falco islandus* Brünn., see Stejneger in 'The Auk,' Vol. II, No. 2, April 1885, pp. 184-187.