

**An Albino Surf Duck** (*Edemia perspicillata*).—Some time since Mr. Alfred J. Leavitt, keeper of the Boon Island (Maine) light-house, sent me drawings of a 'curious Duck' which was shot at that place October 13, 1884, by Mr. H. Z. Ellis. After some correspondence Mr. Ellis has kindly sent me the specimen for examination. It proves to be an Albino Surf Duck (*Edemia perspicillata*). Mr. Ellis writes me that it "headed a flock of Coots," and that its eyes were "jet black." The bird is not pure white. The throat, under parts, sides of head and neck, and part of the wing-coverts and tail are soiled white. The top of the head, a line down the back of the neck, and the wings are pale bleached brown. The markings are symmetrical.—C. HART MERRIAM, *Locust Grove, N. Y.*

**On the Alleged Occurrence of the Pacific Eider in Labrador.**—Mr. W. A. Stearns, in a paper entitled 'Notes on the Natural History of Labrador,' published in the 'Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum,' Vol. VI, 1883, says (p. 121) that the *Somateria v-nigra*, the Pacific Eider, is "abundant in large flocks in spring," and that he himself "obtained specimens that had the decided 'V-shaped black mark' on the chin." The statement has been doubted, and critics have considered it a mild expression when saying that it "seems to require confirmation." It is not my intention to defend Mr. Stearns's identification, but having found a notice which seems to point in the same direction, I think it safer to postpone a final decision in the matter. The notice to which I allude is found in Degland and Gerbe's 'Ornithologie Européenne' (Paris, 1867), II, p. 557, where, under the head of *Somateria mollissima*, Mr. Gerbe writes: "Three or four specimens received from Newfoundland had under the throat two black lines similar to those of *Somateria spectabilis*, but of a color less deep. May they not be mules between the latter and the female Eider?"

"Mr. de Sélys-Longchamps, in his second note on the hybrids of the Anatidæ,\* in quoting this example, remarks that Prince Ch. Bonaparte and Mr. W. Jardine consider these specimens as a distinct species, which they name *Somateria v-nigrum*, but that there is occasion to wait for new observations before deciding."—LEONHARD STEJNEGER, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

**A New Petrel for North America.**—On the 2d of September, 1885, there was captured on board the U. S. Fish Commission Steamer 'Albatross' (Capt. Z. L. Tanner, Commander), in latitude 40° 34' 18" N., 66° 09' W., a specimen of the White-faced Stormy Petrel, *Pelagodroma marina* (Lath.). Mr. James E. Benedict, resident naturalist of the 'Albatross,' writes me that it was "taken on the ship late in the evening of the 2d proximo," and that "it was in all probability attracted by the light and fell on the deck, from which it seemed unable to rise." He adds that no more of the same species were seen during the cruise, though Petrels of other kinds were numerous around the ship.

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\* Bull. Acad. Bruxelles, 1856, XXIII C; Naumannia, 1856, p. 397.—L. S.