

- Forest and Stream, XXV, Nos. 9-22. •
 Hoosier Naturalist, I, Nos. 4, 5, Dec. 1885.
 Journal Cincinnati Soc. Nat. Hist. VIII, No. 3, Oct. 1885.
 Kansas City Review, IX, Nos. 2-5, Sept.-Dec. 1885.
 Michigan Sportsman's Association, Seventh Annual of the. 8vo., pp. 128, Grand Rapids, Mich., 1885.
 Naturalist, The. A Journ. Nat. Hist. for the North of England, Nos. 123-125, Oct.-Dec. 1885.
 Ornithologist and Oologist, X, Nos. 10-12, Oct.-Dec. 1885.
 Proceedings Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, Pt. II, 1885.
 Proceedings U. S. Nat. Mus. VIII, Nos. 26-38, 1885.
 Random Notes on Natural History, II, Nos. 10-12, 1885.
 Young Ornithologist, I, No. 5, Sept. 1885.
 Zeitschrift für die gesammte Ornithologie, II, Heft 3, 1885.
 Zoologist, IX, Nos. 106-108, Oct.-Dec. 1885.

GENERAL NOTES.

The Bridled Tern (*Sterna anæthetus*) in South Carolina.—Mr. Walter Hoxie has sent me a specimen of this species shot August 25, 1885 (immediately after a hurricane), at Frogmore, South Carolina. It is a young male in fresh and very perfect autumnal plumage. The occurrence of this species in the United States has been previously open to some doubt, although Mr. George N. Lawrence has a specimen (formerly in the Audubon collection) which is labelled as having been taken in Florida.—
 WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Wild Swan in Prince Edward Island.—For several days previous to the 7th of October Mr. Wm. Stead, of Wheatly River, Prince Edward Island, observed a large bird in company with his flock of Geese. After making several unsuccessful attempts at capturing the stranger, he finally shot it. It proved to be an American Wild Swan, measuring 6 feet 6 inches in extent, and 4 feet 9 inches from tip of bill to toe.

This is the first recorded instance of the capture of a Wild Swan in Prince Edward Island, and shows how rarely these birds, though breeding in the Far North of Hudson's Bay, visit in their migrations the extreme east of the Continent.—
 F. BAIN, *North River, Prince Edward Island.*

Sandpipers at Sea.—On May 6 of this year, I was a passenger on the steamer 'St. Laurent,' which sailed from New York at 10 A. M., with a light east wind and clear weather. May 7 and 8 the wind held east.

gradually increasing to a fair breeze. Yet not at any time was there more than a fair summer breeze, though the gradual increase of the old swell running from the east told us of a storm not far ahead. We did not catch the storm, but learned, on reaching port, that steamers a few hours in advance had found rough weather. Both days were more or less foggy, the steam horn blowing on and off about half the time.

The fastest run up to 12 M. on May 8 was 582 miles. I regret that I am now unable to give exact position, but as we took a slightly more southerly course than is usual with the French line, it can easily be approximated.

On May 8, at 2 P. M., while watching some Petrels, I noticed a flock of Peeps on the port side, flying towards the steamer from the northwest. When within about 80 yards of us they turned to the east till they could pass our bows, then turned sharply, passing within a few yards, or even feet of us, and then off to the S. E. by E. I at once went to the upper deck to watch for more, and was surprised to find that, in every direction, as far as I could see in the then light fog, were large flocks of Peeps all flying in the same direction, S. E. by E. The birds were flying in large scattered flocks of from fifty to apparently several hundred birds. The flight lasted for nearly three hours, during which a very large number of birds must have passed us.

Why were they flying S. E. by E.? They should at that season have been bound for their northern breeding grounds and not for Africa.

There was not any evidence tending to show that the birds were lost, as all flew exactly the same way. Every flock that found our vessel in their line of flight, and of which there were not less than fifty, turned to the east till they could make by our bow, not one flock, or even a single bird, did I see turn to the westward to cross astern of us.

They were flying strong, easily passing our steamer, then making 12½ knots. Not one tried to alight, nor did any fall into the water, nor were any seen floating, though I watched carefully.

Whether the Peeps were *Tringa minutilla* or *Ereunetes pusillus* I can not say, but surely they were out of place and fast getting more so.—W. A. JEFFRIES. *Boston, Mass.*

On the Proper Name for the Prairie Hen.—Probably all ornithologists who have had the opportunity of investigating the matter, or who have carefully read Mr. Brewster's important article on 'The Heath Hen of Massachusetts' in 'The Auk' for January, 1885 (pp. 80-84), fully agree with Mr. Brewster in regard to the necessity of recognizing two species of the genus *Tympanuchus* (formerly *Cupidonia*), and indorse his restriction of the specific name *cupido* to the eastern bird. No other view of the case, in fact, seems admissible. In giving a new name to the western bird, however, Mr. Brewster has unfortunately overlooked a supposed synonym of *T. cupido*, which applies exclusively to the western species, as I have very recently discovered in compiling and verifying references pertaining to the two birds. The supposed synonym in ques-