

angle of the shaft in *T. anna* is not mentioned in the description nor shown in the cuts of the tail, being concealed by the coverts. It seems to be peculiar to my specimen and the Anna Humming-bird.

From *T. alexandri* it is distinguished by its larger size, broad primaries, and all the peculiarities of the tail.

As but one specimen was procured, it might be a hybrid possibly between *T. alexandri* and *T. lucifer*, but this is highly improbable, as it lacks the ruff and crown patch of one, and has a different wing and tail from either. It is more of a step between *T. alexandri* and *anna*, but it lacks the crown patch and ruff of the latter, and the gorget is violet; from *alexandri* the differences have already been pointed out. The primaries are broader than in either.

In short, it seems to be a perfectly distinct species, standing between *T. anna* and *T. alexandri*.

I have named it *violajugulum*, from *viola*, violet, and *jugulum*, the throat.

I am indebted to Mr. Ridgway for kindly comparing my specimen with the Washington collection.

BIRD NOTES FROM LONG ISLAND, N. Y.*

BY WILLIAM DUTCHER.

CONCENTRATION of effort, whether applied to business pursuits or the study of zoölogy, is the surest road to success. It was, therefore, with this idea in view, that I decided many years since to confine my ornithological studies and collecting to a limited area. Having a natural bent toward the seashore and water-fowl I saw, presented in Long Island, a field that could not be equalled for diversity of topography and definiteness of surroundings. Situated as it is on the debatable line between the Alleghanian and Carolinian Faunæ, it is like the territory between two contending armies, subject to incursions from both parties. Stragglers from the icy north visit its shores that shortly before have been visited by wanderers from the tropics. Up-

* Read before the Linnæan Society of New York, March 8, 1888.

land and marsh and sea attract a numerous and diversified avifauna, larger probably than can be found in any territory of equal size on the continent.

Almost the first book on birds that I ever read, in fact my primer in the study, was 'The Birds of Long Island,' by J. P. Giraud, Jr., which is without doubt one of the best local lists ever written. With this work as a basis on which to build, the task of completing the list of Long Island birds becomes comparatively easy. As Mr. Giraud's List is in the hands of very few of the readers of 'The Auk,' I have thought it desirable to quote his entire annotation regarding each species on which I publish notes.

In the present paper I have the pleasure of adding six new species and subspecies to the list of Long Island birds, as follows:

- Larus minutus*. LITTLE GULL.
Puffinus borealis. CORY'S SHEARWATER.
Fregata aquila. MAN-O'-WAR BIRD.
Otocoris alpestris praticola. PRAIRIE HORNED LARK.
Protonotaria citrea. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.
Dendroica palmarum. PALM WARBLER.

Three of these are new records for the State of New York, viz.,

- Larus minutus*. LITTLE GULL.
Puffinus borealis. CORY'S SHEARWATER.
Protonotaria citrea. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.

The Little Gull is also the first positive record for the Continent, the previous and its only other record being shadowed with doubt.

1. *Urinator lumme*. RED-THROATED LOON. Mr. Giraud says: "Those procured in this vicinity are usually young birds—adults seldom occurring."*

Mr. Newbold T. Lawrence, when recording two adult specimens taken on Long Island, says, "In this plumage it is rare."†

Mr. J. C. Knoess, who for many years has practiced taxidermy at Riverhead, Long Island, informs me that he has two very fine specimens of this Loon in the adult plumage "with beautiful red throats." Both were procured on the Island, "and are the only ones in mature plumage I ever saw on the Island." The writer, while at Sag Harbor, in the spring of 1886, saw in the shop of Messrs. Lucas and Buck, taxidermists, a specimen

* The Birds of Long Island, 1844, p. 381.

† Notes on several rare birds taken on Long Island, N. Y. Forest and Stream, Vol. X, p. 235.

which had been sent to them in the spring of 1885. It was shot in Mecox Bay, Suffolk Co., and was the first one they had ever seen in the adult plumage. Mr. A. E. Sherrill, of East Hampton, Suffolk Co., shot a full plumaged male May 8, 1887. It is now in my collection. He informs me that this specimen was shot at Montauk Point, on the ocean, about a mile off shore. It was alone. He adds, "I never saw one of these Loons except in the spring, and few of them at that season of the year. I never killed one just like it before, but have several times heard of their being shot. They are known locally as Shelldrake Loon." Mr. A. H. Helme, of Miller's Place, Suffolk Co., writes to me as follows: "While crossing the Sound, May 11, 1887, from Bridgeport, Conn., to Port Jefferson, Long Island, when about one mile from the Connecticut shore, I saw about twenty-three Red-throated Divers. They were singly, or in pairs, or three together. Those which came near enough to enable me to distinguish the markings were in immature plumage."

2. *Fratercula arctica*. PUFFIN.—Mr. L. S. Foster, of New York City, permits me to record a specimen of this species, now in his collection, which was captured about December 15, 1882, at Centre Moriches, Suffolk Co. Mr. Giraud says: "It but seldom occurs, and only in winter on the coast of Long Island."*

3. *Larus minutus*. LITTLE GULL.—The claim of this Gull to be included in the North American Avi-fauna has always been questionable, some writers allowing it a place on the specimen said to have been taken on the first Franklin Expedition, while others throw it out entirely. Swainson and Richardson include it on the strength of the Franklin specimen, as follows: "A specimen obtained on Sir John Franklin's first expedition, was determined by Mr. Sabine to be a young bird of the first year of this species, exactly according with M. Temminck's description. We have not that specimen to describe, and none was procured on the second expedition."†

Neither Audubon nor Wilson mention it, and Nuttall in a very general way refers it to the United States, but does not mention the taking of any specimens except the one above mentioned. He says, "This small species inhabits the north of both continents, and was seen in the fur countries in Franklin's first expedition, but does not appear to be at all common in those countries, and is equally rare in the United States."‡

Baird, Cassin and Lawrence merely refer to it as follows: "Hab. Arctic America? Europe. There is no specimen in the collection from North America." §

Dr. Coues, in his 'Birds of the Northwest,' refers the Franklin expedition specimen to *Larus philadelphia*, in the synonyms on page 655, and on p. 658 has the following: "Note.—The *Cræcocephalus minutus*, by

* Birds of Long Island, p. 374.

† Fauna Boreali-Americana, Vol. II, 1831, p. 426.

‡ Manual of the Ornithology of the United States and of Canada, 1834, p. 289.

§ Pacific Railroad Reports of Explorations and Surveys, Vol. IX, 1858, p. 853.

some included among North American birds, has no grounded claim to be so considered. I therefore omit the species, which I cannot recognize as an inhabitant of this country until some conclusive evidence is brought forward. The whole claim may be seen to rest upon an identification of Sabine's, who, in all probability, mistook *philadelphia* for *minutus*.*

It is included among the Laridæ in the 'Water Birds of North America' on the strength of the specimen so often referred to before, although the reference is made in a hesitating manner: "The claim of this bird to be included in the fauna of North America rests upon somewhat questionable grounds. Richardson states that a single individual of this species was obtained on Sir John Franklin's first expedition to the Arctic Regions."†

It is omitted from the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds, not even being placed in the 'Hypothetical List.

I have the pleasure of recording the capture of an immature specimen of this Gull. It was shot at Fire Island, Suffolk Co., New York (Long Island), about September 15, 1887. It was mounted by Mr. John Wallace of New York City, into whose possession it came, and who very generously presented it to the American Museum of Natural History, Central Park, New York City. It is No. 3156 in the mounted collection. Mr. Eugene P. Bicknell first called my attention to this specimen, which he had seen at Mr. Wallace's, by kindly sending me a note stating, "You might find it worth your while to go to Wallace's and look at a small Gull from Long Island which is drying there. It is in young plumage and, so far as I can see, may be any of the small Gulls. Wallace claims it to be different from anything he has seen." Subsequently I visited the shop of Mr. Wallace and identified it as *minutus*. Mr. Wallace informed me that the specimen was sent to him in the flesh by Mr. W. W. Wilson, of South Oyster Bay, Suffolk Co., N. Y. In response to an inquiry as to how he obtained it, Mr. Wilson replied: "The small Gull you wrote about was shot by Robert Powell, at Fire Island. It is the only one of the kind I have ever had." To complete the chain of evidence I wrote to Mr. Powell for information regarding its capture and he responded as follows: "I was on the bay after Snipe,—that is my business,—and there came twenty-five or thirty Gulls, ten or fifteen of them within shot. I saw this Gull looked so much different, I shot him first. That is my reason for shooting him, he looked so different." I may add that on very many occasions, while shooting in company with the baymen and professional gunners on the South Side of Long Island, I have noted with surprise their wonderful powers of observing the slightest differences among birds while they were yet flying. To the keen sight of Mr. Powell we are indebted for the specimen which gives *Larus minutus* a place in the list of the North American birds.

* Birds of the Northwest, 1874, pp. 655, 658.

† The Water Birds of North America, by Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, Vol. II, 1884, p. 265.

4. *Puffinus borealis*. CORY'S SHEARWATER.—Ever since the discovery of this species I have felt sure that it eventually would be added to the list of Long Island birds. When I read in 'The Auk' for January, 1887, the note by the late Professor Baird, recording the occurrence of Cory's Shearwater in numbers between Point Judith (Rhode Island) and Vineyard Sound, I was certain that the time was near at hand. It was with great pleasure, therefore, that I received from Messrs. Lucas and Buck, two specimens, a male and female, which, with four others, were shot off Amagansett, Suffolk Co., about October 18, 1887.

5. *Puffinus auduboni*. AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER.—My son, Basil Hicks Dutcher, while examining the catch of a fishing smack at Amityville, Suffolk Co., found a specimen of this species lying on the deck. Capt. Joshua Ketcham, the owner, kindly gave it to him and also stated that the bird "was captured, while alive, in Great South Bay, opposite Bellport, August 1, 1887. It refused food and lived but a few days." On skinning the bird a contused wound was found on the right breast, evidently caused by a blow. According to Mr. Giraud, "This is another of those stragglers that occasionally visit the coast of Long Island."*

6. *Fregata aquila*. MAN-O'-WAR BIRD.—The claim of this bird to be included in the fauna of Long Island has heretofore rested on the specimen captured by Capt. Brooks, in 1859, on Faulkner's Island, Long Island Sound.† After an interval of twenty-seven years another straggler from the tropics furnishes an additional record of extra-limital occurrence. In August, 1886, Messrs. Lucas and Buck wrote to me that they had just mounted a specimen of the Frigate Pelican for Mrs. John Lyon Gardiner, which had been shot on Gardiner's Island. Subsequently I ascertained, on inquiry, that the bird was shot August 4, 1886, by Mr. Josiah P. Miller, the keeper of the lighthouse. His account of the capture of the specimen is as follows: "The Man-o'-War Bird which I shot a while ago, was, when I first discovered it, sitting on a piece of old wreck, about fifty rods distant from the lighthouse. I tried to get a shot at it, but it saw me before I was near enough, and flew off up the beach out of sight. It came back in about an hour and settled in the same place as before. This time I went on the opposite side of the beach and concealed myself in the grass. My daughter went toward the bird, when it flew directly over me, giving a splendid shot. It was alone, and is the only one of the kind that I ever saw in this part of the world. I have kept this light for twenty years."

7. *Anas strepera*. GADWALL.—Mr. A. H. Helme, of Miller's Place, allows me to record a Gadwall Duck which was taken April 9, 1879, at Mount Sinai Harbor, Suffolk Co. It was shot by a gunner who reported having secured a similar Duck a few days prior. The last one shot was seen by Mr. Helme and positively identified; but the first one, although probably a Gadwall, may have been some other species. November 24, 1886, a female of this rare species was sent to me by Mr. Andrew Chiches-

* Birds of Long Island, p. 370.

† American Naturalist, Vol. IX, p. 470.

ter, of Amityville, who subsequently sent to me the following note: "My brother and I were gunning in partnership; I was at the north end of Gilgo Island and he was about three-quarters of a mile west of me and to the windward. A flock of fifteen or twenty Black Ducks came to my decoys and I noticed among them one which I supposed was a Pintail or Widgeon, but as they do not sell as well in market as Black Ducks, I paid no further attention to it, but tried to make the best shot I could at the others. The flock passed on to my brother's blind, but would not come near enough for a shot, although they noticed the decoys. After passing, the Gadwall left the flock, turned back and lit among the decoys, when he shot it. Neither my brother nor myself ever saw one like it before, nor have we ever heard of one being killed around here." The Messrs. Chichester are professional gunners who are well acquainted with the wild fowl that frequent the western end of Great South Bay. Mr. Giraud says of this Duck: "In this vicinity, the Gadwall is quite rare. My first acquaintance with this bird was in 1834, while pursuing my favorite amusement of water fowl shooting in the celebrated South Bay. It was flying alone, seemingly wandering about as if in search of companions. It passed and repassed several times outside of my decoys, without approaching within gunshot, but sufficiently near to excite in me a desire for having a better opportunity to examine it. I concealed myself with great care, hoping that it would approach within shooting distance, as I was induced to believe that it would, from the desire it exhibited to join the motley flock which my 'decoys' represented; but as it advanced, it appeared to see that all was not right, and at the moment when my hopes were the brightest, it quickly changed its course, and alighted on a marsh about a half a mile from me. I gave quick pursuit, and after wading through the tall grass and mud, discovered it sitting on a bog, pluming and dressing its feathers, unconscious of its impending fate. Its perfectly neat appearance so engaged my attention, that I forgot that a gun was in my possession, until it took to wing, when the desire to obtain it returned, and I brought it down. On taking it up, although proud of this valuable acquisition to my collection, I could not forbear feeling that Nature had been robbed of one of her greatest ornaments. I have since killed a few along the south shore of Long Island."*

8. *Somateria spectabilis*. KING EIDER.—Mr. Giraud says of this species: "This remarkable Duck is seldom seen within the limits of the United States, although I had the good fortune to add to my collection an adult male in perfect plumage, that was shot on Long Island Sound, in the winter of 1839. During winter—at Egg Harbor (New Jersey) as well as on the shores of Long Island—the young are occasionally observed. But the adult specimen now in my possession, and one other, are the only individuals in full and mature plumage, that I have ever known to be procured in the vicinity of New York." † Early in December, 1886, Mr. A.

* Birds of Long Island, pp. 305, 306.

† Ibid, p. 333.

H. Helme visited Capt. J. G. Scott, keeper of the lighthouse at Montauk Point, and while there had the good fortune to procure an adult female of this species. His account of the capture is as follows: "It was alone when shot and was feeding in the shallow water among the rocks in a sheltered cove. It was at first mistaken for a Dusky Duck, whose mate had been shot at this spot the preceding day. It was shot at and twice driven from its feeding ground only to return the third time to offer itself, apparently, a voluntary contribution to the cause. It had previously been wounded, the right tibia having been broken near the tibio-tarsal articulation. As the bones had not united the bird evidently found it difficult to feed in the deeper water. This will, I think, account for its attachment to the spot where it was shot. Capt. Scott reports seeing, while off the Point ducking, several Ducks which he calls 'Isle of Shoal Ducks.' They may be female Eiders or Scoters." January 22, 1887, Capt. Scott sent to me one of the Isle of Shoal Ducks, which proved to be a female King Eider. He reported them, "living off the Point since early in November (11th), when I saw a flock of four; the next day I saw ten at one time. They appear less shy than the other wild fowl, and will permit a nearer approach in a boat. In this locality it is seen occasionally in the winter months, on the ocean, from one-quarter to one-half mile from shore. It is not a common Duck, and I believe it is only a few years since they have been seen off Montauk Point, but this winter they have been more than usually common. There is a shoal, with a depth of water from fifteen to twenty feet, about one-quarter of a mile off the Point, where I go to shoot Ducks, but can only do so when the surf will permit. Every time I have visited this spot this winter, I have seen from four to twenty King Eiders." March 19, 1887, Capt. Scott sent to me a young male which he shot from a flock of twenty. April 8, he wrote, "I was out to-day and saw about thirty King Eiders, as many as I have seen any day this winter. I think about one-third of the birds were males." Late in the winter I wrote to Capt. Frank Stratton, keeper of the Ditch Plain Life Saving Station, asking whether this species was a regular winter visitant near Montauk, and he replied as follows: "The King Eider Ducks are quite rare here; I think I have known only about ten killed in as many years. I shot three, the first of November, I think in 1880. We see a few every winter, between November 1 and May 1, usually singly or in pairs, hardly ever in flocks. They feed on mussels or small shell-fish which they pick up from the bottom of the ocean. They never come into the ponds or bays; at least I have never seen one except on the ocean. They are very fair eating, nearly as good as a Black Duck." April 21, 1887, Capt. Stratton sent to me a male and female which had been shot off his station by one of the Life Saving Crew. "They were about one-quarter of a mile off shore, where the water was from three to four fathoms deep." They were both gorged with the young of the common edible mussel (*Mytilus edulis* Linn.), which Capt. Stratton says grow in large quantities in the ocean around Montauk, wherever there is a rocky bottom. The two specimens above referred to were the last ones seen.

9. *Olor columbianus*. WHISTLING SWAN.—Mr. Giraud says regarding the genus *Olor*: “The present species is the only one which I have ever known to be seen in this vicinity.”* The first settlers on Long Island undoubtedly found Swans in great numbers, as did their eastern neighbors. † At the present time, however, this noble bird can hardly be called more than a straggler. November 5, 1886, one was shot in Reed Pond, Montauk, by Mr. George Hand; it was alone. Capt. Scott informs me that Mr. Jonathan Miller shot one about twelve years since while he was keeper of the light at Montauk Point. It was mounted and is now in his possession at his home in Amagansett. Mr. Eugene A. Jackson, of Atlanticville, reported to me that one was shot November 26, 1886, on Shinnecock Bay. Nothing but the head and neck were preserved; these are now in my collection. This is the same bird recorded in ‘Forest and Stream,’ Vol. XXVII, p. 364.

10. *Rallus elegans*. KING RAIL.—Mr. Giraud says of this Rail: “During my frequent excursions on Long Island, I have not had the good fortune to meet with this large and beautiful Rail, and have only seen one specimen that was procured in that locality, which was shot in the vicinity of Williamsburg, and is now in the valuable collection of George N. Lawrence, Esq.” After quoting Mr. Audubon at some length, as to its being altogether a fresh water bird, he concludes by saying: “Hence we may conclude that its occurrence with us is extremely rare.” ‡ As it is, like all of the Rallidæ, partly nocturnal and extremely secretive in its habits, it is probably overlooked and is more common than it is thought to be. Mr. Knoess, of Riverhead, has a mounted specimen in his collection. It is a young bird and was caught alive on the shores of Peconic Bay. It is the second one that has been brought to him alive. He cannot say positively whether it was bred there, but he is under the impression that it was.§

Mr. Squires, of Ponquogue, Suffolk Co., has in his possession a mounted specimen which was shot some years since on the meadows opposite the Great West Bay Light, Shinnecock Bay. It was taken in the summer. My friend, Mr. Alfred A. Fraser, of Oakdale, Suffolk Co., presented me with a magnificent specimen in the flesh, which he shot November 2, 1886, on a meadow bordering a fresh water stream, emptying into Great South Bay, at Bayport, Suffolk Co. He wrote: “I cannot remember of bagging over half a dozen in my twenty years’ shooting on Long Island.” Mr. Fraser is the fortunate possessor of a beautifully located country seat of 800 acres, which affords him many hours of sport with his dogs and gun.

March 3, 1887, one of these birds struck the Montauk Point Lighthouse, and was sent to me by the keeper, Capt. Scott. He stated that the bird

* Birds of Long Island, p. 299.

† See Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Birds of Connecticut, p. 120. J. A. Allen, A Revised List of the Birds of Massachusetts, p. 233. Wm. Dutcher, Forest & Stream, Vol. XXVIII, p. 106.

‡ Birds of Long Island, p. 210.

§ See Birds of Connecticut, p. 115.

struck the light on the east side of the tower. If it was migrating northward, it should have struck the tower on the west side, the trend of the Island being about east and west, but striking on the opposite side indicates that it only struck after circling about the light.*

11. *Porzana noveboracensis*. YELLOW RAIL.—Mr. Giraud says: "Notwithstanding this species is but seldom met with on Long Island, I am not inclined to think it so exceedingly rare in this vicinity as it is generally supposed. Its habits of skulking among the tall grass and reeds that overgrow the wet and but seldom frequented marshes, as well as its unwillingness to take wing, may, I think, in a measure account for its apparent extreme scarcity with us."†

Mr. A. A. Fraser sent to me April 29, 1887, a specimen of this species which his dog caught alive. As his account of the occurrence is very interesting, corroborating fully the statements of Mr. Giraud and Dr. Grinnell regarding the difficulty of flushing this Rail, I give it in full: "They are very hard to get, as it is almost impossible to make them take wing. This one was secured while I was beating the salt meadows for English Snipe. My dog came to a beautiful stiff point; I walked up to flush the bird, expecting to see a Snipe get up, but instead, the dog broke point, and run his nose in the meadow grass and brought to me very carefully the Rail." When I received it, it was so lively, and also so pretty, that I disliked to kill it, so took it to the menagerie at Central Park, New York City. Mr. Conklin, the Superintendent, placed it in a large cage, surrounded with a fine wire netting, in company with some Quails and Doves. Its restlessness was pitiful: it ran from side to side of the coop and thrust its head in the loops of wire looking for a hiding place. During its first night in confinement its neck was caught in one of the wire loops and it became an involuntary suicide. Its remains now rest peacefully, with those of several other members of its family, in a tin vault dedicated to the post-mortem uses of the avi-fauna of Long Island.

12. *Crex crex*. CORN CRAKE.—Since my previous record of this bird on Long Island,‡ I have had a mounted specimen presented to me by Mr. A. A. Fraser, who "bagged the bird, November 2, 1880. It was at the foot of the uplands, where they join the meadows, in heavy cover, with springs running from it."

13. *Phalaropus tricolor*. WILSON'S PHALAROPE. My friend, Mr. Charles E. Perkins, again enriched my collection of Long Island birds by sending to me, September 13, 1887, a specimen of this Phalarope, which

* See Bird Migration, By William Brewster. Mem. Nuttall Ornith. Club, No. 1, 1886.

† Birds of Long Island, p. 205.

Dr. C. Hart Merriam in his Birds of Connecticut, pp. 118 and 119, gives a very interesting letter from Dr. George Bird Grinnell regarding the capture of several specimens of this species near Milford, Conn. He found "They were ridiculously tame and would run along before the dog, creeping into the holes in the bogs and hiding there while we tried in vain to start them."

‡ Auk, Vol. III, 1886, p. 435.

he shot that day, at Shinnecock Bay, Suffolk Co., while shooting Bay-birds (*Limicolæ*) over decoys. Two days after he shot another.

14. *Tringa maritima*. PURPLE SANDPIPER.—This species was one of the desiderata of Mr. Giraud, who wrote of it as follows: "This species I have never met with, and from my own observations of its habits and customs I know nothing. On the shore of Long Island it is exceedingly rare. Of all the transient visitors, there is no species for which I have made more diligent search than the Purple Sandpiper. At different seasons of the year, I have traversed the beaches and shoals on the south, and rambled over the rocky shores of the north side of the Island—but thus far it has eluded all my endeavors. Respecting it, I have had frequent conversations with the bay-men, without gathering any information, it being to those with whom I have conversed entirely unknown; and were it not from having in my possession a specimen that was purchased in Fulton Market, and having seen two or three others that were procured through the same source—all of which, it is said, were shot on the eastern end of the Island—I would not feel at liberty to include it in our local Fauna."*

It is very probable that this Sandpiper is only found, now, as when Mr. Giraud wrote of it, on the eastern portion of the Island, and perhaps on the north side, where it can find the rocky shores so necessary to its existence. Mr. Newbold T. Lawrence† and Mr. Robert B. Lawrence,‡ both well known in connection with Long Island birds, have each recorded one specimen from the Island. It is further probable that it is not only a regular winter visitant, but that it is not uncommon in suitable localities on Long Island. Its being found only on rocky shores and during the winter months, accounts largely for its being overlooked. The bleakness and desolation of winter along the scashore deters sportsmen from frequenting it even at the most favorable times, but when there is added the snow and sleet of a northeast gale none but the hardy members of the Life Saving Crews, those noblemen who ever stand ready to risk their own lives to save those of storm-tossed and surf-beaten mariners, and the isolated few who devote their lives to solitude and loneliness in the lighthouse towers, that stand as beacons to warn the sailor where danger lurks, ever have the opportunity of observing this boreal Sandpiper in its chosen surroundings. At the entrance to Long Island Sound lies a small rocky island, known as Little Gull, on which is erected a lighthouse that by day and night serves as a guide from the stormy waters of the Atlantic to the land-locked Long Island Sound. The keeper of this light, Mr. H. P. Field, has given me many valuable notes, and some specimens, of the birds of his vicinity. His means of communication with the mails are by sailing a long distance to the nearest port on Long Island, or else to put off in a small boat and hail some inward bound vessel and get the master to forward his notes or specimens. Communication is therefore

* Birds of Long Island, pp. 236, 237.

† Forest and Stream, Vol. X, p. 235.

‡ Ibid., Vol. XXVII, p. 428.

so infrequent that I supply him with small blank books in which he makes almost daily records of the birds noted; also the weather and temperature. These books are sent to me January and July first. In the report for the first half of 1886, Mr. Field noted, January 23: "Observed some small Snipe feeding on the rocks,—temp. 20°." The next day he notes: "The little Snipe still here, while it is snowing hard,—temp. 8°." None were seen again until January 30, when he writes: "One little Snipe made its appearance again to-day,—temp. 32°." February 1, another one joined the solitary individual noted January 30. This pair remained until the 10th of February, "feeding on the rocks," although the temperature on the 4th was —2°. On the 17th they returned, remaining one day and then disappeared until February 23. They again wandered off, returning March 3, and remaining three days. None were seen again until March 25, when one returned to say to Mr. Field that the temperature of 38° was entirely too tropical, and that he wished to say for himself and his mates, farewell, as they were about to start for a more frigid clime. The journey evidently was commenced, as none were again seen.

Mr. A. H. Helme, while at Montauk Point in December, 1886, saw three individuals of this species and secured two of them, a male and female. The first one secured was shot about two miles west of the Point, and the second was killed near Fort Pond, about four miles from the Point. February 10, 1887, a flock of three made their appearance at Little Gull Island, and Mr. Field secured them all and sent them to me in the flesh. No others visited either Little Gull Island or Montauk Point, during the winter of 1886–87. November 1, 1887, a solitary individual was shot at Montauk Point, by Capt. Scott, who sent it to me, together with a Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*), which was shot from a flock of twenty at the same place and on the same day.

15. *Cathartes aura*. TURKEY VULTURE.—Since making my previous record* on this species I have secured several others through the kindness of Mr. Alfred Marshall, an Associate Member of the Union. The records were all made at the extreme southwestern portion of the Island, Mr. Marshall residing in Flatbush, Kings Co. The following is a copy of his notes: "September 5, 1877, Mr. Johnston says, 'The flagman on the Manhattan Beach R. R., at the Parkville crossing, saw a large bird flying about six feet from the ground, and as it flew by succeeded in stunning it with a stone. He afterward saw it and found it to be a Turkey Vulture in splendid condition.' June 9, 1885, Mr. Johnston also saw two flying over his residence at Parkville, and again on August 26, of the same year, he saw another. July 19, 1886, he saw still another, being pursued by a Crow. The Vulture mounted to a great height, the Crow following. In May, 1885, I saw one, and May 16, the following year, I saw another. It was sitting on the top of a dead tree near Ocean Avenue, Greenfield, Kings Co. Two or three wagons drove by while I was watching the bird, but it did not fly, so I crept under the tree to get a good view of it. After watch-

* Auk, 1886, Vol. III, p. 439.

ing it for ten minutes, I threw a stone to start it, but it did not fly until I hit the limb it was sitting on; then it flew to another tree about fifty yards off and commenced cleaning its feathers. It was about 5 A.M. when I saw the bird first. I think it had been eating and had gorged itself. These are all the notes I can collect, and I believe they cover the visits of this Vulture in our locality for the past decade."

16. *Strix pratincola*. AMERICAN BARN OWL.—Since my record of the breeding of this species on Long Island* I have heard of the capture of a specimen. Mr. Knoess wrote to me as follows: "I see by reading 'The Auk,' that you mention the Barn Owl as being a rare bird: I mounted a beautiful specimen, shot November 20, 1886, at West Hampton, Suffolk Co., a female. It is the first one I ever mounted on the Island. My friend who shot it saw it perched on a tree near the post office, between one and two o'clock, P.M."

17. *Alauda arvensis*. SKYLARK.—Late in June, 1887, I received a request from Dr. C. Hart Merriam to investigate a statement made in a New York paper, that "Skylarks are abundant on Long Island, at Flatbush and from that place down, easterly through a stretch of land extending to Flatlands, and thence around and about the town of Flatlands." I referred the request to Mr. Alfred Marshall, who resides at Flatbush and is well acquainted with the locality. Within a few days (July 2) he wrote that he had secured two birds which he supposed were Skylarks. They were forwarded to Dr. Merriam who pronounced them "unquestionably the true European Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)." Subsequently, Mr. Marshall informed me that he found the Skylarks in the long-grass fields, and that they were quite plenty. Those secured were young birds. On the 12th of July he saw a great many, all adults, and singing. He also saw one carrying food in its mouth, and supposing it had young, he noted where it dropped into a piece of timothy grass. He was unable to find the nest then, but later, on the 14th, he was more successful, as he found it with five half-grown young. The nest was composed of grass and was placed in a depression in the ground, about two and one-half inches deep, and was hidden under a tuft of grass. The Skylarks remained until September 15, on which date Mr. Marshall saw the last one.

18. *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. PRAIRIE HORNED LARK.—Mr. John Hendrickson, of Long Island City, Queens Co., has the honor of having secured the first specimen of this variety of the Horned Lark on Long Island. July 31, 1886, he shot one near his home. His brother, Mr. W. F. Hendrickson, when writing to me about it, asked if it was not early in the season for a Shore Lark to be found, and also stated that the specimen was very small. Subsequently he sent it to me, but as I had no others to compare it with, I forwarded it to Dr. A. K. Fisher, at Washington, for comparison and identification. He replied to my inquiry as follows: "The specimen is *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. To make doubly sure, I had Mr. Ridgway examine it and he said there was no question but that it was

*Auk, Vol. III, 1886, p. 439.

praticola. I should not be surprised, if in a few years the bird would be a common breeder on Long Island." September 14, 1887, the Messrs. Hendrickson sent to me in the flesh a Horned Lark which, from its immaturity, had evidently been bred on the Island, and consequently must be *praticola*.

19. *Calcarius lapponicus*. LAPLAND LONGSPUR.—One shot at Long Island City, Queens Co., January 11, 1886, by John Hendrickson, is the only record I have secured since those noted in 'The Auk' of October, 1886.* This specimen was in company with four Horned Larks. "It had but one leg, the left one having been cut off: the wound was entirely healed." Mr. Giraud considered this bird an extremely rare straggler. "In the winter of 1838, several specimens of this bird were observed in the New York markets, having been shot on Long Island—but I am not aware that this species has ever before or since been met with in our section."† From my records made thus far I cannot consider individuals of this species in the light of stragglers. Further observations, made on the beaches and grassy plains, may prove them to be regular, but not common, visitants, as in Massachusetts.‡

20. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.—Mr. Giraud includes this bird in his list, but does not say specifically that he ever took or even saw a specimen on Long Island. Inferentially he includes it, but considers it rare "in the Middle States."§ Mr. Geo. N. Lawrence, gives it in his list, and I find in his collection, now in the American Museum of Natural History, Central Park, New York City, two specimens from Long Island. I have secured two specimens in the past nine years. The first one of these has already been recorded.|| The last one, an immature male, I shot October 16, 1886, at Broadway, Queens Co. It was first seen in a roadside thicket of catbriars (*Smilax rotundifolia*), but was thought to be a White-throated Sparrow. After the lapse of half an hour the thicket was again visited and the bird was found and secured. It was alone.

21. *Piranga rubra*. SUMMER Tanager.—Mr. Giraud does not include this species among the Long Island birds, nor does Mr. George N. Lawrence include it in his catalogue.¶

The former says, when speaking of the Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*): "This species is the only one of the Genus that is found in this vicinity.** The latter states, "I have seen it in the Magnolia Swamps

* Auk, Vol. III, 1886, p. 440.

† Birds of Long Island, 1844, p. 99.

‡ See A Revised List of the Birds of Massachusetts. By J. A. Allen. Bull. Amer. Mus. N. H., Vol. 1, No. 7, July, 1886, p. 250.

§ Birds of Long Island, p. 123.

|| Auk, Vol. I, 1884, p. 175.

¶ Catalogue of Birds observed on New York, Long, and Staten Islands, and the adjacent parts of New Jersey. Ann. N. Y. Lyc. Nat. Hist., VIII, p. 286, April, 1886.

** Birds of Long Island, p. 136.

of the New Jersey coast near Atlantic City, but never met with it any further north." Since my previous records* I have had two additional specimens reported to me by Mr. John C. Knoess, who writes: "I have a beautiful specimen, killed last April (1886) at Manor, Suffolk Co., and another at Promised Land, also in Suffolk Co. They are the first I ever saw on the Island." Can it be that this species is extending its range northward?

22. *Protonotaria citrea*. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.—Neither Mr. Giraud, in 1844, nor Mr. Lawrence, in 1866, gave this species in their Long Island lists, nor can I find a well authenticated record for the State of New York. I now have the pleasure, however, of adding this beautiful Warbler to the New York birds, through the kindness of Capt. Scott, who sent me one that struck the light at Montauk Point, during the night of August 26, 1886. It was found dead at the base of the tower on the following morning. The night was hazy, with wind changing from northeast to southwest. So far as Capt. Scott knows the bird was alone, that is, he found no others dead, nor did he see any about the lantern. He states that it was the first one of the kind that he had ever seen. This record, taken in connection with that made by Mr. William Brewster, in this journal, October, 1886,† is particularly interesting. The two specimens taken by Mr. Brewster at Concord, Mass., were shot on August 17 and 23, and my specimen struck the lighthouse on the 26th. Perhaps this last specimen was one of the family from which Mr. Brewster secured two members, but if not so, it certainly to some degree bears out his claim, "that during 1886, at least, there has been a regular, if limited, flight into and from New England."

23. *Dendroica striata*. BLACK-POLL WARBLER.—Of the five hundred and ninety-five birds which were killed by striking Fire Island Light, September 23, 1887, no less than three hundred and fifty-six of them were of this species. Among them I found a very beautiful partial albino.

24. *Dendroica palmarum*. PALM WARBLER.—During the night of the 23d of September, 1887, a great bird wave was rolling southward along the Atlantic Coast. Mr. E. J. Udall, first assistant keeper of the Fire Island Light, wrote to me that the air was full of birds. Very many of the little travellers met with an untimely fate, for on the following morning Mr. Udall picked up at the foot of the light house tower, and shipped to me, no less than five hundred and ninety-five victims. Twenty-five species were included in the number, all of them being land birds, very nearly half of which were Wood Warblers (*Mniotiltidæ*). Among these I found one female Palm Warbler. This is the first record for Long Island of the western form, those included by Mr. Giraud‡ and Mr. Lawrence§ in their lists being undoubtedly the eastern form, *hypochrysea*.

* Auk, Vol. III, 1886, p. 442.

† Auk, Vol. III, 1886, pp. 487, 488.

‡ Birds of Long Island, p. 59.

§ Ann. N. Y. Lyc. Nat. Hist., VIII, April, 1866, p. 284.

25. *Mimus polyglottos*. MOCKINGBIRD.—Mr. Arthur Tepper, of Flatbush, Kings Co., brought to me a specimen of this species for identification, and informed me that it had been shot in his neighborhood, in the early part of November, 1884. He also stated that another one had been shot a short time previously in the same locality. On two other occasions he saw what he was positive were Mockingbirds, both being in the summer. Mr. Giraud says of it: "This unrivalled songster occasionally passes the season of reproduction on Long Island."*

26. *Thyothorus ludovicianus*. CAROLINA WREN.—Since my previous record† another specimen has been brought to my notice by one of my correspondents, Mr. Henry Hicks, of Westbury Station, Queens Co., who now has it in his collection. He secured it the latter part of March, 1886. It was first seen March 22, about an open hovel, and remained about the place until the 25th, when it was shot.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES FROM THE GULF COAST OF FLORIDA, WITH A DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF MARSH WREN.

BY W. E. D. SCOTT.

Chen hyperborea nivalis. GREATER SNOW GOOSE — Mr. J. W. Atkins, of Key West, Florida, has kindly forwarded to me a representative of this subspecies taken near Punta Rassa, Florida. There were four individual in the flock from which this specimen was obtained. This is the only record resulting from four years' work on this coast.

Ardea wardi. WARD'S HERON.—The references to *Ardea herodias* in my recent papers on the 'The Present Condition of some of the Bird Rookeries of the Gulf Coast of Florida' (Auk, Vol. IV, pp. 135, 213, and 273) should probably all be attributed to this species. *Ardea herodias*, so far as I am now aware, does not occur on the Gulf coast of Florida south of the mouth of the Withlacooche River. In the vicinity of Tarpon Springs, Hillsboro County, Ward's Heron is still a comparatively abundant bird. It breeds in colonies of varying size, not less than three, or more than twenty-five pairs being associated together. The localities chosen for breeding are generally small islands having a considerable growth of trees, and with open expanses of fresh water on all sides. Such islands are frequently to be found in cypress swamps and are apparently the favorite breeding resorts. Mating begins in late December or early January and by the middle or last of the latter month the

* Birds of Long Island, p. 82.

† Auk, Vol. III, 1886, p. 442.