

Length, 641; extent, 904; wing, 205; outer toe, 84; middle toe, 79; tarsus, 78; culmen, 67; head, 57; gape, 80; height of bill at base, 14.5.

The widening of the river for about two miles by the Lawrence dam affords a specially attractive halting place for numerous waterfowl. Only a few days before this capture Mr. A. L. Bennett shot a specimen of the Surf Scoter (*Oidemia perspicillata* Linn.) at the same place, which thus had the honor of furnishing within one week two new birds for the Kansas list.—F. H. SNOW, *Lawrence, Mass.*

Puffinus borealis at Gardiner's Bay, N. Y.—Stragglers from the large flight of Cory's Shearwaters, which occurred in September and October, 1886, off Gay Head,* Mass., seem to have reached Long Island, N. Y. I recently obtained a specimen taken by Mr. W. W. Worthington, in Gardiner's Bay, Long Island.

This is, I believe, the first recorded specimen from New York.—ARTHUR P. CHADBOURNE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Eggs of the Ivory Gull (*Gavia alba*).—The National Museum at Washington, D. C., has recently received a set of two eggs, of the rare Ivory Gull (*Gavia alba*). A short description of these may be of interest to the readers of 'The Auk.' These eggs were taken, with seventeen others, at Storöen (Great Island) on the northeast coast of Spitzbergen, in 80° 9' north latitude, by Captain E. Johannsen, of Tromsö, Norway, who found a small colony of these birds breeding there, and secured a number of the adult and young of this species, as well as the above mentioned number of eggs, on August 8, 1887. All the eggs taken contained large embryos, and were on the point of hatching. It is remarkable that birds should nest so late, in such a climate and so near the pole.

Previous to this find, but four eggs of this species were known to science. According to Mr. Henry Seebohm, the distinguished English ornithologist, these are deposited as follows: One egg, obtained by McClintock, in the Museum of the Royal Dublin Society; two eggs, obtained by Malmgren, are in the Stockholm Museum, and a fourth is in the collection of Mr. Benzon in Copenhagen. Mr. Seebohm describes the specimen in the Dublin Museum as measuring 2.45 inches in length and 1.70 inch in breadth. Ground color buffish olive, and the surface markings, which are distributed over the entire shell, as dark and pale brown, and the underlying markings, which are very large and conspicuous, as violet gray. See 'History of British Birds,' by Henry Seebohm, Vol. III, pp. 337-339.

The two eggs in the National Museum Collection measure 2.36×1.76 and 2.26×1.67 inches respectively. Their ground color is buffish olive; in one egg, somewhat paler, perhaps more of an olive drab tint. The surface markings, more or less irregularly distributed over the entire egg, vary from clove-brown to bistre. The underlying or shell-markings vary

* Baird, Auk, Vol. IV, 1887, p. 71.

from slate to lilac-gray in tint, and predominate in the larger specimen. In the smaller and darker one, both styles of markings are about equally distributed. The two kinds of spots vary considerably in size and shape.—CHAS. E. BENDIRE, *Washington, D. C.*

The Old-squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) in South Carolina.—On the 30th of December, 1887, I was informed by my friend, Mr. Henry Hunter, that he had shot a pair of 'Long-tailed' Ducks, in Charleston Harbor, and, in fact, within a few rods of the Sea Wall of the Battery. I at once went with him to his house to see the birds, but to my dismay, I found that the cook had been ahead of me, and the picked bodies and severed heads were gravely spread before me. From the heads I identified the mortal remains as, beyond a doubt, those of *Clangula hyemalis*. Upon my representing to Mr. Hunter the rarity of the bird so far to the south, he promised to keep a close watch and try and procure another, and on the 16th of January, 1887, sent me word that he had a specimen for me. This, like the former, was shot within a hundred yards of the city, and during a mild spell of weather, though it had been quite cold. The Duck was a female and lacked the lengthened tail-feathers. It was not fat, but was in fair winter plumage, and is the only Duck whose head I have been able to draw through the skin of the neck. The specimen is now in my collection. On January 20, Mr. Hunter wounded a male 'Old Wife' (a *lucus a non lucendo*), which he said had a very long tail. The bird dove, and owing to the extreme roughness of the water he was unable to see anything more of it. There had been three of them swimming together. The same gentleman informs me that a few winters ago, in about 1883, his brother stood in his yard, which faces the water, and shot a specimen of *Clangula hyemalis* that was feeding in the shallow water near by.

The Ducks in Charleston Harbor during the winter come very close to the Sea Wall around the Battery, and I have frequently seen the Lesser Black-head, the Buffle-head, the Grebe, and once a fine male Golden-Eye, so close that I could distinguish the iris, or in military parlance "see the whites of their eyes."

I think that this will prove the most southern record of *C. hyemalis*, as yet; at least I can find none other so far south.—ELLISON A. SMYTHE, JR., *Charleston, S. C.*

Surf Scoter (*Oidemia perspicillata*) in Kansas.—I would like to record the first appearance in this State, of the Surf Scoter (*Oidemia perspicillata*). The specimen was shot by myself above the dam across the Kansas River at Lawrence, Kansas, Oct. 29, 1887. The bird was not in company with any other Ducks. It is a young male, with the characteristic large bill with two round, horny plates on the side near the base. The two loreal and auricular white patches are well defined; below dusky black; rest of plumage black or nearly so. The bird is mounted and in my collection. The following are the measurements: Length, 18.88; extent of wings, 32.60; wing, 9.25; tail, 2.98; tarsus, 1.81; middle toe and claw, 2.96; chord of culmen, 1.60; bill along gape, 2.38.—A. L. BENNETT, *Lawrence, Kan.*