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GENERAL NOTES.

Notes on Cassin's Auklet.—Some notes I made on *Ptychoramphus aleuticus* while on Santa Catalina Island, Cala., may be of interest to others. I arrived there March 15, and left April 3, 1893. For three or four days after my arrival the sea was rough and the birds appeared nearer shore than later in calm weather. The choppy waves made shooting difficult, and the birds were wild. During the better weather that followed the birds must have gone some miles out, for one day at least I saw none

in half a day's rowing. The first day's work was about the best, and of the five taken that day four were in good condition though none were fat. Later on all birds taken were thin, some being very thin, and five were found floating dead, three of which I saved. It would seem that those that remained until the end of the month were unable to migrate, either because of disease or old age. In one female taken March 23 some ova were as large as No. 10 shot. None of the other females taken showed any tendency toward breeding. Several birds taken show small irregular patches of white on the cheeks, probably signs of immaturity. The majority retained the old faded wing and tail feathers.

The flight of *P. aleuticus* is swift, steady, and low, just clearing the waves. The white under parts show in flight. They dive well, and can stay under water two minutes or more. They swim fast for so small a bird. On being chased with a boat they often preferred diving to flight, and then their speed was greater than when swimming, requiring sharp rowing to get within shooting distance. They often changed their course while under water, and several times baffled me in that way. They are so small that one cannot see them very far in rough water. Wounded birds observed at short distances were observed to use their wings in diving, and probably in all cases diving is simply a flight under water.

The last day that I was out I ran down two sick birds that I knocked over with an oar without having to shoot them, and another I caught alive without hurting it, but it died as I came ashore. March 30 I shot one at close range with dust shot, which revived after being thrown in the bottom of the boat, and I kept it alive one day. It was apparently unable to fly when first seen and was quite thin. I found on skinning it that a single pellet of dust shot had passed through the brain and stopped at the bone on the opposite side. Clots of blood were in the track of the shot through the brain. That a sick bird with a shot through the brain can live several days, shows that it is of low organism or has unusually great vitality. Its actions may not have been normal because of this wound in the brain. Its usual position was lying flat on its belly on the floor. On being stroked on its back, which it seemed to dislike, it rose, with the body at an angle similar to that of a duck walking, took a few steps very awkwardly, and fell flat on the floor again. The middle of the feet in walking were put down about under the outer outline of the body on either side, and the resulting waddle was greater than I have seen in any other species of bird. At each step the feet made a decided pat on the floor. On stroking it several times, it uttered a low, harsh, grating sound similar to what I heard a wounded one utter as I pursued it in the boat. If I teased it some time, it would bite my finger, but its bite was too weak to hurt at all. A few times it rose of its own accord and straightened up and flapped its wings, its body inclined at an angle of 45° or 50°, but at no time did it take the nearly erect position given in most plates of allied species. Probably, had it been unhurt and well, it would have stood more erect. The stomachs of some examined contained shrimps. One day while I was watching

from the boat some sea-lions lying on some rocks off shore, an Auklet swam around me some time, busily fishing for shrimps. For some it simply dipped its head under water, for others it dove a few inches. The fishermen spoke of this and the other small species of Auks and Guillemots as 'Farallones,' not seeming to distinguish between the various small species.—F. STEPHENS, *Witch Creek, Cala.*

4 **Behavior of a Sandhill Crane.**—While shooting near Madelia, Minnesota, one autumn day some years ago (Oct. 1 or 2, 1873), my companion, Mr. Horace Thompson of St. Paul, slightly wounded with a rifle ball at long range an immature Sandhill Crane (*Grus mexicana*) which with several others was resting on the prairie. At the report they all flew away except the wounded bird and one other which apparently was its parent. The wounded bird, after a number of unsuccessful attempts to fly (assisting itself by first running, accompanied by the parent which kept beside it), finally succeeded in rising some ten or fifteen feet from the ground, but it evidently could not long sustain itself in the air. The parent bird, perceiving this, deliberately placed itself *underneath* the wounded one, allowing it to rest its feet on her back, both birds flapping away all the while. In this position she actually succeeded in bearing it off before our eyes for quite a distance to a place of safety, where we would not follow it. It was one of the most touching examples of parental affection in a bird that has ever come under my observation.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Ionornis martinica in Kansas—A fine specimen of the Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) was captured near Manhattan, Kansas, on April 14, 1893. The bird was killed by a farmer who struck it with a sunflower stalk. It is now in the possession of Dr. C. P. Blachly of this place. This is the first record of the occurrence of the Purple Gallinule in Kansas.—D. E. LANTZ, *Manhattan, Kansas.*

Pseudogryphus californianus.—Mr. Thomas Shooter, a well-known taxidermist of Los Angeles, has in his possession the mounted skin of a California Vulture shot near Rincon, California, about August 13, 1892. The specimen, though over four feet in length, appears to be an immature bird. Down fairly well covers the head and neck, excepting wide tracts below and back of the eyes and on the chin and lower throat. The greater coverts are narrowly bordered with rusty, as are a good many of the feathers on the back. The plumage generally is dull black. The horny part of upper mandible is horn-brown. The cere has dried a dull blackish brown.

About June, 1892, an adult California Vulture was brought to Mr. Shooter alive. It was captured by two men, one named Harris, about twenty-seven miles north of Santa Monica, and in the foothills near the line separating Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Mr. Shooter says the