

- Ornithologisches Jahrbuch, VI, Hefte 5 and 6, Sept.-Dec., 1895.  
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## GENERAL NOTES.

**Do Young Loons eat Fresh-water Clams?**—On July 5, 1895, while paddling with my brother along the northern end of Lake Utopia, in the Province of New Brunswick, we saw near our canoe a young water bird which by its size and actions and especially by the cries of its parents near by, was proven to be a young Loon, the Great Northern Diver (*Urinator imber*). Wishing to examine it more closely we chased, and in spite of its game efforts to escape, caught it. When near by we noticed something hanging to its bill which plainly much retarded its movements and which proved to be a fresh-water clam or mussel of two inches in length. Closer observation after the bird was carried ashore showed that nearly all of its lower bill was gone and that its tongue was caught between the tightly-closed valves of the still-living mollusk, and was the means of attachment of the one to the other. I cut the tongue close to the shell and released the bird which went splashing and diving away to rejoin its parents, though without tongue or lower bill it could scarcely have survived for long. I broke the clam-shell and inside found the missing bill with the remainder of the tongue attached. The ragged end of the bill made it seem plain that having been thrust into the gaping shell, which promptly and firmly closed, it had been wrenched and torn off by the efforts of the bird to free itself, but the tongue yielding elastically to the strains did not give way. The Loon was a very young one in the downy stage with pin-feathers just appearing in the wings. The mussel and bill I now have, preserved for the inspection of the curious.

Since then I have looked in many books for something about the feeding habits of Loons but have found nothing. If it is a habit of theirs to eat these mussels, my specimen simply began too early; if not, either it was too enterprising or too curious and tried to pick out the inmate from its shell gaping open upon the bottom, or else while probing for something else in the sand it accidentally pushed its lower bill into the open shell, with the results above detailed. At all events the incident may show something to those fitted to interpret it.—W. F. GANONG, *Northampton, Mass.*

**'Gull Dick' Again.**—'Gull Dick' returned again (see Auk, IX, p. 227; X, p. 76; XI, p. 73; XII, p. 76) on the evening of April 6, 1895, in company with a young Gull. He being hungry was fed as usual, and after satisfying his appetite flew around the lightship and, in company with the young Gull, took his departure. I had but little hope that I should ever hear of his return. I was consequently agreeably surprised on receiving a letter from Captain Edward Fogarty, dated Oct. 2, 1895, informing me that 'Dick' had arrived that morning at sunrise for the twenty-fourth season. He looked in much better condition than last season, his feathers being smooth, with nothing of the ragged appearance he presented on his arrival last year. He seemed pretty hungry on being fed at 7 A. M. There was another Gull with him, but evidently not a friend, as 'Dick' would not allow him to partake of any of his breakfast.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

**An Early Description of *Phalacrocorax dilophus*.**—The unpublished journal of David Thompson, of the old North West Company, Book No. 25, bound in Vol. XI, folio 46, date Thursday, May 9, 1811, when the celebrated traveller and surveyor was on certain headwaters of the Columbia River, has the following: "1 Cormorant. They are plenty. This had fine green eyes, the ball black, the eyelids marked with blue like very small beads to a button hole, and the neck and head a fine glossy bright black with a bunch of side feathers on each side the back of the head."—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

**Another Harlequin Duck Record for Long Island.**—A male Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) was shot at Orient Point (directly opposite Plum Island, L. I., where the species has formerly been taken) on November 11, 1895, and was mounted by a local bird stuffer. A female accompanied the male but was not procured. The male is now in the possession of Mrs. James Douglas of Orient, L. I.—W. W. WORTHINGTON, *Shelter Island Heights, N. Y.*

4 **Olor buccinator in Western Minnesota.**—It was not until 1893 that I observed this truly noble bird for the first time. Since then not less than seven specimens have come to my notice. The species is, however, not