

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**An Early Description of *Phalacrocorax dilophus*.**—The unpublished journal of David Thompson, of the old North West Company, Book No. 25, bound in Vol.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

at all common in this section. No captures were reported in 1894, while in 1895, four individuals were secured. Some of the oldest sportsmen tell me that they have observed this Swan quite regularly on Lac qui Parle during the spring and fall migrations. It is somewhat amusing to hear of the immense size of a Swan as reported by these gunners. Specimens weighing 50 pounds have been reported! The largest specimen I ever examined weighed 16 pounds and was very fat. A beautiful adult male now in my collection, shot near here on April 9, 1893, weighed only 15 pounds, but it was not fat. It measured as follows: length, 51.00; extent of wing, 77.00; wing, 28.00; tail, 7.00 inches. — ALBERT LANO, *Madison, Minn.*

**White-faced Glossy Ibis Breeding in Minnesota.**—I am glad to report that on June 22 and July 2, 1895, I took at Huron Lake, Jackson County, Minn., one mile from where two sets were taken in 1894, a set of three and one of four eggs (each complete) of the White-faced Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis guarauna*) from exquisitely suspended nests of rushes, in rushes, and two feet above eighteen inches of water in a large rushy arm of the lake. Four pairs of birds apparently were breeding in a colony of Black-crowned Night Herons, Coots, and Pied-billed Grebes. A single nest each of Ruddy Duck and of Red-head were found, the former fifty feet, the latter about eighty rods, from one of the Ibis nests. Two fine male Ibises were taken.

I have just received (Nov. 10) from the big woods, seventy-five miles southeast of here, a very large dark specimen of *Scotiaptex cinerea*.— P. B. PEABODY, *St. Vincent, Minn.*

**Ardetta neoxena from Wisconsin.**—The Field Columbian Museum has just come into possession of an additional specimen of this rare Bittern through the gift of Mr. C. E. Akeley. Mr. Akeley shot the bird, which is now before me — a mounted specimen — on Lake Koshkonong, Wis., May 22, 1893. It is a male in full plumage. Compared with the type of the species (No. 2001, Coll. Field Columbian Museum, Chicago) it agrees minutely above; below the throat and neck are just a trifle paler chestnut, and there is just a little more white on the abdomen. Mr. Akeley tells me no other examples were seen.—GEORGE K. CHERRIE, *Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, Ill.*

**The King Rail Again in Maine.**—An adult male King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) was shot in Falmouth, Maine, on September 19, 1895, by Mr. Walter Rich, of Portland, and is now in my collection. The township of Falmouth lies northeast of Portland, and the locality where the bird was taken was a brackish marsh known as 'The Dyke,' about two miles from the city, near the mouth of the Presumpscot River.—HENRY H. BROCK, *Portland, Me.*