

but as all of the dark specimens of *Puffinus* that I secured proved to be *griseus*, I had about concluded that I was mistaken.

I am now convinced that I was correct, and that the Slender-billed Shearwater, if not of regular occurrence, is periodically common along our Southwestern coast to Lower California.—A. W. ANTHONY, *San Diego, Cal.*

The Skull of the Young Cormorant.—The rapidity with which changes take place in growing birds has often been noted, and a remarkable instance of this is found in the Cormorants.

As is well known, Cormorants are among the best examples of desmognathous birds, premaxillaries, anterior palatines, and maxillo-palatines being completely fused. There is also no trace of narial openings in the adult and no hint of basi-ptyergoid processes. Yet the nestling of *Phalacrocorax urile* is schizognathous and holorhinal, the narial openings being large, while the sphenoid bears good-sized basi-ptyergoid prominences.

Any one who has the good fortune to be located near a Cormorant rookery has a splendid chance to ascertain just when the narial openings close, or, if he be charitably inclined, he might collect for the United States National Museum, which would furnish alcohol and a can, a series of young taken at short intervals from the time of hatching to the time of leaving the nest.—F. A. LUCAS, *United States National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Clangula hyemalis at San Diego, California.—On January 13, Mr. L. Belding handed me a fine specimen of the Old-squaw that he had shot in the harbor of San Diego, but a few hours previously. He informed me that the bird was alone near one of the city wharves, no other ducks of any species being in the immediate vicinity.

This record somewhat extends the range of the species on the Pacific Coast, there being but few records for the State and none from south of Santa Cruz Island, where Mr. Belding informed me that a specimen was taken several years ago and recorded in Wheeler's Surveys West 100th Meridian.—A. W. ANTHONY, *San Diego, Cal.*

Occurrence of Great White Heron at Escondido, California.—A little while ago I accepted an invitation to see a Heron, which had been killed and mounted for a parlor ornament. I was told that the bird had been killed during April, 1895. It proved to be a fine specimen of the *Ardea occidentalis*.—J. MAURICE HATCH, *Escondido, Cal.*

Note on the Flexor hallucis brevis in the Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*).—While dissecting the muscles of the foot of a Night Heron I was surprised to find that the *flexor hallucis brevis* was perforated at its insertion by the *flexor hal. longus*, thus becoming a *flexor perforatus dig. I*, similar to the *flexores perforati dig. II, III, IV*.

This perforation of the flexor h. brevis seems to be of a rather rare occurrence since Hans Gadow, in his great work on birds, forming part of Brown's 'Klassen und Ordnungen des Thier-reich's,' mentions only three genera, with this perforation of said muscle, namely, *Talegalla*, *Crex* and *Bucorvus*.

Though he refers to the fact that he found this muscle (fl. h. b.) exceedingly well developed in *Ibis*, *Grus* and *Ciconia*, he does not mention any perforation of said muscle, which he surely would have done, had he found it to be so.

In my specimen this muscle arises from about the proximal half of the *turso-metatarsus*. In the middle of the tarsus it divides into *two* branches, or tendons which completely unite before their insertion on the phalanx¹ of the hallux. The flexor h. longus, which perforates the short flexor, is connected by a small vinculum with the 'flexor profundus' as in the majority of Ardeidæ. It certainly would be interesting to examine these flexores of the hallux in the other genera of the Ardeidæ.—ARTHUR RESLER, *Baltimore, Md.*

Porzana noveboracensis near Ottawa, Canada.—On the 22d of October, 1895, I shot a male Yellow Rail in a marsh some twenty-four miles from this city. This I think is the first specimen obtained in this vicinity.—GEO. R. WHITE, *Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.*

Crymophilus fulicarius in Maine.—It seems worth while to make a note of the capture of some recent specimens of the Red Phalarope (*Crymophilus fulicarius*) on the southwestern coast of Maine, not only because the bird is uncommon there, but because data as to the exact time of its occurrence are not at all full. An adult female in fine plumage was taken on Peak Island, Portland Harbor, on May 17, 1892, and is now in my collection. Two other specimens were sent to me in the flesh from York Beach, May 8, 1893.—HENRY H. BROCK, *Portland, Me.*

Crex crex in Maine.—The occurrence of *Crex crex* near Portland, Me., was noted in an editorial paragraph of the 'Ornithologist and Oölogist,' Vol. XV, p. 30, as follows: "H. H. Brock reports a specimen of the European Corn Crake (*Crex crex*) killed by John Whiting in Falmouth, Me., about four miles from Portland. Another was shot at the same time, but was so mutilated that it was thrown away."

I feel that the importance of this capture demands a more detailed statement, especially in view of the fact that the above notice seems to have been often overlooked. The bird is an unquestionable *Crex crex* in extremely fine plumage and of typical coloration. It not only agrees closely with printed descriptions, but with the several European specimens with which I have compared it. The date of its capture was October 14, 1889, and the locality the 'Dyke' Marsh in Falmouth, where so many other rare waders have been taken. It was shot by Mr. John Whit-