

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-

ney, — not "Whiting." It came into my hands at once, was preserved by myself, and is now in my collection. Great importance should not, of course, be attached to the closing sentence of the paragraph above quoted, which was based on the statements of a gunner not skilled in identifying birds, though undoubtedly truthful. — HENRY H. BROCK, *Portland, Me.*

Baird's Sandpiper in Michigan. — On August 20, 1895, Mr. Leon J. Cole and myself collected a female Baird's Sandpiper (*Tringa bairdii*) in Ottawa County, Michigan. This is the second or third, if not the first record of this bird's occurrence in the State. — W. E. MULLIKEN, *Grand Rapids, Mich.*

Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes occidentalis*) more abundant than the Semipalmated (*E. pusillus*). — On Two-mile Beach, Cape May County, New Jersey, from the 1st to the 15th of September, 1895, I found both varieties of *Ereunetes* quite abundant in large flocks; and out of thirty-five specimens taken, twenty were unquestionably *occidentalis* and fifteen *pusillus*. The birds were all carefully measured and the colors noted. The bills of the so-called western variety varied from .87 to 1.07, males and females, ten measuring over 1.00, and the back of each was uniformly colored with a very reddish tinge.

The bills of the fifteen Semipalmated measured from .63 to .78, and were uniformly gray on the back, excepting three which had a slight tinge of red. I have never met with the western variety before, that is, to my knowledge, for it was only of late that I learned the difference, which is probably the excuse of many of us who otherwise might have found the bird just as common as I did. In the spring migration, and perhaps in the fall, I hope to look for it again.

Mr. Brewster mentions in 'The Auk' (Jan., 1889, p. 69) that a number of these birds (*occidentalis*) were taken by Mr. J. C. Cahoon on Monomoy Island, Mass., during July, August and September, 1888, and it may be that the bird is not nearly so accidental as it has been heretofore supposed. — WM. L. BAILY, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

Woodpeckers' Tongues — a Plea for Aid. — The tongues of our North American Woodpeckers are, as the readers of 'The Auk' well know, mostly barbed at the tip. Unless they have devoted some attention to the subject they may not, however, know that the tongue of young Woodpeckers are barbless, and that it is an interesting question just when the barbs make their appearance. The tongue of a full-fledged nestling of *Dryobates villosus*, a species whose tongue is remarkably well armed when adult, bears only fine reflexed hairs along the edge, and just at present no specimens are available to show when the barbs make their appearance. I should be greatly obliged to any readers of 'The Auk' who may collect any young Woodpeckers during the year, especially such as are about to leave, or have recently left the nest, if they will kindly send me the tongues. It