

in the Columbia, a little below the mouth of the Willamette, March 28, 1806; and the description in full is found in Codex Clark Q 81-83, Codex Lewis K 10. This is unmistakable. The bird is smaller than the duckinmallard (*Anas boscas*); head and neck purplish-black; belly and breast white; flanks of a pale dove-color with fine black specks; beak remarkably wide; . . . "a narrow stripe of white garnishes the base of the upper chop; this is succeeded by a pale sky-blue color, occupying about an inch, which again is succeeded by a transverse stripe of white, and the extremity is a fine black," etc. This is obviously diagnostic of *Fuligula collaris*, even though no mention is made of the orange-brown collar, which was either overlooked, or not developed in the specimen handled. I have of course set forth the case in my work as cited, but this note will serve to throw it into the current of ornithological literature, to which the celebrated History does not distinctively pertain. No question of nomenclature is raised; the matter is simply historical.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

Dafilula, a New Subgenus.—Type *Querquedula catoni* Sharpe, Ibis, 1875, p. 328, Kerguelen Island.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

The Lesser Snow Goose in New England.—I have lately added to my collection three New England specimens of the Lesser Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea*); one taken at Toddy Lake, Maine, October 4, 1893, by Mr. Alvah G. Dorr of Bucksport, Maine, another at Lake Umbagog, Maine, October 2, 1896, by Mr. Charles Douglass, the third at Ipswich, Massachusetts, October 26, 1896, by a local sportsman who sent the bird in the flesh to Mr. M. Abbott Frazar of Boston. The specimen first named was not sexed; the other two birds were males. All three are young in fresh autumnal plumage and all are perfectly typical examples of *hyperborea* which, evidently, is of much commoner occurrence in New England than the large form *nivalis*.

The Umbagog specimen was accompanied by a young Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) which was also killed, both birds coming into my possession less than an hour after their death.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Branta bernicla glaucogastra.—While I was in London in 1884 I examined with Mr. Seebohm his collection of Brant Geese, and was favorably impressed with his view that there are three recognizable forms, two of which occur in North America, though neither of these is the ordinary Brant of Europe. We have the two extremes of the White-bellied and Black-bellied, between which typical *B. bernicla* is intermediate. It is probably because we have only compared these extremes that we have found *B. nigricans* so decidedly different from what we call *B. bernicla*. The stock is one of the most thoroughly circumpolar of all birds, perhaps more decidedly hyperborean than any other excepting

Rhodostethia rosea; it breeds only within the Arctic circle, and even beyond lat. 82°. The Brant stock has differentiated along three lines, now recognizable, and fairly well represented in different longitudinal areas. The most distinction has been acquired by *B. nigricans*, in which, besides the black belly, there is a large and nearly complete white collar, shown by neither of the other two; in other words, the Black Brant buttons its collar in front, and wears a black vest. This is probably a specific character. Waiving the question of taxonomic rank, I wish to call attention to the fact that, as shown by Mr. Seebohm (Hist. B. B., VI, p. 508, 1885), two races of *B. bernicla* are distinguishable, and ours is the one which needs a name. It is true that the difference between them is not great, and not strictly correspondent with geographical distribution; and that Salvadori makes no distinction (Cat. B. Br. Mus., XXVII, 1895, p. 119). But a difference does exist, it is to some extent geographical, and I could name perhaps fifty birds in the A. O. U. List with no better claim to recognition by subspecific name. The white-bellied bird, largely or mainly North American, is *Bernicla glaucogaster* Brehm, Isis, 1830, p. 996, *nomen nudum*; *B. brenta*, a. *glaucogaster* Bp., C. R., 1856, p. 648; and *Anser brenta glaucogaster* Seebohm, l. c., where the distinction is pointed out in the following terms: "In the Taimur peninsula, in Nova Zembla, Franz-Joseph Land, and Spitzbergen typical *Anser brenta* breeds, having the under parts generally as dark as those of the Pacific species [our *B. nigricans*], but with the white on the sides of the neck not meeting in front. In Arctic America, from the west coast of Greenland as far west as the Parry Islands, and north of lat. 73° as far as land is known to extend, the white-bellied form of the Brent Goose (*Anser brenta glaucogaster*) breeds; it has the underparts below the breast almost pure white and the white on the sides of the neck does not meet in front. Both the two latter races and intermediate forms between them occur on our [British] coasts; but the white-bellied form is much the rarer of the two." This is in substance the evidence upon which I propose that we recognize *Branta bernicla glaucogastra* in the A. O. U. List. — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

The Wood Ibis in Virginia and Maryland. — On July 20, 1896, an adult *Tantalus loculator* was killed by Mr. Rudolph Thiele in his barnyard at Silver Hill, Maryland, near the District of Columbia line. There were two; the other, an immature bird, flew away about half a mile and was killed soon afterwards on the same day by Mr. Arthur Suit of Suitland. Both were mounted for the above named gentlemen, and I saw the fresh skins. On the 27th of the same month another, an immature female, was shot in an oat field near Laurel, Maryland, and sold to and mounted by Mr. Geo. Marshall of that place, in whose collection it now is. On July 18, 1896, three others, an adult and two immature birds, were shot by two boys at Vinitarville, Goochland County, Virginia, and the wings and