

Mazatlan taken by Mr. P. O. Simons in December, 1896. — LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.*

Mother Carey's Chicken. — Knowing that the Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) migrates for the breeding season, through the autumn until March perhaps, to the South Atlantic, I was interested to note during my return voyage from Liverpool—November 17, I think it was—in mid-Atlantic, that the familiar Petrels which I had hitherto seen only solitary or unattached, were now flying in flocks of two dozen or so. The bird seemed to be the Mother Carey's Chicken of our New England summer coast waters, but did not appear singly. I could detect no special southward movement, but the ship might well have interrupted this course among birds which fly so low. It might be interesting to add my observation, that both in August and in November, the only other bird which might be met with at any hour of the voyage from landfall to landfall was a Shearwater, presumably *Puffinus major*.

If anyone has observations counter to this last I should gladly hear of them.—REGINALD C. ROBBINS, *Boston, Mass.*

The Yellow-billed Tropic Bird in the Hawaiian Islands. — This Tropic Bird (*Phaëton americanus*) or 'Kooi,' as the natives call it, is rather common upon the windward side of the island of Hawaii where it breeds in holes in the cliffs. I have secured three specimens and have seen many more. So far it is the only Tropic Bird I have been able to discover on Hawaii, although there is little reason to doubt that both *P. athereus* and *P. rubricauda* occur, at least casually. None of the present day natives of Hawaii whom I have questioned appear to know anything of the Red-tailed Tropic Bird, although Mr. Wilson states that he shot several specimens of this species in the caldera of Kilauea. Both Kauai and Niihau are inhabited by *P. rubricauda*, while, according to Wilson, Mr. Perkins found *P. athereus* breeding in the cliffs about Honolulu. It thus appears that the Hawaiian Islands are unusually favored in having three resident species of Tropic Birds. — H. W. HENSHAW, *Hilo, Hawaii.*

The Old Squaw at San Francisco. — A female *Harelda hyemalis* (No. 12892, Calif. Acad. Sci.) was taken by Dr. John Hornung at San Francisco, December 26, 1898. Notices of the occurrence of this duck in California are so few as to render an additional capture worthy of note. — LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.*

The Emperor Goose in the Interior of California. — In the fall of 1895, Mr. Lyman Belding presented to the California Academy of Sciences an immature specimen of *Philacle canagica*, which had been shot by a market hunter on November 1 of that year near Gridley, in Butte County, on Butte Creek, a tributary of the Sacramento River.

October 8, 1900, Mr. Thomas E. Slevin found in one of the San Francisco markets another immature Emperor Goose, which he obtained for the Academy. This bird probably came also from the San Joaquin-Sacramento Valley—the chief source from which the supply of geese is drawn for the San Francisco markets.

The only other record for California appears to be the one by Mr. Townsend (Auk, Vol. III, p. 491) reporting a specimen taken by Mr. Charles Fiebig at Humboldt Bay.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco*.

Nesting of Cory's Bittern at Toronto, Ontario.—Although Cory's Bittern was at first believed to be only a straggler at Toronto, the taking of young birds, together with the continued presence of this bittern, led many to believe that the eggs would eventually be found in Toronto marsh; but it was not till 1898 that a nest was discovered. On June 15 of that year, Mr. George Pierce, while collecting in Ashbridge's marsh, Toronto, took a female of *Ardetta neoxena* from her nest. The nest was described as simply a mass of last year's reeds, and contained one egg. Soon after the bird was taken Mr. J. H. Ames saw it and noticed that the abdomen was much swollen; next day I examined the bird, it having in the meantime been partially skinned, and the body cut open, exposing a fully developed egg, unfortunately broken. I compared the broken egg with the one found in the nest, and they agreed perfectly in color; other eggs in the ovary showed signs of development. The color of the eggs was much darker than the average of Toronto taken sets of *A. exilis*, though I have since seen a set as dark. The body, with the broken egg undisturbed, was preserved in alcohol, and, together with the other egg, is now in the possession of Mr. Ames; the skin is in my collection.

Mr. Ames and myself have thought it better to separately record the facts as we found them; the correct identity of the eggs of Cory's Bittern being of sufficient importance to warrant great care being used.—JAMES H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Ontario*.

Nesting of Cory's Bittern (*Ardetta neoxena*) and Other Notes.—On the evening of June 15, 1898, I was in Mr. Geo. Pierce's store when he returned from a collecting trip on Ashbridge's Bay; he brought in with him a female Cory's Bittern and egg. I at once took the opportunity of examining it and found that the abdomen was very much swollen, which suggested that it contained more eggs, and which afterwards proved to be correct. I had no opportunity of comparing the eggs with those of *A. exilis*. The egg measured 1.30 x 1.00.

On December 2, 1898, a female immature Iceland Gull (*Larus leucopterus*) was taken in Toronto. It was afterward sent to me by a friend and is now in my collection.

On May 11, 1900, while on a collecting expedition, I took a male Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) in full plumage.