

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Portland, Me.—I have in my collection a handsome adult female specimen of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*) which was shot on April 13, 1901, in Back Cove, Portland, Me. The captor was a boy. He took the bird to Mr. John A. Lord, the taxidermist, by whom it was mounted. I saw it immediately after it was preserved and also examined its body. Besides this evidence that it was taken here, I have the assurance of Mr. Lord, which alone would be sufficient. I believe the Yellow-crowned Night Heron has never before been recorded from this part of New England.—HENRY H. BROCK, *Portland, Me.*

A Third Maine Specimen of the Little Blue Heron.—Early in April of the current year, I received from Mr. Herbert A. Arey of Vinal Haven, Me., a specimen of *Ardea cærulea*, to be mounted for Mr. Arey. His letter, dated April 2, 1902, states: "The bird was shot yesterday at the east end of Carver's Pond, Vinalhaven." It was a male, a fine specimen in the light phase, and was in good bodily condition; it would probably have bred had it not strayed from its kind and home.

The two other Maine records are: A bird in light phase, Scarborough, September, 1881 (Brown, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, VII, p. 123). A female, Popham Beach, May 19, 1901 (Spinney in Swain's editorial, Journ. Maine Orn. Soc., III, p. 30).—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Westbrook, Me.*

The King Rail again near Portland, Me.—I have already (Auk, Vol. XIII, p. 79) noted the capture of a specimen of the King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) at the Dyke Marsh, near Portland, Maine. I have since obtained another specimen taken at the same place by Mr. John Whitney. It was brought to me in the flesh and was dissected and mounted by myself. It proved a male in good condition. The date of its capture was December 17, 1899.

The King Rail is thus shown to have occurred three times¹ in the vicinity of Portland.—HENRY H. BROCK, *Portland, Me.*

The King Rail in Winter near Washington, D. C.—On January 19, 1901, I observed in the Washington Center Market a Red-breasted or King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) which had been received that day from the shore of the Potomac River near Alexandria, Va. I can find no published winter record for this species in this vicinity, although it is a regular but uncommon spring and early fall migrant, and may be expected in exceptionally mild winters like the present. The local gunners and game dealers call the bird 'King Ortolan' and 'King Rail.'—HUGH M. SMITH, *Washington, D. C.*

The Red Phalarope in North Carolina.—Mr. Arthur T. Wayne's note in 'The Auk' for July, 1901, XVIII, p. 271, on the Red Phalarope

¹ See Brown, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. VII, p. 60.

(*Crymophilus fulicarius*) in South Carolina, makes me think that the occurrence of a flock of at least thirty of these birds on the southern North Carolina coast may be worth recording. On April 2 or 3, 1896, within a day or two of our finding at Morehead City, N. C., the Glaucous Gull which Dr. Coues recorded in 'The Osprey', we were shown by the light-keeper of the Cape Lookout Light, about a dozen dead Red Phalaropes which had been killed by striking the light-glass. The keeper, who seemed trustworthy, told us that as many as twenty more exactly like these had been killed two or three nights before, and most of them had been picked up and destroyed. The ten or more which we found, lying in the grass at the foot of the tower, were badly decomposed, and we managed to preserve only two shabby specimens. All that we saw were in transition plumage; mainly gray and white, but some heavily mottled with red below and with brown on the back. The three we examined were females.

On March 17, 1898, my father and I, with Mr. L. A. Fuertes, saw from a steamer enormous flocks of Phalaropes, apparently Red, about fifty miles off the coast of northern South Carolina.—GERALD H. THAYER, *Monadnock, N. H.*

The Name of the Zenaida Dove.—In 1801, John Latham described a pigeon from New Holland which he called 'Southern Pigeon' (Gen. Syn. Bds., Suppl., II, 1801, p. 270), giving it the same year, in another publication, the name *Columba meridionalis* (Ind. Orn., Suppl., 1801, p. lx), and stating that he saw a specimen of this at Mr. Swainson's. *Columba meridionalis* has until recently been considered as unidentifiable. In 1898, however, Messrs. Forbes and Robinson (Bull. Liverpool Mus., I, 1898, p. 36), claimed to identify it with the well known Zenaida Dove (*Columba zenaida* Bonap.), on the basis of "three aviary specimens, which have been identified by Latham as his *Southern Pigeon* (Gen. Hist. viii, p. 28). One of these is the type of his 'female or young,' *Southern Pigeon, var. a*, and is labelled by Lord Derby '*Columba meridionalis, se ipso judice*'; the second is marked, 'Dr. L. considers this an old male.' These prove to be *Zenaida zenaida*, Bp. The third specimen is inscribed, 'Considered by Dr. L. as a young male.' We have identified this as *Zenaida auriculata* Des Murs)."

On turning to Latham's 'General History of Birds,' Vol. VIII, 1823, p. 29, we find that, in an addition to his original description of the Southern Pigeon, he mentions the three birds (one "in the collection of Lord Stanley") referred to by Forbes and Robinson, and which are doubtless correctly identified by these gentlemen, but they are entirely different and additional material to that on which *Columba meridionalis* was originally based. But this supplemental matter, added twenty-two years after the publication of the original description of *Columba meridionalis*, does not establish any of the three specimens mentioned by Forbes and Robinson as the type of the original *Columba meridionalis*, said to have come from