

Baird's Sandpiper in Massachusetts.—While at Chatham, Mass., I obtained a specimen of Baird's Sandpiper (*Pisobia bairdi*) which was shot October 18, 1910, on Monomoy Point. The identification was verified by Mr. C. J. Maynard, of West Newton, who now has the skin.—Mrs. E. R. JUMP, *West Newton, Mass.*

Eskimo Curlew.—It is rather with a sense of reluctance that I send the following record, knowing the suspicion which is bound to arise but, being an enthusiastic gunner myself, I think it may prove of some interest to that very small body of ornithologists who know anything about shore birds. The record is that of the much discussed Eskimo Curlew. It is only within the last year that I realized that this species was nearing extinction. Such a blunder, however, I consider excusable when I take up any recent text-book or list and find this species still mentioned as our most abundant curlew. I understand, however, that the last record of this species from Long Island was in 1884, or 26 years ago. It seems incredible that for 20 years the absence of this species should have passed without remark, unless it be explained, as the present record must be, on the grounds that every gunner supposed these birds were common enough but that he had never happened to see one.

In 'The Auk,' Vol. XXI, p. 79, I recorded a flight of Hudsonian Godwit on the 31st day of August, 1903. That was the morning after a heavy three days' storm, and on that day a friend of mine, an experienced gunner, shot an Eskimo Curlew at Quogue, L. I. I paid small attention to it at the time, believing it to be a fairly common bird. There can be little doubt that this record is correct. I understand that the record in 'The Auk,' Vol. XXI, p. 289, of a bird of this species shot on Sept. 14, 1902 is incorrect. However, it is a strange coincidence that Dr. Braislin, on the same page, refers to one shot from a flock of about 15 as they were passing along the beach, near Zach's Inlet on August 29, 1903. The storm continued on August 30, clearing on the 31st, when the flight above noted took place at Quogue, the birds coming from the west. Zach's Inlet is about 40-50 miles west of Quogue, so that it would seem that Dr. Braislin's record and mine would fit in rather well together. There seems to me no doubt that this bird was a specimen of the Eskimo Curlew.—FREDERICK WM. KOBBE, *New York City.*

Kalm's Articles on the Passenger Pigeon.—In 'The Auk' for October, 1910, Dr. A. H. Wright published 'Some early records of the Passenger Pigeon' (pp. 428-443) and has referred to Kalm's Travels¹ wherein Kalm promises to "speak of them more particularly in another place" but Dr. Wright was unable to find "another place." The elusive articles by Kalm are practically unknown and Coues failed to find one of them but recorded, in the 'Bulletin' of the United States Geological and Geographical

¹ The original of Kalm's Travels was published in Swedish in 1753-'61.

Survey of the Territories (V, p. 794), the Swedish original. The titles of the two are as follows:—

1. Beskrifning på de vilda Dufvor, Som somliga år i så otrolig stor myckenhet komma til de Södra Engelska nybyggen i Norra America. Af Pehr Kalm. < K. Vetensk. Acad. Handlingar, 1759, XX, pp. 275-295, 1759.

This is the original.

2. Beschreibung der wilden Tauben, die manche Jahre in unglaublicher Menge, in die neuen südlichen englischen Pflanzoerter des nordlichen Amerika kommen, von Peter Kalm. < K. Schwed. Akad. Wissensch. Abhandl., 1759, XXI, p. 268-285, 1762.

A translation of the preceding.

Kalm records his observations under the name "*Columba (macroura)*" and cites as synonyms "*Columba macroura*," Edwards, and "*Palumbus migratorius*," Catesby, thus confounding the Passenger Pigeon with the *Zenaidura macroura*.¹ Full descriptions of the male and female are given in Latin (pp. 275-279) and then the Swedish text follows, giving many details of the birds' habits and abundance.

As both articles by Kalm are inaccessible to most ornithologists, a translation would be desirable, even at this late day, and Mr. S. M. Gronberger, an assistant of the Smithsonian Institution, to whom I showed the Swedish article, is willing to turn it into English for the readers of 'The Auk,' if so desired.—THEODORE GILL, *Washington, D. C.*

[As shown by this communication, the readers of 'The Auk' are indebted to Dr. Gill as well as to Mr. Gronberger for the translation of Peter Kalm's paper on the Passenger Pigeon published *antea*, pp. 53-66.—EDD.]

Thoreau's Notes on the Passenger Pigeon.—In connection with Mr. A. H. Wright's compilation of 'Some Early Records of the Passenger Pigeon,' printed in 'The Auk' for October, 1910, Thoreau's records of this species as they appear in his 'Notes on New England Birds' (Boston, 1910) may be of interest, though covering a more recent period. These consist of thirty-eight entries in his Journal, occupying ten pages of the book and extending from 1845 through 1860. They probably give a pretty good notion of the abundance of the bird in the neighborhood of Concord, Mass., during that period. Apparently the Pigeons did not breed there very extensively at that time, though under date of Nov. 8, 1859, it is stated that "Coombs [one of the Concord pigeon-catchers] says that quite a little flock of pigeons bred here last summer." They were found from March through September, but most abundantly by far in the latter month. There were several stands in the neighborhood, and catching began about the middle of August. The notes contain nothing to indicate any marked diminution in their numbers between 1845 and 1860, and the last entry—on Sept. 4 of the latter year—records 'flocks of pigeons' seen on the 2d and 3d.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

¹ *C. migratorius* was not recognized as a distinct species by Linnaeus till 1766.