

RECORDS OF BIRDS NEW TO THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS  
INCLUDING TWO NEW TO NORTH AMERICA.<sup>1</sup>

BY G. DALLAS HANNA.

To an ornithologist stationed on the Pribilof Islands in Bering Sea, the opportunities for making observations are exceptionally good, and the possibility of obtaining new and rare visitors seems to be almost unlimited. The list of Asiatic stragglers already recorded from the group is comparatively large. But migrants come from other directions as well as from the west and the frequent and large cyclonic storms in that region may be responsible for the occurrence there of so many birds found regularly no nearer than several hundred miles.

Specimens of all of the species recorded herein were obtained by me during my recent residence on the islands (July, 1913 to September, 1915), with the exception of the Least Sandpiper and the Pileolated Warbler which were obtained by W. H. Osgood and A. G. Whitney respectively. All of the specimens collected have been deposited in the United States National Museum by the Bureau of Fisheries.

I am under obligations to Edward A. Preble, H. C. Oberholser and Alexander Wetmore for assistance in determining these birds.

*Species New to North America.*

**Clangula clangula clangula.** EUROPEAN GOLDEN-EYE.—A female was shot from a flock of four in the Salt Lagoon of St. Paul Island, Bering Sea, November 27, 1914. It is the same size as specimens from the Commander Islands and China and while these are somewhat larger than birds from the Atlantic coast region of Europe, they are smaller than those from continental North America.

**Fringilla montifringilla.** BRAMBLING.—A male was captured in the watch house at Northeast Point, St. Paul Island, Bering Sea, October 25, 1914. The specimen is defective in that it lacks the tail feathers.

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<sup>1</sup> Published by permission of the Commissioner of Fisheries.

*Other Species New to the Pribilof Islands.*

**Colymbus auritus.** HORNED GREBE.— Two specimens were obtained on St. George Island, a male October 13, 1913, and a female, December 19, 1913. Two others were secured on St. Paul Island, a male, November 30, 1914, and an unsexed specimen, January 6, 1915. Others were observed and it seems probable that the species is of regular occurrence in the fall and early winter. All specimens were found feeding along the beaches in the surf.

**Charitonetta albeola.** BUFFLE-HEAD.— Two males were secured on St. George Island, one November 19, 1913, and the other May 19, 1914. A dead bird was seen in the possession of a native on St. Paul Island but no specimens have thus far been preserved from there.

**Branta nigricans.** BLACK BRANT.— A male was obtained on St. George Island, September 28, 1913, and another on St. Paul Island, September 17, 1914. Small flocks and single birds seem to occur regularly each spring and fall and it has been my experience that this species is more common on the islands than any other goose except the Emperor.

**Pisobia minutilla.** LEAST SANDPIPER.— A female was taken by W. H. Osgood at Kaminista Lake, St. Paul Island, on August 29, 1914.

**Pisobia bairdi.** BAIRD'S SANDPIPER.— Three males were obtained at Kaminista Lake, St. Paul Island, August 31, 1914. The species was carefully looked for among the Pectoral and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers which resort to these islands in numbers in the fall but these three birds were the only ones seen.

**Rhyacophilus glareola.** WOOD SANDPIPER.— One specimen was obtained on St. George Island, May 19, 1914. A blue fox destroyed most of the skin, after it was made up, but there remain the essential portions for identification. This seems to be the second record of the species in North America.

**Falco peregrinus pealei.** PEALE'S FALCON.— A female was obtained on St. George Island, March 12, 1914. Other duck hawks, apparently of the typical form, were observed on that island but thus far none have been secured for specimens.

**Acanthis hornemanni exilipes.** HOARY REDPOLL.— A female was obtained at the village on St. Paul Island April 21, 1915. A pair was later seen on the same island at Northeast Point. They probably came over with *Acanthis linaria linaria* which occurs frequently on both islands. Young of the year of the latter species were collected on St. George Island in the fall of 1913.

**Melospiza melodia sanaka.** ALEUTIAN SONG SPARROW.— Two specimens were collected on St. George Island, a male, October 28, 1913, at the village and a female, December 21, 1913, at Garden Cove. Both birds were feeding on the beaches.

**Tachycineta thalassina lepida.** NORTHERN VIOLET-GREEN SWAL-

LOW.—Two specimens, one a male and the other unsexed, were obtained at the head of the Salt Lagoon, St. Paul Island, August 22, 1914, while Mr. E. A. Preble and I were crossing over to Zapadni Rookery. Three were seen at this time, feeding on flying insects.

**Wilsonia pusilla pileolata.** PILEOLATED WARBLER.—Two specimens were taken on St. Paul Island, August 25, 1913, by Mr. A. G. Whitney. The species was also observed on St. George Island on August 20, 1913, by the writer, but no specimens were secured there.

*Additional Species of Particular Interest.*

**Cephus columba.** PIGEON GUILLEMOT.—This is a common winter resident, and by April 18, 1915, some had the black summer plumage almost complete though still slightly speckled with white. It is strange that this bird should not breed on the Pribilofs, since it is so abundant on the neighboring Aleutians. The last one seen in 1915 was on May 26. In winter it feeds along the surf line, is very tame and utters a low, shrill whistle when observed. A male and a female were taken on each island. The species has been previously recorded from the Islands but apparently no specimens were secured prior to my work there.

**Phalacrocorax pelagicus robustus.** VIOLET-GREEN CORMORANT.—This species is common about the Pribilof Islands in winter and is recognized as different from the Red-faced by the natives who term it "sea shag." One adult male was secured on St. Paul Island. The species has been previously recorded.

**Nettion carolinense.** GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—A pair nested in Antone Lake, St. Paul Island, in 1914, and a female with two young were collected there in August of that year. It has been previously reported from the group but not collected. The identification of this species must remain doubtful for the present because no males have been collected or carefully observed; the females of the American and European forms differ little, if any. Adult males from the Islands are very desirable.

**Olor columbianus.** WHISTLING SWAN.—A young bird was shot on St. George Island, October 10, 1913, by a native, Mike Shane, and portions of it were saved for identification. Another was killed there the following year. It has been previously recorded from the group but not collected.

**Totanus flavipes.** LESSER YELLOW-LEGS.—A female was taken at Gavarooki Lake, St. George Island, October 18, 1913. It has been previously reported, but not collected, from the group.

**Acanthis linaria linaria.** REDPOLL.—Specimens were collected at various times in fall, winter, and spring on both islands. It has been previously recorded from the islands but the specimens, if collected, have apparently been lost.

**Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus.** WESTERN SAVANNAH SPAR-

row.— A female was obtained on St. George Island, September 1, 1913. It has been previously recorded from the group but not collected.

**Nannus alascensis.** ALASKA WREN.— This wren, long known and so abundant on St. George Island, was found on St. Paul Island in 1914 for the first time, and again in 1915. Five birds were seen on the latter island and three were collected.

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## THE BIRDS OF VIEQUES ISLAND, PORTO RICO.

ALEXANDER WETMORE.

VIEQUES, called "Bieque or Crab Island," on the older maps lies fourteen miles off the eastern coast of Porto Rico and is the most western of the Virgin group. Notes on the avifauna of this island occur at random through the literature pertaining to the West Indies but no complete list of the birds of Vieques has been attempted. Mr. B. S. Bowdish (1900) has published a few notes on the winter birds of the island but other published matter pertaining to the subject is widely scattered. Though all unusual records are included in the writer's *Birds of Porto Rico* (Wetmore, 1916) it is believed that an annotated list of the birds complete so far as present knowledge permits will be of value to workers interested in this region. Much new matter in the form of hitherto unpublished field notes is included in this paper.

Though Vieques Island was settled first in 1524 little attention appears to have been accorded it by early naturalists. Apotheker Riise of St. Thomas sent a collector across to Vieques about the year 1860 (Newton, 1860): he secured a number of birds among which are recorded the Woodpecker, the Lizard Cuckoo, and one *Molothrus atronitens*. Apparently the island was not visited by an ornithological collector again until 1899 when naturalists from the U. S. Fish Commission Steamer "Fish Hawk" landed there on February 6, 7, and 8. The birds secured were collected by Dr. J. D. Milligan and Mr. A. B. Baker.

Following this Mr. B. S. Bowdish came to the island about