

have erred in over emphasizing his work, without specifying a type for the new name found necessary. It is however, evident from the same paper, that I had for study a specimen of the bird. Since Naumann did not indicate a type for his figure and description, and since a new name had to be given the bird to which his description applies, I consider the specimen which I had in hand, really the convincing element in the consideration, (number 86019 of the United States National Museum, from Spitzbergen) to be the type of *Fratercula arctica naumanni*.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, Portland, Maine.

The Possibility of *Puffinus bermudæ* Nichols & Mowbray in the North Atlantic.—An old Shearwater skin presented by G. A. Boardman in 1867 to the Boston Society of Natural History, now M. C. Z. 73408, taken on the coast of Maine or New Brunswick by Dresser, was originally determined as *Puffinus puffinus* (Brünnich). Recently Mr. R. C. Murphy compared this specimen with the type of *P. f. bermudæ* Nichols & Mowbray, and found it very similar.

It therefore seems reasonable to suspect that former records of the Manx Shearwater in the northwest Atlantic might really have been this Bermuda form.—W. SPRAGUE BROOKS, *Boston Society of Natural History*.

Sooty Tern in New Jersey.—On September 7, 1916, I obtained an adult female Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) at Corson's Inlet, Cape May County, New Jersey. This specimen, which is in perfect adult plumage, was resting in the long grass in the sand dunes, a very short distance back from the beach. It was very tame and allowed me to get quite close before flushing. This specimen is now No. 2817 of my collection.—WHARTON HUBER, *Gwynedd Valley, Pa.*

Coloration of Down in Adult Ducks.—It is not impossible that the writer has been alone in his ignorance of the fact that in a goodly number of ducks there is a great difference in the color of the down during the winter and the summer months. My observations of summer down have been taken entirely from the nests accompanying sets of eggs in my collection, which would seem beyond a doubt to furnish correct data. These nests contained eggs only of the duck under discussion, which makes it almost a certainty that the down could have come from no other species (I specify this for the reason that it is not uncommon in some localities for two or more species of ducks to lay in the same nest). Down from winter females has been used in all comparisons, as it seems unlikely that the males would contribute to the nesting material.

The down seen in nests of the Mallard (*Anas boschas*) found in April and May is many shades darker than the down on birds of this species shot in October, November, and December. In the winter it is a very light brownish gray, while in the summer it is changed to a dark, sooty brown.

While this difference is most marked in the Mallard, the same facts hold good to a large extent in my nests of the following species of ducks:— Red-breasted Merganser (*Merganser serrator*), Green-winged Teal (*Nettion carolinense*), Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*), and Pintail (*Dafila acuta*), all of which show the down to be considerably darker than in birds of the same species shot in the winter. In the following species the same variation holds good, although in a somewhat lesser degree:— Canvasback (*Marila valisineria*), Scaup Duck (*Marila marila*), and Lesser Scaup Duck (*Marila affinis*).

There would seem to be a possibility, even though a scant one, that this difference in coloration might be caused by dirt from the parent bird soiling the down. This theory is made practically untenable by the fact that in the following species there is very little difference between the down found in the nests and that on females shot during the winter months:— Merganser (*Mergus americanus*), Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), and Redhead (*Marila americana*). Lack of material at hand prevents any further comparison, but these few notes may prove of interest to someone as ignorant on the subject as myself.

These notes are not sent in with the wish to publish a well established fact, as possibly the observations of other collectors in different sections of the country may show very different results. However, the nesting season is close at hand, so it would seem to be worth while putting in print the results of my own observations in order that the subject may be brought before other observers as a matter for more extended study.— J. H. BOWLES, *Tacoma, Wash.*

Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*) in Massachusetts.— Upon the authority of many of the older ornithological writers it is evident that this species bred in earlier years at various widely separated stations in the state of Massachusetts. In more recent years however, it has become rare, so much so, as to make its occurrence noteworthy. It is with a sense of pleasure and satisfaction that at this time I can submit evidence of an increase in its numbers and frequency in this northeastern portion of the State at least, an increase due quite probably to the better protective laws now in force. The following notes briefly record its occurrence in a region where it has been absent for a number of years.

West Newbury, Mass., May 24, 1915, 5.30 A. M. While walking along a road in the open country I was attracted by the petulant cry of a Killdeer Plover, and in a moment discovered the bird flying low and coming toward me. He alighted about 60 yards distant in an open pasture, offering me a very good view, and an opportunity to identify him with certainty if his voice had not been sufficiently convincing. After a few moments of erratic running about in the open pasture he took flight in a southerly direction.

West Newbury, Mass., Sept. 6, 1915 — 3 P. M. Three Killdeer Plover noted flying northward at great heights, their unmistakable notes bespeaking their presence and identity.