

both bodies, amongst them, or in addition to them if deemed advisable, at least two *scientifically trained* biologists. If the committee were given time to correspond with Rossitten, London, Aberdeen and other well-known continental banding centers as well as with the officers of the various American Bird Banding Associations and the Cooper Club, it could publish its findings in 'The Auk,' and if found desirable, use its columns for open discussion.

Yours etc.,

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### The Bean Goose in North America

Editor of 'THE AUK':

May I be allowed to point out that the Bean Goose, *Anser fabalis* (Latham) has no right to inclusion in the list of North American Birds? In the third edition of the 'Check-List' (p. 85) it is said to be "recorded from northern Greenland," but reference to the supposed records show that in every case the species indicated is the Pink-footed Goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus* Baillon, now universally regarded as a distinct species, but formerly considered to be merely a race of *Anser segetum* (= *fabalis*) by many Danish ornithologists. *Anser brachyrhynchus* is now known to be a summer visitor to the northeast coast of Greenland and has been proved to breed there.

Politically it may be convenient to regard the whole of Greenland as American, but from a consideration of the Ornis, it becomes evident that the great ice cap of central Greenland is the real dividing line between the Nearctic and Palaearctic regions. Just as the west coast of Greenland shows a great preponderance of Nearctic forms, so on the other hand the east side is even more distinctively Palaearctic. This is a point of some importance in the preparation of an authoritative list of Nearctic birds, as several stragglers from the Palaearctic Region have occurred on the coast of East Greenland and nowhere else in America: e.g. *Cornus cornix*, *C. frugilegus*, *Delichon urbica*, *Anser albifrons albifrons*, *A. brachyrhynchus*, *Falco peregrinus peregrinus* and *Numenius arquata*. The claims of all these species to a place in any list of Nearctic birds should be carefully re-considered.

Yours truly,

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