

The reason for writing this memorandum at this time is that I have just finished reading "The Voyage of the 'Fox' in the Arctic Seas," being a narrative of the discovery of the fate of Sir John Franklin and his companions, by Captain McClintock.

Under date of June 8, 1859, Capt. McClintock records, "The first ducks and brent geese were seen flying northward." At that time Captain McClintock and his party were at Cape Victoria, the extreme northern point of Boothia Land. He was on his return to the 'Fox' which had wintered in Bellot Strait, and under date of the 26th or 27th of June, 1859, he says, "I saw and shot a brent goose, seated upon an accessible ledge, and made a prize of four eggs; it seems strange that this bird should have selected so unusual a breeding place."

So my Brant of the Grand Cascapedia must arrive at northern Boothia Land in two or three days from the time I see them, but it must be the first week in August before their young will be hatched, and from an Arctic egg to a strong enough pinion to bear them southward Nature has certainly hurried the procedure.—W. B. MERSHON, *Saginaw, Michigan*.

The Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*) in Canada.—The National Museum of Canada (late Victoria Memorial Museum) has received from Mr. Frank L. Farley, Camrose, Alberta, a specimen of this species taken at Bittern Lake, near that city, October 28, 1926.

Mr. Farley informs us that it was shot in flight while leading a flock of wild Canada Geese. It is in clean and perfect plumage with no recognizable marks of captivity upon it. A number of inquiries have failed to produce any report of captive or escaped Bean Geese in North America and there are no apparent grounds for suspecting this as other than a natural straggler from its normal range. That such a bird should be taken in the mid-continental mass instead of on its coastal edges lends an additional interest to the occurrence.

In plumage the bird agrees perfectly with all descriptions and plates examined, but no authentic specimens have been available for direct comparison. It is a bird of the largest size as shown by the following measurements taken in the flesh by F. L. Farley: extent, 60 in., weight, 10 lbs., wing, 17.4 in., culmen, 3.9, depth of bill at base, 1.85, tarsus, 3.6, middle toe and claw, 3.9.

The bill though dry and faded is still distinctly yellow, with black nail and cloudings of black along culmen and on sides. It differs from any of the illustrations in Alpheraky's, *Geese of Europe and Asia* and the plate in Stejneger's, 'Exploration in Commander Islands and Kamschatka,' by being decidedly larger and deeper, with a highly arched culmen giving a "Roman-nosed" effect that may be somewhat abnormal. There is a narrow plumage line of white bounding the base of the upper mandible. The collector states that the feet and legs were yellow when fresh.

On the whole, this specimen seems to be an extreme or ultra-typical example of the *mentalis* Oates type as described by Alpheraky. Both

Alpheraky and Hartert (Die Vögel der Palaearktischen Fauna) reduce *mentalis* to a synonym of *serrirostris* Swinhœ. I follow the latter author in calling the specimen *Anser fabalis serrirostris* Swinhœ., the east Siberian form. This seems to be a new subspecies for the A. O. U. Check-list and a new species for continental North America.—P. A. TAVERNER, *National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Canada.*

Cackling Goose (*Branta canadensis minima*) in Southeastern Michigan.—During early July, 1927, at the invitation of Mr. John B. Semple of Sewickley, Pennsylvania, I had the pleasure of studying the summer bird-life of the southern and western shores of Lake Erie. While at the Erie Shooting Club, at Guard Island, Monroe County, Michigan, I examined a specimen of the genus *Branta* which even at considerable distance was obviously not *B. c. canadensis*. The bird was very small in size, in fact noticeably smaller than a Blue Goose with which it was directly compared, and the bill was proportionately short, small and delicate in character. The white cheek patches were widely separated on the throat by a stripe of black, and the under parts were of a slightly mottled dark brownish gray, with no suggestion of a lightening of shade on the lower neck or breast. The lower belly and the under tail coverts were lighter in color. The wing was approximately fourteen inches in length, though I could not make an exact measurement at the time. While it has not been possible to compare this specimen directly with authentic material, I believe that it represents the form *minima*.

The specimen was taken during the winter, over a year ago, either in January, 1926, or during the latter days of 1925. It was mounted by Mr. Charles Belson, who secured it not far from Guard Island.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.*

The White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons gambeli*) in South Carolina.—On January 10, 1927 Mr. Frederick A. Dallett sent a strange Goose to the bird department of the American Museum of Natural History to be identified. It proved to be an immature male White-fronted Goose, which had been killed on Mr. Dallett's winter home, South Mulberry Plantation, on the Cooper River at Oakley, South Carolina, on January 5, by his friend, Mr. Richard A. Monks. Upon my representations of the rarity of this species in the South Atlantic States, Messrs. Dallett and Monks very kindly presented the specimen to the American Museum. In the correspondence which ensued in connection with this Goose, Mr. Dallett writes me that his records show that he killed another immature White-fronted Goose on December 15, 1920. It was the shooting of a second specimen of the "strange goose" that led him to take steps to have it identified. This species is not given in Wayne's 'Birds of South Carolina,' nor does Bent record it from South Carolina in his 'Life Histories of the Anseres,' Part II, recently published.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *American Museum of Natural History.*