

no one knew of this unusual type of spring molt in the Loon. As this note by Mr. Forbush and the condition itself seem to have been pretty generally overlooked, I feel justified in publishing this observation of my own.

Since writing the above I have talked with Mr. George H. Mackay of Boston and Nantucket, whose shooting records for many years have recently been printed by Dr. John C. Phillips. Mr. Mackay immediately recalled a winter Loon with molted primaries which he had collected, in company with the late Sidney Chase, many years ago. Upon referring to his published diaries we found that on February 21, 1892, Mr. Mackay recorded that when shooting on the Western Jetty, at Nantucket, Mr. Chase "shot a Great Northern Diver in the gray plumage today, the wings of which had scarcely any feathers. The bird could not possibly have flown and I took it to be a case of moulting. I have never seen anything similar to it."

While we have been unable to trace the subsequent history of the specimen, the unusual condition of the bird made such an impression on Mr. Mackay that he had no difficulty in recalling the circumstances after an interval of nearly forty years.—JOHN B. MAY, *State House, Boston, Mass.*

Townsend's Oregon Tubinares.—Four South Pacific Tubinares, the Yellow-nosed Albatross, Sooty Albatross, Giant Fulmar, and Slender-billed Fulmar have held their places in the North American 'Check-List' for nearly one hundred years wholly upon their alleged capture off the mouth of the Columbia River by John K. Townsend. The specimens were submitted to Audubon for description and he named two of them as new, along with two others, the Black-footed Albatross and Pacific Fulmar, also secured by Townsend and which occur regularly in the North Pacific. A later alleged sight record of the Giant Fulmar in Monterey Bay Calif., is hardly worthy of serious consideration.

Audubon had one specimen each of the four species under consideration. Of the Yellow-nosed Albatross he says "procured in the Pacific Ocean not far from the mouth of the Columbia River"; of the Sooty Albatross, "procured near the mouth of the Columbia River. Of its habits or distribution I am entirely ignorant"; of the Giant Fulmar, "shot at some distance from the mouth of the Columbia River," and of the Slender-billed Fulmar a note appended by Dr. Townsend states: "Within a day's sail from the mouth of the Columbia River. Its habits are very similar to those of *Procellaria capensis*" etc. and adds "They are easily taken with a hook baited with pork." It should be noted however, that in describing the Pacific Fulmar, a common bird off the Columbia, Audubon says: "Three skins submitted to me by Mr. Townsend appear to belong to two species of the Fulmar genus. The first of these may be named as above [*Procellaria pacifica*]". Two were of this species and the third he named *tenuirostris* stating that both, along with the Atlantic species were very similar and only differed in the shape and size of their bills. It seems evident that Townsend did not distinguish the two species of the Pacific as different and his note

quoted above quite as likely referred to the Pacific Fulmar and not to the southern form. Furthermore he evidently did not write this note until after he had traversed the South Pacific on his way home since he had no previous opportunity to observe the Pintado Petrel (*P. capensis*) to which he alludes. On his trip from Oregon to Hawaii, December 1834–April 1835, Townsend refers in his 'Narrative' to the birds seen outside the bar of the Columbia and mentions the "brown Albatross" and "numerous Procellariae" and adds to the name of the Albatross "*Diomedea fusca*", but as Audubon did not publish this name until 1839 it was evidently entered later when the 'Narrative' ms. was prepared for publication and the bird he saw there was obviously the Black-footed Albatross. Finally while Townsend includes all the four species under consideration in his "List of Birds Inhabiting the Region of the Rocky Mountains, the Territory of the Oregon, and the North West Coast of America" (Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci., I, read Sept. 10, 1839), he excludes all but *Diomedea fusca* from the list published later in the year in the appendix to his 'Narrative,' evidently changing his mind as to their occurrence there and once more confusing *fusca* with *nigripes*. On his way home around the Horn, in the latter part of 1837, Townsend was taken very ill in Valparaiso, Chile, where he was forced to remain for some two months, while he had spent a month previously collecting on Tahiti.

It will, I think, be evident that Townsend had no clear idea of the identity of the various species of Tubinares nor of where he secured the several specimens; that he sent Audubon no information about the four in question and probably did not label them at all; and that he had every opportunity to secure specimens of all four in the South Pacific, while his serious illness may have made it still more difficult for him to remember which specimens had been obtained at the mouth of the Columbia and which in the south Pacific. The fact that he sent Audubon a specimen of the Chilian Finch (*Brachyospiza*) as from Oregon (described as *Fringilla mortoni* by Audubon) further shows his carelessness or failure of memory. Audubon was in Edinburgh when Townsend arrived home, November 15, 1837, and his published letters show that he, or Edward Harris for him, purchased Townsend's second collection of birds and that they were sent over to Edinburgh. He had no personal intercourse with Townsend until after his great work was completed, if ever.

In view of all these facts it seems far more likely that these four South Pacific birds actually came from the South Pacific and not from the coast of Oregon and that they should be dropped from our North American list or at least placed in the hypothetical section.—WITMER STONE, *Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philadelphia*.

White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) in Georgia.—It has been recently called to my attention by Alexander Sprunt, Jr., of Charleston, S. C. that the following record from Georgia is worth recording in 'The Auk' so I submit it herewith:—On October 3, 1926 I saw the stuffed skin