

continuance of Sharpe's arrangement is not possible, since *castaneoventer* bears no close relationship to the other two species. Indeed *castaneoventer* in spite of its unusually long (for a rail) tail and somewhat shorter and stouter tarsi recalls *Aramides*; *poeciloptera* and *woodfordi* look as though their affinities might be nearer to *Habroptila*.

Since there is no other genus in which they can be placed and no generic name available I propose

Nesoclopeus Gen. nov. *Type, Rallina poeciloptera* Hartlaub.

Characters.—Moderately large, heavily built Rallidae with stout bill and legs; nasal sulcus wide and deep; tail about half as long as wing; wing with fifth (from outside) primary longest, or slightly exceeding third, fourth and sixth; primaries exceeding secondaries by more than half the length of the bill; tarsus longer than middle toe without claw.

The two species will stand as follows:—

*Nesoclopeus poeciloptera*¹ (Hartlaub).

*Nesoclopeus woodfordi*² (Ogilvie-Grant).

Remarks.—The diagnosis given above applies to both species, but there are several other points in which they differ so markedly from each other that there is no possibility of considering the two birds as representative geographic races.

In *woodfordi* the coloration is nearly uniform black; the plumage is lax with the tips of the feathers noticeably decomposed; *poeciloptera* on the other hand is olive or reddish brown above, gray below; wings distinctly barred with black and reddish brown; plumage normal. *Woodfordi* has the bill decidedly shorter than the middle toe; *poeciloptera* has it slightly longer.

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the loan of skins of *castaneoventer* and *woodfordi* from the American Museum of Natural History and to thank Dr. Ernst Mayr who selected the material.—JAMES L. PETERS, *Mus. Comp. Zool. Cambridge, Mass.*

Purple Gallinule in Cape May Co., N. J.—On May 8, 1932, I examined a specimen of Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) which had just been caught on the beach at Anglesea, N. J., by Harry Callahan of that town. The bird was confined in a box and was in perfect plumage. There are at least three previous records for Cape May County and others from farther up the coast of New Jersey.—WITMER STONE, *Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philadelphia.*

Purple Gallinule at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.—On April 14, 1932 Miss Eckenrode found an adult male Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*)

¹ *Rallina poeciloptera* Hartlaub, *Ibis*, 1866, p. 171 (Viti Levu, Fiji Islands).

² *Rallina Woodfordi* Ogilvie-Grant, *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.* (6), 4, 1889, p. 320 (Aloa, Guadalcanar, Solomon Islands).

walking along a street in Harrisburg, Penna. The bird was brought to Dr. Winecoff, in Charge of Research, Game Commission, and identified by him. It was later released in Wildwood Park.

On April 19, 1932, Mr. Robert Leiter, photographer for the Game Commission, and the writer, found the same bird dead in an emaciated condition. Upon dissection of the carcass, the keel of the sternum was found to be fractured and the muscles bruised. Strangely enough the testes were very poorly developed.

Since I have been unable to find any record of the color of the iris, I record it here as dark brown. This of course was the color after the bird was dead for one day.

To the "casual range" in the A. O. U. 'Check-List,' should be added Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Hampshire (cf. Warren, Eaton and Forbush).

At present this specimen, which unfortunately lacks tail feathers, is in the writer's possession.—W. STUART CRAMER, 201 E. King St., Lancaster, Penna.

The Red Phalarope in New Jersey.—While visiting Brigantine Beach, N. J., on May 15, 1932, I was fortunate enough to see two Red Phalaropes (*Crymophilus fulicarius*). They were about one hundred yards apart swimming on one of the channels on the edge of the salt meadows, in fairly deep water. They were picking up food of some sort from the surface of the water holding the bill vertically, point down, and when a morsel would float past they would spin about to secure it. The white bar on the wing was very evident.

Natives informed me that the water was full of these birds a few days before, especially farther back on the meadows. Rainy, stormy weather prevailed during the week prior to my visit which doubtless drove the birds in shore. I learn through Dr. Stone that Mr. Joseph W. Tataum who was at Brigantine the same day that I was there, found a dead Red Phalarope which had apparently struck a telephone wire.—W. STUART CRAMER, 201 East King St., Lancaster, Pa.

Additional Note on the Breeding in Maine of the Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*).¹—Through the kindness of Mr. Lewis O. Shelley, our attention has been called to the records of occurrence of the Great Black-backed Gull in Maine and Massachusetts. In 1928 the occurrence and probable nesting of the Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) was noted in a large Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) colony on Duck Island of the Isles of Shoals group, off the coast of New Hampshire and Maine. Subsequent observations showed that at least three pairs of the black-backed species were successful in raising young on that island, and that possibly seven other pairs nested there. We were unable to locate the nests of the latter pairs, but the adults were constantly seen. During the

¹ Published through the Dwight Memorial Fund.