

Curlew (*Phaeopus borealis*). This specimen record was questioned at a recent meeting of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology and a subsequent inspection has determined that the bird is unquestionably a Hudsonian Curlew (*Phaeopus hudsonicus*) according to Cory's diagrams of markings on the outer primary wing-feathers. These primaries are not unmarked as required but carry a definite barring on the inner webs. Only lack of knowledge on this point could explain this error, for the specimen was undoubtedly identified on the basis of measurements, and especially the short culmen which is only 2.50 inches as previously cited by Snyder. The specimen's wing is 9 inches, but the tarsus is more closely 2.40 inches rather than 2.62 inches as he previously reported. This longer tarsus measurement should have caused the specimen to be questioned, as the Eskimo Curlew according to Forbush has a tarsus under 1.95 inches.

Mr. Snyder's official announcement of this specimen, reported as taken at Fox Lake, Wisconsin, on September 10, 1912, was made in 'The Auk' (30: 269-270, 1913). Of interest is the fact that Witmer Stone on the same page called attention to the fact that the Hudsonian Curlew could have a bill as short as 2.25 inches as was the case in one he examined which was taken at Northeast Harbor, Maine, on September 5, 1912.

The record here corrected is also cited by Bent in his 'Life Histories of North American Shore Birds' (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 146, pp. 125, 136). Of interest is the fact that it was reported as one of six fall Eskimo Curlew records for the interior of the United States. Possibly all of these fall interior specimens should be re-checked where that has not been done as it is possible these other birds, all taken before 1890, may have been identified incorrectly on the basis of bill measurement. The fact that some fall Hudsonian Curlews may have such a small bill measurement leads to the conjecture that they may be juvenile birds rather than adults as this Wisconsin specimen was listed by Snyder.

As far as is known today, Wisconsin's last Eskimo Curlew record is now that reported by Oscar P. Allert in 'The Auk' (45: 95, 1928) as collected by Delos Hatch on March 23, 1903, on the Horicon Marsh near Leroy, Wisconsin. The identification was substantiated by Dr. H. C. Oberholser and it is now in the University of Minnesota Museum of Natural History according to Dr. T. S. Roberts.

Some other sources quoting this record corrected here are as follows: Myron H. Swenk, 'The Eskimo Curlew and its Disappearance,' in the Smithsonian Report for 1915 (1916) on pages 333 and 339, and Robert Ridgway's part 8 of 'Birds of North and Middle America' (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 50, p. 415).—W. E. Scott, *Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison, Wisconsin*.

**Northern Skua in Massachusetts.**—There have been records previously of Skuas taken or seen over New England waters, generally far offshore. On February 4 of this year, however, a Northern Skua (*Catharacta skua*) was found by Miss Lois Randall on the mainland, at Swampscott, Massachusetts. This bird, an immature female, was about fifty yards from the ocean beach, frozen to death, and in an extremely emaciated condition. There had been much cold weather in the preceding weeks.

The interest of the record is enhanced by the fact that the bird bore a British leg-band, no. 401218. Word has been received from Elsie P. Leach, Honourable Secretary of the Bird-ringing Committee of the British Trust for Ornithology, that it was "ringed as a nestling at Hermaness, Shetland Islands, on 3rd July, 1939" and that another banded the same day was found subsequently on the coast of

Spain. Miss Leach further comments that "never before has a bird ringed in the British Isles been found in the United States."

The following are occurrences of Skuas classed as New England records:

*Specimens*

(Sept.?), 1877	Georges Bank (85 miles E. by S. of Nantucket I.)	L. Kumlien
July 1878	Georges Bank	T. M. Brewer
September 10, 1884	Pollock Rip (10 miles E. of Cape Cod)	N. S. Goss
February 4, 1940	Swampscott, Mass.	L. Randall

*Further Massachusetts Sight Records*

September 17, 1878	Ipswich Bay	R. L. Newcomb
October 17, 1883	Nantucket Shoals (2)	J. W. Collins
September 19, 1889	Woods Hole	V. N. Edwards
August 30, 1890	Woods Hole	V. N. Edwards
Summer, 1913	Georges Bank	W. H. Rich
(observations June 19–November 5, the greatest number August 12–September 10)		
February 19, 1928	off Rockport	L. Griscom, <i>et al.</i>
January 2, 1938	30 miles off Nantucket I.	R. H. Pough
July 13, 1938	near Muskeget I.	J. A. Hagar, <i>et al.</i>

Whether or not the late-summer Skuas are of Antarctic origin remains a question until further specimens are secured.—DAVID L. GARRISON, *New England Museum of Natural History, Boston, Massachusetts.*

**Laughing Gull breeding in Nova Scotia.**—The breeding distribution of this gull (*Larus atricilla*), as given in the 1931 edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-list,' includes Canadian territory by the statement "(formerly Nova Scotia)." This statement apparently rests on the record of Bryant (Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., 6: 122, 1857) which concerned two pairs collected on Green Island, near Yarmouth, in 1856. The females collected were judged upon dissection to have "just finished laying."

Taverner (Auk, 44: 217, 1927) has recorded three summer (August) specimens taken at Clam Point, Cape Sable. Two of these were adults.

We can now record a fully adult specimen taken at Bird Islands, Halifax County, Nova Scotia, on July 16, 1939, by H. C. White of the Atlantic Biological Station. Further, we can add data relative to two nesting situations. Mr. White made a casual visit to the Bird Islands on July 16. He noted that somewhere in the neighborhood of one hundred agitated adult Laughing Gulls were concerned with a particular island. No other species of gull was present there. He landed on the island which was rather heavily clothed with low vegetation and discovered a dozen or more gull nests, some with addled eggs. No young were observed but he is convinced that they were there somewhere, sheltered by the vegetation. Inquiry from fishermen elicited the information that these gulls, known locally as 'Blackpolls' had long nested in this situation. Formerly, the eggs of this gull were used for food by the natives.

Mr. White also informs us that a small colony was concerned with, and apparently established on, Harbour Rock, off the Moser River in the same general region. This site is approximately five miles from the one mentioned above. Our