

Ornithological Results of Dr. Nansen's Expedition to the North Pole.

BY DR. R. W. SHUFELDT, M. A. O. U.

In my last mail there came to me from Christiania, Norway; a complimentary copy of the work devoted to the bird-studies made by Dr. Nansen, the famous Arctic explorer, and his naturalists aboard the "Fram" or on sledge-

two other specimens of the same bird, being dead and hung up by the feet to exhibit the pattern of the dorsal and ventral plumage.

The memoir is published by the Fridtjof Nansen Fund for the Advance-

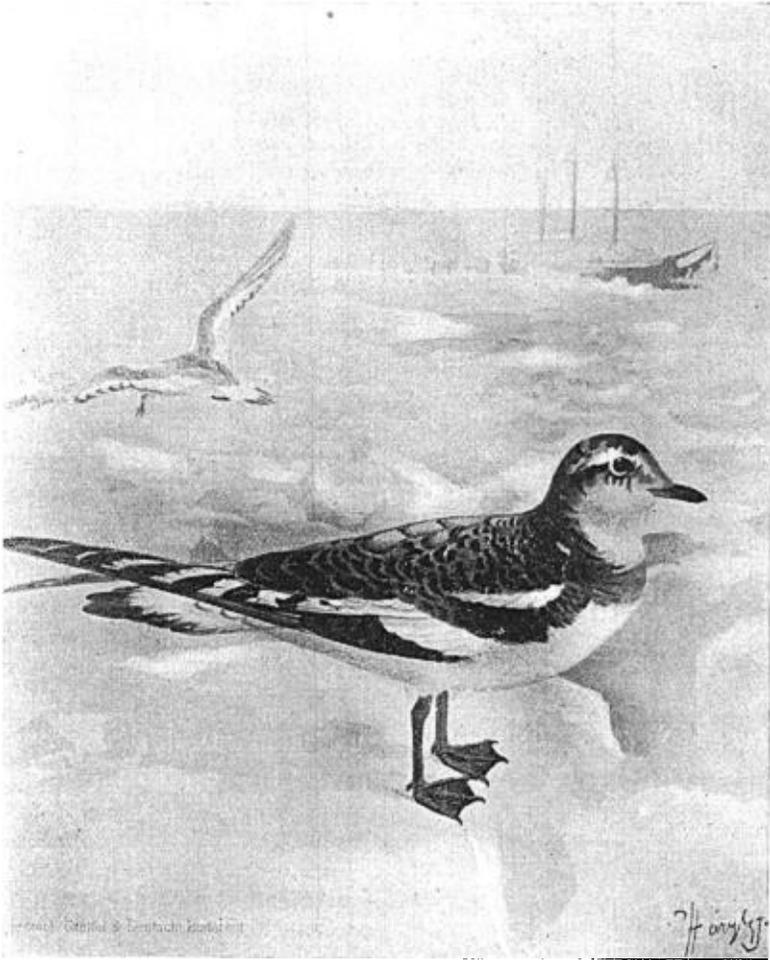


FIG. 1. *Rhodostethia rosea*. YOUNG IN FIRST PLUMAGE. (Reduced.)

journeys made to and fro from her, during the years 1893-96. This fine brochure has just been issued (1899) in sumptuous quarto form (paper) illustrated by one colored plate of the young in first plumage of *Rhodostethia rosea*, and one full-page half-tone of

ment of Science, by Jacob Dybwad of Christiania, Norway, by Longmans, Green & Co. of London, New York and Bombay, and by F. A. Brockhaus of Leipzig.* Professor Robert Collett,

**The Norwegian North Polar Expedition 1815-1816*, Scientific Results, edited by Fridtjof Nansen, IV. An Account of the Birds, by Robt. Collett and Fridtjof Nansen.

Professor of Zoology in the University of Christiania and a foreign member of the A. O. U., is associated with Doctor Nansen in the production of this valuable contribution to polar ornithology. By the aid of my camera I have made a reduced copy of the colored plate of *R. rosea*, and a half-tone copy of this illustrates the present notice. From the "Introduction" we learn that the observations recorded are divided into four (IV) sections; the first three being from Nansen's journals "supplemented by his verbal comments and explanations during the preparation of the work. The last section gives the observations made during the time that the ship was drifting with the ice in the summers of 1895 and 1896, and is compiled from written and verbal information received from Scott-Hansen Blessing and Mogstad, and also from the journals kept by Sverdrup."

These observations are quite full, as the brochure covers fifty-four (54) pages. After the ship had closed in the ice, the first bird seen in the spring of 1894 (a gull, probably *Pagophila eburnea*), appeared on May 13; birds were seen now and again until after the middle of August. After August 23rd, or the day when all the channels and lanes about the ship began to freeze up, no birds were seen. "During this part of the journey, eight specimens of *Rhodostethia rosea* were shot and prepared, all of them young birds of the year." while "Farthest north was found *Fulmarus glacialis*, of which a specimen was observed in 85° 5' N. Lat."

In the brief notice, of such a formal work, as I am now giving it would be obviously out of the question to enter upon all the valuable, interesting, oftentimes amusing records made in so extended an account, and one covering a period of several years. At the close of the narrative an "Index" is printed, which sets forth a list of the birds seen or collected during the entire Expedition to the number of thirty-three (33)

including, as one would naturally suppose, not a few of our American boreal forms. They are *Ægialitis hiaticula*, *Alle alle*, *Anser segetum*, *Archibuteo lagopus*, *Arquatella maritima*, *Branta bernicla*, *Cephus mandti*, *Colymbus arcticus*, *Crymophilus fulvicarius*, *Falco æsalon*, *Fratercula a. glacialis*, *Fulmarus glacialis*, *Harelda glacialis*, *L. lagopus*, *Larus argentatus*, *L. fuscus*, *L. glaucus*, *L. maritimus*, *Nyctea scandiaca*, *Pagophila eburnea*, *Phalaropus hyperboreus*, *Plectrophenax nivalis*, *Rhodostethia rosea*, *Rissa tridactyla*, *Somateria mollissima*, *Squatarola helvetica*, *Stercorarius crepidatus*, *S. longicaudus*, *S. pomatorhinus*, *Sterna macrura*, *Totanus nebularius*, *Uria lomvia* and *Xema sabinii*. This is an interesting list, and in it there is to be found but one passerine bird, namely, *P. nivalis*, which was frequently observed by these distinguished explorers at various points during the course of their journey.



AFTER five years of prompt publication, *The Museum of Albion*, N. Y., has consolidated with the *Naturalist, Farm and Fanciers' Review*, a publication devoted chiefly to poultry interests, but containing natural history departments. The *Review* is conducted by Mr. H. W. Kerr and will be issued from Albion, N. V. Mr. Webb will address his friends from time to time on conchology and kindred subjects through a special department. With the passing of the *Museum* we can but commend Bro. Webb for his standard of prompt publication, a feature too often lacking in many of our scientific journals.



MR. JOHN W. MARTIN of Palestine, Or., writes under date of April 6 that the juncos have begun building and that on March 16 he noticed a young Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella m. neglecta*) about two weeks from the nest, which was early, considering a fall of snow in February, followed by a cold snap.