

Notes on the American Birds Collected in the Hawaiian Islands by Mr. Gerrit Wilder.

BY WM. ALANSON BRYAN.

THE Bishop Museum has received as a gift from Mr. Gerrit Wilder, of Honolulu, a collection of twenty-two birds which are, for the most part, of as much interest to ornithologists on the mainland as to persons residing in the Hawaiian Islands. Since California, the nearest point on the American continent, is some two thousand miles distant, the occasional occurrence in this group of a strange bird from that quarter is regarded as a circumstance worthy of permanent record.

The following list, which notes for the first time the occurrence of two North American birds in the islands, is given more especially in confirmation of recently published records. In a few instances the list simply emphasizes the fact that certain shore and water birds are to be met with in the Islands more commonly than is generally supposed. From the view of a sportsman, Mr. Wilder has, for a number of years, taken a lively interest in our game birds. He has seldom failed to preserve skins of such rare birds as came to his bag. In consequence our knowledge of the Hawaiian avifauna has been very considerably extended, as the following, no less than previously published notes¹ based on his field observations, testify.

Micranous hawaiiensis (Roths.). **Hawaiian Tern. Noio.**

The specimen (B. P. B. Mus. No. 2230) furnishes the first properly authenticated record of this Tern being taken on Maui, although it has long been known to frequent the waters about the entire group. The bird is typical *M. hawaiiensis*, differing, as I have elsewhere² pointed out, from *M. marculsi* and specimens in the Museum from the leeward islands of the group.

Phaëthon lepturus Lacép. & Daun. **White-tailed Tropic Bird. Koae.**

A single specimen from Maui.

¹ See Bryan's Key to the Birds of the Hawaiian Group, Memoirs B. P. Bishop Museum vol. i, no. 3.

² Monograph of Marcus Island, Occ. Pa. B. P. Bishop Museum, vol. ii, no. 1, p. 101.

Nettion carolinensis (Gmel.). **Green-winged Teal.**

The single specimen secured on Laysan Island by Dr. Schauinsland and referred to *Nettion crecca*, is, so far as I am aware, the only previous record of this species in the entire Hawaiian group. It is not improbable, however, that this teal will be met with on all of the islands sooner or later, in company with other foreign migratory ducks. The specimen (B. P. B. Mus. No. 2221) was secured by Mr. Wilder at Kahului, Maui, on January 20, 1892. The skin is that of an old male, having the white bars on the side of the breast and the inner webs of the scapulars vermiculated, thus making it typical *N. carolinensis*. Length about 14.50, wing 6.90, tail 3.15, tarsus 1.15, toe and claw 1.50, culmen 1.45.

The specimen secured on Laysan Island was a female bird, and as it is next to impossible to separate the females of the two species mentioned, and since *N. crecca* had never been reported from the Pacific coast of America, I suspect Dr. Schauinsland's determination for the bird now in the Bremen Museum to be in error, and that the male bird here recorded is in fact only the second example of *N. carolinensis* to be taken in the group.

Spatula clypeata (Linn.). **Shoveller.**

The Shoveller has long been a regular, though by no means abundant, visitor here, where it is to be found in company with the Pintail. Both species are found frequenting lagoons and marsh lakes pretty generally throughout the group. The male specimen (B. P. B. Mus. No. 2222), secured at Kahului, Maui, Jan. 24, 1894, measures: Length about 21.00, wing 9.90, tarsus 1.50, toe and claw 2.10, culmen 2.65.

Dafila acuta (Linn.). **Pintail. Koloa Mapu.**

A single mounted bird from Maui.

Anas wyvilliana Scl. **Hawaiian Duck. Koloa Maoli.**

The four specimens, a male, a female and two young in the down, have been mounted in a group. The downy young are dark brown with an olive cast to the plumage over the back of the head, neck and body. The under parts are a very light brown, becoming a pale buff on the abdomen and throat. Sides of the

head and a stripe over the eye buffy; a dark brown stripe extending through the eye; a dark spot on the ear coverts; a patch on the side of the rump, the scapularies and wings almost white. The smaller of the specimens is without the whitish patches on the scapularies and sides of the rump, while the dark line extending through the eye is paralleled by a similar one on the cheek extending back to the ear where they unite.

Plegadis guarauna (Linn.). White-faced Glossy Ibis.

A most interesting acquisition is a mounted specimen (B. P. B. Mus. No. 2218) of this Ibis, which is the third example to be taken in the group. There is no longer uncertainty about its occasional occurrence here. The status of the species, so far as I can learn, is based on, first, the specimen, from a flock of five, shot by Dr. W. T. Brigham on Molokai in the fall of 1865. It was sent to Professor Baird for determination and was eventually lost track of; second, the immature bird collected by Mr. Knudsen on Kauai in 1872; third, the present specimen, shot by Mr. Wilder at Kihei, Maui, in the winter of 1893.

The day previous to its capture Captain Christiansen, then master of the brig J. D. Spreckels, while off the coast of Molokai, saw a pair of these birds and shot one of them, securing the specimen. He kept the legs and wing and they were compared with the bird in Mr. Wilder's possession; from the light color of the feathers and legs they concluded this was probably the female and the mate of the specimen before me.

The bird is an adult in the winter plumage, i. e., with the entire head and neck streaked with black and whitish. Length about 22.50, wing 10.00, tail 3.50, tarsus 3.20, culmen 4.45.

Nycticorax nycticorax nævius (Bodd.). Black-crowned Night Heron.

A specimen of the young and the adult are in the collection from Maui.

**Gallinula sandvicensis Streets. Hawaiian Gallinule.
Alae.**

One mounted specimen from Maui.

Fulica alai Peale. **Hawaiian Coot.** **Alae Keokeo.**

One specimen from Maui.

Actodromas maculata (Vieill.). **Pectoral Sandpiper.**

Professor Henshaw has already noted the occurrence of this species from the island of Hawaii. The specimen in the Wilder collection was taken at Waikiki, Oahu, January 1, 1892, and is unmistakably *A. maculata*, having only the shaft of the outer quill white and the culmen longer than the tarsus. The specimen in winter dress measures: Length 9.50, wing 5.25, tail 2.10, tarsus 1.10, culmen 1.15.

Calidris arenaria (Linn.). **Sanderling.** **Hunakai.**

Specimen from Kahului, Maui.

Heteractitis incanus (Gmel.). **Wandering Tattler.** **Ulili.**

One specimen from Maui.

Charadrius dominicus fulvus (Gmel.). **Pacific Golden Plover.** **Kolea.**

One specimen, Maui.

Oxyechus vocifera (Linn.). **Killdeer.**

Mr. Wilder has preserved a very good skin of this bird in winter dress which he shot on Maui. This is the first record of the Killdeer being taken in the Islands, although it is liable to be secured any season. If a colony could be established here it would be a valuable addition to our too meager list of shore birds.

Gallinago delicata (Ord). **Wilson's Snipe.**

The specimen before me is the second example of this well known game bird that it has been my privilege to examine within a year. The taking of a specimen on Laysan, the record of one taken on Hawaii, as well as the one noted by me from Oahu, together with the present specimen from Maui, would seem to fix this Snipe firmly in our list of island visitors.



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