

Thryomanes bewicki catalinæ GRINNELL, Univ. Cal. Publ. Zool., V, 308, 1910. Too close to *T. b. charienturus*.

Turdus iliacus, reported from Greenland (Henninger, Auk, 1911, p. 492) is already in the list as *Turdus musicus*.

III. PROPOSED CANCELLATIONS NOT ACCEPTED.

Melospiza melodia merrilli.

Melospiza melodia morphna.

Proposition to cancel these two forms (Kellogg. Condor, XIII, 1911, p. 118-120) rejected.

A number of other cases were deferred on account of lack of necessary material.

GENERAL NOTES.

The Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) **in Ontario.**—The only two Ontario records of the Dovekie (*Alle alle*) prove, on examination of the birds, to be Ancient Murrelets. The first was recorded by Mr. J. H. Ames in 'The Auk', 1902, p. 94, as follows: "A Dovekie (*Alle alle*) was shot Nov. 18, 1901, by H. Macdonald, a fisherman, two miles out in the lake from Toronto, Ontario. Mr. John Maughan, a taxidermist, now has it in his possession. I was present when he opened the stomach, which was empty except for a few small fish bones. It was a female and evidently a young bird, as there was no white on the secondaries and the back was slaty instead of a black." On turning up my Journal I find that I too had noted the absence of white on the wings and the slaty-blue of the back, I also noticed that the beak was very small and the bird itself large for a Dovekie but had no suspicion of the real identity of the bird and repeated the record in my 'Birds of Toronto' (Auk, 1906, p. 441). Recently through the kindness of Mr. Maughan I have been able to compare his bird with a series of Ancient Murrelets in my collection, the Toronto bird is much like a female from Howkan, Alaska, April 12, 1897, but lacks the long white feathers of the sides of the head and nape, the plumbeous rump and upper tail feathers are obscured by dusky, the body feathers under the wings plumbeous instead of black, the chin and throat sooty on only the upper half, and the beak narrower and weaker.

Mr. Maughan's data give the length as 10.25 in., spread 18.5 in.; weight 4 oz., feet light bluish gray, webs darker.

The second bird was recorded by Mr. Everett P. Wheeler in 'Bird Lore', 1909, p. 174, as follows, "November 15, 1908, I found on the Canadian shore of Lake Erie, about seven miles from Buffalo, the body of a Dovekie (*Alle alle*). The skin was identified by Mr. Savage and Dr. Cummings of the Buffalo Academy of Science and is still in my possession. The specimen was a male, entirely free from subcutaneous fat, and the crop was empty." Wishing to know what had become of this bird I wrote to Mr. James Savage of Buffalo who very kindly put me in communication with Mr. Wheeler and in September 1910, the latter presented me with what remained of the specimen explaining that it had been almost completely destroyed by moths. Fortunately the wings are perfect enough to be measured, there are a few feathers on the head, and the beak and feet are uninjured, and the bird can be identified with certainty. There is one other record of the Ancient Murrelet in the region of the Great Lakes, one taken at Lake Koshkonong, Wisconsin, late in October, 1882, and recorded by George B. Dennett (Auk, 1884, p. 98). Of the many accidental migrants to the Great Lakes hardly another species has so restricted or remote a range. The Ancient Murrelet is confined in summer to the North Pacific; breeding in the Aleutians most to the Commander Islands and Kamschatka thence south to the Kurile Islands, apparently not entering Bering Sea proper. In winter it ranges south to Japan, and more rarely from Alaska along the British Columbian coast, and south to California. In view of the restricted range it is difficult to account for the presence of the Murrelets on the Great Lakes, if the birds are young as they likely are, Mr. A. C. Bent's suggestion that they were stragglers to the Arctic Ocean and becoming lost were carried through the Northwest Passage with the ice that moves eastward with the prevailing current, is not improbable. Against this is the fact as Mr. Bent points out, that the Arctic ice has always proved an effective barrier to prevent the eastward wanderings of Bering Sea forms, none of the Auklets or Murrelets having even near relatives on the east coast of Arctic America. Once into Hudson's Bay it is not difficult for a sea bird to reach the Great Lakes.—J. H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Ont.*

Franklin's Gull in Wisconsin.—On April 23, 1911, the wings, tail, and numerous feathers of a Franklin's Gull (*Larus franklini* Sw. & Rich.) evidently recently killed were found on the shore of Lake Mendota, near Madison, Wisconsin. The bird was identified at Washington from a wing, and this wing is preserved in the collection of the University of Wisconsin. This gull is very uncommon so far east at any season, and especially so in spring. This seems to be the first spring record of it from this vicinity since 1870.—F. L. CONOVER, *Madison, Wisconsin.*

Sabine's Gull on the Mississippi River.—I have two skins of *Xema sabini* from the collection of the late C. K. Worthen with the data in his handwriting, both young birds as follows: 20032 Coll. of J. H. F. "Male

juv., Mississippi River near Fox Island, Missouri, September 15, 1900"; 16220 Coll. J. H. F. "Male, Warsaw Illinois, September 15, 1900." These are no doubt two of the three birds referred to by Widmann in 'Birds of Missouri' 1907, p. 26, but the bird is sufficiently rare in the United States to have the location of the specimens definitely recorded.—J. H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Ont.*

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) **in Minnesota.**—On Sept. 29, 1911, Mr. Dan. Schmid, keeper of Big Island Park, shot an adult male and a juvenal female from a flock of eight Caspian Terns on Lake Minnetonka. Both specimens were in good plumage, and were made into skins. The male is now in my collection. This is the first time that I have met with this species in this State.—ALBERT LANO, *Excelsior, Minnesota.*

The Brown Pelican on Long Island.—On May 26, 1912, we observed a Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), feeding around the shoals at the western end of Oak Island beach. When first seen, at long range, we decided that it was a stick, with a white top. Five minutes later, to our intense surprise, the stick flew away, and we knew at once it was a Brown Pelican. The great size, the long bill and pouch, the whitish crown and the slow sailing flight as it flapped away majestically over the water were unmistakable with the naked eye, not to mention 9 x binoculars. The bird settled on another sand-bar, and while preening its feathers, we approached to within 150 yards. For the next hour and a half the bird flew from bar to bar, as the tide rose, occasionally catching a fish, by scooping it up with its lower mandible, but for the most part sitting on a bar, preening its feathers, until the tide flushed it off, when it would fly to another. This is the second record for Long Island, as far as we have been able to discover.—JULIUS M. JOHNSON and LUDLOW GRISCOM, *New York City.*

An Additional Specimen of the Labrador Duck.—A short time ago, while examining the contents of a large case containing a miscellaneous collection of wild-fowl skins, stored in the museum of the Boston Society of Natural History, I came upon an unlabelled skin that I identified as a juvenal male *Camptorhynchus labradorius*. Dr. Glover M. Allen also examined the specimen and referred it to the same species.

Unfortunately there was no label whatsoever on the skin to give the slightest clue as to when or where it was taken, and there is no reference to any such bird in the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History.

Mr. C. Emerson Brown, who has mounted the specimen, states that it was in very poor condition; being so grease-burned that on relaxing, it disintegrated into countless small fragments. Besides leaving large masses of fat adhering to the skin the preparator had neglected to clean the skull. Such carelessness would lead one to believe that the bird was taken long ago, at a time when neither collector nor recipient considered this species worthy of any especial attention.



Fleming, James H. 1912. "The Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) in Ontario." *The Auk* 29, 387–389. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4071047>.

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