

Perhaps this may seem strange, but in all my experience in this section I have seen but very few of these birds. I have heard them many times, after nightfall, but previous to last week never shot but one. My first I shot out of a flock of about a dozen, two years ago, but a little later than this date; and last week in one day I shot seven. We were camped on Wall Lake, not far from Sioux Falls, and as I walked along the water's edge, they would fly out over the water giving me an excellent shot.

A couple being wounded started back to shore by swimming, and that quite rapidly, until met by my retriever, [who, in turn, was pecked at savagely by the wounded birds. All that I shot were young ones. In the evening, when the sun was about an hour high, a flock of some twenty came from the high prairie north of the lake, and flew directly over it, going to the south and disappearing, still upon wing. In this flock were a few old ones. Of those seen during the day around the lake, none were old ones, and the number must have reached eighteen or twenty. At night, we were greeted by the same squawk I had heard in the fall of 1881, 140 miles west of Winnepeg; in 1880, at Skunk Lakes, in Dakota; in 1880, near this city; and last spring, some eight miles from this city. At the latter place I saw two, and one was shot by a friend and brought to me for identification, having first been examined by a majority of our best hunters, none of whom had ever seen the bird before.

Dr. Coues, I believe, did not meet with this bird in this (Missouri) region, except in the Red River country, and since I have only found it as above stated, I do not think the bird is common in this section.

By the way, *Porzana carolina* is getting quite common; in going up the Vermillion River bottoms last week I saw a great many of them. Last spring I saw four Red-breasted Rails (*Rallus elegans*), and one was shot and presented to me. Thus far I have not seen or heard of any others.—D. H. TALBOT, *Sioux City, Ia.*

**Occurrence of the Royal Tern (*Sterna regia* Gamb.) at Tangiers in Morocco.**—This species, which has been previously recorded in Irby's 'Ornithology of the Straits of Gibraltar,'\* as having been once obtained at Tangiers by M. Favier, a French collector, formerly resident there, has again occurred at that place, two specimens, both males—one a bird of the year and the other nearly mature—killed in the Bay of Tangiers on 10th December last, having been recently sent me. The former is still in my possession and the latter is now in that of Mr. Howard Saunders of London. These specimens, along with thirteen others, were killed from a flock of about thirty, by a resident naturalist, all being shot from a boat without moving from one spot. This Tern has not been observed in Europe, but has occurred several times on the Gold Coast of Africa, chiefly in spring.—JOHN J. DALGLEISH, *Edinburgh, Scotland.*

**Buffon's Skua in Western Vermont.**—I have lately examined a specimen of *Stercorarius buffoni* which was shot at West Castleton, Vermont, in

\* There recorded in error as *S. bergii*. Vide P. Z. S. Lond., 1876, p. 655.



September, 1877, by Mr. George B. Dunbar. I have been unable to ascertain the exact date of its capture, but it was little later than the 7th of the month, doubtless within two or three days of that date. The bird, which is in immature plumage, was in company with another apparently of the same species and age, as no difference could be detected between them. It was shot on Screwdriver Pond, a pond of about a mile in length, half a mile from Lake Bomaseen, which is a body of water some nine miles long, situated about ten miles east of the southern end of Lake Champlain.

The occurrence so far inland of a species that usually is found only off our coast, seems to demand some explanation, but that which always first suggests itself in the case of sea-birds taken in the interior, viz., that the bird has been driven from its accustomed haunts by a storm, seems in this case to be insufficient. Although the U. S. Signal Service recorded "heavy northeast gales" as prevailing along the New England coast during the 7th, 8th, and 9th of the month, yet the chances are extremely small that two individuals of the same species should have been blown by the same gales to the same pond at a distance of a hundred and thirty miles from the coast. I should prefer to suppose that in their youth and inexperience they had wandered in company from the Gulf of St. Lawrence up the St. Lawrence River, and then, guided only by an instinct that impelled them southward, they had followed up the Champlain Valley to the point where they were found.—CHARLES F. BATCHELDER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**A newly-discovered Breeding Place of Leach's Petrel (*Cymochorea leucorrhoa* (Vieill.) Coues) in Scotland.**—A friend of mine, Mr. John Swinburne, when on an ornithological yachting cruise during the past summer, visited the little-known island of Rona, lying about forty miles to the northeast of the Island of Lewis, in the Hebrides, which had not been previously visited, so far as known, by any ornithologist. He found about twelve or fifteen species of birds inhabiting the island, chiefly, of course, sea-birds. Among them he found, on 20th June, the Fork-tailed Petrel breeding in considerable numbers, and took a number of their eggs, which were quite fresh. He tells me he found them breeding in burrows in companies, several pairs of birds inhabiting the same main burrow, off which each pair had a separate and smaller burrow formed at right angles to the main one, at the extremity of which their single egg was laid. The only European breeding place of this species hitherto known is St. Kilda, where Sir William Milne found their nests in 1847. The common Stormy Petrel, *Procellaria pelagica*, also breeds at St. Kilda, although it does not appear to do so on Rona, so far as observed by Mr. Swinburne.—JOHN J. DALGLEISH, *Edinburgh, Scotland.*

**Black-throated Auk (*Synthliborhamphus antiquus*) in Wisconsin.**—If my readers will look at a map of North America they will be surprised, to say the least, that a North Pacific sea-bird should find its way, even by accident, to the State of Wisconsin. The great range of the Rocky Mountains, extending to the very verge of the Arctic Ocean, acts as a



1884. "Buffon's Skua in Western Vermont." *The Auk* 1, 97–98.

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