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GENERAL NOTES.

Occurrence of *Larus marinus* on the Southern Coast of New Jersey.—While on a ducking expedition at Atlantic City, N. J., I observed, during and after the 'blizzard' of last March (1888), three or four specimens of the Great Black-backed Gull soaring about as familiarly and with as wary impudence as is their wont in more northern latitudes.

Though unable to procure a specimen, I was assured by Capt. Sam. Gale of the same place that they were of yearly occurrence on that coast during winter, and that he had a standing offer from a local taxidermist of five dollars for every specimen taken, but that so far he had only procured one. So certain was I of my own identification, I did not think it necessary to verify it by personal examination of the specimen referred to. I am quite confident that Nuttall's extension of the winter range of this Gull to the "sea coasts of the extreme Southern States" is yet capable of verification as far south as the entire coast of Virginia. Indeed so storm-loving, erratic, and solitary a species as this, sets all petty limits at defiance, to the distraction of note-taker and book-maker alike; and, as soon as you have him booked for residence in Cape May, presto, the next cold wave wafts him to Cape Charles and you begin to understand how it got into print that *Larus marinus* "extends its residence in America as far as Paraguay!"*—SAM'L N. RHOADS, *Haddonfield, New Jersey*.

The Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Thalassogeron culminatus*).—In 'The Auk' for January, 1888, Mr. Montague Chamberlain of St. John, N. B., mentions his having seen the skin of this bird in the Laval University, Quebec. The bird in question was killed on the 20th of August, 1885, at the entrance of River Moisie, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence. It was shot by a fisherman named Couillard Després. I saw the bird a few days after it was shot, but could not identify the species. I sent a short description of it to Dr. C. H. Merriam.

* Nuttall's Ornithology, Water Birds, p. 308.

While on the subject of rare visitors to the Gulf of St. Lawrence I will add that on the 13th and 14th of August, 1883, I saw a Man-of-war Bird, (*Tachypetes aquilus*) outside of the Bay here. A few days later it was again seen by Capt. Le Blanc of the 'Manicoriagan Light Ship,' thirty miles west of Godbout.—NAP. A. COMEAU, *Godbout, Quebec*.

Oidemia perspicillata in Florida.—A male of this species was taken January 23, near Punta Rassa, at the southern entrance to Charlotte Harbor.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *New York, N. Y.*

An Addition to the List of North American Birds.—I have in my collection two specimens, taken in Texas, of *Rallus longirostris caribæus* Ridg., heretofore only known in the West Indies. They are exactly like the type kindly sent me by Mr. Ridgway, and are undoubtedly referable to this form. A female was taken by Mr. Fred. Webster and myself at Galveston, Feb. 28, 1877, and a male was taken by my collector, Jno. M. Priour, at Corpus Christi, May 19, 1887.—GEORGE B. SENNETT, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City*.

The Yellow Rail in Connecticut.—I am indebted to Mr. E. H. Austin of Gaylordsville, Conn., for a specimen of the Yellow Rail (*Porzana noveboracensis*) found at that place on March 24. Mr. Austin writes in reference to it: "It was picked up in the morning at the side of the road near the river by a boy who found it in an exhausted condition, and was taken into the house where it revived enough to run about the room, but finally died in the evening. The most singular point in my mind is that the Saturday it was found the thermometer stood at 10°, and the day before at 7°. It was taken into the Post Office as a rare or unknown bird."

It proved to be a male. I sent the contents of the gizzard to the Department of Agriculture, and Dr. A. K. Fisher says in a letter of the 30th inst.: "The seeds found in the gizzard of the Rail are as follows: one grape seed, one grass seed (*Paspalum*), two sedges (*Carex*). Probably the grape seed was taken in with gravel."

Mr. Austin has recorded his discovery in 'Forest and Stream.'—C. K. AVERILL, JR., *Bridgeport, Conn.*

Notes on *Melanerpes torquatus*.—During the springs of 1885, 1886, and 1887, I made constant observations upon the migration of birds at Fort Wingate, New Mexico, but during those three years never so much as observed anywhere in that region a specimen of Lewis's Woodpecker (*M. torquatus*); nor, as for that matter, at any other time during the year. This spring (1888), however, my son noted a bird of this species in a large pine tree close to the garrison buildings, and when I was out next day (May 8), four other specimens were in sight at one time, within two miles of the station. These, as usual, were extremely wary, and I only succeeded in obtaining one fine adult female.

Upon carefully plucking this bird, I found the pterylosis to be for the



1888. "The Yellow-Nosed Albatross (*Thalassogeron culminatus*).*" The Auk* 5, 318–319. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4067327>.

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