

**A Supposed New Colony of Least Terns on Marthas Vineyard.** — In July, 1901, while on a visit to Katama Bay and the eastern end of Marthas Vineyard with a collecting party from the U. S. Fish Commission Station at Woods Hole, I found a young Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) running on the shore near a marshy strip on the edge of the bay. An inspection of the marsh showed it to be a breeding place for this species, as a number of eggs were observed in a hasty examination, although it appeared that most of the eggs must have hatched. Several adults came within close range of the collecting party seining on the shore. On each of several other visits to the bay in July, August and September, a few Least Terns were noticed, but it was not until about the first of October that the birds were observed in flocks and some idea could be formed of their number. Two separate flocks were found on the beach one day, and it was the estimate of Mr. V. N. Edwards, of the Fish Commission, and myself that each flock contained about 500 old and young birds.

I have been visiting Katama Bay in summer and fall for three or four years, and have not previously observed Least Terns there. Mr. Edwards, who has been very familiar with the region for more than thirty years and knows the birds very intimately, does not remember to have found the birds in such numbers before. — HUGH M. SMITH, *Washington, D. C.*

**The European Widgeon in North Carolina.** — I found not long ago in the collection of Mr. Louis Agassiz Shaw (No. 101) of Chestnut Hill, Mass., a male *Mareca penelope* taken by Mr. L. C. Fenno on Currituck Sound, on November 23, 1900. The bird is a fine, well stuffed specimen, and is I think the first to be *recorded* from the State. It will eventually be presented to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. — REGINALD HEBER HOWE, Jr., *Longwood, Mass.*

**Northern Phalarope and Black Tern at Cumberland, Md.** — On May 23, 1901, a friend brought me, beside Sora Rail, Bartramian Sandpiper and Solitary Sandpiper, a fine male specimen of *Phalaropus lobatus*. He had seen a pair of these birds on a large meadow along the West Virginia bank of the Potomac, and shot one. At this place, called Swamp Ponds, the Potomac makes a rather short bend into Maryland from west to east, so that this locality in West Virginia is surrounded on three sides by Maryland, so that any bird found there must be counted for Maryland as well as West Virginia, for whether birds have come from north or south to these Swamp Ponds, they had to come from Maryland.

On May 30, while with a friend at the same place, we saw a strange bird, large in appearance, majestically sailing in wide circles over the swamp, often over the river into Maryland, but always returning. Sometimes it would interrupt its slow circles by seemingly strange antics. After much waiting it sat down on a post in the swamp. My friend carefully stalked up to it and took it, and it proved to be a female Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*). There was, however, no sign of eggs



to be seen. It had about six large dragon flies in its stomach. This tern and the phalarope are now in my collection. — G. EIFRIG, *Cumberland, Md.*

**Second Record of the Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) in Illinois.**— I am indebted to Mr. Marvin Hughitt, Jr., for information regarding the capture of a specimen which is rare for this State. The bird was killed by Mr. T. G. Winders while snipe shooting near Coal City, Grundy Co., Ill., on April 24, 1900. It is mounted and now in possession of Mr. Hughitt. The only previous record for the State, that I am aware of, was given by Mr. E. W. Nelson in his 'Birds of Northeastern Illinois' (Bull. Essex Inst., VIII, April, 1877, pp. 90-155), based on a specimen taken by Mr. C. N. Holden, Jr., near Chicago. Mr. Holden has recently informed me that this bird was taken by Mr. R. Borchardt of Lake View, a suburb of Chicago. — RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

**Cory's Bittern.**— Since the publication of 'The Standing of *Ardetta neoxena*,' by Mr. Frank M. Chapman, in 'The Auk,' Vol. XIII (pp. 11-19), nine more specimens, six of which are unrecorded, have been taken at Toronto; and Mr. Ames and myself have recorded the finding of the eggs (Auk, Vol. XVIII, p. 106). I believe Toronto still remains the only Canadian place of record for this very interesting bird, and as seven Toronto birds had been recorded when Mr. Chapman published his paper, I have numbered the records given in the following table from eight onwards:

TORONTO RECORDS OF *Ardetta neoxena*, 1896-1900.

No.	Collection of	Locality.	Sex.	Date.	Collector.
8	W. Rothschild	Toronto	♂ ad.	Aug. 17, 1896	A. Dey
9	J. H. Ames <sup>(1)</sup>	"	♂ ad.	May 14, 1897	Geo. Pierce
10	Geo. Pierce <sup>(1)</sup>	"	♀ ad.	June 30, 1897	" "
11	Manly Hardy	"	♂ ad.	June 8, 1898	A. Dey
12	J. H. Fleming <sup>(2)</sup>	"	♀ ad.	June 15, 1898	Geo. Pierce
13	C. K. Rogers	"	♂ im.	Aug. 3, 1898	C. K. Rogers
14	Prov. Mus., Toronto	"	♂ ad.	Aug. 7, 1899	A. Dey
15	" " "	"	♂ im.	Aug. 14, 1899	A. Dey
16	J. H. Fleming <sup>(3)</sup>	"	♂ ad.	Sept. 8, 1899	J. Tymon

Nos. 8 and 11 were sexed by the same man, and as both were for some time in my keeping I was able to compare them with others in my own collection, and saw no reason to doubt that they were adult males. No. 8 belonged to Mr. O. Spanner, and I was able to secure it for the Hon.

<sup>1</sup> Recorded by Mr. Ames in Auk, Vol. XIV, p. 411.

<sup>2</sup> Recorded by Mr. Ames and myself in Auk, Vol. XVIII, p. 106.

<sup>3</sup> Now in coll. of British Museum.



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