

Mr. Sibley, who is an ardent sportsman, and shoots large numbers of ducks every fall in this same location, writes that he has never seen but this one pair of Old Squaws, though he has heard of two single birds killed at different times in the State. The pair in question, Mr. Sibley had mounted, and they are now in possession of a friend in Denver.—  
RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

**The Old Squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) on the Coast of South Carolina.**—The winter of 1894-95 was remarkable for its severity. The thermometer in December was 8° above zero, and in February 15° above zero. Several flocks of Old Squaws were daily seen near the ocean, and among them many adult males. They were very wild, and it was very difficult to get a shot at them, even at long range. On February 26, I was fortunate enough to shoot an adult female. This was the only one taken. I can find but one record of this duck being taken in the State, viz.: Smythe, *Auk*, Vol. V, 1888, p. 203.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

***Aythya marila* or *A. m. nearctica*?**—In separating the American Scaup Duck as a subspecies from its European cousin Dr. Stejneger (*Orn. Expl. Kamtsch.*, 1885) gives as the characteristic difference between the two forms the coloring of the primaries from the fourth quill, which have “a distinct white area on the inner web” in *A. marila*, and “a grayish—but not white—area on the inner web” in *A. m. nearctica*. *A. marila* has not, I believe, been as yet recorded from this country.

Early in December last Mr. A. H. Verrill called my attention to the extensive white spaces on the primaries of a male Scaup Duck, which had been sent him by Mr. E. M. Cooper of Stony Creek, Conn., whom we had asked to forward us ducks in the flesh, and suggested that it might be the European bird. We determined to investigate the subject, and requested Mr. Cooper to send us male Scaup Ducks noticeably white on the primaries. The following small series was selected by Mr. Cooper in accordance with our wishes, all having been killed at Stony Creek on or about the dates given with the specimens, and most of them having been shot by Mr. Cooper himself.

In the following descriptions of this bird I have merely attempted to point out the main differences between them, giving particular attention to the coloring of the light spaces on the primaries.

No. 1330, Coll. L. B. Bishop, Dec. 15, 1894. Interscapulars brown spotted with white, with a few black feathers spotted with white intermixed. Feathers of chest whitish barred with brown and tipped with white, a few black feathers interspersed; flanks white heavily vermiculated with black, mixed with many entirely brown feathers; abdomen posteriorly hair brown with most of the feathers tipped with white. Rump, tail-coverts and tail brown with many black feathers interspersed, under tail-coverts tipped with white. Pale space on inner web of primaries becoming distinctly white only on the inner edge of the basal por-



tion of all except the outer and inner two; distinctly white space on the outer web of the six inner primaries.

No. 1329, Coll. L. B. Bishop, Dec. 14, 1894. Like last, except brown barring in feathers of chest indistinct, and few brown feathers in interscapular region. Rump, tail-coverts and tail black, with only a few brown feathers on rump and under tail-coverts. Distinct white space only on edge of inner web of fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth primaries, and on outer web of inner five.

No. 1348, Coll. L. B. Bishop, Jan. 3, 1895. Like last, except black of head and neck extending farther on chest, the posterior feathers of which are tipped with white; no brown on chest. Tail brown tipped with whitish. White on inner web fairly distinct in fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth primaries, as an edging on fourth and ninth, and on outer web of inner six.

No. 1349, Coll. L. B. Bishop, Jan. 4, 1895. Like last, except black of head and neck extending almost on third of body, with a few feathers vermiculated with white, but none brown, in interscapular region, and a few tipped with white on the chest. Rump, tail-coverts and tail black, a few feathers on under tail-coverts barred with white. Abdomen posteriorly white vermiculated with black. Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth primaries distinctly white on inner web, the white appearing also toward base of third and fourth, and as an edging on ninth and tenth; inner four white on outer web.

No. 1350, Coll. L. B. Bishop, Jan. 4, 1895. Like last, except flanks only faintly vermiculated with black, with a few brown feathers posteriorly. Inner web of second, third, ninth and tenth primaries edged with white, and with fairly distinct white space on fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth; inner seven with white on outer web.

No. 1328, Coll. L. B. Bishop, Dec. 12, 1894. Like last, except black of head and neck extending farther posteriorly; no white tips to feathers of chest, and only one brown feather on left flank; black vermiculation of flanks more distinct. No white-tipped feathers on under tail-coverts. White distinct on inner web of all the primaries but narrow on ninth and tenth, and on outer web of inner six.

No. 1354, Coll. L. B. Bishop, Jan. 11, 1895. Like last, except faint edging of white on posterior feathers of chest; flank pure white faintly vermiculated with black. Inner web of all the primaries with large space of pure white extending on six inner quills well toward tip of feather, the white mixed with a little gray on ninth and tenth feathers; outer webs distinctly white on six inner quills.

In comparing these specimens it will be noticed that they vary greatly in the coloring of the inner webs of the primaries, Nos. 1330 and 1329 coming fairly under the head of *A. m. nearctica*, Nos. 1348, 1349, and 1350 being intermediate, and Nos. 1328 and 1354 typical examples of the old world form *A. marila*. If, however, all except Nos. 1328 and 1350 are left out of consideration on account of their obviously immature plumage the



latter two still remain as American birds with white areas on the inner web of the six inner quills.

Having procured this series I asked Mr. Cooper to select birds which have particularly dark primaries. During February the ice at Stony Creek made it impossible to obtain any of this species, but early in March Nos. 1369 and 1370 were received from Mr. Cooper, No. 1373 having been taken by another sportsman.

No. 1369, Coll. L. B. Bishop, March 1, 1895. Like No. 1354, except no white on inner web of any of the quills; interscapulars not as white as in No. 1354.

No. 1370, Coll. L. B. Bishop, March 1, 1895. Like No. 1354, except no white on inner web of any of the quills.

No. 1373, Coll. L. B. Bishop, March 7, 1895. Like No. 1354, except only a narrow edging of white on inner web of six inner quills.

Nos. 1369 and 1370 appear to be typical examples of *A. m. nearctica*, as Nos. 1328 and 1354 were of *A. marila*; consequently we have from the same locality typical examples of both the European and American subspecies, with a number of intermediate forms. The number of adult birds in this series is probably insufficient to decide whether the European variety occurs in Long Island Sound as a winter resident, the American appearing mainly as a migrant, or if the subspecies *A. m. nearctica* is untenable; but in either case *A. m. marila* must be admitted to the list of American birds. — LOUIS B. BISHOP, M. D., *New Haven, Conn.*

**An Apparently Undescribed Plumage of *Oidemia perspicillata*.** — An adult female Surf Scoter, which I collected at Guilford, Conn., in the fall of 1893, seems to merit description as differing noticeably from the characteristics of the adult female as given by standard authors.

No. 956, Coll. L. B. Bishop, Oct. 13, 1893. Upper parts generally dark brownish black, becoming almost pure black on the top of head, nape, tertiaries, tip and part of outer web of primaries, outer web of secondaries, upper tail-coverts and tail. Below sooty brown, becoming somewhat lighter on the neck; most of the chest-feathers tipped with grayish white. Chin and upper part of thorax dirty white tipped with brown; well-defined white spots in both loreal and auricular regions, with many of the feathers tipped with brown; many white feathers mixed with the brownish black of the nape; side of head between loreal and auricular white spots almost as dark as back. Bill black with black elevation of knob at base well indicated, tip of nails of both mandibles pale flesh; tarsi and toes dull orange rufous, nails and 'palmations' black; irides dark brown.

I have arranged in parallel columns, the description of the different parts of the adult female as given by Dr. Coues in his 'Key to North American Birds,' in 1884, and Mr. Ridgway in his 'Manual of North American Birds,' in 1887, with the corresponding parts of my specimen.



Bishop, Louis B. 1895. "Aythya marila or A. m. nearctica?" *The Auk* 12, 293–295.  
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