

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.

It will be noticed that my bird differs chiefly in having a rather darker plumage, white feathers on the nape, and a loreal and mental white patch. The white on the chin I believe to be simply an individual peculiarity, but the other differences are possibly characteristic of the fully adult female.

	COUES.	RIDGWAY.	MY SPECIMEN.
Pileum and nape.	Sooty brown.	Dusky.	Almost black.
Lores.	Patch of whitish.	Indistinct whitish patch.	Patch of whitish.
Auriculars.	Patch of whitish.	No patch of whitish except in young.	Patch of whitish.
Nape.	No white.	No white.	Many white feathers.
Side of head.	Much whitish.	Grayish brown.	Almost as dark as back.
Upper parts.	Sooty brown.	Dusky, feathers sometimes with paler tips.	Dark brownish black; tertiaries, tip and part of outer web of primaries, outer web of secondaries, upper tail-coverts and tail almost as black as in adult male.
Lower parts.	Silvery gray.	Grayish brown, paler on belly.	Sooty brown.
Chest.		Tipped with dull whitish.	Tipped with dull whitish.
Chin.	?	Grayish-brown.	Patch of white tipped with brown.

Another adult female in my collection (No. 1338) taken at Stony Creek, Conn., Dec. 18, 1894, differs from this bird only in the following respects. Many feathers approaching hair brown and tipped with whitish on back, rump, upper tail-coverts and tail; lower parts a mixture of sooty brown and broccoli brown, the latter predominating, the feathers tipped with whitish especially on the chest. Nuchal white feathering much more extended and distinct; white of chin replaced by hair brown; space between loreal and auricular white patches only slightly darker than rest of neck. The brown feathers, particularly on the tail and upper parts, are much worn, while the blackish feathers are fresh and unabraded, leading me to think that the black feathers were replacing the brown.

While in Cambridge in the fall of 1893, Mr. William Brewster kindly showed me his series of this species, among which were several females with the white feathering on the nape quite distinct, and Mr. George H.

Mackay informed me that he had frequently seen this nuchal white patch well developed in the female. I trust that Mr. Gurdon Trumbull will soon conclude his scholarly article on 'Our Scoters,' with a description of this species in all stages of plumage.—LOUIS B. BISHOP, M. D., *New Haven, Conn.*

The Masked Duck (*Nomonyx dominicus*) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas.—There is a female specimen of the Masked Duck in the United States Department of Agriculture collection, which was killed by William Lloyd five miles north of Brownsville, Texas, on July 22, 1891. In his field notes the collector states that several others were seen at the same place, and a local hunter killed a male in the vicinity. He also feels quite positive that ducks seen in a fresh water pond near Matamoras, Mexico, on Sept. 8, were of the same species. The occurrence of this tropical duck in southern Texas is probably more than casual, and a careful search among the numerous bayous would undoubtedly bring to light more specimens.—A. K. FISHER, *Washington, D. C.*

Lincoln Salt Lake and the Occurrence of *Strepsilas interpres*.—Local ornithologists are considerably interested in the occurrence of the Turnstone (*Strepsilas interpres*) in this State. Three were shot at Lincoln Salt Lake on the 25th of May of this year. These were secured by Mr. W. D. Hunter of the Department of Taxidermy, and were placed by him in the State Museum. This is the first authentically reported occurrence of this bird in Nebraska. So far as we can learn it is not reported for any of our neighboring States.

It may be of interest to note that within the last three years the basin of Salt Creek has been artificially dammed, and the water set back so as to form a saline lake about two miles long and one mile wide. Here during the springtime are found great numbers of Gulls, Terns, Ducks, Geese, Waders and Water-birds of all sorts. The Lincoln Gun Club has bought the privileges of this lake, otherwise there would be a continual fusilade kept up against the flocks of birds which hover there. There are but few lakes or marshy places in semi-arid regions to entice Water-birds, and any one could, by indiscriminate shooting, destroy large numbers of them.

Possibly the salt water of this artificial lake provided food and familiar conditions for these birds which tempted them to linger here in their flight.—ERWIN H. BARBOUR, *University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebr.*

A Sora caught by a Mussel.—When hunting in the marshes in this vicinity, September 3, 1894, Mr. Joseph D. Clarke noticed a Sora (*Porzana carolina*) hopping along and trying hard to fly. His dog finally captured the bird. It had a "freshwater clam" attached to one toe, being firmly caught by the bivalve. The poor bird in its efforts to release itself had



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