

ADDITIONS TO THE AVIFAUNA OF WASHINGTON
AND VICINITY.

BY HUGH M. SMITH AND WILLIAM PALMER.

SINCE the publication in 1883 of Drs. Coues and Prentiss's annotated list of the birds of the District of Columbia (*Avifauna Columbiana* — Bull. No. 26, U. S. Nat. Mus.), the number of species therein enumerated has been considerably augmented by the discovery of specimens in the National Museum and in private collections, of the existence of which these authors were apparently ignorant, and by the taking of specimens in more recent years that were, properly speaking, new. In '*Avifauna Columbiana*' the names of 248 birds are given. To this number Messrs. Ridgway, Henshaw, and F. S. Webster have each added one species, and the writers six; and we are enabled at this time to cite the occurrence within our limits of twelve additional species and subspecies, and to increase by a species and a subspecies the fauna of the Atlantic slope of the United States.

Urinator lumme. — In the spring of 1882 a Red-throated Loon was caught in a gill-net in the Potomac River, a few miles below Washington, and is now in the possession of Mr. O. N. Bryan, of Marshall Hall, Maryland. This is the only known occurrence of the bird within our limits.

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos. — There appear to be three well authenticated instances of the capture of this bird in our vicinity:—(1) near Alexandria, Va., April, 1864, collected by C. Drexler and presented to the Smithsonian Institution (No. 33,701); (2) opposite Washington, on the Virginia bank of the Potomac, fall of 1864, shot by John Ferguson, and seen and identified by several persons who have communicated the facts to us; (3) near Alexandria, Va., October, 1878, killed by John Huxhurst, and seen by a gentleman connected with the National Museum.

Porzana noveboracensis. — In the collection of the National Museum are two Yellow Rails, both of which were taken in the marshes of the Potomac River near Washington; the first (No. 80,297) by T. E. Clark, October 4, 1879, the second (No. 96,617) by A. Skinner, March 28, 1884.

Macrorhamphus scolopaceus. — Seven Long-billed Dowitchers were killed from a flock on the Anacostia River, D. C., in April, 1884, by a gunner who sold them in the market for Jack Snipe. One, similar to the others, was secured and mounted by one of the writers, and has been identified by Mr. Ridgway as the western species.

Ægialitis meloda circumcincta. — On May 3, 1884, a specimen of this species was obtained by A. Skinner on the shore of the Potomac River, opposite Washington, and is now in the National Museum.

Arenaria interpres. — Three Turnstones in the National Museum (Nos. 29,176, 29,177, 29,178) were taken in the District by C. Drexler in 1860 (?).

In June, 1882, Mr. J. A. Moore killed a bird at Jones's Point, Va., near Washington; in May, 1881, Mr. O. N. Bryan secured one and saw another at Marshall Hall, Md.; and we know of the occurrence of three others on the Potomac River, D. C., within the past few years.

Conurus carolinensis.—In September, 1865, while gunning for Sora on the Potomac River, Mr. Edward Derrick fired into a flock of strange birds flying overhead, killing several, which proved to be Carolina Paroquets. He had one mounted, and kept the specimen in his house for a number of years. Other parties on the marsh at the same time shot numbers of the birds. Descriptions furnished by Mr. Derrick and careful questioning by ourselves, leave no doubt as to the identity of the birds.

Contopus borealis.—The claims of this species to a place in our list rest upon Mr. Ridgway's observations near Fall's Church, Va., a few miles from this city, where several birds were noticed in September, 1881. Further west in Virginia the species cannot be considered very rare, individuals having been observed for three or four successive summers by one of the writers; and Dr. A. K. Fisher has taken a specimen in the Bull Run Mountains; these latter occurrences, however, are a considerable distance beyond our faunal limits.

Otocoris alpestris praticola.—Two Horned Larks in the collection of William Palmer have been identified by Mr. Henshaw as belonging to his race *praticola*. They were taken in February, 1881, and were in company with numbers of typical *O. alpestris*.*

Melospiza lincolni.—This Sparrow was added to our faunaby Mr. Henshaw, who collected three specimens in May, 1885 (Coll. H. W. H., Nos. 5621, 5622, 5623). William Palmer has taken two birds; and Mr. Ridgway has noticed the species on several occasions near Laurel, Md.

Dendroica kirtlandi.—A specimen of this bird, now in the National Museum (No. 111,878), was shot by William Palmer, September 25, 1887, on a wooded hilltop near Fort Myer, Va., in the same locality in which the collector had previously taken *Helminthophila leucobronchialis*. The bird was moving slowly about in the underbrush, and was at first thought to be the Yellow Palm Warbler, from the habit of jerking the tail characteristic of that species. Just one week later another bird of the same species was observed in this locality under such circumstances as to make the identification a surety. Kirtland's Warbler is new to the Atlantic slope of the United States, Cleveland, Ohio, we believe, being the easternmost limit of the range of the species hitherto recorded.

Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis.—Grinnell's Water-Thrush, as Mr. Ridgway informs us, has not been previously recorded from east of Illinois. He has, however, identified two specimens taken in Virginia, near Washington, on May 11, 1879, and May 5, 1885 (Coll. W. P., Nos. 620, 1376).

* On February 16, 1888, some months after these notes were sent to 'The Auk,' eighteen specimens of this variety were taken by William Palmer near Washington from a flock of fifty or sixty birds, that had been noticed in the vicinity throughout the winter. About half a dozen other specimens have recently been obtained by various collectors.



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