

**White Pelican at Savannah, Georgia.**— I am glad to report the capture of a White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), that was shot at the wharves in the Savannah River, the date of capture was October 9, 1912, the specimen is now in the hands of a taxidermist and is the property of Mr. Cord Asendorf, Jr.— G. R. ROSSIGNOL, JR., *Savannah, Ga.*

**The Black Duck Controversy Again.**— During the last two years, 1911 and 1912, I have been much interested in a pair of wild Black Ducks, apparently adult birds, that nested near a shallow pond back in the woods at my place, Newton Centre, Mass. In 1911 they raised a brood of ten young flappers, and while in 1912 they again nested there, I am unable to say what became of the young, as I was forced to let the water out of the pond before the time of their hatching. The old birds from their habits were very apparently the same pair that returned each spring, and they were of the so-called green-legged kind.

While at Monomoy Island, Mass., during the last two weeks of October, 1912, with a couple of friends, we shot a number of Black Duck of the red-legged kind (there were no green legs), among which were several that were apparently young birds; and on October 25 there fell to one of our guns a female, which from its size, plumage, and general characteristics, was so evidently young that there could be no possible doubt about it. I personally skinned and sexed this specimen, which showed its immaturity in all those ways familiar to those who handle birds. It must have been one of a very late brood, for its upper mandible was a steel gray, and had not yet begun to show those shades of light olive green of the adult bird, and the 'nail' at the end of the upper mandible was hardly darker than the rest of the bill, and nothing like the dark and glossy black of the adult bird. The lower mandible was pinkish and still quite soft and pliable, as in the case of very young ducks, and *the bird had red legs.*

Let us hope that this is the final nail in the coffin of the Black Duck controversy, and that it may hold so securely that even Dr. Dwight may not again resurrect the corpse in some post-mortem or pre-cherubic plumage.— F. H. KENNARD, *Boston, Mass.*

**The Harlequin Duck in Wyoming.**— On September 15, 1912, while stopping at Moran post office near the north end of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, I noticed two flat skins of the Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) hung in the dining room of Teton Lodge. The proprietor of the Lodge, Mr. B. D. Sheffield, informed me that these birds had been shot in the vicinity, on Jackson Lake, in May about four years ago, probably in 1908. Both specimens were males in full plumage.

This species is not included in Knight's 'Birds of Wyoming,' but Prof. W. W. Cooke has kindly called my attention to a record in Coues' 'Birds of the Northwest,' p. 579, of a pair of these ducks collected by Prof. F. V. Hayden, May 31, 1860, on 'Mount. Stream.' The female contained an egg nearly ready to be laid. Examination of the records of other specimens in

the same collection shows that this 'Mountain Stream' was in the Wind River Mountains near the head waters of the Gros Ventre River east of Jackson Hole. Both of the Hayden specimens are now in the U. S. National Museum.

The Harlequin Duck has long been known to breed sparingly in the Rocky Mountains in Montana and Colorado. In 1874 Coues<sup>1</sup> found young in August, unable to fly, on the streams which flow into Chief Mountain Lake, Montana, and two adult females collected by the expedition at this locality on August 22 are in the National Museum. In 1881 Dr. Merrill<sup>2</sup> found several pairs breeding near Fort Custer almost exactly on the Montana-Wyoming boundary, although he failed to discover their nests. The notes of the Biological Survey contain records of a flock of eight or ten seen on St. Mary Lake by Vernon Bailey and A. H. Howell in May, 1895, and of a female seen by the same observers June 19, 1895, at Java, on the line of the Great Northern Railway between Belton and Summit in Flathead County.

In Colorado Carter<sup>3</sup> collected eggs June 3, 1877, in Middle Park and also found the bird breeding in the same general region in Summit County, on Blue River just below Breckenridge, at an altitude of 9,200 feet.<sup>4</sup> In 1881 Drew<sup>5</sup> recorded it as common in San Juan County, where it was said to breed. Morrison<sup>6</sup> reported in 1888 that he had often seen it through the winter at Fort Lewis on the Ute reservation and believed that it bred both in San Juan and La Plata counties.

The bird is evidently a rare breeder in the Rocky Mountains south to latitude 37, but the only records seem to be those in 1860, 1874, 1877, 1881, about 1888, 1895 and 1908. It is interesting to note that the records show that it breeds in Wyoming as well as in Montana and Colorado. The first specimens collected half a century ago and so long overlooked were in reality from Wyoming and the two records from that State are both from the Jackson Hole region, one at the north end and the other in the mountains east of the valley.—T. S. PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

**The King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) in Massachusetts.**—Four years ago I had, for the first time, the pleasure of seeing this boreal species alive, and of closely examining in the flesh a male in nearly full plumage. It seemed to me then, as at present, the most beautiful of the Fuliginæ of North America. I became interested in its past and present status in Massachusetts, and made some investigations, the results of which are appended.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Birds of the Northwest,' p. 579, 1874.

<sup>2</sup> Orn. and Ool., VI, p. 44, 1881.

<sup>3</sup> Allen, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, IV, p. 50, 1879.

<sup>4</sup> Cooke, 'Birds of Colorado,' Bull. 56, Agri. Exp. Sta. Colo., p. 195, 1900.

<sup>5</sup> Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, VI, p. 142, 1881.

<sup>6</sup> Orn. and Ool., XIII, p. 165, 1888.