

ten miles north of the Mexican boundary. These specimens consist of males and females in nearly equal number, and furnish material for a very satisfactory account of the species, which will form the subject of a special paper soon to appear in the 'Bulletin' of the American Museum of Natural History. The paper will be illustrated with a colored plate, giving figures of both sexes. In this connection I will therefore merely state that the original specimen on which the species was based proves to be rather exceptional in certain features, most of the specimens before me showing a more or less well-marked white superciliary line, which is quite absent in the type. The female proves, rather curiously, to be scarcely distinguishable from the female of *Colinus virginianus texanus*, differing less from this than the latter does from the female of *C. virginianus verus*.

Great credit is due Mr. Brown for his efforts, in securing these specimens he having sent out collectors on several different occasions especially in quest of the species.—J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City*.

Discovery of the Breeding Place of McKay's Snowflake (*Plectrophenax hyperboreus*).—In the January 'Auk' (p. 135), I mentioned the fact that the breeding range of this species was "not polar," but on the other hand "considerably south of the Arctic Ocean," at the same time intimating that I was not at liberty to explain the nature of the evidence upon which the statement was based. Since his return from an extended cruise on the U. S. Revenue Cutter 'Corwin,' Mr. Chas. H. Townsend has given me permission to publish the facts bearing on the case. On the 8th of September, 1885, Mr. Townsend, with others of the 'Corwin's' party, landed on Hall Island, in Bering's Sea (lat. about 60° 30' N., long. 173° W.), a small island lying just north of St. Matthew's Island. Although the greater portion of the day was consumed in the hunting of polar bears, a 1600 lb. specimen of which was shot and skinned. Mr. Townsend had time to get a small number of birds, two of which were *Plectrophenax hyperboreus*, one of them a young bird in first plumage, though full-grown, the other, an adult just moulted into the fall plumage, the moult in fact not quite complete. These specimens will be described in the current volume (Volume IX), of the 'Proceedings' of the U. S. National Museum. These birds were fairly abundant on the island, but much scattered, not having yet collected into flocks. Mr. Townsend regards it as very probable that on St. Matthew's Island, less than five miles to the southward, and many times larger than Hall Island (being, in fact, about thirty miles long, and mountainous), the species may have its centre of abundance. The occurrence of *P. hyperboreus* in winter at St. Michaels and at Nushagak, points on the Alaskan coast to the northeast and southeast, respectively, from St. Matthew's and Hall's Islands, and not at Point Barrow or other portions of northern Alaska, is thus accounted for. It is a very singular circumstance, however, that the Snowflakes breeding on the Pribilof Islands, only two hundred miles to the southward, are *P. nivalis*, as is attested by numerous specimens brought from St. Paul's and St. George's by Mr. Henry W. Elliott, and from Otter Island by Mr. Townsend. It would be

interesting to ascertain which species breeds on the very large island of St. Lawrence, about one hundred and sixty miles north from Hall's Island, although the proximity of the Siberian mainland, which is less than fifty miles distant, may determine the species as *P. nivalis*.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

Immature Dress of *Melospiza palustris*.—A young female of this species, taken at Canton, O., October 16, 1885, differs so much from the published descriptions of the species that it was referred to the father of young ornithologists, Dr. Coues. At his suggestion that the peculiarities of the *young* bird, though known to him, would be of interest, I make the following notes of its points of difference from the adult.

Superciliary line pale but distinct lemon yellow; crown dark chestnut brown, only slightly darker on the forehead, where the black streaks become more numerous. without any of the bright chestnut of the adult; median line ashy, faintly tinged with yellowish; sides of the head and lower throat faintly tinged with yellowish brown, which color extends along the front half of the cervical collar; the black streaks on the back and the bay on the wings less prominent; inner tertiaries edged and tipped with bay; no whitish.

Having only two specimens from which to draw comparisons, these points are noted with diffidence. The yellow superciliary line, however, being so distinct, and contrary to the usual description of the genus, seems to be worthy of the attention of ornithologists.—R. H. BULLEY, *Canton, O.*

[This is another case of '*Passerculus caboti*'; see Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. VIII, 1883, p. 58.—E. C.]

Wintering of the White-throated and Ipswich Sparrows in Maine.—On January 20, 1886, I shot a White-throated Sparrow at Saco, Maine. It seemed to be comfortably settled for the winter in a swampy piece of woods, consisting chiefly of birches, with a scattering of young spruces. It was in dull autumnal plumage, and proved on dissection to be a male.

On January 23, I found two Ipswich Sparrows in the beach grass about half-way between Pine Point and Old Orchard. I managed to secure them both, though not without some difficulty, as they were exceedingly shy.

Taking the lateness of the date and the severe weather which prevailed for two weeks previous into consideration, I believe that both species were undoubtedly wintering. They certainly had not suffered for food, as all three were well feathered and plump, the Whitethroat in particular being quite fat.—JOSEPH L. GOODALE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

***Junco hyemalis* Nesting in a Bush.**—Apropos of my description of the nesting of *Junco carolinensis*,* Mr. S. N. Rhoads, of Haddonsfield,

* Auk, Vol. III, No. 1, Jan. 1886, p. 109.