

RECORDS OF SOME BIRD-LICE (MALLOPHAGA).



By

RICHARD S. BAGNALL, F.L.S., AND WILLIAM HALL.

WITH 3 FIGURES.

WE are gathering material for a proposed account of the insect ecto-parasites of the mammals and birds, both wild and domestic, of the North of England, paying special attention to the *Siphonaptera* (Fleas), *Anoplura* (Blood-sucking lice) and *Mallophaga* (Biting lice), but not neglecting the smaller groups, such as the Dipterous family *Hippoboscidae* or the Hemipterous family *Cimicidae*, etc.

As it will be some years before we can feel justified in publishing our list of *Mallophaga*, we propose, in the present series of "Records," to give short notes on certain rare species, especially those which so far as we know have not been previously recognised in this country.

In the following notes we are able to bring forward for the first time as British, *Docophorus acutipectus*, Kellogg, *D. cordiceps*, Piaget, *Nirmus lineolatus*, Nitzsch, *N. punctatus*, Nitzsch, *N. dispar*, Piaget, *Oncophorus minutus*, Nitzsch, *Goniocotes chrysocephalus*, Giebel, *Lipeurus anseris*, Gurlt, *L. longicornis*, Piaget, *Menopon biseriatum*, Piaget, *M. brevipalpe*, Piaget, *M. phaeostomum*, Nitzsch and *Colpocephalum bicolor*, Piaget. Of these *D. acutipectus*, Kellogg, described by Professor Vernon L. Kellogg from a Californian bird, and *N. dispar*, Piaget, are perhaps the most interesting, and certainly the most unexpected captures.

We have found it necessary to propose a new name for Piaget's *Lipeurus brevicornis*, the name *brevicornis* having been used by Denny, though Denny's species was somewhat doubtfully regarded by Piaget as a synonym of *longicornis*, Piaget. We would have associated the author's name with his species, but we find that Taschenberg has already described a *Lipeurus piageti*.

We would express our thanks to Professor Kellogg, who has kindly consented to identify or confirm our identification of specimens submitted to him, and throughout our notes we have affixed "*teste Kellogg*" in brackets after the names of all species he has examined for us. The new British forms being noted by an asterisk. In the course of these notes we more particularly express our thanks to those friends who have so kindly sent us material.

DOMESTIC BIRDS.

GOOSE (*Anser domesticus*). Fatfield, Co. Durham.

* *Lipeurus anseris*, Gurlt. (*teste* Kellogg).

Gurlt, Mag. f. d. ges. Thierheilk,¹ viii, p. 426, pl. iv, figs. 12 & 13.

This fine distinct species was unknown to Piaget, and the identification of our specimens has been confirmed by Prof. Kellogg. A number occurred about the wing feathers of a goose that died recently at Fatfield, and also on its living mate.

PEAFOWL (*Pavo cristatus*). Fence House, Co. Durham.

* *Menopon phaeostomum*, Nitzsch. (*teste* Kellogg).

Piaget, Les Pédiculines, 1880, p. 466, pl. xxxviii, fig. i.

We have seen a number of this species from the head of a peacock, where they ran about with great quickness and chiefly affected the earholes and the eyes. This species is recorded from two other kinds of peafowl.

TURKEY (*Meleagris gallopavo*). Biddick, Co. Durham.

Goniodes styliifer, Nitzsch.

Common.

* *Menopon biseriatum*, Piaget.

Piaget, Les Pédiculines, 1880, p. 469, pl. xxxvii, fig. 2.

A few examples (females) with *G. styliifer*. The same species is found also on the common fowl and the pheasant.

WILD BIRDS.

PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*). County Durham.

* *Goniocotes chrysocephalus*, Giebel.

Piaget, Les Pédiculines, 1880, p. 232, pl. xix, fig. 7.

One example.

PARTRIDGE (*Pedix cinerea*). County Durham.

Goniodes dispar, Nitzsch.

A few examples.

Menopon pallescens, Nitzsch (= *perdicis*, Denny).

Common.

¹Ueber die auf Haussäugethieren u. auf Hausvögeln lebenden Schmarotzinsecten.

WATERHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*). (a) Tynedale, Northumberland.

* *Oncophorus minutus*, Nitzsch.

Piaget, Les Pédiculines, 1880, p. 215, pl. xviii, fig. 2.

Three examples. The bird was sent to us by Mr. Walter Lee, of Corbridge. There is a possibility of Denny's *Nirmus cuspidatus* (*scopoli*) from the Water Rail being the same species as the one we have before us.

(b) Fatfield, Co. Durham.

Menopon tridens, Nitzsch. (= *scopulacorne*, Denny).

A few, together with a minute *Nirmid* (probably *O. minutus*) not yet satisfactorily identified.

LAPWING (*Vanellus vulgaris*). Fatfield, Co. Durham.

* *Docophorus cordiceps*, Piaget. (*teste* Kellogg).

D. cordiceps, Piaget Les Pédiculines, 1880, p. 80, pl. vi, fig. 2.

D. temporalis, Giebel, Piaget, *l.c.*, 1880, p. 82, pl. vi, fig. 3.

A single example. Identification confirmed by Professor Kellogg, who tells us that *temporalis* must be regarded as a synonym.

Menopon furvus, Nitzsch.

Common.

Colpocephalum ochraceum, Nitzsch. (*teste* Kellogg).

Numerous.

TURNSTONE (*Streptilas iterpres*). Farne Islands, Northumberland.

* *Colpocephalum bicolor*, Piaget.

Piaget, Les Pédiculines, 1880, p. 561, pl. xlvii, fig. i.

Examples of both sexes, together with numerous specimens of *N. furvus*, N.

* *Nirmus dispar*, Piaget. (*teste* Kellogg).

Piaget, Les Pédiculines, 1880, p. 174, pl. xiv, fig. 7.

A single *Nirmus* new to us has been identified by Professor Kellogg as this species. Previously recorded from two species of Cormorant, *Carbo sulcirostris* and *Phalacrocorax capensis*.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). Farne Islands, Northumberland.

Nirmus punctatus, Nitzsch.

Piaget, Les Pédiculines, 1880, p. 200, pl. xvi, fig. 4.

A beautifully marked form. We have taken it in numbers on this bird. It has previously been recorded from other species of *Larus*.

Docophorus lari and other species, including what we believe to be *Docophorus acutipectus*, were also taken.

CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). Farne Islands, Northumberland.

Docophorus bassanae, Denny.

Several. We have also specimens taken by Mr. W. M. Charlton from the gannet.

* **Lipeurus longicornis**, Piaget.

Piaget, Les Pédiculines, 1880, p. 334, pl. xxvii, fig. 3.

Common about the wing feathers and under the wing. Piaget refers Denny's *L. brevicornis* (from the Shag, *P. cristatus*) to this species with some doubt, but from Denny's description and figures (Monographia Anoplurorum Britanniae, 1842, p. 181, pl. xiii, fig. 8), it will be seen that the two species *longicornis* and *brevicornis* are amply distinct. We attach sketches of the antennae for comparison and in an addendum propose a new name for the *L. brevicornis* of Piaget, described from two exotic species of cormorant.

* **Menopon brevipalpe**, Piaget.

Piaget, Les Pédiculines, 1880, p. 498, pl. xl, fig. 5

In large numbers, on all parts of the bird; a very active insect.

* **Nirmus lineolatus**, Nitzsch.

Piaget, Les Pédiculines, 1880, p. 199, pl. xvi, fig. 3.

One specimen, most probably accidental, as it is only recorded from species of *Larus*. It is a well-marked form, and comes near *punctatus* recorded above.

PUFFIN (*Fratercula arctica*). Farne Islands, Northumberland.

Docophorus celedoxus, Nitzsch.

In numbers. This species is also recorded from the common guillemot (*Uria troile*) and the razorbill (*Alca torda*).

**Docophorus acutipectus*, Kellogg (*teste* Kellogg).

Kellogg, New Mallophaga, 1896, pt. i, p. 84, pl. 3, fig. 4.

We separated two or three examples of a very distinct *Docophorus* from the *celedoxus* recorded above, and submitted them to Professor V. L. Kellogg, who has identified the species as his *acutipectus* hitherto only known from *Ceratorhina monocerata* (California, U.S.A.). It is therefore an interesting and unexpected addition to the European Fauna.

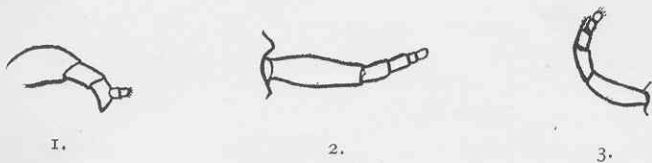


Fig. 1.—*Lipeurus brevicornis*, Denny (*nec* Piaget). Antenna of male. (After Denny).
 Fig. 2.—*Lipeurus longicornis*, Piaget. Antenna of male. (Original).
 Fig. 3.—*Lipeurus confusus*, Bagnall and Hall. Antenna of male, (After Piaget).

ADDENDUM.

Lipeurus confusus, Bagnall and Hall, *nom. nov.*

L. brevicornis, Piaget (*nec* Denny), Les Pédiculines, 1880, p. 337, pl. xxvii, fig. 6.

The name *brevicornis* is pre-occupied. The present species, Piaget's *brevicornis* is described from *Carbo* (*Phalacrocorax*) *sulcirostris* from the Celebes and from *Carbo africanus* from Dembea.