

differing from it in having the tarsus decidedly shorter, and about equal in length to the middle toe and claw. The tibia is bare for a short space. The wing is somewhat pointed, the distance between the tips of the secondaries and those of the primaries being greater than the length of the tarsus.

Heteractitis is a very curious genus of Waders. Two species are known, *H. brevipes* and *H. incana*. The former breeds in Eastern Siberia and Kamtchatka, and winters in Australia, passing through China, Japan, and the Malay Archipelago on migration. *H. incana* is an American form, breeding in Alaska, passing along the western coast of the Nearctic Region, and wintering in the Pacific Islands and N.E. Australia. The nasal groove is longer in *H. incana* than in *H. brevipes*, and the tarsus is plated behind in the latter species and reticulated in *H. incana*. Intermediate specimens are met with, and Dr. Sharpe suggests that the two forms probably interbreed.

1. *Heteractitis incana*.

Ash-coloured Snipe, Lath. Gen. Syn. iii. pt. 1, p. 154¹.

Scolopax incana, Gm. Syst. Nat. i. p. 658².

Heteroscelis incanus, Salv. P. Z. S. 1883, p. 429³; Baird, Brewer, & Ridgw. Water-Birds N. Amer. i. p. 290⁴.

Heteractitis incanus, A. O. U. Check-l. N. Amer. Birds, 2nd ed. p. 95⁵; Elliot, N. Amer. Shore-Birds, p. 135⁶; Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxiv. p. 453⁷.

Ptil. vix æstiv. Supra cinerascens, alis dorso concoloribus, primariis nigricantibus, rhachidibus brunneis vel albicanti-brunneis, cauda cinerea; supercilio angusto et facie laterali et colli lateribus albis, nigro lineatis; regione parotica cinerea; corpore subtus albo, gutture vix nigro maculato; præpectore et corpore reliquo subtus albis, nigricanti-cinereo transfasciatis, abdomine imo pure albo; subalaribus et axillaribus cinereis; rostro et pedibus sordide virescentibus; iride brunnea. Long. tota circa 10·0, alæ 7·1, caudæ 2·95, culm. 1·85, tarsi 1·2. (Descr. avis ad. ex Acapulco. Mus. nostr.)

Ptil. hiem. Supra sicut in ptilosi æstiva, sed corpore subtus magis concolore, minime nigro transfasciato, gutture, pectore medio, abdomine et subcaudalibus pure albis; gutture imo, pectoris lateribus et hypochondriis cinereis; subalaribus et axillaribus quoque cinereis. Long. tota 10·0, alæ 6·95. (Descr. maris adulti ex St. Michael's, Alaska. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. NORTH AMERICA, Pacific coast from Alaska southward to Mexico⁵.—MEXICO, Acapulco (*Markham*^{3 7}).—OCEANIA generally; N.E. AUSTRALIA⁷.

H. incana breeds in the extreme north, since it passes through the Aleutian and Seal Islands in May, June, and July, on its way to the more arctic regions. It returns by Alaska in August and September, and winters in the islands of Oceania, migrating apparently along the Pacific coast of North America and probably along the coast of Western Mexico, as a specimen was obtained by Admiral Markham at Acapulco in March 1880³.

The Wandering Tattler, as this species has been very appropriately named by the American naturalists, affects rocky shores, either singly or in small parties of three or four individuals, flying from rock to rock when disturbed. Dr. Stejneger says that in appearance this bird resembles the Spotted Sandpiper, but that it does not flirt its tail or