

Red-necked Phalarope.

— *hyperborea*, Linn. Syst. Nat., tom. i. p. 249.

— *fusca*, Gmel. edit. Linn. Syst. Nat., tom. i. p. 675.

Phalaropus hyperboreus et *fuscus*, Lath. Ind. Orn., vol. ii. p. 775.

cinerascens et *ruficollis*, Pall. Zoog. Ross.-Asiat., tom. ii. p. 203.

angustirostris, Naum. Vög. Deutschl., 1836, tom. viii. p. 240, tab. 205.

———— *cinereus*, Briss. Orn., tom. vi. p. 15.

— *Williamsii*, Simm. in Linn. Trans., vol. viii. p. 264.

Lobipes hyperboreus, Cuv. Règ. Anim., 1829, tom. i. p. 532.

It would be natural to suppose that a bird whose breeding-quarters are so near at hand would be plentiful in England during the autumn and winter months; yet this is not the case; for the Red-necked Phalarope is at this season less common than the Grey, whose country of reproduction is almost unknown, but which is, doubtless, in the far north. The range of this species is much greater than that of its ally, and I question if there be any part of the world too distant for its winter visits. I have seen specimens from California, Mexico, Guatemala, and the coast of Chili, and also from China and India.

The following interesting account of this elegant little species is from the pen of the late Mr. St. John; and its perusal will, I am sure, impress my readers with a desire to see, at least once in their lives, the bird in a state of nature, and induce them to excuse me for reprinting it in the present work:—

“The Red-necked Phalarope is certainly the most beautiful little wader of my acquaintance. There were a pair of them, male and female, feeding near the loch, in a little pool which was covered with weeds of different kinds. Nothing could be more graceful than the movements of these two little birds as they swam about in search of insects, &c. Sometimes they ran lightly on the broad leaves of the Water-lily, which served them for a raft, and entirely kept them out of the water. Though not exactly web-footed, the Phalarope swims with the greatest ease. The attachment of these two birds to each other seemed very great; whenever in their search for food they wandered so far apart as to be hidden by the intervening weeds, the male bird stopped feeding suddenly and, looking round, uttered a low and musical call of inquiry, which was immediately answered by the female in a different note, but perfectly expressive of her answer, which one might suppose to be the purport that she was at hand and quite safe; on hearing her the male immediately recommenced feeding, but at the same time making his way towards her; she also flew to meet him: they then joined company for a moment or two, and after a few little notes of endear-