interorbital space. The length of the pectoral greater than the length of the head, and equal to the length of the caudal, which is more than one fifth of the total length. Dorsal fins not so high as the body. Colour yellowish, reticulated with brown, fins dusky; a dark spot above the axis of the pectoral.

Total length 2 inches.

Hab. Streams of Honolulu.

One adult specimen (type).

EXPLANATION OF PLATES.

Plate XI.

Fig. 1. *Sicydium plumieri*, p. 156.
2. — *gymnogaster*, p. 158.

Plate XII.

Fig. 1. *Sicydium brevifile*, p. 158.
2. — *salvini*, p. 159.
4. — *stimpsoni*, p. 166.
5. Tooth of *Sicydium plumieri*, p. 156.

2. Note on Anas capensis, Gm. By T. Salvadori, C.M.Z.S.

[Received February 18, 1884.]

(Plate XIII.)

In a large collection of Birds from Shoa, sent to Italy by my friend the late Marquis Orazio Antinori, I found four specimens of a very fine Teal, with which I was not acquainted, so that I really congratulated myself on the idea of describing a most beautiful new species of the Duck-tribe. In this hope I was confirmed by the fact that the species before me was not mentioned in the very recent "List of the certainly known species of Anatidæ," published by Dr. Sclater in 1880 (P.Z.S. 1880, pp. 496–536). But I was soon disappointed when, having carefully looked into the subject, I found that my bird was an old species, first mentioned and described by Latham as "The Cape Wigeon," and afterwards named *Anas capensis* by Gmelin. Although an old species, evidently it is not a commonly known one, as in this case it would not have escaped Dr. Sclater's well-known carefulness. I found also that its history and even its proper name were involved in much confusion, that its geographical distribution was much wider than was supposed, and besides that the bird had never been figured, although Eyton tells us that Smith was intending to give a figure of it in his 'Illustrations of South African Zoology.'

As said above, the first mention of the bird is in Latham's 'Synopsis,' where it is called "The Cape Wigeon." I do not
possess the Synopsis, but from what Stephens says, it seems that Latham described it from a drawing of Sir Joseph Banks, soon after which Gmelin named it *Anas capensis*, and gave the following short but satisfactory description of it:—

"*A. cinerascens, dorso spadiceo, alarum speculo ex pallido virescente cervulo albo marginato; rostrum rubrum, basi nigrum; caput minutum maculatum; pedes rubescentes; unges nigri."

"Habitat ad Caput Bone Spei, penelopes magnitudine, 15 pollis longa."

Between 1790 and 1824 Latham again, as well as Vieillot and Stephens, have mentioned and described this species without adding anything of their own, except that Vieillot said that a specimen of this species was in Sir Joseph Banks's collection, and Stephens, who merely mentions a drawing, attributes the bird to the genus *Mareca*. Specimens of this Duck, brought from the Cape by Delalande to the Museum of Paris, received from Cuvier the name *Anas larvata*, which appeared for the first time in Lesson’s ‘Traité d’Ornithologie,’ but without any description. Eyton, in 1828, gave again a good description of this species, including it in the genus *Querquedula*, and said "it will be figured by Dr. Smith in his forthcoming work on South African Zoology," which, however, never came to pass.

Dr. Pucheran, studying the types of the Museum of Paris, described at length "*Anas larvata*, Cuv.,” but was not satisfied that it was the same as *Anas capensis*, Gm., and *Anas assimilis*, Forst. According to Schlegel and Hartlaub the present species is *Anas assimilis*, Forst., a surmise which I can scarcely endorse, as Forster’s description is not very satisfactory; the question will be settled only by reexamining "Fig. picta" quoted by Forster, which, according to G. R. Gray, corresponds to No. 75 of the Icones ineditæ. In the meantime I cannot omit noticing that Bonaparte has attributed, with a query, *Anas assimilis*, Forst., to *Anas guttata*, Licht., which bird he calls *Anas sparsa*, Smith, and from what I have been able to gather, I think that Bonaparte is right in his identification. In fact, Dr. Reichenow, to whom I have addressed myself, very kindly informs me that "*Anas guttata*, Licht." is really identical with *Anas sparsa*, Smith; and as Lichtenstein had already identified *Anas guttata* of Mus. Berol. with *A. assimilis*, Forst., we can admit as most probable that Forster’s bird is really identical with *A. sparsa*, Smith, and not with *A. capensis*, Gm., as Schlegel and Hartlaub seem inclined to consider it. In the opinion expressed above I am confirmed by the fact that Lichtenstein, in his ‘Nomenclator Avium,’ p. 101, includes as separate species *Anas capensis* and *A. guttata*. After these historical and critical remarks I proceed to

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1 Mr. Salvin, in his 'Catalogue of the Strickland Collection,' p. 534, among the references of *Anas capensis*, Gm., includes *Querquedula capensis*, Smith, Ill. Zool. S. Afr. pl. 98; but this is a mistake, as Smith’s plate 98 is named *Rhynchoschiris* (not *Querquedula*) *capensis*, and does not represent *Anas capensis*, Gm., but a species of the genus *Spatula*.

2 At the request of Count Salvadori I have referred to plate 75 of Forster's 'Original Drawings' in the British Museum in company with Mr. R. B. Sharpe. We are both of opinion that the figure, although by no means accurate, was based upon a specimen of *Anas capensis*, and not upon one of *A. sparsa.*—P. L. S.]
give the synonymy, description, and the geographical distribution, with what is known of the habits of this species.

**Querquedula capensis.** (Plate XIII.)

Cape Wigeon, Lath. Syn. iii. 2, p. 519. n. 64.


Capite et collo albidos, nigro punctulatis; gula immaculata; dorso summo fulvo-nigro maculato; uropygio et supracaudalibus albidó-rufescéntibus, nigro maculatis; pectore summo albidó, nigro fasciolato; gastrico reliquo albidó, obsoleto fusco maculato; lateribus et axillarius fusco maculatis; scapularibus remigibus primáris grísseo-fusícis, illís rufescéntis margínatis; tegricibus alarum fusco-grísécis; speculo alari nitidissimo viridi, nigro circumdátó, antice, inferius et postice late albo margínato; rectricibus grísécis, albo margínatis; rostro rubro-purpureo ad basis nigro; pedibus ochraceo-fusícis; ivoide fuvae. Long. tot. circa millim. 450; alá 200; caudae 80; rostri 39; tarsi 38.

**Hab.** in Africa, ad Caput Bonae Spei (Latham, Forster, Delalande, Smith, Verreaux, Zelebor, Layard); Namaqua (Andersson); Damara (Andersson); Mossamedes (Anchieta), Rio Coroca (Anchieta); Shoa (Antinori).

As said above, I have had the opportunity of examining four specimens of this Teal, two males and two females, collected in Shoa by the late Marquis Orazio Antinori; the females are not different from males, one of which has been figured in the accompanying drawing (Plate XIII.). Antinori notices the naked parts as follows:—“Iris yellow; bill purplish red, with the base black; feet dark ochraceous.” But others describe them a little differently. Layard says:—“Bill red, the base black; legs reddish, the webs dusky, claws black.”