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Publisher: Taylor & Francis
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Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 1

Publication details, including
instructions for authors and
subscription information:

[http://
www.tandfonline.com/loi/
tnah07](http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tnah07)

Clangula Barrovii, a native of Iceland

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Published online: 15 Mar
2010.

To cite this article: W. Proctor (1839) Clangula Barrovii, a
native of Iceland, Annals and Magazine of Natural History:
Series 1, 4:22, 140-141, DOI: [10.1080/00222933909512480](https://doi.org/10.1080/00222933909512480)

To link to this article: [http://
dx.doi.org/10.1080/00222933909512480](http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00222933909512480)

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soon as he perceived that I had gone on, the little animal hastened after me directly. Even upon long excursions to the old forests of the Carpathian mountains, at a distance of three and four (German) miles, the Marten was my faithful companion; he swam through rivers and brooks with perfect ease like an otter: but the most remarkable thing besides was, that he never went very far from me; only once do I remember having lost him for some hours. This happened in the following manner.

On the 30th of August the gentle Marten followed me, as he always did on an excursion, into the part of the Carpathians which is called the Potoninen. I was busied in collecting the beautiful *Carabus Sacheri* in an enchanting spot, and quite forgot my Marten, who had found a nest with young blackbirds (*Merula montana*, Brehm.) just by, and was quietly devouring them. After a fortunate booty of Coleoptera I then wished to climb a lofty hill called Paraska, but I missed the Marten and continued my way without him. How great was my joy, upon my return, after eight long hours, to find the sensible animal again in the very meadow where I had lost him!

If I was absent from home this Marten would take no food the whole day long; and when I returned showed his joy by merry leaps and caresses.

He ate everything that came to table, bread, fruit, cheese, milk, but he was fondest of raw flesh; he drank wine with great relish, and plentifully. This even hastened his death, for once he drank so much, that on the following day he was found dead on the house floor.—*Wiegmann's Archiv für 1839*, 3tes Heft.

CLANGULA BARROVII, A NATIVE OF ICELAND.

On my last visit to Iceland, in the summer of 1837, I arrived there by way of Copenhagen on the 22nd of June, and landed at a place called Ociford, situate on the north side of the island. I immediately commenced making excursions into the interior for the purpose of procuring specimens and observing the habits of those birds which we are little acquainted with in Britain. I met with eleven species of ducks breeding there, and was fortunate in procuring the eggs of each, viz. *Anas mollissima*, *A. glacialis*, *A. Marila*, *A. Strepera*, *A. Boschas*, *A. acuta*, *A. Crecca*, *A. Penelope*, *A. nigra*, *A. histrionica*. The whole of the above visit Britain in the winter season, some remaining to breed, while others retire to higher latitudes; others again we are only acquainted with as rare and uncertain visitants to our shores.

But what I principally wish to call the attention of the ornithologist to, is the fact of my having met with a species of Golden Eye, not, as far as my observation goes, the same with that which visits the British coast. It answers to the description of the Rocky mountain Garrot, *Clangula Barrovii*, Richardson, although Faber and other naturalists who have visited Iceland have applied to it the name of the Common Golden Eye (*Anas Clangula*). I met with this species in both my visits, but never with *A. Clangula*: therefore I am inclined to think that the latter does not inhabit that island, but its place is supplied by its near allied species *Clangula Barrovii*. This latter species may always be known from *Clangula vulgaris* by its superior size and the large crescent-shaped patch before each eye, which in *C. Barrovii* springs from below the gape, stretching along the base of the bill to the forehead: the bill of the latter, which is broader at the base, has also the nail on the upper mandible much broader. The weight of the male bird of *C. Barrovii* is about 2 pounds; the length from tip of bill to end of tail 20 inches; breadth when the wings are extended 28 inches. Weight of female 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.; length 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches; breadth 26 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. It breeds in June, forming its nest by the margin of the freshwater ponds, generally among the willows, but sometimes placing it on the bare ground amidst the loose stones. The nest is composed of a few stems of grass loosely put together, lined with down from the breast of the female; the eggs vary in number from 6 to 10, and are of a whitish-green, similar in colour to those of the Common Wild Duck, and larger than those of *Clangula vulgaris*.—W. PROCTOR, Durham, 20th August, 1839.

ON THE MOULTING PROCESS IN THE CRAY FISH.

We have extracted the following interesting notice from the elegant and valuable work of Prof. Rymer Jones*, which we had occasion to notice in one of our preceding numbers. "The phenomena which attend the renovation of the external skeleton are so unimaginable that it is really extraordinary how little is accurately known concerning the nature of the operation. The first question which presents itself is, how are the limbs liberated from their confinement? for, wonderful as it may appear, the joints even of the massive *chela* of the lobster do not separate from each other, but notwithstanding the great size of some of the segments of the claw, and the slender dimensions of the joints that connect the different pieces, the cast-off skeleton of the limb presents exactly the same appearance as if

* General Outline of the Animal Kingdom, Part VII. September 1839.