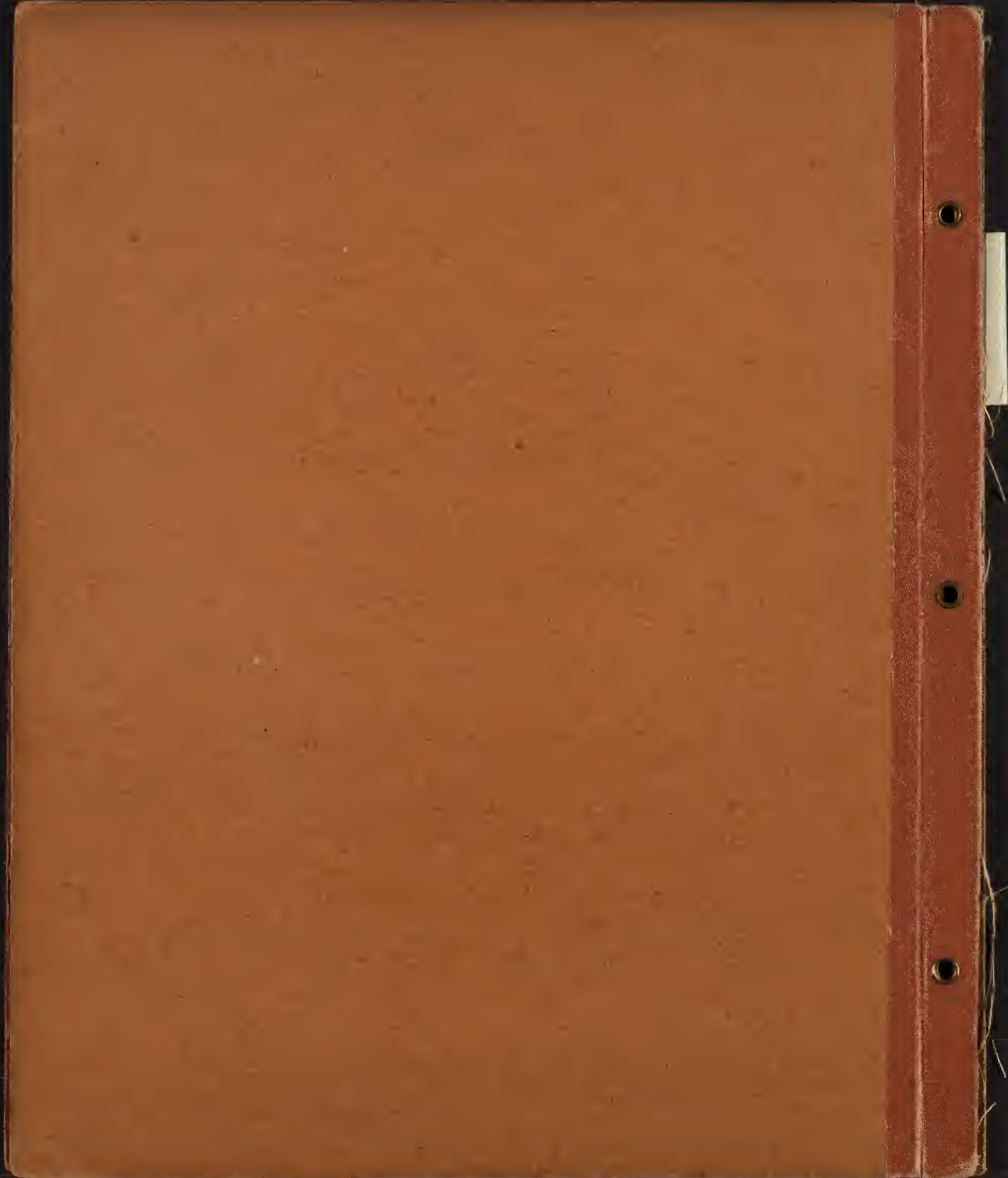


Journal 1900
Jan - May

FROM
WILLIAM BREWSTER,
145 BRATTLE ST.,
CAMBRIDGE, - MASS.

Jan
1



All the systematic notes
in this volume have been
margin-indexed and
checked for copying by W. B.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

January.

The month of January has been remarkably mild and open. The lowest records of temperature, taken at 8 A.M. and 1 P.M., were 5° at 8 A.M. on the 4th, 10° at 8 A.M. on the 9th, and 14° at 8 A.M. on the 2nd, 3rd, 11th, 24th and 27th. At 7 A.M. on the 30th and at 6 P.M. on the 26th the mercury also stood at 14°. With these exceptions the temperature was never below 20°. The highest points were 55° on the 19th, 52° on the 23rd 48° on the 22nd, 45° on the 19th and 20th, and 44° on the 16th and 23rd, all at 1 P.M. 13 days have been clear while rain fell on the 11th, 12th, 16th, 20th, 25th, 28th and 29th. Rain on seven days in January is very unusual and this fact, combined with the light snow fall has kept the ground very open.

The first snow storm of the winter occurred on Jan. 1st when about ten inches of dry fine snow fell. A rapid thaw on the 5th spoiled the sleighing and on the 8th the streets were bare though snow lay in patches in the more sheltered spots. The second snow storm was on the 11th, about two inches falling followed by a heavy rain that took it almost entirely away. A little snow fell on the 13th, 14th and 28th with small flurries on the 24th and 31st. This is the record of the January snow.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

January. Of irregular winter visitors from the North we have had (No.2) with us during the present month White-winged Crossbills in unprecedented numbers (apparently the great flight which passed us in November returned early in January), a very few Red Crossbills, fair numbers of Redpolls (all so far as identified linaria) and Pine Siskins, and very many Red-bellied Nuthatches. Pine Grosbeaks have been reported from the northern part of Worcester County but none have been seen near Boston since December. There has been no well-marked flight of Goshawks or Snowy Owls, and no Gyrfalcons, Richardson's Owls or Hawk Owls have been taken, while Saw-whet Owls appear to have been scarcer than usual. Cedar Birds have been numerous through the month. Large flocks were seen in Cambridge on the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th, and Mr.G.M.Allen saw a flock of 180 at Arlington Heights on the 31st. Robins have been nearly or quite absent, Juncos, Song Sparrows and Tree Sparrows in about their usual numbers, Northern Shrikes exceptionally scarce (I have heard of only one - seen at Fresh Pond by Mr.G.M.Allen on the 31st).

At Dedham on the 6th Dr.A.L.Reagh saw a flock of 20 or 30 Purple Finches and about an equal number of Myrtle Warblers, the latter feeding on bay berries.

At Ipswich Dr.C.W.Townsend saw immense numbers of Snow

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

January. Buntings (upwards of 500 he thinks) on the 14th and between (No.3) 100 and 200 on the 21st. On both dates he observed about fifty Horned Larks, and on the 21st his companion, Dr. Joseph L. Goodale saw a fine adult Marsh Hawk skimming over the sand dunes. Gulls and Whistlers have frequented the Charles River Basin whenever it has been free from ice, but the Whistlers have been less numerous there than usual. Walter Deane saw over 300 Gulls and 24 Whistlers there on the 15th.

The following birds were observed in the garden[^] about the house during the month:-

1. Parus atricapillus. Seen only on the 11th, 18th, 19th, 25th, 27th and 29th in numbers varying from one to four. Only on the 11th and 18th did they visit the suet on the crab apple tree. They have evidently not been hard pressed for food during this mild month. On the 27th with the mercury at 24° one sang the phoebe note.
2. Sitta carolinensis. One seen and heard on the 18th.
3. Certhia f. fusca. One seen on the 10th and 18th, and one heard on the 19th and 24th.
4. Regulus satrapa. One heard on the 10th and seen on the 18th and 23th.
5. Ampelis cedrorum. A single bird was seen on the 12th and 18th. On the 19th a flock of 36 appeared in the morning

1900.

January.
(No.4)

and stayed four or five hours. They spent much of the time feeding on the fruit of the Parkman's apple tree in the middle of the garden and on the High Bush Cranberry at the N.E. corner of the Museum. I saw one bird pass a cranberry to another. The recipient swallowed it.

6. Passer domesticus. Present all through the month, occasionally attacking the suet in spite of the fact that they have been driven away every time they have been seen near it.

7. Spizella monticola. One seen on the 10th.

8. Corvus americanus. Crows were seen either in the lindens or flying over the place on the 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 25th.

9. Cyanocitta cristata. One heard screaming on the 6th.

10. Dryobates p. medianus. A male in rich plumage visited the garden on twelve days between the 11th and 31st, and almost invariably fed on the suet in the crab apple tree. A female was seen on the 22nd, 24th, 30th and 31st. She did not visit the suet but spent her time vigorously hammering on the neighboring trees in search of food. Once she flew into the crab apple tree within three feet of the suet but she seemed unconscious of its presence and spent fully five minutes drilling into a piece of

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

January. rotten wood in a fork of the tree.

(No.5) 11. Colaptes auratus luteus. A male seen on the 13th.

1900.

February. The month opened clear and cold, the mercury registering on the first three days at 8 A.M. 8° , 7° and 12° , respectively. After that the temperature rose and between the 3rd and 18th, 24° was the lowest record taken at 8 A.M., 1 P.M. and 6 P.M., at which times readings were taken daily with but few exceptions. The highest point reached by the mercury was 58° at 1 P.M. on the 13th. There was a warm spell in the middle of the month, the temperature on the 6th, 9th, 11th, 12th and 13th not falling below 36° . The weather grew colder during the latter half of the month and at 6.30 A.M. on the 27th it registered -3° . This was the coldest day of the winter.

Clear and cloudy days with rain have alternated with each other. Ten days were clear while rain fell on seven days. There were a few light snow flurries during the month but on the 17th and 18th occurred the second snow storm of any size during the entire winter, about 10 inches of fine dry snow covering the ground. Owing to the rain of the 22d, 23d and 24th, however, in one week the snow had entirely disappeared. The month closed with cloudy weather, the mercury standing at 7° in the early morning at 7.30.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

February. White-winged Crossbills, whose occurrence within our
(No.2) vicinity in such remarkable numbers was noted in the record
for January, have still been reported in every direction.
Not only have they been observed in our immediate neighborhood
but Mr.A.C.Bent stated on the 19th that he had seen them al-
most daily in Taunton up to that time, and Mr.G.C.Shattuck
found them at Albany Intervale, New Hampshire, between the 14th
and 19th. Red Crossbills have been reported from Newton Lower
Falls and Weston, each time in company with White-wings. Pine
Grosbeaks have been seen in Concord and Bedford in small num-
bers, and Mr.R.H.Howe saw a flock of 40 in Groton on the 11th.

The Cedar Birds are certainly holding their own for on
the 17th Mr.George C.Deane saw at Arlington Heights in the
space of 15 minutes 505 flying over the road in flocks vary-
ing from 4 to 15. Redpolls were seen in Brookline and Win-
chester on the 24th. Bluebirds have appeared, one having been
seen in Concord on the 4th, an early record for that place,
and two in the Parkway on the 16th. Canada Nuthatches were
seen in Belmont on the 10th by Mr.O.A.Lothrop. A flock of 25
Robins, seen in Waltham by Mr.Lothrop on the 10th, was evi-
dently an arrival from the South. Fresh Pond was open on the
16th and from 30 to 40 Black Ducks were seen there by George
C.Deane. On the 4th I saw a Kingfisher by Charles River near

1900.

February. the Cambridge - Watertown line.

(No. 3) . Walter Deane visited Norton's Woods on the 3rd to see a Barred Owl that had been spending some weeks there. It was in the late afternoon and the bird was sitting in one of the pines some 25 or 30 feet above the ground. Its dusky coloring amid the dense foliage of the tree rendered it very inconspicuous. As dusk approached it noiselessly sailed away a few hundred feet, alighting on a dead branch whence it soon resumed its course from tree to tree. Dr. Walter Faxon who was with him picked up a pellet from under the tree where the Owl had been spending the day and he found on examination that it contained the skull of an English Sparrow. This species has doubtless been its principal food during its stay here.

But six species of birds, exclusive of the ever-present English Sparrow, visited the garden during the month and the visits of all these were infrequent, excepting those of the male Downy Woodpecker. He remained faithful to the lump of suet in the crab apple tree. Following is the list:-

1. Regulus satrapa. Two seen on the 4th.
2. Parus atricapillus. In strong ^{contrast} with February of last year, but a single bird was observed in the garden, on the 1st, 6th and 10th. One sang the phoebe note on the 1st with the mercury between 2° and 17°.

1900.

February. 3. Passer domesticus. Present daily.

(No.4) 4. Corvus americanus. Crows either lit in the lindens or flew over the place on the 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 11th, 16th and 20th.

5. Dryobates p. medianus. On 17 days the male Downy was seen, when he regularly visited the suet. The female was seen only on the 8th and 19th. She was hunting for grubs as in January without touching the suet.

6. Colaptes auratus luteus. Two males fed on the Parkman's apples on the 2nd. A single bird was observed on the 3rd, 4th, 8th and 20th.

7. Megascops asio. Mr. Roland Hayward saw one at 8.30 P.M. flying from the Catalpa to the cedar at the North-West end of the house.

1900.

March.

March has kept up its reputation as a chilly, disagreeable month. The temperature has been quite even, averaging 24° at its lowest point, and 45° at its highest. 6° on the 12th was the lowest record, and 58° on the 19th the highest. Cloudy and clear days have followed each other through the month, and but few days have been free from wind, the prevailing direction being West and North-West. Snow fell only on the 5th, 6th, 15th and 26th with a slight flurry on the 31st, but the small amount, never exceeding 2 inches, rapidly disappeared.

Yellow crocuses and snowdrops appeared on the 8th in the bed in front of the Museum, and on the 10th a few squills were in bloom. The flowers came up rapidly after this, and the bed was well filled with crocuses of various colors, pure white snowdrops and the deep blue squills, toward the end of the month.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

March. Birds have been reported in large numbers this month both
(No.2) from Cambridge and the vicinity. Mr.H.B.Bigelow saw 50 Red-
polls at Cohasset on the 17th and they were also seen in Cam-
bridge on the 8th. A Bluebird was observed at Fresh Pond on
the 9th and two were seen in Sudbury on the 10th. Four were
noted in Longwood and one was heard in Waverly on the 10th.
The Song Sparrows are here now in great numbers. 13 were seen
at Frdsh Pond on the 19th by Mr.G.M.Allen, and Walter Deane
saw and heard them singing continuously on the 25th over a
large extent of Fresh Pond swamps. On the same day he heard
a Northern Shrike singing in a clump of low willows near Ale-
wife Brook. But few Shrikes have been reported this winter.
Robins have begun to appear in our gardens. One was seen in
Hubbard Park on the 27th and Mr.H.B.Bigelow saw them in Co-
hasset on the 17th. Bronzed ^{Grackles} were observed in Cambridge on
the 25th, 27th and 30th, and Rusty Grackles were noted at
Fresh Pond on the 19th. Red-winged Blackbirds were seen in
Waverly on the 10th by Mr.O.A.Lothrop. Canada Nuthatches were
still here on the 30th, one being seen on Reservoir Street.
On the 25th Walter Deane saw by Fresh Pond an American Rough-
legged Hawk harried by five Crows high up overhead. It was a
large ^{bird} and showed clearly a white rump.

Black Ducks have doubtless been in Fresh Pond continuously

1900.

March. through the month for they have been reported as follows:-
 (No.3) 50 on the 3rd by W.Deane, 31 on the 9th by W.Deane, 28 on the
 19th by G.M.Allen, and 124 on the 25th by W.Deane. On the 9th
 and 25th Walter Deane saw a pair of Mallards on Fresh Pond in
 company with the Black Ducks. They are doubtless the same
 birds seen on November and December last.

White-winged Crossbills have been steadily reported, and
 the flight of this species has been so extraordinary that a
 list of all the available records for this region, with a few
 notes from farther localities, is here appended. A list of
 records for the Red Crossbill and the Pine Grosbeak is also
 added.

Loxia leucoptera.

1899.

- | | | | |
|--------|---|---------------------------|------------------|
| Nov.6. | Flocks of 2 and 30, Barrett ^{Farm} , | Concord, | W.Brewster. |
| " 7. | Heard once. | Concord, | " " |
| " 8. | " " " | " " | " " |
| " 9. | " " " | " " | " " |
| " 11. | " " " | " " | " " |
| " 20. | Small flocks , | Arlington Heights, | G.M.Allen. |
| " " | Seen at | Scarboro, N.Y. by | Abbott H.Thayer. |
| " 21. | Two flocks seen, | Concord, | W.Brewster. |
| " 23. | " " " | heard, | " " |
| " 25. | Flock of 5 in | Norway Spruce, Wellesley, | " " |

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

March. Loxia leucoptera (continued).

- (No. 4) Nov. 25. Flock of 7, Fresh Pond Grove, Walter Faxon.
" " 3 at Cohasset, G.M.Allen.
" 28, 29, 30. Feeding in hemlocks and Norway Spruces,
West Roxbury, F.H.Allen.
" 30. Flight call heard near Payson Park, W.Brewster.
" 29. " " " , Fresh Pond Grove, " "

- Dec. 3. One in Cambridge, G.M.Allen.
" 9. Flight call heard in the Garden, W.Brewster.
" " Six, Brattle St., W.Deane.
" 10. One, Sparks St. G.C.Deane. *AM*
" 17. Seen in Brookline, R.H.Howe.
" 22.-Jan. 2. Very abundant, Albany Intervale, N.H.
" *Very abundant on N. slopes of Mt. Ironsides, N.H. a few days before Christmas. No L. leucoptera seen.* G.C.Shattuck.
" 20. 50 to 100, majority ad. males, West Roxbury, C.E. Bailey.
A.L. Reagh.

1900.

- Jan. 11. 12 to 14, Observatory Grounds, Cambridge, G.M.Allen.
" 12. Ten shot at Milton by John McKenzie.
" 14. One in dooryard, Cambridge, C.F.Batchelder.
" 21. Flock of six, Craigie St., Cambridge, W.Brewster.
" " Common at Ipswich, flying over sand dunes, C.W.Townsend.
" 24. Flock of 7 or 8, Concord, female against the house. Miss Marion B. Keyes.

1900.

March. Loxia leucoptera (continued).

- (No.5) Jan 24 - Feb.19. Seen almost daily at Taunton, A.C.Bent.
- " 25. Eleven shot at Milton (skinned by M.A.Frazar) by
John McKenzie.
- " 28. Eight males and eighteen females seen in Fresh Pond
Grove, W.Deane.
- " 31. A male and a female seen in Norton's Woods,
H.A.Purdie.
- " " Four, Arlington Heights, G.M.Allen.
- Feb. ^(see next) Two, Oxford St., Cambridge, G.M.Allen.
- " 8. Large flock flying over, calling, Botanic Gardens,
Cambridge, W.Deane.
- " " One or two at Newton Lower Falls. feeding on the
ground in chicken yard, with five L.c.minor,
H.A.Purdie.
- " 14. One female killed against the house, Milton,
- " 15. " " " " " " "
- " 27. " male " " " " "

These three Milton records reported by

Dr.G.G.Kennedy who sent the birds to me in the flesh.

He said that the species had been abundant in Milton
during the month.

- " 14 -19. Comparatively few, Albany Intervale, N.H.,
G.C.Shattuck.
- " 19. Almost daily during the month, Taunton, A.C.Bent.
- " 20. 32 Observatory grounds, Cambridge - W. Brewster

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

March. Loxia leucoptera (concluded).

(No. 6)

Feb. 23. Large flock by her house, Concord, and a flock of
30 or more at Miss Hudson's, Concord,
Miss M.B. Keyes.

" 25. Six females with four male Red Crossbills, Weston,
H.V. Greenough.

Mar. 4. One, Cambridge, C.F. Batchelder.

" 10. Ten seen in Brookline, H.B. Bigelow.

" 17. Five or six seen in Weston, R.H. Howe.

" Very numerous about Winchendon, Mass.

" 26 a ^{small} flock seen on Portland, Conn. *J. H. Sage.*
Loxia c. minor. C.F. Bailey.

1899.

Nov. 20. Flock of 15 flying over the Garden, W. Brewster.

" " Two, Arlington Heights, G.M. Allen.

" 23. One " " " " "

Dec. 15. One in his backyard, Marlboro St., Boston,
A.P. Chadbourne.

1900.

Jan. Observed in Taunton, A.C. Bent.

" 6. One, Cambridge, G.M. Allen.

" 15. " " " " "

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

March. Loxia c. minor (concluded).

- (No. 7) Feb. Observed in Taunton, A.C. Bent.
- " Two or three small flocks about Providence,
H.S. Hathaway.
- " 8. three males and two females in chicken yard with
one or two L. leucoptera, Newton Lower Falls,
H.A. Purdie.
- " 11. One, Mt. Auburn, " " "
- Pinicola* } " 20. "Flock of eight in mountain ash by my window"
c. canadensis } Concord. Miss Grace Keyes.
- " 21. Ten or twelve, two males among them,
Bedford common, Bedford, C.W. Jenks.
- " 22. Seven or eight on Norway spruces, W. Medford,
H.A. Purdie.

Pinicola c. canadensis.

1899.

- Nov. 23. One heard many times at Barrett Farm, Concord,
W. Brewster.
- Dec. 2. Flock of five, all with plumage of female, Cohasset,
" 22 - Jan. 2. Common, Albany Intervale; N.H. H.B. Bigelow.
1900. C.C. Shattuck, } - 3 }
- Feb. 19. Forty, Groton, R.H. Howe.
- " 14 - 19. A few, Albany Intervale, N.H., G.C. Shattuck.
- Mar. 4. Three, Wayland, C.J. Paine.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

March.
(No. 8)

The following birds were observed in the garden or about the house during the month:-

1. Merula migratoria. One seen on the 27th.
2. Parus atricapillus. One seen on the 21st, 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st. The suet has had almost no attraction for the Chickadees the past winter, while their occurrence in the garden has been quite rare as compared with last year. This is readily accounted for by the exceptionally mild winter, making food easily obtainable, while possibly they have been enticed away by suet or meat bones hung out in the neighborhood by other bird lovers.
3. Ampeelis cedrorum. On the 2nd and 3rd a flock of 15 visited the garden and fed greedily on the Parkman's apples and the High Bush Cranberries. On the 6th a flock of 12 flew overhead, and on the 22nd another flock of 15 passed over.
4. Astragalinus tristis. 3 birds appeared in the crab apple tree on the 3rd. On the 21st and 22nd there was a male singing in the garden. He was in the dark plumage.
5. Passer domesticus. Present throughout the month, especially about the Museum where they have located themselves in the vines that grow on the walls.
6. Melospiza fasciata. One seen on the 26th.

1900.

- March. 7. Passerella iliaca. Two on the 23rd, scratching in the
(No.9) garden. One was also seen on the 25th and 26th.
8. Quiscalus g.aeneus. One on the 24th.
9. Corvus americanus. On 23 days Crows have been on the place
always either in the trees or flying over. On the 23rd
a flock of 8 passed high overhead towards the North-East.
They were evidently migrating.
10. Cyanocitta cristata. 3 were seen together in the lilacs
on the 25th, and one was screaming on the 30th.
11. Dryobates p. medianus. The pair of Downy Woodpeckers have
been constantly present through the month and they have
probably been in the garden every day. The male was
noted on 21 days when as usual he fed on the suet. The
female was seen on 19 days. She found her way at last
to the suet in the early part of the month and visited
it as regularly as the male. The lump of suet was about
2 by 4 by 6 inches in size and is covered with a piece
of wire netting to keep the Gray Squirrels from taking
it off. The Grays have taken a little and the Chickadees
a few small morsels, but the main work has been done by
the male Downy through the winter, and the female Downy
in March.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

- March. 12. Colaptes auratus luteus. A male was seen on the 2nd. A
(No.10) pair sat in one of the apple trees on the 8th, the male
shouting the spring call. One was heard shouting also
on the 13th, 23rd and 25th.
13. Larus a. smithsonianus. A flock of 5 flew over toward
Fresh Pond on the 29th.

1900.

March 24

C. E. Bailey called this afternoon. As usual he had many interesting things to tell me of which the following seem worthy of record:-

C. E. Bailey's
notes.

Loxia leucoptera. - While hunting Partridges on the northern slope of Mt. Monadnock, N. H., a few days before Christmas (1899) Bailey found White-winged Crossbills in extraordinary numbers. In fact the whole region was simply alive with them. It would have been an easy matter, he says, to have collected one hundred specimens in a single day. They were feeding chiefly in hemlocks, or on the ground under them there. Some of the flocks contained fifty or more birds each. He saw no Red Crossbills among them. Early in March they were also very numerous about Winchendon, Mass.

Remarkable
abundance of
White-winged
Crossbills

Pinicola enevadensis. - Pine Grosbeaks have been rather numerous all winter in the Winchendon region. Bailey has seen them about his house there during the early part of the present month. For the first time in his experience he has found the adult (red) males in greater numbers than the female & young. He has seen no Grosbeaks in the region about Boston this year.

Pine Grosbeaks

Bonasa umbellus. - Bailey says that Partridges are getting very scarce in the Winchendon region altho' both hunting is down there. Ten years ago he could shoot 50 or 60 birds in a day. Now 10 or 12 are the usual number seen.

Decrease in
Partridges at
Winchendon.

1900

March 24
(222)

Lynx rufus. - The Bay Lynx first appeared in the Winchester region a few years ago & has now become common there. With its appearance & increase the White Hares have diminished in numbers until they have reached the verge of extinction. Bailey has twice found the remains of White Hares which they have killed. He has shot them three Lynxes himself and in all he knows of over twenty there have been taken. They are usually killed by fox hunters. When started by the hounds they usually long run and never "tree" although they often take refuge in caves or crevices in ledges.

C. E. Bailey's
notes.

Sciurus hudsonicus. - Bailey thinks that Red Squirrels are rapidly disappearing from Eastern Massachusetts. In the region about Boston they have been replaced almost everywhere, during the past ten years, by the Gray Squirrels. This accords with my own observations but Bailey's opinion has been much more extensive & thorough than mine, owing to his connection with the field work of the Gypsey Vertebr Commission.

Sciurus carolinensis. - In the region about Boston Bailey finds Gray Squirrels most numerous in Brookline, Newton & Cambridge. They are increasing fast in the Willsborough Falls but there are not many in Georgetown.

Cambridge, Mass.

The Garden

1900

April 1-12

With the exception of the 3rd & 12th, which were cloudy with light rain, the first twelve days of April were all sunny and most of them brilliantly clear. Although the wind held pretty steadily at W. to N. W. the weather was rather warm for the season during the first week the highest temperature being 60° on the 2nd and 6th, while the thermometer rose above 50° on the 5th, 7th and 8th. On the morning of the 9th it fell to 28° and on the following morning to 26° while on both days a piercing north wind made the air chilly, even at noon.

I spent the above period at home some going beyond the limits of our grounds within which all the following birds were observed.

Merula migratoria. - On March 27th I heard the first Robin of the season calling in Harvard Park. One sang there in full, clear tones for about fifteen minutes on the evening of April 1st (7: Mr. Chapman tells me that Robins began singing at Englewood, N. J., on this same evening). The next evening I saw two birds together in the garden and heard others singing & calling in the distance. Since then they have been constantly present in about their normal numbers. They began singing in the early evening on the 3rd. It is truly delightful to hear their full, rich, clear notes rising above the din of the Thrush and the drab, ceaseless clamor of the House Sparrows, making the whole neighborhood ring & echo with melodious sound. And their higher calls and cheery laughter are scarcely less welcome than their songs. Indeed were it not

Robins

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

April 1-12
(no 2)

(Muscula nigrostris) for their voices and those of the
Flickers than would be little in the way of bird
sounds to remind us dwellers in the city that
Spring is at hand, now that the Bluebirds, Song Sparrows
and Red-winged Blackbirds have nearly or quite ceased
to visit us, even during their migrations.

Garden Birds

Although the Robins have been seen above on
our lawn ever since their first appearance I do not
think that they can as yet get earthworms down
for my men digging in the garden have found no
worms at a less depth than a foot or two. The
Robins would think digging operations with evident
interest and whenever they see men at their work
the birds descend into the holes & eagerly devour
all the worms that have been uncovered.

Parus atricapillus. - Scarce a day has passed when the
clear phoe-bee call of the Chickadee has not been
heard in the garden. Usually there has been only a
single bird but on the 9th there were two together.

Amphispiza cedrorum. - A flock of 15 Cedar birds alighted
for a moment in a pine tree next a cedar on
the afternoon of the 9th. I heard others chirping
certainly in or near the garden on the 11th.

Loxia c. minor. - Two Cross-bills flew over me
on the 4th heading westward & coming to near
that I made out distinctly that they were
a ♂ & ♀.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900

April 1-12

Garden Birds

Spinus tristis. - On the 7th and again on the 11th I heard what appeared to be the full song of a Goldfinch. My wife was at home but I failed to get a glimpse at the bird.

Melospiza melodia. - Two Song Sparrows and a Fox Sparrow spent the 2nd in the garden feeding on chickweed seeds and retreating into a thicket of honeysuckle when disturbed. One of the Song Sparrows sang faintly and brokenly in the early evening, in full, loud tones just before sunset.

Tunco hyemalis. - A single bird in the garden on the 6th, 8th and 11th.

Passerella iliaca. - The bird above mentioned was the only one noted in April. Later than June in March it was silent.

Melospiza alba. - One heard early in the morning of the 4th. I think it was flying over the place.

Louisiana g. aeneus. - Grackles have been seen nearly every day - and sometimes several times in a day - flying singly or in pairs over the garden always in either an easterly or westerly direction and passing, no doubt, between the breeding station in Boston's woods & those in Mr. Simons' pine on Fayerweather Street. On March 24th a fine old male alighted on the ground in the garden and rambled about over the flower beds but I have seen none there since we did they alight often in our grounds last spring.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900

Garden Birds.

April 1-12

Corvus americanus - Crows have visited us daily and at all hours alighting frequently in the lindens and apple trees and cawing loudly. They are so tame as to often permit us to walk directly under them.

Crows.

On the 4th Walter Deane saw one steal from an apple tree with a twig a foot long in its bill and fly off with it towards the west. The twig was certainly broken from the tree for the bird had cutting in its bill when it alighted. The next day at about 2 P.M.

Walter & I saw a Crow alight in the top of the tall apple tree at the north gate of the garden. Presently it began trying to break off twigs from a dead branch sitting them in its bill and wrenching & twisting with all its strength, sometimes flapping its wings to gain additional leverage. Some of the stouter twigs resisted its utmost efforts but it finally secured a bit-fall (cut base four or five) of rotten wood and flew off with them in the direction of Elmwood.

Dryobates pubescens - The pair of Downy Woodpeckers have been unwearied in their visits to the tree which hangs in the east apple tree by the barnyard window.

Downy Wood-

peckers

They have usually appeared singly but twice we have seen the ♀ come when the ♂ was on the tree. On both occasions he crested his crest, half opened his wings and showed other unmistakable signs of displeasure at his partner's approach. On the first ^{occasion} the ♀ contented herself with pecking on a twig a foot or two away but on the second she alighted on the opposite side of the tree from the ♂ & fed for a moment under his downy beak.

Cambridge, Mass.

Garden Birds

1900.

April 1-12

Colaptes auratus. - A Flicker has visited and "shouted"
in or very near the garden almost daily and on
the 10th I saw two birds together in the lindens.

We have not yet seen them visit the box where
the pair nested last year and from their behavior
I fear they will never take possession of it this
season.

Sciurus Carolinensis - A pair of Gray Squirrels are
evidently breeding in a hole in the cork apple tree
about halfway the width of the garden and I
have little doubt that there is another nest in
the big Linden on the east end of the house.

Gray Squirrels

These Squirrels have been drinking maple sap
daily since the middle of March. They have
scarred the corker holes of most of the lower
branches of the large sugar maple that are across
the driveway and these branches, as well as the
trunk, are wet with the flowing sap which the
Squirrels lap greedily. They have also dug up & eaten
all the Oregon bulbs that were planted around
the driveway circle. For several years past they
have been in pieces (and perhaps eaten) all the
flowers of the yellow crocuses in this bed near
touching those of other colors although the different
colors were everywhere intermingled but this is
the first time that they have molested any of
the bulbs. They have not as yet dug up any
of the squills or snow drops which were planted
among the crocuses.

Cambridge & Concord.

1900

April 16

Clear, calm & very warm for the season, especially in the afternoon.

Cambridge.

Spent the forenoon at Cambridge observing some changes that the men are making in the garden. While thus engaged I heard the call of a Bluebird and looking up saw two of these birds flying rather high towards the N. W. I also saw a small flock (6 or 7) of Cedar Birds & heard a Goldfinch singing. No Purple Finches have been seen in the garden this Spring although ~~at least~~ ^{at least} there are numerous in Belmont. I fear they are merely a thing of the past in Cambridge for only a very few appeared this last year.

4 Bluebird heard calling one the garden

No Purple Finches this Spring.

Concord.

H. A. Poole and I took the 2 P. M. train for Concord. Gilbert, who had gone up by an earlier train, met us at the Bedford & ferried us across the river. The water is low for this season most of the Great Meadows being out.

At the cabin we found hepaticas in fullest bloom and a good many blossoms of Claytonia opened. Soon after our arrival a Phoebe & a Pine Warbler began singing near the cabin. Several Robins & Song Sparrows were feeding along the path. A Bluebird flew over warbling & we heard Red-wings in the distance. All through the afternoon the croaking of innumerable Leopard Frogs rolled over the half watered meadows & I heard Wood Frogs in a pool on the Bedford shore. At evening & well into the night Hylas were peeping in full chorus & the Leopard Frogs were making & getting their calls.

Spring flowers

Birds

Frogs.

Concord, Mass.

Bald's Hill.

1900

April 17

Cloudy, calm, mild, with continuous but light and fine rain beginning about 9 a. m. Ther. 40°

At daybreak Robins, Song Sparrows, Redwings, a Phoebe, a Chickadee, and a Flicker were singing. Later I heard a Pine Warbler and saw four juncos feeding in the path near the cabin. Several Chickadees and at least two Downy Woodpeckers came at intervals through the day to the suet which is left hanging in the black oak in front of our door.

Birds singing
at daybreak

After breakfast Purdie & I started on a walk. We found the woods, fields and meadows brown, dead and decay looking under the leaden sky. The Arctic birds were swelled & pinkish but none of them had opened. Birds were rather numerous. We heard Robins, Song Sparrows, Flickers, and Red-wings frequently and Bluebirds once or twice. A Grass Finch sang over in Benson's pasture. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was heard chattering near the barn and another was singing on Pine Hill where we also found a Canada Nuthatch. Pine Warblers were heard almost everywhere. We started three Partridge and a fourth was descending steadily on the log at the north end of Davis's Swamp.

Vegetation

Birds.

Will Baether, who called yesterday afternoon, saw eight Tree Swallows on his way down river. They were first seen this season, he told me, by Fred Howe on the 15th.

Tree Swallows
arrive.

Baether also said that Concord has been simply "flooded" with Winter-winged Crossbills the whole of the past winter.

Purdie & I saw no snow in the woods this morning but we found a great belt of thick ice extending the whole length of Pine Hill in the swamp, on its northern base. The river reached an unprecedented height during the February floods & the ice injured the shabby in and

No snow left.

Winter rise of
river.

Concord, Mass.

1900

April 17

(No 2.)

about the edges of the swamps and along the
river banks for more than was the case during
the winter flood of several years ago. Many young pines
standing on ground which I have never known the
water to reach before are broken off a foot or more above
the ground. In the swamps the alders and high bushy
bushes seem to have suffered more & many of them
are completely stripped of branches. To offset this sad
howe the upland woods appear to have gone through
the winter with exceptionally little injury. Indeed never
one of my pines has lost so much as the smallest
branch and I have found them for but one tree
that has blown over.

(Ball's Hill)

Trees & shrubs
on low ground
damaged by
mid-winter
ice & rain.

In the afternoon Purdin & I walked along the
river path to the Barrett meadow. It was raining
steadily & harder than on any other time during
the day but there was no wind, the air was warm
and soft & the birds were singing freely as if there
were under such conditions. In the woods on the knoll
by the river just beyond the bars we found a flock
of small birds containing seven or eight Chickadees,
a Golden-crowned Kinglet, a Pine Warbler and a
Yellow-rump the last three in full song. Over the
half-flooded meadows across the river we could see
dimly through the veil of fine rain a number of
Geese swimming close over the water. I tried
in vain to count them, but had to give it up. There
was probably between thirty and forty & perhaps
more. While we were watching them I was very near
that I heard Geese hawking in the distance.

Birds singing
in the rain.

Wild Geese?

Concord, Mass.

1900.

April 17
(No. 3)

I noticed this afternoon that on the meadows banks along the river the "blue joint" (*Phalaris*) had already sent numerous slender, tender-green shoots above the surface of the shallow water. but the borders of the meadows are as brown & leafless looking as in late December.

(Ball's Hill)
Blue joint grass
appears.

At frequent intervals through the day I heard in the cluster of pines on the West Bedford Hill of the river a Crow which sounded exactly like a Fish Crow. A Crow with a similar voice & probably the same bird has bred in these trees for three or four years past. For aught I know the bird may really be a Fish Crow but he does not look different from the other Crows of this region & the chances are, of course, that he is a true *Americanus* with an abnormal *con* (or *ca*) which he may have acquired by consorting with Fish Crows in the North. So far as I can remember I have never heard him here in autumn.

Crow with
a call like
that of
C. amphispus

I did hear Geese this afternoon. At least at about the time when I thought I did Gilbert & Pat, while at the house, saw three flocks containing respectively 65, 22 & 18 birds flying apart from, but within one hundred yards of, one another. They were heading S. at first & then bore off to the E. & disappeared in the mist in the direction of Great Meadows.

Wild Geese

While P. & I were standing near the cabin after tea Snipe drew a Snipe drummed their, the last time directly overhead. one cabin

Concord, Mass.

Baird's Hill.

1900.

April 18

Cloudy with strong S. W. wind and showers at morning and evening.

The strong wind silenced the birds and drove them to cover in all the more exposed places but among the pines and about the Stillwell farm on the north side of the hill where I spent most of the forenoon and the whole afternoon there were a number of Robins, several Chickadees, a Canada Warbler, a Brown Creeper, a Rusty-crowned Kinglet, a Pine Warbler, two or three Blue Jays, several Song Sparrows, and a few Red-winged Blackbirds. The Kinglet flitted close about me and sang exquisitely very many times. During the whole forenoon a Partridge descended at short, regular intervals on the floor over among the alders near the big red maple. The Blue Jays were very noisy and imitated the screaming of the Red-throated Hawk frequently.

Effect of wind on birds.

Partridge

Blue Jays

At one time I heard the jingling melody of Rusty-throated Rusty Grackles in the willows on the emptying meadow. Judging by the sound there must have been a number of them. Crows were passing two & five every little while & once I saw four flying together.

Rusty Grackles

At the cabin the wind blew hard all day but it did not prevent the Chickadees & at least one Downy from visiting the boat frequently. A Phoebe also paid us a brief visit & sang a few notes of its well-known song.

Phoebe visits the cabin.

Just as we were finishing dinner we heard the soul-stirring clamor of Wild Geese & looking out we just in time to see a fine flock passing rather low & very briefly over Baird's Hill heading N. E.; Gilbert made their number 48, I 50. Neither of us got a very close count.

Wild Geese

Concord, Mass.

(The Farm)

1900.

April 19

Early morning cloudy with heavy showers at & just before day break. The clouds began parting at 9 a.m. and by noon the sky was clear. The afternoon was brilliantly clear with the highest temperature we have had as yet. Ther. 56° - 70°. Wind W. blowing almost a gale in the afternoon.

To the Barrett farm at 7.30 driving up. Birds singing freely. Heard the first Martin of the season at Balls Hill, Field Sparrows & the first Field Sparrows at the farm. A Grass Finch was singing in Benson's pasture & another at the farm where I also saw or heard Robins, a Blowbird, a Cowbird, a Song Sparrow, a Blue Jay. A pair of Phoebe's were flitting about at the entrance to the barn cellar and then rose in the air over and gave the flight song. Two or three Junco's were flitting about in the orchard singing and I saw a flock of about ten near Mrs. Kitcher's. The men tell me that a small Hawk has been harrying my Pigeons at the farm but I have not yet seen a nocturnal bird of any kind. I saw at least two Red Squirrels near the house & a Chipmunk ran over the front door step twice while I was there.

Hawk after my pigeons

I returned to the cabin at noon & spent the greater part of the afternoon writing. At about 5 P.M. the wind increased almost to a gale tearing off hundreds of leaves from the oaks above the cabin and whirling them high in air when they circled like flocks of birds. They have probably been loosened by the swarming birds for I have several feet from the trees when there was no wind. A Meadow Lark was singing across the wire this morning. Toads began trilling last night.

Oak leaves that have clung to the trees all winter forced off by swarming birds?

Toad's trills 32

Concord, Mass.

(The Farm)

1900.

April 20

Cloudless & very warm. Wind light, N. to N. E.
Ther. 41° - 74°.

Spent the day at the farm driving up early in the morning and back after dark. Near the house I saw or heard Robins, Bluebirds, Chickadees, Fox Squirrels, a Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Grass Finch, Field Sparrows, several Junco and Song Sparrows, Red-wings, a ♀ Cowbird, the pair of Phoebe, Crows, Jays & Flickers.

Birds about the farm house.

At about 9 a.m. a ♂ Broad-winged Hawk appeared nearly over the barn where he hovered in circles at no great elevation for several moments giving us a fine view of his characteristic tail markings. To my eye the shape of this bird's wing is not strikingly different from those of *B. lineatus*.

Broad-winged Hawk.

As we were eating dinner the loud screaming of a Red-shouldered Hawk came to our ears through the open door & looking out we beheld three of these fine birds soaring in company over the open field in front of the house. One of them carried something that looked like a frog in his talons.

Three Red-shouldered Hawks soaring together.

In the forenoon Purdie & I visited Pulpit Rock to see how the plants I introduced there last year were getting on. We found the *Pereskia heptocoma* in bloom; strange to say all but one plant had white flowers. The year's ash vine was all dead but most of the other plants seemed to do very well.

Plants at Pulpit Rock.

In the dense white pines near the well we saw a Hermit Thrush and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet & heard two Canada Nuthatches. A Parula was drumming not on the well but somewhere S. E. of the well.

Northern Birds.

Concord, Mass.

1900

April 20
(Sat.)

A pair of Chickadees were excavating a nest in a crevice through W. of the rock. Both birds worked entering the hole alternately and carrying tin chips of rotten wood thirty or forty feet away before depositing them.

In the afternoon Pender has a ♂ Marsh Hawk beating the field below the orchard and while driving to Concord Center he saw a great number of Robins, thirty or forty he thinks, scattered about in pairs in fields & orchards.

Blood root bloomed to day for the first time both at the farm and at Park's Hill.

He saw the first mosquitoes on the cabin last evening and they were actually troublesome at the farm house this evening.

A Field Sparrow was singing in Pender's field this evening and in his orchard we saw a pair of Bluebirds copulating.

A Meadow Lark seems to have settled for the season in the fields near the West Bedford Station.

He has been singing there every evening when the air is still.

When we returned to the cabin just after dark this evening Hyles, Bopied 7 eggs and loads were making the meadows ring with their loud voices.

That sound was indeed almost deafening. There must have been thousands of them.

About an hour after I went to bed I heard a Snipe down several times & a Virginia Rail join the cuckoo with an interval for half-an-hour or more.

(The Farm)

Chickadees
excavating hole
for nest

Marsh Hawk

Robins

Blood root
blooms

First mosquitoes

Field Sparrow

Bluebirds
copulating

Meadow Lark

Frogs & Toads
in full cry

Snipe down

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900.

April 21

Sun shining dimly through thin clouds. Light S. W. wind. Ther. 37° - 73°. Air moist & rather heavy.

When I awoke on day break a Partridge was drumming at those regular intervals. Although the door & windows were closed and the bird cannot have been at his regular station on the floor wall beyond the high ridge behind the curtain the sound came distinctly if faintly to my ears.

Partridge
quality of the
sound made
by a drumming
Partridge

The early morning singing was brief but there was a full chorus which included Robins, a Chickadee, a Pine Warbler, Song Sparrows, Red-wings & a Field Larkling just. The Phoebe seems to have left us.

Early morning
singing near
cabin.

Walking to the E. end of the hill just after breakfast I came upon a pair of Chickadees busily engaged in excavating a hole in a birch stump. Like the birds here yesterday they entered the hole alternately, filled their bills with fragments of the rotten wood and carried their loads thirty or forty feet away before dropping them. Each bird had a favorite perch on which it usually alighted to drop its load but occasionally each would fly to some tree other than this one it usually visited. They worked very rapidly & systematically & were evidently working rapid progress. They paid not the slightest attention to Robin & me although on March 16 I saw them talking within fifteen yards of the nest.

Chickadees
excavating
hole

I spent the entire day overseeing the transplanting of a lot of pines in the sandy field near the wood shed. Robins, Pine Warblers, Field Larkling (2), Song Sparrows, a Field Sparrow & Red wings were singing most of the day in or near their opening. Blue Jay

Birds singing

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900
April 21
(Mon)

was sweeping and visiting the Red-shouldered Hawk in the maple woods. In the afternoon I heard a Kingfisher scold by the river and saw a flock of 21 Cedar birds fly over. Purdie reports seeing two Yellow Palm Warblers in an apple tree at Benson's.

Kingfisher
Cedar Birds
Yellow Palm W.
Two young
of Purdie.

At 5.30 P. M. a Bittern (the first I have heard this spring) jumped three or four times in the old station on the south side of Great Meadows. At sunset Red-wings were singing far & near in every direction.

As twilight was falling Purdie discovered a Rabbit within ten feet of the smaller cabin and called me out to see it. It was nibbling at a piece of toasted bread and showed little or no fear of us although it started off a few feet when I tried to pass it within a distance of two or three yards. It looked & acted like the remarkably tame Rabbit which frequented the north east of the cabin last spring.

A tame
Hills Rabbit

As Pat was digging a hole for a pine this afternoon his spade turned over three young Painted Tortoises alive but in a torpid state. They were about as large around as nine dollars. Several years ago at about this season or a little later Wood, while hoeing Benson's field found several of these young Tortoises apparently on their way to the river.

Young Painted
Tortoise dug up
in sandy field

He brought one of them to me & I remember that at the time we both thought that they must have just come out of the ground. I wonder if all of them remain there during their brief winter.

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1908.

April 22

Cloudy with strong N.E. wind after 9 a.m. and showers of fine misty rain at frequent intervals. Ther. 47-59°

The early morning singing was prolonged through most of the forenoon. In addition to the usual common birds which I have been noting of late were Swamp Sparrows of which I heard three or four in the thickets along the river and in the swamp behind Ball's Hill. They must have arrived last night as I have heard none before this. The only other arrival was the Bank Swallow whose unmistakable chattering cry I heard several times during the day. In the forenoon a Ruby-crowned Kinglet came down about the cabin and sang explicitly.

Early morning singing
Swamp Sparrows
arrived & sang

Bank Swallows
arrived.

I heard Swifts drumming at intervals through the day both opposite the cabin and over the meadows below Davis's Hill.

Swifts drum
at intervals
through day.

Swarms of Swallows were skimming all day low over the Great Meadows. There must have been several hundreds, the greater number the Redwings, no doubt, although I did not get near enough to them to make sure of this. I heard one Martin among them.

Swallows in
swarms over
meadows.

As Gilbert and I were standing directly in front of the cabin just after breakfast we saw a large bird flying swiftly towards us along the path. I took it for a Hawk at first but as it came nearer saw that it was a Partridge. It passed directly over us within six feet and skimming suddenly on discovering our presence flung the wings of a hawk so violently as to cause the whole branch to shake. It then turned into the woods.

Partridge
flies past cabin

Boncord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900.
April 22
(No 2.)

Hearing a Flicker "thumping" this evening on the hillside above the cabin I looked for him closely and presently discovered him perched in the top of an oak sitting nearly erect on a slender twig, his plumage ruffled. He constantly turned not only his head but his body from side to side while delivering his loud notes. Gilbert called my attention to the evident fact that there were not all on the same key, every alternate one being a "half step" lower than the ones which preceded & followed it. I do not mean by this that the song was abnormal but simply that I have never before noticed the peculiarity just mentioned. Flickers appear to be unusually numerous here this season. I heard two thumping in the Ball's Hill woods at one time yesterday.

✓
"Thumping" of the
Flicker

Our tame Wild Rabbit was nearly in the same place this evening. I threw several large cones of fresh lettuce down in front of it but they were untouched till next morning although when we left the spot at evening the Rabbit was looking at one of them intently.

Our "tame"
Wild Rabbit

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900
April 23

Cloudy with occasional showers of fine rain. Wind
light, varying from S.W. to N.W. Ther. 45°-60°

Arrivals: Hirundo erythrogastrus, 3 or 4; Petrochelidon
campans, cork-in-balls notes heard once distinctly;
Spizella socialis, one at Ball's Hill, another at Hanson's,
both singing; Totanus melanoleucus, one heard whistling
over Great Meadows at evening.

Arrivals.

Spent the entire day collecting & setting out
traps. I was in the field in front of the wood shed
most of the time but visited Pine Hill in the
forenoon & Davis' Hill in the afternoon. It was
a good bird day and the air was so damp &
still that one could hear sounds at unusual
distances. Some of the common birds were in
song practically all day. Thrushes were especially
in evidence & Robins & Red-wings sang almost
incessantly.

Birds sing
all day

Besides the arrivals above noted the most
interesting birds which came under my observation
were a pair of old & weak Hawks which crossed
Purser's field in the afternoon and a Red-throated
Hawk which was hovering & swooping over Ball's Hill
& the Holden Hill just after dinner. I also heard
one or more Herring Gulls swooping in the
direction of Davis' Hill.

Herring Gulls.

Canada Nuthatches are thick here.

Canada Nuthatches.

There was a full chorus of Loons, Frogs & Hylas
this evening.

Frogs & Loons

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900.

April 23

(No. 2)

At about 9 P.M. as we were sitting in the cabin reading I heard a Great Horned Owl hooting. The windows & door were closed and the sound seemed to come through the logs at the back of the room & perfectly distinctly though rather faintly. When we stepped outside it became evident at once that the bird was in the cluster of tall birch at the east end of Ball's Hill within about 100 yds. of the cabin. He continued to hoot at short intervals & without changing his position for fifteen or twenty minutes giving always five notes, hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo, hoo. The night was foggy, cloudy and intensely dark. It is unusual, according to my experience, for an Owl of any kind to hoot so persistently under such conditions. I hope he did not catch one poor Rabbit.

Hooting of
Gr. Horned Owl.

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900.

April 24

Forenoon cloudy with frequent showers of fine rain, afternoon clearing with threatening wind clouds and a violent but brief gale accompanied by hail at 5 P.M. Wind N.E. all day. Ther. 48° - 58° (38° at 8 P.M.).

Most of the ornithological interest of the day's experience was condensed within a period of fifteen or twenty minutes - between 7.15 and 7.35 a.m. when I took a short walk around the E. end of Ball's Hill. On reaching the main opening beyond the big red oak I found them abun- with birds mostly all of which were singing or calling. There were a Robin or two, a Golden-crowned & a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2 Chickadees (one was on the nest in the bush stump), 2 Yellow Red bell Warblers, 6 or 8 Yellow rumped warblers, 1 Indigo Warbler, several Song Sparrows and at least 3 Blue jays. Presently I heard Chipping Swifts twittering & took up some four flying high over the Hill. The next moment two Great Blue Herons appeared passing unobscured at a great height & evidently migrating. Then a Martin was heard. Finally an Osprey and a ♀ Marsh Hawk crossed Holden's Meadows in opposite directions at the same moment. In addition to Dove species I heard Red-wings, Rusty Blackbirds & Crows.

Early morning walk.

Birds noted

Chipping Swifts
arrived 7.15 a.m.

Great Blue Herons
migrating.

Osprey

Marsh Hawk

Bell notes of

Blue Jay

Two of the Blue Jays kept uttering the bell note on opposite sides of the opening in which I was standing and within 30 yards of me. At this short distance a curious note was distinctly audible. It had much the same quality as that of the Virginia Rail's cluck when heard very near at hand the sound vibrating rather unpleasantly on the ear & tending to cause, at times, from

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900

April 24 (Blue Jay) The ground beneath my feet. The Jays have
 been mimicing the Red Shouldered Hawks fairly of late
 and I have frequently heard both them & the Hawks
 at the same time. The imitation is very perfect but
 the Jay seldom gives more than four or five & usually
 but three or four whistles in succession while it never,
 I think, attempts to reproduce the broken, cackling
 notes which the Hawks interpolate among the kee-e-o
 cries when they are screaming loudly & continuously.
 Bearing these facts in mind it is not difficult to
 distinguish between the voices of the two birds.

One of the Yellow Red-poll Warblers sang so very
 like a Chipping that I mistook it for that species at
 first. Listening more intently & critically I found
 that its song was really more hurried & broken than
 that of the Chipping.

Song of
 Yellow-rumped
 Warbler

The Fish Hawk lingered about Ball's Hill
 all day. A Crow followed it for some distance
 rising above & plunging down at it but not
 appearing to discover it in the least.

Chipping Crow
 water this
 side of
 Concord Mass

I spent the day planting trees in the sandy
 field by the wood shed. While thus engaged I
 noticed some very beautiful birds of special
 interest.

Concord, Mass.

(The Farm)

1900.

April 25

Brilliantly clear with strong N.W. wind. Ther. 33-68°. A heavy white frost early this morning.

Spent the day at the farm driving up in the early morning and back at 6 P.M. Saw only the common birds of much no observation of any particular interest. Heard a Canada Warbler at Ball's Hill in the early morning. Purdie saw three Yellow Palm Warblers there and two more in the region west of the farm. No arrivals were noted to-day. A ♀ Bluebird was building in my orchard this morning. She alighted on a gate & stripped strands of woven bark from the top cord. (a red cedar pole).

There were one or two Chipping & five Purple Finches in the old orchard. The Purple Finches were a fine red wash & fair gray birds. They were eating buds & hopping about on the ground under the trees.

Purple Finches

Concord, Mass.

(The Farm)

1900.

April 26

Brilliantly clear with violent N. W. wind. Therm.
37°, 69°, 46°.

Spent the day at the farm. When I reached there
at 8 A. M. a Purple Finch, Black & White Cuckoo, Yellow Warbler
and Ruby-crowned Kinglet were busy in the old orchard.
I heard another Cuckoo in the grove of red pines in the
forenoon. At about noon a ♂ Sharp-shinned Hawk
skipped past the barn. In the afternoon I visited
Pulpit Rock where I heard a second Ruby-crown
chattering & saw two Hermit Thrushes, and took time
over which an Osprey hovered majestically for several
minutes. Pordin & Gilbert saw three Hermits together
near the Rock & a Jay on the barn. Later in
the afternoon Gilbert started two Killdeers from Kaskett
meadows and a third from the Belfast shore opposite
the cabin. It is strange they are not pumping.
The only one I have heard thus far was on the
21st. The skeleton & wing-feathers of a Killdeer that
must have been killed thus spring are lying among
the cinders out for from the cabin.

Birds noted

Sharp-shin Hawk

Osprey

Killdeers

A Sapsucker spent the day at the farm in the
grove of cypress trees behind the barn. It was a fine
adult ♂ and the first bird of the spring that I
have ever seen in Concord in spring. He was very
sluggish spending nearly half an hour clinging to the
horizontal side of a brick wall & moving only his head.
Pordin & I both think that we saw the same
bird yesterday.

Sapsucker

Concord, Mass.

(The Farm)

1900.

April 27

Early morning clear; remainder of day cloudy with strong, harsh N. W. wind. Ther. 35°, 67°, 40°.

Spent the forenoon and the latter part of the afternoon at the farm. The high, raw wind blew the birds & drove them to the dense cover so that I saw & heard but few & those of the commonest kinds. Driving to Concord in noon and on the return drive in the afternoon I saw only a few Robins and an immense flock of Red-winged Black-birds (at least 100) apparently all males. They were in the tops of a white oak & all singing in one unending a prodigious noise. At the Keyes' I saw a ♀ Sharp-shinned Hawk fly from one of the large Sparrows having what looked like a small bird in its talons.

Large flock of Red-wings

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Miss Marion Keyes tells me that a Red-billed Nuthatch has been seen on the wood constant, as well as the very corner of the birds which have visited her nest the past winter & spring. It flew into one of the chambers through an open window the other day & she caught it in her hand with but slight difficulty.

Canada Nuthatch eating insect.

Noted the spring flight call of the Cow-bird as peee-ee-ee-te-de a long-drawn, somewhat reedy & rather nasal whistle.

Spring flight call of Cow-bird

Repeatedly of late I have heard a ♂ Bluebird warbling to its mate in tones exquisitely soft & tender & so low as to be audible only a few yards away. Among the ordinary notes it intercalates a fine wavy whining sound not unlike the preliminary notes of the Parula-crowns Kinglet's song.

Bluebird's love notes

Concord, Mass.

(The Farm)

1900.
April 28

Early morning clear; remainder of day cloudy with light N.E. wind and occasional sprinkles of rain. Heavy rain 7-9 P.M. Ther. 33°-61° (42°-7 P.M.).

Spent the day at the farm driving up in the early morning, at Ball's Hill Robins & Red-wings sang at daybreak and I heard Field Sparrows and Pine Siskins as I was on my way to the farm. I devoted the forenoon to setting out plants in the wild garden at Pulpit Rock. While thus engaged I heard a Ruby-crowned Kinglet singing and two Chickadees giving the Whit-throat call. A Red-shouldered Hawk was flying above though the two were screaming loudly. About the farm house I heard almost nothing from the Phoebe, a Purple Finch & a Robin or two. A Partridge drowned in the afternoon near the Rock

Birds noted.

I walked back to the cabin at evening by way of the Barrett oak woods & Pine Ridge where I heard a Canada Nuthatch (there was also one at Pulpit Rock this morning) and saw a House Wren. Robins were singing freely just before sunset.

Canada Nuthatch

Brown Creeper

The cool weather of the past few days has almost completely silenced the Whit-throats. I heard only one this evening, a Pillsbury's Nighthawk.

Frogs & Toads
silenced by
cold weather.

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900
April 29

Cloudless weather fresh W. wind. Decidedly warmer. There.

Just after we had had our breakfast four Downy Woodpeckers, a ♂ and three ♀♀, arrived practically together and began their work on the oak just west of the cabin. The ♂ & one of the females flew for some time on opposite sides of the stump while the other two birds had to arrive three times. There was a good deal of flicking among them before any of them began to eat. When thus engaged two birds facing one another & a foot or so apart would crest the feathers of the crown into a loose crest and hop around in a circle always keeping face to face and nodding or bowing their heads in an odd way, sometimes uttering a querulous chattering cry very like those of the English Sparrow. This note evidently expresses rage or defiance & is more given down under conditions such as those just described.

Downy Woodpecker
behaving in
a peculiar manner.

While Gilbert & I were watching the Downy Woodpeckers standing near twenty feet from them a shadow passed us and a ♂ Sharp-shinned Hawk darted low over our heads and into the middle of the little party of Downies. He evidently stooped at one of the females but she dodged him. Before he had flown his feet in pursuit of her he discovered us and turning back alighted in the oak low down facing us. After sitting there about a minute he took off through the woods. He was a beautiful, blue-bellied adult bird.

Sharp-shinned
Hawk swoops
at Downy W.

Walking around the Hill in the early morning

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900.

April 29
(Wed)

I saw four Yellow Palm Warblers (two in one place, two in another), two ♀ Yellow-rumps, a Redby-crowned Kinglet in full song, two Black & white Angels & a few Robins, Song Sparrows, Jays etc.

The song of the Yellow Palm Warbler is very variable or rather different individuals sing very differently for I do not find that the same bird's song varies at different times. The song that I here observed is more like that of the Yellow-rump but weaker or more listless and also more broken. Some birds sing very like the Chipping Sparrows. One that I heard this morning uttered a loud, dry, prolonged chatter quite different from the song of any birds that I can think of.

Song of
Yellow Palm
Warbler.

Crossed the river to the town Bedford Mass at 11 a. m. & walked up the railroad to dry farm places. The day was very hot, the woods apparently nearly barren of bird life but alive with Andros butterflies. A Red-shouldered Hawk flew from an oak near the place where we landed.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900

April 29

May 3

I returned to Cambridge on the afternoon of the 29th and spent the following day and the first three days of May superintending some cotton extension planting operations on the old place.

(The Garden)

I found vegetation much further advanced than at Concord. A few cherry blossoms (the first, within days) were out on my arrival and by May 2nd the trees were in nearly full bloom. Hepaticas were past, Blood-red primrose, *Corydalis* & *Dianthus* in full bloom, Crocuses opened on the 1st and crocuses of several species the same day. By the 3rd the lilacs were sufficiently leafed out to cast an agreeable shade. The weather was fine & warm up to the 3rd when a heavy rain continued through the day.

Vegetation

The following birds were noted in the Garden:— On April 30, Yellow Warbler ♂ (arrived), Canada Nuthatch (heard), Cedar Bird (heard) Chipping Swift (heard—arrival for Cambridge) Goldfinches 4 in flower, two of them ♂♂ in parti-colored yellow & gray plumage.

Garden Birds

May 1; Redstart ♂ ad. (singing in lindens at dinner & later, & the first seen here this season), Yellow rumped Warbler ♂ in lindens, Black & white Creeper ♂ (in pear orchard) Red crossbill (heard flying one)

May 2; The Yellow Warbler & Redstart singing all day. nothing new.

May 3 Stormy; no observations.

Besides the above named I noted daily Robins (about two pairs), Chipping Sparrows (a pair), Broward Grackles (flying one both east & west). On the 2nd a Flicker whistled & a Chickadee gave the whistle call.

Cambridge, Mass.

(The Garden)

A Robin

Robin

1900.
April 29
to
May 3
(No. 2)

One of the Robins on the plain, a fine old male which was one of the earliest arrivals this spring, has become extraordinarily tame. When he first came there were evidently no worms at the surface of the ground but being an intelligent bird he observed that my men, who were then engaged in excavating for a pond, turned out numbers of them in the loose earth. Then he gradually ate talking them at first after the men had left their work but later hanging close about the edges of the pits and occasionally making a dash at a worm which had only just fallen from the shovel.

During the past three days he has regularly followed these same men who have been transplanting trees and so bold has he become that I have repeatedly seen him take worms within three or four feet of one of the diggers. On several occasions indeed I almost stepped on him and once when I thrust my trowel into the ground to remove a bunch of violets he came running up and stopped within two feet of my hand looking first at the upturned earth and then into my face with his bright, honest eyes.

One of the men held out a wriggling worm to this Robin yesterday and for a moment he acted as if he were about to take it but he finally decided not to do so and moved away.

He rarely uses his wings when following us about or moving out of our way but runs from place to place over the whole garden keeping always within a few feet of us.

Concord, Mass.

1900
May 4

Clear with cool, strong N. W. wind. Ther. 52° at 7 a.m.

Returned to Concord this morning with Gilbert. As we were walking from the West Bedford station to the boat we saw a ♂ Sparrow Hawk. It apparently started from an oak on the edge of the meadow. As it passed nearly over us, circling and soaring, I saw its red tail distinctly. A Purple Martin accompanied it for some distance flying literally by its side.

✓
Sparrow hawk

I found Petition awaiting me when I arrived and drove directly to the farm where I spent the greater part of the day in the woods near the red pine which we cleared of crowing bracks & other trees as well as cutting a wood road. Saw two White-throats and heard a Solitary Tanager singing. Black & White Cuckoos were numerous everywhere. Four Swifts passed over the house but no bird of any kind saw I was there. This total silence was caused no doubt by the high & rather chilly N. W. wind.

Birds at
the farm.

The wind had fallen when I started to walk back to the cabin. A Robin was singing in the birch field and a ♂ Towhee pecking among the dry leaves that had drifted against a stone wall. When I reached Wall's Hill Red-wings were singing all over the meadow, a Brown Thrasher was pouring out his loud musical notes on the West Bedford plain & a Kingbird passed overhead calling. At least fifty Swifts were circling over the S. end of Wall's Hill and a swarm of Barn, House & Bank Swallows were coursing over Holden's Meadow. I also saw a Yellow Warbler & a Yellow Palm Warbler in

Walk from
Farm to Cabin

Concord, Mass.

1900

May 4
(no 2)

Some Crows by the river. Of the birds just named the Wilson's Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Solitary Tanager, Towhee & Kingbird were noted for the first time this season but it is probable that some if not all of them arrived here when I was absent in Cambridge. Gilbert saw a ♂ Redstart and a Green Heron near the Cabin on April 30.

Accipiter.

During my walk home this evening I heard five different Partridges denning & in addition started three birds which were certainly not among those which I heard. Three of the dennings were on the Bowers farm, one on the stone wall at the foot of the run, one on an old wall at the western end of Chick Field, the third on the ridge north of the Spring. Standing on Purple Rock I could hear all three distinctly. They seemed to be answering one another for no two of them denned at the same time. The fourth denning was on the N. end of Davis's branch, the fifth on Balls Hill.

Partridge

Approaching the bird that was denning at the western end of Chick Field I saw him lean the wall and run off to the right under some pines with his tail & ruffs wide spread. The next instant another Partridge started from nearly the same spot & nestled off among the dry leaves keeping behind the wall & whining like a young puppy, keeping up this cry for a minute or more just as a hen Partridge with young usually does. I am nearly sure that this heard bird was a ♀ but I did not see her distinctly enough to be certain.

Concord, Mass.

(Barri Hill)

1900

May 5

Sky half-filled with rapidly passing clouds; a violent and at times abating icy N.W. wind; brief flurry of thinly falling snow flakes on about 10 a.m. Ther. 36° (lowest) 58° (highest). Altogether a harsh, disagreeable day for this season.

There was a fairly full chorus of bird voices at sunrise but as my door & windows were closed I identified very few of them. I heard songs a White-throated Sparrow was singing near the cabin. There about 8 Redstarts were feeding above together when I first looked out.

Early morning singing.

Walking around the E. end of the hill at about 7 a.m. I found a number of small birds collected in the dense young pines & quickly identified three species new to this year's list viz the Chestnut-sided and the Black-throated Green Warbler and the Ovenbird having one of each in full song. There were also a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Canada Nuthatch, Pine Warbler, Yellow Palm Warbler & 2 of Yellow-crowns. A Carolina Wren, the first I have noted this season, was cooing in the pines beyond the swamp. Numbers of Swallows & a few Swifts were flying over the neighboring meadow.

Arrived

Carolina Dove cooing

On my way to the Flatiron I heard a Grass Finch and a Purple Finch, both on the West Meadow shore.

At evening few birds sang but I heard a Western Kingbird and a Surfer tearing in the direction of Great Meadow.

Just as the sun set a great number of Red-wings collected together tomorrow in the meadows were singing in wildly. The general effect was strikingly suggestive of the howling of Gulls. The birds were at a considerable distance.

Madly singing of Red-wings

East Lexington, Mass.

1900.
May 5
(No 2)

I took the 8.15 train for E. Lexington where I met D. A. Lothrop by appointment our object being to find & photograph some Grebe's nests. Lothrop had engaged a boat but it proved to be too costly as to keep one or two others of us at work bailing most of the time. It was also too broad to go through the brush easily. Nevertheless by patience & hard work we explored practically every flooded tract in the entire marsh. The results were disappointing for we found only one Grebe's nest. Nor did we have any Grebes save the pair to which this nest belonged. The weather, of course, was not favorable for there to be calling freely but Lothrop & I both think that they are less numerous than usual & that possibly the birds whom we found are the only ones. This nest was built in the center of a small cluster of leafless button bushes & was floating on water about 2 feet deep. It rocked to & fro and rose and fell as the waves reached it from a floor of open water was by. It contained 6 eggs. These were covered when we found it, wholly uncovered when we visited it an hour later, entirely covered when we passed it on our way to the landing in the afternoon. We exposed a number of plates on it during our second visit spending nearly an hour in this occupation. During this time the Grebes called every little while, at first from distance away, gradually working nearer until they were within 25 or 30 yards. They gave the Cuckoo call only. We did not see either of them.

Nest of
Casino Grebe

East Lexington, Mass.

1900

May 5
(no 3)

While searching for Grebes' nests we found three
new nests of the Browned Grackle all nearly finished
but empty. We saw only two of the birds but Red-wings
were numerous (several ♀♀ were seen) and a flock of
Rusty Grackles passed near us.

nests of
Browned Grackles

There were several Hawks about. We saw a ♂
Cooper's, a ♂ Sharp-shinned Hawk, a ♀ Marsh Hawk
and an Osprey. The last-named hung about the
pond all day alighting on the tops of the taller
trees & over hovering over us within easy gun range.
We also started a Great Blue Heron from a retired
cove and saw a Wood Duck flying high. Only
our Roach (a Carolina) was heard & but one
Kingfisher seen. A few Swifts & Martins were
flitting about in the forenoon.

Hawks

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 6

A gloomy, depressing day the sun almost completely obscured by a dense smoky haze, a penetrating W. wind blowing. Early morning cold. Par reports the ground stiffened & Barren puddles skimmed with ice but it did not freeze at the cabin. Ther. 34°-59°

Baird's Wren.

A late flier.

A mixed flock of upwards of fifty Warblers spent the day at the S. end of Baird's Hill drifting back & forth through the oak scrub. Most of them were Yellow-rumps & of these the majority were females. There was also a Parula Warbler, several Crows (Ministrets), a Black-throated Green Warbler, a Pine Warbler, then about 38 Redstarts, then Yellow Palm Warblers, and on a tree Chestnut-sided Warblers. A swarm of Swifts (fully 100) were also drifting back & forth over the hill just above the tops of the trees from evening to night. There were only a few Swallows here to-day.

Yellow-rump

abundant

Parula &

Nashville

Warbler

swarm

We found a second & much smaller flock of Warblers at Davis's Hill among them several Yellow-rumps, one Nashville Warbler & a Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Just after breakfast I heard Red Crossbills calling on the balcony above the cabin & presently saw two birds flit from a pine branch & fly off.

Red Crossbills

Red-bellied Nuthatches over Hocking Cove. I heard one behind the hill this morning.

Spent most of the forenoon working but walked to Davis's Hill just after breakfast. In the afternoon cut out a wood path behind the hill. Small Black gnats very numerous & troublesome for first time this year.

Black gnats appear

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 7

Cloudless, then early morning keen & frosty with strong N.W. wind, then middle of the day pleasantly warm, the evening calm & delightful. Ther. 35° - 60°

(Ball's Hill)

At Ball's Hill I saw in the early morning a Water Thrush, a Yellow Palm Warbler, & a fine Yellow Warbler & Redstart.

Water Thrush
& Yellow Warbler
arriv.

A Dove was again cooing in the pines north of the knoop. At evening I found a Wilson's Thrush and a Yellow Warbler in the thickets along the river.

At lowest swarms of Swallows, the majority were Swallows with a goodly number of Barn Swallows & a few Hawk & Winter-bird Swallows were darting about over the E. end of the Hill in company with 30 or 40 Swifts. An Owl-bird from the flight long later.

(The Farm.)

Spent the day at the farm working in the grove of Red Pines. Saw a Great Flycatcher & heard several Woodcock Whistles & Yellow Warbler birds on Pine branches. A Towhee was singing near the house at evening.

Flycatcher
Woodcock Whistles
Yellow Warbler

As I was standing motionless under a pine on the edge of the Barren Run a ♀ Sharp-shinned Hawk came flitting through the dense thickets near me skimming just above the surface of the ground, for a long oblique within ten yards of me. She wore a friendly keeze, about expression & was evidently hunting. Presently she started on & passed out of sight. The next instant I heard a Robin squeaking as if caught & another calling help excitedly. I have never before seen a Sharp-shin hunt through such dense cover before.

Sharp-shin Hawk

Purdie found a Blue Jay's nest with 4 eggs in Ash Swamp.

An early
Blue Jay's
nest

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900.

May 8

Cloudy with fresh S. W. wind and occasional light showers. Ther. 37°-62° (60° at 7 P. M.).

Upwards of 100 small birds spent the day on the northern slopes of Ball's Hill and in the thickets at its northern & eastern base. No doubt many of them were attracted there partly because of the shelter from the strong wind which this high, steep slope affords & partly by the swarms of gnats which had collected there for the same reason. But after making due allowance for these considerations it is evident that a heavy flight of migrants arrived from the South during the past night. It is interesting that such a flight took place for the reason that it looked here in advance of the warm wave which is beginning this evening.

Large numbers of insect birds arrive just in advance of a warm wave.

Most of the birds above mentioned were Warblers of the following species: Mniotilta varia (about 20), Hab. rubicapilla (3 or 4) Geothlypis a. aequalis (3 or 4), Dendroica coronata (about 40 mostly ♀♀), D. parvirostris (about 20 all ♂♂), D. virens (3 or 4 ♂♂), D. castaneiceps 1 ♂, D. h. hypochrysa (2), Setophaga ruticilla (about 9 ad. ♂♂ & one bird in plumage of ♀), Geothlypis trichas (5-8), Vireo olivaceus (1), V. flavifrons (1 singing), Corpodacus purpureus (1 singing), Zonotrichia albicollis (1 im) Empidonax minimus (2, another on Davis's Hill), Habia ludoviciana (3 in full song at 7 A. M.). In addition to these woodland birds fully 100 Swifts & varying numbers of Swallows were darting about just above the tops of the trees.

Swifts & Swallows.

The gnats of which they were all feeding were those small dark-colored ones which so closely resemble the black fly of the north but which do not bite so

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900

May 8
(Sat)

fully or to viciously although they are very annoying at times by getting into one's eyes, nose & ears. At least I have no doubt that the birds feed chiefly on these insects for they were the only ones that I could see and the air was filled with their hovering figures.

The arrivals for the day were D. caudatus, S. trichas arrivis, V. olivaceus, V. flavifrons & Habia ludoviciana mentioned above with Gobosopterus canadensis (♂ singing at Davis's Hill) and Dolichonyx oryzivorus (♂ singing on West Bedford side of the river).

I spent the entire forenoon in the woods just behind Ball's Hill watching the hovering Woodpecker & cutting down trees along a new wood path.

In the afternoon I visited Davis's Hill where I found about a dozen birds including the Catbird, a Towhee, a Yellow Warbler & a few Yellow Thrush.

In a small pine standing alone on an exposed part of the hillside I discovered a Blue Jay nest over the edge of which projected the tail of the sitting bird. I did not disturb her or approach the nest more than 15 or 20 yards. (Nest empty & abandoned ^{days later} a few)

Blue Jay
on nest.

As I was sitting on a bank by the river a large Minck crossed the path within 15 yards of me coming from the hillside. I went at once to the spot but did not see the animal again although the track was thin & there seemed to be no places where a woodcock could hide.

Minck

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900.

May 9

Early morning clear & warm with fresh W. wind. Warm wave.
Clouds began gathering by 9 a.m. and from 10 a.m. to
noon it rained heavily & continuously. Afternoon cloudy
with wind shifting to N. & rapidly falling temperature.

Ther. 65° at 5:45 a.m., 51° at 7 P.M. Exthermas (registered)
48° - 80°.

Arrivals: - Helminthophila chrysopleura ♂, Dendroica maculosa Arrival
♂, D. blackburnii ♂ in very high plumage, D. discolor ♂, Sylvania pusilla ♂, Piranga erythrorhynchos ♂♂, Icterus
galbula ♀♀, Falco columbarius ♀, Accipiter cooperii 1; all
except the Accipiter seen either on or very near Ball's Hill. The
Prairie Warbler being the first that I have ever noted
there and the Golden wing the first ♂ that I have heard
singing there.

As early as I could walk out most if not
all of the north-bound migrants which were here
yesterday departed last night but their places were more
than filled by fresh arrivals from the South. Indeed the
bird-wave which flooded the country to-day was one
of the most remarkable that I have ever noted especially
at so early a date. At least 300 small birds spent
the day on Ball's Hill and in the afternoon I found
nearly half as many more on Holden's Hill while every
outlying thicket or cluster of trees held a dozen or more.
By far the greater number were Warblers and of these
the Chestnut-sided, Yellow-rumped, Black & White Cuckoo,
Russet-backed, Lutescent and Maryland Yellow-throat were the more
numerous. The flight of Chestnut-sided & Cuckoo exceeded
anything that I have ever witnessed before. In all

A great
bird-wave

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900.

May 9
(No 2)

fifty eight species were noted. Most of the fresh arrivals kept low down and were very conspicuous owing to the fact that the trees and shrubs are still mostly or quite bare of leaves. They (the birds) were also very tame and apparently tired & somewhat listless although they sang freely through most of the forenoon. Most of the species including the Golden-winged, Prairie and Magnolia Warblers were seen close to the cabin. They all frequented chiefly the small oaks which are just beginning to unfold their leaves. It was a pretty as well as unusual sight to see so many different kinds of warblers collected together in practically one place. Indeed on several occasions nearly all the eighteen species observed were within sight or hearing at once.

I spent the entire day in the woods. While walking out a path behind the wood shed in the forenoon I found a young pine which I wished to have cut down thinking it timber with a hotbed & with some fence. A few moments later I happened to look at its top & there, to my surprise, was a Blue Jay's nest with the tail of the sitting bird projecting over the rim. When I moved off a little distance I could see the head which was held with the bill pointing upward at an angle of about 45°. I cut down several small oaks close about the pine & afterwards Mr. Purdin & I hunched at its base without disturbing the bird although the nest was not more than eight or nine feet above the ground. This nest, like the one found at Davis's Hill the other day, was in a comparatively open situation the pine in each case being surrounded by leafless trees.

nest of a
Blue Jay

Concord, Mass.

1900.
May 9
(No 3)

In the late afternoon I visited Holden's Hill. The tall oaks and chestnuts which cover this handy ridge were swarming with Woodpeckers most of which appeared to be Yellow-rumps, Chestnut-backs, Black & White Leggers and Redstarts with a goodly sprinkling of House and Nuthatch woodpeckers.

There were also great numbers of Swallows and Swifts darting to & fro just above the tops of the trees. As I was idly watching them a Pigeon Hawk suddenly appeared in their midst. Seizing one bird that was moving rather slowly towards the Falcon outlook it in an instant and rising slightly above it dropped one foot and dived it without the slightest apparent effort. The affair was so unperformed and so quickly ended that my impressions of it are less vivid & precise than could be wished. I doubt if more than two or three seconds elapsed between the moment when I first noticed the Hawk and that when it struck its prey. The latter appeared to be either taken by surprise or terrified by fear for it without uttering its usual note seemed to that effect which is often seen the smaller birds from the attacks of Hawks - viz dodging. Having secured it the Falcon made off very swiftly through the tree tops but presently circled back and alighted among the upper branches of a large chestnut which stood on the hillside about a stone fifty yards from where I was standing. During this flight the Hawk was closely pursued by a Barn Swallow who kept uttering the loud alarm note of its kind. This fact together with the length & shape of one of the

Pigeon Hawk
catches &
devours a
Barn Swallow

Warewood, Mass.

1900

May 9
(204)

wings of the captured bird, which having closely examined Pipit Hawk
as the Hawk bore it off led me to conclude that Catcher & downer
the poor victim was also a Barn Swallow although a Barn Swallow
whom the Hawk caught & I took it to be a
Lark.

After alighting in the chestnut tree Falcon sat
quietly on its perch for several minutes looking about
rather listlessly & preening its feathers. I had an
excellent view of it and with the aid of my glass could see
distinctly that it was a ♀ in full plumage. Presently it began to
pick its prey and after the removal of a few morsels of feathers
to take out and swallow shreds & morsels of flesh. Alternately
preening and eating it worked busily indeed almost incessantly - for
just twenty minutes standing all the while on a stout horizontal
branch holding the swallow under one foot with the other leg drawn
up among the feathers of the belly and the feet just showing.
At the end of the time just mentioned nothing apparently remained
of the swallow save a wad of bones & feathers scarce larger
than a hickory nut. I saw this shapeless object in the Falcon's
grasp just before the bird spread its wings at the termination
of its exploit (or rather a minute or two later) to dash away
over the tree tops with headlong speed but I did not see it
drop nor could I find either it or any other remains
of the swallow on the ground under the tree.

While the Falcon was devouring its prey it evidently kept one
eye on me for whenever I changed my position or even
moved slightly it would stop feeding and watch me intently
for a minute or two before resuming its meal.

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900.

May 9
(no 5)

Full list of species seen to-day with numbers of individuals of each, estimated in most cases: -

Turdus fuscans 4 (1 ♀)
Mimus nigricollis 2 ♀
Colaptes auratus 2 ♀
Harpagofastus rufus 2 (♂ & ♀)
Sialia sialis (heard)
Parus atricapillus 2 ♀
Sitta canadensis 1
Mniotilta varia 3088 2 ♀♀
Helminthophila chrysoptera 8 ♀
 " rubricapilla 15 ♀
Compsothlypis a. ussuri 2088
Dendroica aestiva 1
 " coronata 30 (mostly ♀♀)
 " viridis 488 1 ♀
 " maculosa 8 ♀
 " peninsularis 5088 1 ♀
 " black-breasted 8 ad.
 " vigorsii 1 ♀
 " p. hyperborea 2
 " discolor 8 ♀
Spinus amoenus 4 (2 ♀)
 " norfolkensis 2
Geothlypis trichas 2088
Sylvania pusilla 8 ♀
Setophaga ruticilla 20 ad 88 2 ♀♀
Vireo olivaceus 8 ♀
 " flavifrons 3 (2 ♀)
Progne subis (heard)
Pitohuiidae longirostris (")
Hamula erythrogastra 30

Colinus virginianus 20
Piranga erythronotus (8 ♀) (88) ♀
Zonotrichia albicollis 8 ♀.
Spizella socialis 8 ♀
 " pusilla 8 ♀
Melospiza melodia 2 ♀
 " georgiana 5 (1 ♀)
Habia ludoviciana (8 ♀) ♀
Dolichonyx orisicinus (hd)
Agelaius phoeniceus 6 ♀
Icterus galbula 288
Scolecophagus carolinus (hd.)
Corvus americanus 6
Cyanocitta cristata 3 (heard)
Tyrannus tyrannus 1
Sayornis phoebe (2)
Empidonax virens 5
Chondestes pelagicus 30
Dryobates villosus 1
 " rubescens 1
Colaptes auratus 2 ♀
Troglodytes aedon ♀
Pardaliparus carolinensis 1
Acridothera tristis ♀
Pipilo erythrophthalmus (8 ♀)
Bonasa umbellus 1
Actitis macularia 1
Colinus virginianus (2)

(2 all fairly fresh specimens)

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 10

Clear with high N.W. wind. Rather cold with
 fleeciness of snow in P.M. Ice thicker than window glass
 found east upon on the W. Bedford side of the flooded
 meadows & Pat had to break a way through it for
 his boat early this morning. On this side of the river
 we saw no signs of frost & my wild flowers were all
 unimpaird. The registering thermometer on the cabin recorded
 extremes of 30°-60°. At 5:30 a.m. it stood at 34°, at
 7 P.M. at 37°. I do not think I have ever known
 such cold weather here in May before.

An exceptional
 cold snap

Its effect on the birds was an interesting
 and puzzling; interesting because it drove them all
 from the woods to open sunny but sheltered places
 close to the river where they were most conspicuous
 and exceedingly tame; puzzling because in spite
 of the cold which began early last evening there was
 apparently a well-marked migration during the night.
 At least we had a new lot of birds at Ball's this
 to-day. The arrivals were Turdus a. bicinctus (a small,
 rather shy individual, very dark in coloring, that visited
 the cabin at evening and evening) T. swainsoni (one,
 very tame & absolutely identifiable), Dendroica floriola
 2 adms ♂♂ in the brush by the river

Its effect
 on the birds

Other changes were a marked increase in the number
 of Water Thrushes & White-throated Sparrows and a
 decrease of fully fifty per-cent in those of Black & White
 Crows, Chestnut-sided, House & Nashville Warblers and
 Least Flycatcher. The Yellow Warbler & Yellow Robin
 Warblers, Redstarts & Swamp Sparrows were in about
 the same number as yesterday. I saw no Juncos

Concord, Mass.

(Ball's Hill)

1900.

May 10
(No 2)

Owens or bees and noted but one Grosbeak.

Of course these changes may have been done formerly to the local drifting about of the birds just mentioned but I cannot believe that this was the case.

As I have already said the small birds were surprisingly tame to-day. Indeed they paid so little attention to me that I frequently got within a yard or two of Chestnut-sided Woodpeckers, Redstarts, Maryland Yellow-throats & Campers & sometimes I readily stepped on them as they were hopping about on the ground under fallen or drooping branches.

Remarkable
tameness of
the smaller
migrants.

A Wilson's Black-cap allowed me to approach within five or six feet as he was hopping along a leafless branch thus extended over the path. Very many birds came close about the cabin & at times my wild flower garden was full of brilliantly colored Woodpeckers of several species. There were three Down birds there at one time & they would scarcely get out of my way as I walked about among the flowers.

In the afternoon Gilbert found a Partridge's nest with 12 eggs on Pine Ridge. It was under a ^{2 feet of a wood-rapel.} smaller nest, 12 eggs. pine on the side of a deep, eastern spore hollow within. The bird flushed at about 10 feet. Partridges are more numerous on my land than I have ever known them to be in Spring before. (All the eggs were gone from this nest on the 13th.)

A Robin was lining a nest in a little hemlock near the wood shed this evening

Robin lining
its nest

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 11

Clear with strong W. to S.W. winds. Early morning bitterly cold. Pat brought in 1/4 inch thick from the meadow across the river. The ground was frozen hard at the cabin. The extremes of temperatures registered by my thermometer were 28° - 58°. Strange to say the vegetation does not seem to have suffered in the least although the earliest buds on a fence high & many of the trees & shrubs covered with snow-crowns.

Despite the extreme cold many birds apparently departed and a few arrived during the past night. At least we had a distinctly new lot at Balls Hill to-day. Thus there were a Magnolia & Black-throated Blue Warbler, a Louisiana T-witch and a Hummingbird while there was a marked increase in the number of Water Thrushes & White-throated Sparrows. The Chickadees and the Olive-backed Thrush as well as the two Black-poll Warblers which were here yesterday had disappeared. The Yellow Warblers, Yellow Red-starts, Chestnut-birds, Maryland Yellow-throats, Redstarts & Swamp Sparrows were still present in remarkable abundance although their numbers had apparently somewhat diminished. I saw a ♀ Marsh Hawk at Balls Hill & a Carolina Dove flying over Bennett's field towards the Hill. Gilbert found a Partridge's nest with 9 eggs at the foot of the oak covered ridge on the W. side of Balls Hill Swamp. He saw the bird on the nest which was at the foot of a beeches maple.

Visiting the farm in the forenoon I saw a Black-billed Cuckoo by the roadside. In the woods was

(Balls Hill)
Still another
Cold snap,
remarkably
severe for this
season.

Movements of
migrating
birds.

Marsh Hawk
Carolina Dove
Partridge's
nest, 9 eggs

Concord, Mass.

1900

May 11
(No 2)

Pulpit Rock a Black-burnin Warbler was singing in a hemlock and a Black-throated Blue & a Magnolia Warbler flitting about among the shrubbery. Yellow Palm Warblers are still here in small numbers & I saw a Blotched Hummer Finch.

The Warblers kept very low down all day and many of them were hopping about on the ground. They were if possible even lower than was the case yesterday.

Warblers kept
low down &
are very tame

The Lutescent Finch appeared early this morning on the walk directly in front of the cabin and was seen there at frequent intervals during the day feeding busily on some smaller seeds and chasing off several Swamp Sparrows which attempted to steal in the feast. He was much tamer than the bird who stayed so long last year. Early in the forenoon he sang a number of times in low tones & almost exactly like a Song-bird which then sang using this form of song alone. He was a rather dark-colored bird with but little buff on the neck.

Lutescent
Finch.

The only arrivals noted to-day were the Hummingbird, Lutescent Finch & Blue-bird Cuckoo.

Arrivals

Concord, Mass

1900.

May 12

Cloudless, the early morning calm; later a brisk S.W. wind arose changing to E. in P.M. Extremes of temperature (registered) 33° - 56°.

Weather
moderate

The country was alive with birds but they were more scattered than has been the case during the past three days. Large numbers collected along the river's edge at Ball's Hill in the afternoon although there were comparatively few there in the forenoon.

Country alive
with birds.

The arrivals were: - Turdus migratorius (a silent bird seen in front of the cabin in the early morning) Rhyacophilus solitarius (one seen at Dallas' Hill) and Passer caeruleus (one heard in Great Meadows in the late afternoon)

Arrivals

There was a marked increase in the numbers of Wilson's Thrushes, Cow Birds, Maryland Yellow-Throats and Bobwhites.

Species present in
increased numbers

Yellow-rumped Warblers and Oven-birds were apparently less numerous than they have been of late and Chestnut-sided Warblers had decreased very considerably being to-day in about their usual breeding numbers.

Black & White Cuckers, Water Thrushes, Redstarts, Wilson's Black-caps, Swamp Sparrows & White-throated Sparrows were in about the same numbers as yesterday.

I heard three Black-brown Warblers singing, one on Ball's Hill, the other two in white firs at the farm.

Black-brown
Warblers.

A Golden-winged Warbler was singing in the Bobwhite orchard when the first apple blossoms had opened.

First apple
blossoms out

Concord, Mass

1900.

May 12
(No 2)

I spent some time this forenoon thinking out the
tree close about the pine near the wood shed
where the Blue Jay is nesting. One of the birds
was on the nest sitting very deep within it, her
bill pointing almost straight upward. As I
was chopping at an oak within 20 ft. of the
pine the other Jay (the ♂, I supposed) came
to the nest with something in his bill which
he gave to his sitting mate. She stood up in
the nest to receive it at the same time
giving her wings & uttering a continuous low
chipping peculiarly like that of a young bird.

Bulls Hill

A Blue Jay
feeds its
sitting
mate

The Phoebe at the farm began building
four or five days ago under the eaves of the
barn 15 or 18 feet above the ground. This nest
appeared to be completed to-day & one of the
birds was sitting in it but she flew out &
back every few minutes.

Phoebe's
nest at the
farm.

The Lincoln's Finch which appeared yesterday
spent the whole of to-day in the thicket in front
of the cabin in company with several Swamp
Sparrows & White-throats. He chased the former
away from the willow bed but the latter chased
him. By afternoon he had become so tame
& trustful as to emerge from the bushes & feed
in the open path when Gilbert & I were standing
within ten feet of the bird bed. We came very
near getting a photograph of him while thus engaged.
He was bringing the insects home in the forenoon.

Lincoln's
Finch.

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 12
(No 3)

Five or six male Maryland Yellow-throats spent the afternoon on the ground in front of the cabin mingling with the Sparrows. They were so tame that we could almost catch them in our hands. They were continually quarreling among themselves but they neither protected nor were protected by the Sparrows. We photostayed several of them. They would hop around the camera within six or eight inches when it was placed on the ground. Sometimes seemed to attract them to a space of a yard or two square where the miller had had been steamed but they certainly did not touch it.

Sometimes after lunch as we were at tea a small Hawk, probably a Sharp-shinned, pounced down into the bushes where the Sparrows & Maryland Yellow-throats were then feeding, making a loud crashing sound. Gilbert ran to the door & saw the Hawk fly up into a maple but it had nothing in its talons.

Visiting Dakin's Hill this afternoon in quest of birds foot prints I found five Greater Yellow-legs, a Solitary Sandpiper and two Spotted Sandpipers feeding on the mud flats at the mouth of the brook.

Ball's Hill
Remarkable
tameness of
Maryland
Yellow-throats

Sharp-shin
Hawk
misses its
prey.

Yellow-legs
& other
waders at
Dakin's Hill.

Concord, Mass.

Balls Hill

1900.

May 13

Clear with light S.W. wind. Extremes of temperature 51°-76°

Took a walk around Balls Hill just after breakfast. Birds were abundant but scattered. There seemed to be no marked changes as compared with yesterday excepting that most of the Yellow-rumps had apparently departed. Later in the evening, however, I found a small flock of three Woodpeckers as well as a number of Lesser Woodpeckers in the swampy woods across the river.

A Black & Yellow Woodpecker and a Black-burnian were singing near the cabin.

The Lincoln's Finch spent his third day with us but I did not hear him sing this morning. It has gradually dawned on me that he is the same individual which was here his consecutive days last spring. At least like that bird he is darker-colored than most of his kind with less buffy about the head. If my surmise is correct his remarkable comment is accounted for by the fact that he has not forgotten the kind treatment he received from us last year.

Lincoln's
Finch.

Gilbert saw two Yellow-bellied Cuckoos (arrived) and a Green Heron to-day, all near the cabin. He visited his Partridge's nest on Pine Ridge in the afternoon & found all the eggs gone (shells & all) although the nest was not ruffled. It was within a few feet of the roadway through the pines among some hay which had fallen from Ben's wagon.

Partridge's
nest despoiled
of its eggs.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

May 13
(No 2)

Took the 8.13 A. M. train to Cambridge. C. met me at the Station and we drove through Mt. Auburn where I heard Parula Warblers and a Black-throated Blue singing in the oaks and saw a Night Heron, a Green Heron & a Kingfisher at the long pond. There was also a Phoebe singing at the bridge over this pond.

Next to I was surprised to see a Carolina Bat flying about over the tops of the trees in the bright sunlight (it was now 11 A. M.), not merely wandering about as Bats will occasionally do by day when disturbed but evidently hunting for insects. After a flight of about five minutes it pitched suddenly down and alighted against the trunk of a large white oak where it hung head downward about 8 ft. above the ground.

The reddish body exactly resembled a hollow country bird with rotten wood while its dark folded wings supplied the effect of the hard, blackened wood which is often found such a country.

I don't know how hard to believe that we were not looking at a natural round currier such as that just indicated. On approaching the creature closely I found that it had caught a small, grayish water bug which it was munching in a curious manner. The life it clinging to the rough bark where it was as safe from discovery as if hidden within the inner recesses of a cavern.

Mt Auburn

Night Heron,
Green
Kingfisher &
Phoebe at
the artificial
pond.

Carolina
Bat flying
about in
bright sun-
light &
catching
insects.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

May 13
(No 3)

On returning to the lawn place I found the garden alive with birds. There were Robins, Cat birds (a pair, apparently, the ♂ in full song), a very large Gray-checked Thrush, an Oriole bird, an House Wren, a Yellow Warbler, a Chestnut-sided Warbler, a Redstart, a Grosbeak, a Purple Finch. Late in the afternoon a Swallow's Finch appeared in the central flower bed when he commenced about feeding and a superb adult ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler alighted for a minute or more on a wire flag within 12 feet of where C. & I were standing. There was also an Oriole or two & a White-throated Sparrow.

Walter Deane tells me that three birds were here yesterday. There was a heavy flight of birds during the past three days & he identified thirty-one species in the garden in a single day. The Gray-checked Thrush sang & called in low tones late in the afternoon.

The House Sparrows have established a roost in the lilacs behind the house where great numbers of them assembled at about sunset this evening making a loud noise.

Our Garden
swarming
with birds

Roost of
House Spar-
rows in our
lilacs.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

May 14

Early morning cloudy & calm; remainder of day
bunny but very heavy with light E. wind. Ther. 50°-70°

Spent most of the day in the garden. Of
the birds seen yesterday the majority were still
present and there were two or three new comers.
The full list is as follows: 3 or 4 Robins, 1 Gray-
cheked Thrush, 1 Swainson's Thrush, 1 Cat-bird
(singing), 1 Yellow Warbler, 1 Black-poll Warbler (♂),
1 Oven bird, 1 Red start (♂), 1 White-throated Sparrow,
1 Swamp Sparrow, 1 Lincoln's Finch, 1 Oriole,
two or three Crows (flying), 2 Cassin's Black birds (passing
over), 1 Parula (Usia) Warbler (singing), 1 Black-throated
Warbler (singing in the class in front of the
"Always").

The Lincoln's Finch was a shy, skulking
fellow with most of his kind. He sang first on
his terms shortly after noon, giving the
house then four of song.

Birds seen
in our
Garden.

Lincoln's
Finch.

Concord, Mass.

Balls Hill.

1900.

May 14

(No 2.)

Returned to Concord by the 5:01 P. M. train.
On reaching the cabin I found two Lincoln Finches,
a White-crowned Sparrow, 2 Swamp Sparrows, a
Song Sparrow & a White-throated Sparrow busy
at the feed box. Gilbert says that there were
two White-crowns there earlier in the day &
that he saw a third at Concord this forenoon.

Lincoln F.
White-cr. Sp.

Taking a run over & around the Hill just
before lunch I found Warblers very numerous.
I saw a pair of Black-throated, a Black-throated
Blue, a Wilson's Black-cap, & a 10 Yellow-rumps,
a pair of Chestnut-sided & 3 Crows, and
numbers of Redstarts & Oven birds.

Heavy flight
of Warblers

Forty or fifty Barn Swallows, eight or ten
Barn Swallows & perhaps a dozen Swifts were
darting about in wavy lines just above
the tops of the large oaks which crown the
summit of the Hill.

Swallows &
Swifts over
Balls Hill -
at sunset.

Vireos were calling in all directions on
hills but I heard none here.

Vireos calling
at evening.

Concord, Mass.

1900.
May 15

Balls Hill
"the Farm."

Clear with strong S. W. wind. Thunder showers
howling about the western horizon at evening and a light sprinkle
of rain here. Intensely hot for the season Ther. 48°-90° here,
maximum at Cambridge 96°.

Sudden
hot wave.

I spent the first hour after breakfast (7-8 a.m.) in
the Balls Hill woods. Next I visited the Farm where I
rambled about near Pulpit Rock and in the oak & pine woods that
border the road leading from the school house to Beadwin's.

Returning to Balls Hill at 10 a.m. I found Abbot H. Hoyle Abbot Hoyle
at the cabin. He had arrived by the 9 a.m. train and is comes to
to spend three days with me here. It was so very hot that Balls Hill
we did not go out again until late afternoon when we
visited Davis Hill.

It is no exaggeration to say that the whole country
literally swarmed with birds to-day. Ordinarily when we
have a good flight of north-bound migrants they occur
in numbers in only a few especially favored places
and are thinly scattered or quite wanting elsewhere.

Floods of
migrating,
north-bound
birds arrive.

But to-day every pair of woods, every outlying thicket,
almost every tree and bush, was simply alive with them.
So very numerous were they that we became at times not
only confused but even positively exhausted by the nervous
strain of watching and identifying them. It was, moreover,
a surfeit of good things to have so many birds which we
are accustomed to regard as uncommon or elusive almost
constantly in sight or hearing. Most of them had been noted before

We find them
everywhere in
great numbers
& variety.

this season (i.e. as species), the only fresh arrivals being a Bay-breast
Warbler (in a pair at Pulpit Rock), an Indigo Bird, a Cowbird, a Flycatcher
and a night-hawk. About 8 o'clock this evening we heard more
than once the hoarse calls of Warblers passing overhead. These gave
evidence, of course, that at least some of the birds here to-day passed on to higher

Fresh arrivals
Migration
resumed this
evening

1900.

May 16

Concord, Mass

Balls Hill

Clear with light S.W. wind falling calm before sunset.
Ther. 54° - 73°, a perfect May day.

To-day must surely mark the high-water level of the extraordinary migration of May, 1900. I do not think that I have ever before seen so many small birds in one day in the Concord woods. They have been so evenly distributed that it really made not the slightest difference when one looked for them. As the eye ranged through the trees & undergrowth it was constantly assailed by the flashing thrushlets, of songs or the flashing reds, yellows, blacks & grays of the immovable Woodpeckers that were busily engaged with Warblers in gleaning for food among the branches.

Apparent high water mark of an extraordinary bird migration.

Woods &

swarming

with

Warblers

Thayer & I were out early & late. In the evening & afternoon we visited the farm where the old apple orchard was in further bloom and fondly singing with the songs of Orioles & Grosbeaks.

Visit to the Farm.

We also ranged repeatedly about Balls Hill & in the late afternoon we walked to Holden's Hill.

To Holden's Hill

Everywhere we went it was the same story: - birds almost too numerous to count or even estimate. Perhaps the most numerous of all the less common birds were the Wilson's Black caps and Canadian Woodpeckers. It was a particularly "great day" for them. Rather curiously, however, we heard ~~the~~ the day in their which had not been previously heard on this season's list.

Everywhere

myriads of

little birds.

Wilson's &

Canada Woodpecker

The white-crowned Sparrows & the two Lincoln's Finches were larger on the cabin & we heard another White-crowned Sparrow singing in the orchard on the farm.

White-cr. Sp.

Lincoln's F.

Concord, Mass.

Ball's Hill

1900.

May 17

Cloudy; wind N.E. in forenoon, S.W. in afternoon, light all day. Therm. 47°-63°.

In the forenoon Hooper & I walked around Ball's Hill and through Davis's Swamp to Prescott's farm. Small birds although Field Wrenners were in greatly reduced numbers as compared with yesterday. Wilson's Black-caps and Carolina Wrenblers had however increased and there were a great many Water Thrushes and a good many Black-burnians. We saw several Black-bills (on ♀) and a pair of Black-throated Blue Wrenblers at the cabin.

The great bird warm has passed on.

In the afternoon we paddled up river to Massawutuck bridge where Hooper left me to take the train for his summer home at Dublin. On the way up we saw a Greater Yellow-legs, (8) (2) & (1) Least Sandpipers (all but the (1) above F. G. W. bridge on the N. end of Houghbush Island), about a dozen Solitary Sandpipers and a number of Spotted Sandpipers. Of the last named I started a prodigious number (certainly 18 or 20) on my way down river at evening. Just below Hurdle I came upon a flock of 8 which I drove on before me for half a mile or more. All would invariably start & fly together in a rather close bunch. They were rather shy. This is an unusual appearance for this season. During this evening paddling hunt I also heard a Short-billed Wood Wren in Garry's meadow, a Savannah Sparrow just above the Holt, off Central Rail, & on Virginia Rail. I saw three Night Hawks & a flock of fully fifty Barn Swallows. There is apparently only one Northern plover on Great Meadows this spring.

Up river.

Yellow legs
Least Sandp.
Solitary "

A flock
of eight
Spotted
Sandpipers

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 17
(No 2)

The Colony of Bronzed Grackles on the Hoar place appears to be fully reduced in numbers. Indeed I saw not more than from a fine birds there this afternoon. W. C. Lothrop tells me that these Grackles are also very scarce in the Cambridge region this year. What can have happened to them all?

Bronzed
Grackle
Colony at
the Hoar
place.

At the Hayes' where I spent half-an-hour on my return I found a Hoar Wren singing at the upper end of the orchard where there was one last year.

Hoar Wren

The flock of Boar Swallows just mentioned were dashing about in the twilight between Boar's Hill & Boar's Dam Rapid flying in a compact formation like Sandpipers, now high in air and low over the meadows. It was quite evident that they were preparing to go to roost but I failed to find one just where.

Boar
Swallows
evidently
assembling
to roost at
evening near
Boar's Hill

White-bellied Swallows appear to be very scarce here now. I saw only three along the river this afternoon all of which however, were probably breeding. Two were flying about the wilderness thicket on the head of the Hill where they have nested for so many years, the third was perched in a dead elm above Big Rock.

White Swallows
scarce

I omitted to note that during our walk this morning we found a Red Crossbill & a Canada Nuthatch on Poor Ridge.

Red Crossbill
Canada Nuthatch

1900
May 18

Concord, Mass.

Ball's Hill

Cloudy, foggy, calm or with an occasional breath of E. wind.

Revisited the Ball's Hill woods & revisited directly after breakfast. Saw or heard a few Black-polls & Yellow-rumps, a good many Wilson's Black-caps, very many Canadian Warblers, a Black-throated Blue and a Black & yellow, a Black-burnian, an unprecedented number of Water Thrushes (at least 20) a Lincoln's Finch and a great number of common American birds such as Cat birds, Red-eyed Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler etc.

North bound

virgatus

abundant

Water Thrushes

Lincoln's F.

The Water Thrushes were not only fairly numerous along the river banks but were scattered about everywhere among the oaks on the hills & tops of the Hill. I have never known them to be so numerous here before.

Water Thrushes

A Snipe descended for nearly an hour over the woods opposite the cabin. This was between 7 & 8 a. m. the weather foggy on the train.

Snipe drums

A Great Flycatcher perched in the top of a larch oak suddenly commenced out & caught an Atalanta Butterfly. He struggled with it for several minutes repeatedly jerking it against the branches, frequently clapping & waving it finally reducing it to pulp & swallowing it.

Least

Flycatcher

Catches &

eats a butterfly

Most of the Maryland Yellow-throats which have been so numerous here during the past week have evidently been migrants. They have been found everywhere, just as frequently on dry hillsides & wood tops or in dense, dry oak woods as in swampy places. I saw a ♀ this morning feeding in the upper branches of a rather tall white pine. The woods have been silent as a rule.

Migrating

Maryland

Yellow-throats

on dry,

wooded,

hillsides

Concord, Mass.

"The Farm"

1900.

May 18
(7102)

At 8 a. m. I drove to the farm where I spent two hours. The woods, thickets & orchards were humming with birds among which were Paula, Black-burnian, Black & Yellow, Black-poll & Black-throated Blue Warblers, Redstarts, and Water Thrushes. From beneath a fallen elm branch directly in front of the barn I started a Lincoln's Finch Lincoln's F. and an adult White-throated Sparrow. The Lincoln's was White-cr. Sp. very tame & I got a close view of him at a distance of less than 20 feet.

But the best bird of all remains to be mentioned. Cape May
I was standing behind the house when in an Warbler at
apple tree covered with honey blossoms a short distance the form
off I heard a Warbler sing several times in quick succession. & by its notes at once recognized it as a Cape May. On hurrying to the tree I found the bird at the end of a low branch hopping about among the tufts of blossoms which it was pecking with its bill after the manner of an Oriole. I watched it closely for 15 or 20 minutes during which time it remained on the branch where I first saw it. (About Thayer says that this species will often spend a whole day in one tree & this I remember observing in a blossoming cherry tree at Waterbury, Mass in 1869). It was more active than a Black-poll, but h. than most other Warblers. It was very tame. Its plumage was of about average brightness. Its song was Teet, Teet, Teet, Teet very like a Black-poll's but louder & more vigorous in quality. I left the bird in his beautiful setting of apple blossoms.

Two Wood Thrushes were in full continuous

Concord, Mass.

Balls Hill.

1900

May 18
(No 3)

song at the farm, one in the orchard was from
of the farm, the other in the room.

I heard three Golden-winged Warblers, two at
the farm, one in an elm behind Thurston's house.

Golden wing
Warblers.

During the past four days we have had constantly
in front of the cabin two Lincoln's Finches & a White-
crowned Sparrow. which one of the Lincoln's was here seven
days, arriving on the 11th. All three of these birds departed
last night the Lincoln's which I saw this morning
being half way between the cabin & the house &
evidently a new comer. The three birds which have
been staying with us so long have been fed bountifully
with millet seed and by this potent attraction have
been kept constantly within the confines of the narrow
belt of brooms which extend from the corner fire to
the old landing a distance of about thirty yards.

Lincoln's
Finch &
White C.
Sparrow.

The Lincoln's Finch which arrived on the 11th was from
the first to exceptionally tame & confiding as to lead
me to believe that he was the same individual which
spent his days in the same place last year. This
Spring he has been as kind and pliable as an
average Song Sparrow. He has sung freely but I have
heard him give only the June Song (both forms), the
Horn Wren Song & that of the ^{Purple Finch} Song. I had heard that
his rendering of ~~our~~ ^{the} ~~other~~ ^{other} ~~stark~~ ^{stark} ~~Phoebe~~ ^{Phoebe}, who has
listened to him with great interest, as being more
or less spectacular than the song of the Purple Finch in special
being infinitely finer in quality than that of its real author
through my ~~hand~~ ^{hand} ~~in tone~~ ^{in tone} ~~Expressive delivery of phrases~~ ^{Expressive delivery of phrases}
seems to be the chief characteristic of this Lincoln's Sparrow's rendering
of all his themes but that of the June which is as woody

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Concord, Mass.

Balls Hill.

Songs of
Lincoln's

Finch

1900
May 18
(No 4)

and unobtrusive as when given by James himself.
To put the matter in another way the Lincoln's Finch
seems to transfer & refine most of the songs which he
borrows from other birds breathing through them a
delicacy of treatment peculiarly his own. On several
occasions yesterday, morning when the air was calm
& the bird singing on the ground within 15 feet of
us & in plain sight it seemed to me that I
had never before listened to any bird unless so
extremely refined & charming.

This pretentious Lincoln's Finch has displayed
a bullying spirit on many occasions during the
the last had the Swamp Sparrows which tend to
get their share of the abundance of food but being
himself easily driven by the Song & White-throated
Sparrows.

I have heard one White-crowned Sparrow sing
many times these past few days, usually in the
early morning. His song seemed to me most like
that of the Peewee bird beginning in almost
exactly the same form & tone but ending more
abruptly. I have heard a Peewee bird sing very
much the same notes in autumn or winter.

But probably this White-crown was not
really getting himself out although another
at the farm gave a clearly kinder song.
altogether or heard only four or five notes. I
should under it pe-^{ee}, pe-^{ee}, pe-^{ee}

Song of the
White-crowned
Sparrow.

Concord, Mass

1960

May 18
(No 5)

In the early afternoon, after the preceding page was written, hordes of Water Thrushes appeared near the cabin. A few clung to the noise thickets by the river side where they belonged by right but the greater number rambled all over the hillside around & behind the cabin while a few took thrushes to the tops of the leafless oaks where they trilled merrily among the branches feeding in company with a number of Downies. Several ascended the stone steps in front of the cabin & peeped into one open door curiously. They were surely all remarkably tame & free from those obvious nervousness that usually distinguishes their kind. They were continuously quarreling with one another & I witnessed several encounters where two birds would cluck back and forth together among the dry oak leaves.

Balls Hill.

A
swarm of
Water Thrushes,
behaving
oddly.

At about 3 P.M. a pair of Flycatchers appeared Alder
in the oak in front of our door where it Flycatcher
but for a minute or two calling peep and
then uttering a prolonged succession of slight
but rather unusual whistling notes given very
rapidly. This I have heard before but not
often.

Naushton Island, Mass.

1900

May 20, 21

I went to Naushton on the afternoon of the 19th and returned to Cambridge on the morning of the 22nd spending the interim in the home of the late Mr. William Forbes as the guest of Mr. Edward W. Emerson, the Forbes family being absent.

The 20th was clear in the early morning, cloudy the remainder of the day with strong, cool S. W. winds. Mr. Emerson & I drove about through the woods in the forenoon going as far W. as the beginning of the "Desert". In the afternoon we walked to the north shore where we saw an unusually fine hermit.

The woods
"Desert"
"North Shore"

The 21st was clear and just warm enough to be comfortable but the wind in exposed places was keen & piercing. I was out all the forenoon with my camera driving about through the wood lands over the same ground covered yesterday morning. Birds were numerous & singing freely the whole forenoon to that I think I must have noted at least all the common species.

A forenoon
spent alone
in the
woods.

In the afternoon Mr. Emerson accompanied me on a long & delightful drive. We followed the road along the S. Shore as far as the Desert which we crossed diagonally nearly to its western extremity returning by the north shore road and reaching the home shortly after lunch.

A long
drive about
the island
with Mr.
Emerson.

During this drive we found around the rearing plantations of brown woods by the late Mr. John Forbes. It is hopelessly rank & flourishing although many a tree of the plants are killed down to the ground every winter. A few of them were in bloom at the time of our visit.

Tree plantations
made by Mr.
John Forbes

Naushton Island, Mass.

1909

May 20, 21

(No 2)

The woods of Naushton cover rather more than half the island. They are extremely interesting as well as beautiful from the fact that they have never been cleared nor, to any extent, planned or otherwise tampered with by man. Even the fallen trees are in most cases left untouched and in places they cover the ground almost as thickly as in the Main woods. But the Deer not only keep down the undergrowth but also clip off the ends of the drooping branches as high as they can reach. The result is that when there are neither boulders nor protruding tree trunks the ^{space} ground under the trees to about the height of a man's head is absolutely clear of bushes or herbs and the surface of the ground a plain brown carpet of dead leaves undivided by vegetation of any kind. At least this would be the first impression of a casual observer but on looking closely I found everywhere countless ^{woody} shoots of spruce or suckling saplings clipped off an inch or so above the ground by the Deer and as clearly as if cut by sharp pruning shears. It is evident that if the Deer were destroyed the woods would become filled with undergrowth & saplings in the course of a few seasons. As they are at present they probably closely resemble the original forests which once covered most of Cape Cod and its neighboring islands. They can be open beneath their horseman can and do ride through them almost anywhere at full speed and when the ground was not too rocky or uneven we had little difficulty in driving about in our buggies.

The trees are of large size considering the poverty

The woods
of Naushton.

Nantuxon Island, Mass.

1900.

May 20, 21
(no 3)

of the soil which is nearly everywhere thin & sandy. The prevailing kinds of trees are beeches and oaks of various species among which I recognize only the white, red and scarlet (the leaves were not sufficiently long to be available for nice discriminations). There were also a good many hop hornbushes and in the swamps red maples and tupelos. I saw specimens of the last-named species which were fully two feet in diameter & fifty or seventy feet high. Among the smaller trees the holly, flowering dog-wood, and the smooth-barked form of the black oak were not uncommon. I saw no chestnuts and the only pines found on the island are a few hundred *Pinus rigida* which Mr. John Forbes planted on the desert forty or more years ago. The red cedar is represented by a few scattered specimens and the white cedar is said to occur in some of the swamps both species being indigenous.

Prevailing
kinds of
trees in
Nantuxon
woods.

The wooded swamps, unlike the upland forests, are so choked with underbrush and overrun with cut trees as to be practically impenetrable except by the deer who traverse them freely on all trails and find a more or less safe shelter in them during the autumn hunts. Why they do not clip off the branches & young shoots in these swamps is a mystery.

Wooded
swamps.

Throughout both upland and swampy woods but especially in the latter the trees are draped in *Usnea* which gives them a weird & ancient appearance.

Usnea

There are very many dead and hollow trees everywhere and there should be many woodpeckers but I saw only Flickers & Downys & these were in unusual numbers.

Dead &
hollow trees
abound.

Nantuxen Island, Mass.

1900.

May 20, 21
(No 4)

The entire part of the island from shore to shore Green
and Corytharia for a distance of rather more than a mile plains &
is open and rolling with practically no trees save the pines moors.
already mentioned, some Carex (also planted by Mr. Forbes)
and, in the hollows, an occasional cluster of Betula.
There are many large boulders scattered about. The soil
is very sandy and supports only a scanty growth of
wild grasses, Hudsonia, and various plants which flourish
in such barren places. There are also extensive patches
of bayberry and hackberry bushes.

At the north-eastern end of the island the grounds Cultivated
immediately about the houses have been highly areas
cultivated for many years and, ^{here} in addition to Lawsonia and various
other kinds of shrubs are found Betula, and other
species of trees not native to the island.

There are a great many small shallow ponds
scattered about through the woods and near the
houses two or three large & deep wells to contain
a good number & variety of fresh-water fishes.

I saw only one marsh and that did not extend a
down over in extent. It contained a patch of
Phragmites and the rose willow is said to
abound about its edge.

In connection with what I have said of the
trees I should have mentioned that along the
edges of the woods, especially near the shores, there
are many oaks & Betula of curiously distorted shapes.
Some have low, flat, or umbrella-shaped tops; others
spread out or extend in one direction only, close to
the ground. The wind evidently shears or presses
them down.

Ponds.

Trees kept
pruned by
the winds.

Naushon Island, Mass.

1900.

May 20, 21
(No 5)

The most numerous and characteristic birds of the old oak & bush woods are Wilson's Thrushes, Chickadees, Winter-breasted Nuthatches, Black & White Crows, House Wren, ^{Numerous} ~~Characteristic~~ Chickadee, Blue Redstarts, Oven birds, Red-eyed Vireo, Great Crested Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, and Downy Woodpecker; of the wooded swamps House Wren and Maryland Yellow-throat; of the cultivated grounds about the houses Robin, Yellow Warbler & Chipping Sparrow; of brush thickets about the cultivated grounds, along the wood edges & in hollows near the shore, Cat birds, Wilson's Thrushes, Redstarts, and Towhees; of the open downs, Grass Finch. In the patches of rank grass Wilson's Thrushes & Towhees abound. I saw nothing else there except a single Prairie Wren.

The following is a complete list of all the species that I noted during my visit: -

Complete
List of
birds noted

1. Microla nigritorix. - Very common about the houses and sparingly distributed over the greater part of the island. One was sitting on a nest built on a rafters under the eave of the house of Mr. Wm. Forbes's house. ✓
2. Ludus forficatus. - Abundant throughout the bush & oak woods as well as in brush thickets near the shore. Singing freely. ✓
3. Goloxystes arcticus. - Abundant in brush thickets near the shore & along the wood edges. ✓

1900.

May 20, 21
(No 6)

4. Harporhynchus carolin. - Only one noted, a ♂ singing in
oak scrub near the water shore on the
evening of the 21st.
5. Parus atricapillus. - Common throughout the wooded
portions of the island. All that I heard
whistling gave the ordinary phoe-be note
without the additional yellow sometimes
used by the birds on Martha's Vineyard.
6. Sitta carolinensis. - Common throughout the open woods.
The fine old oaks and beeches with their
massive trunks, untrimmed branches and
numerous cavities afford unlimited feeding
& nesting accommodations for these woodpeckers
& they are more numerous here than I
have ever found them elsewhere in Massachusetts
save perhaps on Mt. Gaylock.
7. Minutilla varia. - Abundant in the old woods where
they seemed to be killed for the season.
8. Empidonax a. usneae. - Abundant throughout the
open woods and wooded trumps where
the trees, everywhere, were thickly hung
with Usnea. I have little doubt that
the birds I saw were killed for the summer.
They would have to go far to find a
better breeding ground.

Nantuxon Island, Mass.

1900.

May 20, 21
(No 7)

9. Dendroica virens. - One heard singing on the 21st in the heart of the old oak & beech woods which do not include conifers of any kind. It is not unlikely that the bird was a migrant or it may have strayed from the pitch pine woods further to the westward.
10. " strida. - Two ♂♂ singing in the old woods. These were the only migrant-sounding warblers found during my stay.
11. " aestiva. - Abundant in the cultivated grounds & birch thickets near the houses at the N. E. end of the island but not seen elsewhere.
12. " discolor. - One singing in the brown on the evening of the 21st. In view of the remarkable abundance of this Warbler on Martha's Vineyard it should be at least common here. There are plenty of favorable places for it to breed in oak woods near the shore.
13. Geothlypis trichas. - Abundant in birch thickets. A few heard singing in the brown plantations.
14. Setophaga ruticilla. - Common throughout the wooded parts of the island.
15. Seiurus aurocapillus. - Common in the upland woods.

1900.

May 20, 21

(no 8)

16. Vireo olivaceus. - Common throughout the woods. ✓
17. Hirundo erythrogastra. - About a dozen flying about ✓
near the houses & nesting, I think, in
one of the barns.
18. Petrochelidon lunifrons. - One seen with Barn Swallows ✓
on the 20th.
19. Toxocitta borealis. - One seen near the house on ✓
the 20th.
20. Piranga erythrorosus. - An adult ♂ seen on the 20th ✓
and another heard singing the
following day, both in the open
oak & beech woods where they ought
to be numerous.
21. Carpodacus purpureus. - One in full song on the 21st ✓
at the edge of the oak & beech woods
bordering the desert & about half-a-mile
from the pitch pines.
22. Spinus tristis. - Three seen near the houses. ✓
23. Pooecetes gramineus. - Three ♂♂ heard singing, one in ✓
a pasture near the houses, the other
two on the downs of the desert.
24. Melospiza fasciata. - Very common especially near ✓
the houses & along the shore.

1900.

May 20, 21
(No 9)

25. Spizella socialis. - Common near the houses & thoroughly distributed over the "desert".
26. Passer domesticus. - About a dozen seen near the houses and a few found along the edge of the desert, a mile or more from any habitation of man.
27. Pipilo erythrophthalmus. - Literally swarming over the whole island when it is everywhere, even in the open oak & birch woods, & for the most numerous of the land birds. I have never seen it in such abundance elsewhere excepting on Martha's Vineyard.
28. Agelaius phoeniceus. - Common about the more open swamps & marshy places.
29. Luscinola z. æneus (!). A few Grackles (perhaps four or five pairs) which were apparently breeding in some Scotch (!) pines near the old Foster "mansoin" house looked to me like æneus but I was unable to examine any of them very closely.
30. Corvus americanus. - Common.
31. Cyanocitta cristata. Two heard screaming in the old woods.
32. Tyrannus tyrannus. - Three seen.

1900.

May 20, 21

(No 10)

33. Mysiozetetes similis. - Common throughout the old oak & beech woods, which are in every way admirably suited for its requirements ✓
34. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. - Very common in the open oak & beech woods. Indeed I do not think I have ever seen the bird elsewhere in such numbers excepting near Long Brook, Conn. ✓
35. Colaptes auratus. - Several heard "flouring" in the upland woods and then a few seen on the "Deer". ✓
36. Dryobates p. nortoni. - Common throughout the old woods but not so common as one might expect it to be where the conditions are so very favorable to its requirements. ✓
37. Ceryle alcyon. - One seen at the pond behind Mr. Wilbur's house. ✓
38. Colinus virginianus. - Four ♂♂ heard whistling "bb. white" and a pair of birds flushed. ✓
39. Circus hudsonius. - A fine old ♂ came close about the house several times daily beating through some Curlew hollows. He also saw a ♀ on the "Deer". ✓

1900.

May 20, 21
(No 11)

- 40. Oidemia deglandi. - An immature ♂ seen in Woods Hole ✓
on the afternoon of the 19th
- 41. Larus a. bairdii. - An immature bird flying ✓
about one a corner near the house on the 21st
- 42. Sterna hirundo. - Common all about the island. ✓
A little seen on the 20. Saw several
hundreds were collected over a school of
fish on the evening of the 21st, dozens plunging
into the water at once & the combined flock
keeping up a shrill & continuous clamor.
I often heard the cries of terns passing overhead
when I was in the heart of the woods in
the center of the island.
- 43. Sterna dougalli. - I heard the calls of several of these ✓
terns in the great flock of S. hirundo
seen on the 21st
- 44. Uria lomvia. - One seen flying over the island ✓
on the 20th

Additional species said to sometimes occur on Nantuxon is.

- Delichonx hypoleucos. - Occasionally seen in autumn - Woods & Forbs. ✓
- Sturnella magna. - Formerly numerous but practically if ✓
not absolutely exterminated by being caught
in steel traps set for Hawks on the tops
of poles. - Woods & Forbs.

1906.

May 20, 21

(No 12)

Turdus columbianus. - Mr. Emerson has seen a few.

Antrostomus vociferans. - Heard singing by Miss Maria B. Hayes during her visit in May, 1899.

Turdus caeruleus. - A single bird shot a few years ago. - W. S. Forks.

Bonasa umbellus. - Two seen in past years. - W. S. Forks.

Ardea herodias. - Common in late summer. W. S. Forks.

" viridis. - Common in summer. W. S. Forks.

In addition to the above the White-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush(?), Hermit Thrush(?), Field Sparrows, Yellow-winged Sparrows, Baltimore Oriole, Least Flycatcher, Phoebe and Hairy Woodpecker may be reasonably expected to occur.

Of the larger mammals Deer, Foxes & Skunks are found, the Deer in numbers varying, according to Wm. Wadsworth Forks, from 200 to 400. There are no Raccoons on the island. Cotton-tail "Rabbits" and Gray Squirrels are common.

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

May 22

Clear and cool with strong N.W. wind.

Left Newton early this morning and reached Cambridge shortly before noon.

On entering the garden I heard two Robins calling in shrill, anxious tones in the tall apple tree just behind the house. Suspecting that they had discovered a cat I searched the neighboring bushes & clusters of hemlocks but without finding anything. The Robins continued their clamor, however, so I got the dogs & worked them all through the garden but they showed no signs of finding any ground scent. After dinner it occurred to me that there might be an Owl in the apple tree so I scanned it branch by branch with the greatest care. At length my eye was arrested by a lump on the upper side of a stone limb & putting the glass on it I at once saw that it was a ♀ Whippoorwill, crouched lengthwise with the branch and holding up her head in a rather unusual way. I exposed two feathers on her with sufficiently good results to show her attitude & the elevation of the head just mentioned. She remained on the branch during the afternoon & the Robins continued to expostulate at her presence there. No doubt, being unsophisticated city birds, they really took her for an Owl. I doubt if a country Robin would make the same mistake.

A
Whippoorwill
in the
Garden.

North Scituate, Mass.

1900.
May 23

Clear, rather hazy, warmer but with chill E. wind.

I came here late yesterday afternoon and spent the night at the Charlton's. The object of this visit was to see and photograph a Brown Creeper's nest which Arthur Charlton found in the big cedar swamp a week or so ago. It was built not under a scale of bark, as is usually the case, but in the main trunk of a tall white cedar which had been blown partly over and split lengthwise for several feet above the ground. My pictures will show the character of the opening better than I can describe it. I spent upwards of two hours in talking. Then and got two or three small but clear impressions of the ♀ Creeper clinging to the trunk near the nest which contained four young two or three days old. The ♀ present visited them with food every two or or three minutes slipping into the cleft a foot or two above the nest & then descending to it head first. She obtained the food in the usual way by running up the trunk of the tree & peeling out louse or gnats of some kind with her slender bill. All the morsels that she brought were small & were held in the tips of her mandibles. Usually she went not more than 20 yards away in her quest for food. The ♂ came with her to the nest several times & once brought food but after holding it in his bill for several minutes finally dropped it. He sang only twice in my hearing. The nest was about 5 feet above the ground. The tree stood on the edge of a small clearing.

Nest of
Brown
Creeper

North Scituate, Mass.

1900.

May 23
(no 2)

While driving from the Station last evening we saw a pair of Quail coming about in a ploughed field just over a wall from the road. I have seldom had such a good view of these birds. They were feeding and moved about rather slowly, very like Chukkers, picking up small objects perhaps seeds - or larvae - or bits of gravel. Another Quail was whistling on the edge of the hump this evening.

Quail
Feeding.

Wood Thrushes are very numerous in the woods on the Chubbons' farm. They were singing in every direction last evening & again this evening.

Wood
Thrushes.

There was a Great Crested Flycatcher in the apple orchard behind the house.

Great
Flycatcher.

In the cedar hump I heard a Canadian Warbler & a Black-throated Blue, there being the only warblers I have noted although Chubbons says that there was a honey bird over passing earlier in the week when he saw a Bay-breasted Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow etc.

I returned to Cambridge late this afternoon

Cambridge, Mass.

1900.

May 24, 25 The 24th was cloudy, the 25th fair but very hazy.
A chill E. wind was blowing on both days.

I was walking in the garden during the greater part of both days and on both days in addition to the regular resident house sparrow the following North-bound birds; a Gray-chested Thrush, a Swainson's Thrush, a pair of Canadian Warblers, a pair of Maryland Yellow-throats, an Oven-bird and a Water Thrush. The Gray-chested Thrush and the Swainson's both sang a little at evening on the 25th.

Alice's
Swainson's
Thrushes sing.

Concord, Mass.

Balls Hill

1900.

May 26

Fair the sun shining dimly at intervals but most of the time hidden behind thin clouds. Cool with light E. wind. Ther. 36°-48°.

After a weeks absence from Concord I returned to the cabin this morning by the 8.34 train. Found Water Thrushes, Canadian Warblers and Black-poll Warblers in great numbers along the river front of Balls Hill. There were also a few Wilson's Black-cops, a single Black & Yellow Warbler and two Trails' Flycatchers. All the other northern migrants had apparently departed. The only Sparrows that I could find were a pair of Song Sparrows.

North bound
migrants
abundant.

Alder
Flycatcher.

Visited the farm in the forenoon. A Wood Thrush was calling near the barn and two Golden-winged Warblers singing within hearing of the house. There were a few Black-pollers in the orchard & the usual assortment of common house birds. The Great Crested Flycatcher was present & as noisy as usual. The men told me that a "Hawk Hawk" stooped at a Pigeon that was sitting on the edge of the door cotch the other day. The Hawk was probably a Cooper's although the men insist that it was a very large bird. The Phoebe were on the house and I taking on the water under the covers.

Birds noted
at
"the farm".

Crested Flycatcher

Hawk stoops
at a Pigeon.

Phoebe &
nest.

Later in the afternoon I saw a large Gray chubbed Thrush & an Olive back near the cabin. Another Olive-back was calling at evening. At sundown a flock of 12 Nighthawks passed over Balls Hill flying northward but lingering over the swamp to hunt for insects. As twilight was falling a Snipe descended thence nearly over the cabin.

Alice's Thrush
Swarzenis "

Nighthawks
migrating
at sundown.

Snipe
droning

1900.
May 27

Concord, Mass.

Balls Hill

Clear & warm; nearly dead calm all day. Ther. 41° - 77°.

Off with the camera directly after breakfast. First visited and photographed a Partridge's nest containing 9 eggs. It is on the western edge of the swamp behind Balls Hill at the foot of a steep slope covered with cotton-tail oaks. The nest is composed of and lined with oak leaves. It is very deeply hollowed and is placed on the foot of a sapling near the stem of a large oak. A few leafy maple twigs hang over & partly conceal it. I was struck by the close resemblance between the color of the eggs & that of the bleached oak leaves in & about the nest. The bird was absent at 8 a.m. but when I visited the nest at 1 P.M. she was sitting. She allowed me to approach within about 5 feet and then took up then a few quick steps ran & flew out of sight. Gilbert found this nest May 11th when it contained its full complement of 9 eggs. The eggs were not covered when I made my first visit this morning although the bird must have been away getting her breakfast.

Partridge's
nest with
9 eggs.

I was in the Balls & Davis's Hill woods practically the whole forenoon. At least on half of the western wingwants which were here yesterday had departed this morning. I saw a Kill's Flycatcher which was calling high at the E. end of Balls Hill and heard another going the song (gaw-wah-ly) at those intervals & with great vigor in the thickets which border the meadow at the S. end of Davis's Hill. On the latter hill a Canada Nuthatch Canada was whirring and a Black-burnian Warbler Warbler was singing. I heard Nuthatch. a heard Black-burnian in Balls Hill swamp.

Alder Fly-
Catcher.

Combed the cone at evening but found nothing of interest on the W. Bedford Hill.

1900.
May 28

Concord, Mass.

Balls Hill.

Cloudy & cool with chill E. wind; clearing at sunset.

There were few birds in the Balls Hill woods to-day save
near the river at the S.W. end of the hill where 6 or 8 Hairy Woodpeckers,
at least 25 Black-poll Woodpeckers (the majority ♀♀), about half-a-dozen
Common Woodpeckers, 2 Red-bellied Flycatchers, a Least Flycatcher, 2 Wood
Peewees, a Swainson's Thrush, a Black & Yellow Warbler and several
Redstarts, Black & White Creepers & Ovenbirds spent the entire
day searching for food low down in bushes & among the slender
oaks. At evening Wilson's Thrushes were singing freely in every
direction for the first time this season. There was also general
& spirited singing on the part of Towhees, Grackles, Ovenbirds
& many others of the common summer residents of this area. At
least 5 Carolina Wrens were calling er-er on the Great Meadows
their voices blending with those of Hopewoods & making a
continuous volume of sound.

Birds noted
at Balls Hill.

Alder Flycatcher

Wilson's Thrushes
begin singing

Carolina
Wrens

Visiting the farm this morning I traversed the woods
from the road through to Reserve Rock and when the red pines
grow. Birds were very numerous but there was little singing.

Birds at
"The Farm"

Near the Rock, however, in the dense pines along the path
to Bright Field I heard a ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler in full
song & while searching the two tops he had seen a ♀ of
the same species. In the same part of the woods a Black &
Yellow Warbler was singing lustily & in frequency.

Bay-breast W.

Three Golden-winged Woodpeckers were singing, one in the orchard,
another in the hemlock near the red pines, the third
west of the road opposite the house. The Great Crested
Flycatcher was calling in the orchard near the house
when I also heard a Purple Finch, a Chaffinch, Least Flycatcher &
Black-poll Woodpecker can be heard about everywhere.

Golden-winged W.

Black-poll

Concord, Mass.

"The farm"
A hen
Partridge
with young.

1900.

May 28

(No. 2.)

The most interesting affair of the day was meeting ^{4500 yds.} with a hen Partridge accompanied by her brood of 10 young ^{about} a Partridge with young. I came upon her suddenly among thin birch at the foot of the lane on the farm. She was within ten feet of me, flew slowly about ten yards, dropped on the ground & by frantically beating her wings feebly but incessantly making all the while a plaintive, shrill e-e-e-eeee, e-e-e-eeee - a sort of hissing whine. Knowing that she must have young I scanned the spot from which she had risen with the utmost care. At first I could see nothing but thin intermed grass & scattered birch leaves. Then by degrees I made out ten young standing (were squatting) perfectly motionless in thin clusters or bunches a foot or so apart. No sooner had I done this than they, evidently recognizing the fact that they were discovered, started off in every direction running very swiftly & peeping feebly like young chickens. Most of them stopped & squatted suddenly under leaves or tufts of grass after going a rod or two but one kept on until he came to a stone wall into which he plunged headlong. I kept on one a knoll & sat down. In less than a minute after I had done this the hen Partridge ceased whining and with firm rapid steps walked directly to the spot where I had first flushed her. The next minute she began calling ank, ank, ank almost exactly like a White-bellied Nuthatch. Almost immediately the young appeared from their hiding places and scudded in silence to their anxious mother. It was a pretty sight to see them rejoice her so quietly & confidently, but unfortunately I could not see just what they or she did when they reached her as a bush intervened.

She ceased calling in less than two minutes after she began. A minute later I went to the spot but the whole family had disappeared.

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 29

A perfect day, cloudless with almost no wind. Day cold but night. The farmers in land report ice & the probable loss of the Strawberry crop. Ther. at cabin 35°-73°.

Ball's Hill

Weather.

I was in the woods on and about Ball's Hill most of the forenoon and in the afternoon visited Davis's Hill. Apparently all the birds which were here yesterday arrived one and an immense number arrived from the South during the night. At least the woods were swarming with birds to-day throughout the Ball's & Davis's Hill region. Most of the unmistakable northern migrants were Black-bills, Canadian Hawks and Water Thrushes. I saw at least fifty individuals of each of the first two, the majority being females. There were two large Gray-checked Thrushes and an Olive-back at Ball's Hill. Travel's Flycatchers were scattered about along the river front & across the river on the West Bedford shore. I could not count them accurately as they were continually shifting from place to place but there were certainly three or four. I wonder if the reason why they are such late migrants is that they do not like to move westward until the thickets are in nearly full leaf. Their shyness and love of concealment would suggest such an inference. I did not succeed in catching sight of one to-day although I tried repeatedly to follow up the peep call which was so constantly in my ears.

North-bound
Warblers,
Thrushes etc
arrive from
the South in
extraordinary
numbers &
variety.

Shortly after breakfast I started a beautiful adult & Mourning Warbler directly in front of the cabin. An hour later I saw him half way to the boat and in the afternoon the Misses White & I found him in the swampy thicket E. of the cabin. He was silent, sluggish & very tame allowing an approach to within three or four

Mourning
Warbler.

Concord, Mass.

Balls Hill.

1900.

May 29
(Sat)

yards. He spent most of his time on the ground pecking over the soggy dead leaves near the edge of the wire but once he mounted into some alders and flitted from twig to twig jumping up after insects which were clinging to the under side of the leaves above him.

As I have already said I saw during the day at least 50 Canadian Warblers a number wholly unprecedented in my previous experience. They were simply everywhere in the greatest abundance of course in the woods and dense thickets near the river but by no means uncommon on the sides & even tops of the hills where I noticed several feeding high up in oaks & pines in company with the equally numerous Black-bills. It is easy to recognize the Canadian Warbler at a distance or in a poor light by his abrupt, jilly movements & especially by the frequent, nervous, upraised wickets of his long tail.

The Water Thrushes were also scattered about everywhere on the sides & tops of the hills in the degree possible in the present situation. That this was due not to individual choice but to the overabundance of the swampy thickets was evident for I repeatedly saw birds fly from the side of Balls Hill into the thickets along the river & the next instant return hotly pursued by another Water Thrush whose haunts they had invaded. In other words each bird in the river thickets evidently monopolized & stoutly defended a certain portion of those especially choice feeding grounds. One or two Water Thrushes were singing near the cabin in the early morning but they have been more silent this spring than is usually the case.

Canadian
Warblers.
in
unprecedented
numbers

Water Thrushes
in dry
woods on
tops & sides
of hills.

Concord, Mass.

Balls Hill.

1900
May 29
(no 3)

A Nashville Warbler has been singing persistently on Balls Hill for the past week or more & I have suspected that he must be breeding here. This afternoon C. stumbled on the nest which to my surprise was near the middle of the large opening between the Hill & the swamp at least fifteen yards from the nearest tree or bush but admirably concealed in the middle of a tusock of Andropogon grass which was drawn over the nest in such a way as to perfectly conceal it from above as well as from their sides. On the fourth side there was a short archway tunnel or passage by which the bird entered & left the nest. She did not flush until C. stopped within about two feet of her. The nest contained 5 eggs which looked perfectly fresh. (The above was written from memory; visiting the nest next day I found close above it a few straggling *Spizella socialis* & a few.)

✓
nest of
Nashville
Warbler.

As I was sitting in the woods behind the wood shed this afternoon I saw a ♀ Tanager making frequent trips to & from her nest carrying to it full bills of fine dry grass which she obtained in the neighboring field. The mate, a high-colored bird, did nothing to help her save by hanging close about the nest & finally attacking every bird that happened to approach it. His onslaughts on a Chickadee who attempted to visit a few times in the nest tree were most energetic & to murderous - leaving that I half expected to see the innocent little offender overhauled & slain.

Tanager ♀!
"T work
on her nest.

Robovets are building everywhere about us now.
We have found them nests within fifty yards of the cabin.

1900

May 26-29

Wellesley Hills & Wayland, Mass.

BOSTON EVENING TRANSCRIPT, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1900

THE CLERK OF THE WOODS

By the last week of May the grand procession of migratory birds (and a wonderful, imagination-stirring procession it is, if one stops to consider it) has mostly gone by; but even then every day may be trusted to furnish some agreeable excitement to a man who keeps his eyes open. This year, for example, I returned from New Hampshire on the 25th, and woke the next morning to find Canadian warblers singing under my windows. They had been numerous among the mountains for several days before I came away, but here was another detachment of the host still making the journey.

I went out as soon as possible to see them, but was barely on the piazza before the brief, cool song of a mourning warbler, out of a clump of gray birches opposite the steps, made me oblivious to everything beside. This was a voice I had listened for in vain in New Hampshire, where I had rather confidently counted upon bearing it. After allowing the bird to repeat the strain a few times (with experience one grows thrifty in such matters) I stole forward, hoping to see him, for on all accounts he is well worth looking at; and I did see him, but only in flight. Before I had settled upon his exact whereabouts he took wing, and though I hastened in pursuit I failed to find him.

Perhaps I should have found him, for he was not likely to go far, but just then, from a bit of roadside thicket which I have before mentioned as a birdy spot, a water thrush announced himself, and I turned my steps in that direction. Here were not only the water thrush, sleek and shiny as ever, and two or three Canadians, but a second mourning warbler. This one, fortunately, I approached without starting, and examined him at my pleasure. Crape was as becoming to him, I thought, as it ever was to a young widow; and then I pleased myself by remembering that two mourning warblers in one day were twice as many as I had ever seen before in Massachusetts, even in the course of a whole migration. The species is really pretty rare with us in spring, and is never seen in autumn,—at all events I have never seen it at that season. With its congener, the Connecticut warbler, these conditions are curiously reversed. I almost always see a few specimens in the fall, but have never met with one in the spring. If I had been left to draw my own conclusions, I fear I should have assumed that the birds—which closely resemble each other—were all of one species, such differences as there were being chargeable to difference of season.

Before night it appeared that olive-backed thrushes, also, were still passing. One sang to me, and showed himself, on my way home from the railway station at noon. And he sang quite as well as his mates had been doing in New Hampshire. The hermit's music is better, no doubt; but what a loss it would be if instead of two species we had only one; if all the olive-backs were converted into hermits. Variety with a measure of inferiority is better than monotonous perfection. Canadian warblers were more abundant, I thought, than I had ever seen them before, except, perhaps, at Highlands, North Carolina, where miles on miles of rhododendron and laurel thickets along all the mountain streams make a covert exactly to their liking.

The next day the story was the same: Canada warblers all about me, olive-backed thrushes whistling and singing, a Wilson's blackcap putting himself out of breath, as usual, and a single mourning warbler feeding in a low, swampy tangle down into which I looked from the highway—one of the two birds of the day before, for aught I could tell. The same or another, I was glad enough to see him. Before this, however, I had passed three mourning doves, birds that I had never happened to see before in this township. Two hours later they were still in the same grove, and there I heard one of them cooing softly in the afternoon. It was Sunday, and I remembered the scripture text, "The voice of the turtle is heard in the land." I should love to hear it oftener. The place was not one for doves to summer in, however, and I have seen nothing of them since.

Tuesday, the 29th, I paid a forenoon visit to Wayland. After the mountains I wished to see those broad river meadows. And gloriously beautiful they were, the sunshine streaming into them, and the bobolinks rising out of them on rapid-beating wings, to express at once their own felicity and mine. They could not sing fast enough nor long enough. After every pause they must begin again. Few birds are so carried away with lyrical ecstasy. Kingbirds are little behind them, perhaps; but the kingbird has no singing voice, and can utter his madness only in formless twitters and crazy aerial antics.

As I crossed the river, walking between rows of freshly green willows, I found Canada warblers, Northern water thrushes and whispering blackpolls still keeping me company. From a luxuriant growth of tall reeds, close by the water's edge, came the brief, lively gurgle of long-billed marsh wrens; and once in a while the birds threw themselves a few feet into the air, sang their little tune all in a breath, and dropped again out of sight. It is a pretty home they live in. They ought to be happy. Their neighbors, the short-bills, seemed not to have come. I stopped in the old places to listen for them, putting my hands behind my ears, but could bear nothing.

Many cliff swallows were gathering clay for their nests, holding their wings upright over their backs with a tremulous, shivering motion, to keep them out of the mud—one of the prettiest sights imaginable. Kingbirds were chasing crows across the meadows—half for the fun and I guessed—cuckoos of both kinds were most uncommonly numerous, and alder flycatchers—Northern birds which I too seldom see in this latitude—were calling quay-quer in several places. (They arrived—or began to call—at Mooslaunke on the 24th.)

The weather was of the finest, and the grass of the greenest. There had been a severe frost the night before, but, as a farmer said when I asked him about it, it had probably done no great damage, because there had been so many frosts of late that there was nothing left for this one to kill. The face of nature had not been scarred, at all events. It was never more radiant. Thoreau himself, when he used to pull his boat up this river, never saw the world about him more beautiful.

I wonder whether he sometimes left his boat against the bank, and walked up and down the village street; and, if he did,

whether he used to notice, as I always do, a certain bright window garden in one of the older houses. I dare say house and garden were both there in his time. Yesterday the lady was tending the plants as I went by, and I took only such a glance as a man may take without rudeness; but in that one look I saw a thing that pleased me—a very handsome specimen of a very old-fashioned flower, a calceolaria. "Carpet-bag flower," I used to hear it called in the old days. I was much esteemed then, but seems to have gone largely out of vogue of recent years. Strange how fashion alters about plants as about everything else.

This Wayland specimen carried me back to another window garden, which I used to enjoy from the inside, and felt proud to see passers-by stopping to admire. If I seemed to do something very like that yesterday, the good lady pardoned me. I am sure; and if by any chance she should read this paragraph, I trust her to take it kindly. It is a wise provision of Providence that house plants must be set in the window for the sake of the sun, and being there, they are of necessity visible to all who are wise enough to look up as they pass.

The horse-chestnut trees are just now celebrating their annual festa, such as it is, with all their candles lighted. Pretty stiff, some people call them, a littis dis-

dainfully; but for my own part I still say, let us be thankful for variety. The elm may be more graceful than the horse-chestnut, but I vote for both.

BRADFORD TORREY

Concord, Mass.

Balls Hill

1900

May 30

Clear in A.M., cloudy in later P.M. Strong S.W. wind.
Ther. 48° - 78°.

The only northern bird singing near the cabin in the early morning was a Black-poll Warbler; but immediately after breakfast the ♂ Mourning Warbler which was here yesterday appeared again in front of our door and on taking a walk along the river path to the bars and back around the E. end of the Hill I saw or heard 3 or 4 Water Thrushes, about a dozen Black-polls, 9 or 10 Canadian Warblers, a ♂ & ♀ Wilson's Black-cap, and 2 Trill's Flycatchers (one in full song).

Mourning W.

Alder Flycatcher

Another and longer walk (taken in the early afternoon to Davis's Hill and over Pine Ridge) added nothing of interest to the above list, indeed it only served to further establish the fact that most of the northern migrants which were here yesterday continued on their way last night & that no additional birds came from the South to replace them. It is evident that the migration is fast drawing to a close. It has been in several respects the most remarkable spring movement that I have ever witnessed. In the first place it has been practically continuous from May to yesterday, there having been during this period no days when the country was not alive with birds. Their numbers on the best days have been briefly unparelleled & have attracted general attention & comment on the part of persons not ordinarily attentive to such matters. This unusual abundance has not been characteristic of a few species only but has been very general at least among the birds which breed further northward and especially among the northern-breeding Warblers. Almost the only exception to this which I can think of is in the case of the Solitary Tanager of which I have noted only one

Most of the north-bound migrants pass on. Migration nearly over. It is remarkably heavy and protracted bird wave or succession of waves.

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 30
(No 2)

individual.

Another marked feature of this remarkable flight has been the extreme boldness and tameness of many of its members. Birds ordinarily to be found only in deep woods have been seen in numbers in the towns & villages close about houses & on several occasions their utter forebodings has been very striking.

Still another noteworthy fact has been the length of time which individual birds have remained on or near one spot as, for example, in front of the cabin here or in the Garden at Cambridge.

In the afternoon I visited and photographed an Nashville Warbler's nest found by C. yesterday. It is near the edge of the woods than I recalled when writing about it in this journal last evening but nevertheless it is essentially well out in a practically clear opening where the ground is covered with tufts of short, withered grass (*Aristida*). The ♀ was absent when I first approached it this afternoon but half-an-hour later I found her sitting. She slipped off when I was about 6 ft. away and flew directly into the woods where she chirped a little during the remainder of the time that I spent near the nest.

Balls Hill

Remarkable
flight of
Warblers.

They linger
unusually
long

Nest of
Nashville
Warbler.

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 31

Cloudless with light W. to S.W. winds. Oppressively warm in the afternoon. Ther. 60°-83°/78° at 7.30 P.M.)

Balls Hill.

My observations to-day showed very conclusively that nearly all the northern banded migrants which were here yesterday left during the night and that no fresh arrivals came up from the South. Along the river front of Balls Hill I found the adult ♂ Evening Warbler, 2 or 3 Water Thrushes, and 2 large Gray-cheked Thrushes; Behind the Hill a Black-hell Warbler singing, the only one met with during the day. The Canadian Warblers had wholly departed and I could find no Wilson's Black caps.

North-bound migrants nearly all gone.
Morning W.
Alice's Thrushes

In the Bassett woods, which I visited at about 8 a.m., the only northern species noted were a Bay-breasted and a Black-burnian Warbler which were in full song not far from Purple Rock. As the Black-burnian usually breeds in these woods the one just mentioned was very likely settled for the summer. I not only heard but saw the Bay-breast, a fine old male.

Bay breast W.

In a cluster of raspberry bushes near the barn at the Bassett farm I found an Indigo Bird's nest with 2 eggs. The ♀ came into a tree near by & chirped at me & the ♂ sang a few times in the distance. All our local birds were singing freely from 7 to 9 a.m. and again towards evening. I heard 2 Brown Thrushes & 2 Field Sparrows in the morning.

Indigo Birds' nest at Farm.

Previous to this afternoon I have heard only one Bittern for two weeks or more. None from 4 P.M. to sunset to-day there were two, one in the usual place up river, the other nearly opposite the Cabin.

Bitterns humming

Concord, Mass.

1900.

May 31
(No 2)

Visiting the Nashville Warbler's nest at 5 P. M.
I found her sitting. She permitted me to set up the camera within about 4 ft., put the focusing cloth over it, and made one exposure at the end of which she dashed off into the woods flying directly from the nest. After she had gone I found a Gaster snake of about a foot in length lying in front of the nest within six inches of the entrance. The bird must have actually brushed him with her wings as she started to fly. He was too small to have injured her but he may have had designs on the eggs. The ♂ Nashville sings all day long on the crest & upper slopes of Ball's Hill but I never see or hear him nearer the nest than about 100 yards.

Ball's Hill.
Nest of
Nashville
Warbler.

The warm weather of yesterday & to-day has brought out multitudes of dragon flies & a few mosquitoes. Green Frogs are thronging to night for the first time and the squawking summer cry of the Garden Lizards is incessant & almost deafening. Bull Frogs have been thronging for a week or more when the days have been warm

Dragon flies
Mosquitoes.
Green Frogs
Lizards

Bull Frogs



Journ
1800
Jan