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# The Journal

of the

## Maine Ornithological Society

MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Bird Protection, Bird Study,  
The Spread of the Knowledge thus  
Gained, These Are Our Objects.

Editor, W. H. BROWNSON, Portland

Associate Editor, LOUIS E. LEGGE, Portland

Published by the Society at 97 1-2 Exchange Street, Portland, Maine

**JOURNAL**  
OF THE  
**Maine Ornithological Society.**

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MAINE ORNITHOLOGISTS

Issued every quarter on the first of March, June, September and December of each year.

**Publication Office: 97 1-2 Exchange St., Portland, Maine.**

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Portland.

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The Maine Ornithological Society comprises in its membership the leading ornithologists and bird students of Maine. The membership is constantly increasing and the interest in the society was never greater than now. If you are interested in birds and wish to know more about them you should by all means send in your name for membership in this society. The dues are one dollar a year, and payment of this sum entitles each person elected to membership to the JOURNAL free of charge. Application for membership should be made to the Secretary, Mr. Dana W. Sweet, Phillips, Maine. Mr. Sweet is also the treasurer and the annual dues should be paid to him. All persons, both young and old, are eligible to membership. It is not necessary for one to be versed in bird lore in order to insure his election to this society. The larger the membership the more can be done in the way of improving the JOURNAL and increasing its size. Send in your name without further delay. The society will be glad to welcome you to its meetings, which are held once a year in different cities. The officers of the society are as follows:

*President,* Dr. H. H. BROCK, Portland.

*Vice President,* J. MERTON SWAIN, Farmington.

*Secretary and Treasurer,* DANA W. SWEET, Phillips.

*Councillors,* WALTER H. RICH, Portland; Dr. WILLIAM C. KENDALL, Freeport.

*Editor,* W. H. BROWNSON, Portland.

*Associate Editor,* LOUIS E. LEGGE, Portland.







HENRY H. BROCK, M. D.  
PRESIDENT MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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### Proceedings of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society.

By J. MERTON SWAIN, *Secretary.*

The thirteenth annual meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society convened at Portland, Nov. 27th and 28th, 1908. A business meeting was called to order in the lecture room of the Portland Society of Natural History, at 2.30 P. M.

Ex-President, Prof. Ora W. Knight, called the meeting to order, and called for the choice of a temporary chairman.

On motion of Mr. A. H. Norton, Mr. Wm. H. Brownson was chosen.

Mr. Arthur H. Norton was chosen to act as temporary Secretary.

The election of new members was then taken up.

On nomination of Mrs. McLellan, Mrs. Adelaide Paine was elected.

On nomination of Miss Helen Lewis, Mrs. Alice Libby Grover was elected to membership in the society.

The appointment of the several committees was next taken up, and the chairman appointed:

NOMINATION COMMITTEE:—Mr. Norton, Prof. Knight, Mrs. Fred P. Abbott.

RESOLUTIONS:—Prof. Knight, Mrs. Brewer and Miss Dutton.

AUDITING COMMITTEE:—Mrs. A. E. Marks, Miss Helen S. Lewis.

The Editor, Mr. Brownson, then read his annual report, which was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

Mr. Brownson, chairman of the bird census, called attention to the annual Christmas bird census, requesting the co-operation of the members present.

The scientific program was then taken up.

The first paper was by Mrs. Ernest E. Brewer, "Observations on a Carolina Wren, at Falmouth, Me.," followed by remarks by W. H. Brownson.

Mr. Brownson then read a paper, "A White Robin from Grand Manan, N. B."

Prof. Ora W. Knight, of Bangor, then gave a very interesting paper entitled, "A Trip up the West Branch."

In the absence of Mr. Leroy Melville Tufts, Mr. A. H. Norton read his paper, "A November Night's Dream of a Nature Lover," followed by a record by Mr. Tufts, entitled, "A Barrel of Turkey Talk."

Some remarks on "Tagging of Live Birds," were made by Prof. Knight.

The meeting was then adjourned to 10.00 A. M., Saturday.

#### FRIDAY EVENING SESSION.

The Friday evening public meeting was held in the lecture rooms and was called to order by Mr. W. H. Brownson.

The speakers of the evening were: Mr. W. H. Brownson, who gave a very interesting lecture, "A Trip to Grand Manan," which was illustrated profusely with many beautiful lantern slides, and Dr. Wm. C. Kendall, whose "Observations on the Loons of Sebago Lake, Me." were illustrated by a series of slides, showing their life history. The speakers were listened to by a good-sized audience.

## SATURDAY FORENOON SESSION.

The meeting was called to order by Prof. Ora W. Knight, at 10.00 A. M. The records of the Friday session were read and approved. There were about twenty members present.

The following persons were elected to membership:

On nomination of Mrs. Abbott; Mrs. Gertrude Hanson, of Kennebunkport.

On nomination of J. M. Swain; Mr. Wm. B. Adie, of Portland, Mr. Philip Lawrence Buttrick, of Grant Farm, and Miss Alice L. Pendleton, of Islesboro.

Mr. Norton, chairman of the Nominating Committee, then made the following nominations:

For President, H. H. Brock, M. D., Portland; Vice-President, John Merton Swain, Farmington; Secretary and Treasurer, Dana W. Sweet, Phillips; Editor, W. H. Brownson, Portland; Associate Editor, Louis E. Legge, Portland; Councillor, Dr. Wm. C. Kendall, Freeport; Councillor, Walter H. Rich, Portland.

On motion of Mr. Ellis, voted that the Secretary should be instructed to cast the ballot for the society.

The ballot was cast and the above persons were declared elected for 1909.

O. W. Knight, chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, made the following report:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Maine Ornithological Society be given to the Portland Society of Natural History for their kindness in providing a place for our meeting; to W. H. Ross & Son for their kindness in loaning a phonograph for reproducing Mr. Tufts' speech to the members; to the M. C. R. R. for granting us a reduced fare to Portland.

This report was accepted and adopted and instructions given that it be spread on the records, and a copy sent to parties mentioned.

Prof. Knight then appointed the following committee to prepare a memoir on our late dearly beloved President, Prof. Leslie Alexander Lee: Arthur H. Norton, W. H. Brownson and Prof. Wm. T. Foster.

On motion of Mr. Norton, it was voted to appoint a committee to prepare a program for the next meeting. The following committee were elected from the floor: A. H. Norton, Mrs. Fred P. Abbott, Prof. Knight. Suggestions were then made as to place of our next annual meeting and referred to the council for final appointment.

Mr. Hiram Ellis here gave an interesting talk on "Observations on the Buzzards and other Notes."

Miss Sara C. Eastman then read a most interesting paper, "Bird Notes for October and November, 1908."

Mr. Brownson then asked again for the co-operation of all the members to assist in the coming Christmas bird census.

The balance of the forenoon was very profitably occupied in a general talk and discussions on various phases of bird life.

On motion of Mr. Norton, voted to adjourn *sine die*.

## The Carolina Wren.

By MRS. E. E. BREWER, Portland.

(Read at annual meeting of Maine Ornithological Society, Nov. 27, 1908.)

I have very kindly been asked to give you the details of my observations, which led to the taking of a Carolina Wren by Mr. Arthur H. Norton, at Underwood Spring, Falmouth\* Foreside, Me., on Oct. 3, 1908. Although fully realizing that the most of you are undoubtedly more experienced than I in the study of our birds, yet it gives me pleasure, if it can be of interest or profit to any, to tell you of this interesting little bird I was fortunate in becoming acquainted with during the summer days.

We were living at Town Landing, Falmouth, which you all know is but a short distance from Underwood Spring. The whole vicinity is ideal for birds, the surroundings offering most favorable conditions, not only for passing migrants to rest on their way north and south, but for great numbers of our summer residents to locate and remain through the breeding season.

\*Cf. Auk, XXVI, p. 82.

During the summer, I had become familiar with several new species of birds (new to me, at least), and I had constantly listened to more bird songs, and been able to place them, than I had expected ever to hear. Perhaps, for that reason, I may have been more alert to quickly note a new song, or the unfamiliar appearance of a bird. However that may be, we all know August to be rather a quiet month with our song birds, and, as a rule, not many new varieties are looked for, or noted. But in the early morning of August 18th, while about my accustomed duties, I occasionally heard at a little distance a decidedly new note. I listened and listened, but could not seem to place it. It was a song entirely unfamiliar.

Later in the forenoon, while watching some young Robins on the piazza of one of my neighbors, who is also interested in birds, I suddenly noticed a clear brown bird alight on the piazza rail, then dive into a thick vine that grew over a trellis at the back door. I exclaimed: "Did you see that brown bird? That was no Sparrow; it had the manners of a Wren, a decidedly heavy white line over the eye, no wing bars or other strong markings, a whitish throat, light breast washed with buffy. Certainly it was not a Winter Wren—too large and different—but I feel sure it was some kind of a Wren!"

Thus I hastily noted a few characteristics. In a moment it flew a short distance to a thick tangle of bushes and small trees, and upon alighting called out in a wonderfully clear voice the same variation of song I had heard during the early morning, as had also my neighbor. Of course we then knew to whom that exquisite note belonged.

I was quite excited, and hastened home for my glass, but before I could again reach the bird he had gone on toward Underwood, still calling out the same ringing variation of his song, which to my ear was exactly one form described by Hoffman as "Twip-pity, twip-pity," always given twice or four times, and, as I later learned, upon alighting in a new spot. Although I followed him, I was unable with my glass to get another glimpse of him, and returned

home rather crestfallen. I had seen and heard just enough to be tantalizing, but concluded that in all probability it was the last of my new bird. However, I immediately began to look it up, and to wish a more experienced eye than mine could have seen it. Whatever authority I consulted, no description seemed to fit the bird but that of the Carolina Wren, yet all remarked it to be rare and very uncommon in Maine.

For two succeeding mornings, to my surprise, at about the same hour of the day, and in the same locality, I heard the rich voice, but each time it moved toward Underwood without being seen. On several occasions, about the middle of September, its song was heard, but nothing more was known of the bird till September 22nd. On that day, Town Landing and Underwood were thronged with innumerable birds. I have never seen a greater number together. There were hosts of Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Sparrows of several species, Thrushes, Flycatchers, Warblers, Vireos, Finches, Nuthatches, Kinglets, Brown Creepers, Woodpeckers, Chickadees and others, all, apparently, on the verge of insanity. Certainly, to say the least, I have never seen a more active or social company. My cottage was surrounded by this band of migrants, many attracted, undoubtedly, by two fruit-laden, black cherry trees. As I took my glass and quietly stepped to the door to watch them, the first to greet my eyes was my Carolina Wren, not three feet from me, all by himself for a few seconds. He was inquisitively inspecting my steps, bobbing about and gesticulating wildly with his expressive tail, and though every movement was like a flash, yet he remained quiet long enough to give me a great opportunity to note his every marking very distinctly without my glass. I felt as sure as it is possible for an amateur to feel when discovering something new, that I had correctly named my bird. There was its size, the bill, the clear, rich brown upper parts, with wings and tail finely barred with a little black, the long, heavy white line over the eye, its whitish, full throat, breast washed with buffy brown, and the unmistakable wren-like movements of the tail. All answered exactly to its description. He had a very smooth sort of a *peurring*



alarm note, reminding one of a tree-toad. This he sounded frequently and gave also that day another variation of song in a loud, clear whistle. It is said the song of this Wren can be heard a quarter of a mile, and I do not doubt it.

After leaving my steps, he joined the mixed company, remaining near by the house for some time, apparently enjoying the excitement as much as any, yet always intent upon his own affairs. In such a motley array of birds, with many similar in size and color, one would perhaps have thought it impossible to follow him with the glass, yet I could do so, his movements being unlike all others. As this band of migrants roamed about from trees to bushes and tangles, and back to trees again, this little fellow followed on, and finally, as usual, all wandered back to Underwood, the favorite resting place at night.

The following ten days he remained with this company of birds. In the meantime, however, some of the Flycatchers, many Warblers and others disappeared from the ranks, and Siskins and Juncos joined them. Each day they seemed to travel over about the same route. It apparently ranged from near our cottages at the Landing, along the shore to the northern line of Underwood, around and through to the western borders, back to Casco Terrace and Town Landing. I never saw the Wren outside those boundaries, however favorable seemed the locations beyond. Mornings it was with its companions around our cottages and the bushes along the shore, from noon till night at Underwood and Casco Terrace.

This Wren was certainly one of the most attractive birds I have yet known. At every glimpse I noted and enjoyed his many characteristics as keenly as at first. Not so brilliant in colors as some, but always good to look at in his rich, modest coat of brown, yet I think much of the fascination lay in his alert, saucy manners, and his inspiring voice; his way of suddenly appearing before one when least expected, and in such odd places; his busy, active manner of inspecting some old log, or stump, or a moss-covered roof which seemed to contain many choice morsels to his liking, or the latticed basement of some closed cottage, bobbing in and out of the

openings and giving one the impression he must be looking for a suitable spot as an abiding place for himself and mate another year. At least, we hoped that might be his intention, to return with a wife, and I am sure, had you known him, you would wish, with me, that more of his kind could be added to our summer residents. But Mr. Norton rudely dispelled that illusion, saying that, as he was an accidental visitor only (never but two having been authentically recorded as taken within the limits of our State of Maine, his home being in the Carolinas, and rarely coming further north than Connecticut), undoubtedly, had he returned south and safely reached his destination, he would not have returned to us another year.

At different times in my observations, I heard three distinct variations of his song, all of which I can now place in my mind, but not in words or sounds; bird songs are not easy to repeat. Two forms were very similar to those described by Hoffman, and one entirely different. I also, several times, heard his *cackling* note, as well as the *purring* alarm, all of which seemed characteristic of the bird, and unlike the notes of other birds I have heard. I think, should any of you who are familiar with bird songs and notes once hear the Carolina Wren, it would instantly attract your attention, as something unlike all others, and I heartily wish you may be fortunate enough to some day make his acquaintance. Another feature of the song was the regularity of its occurrence. I noted it by my watch many times, and it was almost invariably fifteen to twenty minutes between his songs. He would repeat one variation several times, then a pause of about twenty minutes, perhaps to be followed by another form in the same way, then back to the first variation. I often rested by the way during those pauses, feeling pretty sure I could again locate him by his song, if I waited that time.

His choice of food seemed to be tiny insects and bits that he gleaned from the thick bushes, old bark and moss, mostly near the ground, rarely feeding in the trees, but often singing from the low branches. One morning, while sitting quietly alone watching others

of the merry band, the Wren suddenly appeared and proceeded to take his bath, all by himself, in a small stream slowly running through a gully at Underwood. The process of bathing was carried through with as much vigor and evident enjoyment as one could wish to see. It was most amusing to watch his antics, all done with such nervous haste, yet thoroughness seemed to be his motto, whether bathing or inspecting buildings.

In going out each day, he was the first one we looked for, and rarely in those days were we disappointed. He invariably appeared somewhere. Each glimpse, however, we expected to be the last, especially as cool nights came on. He was likely to move on south with the other birds before another morning. In meeting him so often we began to feel a sort of ownership, as if he belonged to us alone, and really became very fond of him. Nevertheless, when I found he was inclined to remain, and believing him an uncommon and desirable specimen, I felt it a duty to notify someone of his presence and secure him, if possible. Mr. Norton seemed the one to appreciate such an addition to his collections, consequently I told him what I thought about the bird. He kindly consented to try and secure it, and, with a little help to locate the bird, easily took him on the morning of October 3rd, at Underwood. It proved to be a male Carolina Wren. His plumage showed him to be moulting, which undoubtedly accounted for his remaining in the vicinity that length of time, and perhaps would have remained a few days longer, his wings being in hardly the strong condition for long flight. My friend and I had become very fond of our little Wren, watching for him and enjoying his glorious voice, and when we heard his last song, and saw him drop from his perch on one of the seats at Underwood, as Mr. Norton skillfully aimed and secured him, womanlike, for all we wanted it done, we each had to shed a tear for our dear little songster, and I must confess the woods seemed rather uninteresting ever after, although they were well filled with the same merry band of bird friends, each one of which we loved and were glad to meet, yet the one favorite bird of all, our

Carolina Wren, had gone. It is now in the collection at the Natural History rooms, and, without doubt, Mr. Norton will gladly show it to you, should you care to see it.

## Christmas Bird Census.

**Reports of Winter Birds by Members of the Maine Ornithological Society  
During the Period from Dec. 20 to 31, Inclusive.**

The third Christmas bird census, taken by members of the Maine Ornithological Society, has been fully as successful as those which have preceded it. During the present winter birds have been unusually plentiful all over the State, and many of the reports are of permanent interest. The presence of Bohemian Waxwings in eastern Maine and the neighboring island of Grand Manan is noteworthy. Several new observers have taken part in the bird census and their contributions are welcome. For the sixth consecutive winter Myrtle Warblers were observed at Cape Elizabeth during Christmas week.

The reports sent by different members for the closing days of 1908 are as follows:

W. H. BROWNSON.

Observations at Cape Elizabeth and Pine Point:

Crow, 104; Herring Gull, 1,050; Great Black-backed Gull, 5; Horned Lark, 20; Snow Bunting, 22; Redpoll, 115; Red-legged Black Duck, 250; Old Squaw, 115; White-Winged Scoter, 50; American Golden-eye, 80; Meadowlark, 16; Goldfinch, 20; Horned Grebe, 5; Loon, 4; Tree Sparrow, 3; Brown Creeper, 1; Snowy Owl, 2; Brunnich's Murre, 1; Chickadee, 10; White-winged Crossbill, 15; Red Crossbill, 20; Myrtle Warbler, 15; Bufflehead, 10; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1.

Additional list out of date or reported by others:

Song Sparrow, 4; Hermit Thrush, 1; Pigeon Hawk, 1; Pine Siskin, 20; Robin, 1; Northern Shrike, 1.

## J. MERTON SWAIN.

Observations at Farmington and elsewhere:

Dec. 20th, 7 Pine Siskins, 3 Chickadees.

Dec. 21st, drove from Farmington to Wilton, Jay and Livermore Falls. Saw 1 Hairy Woodpecker, 5 Pine Grosbeaks, 2 Canadian Ruffed Grouse.

Dec. 22nd, drove from Livermore Falls to East Livermore, Fayette, Wayne, Monmouth and Winthrop. Saw three flocks of Siskins, probably 150 individuals in the three flocks, 7 Snowflakes, 3 Canadian Ruffed Grouse.

Dec. 23rd, drove from Winthrop to Readfield, Belgrade Lakes, Mt. Vernon, Vienna, Chesterville to Farmington. Saw 2 Downy Woodpeckers, 5 Chickadees, 50 Siskins, 7 Blue Jays, 3 Canadian Ruffed Grouse.

Dec. 24th, went by train to Phillips. Saw 25 Snowflakes, two small flocks of Siskins, 25 birds.

Dec. 25th, went by train from Phillips to Strong, Kingfield and Bigelow, and back to Farmington. Saw 1 Canada Jay, 3 Blue Jays, 2 Crows, 7 Siskins, 1 Pileated Woodpecker.

Dec. 26th, Farmington. No birds seen.

Dec. 27th, Farmington. No birds seen.

Dec. 28th, drove from Farmington to New Vineyard, and New Portland. Saw 3 Canadian Ruffed Grouse, 1 Blue Jay, 3 Pine Grosbeaks, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 5 Chickadees.

Dec. 29th, drove from New Portland to North Anson, North Cornville, West Athens and Athens. Saw 2 Chickadees, 5 Blue Jays, 1 Hairy Woodpecker, 1 Pileated Woodpecker, 7 Canadian Ruffed Grouse.

Dec. 30th, drove from Athens to Brighton, Cornville, East Madison and Madison. Saw 3 Blue Jays, 100 Siskins, 3 Snowflakes.

Dec. 31st, drove from Madison to West Mills, Stark, Mercer,

New Sharon and Farmington. Saw 3 Chickadees, 25 Siskins, 7 Pine Grosbeaks, 1 Canadian Ruffed Grouse.

F. M. DAVID AND R. T. DAVID.

Observations at Damariscotta:

Sunday, Dec. 20th, 15 Redpolls, 26 Snow Buntings, 2 Blue Jays, 2 Crows, 14 Chickadees.

Monday, Dec. 21st, 12 Golden-eyes, 1 Partridge.

Tuesday, Dec. 22nd, 3 Chickadees, 1 Partridge, 1 Blue Jay.

Wednesday, Dec. 23rd, 18 Redpolls, 3 Blue Jays, 2 Crows.

Thursday, Dec. 24th, 4 Crows, 9 Gulls, 3 Blue Jays, 3 Chickadees.

Friday, Dec. 25th, 2 Gulls, 1 Crow, 5 Blue Jays, 3 Chickadees.

Saturday, Dec. 26th, 1 Crow, 3 Blue Jays, 5 Gulls.

Sunday, Dec. 27th, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Chickadees, 2 Blue Jays, two large flocks of Redpolls, should say over 100 in each flock.

Monday, Dec. 28th, 2 Blue Jays, 1 Crow, 3 Chickadees.

Tuesday, Dec. 29th, 2 Crows, 1 Blue Jay, 7 Gulls, 6 Golden-eyes.

Wednesday, Dec. 30th, 3 Blue Jays, 3 Pine Grosbeaks, 1 Partridge, 1 Nuthatch, 80 or 100 Redpolls.

LOUIS E. LEGGE AND DANFORTH S. HERSEY.

Observations at Cape Elizabeth:

Dec. 20th, Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 9; American Crossbill, 2; Chickadee, 13; Redpoll (estimated), 20; Herring Gull, 25; American Crow, 2.

Dec. 27th, Chickadee, 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 3; American Goldfinch, 2; White-winged Crossbill, 22; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4.

ALLAN L. MOSES.

Observations at Grand Manan, New Brunswick.

Dec. 20th, 1908. Saw 10 Crows, 1 Fox Sparrow, 3 Tree Sparrows, 6 Juncos.

Dec. 21st. Saw 11 Juncos. These birds were feeding on meal. They have been feeding there three days and more are coming every day. A great many Herring Gulls were in the harbor this morning. Redpolls are very plentiful; saw as many as a dozen flocks, from 4 to 50 in a flock, 5 Tree Sparrows, 1 Vesper Sparrow, 2 Chickadees, 1 Song Sparrow. The reason that these song birds are here is due to so much open weather. I never saw so many at this time of the year since I can remember. It is not an unusual thing to see Juncos, Song Sparrows and Tree Sparrows here in winter, but it is very unusual to see them in flocks.

Dec. 22nd. Early this morning I saw 4 Juncos under the window eating meal I put there the day before. Next I saw one of the rarest birds that comê to the island, the Bohemian Waxwing. Three specimens have been seen here this winter, and I have two of them in my collection. This is the second record of this bird being taken on the island. The first was taken by my father, John R. Moses. I don't know the exact date, but it was about fifteen years ago. To-day I saw 19 White-winged Crossbills, 1 Chickadee, 3 Golden-crowned Kinglets and 2 Robins. I was out on the Bank to see the Kittiwakes flying to their feeding ground, off North Head. Any day at this time of the year, when the wind is north or northwest, you can go out here and see Kittiwakes, Razor-billed Auks and Dovekies going in flocks of from 3 to 100. To-day, with the wind northwest, and on the ebb-tide in the morning, there was not one moment that some of these birds were not in sight. I saw nine flocks of Razor-billed Auks, at least 150 birds in all. I also saw a great many Dovekies, 2 Holbœll's Grebes and 1 Black Guillemot. I also saw a Hermit Thrush in company with a Robin. This bird surely had forgotten himself. I was positive of his identity, for the day was cold and the bird was so stupid that I could get within two or three yards of him. I also saw about a dozen Redpolls.

Dec. 23rd. Very few birds seen to-day, as it was stormy. 11

Juncos were around the window on the ground all day. Saw 6 Redpolls and 1 Tree Sparrow.

Dec. 24th. Juncos still around the house. Saw about 30 Redpolls, 1 Vesper Sparrow, 3 Tree Sparrows and 7 Crows.

Dec. 25th. Saw 3 Chickadees, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets, a flock of Redpolls, about 100 Black-backed Gulls, one large flock of Razor-billed Auks, 5 Black Guillemots, 2 Holbæll's Grebes, 2 Brunnich's Murres, and a great many Herring Gulls.

Dec. 26th. Went gunning to-day among the islands, so had a pretty good chance to see water fowl. Saw 2 American Goldeneyes, 2 Black Ducks, 50 Red-breasted Mergansers, nearly all old males, many Old Squaws, 4 White-winged Scoters, 1 Surf Scoter, many Black Guillemots, Dovekies very plentiful, Razor-billed Auks more plentiful than any other day this winter. Also saw 4 Horned Larks, 2 White-winged Crossbills, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch, and heard many Chickadees and Kinglets. About a week ago, on Long Island, saw a flock of about 40 Purple Sandpipers, but did not see them to-day, though the birds are undoubtedly there, for they make this small island their home every winter. Saw hundreds of Herring Gulls and Black-backed Gulls.

Dec. 27th. Saw 3 Chickadees, a small flock of Redpolls, 1 Snow Bunting. The 11 Juncos were around the house to-day, having been absent for two days. Other birds seen to-day were a young Bald Eagle, 20 Crows, hundreds of Kittiwakes, a few Dovekies and 1 White-winged Crossbill.

Dec. 28th. Saw 5 Redpolls. Juncos absent again to-day.

Dec. 29th. Saw 1 Vesper Sparrow this morning, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 7 White-winged Crossbills, 1 Brown Creeper, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch, several Chickadees, a Hairy Woodpecker, three flocks of Redpolls, 1 Tree Sparrow, 1 Northern Shrike, 5 English Sparrows, 18 Crows. Juncos were around again to-day, also a new flock of about 20.

Dec. 30th. Saw 2 Northern Ravens and 1 Bald Eagle. I was at the North Head to-day, where the Kittiwakes feed. The birds



were rather scarce to-day, but even then there were thousands of them. I stood on the top of the bank, where it was not less than three hundred feet high, and gazed at the birds sitting in a white line as far as I could see. They were feeding on shrimps, which are their favorite food around the island in the winter.

Dec. 31st. Saw to-day 4 English Sparrows, flock of Juncos near my house, small flock of Crows, 5 White-winged Crossbills, 4 Chickadees, and with them 1 Hudsonian Chickadee, very rare here. Saw also thousands of Kittiwakes and Razor-billed Auks, and the only Ivory Gull I ever saw alive. It was an elegant specimen, as white as snow. This Gull is an accidental visitor in the neighborhood of Grand Manan.

NELLIE F. DUNTON.

Observations at Bath:

Dec. 20th, 1908, was at Winnegance (south end of Bath). Day fine. Saw 4 Blue Jays, 6 Chickadees, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 1 Gull, 3 birds flying, too far off to be identified. Heard a Crow.

Dec. 21st, snow squall early, then clearing. Saw 5 Blue Jays, 3 Chickadees, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches and a Crow.

Dec. 22nd, saw 3 Blue Jays, 2 Chickadees, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1 Gull.

Dec. 23rd and 24th, was busy preparing for Christmas and did not see any birds excepting the large flocks of English Sparrows and Pigeons on our streets.

Dec. 25th (Christmas), walked along the country roads some two miles in West Bath and vicinity, and saw only 2 Crows and 2 Goldfinches, or the same one twice, but they tell me that the next day there were four different kinds of small birds around the house I visited that day. They were quite sure one was a Junco, but I have not seen any in this vicinity for some time.

Dec. 26th, at Winnegance again, and took a long walk in the woods in the afternoon. Saw 3 Blue Jays, 4 Chickadees, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 3 Crows, 1 small Hawk, probably a Sharp-

shinned, but he did not give us much time to note his colors, also two larger ones sailing over the woods, having long wings and color whitish as seen from below, also a flock of 14 or 15 birds, apparently about the size of Pine Grosbeaks, in the spruces, but we could not get near enough to identify them. They did not give the Grosbeak whistle, but a sort of chattering, as they flew.

Dec. 27th, saw 4 Chickadees, 1 Crow, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 6 Blue Jays, 1 Brown Creeper, 1 Gull.

Dec. 28th, saw 4 Crows, 4 Chickadees, 4 Blue Jays, 1 Song Sparrow. A flock of 7 or 8 Pine Grosbeaks were reported a mile or two below here.

Dec. 29th, went across the river in Woolwich for an hour or two, and saw only 4 Gulls and 2 Crows. A Partridge was seen there earlier in the day.

Dec. 30th, a flock of about a dozen Goldfinches flew over my head here in town, near the park, with their characteristic dipping flight.

Dec. 31st, at Winnegance, saw 4 Crows, 4 Blue Jays, 1 Chickadee, in the morning. Later in the day my friend saw a White-breasted Nuthatch with them.

Jan. 2nd, I saw a Golden-crowned Kinglet in the woods, getting one good look at the top of his head as he fidgeted around in the evergreens, and next day 1 Hairy and 1 Downy Woodpecker. Doubtless these were in the vicinity at time of the census, but I did not happen to see them in time to include on those days.

Have only mentioned a few Gulls I happened to see in passing; have not been around the river much or given them particular attention. There are usually many more around Bath.

Have been quite anxious to know if the Song Sparrow is wintering at Winnegance, and have looked in same place several times since without seeing him, but he may be in the vicinity.

The regularity of seeing Blue Jays, Chickadees, etc., at Winnegance comes from the fact that my friend puts food for them in a small apple tree some ten or fifteen feet from the back window.

Have always supposed Blue Jays were rather shy, but they come there freely and do not pay much attention to us when we stand in the window to watch them. There is quite a large flock around, but I have only given the number seen at one time.

SARA C. EASTMAN.

Observations at Pine Point, Deering and Cape Elizabeth:

Dec. 21st, 3 Meadowlarks, 1 Black-backed Gull, 5 Crows, and hundreds of Herring Gulls. Dec. 22nd, 15 Redpolls, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, which, high in air, sailed in wide circles above the woods, 1 Chickadee, 1 Tree Sparrow, 1 Crow. Dec. 23rd, 75 Herring Gulls, 6 White-winged Crossbills, 6 Chickadees, 4 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 1 Tree Sparrow, 5 Crows. Dec. 24th, 6 American Crossbills, 10 Horned Larks, 2 Meadowlarks, 5 Snow Buntings, 2 Loons, 1 Brown Creeper, a large flock of Redpolls, a large flock of Crows, a large flock of Herring Gulls, 17 Black Ducks on the wing, and well in toward the shore, large flocks of Old Squaws and Scoters. Dec. 27th, 12 Myrtle Warblers, 8 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 3 White-winged Crossbills, a large flock of Redpolls and 3 Crows. Dec. 29th, 1 Northern Shrike.

MRS. ERNEST E. BREWER, Portland.

Observations at Woodfords:

My list of birds for the Christmas census is not large, as it includes only what I saw from my windows. A flock of a half dozen Chickadees and a Downy Woodpecker nearly every day, a flock of twelve Pine Grosbeaks several times and a single bird at others, flock of at least twenty-five or thirty Crossbills, both Red and White-winged, several days, 1 Brown Creeper, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Crows and a Hawk I did not identify. As usual, I have a piece of suet hung in a tree near my window, and lately have put with it a doughnut, which I find the Chickadees and Nuthatches are extremely fond of. Several times I have also noticed the Creeper eating with evident enjoyment from

both doughnut and suet. It is something I have never seen before, although a Creeper comes each year to the same tree, but has always seemed indifferent to the suet. As the tree is very near the window it is quite interesting to watch the Chickadees, both Nuthatches and the Creeper all feeding there at once, but one thing I have noticed is, that never two birds at a time have I ever seen partaking of the suet, each courteously waiting his turn.

SHERMAN E. PHILLIPS.

Observations at Canterbury, N. H.:

You will find my list of birds short this year. During the ten days I saw only Chickadees and Blue Jays. There were 6 Chickadees in the flock. I cannot give the exact number of Jays, as I saw the same birds several times.

MRS. CHARLES G. ATKINS.

Observations at East Orland:

Dec. 20th, 7 Chickadees, 12 Redpolls, 10 Pine Grosbeaks. Dec. 21st, 4 Chickadees, 1 Blue Jay. Dec. 22nd, 4 Chickadees, 2 White-breasted Nuthatches, 1 Blue Jay, 1 Hairy Woodpecker, 8 Herring Gulls, 1 Rusty Blackbird. Dec. 23rd, 3 Chickadees, 1 Blue Jay. Dec. 24th, 4 Chickadees, 3 Blue Jays. Dec. 25th, 5 Chickadees, 3 Blue Jays. Dec. 26th, 2 Pine Grosbeaks, 4 Chickadees, 1 Blue Jay, 1 Northern Shrike. Dec. 27th, 4 Pine Grosbeaks, 2 Blue Jays, 5 Chickadees. Dec. 28th, 6 Chickadees, 1 Blue Jay, 1 Northern Shrike. Dec. 29th, 7 Chickadees, 3 Blue Jays. Dec. 30th, 7 Chickadees, 3 Blue Jays. Dec. 31st, 4 Chickadees, 4 Blue Jays.

MAUD M. GILMAN.

Observations at Cape Elizabeth:

I saw a flock of eight Tree Sparrows, in Scarborough; a Robin, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, and a Grebe, at Pond Cove. The Grebe was rather small and the white on his throat extended nearly around his neck, but he was quite far out when I first saw him and kept going farther, so that I could not see him well enough to identify him positively. [Undoubtedly a Horned Grebe.]

## CLARENCE H. CLARK.

## Observations at Lubec:

I made several trips through the bird haunts during the "census week," but did not secure a very large list, many of our favorites of preceding years being absent. The summary of my trips included a dozen of the Black-capped Chickadees, scattered over several miles of territory; a dozen Tree Sparrows, in the open spots in the woods; a dozen Golden-crowned Kinglets, in the small growth woods; the regular colony of American Herring Gulls, numbering about 2,000; 300 Crows, that are wintering with us; 300 Old Squaws, which is an average winter number; 18 Pine Grosbeaks, which came just in time to be enrolled; 20 Bohemian Waxwings, which have made up in interest for all that have otherwise been missed.

## A. L. GROVER.

## Observations at Orono and Bethel:

Dec. 22nd, at Orono, two flocks of Pine Siskins, about 40 in all, 2 Downy Woodpeckers, 1 Canadian Ruffed Grouse, 2 Chickadees. Dec. 27th, at Bethel, 8 Pine Siskins, 4 Blue Jays, 6 Pine Grosbeaks, 3 Downy Woodpeckers, 11 Canadian Ruffed Grouse, 2 White-breasted Nuthatches, 6 Chickadees. Dec. 29th, at Bethel, 2 Chickadees. Dec. 30th, at Gilead, one large flock of Snow Buntings, between 300 and 400. Dec. 31st, at Bethel, 1 Hairy Woodpecker.

## SAM. A. LURVEY.

## Observations at South West Harbor:

Dec. 20th, 4 Crows, 6 Chickadees, two large flocks of Tree Sparrows, nearly 100 in number, 8 White-winged Crossbills. Dec. 21st, 2 Chickadees, 6 Tree Sparrows, 150 Harbor Gulls. Dec. 22nd, 1 Chickadee, 40 Tree Sparrows, 1 Rusty Blackbird (saw him in the morning, also at night near the same place), 120 Harbor Gulls. Dec. 23rd, 75 Harbor Gulls, 2 Crows, 4 Chickadees, 3 Tree Sparrows, English Sparrows (there are about 30 of these settled in the village). Dec. 24th, 50 Harbor Gulls, 9 Tree Sparrows, 1 Chickadee. Dec. 25th, 4 Chickadees, 12 Tree Sparrows. Dec. 26th, 30 Crows,

10 Chickadees, 7 Tree Sparrows, 1 Sparrow Hawk. (This bird was seen across a mill pond. He was on a stake when first seen. He would fly a short distance and then return to his stake. A flock of Chickadees were at work in the low bushes near by, when he flew over them with a harsh cry, and they stopped singing at once. The distance was a good four hundred yards, so my identification is not sure.) Dec. 27th, 4 Crows, 2 Juncos, 10 Chickadees, 5 Tree Sparrows, 3 Brown Creepers, 2 Red Crossbills, male and female. Dec. 28th, 6 Chickadees, 1 Brown Creeper, 10 Gulls. Dec. 29th, 6 Crows, 10 Chickadees. Dec. 30th, 12 Crows, 50 Gulls, 4 Chickadees, 10 Tree Sparrows, 6 Yellowhammers. Dec. 31st, 12 Crows, 6 Chickadees. A large flock of White-winged Crossbills was seen Dec. 19th. The sexes were about equal. They stayed near our house nearly all of the forenoon.

MRS. HARRIET S. McLELLAN.

Observations at Cape Elizabeth and elsewhere:

Dec. 20th, at Cape Elizabeth, in the woods near the five-cent-limit station, 4 Chickadees, 5 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 2 Brown Creepers, two flocks of Redpolls, numbering in all about 50, one flock of White-winged Crossbills, perhaps 20 in all, and from the car window, while crossing the bridge, large flocks of Herring Gulls and 4 Crows were seen.

Dec. 21st, at Evergreen Cemetery, Deering, 6 Chickadees, 4 Brown Creepers, 2 Crows, three flocks of Redpolls, at least 60 in all, one flock of 11 Pine Siskins, two flocks of Crossbills, all that were distinguishable being the White-winged.

Dec. 22nd, at Pine Point, 1 Loon, 3 Scoters, 14 Old Squaws, 4 American Crossbills, 3 Chickadees, 2 Brown Creepers, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, two large flocks of Snow Buntings, numbering at least 50, 75 Crows (estimated), 6 Horned Larks, 3 Meadowlarks, a flock of about 40 Redpolls, at least 150 Herring Gulls, and the gunners reported a Snowy Owl which had been on the marshes for several days, but I did not see him.

Dec. 23rd, at Delano Park and Pond Cove, a flock of 7 Amer-

ican Crossbills, 2 Redpolls, 4 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 1 Tree Sparrow, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 5 Chickadees, 6 White-winged Crossbills.

Dec. 24th, at Pine Point, 6 American Crossbills, 2 Meadow-larks, 1 Shelldrake, 17 Black Ducks, 2 Loons, 10 Horned Larks, 5 Snow Buntings, 1 Brown Creeper, large numbers of Crows, Herring Gulls, Old Squaws and Scoters, and a large flock of Redpolls, feeding among the beach grasses and weeds. The Snowy Owl was still reported on the marshes.

Dec. 25th, near Bath, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 4 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 2 Chickadees, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 4 Blue Jays, 5 Pine Grosbeaks, 6 American Crossbills, a small flock of about 15 Goldfinches, 7 Herring Gulls and 6 Crows, which were perched upon the cakes of ice floating down the river.

Dec. 26th, at Yarmouth, 4 Crows, 1 Northern Shrike, 2 Chickadees. Later, at Underwood, I met a true bird lover, a Mrs. Taylor, who has fed the birds about her house for so many years that they are very tame. At least 50 Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches came when she called, lighting upon our heads and shoulders, and eating freely from our hands. The birds were evidently true New Englanders, for she says that doughnuts are their favorite food, and it was very amusing to see them select the outside pieces, with the fat upon them, and push aside the others. They invariably selected the largest pieces, also, and frequently hid them in the crotch of a tree or some other convenient cranny, returning immediately for more. I afterward tried calling them to me from different parts of the woods, always successfully. A Brown Creeper was with them, apparently much interested in proceedings, but did not dare to come to me. A large flock of Redpolls, 2 American Crossbills, 4 Crows and 5 Black Ducks were also seen there, and from the two bridges hundreds of Gulls.

Dec. 27th, at Delano Park and Pond Cove, 2 Brown Creepers, 9 Chickadees, 8 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 6 American Crossbills, 1 White-winged Scoter, four small

flocks of White-winged Crossbills, about 40 in all, 10 Myrtle Warblers, a large flock of Redpolls, and I heard, but did not see, a Shrike.

Dec. 28th, at Underwood, at least 25 Chickadees, which came when I called and ate greedily from my hand. Five Red-breasted Nuthatches were with them, but were too timid to come to me. One Downy Woodpecker, 18 Redpolls, a small flock of Pine Siskins, and 1 White-winged Crossbill were also seen there.

Dec. 29th, at Riverton, 4 Brown Creepers, 12 Chickadees, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 6 American Crossbills, two small flocks of White-winged Crossbills, and a large flock of Redpolls and Pine Siskins, about 60 in all.

Dec. 30th, very cold and cloudy. I visited the Western Promenade and cemetery, but saw nothing there. Later, in the woods at Cape Elizabeth, 6 American Crossbills, two flocks of White-winged Crossbills, two flocks of Redpolls, one very large and one smaller, about 75 in all, 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 8 Chickadees, and 2 Brown Creepers. From the bridge 4 Crows and many Gulls were seen.

Dec. 31st, at Underwood, 1 American Crossbill, 2 Brown Creepers, 2 Downy Woodpeckers, a flock of about 20 Pine Siskins, 4 Red-breasted Nuthatches, and about 25 Chickadees, which came to eat from our hands, the Nuthatches, this time, seeming almost as tame as the Chickadees. Large numbers of Gulls were seen from the bridges.

### Review of "Camps and Cruises."

CAMPS AND CRUISES OF AN ORNITHOLOGIST. By Frank M. Chapman, Curator of Birds in the American Museum of Natural History, 1908, 8vo., 432 pages, illustrated by 250 photographs from nature by the author. D. Appleton & Company.

The JOURNAL is always pleased to call to the notice of its readers any work of Frank M. Chapman. His "Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America," "Bird Life," "Bird Studies with a Camera," and "The Warblers of North America" make a series inval-



nable to anyone who would know of the advances made in ornithology in recent years, more especially in the line of the life history of the birds.

The "Handbook" named above is not only deservedly popular and well-nigh indispensable to the bird student, but, in arrangement, scope and adaptability to field work, is a model for handbooks in any department of nature study.

This latest volume, "Camps and Cruises of an Ornithologist," is in many respects a great advance over the others, and is almost certainly the most delightful of all. Its very appearance is a delight. The paper and type are of quite unusual excellence, and the pictures, both in presentation and in the unique and interesting subjects, from the standpoint of the bird student, are unequalled. It is difficult to take one's attention from them to the text. The author's photographs of the "Golden Eagle's Nest," for grandeur, "Little Blue Herons," for wildness, the Flamingo groups and "White Pelicans—Saskatchewan," as studies of birds in masses (to take only these few illustrations almost at random) teach more than many pages of writing.

And the story accompanying the pictures could hardly be better told. The author is an enthusiast, albeit a sane one. For seven years he has "devoted the nesting season of the birds to collecting specimens and making field studies and photographs on which to base a series of what has been termed 'Habitat Groups' of North American Birds for the American Museum of Natural History," it being his purpose "to illustrate not only the habits and haunts of the birds shown, but also the country in which they live." To do such a work adequately required not only a fullness of knowledge and experience, and faithfulness to detail, but made it necessary for the author to go into the wildest and most remote parts of the country. His studies of the American Egret in the cypress swamps of the South, of Pelican Island on the Florida coast, the Flamingo colonies of the Bahamas, the Prairie Hen of the plains of Nebraska, the Murres of the Farallones and the Ptarmigans of the Canadian

Rockies are a few of the many in this remarkable book that get a hold on one, intense, helpful and lasting.

The last chapter, "Impressions of English Bird-Life," is perhaps quite as inspiring as the parts relating to this continent. It is particularly valuable as showing how an experienced American ornithologist, not only scientific but appreciative, right in the glow of his enthusiastic study of the birds of his own country, regards the Nightingale, the Skylark and other characteristic species of Old England.

All in all, this is one of the most noteworthy ornithological publications in recent years. And it is a book for more than the bird student. To almost an equal degree it is for the photographer and the general naturalist as well; while for all other readers it will not only have a constant charm as a work beautifully done, but cannot fail to create an increased interest in out-of-door life and things.

J. F. F.

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NOTES FROM GRAND MANAN, N. B.—The Duck Hawks are beginning to think about their home affairs, as they have come to their old locality, and have been there about a month.

There have been the most Redpolls wintering here this winter that I have ever known. There was a flock of about a hundred under the kitchen window late this afternoon. I put out hay seed in the yard, and they came nearly every day. They all seem to be the common form.

ALLAN L. MOSES.

Grand Manan, N. B., March 3, 1909.

LOOK FOR BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS.—If the attention of our members could be called to the desirability of being promptly on the lookout for the Bohemian Waxwings it seems likely that we might be able to obtain several more records before they pass north again, which will be in a couple of weeks now.

ORA W. KNIGHT.

Bangor, March 11, 1909.

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Since the JOURNAL was in type we have received a two-page article from Mr. Ora W. Knight, entitled "The Bohemian Waxwings in Maine," which will appear in the next number. We call attention to Mr. Knight's note on another page.

The present session of the Maine Legislature is no exception to its predecessors, in being called upon to consider several bills relating to the protection, or rather destruction, of birds.

One bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and called for a bounty to be placed upon Hawks. At the hearing it was explained that 25 cents was the bounty asked for the destruction of three Hawks, the Hen Hawk, the Pigeon Hawk and the Marsh Hawk. When asked which of the several birds called Hen Hawk was meant, its supporter replied: "Any Hawk prowling about hen-houses might be so designated." This bill was reported, "ought not to pass," by unanimous vote of the Committee.

Before the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game several bills and petitions have been introduced, one a measure asking the repeal of the principal sections of the Non-game-bird Law, and a substitution offered, so worded as to open to the general public the right to take and keep alive wild birds. At this point it should be remembered that earliest bird laws contained numerous exceptions, such as, "except alive," "except for scientific purposes," which resulted in nullifying the law. With experience purchased through failure of cases in court, as early as 1886, a commit-

tee of the American Ornithologists' Union, drafted by advice of able counsel a form since known as "The A. O. U. Model Law," which has been adopted with necessary (and probably some unnecessary) changes by thirty-seven states. In 1901, the State of Maine, with unusual public enthusiasm, adopted almost exactly the A. O. U. Model Law, and since that time objections to it, if any, have not been of a public nature. It is believed that the committee will report against making any change.

However great the interest in non-game birds, nothing is more public than that taken in game birds. Great interest is manifested, and funds are being raised for the introduction of the Hungarian Partridge (*Perdix cinerea*) into Maine, and the Legislature has been asked to appropriate a small sum for the purpose.

The troublesome Whistler again receives attention for local and spring open seasons, to the discomfiture of the anti-spring-shooting party of sportsmen, showing the virulence of traditional customs even in the sporting fraternity.

Black Ducks, notwithstanding the fact that a boreal race winters in Maine, which was early recognized by gunners as markedly different from the summer bird, has been so long protected by even a fluctuating law that all would regard a perpetual open season as sacrilege. Yet there are those, even at this session, petitioning the legislature to open March and April, the most vital months of the year to the interest of duck protection. Nearly all of the pairing has been completed, and some species begin laying in Maine in April. To open shooting during this month, or even March, is to harass and drive away birds that might remain to breed.

But Whistlers and others, partly or wholly marine ducks, have been exempt from protection, and it appears extremely hard for gunners and legislatures to grasp the principle of universal spring protection and reject the dogma that some birds need no protection at any time. This bickering shows plainly that the time has come for a thorough investigation of the field, and a uniform revised duck law, proposed and supported by a wider circle of sportsmen and bird protectors than now are striving for its support. Some excellent suggestions on this subject are given in the recent Report of the Commission of Inland Fisheries and Game for the year 1908.

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EVENING GROSBEAK (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) AT PORTLAND, MAINE.—I have just examined at the shop of Mr. John A. Lord, a Portland taxidermist, a splendid adult male of this species, taken at Woodfords, March 6, 1909.

WALTER H. RICH.

Portland, Me., March 15, 1909.

## Bird Notes.

Notes and observations upon bird life within our State are earnestly desired from all our readers for publication in this column, and should be sent to Louis E. Legge, 22 Dow street, Portland, Maine.

We note with much satisfaction the increasing frequency with which the members of our society report to this JOURNAL their ornithological observations. This is an important part of our duties, one to another, and should be shared in by all interested in bird life. The JOURNAL'S columns are always open to contributors of items of general interest relating to Maine birds, and we trust our members will, through this medium, disseminate such knowledge as they personally possess.

MYRTLE WARBLERS AT CAPE ELIZABETH.—For the sixth consecutive winter a small flock of Myrtle Warblers has wintered in the vicinity of Delano Park, on the shore of Casco Bay in Cape Elizabeth. During Christmas week there were fifteen or twenty of these birds in this locality. This is a larger number than has ever been observed before at the corresponding time of year. January 3, 1909, about the same number were observed. February 7th, a dozen or more Myrtle Warblers were observed at this point, and up to this date the birds have been constantly seen by several other observers. On this day the birds were very nervous, scarcely coming down at all into the bayberry bushes, but flying more or less compactly from one tree top to another. The previous week there had been a big storm of more than fifteen inches of snow, accompanied by severe weather, yet the birds appeared to have survived without any inconvenience. February 14th, no Myrtle Warblers were seen, in fact, not a bird of any kind was in sight, even a Chickadee, although the day was fine and warm. A careful inspection of the bayberry bushes on the two slopes where the birds had usually been seen during the winter disclosed the fact that the bushes had been almost completely stripped of the waxy berries, which had formed the principal food supply of the Warblers through the fall and winter. Hence I conclude that the birds at this date were seeking a new food supply, though probably less than half a mile away, but it

is not improbable that the birds may be seen again in their old haunts before spring.

W. H. BROWNSON.

Portland, Feb. 25, 1909.

A SONG SPARROW'S NEST.—I was surprised to find the past summer that a Song Sparrow had built its nest in a birch sapling, about thirty feet from the ground and overhanging the lake. These birds got to be very tame and would come on constant visits to the back door of the camp where I always kept a supply of cracker and bread crumbs for them. These crumbs they would carry to their nestlings.

LOUIS E. LEGGE.

Portland, Feb. 1, 1909.

NOTES FROM AVON.—Aug. 10th, I came upon a Hermit Thrush's nest with three eggs. The bird flew from the nest as I approached.

Sept. 27th, I heard a Hermit Thrush sing once, though not in full song. This species regularly ceases to sing about Aug. 10th or 12th.

I have at various times read in the newspapers accounts of White Crows and other remarkable monstrosities in the bird line, and often wondered why my activity in searching for birds did not introduce me to some of these rare sights. Last April the problem was solved. I was out on a large wet tract of land, numerous Crows were flying about, and among them was a male Marsh Hawk. Several times the Hawk flew along in the midst of three or four Crows. The beautiful white plumage of the Hawk made a striking contrast with the dark garb of his companions. As I left the field and came again into the highway, I met an acquaintance to whom I incidentally remarked that I had been looking for birds, and he gave me this interesting item: "Oh, you ought to have been over there in that field yesterday. Bill was coming through there and he saw a White Crow."

D. W. SWEET.

Avon, Feb. 10, 1909.

BRONZED GRACKLE IN WINTER.—As I shall not be able to attend the meeting at Portland this week, I will give you an item that may be of interest. Last winter a Bronzed Grackle remained here from fall until spring, being seen in various parts of the town by myself and others, apparently well and hearty. It did not mingle with the English Sparrows, as I have seen Cowbirds do, but seemed to enjoy its own company best, and in the spring was in song several weeks before its mates arrived from the south.

FRED B. SPAULDING.

Lancaster, N. H., Nov. 25, 1908.

FOX SPARROW IN JANUARY.—Sunday morning, January 24, 1909, at Delano Park, Cape Elizabeth, near the highway and within a quarter of a mile of the sea, I observed a Song Sparrow and a Fox Sparrow, both able to fly and apparently in perfect condition. There was a strong northeast wind blowing, with some snow and sleet. The birds had sought shelter on the westerly side of the height of land in the Park, and were at first in the lower branches of a small spruce and later running about on the snow.

I don't recall any other Maine record for the Fox Sparrow in January. Mr. Brownson saw one at Cape Elizabeth, Dec. 9, 1906, and Mr. Knight says in his book that this species has been seen near Bangor, in February and March.

JED F. FANNING.

Portland, Feb. 1, 1909.

CHIPPING SPARROW KILLED BY LICE.—While engaged in building a fence for a party here in Farmington, Me., I found a Chipping Sparrow dead, near by, and curiosity led me to examine its body as to the cause of its death. Many Sparrows had been killed here in town by boys with air guns, but upon examination of the bird's body no wound was visible, but the body of the bird was enveloped with a layer of lice covering the body so thickly that the skin could hardly be seen. These lice had no doubt been the cause of the death of the Sparrow.

H. W. JEWELL.

Farmington, Feb. 1, 1909.

DUCKS AT HIGHLAND LAKE.—Wild Ducks were unusually plentiful at Highland Lake during September, October and November, many more than I have ever seen in either of the six years I have camped there. American Golden-eyes were very conspicuous.

LOUIS E. LEGGE.

Portland, Feb. 1, 1909.

ROBINS USED SAME NEST SIX SEASONS.—The group of Robins' nests described by Mrs. Elizabeth H. Marks, in the December number of the JOURNAL, leads me to report a single Robin's nest used for six successive seasons, and also a multiple nest built by the same species in one season.

In the "Birds of Essex County," page 313, I recorded a Robin's nest that was built under the porch, on the lintel of the front door of my summer house, at Ipswich, Mass., and, at the time the book was published, had been occupied, presumably by the same pair for four successive seasons. Since then it was used for two more summers, or six in all, but in the winter following the last, i. e., the winter of 1906-7, it was blown down, and the spot has not been built on since. I think, however, that the same pair have since built in a bush close to the front door. This nest over the door was repaired and built a little higher each year, so that in the summer of 1906, when it was last occupied, it had attained a height of eight inches, and was practically a six-storied nest.

The multiple nest was built, presumably by one pair of Robins, in the spring of 1907, on the ledge over a window in a boat house, on the marsh at Ipswich, and a brood was raised in one of the nests. On the ledge four nests were built side by side of mud and dried eelgrass (*Zostera marina*). Each of these nests was only about one-third of the height of the usual Robin's nest. Beyond these on the ledge was a fifth nest, represented by a slight cup-shaped depression, while beyond this was a sixth, represented by but a small amount of mud, not shaped, and covered with eelgrass. The remaining space on the ledge, large enough for two nests, was covered with eelgrass alone.

The Phoebe has been known to use the same nest for several



seasons, building up successive stories, as in the first instance, and also a number of nests in the same season, as in the latter instance.

CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M. D.

Boston, Nov. 27, 1908.

BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS IN EASTERN MAINE.—Bohemian Waxwings made their appearance December 6th, and evidently wished to be recorded, as they first put in their appearance in a tree within a few feet of my home. I happened to be looking out of my window and saw them arrive, but at first supposed them to be the *cedrorum* but the longer I watched them the more strange points I noticed. I first noticed their unusually heavy crests, but supposed they were a well-plumed flock; I next noticed their plump bodies and judged that the open winter had afforded them an abundance of food, but finally when I noticed their somewhat awkward or "Sparrer" like movements it dawned on me that I had a "new bird," and I hustled out for a better view, and as they were very tame I got so close that I did not need my glasses, but the chestnut forehead and under tail coverts, white wing markings and the points previously noted proved that the Bohemian was with us, and this is the first time to my knowledge. I gathered in every bird student or admirer that I could find (about a dozen), and had them fully note all the points in order to establish good evidence, as I did not care to shoot them around the residential section of the town and I am aware that the "professionals" want good proof, and in view of the good work some of them have done in getting out "Birds of Maine," I think they deserve careful evidence.

This small flock remained with us until January 3rd, and gave good opportunity to observe them. Their flight was in a compact flock, and when in a tree they would endeavor to all get on one branch in place of scattering throughout the tree. The Waxwing affection was much in evidence, and I was sure they were from the "North," because they rubbed noses like the Esquimaux. Their food while here consisted wholly of the mountain ash berry.

The Pine Grosbeak and Bohemian were here at the same time, and I frequently noticed how greatly they resembled each other

while in flight, both having the Robin-like appearance, which the more slender Cedar Bird does not have.

The Bohemian Waxwings, which left us January 3rd, arrived again to-day. The weather is raw and rainy, and the Bohemians are keeping up an incessant metallic trill.

CLARENCE H. CLARK.

Lubec, Feb. 6, 1909.

BIRD NOTES FROM LUBEC.—The American Goldfinch and Snow Bunting were here just before census week, but I could not find them for record during that period.

I was much interested in finding the Meadowlark with us again on October 9th, which is exactly two years from the date when the last record was made in 1906, and both records were for the same heath at South Lubec, a single bird in each case.

Most every winter brings a different "bird of prey" in abundance. Two years ago the Snowy Owls were thicker than Partridges. Last winter most every gunner brought in a Goshawk, and this winter it is the Great Horned Owl, several specimens having been brought in.

CLARENCE H. CLARK.

Lubec, Jan. 15, 1909.

MOCKINGBIRD IN WINTER.—I am taking this way of telling you the latest news of our strange bird visitant, the Mockingbird. I have seen it occasionally and heard of it in the neighborhood often. Last Sunday morning, about eight o'clock, it flew again to the hedge near the window. A cat was making frantic endeavor to get at it, and while I studied the bird, noting for the first time its almost yellow iris, Mrs. H. tried to "shoo" the cat away without frightening the birds; when it flew the white in the tail showed remarkably well, also on the primaries. The bird was about here for at least three-quarters of an hour, although a second cat appeared, and the two were plainly anticipating a great delicacy for breakfast. Their greedy attention did not seem to disturb the bird. Miss S. said she saw the Mockingbird Saturday forenoon, on Spring street, eating mountain ash and bittersweet berries, and again Monday, on the hedge of the Brown estate, on Vaughan street, and at this time it sang a little song, or not exactly a song, but twitter in the throat. She heard it distinctly and several times.

ELIZABETH W. RUSSELL.

Portland, Feb. 3, 1909.





HUNGARIAN OR GRAY PARTRIDGE.

(*Perdix-cinerea*)

FROM A DRAWING BY WALTER H. RICH, PORTLAND, MAINE.

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### The "Hungarian Partridge"—the Gray Partridge.

(*Perdix cinerea*.)

By WALTER H. RICH, Portland.

For the purpose of advancing the interests of our supply of game and its protection and propagation, a number of local sportsmen have formed a society under the title of "The Cumberland County Fish and Game Protective Association." As first fruits of their endeavors, and as earnest of their intentions, they have imported and liberated in five or six colonies in the neighborhood of Portland, fifty pairs of "Hungarian Partridge" (*Perdix cinerea*), generally considered the prime game bird of Europe.

The society has secured the passage of an act establishing a close time of four years, with the proper penalties for non-observance thereof.

In its numerous species and varieties the race is scattered all through temperate Europe, prospering best in its milder regions and shunning extremes of either heat or cold. Its range extends from southern Scandinavia and England on the north and west, Naples on the south, eastward through Persia, India and Tibet, to China.

As is natural over so wide an extent of territory, there is much variation in size and coloring, but it is upon the great wheat plain of Hungary, where they thrive best and are exceedingly numerous, that the birds of this species attain their greatest size.

The relationship of the Old World Partridges with our "Quails," as we usually term them, seems to be very close. The American group, as most of our members probably know, is separated from its over-sea relatives chiefly because its members have a more or less distinct serration on the cutting edge of the mandible near the tip. This is scarcely apparent in some species. The bill in our American group (*Odontophorinæ*) seems more arched, giving it a shorter and heavier appearance. In the Hungarian Partridge the bill is noticeably flatter and longer than in our "Quails," and the side view of the head gives a very pigeon-like appearance, save, of course, the lack of the tumid membrane at the base of the bill as shown in the pigeon.

Of our American Partridges the species most suggesting this bird is the Plumed Quail of California, though *Perdix* lacks the plumes, is rather more brownish in his tones, and is of generally lighter coloring. Our new citizen is plump and stocky, powerful in figure, short of wing with a short tail, carried low in Quail fashion. I weighed the largest of those which I had and he tipped the scales at eleven ounces. He was in fair order, not fat, and in condition might have weighed thirteen or fourteen ounces. The meat is dark, which rather surprised me, for I had taken it for granted that it would be white.

As many of our members may be unfamiliar with the appearance of this bird, a brief description may not be out of place here. Their markings are as follows: top of the head, dark yellowish brown; throat, light reddish buff, with a broad band of the same shade running back above the eyes to the hind head; above, in general a brownish or yellowish ash, lightening toward the rump, the feathers here, as also on the tail coverts, crossed by a broad subterminal band of chestnut, and everywhere the feathers are finely barred with broken, irregular dark lines; the scapulars with more or less reddish

or chestnut, and central lines of pale buff; the tail short, carried low like a Quail's, bright reddish brown; the flight feathers brownish, the primaries still darker, and all cross-banded with irregular bands of ochraceous, black-margined; the upper breast bluish ash, growing lighter below, and brownish on the flanks, where the feathers show a broad band of chestnut near the tips, and are crossed by fine vermiculations of darker color, sometimes unbroken lines, but oftener their mere suggestions made up of small dots; a chestnut "shield," or "horse-shoe," of considerable size in the middle of the lower breast; under tail coverts, light yellowish brown, very faintly and finely barred; feet and legs, brownish flesh color; bill, gray-blue; eyelids, gray-blue or pale flesh color; iris, brown or red-brown; naked patch just behind the eye of light orange.

"The dark chestnut 'horse-shoe' on the gray breast is nearly obsolete in most adult females; female invariably distinguished by widest buff bands on black scapulars and adjoining wing coverts, which in cock are light brown with black vermiculations and chestnut blotches. The latter sex, moreover, has gray instead of brown sides to the neck." (*Ogilvie Grant.*)

There are great variations in coloring. Specimens from dry soil are said to exhibit the richest hues, while some are occasionally taken showing white "horse shoe." A particularly dark variety has been denominated *montana*. There are even records of hybrids between this species and the red-legged Partridge, and also with the Scotch Grouse.

East of the Altai and Tian Shan this species is replaced by the allied *Perdix daurica (barbata)*, which has lanceolate feathers on the side of the throat and a black "horse-shoe" on a golden-buff breast. Other species in South Tibet, North India, Northwest China, and North Tibet. These last are more hardy, ascending the mountains to the snow line.

The Gray Partridge pairs in February and nests in April, and success in raising the brood depends much on excess of wet or drought. The nest is made upon the ground, a circular cavity,

lined with grass, in the herbage and often in exposed situations. Eggs are from nine to twenty, drab or bluish. It is wellnigh impossible to see the bird upon her nest, where her blending colors of gray and brown so closely match the surroundings of dry grass and herbage. Both parents tend the young and employ the same wiles and tricks to mislead the intruder as does the Ruffed Grouse or the Bobwhite in a similar situation. Large numbers of eggs are never hatched, and many a chick falls victim to his enemies in fur or feather, owing to the exposed position of the nest or the feeding ground.

These Partridges roost upon the ground at night. Late in the fall they "pack up" into large coveys, much as do our Prairie Chickens, and these are said to be equally as wild at this time as are the Chickens in the same circumstances. Rarely does the Gray Partridge desert the open for the woods, even in hot weather, only seeking shelter under low brush, or the broad leaves of the crops, the corn, the cabbage, the turnip, the clover clump. The larger the cultivation in a district the better their chance of prospering.

Often pursued, they trust to their legs for escape, or may crouch low in the grass, motionless, trusting to their plumage's matching tones to render them invisible. When flushed they rise with a loud whirr—the flight rather labored until under way, when they glide on bowed wing rapidly and easily. As to their qualities as game birds it is somewhat too early for us to speak with full decision. They are highly esteemed in Europe, but are more often driven than hunted over dogs, mainly, it is said, because the cultivated ground has so little of waste spaces in hedgerows or brush to lead them to lie close, so they are apt to run unseen to the end of the furrows and so flush wild. They are swift of foot and very quick in all their movements. If I were to express any opinion at present, I should say that I should expect them to do a great deal of running before the dog, especially when the young have become well grown, and from the little I have seen I should judge them to be far inferior in wing power to Grouse or Quail.

I was fortunate enough to have a colony of these birds left in



my care for setting out, and I took them home with me. During the evening I brought a male bird in to make the acquaintance of the family. I spent the half-hour in which he lay snuggled under my chin in scratching his head. At first his heart jumped in lively fashion but he soon quieted down and merely blinked his eyes in deep content. It seems as though they would tame very easily.

In their coop they used a great variety of language; they clucked like a Grouse; they chattered like a Blackbird; they snapped their bills like an Owl; they "jawed" like a Parrot; they made a guttural note of alarm like the "br-r-r-r" of a startled Pigeon; they hissed like a Black Duck guarding her nest, or like a Thomas cat whose dignity is ruffled not quite enough for anger; and, in addition, they are said to "crow" at evening. Their Latin name, *Perdix*, is said to be a fairly close imitation of their call. English? Continental? Or ancient Roman pronunciation?

Next evening, May 6, 1909, about sundown, I carried them into a clearing in the woods where was a couple of acres of newly turned soil sloping down to a brook, the north side well wooded, on the south open to the sun, and a good bit of cultivated land near by. I placed the box upon the ground with a corner of the burlap cover loosened so that they might easily get out. They got out; they stood not upon the order of their going but went at once. The box was scarcely set down when they began to stream out into the dusk. They made only a short flight—twenty yards or so, the longest not over forty—and dropped into the plowed ground. A few scurried into the woods at the right. In a moment the gloom was filled with curious noises as the scattered birds began calling each other. It was as though every wheelbarrow in the neighborhood had lifted up a voice of protest against the high price of oil. Presently they gathered together, the last straggler came out from the woods, and all collected on a little hummock in the midst of the plowed ground, and viewed their surroundings, as it seemed to me, with no great approval. They squeaked and called for a few minutes until finally the whole covey made off on foot, entering the edge of the brush

and apparently settled down for the night. Here we left them and another experiment in game propagation is under way.

Will they survive or no? It is to be hoped that the optimists may win this time, for it would be a great pity to lose these beautiful little creatures. For their welfare during all but the bitterest of our weather there need be no fear, but the furnishing of the table of a bird who depends mainly on grain and insects for its sustenance may become a vital issue when our northern winter descends upon us, and when the door of the North Pole swings open about January 15th to stand wide until March 20th, and the north wind comes down, swirling and heaping the snow through the woods and over the open, I greatly fear that these little folk will regret the day they left the billowing grain fields and sunny vine-clad slopes of far-off Hungary.

### Occasional Notes on Birds at Sea.

By DR. WILLIAM C. KENDALL, Scientific Assistant U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

The following notes were made by the writer while serving as naturalist on the U. S. Fish Commission Schooner, "Grampus," in 1891, 1894 and 1895, during cruises connected with enquiries relating to mackerel. These cruises extended from off the coast of Virginia to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and even southern Labrador, but all of the notes are not now available, thus rendering those following more or less fragmentary, desultory and indefinite. They are copied almost verbatim from the available notes, about the only change being that of adjusting such technical names as were used to the more modern nomenclature of "Knight's Birds of Maine." Owing to the writer's unfamiliarity with birds, unfortunately they could not always be identified with certainty when at a distance, and in the case of the Petrels not even when in hand. Therefore when the species is in the least in doubt the technical name when used is questioned. Many references are to Phalaropes without specifying the particular species. This is due mainly to inability to determine which they

were. But always when identifiable the Northern Phalarope was the more common.

The only excuse the writer has for offering these notes for publication in the JOURNAL is that he was urged to do so by officers of the society. So, ever desirous of obliging his friends, he has complied, even though contrary to good judgment and discretion.

1891.

May 5. Latitude  $41^{\circ} 16'$  north; longitude  $71^{\circ} 2'$  west. Two Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) seen flying northwest.

May 8. About 5.5 miles north and west from latitude  $39^{\circ} 46'$  north; longitude  $73^{\circ} 46'$  west. Two Herring Gulls were seen in shoreward. Two Loons (*Gavia imber*) and two Ducks (sp.?) were also observed. Fresh southwest by west breeze and hazy sky. When about six miles off Navesink a Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*) flew aboard and remained for some time.

May 9. About 10.30 A. M.; near latitude  $39^{\circ}$  north; longitude  $73^{\circ} 55'$  west. A small flock of Phalaropes (*Phalaropus lobatus*?) and one Petrel (sp.?) seen. At 12 M. Small numbers of Phalaropes and Petrels occasionally seen. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 39'$  north; longitude  $73^{\circ} 39'$  west; gentle west southwest breeze; temperature of air  $56.5^{\circ}$ . A flock of about thirty or more Phalaropes seen. 2.6 miles south and west of above position several small flocks of Phalaropes were observed. About latitude  $38^{\circ} 39'$  north; longitude  $73^{\circ} 59'$  west. Small flocks of Phalaropes seen. Have seen frequent small flocks during the afternoon. All the Phalaropes seem to be one species (*P. lobatus*?).

May 10. Near latitude  $38^{\circ} 21'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 26'$  west; light west southwest air. A Yellow Rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) flew aboard and remained several hours. (About noon; near latitude  $38^{\circ} 18'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 24'$  west, a red Bat flew aboard). About latitude  $38^{\circ} 15'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 22'$  west, a few Northern Phalaropes seen. 4.7 knots south and west from latitude  $38^{\circ} 9'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 19'$  west; temperature air  $58^{\circ}$ ;

gentle southwest breeze and somewhat hazy. Two large flocks of Northern Phalaropes seen.

May 11. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 11'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 22'$  west; 11 A. M. Observed small flocks of Northern Phalaropes.

May 18. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 23'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 45'$  west; 8 A. M. A few Northern Phalaropes seen. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 3'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 39'$  west; 11 A. M. Several Petrels (sp.?) seen.

May 19. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 40'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 10'$  west; 11 A. M.; wind west by south; light air. Observed some Petrels (sp.?). Here an Ovenbird (*Sciurus aurocapillus*) flew aboard and remained until night. Latitude  $39^{\circ} 2'$  north; longitude  $73^{\circ} 53'$  west; 7 P. M. Two small bunches of Northern Phalaropes and one Petrel (sp.?) seen.

May 25. Latitude  $40^{\circ} 17'$  north; longitude  $73^{\circ} 23'$  west; 6 P. M. Large flock of Petrels (sp.?) seen.

May 26. 12 M.; light south wind; heavy rain; fog lifting some. Two Maryland Yellowthroats flew aboard. Latitude  $41^{\circ} 2'$  north; longitude  $71^{\circ} 46'$  west; 2 P. M. Two Black Hags (*Puffinus fuliginosus*?) seen.

May 28. Latitude  $41^{\circ} 6'$  north; longitude  $71^{\circ} 15'$  west; 4 P. M. Few Petrels (sp.?) and Hags (*Puffinus gravis*) observed. Latitude  $41^{\circ} 7'$  north; longitude  $71^{\circ} 16'$  west; 6 P. M. One small flock of Northern Phalaropes seen.

May 31. Latitude  $41^{\circ} 9'$  north; longitude  $71^{\circ} 9'$  west; 8 A. M. Petrels (sp.?) appear whenever toll-bait for mackerel is thrown. These birds, as well as preceding Petrels, are called by the sailor on the vessel "Carey Chickens" or just "Caries."

June 3. Latitude  $41^{\circ} 15'$  north; longitude  $71^{\circ} 2'$  west; 4.30 P. M. A few Petrels ("Caries") observed.

1894.

April 22. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 22' 30''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 26' 30''$  west; 2 P. M. Two small flocks of Petrels (sp.?) feeding in a slick" Near station; latitude  $38^{\circ} 22' 30''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 26' 30''$  west; 1.6 knots southeast by south. Several small flocks of Northern

Phalaropes, from eight to thirty birds each, one or two Jaegers and many Loons seen to-day. Near latitude  $38^{\circ} 19'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 23'$  west. A flock of Gannets seen.

April 23. Near latitude  $38^{\circ} 15'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 18'$  west; dead calm. Phalaropes have been common this morning in small flocks and scattering birds, generally flying southward. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 12'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 17' 30''$  west. One Gray Gannet shot; stomach contained nothing. Two Northern and two Red Phalaropes shot. Their stomachs contained copepods and coarse and fine sand, and had a few small gastropods. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 13'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 20'$  west. Phalaropes have been common this morning. A few Arctic Terns observed. Phalaropes mostly on the wing, but flying in no particular direction.

April 25. Latitude  $37^{\circ} 35'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 47'$  west. Occasional flocks of five or six Phalaropes each have been seen to-day.

April 26. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 3'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 31'$  west; 12 M. Very few birds thus far to-day. Two Loons heard crying. East northeast; 5.2 knots from latitude  $38^{\circ} 17'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 26'$  west; 5 P. M. A small flock of White Gannets seen sitting on the water.

April 27. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 42'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 2'$  west; 8 A. M.; temperature of air  $53^{\circ}$  F.; moderate south southwest breeze. Phalaropes very common. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 27'$  north; longitude  $73^{\circ} 37'$  west; 12 M. Some Phalaropes seen.

April 28. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 24' 30''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 6'$  west; 6 A. M. A few Phalaropes seen in flocks of three to five.

May 1. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 24' 30''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 9'$  west; 12 M. Quite a number of scattering Phalaropes have been seen through the last hour. Six knots southeast by east from latitude  $38^{\circ} 24' 30''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 9'$  west; 1 P. M. Northern and Red Phalaropes quite common but scattered.

May 2. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 13' 30''$  north; longitude  $73^{\circ} 33'$  west; 12 M. Very few Phalaropes seen to-day, one Pomarine Jaeger(?). Latitude  $38^{\circ} 9' 30''$  north; longitude  $73^{\circ} 44' 15''$  west; 4 P. M. Phalaropes scattered but common.

May 4. Near latitude  $38^{\circ} 29'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 47' 45''$  west. Numerous large flocks of Phalaropes and large schools of mackerel seen.

May 12. East by south, 4.3 knots from latitude  $39^{\circ} 19'$  north; longitude  $72^{\circ} 49' 30''$  west; 8 A. M.; gentle northeast by east breeze; temperature of air  $53^{\circ}$  F.; clearing; moderate swell. Scattering Phalaropes seen this morning, also one "Marlinspike" (*Stercorarius longicaudus*?). West northwest, 1.3 knots from latitude  $39^{\circ} 19'$  north; longitude  $72^{\circ} 37' 30''$  west; 10 A. M.; temperature of air  $56^{\circ}$  F.; gentle northeast by north wind; moderate swell. Few scattered Phalaropes.

May 12. Latitude  $39^{\circ} 21' 45''$  north; longitude  $72^{\circ} 49'$  west; temperature of air  $56^{\circ}$  F.; gentle north wind; sea smooth. Observed a few Phalaropes and one Common Jaeger. Latitude  $39^{\circ} 24' 30''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 55'$  west; temperature of air  $64^{\circ}$  F.; calm. Several flocks of Phalaropes seen flying.

May 13. Latitude  $39^{\circ} 22'$  north; longitude  $72^{\circ} 29' 30''$  west; temperature of air  $54.5^{\circ}$  F.; gentle west southwest wind; sea smooth. Several fair sized flocks of Phalaropes seen this morning.

May 16. Latitude  $40^{\circ} 41' 30''$  north; longitude  $69^{\circ} 5' 30''$  west; temperature of air  $57^{\circ}$  F.; moderate west breeze; smooth sea. A small flock of Phalaropes circling about the same spot repeatedly, and alternately sitting on the water and rising again in quick succession. Nine Terns (*Sterna hirundo*?) seen "plugging" in the same spot, but soon flying off to the westward.

May 18. Latitude  $45^{\circ} 6' 30''$  north; longitude  $65^{\circ} 29'$  west; 10 A. M.; temperature of air  $47^{\circ}$ ; moderate east southeast wind; sky cloudy, clearing some; sea smooth. Small flocks of Phalaropes seen, very wild. No birds seen during the afternoon.

May 23. Southeast by south from latitude  $44^{\circ} 11' 15''$  north; longitude  $64^{\circ} 14'$  west; 12 M.; temperature of air  $43^{\circ}$  F.; moderate east wind; clear sky; moderate swell. A very large number of Herring Gulls were seen, two flocks of from 100 to 200 each, also a flock of Red Phalaropes on the water and Terns (*Sterna paradisica*?) "plugging," and covering this one place. Latitude  $44^{\circ} 22'$  north;

longitude  $63^{\circ} 53'$  west; 5 P. M.; temperature of air  $44^{\circ}$  F.; gentle east southeast breeze; cloudy; sea smooth. "Mackerel Gulls" (*S. paradisea*?) very common this afternoon. Northeast by east, 3.3 knots from latitude  $44^{\circ} 22'$  north; longitude  $63^{\circ} 53'$  west; 6 P. M.; temperature of air  $44^{\circ}$  F.; gentle east southeast wind; sky cloudy; sea smooth. About 7 P. M., a large flock of Phalaropes seen sitting on the water. One (*P. lobatus*) was shot. Tow net took a lot of "red feed" (copepods) here. Birds contained fragments of copepods. Nothing found in proventriculum; everything in gizzards and intestines

May 23. Latitude  $44^{\circ} 23'$  north; longitude  $63^{\circ} 51' 30''$  west; 7 P. M.; temperature of air  $42.5^{\circ}$  F.; light east southeast breeze; cloudy; sea smooth. Shot five Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisea*) and three Phalaropes (*P. lobatus*). Terns had been eating crustacea; contained fragments. Phalarope had copepods in gizzard. The Terns were very common to-day. If one is wounded and utters a cry when shot, the others will hover over it and everyone could be killed.

May 24. Latitude  $44^{\circ} 24' 45''$  north; longitude  $63^{\circ} 27'$  west; 5 P. M.; temperature of air  $44^{\circ}$  F.; gentle southeast breeze; sky cloudy; sea smooth. Surface net took a very few minute copepods in ten minutes. Surface life is scarce. Terns (*S. paradisea*) have been numerous all day. They were frequently observed to dive. Phalaropes have been very common also, but so far away that it was impossible to identify them. Those we succeeded in shooting were (*P. lobatus*). Red Phalaropes (*Crymophilus fulcarius*) may have been present, as some looked redder than others.

May 25. Latitude  $45^{\circ} 0' 45''$  north; longitude  $61^{\circ} 28' 30''$  west; 7 P. M.; temperature of air  $46^{\circ}$  F.; light west southwest air; sky clearing; moderate swell. All along a few flocks of Phalaropes have been seen. A few "Medricks" (*S. paradisea*?) also observed.

May 28. Latitude  $44^{\circ} 49' 15''$  north; longitude  $62^{\circ} 9' 30''$  west; 9 A. M.; temperature of air  $45^{\circ}$  F.; light north wind; sky cloudy; moderate swell. Several small flocks of Phalaropes seen sitting on the water.

May 29. Nearly one knot (.7) east northeast from latitude  $45^{\circ} 39' 30''$  north; longitude  $60^{\circ} 4' 15''$  west; 2 P. M.; temperature of air  $55^{\circ}$  F.; light west northwest air; sky clear; sea smooth. A couple of small flocks of Phalaropes seen sitting on the water; seemed pretty "tame".

July 9. One knot north by east from latitude  $42^{\circ} 34' 45''$  north; longitude  $70^{\circ} 29' 15''$  west; 2 P. M.; temperature of air  $66^{\circ}$  F.; sky overcast; fog; light north by east breeze; sea smooth. Large flock of Petrels (sp.?) seen sitting on the water or hovering over the surface in certain localities, probably feeding on something at the surface.

July 17. Latitude  $42^{\circ} 54' 30''$  north; longitude  $70^{\circ} 18' 30''$  west; 1 P. M.; temperature of air  $72^{\circ}$ ; light southwest air; overcast; fog; sea smooth. Observed a large school of large fish ("Bonito") followed by a lot of Petrels (sp.).

July 30. Latitude  $50^{\circ} 9'$  north; longitude  $65^{\circ} 2' 30''$  west; 9 A. M.; temperature of air  $53^{\circ}$  F.; gentle east southeast breeze; overcast; fog; sea smooth. Very few birds have thus far been seen up here. One or two Ducks, a few Plover, a few large Gulls, a Loon and a Gannet.

August 5. Latitude  $47^{\circ} 52'$  north; longitude  $60^{\circ} 57' 30''$  west; "Bird Rock" light bearing west northwest about six miles; 11 A. M.; temperature of air  $61^{\circ}$  F.; fresh west by south wind; cloudy; very choppy. A large number of Gannets seen flying about.

August 18. Southwest by south  $\frac{1}{2}$  south, 5.5 knots from latitude  $44^{\circ} 59' 45''$  north; longitude  $61^{\circ} 44'$  west; 6 P. M.; temperature of air  $62^{\circ}$  F.; stiff west by south wind; sky clearing; sea choppy. Few Medricks seen.

August 23. Near latitude  $43^{\circ} 11' 15''$  north; longitude  $65^{\circ} 27' 15''$  west; 10 A. M.; temperature of air  $60^{\circ}$  F.; light northwest by west air; sky clear; moderate sea. Five Phalaropes (*P. lobatus*) seen. Latitude  $43^{\circ} 13' 30''$  north; longitude  $65^{\circ} 33'$  west; 11 A. M.; temperature of air  $55^{\circ}$  F.; gentle west by south wind; sky moder-



ate; moderate sea. Scattering Phalaropes (*P. lobatus*) seen about 10.30 A. M.

September 11. Latitude  $43^{\circ} 11' 30''$  north; longitude  $69^{\circ} 45'$  west; 1 P. M.; temperature of air  $59^{\circ}$ ; moderate west northwest wind; sky clear; sea choppy. Four Red and four Northern Phalaropes seen.

[To be concluded in the September JOURNAL.]

## A Pet Cedar Waxwing.

By MRS. DELLA F. WENTWORTH, South Portland.

September 17th, 1908, a young Cedar Waxwing was found helpless and almost unconscious on the lawn. On examination its left wing seemed dislocated, and the left leg from the knee to the foot was bent toward the right foot. We think that the dense fog which prevailed the night before and that morning may have prevented the bird from seeing the electric wires overhead and so been the means of the accident.

After being brought into the house he revived, and little by little recovered the use of his injured leg. After five months the wing still hangs down nearly touching the perch, though, strange to say, he can spread it fully, and close it nearly to the dimensions of the well wing when closed.

Cedric, for so we have named him, can hop from perch to perch of the canary bird cage and from the floor of the cage to the perches. When I take him out of the cage on my finger, Cedric will sometimes try to fly, but succeeds only in flopping down upon the floor, often striking heavily. Although frequently trying to fly upward, he cannot use his left wing well enough to raise himself wholly from the floor.

Cedric does not appear to regard his cage as a prison, and, though he sometimes shows fear of strange inanimate objects, is not afraid of any person, and will take his favorite tidbits from any offering hand. When first we offered food we found black cherries

and choke cherries were his choice, but when cherry time had passed he reluctantly accepted as a substitute dried currants such as are used in cooking. It is interesting to watch him eat a cherry or currant. Seizing it quickly in his bill and pointing his bill upward he rolls it over and over in his mouth, as a juggler revolves a ball in the air, then suddenly one quick gulp and the tiny ball has disappeared.

Cedric is very fond of live flies, and angleworms cut in half-inch sections are graciously received, but grasshoppers and beetle-like bugs are rejected. Cedric seems to like flies best when their wings are buzzing, and if he is at the farther side of the cage when a fly is offered him he will jump to the perch near the fly and oftentimes seems to catch the fly in his bill before his feet have touched the perch. He comes as near taking the fly "on the fly" as is practicable within the confines of his cage. In the absence of flies and worms, fresh beef, veal and lamb, cut in tiny fragments, are eagerly swallowed, but never in great quantity. Cedric is also fond of fruit, and will eat apple cut in bits, or scraped fine, and small pieces of orange or banana.

Our little bird protege always knows when he has eaten enough, and when his needs are satisfied he will leave the most tempting morsels and resolutely fly or hop to the opposite end of the cage and turn his back on us as if to say, "I won't even look at it lest I may be tempted"—a lesson to the featherless bipeds who pride themselves upon their superior wisdom.

When very hungry, about eighteen flies seem to be a satisfying portion, though often half as many suffice. A half dozen bits of meat the size of a green pea, and a less amount of fruit are sufficient. Of course these meals are frequent, six or eight a day, while he always has access to the dried currants which we keep in his food dish, and which are washed and soaked before putting in the dish. If the currants are too dry, he will roll them about in his bill and toss them scornfully over his shoulder. Any food which we offer him that he does not want is promptly thrown down. We tried him on cedar cones and the berries of the ground juniper, but

he would have none of them. The berries of the bush honeysuckle he ate until we got him cherries, when he utterly refused the honeysuckle berries, and threw them out of his dish. Seeds and sand he will not notice, but pecks regularly at the cuttlefish in his cage. When hungry he announces it in shrill staccato whistles, but when his hunger is satisfied, he will seek an upper perch and preen his feathers, and often sing to us in a soft, sweet whistle, which seems full of love, confidence and content, though it may have a shade of vague regret.

On hearing our footsteps after a period of solitude, we are greeted with a welcoming whistle, which is very delightful. This, and the more strident tones of our Poll Parrot, convince us that "they miss us at home."

At night, though in the full glare of the electric light, Cedric is ready to settle down to quiet, and when asked if he is ready to go to bed, he will flutter all his feathers and snuggle up in a corner, when we cover the cage with a paper and bid him "good night." If offered food at night he snaps his bill at us and makes an indescribable little querulous sound in his throat and will peck at our fingers if we continue to annoy him.

The cage is placed on the end of the piano and often when we play and sing, Cedric sits very still and accompanies us with his soft, whispering trill.

Every morning Cedric has his bath in the big bath tub, where he is sprinkled with cold water from a bath sprinkler. He spreads his feathers and prances about apparently in great delight. He always seems sorry when his bath is ended. Notwithstanding his daily bath, he frequently goes through the motions of taking a second bath, this time in his drink dish, though no water gets farther than his eyes.

Cedric has been moulting for two months or more. When found his breast was whitish, mottled with dark spots, like the breast of a thrush. He had no red spots on his wings and was not the beautiful purplish fawn color which is now showing on back and crest and breast, as the new feathers make their appearance. Now

very few mottled feathers remain on his breast, which is nearly covered with the pretty fawn-colored feathers. The feathers of the belly are light lemon color. The lemon-tipped tail feathers have come out, one or two at a time, and are now nearly all new. The vivid black forehead and chin are new, but the crest is in such a state of pinfeatherdom that one would hardly think our little friend had any crest to speak of. Long and anxiously have we looked forward to the day when the little red tips would appear on the wings, and February 10th the first one was observed on the lame wing. It is salmon colored, rather than the vivid red of sealing wax, as yet, but we are watching closely for all the changes as they come, and shall hope soon to see our pet arrayed in the full insignia of the very daintiest groomed of all the distinguished Cedar Waxwings.

Our great regret is that we cannot cure him and set him free with his kind. It is pathetic to hear him chirp at his own image in the mirror, and for some time he has been tearing paper in his cage and trying to make string or paper stay upon his perch, apparently as the foundation of his nest. Much as we love him, we would gladly set him free could he but hold his own in the bird world and escape his enemies. Could we but find someone who could set his wing so that he could fly among his kind, we would be gladly content with only the memory of a brave, patient, trusting, dainty, delightful friend.

## The Bohemian Waxwing in Maine.

By ORA W. KNIGHT, Bangor.

About the first of March the writer noticed an item in the *Bangor Commercial* to the effect that Mr. Clark had seen large flocks of the Northern Waxwing at Lubec during the past winter, but paid no further attention to the event, knowing that Mr. Clark would doubtless record the matter in proper shape in a more scientific medium in due season.

On March 9th, Dr. W. H. Simmons, of Bangor, called me up on the telephone and said he wished to tell me about the flock of Bohemian Waxwings which he had seen daily near his home since the middle of February. He stated that there was a good sized flock of the birds, and that they had been feeding daily on the fruit of a mountain ash tree which grew beside a window of his home, where he could look down on them. The birds had been coming for some time before he paid any especial attention to them, thinking that they were doubtless Pine Grosbeaks, until he happened to notice that they all had crests, which he knew was not a fact with the Grosbeaks. He then examined the birds critically and identified them as Bohemian Waxwings by their having white wing bars, yellow tips to their tail feathers, and by their prominent crests. Dr. Simmons also states that in February, 1908, a flock of birds of the same size were daily in the habit of visiting the same locality, but at that time he took no particular notice of them, though he is inclined to believe that they were of the present species.

March 11th, the writer and Mr. Winch visited the locality for the purpose of personally seeing the birds. They were not about Dr. Simmons' premises, but he was able to give us an idea of the general route they pursued, so that finally we found the flock feeding on rotten crab apples in an orchard several blocks away. Yes, there is no question as to their identity, as they were positively Bohemian Waxwings. They were busily engaged in eating the rotten apples, sometimes eating the pulp itself, at other times pecking the apple to pieces and eating the seeds, which they swallowed without shelling out the meat as do the Pine Grosbeaks.

Now and then the birds would fly from the tree in which they were feeding to a neighboring tree, uttering low lispings and whistlings which sounded very appreciably different in character from the notes of the Cedar birds.

They were very tame, so that I was able to get up within fifteen feet of them and secured six exposures of them with my pocket kodak. As if to show their kindly and obliging nature, they waited patiently until I was through taking photographs, and then at a

signal the whole flock flew away in a compact bunch. Later in the day Mr. Winch secured one at the same locality, to which they returned.

From Dr. Simmons I was able to learn somewhat of their feeding habits. They did not seem to eat the pulp of the mountain ash berries but delved into the berry to obtain the seed while the pulp was dropped on the snow beneath. They seem to be more or less regular in their feeding habits, frequenting certain localities in a given route or circuit through the immediate neighborhood for a distance of a dozen blocks or so.

One of the teachers at the neighboring grammar school, who has aspirations to be somewhat of an ornithologist, had an item printed in the *Bangor Commercial* to the effect that the Cedar Waxwings had been wintering in the immediate neighborhood. Dr. Simmons saw this item in print and immediately called me up on the telephone to call my attention to the error, thus happily resulting in giving me much valuable information and the pleasure of seeing the birds as well.

It is well on to twenty years ago, when the writer was a high school boy, just beginning his scientific career, that the Bohemian Waxwings last visited this locality. In those early days Bohemian Waxwings and other northern birds used to visit us rather more frequently than they do now, as we used to see them every three or four years, but now that twenty years has elapsed from their last call to the present visit it is indeed a pleasure to be able to see them once more.

Practically all our winter birds seem to come in fewer numbers and less frequently and regularly than formerly, though even in those early days such eccentric creatures as the Bohemian Waxwings, Crossbills, and to a lesser extent the Pine Grosbeaks, could never be depended on.

Formerly we always found the Crossbills in winter, not at any other season, while now about Bangor both species of Crossbill occur more commonly and regularly as summer birds in May, June, July and August.

## Birds of the Boston Public Garden.

BIRDS OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN. A Study in Migration. By Horace Winslow Wright, with an Introduction by Bradford Torrey, and illustrations. 238 pages. \$1.00 net. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston and New York.

THE JOURNAL has no hesitation in designating this volume as one of the most satisfactory local lists of birds ever published. For nine years the author has been a constant student of the migration of birds at the Boston Public Garden, adjoining Boston Common. Frequent excursions through that delightful locality in the early morning at the season when the birds are traveling northward or southward have made Mr. Wright perfectly familiar with the conditions which govern their arrival and departure. The data which he gives are valuable for all New England students, as well as a service beyond estimate for the young people who are making their first observations in that locality. A description of the Public Garden and the vegetation it contains is of exceeding interest. The illustrations are excellent half-tone engravings of the trees which attract different rare species of birds and the locations which they love. Particulars of the noteworthy features of the migrations for a series of years are given, both from the personal observations of the author and from the added testimony of other reliable observers.

More than three-fourths of the volume is devoted to an annotated list of the birds of the Boston Public Garden and incidentally of the Common, in migration, 1900-1908. This list is exhaustive and authority for numerous records and dates is freely given. An examination of the list is of unusual interest on account of its clearness and completeness, as well as the systematic order in which it is arranged. Many birds which one would expect to visit the Public Garden frequently in migration are noted as very rare. On the other hand, birds often are recorded as common which one would not expect to find their way to that locality. The book, as a whole, is of great value to the bird student, and it is so well done that it is worth a place in the library of any ornithologist.

W. H. B.

## The Ornithological Magazines.

THE AUK.—The *Auk* for April, 1909, is an unusually interesting number. It contains "The Position of Birds' Feet in Flight," by Charles W. Townsend, M. D.; "Ornithological Miscellany from Audubon Wardens," by B. S. Bowditch; "Notes on the Summer Birds of Northern Georgia," by Arthur H. Howell; "The Training of Wild Birds as a Means of Studying Their Movements," by Leon J. Cole; "A List of the Birds of Western South Dakota," by Stephen S. Vischer; "Barrow's Golden-eye in Massachusetts," by William Brewster; "The Habitat Groups of North American Birds in the American Museum of Natural History," by J. A. Allen; "Something More about Black Ducks," by William Brewster, and "New Records and Important Range Extensions of Colorado Birds," by Merrit Cary. Besides these general articles there are many valuable notes of birds and bird literature.

THE CONDOR.—The *Condor* for March–April, 1909, has articles on Mearns Quail, Dusky Poor-will, California Black Rail, Thrashers, of Arizona, Birds of Southern Mexico, and the usual number of notes. In an interesting article Jonathan Dwight, Jr., M. D., of New York, makes a plea for retaining the common names of birds and for stability in vernacular appellations.

THE WILSON BULLETIN.—The *Wilson Bulletin*, for March, 1909, includes an index to the preceding volume. There are articles and notes on the birds of the Washington coast, American Barn Owl, Yellow-breasted Chat, Wood Thrush, Robin, Song Sparrow, Warblers of Wayne County, Michigan, and others. There is a long article on Alexander Wilson by Frank L. Burns.

CASSINIA.—*Cassinia*, issued in March, 1908, contains the proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club of Philadelphia. There are articles of permanent value on the birds of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. It is an interesting and valuable publication, well printed and adequately illustrated.



THE PURPLE MARTIN AND HOUSES FOR ITS SUMMER HOME.—This pamphlet is Gleanings No. 5, by J. Warren Jacobs, of Waynesburg, Pa. It is an article reprinted from the publications of the Pennsylvania State Board of Agriculture. It contains all the information that anyone could desire about Martin houses, and how to obtain them or build them. There are also full suggestions for attracting the birds to the houses after they are erected. For sale by the author.

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### OFFICERS OF THE MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE JOURNAL prints in this issue the first instalment of an interesting series of notes of birds at sea, by Dr. William C. Kendall, Scientific Assistant U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, gathered in 1891, 1894 and 1895 on the United States Fish Commission Schooner Grampus, the cruises extending from the coast of Virginia to the Gulf of St. Lawrence and even to southern Labrador. The notes for 1891 and 1894 are here printed and those made in 1895 will be published in the September JOURNAL. We are under obligation to Dr. Kendall for this valuable contribution.

Mr. Dana W. Sweet, the new Secretary and Treasurer of the Maine Ornithological Society, has for some years compiled, in an able manner, the migration reports sent to him by members of the Society. In addition to his duties as Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Sweet will continue to edit the migration reports, and this will be eminently satisfactory to all members.

The attempt to introduce the Hungarian Partridge into Cumberland County will be watched with considerable interest, to see whether the birds liberated will take kindly to their new habitat. In this issue Mr. Walter H. Rich writes of the circumstances attending the introduction of the bird and contributes an excellent original portrait, drawn from life.

During the winter of 1908-1909 the Bohemian Waxwing appears to have been seen by a number of reliable observers, mostly in Eastern Maine. Reports of its occurrence continue to come in, so that it is sure that the region visited by the bird was quite extensive.

All subscribers to THE JOURNAL, who have not paid for the year 1909, are requested to send their dollars as soon as convenient. The money is needed to pay the current expenses of publishing THE JOURNAL, the membership dues, which should be paid to the Treasurer, not being sufficient for that purpose. Subscribers, as heretofore, should remit to the editor.

Attention is again called to the necessity of having a good department of notes, and this can only be accomplished when the members make frequent and generous contributions. The new associate member, Mr. Louis E. Legge, has charge of this feature of the magazine, and under his direction there is no doubt that it will be a credit to the Society. It is hoped that members will not fail to respond to Mr. Legge's request for material to make a good showing.

Members who have copies of Vol. 7, No. 1, March, 1905, Vol. 8, No. 1, March, 1906, or Vol. 9, No. 4, December, 1907, and who do not care to preserve them for binding, will do a favor by sending them to the editor. The file is nearly exhausted for those issues of THE JOURNAL, and there are frequent calls for complete sets from libraries in different parts of the country. Those who have copies issued previous to 1905 should preserve them carefully and send them to the editor unless they are intended for binding. There are many of the early issues of THE JOURNAL which are now lacking, and it is getting to be difficult to make up a complete set.

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LINCOLN'S SPARROW AND MOURNING WARBLER IN PORTLAND, MAINE.—On May 30, 1909, I received as one of the victims of a plate glass window on Bowdoin St., Portland, a Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza Lincolnii*), a male in good plumage. This is apparently the fifth recorded specimen for the vicinity of Portland. On June 1, 1909, from the same source, an adult male Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*). This appears to be the third recorded specimen for the vicinity of Portland. The other two specimens are recorded by Mr. N. C. Brown, May 31, 1876, Deering, *Brown Bull. Nutt. Orn. Cl.*, Vol. 1, p. 95, and May 30, 1868, Cape Elizabeth, Me., *Proc. Part. Lac., N. H.*, Vol. 11, p. 1. Both birds are preserved and in my possession.—Miss Helen M. Lewis, Portland, Maine.

THE WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.—After walking a number of miles and visiting several places in a vain search for the White-crowned Sparrow, I gave up all hope of finding it this spring, but on May 26th I was so fortunate as to see a fine specimen of the male bird. He was perched on a post which stands at the edge of a tract of swampy land and appeared to be resting. I called the attention of my companion to him, and as he did not appear to object to our presence we took a long look at him. Should any person in this part of the state see this most interesting bird at a later date, I should be very glad to know it.—Sara C. Eastman, Portland, Maine.

## Bird Notes.

Notes and observations upon bird life within our State are earnestly desired from all our readers for publication in this column, and should be sent to Louis E. Legge, 22 Dow street, Portland, Maine.

We note with much satisfaction the increasing frequency with which the members of our society report to this JOURNAL their ornithological observations. This is an important part of our duties, one to another, and should be shared in by all interested in bird life. The JOURNAL'S columns are always open to contributors of items of general interest relating to Maine birds, and we trust our members will, through this medium, disseminate such knowledge as they personally possess.

BIRDS AT GRAND MANAN.—Allan L. Moses sends from Grand Manan a list of birds seen there in March, April and the early part of May. Among the most interesting notes are a thousand Northern Phalaropes, a large flight of Sharp-shinned Hawks April 6th, Sparrow Hawks abundant on the same day, a Sora Rail heard on April 21st, a large flight of Ruby-crowned Kinglets from April 23rd to 25th. Mr. Moses reports on March 6th a Wilson's Phalarope, the only time he has seen it there. He records for the first time on the island an Ipswich Sparrow on March 26th. A Little Blue Heron was seen April 17th, this being the fourth time it has been recorded at Grand Manan. Brunnich's Murre was seen March 31st, Dovekie May 4th, Pigeon Hawks common after May 7th, Yellow Palm Warblers common after April 14th, Myrtle Warblers common after April 17th, Redpoll April 22nd, American Pipit May 11th.  
—*Louis E. Legge, Portland.*

MOURNING DOVES.—March 19th, I discovered a pair of Mourning Doves in the old Deering Golf Links, near the junction of Falmouth Street and Deering Avenue. My attention was first called to them by their size, and their peculiar movement on the ground. They were feeding quite close together, and finally I succeeded in making them take wing, when I at once discovered

what variety of birds they were by the heart-shaped tail and the white feathers on each side. From their action on the wing, I should imagine that they were a pair, male and female. Possibly these birds are not rare, but I never recalled seeing but one other specimen, which I shot eleven years ago, late in October.—*Silas B. Adams, Portland.*

BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS IN BANGOR.—The flock of Bohemian Waxwings, which has been seen about the streets of Bangor since early in February, had not left us March 30th, 1909. I had not seen them until that date, although I had made many efforts to do so. I was walking down Court Street, near my own home, when I heard the note which I knew to be a Waxwing note, but enough different from that of the Cedar bird so that I at once guessed that I was at last to see our own rare visitors. I discovered a good sized flock among some apple trees in a neighbor's yard. For a good half hour I watched the birds at close quarters. They were busy with the old fruit on the trees and flying back and forth to the ground, the snow under the trees often being thickly dotted with them. They did not seem to mind at all my close proximity, neither did they mind some chattering English Sparrows who came around to see what was going on. But the strident note of a crow seemed to disturb their nerves somewhat. At his near call they would rise and fly off a short distance, but would soon return again to the same trees. A couple of White-breasted Nuthatches and a Chickadee, seemed to be on very friendly terms of companionship with them. I had ample opportunity to observe all the distinguishing features of the Bohemian Waxwing, the shape of the crest, the white on the wings, the chestnut coloring of under tail coverts and forehead, which in the sunlight looked almost a rich orange. I think I never enjoyed a more interesting and beautiful bird sight.—*Bertha L. Brown, Bangor.*

PHILLIPS BIRD NOTES.—I had never been able to find the Fox Sparrow in spring until last year. This spring I have found this

species common, and most of the birds that I saw were singing. The song, when heard a little distance away, impressed me as being remarkably similar to that of the White-crowned Sparrow. I saw one White-crowned May 11th, two May 16th, and two the 17th. They were all in song. May 5th, I came upon a flock of nine Pipits. This is my earliest record. The same day I saw a large compact flock of Redpolls. I estimated the number to be between 100 and 200. The Sparrow Hawks have been fairly common this spring. With me this is a rare species. Up to date, the present month seems to have been most unfavorable for the observation of Warblers. They are not inclined to sing much, owing to the cold, backward weather. A few have arrived at the usual time, but it takes perseverance and sharp eyes to find them.—*Dana W. Sweet, Phillips.*

FOX SPARROWS SING IN BANGOR.—The 2nd of April I was delighted to hear again the inspiring song of the Fox Sparrow. I rushed out of doors with my glasses, and sure enough the little fellow was perched on a high branch of a young birch tree in our garden, his cinnamon back gleaming in the sunlight, and his joyous notes fairly crowding from his bursting little throat. This is the earliest spring record that I have of the Fox Sparrow. I first learned to know the song five years ago. Since then, every spring, numbers of the birds have visited our grounds, scratching among the leaves on the hillside, and singing exuberantly in the trees, generally staying with us about ten days or two weeks in April. As yet my little songster seems to be alone, but I hope soon to welcome his friends. Some bird books say the Fox Sparrow sings only on his northern breeding grounds; but I and several of my bird-lover friends know very well that of late years, at least, they sing around Bangor. In our own garden, and also in another garden somewhat similarly situated in another part of the city, we enjoy their most beautiful ringing song every April.—*Bertha L. Brown, Bangor.*

MORE BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS.—Mrs. Elizabeth H. Marks, of Yarmouth, writes that Miss Ellen F. Paine, of Bangor, reports a

flock of Bohemian Waxwings at Bangor, the week previous to March 7th. The birds were positively indentified—*W. H. Brownson, Portland.*

KILLDEER PLOVER.—Sunday, April 4th, while out for a walk looking for birds, I was very much gratified to see a Killdeer Plover. It was in fine plumage and was a beautiful bird.—*H. W. Jewell, Farmington.*

SPOTTED SANDPIPER LIGHTS IN BUSHES.—While out looking for birds back of the depot here at Farmington, I saw a Spotted Sandpiper fly and light on a bush which hung out over the water. They have done this before when I have been at the same place. There is a small creek back of the depot and a sewer runs into it from the village. The Sandpipers were here picking up bugs and worms from the mud on the banks of the creek.—*H. W. Jewell, Farmington.*

AN ALBINISTIC HERMIT THRUSH.—On the morning of May 17th, 1909, the writer saw an albinistic Hermit Thrush at Westbrook, Me. The bird was not captured. The entire head and upper part of the neck and throat appeared to be white and immaculate, and the large spots of the breast were resumed below the albinistic portion, their irregular upper border showing the irregular termination of albinistic portion. The unusual number of Hermit Thrushes seen that morning made it appear that a movement was in progress. The bird has not been seen since. Should any one see the bird, it is to be hoped that it may be reported through these pages.—*Arthur H. Norton, Portland.*

A ROBIN'S STRANGE NESTING PLACE.—I found a year or two ago what seemed to me to be an interesting incident, which was in the shape of a Robin's nest built on a ledge, the ledge being on a level with the surrounding land. A small bush gave protection from the blazing rays of the sun. The nest was six feet from the track (Sandy River Railroad), where four passenger trains passed, also several freight trains each day, but did not disturb the bird in the least.—*H. W. Jewell, Farmington.*

NOTES FROM FRANKLIN CO.—I saw a Wood Thrush near Farmington village, May 21st. I had visited the same place the morning before without hearing it. I saw another May 24th, near my home in Avon. May 23d, I saw a Philadelphia Vireo. It was singing in a clump of small trees on a bank in a field. The same day I saw a Veery with a pure white place on its upper parts. It seemed to be on the wing near the rump, about the width of a feather, and one-half to three-fourths inches long.—*Dana W. Sweet, Phillips.*

LATE MYRTLE WARBLERS.—On account of illness I have been unable to watch the migration of birds except from the piazza of my cottage in South Portland. As late as May 22nd, a considerable flock of Myrtle Warblers frequented the small gray birch trees which abound here. There were from twenty-five to forty individuals, in all grades of plumage. The adult males are very brilliant in slaty blue, black and yellow. This date seems to me to be quite late for so many of these birds to be in this section of the state, as they rarely nest here. A few Yellow Palm Warblers are with the Myrtles, and it is late for them to be so far south. Brown Thrashers, Catbirds, Baltimore Orioles and Yellow Warblers are quite numerous around the cottage. A large flock of Tree Swallows fly around the field all day, seeking insects in the air, but often settling down among the bayberry bushes and varying their early fare with the waxy berries.—*W. H. Brownson, Portland.*

HIGHLAND LAKE MIGRANTS.—While I have not been out at all this spring, as is my custom, to watch for the migrants, I have seen a few on the way to my camp at Highland Lake, as noted below; March 27th, 1 Bluebird; April 11th, 5 Phoebes, 1 Pine Warbler; April 19th, 2 Yellow Palm Warblers; April 19th, 2 Vesper Sparrows; April 27th, 3 Spotted Sandpipers; May 2nd, Black-throated Green Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Barn Swallow, Blue-headed Vireo; May 9th, Kingfisher; May 15th, Catbird; May 16th, Ovenbird, Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler.

Mr. Fred Frost reports seeing a flock of 42 Canada Geese going over the Western Promenade March 25th.

Mr. Harry Hanson reports two Song Sparrows wintering near and about Deering Oaks. The pair were observed at various times during November, December and January—*Louis E. Legge, Portland.*







SYLVESTER B. BECKETT.

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Reprint of Some of the Ornithological Papers of  
Sylvester B. Beckett.

(With a portrait.)

A. H. NORTON, Portland.

The present paper contains nothing original, or new. Its reason for appearing in the pages of THE JOURNAL, is to put in an accessible place certain papers already in print, but practically beyond the reach of students of the literature of Maine birds. These papers were contributed at meetings of the Portland Society of Natural History at different times, and were printed in the Portland newspapers. One is impressed with the fact that they appear in the third person, and that they may not be what Mr. Beckett would accept as his statements. Examination of the Society's records, kept by Mr. Beckett himself, mentions these papers invariably in the third person. A set of clippings of reports of the meetings of the society, prepared during Mr. Beckett's life by Dr. Wm. Wood, his associate and long-time president of the Society, from which these articles are copied, shows no corrections. The writer has hesitated about bringing these papers forward, particularly

certain ones containing records that may be regarded as hypothetical. Reflection upon the point resulted in the decision to reproduce them for several reasons. They have a value and interest from the historical point of view, as contributions to our local avifauna. We find in them a charm and interest that grows upon us as we read them, and look backward to the conditions of ornithological science at that time.

The epoch of ornithological biographies had come to a close, while the epoch of critical revision was coming into dominance. The period of faunal studies had hardly assumed definite form. Baird, Cassin and Lawrence were the dominating figures of the day.\* As a local student, Mr. Beckett commands a period by himself. When his final paper on Sparrows was delivered, Holmes, Boardman and Verrill were still unheard from in ornithological literature. His name does not appear in the writings of his contemporaries, or his successors. This is a fact to be regretted, for had he been in correspondence with Baird or Brewer, his observations would have been contributions to the History of North American Birds, and other works, and that portion relating to Maine would have been more representative than it now is.

It may be pointed out that in 1858 Mr. Beckett stated, as the result of his investigations, the occurrence of nearly three hundred species of birds in the state. This fact is a testimonial of his skill and industry, as the following summary will emphasize. In 1839 Audubon had accredited to Maine only about one hundred and thirty-six species, and in 1861 the first ostensible state catalogue, by Dr. Ezekiel Holmes, contained but one hundred and ninety-three species, to which he added thirteen the next year. In 1862, Professor Hitchcock, with the assistance of E. A. Samuels, listed but two hundred and thirty, and Professor Verrill recorded but two hundred and sixty-six species. It was not until 1882-83 that three hundred birds were recorded in the literature of the state.

At a meeting of the Portland Society of Natural History, held

\*Of course several other eminent names had appeared, but theirs were periods of a later time.

Dec. 4, 1882,\* Dr. Wm. Wood, the president, paid the following tribute to the memory of Mr. Beckett, whose death occurred at his home in Portland, December 3, 1882.

“It is with profound sorrow that the Society hears the announcement of the death of one of its earliest associates, one from the few now living who were instrumental in its formation. The Portland Society of Natural History was founded in 1843, and the name of S. B. Beckett appears as the clerk of the first meeting, called Nov. 24th, 1843. On Dec. 20, 1843, the Society was duly organized, by the choice of officers, as follows: President, Hon. Ether Shepley; Vice-President, Woodbury Storer, Esq.; Corresponding Secretary, J. W. Mighels, M. D.; Recording Secretary, S. B. Beckett, Esq. Mr. Beckett continued to act as Secretary till the annual meeting of the Society, Dec. 21, 1858, when, at his own request, another gentleman was chosen, and Mr. Beckett was elected one of the board of managers, which position he has continued to occupy to the day of his death. During the whole period that he was the Secretary, and for many years after, he was the curator of ornithology. He filled this office at the time of the first fire, in 1854, to which the Society was subjected, losing at that time a large and very valuable collection of birds, the purchase of which formed the nucleus about which gathered a unique and very rare collection, forming a cabinet of which we were justly proud, and the loss of which is yet a source of unfeeling regret.

“Mr. Beckett was energetic in the effort to reconstruct the Society, and he was ever active in the promotion of its welfare, and he so continued through the long and trying periods that intervened between the first and second fires, and for some time after the erection of the hall in which we are now assembled, losing in this second fire a much larger, more costly collection of birds than in the first, as we had been fortunate enough to receive through a wealthy merchant of Salem, and others, numerous representative birds of the Himalayas, and the Indian Archipelago. In all the duties devolving upon a comparatively small number of the members of

\*Portland Daily Press, Dec. 6, 1882.

the Society, in the midst of these disasters, he ever took an active part, and the Society is under many obligations to him for the labors he has performed in their behalf. He was also elected to the office of Vice-President in 1875, and retained it till 1879-80. These active labors continued down to the time of our taking possession of this building, and for a short time after, when his failing health warned him in some measure to desist."

### FIRST PAPER.

*Portland Daily Advertiser, Feb. 26, 1852.*

Dr. Wood was followed by Mr. Beckett, who introduced the accessions that had been made to the bird department since the last meeting. He stated that we have been visited by several species of birds during the present winter that have rarely before come to this section. Among them are the Pine Grosbeak (*Corythus enucleator*), the Lesser Redpoll Linnet (*Linaria minor*), and the Great American Shrike or Butcher Bird (*Lanius borealis*).

The Pine Grosbeak had been seen in quite large flocks in our vicinity, and specimens have been procured for the Society within the limits of the city.

The Lesser Redpoll he had never seen alive till the present winter, and the first that came under his observation was a single bird, seen during the bitter snow storm some three weeks since. For several days thereafter he noticed them in quite large flocks on the hill, and he procured several specimens, two of which had been mounted by Mr. Ogden, taxidermist of the Boston Society, which he brought to the notice of the meeting. He described the species as being a little smaller than the Bay-winged Sparrow, being only five inches long from extremity to extremity, bill yellow, crown of the head in the male of a rich crimson, the breast a rich carmine, the remainder of the plumage being of a brownish gray. The female differs in plumage in having no carmine color on the breast. Those that he saw uttered a note similar to the call note of the common Yellowbird. They seemed to be of an affectionate disposition, and while picking up the hay seed on a bare spot near his dwelling, he

noticed them frequently feeding each other. He also noticed them on the trees picking the buds, sometimes with the head downward and clinging to the under part of the limbs like the Chickadees and Nuthatch.

The Redpoll, in the arrangement of Audubon, belonged to the *Fringilla* or Finch family, which family comprises eighteen genera and sixty-three species pertaining to the United States.

The third bird to which he alluded was the Great American Shrike or Butcher Bird. This was a little larger than the common Robin. The upper portions of its plumage are of a bright slate color, wings edged with black, breast whitish, tail white and black. It is well named the Butcher Bird, as it is inclined to kill everything it can master, and when hard pushed for food will dash through the window at the Canary that may be hanging up within. Mr. L. O. Reynolds, who lives in the western part of the city, has one which thus came into his house.

The Butcher Bird is extremely savage in disposition, and will kill a much larger quantity of food than it can eat. He strikes the doves and larger birds upon which he preys on the head, and one blow from his sharp, hooked beak is generally sufficient to produce death. They have a practice of impaling the insects and smaller birds upon which they prey on thorns, and it is not unusual to see thorn bushes where they harbor stuck over with beetles, grasshoppers, caterpillars, and here and there a Sparrow or some smaller bird. He had no doubt that the Butcher Bird breeds in the hilly part of our state. They are extremely affectionate towards their young, and in their defence will attack the largest Hawk, and even the Eagle, with a pertinacity and vigor that soon induce them to quit the contest.

## SECOND PAPER.

*Portland Advertiser, May 18, 1852.*

Mr. Beckett called notice to four species of birds new to this quarter, which had made their appearance in our vicinity this spring. They were the Cardinal Grosbeak, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, and Summer Tanager or Redbird.

These birds appeared here at the close of the long northeasterly storm which occurred last month—at least a month earlier than their usual time for appearing in states south of us. It seemed singular that they should thus come to us in the teeth of a strong gale that had been blowing eight or ten days almost incessantly, but Mr. Beckett explained the circumstance by supposing that they were wafted hither on the upper current of the air which blew in an opposite direction. Many of the Tanagers died with the cold soon after their appearance here.

Mr. Beckett described the change of plumage which takes place in the Scarlet and Summer Tanagers from young to the adult bird and from one season to another.

### THIRD PAPER.

*Portland Daily Advertiser, January 17, 1853.*

Mr. Beckett stated that he had rather a singular specimen of the feathered race to present to the notice of the meeting, the great American Shrike or Butcher Bird, the *Lanius borealis* of Vieillot—singular for the strength of its neck, head and beak, contrasted with the smallness and slenderness of its legs and claws, singular for its habit, singular for its intrepid courage.

There were two varieties of the *Lanius* family pertaining to our country, the Great American [Great Northern] and the Loggerhead Shrike.

The Loggerheads inhabit the most southern sections of our country, while the Great Shrike takes to colder regions. So far as his observation went, few, if any, of the Loggerheads came to New England. They are quite common at the south and are treated with friendliness on account of their destructiveness to field mice.

The *Lanius borealis* is very rare south of New York. He was inclined to believe, indeed, that they were not very plentiful anywhere. In our own immediate section he had only met with them for the past two years, and within that time had seen but few individuals. They came to us during the fore part of the winter,



simultaneously with the Snow Bunting and Lesser Redpoll, upon which he doubted not they prey. Their disposition is to confine themselves to the more unsettled parts of the country, and in summer they retire to the deep woods and mountain wilds of the interior, where they rear their young. They often hover about the camps of logging and surveying parties, eagerly seizing upon such bits of meat and other food as may be thrown to them, and are known to the woodsmen by the name of Meat Hawks.\* He met with them among the wooded steepes of Mount Washington last summer, and they probably build their nests and rear their young in the wild glens of the White Mountains, as well as other sparsely settled districts of New England. He quoted from Wilson that they build a large compact nest in the upright fork of a small tree, composed outwardly of dry grass and whitish moss, and warmly lined within with feathers; that the female lays six eggs, sets fifteen days and produces her young in early June.

He spoke of the rapacity of the Butcher Bird. Whatever it seizes, dead or alive, must first be dropped over or impaled upon a thorn, or small, sharp twig, before it can be eaten, or, in case no facilities for such a purpose are at hand, then its food must be dropped into the crotch of some limb or twig, too small to allow the article to pass through entire, and there pulled to pieces. Grasshoppers, caterpillars, mice, small birds, must all be impaled before they can be eaten, however hungry the merciless butcher may be, and reliable ornithologists speak of thorn bushes in the vicinity of the haunts of these birds being stuck all over with insects, intermingled here and there with small birds—more than the *Lanius* can possibly need for food.

As to its courage it seems to fear no other bird that flies, and, like the *Muscapa* [*Tyrannus tyrannus*], or King bird, drives away the largest and fiercest birds from its haunts.

He had not infrequently heard of the Great Shrike in winter dashing at Canaries hanging inside of windows, and it was such a freak that led to the capture of the specimen then before the meet-

\* It will be perceived that the Canada Jay is here confused with the Shrike.

ing. He was taken by Mr. Edward Elmer on the hill. Mr. Elmer's attention was called to his canaries by hearing a pounce against the window. Seeing the bird fly to a small tree near by, he took down the cage, carried it out of doors, and held it up in his sight, and, notwithstanding his own presence, the bird pounced upon the cage and was seized while he was clinging to it.

#### FOURTH PAPER.

*Portland Daily Advertiser, Jan. 8, 1858.*

The occasion was the opening to the public of the new rooms of the Portland Society of Natural History.

Mr. Beckett made statements in reference to the bird department. The whole number of specimens collected in this department was about four hundred and fifty, but three hundred and thirty of which were mounted. The unmounted birds were mostly from foreign countries. The mounted birds, which included nearly two hundred species, were nearly all representatives of the birds of Maine, and it had always been a leading object of the Society to illustrate the natural history of our own State.

In his investigations he had ascertained that nearly three hundred varieties of birds inhabit or frequent our State—he had arranged and classified two hundred and seventy-six, one hundred and sixty-six of which belong to the class of land birds, one hundred and ten to the water birds—hence it may be perceived that the Society's cabinet embraced about two-thirds of all our State birds.

He stated that the whole number of species of birds to be found within the limits of the United States and British Dominions of North America was not far from six hundred. Audubon enumerated five hundred and eight and supposed he had ascertained all, but quite a number had been added since his great work was published.

During the last two years the Society had not been able to devote funds to the enlargement of this department, much to his regret, as he had been obliged to forego several rare opportunities for making purchases, which would not be likely again to occur.

Those who have contributed materially (in specimens) to build up this department, were Rev. Mr. Hopkins, formerly of Saco; Messrs. Wm. W. Lincoln, of Savannah, Ga., formerly of this city; Geo. W. Dam, of San Francisco, Mr. Small, of San Francisco, son of A. M. Small of our city; A. L. E. Clapp, Mrs. Chas. Q. Clapp, Miss Anna B. Fox, and Lieut. Geo. H. Preble.

The whole amount expended by the Society on this department since the destruction of the former cabinet, which took place four years ago, is \$450.94, only \$99.68 of which was expended for specimens, the remainder having been for cases and painting.

The Society had no ornithological books, and so long as it was cramped for means, as at present, very little could be done to facilitate general investigation in this line. Mr. Beckett enumerated the members of each family of birds that are found in our state; and in conclusion took occasion to call attention to a package of very beautiful bird skins from Australia, presented that evening by H. N. Jose, Esq.

#### FIFTH PAPER.

*Portland Daily Advertiser, February 1, 1858.*

Mr. Beckett, curator of ornithology, called attention to a specimen of the wild Pigeon, the only article saved from the conflagration of the Society's former cabinet, and with this for a *text*, read a paper on the *Columba* or Pigeon family generally.

He stated that there were nine species of Doves or Pigeons indigenous to our country. These were the Band-tailed Dove or Pigeon, the Zenaida Dove, Key-west Pigeon or Dove, the Ground Dove, the Blue-headed Pigeon or Dove, the White-headed Dove or Pigeon, the Carolina Turtle and Texas Turtle Dove and the Passenger or common wild Pigeon.

The Band-tailed Dove, he stated, mostly confined itself to the regions beyond the Rocky Mountains. The White-headed Dove or Pigeon, the Zenaida Dove, the Key West Pigeon or Dove and the Blue-headed Pigeon, were summer visitants from the West Indies to the Keys off the coast of Florida, but seldom or never came to the main land.

The Texas Turtle Dove was a bird concerning which he had been able to find very little reliable information, but had seen portraits of the species. The Ground Dove, the smallest species known to our country, was more or less abundant at the south, from the mouth of the Mississippi to Cape Hatteras.

The Carolina Turtle Dove was abundant in all the southern states, and in summer ranged as far north as our section, he himself having seen it among the low pines at Prout's Neck, and a specimen which belonged to the former cabinet of the Society having been shot in Standish.

The common wild Pigeon was known over the whole country, and sometimes was seen in inconceivable numbers.

He gave some account of his own investigations as to their resorts, breeding places, etc., and contradicted the assertion of Wilson, that they raised but one young at a time, he having known several instances of two squabs being taken from the same nest.

To be continued.

## Occasional Notes on Birds at Sea.

By DR. WILLIAM C. KENDALL, Scientific Assistant, U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

(Continued from the June JOURNAL.)

The notes made by the writer in 1891 and 1894, while serving as naturalist on the U. S. Fish Commission Schooner, "Grampus," were published in the June JOURNAL. Additional notes, made in 1895, are here printed. The cruises of the "Grampus" extended from off the coast of Virginia to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and even southern Labrador.

1895.

April 20. Latitude  $37^{\circ} 04'$  north;  $74^{\circ} 51'$  west. Temperature of air  $46^{\circ}$  F.; wind northwest by north; moderate breeze; sky nearly clear; sea moderate. Northern Phalaropes and Gannets (*Sula bassana*) have been pretty common from daylight up to this time. The Phalaropes are very abundant, but in small flocks or more or less

scattering; Gannets were frequently flying in pairs, in fact they were usually on the wing and flying northward. A few Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) were occasionally seen and Petrels (sp.?) were common. 10 A. M.; 3 or 4 knots north and west from the above station; a moderate northwest by north wind; moderate sea and nearly clear sky. Herring Gulls and Northern Phalaropes common. Latitude  $37^{\circ} 03' 45''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 29'$  west; 1 P. M.; temperature of the air  $51^{\circ}$  F.; gentle north by northwest breeze; light, smooth swell. Several Herring Gulls were around the vessel, but only three Phalaropes seen. 3.4 knots west one-half north from latitude  $37^{\circ} 03' 45''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 29'$  west; 2 P. M.; temperature of air  $51^{\circ}$  F.; gentle north by northwest breeze; clear sky and moderate sea. Three Phalaropes seen. At 2.45 two more were observed. Latitude  $37^{\circ} 04'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 37'$  west; 3 P. M.; temperature of air  $55^{\circ}$  F.; light north by northwest breeze; calm sea; bright sunshine. One small flock of Red Phalaropes (*Crymophilus fulvicarius*) observed. Latitude  $37^{\circ} 36' 15''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 25'$  west; 9 A. M.; temperature of air  $50^{\circ}$  F.; stiff east wind; clear sky; long east northeast swell. One small flock Northern (?) Phalaropes seen flying to the westward; a large flock seen sitting on the water, the largest bunch yet seen. Latitude  $37^{\circ} 34' 15''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 27'$  west; 11 A. M.; temperature of the air  $48^{\circ}$  F.; stiff east northeast wind; sky partly clear; sea smooth. Phalaropes and Gannets numerous.

April 22. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 02' 30''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 42'$  west; 7 A. M.; temperature of air  $47^{\circ}$  F.; moderate southeast wind; sky clearing; long swell. Gannets were common this morning. Many Phalaropes seen, a large flock bunched on the water.

April 22. Latitude  $37^{\circ} 41' 30''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 57'$  west; temperature of air  $52^{\circ}$  F.; stiff west by northwest wind, almost squally; rain; sea choppy. Very few birds seen. Now and then a small flock of Phalaropes.

April 23. Latitude  $37^{\circ} 33' 30''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 29'$  west; 7 A. M.; temperature of air  $47^{\circ}$  F.; light west wind; sky clearing a little; sea moderate. A few Northern Phalaropes seen. Latitude

37° 58' 45" north; longitude 70° 23' 30" west; 10 A. M.; temperature of air 52° F.; light west wind; sky partly clear; sea moderate. Some Gannets and Phalaropes seen. Latitude 38° 04' 30" north; longitude 74° 19' 30" west; 11 A. M.; temperature of air 50° F.; gentle west by southwest breeze; sky partly clear; sea moderate. A few small flocks of Phalaropes seen this forenoon. Latitude 38° 18' 30" north; longitude 73° 51' 30" west; 7 P. M.; temperature of air 47° F.; wind variable, gentle; sky partly clear; sea smooth. Phalaropes have been seen all day in scattering flocks of three or four to a dozen or so. They are less abundant than they were at first.

April 24. Southwest by south 5.5 miles from latitude 38° 11' 30" north; longitude 74° 14' west; 12 M.; temperature of air 51° F.; surface water 44° F.; wind southeast by east; a moderate breeze; sky clear and sea moderate. Only two or three small flocks of Phalaropes observed this morning. Latitude 37° 49' 15" north; longitude 74° 17' west; 3 P. M.; temperature of air 49° F.; gentle southeast breeze; sky clear; sea moderate. A small flock of Phalaropes seen at this time. A few small flocks of three or four to six or eight have been seen during the afternoon. South by southwest 2.7 knots from latitude 37° 49' 15" north; longitude 74° 17' west; 4 P. M.; temperature of air 50° F.; gentle southeast by south breeze; sky clear; sea smooth. Two pretty large flocks of Phalaropes seen. West 6.2 miles from latitude 37° 45' 30"; longitude 74° 29' west; 6 P. M.; temperature of air 52° F.; moderate south by east wind; sky clear; sea smooth. Very few birds of any kind were seen at the eastward, but at 6 P. M. and later Phalaropes became more numerous, flying in flocks of from two or three to fifteen or twenty. Latitude 37° 45' north; longitude 74° 45' 30" west; 8 P. M.; temperature of air 49° F.; moderate south by west wind; sky clear; sea moderate. As we approached this locality from the eastward, the Phalaropes became more plentiful, indicating that the food found so plentiful in this place was attractive to the birds. Schools of mackerel also seen up to 9 P. M.

April 25. Latitude 37° 41' 30" north; longitude 74° 43' 30" west; 11 A. M.; temperature of air 54° F.; stiff south by southwest

wind; sky clear; sea moderate. Only a few small flocks of Phalaropes seen this forenoon.

April 26. Northwest 1 knot from latitude  $37^{\circ} 40' 15''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 36' 30''$  west; 8 A. M.; temperature of air  $55^{\circ}$  F.; light south by west breeze; sky overcast; fog; sea moderate. Two good-sized schools of mackerel were up near the vessel, and pretty large flocks of northern Phalaropes were resting on the water over them. They were so tame that they did not fly as the vessel passed close to them. At other times they are usually very wild. Latitude  $37^{\circ} 42'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 36' 30''$  west; 9 A. M.; temperature of air  $52^{\circ}$  F.; moderate southeast by south wind; overcast and fog; sea moderate. Five fairly large flocks of Phalaropes seen flying northward. Latitude  $37^{\circ} 40'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 34' 30''$  west; 11 A. M.; temperature of air  $54^{\circ}$  F.; gentle southwest by south wind; fog; sea moderate. A flock of about thirty or forty Phalaropes seen flying northward. Courses, southwest by south 2 miles (knots), southeast by east 4.6 miles, from latitude  $37^{\circ} 29'$  north; longitude  $75^{\circ} 00' 15''$  west; 6 P. M.; temperature of air  $51^{\circ}$  F.; surface water  $48.5^{\circ}$  F.; moderate south by east wind; sky cloudy; fog; sea moderate. Several flocks of twenty or thirty or more Phalaropes seen during the afternoon, all on the wing.

April 27. Latitude  $37^{\circ} 40' 15''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 36' 30''$  west; 7 A. M.; temperature of air  $54^{\circ}$  F.; light southwest by west breeze; overcast; fog; sea moderate. Red feed (copepods) has been very plentiful all night and still is at this station. This is the first time that it has been taken in large quantities in the day time this season, and the first time that we know of mackerel "showing up" in quantities in the day time this year. Scattering Phalaropes, or in very small flocks. Latitude  $37^{\circ} 42' 45''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 37' 45''$  west; 1 P. M.; temperature of air  $56^{\circ}$  F.; gentle south by southeast breeze; sky overcast; fog; sea moderate. Shot a Northern Phalarope. Its stomach contained amphipods (*Themisto*) almost entirely. A large flock of these birds seen. Several other flocks observed, not all on the wing, but apparently flying in no particular direction.

April 28. Latitude  $37^{\circ} 46'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 36' 30''$  west; 3 P. M.; temperature of the air  $59^{\circ}$  F.; of surface water  $49^{\circ}$  F.; gentle southeast wind; sky overcast; fog; moderate sea. Quite a large flock of Phalaropes seen sitting on the water, scattered over a considerable area. Latitude  $37^{\circ} 46'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 36' 30''$  west; 6 P. M.; lying to, trying for mackerel; temperature  $58^{\circ}$  F.; light southeast breeze; overcast; moderate sea. Small flocks of Phalaropes have been seen during the whole afternoon, but from 5 to 6 P. M. they seem to be more plentiful, yet still in small flocks of perhaps five to twenty, all on the wing.

April 29. One knot southwest from latitude  $38^{\circ} 38' 30''$  north; longitude  $73^{\circ} 55'$  west; 6 P. M.; temperature of air  $48^{\circ}$  F.; moderate east by northeast wind; sky overcast; fog; sea rough. The wind has been practically fresh from east by northeast all day yesterday and up to the present time. Scattering Phalaropes have been seen all day. One quite large flock seen at this hour on the wing.

April 30. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 33' 30''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 04' 30''$  west; 9 A. M.; temperature of air  $55^{\circ}$  F.; gentle southeast by south breeze; sky overcast; fog; a moderate swell. One Phalarope seen.

May 1. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 31' 30''$  north; longitude  $73^{\circ} 54' 30''$  west; 9 A. M.; temperature of air  $50^{\circ}$  F.; fresh northeast by east wind; overcast; fog; rain; very choppy. Small flocks of Phalaropes have been seen all the morning. One large flock seen at this hour. Southwest by south 3.7 knots from latitude  $38^{\circ} 16'$  north; longitude  $73^{\circ} 50' 30''$  west; 6 P. M.; temperature of air  $51^{\circ}$  F.; wind northeast, blowing a moderate gale; sky overcast; rain and fog; sea rough. A flock of ten Jaegers (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) seen.

May 2. Five miles north by northwest from latitude  $37^{\circ} 13'$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 37' 15''$  west; 6 P. M.; temperature of the air  $49^{\circ}$  F.; moderate northeast by east wind; sky overcast; rain and fog; long rolling swell. A good many Jaegers seen to-day, but no Phalaropes.

May 3. Latitude  $37^{\circ} 40' 30''$  north; longitude  $74^{\circ} 57' 45''$  west; 3 P. M.; temperature of air  $49^{\circ}$  F.; sky overcast; rain and fog. At



3.40 P. M. a flock of about twenty Phalaropes seen sitting on the water.

May 11. East by one-half east 8.3 knots from latitude  $39^{\circ} 53'$  north; longitude  $72^{\circ} 40' 45''$  west; 4 P. M.; temperature of air  $63^{\circ}$  F.; wind south, stiff; sky partly clear; sea smooth. Two flocks of Phalaropes of about twenty-five or thirty birds seen on the wing. These are the first birds observed since we left port yesterday. Latitude  $39^{\circ} 57' 30''$  north; longitude  $72^{\circ} 19' 30''$  west; 5 P. M.; temperature of air  $63^{\circ}$  F.; stiff, south wind; sky partly clear; sea smooth. Since 4 P. M. Phalaropes have been quite numerous in flocks of from six to thirty or forty, all on the wing. A few single birds seen. A good deal of "red feed" (copepods) taken in tow net.

May 12. 7.3 knots from latitude  $40^{\circ} 30' 30''$  north; longitude  $69^{\circ} 51' 45''$  west; 8 A. M.; temperature of air  $58^{\circ}$  F.; stiff south by east breeze; sky cloudy; moderate swell. Several large flocks of Phalaropes seen in this vicinity.

May 14. Latitude  $43^{\circ} 27'$  north; longitude  $65^{\circ} 18'$  west; Cape Negro Light bearing north by west 4 miles; 9 A. M.; temperature of air  $42^{\circ}$  F.; gentle northwest breeze; sky clear; moderate sea. Phalaropes in flocks of twelve to forty or more have been fairly numerous this morning.

May 20. One knot southeast from latitude  $44^{\circ} 01'$  north; longitude  $64^{\circ} 34' 15''$  west; Coffin's Island lighthouse bearing northwest about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant; temperature of air  $61^{\circ}$  F.; gentle northwest by west breeze; sky clear; moderate swell. Three flocks of Phalaropes seen. Took some "red feed" (copepods) and a few fish eggs in tow net.

May 23. Latitude  $44^{\circ} 18' 15''$  north; longitude  $63^{\circ} 32'$  west; 3 P. M.; temperature of air  $48.5^{\circ}$  F.; stiff west by southwest wind; sea choppy. A flock of about forty Phalaropes seen flying eastward. Tow net took nothing.

May 24. Latitude  $44^{\circ} 22' 45''$  north; longitude  $63^{\circ} 26' 30''$  west; 5 A. M.; temperature of air  $42.5^{\circ}$  F.; gentle west by north

breeze; sky cloudy; moderate swell. A very large flock of Phalaropes seen flying.

May 25. Latitude  $44^{\circ} 20' 45''$  north; longitude  $63^{\circ} 30' 15''$  west; 7 A. M.; temperature of air  $46^{\circ}$  F.; gentle southwest breeze moderate swell. At 7.45 A. M., 5 or 6 miles northwest by west from the above station, four large flocks of Phalaropes were seen. East by north 3.5 knots from latitude  $45^{\circ} 9' 45''$  north; longitude  $61^{\circ} 3'$  west; 10 A. M.; temperature of air  $50^{\circ}$  F.; wind south by west; light air; sky clear; long rolling swell. Small flocks of Phalaropes have been seen this morning on the wing. Tow net took nothing. Captain Ellis of the schooner "Roulette," said that last night just before dark he saw some large schools of mackerel farther off shore, but could not catch them as "the birds" would settle on them and scare them down. Fish and "birds" were moving eastward. Phalaropes are generally called by the fishermen, "birds" or "the birds."

May 28. Latitude  $45^{\circ} 07'$  north; longitude  $60^{\circ} 33' 30''$  west; 1 P. M.; temperature of air  $49^{\circ}$  F.; stiff south by southwest wind; sky overcast; fog; sea rough. Ten minutes towing of surface net took nothing. A small flock of Phalaropes seen flying.

May 30. Latitude  $45^{\circ} 32' 45''$  north; longitude  $60^{\circ} 32' 15''$  west; 4 P. M.; temperature of air  $52^{\circ}$  F.; light air, south by southwest; cloudy and fog; moderate swell. A small flock of Terns (*Sterna paradisica*) seen "plugging."

June 12. Near latitude  $46^{\circ} 44' 30''$  north; longitude  $60^{\circ} 17'$  west; 2 P. M.; temperature of air  $67^{\circ}$  F.; light, southeast air; sky clear; sea smooth. Several Gannets have been seen sitting on the water, but would not allow close approach.

July 21. Latitude  $43^{\circ} 44'$  north; longitude  $69^{\circ} 08'$  west; 7 P. M.; temperature of air  $61^{\circ}$  F.; light air, north by northeast; clear sky and smooth sea. Three large flocks of Phalaropes seen. Two of the flocks skimming over the surface of the water, the other sitting.

July 23. Off Seguin Island, Me.; 1 P. M.; temperature of air  $65^{\circ}$  F.; gentle north by northwest breeze; sky clear; smooth sea. Five Phalaropes seen. 3 P. M.; steering eastward; wind gentle,

from northwest by north; clear sky and smooth sea. A flock of about twelve Phalaropes seen.

July 24. Latitude  $43^{\circ} 48' 30''$  north; longitude  $68^{\circ} 49' 30''$  west; 9 A. M.; temperature of air  $59^{\circ}$  F.; gentle west by northwest breeze; clear sky and smooth sea. Several fair-sized flocks of Phalaropes seen this morning.

July 25. Latitude  $43^{\circ} 53' 30''$  north; longitude  $68^{\circ} 37' 30''$  west; 5 P. M.; temperature of air  $58^{\circ}$  F.; moderate southwest breeze; sky overcast; fog; smooth sea. Several small flocks of Phalaropes seen to-day.

July 27. Latitude  $43^{\circ} 39' 30''$  north; longitude  $69^{\circ} 34'$  west; 9 A. M.; temperature of air  $51^{\circ}$  F.; calm; clear sky. A fair-sized flock of Phalaropes seen. Latitude  $43^{\circ} 40' 15''$  north; longitude  $69^{\circ} 30'$  west; 12 M.; temperature of air  $62^{\circ}$  F.; light southwest breeze; smooth sea and clear sky. A pretty fair-sized flock of Phalaropes seen on the water.

August 20. East by one-half north 5.1 knots from latitude  $40^{\circ} 54' 30''$  north; longitude  $69^{\circ} 20' 30''$  west; 6 A. M.; temperature of air  $54^{\circ}$  F.; moderate north by northwest breeze; clear sky, few clouds; moderate sea. Three large flocks of Phalaropes seen sitting on the water.

August 21. Latitude  $42^{\circ} 25' 30''$  north; longitude  $70^{\circ} 39' 30''$  west; 11 A. M.; temperature of air  $60^{\circ}$  F.; fresh north by northwest wind; clear sky; smooth sea (not rough). Three flocks of Phalaropes seen.

August 26. Latitude  $43^{\circ} 43'$  north; longitude  $69^{\circ} 12' 45''$  west; 1 P. M.; temperature of air  $58^{\circ}$ ; gentle southwest by south breeze; clear sky and moderate sea. Two small flocks of Phalaropes observed.

## Wild Birds in a City Garden.

By MISS SARA C. EASTMAN, Portland, Maine.

Adjoining our house is a large garden, which was, for many years, a delight to the eye from May to October. There were to be seen in profusion, roses, sweet peas, pansies, peonies, and many

other blossoms, as well as beautiful flowering shrubs. Pear trees spread out their fruitful branches there, and close by our windows was a tangle of raspberry bushes, now nearly exterminated. Hither came every year during the migratory season many wild birds, and all through the summer might be seen and heard such birds as remained in the city during that season. Now, those who made the garden and loved it are gone, and the once lovely place has become, as compared with its former state, a barren spot inhabited by English Sparrows and even less desirable tenants. Still, the wild birds come to it, though not in such numbers as formerly. It may interest some of the readers of the JOURNAL to know how many different kinds have been seen there. The list is as follows: Robin, Fox Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, Wilson's Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Black-billed Cuckoo, Baltimore Oriole, Catbird, Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Humming Bird, Yellow Warbler, Parula Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Canadian Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Redstart, Northern Yellow-throat, Ovenbird, Northern Water Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Chickadee, Winter Wren, Junco, and the Great Northern Shrike.

The time during which these birds remain in the garden varies from a few moments to a day or two. Usually the Warblers flit about from tree to tree and bush to bush, sometimes stopping to preen their feathers, and then pass on, but occasionally they are about for an hour or more. The Thrushes make the longest stay of any of the visitors. The English Sparrows which nest in the elms about the house try to drive away all other birds, and as a rule they finally succeed in doing so, but I am glad to record that an Olive-backed Thrush that came to the garden in May showed a proper spirit, and when attacked by the Sparrows, turned upon his assailants and utterly routed them. I cannot express the pleasure

which the visits of these birds have given me. There are many bird students in this city, and I have no doubt that those who possess or have access to pleasant gardens could furnish a longer list than that which is here given.

### Maine Notes.

In the July *Auk*, Mr. Arthur H. Norton has several notes of general interest to Maine readers, and the substance of them are here reprinted.

"During the week of November 16th to 21st, 1908, a Lesser Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea nivalis*) was shot by a fox hunter in a field in Gorham, Maine. The bird was much emaciated and in the immature plumage in which it is usually seen in Maine. It was mounted by, and is in the possession of, Mr. Leonard Leighton, of Westbrook, where I made an examination of it."

"On February 14, 1909, in a garden in the outskirts of Saccharappa village, Westbrook, I collected an adult male Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni exilipes*.) It was accompanied at the time by another bird, which I believe to have been of the same form, but this was not positively determined. Two and three birds had been visiting the place for several days previous to the capture, and I had become positive that one at least was a Hoary Redpoll, undoubtedly the one secured."

"Having recently had occasion to examine some Gray-cheeked Thrushes, all of the specimens contained in the collections of the Portland Society of Natural History and of the writer were brought together. This revealed the fact that a specimen in the Natural History Society's collection is a Bicknell's Thrush. It is a young female, taken in Cumberland County, Maine, September 30, 1878. Although the specimen is so characteristic that no doubt existed as to its identity, it was submitted to Dr. Charles W. Richmond for verification.

"There appears to be no previous record of a specimen taken in

Maine, yet it has been reported, in each instance without capture of a specimen, from the following localities: Franklin, 1906 (D. W. Sweet, Journ. Orn. Soc., VII, p. 81); Oxford, 1899 (A. P. Larabee, verbal); Piscataquis, 1898 (F. H. Allen, Auk, XV, p. 60)."

In a note on the recent Status of the Meadow Lark, Mr. Norton has this to say :

"In 1882, in his 'Catalogue of Birds Found in the Vicinity of Portland, Maine,' Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown stated that this bird was a rare summer resident, oftenest seen in migrations. The extreme dates then given were April 22 and Nov. 3.

"To-day the conditions are decidedly different, and while the increase of which I shall speak seems to have been somewhat general in the southwest quarter of the State, I shall confine my remarks strictly to the section embraced in Mr. Brown's paper of 1882, viz., the vicinity of Portland. I had been collecting several seasons in fields in which the bird is now regularly seen in some numbers without meeting a specimen until 1891, when I found and collected a lone specimen at Westbrook. In August of the same year, in fields I had regularly visited in the adjoining town of Gorham, two small flocks, one of five, and one of eight birds, were seen. From that time to the present, May, 1909, there has been a slow but positive increase and dispersal of the birds through the section. They are not only rather plentiful in certain Westbrook and Gorham fields, but are to be found in several places in the very outskirts of the city of Portland, and also in Falmouth and Scarborough.

"The earliest date on which I have noted the bird's occurrence in spring is March 27. They have frequently shown a tendency to remain late in fall, having been recorded in November several years, in December twice, and in January once, in Westbrook. The winter just passed, 1908-09, a small flock actually wintered on the marshes back of Pine Point Beach, in Scarborough, where they were watched with great interest by Mr. Walker, agent of the Pine Point R. R. station."

### Migration Reports, 1908.

The following list shows a good number of species, the year having been an especially favorable one for bird observation :

The reports were made by W. H. Brownson, Portland, Cumberland County; Louis E. Legge, Portland, Cumberland County; Sara C. Eastman, Portland, Cumberland County; Augusta D. Robinson, Bowdoinham, Sagadahoc County; Everett E. Johnson, Hebron, Oxford County; J. M. Swain, Farmington, Franklin County; D. W. Sweet, Avon, Franklin County.

	PORTLAND.	BOWD'HAM.	HEBRON.	FARM'TON.	AVON.
Horned Grebe,	Oct. 24			April 30	Oct. 1
Pied-billed Grebe,	Sept. 9			May 6	May 14
Northern Loon,	Dec. 24	May 21			
Black-backed Gull,	July 27			April 22	
Herring Gull,	" 27				
Bonaparte Gull,	Nov. 14				March 29
American Merganser,					April 26
Black Duck,		April 8			Sept. 16
Wood Duck,				May 17	
American Golden-eye,				April 7	May 10
Bufflehead,					Nov. 11
Old Squaw,					" 7
Harlequin Duck,					
American Scoter,					Oct. 31
White-winged Scoter,					
Surf Scoter,					May 10
Ruddy Duck,					Nov. 11
Canada Goose,			Nov. 25		" 7
American Bittern,	April 18				Oct. 31
	" 25				May 10
Blue Heron,				May 15	Oct. 23
				" 6	March 13
Black-crowned Night Heron,	April 20				April 18
	" 22				" 25
	July 28				Aug. 27
	May 31				

American Coot,	July 28				June 2
Northern Phalarope,	March 13				April 14
Woodcock,	Oct. 2				
Wilson's Snipe,	" 2				
Stil Sandpiper,	Aug. 21				
Knot,	Sept. 9	July 27			
Pectoral Sandpiper,	July 28				
Least Sandpiper,	Sept. 9				
Semi-palmated Sandpiper,	Aug. 28				
Sanderling,	" 28				
Winter Yellowlegs,					
Summer Yellowlegs,					
Solitary Sandpiper,					
Willet,	" 15				
Upland Plover,	May 14	May 25	June 26		May 17
Spotted Sandpiper,	Sept. 9			May 22	" 15
Hudsonian Curlew,	Oct. 2				" 16
Beetlehead,	Sept. 20				
Golden Plover,	Aug. 3				
Semi-palmated Plover,	July 28				
Ruddy Turnstone,	March 14	March 15	June 26		March 31
Marsh Hawk,	" 22	April 8	April 20		April 25
Sharp-shinned Hawk,	April 26		July 26		
Cooper's Hawk,	Nov. 15				
American Goshawk,	March 15	" 20	Dec. 22		" 24
Red-tailed Hawk,	" 13			March 24	" 20
Red-shouldered Hawk,	April 12			May 21	Sept. 23
Broad-winged Hawk,	" 18	April 23	Feb. 12		April 25
Pigeon Hawk,	April 12		Sept. 1	April 18	April 23
Sparrow Hawk,	" 18	April 23	Nov. 14	" 16	April 25
Fish Hawk,	May 19	May 19	June 7	June 20	May 5
Short-eared Owl,	April 12	April 22	April 23		" 5
Black-billed Cuckoo,					
Belted Kingfisher,					
Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker,	April 20	" 24	Sept. 19	" 26	" 26
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker,				April 20	April 25
				" 26	Nov. 11
				May 12	April 17



	Sept.	July	Oct.
Pileated Woodpecker,	3	22	21
Red-headed Woodpecker,			
Flicker,	15	11	24
Whip-poor-will,	20	April	April
Nighthawk,	13	7	5
Chimney Swift,	21	30	24
Ruby-throated Hummingbird,	17	13	12
Kingbird,	17	17	20
Crested Flycatcher,	26	19	14
Phoebe,	29	March	17
Olive-sided Flycatcher,	April	March	29
Wood Pewee,	6	31	17
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher,	27	20	20
Alder Flycatcher,	30	21	30
Chebec,	April	18	24
Horned Lark,	20	5	13
Prairie Horned Lark,	14	19	13
Crow,	Nov.	May	13
Bobolink,	21	March	10
Cowbird,	March	11	March
Red-winged Blackbird,	16	3	5
Meadowlark,	19	13	19
Baltimore Oriole,	6	25	15
Rusty Blackbird,	10	23	29
Bronzed Grackle,	30	April	29
Pine Grosbeak,	April	6	15
Purple Finch,	16	15	25
American Crossbill,	March	2	29
White-winged Crossbill,	11	8	15
Redpoll,	14	8	29
American Goldfinch,	July	8	27
Pine Siskin,	April	6	31
Snow Bunting,	30	May	Jan.
Vesper Sparrow,	21	Dec.	22
Ipswich Sparrow,	22	15	26
Savanna Sparrow,	13	26	28
	3	Nov.	Nov.
	14	April	7
	14	15	15
	24	9	15
	30	24	15

White-crowned Sparrow,	{ May 14	May 19	April 27	May 13	May 12	May 10	May 14
White-throated Sparrow,	April 25	April 24	April 21	April 23	April 23	April 24	Oct. 4
Tree Sparrow,	{ Nov. 15	" 26	April 27	Oct.	Oct.	March 28	March 29
Chipping Sparrow,	April 25	" 27	May 2	April 29	April 27	April 25	April 25
Field Sparrow,	" 25	" 27	May 4	March 29	April 27	May 4	March 30
Junco,	March 15	March 15	April 4	March 20	March 20	March 26	March 15
Song Sparrow,	" 14	" 15	March 21	" 17	" 17	" 14	" 15
Swamp Sparrow,	Sept. 20	April 24	Oct. 3	" 31	" 31	April 28	April 25
Fox Sparrow,	{ March 21	" 1	April 4	" 27	Nov. 3	April 24	April 15
Chewink,	May 6	May 17	July 26			May 16	Oct. 21
Rose-breasted Grosbeak,	" 13		June 18		May 20	May 16	May 19
Indigo Bunting,	" 7		June 18		" 20	" "	" 20
Scarlet Tanager,	" 16		July 7	May 11	" 7	April 29	" 14
Purple Martin,	" 19		" 16	" 2	" 2	May 1	" 25
Cliff Swallow,	April 26	April 20	May 2	" 24	April 25	April 24	" 24
Barn Swallow,	" 12	" 12	" 16	April 24	April 25	" 30	May 16
Tree Swallow,	" "		June 17	May 28	" 23	March 31	March 29
Bank Swallow,	March 15	March 15	April 11				
Cedar Waxwing,	April 5		Dec. 28		Nov. 25		
Migrant Shrike,	May 24	May 30	June 1	" 20	June 2	May 24	May 17
Red-eyed Vireo,	" "		May 31			" 15	" 24
Philadelphia Vireo,	April 27	April 27	Sept. 12				
Warbling Vireo,	" 26	" 27	May 10	" 13	May 22	" 12	" 5
Yellow-throated Vireo,	May 12	May 13	" 13	" 16	" 31	" 10	" 2
Blue-headed Vireo,	April 29	" 13	" 16	" 13	" 31	" 12	" 13
Black and White Warbler,	May 11	" 10	" 10	" 13	" 31	" 14	" 15
Nashville Warbler,	" 10	" 10	April 26	April 26	April 26	April 27	" 19
Parula Warbler,	" 10	April 23	May 13	May 20	April 26	May 18	" 13
Yellow Warbler,	" 10	May 13	May 13	June 4	April 26	April 27	April 25
Black-throated Blue Warbler,	" 10	May 13	May 13	June 4	May 12	May 12	May 13
Myrtle Warbler,	May 12				May 12	May 12	May 17
Magnolia Warbler,							
Chestnut-sided Warbler,							

Bay-breasted Warbler,	May 19	May 24	May 15	May 29	April 24
Black-poll Warbler,	May 19	May 19	May 15	May 29	April 15
Blackburnian Warbler,	April 26	April 27	April 13	April 30	April 15
Black-throated Green Warbler,	April 18	April 19	April 23	April 26	April 13
Pine Warbler,	April 20	April 20	April 29	April 19	April 16
Yellow Palm Warbler,	May 10	May 10	May 16	May 11	Sept. 27
Ovenbird,	May 17	May 19	Sept. 9	May 26	May 13
Northern Water-thrush,	May 12	May 13	May 16	May 21	May 5
Morning Warbler,	May 13	May 19	May 16	May 15	May 30
Northern Yellowthroat,	May 19	May 24	May 16	May 15	May 17
Wilson's Warbler,	May 13	May 13	May 16	May 15	May 19
Canadian Warbler,	May 13	May 13	May 16	May 15	May 21
Redstart,	Oct. 24	May 13	Oct. 24	May 4	May 17
American Pipit, }	May 13	April 30	May 16	May 14	May 17
Catbird,	April 30	April 15	April 27	April 16	May 13
Brown Thrasher,	April 15	April 15	April 27	April 16	April 26
Winter Wren,	March 30	March 30	Oct. 10	March 28	April 26
Brown Creeper,	March 30	March 30	Oct. 4	March 28	April 4
Hudsonian Chickadee,	March 30	March 30	April 23	April 26	Dec. 16
Ruby-crowned Kinglet,	May 13	May 17	June 15	May 20	Oct. 25
Veery,	April 7	April 7	April 18	April 23	Sept. 26
Olive-backed Thrush,	March 9	March 15	March 4	March 15	May 15
Hermit Thrush,	March 8	March 15	March 11	March 15	May 21
Robin,	March 8	March 15	March 11	March 15	April 17
Bluebird,	March 8	March 15	March 11	March 15	April 27

## The Ornithological Magazines.

THE AUK.—The *Auk* for July is rich in timely bird news and information. For one who cares to speculate on the antiquity of existing faunas, the article by Spencer Trotter, on "The Geological and Geographical Relations of the Land-Bird Fauna of Northeastern America" will be suggestive and instructive. Dr. C. W. Townsend, of Boston, writes in a very interesting way of "The Use of Wings and Feet by Diving Birds." The same author gives an account of the recent "Carolina Wren Invasion of New England." Walter P. Taylor tells of one instance of hybridization of Hummingbirds. The fifteenth supplement to the A. O. U. checklist is printed in this number. It is now proper to say Snowy Egret instead of Snowy Heron; Upland Plover instead of Bartramian Sandpiper; Veery instead of Wilson's Thrush, and Savannah Sparrow is made the proper spelling, instead of Savanna Sparrow. There are several notes of special interest to Maine readers.

THE CONDOR.—The *Condor* for May-June comes from the Pacific coast filled with a mass of current news about Western birds. In this issue the reader may learn much about the White-throated Swift, Pigmy Nuthatch, Spotted Owl, Pacific Horned Owl, Magpie, California Shrike, Brewer Blackbird, Bi-colored Blackbird, Mourning Dove, Lark Bunting, Rocky Mountain Screech Owl, California Brown Pelican, and other species familiar to observers in that part of the country. The Editor of this magazine has adopted a few of the most barbarous forms of the "simplified" spelling, and we are shocked to learn that a certain bird "hatcht" a young one, which became "attacht" to the feathers of its parent, as the writer observed when he "approacht" the nest, with a cigar box "tuckt" under his arm, thus becoming a "markt" man, in an "unlookt-for" spell of weather. The Editor remarks that cats, as "cherisht pet," of a murderous nature, should be kept at home, and few will disagree with him, in view of the damage to bird life every season by cats, both in the east and west. The typography of the *Condor* is clear and handsome, the half-tone illustrations are fine, and as the stan-

dard magazine of western ornithology it should prove worth reading in many sections of the east. The *Condor* for July-August comes to hand just as the JOURNAL goes to press. It has the usual amount of interesting and valuable information about western birds.

THE BULLETIN OF THE BUFFALO SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCES.—Volume IX, No. 2, of the *Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences* has a half-tone illustration of a group of Whistling Swans, mounted for the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, and now displayed with its collections. These were some of the birds taken at Niagara Falls in March, 1908, when they dropped exhausted and hungry, and many were carried over the horseshoe fall to their destruction. It is estimated that over one hundred of the flock met death at that time in the manner described. There is a fine article, with good illustrations, on the American Woodcock, by Ottoman Reinecke, of Buffalo. The rest of this very creditable publication is devoted to insects and shells, with a report of the annual meeting of the Society.

THE BIOTA OF THE SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS.—One of the latest publications of the University of California is the *Biota of the San Bernardino Mountains*, by Joseph Grinnell. Dr. Grinnell is the leading authority in this department in the west, and the publication is therefore of the highest value. The San Bernardino Mountains proper constitute the largest high mountain group in southern California, and include the highest peak of Mt. Whitney. The forested area is more extensive than elsewhere in southern California, and furnishes a more abundant fauna. There is a description of the life zones of the region and of the localities, with special reference to the faunal complexion of each place. The plants of the region, as well as the mammals and reptiles, are fully described. More space is given to the birds than to any other part of the fauna. A list of one hundred and thirty-nine species was found in the region, and a detailed record of distribution is given in each case, with extended biographical accounts of many species, and critical notes on others. The volume is handsomely illustrated with half-

tone engravings of the localities described, showing mountains, lakes, trees and forests, as well as nests of birds and the places where they are built. The publication will appeal more readily to those who are familiar with the region described, but there is a large amount of valuable information for eastern bird students.

THE ONTARIO NATURAL SCIENCE BULLETIN.—Number 5 of the *Ontario Natural Science Bulletin* is the Journal of the Wellington Field Naturalists' Club, at Guelph, Ontario. It contains a number of interesting articles on the plants and birds of Ontario. There is a paper by H. H. Whetzel upon "A Fungus Living as a Parasite upon Another Fungus"; an article on the "Hibernation of the Jumping Mouse," by W. E. Saunders; "Biologic Plant-Types," by Theo. Holm, Brookland, D. C.; "The Geoglossaceæ or Earth-Tongues," by Elias J. Durand; "Notes on some Birds of Bruce County, Ontario," by A. B. Klugh; "The Ericaceæ and Orchidaceæ in the Vicinity of Galt, Ontario," by W. Herriot; "The Influence of Darwin on Botanical Science," by J. H. Faull; "Birds of Orangeville, Ontario and Vicinity," by E. W. Calvert; "Gramineæ of County Peel," by J. White; "Birds on My Farm This Winter (1908-9)," by James H. Cæsar, Mono Road, Peel County, Ontario; "A Glance at Our Wild Flowers," by C. J. Young; "Bohemian Waxwing," by L. Cæsar; "General Notes," by Fred Mitchell; and "The Polyporaceæ in the Vicinity of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph." The papers are all scientific in character, and are prepared with care and accuracy.

At the commencement exercises held at The University of Maine on June 9th, two members of the Maine Ornithological Society had honorary degrees conferred upon them in recognition of their achievements. Prescott Keyes, superintendent of the school district comprising Gorham and Westbrook, received the degree of Master of Science in recognition of his long continued and very able services in the cause of education in Maine. Ora Willis Knight, of Bangor, received the degree of Doctor of Science in recognition of the signal contribution to the scientific history of Maine in his recently published *Birds of Maine*.

# The Journal

of the

## Maine Ornithological Society

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study and Protection of Birds

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The last three numbers of THE JOURNAL have been issued under conditions more painful than the members of the Society generally understand. For the past seven months the editor has been practically incapacitated for work. It has happened each time when the March, June and September issues were due that the editor was sick in bed and either could not read proof at all or was forced to do so while bolstered up on pillows. Several members of the society have given loyal help in this time of need. Thanks for important aid should be given to Mr. Arthur H. Norton, Mr. Walter H. Rich, Mr. Louis E. Legge, Jed F. Fanning, Esq., Miss Helen M. Robinson and others; also to our obliging publisher, Mr. Samuel H. Brown of the Marks Printing House.

In this issue Mr. Arthur H. Norton begins a valuable series of the republished Ornithological observations of Sylvester B. Beckett, a Portland Ornithologist who flourished upwards of fifty years ago. Many of our citizens will undoubtedly recall this well-known Portland man and his labors.

During the past year or more THE JOURNAL has been rich in the possession of manuscript from Dr. Kendall. We have now used the last line which he has sent us and like Oliver Twist we would be glad to have more. We hope the Doctor may find time to overhaul the pigeon-holes of the Fish Commission in Washington, where it is quite probable that material of permanent value to the JOURNAL may still be discovered.

The committee on Program has provided some interesting things for the annual meeting for the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving. It is hoped that there will be a large attendance of members.

THE JOURNAL was never in better financial condition than now. There is money enough to pay all outstanding bills and others to be incurred between now and the date of the annual meeting.

## **The Valuable Collections of our Late Ex-Editor, Clarence H. Morrell, of Pittsfield, goes to the Smithsonian.**

The entire collection of eggs and nests of our late fellow-member, Clarence H. Morrell, of Pittsfield, Me., consisting of some twelve hundred specimens, has been presented to the Smithsonian Institution. I have just completed the packing and shipping of them to Washington. The collection was a very valuable one. It not only was composed of many rare sets, but was very carefully prepared, accompanied with very full data, and copious notes accompanied the data. The note-book, however, is retained by his sister, Mrs. Ethel Morrell Hooper, of Exeter, N. H., who has taken extra care of the collection since her brother's demise, and who presented the collection to the Smithsonian. It was his wish, that, in case there was no place in the State where it would be properly appreciated and assurance of perpetual care, it should go to the National Museum. It seems a great pity, that such collections of Maine collected specimens, as this one, Geo. A. Boardman's and several other valuable collections now in the State, that it would now seem, would eventually go to Washington, could not be kept in the State. Among the rare desiderata in this collection were sets of Yellow Palm Warblers, Willson's Black-cap, Blackburnian Warbler, Golden-crown Kinglet, several sets of Pileated Woodpecker and many other rare sets.

J. M. SWAIN.

## **Annual Meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society.**

The 14th annual meeting will be held at Museum of Natural History, Portland, November 26-27, 1909; meeting for reports and business November 26th at 10.30 A. M.; for reading of papers at 2.30 P. M.; at 8 P. M. an illustrated paper on the Ornithology and General Natural History of Mt. Katahdin, by O. W. Knight; meeting for business and papers November 27th, at 9 A. M.

The following papers have been secured:

In memoriam, Leslie A. Lee, committee.

Interesting Rare Birds of the year in Aroostook County, illustrated by specimens, Prof. W. L. Powers.

Experiences with a Robin's Family, illustrated by lantern slides, Mrs. Sarah R. Abbott.

The last Passenger Pigeons breeding at North Bridgton, Me., Hon. J. C. Mead.

An exhibition of some rare or interesting birds of the year by members.



## Bird Notes.

Notes and observations upon bird life within our State are earnestly desired from all our readers for publication in this column, and should be sent to Louis E. Legge, 22 Dow Street, Portland, Maine.

We note with much satisfaction the increasing frequency with which the members of our society report to this JOURNAL their ornithological observations. This is an important part of our duties, one to another, and should be shared in by all interested in bird life. The JOURNAL'S columns are always open to contributors of items of general interest relating to Maine birds, and we trust our members will, through this medium, disseminate such knowledge as they personally possess.

THE YELLOW PALM WARBLER AT PEAK'S ISLAND IN LATE JUNE.—On June 29th, 1909, while engaged in investigating the bog at Peak's Island, which is the type station of *Eriophorum viridicarinatum Fellowsii* Fernald, a Yellow Palm Warbler approached closely to me and emphasized its disapproval of my being in the vicinity by many anxious chirpings. Its actions were identical with those of birds while with young on the bog near Bangor. A glimpse of another bird which did not permit of identification was obtained, but the impression left was that it was likewise this species. As it is well known that migration continues to a very late date with many species so that migrating birds may be proceeding northwards through a region where breeding birds of the same species already have young, I do not feel warranted, with the evidence obtained, in asserting that the individual positively identified at Peak's Island was breeding. The general surroundings, however, were identical with those of its nesting places near Bangor. Also I have observed and studied the habits of the Yellow Palm Warbler for years, and feel perfectly safe in asserting that I know more of their habits and actions on their breeding grounds than any other person living or dead, and I have never seen an individual of this species act as the one in question did, unless a nest containing heavily incubated eggs or young birds was near at hand.—Ora Willis Knight, Bangor.

TROGLODYTES REDITUS.—It is more than twenty years since the House Wren has been noted in Penobscot County. Twenty-eight years ago the House Wren was a rather common summer resident near Bangor, and in my boyhood days I found many of their nests in this vicinity. At about the time the English Sparrow began to appear in appreciable numbers here, the House Wrens were no longer to be found in the vicinity. The present summer two pair at least of these birds have been seen within the limits of the City of Bangor, and one of these is nesting in the yard of Miss Bertha Brown. The other pair was seen by Mr. Winch in another section of the city. A specimen, which was killed by a cat at Orono, has been presented to the University of Maine museum.—*Ora W. Knight, Bangor.*

NESTING OF THE HUDSONIAN CHICKADEE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.—The nesting of the Hudsonian Chickadee in New England is of rare enough occurrence to merit some notice, and as I have been fortunate in finding two nests of this species I will give the data herewith. The first nest was found June 3rd, 1908, and contained seven eggs, well incubated; the second was found June 7th, 1909, and contained the same number of eggs, far advanced in incubation. The nests were both placed in small spruce stumps in a swamp, the second nest within thirty yards of the location of the first nest.—*Fred B. Spaulding, Lancaster, N. H.*

A FISHERMAN AND A BIRD LOVER TOO.—When one starts away on a fishing trip in the spring he doesn't know how much more he would enjoy the time if he were interested in birds. Mrs. Rolfe and I left Portland on our annual fishing trip on the 15th of May. We went to Moosehead Lake and staid over Sunday in Skowhegan. We saw the following birds during the two weeks that we were away. Sparrow Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Fish Hawk, Crow, Bald Eagle, Herring Gull, Least Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Yellow-legs, Prairie Horned Lark, Meadowlark, Pipit, Blackburnian Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow

Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Redstart, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Robin, Bluebird, Winter Wren, Goldfinch, Kingfisher, Least Flycatcher, Phœbe, Bobolink, Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Loon, Black Duck, Old Squaw, Blue Heron, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Flicker, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow, Eaves Swallow, Bank Swallow, Purple Martin, Hermit Thrush, Veery, Ovenbird, Chickadee, Myrtle Warbler, and last and least the English sparrow at a farmhouse near Moosehead Lake. On my way to Brunswick, the last of July, I saw Meadowlarks in three different fields, showing that they are getting more plentiful in this part of the state.—*Percival V. Rolfe, Portland.*

NOTES FROM DAMARISCOTTA.—Loons have reared young in nearly all the ponds around here. July 1st I found young. Aug. 1st I found a young loon, probably one week old, and captured the little fellow long enough to get the parent birds up near enough to photograph.

The Terns have bred in greater numbers than ever on the Egg Rocks and have come into the ponds in goodly numbers in the last two weeks.

The Puffins returned to Egg Rock again this year. New Harbor dry ledges had nearly one hundred eggs laid on them, which were completely cleaned up by the crows, after which the Puffins deserted the rocks entirely.

The Carey Chicken has suffered, as in years past, by being captured and destroyed by some enemy which I have been unable to discover, probably mink, as all that was left were the wings of the bird, and one could easily pick up over one hundred pair of wings in this way.

I have seen more Cuckoos this year than for a number of years past.

The Purple Martin was quite plentiful about May 1, and no doubt if suitable houses were provided more would have remained

with us. Let us put up proper houses and keep them with us once more.—*F. M. David, Damariscotta.*

THE ENGLISH SPARROW, A BIRD INSECTIVOROUS.—Notwithstanding the harsh words and abuse which has been heaped upon this bird, I am still a friend to him and always shall be. He is, I believe, the most diligent gatherer of insects of all the Sparrows. Where I live the dooryard is over-run with grasshoppers and the Sparrows (English) have a great time chasing them, catching and carrying them to their young. I have also seen them catching the Forest Caterpillar (*Heterocampa guttivitta*) also for its young. A friend of mine told me he was troubled with a great many spiders around his buildings and in the stable. The English Sparrow has a nest behind a closed blind on one of the windows, and my friend told me the adult birds had cleaned out the spiders around the house and in the interior of the stable, much to his satisfaction. When the brown-tail moth began to come in here, blown in by heavy winds, the English Sparrows took a hand eating the body of the moth and leaving the wings on the ground. A pint of the wings could be picked up in the day time under an arc light, but not a single body could be found. I watched and saw the sparrows come and get them. I shall always be a friend to them.—*H. W. Jewell, Farmington.*

MEADOW LARKS IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY.—I think that all bird lovers living in Cumberland County will be glad to know that the Meadow Lark is becoming common in this part of the state. For many years these birds were not plentiful here, but latterly they have been common residents and have bred in various places. I know of two localities in Westbrook, one in Deering, and one in Scarborough where they are to be found. And not long since, I saw from the window of the car, three flying about in a field in New Gloucester. The Larks come early and stay late and are among the most attractive of our birds. Who that is a lover of the "realm of beauty and of song" does not feel a thrill of joy when, on some

bright April morning, he sees perched on a bough of an apple tree or a telegraph wire a happy fellow, clad in a coat of brown, wearing on his yellow breast the Order of the Black Crescent, and blithely caroling, "Spring 'o the Year! Spring 'o the Year!"

A farmer upon whose land I found the Larks in the greatest number told me that they came to his place five years ago. The deadly mowing machines prevent the rapid increase of these dwellers in the meadows, but if all farmers were as kind-hearted as is one of whom I know, fewer young birds would perish. He, finding a nest of unfledged young in his field, marked the spot and directed his haymakers to leave a margin of grass around it so that the nestlings should not be disturbed. If farmers generally would try to protect the Larks they would soon become almost as numerous as they were in the days when the tall grasses fell beneath the strokes of scythes swung by the strong arms of the sturdy mowers.—*Sara C. Eastman, Portland.*

NOTES FROM FARMINGTON.—On July 11th, I spent the day at my old home in Farmington, and as I lay in the hammock, I was surprised to see my old pair of Catbirds, evidently nest-building. On investigation, I soon learned they were just beginning a nest in the grape-vines, near their usual site. On inquiry I learned that they had not come back in the spring as usual, and that they had only been back but a few days. They should have had young birds, on the wing at this late date. The question arises: Had they gone elsewhere and reared a first brood, then come here for the second nesting, or had some accident prevented them from coming back at the usual time. They have nested here, at the usual time in May, since 1894. I was also pleased to note that a pair of Brown Thrashers had nested near the house, and were feeding their young. This is the second record of a Thrasher being seen in this locality. Once only, I saw a Thrasher in the spring migration. I know of no place nearer than on the Sandy River, five miles away, where the thrasher breeds. I was very much pleased to have them come up to so high an altitude so far away from the stream and river, to join the Catbirds, in their unusual nesting site. Several pairs of Black-billed Cuckoos were nesting near the house.

On May 15th, while driving out into the country, with my family, looking for wild flowers, I noticed beside the road, a female Woodcock standing under a small fir balsam. I alighted from the buggy and slowly approached her. When within two feet, she

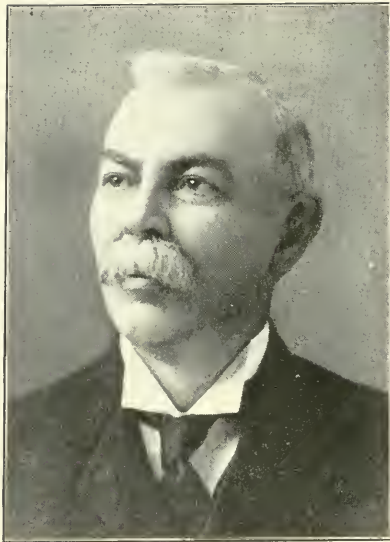
started up and whined and crawled along in the usual manner, to attract one from the young. As I had had several experiences, in my younger days, of trying to catch female Woodcocks, Grouse, etc. I did not attempt it, but soon saw the four young skulking away from under my feet. I gave chase and soon captured one, though it was able to fly for several rods, when it dropped and ran into a pool of water and swam across. I was on the opposite side and caught it, when it reached shore. They were about half grown, and quite well feathered out. The children were very much interested and amused at the little fellow, "with the long nose." Soon I returned it to the cover and we sat quietly till the mother began to call the young to her. The eggs must have been laid very early to have young birds of such size at this date.

I was not a little amused a few days ago, to witness at close range, a pitched battle between a female Ruby-throated Humming Bird and a large Grasshopper (the variety we called "The Quakers," when we were small), in mid-air. The Hummer was the aggressor and the hopper resented it and turned on her, but the Hopper was soon glad to dive to the grass and the Hummer alit on the rail of the sidewalk and seemed almost dazed. She looked toward the ground, as here her antagonist had dropped, shook herself and buzzed away.

Mr. E. W. Day, of New Sharon, tells the writer of a small patch of early potatoes he had, several years ago, near his stable. He noted the Nighthawks toward evening darting down and feeding on the slugs of the Colorado Beetle. He says they kept the potato bugs well cleaned off the patch. This he told me, after asking why the Nighthawks were not as plenty now as a few years ago. Here is his theory: They eat so many of the beetles and slugs that have been poisoned that it kills off the Nighthawks. Have any of our readers ever heard that theory before?—*J. Merton Swain, Farmington.*

PERHAPS A CROW.—May 29th, I observed a Myrtle Warbler lining a nest with what looked like milkweed down. The nest was near the top of a spruce on branches next to the trunk and about 12 feet up. About June 6th, I again visited the nest and found the bird on it. There were five eggs. June 12th I found only a few sticks and scraps of nesting material where the nest had been. It had undoubtedly been destroyed by a crow.—*D. W. Sweet, Phillips.*





WILLIAM HENRY BROWNSON.  
LATE EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL OF THE MAINE  
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



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of the

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### A Tribute to Mr. W. H. Brownson.

Mr. W. H. Brownson, our beloved friend and editor, died September 6, 1909. Mr. Brownson had for some time past been in poor health and about the first of March was operated upon at St. Barnabas Hospital, Portland. The operation was successful, and he remained at the hospital for some weeks, constantly gaining strength, and was soon able to be moved to Loveitt's field, South Portland, his summer home. Here he steadily improved and resumed in part his duties as Superintendent of Schools, but unfortunately he suffered a relapse and was seriously ill, requiring the services of several skilled physicians. He soon, however, recovered and took up his school duties. His condition at this time showed a marked improvement, and he seemed in better health than for years past. A second relapse, similar in character to the first, caused his death.

Mr. Brownson will be greatly missed by the members of the Maine Ornithological Society, where he was ever present at its meetings, giving very material assistance. He was a free contributor to the magazine, and his frequent articles on bird life in the *Portland Advertiser* proved always most interesting reading. He was an earnest worker and able adviser, a man of sterling character, and a

true bird lover. His place will be difficult to fill. The writer considers it an honor to have known such a noble character, and on future excursions through woods, fields and meadows, where he and I so often tramped together, the memory of the pure thoughts, his genial companionship will not soon be forgotten.

Mr. Brownson was admitted to the Society as an active member by the Council in September, 1902. He was elected associate editor in November, 1904, but was induced to act as editor, the latter officer declining to serve. He was elected as associate of the A. O. U. in 1903, and contributed four notes to the *Auk*. To the JOURNAL he contributed articles, editorials and reviews, numbering seventy-five, furnished data to fourteen Migration Reports (not included in the former) and conducted the Christmas bird census since December, 1906.

His articles in the *Advertiser* began to appear during the spring of 1902, running weekly until the close of the migration in the fall of 1907, then irregularly until the winter of 1908-1909, when three appeared. His last article was the editorial of the September JOURNAL. He also contributed an illustrated article on birds to the defunct *Pine Tree Magazine*. His lectures were numerous.

LOUIS E. LEGGE.

## Reprint of Some of the Ornithological Papers of Sylvester B. Beckett.

By A. H. NORTON, Portland.

(Continued from page 70.)

### SIXTH PAPER.

*Portland Daily Advertiser, April 6, 1858.*

At the last meeting of the Society of Natural History, Mr. S. B. Beckett read a paper on Sparrows. The Sparrows, he said, belong to different genera of the Finch family of birds, and the several species were variously called Buntings and Finches, as well as Sparrows. The species that visit our section bear a close resemblance to each

other, at least so to the ordinary observer, hence with us four or five are considered under one name; indeed, our people generally recognize but two species, which they designate as the Field and Bush or Tree Sparrow, while in fact there are ten species that frequent our section. These are the Song, the Bay-winged, the Savannah, the Field, the Chipping, the Tree, the Swamp, the Fox-colored, the White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows.

The Song Sparrows are the first singing birds that reach our section on return of spring. They come in advance of the Robins and Bluebirds even, and are generally expected to hear their song about the middle of March. The present year they made their appearance in the open grounds near his residence as early as the first of March. They are exceedingly active on their arrival, flitting from shrub to fence rail and from the fence rail to the smaller trees of the garden, frequently pouring forth, but with subdued voice, their highly musical notes—and to his mind there are few better songsters among our feathered visitors. They perform their migratory journeys in the night. The Song Sparrow, in our section, commences building its nest the latter part of April, generally in pasture grounds, under a tussock of grass, but sometimes in a bush or stunted cedar tree. A favorite resort of these birds in summer is on the southern slope of Munjoy Hill, near the railroad, where the males often mount to the top of the telegraph poles and sing by the half hour to their mates, who are probably ensconced upon their eggs in grassy nooks near at hand. Their nests are formed of slender grass lined with horsehair. They lay from four to six eggs, sometimes as many as seven, and hatch three broods in a season, each time constructing a new nest. The Song Sparrows are widely scattered over our country, and are very numerous. Unlike many other birds, they continue their song long after the breeding season is over, and may be sometimes heard late in the fall. A prominent mark of the species is a dark spot in the center of the breast.

The Bay-winged Sparrow or Bunting (*Emberiza graminea*), does not make itself quite so sociable as the Song Sparrow. Like the former, however, it delights in open fields and pasture lands,

where it builds its nest on the top of a tuft of grass, or in the midst of a root of the buttercup, with little regard to concealment. The nest is constructed of dry leaves and grasses and abundantly lined with horsehair. The eggs are from four to six, and they hatch two broods in a season, the first the latter part of May. They do not arrive here till a fortnight or more after the Song Sparrows, and their full, clear song is not heard in its perfection till towards May. Mounted on a stone wall, a fence rail, or a boulder, they often tune their viviant notes by the half hour, lifting their heads perpendicularly towards the sky, as if to give them full scope at each repetition, and heard in the midst of the solitary pasture lands, or on some boulder on the open heath, the speaker stated that he scarcely knew any bird song more enchanting. When a person approaches their nest, the female has a way of attracting the attention from it by fluttering along the ground, feigning lameness or inability to fly, which, in some sort, compensates for her want of tact in concealing the fabric. A prominent mark by which this species may be recognized is the bright bay color on the shoulder of its wings.

The Savannah Sparrow or Bunting (*Emberiza savanna*) becomes plentiful in our section along in May. In taking to rocky, open fields, and in building its nest in a tuft of grass or under the edge of the ground juniper, it resembles the Bay-winged Bunting, as also its artifices to draw attention away from its eggs or nestlings, but here resemblance ceases. It approaches the farmhouse, at times, alights on the stone wall, under the spreading apple trees by the roadside, or on the edge of the shed, or on the well sweep, and at least cheers by its presence, if not by its song—if the few faint notes which it is prompt to utter whenever it alights can be dignified with the name of song. Indeed, these bear more resemblance to the chirp of a cricket than to bird notes. It migrates by day, and during its migratory tour rests upon the ground by night; and always, when disturbed from its perch, flies quite low over the ground, often hiding among the grass. Its nest is built of dry grasses, and contains from four to six eggs, in our section rearing but one

brood in a season. A distinguishing mark of this bird is a small yellow streak over the eyes.

The Field Sparrow (*Emberiza pusilla*) is smaller than either of the species described, being about the size of, and resembling in some respects, the Chipping Sparrow, but may be distinguished from the latter by its bill, which is of a bright cinnamon color, while that of the Chipping Sparrow is nearly black and of a horny appearance. The Field Sparrow arrives here about the middle of April, migrating by day. They then seek old, uncultivated grounds, such as sheep or cattle pastures, which are besprinkled with sweet briar bushes, and stunted shrubbery of other descriptions, at the foot of which they build their nests with dry grasses, lined more or less with horsehair, much after the manner of the other species already referred to. They lay five or six eggs of a ferruginous color, and in our section probably hatch two broods in a season. The young leave their nests, and follow their parents before they can fly, and when the old folks are engrossed in rearing a new family, are left to shift for themselves. The Field Sparrow is an exquisite songster.

The Chipping Sparrow (*Emberiza socialis*), as his Latin name indicates, is a social bird, and is known doubtless to most of our citizens. He comes into the city, to localities where there is shrubbery or trees to attract him, builds a nest on the apple or plum tree, the lilac or rose bush with equal facility, sometimes in the honeysuckle or other vine that may be running up beside the portico. The nest is of fine dried grass, lined with horse or cow hair, the eggs (four or five) of a light blue color. The Chipping Sparrows seldom make their appearance here till the latter part of April or the first of May. They migrate by day in flocks, flitting along from point to point as if in play with each other. Somebody has said that their song (if song it can be called) resembles the noise produced by striking two pebbles rapidly together, and he thought the comparison a good one. The males pour it out with a good deal of self-complacency, wherever they happen to alight, whether on the roof tree of the house, the top of the shade tree, the lilac bush, or the fence rail, and in the calm of the stilly hours of the summer

night they often wake into song. The Chipping Sparrow may be known by the bright chestnut color on the top of its head taken in connection with its diminutive size.

The Tree Sparrow (*Emberiza canadensis*) bears considerable resemblance to the Chipping Sparrow, and by some naturalists has been confounded with the latter, but it is much larger, and in song differs widely from it. Mr. Brewer says they remain about Boston all winter, but the speaker had seldom seen them here till weeks after the Song Sparrow had made his appearance in spring. He had never seen their nests; indeed, he had never seen the birds about here during the summer season, and was of the opinion that they migrate farther northward to breed. They, however, make their appearance here in considerable numbers towards the latter part of August, both old and young, on their return. They sing almost as sweetly as the Song Sparrow.

The Swamp Sparrow (*Ammodramus palustris*) is a timid species, without song, and has not much except its docile disposition to recommend it. It inhabits along the borders of creeks and streams, and the uplands bordering on the extensive marshes of our sea coasts, builds a nest in a thick tuft of grass, of weeds and fibrous grass, at times partly roofed over, lays four or five eggs, and hatches two broods in a year. Its only note is a public *cheep*. It feeds on the coarser grass seeds and a few insects. It is abundant, as the season may be, all over the country.

He next called attention to the large and noble species known as the Fox-colored Sparrow (*Fringilla iliaca*). According to those who appear to be conversant with the subject, this species raises its young from Nova Scotia northward to Labrador, and not within the bounds of our State. It is to be found in our section during its migration in spring, when it sings beautifully, and it seems to be still more plentiful here in the fall. It delights in localities along the borders of woods, overgrown thickly with undergrowth. If such border on the water, so much the better. In such places small parties, perhaps single families, associate with each other very amicably, but always hold aloof from other species. Mr. B. had





A NEST OF THE BAY-BREADED WARBLER.

*Photo taken by Alfred A. Sangerwald.*



procured a beautiful one on the Stroudwater side of Fore River, contiguous to Broad's woods, and elsewhere in the vicinity of the city. He believes they never resort to the woods, but keep on their borders. The size of the bird will readily distinguish the species.

To be continued.

## Clever Builders.\*

### Nest and Young of the Bay-Breasted Warbler.

By CORDELIA J. STANWOOD, Ellsworth, Maine.

When a man seeks treasure, he seems to take it for granted that he must delve in far-away fields. Not so in bird study. Plan a long walk, betake yourself to fresh areas, and you may return only to find the "gem" you sought within a stone's throw of your door. That epitomizes my experience with the Bay-breasted Warbler.

Behind the barn, just beyond the bars, I caught a glimpse of black and buff and terra cotta. I tried to follow it, but it was gone. A whole year rolled slowly away before I saw it again, but the bird had become one of my mental possessions. I had discovered the Bay-breasted Warbler.

The finding of a new bird always fills me with enthusiasm. That part of me that responds to birds reminds me of the soul of a child. It is perennially fresh and equally responsive to each newcomer.

This beautiful, dark bird, with heavy beak and gem-like head of jet and garnet, appears at about the same time in the spring as the Chestnut-sided Warbler and is about as common, but until 1908, the year I found the bird nesting, I saw it only on the dates indicated in the table, and heard its humble little see-saw song but twice.

\*I am indebted to Mr. Henry T. Bailey for reading part of this manuscript.

## BAY-BREASTED WARBLER.

1905		July 1	
		Evidently nesting.	
1906	May 26	July 3	
	First seen.	Evidently nesting.	
1907	May 24		
	First seen.		
1908	May 24	July 1	Aug. 24
	First seen.	Out of nest.	Flock migrating.

## CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.

1905	May 28		
	First seen.		
1906	May 15		
	First seen.		
1907	May 24		
	First seen.		
1908	May 24	July 4	
	First seen.	Young lately out of nest.	

The Bay-breasted Warbler is leisurely, inconspicuous in its movements and generally quiet. The female sometimes calls *see-see-see*, while slowly moving over the trees, and the male sings *see-tee-see-tee, eat*. The latter is the only song of the Bay-breast with which I am familiar; it suggests a common song of the Black and White Warbler, but is softer, fuller, more musical in tone. It is not a song, however, that compels attention. Many times when the Bay-breast was nesting within a few yards of a Black and White Warbler and a Redstart, I had to pause a moment before I could decide which of the three was singing. After migrating and during the nesting period, the bird sings much less frequently than the Black-throated Green, the Redstart, the Magnolia Warbler, the Chestnut-sided, the Northern Yellowthroat or the Nashville.

The Bay-breast gleans from the ground to the topmost twigs, spending much time about midway of the tree, often hovering in air while it snatches its fare from the under side of a branch. When

on the ground, it is apparently in pursuit of some insect knocked from the tree. Frequently it picks up an escaping moth on the wing. If it were possible to speak of a bird as being economical, the term would apply to the Bay-breasted Warbler.

During incubation the male frequently feeds the female. When the young have once emerged from the egg, he is indefatigable in his efforts, feeding the nestlings, often presenting the first caterpillar to his mate, coming and going with regularity even when an observer is within a few feet of the nest, never seeming to urge the young to partake of food, or to consider the fact that he is exposed. The female is more cautious, less inclined to come to the nest while anyone is near. When undisturbed the birds generally come and go together, arranging themselves on the opposite sides of the nest to feed the young, often making the most charming and effective groupings.

The bird is neither timid nor nervous. Possessing an abnormal instinct for the concealment of its nest, it makes everything else subservient to that end, but when once the nest has been discovered, no bird, not even the Black-throated Green Warbler, accepts the situation more bravely, or with less apparent concern.

June 13th, 1908, while observing a nest of young Juncos, in a pasture near the house, a pair of Bay-breasts, apparently attracted by the 'tsips of the Juncos, came to look on. As they fed in the grey birches and firs above the nest, there was nothing to indicate that they resented observation or were even aware of it. Yet even then, I afterwards learned, they were perpetrating a slight ruse.

I lost sight of this pair, except for an occasional glimpse of them gathering food, until the 18th day of June. That morning early, following a very rainy day, I found the Bay-breasts were gleaning in the trees bordering the path to the boiling spring. A slight investigation revealed their nest, a small structure not far from the footway, about ten feet from the ground, on the horizontal branch of a fir, four feet from the trunk and two feet from the tip of the branch. From below, the nest looked not unlike the nest of the Magnolia Warbler, but a trifle larger. The female was sitting,

only her tail showing; the male soon came to the pine opposite with a beakful of moths. Upon seeing me, he flew indirectly to a white pine. When he ostentatiously came from the pine, his beak was empty. Somewhat later, I surprised the female walking out the branch to her nest.

The little deceit the Bay-breast had been practicing was now laid bare. They had come to the Junco nest from the opposite part of the pasture. At that time the female was incubating.

I sat some distance from the nest and attempted to watch the male gather his morning meal. He flew from the neighborhood of his abode to a pine, and alighted on a large branch across which the sunshine fell in bars. The bird sat crosswise the branch, with outspread wings, perfectly quiet. I could scarcely distinguish him from the reddish-brown, lichen-covered bark. The motionless head resembled nothing so much as a knot. I left him there in the same position.

The following day the Professor placed a ladder in the pine next the fir, so that I could sit a bit more than a yard from the Bay-breasts and watch their housekeeping. Although the branch holding the nest was badly shaken in putting up the ladder, and we were obliged to talk while arranging it, the female kept her place on the nest. I watched her two hours before she made the slightest move. The male flew into the tree with a beakful of caterpillars and called very softly *see-see-see* several times, but she was deaf to his entreaties.

The tree in which the nest was placed had many partly dead branches. The nest was much the color of these. The crown and throat of the female also had the same tone of terra cotta. The brown-black and warm-gray, almost lavender, upper parts of the female are nearly the same tone as the bark and lichens of the fir or pine. The bird or nest could be detected with difficulty, so deftly had the wise little builders concealed it.

The male, who does not assist in incubating, is a bit more noticeable than the female, although they resemble each other

closely. His crown patch and breast are brighter than terra cotta, a more glowing color.

Sometime afterward, when I had hidden myself on the ground, the male, who was feeding in the pine opposite and calling constantly, persuaded his mate to join him. As soon as I mounted the ladder to examine the contents of the nest, the bird returned, fluttered all around me, but uttered no sound. She seemed restless and moved quickly for the first time. After assuring herself that the eggs were unharmed, she appeared less disturbed and rejoined her mate.

There were five eggs, pinkish-cream-white, of a shining lustre. Three were wreathed around the larger end with reddish-brown dots, two had reddish-brown dots on the larger end. A few dots were scattered over the sides of the eggs, but I think the small end of every one was immaculate. The spots, when on the larger end, often ran together so as to form blotches, while in the wreaths many of them were only confluent. The eggs were long and slender, widest in the middle, rounded at the large end, more pointed at the small. They were shaped like the eggs of the Blackburnian Warbler, marked No. 66 in Chapman's Warblers of North America.

June 20th, there were five young Warblers in the Bay-breast nest. The following morning I watched the parent birds feed the tiny, squirming burnt-orange nestlings. The young birds were marked with thin growths of fine, dark-brown down. At one time, the end of a caterpillar, not a large one, hung from the beak of the male bird. He tried it in a tiny throat. All available contortions of the nestlings failed to force the morsel down. The parent bird took the bit of caterpillar again, crushed and macerated it in his beak, and presented it to another nestling, but with the same result. This was repeated a number of times. Then each tiny atom of a bird was so exhausted that they all sank into a little, palpitating mass for a few seconds. The parent birds looked calmly on; they were so gentle, so patient, so quiet, when ministering to their young, that this bit of real bird life was most fascinating to witness. Now

the little heads sprang up once more for another trial. This time the mother bird took charge of the troublesome meal, relieving the father bird, who flew away to regale himself. At last, one of the nestlings, with the aid of sundry parental pokes managed to force the caterpillar down its throat, and no doubt dozed as contentedly as a full-fed baby.

On the second day the wind lashed the trees furiously. I trembled for the safety of the young Bay-breasts. As I reached the level of the nest, the male flew away. He had been feeding his mate on the nest.

On the third day the feather tracts of the nestlings began to look like dark reddish-brown leather.

On the fourth day the parent birds became a bit more cautious when they discovered me in the tree; they entered the nest by a circuitous route, coming up through the thick foliage from the branch below instead of walking out the branch as heretofore. In the afternoon the female was on the nest, the heads of the five young peeping up in front of her breast. The sun was blazing down on that side of the tree. It was so hot, the mother and young had their mouths open as if panting for breath. The body of the mother bird shaded the nestlings.

The fifth day the female flew around me once or twice, uttering the single scolding note, *chee*, each time. It was the first time either bird had attempted to scold. She seemed much more disturbed by my presence than the male.

On the sixth day the young were mature looking, but still showed the quills on the wing feathers.

Up to this time the diet of the nestlings had consisted mainly of caterpillars and a few moths. To-day a large, black beetle was added to the bill of fare.

The ninth day the nestlings were tones of brown, the head a trifle lighter than the body; the body spotted with black; the wings brownish with buffy wing-bars; the under parts buffy with dark-brown stripes.

For the first time, the young Bay-breasts made themselves tidy

in my presence. One little bird after another pushed its way to the top of the nest, pecked at the oil gland on the rump, wet its beak with oil, then dragged up one wing slowly from the bird-mass and pulled it through its moistened mandibles, feather by feather from the root of the feather to the tip. It preened the other wing in like manner.\* After moistening the beak with oil, the little Warblers rested; after preening a wing the bird rested; moistened the beak once more, rested; drew up the other wing, rested; preened the wing and rested again. The nestling was fed a number of times while this tidying process was going on. After the parent bird presented it with one more tidbit, and carried the ordure away, the nestling was ready to let another little bird press to the top in its place. Often there was a struggle between two of the young birds, for the next opportunity to exercise.

At this time it took almost the entire time of the parent birds to feed the young and carry away the excrement.

Somewhere near 7.30 P. M. the male fed the nestlings and flew away for the night. I remained until it was so dark I was unable to distinguish the nest, but the female seemed to have completed her round of duties before I arrived.

June 30th. Two birds were out of the nest this afternoon. One fledgeling sat on a branch just under the nest. The mother bird went to feed it. The young bird, in its excitement, flew from a fir branch to a maple and alighted on a mass of leaves. It went fluttering through but managed to guide itself to a low fir. Great was the consternation in Bird Land. Both parents hovered near me, crawling around me in narrowing circles, their wings and tails spread and dragging on the ground. They mounted dead stumps and branches and fell helplessly off. They were very beautiful as they fluttered around me, quivering with solicitude for the safety of the young. The three remaining birds snuggled down in the nest as if they thought it a good place to be in for a time yet.

On the eleventh day, July 1st, the last fledgeling was sitting on

\*Mrs. N. C. King, of Ellsworth, Maine, first called my attention to the preening of Chickadees in the nest. The Chickadees are fourteen days old when they venture into the world and perform their toilets ideally.

a branch near the nest at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. It was there late in the evening. Early in the morning, the family were gone.

The nest, inside, measured  $2\frac{1}{2}$  by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches; depth  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches; width outside  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches, length  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches; depth 2 inches. (These measurements were taken after the young left the nest.)

In constructing the nest, a few bits of hay were placed on the horizontal fork of several twigs. Then fine spruce twigs were fastened to the various points of attachment by spider's warp and woof. The nest was shaped of these twigs. The lining consisted of a very few bits of the runner of cinquefoil, a very few pine needles and much horsehair and human hair.

The parent birds kept the nest immaculate. When the nesting period was over, the male and female looked as plump and gorgeous as when they took up their duties.

August 24th, the woods were full of migrating Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Golden-crowned Kinglets. Among these I came upon a small company of Bay-breasted Warblers, Magnolia Warblers and Ovenbirds, evidently a part of the already receding tide of bird life.

NOTE.—In 1909, the Bay-breast appeared in its usual haunts. May 27th, it was seen at nesting time in various widely separated ranges, but presumably the same pair nested in the same locality. I saw the male bird somewhere near the nest four times, the female once. The nest was ten feet up in a clump of four slender firs, situated about four inches from the trunk and eighteen from the tip of the branch. The nest, sitting on some branching twigs, was concealed so skillfully I often had doubts as to its reality. The birds were never seen on or within three yards of the nest, but having studied the habits of the bird in detail the year before, I did not spend much time in watching them after feeling assured that they were nesting on the rise above the swale. The material of the nest was identical with that of last summer. I obtained the nest by chopping down the tree when the nesting period was well gone. At that time a hair bird had robbed it of its lining for its near-by nest. There were no dead branches on these trees. My attention was called to the birds' whereabouts in almost every case this spring by the see-saw song.

### Leaves from a Diary.

Aug. 4, 1909. Arrived at my destination at 3.30 P. M., and find myself in Oxford County, long noted for its pine forests, its gems, its flora, its birds and—its "Oxford Bears." While all these are of interest to me, I hope to be fortunate in finding birds, although this is the month when they are in retirement.



Aug. 5. Saw on the grounds of the home where I am staying, Robins, Bluebirds, Song Sparrows, Vesper Sparrows and Chippies. The Bluebirds were reared here in boxes placed in the big pine tree for their use. They have been away for a time, and are now revisiting their homes, and there is a flashing of blue wings everywhere. They have bred in this place for four years, and their airs of proprietorship are very amusing as they peep into the boxes, apparently to see if they have been occupied during their absence.

Aug. 6. This morning a great flock of Barn and Eaves Swallows came to the big pine tree. It was delightful to watch them as they rose from the tree, circled about in the air and then settled into the branches again. This they did several times and then departed as suddenly as they came. I discovered a Goldfinch's nest in a maple tree near the piazza this morning. The mother bird is sitting and the male came and fed her while I was watching. I shall keep an eye on the nest.

Aug. 7. I am charmed with the male Goldfinch. He is most attentive to his little wife, and whenever he brings her food, invariably sings a few notes to let her know that he is near, greets her affectionately when he comes, and parts with her in the same way. This afternoon I took a walk to the Ledges. Saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk and heard a Hermit Thrush sing.

Aug. 8. Have spent this day in the loveliest woods and have walked between five and six miles. Saw Chickadees, Black and White Warblers, Redstarts, a flock of Cedar Waxwings, and heard some Blue Jays, but did not see the handsome fellows, though they were close by.

Aug. 10. Saw on the grounds here a pair of Phœbes, a family of Kingbirds and two Hummingbirds. These last were darting about among the nasturtiums, which grow in profusion about the back piazza, and for some reason they had a difference in opinion, which resulted in the precipitate departure of one of the Hummers.

Aug. 11. There are four little birds in the nest in the maple tree, and I am greatly concerned about their safety, for there have been four bird tragedies on the place and I do want this family to

dwell in security. It is a treat to have so many Bluebirds flying about. I have not seen anything like it for years.

Aug. 13. Went to the Ledges again to-day; saw a Wood Pewee and a Blue-headed Vireo, and on my way home, a single Chimney Swift flying southward.

Aug. 14. My hostess is a woman of resources, and when I imparted to her my fears in regard to the Goldfinch babies she cast about for some means of protection. This morning I was delighted to find that she had fastened the broad zinc mat, on which the kitchen range stands in winter, around the trunk of the tree, and the cats in the neighborhood will try their claws on it in vain.

Aug. 16. Visited some woods that are very attractive to-day, and started up some Partridges.

Aug. 18. The little birds in the maple tree are getting on famously. They are lively youngsters and keep up a chattering all day long. I think they will soon leave the nest.

Aug. 21. This morning as I sat on the piazza reading, a lovely male Rose-breasted Grosbeak came into the maple tree, remained for a moment, and then flew away. I followed him, hoping that he might be attracted to the cherry tree, where the birds come every day, but I did not find him, and was chagrined to learn that, during my absence, he had returned to the tree in which I had seen him and stayed there five minutes. While looking for him, I saw a Downy Woodpecker on the trunk of an apple tree.

Aug. 22. This afternoon I went down to the meadow with the friend, who has been my companion since I came to this place. Never did I see anything so beautiful as the cardinal flowers; great patches of ground red with them. Saw a flock of twelve Night-hawks flying so low that I could plainly see the white bars on their wings, and an Osprey that was perched on a very tall stump by the side of the river. Heard Catbirds calling, but did not see them, although I peered into the thick growth of alders where they were hidden.

Aug. 25. Took a long walk to-day. In passing a place on the meadow that had grown up to bushes, a young Woodcock flew

up directly in front of the feet of my companion and dropped into the bushes. On a dead tree near by was a Sparrow Hawk, which had evidently been watching the Woodcock, for after the latter had flown to cover, the Hawk sailed off to the woods. We forded the Androscoggin River, which was a novel experience for me, and climbed the high, steep bank on the opposite side. When near the top, we discovered in a small pine tree the nest of a Blue-headed Vireo. It was finely constructed, and the little architect had woven in the lining of pine needles so deftly that not a point could be seen.

Aug. 26. I find the front piazza rather lonely, for the Goldfinch family has departed, and the silence is really oppressive. Saw on the grounds here, in company with other birds, a pair of Baltimore Orioles, evidently on their southward journey.

Aug. 28. Saw two Brown Thrashers in the cherry tree to-day.

Aug. 31. Nothing in the woods to-day but some Crows. On the edges of a pasture, a solitary Cuckoo slid into some bushes.

Sept. 2. Made my last visit to the river this afternoon. Saw a Kingfisher prospecting for his supper and a pair of Red-eyed Vireos.

Sept. 3. Some Myrtle Warblers made their appearance about the house to-day, their yellow rumps showing to great advantage as they flitted about.

Sept. 7. Took my last ramble in the woods. Saw a Flicker and a Warbling Vireo.

Sept. 8. This is good-bye to good, old Oxford County. Have had a delightful sojourn. Hope some day to come again.

SARA C. EASTMAN.

Portland, Me.

## Migration Reports, 1908.

### Dates of Departure.

The following reports were made by D. W. Sweet, Avon, Franklin County; Everett E. Johnson, Hebron, Oxford County; Sara C. Eastman, Portland, Cumberland County.

	AVON.	HEBRON.	PORTLAND.
Pied-billed Grebe,	Oct. 1		
Northern Loon,	{ May 14 } Sept. 16		
Black-backed Gull,			Nov. 14
Common Tern,			Sept. 16
American Merganser,	Aug. 27		
Dusky Duck,	{ May 24 } Nov. 11		
American Golden-eye Duck,	{ May 10 } Nov. 11		
Bufflehead Duck,	" 7		
Old Squaw Duck,			Dec. 24
Surf Scoter Duck,	May 10		
Ruddy Duck,	Oct. 23		
Canada Goose,	Mch. 13	Nov. 25	
Blue Heron,	{ Apr. 30 } Sept. 14		Sept. 1
Solitary Sandpiper,	{ May 19 } Aug. 30		
Spotted Sandpiper,	" 24		" 9
Sharp-shinned Hawk,	Oct. 3		" 19
Red-tailed Hawk,	Sept. 16	Sept. 26	
Red-shouldered Hawk,	" 20		
Broad-winged Hawk,	Aug. 28		
Sparrow Hawk,	" 31		
Fish Hawk,	" 24		
Black-billed Cuckoo,		Aug. 1	" 11
Belted Kingfisher,	Sept. 27		
Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker,	Nov. 11		
Yellow-bellied Woodpecker,	Oct. 15	Oct. 8	Oct. 17
Red-headed Woodpecker,			Sept. 6
Golden-winged Woodpecker,	" 4	Sept. 19	Oct. 18
Whip-poor-will,	Sept. 23	" 11	
Nighthawk,	" 5		Sept. 7
Chimney Swift,	Aug. 24	Aug. 24	Aug. 25
Ruby-throated Hummingbird,	" 21	" 28	" 23
Kingbird,	" 30	Sept. 1	Sept. 12
Crested Flycatcher,	July 26		
Phoebe,	Oct. 1	" 23	" 12
Pewee,	Sept. 19		
Horned Lark,			Dec. 26
Crow,	Oct. 22	Dec. 3	" 27
Bobolink,	Aug. 15	July 21	
Meadowlark,			" 24
Baltimore Oriole,	" 16		
Rusty Grackle,	Mch. 29	Oct. 8	
Bronzed Grackle,	Oct. 13		Oct. 18
Pine Grosbeak,	Jan. 26		
Purple Finch,	Oct. 14	" 11	" 24

White-winged Crossbill,			Dec. 27
Redpoll,	Apr. 5		
American Goldfinch,	Nov. 7		Nov. 14
Snow Bunting,	Mch. 8		
Vesper Sparrow,	Oct. 19	" 28	Oct. 18
Savanna Sparrow,	Sept. 9		" 18
White-crowned Sparrow,	{ May 17	May 18	
White-throated Sparrow,	{ Nov. 8	Oct. 28	
	" 7		Nov. 1
Tree Sparrow,	{ Apr. 15		
	{ Nov. 14		Dec. 23
Chipping Sparrow,	Oct. 26	Sept. 2	Oct. 16
Field Sparrow,	Sept. 27		
Slate-colored Junco,	Dec. 3	Oct. 21	Nov. 14
Song Sparrow,	Nov. 5	Nov. 3	" 14
Swamp Sparrow,	Sept. 9		Oct. 17
Fox Sparrow,	{ Apr. 26		
	{ Nov. 11	Nov. 7	Nov. 1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak,	Sept. 8	Aug. 11	
Indigo Bunting,	" 10	July 30	
Scarlet Tanager,	Aug. 15		
Cliff Swallow,	" 27		
Barn Swallow,	Sept. 7	Sept. 1	Sept. 9
Tree Swallow,	Aug. 29		
Bank Swallow,	July 25		
Cedar Waxwing,	Sept. 22	Oct. 8	" 25
Red-eyed Vireo,	" 14	Sept. 5	" 11
Warbling Vireo,			" 11
Solitary Vireo,	Oct. 11		
Black and White Warbler,	Aug. 31		Oct. 17
Nashville Warbler,			" 3
Yellow Warbler,	July 23		
Black-throated Blue Warbler,	Sept. 27		
Myrtle Warbler,	Oct. 26	Oct. 26	Dec. 27
Magnolia Warbler,	Aug. 31		
Black-poll Warbler,	June 3		Sept. 19
Blackburnian Warbler,	Aug. 31		
Black-throated Green Warbler,	Oct. 1		Oct. 18
Palm Warbler,	{ " 13	Apr. 24	
	{ Aug. 28	Oct. 14	" 16
Ovenbird,	Aug. 28		
Northern Waterthrush,	July 23		
Mourning Warbler,	" 9		
Northern Yellowthroat,	Oct. 12		Sept. 11
Wilson's Warbler,	May 19		
Canadian Warbler,	Aug. 28		
Redstart Warbler,	" 25		
American Pipit,	{ May 18		
	{ Oct. 21		
Catbird,	Sept. 27	Sept. 3	" 20
Brown Thrasher,			" 20
Winter Wren,	Oct. 23		Oct. 10
Brown Creeper,	May 10		
Hudsonian Chickadee,	Nov. 11		
Ruby Kinglet,	{ May 13		
	{ Oct. 14		" 10
Veery Thrush,	Aug. 27		Sept. 10
Olive-backed Thrush,	Sept. 21		
Hermit Thrush,	Nov. 8	Nov. 17	Nov. 22
Robin,	" 12	" 4	" 15
Bluebird,	Oct. 31	Oct. 28	Oct. 3

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### Allen's List of New England Birds.

An important recent work on the birds of New England bears the title, "Fauna of New England, II. List of the Aves. By Glover M. Allen." This is one of the parts of Volume VII of the "Occasional Papers of the Boston Society of Natural History," and is identical in plan with the lists of other groups of animals which have appeared in this volume. The work may be said to consist of two very unequal parts: First, a list of indigenous American species, including stragglers, and, second, "Species Introduced or Erroneously Accredited."

The treatment of the species consists of the scientific name, with authorities, accepted to the fourteenth supplement of the American Ornithologist's Union Check List, issued July, 1908; the common name, and often one or several provincial names; "reference to the original description with record of locality; reference to an authentic description and illustration; and habitat and occurrence." The latter conveys a statement of its status for each State of every bird treated, Maine standing first in order of citation. Hence it will be readily understood that the work serves as an excellent, concise list of Maine birds, and it is in this capacity that it is here considered.

In his treatment of Maine birds it would appear that the author has relied very largely upon the somewhat extensive literature, with

which the work shows a gratifying familiarity. In the main portion of the work three hundred and twenty-eight North American species are recorded as having been satisfactorily accredited to the State, five species are recorded as introduced, but two successfully, (two others, the Black Grouse and Capercally, having been overlooked), and nine species are cited as of questionable occurrence. Eight of those in the latter class are hypothetical records of long standing, but one, that of *Thryomanes bewickii*, is an error, the more unfortunate because it could easily have been prevented. The record slipped into print, through some degree of carelessness, but rested in a degree of seclusion until brought into prominence by the present paper. Thus the present work recognizes the occurrence of three hundred and thirty-one birds which have occurred, or now exist in a state of nature, in Maine. The status of the abundance, and in some cases the manner of occurrence, of a number of species, particularly the water birds, is not entirely satisfactorily given, though these cases are evidently based upon the literature. Lack of space makes their discussion impossible.

The work is a most convenient and useful one, and one that no serious Maine bird student should be without. A. H. N.

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In the last number of "Records of Walks and Talks with Nature," conducted by C. J. Maynard, published at West Newton, Mass., pages 116 to 122 of Volume II are devoted to a visit to Maine, with observations recorded near Bath, at Monhegan, the Egg Rocks (in Muscongus Bay), and St. Georges River to Thomaston. The notes are devoted to "Birds, Butterflies, etc.," and the observations were made from July 1st to 7th (1909) and published in September. The records of interest are: "A pair of Rough-legged Hawks, in normal plumage," between Bath and the mouth of the Kennebec river; a male Black-poll Warbler at Monhegan, and at the same place a Black Vulture, seen July 4th and shot July 6th, an adult male, preserved in the collection of Mr. Charles F. Jenney. This specimen was reported in the *Damariscotta Herald* as a Turkey Buzzard and corrected in a later issue by F. M. David. The observation of three Laughing Gulls and a pair of Eiders about the Egg Rocks is worthy of note, while the observations on the continued destruction of Leach's Petrel at the Western Egg Rock is a matter of sad interest. A. H. N.

## Bird Notes.

Notes and observations upon bird life within our State are earnestly desired from all our readers for publication in this column, and should be sent to Louis E. Legge, 22 Dow Street, Portland, Maine.

We note with much satisfaction the increasing frequency with which the members of our society report to this JOURNAL their ornithological observations. This is an important part of our duties, one to another, and should be shared in by all interested in bird life. The JOURNAL's columns are always open to contributors of items of general interest relating to Maine birds, and we trust our members will, through this medium, disseminate such knowledge as they personally possess.

OCTOBER BIRDS AT PINE POINT.—Saturday, Oct. 16th, was spent at Grand Beach and Pine Point. At the former place I found an immense flock of Myrtle Warblers, a small flock of Juncos, a few Chickadees, three Robins and some Crows. The extreme restlessness of the Warblers led me to conclude that they were nearly ready to start on their journey southward. At Pine Point, I saw on a large sand bar hundreds of Herring Gulls, and among them were eight Black-backed Gulls. I was greatly surprised at seeing at least three hundred Wilson's Terns, that had followed a school of small fish in from the ocean, and were waiting for them to be left in the shallows by the receding tide. The birds flew in a body, occasionally alighting on the shore. Never in the bird world have I seen anything more beautiful than were their evolutions, their wings and bodies glistening in the sunlight as they wheeled and turned about in the air, and I felt richly repaid for my long tramp to the extreme end of the Point.—*Sara C. Eastman, Portland.*

LATE NESTING OF SEVERAL BIRDS.—This season is rather unusual in the respect that many birds have been found nesting, or with young, at dates far later than ever noted before. For instance, the writer found a nest of the Black-billed Cuckoo, containing two eggs, only partly incubated, on August 21st, at Glenburn. September 4th, at Islesboro, several pairs of Barn Swallows were feeding their young, which were still in the nests, although fully fledged.

A correspondent, Miss Cordelia J. Stanwood, of Ellsworth, writes:—"August 25th, helpless little Chimney Swifts were falling

down the chimney in Peter's Block'' (Ellsworth). My last nest of Hermit Thrushes left the nest Sept 8th, early in the morning. I find their stay in the nest to be twelve days if undisturbed.—*Ora Willis Knight, Bangor.*

BONAPARTE'S GULLS AT WAYNE, ME.—Having noticed, recently, a statement to the effect that Bonaparte's Gull is seldom seen in New England in the black-headed condition, it occurs to me that the following record may be of some value to your society. My camp is on the east shore of Lake Androscoggin (Wayne Pond), in the town of Wayne, Kennebec County. On July 30th last, while going from Leed's Center to our shore, I noticed a small flock of Gulls on the water ahead of us. They allowed the boat to approach within thirty feet of them before flying, and at this distance it was possible easily to identify them as six Bonaparte's Gulls—one with the full black head, the others either immature, or mature birds in autumn plumage, (probably the latter, as I failed to notice the black tail mark).—*Freeman F. Burr.*

SWEET NOTES OF A BLUE JAY.—While out for a walk one morning I heard a few notes from a Blue Jay, which was one of the sweetest short songs I ever heard. I did not suppose that such a number of sweet, flute-like notes could issue from such a bird. They were very high notes and not in accordance with the generally harsh notes which are so well known from this bird. I wish I knew enough of music to reproduce them. I don't know when I was ever so startled and thrilled with surprise as I listened.—*H. W. Jewell, Farmington.*

FEEDING HABITS OF THE SANDPIPER.—While sitting on the banks of Sandy River one night, I was attracted to the actions of a Spotted Sandpiper. There were lots of crickets on the shore of the river, and the Sandpiper would catch one in its bill, run up to the water and immerse the insect several times, then swallow it. This seemed a very interesting performance to me, and I wondered if all living insects caught are thus treated before they are eaten. It would seem so from the actions of this bird. The cricket is quite a large insect, and as this bird ate ten or twelve, he did not go to bed hungry that night.—*H. W. Jewell, Farmington.*

THE HUDSONIAN CHICKADEE AT SOUTHWEST HARBOR, ME.—On May 16th, 1909, while I was chasing several species of Warblers, trying to find out their identity, I saw four birds in a fir tree that looked strange to me. Upon a close examination, in which their markings were taken down, I could not name them. That night, while I was reading Knight's excellent "Birds of Maine," I happened to turn to Hudsonian Chickadee, and his description was so like my birds that I took the note and compared it with his, and it was so similar that I, without doubt, called them *Parus hudsonicus*. Their caps were greyish, throat black, back black, and the rufus band on the sides. In size and habits they resembled the common Chickadee, but the call note was different.—*Sam A. Lurvey, Southwest Harbor, Me.*

THE ARTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER ON MT. DESERT ISLAND.—When I was passing through a burnt-over pasture, I heard a bird call, new to me. On investigating, saw a dark-colored bird at work on an old stump, picking it to pieces. By walking easy I was able to approach to within twenty feet of it. It proved to be the Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker. Its back was black and back to showed no white hardly at all. Its head on top had the yellow patch, and the breast and throat were white. Its call was *whee* or *crce*, uttered quite often. The date was Oct. 23, 1909, at about 4 o'clock P. M.—*Sam A. Lurvey, Southwest Harbor, Me.*

NOTE ON THE MEADOWLARK IN MAINE.—The last number of THE JOURNAL contained two notes on the Meadowlark in Cumberland County, one a reprint from the July number of the *Auk*, one written for THE JOURNAL, pages 94-95. The subject has received some attention in other sections of the State. Some notes on its status near Bangor are given in the October number of the *Auk* by Fanny Hardy Eckstromi. In the *Portland Evening Express* for May 22, 1909, Dr. Frank D. Tubbs, of Bates College, in a special to the *Express*, among other notes, mentioned the Meadowlark at Auburn. Dr. Tubbs, however, is unfortunate, either in believing the Auburn birds to be the only ones in Maine, or in being made to say that he believes them to be. A note on their occurrence near Fairfield, Maine, is given in one of the summer numbers of the *Good Will Record*. It is to be hoped that others will furnish notes on its occurrence and status in the State, with a view to showing fully its distribution abundance, and period of appearance, disappearance, and its breeding range. A. H. N.

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of the  
Maine Ornithological Society



Editor, W. H. BROWNSON, Portland      Associate Editor, LOUIS E. LEGGE, Portland  
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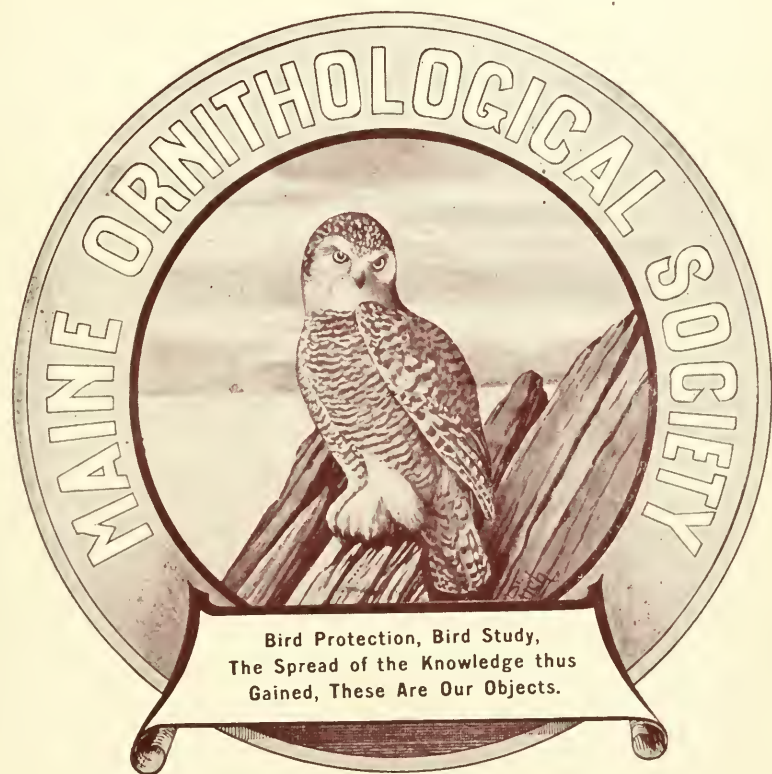
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