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notes and they are all checked.

Walter Deane, June 10, 1899.

William Brewster

1
Cambridge, Mass.



Cambridge, Mass.



Cambridge, Mass.

1898
Feb. 7

Clear, still and mild.

Shortly after noon I took a walk about our garden on snow shoes. The sun light, reflected from the deep, unbroken field of snow, was very dazzling. As I was passing near a young scarlet oak, still covered almost as densely with foliage as in midsummer, I discovered an Acadian Owl perched near the extremity of a long, horizontal branch about nine feet above the ground. How he chanced to attract my eye is a mystery for there were no small birds about to betray his presence and he was sitting perfectly motionless in the very middle of a cluster of tan-colored leaves which matched his plumage closely. When I returned with my camera an hour later he had not changed his perch nor even his attitude. I took a number of photographs some of which show his head and facial expression better than I can describe them. Walter Deane and Gilbert were with me and we all walked around and were beneath the tree without appearing to disturb the bird. He seemed to be very drowsy sitting, most of the time, on one leg with the other drawn up under his feathers and his eyes nearly closed although a sudden movement on the part of one of us would occasionally cause him to open his eyes wide for a moment. He was sensitive to certain sounds but paid us attention to our voices.

Acadian Owl
in our
garden.

After I had exposed all my plates we put up a ladder directly under the tree and Gilbert, ascending it, had his hand within a few inches of the Owl when the ladder gave way and fell with a crash striking against some of the branches in its descent.

Cambridge, Mass.

Notes on
a Captive
Saw-whet

1898.
Feb. 7
(No. 2)

The loud noise and the agitation of the tree startled the bird considerably but instead of flying as we all expected, he would do he merely bent forward and gazed intently down at the prostrate man and ladder. He remained motionless for a few moments after which Walter, going around to the opposite side of the tree and waving the camera slowly, succeeded in attracting the Owl's attention while Gilbert again climbed the ladder and slowly extending his hand from beneath and a little the bird caught it by the feet. It snapped its bill sharply and rapidly when seized. I put it into a large cage where it remained quiet until night fall after which it fluttered a good deal against the wires. A dead House Sparrow which I left in the cage was untouched the next morning.

On looking closely about the garden I found on the snow beneath a red cedar numerous feathers from the wings, tail and body, of a House Sparrow and beneath the hollow, vine-cushioned trunk of an old apple tree a very small pellet composed of

" 13

The Saw-whet is still alive and apparently healthy. He is rapidly becoming tame and no longer flutters against the bars of his cage. The House Sparrow lay untouched in the cage for four days when it was removed. A dead white mouse was substituted and promptly eaten (all but the head) on the following night. Yesterday at about noon the bird gave the saw-whetting call at frequent intervals for an hour or more the weather, at the time being dark & stormy. He called again at noon to-day when the sun was shining brightly. At close

Cambridge, Mass.

1897
Feb. 13
(no 2)

Notes on
A Captive
Saw-whet.

range (the cage is about 15 feet from my desk) the sound has little or no metallic quality and bears only the most remote resemblance to saw filing. On the contrary it may be best described as a soft & low but rather throaty whistle very like that of *Glaucoideus*. It also suggests the purr of *Hyla pickeringi* but is much less ^{clear} bell-like and is on a lower key. It is given very rapidly and evenly as a rule & the number of repetitions is very variable. Twice or thrice I have heard a prolonged, monosyllabic note more metallic in quality than the ordinary call but otherwise similar.

" 14

The Saw-whet was unusually active this morning and during the forenoon kept flying from perch to perch but it did not appear to be in the least frightened or unhappy. At about 11 A. M. it "whistled" twice, but briefly and in subdued tones.

At 3 P. M. I found it crouched on the bottom of the cage evidently very ill. Someone suggested that a smell of fresh paint, which pervaded the room at the time, might be the cause. We accordingly took the bird out of doors but it expired only a few minutes later. Its death struggle was as violent as that of a bird that had been shot. It fluttered half across the cage and at the last beat the floor vigorously with its wings. On dissecting it I failed to detect any signs of internal injury or disease. The stomach was empty but the bird was not emaciated. It was a male with testes as large as # 1 shot.

Death of
the Saw-whet

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1898.

March 1

Rain but not cold with light S. wind and warm sunlight coming through a veil of thin clouds. Ther. 28° at sunrise.

at about 11 A. M. I heard a Purple Finch singing in the garden and soon afterwards caught sight of the bird, a fine, young male sitting in the top of a willow near the Museum. It did not give the full song but warbled in low, somewhat broken tones at intervals of a minute or two, for ten or twelve minutes at the end of which it flew into the top of a cedar where it joined five other birds of the same species but all in the gray plumage. The flock continued in this ten for some time feeding on the juniper berries. A little later I saw the young male bathing in a puddle of melted snow near the garden wall. It must have been a chilly bath but the bird performed its ablutions very thoroughly not ceasing until its plumage was completely drenched. R. H. Howe Jr. has seen Purple Finches at intervals through January and February in Moscow but these are the first that have appeared in Cambridge.

Purple Finches
active

Where are the Cedar-birds? A small flock was seen in Belmont in December and Corey met with a very large flock (upwards of 100) at Millbury Hills early in the winter but if the usual February flight has come up from the South none of its numbers have visited this immediate neighborhood for had they done so they would surely have appeared in our gardens. My Parkman's apple has a good crop of fruit and some of the hawthorns are covered with berries

Abundance of Cedar birds

Cambridge & Belmont, Mass.

1898.

March 2

A brilliant day, cloudless, with almost no wind, the early morning sharp & frosty, the middle of the day warm for the season.

I drove to the Payson place this morning to make enquiries respecting the fine Great Gray Owl which Frazar sold me a week or so ago. Mr. Malone told me that he shot it at about 2 P.M. on February 22nd. During the whole forenoon the Crows had been making a great outcry behind his house and their numbers kept increasing until as he thinks upwards of 100 birds were assembled. Their clamor finally became so loud and incessant as to annoy him severely and soon after dinner he took a .7 Caliber rifle and went out to disperse them. Immediately behind this house is a row of tall Norway Spruces, behind this an old apple orchard and just beyond the orchard a dense growth of Norway Spruces, Laurels and arbor vitas encircling an open space in the middle of which are the stables and paddock of the fine old Cushing estate. A circular driveway passes under or through the trees which average 50 or 60 feet in height. Between the driveway and the paddock, in the middle of the thickest Spruces, stands a white pine - a vigorous tree with a full, green top but with dead under branches. The Owl was perched on one of these dead branches about 25 ft. above the ground and soon fell a few feet below a fork in which there is an old Crow's nest.

Great Gray Owl shot on the Payson place

As Malone approached the Spruces he saw great numbers of Crows sitting on or flying over them and picking out a bird that offered a good meal

1898

March 2
(no 2)

he fired at it but missed. A few moments later a woman, who had come from the Payson farm house, impelled by curiosity to find out what the Crows were about, called to him that she had found a great Owl and asked him to shoot it. On going to the spot he at once saw the bird sitting erect and looking, he says, "as big as an Eagle". It stared at him fixedly with its yellow eyes wide open but showed no alarm at his presence although he went almost directly under the branch on which it was perched. After looking at it for a moment he fired but missed. At his second shot the bird flew across the paddock and alighted on the end of a spruce limb but it was badly wounded and soon fluttered down to the ground where it stood erect looking presentingly to whoever appeared that Malcom did not dare touch it for several minutes. It lived two or three hours after this.

The Payson place is going to destruction fast now. Decade of
Malcom tells me that the Syndicate who bought it for the Payson
speculative purposes care nothing about the trees (which place.
is evident enough) and take no pains to keep out
gnawers. He himself has killed twelve Gray Squirrels
there during the past year. He says that he has seen
one Pott's Jay and several Carolina Doves there.
A Meadow Lark was singing steadily this morning
on the great lawn and in the apple orchard I
saw a pair of Chickadees inspecting & entering holes.
There was a Boy & Purple Finch in our garden
through the forenoon.

Cambridge & vicinity

1898

March 12

The last week of February was mild with cloudy skies and a good deal of rain; the first ten days of March have been sunny and warm with almost no wind and on several days literally none from morning to night. The thermometer has gone almost or quite to 60° on several occasions but the ground has frozen slightly at night up to March 8th since when there has been no frost. Under the influence of these conditions the immense body of snow that fell during the first half of February has wasted steadily but at no time very rapidly. A week ago the ground was bare on southern exposures & in many places in the open fields. Now there is no snow left excepting on northern slopes, behind walls & under overhangs. The roads are perfectly dry, there is almost no frost in the ground and the grass is uniformly green in shelter, sunny spots and in springy runs in the fields.

The first Crocus bloomed in front of the Museum on the 7th, the first snow deep on the 10th.

The change from winter to early spring

First Crocus

Three Bluebirds were seen in Weston, Feb. 24, and two male Redwings at the Glacier, on the 25th. During the first week of March the only arrivals appear to have been Purple Finches which appeared in one garden on the 1st and have been there every day since in numbers varying from one or two to five or six. On March 9th Lothrop saw a flock of eight or ten Redwings at the Glacier and his son saw a pair of Black Ducks flying over the same place on the evening of the 11th.

Bird arrivals

Cambridge & vicinity.

1898.
 March 12
 (No 2.)

A fine, warm rain was falling this morning when I started on my usual short drive. On reaching the Maper Swamp I found it alive with Song Sparrows singing and calling and I heard others on the western side of Fresh Pond. C. S. Bailey tells me that there was a general arrival of these Sparrows during last night. I also heard ten Sparrows in full song and found eight or ten Red-wings scattered about over the Glacial's marshes singing on the tops of isolated trees and bushes. Beyond Fresh Pond two Flickers were "chattering". Altogether I heard quite a concert of early Spring birds and I am inclined to believe that it was the first general concert of the season.

Splumon saw two Gulls in Cambridge on the 1st and one appeared in one garden on the 9th and has been seen there every day since but the first flock was reported by W. Deane this morning—five or six birds in the birch on the Charney Smith place.

Bailey tells me that he saw a Phoebe at Dunbar on the 9th and two birds, apparently a wood pair, in the same locality on the 10th.

Fresh Pond is still covered in ice but the ice looks thin and rotten and will doubtless break up within a few days. A solitary Gull was flying over the pond and I saw several flocks of Gulls on their way from Carter in the day.

Bird
 arrivals

1898.

March 15

Cloudless with light N. to N.E. wind - a brilliant day deliciously warm in the sun at noon.

I moved to Concord this morning taking Gilbert with me. When we reached the Keyes' (where I am to spend the next two weeks) I found Bluebirds, Robins, Song Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds close about the house. As we were talking lunch a Nuthatch and a Downy came to feed on the meat kept for them in the cherry tree and just after lunch the Downy was drumming at his old station in the elm.

We put the new canoe in the water and as it did not hold a drop, I went to Ball's Hill in it in the afternoon, Gilbert & Pat preceding me in the old Buttrick boat. The river was very high and it has been so for two weeks or more. It opened about the 7th and Pat tells me that the muskrat hunters began the usual clampten at about that time & that they have since killed nearly all the "Rats". On the morning of the 10th Pat saw a flock of one lot Gooseanders in the river directly in front of the cabin. They were making a noise like the croaking of frogs.

I saw no Drakes to-day but the bushy banks of the river meadows were alive with Song Sparrows and I should think that fully one-half of the Red-wings have arrived. I heard two Bluebirds warbling and saw a pair of them near Flint's bridge. I started back at 4 P.M. and sailed almost the whole of the way. Red-wings being fairly full but the Robins were silent.

Concord, Mass.

1898

March 16

Early morning clear but clouds gathered soon after 7 a. m. and the remainder of the day was gray and cheerless with a chilly S. W. wind and a big shower of hail in the afternoon.

To Ball's Hill for the day, sailing across the meadows both ways. The only water birds seen were a Golden eye and a flock of some Herring Gulls, all flying high. Small birds were numerous every where. At Swan's Song Sparrows, Bluebirds, Red-wings, Meadow Larks, Junco, Tree Sparrows and our Robin were singing near the house making a full chorus of early spring bird voices. There was also, a Blue Jay screaming in the pines and Crows were cawing in the distance.

Near Ball's Hill I saw large numbers of Song Sparrows, a good many Tree Sparrows, our Junco, then a few Chickadees, five Golden-crests and a few Crows.

If the Fox Sparrows are here I failed to find them. Spelman was on at Arlington on the 13th & heard another in Cambridge on the 14th.

Two Downy Woodpeckers have hung about the cabin all winter feeding on meat bones with which Pat has kept them supplied and I saw the ♂ there both yesterday and to-day but the Chickadees were all gone in the woods.

Either a Hawk or Owl has killed and eaten a Pateridge lately in some dense young pines on the edge of Swan's ridge. The ground beneath these trees is simply covered with the poor bird's feathers, among them many tail feathers. Pat, who has been working near the spot, says that the feathers were not there three days ago.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

March 17

The morning broke calm and cloudy with heavy rain falling. The rain ceased before 10 a. m. and at noon the clouds parted and the sun came out. The afternoon was brilliantly clear with a violent but not cold west wind.

When I left the Hayes at 9 a. m. the wind was just rising and before I reached the cabin it was blowing hard. I sailed the entire distance, crossing the Great Meadows. Song Sparrows and Redwings were singing on every side and I heard two or three Bluebirds and one Meadow Lark but no Tree Sparrows song although I have heard. I have seen no Rusty Blackbirds as yet.

A "Flicker" "shouted" several times yesterday afternoon on the West Bedford shore & I heard the same bird there this morning. One Bluebird and one Robin flew over Ball's Hill.

As I was sailing along the shore directly opposite the cabin this morning I started a pair of Wood Ducks from the flooded thickets bordering Nevins pasture. They flew across the river and in behind Ball's Hill probably alighting in the swamp which is full of water just now.

The violent wind blew the smaller birds & drove them to shelter this afternoon. During a walk that I took through the woods I saw only a Crow, a Blue Jay, a pair of Chickadees, a Kinglet and a few Song Sparrows.

Poe tells me three Gallants shot four Black Ducks in the Bedford swamp yesterday.

Concord, Mass.

1898
March 17
(No 2)

I fear that Partridges will be scarce in my woods this Spring. Thus far I have not seen a single bird. Benson and Pot say that a large Hawk, which has been about all winter and which, from their description, must be a Red-tail, has killed all the birds. It is probably the old, old story - an innocent and useful "Red Hawk" haunting the open meadows in pursuit of mice and conspicuous because of his habit of perching in isolated trees and a smelly Gos-hawk keeping among the dense pines and picking off the Partridges one after another as they come out into the little sunny openings. It is certain that either a Hawk or an Owl killed the Partridge whose feathers I saw yesterday for I found wholly white excrement under the tree and the feathers had all been pecked out not bitten off as would have been the case had a Fox been the murderer. One fact, however, leads me to suspect that it was the work of an Owl, viz. that the Partridge was killed either on or directly under her roost for the ground under the dense young pines where the feathers lay was thickly strewn with Partridge excrement.

I saw to-day where Rabbits had bored oaks and young hemlocks and where mice had bored a cluster of small pitch pinus oak, besides the oak, a great quantity of pine needles, which had turned their excrement green. The Rabbits had worked two feet or more above the ground on the surface of the snow, the mice close to the ground.

Scarcity of
PartridgesThis looked
by Rabbits
& Mice

Concord, Mass.

1898

March 17
(no 3)

The Rabbits had scored the stems of the trees with broad, deep, furrows like the grooves made by a small gouge but the trees barked by the mice looked as if they had been scraped with a rasp or coarse file.

About one third of the White Maples along the flooded river banks are in full bloom and more so on the day of my arrival. One of my hophornes had two blossoms partly open to-day. The grass is green in many places and there is no frost in the ground excepting on the north slopes of the hills or in dense woods. The ice is almost wholly gone even in the wooded hollows. Altogether the season is unusually far advanced for this date.

Where are the Fox Sparrows? I visited all their favorite haunts in this locality to-day without seeing a bird.

Squirrels appear to be very scarce. Thus far I have seen only one, a Coon Gray, but Gilbert saw a Chipmunk on the 14th in the wooded road leading to Benson's from the old school house, and Pat says that there are two Grays & a Red living near the cabin.

The wind lasted well into the night and blew so thoroughly late in the afternoon that I did not attempt to get back to Concord but spent the night at the cabin.

Concord, Mass.

1898

March 18

A brilliantly clear day with fresh W. wind which died away an hour or more before sunset.

I was out a little after sunrise this morning and took a turn over Ball's Hill and along the river path. The ground was frozen hard and the air was sharp and bracing. Song Sparrows and Red-wings were singing in every direction, a Flicker was drumming and a Downy Woodpecker drumming on the Redford stone, Crows were cawing and creaking, every now and then a Bluebird warbled in the distance and once a Cow-bird flew overhead giving the long spring whistle. But I listened in vain for drumming Partridges, cawing Doves or the songs of Fox and Fox Sparrows. Altogether the early morning singing was disappointing.

As we were eating breakfast a very large Red Squirrel visited the meat bowl hanging in the oak by the cabin door and helped himself liberally. A few minutes after he had gone another and smaller one, doubtless his mate, appeared and took his turn at the bowl.

After breakfast I lashed the canoe and paddled down river hugging the wooded western shore to keep out of the wind as well as for the pleasure of exploring all the pretty little coves and channels which the pressure high stage of water makes so accessible and attractive.

At the eastern end of Ball's Hill I saw a large Gray Squirrel feasting on the buds of a maple tree.

Concord, Mass.

1898

March 18

(No 2.)

stood on the edge of the water and at the southern extremity of Davis's Hill I found three of these animals similarly employed. Two of them were in a tree that was entirely surrounded by water and so far from shore that I thought at first that they must have reached it by swimming; but as I approached they galloped at full speed along a horizontal branch and leaped across a space fully five feet in width to the end of a long branch that stretched over from one of the trees on the shore only just catching the slender terminal twigs with their fore paws but quickly raising themselves by them and gaining the upper side of the branch. It was a remarkably clever feat for such comparatively heavy animals.

On reaching the lower end of Davis's Hill I saw several flocks of ducks swimming near the middle of the river between Birch Island and Carlisle Bridge. They proved to be all Golden-eyes and rather more than half were old drakes. I counted 32 birds when they rose which they did the moment my canoe came in full sight although I was more than half-a-mile away but after circling high in air they alighted again further off. By keeping close in shore behind points & islands I got within one quarter of a mile the next time when they were off down river & I saw no more of them.

I landed at Swift's shore and walked

1898.
March 18
(No 3)

through the woods where I heard a Brown Creeper to the open farming land beyond where Song Sparrows were singing and a Bluebird, balancing on the topmost spray of an isolated apple tree, was pouring out his very soul in tender, plaintive warbling. Again and again, dozens of times in quick succession or at intervals of a half-minute or so, his rich notes came to my delighted ears; now clear, pure and exquisitely modulated, next muffled by the rustling wind that swept the gray-brown fields. It is not often that one can hear a Bluebird on his very best and this is the first time that I have had the privilege the present season.

Straggling back through the woods by another path I saw a fine *Antiope* Butterfly, and found a sandy place literally carpeted with stag-horn ground pine.

On reaching the river I set out for the great Bedford Swamp skimming across at great speed before the strong breeze. I found the big pines all standing but there were no Red-tails there and no Black Ducks in the little meadows behind the pines.

Near the head of the large meadow with the pines I came upon Gallant sitting out a number of decoys. They were exceedingly nice affairs saved out of boards & made to show in profile but he assured me that they worked very well and that Ducks often

1898.
March 18
(no 4)

alighted among or swam in to them. He says that between sixty and one hundred Black Ducks have come into this meadow every evening of late and that he killed three there last evening. George Holden, whom I met later, confirmed this statement as to the evening flights.

After dining at the cabin I walked about on the sides of Ball's Hill for an hour or more. The damage which the Rabbits have done to my shrubs and young trees the past winter exceeds anything that has ever happened within my observation before. At the eastern end of the hill hundreds of wet thousands of trees and shrubs have been ruined, and in places several rods square scavenge men has escaped. The species most commonly & generally attacked are the Oaks (Red, Black, Scarlet and Bear) Maples, Hickory, Wild Apple, Smooth Sumac, White Hazel (an especial favorite, evidently) Sweet Fern, Rattle Snake Dogwood (*Cornus florida*). Only a very few of the Common Hazels have been indicated.

Tree killed
by Rabbits

One of my Hawthorn is ruined. The teeth marks show that the Rabbit always bites across the stem, never up and down, and that it invariably works above the level of the snow. It apparently never backs white pines, & these are almost the only trees I found here which enjoy complete immunity from its attacks. I started a Rabbit from its form in the center of the devastated tract this afternoon.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

March 14

(no 5)

I left the cabin for Concord before 4 P.M. and paddling slowly followed the shore line across Barnett's meadows and around behind Holden's Hill. The wind had fallen to a gentle breeze and the air was soft and warm reminding me of that of an afternoon in early October. Another and most unexpected reminder of autumn was the ^{autumn} voice of *Hyla pelterringii* the ^{slope} day, falling call not in the least like the clear, incisive, bell-like spring peeping and coming, as I saw first myself beyond all possibility of doubt, not from the water's edge but from the dry woods well up on the sides of Holden's Hill. I heard this autumn call a dozen times or more and at at least two different places in these woods. As I have not yet heard the spring peeping I am inclined to believe that at least some of these *Hylas* spend the winter on high ground and that when awakened by the first warm days they give the autumn call before they go into the water to sleep. Such an occurrence must be uncommon, however, for it has never before come within my experience. (Pat afterwards told me that *Hylas* were peeping steadily to-night in the swamps near here.)

As I was passing around the back end of Holden's Hill I started three Fox Sparrows from the bushes at the edge of the water.

All the way up the river Red-wings and Song Sparrows were scattered about peeping freely

Concord, Mass.

1898
March 18
(no 6)

and I passed over large flock of Red-wings perched in the upper branches of an oak and all singing at once making a deafening but nevertheless wildly musical clamor.

As I was approaching the Minute Man I saw a bird fly under the bridge and alight on one of the rafters. It proved to be a Phoebe which broke out into four song a few minutes after I had passed the place.

A Robin was singing steadily in the big elm near my landing just below the red bridge and I heard him at intervals for half-an-hour later from my open windows.

Where are the Rusty Blackbirds? I have not seen nor heard one as yet.

At Ball's Hill early this afternoon I saw a Herring Gull (one of two that came from down river) hover at a height of about twenty feet and closing its wings descend headlong like a Tern striking the water with great force and disappearing beneath the surface for at least three seconds. When it came up it floated on the water for a few minutes before taking wing again. I could not see that it had anything in its bill.

Herring Gull
divs like a Tern.

1898.
March 19

Cloudy with fresh south-west wind and heavy rain through the forenoon.

I sailed all the way down river this morning through a pouring rain which did not appear to depress the birds, at least the Red-wings and Song Sparrows, which were singing freely every where. While I was writing in the cabin early in the forenoon a Fox Sparrow appeared in the path in front of the door and began eating the hemp seed which I have thrown there to attract the birds and which has been hitherto visited by only a few Song Sparrows.

Just after dinner the unmistakable sound of Whistlers' wings came in through the open door and rushing out I saw a flock of seven of these Ducks, closely followed by a pair, pass high overhead and out of sight into the mist that hangs over the Great Meadows.

An immense flock of Red-wings were singing in clumps (or mud, rather) on the Bedford shore opposite the cabin. From where I sat inside the door the sound closely resembled that of crowsing them. I also heard Rusty Black birds and an Bluebird.

There was a Herring Gull flying about over the mouth of the Mill Brook when I started this morning.

Concord, Mass.

1898

March 19
(MS2)

At about 5 P.M. as I was on the point of starting for Concord I heard a Hairy Woodpecker call on the ridge behind the cabin. Going to the spot I started the bird from an oak, it was exceedingly shy and seemed to be as much alarmed at my presence as would have been a Crow or a Hawk. There was a Downy Woodpecker in the same tree.

A Shrike was perched on the top of a maple by the river when I passed off in the canoe. I was struck by its graceful, high-bird bearing as it tilted lightly on the slender perch looking keenly around.

I had died the whole way up river being a number of Tree Sparrows (one of which sang a few times to the river) and a great many Red-wings and Song Sparrows.

Some one was shooting at musk rats all day among the flooded thickets near Dakin's Hill. I heard that George Holden has killed about twenty and Gallant fifty thus far, all below Flint's bridge. Yet I saw two on my way up river this evening and heard two about giving the warning call.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

March 20

Early morning gray, remainder of day clear with the most violent N.W. wind that we have had this winter.

At sunrise a Robin, a Meadow Lark, a Flicker, and several Song Sparrows were singing near the house and I also heard Blue Jays and a Nuthatch. The Meadow Lark gave me a delightful serenade which lasted fifteen or twenty minutes. He was very near - apparently on the lawn near the pagoda - and I had a rare opportunity to study the various changes and modulations of his song. These are the renderings that I noted as they came: T'sit, Tao - tsit; Tsao, tsit - tsin; tsao - tsce; Tsao, tsce - tsce-e; tsce, tsce - tsin; tsce, tsce - tsce; tsce, tsce - tsce. After he had flown away to another and more distant field I heard him give the flight song and for the first time it reminded me of the song of the Skylark.

At 10 A. M. I started down river making very rapid progress under my little Horn sail. Saw four Herring Gulls flying over Great Meadows. Spent the day at or near the cabin. Two Fox Sparrows feeding on the seed which we keep on the bank in front of the door. They were silent and very tame. Several Song Sparrows with them.

The wind blew a living gale all the afternoon and I had given up all thoughts of attempting to get back to Concord when it began to abate and I finally started about 6.30 and paddled up in an hour. Before starting I took a walk

Concord, Mass.

1898.
March 20
(No 2)

around the eastern end of Ball's Hill starting a Partridge and seeing fifteen or twenty Robins flying in to the old spring wood in the dawn, busily pining on the edge of the swamp. They all came across the river from the N. Bedford town. Several of them sang for a minute or two before going to sleep. I do not think that they congregate on this wood in spring excepting when there is a strong N.W. wind.

As I was returning around the end of the ridge I heard a prodigious crashing and thumping among the dry leaves in the basal thickets on the hillside. They were instant two Rabbits appeared and passed me within a few yards. One, a very large one, appeared to be chasing the other, a much smaller animal. Presently they separated, taking different directions the small one coming back past me. It seemed to be in a playful mood darting hither & thither in the most erratic way and occasionally running very swiftly in a half circle. I was astonished at the ease with which it threaded its way through the dense brush and also at the suddenness with which it would stop when going at full speed. I had not before realized how active and playful a Rabbit may be when quite at its ease and unconscious of danger.

I found D. C. F. much at the Keyes' and we had a long talk about old times before going to bed.

1898.

March 21

A gray day with occasional brief intervals of sunshine and a light N.W. wind. The temperature has been mild & remarkably uniform for the past week, although the 18th was warmer than any of the days that preceded or followed it.

To Ball's Hill by canoe at 9 a. m. Sailing most of the way. Spent the forenoon at the cabin. Mr. Baethen came down soon after dinner and we took a walk together. Birds were silent and inconspicuous. He started two Partridges, a ♂ and ♀, near Davis's Hill.

As we were crossing Bensen's pasture we saw a Shrike perched on an apple tree. A moment later he started and flew directly towards us skimming close over the ground. When within a few rods he checked his speed evidently with the intention of alighting but at the same instant a large insect, probably a beetle, and no doubt the object that had attracted his attention, rose in a spiral course to a height of three or four feet when it was caught by the Shrike who followed its course with remarkable accuracy and outstuck and seized it with the greatest apparent ease bearing it off in his bill to a few paces war on hand.

Shrike catches a flying insect

A dozen or more Hylas were peeping in Davis's trough first this afternoon and I also heard a Wood Frog apparently ~~Wood~~ Frog in the river.

At 5 P. M. a Great Horned Owl began hooting in the direction of Prescott's place keeping it up for 10 or 15 minutes.

1898.

March 22

Early morning clear with heavy white frost. The sky clouded over by 8 a.m. and a strong S. E. wind soon changing to S. W. and bringing snow, sleet and rain in the late afternoon.

As there were then 7 or 8 Sparrows about the cabin all day yesterday I decided to spend the night at Bull's Hill hoping to hear them sing this morning. Now although I was awoken at day break and out a little after sunrise and although two of the birds remained and came to breakfast on our seed mixture of them would utter more than a low chirp. I heard one Fox Sparrow sing well, however. There was also a Robin in full song and of course a full chorus of Red-wings and Song Sparrows. But most interesting of all were five ^{Arrival of} White-bellied Swallows which were flying together over the roof for ^{W. G. L. South-} half an hour or more (7.30-8 a.m.) feeding & ^{flourishing} ^{the} ^{cabin}.

In the forenoon I took down seed to the bird's form where I dug a number of Stop-bone wintergreen plants. Saw a Crow and a few Red-wings & Song Sparrows and heard a Blue Jay. Not a Drake of any kind. In the afternoon I saw a flock of about 30 Juncos in the Moonfield.

A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks appeared early this morning on Holden's Hill and spent the day there watching the woods ring with their wild clamor.

Late in the afternoon I returned to Concord sailing across the meadows & paddling the remainder of the way. Saw four Muskrats, all about Hunt's Pond.

Concord, Mass.

1888.

March 23

Cloudy with strong wind S.W. in the early morning, N.W. to N. later in the day.

To Ball's Hill at 9 A.M. sailing down. Heard two Meadow Larks near the Hayes' and a third just below F. White's bridge. The Phoebe was singing at North Bridge and I heard another near Hitchin's boat house where I saw an immature Red-shouldered Hawk perched on a branch over the river.

Spent the day in the woods on and behind Ball's Hill making paths. Saw but very few birds - Song Sparrows, Chickadees, Crows, a Kinglet etc. Two Fox Sparrows and a pair of Downy Woodpeckers came to the food at the cabin. Near the crest of Ball's Hill I came upon two Garter Snakes which seemed to be pairing but I disturbed them and they glided into a hole beneath a stump. Also saw a Rabbit which permitted me to approach within ten or four yards. Heard Jays cawing all the afternoon in one of the small ponds.

A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks (doubtless the birds seen yesterday) were screaming all the forenoon about Holden's Hill and in the afternoon I saw them cawing over Davis's Hill still keeping up their wild music - for music it is to my ears.

At about 6.30 P.M. a Great Horned Owl hovered a dozen times or more in the direction of Holden's Hill.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

March 24 Forenoon sunny but cool; afternoon overcast with chill S. wind.

I spent last night at the cabin and early this morning was delighted to hear a Fox Sparrow singing. He did not really "let himself out" but soon after breakfast I heard a bird, probably the same individual, in full song in the swamp behind Ball's Hill.

Spent the forenoon clearing out the path behind the bird, Gilbert helping me. In the afternoon took a walk to Davis' Hill, flanking the Partridge. The Wood Frog was making a great clamor in one of the little ponds and in another (the one at the northern base of Ball's Hill) Gilbert called my attention to a small snapping turtle of the large kind which was clinging to the stems of some submerged bushes with its snout just out of water. When I threw a stick into the water near it it drew down its head and gradually basked out of sight rising so slowly that it was difficult to see that it moved at all.

For several nights past we have heard some unusual gallops across the tin roof of the cabin at about eight o'clock. I have suspected from the first that it was a Flying Squirrel and I became convinced of this last night when I distinctly heard it strike with a thump against the top log before beginning its usual race on the tin.

Returned to Concord late this afternoon under sail.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

March 25 The most perfect day of the month thus far, the sky absolutely clear, the forenoon dead calm, a light and rather soft S. E. wind in the P. M.

There was a hard frost last night and when I got to my canoe at 8.30 this morning I found it surrounded by ice as thick as window-glass. Yet the air was far from all chill and the bushes in deliciously warm. I paddled all the way down to Ball's Hill being and hearing great numbers of Song Sparrows and Red-wings. One striking nothing new to my lists. It was evident, however, that a large flight of Robins had arrived during the night for I saw them everywhere in great numbers. There were also two fresh Phalaropes, one at Red Bridge, the other near Benson's. The little flock of White-bellied Swallows observed on the 22nd must have gone on that day for since then I have seen only two one on the 23rd, the other this morning.

On reaching the cabin I learned from Gilbert that there had been five or six Sparrows at the feed bed early in the morning. He also told me that he had started a Whistler from the river in front of the cabin just before I came in sight.

I spent the forenoon in the woods seeing nothing of particular interest. At noon a Leopard Frog (the first) showed hardly a number of times in the river near our door.

Cambridge, Mass.

1898
March 26

Clear with chills & wind.

Spent the day in Cambridge. There seemed to be but few birds there. A Robin and a Purple Finch were the only native birds I saw in the garden and to this meager list I added only another Robin during the drive to Peter's Station late in the afternoon.

Michael told me, however, that Grackles have been very numerous during the past week. On one occasion he counted thirty feeding on the ground in our garden.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

March 27

Cloudy or at least overcast sky all day with light but chilly S. E. wind.

Spent the forenoon at the Sumner's and in walking about through the fields and orchards near our house. A *Mitralis* calling whet-ohet-ohet. *Blonchis*, Song Sparrows, Red-wings and a Robin singing.

In the afternoon paddled down river and landing a little below Flint's bridge walked across the fields to Pratt's nursery. Just as I was leaving the corner a *Bittern* pumped twice in the meadow east of the S. river. When I returned an hour later he was driving *Stakes* loudly and persistently further down the river at the western end of Great Meadows. This is the earliest date for the arrival of the *Bittern* that I have ever noted.

Another bird new to my list was the Carolina Dove. A male was coming at short, regular intervals somewhere in the direction of Sheep Hollow Cemetery when I started back up stream at 5 P. M.

I saw three Meadow Larks below the bridge two of them were in full song, the third probably a female. At first I took them to be birds that had just come to & settled in their meadows but two of them finally rose high in air & flew off towards & over the Buttrick's hill.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

March 28

Another gray day with feeble sunshine at times. Forenoon calm and rather sultry. A chilly S. E. wind in the afternoon.

To Bael's Hill at 9 a. m. paddling down. The morning was calm and mild and the birds were singing freely and in unusual numbers. Besides the regular March species I heard a Grass Finch in full song on Ripley's Hill. Three White-bellied Swallows were flying about among and alighting on the firs just above the Hill.

Spent most of the day in the woods going as far north as the Mason field. Saw but few birds excepting near the cabin where four 7's of Sparrows, five or six Song Sparrows, the 8 Honey Woodpecker and a pair of Chickadees visited the food that we keep out for them. A flock of fully eight Red-wings flew over the hill in the afternoon. Crows were coming all day in the firs. Blue jays are exceedingly scarce in their neighborhood. I believe that only the winter residents of this species are here now.

Sailed home late in the afternoon starting four Mallard Ducks from the Great Meadows just above Hunt's Pond & hearing a full chorus of Red-wings & Song Sparrows with Meadow Larks & Robins as I passed the town. I see four or five musk rats every evening but none below Hunt's Pond.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

March 29

Early morning calm & sunny, remainder of day cloudy with light S. W. wind and rain in the late afternoon lasting through the night.

To Ball's Hill at 9 a. m. paddling down. Heard a Savanna Sparrow singing rather feebly on the edge of Great Meadow and saw an immature Swamp Sparrow in some bushes on the river bank just above Hunt's Ponds both birds being the first that I have noted.

Twelve White-bellied Swallows were flying together over the meadows near the Hill. The numbers of Red-wings & Song Sparrows has remained about the same for the past four days. Robins are very numerous everywhere but hardly in full song as yet. I heard one this evening singing divinely, however, in the rain at the Keyes'.

Spent the day in the woods near Ball's Hill seeing nothing of especial interest.

As I was on my way up river lake in the afternoon I saw a very large Milk Snake swim across a pool and disappear among the logs of the fallen maple on Mrs. Bassett's meadow.

The river has fallen rapidly the past week and much of the Great Meadow is now exposed so that I can no longer cross it with a canoe. The grass gets greener every day. Hylas, Wood Thrup & Redstart Thrup are singing everywhere but not in great numbers as yet.

Concord, Mass.

1898.
March 30

Early morning cloudy, afternoon clear with strong S. wind.

I bade good bye to the Hugeses this morning and with the canoe packed full of my effects paddled down to Ball's Hill where I am to spend the remainder of my time this Spring. A cold N. wind was blowing and the birds were mostly silent but I heard no less than four different Phoebe's singing. Bluebirds have apparently nearly ceased singing in the day time but I see them frequently.

The Red-shouldered Hawks have been absolutely silent yesterday and to-day but I saw the female on Ball's Hill yesterday afternoon and the male at Holden's Hill this morning. The male looks like an immature bird but the female is in the highest possible plumage.

There were three Fox Sparrows at the cabin yesterday and the same number to-day. On both days I heard one of them singing in low tones at about noon.

The Downy Woodpeckers and Chickadees still come to our meat boxes but less frequently than they did a week ago.

Wood Frogs were croaking freely all day & a fair number of Hylas popping this evening.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

March 31 Heavy rain during the night changing to damp snow about daybreak the storm continuing through the forenoon with a strong, chilly north wind.

By noon the snow covered the ground to a depth of two or three inches over the fields and in the woods but along the river banks and on the slope in front of the cabin it melted as fast as it fell. The broad space of bare, brown earth in front of our door, covered with hemp and grass seed, attracted an unusual variety of birds which kept increasing in numbers as the day wore on until by noon I had noted the following.

Robin - Two constantly present; a flock of twelve paid a brief visit

Song Sparrow - Five or six

Fox " - Four, one of the males singing freely.

Lark " - Six (these are the first that have visited the seed bed)

Swamp " - One

Juncos - Three at first others later until ^{assembled} fifteen were.

Purple Finch - One in full song.

Phoebe - One flying down to the ground like a Bluebird

Chickadee - A pair at the meat bone

Downy Woodpecker " " " " " "

Rough-legged Hawk - A dark-colored bird in the big red oak.

Goosander - Flock of five gray birds flying close past.

Crow - Several flying about, cawing.

At 11 a. m. I walked up through Benson's field & back around the Hill. Sleuthed a Partridge & heard a Chickadee singing merrily in the storm.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

March 31
(No. 2.)

The snow ceased falling about 1 P.M. and by 4 P.M. the sky was clear and the North wind had strengthened and become colder. Yet almost with the first gleams of sunshine the snow disappeared like magic and by sunset there was scarce a trace of it left.

Spent the afternoon digging some young trees and stumps to take to Cambridge. Saw few birds excepting close about the cabin where the juncos, were in number at dinner time, had increased to fifteen or twenty. The Fox and Tree Sparrows sang deftly at times, their wild, clear notes intermingling with each other and with the simple trills of the juncos. I have noticed before this that all these species sing better and very much more freely during or just after a snow storm than in any other kind of weather. The Fox Sparrows sang almost incessantly during the hardest part of the storm to-day. The Robins, on the other hand, were absolutely silenced by it and I did not hear one this evening after the sky had cleared. The Song Sparrows sang a very little throughout the storm.

The Rough-legged Hawk mentioned above was perched in the large red oak at the east end of Boak's Hill. Three or four Crows were clustered about him cawing exultantly. The Crows flew before I got near the tree but the Hawk remained until I was within thirty yards of him. He was a large bird very dark but not black.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 1

Clear and cold with strong N. W. wind, the ground was frozen at sunrise and shallow ponds were skimmed over.

At daybreak I heard Black Ducks quacking loudly, apparently very near the cabin but perhaps flying. Early in the forenoon I stalked two from Holden's Meadow (flooded).

As we were at breakfast the Sparrows were dimly engaged on the grass seed in front of our door. There was a fine flock of them this morning comprising no less than fifteen juncos, five or six Song Sparrows, three Fox Sparrows and two Fox Sparrows. The juncos were twittering and singing uttering a great variety of low warbling and chuckling sounds interpolated between the repetition of the trill the whole reminding me forcibly of the song of a singing house. Why is it that this song, so infinitely superior to the summer trill, is heard only in early spring?

The Fox Sparrows were silent this morning and I heard only one Fox Sparrow sing.

As we were watching the animated and interesting flock of Sparrows & juncos from our door they suddenly scattered in every direction and at the same instant a skrike came dashing through the bushes and alighted on a branch of an oak not more than eight feet from where we stood. A skrike
chases a
flock of
Sparrows ~~It sat~~ for a moment balancing itself and jerking its tail looking keenly about. Most of the Sparrows had disappeared at the first alarm but three or four juncos had merely flown up into the bushes where they remained apparently not realizing the dangerous character of the situation.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

April
(No 2)

The latter soon made a swoop at one of them and pursued and pursued quite a distance among the trees. Half an hour later all our Sparrows and Juncos were back at the feed again & the Shrike must have failed to secure his prey.

I spent the forenoon working with Gilbert on a new path and in the afternoon took a long walk in the woods being weary of any interest except a ♀ Cowbird's Hawk fly, westward past Davis's Hill and I think migrating.

The Phoebe was above the cabin all day and I heard him singing a little before noon. A Robin sang freely at evening. We have not either seen or heard a Red wing the past two days. I suppose they have all left the river and congregated in the fields in large flocks as is their custom during cold, blustering weather at this season.

At noon a few Wood Frogs were croaking in one of my ponds but the Hylas have been silent then last two days.

Concord, Mass.

1898

April 2

Early morning clear and cold, the ground frozen hard on the surface. Clouds gathered early in the forenoon and the afternoon was gray and chilly with N. E. wind and snow at nightfall.

Three Fox Sparrows, sixteen juncos, several Tree Sparrows and five or six Song Sparrows were at the seed bed when I came out this morning. At day break I heard one of the Fox Sparrows sing a fine tune.

Spent the forenoon in the woods seeing nothing new. Birds sang very little and the woods & thicket appeared silent and deserted.

Gilbert saw four Blunt Ducks at about 8 a.m. flying over the Great Meadows.

Mr. Benjamin Watson arrived by the 5:30 P.M. train to spend Sunday with me. When I went to the country to meet him snow was falling fast already whitening the ground and clinging to the bushes. The Sparrows and juncos came to the seed bed for their evening meal presenting the usual animated & interesting scene as they worked and pecked over their food.

1898.
April 3

Clear and cold with strong N.W. wind.

The sun rose over a wintry landscape this morning for more than two inches of snow had fallen during the night loading down the branches of the trees and bushes and covering the entire face of the country with an unbroken mantle of dazzling white. Despite this strong April sun the ground did not appear during the day excepting on southern exposures.

Watson and I were out the entire forenoon tramping through the snow over my entire extent of woodland examining woodchuck trails and stunts but seeing very few birds. We started only one Partridge, a large cock bird in the Holliston piece. On the north side of Holden's Hill in dense oak & chestnut woods we came upon a family of Bluebirds flitting from branch to branch like a Hermit Thrush. Saw one flock of Turkey Robins and a Red shouldered Hawk. In the afternoon Gilbert saw a flock of eight Black Ducks flying over Benson's house & as I was standing in front of the cabin two passed on their way up river.

The Sparrows and Juncos were at the seed bed early this morning in the same respective numbers as during the past three days. But while we were absent in the forenoon something killed and placed a Junco directly in front of the cabin door. The remaining birds did not return during the afternoon although we saw them along the river path.

1898

April 4

Forenoon clear with warm sunshine which rapidly melted the remaining snow. Afternoon cloudy. A heavy chilly W. wind all day.

Watson left me last evening. I spent to-day near the cabin preparing some beds for wild fowls. It was a windy, birdless day & I saw nothing of much interest or capture a flock of eight Black Duck twice, in the early morning and again late in the afternoon, both times flying past Ball's Hill.

In the afternoon I also saw a small Hawk which I took to be a Sharp-shin. It came skimming over the crest of Ball's Hill and then, inclining steeply downwards, swooped through the oaks and directly past the cabin door. Probably this was the bird that killed the James yesterday. This hawk ^{has} evidently frightened the flock of Sparrows badly for only a few of them visited the bed bed during the day although Gilbert saw eight James, then or four Song Sparrows and one Fox Sparrow at the beds early in the evening.

At evening a Bittern was pumping steadily at the usual place in the middle cove of the Great Meadows. This is the first time I have heard a Bittern since March 27th. I am inclined to think that the bird based on that date passed on northward that night & that the one which this evening is a new comer.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 5

A dismal day with piercing N. E. wind and thickly falling snow which loaded down the trees and bushes and covered the leaf or grass-strewn surfaces to a depth of several inches but wherever the unfrozen ground was bare melted as fast as it fell.

There was a fine flock of Sparrows assembled in front of the cabin this morning and most of the day spent the entire day there eating, apparently, without cessation. This, I think, is their usual habit when, during a snow-storm, they are lucky enough to find an abundance of food. During the fine weather of the past week they have visited the seed bed only three daily - at morning, noon, and a little before sunset, ^{having been} ~~but~~ always an interval of two or three hours in the forenoon and one of equal length in the afternoon when the seeds were wholly neglected.

A pair of Robins, the accident pair of Downys, and two Chickadees also spent most of the day in front of the cabin and, a fellow-looking Phoebe appeared there in the afternoon and watched with apparent envy the Sparrows engaged at a feast in which he, poor fellow, could take no part. The Robins did not, of course, touch the seeds but they were able to tolerate themselves with occasional earthworms which they pulled from the wet, slimy ground along the path.

1898.
April 5
(no 2)

The Fox Sparrows, as is their wont during a snow-storm at this season, sang all day long at short intervals, sometimes singly but often two or three in quick succession, one taking up the theme directly his predecessor ceased or even breaking in on him at the close of his song. It was indeed a glorious concert when several birds were thus engaged, their rich, wild notes rising and falling all around the log cabin in which I sat writing. The songs of the different individuals varied greatly in form as well as in duration some lasting twice as long as others but each bird apparently always sang in precisely the same way on different occasions.

The seed became, at times, covered with snow but the Fox Sparrows quickly uncovered it by "scratching". Watching this operation carefully, with the Sparrow only eight or ten feet from my window, I satisfied myself fully as to how it is done. The bird first makes a forward hop of from one to three inches and the instant it strikes the ground jumps backward to the starting point carrying with it all the snow, leaves or other light debris covering that its large feet have beneath them, after flinging this debris six or eight inches to the rear, and at each hop exposing a small space of bare earth within convenient reach and directly in front of where it was at first standing. The forward action is so very quick

1898

April 5
(no 3)

that it is apt to escape the eye of, or at least to be misinterpreted by, the casual observer and the impression is easily received that the bird has merely scratched the leaves etc. behind it after the manner of a hen. But sometimes it does actually kick backwards without first hopping forward. Its wings are kept tightly closed during the performance. The feet are held nearly parallel but often, I think, one is a little in advance of the other.

The Song and Fox Sparrows, as well as the Junco, "scratched" in precisely the same manner as the Fox Sparrows but rather less vigorously and much less frequently. The Junco sang a good deal, giving the spring melody song chiefly, but the Fox Sparrows were surely silent and I heard the Song Sparrows only a few times in the early morning.

The combined flock of Sparrows, Juncos & Robins was subject to frequent nervous panics caused by the fall of a lump of snow, the distant report of a gun, some noise within the cabin or by some sight or sound either imaginary or inappreciable by our duller ears. With a chorus of screeps & trills and a loud rattle of wings the timid little birds would scatter & dart off into the bushes soon returning ^{another} one after another.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 5
(no 4)

Late in the afternoon I started out for a walk. It was still snowing hard and the N. E. wind was piercingly chilly but the beauty of the woods made me oblivious to everything else. Along the river path the snow foliage was almost as dense as the leaf foliage of windsummers and I could scarcely see the water through the screen of crimson-clothed trees and bushes. The tufelos with their drooping branches and many angled twigs were especially interesting and effective.

But by far the finest effects were furnished by some of the pines on Benson's ridge. I spent fully an hour there wandering about among the trees drinking in the extraordinary beauty of the scene. These woods were so changed—so glorified by the snow that even the paths that I have been lately walking seemed unfamiliar and more than once I actually lost my way. Most of the trees were simply loaded with snow masses but on some of the smaller white pines the snow had collected in rounded but floppy balls at the ends of the twigs around the bases of the tufts of needles the ends of which were left exposed producing a beautiful effect.

During this walk I saw a Phoebe at Benson's, two or three Robins among the birns, and a Rabbit on the edge of the Swamp.

Night closed in dark & threatening with the damp snow coming faster than ever.

1898.

April 6

A perfect morning, the sky without a cloud, the sun
 shining with dazzling brilliancy on the fresh fallen snow.
 By noon the stars had freed themselves from the heavy
 masses of snow which had loaded down their tops &
 branches and by night the ground was bare again
 excepting on western slopes & in dense woods.

When I came down the ladder a little after
 sunrise the Sparrows were assembled in front of the
 cabin but their feed was buried under four inches
 of damp snow. I swept off the bed and put out
 a fresh hopper which the hungry birds attacked at
 once but a few minutes later a Red-winged Blackbird
 plumped down in the middle of the bed and
 scattering the Sparrows right and left began eating
 greedily. He was quickly joined by others of his kind
 until no less than ten of the beautiful birds were
 clustered together devouring the seed. The Sparrows
 meanwhile were scattered about in the neighboring
 bushes looking on with evident disgust. After a
 few minutes three of the Fox Sparrows (there were
 only five about to-day) plucked up courage and
 resumed their breakfast keeping, however, as far
 as possible from the Red-wings. The other Sparrows
 did not return to the seed until after the
 Red-wings had left. These are the first Blackbirds
 that I have ever had the pleasure of feeding here.
 There were fifteen Juncos, three Fox Sparrows, four
 or five Song Sparrows and one Swamp Sparrow
 in front of the cabin during the day.

Concord, Mass.

1898.
April 6
(No 2.)

Soon after breakfast I started out with my camera following the edge of the woods to Davis's Hill and returning by way of Prescott's place and Benson's ridge. The woods were exceedingly beautiful although the rays of the sun, aided by a strong north-west wind, quickly chased the snow from the snow exposed tops. Near the river the ground was bare in many places and Tree Sparrows, Junco, Song Sparrows literally swarmed in the thickets and along the sides of the hills. Indeed the snow covered the ground the entire forenoon & I saw almost no birds. I found a pair of Bluebirds in the oaks on Davis's Hill but saw no Phoebe anywhere. I am afraid that they & the Swallows have had a hard time of it of late.

As I was returning a beautiful adult ♂ Marsh Hawk crossed Benson's field fighting his way against the strong wind.

At noon a Hoopoe flew round several times at the edge of the water near the cabin.

Spent the afternoon transplanting young pines.





Dorset, Mass.



Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 7

Clear with strong N. wind and warm sun.

Spent the forenoon in the woods. Most of the remaining snow disappeared before noon. Saw the usual numbers of common birds. The Phoebe has passed through the bad weather for I heard one singing near Susan's and another in front of the cabin. Then 7 or 8 Sparrows and fifteen juncos were feeding at our bird table in the early morning.

Will Brewster who came down just after dinner reports seeing a Pine Warbler at Concord this morning.

At 4 P. M. I went to Cambridge where I spent the night. Only one Robin singing on the old place at evening.

Clear with cool N. Wind.

Spent the day at Cambridge returning to Ball's Hill by the late afternoon train. While Gilbert was getting supper I took a short walk seeing three Black Ducks which alighted in Holden's meadow & were about near some bushes for ten or fifteen minutes.

I also saw several flocks of Robins flying very high towards the N. and, I think, migrating.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 9

Clear the early morning cool, the middle of the day unaccountably warm (ther. about 65°), altogether the most springlike day thus far.

Spent the forenoon in the woods, the afternoon near the cabin. Pine Warblers arrived here this morning when I heard two males singing, one on Ball's Hill, the other on Davis's Hill.

For the first time this Spring we have had one day a full chorus of Frogs, Hyles, Sharp-shinned Frogs & Wood Frogs. The Hyles are still in full cry as I write this (9 P.M.). The Wood Frogs began in the little pond directly behind Ball's Hill this morning & they were still croaking, although in reduced numbers, in some of the cypress places.

I see Red-shouldered Hawks every few days but the pair which I thought would nest on Holder's Hill departed ten days or more ago & the birds here now are silent & have no fixed haunts.

All the juncos apparently left this locality night before last but there were two Fox Sparrows near the cabin both yesterday & to-day.

A Blue Jay was skimming over Ball's Hill this morning the first I have actually noted on this hill although I have seen one or two in brush on Davis's Hill.

Coz ord, Mass.

1898.

April 10

Early morning clear; remainder of day cloudy with occasional light showers; a remarkably soft, warm day with but little wind.

In the early forenoon I paddled up river nearly to Flint's bridge my chief object being to get a lot of willow catlings. The morning was dead calm and very mild yet the birds were thoroughly silent. I doubt if I heard in all river town four or five Red-wings or Song Sparrows. The Phoebe was the only bird that seemed to be singing at all freely. I heard three notes one of which was accompanied by his mate. There was a fiftite at Ball's Hill which entered the cabin through the open door just before breakfast and attempted to alight on a rod directly over the fireplace. Gilbert & Pat were in the room at the time.

A Bittern pumped all the forenoon in the usual place on Great Meadows.

I saw the first ♀ Red-wing this morning in bittern bushes along the river, a solitary bird.

Pat started two birds on Great Meadows which he thinks were ducks. Two or three Hivets were fired there yesterday afternoon.

A ♂ Red-shouldered Hawk flew into the woods on Holden's Hill carrying a frog in his talons. A few minutes later he began screaming. Is it possible that there is a mate there?

The Hyla & Leopard Frogs were very noisy through the day & well into the night. Almost no birds singing at evening. Virginia Rail has just begun calling ~~also~~ in the bushes beyond my boat landing (S. P. M.)

Va. Rail
arrives

Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 11

Clear and calm most of the day. Very warm for the season.

For the first time this Spring I slept last night with the upper half of the cabin door wide open. Hylas, Hood Frog and Desford Frog were in full cry when I went to sleep. I awoke this morning at day break to hear Robins, Red-wings, Song Sparrows and a Grass Finch singing and a Bittern pumping. Later a Phoebe and then a more few Sparrows joined in but altogether the bird chorus was small for so calm and warm a morning.

A little before sunrise a Red Squirrel appeared in the oak and was soon heard at work in our provision basket where he took the wrapping off a chop and ate some of the fat. His dance got wilder further, bearing, as he worked hurriedly, very often mounting sitting erect & looking keenly around as if fearing detection were very interesting. Presently he began working a peculiar low growling sound keeping it up for many minutes in succession. I have discovered that it was caused by the approach of an enormous Gray Squirrel who came across a long branch from another oak and jumped into the tree where the basket hung. The Gray descended very slowly to within a yard of the basket and then stopping lay extended for a long time on a broad branch paying us offensive attention to the constrained remonstrance of the Red Squirrel who, all

Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 11

(Wed)

the which held his ground although he ceased eating. Finally the Gray went off & the Red continued his breakfast.

I spent the day transplating trees. Heard two Pine Warblers. All the Juncos & Fox Sparrows gone. I miss them badly & nothing has taken their place about the cabin. There are only two or three Song Sparrows there now.

Taking a walk at evening along the river bank I heard a Snipe drumming steadily for half-an-hour or more. The Bittern was also pumping at those intervals.

Vegetation has advanced rapidly the past two days. The willows are thickly hung with catkins as have been the poplars since the 7th. The grass is getting very green.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 12

Cloudy with occasional gleams of *Psala versicolor*.
Wind strong from N. E.

Spent the entire day on or near Ball's Hill transplanting trees. Birds either very scarce or very silent. The early migrants have evidently about all gone and none of the later ones arrived. Our cabin Phoebe was about all day and sang freely for the first time.

Late in the afternoon a flock of five Gossanders passed high over Ball's Hill and then swooped downward into Great Meadows their wings making a loud rushing sound. Two of the flock were old ducks.

At evening two Snipe drummed for nearly half-an-hour over the marshes opposite the cabin and a Swamp Sparrow sang over in full, round tones in the bottom bushes along the river.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 13

Early morning cloudy; remainder of day brilliantly clear with very strong (but not chill) E. wind.

Spent the entire day transplanting trees, covering a good deal of ground going to & fro from place to place. Very few birds seen or heard; indeed the country appeared to be lifeless & desolate & even in the early morning I heard almost no singing. The three Sparrows came to the cabin as usual, the Red at day break, the pair of Grays half an hour later. I also saw a Chipmunk (the first this spring) near the E. end of Ball's Hill.

In the afternoon a flock of 14 Cedar Birds passed over Davis's Hill flying due North and perhaps migrating.

At evening the Bittern was pumping and a snipe drumming. I also heard a singular succession of croaking notes (or a rolling croak) many times repeated & coming from the direction of the bottom bushes opposite Ball's Hill. This call was unlike anything that I have ever heard before. It could hardly have been made by a Frog although it faintly resembled the croaking of the European Frog, but was much louder & more emphatic. I am quite sure that it was uttered by some water bird.

Carrard, Mass.

1898.

April 14

Cloudy with S. E. wind and fine rain in the afternoon changing to heavy rain during the night.

Another day spent transplanting trees, working between Davis's and Ball's Hill. Small birds continue very scarce with no new arrivals. A flock of 22 White-bellied Swallows flying past the cabin in the afternoon. At evening a pair of Black Ducks passed over the top of Ball's Hill and a number of Snipe (at least three & I think more) were ^{seen} "drumming" over the flooded meadows for twenty minutes or more.

Mr. & Mrs. Frank W. Chapman arrived at 7.15 P.M. and we sat up late talking.

" 15

A real old-fashioned north-easter lasting all day and with us signs of ceasing as I am writing this (at 9 P.M.). Heavy rain driving before a gusty, violent & bitterly chilly wind silencing the birds and blighting out the distant landscape.

The Chapmans spent the forenoon in the cabin and departed at 2 P.M. After they had gone I took a long walk in the woods - to Brick Island and beyond. Saw almost no birds but had a feast of beauty in the mosses and lichens on stones & old stumps. Such exquisite greens, greys, and gray greens! Six Herring Gulls & a flock of eight Black Ducks passed the cabin in the early forenoon. Two Chickadees, a Pine Warbler, a Robin, two Downys, and two Song Sparrows the only small birds seen near the cabin.

Oxford, Mass.

1898.
April 16

Forenoon cloudy with occasional light showers. Clearing in the afternoon with W. wind. At sunset the sky was cloudless and the lights remarkably clear & strong.

A great bird day, everything in full song from early until late. Just after breakfast I heard a Partridge drumming in the old place on the stone wall at the E. end of Ball's Hill. Gilbert heard another later near Concord.

A little before noon a ♀ Green-winged Teal passed the cabin flying down river. She passed within forty yards of me & I made a certain identification. A few minutes later as we were at dinner we heard the bounding of Green & making out saw a flock of twenty of the noble birds flying north. They passed over the E. end of Ball's Hill at a height of less than 100 yards.

A solitary male Yellow-rump appeared near the cabin in the forenoon & spent the remainder of the day singing at intervals.

Our Robin Phoebe appeared this morning with a mate and sang freely through the day.

The evening was a rarely beautiful one, dead calm with a strong amber light on the opposite shores of the river. Two Partridges were pumping on the windows sometimes together but usually one beginning just after the other had ceased. A Sapsucker also drummed a few times.

A Grass Finch was singing all day long in the old field near the pine plantation.

Cambridge & Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 23

Cloudy with fine rain.

On the afternoon of the 17th I paddled up to Concord and leaving the new canoe safely stored in the barn at the Keys place returned to Cambridge where I spent the whole of the preceding week going back to Bowls Hill Cove this afternoon.

On the old place at Cambridge from four to six or eight Robins, a Hermit Thrush, a Chipping, a Purple Finch and a Flicker were seen or heard every day. Meadow Larks were seen almost daily, also, and Crows frequently. A White-throated Sparrow in superb (mostly unusually so) plumage spent the 23rd in the garden and a Blue Jay was screaming in one of the lindens on the morning of that day. I also heard a Goldfinch flying one. The Hermit sang softly this forenoon.

While driving to the Station at Arlington this afternoon I saw two Black Ducks fly out of the water swamp. Lottkopf tells me that a pair are nesting there and another pair near Port Pond.

When I reached the cabin this evening a soft rain was falling. Two White-throated Sparrows were feeding in front of the door, a Kingfisher was rattling in the vine masses, Swamp Sparrows sang in the bottom bushes, Robins in the oaks. The chorus of Hylas voices was simply ear-piercing. Black Wren in full bloom. Fleeted a Partridge near the east end of the hill & the same bird a second time within 30 ft. of the cabin!

Concord Mass.

1898.

April 24

A dark, gloomy day with N. E. wind and heavy rain. The river is all over the meadows again and is still rapidly rising.

Spent the forenoon setting out plants near the cabin. Two White-throated Sparrows, both of drab-plumage, a few Robins, a pair of Pine Siskins, a flock of five or six Yellow-wings, a Kingfisher, and about thirty Swallows, of which four or five were Barn Swallows, were in sight on a heavy mist of the time.

In the afternoon walked to Purcutt's farm by way of Davis's Hill & back by the usual paths. Dug few birds. Heard one Robin crying and started two House Wrens. A Great Tit was flying in the Mason field. Heard Partridges drumming in three places - at the S. end of Davis's Hill, at the N. E. end of Davis's wood, and at the south end of the Mason field. All three birds drummed at short regular intervals. It is evident that the Partridge drums much more frequently in dark weather when rain or snow is falling than on other times.

The woods & fields were surpassingly beautiful. Vegetation advances slowly. I saw blood root and *Cassiopeia* in bloom. The red maples are now at their prime & the big woods flushed with their salmon-pink blossoms. Good luck we get out.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 25

Forenoon cloudy with light showers of fine rain.
Clearing in the afternoon with a brilliantly clear sunset.
A strong, cold N. E. wind all day.

Spent the forenoon in the woods near Davis's Hill.
Small birds either very scarce or very silent. Heard a
Carpenter Hawk barking in the old nesting place among
the down pines at the glacial hollows but did
not see the bird.

At about noon an Osprey passed Davis's Hill flying
down river and a few minutes later three Great Blue
Herons followed him.

In the afternoon sailed across Great Meadows and
passing through the carry by the big maple paddled
the remainder of the way to the Nuttall's where
I landed to get some things from the boat house
& then turned back stopping at several places
on my return to dig plants & trees. Saw a
Pipit Hawk flying high over Ball's Hill toward
the north. The Parula was pumping steadily in
the usual place. Only a very few birds singing along
the river. The Red-wings appear to have left the
meadows altogether owing, no doubt, to the recent rise
of water which is now nearly as high as it was
the middle of March. A few Tree Sparrows still linger.
I saw six together on the W. Redford shore & heard
one of them sing freely. The two dringy colored
White-throats which spent the 23rd & 24th in front
of the cabin were gone this evening & a pair about
had taken their place. A pair of Phoebe at the corner
all day explaining it with evident thoughts of building them.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 26

Morn'g cloudy with light showers; afternoon clear.
A strong and very cold N. E. wind blowing all day.

Spent most of the day working near the cabin. The weather through the forenoon was exceedingly disagreeable and the birds were remarkably silent. A few Yellow-wings, a Pine Warbler, a Chipping, two or three Robins and two White-throated Sparrows hung about under the shelter of the hill near the cabin. Over the river thirty or forty Swallows were drifting to and fro skimming close to the water.

At about 6 P. M. I came upon a Meadow Mouse that was feeding by the side of the river bank near the cabin. It was some six feet away when I saw it and stopped to watch it. It was eating the fresh green blades of one of the common cultivated grasses. These blades were three or four inches in length. It nipped them off near the ground and beginning at the base worked them into its mouth quite evenly and rapidly chewing them and drawing them in wholly by the use of its teeth. It was a remarkably neat, pretty animal with dense, glossy fur. Its shape & motions reminded me strongly of those of a Muskrat. After I had watched it for fully ten minutes it took alarm at something and darted into a burrow a few feet off.

Walked to the Blakemore woods on evening. The flooded swamps ringed with *Hyla vocis*. Three or four Swamp Sparrows singing. A single Chipping and two Great Robin Wrens singing.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 27

Cold last night with heavy white frost & slightly frozen ground early this morning. Forenoon brilliantly clear. Afternoon cloudy. A violent & most piercing S. wind blowing all day.

Spent the forenoon in the woods and fields near Ball's Hill. In the afternoon sailed to Concord (using an umbrella) and then paddled up the Assabet to Angie's Mill in search of some slabs for the new cabin. The Assabet is unchanged save for the scant cutting of the firs & remarkably tall gray birches in the swamp above the lumber.

Started back at 5.45 and reached the cabin just an hour later, paddling all the way. The water is now almost at maximum spring tides and the current is very strong. The wind blowing against it raised a really ugly sea in places. My few birds singing. My hands were positively numb with the cold 'ere I reached the cabin.

Despite the cold weather I noted two arrivals to-day, a Parula Warbler that sang for half an hour in the cabin this forenoon and a spotted Sandpiper at Daler's Hill at evening.

Just after leaving Angie's brook on my return I saw a curious looking object crossing the Assabet about 30 yds. ahead. It proved to be a pair of Musk rats engaged in copulation. There were two periods of sexual contact each lasting about half-a-minute. During their continuance the female kept on swimming steadily across the swift

Musk rats
in sexual
union

Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 27
(No 2)

current bearing the male on her back. The second contact ceased just as they reached some bushes when the pair separated, the female going ashore & the male diving. I have never before actually seen birds so perform the sexual act although I have often watched males in pursuit of females. They usually keep up their peculiar wailing cry while thus engaged but both of these animals were silent. What could be more characteristic of such ultra-aquatic creatures than this sexual union in mid-stream! The offspring resulting from it should be indeed bold swimmers and adroit divers conceived, as the case, in the midst of that rushing flood.

Early this morning an interesting little flock of Warblers was collected in the oaks on the shaded side of Ball's Hill. There were six or seven Yellow-rumps, (a Yellow Palm Warbler) and a Pine Warbler, all singing freely. A pair of Kingfishers were settling on the river and a Blue Jay was screaming near at hand. Presently I heard the barking note of a Cooper's Hawk in a thicket of young pines into which the Jay had just flown. I am morally certain that the Jay uttered this cry but I failed to get another sight at him when I entered the pines. Probably the barking which I heard yesterday at the Glacier Hollow was also made by a Jay. Why does the Jay imitate all our Hawks and no other birds?

Blue Jay
imitates a
Cooper's
Hawk.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 28

A north-easter, one of the heaviest I have ever known at Concord, the wind blowing all day with great violence raising a heavy sea in front of the cabin. Steadily falling rain through the forenoon changing to hail in the late afternoon the ground white with it when the night closed in.

Spent the forenoon in or near the cabin. Late in the afternoon took a long walk in the woods. The wind was strong that it was difficult to force one's way against it across the openings and the hail beat on my face & hands like showers of pebble stones. Where were the birds? I saw two dumbled Robins, a pair of most unhappy-looking Phalaropes & a Song Sparrow or two, but no Woodpeckers. Gilbert saw a Whistler flying over the River.

" 29

Cloudy all day with frequent showers of fine rain. The wind fell in the north-east but blowing with abated force & falling to dead calm at evening. The temperature higher than yesterday & rising as the day wore on.

Spent the day on or near Ball's Hill walking in the woods. Saw a Hermit Thrush and at evening a Great Blue Heron and a Night Heron, the latter flying over Ball's Hill towards the west.

Puerdin arrived by the 5:30 train to spend to-morrow and Sunday.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 30

Clear with violent N. W. wind; rather cool in the early morning but warm at noon.

Purdie and I took a long walk in the forenoon covering most of my land to the north of Rock's Hill and rambling through Mrs. Bassett's woods as well. A good flight of Waxwings must have arrived last night for in the oak woods on the North side of Davis's Hill we found a dozen or more Yellow-rumps, half as many Yellow Palm Waxwings, a Black & White Creeper and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, the last two being the first that I have noted this spring. There was a general arrival of Creepers, apparently, for we heard others in different places later, at least from birds in all.

In Benson's field we came upon a flock of fifteen Goldfinches feeding among some weeds. Some of the males were in full summer plumage & all showed more or less bright yellow. They sang vigorously when the flock flew up & alighted in these trees.

Walking at evening in the Blakemore woods we started two Partridge and heard a night Heron grunting. We also walked on Osgood's creek near Bassett's woods looking for fish, but vainly. A Bittern also seen on the edge of this meadow.

Concord, Mass.

1898.
May 1

A beautiful day much warmer than yesterday and with less strong wind although from the same direction (N.W.).

Red-wings, Song Sparrows, Robins and a Pine Warbler singing near the cabin at sunrise, just after breakfast a Solitary Vireo in full song near the crest of Ball's Hill and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet chattering and singing among the dense pines just behind this hall. I was struck by the close resemblance between the chatter and that which the Solitary Vireo utters when its nest is approached. Later in the day we heard another Kinglet in full song in Bedford Swamp.

At 8.30 a. m. we started down river in the old Belkirk Boat ponding, fording, and rowing by turns, hugging the shores of the flooded meadow closely for the water is now as high as it was the middle of last March. We saw but few birds until we reached Howe's big woods where on landing we found a mixed flock of Yellow Warblers & Yellow Palm Warblers fluttering about among the oaks and pines darting one after flying insects & singing freely, the day, chattering with the Yellow Warblers blending with the much sweeter one of the Yellow-warblers. The song of the latter species possesses the same dreamy quality as that of D. dominica which, indeed, it strikingly resembles

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 1
(No. 2)

in other respects although it is shorter and less strong and penetrating. Despite the fact that the Yellow Wren does not breed here it is the earliest bird to reach us whose plumage coloring suggests summer as the Black & White Creeper is the first whose song conveys the same suggestion. Of the Creepers, by the way, we saw a head here or there during the forenoon.

Following the old wood path we presently reached the top of the hill where a most interesting experience awaited us. As we began rambling about through the fine old woods I noticed, every few steps, large pellets of fur & bones scattered about under the trees. I had just recalled to Purdie that a Great Horned Owl must have been living in the neighborhood and that it was probably the same bird which I have heard several times this Spring when Ball's Hill when, raising my eyes, I saw what I took at first to be a dead sheep lying at the foot of a large pine about thirty yards off. But on approaching more we discovered that the whitish-looking object, very conspicuous on the sunset-brown surface of the ground, was two young Great Horned Owls huddled close together. They were fully three-quarters grown and already well-feathered although enough down still adhered to the tips of the feathers to give them a generally whitish appearance. One of them opened its pale yellow eyes wide and stared

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 1
(no 3)

at us with dull curiosity but the other kept its eyes tightly closed. He did not go near enough to disturb them seriously and in some waying of either of their parents. They had probably fallen from a nest about as large as a Crow's nest which we could see in a fork of the pine directly over their heads & about forty feet above the ground. By them lay the skin of a Rabbit (*L. sylvaticus*) apparently nearly entire & freshly torn off. The pine stands on level ground on the top of a ridge bordering the rice meadow. The woods are at present about half acres in extent & are almost wholly composed of large, old white pines.

At a sand bank on the edge of these woods we found a pair of Phoebe. The ♀ was collecting building material which she got on the ground and tried to place on a slender, erecting root under the bank, - a futile task for ten well thrown etc. fell to the ground almost as soon as she left them and added to a pile of similar material at the foot of the bank. This pile was as large as an average - wood Peewee's nest. The bird was probably a young one that had never before attempted to build a nest.

Crossing the flooded meadow on way to Concord at ten big pines in Shepard's swamp where we saw a Brown Towhee, the first this season. It was silent & in downy call.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 2

Clear with light S. E. wind & hazy sky at times,
 this and the damp air indicating a coming storm.

Parker left me this evening and Faxon arrived
 by the 5:30 P. M. train. I spent the forenoon
 at Ball's Hill observing the men who are at work
 on the new cabin. In the afternoon I sailed down
 to the great Bedford Swamp where I dug some
 Rhodora bushes and then crossed the river (still under
 sail) to Lammie's woods where I got some *Pyrrhuloxia*
 and visited the young Great Horned Owl. They were
 in the same place but they had moved about one
 quarter around the trunk of the pine evidently, as I
 thought, because the wind had changed for yesterday,
 when it was westerly, they were on the south side of the tree
 and to-day, when it was S. E., on the N. W. side.
 While I was looking at them, standing about 25 yards
 away, one of the old birds began hooting in the pines
 behind me; and presently it appeared and flying from
 tree to tree moved around me in a half circle keeping
 just beyond gun range and behaving in the most
 curious manner. Alighting close to the trunk of a pine,
 at a height of 30 or 40 feet above the ground, it would
 follow the branch out nearly to the end walking steadily
 and at times rather quickly, its body horizontal, its
 wings wide-spread and flapping slowly like those of a
 big butterfly, its head lowered considerably below the line
 of the back, its horns slightly raised and its eyes
 glaring fiercely. It hooted every half minute or so in
 low evening tones. Its mate also hooted in answer but
 soon afterwards flew off to another pair of woods

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 2
(No 2)

The moment he showed himself in the open he was discovered by a Crow whose excited calling brought others of his kind from every direction until within ten or fifteen minutes a dozen or more assembled and watched the Owl after their usual fashion.

I wonder why the Crows do not mob the young Owls. They must certainly be aware of their presence. The rabbit skin still lay by their side but it looked much smaller than it did yesterday & I think they had devoured part of it.

A Black-throated Green Warbler was singing on Mall's Hill this morning and I heard one or more chimney swifts twittering there late this afternoon. Faxon reports the arrival of the Great Flycatcher & Towhee at Arlington on April 30th.

After tea this evening Faxon & I took a long walk through the fields in the direction of Concord. We heard a Nuthatch but no King. A tremendous din of Hyla voices last evening & to-night. It fairly made our ears ache to approach the edges of the ponds & wire windows.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 3

Cloudy with strong S. wind and showers of fine, mist-like rain at frequent intervals.

A Thrasher was in full song at day break on the Bedford side of the river opposite the cabin. An hour or two later we heard Sparrow and Bank Swallows, among the swarms of Fox & Barn Swallows skimming low over the river. Chipping Swifts were flying around the crest of Balls Hill all day. We saw five together on one tree. There were a few warblers also. The Sparrow & Bank Swallows were the only allbirds.

Starting at about 9 a.m. we walked through the dripping, mist-enshrouded woods to Lawrence's farm, where we found the young Robins squawking like by kids in the same place where I left them yesterday. The rabbit skin had wholly disappeared. One of the old birds, the ♀ I think, began hooting almost as soon as we entered the woods & when we approached the young she came circling around us taking short flights & bobbing in much the same manner as yesterday. Sometimes instead of walking out on a branch she would crash vivaciously into the midst of a cluster of dead twigs and either stand there or fall through the twigs beating her wings furiously. Foxon agreed with me that this was a way to draw us away from the young & that it was essentially the same trick that so many of the ground birds practice. This Owl hooted incessantly to-day & also made several other sounds which I shall describe later when I have had an opportunity to study them more carefully.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 4

Weather much like that of yesterday but with much less wind, scarcely any rain, and glimpses of blue sky and a glow or tinge of pink in the afternoon.

Spent the forenoon at or near the Cabin. Heard the Thrasher singing in the early morning and saw two White-throated Sparrows. No arrivals to-day.

In the afternoon sailed down stream to Lawrence's woods taking my 5x7 camera and exposing a dozen plates on the young Great Horned Owls. When I first came in sight of them they were standing up a yard or more apart and a little distance from the tree. One of them repeatedly opened & fluttered its wings but the next moment they discovered me when they at once toddled to the pine and crouched close against its trunk, looking on anxiously. As I advanced the camera to within about two yards of them they shrunk back still closer to the tree & began keeping their bills but while I was taking the photographs they lay perfectly motionless. I saw no food & no pellets near them but the surface of the ground around the pine was white with their chalky excrement.

Before I got near the young the old birds began hooting and the male presently started off talking the same cove as on May 2nd and again attacking a mob of Crows the moment he left the shelter of the woods. The female came about me in a half circle as usual but for the first time she requested the tactics which she has hitherto adopted and

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 4
(no 2)

Contented herself with talking about, rather flights
alighting high up in the trees and sitting erect &
motionless when perched. This change of behavior
interested me greatly. I interpret it to mean that
she has discovered that it is useless to try to
~~draw me into thinking that~~ lead me away from
her young by pretending that her wings are injured.
Certainly I must have caused her much greater
anxiety than on any previous occasion but possibly
the very fact of my near approach to the young
and the position of the camera nearly over them
convinced her that they were at my mercy &
that nothing that she could do would ^{be of any} avail. She
was much more noisy, however, than hitherto and
I was deeply interested in the variety of sounds
that she uttered. At first she hooted the usual
night theme but in subdued & hurried tones.
Then she changed to a hoot which, if I am
not mistaken, was identical with that of the
howling Owl that sometimes visits our camp at
Pine Point & which I have never before suspected
could be a Hawk. She used this form of hoot
during the latter half of my stay near the young.
I noted it carefully on the spot as follows: -
hoo, hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo given very
rapidly and smoothly in very soft, low, cooing
tones. Besides the hooting she uttered a barking
wah or wangle very like the bark of a dog (sometimes
doubling this cry in wah-wah) and a rather prolonged
squeaking or whining outcry exceedingly similar to that
of a hen Partridge with young
The old Owl was seen about the place in the distance part.
a distance from which about 100 yards from where the young are.

1963

1965

Brookline, Mass.



Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 5

Warm and sultry with light S. to S. W. wind. Forenoon sunny but with thin clouds drifting across the sky. A gentle, warm rain beginning about sunset and lasting into the night.

Spent most of the day at or near the cabin. Birds singing freely but no indications of any accession to their numbers. In the afternoon, however, while getting some wild flowers on the West Hill side of the river opposite Bass's Hill I heard a Great Flycatcher. The Thrasher was singing thru all day. On the Plymouth land opposite the center of town I started a pair of Carolina Wrens. They flew into the pine where the work could hear or their trines. Two Bluebirds were pumping at daybreak and I heard one or both at those waterfalls during the entire day.

As I was walking up through the fields towards Barrett's this evening a Hermit Thrush began singing on one of the oak-clad hills on the Blackmore lot. It sang for about five minutes in loud but somewhat broken tones. Rain was falling at the time and the twilight was far advanced.

Gull-nests were scattered about every where to-day singing freely. I saw no flocks but almost every thicket seemed to harbor a single bird.

The birds are unfolding their throats.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 6

Clear and cool with light N. wind.

Spent the forenoon near the cabin. No increase in number of birds, either species or individuals as compared with yesterday save that two House Wrens were heard singing, the one on the shore opposite the cabin and a fresh bird opposite Davis' Hill.

At 6.30 A. M. Gilbert called my attention to a flock of four Herring Gulls which were passing high over Boer's Hill towards the N., apparently migrating. Mr. Edward Rowlett afterwards told me that he saw them pass over his house at Concord at about the same time.

Went to Cambridge by the noon train. Found a Yellow Warbler & a Hermit Thrush in the garden. W. Deane says that the former appeared on the 2nd & has been singing every day since.

Returned to Concord by the 5.30 P. M. train. During my absence the dead bushes along the south side of Boer's Hill had burst into full flower and many of the berries & wafles had become quite green with unfolding leaves.

At sunset a Pileated was pumping at short intervals in the bushy part of the swamp behind Boer's Hill. I thought I heard one there on the night of the 2nd.

1898.

May 7

Early morning cloudy the sky clearing before 10 a.m. the remainder of the day cloudless, and very calm, and very warm; altogether the pleasant and more springlike day thus far.

A heavy flight of migrants arrived during the night. Soon after breakfast I walked around Bois Hill seeing two Warblers and one Oven bird throats in full song. At about 10 a.m. Wier Boitell called and reported seeing a Cat. bird, four or five Nashville Warblers and a number of Yellow Warblers, at Concord, Baker in the day I heard a Yellow Warbler opposite Bois Hill.

Boitell and I took a long walk in the latter part of the forenoon. He heard a second Oven bird, a Chestnut-bird Warbler, two Ruby-crowned Kinglets, seen a single Black-throated Green Warbler and a number of Yellow-wings. Besides these a few Yellow Robin Warblers. He saw a Nashville Warbler I heard a Junco Warbling.

Just after we had crossed Davis's Swamp and were entering Rescott's pinus following the old wood land a Cashin Wren started from a dense white pine and flew slowly off pretending to be partially disabled. We suspected a nest at once & soon discovered it on a stout horizontal branch three or four feet out from the tree and about eight feet above the ground. Strange to say I have neither seen nor heard a Wren in these woods before this spring although we could there last year. The nest held two eggs which looked dark as if slightly incubated.

Some fifteen minutes later we found a Partridge's nest with thirteen dark buff-colored eggs. It was in Wes. Boitell's woods, only a few rods back from the old

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 7
(No 2.)

apple orchard, within two or three yards of a dusty
washed foot path, & beautifully covered under a matted
platform of broken-down bushes which, although leafless,
were so dense that the eggs could not be seen from
above. Two of the eggs were placed on the tops of the others.
The bird left the nest when we were about ten yards
away and without flying made off with a peculiar
crouching gait—a sort of rapid crawling without—crouching
very low, beating her wings, and uttering a continuous gruff
whining sound—in short behaving as a hen Partridge
invariably does when surprised with a brood of young
but as I have never before seen one behave when
leaving a nest with eggs. She was in sight for thirty
yards or more for the cover was not at all dense
being sparse, & mostly sparse growth with no overgrowth.
The eggs did not look to be incubated. Perch & ✓
found along this path on April 30th.

Under the pine on Bowen's ridge Southwick looked
up a remarkably beautiful nest of the Pine Warbler
lined with feathers & the fur of a Gray Squirrel.
The materials were absolutely fresh, clean & not in
the least soiled. I think the nest must have been
a new one but this an early date.

In the afternoon I paddled down to Bowen's woods
taking my camera. The young Owls were gone and
at first I neither saw nor heard either of the old
birds but one of the latter began hooting presently &
I think I must have started the other at about
the same time judging by the way the cross

Concord, Mass.

1898
 May 7
 (No 3)

gathered and clamored in the woods by the time
 into which the weak Owl usually flies when
 disturbed. Two Red-shouldered Hawks also appeared over
 these woods screaming incessantly for ten or fifteen
 minutes their shrill voices adding materially to the
 din kept up by the excited Crows. All the while
 the of the Owls remained near me in the tops
 of the pines hooting at short, regular intervals, using
 always the ordinary night hoot - hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo,
hoo, hoo but giving it in subdued tones.

But where were the young? I ^{first} examined the
 ground about the foot of the pine with great care.
 It was strewn with large pellets of fur and bones and
 mixed with excrement among which many beetles were
 groping about after their usual stupid fashion.
 There was all unmistakable other but not very strong
 smell of Skunk mingled with the more offensive
 odors but I failed to find any Skunk hair or other
 remains. The ground was strewn in every direction with
 scraps of Rabbit skin and all the pellets that
 I detected were composed wholly of Rabbits fur
 and bones. There were no feathers of Partridges or
 other birds. Besides the Rabbit remains (representing
 a dozen or more of the poor creatures I should say)
 I found nothing identifiable excepting a Green King
 which had one side of its head torn open but
 which was otherwise unrecognizable.

My heart sank when I discovered a sort of trail
 of down, evidently that of the young Buss, creeping
 to the tops of the low blueberry bushes & leading
 straight away from the pine for a distance.

Concord, Mass.

1898
May 7
(No 4)

of several yards. But after I had followed it to its termination and was looking ahead for further clues my eyes were suddenly arrested by a yellowish patch on the end of a fallen trunk that was raised from a few feet above the ground and to my great delight I found that it was one of the young Owls. He was crawling to my feet & he lay so still as I approached that I found at first that he was dead but he proved to be all right and I spent the next half hour photographing him, exposing ten plates in all. I did not succeed in finding the other young bird and I think it probable that he has been carried off by either a dog or a Fox but of course he may have been broken somewhere in the neighborhood and the wind of down may have had no real meaning for the wind may have blown it into the tops of the bushes. The old Owl kept hooting all the time I was with the young bird but he did not ever change his position or show himself.

Three Nuthatches were bumping this evening, two on the Great Meadow, the third in the swamp behind Bull's Hill where I think there is likely to be a nest a little later.

Gilbert paddled up to Concord this morning bringing two Green Herons and seven Spotted Sandpipers.

Concord, Mass.

1075

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 8

Cloudy with violent and very cold N. E. wind.

A thoroughly disagreeable day with few birds to be seen or heard. A Hermit and a Wilson's Thrush spent the forenoon in the bushes along the river path. At evening the Nuthatch in the swamp behind Ball's Hill was jumping persistently. It is now evident that he intends breaking them. It is a singular place, for the entire space free from trees is not over 100 yards long by 20 to 25 yards wide and of this less than an tenth is meadow, the other nine tenths being covered with tall, densely-growing high blueberry and Andromeda bushes.

The Hayes party dined with me to-day and we had a long walk in the woods in the afternoon.

" 9

Clear with strong E. wind. A fine day but rather too cool for comfort.

Saw very few birds and of those few none were new to my way list. A little flock of Yellow-throats spent the forenoon near the cabin and a pair of Phoebe were there, also.

At sunset fully 100 Chimney Swift were descending and out among or just over the tops of the oaks on Ball's Hill - with them were thirty or forty Barn Swallows, two or three Bank Swallows, a Martin, a few Cow Swallows and at least one Tree Swallow.

The Nuthatch was jumping for an hour or more at evening in Ball's Hill swamp & another answered from Great Meadow. Wilson's Thrushes calling in the twilight.

Dagwood, Mass.

1898.

May 10

A perfect day, cloudless, with fresh S.W. wind.

At sunrise a Thrasher was singing in a brick chimney in front of the Cabin. He spent the day in the thickets near it & was evidently a bird that had just arrived from the south.

Immediately after breakfast I took a short walk following the foot path that leads around behind Bull's Hill and coming out in the pine nursery. The woods were thronged with birds that had evidently arrived during the night. Two Solitary Vireos were singing on the northern slope of Bull's Hill; Chestnut-sided Warblers & Maryland Yellow-throats in the hedges; a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in the Blackman woods; a Pipit was scratching among the logs by Morris's Landing. Almost every thicket held a White-throated Sparrow or Wilson's Thrush or both. Twice at wide intervals I heard the mellow song of a Bobolink falling from the sky above followed by the chirp notes. At evening the song came again to my ears. On all these occasions the birds were evidently high in air migrating.

At evening I took a long walk to Davis's Hill & the Moon field. Heard at least eight different Wilson's Thrushes calling but not one of them sang. White-throated Sparrows were everywhere, on a tree in a place.

Although a very heavy flight of migrants arrived last night & the country seemed to hum with them this morning they were widely scattered & I did not see anywhere even a small flock collected together. The species undervalued above were noted here for the first time.

Shed bark in full bloom everywhere to-day.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 11

Morn clear but hazy; afternoon cloudy with heavy showers of fine rain, clearing again at sunset. A strong warm S. W. wind all day.

The work on the new cabin, now nearing completion, required very constant supervision to-day although I was strongly tempted to leave it to its fate for, judging by what I saw about Ball's Hill there must have been a remarkably heavy and most interesting flight of birds. The animals that I was able to note were Golden-winged Woodpecker (2 seen in bushes at east end of Ball's Hill), Baltimore Oriole (two 2's hanging on Ball's Hill), Cat Bird (four or five, most of them hanging), King Bird (one), Greater Yellow-leg (heard flying over the meadows).

The Solitary Tanager & the Brown Thrasher that were hanging near the cabin yesterday were gone to-day & I saw but one Winter Wren. Bobolink voice heard several times, apparently over the river.

When the wind is south Robins in considerable numbers assemble at evening in the swamp behind Ball's Hill. There were a dozen or more of them there to-night. Besides in the swamp they roost in some dense white pines but I later they have been according to the whistle of high back Honeyeater and Catbird. Most of them seem to be males & they sing freely before going to bed making a great noise. They roost very low down - only three or four feet above the ground.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 12

Clear and warm with high S. wind increasing to half a gale and being dark, threatening cloud masses at evening.

This day, also, I was forced to spend at the cabin although there was a second heavy flight of birds. Taking a short walk in the early morning I found the swamp behind the bird cabin with Warblers among them a Black & Yellow and a Wilson's Black-cap both in full song and both new to my list of this season. I also heard a Solitary Tanager and numbers of common birds Chestnut-sided Warblers & Redstarts being especially numerous & prominent.

At evening I walked again over the farm ground. Maryland Yellow-throats & Oven-birds were singing on every side. The Pittsman was absent but I heard one of two birds on Great Meadows.

At dinner this morning I was treated to a fine concert of bird voices as I lay in bed. Besides the earlier evening species I heard a Cat-bird, an Oven-bird, a Grosbeak, a Cuckoo & a Chestnut-sided Warbler.

For the last two evenings the chorus of Frogs has been highly deafening. Hylas, Dipped Frogs & Toads have been the chief performers with a Green Frog joining in occasionally. The Wood Frogs have been absolutely silent for two weeks or more. They usually begin the earliest & invariably cease the latest of all the Frogs.

Concord, Mass.

1898.
May 13

Clear and very warm with light S.W. wind. Evening calm and beautiful.

Spent the day working about the cabin taking a short walk in the early morning and a longer one in the evening. The woods and thickets on Ball's Hill and the swamp behind it swarmed with Warblers all day the greater number Chestnut-sided, Red-starts and Maryland Yellow-throats. The only animals that I noted were a Water Thrush, a Red-eyed Vireo and a Yellow-throated Vireo. As on the 11th and 12th the birds were scattered very evenly through the woods & I saw no flocks. A solitary Vireo was singing on Ball's Hill and a Partridge drumming on the stone wall.

Early in the forenoon a ♀ Pine Warbler visited the cabin a number of times for nest building material which she obtained by hopping about on the ground close to our door. Gilbert traced her to the tall white pines on the back of the hill but he failed to find the nest. He says that she remained singing in these pines the whole time when ever occupied in carrying her material on her legs after material.

Weldons Thrushes began singing this evening. I heard one behind Ball's Hill and another in Davis's brush birds many others calling.

First Bull Frog croaking heard this evening & first general onslaught of mosquitoes at the same hour.

The Bittern on Great Meadows began pumping at 2.55 this morning. A few minutes later a second Sparrow sang.

Concord, Mass.

1898.
May 14

Clear and warm with light N. to N. W. wind.

The singing at sunrise this morning was much less in respect to variety and volume than yesterday. Nevertheless there were quite as many warblers on & near Paul's Hill as there have been at any time during the past week. The most interesting were a Wilson's Black-cap, ~~two Black-throats~~ and a Water Thrush. The solitary blue was again singing in the same place.

Starting at 8.30 a.m. I took a long walk passing over Davis's Hill, through Prescott's farms and deep into Mrs. Barrett's woods. The Dove's nest in the Prescott woods has been laid since my last visit. The nest ~~was~~ torn to pieces & most of it lying on the ground. I could find no traces of the eggs.

The Partridge's nest in Mrs. Barrett's woods was all right with its complement of 13 eggs. The hen bird was sitting. She slipped off when we were about ten yards distant and ran out of sight making, however, no further demonstration. I exposed a number of plates on the nest.

Warblers abound in all the woods I visited this morning. Redstarts, Chestnut-bills, & Black & white Caprons being the most numerous. There were also many Oven birds & Maryland Yellow-throats & I was barely out of hearing of the rich voice of the Red-breasted Grosbeak. Near the Partridge's nest a Golden-winged Warbler was singing & I should not wonder if this piece of woods is a regular breeding ground for this species for the conditions look favorable. White-throated Sparrows common to-day. Saw a single Yellow Red-bird in a bush-grown pasture.

Mammal House



Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 17

Clear and warm through the day with violent wind and a dash of rain at sunset followed by a cool evening with brilliant northern lights.

(from Cambridge)

Went back to Concord by the 8.24 train this evening. Spent the day working near the cabin. Common birds numerous. Saw one Wood-billed Cuckoo & one Water Thrush.

W. Deane arrived by the 5.30 train. He took a short walk after tea having a Carolina Parakeet and two Redwings and being 22 Greater Yellow-legs, 19 in one flock and also another, flying over the Great Meadow. A Partridge was downing on the farm well behind Noble's Hill.

Several Oven-birds sang in air over the woods. He heard many Wilson's Thrushes coming out from the swamp. The swamps were alive with Maryland Yellow-throats which were singing freely. A ♂ Marsh Hawk was seen flying along the Bedford River.

Co., or, Mass.

1898.

May 18

Cloudless, cool in the early morning, very warm through the middle of the day. Wind light and variable N. to W. with intervals of dead calm.

Took a long walk with Dean in the forenoon starting at 8.30 and getting back to the cabin a little after noon. The whole country was swarming with birds. I have rarely ever seen so many seen at this season. They were very evenly distributed and we met with no flocks anywhere but very thickly, however small, harbored something of more or less interest. The best things met with were a ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler, seen near the spring in Mrs. Barrett's woods, and a White-crowned Sparrow found among birches behind Cousin's house. We saw or heard three Black-burnian Warblers (two in Cousin's woods), three Black-throated Blue Warblers, six or seven Black & Yellow Warblers, six Wilson's Black-cops, seven Tanager (one ♀), four Solitary Vireos (one on Holden's Hill, two behind Cousin's, and one near Mrs. Barrett), four Yellow-throated Vireos, several Red-eyes and a host of common birds.

One of the prettiest sights we saw was an apple orchard (Mrs. Barrett) in full bloom with a score or more of Warblers - Black & Yellow, Black-throated Green, Myrtle, Hooded & Parula - flitting about among the clusters of pink & white clusters of flowers probing them for insects or honey (?). I know not whether they were busy. This I have not seen before for many years. I had almost begun to distrust my recollection of its occurrence in the

Concord, Mass.

1898

May 18
(Tue)

days of my boyhood on the old place in Cambridge before the House Sparrows came. It would be difficult to conceive any picture more charming than that before our eyes to-day as we lay under the apple trees with the beds of blossoms above us and the grass, already tall & dense, forming an emerald carpet beneath & around us. From the fields beyond the orchard came the merry music of Bobolinks and in the oak & pine woods behind wood birds of many kinds were singing. Among them was a Golden-winged Warbler whose song broke the spell and invited us into a long & fruitless pursuit for we failed to get a near view of him.

While in Lawrence's woods I looked carefully and persistently for the Great Horned Owl. The old birds could not be found but to my great delight I at length discovered both the young perched side by side on the branch of a big pine nearly fifty feet above the ground, one standing erect, the other crouched lengthwise on the limb like a big Gnatcatcher. It is little more of a miracle that both should have escaped the dangers which surrounded them. One looked much larger than the other. Both feathers a good deal of down through which the mature feathers were beginning to show completely.

The Partridge's nest was also safe with its thirteen eggs. One of them, however, lay on the ground

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 18
(No 3)

Several inches from the nest. I think it must have been rolled out by the bird who started and ran off after her usual fashion but without making her usual whirring.

In a dry pasture we started a Field Sparrow from her nest which was sunk in the ground under a bush and contained three eggs.

On our way back we passed through the Hoosier Hollow to see what the Cooper's Hawks were about. The ♂ hawked at us as we approached and we started then ♀ from her nest which is placed in a tall pine nearly 50 feet above the ground. Under this tree near the nest we found where the Hawks had killed a Robin and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo scattering wing, tail & body feathers over the ground. The ♀ Hawk looked very large. She left the nest before we quite got beneath it and flew off very heavily & clumsily for a bird of this kind.

After dinner Dean climbed to the nest & found that it contained only one egg. It was lined with bark & a few pine needles.

At the lower edge of Mrs. Bassett's orchard we started a ♀ Broad-winged Hawk. It flew nearly over us carrying a Wren in its talons. I have practically no doubt that it was the same bird that Pomeroy & I saw in the same place on May 1st & which I thought at the time to be a

Record, Mass.

1898.

May 18
(Wed)

Small ♂ Red-shouldered Hawk, getting on a distant view of it. It must be breeding somewhere near.

While we were in Lawrence's woods a large, adult Red-tailed Hawk came soaring over us. I have not seen one near here in the breeding season before for several years.

There must be a Red-shouldered Hawk's nest somewhere in this vicinity for a bird was seen flying locally in Davis's swamp this forenoon.

Blue Jays were remarkably scarce about Concord through March, April & the early part of May & Purdie told me on May 1 that he had noted their absence elsewhere near Boston. But during the past week they have appeared here in their usual numbers and to-day we saw them almost everywhere - at least eight or ten birds in all.

Cedar-birds appeared to-day for the first time.

Bull Frogs began croaking all over the marshes to-day. I have heard one or two before but no general alarm in this. Hyles & Leopard Frogs are still as noisy as ever.

1898.

May 18

(No 5)

At 3.30 P. M. we took the old boat and started up river. Several Spotted & Solitary Sandpipers were seen at Dakin's Hill and as we entered the Holt we heard Greater Yellow-Gys whistling. We soon discovered them scattered about on the meadow on the east side of the river and running the boat in there watched them for half-an-hour or more. There were just fifteen of them on this meadow while a solitary bird was feeding on the other side of the stream. As we were within fifty or sixty yards of the main flock we had a fine chance to observe them. One or two birds, apparently acting as sentinels stood erect & peck on the tops of the tussocks while the others rambled about through the short grass probing the mud for food. When one of the sentinels whistled all the other birds raised their heads & stood motionless until the alarm subsided. When we finally moved ourselves the flock rose & flew off one Dakin's Hill but they returned & picked down into the meadow again a few minutes later. All the time we were here the Blackbirds were working the meadow ring with their voices & a Plover was foraging in the distance.

Two Least Sandpipers were feeding with the Yellow-Gys and on a mud bar just above the Holt we found a flock of five small waders which at least three birds were Greenlets pusillus.

1898.

May 18

(No 6)

The following species were noted to-day all, or it observed, within a mile of the cabin:

1. *Turdus fuscus* (15)
2. *Muscula nigropennis*
3. *Scotis sialis* (3)
4. *Geothlypis carolinensis* (12)
5. *Harporhynchus rufus* (4)
6. *Cistothorus palustris* (1)
7. *Parus atricapillus* (2)
8. *Mniotilta varia* (20)
9. *Helminthophila ruficeps* (12)
10. " *chrysoptera* (18)
11. *Geothlypis a. usneae* (12)
12. *Dendroica aestiva* (3)
13. " *caerulescens* (3)
14. " *coronata* (388 12)
15. " *maudslowi* (5)
16. " *parusyanica* (25)
17. " *costana* (18)
18. " *blackburni* 388
19. " *virius* (25)
20. " *rigorsii* (4)
21. *Sialia arctica* (25)
22. *Geothlypis trichas* (20)
23. *Sylvania pusilla* (6)
24. " *canadensis* (1)
25. *Setophaga ruticilla* (15)
26. *Vireo olivaceus* (3)
27. " *solitarius* (4)
28. " *flavivirens* (2)
29. *Ampelis cedrorum*
30. *Progne subis* (4)
31. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*
32. *Chelidon cythereaster*
33. *Clericula laparia*
34. *Piranga erythronotos* 688 19
35. *Spirus tristis* (11)
36. *Prosceltes gramineus* (2)
37. *Zonotrichia albicollis* (12)
38. " *leucophrys* (1)
39. *Tachycineta bicolor* (2)
40. *Spirilla socialis* (3)
41. " *pusilla* (388 3 11)
42. *Melospiza fasciata* (4)
43. " *georgiana* (2)
44. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (2)
45. *Habia ludovicianae* 888 4 22
46. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*
47. *Molothrus ater*
48. *Agelaius phoeniceus*
49. *Icterus galbula* (3)
50. *Zenaidura macroura* (1)
51. *Corvus americanus* (6)
52. *Cyanocitta cristata* (8)
53. *Tyrannus tyrannus* (10)
54. *Sayornis phoebe* (1)
55. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (1)
56. *Empidonax minimus* (3)

1898.

May 18

(No 7)

57. Chaetura pelagica (20)
 58. Diptotus pubescens (2)
 59. Colaptes auratus (3)
 60. Ceryle alcyon (1)
 61. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus (2)
 62. Bubo virginianus (2 young)
 63. Accipiter cooperii (♂ ♀ + white legs)
 64. Buteo borealis (1)
 65. " lineatus (1)
 66. " calurus (1)
 67. Bonasa umbellus 3 ♀ new 13 eggs.
 68. Tanidra macroura (1)
 69. Passera carolina (1)
 70. " jaivincens (?) the "Killer" (1)
 71. Tinga minor (2)
 72. Eximetus pusillus (3)
 73. Totanus melanoleucus (16)
 74. " solitarius (2)
 75. Aethya macularia (2)
 76. Botaurus lentiginosus (2)
 77. Nycticorax n. harrisi (2)
 78. Anas obscura (1)
 79. Sturnus nonboracensis (3)

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 19

Clear and the warmest day thus far, with west wind. Thunder showers in the evening, all but our fishing around to the N.

Spent the day near the cabin. Small birds continued very abundant but I saw fewer unmistakable migrants (such as Water Thrushes & other western-breeding warblers) than yesterday. Near the east end of Ball's Hill among the birches, already dense with foliage, and the oaks, covered with delicate pink & salmon leaflets just opening, were congregated during most of the day a large number of birds including a pair each of Junco and Grasshopper, an Oriole, a Black-poll, Wilson's Black-cap, Black & Yellow and Red-winged Blackbird, unaccounted Chestnut-sided warblers and Redstarts, several Black & White Chipping, a Red-eyed Vireo, several Blue Jays and Robins, and then or four Wilson's Thrushes. I also saw here very fine Hummingbird, a ♀. I thought.

At evening I walked to Davis's Hill and back by way of Benson's field and the river shore. The air was chilly and oppressive and mosquitoes swarmed everywhere. Wilson's Thrushes singing freely everywhere. The first night-hawk peeping over Holden's windows. A Killdeer jumping and a number of Yellow-legs whistling on Great Meadow. Heard the first Tree-toad yesterday; they were in full cry everywhere to-night as were also Hyles and Toads, the last giving their harsh, harsher squeak.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 19
(No 2.)

During my evening walk I also heard three Carolina Wrens singing. One of them was in the meadow opposite (a little above) the cabin and I believe it called without cessation the whole night long for whenever I was awake its clear, plaintive ee-ee came to my ears at short regular intervals. It ceased at day break and was singing a few minutes after the Pithers began pumping.

A Robin's nest by the side of the path behind Bore's Hill had two eggs at about 10 P. M. on the 17th. At 2 P. M. on the 18th there were four! Hence the bird must have laid two within sixteen ~~from sixteen~~ hours. She is an unusually shy, nervous Robin invariably leaving her eggs as soon as we show ourselves anywhere within thirty or forty yards. When the nest was only half-completed she would make as great an outcry at our approach as an ordinary Robin does when it has young.

A ♀ Redstart was building to-day collecting her materials from a tent caterpillar nest near the cabin.

Rhodora & wild geranium in full bloom. Apple trees past their prime but still very showy in the distance.

Concord Mass.

1898.
May 20

Morning clear and warm with fresh west wind.

Spent two hours or more immediately after breakfast rambling about in the woods on and behind Ball's Hill. They were chiefly browsing with birds but the only noteworthy species noted was a Wilson's Black-Cop, ^{a Black-thrill,} a Winter Wren, a Canadian Warbler (one or two pairs had here) and a Lincoln's Finch. All the others were species which summer here but it hardly seems possible that all could have been really our local birds. There was a ♀ Humming-bird and a Thrasher among them.

I found the Lincoln's Finch in a thicket of aspen and conifers surrounded by dense young white pines. It was very tame & fearless allowing me to approach within a few yards and I watched it for fifteen or twenty minutes. It spent the whole of this time on the ground rambling about and feeding among the fallen leaves which it tossed about with its bill but did not once attempt to run by scratching with its feet. It was devoid of movement and altogether much less alert and animated in appearance than a Song Sparrow and its gait was at all times a hopping one whereas the Song Sparrow often walks. It had much less buffy than usual and might have been easily mistaken for a small, dark Song Sparrow by a superficial observer. It occasionally perched a few moments to back in the dense in little openings among the bushes. I did not hear it utter any sound.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 20
(No. 2)

On the north side of Ball's Hill a ♀ Grosbeak was at work on her nest which she had only just begun. It was in a very unusual situation about 30 ft. above the ground near the extremity of a long, horizontal branch of a white pine in the middle of a dense cluster of green needles. The bird was collecting long, slender dried twigs. Then she broke off the ends of the branches flying upward, being torn in her bill, then dropping backwards & catching her wings precisely as the Trogon does when breaking off berries in Florida. She appeared to prefer the twigs of the high blueberry. Not once did she get any material from the ground. The ♂ did not offer her any assistance but he sang gloomily in an oak near the pine all the time she was at work.

For my walk this evening I chose the oak-clad ridges of the Malmou woods. Oven birds and Scarlet Tanagers were singing on the high ground, Wilson's Thrushes, Maryland Yellow-throats and a Grosbeak in the swamps below. In the distance towards Ball's Hill I heard a Quail whistling. The woods were out in great numbers and the Hylas added their voices to the chorus. To the westward, on the Great Meadows, a Pittman was humming and two Carolina Parakeets singing. I found several Ladies' Slippers in full bloom on the summit of this ridge.

1898
May 20
(No. 3)

As I was descending the western slope of the highest knoll I saw below on a black & white object moving rather quickly over the ground under the trees. I stopped & it did the same when I at once perceived that it was a Skunk. For several minutes it remained stationary waggling its head about, however, and sniffing the air. Evidently it did not see but had merely heard me. Presently its alarm subsided and it began rounding about looking for food. I was surprised at the slowness of its movements and the thoroughness of its search. During the succeeding half-hour it did not cover a space greater than three or four rods square but literally every foot of this area was carefully inspected. Not content with looking into every bunch of dead leaves it dug dozens of holes first plunging its sharp nose into the ground and then using its fore feet working the dirt fly. While thus engaged it carried its beautiful bushy, black & white tail raised and strongly arched like the tail of a Cuckoo but when it moved forward its tail was carried straight out behind & nearly or quite horizontal. Its gait was a slow, waddling walk never the pacing motion which I have heard that Skunks usually adopt. Its head was carried low with the nose pointing straight down, the line of the forehead being, as a rule, nearly vertical. I did not see as it find any food but inferred that it was searching rather for leeches or turtles' eggs. After I had watched it as

Concord Mass.

1898.

May 20
(no. 4)

Long as I cared to I got a handful of stones and began throwing them at it in quick succession. As each one struck the skunk would give a little jump and then its rear toward the spot with its tail raised threateningly. At length it saw me (I stood all the while within twenty feet) and started for its hole, which was only a few yards distant, moving rather quickly and once or twice actually breaking into a clumsy gallop. On reaching the hole it at once disappeared. My chief object in throwing the animal was to see if it would give its scent but it did not do so.

A little before sunset I heard high hoarse squealing and booming and saw soon a flock of loons passing over at a moderate height towards the north & apparently migrating. As I came out into Benson's field I found two swimming loons on the ground. A few minutes later a Whippoorwill, the first I have heard this spring, began hooting in the distance towards Mrs. Bennett's woods.

Mosquitoes have been increasing in number rapidly & late & to-night were very numerous and annoying.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 21

Clear and rather cool with strong E. wind.

Spent the day at work near the cabin. Just after breakfast went to the Blackstone ridge to get the Cuckoo's Klippers found last evening. Heard a solitary Vireo singing on the bare side of Ball's Hill.

C. E. Paxson and B. M. Watson arrived by the 6.30 train. After supper we walked to the Mason field where a Whippoorwill was singing. Two Carolina Wrens were coming down on the Great Meadow.

On the evening of May 18th I heard soon after dark but I felt surely here was our old friend the "Kicker" (*Parus C.*) reappears on *parvicornis*?) and on the two following nights the same bird was singing in the same place - the lower end of Great Meadow but opposite Bussey's Landing. On all these occasions the wind and the clamor of the Frogs & Toads made it difficult to get the full song and as I missed the terminal "cree" I thought it possible that the notes were uttered by the Virginia Rail although I have never heard this bird give more than two "kicks" whereas this call had at least five or six. But to-night at about 11 P. M. the whole song came distinctly to my ears as I lay in bed and I heard a dozen times or more the ki-ki-ki-ki, ki-keer of our mysterious nocturnal singer which was so abundant in Middlebury County in the Spring of 1889 and which I heard the following summer at Falmouth and here at the cabin in June 1892. Evidently he has again taken up his abode in the Great Meadow. Thus far I have not once heard him until night has fairly closed in.

The "Kicker"
Great Meadow

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 22

Clear and warm with moderate S.W. wind; the evening cool and invigorating.

Spent the whole forenoon in the woods with Foxon (C.S.) and Watson. We first ascended and ascended Ball's Hill and then went to Lawrence's woods by the river for the returning one way to the Mason field and finishing with Mrs. Bant's woods. At the Bower Spring Herbert Holden joined us. The weather was simply perfect and as Foxon remarked the day appeared to mark the culmination or high tide mark of May with the apple orchards still in full bloom, the oaks pink, salmon, orange and ash-grey with unfolding leaves, and the Ladies' Slippers coming in full bloom in the sunny places where they grow. Birds were abundant everywhere but the end of the migration appeared to be nearly reached for the only unmistakable northern-breeding species met with during this forenoon were the Northern Water Thrush and Swainson's Thrush. By the former we saw two, of the latter two we had singing rather freely (not given in full voice) in Pease's pines. In Lawrence's woods we had a Black-burnian Warbler (which I think will probably be a new one) and saw over more the two young Great Horned Owls one in the same pine (but not on the same branch) as on the 18th, the other rather low down in the next tree. They still looked quite downy. The head and a strip of skin from the back, of a skunk hung from a twig near by (a few feet only above the ground) of the whole neighborhood smell skunky. The Partridge was still sitting on her 13 eggs in the Bower woods. The Field Sparrow on 3 eggs in the neighboring pasture. The Cooper's Hawk started from the nest in the Pease's pines as Holden was passing & with it.

Cambridge, Massachusetts

1898.

May 29

Morn'g cloudy; afternoon clear with light S. wind.

I went to Cambridge on the 23rd and spent the week there. It rained more or less every day and on several days heavily. The migration seems to have totally come to an end on the 22nd for since then I have not met with a single northern breeding bird. In or near the old garden in Cambridge I saw or heard during the week Robins, Yellow Warblers (only one pair in the garden), Redstarts (only one pair on one flower) Red-eyed Vireo (one bird singing in the lindens), Hoopoe Vireo (one singing May 24th), Yellow-throated Vireo (one heard May 28), Purple Finch (one singing May 28), Chipping Sparrow (one only), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (one singing regularly in our garden, another on Fagopyrum stem), Brown Grackle (one pair), Red-winged Blackbird (two 33 in the swamp behind Mr. Smith's on Fagopyrum stem) two birds flying over our garden on the evening of the 27th, Least Flycatcher (one singing in Dr. Wyman's willows), Chickadee (one singing in the Wyman willows on the 27th), ^{one in our garden on the morning of the 28th} ^{Chimney Swift, several} Black-bellied Cuckoo (one singing on May 24th), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (one singing daily in or near the garden), Crow (several flying over the garden daily), Night Heron (two flying over the garden on the evening of the 27th), altogether a list of eighteen species all, no doubt, settled for the season.

Birds settled in or near our garden

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 29

(no. 2)

Returned to Ball's Hill by the 1.13 P. M. train. The recent heavy rains have sent the river all over the meadows for the third time this Spring and Gilbert met me at the bars with the old boat. This late rise of the water must have destroyed most of the Red-wings' nests but the birds were scattered about in the usual manner flying on the button bushes and chasing the Crows. At evening I heard two Carolina Rails and three Patterns, as well as two Song-bird Wrenks.

Night Hawks fly past the cabin every morning and evening on their way to and from the haveny in the Bedford thump where I hear about a dozen pairs are breeding this Spring on Mr. Jewell's land. They usually appear here a little before sunset but sometimes on the town early in the afternoon.

At evening I walked to Davis's Hill. The birds were flying freely but I heard only common species including two Thrushes in full song. Wilson's Thrushes, Oven-birds, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Maryland Yellow-throats, and Cat-birds were most numerous represented. I heard two Grackles and two Juncos.

As I was passing the Beaver Hollow in the twilight Hylas I heard a great number of Hylas peeping in chorus. Peeping in the investigation I found that they were in the woods from woods on the sides & crests of the ridges. They were on high ground calling the shrill spring peeping only.

Concord, Mass.

1898

May 30

Cloudy most of the day with occasional gleams of hot sunshine & moderate W. wind.

After breakfast walked to Davis's Hill by the river paths and back on the pine ridges. Bodin's Hoppins in full bloom everywhere. I have found some Fanged Polygala which I let out in 1892 & which I have not seen since. It has spread over a good deal of ground under some young white pines behind Bodin's Hill. Several plants, both purple & white, were in full bloom to-day.

Yesterday evening I saw a large Milk Acker at the E. end of Bodin's Hill. He was in nearly the same place this evening. On both occasions he cooed and forced me with a very threatening expression. This evening he vibrated his tail rapidly, making a whirring sound audible at a distance of several yards. The tip of the tail was raised and as nearly as I could see it did not flicker any thing excepting on an occasion when he got it among some dry leaves. He struck viciously at a flick which I picked at later.

A pair of Kinglets appeared near the cabin more than a week ago & ever since have been seen daily whenever we have been here. I found their usually completed nest this morning in a dense cluster of oak twigs directly over one of our paths & not eight feet above the ground. The birds have me looking at it & have afterwards

1898.
May 30
(no 2)

The pine flows away, acting as if they had decided to desert the place.

The Spelmans appeared at dinner before noon and dined with me. After dinner we all went down river together as far as the pretty wooded knoll below the "Two Brothers" boulders. Two camps have been built on this knoll since our last visit but no trees have been cut. There are several remarkably fine white pines one of which must be nearly if not quite 100 feet tall. The largest perfect measured about six feet in circumference at two feet above the ground.

On the way back I landed at the Swift farm and dry a number of fine *Castanea* 'sappins in full bloom. I hiked almost the entire distance back.

Heard a great many common birds. *Bobolinks* were very numerous on *Blair's Boulders* just below *Coakley* bridge but I did not note them elsewhere. A *Dow* was cawing in *Barrows's* woods. *Tanagers* and *Wood Pewees* were seldom long out of hearing. Two *Phoebe's* were in full song, one at *Coakley* bridge, the other near a boat house lower down river. I have not either heard or seen one near *Boyle's Hill* for a week or more. When are the *Green Herons*? I have been some since their first arrival.

Concord, Mass.

1898
May 31

Warm with alternating cloudiness and sunshine.
Evening clear and calm.

Spent the forenoon getting plants for my
wild-flower garden, rambling through the woods
on the Bedford side of the river opposite the
cabin. Heard a Parula Warbler thrum in full
song.

At evening paddled up river landing at Dallow's
Hill where I floated about until it was nearly
dark. As I was returning I saw three Night-hawks
flying about over the woods on Holden's Hill.

June 1 Clear with violent N. E. wind.

Spent the day working near the cabin. A
Wilson's Black-cop song through the forenoon in
the thicket near the cover landing. This and the
Parula Warbler heard yesterday are the only migrants
that I have noted lately. The flight of Black-polls
was very light and passed unusually early this spring.

At evening walked up through the fields to
Brewer's and back by way of the pine woods.
A fine chorus of Wilson's Thrushes. Towhees singing
until it was almost dark. Saw a remarkably
tame Rabbit. It kept just out of my reach
and I could not walk it down even by walking
at it.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

June 2

Cloudy with strong E. wind and frequent showers.

Crossed the river soon after breakfast and spent the entire forenoon rambling in the woods looking for plants for my wild garden. Found one wood hare in a sandy bank and a few of the winter birds ferns on a ledge among columbines.

Heard a Towhee, a Nashville Warbler, and a number of common birds. Two Carolina Rails drying at evening.

Pat told me yesterday that Davis (the woodchuckman) had a young Great Horned Owl that had been given to him when by Lawrence! I asked him to walk further evening and to-day he brought word that Lawrence had found two young Owls in his woods by the river. One he caught, the other escaped. Davis was kind enough to send me the captured bird which I shall restore to its native woods as soon as it can fly well. It looks 4 or 5 times larger of the two and looks much as it did when I last saw it in the toll bin. I hope that it is true that the other young escaped.

Concord, Mass.

1898

June 3

A heavy N.E. storm with violent wind and steady rain from evening to night.

Spent most of the day in the cabin but late in the afternoon walked to Davis's Hill. Saw nothing of any special interest.

" 4

Cloudy with heavy rain all day. At sunset the rain stopped and the sky cleared in the N.W. but the strong N.E. wind still holds.

Parson arrived by the 6:30 train this afternoon. After dinner we took a short walk. The evening was cool and there was but little singing. Even the Wilson's Thrushes were nearly silent. Last night they sang very freely and freely in the rain. Like the Hermit Thrushes they sang greatly in individual proficiency. One that I listened to last evening had an exceptionally clear, pure voice and his execution was without a flaw. I have never heard a better singer.

Concord, Mass.

1898

June 5

A rare day, cloudless with a moderate N.E. wind which tempered the heat of the strong June sun. The early morning and late evening were very cool.

Starting at 8.30 Pardon and I were out in the entire forenoon having a most interesting and altogether delightful walk. We visited Davis's Hill, Prescott's pines, Lawrence's pines and Mrs. Bennett's woods. Late in the afternoon we went to the Blackman woods and Holden's Hill.

Although a Wilson's Black-cop has spent the past few days in the pine thicket just east of the cabin where he was still singing this morning I think it is safe to assume that the migration is practically at an end and that all the other birds that we found to-day were settled for the breeding season. The most interesting were three male Black-throated Warblers in full song, two in Lawrence's woods, the third in some hemlocks on Mrs. Bennett's land. We also heard no less than four Solitary Vireos, one in the pines on Pardon's ridge, another in the tall oaks behind Pardon's house, a third in Prescott's pines, and the fourth in Lawrence's woods. The Pardon Warblers seem to have deserted the last-named locality where they were breeding in 1886-1887.

Chipping Sparrows & Towhees are scarce in this neighborhood. We heard only one of each to-day & but one Indigo Bird. Towhees & Grackles are

1898

June 5
(No 2)

quite up to their normal numbers but there are apparently fewer Oven-birds than usual.

We found a number of nests one of the Black & white Creeper with four slightly incubated eggs, two of the Christmas-tided Warbler, two Red-eyed Vireo's building and a Blue Jay's on which the bird was sitting but which we did not examine closely. The Field Sparrow's nest found May 18th in Mrs. Bassett's pasture had three young almost fully grown and feathered to-day.

The Creeper's nest was on a hillside, within a few feet of a path, under the spreading branches of a solitary pine deeply sunk in the ground among the stems of some low blueberry bushes. It was about two yards from the trunk of the pine. The female came running out of the bushes as we approached past and tumbled about, as if badly wounded, in the middle of the path. The pine stands in an opening with no other tree very near it.

One of the Christmas-tided Warbler's nests - the one with the four eggs - was prettily placed in a green birch vine - a very unusual situation. It was wholly unconcealed by the foliage for it was supported by two stems of the vine which were bare of leaves for some distance above & below the nest.

Both Red-eyes' nests were in white pines.

1898.

June 6

Forenoon clear and calm. Clouds gathered in the afternoon bringing light rain at evening. There was a strong S. E. breeze in the afternoon.

Spent the forenoon working in the cabin. At 4 P. M. started for Concord sailing west of the way and landing at the Breckers'. Made several calls and took tea at the Keyes'. It was raining when I left there a little before nine o'clock and the night was so dark that I could hardly find my way back to the canoe under the gloom of the willows at the landing. Nevertheless I had an exceptionally pleasant and interesting paddle down to Balls Hill. At first I heard nothing but the harsh hummer sweep of innumerable flocks and the occasional clump of a Bull Frog but as I entered the meadows I began to hear Carolina Rails and presently the song of the mysterious "Kialai" came faintly to my ears. The latter bird proved to be somewhere near the middle of the Great Meadow about opposite the upper end of the Holt. At the same place but very near the river bank three Short-billed Marsh Wrens were singing, not intermittently or at wide intervals, as most diurnal birds sing when heard at night, but steadily, continuously and with really exceptional vigor while the intervals between the songs were much shorter than I have ever known them to be in the daytime. The Concord crowd thrived well as I sat listening and the night was as dark and rainy as ever. I have little doubt that these Wrens kept up their concert

Concord, Mass.

1898.

June 6
(No 2)

during the remainder of the night. I had heard three long-billed Wrens at the Beaver Rapids on my way up stream in the afternoon but they were all silent when I reached the spot on my return.

The Bitterns were also perfectly silent this evening although two of them were pumping steadily in the afternoon. There can be no question that the Bittern is strictly diurnal in its habits although it pumps late into the evening twilight and is usually the first bird to begin at day break.

There were only three Carolina Rails singing on the entire stretch of the Great Meadows to-night but they kept it up without the slightest cessation as long as I was within hearing. One had a peculiar voice, almost catlike in tone and with a queer double note at the beginning the call being really of three instead of the normal two syllables thus er-er-e. This is the first variation in the song of this species that I remember to have heard. The song of the Carolina Rail is most nearly like the feather-call of the Quail but it also suggests the peep of the Hylas. Despite its plaintive almost sad quality it is to my ear one of the most pleasing sounds that one hears in our fresh water woodlands.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

June 7

Clear and very warm with light N. to S. winds.

Spent the forenoon photographing birds' nests offering places on the Chestnut-sided Warblers in the granitic vein, the Audubon under the white pine, and the Cooper's Hawk's (described) in the Glacial Hollow.

The Chestnut-side was very nervous keeping her head in almost constant motion & coming the net frequently while I was at work.

The Cooper, on the other hand, sat perfectly motionless and we left her on the net without having ever disturbed her.

At evening there was a fairly deafening din along the river made by unnumbered birds, Tree Toads, Bull Frogs, and Green Frogs. The Hyles and Leopard Frogs have apparently ceased for this season. The last Hyles was heard on the evening of the 4th, the last Leopard Frog on the 5th.

Early this morning a bird made a singular deep, growling sound in the pine on Ball's Hill. I think it never has been a Green Heron.

Concord, Mass.



C. L. S. S.



Ginseng, Manch.



Lancaster & Concord, Mass.

1898.

June 8

Clear and very warm with strong S.W. wind.

I went to Lancaster to-day. Leaving the cabin at 7 a. m. Gilbert and I paddled up river to Hooksett's Bridge where I landed and walked to the station. Although the morning was cloudless and calm the birds did not sing at all freely. In hand and saw only eight Nodolinks

At Lancaster I took a drive of some seven miles with C. and E. R. S. Meadows Larks were more numerous than I have ever seen them elsewhere in woodslands excepting on Cape Cod. The country about Lancaster is well suited to them with its broad, level grassy fields & meadows. Nodolinks were also common but with exception only so. I heard Whistling Vireos & Purple Finches in the village.

Birds seen
at Lancaster,
Mass.

Returned to Concord in the late afternoon and to Nellie Hill by train to W. Bedford.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

June 9

Clear with light N. to N. winds. Day warm at noon.

Spent the forenoon on the meadow shore opposite
Rolls Hill where I met by appointment Albert Wood,
the lawyer, and Mr. Arnold, a farmer. The object of
this meeting was to determine the boundaries of some
boundary lines of meadow which I have just bought
of Charles S. Smith of Andover.

While we were talking about two Carolina Parula
were singing and one of the Bluebirds pumping on
frequent intervals. I also heard the first Chat
that I have ever met with in Concord. It sang
two or three times very near me in oak scrub (spruce
oaks of two years growth) near the roadway that
comes down to the meadow from the Nevins farm.
I think the bird, if established there, would be nesting
on the other side of the pasture where, along a
road fence, there is a thicket of green birch that would
do credit to Southern Connecticut or the Middle States.
Arnold says that he drove a cow into this thicket
last year that she was absolutely unable to
find her way through it.

The "Killer" was singing this evening somewhere
out on the Great Meadows.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

June 10

Clear and cool with light N.E. to S.E. wind.

Spent most of the day at work in a new tin cabin but late in the afternoon I took a long walk in the woods with Miss Mason & Miss Abigail Hayes. We went to Davis's Hill and through the Pleasant woods seeing & hearing a great many common birds. As we came in sight of the Mason field a pair about 8 March Hawks, the first I have seen for several weeks, crossed the opening flying rather high & in a straight line evidently on his way to some distant place.

In the cluster of bushes just behind Balls Hill we observed on a hem Partridge with a brood of young which were of about the size of newly-hatched Chickens. They scattered in every direction some running, others flying, all peeping in their little tones. The mother meanwhile went through the usual performance. Her pitious whining seemed to me to be almost exactly like that of a cold and hungry puppy & both of my companions agreed that they should never have suspected that the sound was made by a bird.

The Skunks have begun their annual raid on the turtles' nests. We found at least eight or ten nests that had been dug open last night with the shells scattered about on the ground. Most of these nests were in the opening between Benson's hedge & Davis's Hill.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

June 11

Cloudy most of the day with occasional sprinkles of rain but the day cleared before sunset.

At intervals through the forenoon as I was at work near the cabin I heard the ki-ki-ki-ki, ki-kee of the mysterious "Kicker" coming from near the middle of the Great Meadow. Soon after sunset the bird began again and sang steadily up to the time I went to bed. He had apparently come a little nearer although as I walked along the river path to Benson's Landing I could with difficulty catch the final "chee" or keee of his song. That was my surprise therefore to find that as I continued on my walk and turned my back to the river I carried the sound of the ki-ki far inland without seeming to lose much of its strength. I actually heard it with reasonable distinctness when I reached Davis's Hill although this point is nearly half-a-mile distant from Benson's Landing with a firm covered range of hills between.

There is another peculiarity about the song of the "Kicker" which I remember to have noted ~~the~~ season when the bird was so common about Cambridge & which in places are constantly here now. It is that the sound changes continually in volume, the incises and decises being sometimes gradual & sometimes abrupt. Ordinarily every fourth or fifth repetition comes loud & distinct but sometimes, an especially distinct repetition precedes a particularly faint one. Gilbert thought this evening that the bird must be flying about one

Concord, Mass.

1898.

June 11
(vis 2)

the meadow but I have little doubt that he is all the time on the ground and that he catters face in different directions, making a greater turn between after each song like a peeping woodcock or that he is running about and that the volume of the sound depends upon whether his voice comes from an open space of from under a weed or his down temple of grass.

Saw the first flycatcher this evening.

Concord, Mass.

1898

June 12

Clear and the warmest day thus far, light W. to S.W. winds.

The day was chiefly taken up with visitors of which we had an unusual number. The Beechicks came to dinner, the Sparrows called on their way down river, Miss Baethle stopped to tell me of an Orchard Oriole that he had seen and heard near the Minute man.

Despite these interruptions I got three good marks in the woods.

At about 9 a.m. a Golden-winged Woodpecker sang three or four times in the maples over the boat landing in front of the cabin.

At day break this morning and from a little after sunset until I went to sleep the "Kicker" was chanting his merry little song in the Great Meadow. I heard it very many times to great advantage for the bird was nearer than he has been on former occasions and the air was perfectly still. The number of hi notes varied from five to seven or eight. (It is very difficult to count them they are given so rapidly). Their delivery is sometimes smooth with even intervals, sometimes halting with the intervals varying greatly in length. The voice of this bird is somewhat grating and harsh throughout, the terminal chee being especially so.

Visiting the Osprey nest this morning I found that the eggs had not only hatched but that the young were already quite large & covered with dark-colored pin feathers. The ♀ was absent.

Concord, Mass.

1894.

June 12

(No 2)

All day long the wooded slope of Ball's Hill was the more or less with turtles on their way from a to the water. I saw three species the Painted Tortoise being the most common, the small snapping turtle next in number while of the Land Tortoise I found but one. I could hear many that I could not be making a continuous, low rattling among the dead leaves.

At about 4 P.M. I came on a large Painted Tortoise laying her eggs in an opening by the side of a foot path on the crest of the ridge above the cabin. She had dug a round hole five or six inches deep and about an inch in diameter in hard gravelly soil. At least one egg (and probably more) lay in the bottom of the hole when we discovered her. Within the next fifteen minutes we saw her lay seven eggs at intervals varying from one to three minutes. During this period she stood with her arms directly over the hole. The eggs were exuded with scarcely a perceptible effort. They all had a long deep groove on one side as if they had been indented by the pressure of a knife blade held parallel with the long axis of the egg. All of them dropped squarely in the hole and each as soon as it fell was pushed down firmly & rather forcibly by the turtle's hind feet nothing whatever being put between them. The pressure of four people crowded in a circle around the turtle & talking & coughing loudly did not interfere in the least with the animal's business which was evidently too pressing to be interrupted by such a trifling. When we crowded her too closely she would simply draw

Concord, Mass.

1898

June 12
(no 3)

in her head but before another minute had passed she would frequently hop out another egg. When the hatched or rather eighth had been laid the Lark began drawing the loose earth back over the hole & packing it down firmly with her hind feet. We had to leave her then. At 7 P.M. I went back & sat for some time down the hill side. When I got to the nest I had to look long & carefully before I could find it. although I know its exact position within ten or twelve inches, the Lark had sprinkled over it in the most cunning & in fact artistic manner dry leaves and bits of grass stems lightly laid & interlaced and scattering the surrounding surface exactly. When I removed this debris I found the ground beneath as hard as if it had were been disturbed. It was not until I had dug down to the eggs that I felt here that I really had the right spot. Within a few yards were two other nests that a Skunk had raided last winter. I covered this nest with wire netting weighted with heavy stones. During the winter time we watched how the Lark did not over look back or even turn her head. I do not think that she saw one of her eggs.

As I was sitting on Balls Hill this evening listening to the "Kicker" & two humming Mockers I heard a Blue Jay quacking & presently saw the bird alight in a bush opposite Bussard's landing in the Great Meadow.

Concord, Mass., Wolfboro, N. H., Andover, M.

1898

June 13

Clear and cooler with light E. wind.

Spent the forenoon near the cabin. Heard a Marsh-wren Warbler singing on Ball's Hill and found a Yellow Warbler's nest with three eggs on the river shore at Benson's Landing.

Took the noon train to Cambridge.

June 14

Clear and very warm.

To Wolfboro N. H. by 9 a. m. train to the Wier where we were met by a steam launch. Crossing the lake saw a Bonaparte's Gull sitting on a buoy. It appeared to be an immature bird with a good deal of dark mottling on the head but no well-defined black head.

" 14-15 Heard one Marsh-wren, one Yellow-throated Vireo, a Purple Finch, several Chipping Sparrows, two Orioles, one or two Song Sparrows, a Great Flycatcher and several Robins singing in the village of Wolfboro in evening. Purple Martins and Chipping Swifts were as numerous as ever & at least one pair of the Swallows were breeding in a bird box but the House Wren appears to have deserted the town. Only one Bobolink singing in the Academy fields & no Downy Sparrows heard there or elsewhere. English Sparrows in about the usual numbers.

" 16

Clear and cool. To Andover, Mass. by train arriving at 11 a. m. Walked about the village in the evening. Robins, Chipping, and Yellow-throated Vireo (two birds) singing.

" 17

To Merrimac by electric cars in the forenoon & back to Cambridge in the later afternoon.

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1898.
June 18

Clear and cool with light W. wind.

Took a drive through Mt. Auburn this morning walking the horse most of the way and noting down with pencil & paper every bird seen or heard. Here is the list.

1. Merula migratoria. - 10, 6 of which were singing
2. Dendroica aestiva. - 4, all singing.
3. Sitophaga rubicilla. - 5, " "
4. Vireo olivaceus. - 4 " "
5. " flavifrons. - 1 " "
6. Carpodacus purpureus. - 1 " "
7. Spinus tristis. - 1 flying over
8. Spinus socialis. - 8, 6 of which were singing
9. Melospiza fasciata. - 2 singing 1 in deep hollow N. of Lane, the other among cypresses near the S. entrance.
10. Agelaius phoeniceus. - 2 singing at Musk rat pond near Coolidge farm.
11. Luscinola cinerea. - 6 seen walking about on the ground
12. Coccyzus americanus. - 2.
13. Icterus galbula. - 1 ♂ singing in oaks.
14. Sayornis phoebe. - 2, 1 at bridge over pond where a pair has nested for several years, the other at W. end of cemetery
15. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. 1 singing in oaks (I suspected to have nested)
16. Tyrannus tyrannus. - 1 near Musk rat pond.
17. Empidonax minimus. 1 singing in oaks.

6 size of birds
found in
Mt. Auburn
Cemetery

To the above list the Flicker may be added without hesitation for it is certainly known to occur in the cemetery at all seasons.

Cambridge, Mass.

1898.

June 18
(no 2.)

After leaving the Country I drove through Fresh Pond Dam. Just beyond Gray's Pond, in the corner formed by Hanson Avenue and Fresh Pond Dam on the west side of the latter and about thirty yards back from the fence in the open field where an old hen once stood a Yellow-winged Sparrow, the first that I have ever seen or heard of within the limits of Cambridge was sitting on a stump singing at short, regular intervals. His Pt, pilt, c-c-c-c-c-c-c-c sound to me stronger and fuller than usual and I heard it distinctly when I was more than 200 yards away after passing the spot.

Yellow-winged
Sparrow near
Gray's Pond,
Cambridge.

Another bird that I have never noted before in Cambridge during the breeding season was a Pine Warbler that was singing in the white pine grove at Elmwood as I drove down North Street on my way home.

"Pine Warbler
at Elmwood

Here is a full list of the birds that I have seen or heard on one old place at Cambridge yesterday & to-day. Mr. Deane & Mrs. Kettell have nothing to add to it.

1. Murea nigricollis. Two & perhaps three pairs. Two nests found.
2. Dendroica aestiva. One pair only, feeding young to-day.
3. Setophaga ruticilla. " " "
4. Vireo olivaceus. One ♂ singing in birch dens.
5. Spizella socialis. One ♂ singing
6. Icterus galbula. " " "
7. Luscinax saxis. Numbers of old & young feeding on ripe cherries.
8. Corvus americanus. Flying over daily.
9. Coccyzus americanus. A pair constantly in the garden where

List of birds
breeding on
or frequently
seen
at Cambridge.

their nest placed in a pear tree over a week at a height of 10 feet with one of the birds sitting was found by Mrs. Kettell June 15.

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1898.

June 18

(no 3)

10. Chondestes pelagicus. One or two flying about at evening.

The Starling and Yellow-throated Vireo visit the garden every few days but neither species appears to be nesting anywhere in the immediate neighborhood, although this is the first year within my remembrance when they have thus neglected us. Through April and May a Purple Finch appeared to be established on the place and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak sang in the jungle for nearly a week in the latter part of May but neither has been heard here of late.

The Least Flycatcher is another species that is looking for the first time but I have heard one singing in the Myron's willows on Sparks' Street. There is also a Black-billed Cuckoo living west far off for I hear his voice in the distance towards the Myron's every few days.

Mrs. Kitter tells me that there is a pair of Meadow Larks in the fields between Heron Avenue and Vernal Lane. I have not heard of any in this favorite old haunt for the past ten or twelve years but they have bred each season for the past five or six years on the Fudge place a little beyond the Fudge Pond crossing a locality never frequented by them in the days of my boyhood.

Meadow
Larks return
to an old
& long abandoned
haunt

On June 6th A. Hathaway discovered a Killdeer Plover in the big clay pit just east of the Maple Swamp. It was seen there by Hathaway & Göttsche on the 7th and by W. Deann, Hathaway & Göttsche on the 8th.

"Killdeer
in Cambridge

Concord, Mass.

1898.

Jan 21

Heavy rain last night and cloudy up to nine o'clock when the sun came out, the remainder of the day being clear and very cool with light W. wind.

Returned to Concord by the 8.30 A. M. train. Found the country about Ball's Hill especially fresh and green owing to the abundant rains of the past month. The river continues high and we embarked at the end of the ditch on the Belfast shore with some difficulty.

I spent the afternoon with Pat opening a path between the ditch landing and Parkers landing. This will shorten the distance from the ditch to the railroad station nearly one-half miles giving us an exceptionally beautiful path with some of the prettiest views over the meadows that I have yet discovered.

While thus engaged I discovered a Northern Shrike sitting and still in the open meadow about fifty yards off. It had probably heard but evidently did not see me. Bill, neck and body rising among the grass in a perfectly straight line and at an inclination of about 45° ~~found~~ found a curiously close imitation of a weather-beaten and leaning stake. The feathers of the body were evidently compressed so that this part did not appear much thicker than the neck. The black stripes on the neck helped to make the bird inconspicuous by distracting the eye from the outlines of the neck & body. After standing thus perfectly motionless for several minutes the bird would slowly draw down its neck and

Concord, Mass.

1898.

Jan 21

(No 2)

Creeching low with the head and neck carried close to the ground would move off at a steady and very rapid walk thrusting its way through the rank grasses so dexterously as scarce to cause any of their tops to tremble. After going ten or fifteen yards I would stop and raise its head again.

Gilbert tells me that he heard the Whittens pumping through last week but they were silent to-day.

At evening I took a long walk, starting before sunset and staying out until the light had faded from the West. The sky was cloudless, the air cool and refreshing and the birds sang with unusual fervency and vigor making the woods and fields ring. I heard two Song-sparrows, at least heard different Wilson's Thrushes, a Whippoorwill and great numbers of the commoner birds.

I was surprised to hear two Partridges drumming at home, regular intervals, one on the stone wall at the east end of Ball's Hill, the other at the old Station at the north end of Davis's Swamp. I do not quite understand why they should have started drumming again so late in the season for the Ball's Hill bird, at least, has a brood of young several weeks old.

The Grass Finches and Field Sparrows were also singing freely but I heard neither Bluebirds nor Robins to-day.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

Journal
(No 3)

Without question the Wilson's Thrushes furnish the finest as well as the most copious music of any of the birds which breed in this immediate region. As twilight was falling this evening they made the woods fairly ring with their clear, flute-like voices. They are almost as numerous in the pine woods on the tops & sides of the hills as in the swamps. There is less inequality and variability in the songs of different individuals than is the case with the Hermit and Wood Thrushes but yet there are some birds whose voices are finer and clearer and whose notes are more varied and interesting than those of the common run.

I do not remember to have noted before that the Wilson's Thrush, like so many other birds, has favorite singing places to which it resorts day after day. This, at least, is true of a bird which is breeding somewhere near the east end of Ball's Hill and which sings every evening in the large red oak on the edge of Holden's meadow sitting invariably ~~not~~ only on the same branch but actually on the same twig and always facing towards the north-west.

The Brown Thrasher are still in full song. A fine-souled bird ^{which} inhabits the oak sprouts on the hill side just above the cabin surrounds us with his rich and varied music at morning and evening as well as at frequent intervals during the day. He does not appear to have any fixed or favorite singing station but he always perches high up among the oaks & often on their topmost spray.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

June 21
(no 4)

It is time to take up the history of the young Great Horned Owl that I had of Davis. Shortly after getting him I saw Henry Lawrence who told me that he found the two young sitting side by side on the branch of a tall pine in the woods by the river. As he approached the larger one flew and he shot it breaking its wing. He did not molest the other young bird but he fired at and, as he thinks, wounded one of the parents.

I kept this young Owl in a cage in the woods near the cabin for upwards of two weeks. Like all of the finer race it was surely and unflinchingly fearless when approached it closely. By swooping its bill and making quick thrusts with its formidable talons. It finally learned to tolerate Gilbert, however, and took raw meat from his fingers thanklessly enough but without much active resentment. At intervals of from one to five minutes during the night and occasionally by day, as well, it uttered a short, harsh, penetrating cry which was not unlike the peep of Chardisks and which, no doubt, was merely a variation - perhaps characteristic of very young birds - of the Jay-like cry that I hear very common in Baden Umbagog.

I suspect that by means of this call it finally attracted the attention of one of its parents for early one morning a number of Crows began making a great outcry in the oaks over the cage and Gilbert, who went out to investigate the cause of the disturbance found them mobbing a large Owl which sailed off through the trees as he approached.

1898.

June 21
(No. 5)

On June 14th Gilbert, by my orders, liberated the young Owl in Prescott's pines which are within about five hundred yards of the place where it was born. It was unable to fly and was left sitting on the ground under the trees near the wood road at the foot of the hill. During the remainder of the week Gilbert visited and fed the bird daily. It shifted its position several times and finally crossed the road by no one of these junings, was more than a few rods in length and the bird was always found either on the ground or on a stump or log.

I directed my steps towards Prescott's pines this evening for the express purpose of looking up the young Owl and as I approached the place I saw something yellowish which I took to be the bird but which proved to be a sheet of brown paper. A moment later I heard some Jays screaming excitedly on the hillside about fifty yards off. Walking quietly along the path I came nearly under them and scrutinizing closely the trees around me I at length made out the form of a Great Horned Owl perched on the topmost spray of a green and vigorous young pine, sitting erect and motionless, gazing off over the woods towards the sunset as if absorbed in watching the sunset. Against the strongly lighted background of sky his figure stood out in bold relief. He was a small but fully adult male bird and no doubt the father of the two young which were reared this spring in Brewster's woods. His coloring was very light and grayish, his "horns" unusually long and prominent. He had probably found and was caring for the young bird which Gilbert had left at the foot of the hill.

Concord Mass.

1898.

June 21
(206)

As I stood watching him, peering up through a small opening in the fern branches which concealed me very effectively, the jays (there were but two of them and they were doubtless the pair whose nest Gilbert found a week or more ago near the place where he turned out the young Owl) attacked him repeatedly and with much spirit dashing past him within a foot or less and flitting at his head with their bills, screaming all the while, of course. He paid little attention to them but once, when one of them came over him suddenly from behind, he ducked his head unwarily. At length I moved slightly ahead he at once discovered me fixing his great eyes on me for a moment and then flying off over the woods in the direction of Balls Hill. Altogether it was an interesting experience to have in those covered woods. I did not see the young Owl, however.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

June 22

Morning clear and sparkling with cool east wind.
A heavy thunder storm in the afternoon.

Walking around Ball's Hill immediately after breakfast I heard, besides many of our common summer birds, a Canadian Warbler and a Solitary Tanager. The Warbler was singing near the crest of the ridge behind the cabin. It had probably come from Davis's Swamp where I heard one singing about two weeks ago, although it is just possible that it may be nesting in the Ball's Hill Swamp (an old breeding Robin) and by some chance may have escaped my attention before this time.

The white maples along the river banks are infested with grass-green caterpillars which are fast devouring these beautiful trees of their foliage. Not content with eating what they require the caterpillars bite off pieces, one or two inches square. The ground under the trees and the surface of the river as well are strewn thickly with these fragments. Having constantly seen or heard Cuckoos (of both species but often the Yellow-bills) on the maples, one the cause landing I watched one of the birds ^(C. harrisi) closely to-day and found, as I had suspected, that it was fast on the caterpillars. It obtained them by flitting or hopping from branch to branch and reaching or fluttering up to seize them from the under sides of the leaves. I saw it catch and devour six within the space of an hour or two minutes. I doubt if we have any bird that is much more valuable as a guardian of our shade trees than Cuckoos.

Concord, Mass.

1898

June 23

A rare day, clear and cool with light W. wind.

Spent the forenoon near Ball's Hill. In the afternoon crossed the river and visited Parker's where I found a small colony of Barn Swallows. There were some nests on the S. side of the barn. Parker says that he counted 78 three years ago but last year during the continued heavy rains of early June most of the nests fell down & the birds left.

As I walked up through the old orchard a Bluebird was singing loudly & steadily (later in the afternoon I heard another beyond Merrim').

At 4 P. M. I started for Mrs. Barrett's. The sun was very hot as I crossed the fields but in the shade of the woods the temperature was delightful. Heard two Phoebe's in full song & was shown a nest in Mrs. Barrett's shed from which the young had lately flown.

Shortly after sunset a Wood Thrush began giving its sharp challenging call in down trees over the road near the house. This is the nearest to Ball's Hill that I have ever heard the bird in the breeding season but it is even nearer than down there when it breeds commonly enough.

It was eight o'clock when I left Mrs. Barrett's & started to walk home. Two Whippoorwill's were flying to the westward & I afterwards heard a third in the usual place near Benson's.

As I was passing the Oak woods near Benson's landing a superb Luna Moth came flying close past me. Its course was very erratic. It looked very large & I could distinctly make out its shape although the night was dark.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

June 24

Warmer than yesterday, the air less clear and dry.

Spent the morning near Bass Hill, the afternoon roaming through Mrs. Barrett's woods with Gilbert, the evening on the Blackstone ridges and Holden Hill. In the Barrett woods I stumbled on an Ovenbird's nest under some pines and a Field Sparrow's built precisely like a Chestnut-sided Warbler or Indigo Bird - that is to say it was placed in the fork of a hazel just under the upper canopy of foliage and fully three feet above the ground. Both nests contained four fresh eggs each.

On the lower edge of the Barrett orchard we saw a Great-crested Flycatcher, the first that I have met with this year. It flew from an apple tree into the pine woods when we drove it on ahead of us for some distance. It was absolutely silent and very tame, allowing us to get within a few yards. If it has nested in the old orchard it is singular that I have not heard it there during some one of my visits to the Partridge's nest.

As I was returning through Prescott's pines I came upon a hen Partridge which ran on ahead of me showing herself conspicuously but making no vocal sound or other peculiar demonstration. I followed her some distance into the bush without succeeding in flushing her and finally decided that she must have injured one of her wings so that she could not fly. But a few minutes later, as I was watching a Painted Bunting digging a hole for its eggs, I heard young Partridges

1898.

June 24

(182.)

uttering their feeble cheeping tree - tree - e - e) from various parts of the Bear oak thicket where I had first seen the old bird, and presently she began answering them with a low, hen-like croo - croo - croo (always just three notes). As I could easily tell by their calls and answers the young quickly rejoined their mother when the sounds all ceased.

There can be little doubt, I think, that this particular hen Partridge had learned by experience that the old-established trick of tumbling about on the ground with beating wings and loud whining cries did not always deceive men who are accustomed to the woods. ~~into thinking~~ In its place she had hit upon a simpler, yet really cleverer, ruse^s which I was completely deceived.

For the past two nights the clamor and din of *Notostaurus* voices has been something indescribable. Bull Frogs, Green Frogs, Garden Toads and Fire Toads have been apparently, vying with each other as to which should wader the water voice. The Green Frogs have easily carried off the palm. Their tung, tung - tung sounds at certain distances suddenly like the voices of people talking and laughing. It irritates and annoys me at times but I never tire of listening to the rich, deep base of the Bull Frogs. They are decidedly the best musicians of the *Notostaurus* here but fortunately a very few of them happen to fill the marshes with sound which calls against the wooded hills and echoes back again drowning the cries of all the smaller species.

Concord, Mass.

1898

June 25

Clear and hot with violent S.W. wind which brought a heavy thunder storm in the early evening.

C. & S. R. S. came up by the 11 a. m. train & returned on the 4 p. m. train. It was too hot to walk foot or far but we went to Davis's Hill after dinner, just as we stepped out of the cabin door a hen Partridge showed herself in the narrow fringe of bushes between the cabin & the wire, at the same moment two of her chicks ran and flew off through the trees. Three others crossed the path in the wake of the mother who waddled slowly off into the woods. The young were about as large as Robins. As we kept on along the path we started the old bird three times during her course the end of the hill. After we had gone still farther away Gilbert saw her fly back past the cabin. She alighted in a maple by the wire & called for some time but apparently without finding any of the young.

The Flaps in the wood across the wire must be leading parous birds. I rarely ever without starting a Bittern a two and when evening comes and the Bitterns go to bed their places are taken by two or three Night Herons from the Bedford Swamp. The Bittern alights much after the manner of a Snipe dropping suddenly at the last with a few quick flaps of its wings. When flushed it utters a cawing ok-ok-ok-ok-ok.

The Night Herons caw variety over the place which they select, before alighting.

1898.

June 26 A superb day rather warm at noon but with clear day air and a refreshing W. wind that lasted late into the moonlit night.

Spent most of the forenoon at Mrs. Barrett's. I am considering seriously the purchase of her whole farm with its extensive tracts of fine woodland. Many birds were singing about the house, among them a Towhee which said most distinctly "Sweet-bird, sing" Miss Nichols' version of the song as heard at Englewood. There was also an Indigo Bird, a Grosbeak, Yellow & Chestnut-sided Warbler etc.

In the afternoon Miss Maria Kegan and Miss Gage called and we walked to Holden's Hill. Several weeks ago I noticed in the large white pine that stands at the foot of the hill on the north side a nest which looked much like the nest of a Red Squirrel only it was much too deep. In other words it was a very bulky and almost hopeless mass containing few if any sticks and composed almost wholly of what looked like the reddish inner bark of the chestnut. It was placed close against the trunk of the tree on a stout branch about 40 feet above the ground. The ground beneath was thickly speckled with chalky white spots of excrement evidently that of either a Hawk or an Owl but on neither the first nor a subsequent visit did I see any signs of life in or about the nest. As we approached it this afternoon however, I made out a young bird being very wet in the nest. It was covered with light purple down and its face looked

1898.

June 26

(242)

Good and round like that of an Owl. but a few moments later we discovered another young bird fully feathered & five from down perched on a branch several yards from the nest and this second young was evidently a Red-shouldered Hawk. I cannot understand the wide difference in appearance of between it and the young bird in the nest but of course both must have belonged to the same brood. It does not seem possible that these young could have been hatched from eggs laid last April when the pair of Red-shoulders were so persistently staying & remaining on Holden's Hill after which they disappeared. Indeed I think it more probable that they laid their first set elsewhere and being it came back to Holden's Hill later in the season. I am glad to know that my big bird has found a safe refuge there for for them & their brood.

The birds are fast getting the upper hand of the green caterpillars that have been devouring my white maples. Within the past few days I have seen Robins, Tanagers, Red-eyed Vireos, Cowbirds, Orioles, Red-wings and Crows feeding on these greedily. The Red-wings & Crows have done the best & most constant service. Some of the trees further up the river have faced much worse than mine & are now as bare as in winter. Miss Hayes tells me that the maples along the brook have suffered the worst of all.

George Hayes picked up the shell of a Night Heron's egg on Ball's Hill to-day. The egg must have been brought it from the Redford hollow.

1898

June 27

Cambridge & Concord, Mass.

Clear and warm with almost no wind.

To Birch Island in the forenoon. Found a Hairy Woodpecker in the oak woods where the Hypannum splendens grows.

Spent the early part of the afternoon in packing and took the 4 P. M. train for Cambridge.

" 29

To Concord by 12.50 train from Boston. Drove to Mrs. Barrett and went over the farm with my cousin, J. S. B., deciding finally to buy it. It adds nearly ninety acres to my country.

In the Barrett orchard saw a Great-crested Flycatcher, the same bird, no doubt, that I noted on my last visit. He also went to Ball's Hill. It was a fair hot afternoon and the birds were not flying at all freely.

In the main road just below Mrs. Barrett's we saw two Rabbits, both very large ones.

Glendale, Berkshire Co., Massachusetts.

1898

July 1

Clear and very warm

Left Boston by 3 P. M. train, B. & A. R. R., and reached Glendale at 10 P. M. D. C. French met me at the station and drove me to his house, about half-a-mile distant from the village. I found there besides Mrs. French, Mr. Henry Wells, the salmon fisher, and Mr. McDaniel the artist.

" 2

Clear and hot.

Took a long drive in the forenoon crossing the river to Stockbridge and thence N. to the edge of Busset. Most of the country open farming lands a cultivated grounds and fields about gentleman's places with ranges of wooded hills extending north and south on both sides of the broad river valley. Passed through an extensive tract of pine & hemlock woods where a Hermit and two Massachusetts Woodmen were working. Heard three Horned Larks in apple orchards, two in Glendale, one near a farm house beyond.

" 3

Clear and very hot. Ther. 91° at 2 P. M., 87° at 8 P. M.

Spent most of the day at the house taking a short walk in the woods behind it just after breakfast.

" 4

Clear, the early morning very hot (ther. 87° at 7 A. M.), but a cool north wind started at 90 A. M. and the afternoon was very cool.

Spent the forenoon in the woods on the farm. In the afternoon took a long walk towards the W. and S. W. through a pine grove pasture and down along the course of a beautiful brook.

" 5

Left Glendale at 10 A. M. & reached Putnam, N. H. at 6 P. M.

Glendale, Berkshire Co., Massachusetts.

1898

July 2, 3, 4

Glendale is a small, primitive village just across the river from fashionable, highly ornate Stockbridge. It has been almost wholly neglected as yet by the city people who have overrun so much of Berkshire County and many of its farms and farm houses are neglected or deserted. The country is hilly, well-wooded, and well-watered and very picturesque. The woods are unusually beautiful and the flora is the richest and most varied that I have ever found in any part of New England. This is probably due to the soil which everywhere is a strong, clayey loam overlying limestone which crops out in many places in cherty, white ledges.

Few if any of the trees and shrubs found near Boston were missing here and addition the Butternut, Shell-bark Hickory, Tulip Tree and ^{Mountain Laurel} Leather-wood (*Dryas palustris*) grew almost everywhere throughout the woods. Nowhere else have I seen such a profusion of fine Hardwoods and Bass-woods. Of the smaller plants not common near Boston I noticed the Orange Hardwood, Fringed Polygon, and a fine, tall Samolus (Helianthemum —).

Birds appeared to be very numerous. The most interesting that I noted were a Black-throated Blue Warbler in full song July 3rd on a hillside covered with *Kalmia latifolia*, three Black-chinned Warblers singing in mixed white pine & hemlock woods, an Orchard Oriole singing near the house, and a wintered Bald Eagle flying high over the valley.

Wood Thrushes were much more numerous than Hermits. I heard both singing together with a Keely not far off. Indigo Birds very common, Towhees not more so than at Concord; Robins common in mowing fields. Two House Wrens were singing in the village & a third near an outlying farm house.

1898
July 2-4Birds noted in or near Glandah, Berkshire Co., Mass.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 <u>Sialia</u> <u>sialis</u> - Two | 31. <u>Habia</u> <u>historiam</u> - Common |
| 2 <u>Merula</u> <u>mig.</u> Abundant | 32. <u>Pipilo</u> <u>erythroph.</u> - Two or three seen |
| 3 <u>Turdus</u> <u>muschlinus</u> . Very common | 33. <u>Passer</u> <u>domesticus</u> . Few in Stone bridge. |
| 4 " <u>pallasi</u> . Two singing | 34. <u>Dolichonyx</u> <u>aurivans</u> . Common |
| 5 " <u>fuscus</u> . - " " | 35. <u>Motacilla</u> <u>alba</u> - Two seen |
| 6 <u>Troglodytes</u> <u>aedon</u> . Three " in village | 36. <u>Icterus</u> <u>galbula</u> . Common |
| 7 <u>Mimus</u> <u>carolinensis</u> . - Very common | 37. " <u>spurius</u> . - One singing |
| 8. <u>Harporhynchus</u> <u>rofra</u> . - Common | 38. <u>Lonicata</u> <u>cinna</u> . - Two or three |
| 9 <u>Parus</u> <u>atricapillus</u> - Two or three | 39. <u>Corvus</u> <u>americanus</u> - Common |
| 10 <u>Mniotilta</u> <u>varia</u> - Abundant | 40. <u>Cyanocitta</u> <u>cristata</u> - Several |
| 11 <u>Dendroica</u> <u>caterularis</u> . - One singing in Kabnis | 41. <u>Tyrannus</u> <u>tyrannus</u> - Common |
| 12 " <u>blackburnii</u> . - Three " white pine & hickories | 42. <u>Sayornis</u> <u>phoebe</u> " |
| 13 " <u>pennsylvanicus</u> - Several " | 43. <u>Melospiza</u> <u>cinerea</u> . - One only |
| 14 " <u>viridis</u> - Abundant | 44. <u>Empidonax</u> <u>minimus</u> . - Common |
| 15 <u>Geothlypis</u> <u>trichas</u> - " | 45. <u>Contopus</u> <u>viridis</u> . - One or two |
| 16 <u>Sciurus</u> <u>amicapillus</u> . - " | 46. <u>Colaptes</u> <u>auratus</u> . - Several thrashing. |
| 17 <u>Setophaga</u> <u>ruticilla</u> - Common | 47. <u>Chondestes</u> <u>pelagicus</u> . - Abundant |
| 18 <u>Vireo</u> <u>olivaceus</u> - Abundant | 48. <u>Arremonops</u> <u>virgatus</u> . - One singing |
| 19 " <u>gilvus</u> - One in village | 49. <u>Haliaeetus</u> <u>leucophalus</u> . - One in. |
| 20 " <u>solanus</u> - Four singing | |
| 21 <u>Ampelis</u> <u>cedrorum</u> . - Common | |
| 22 <u>Chelidon</u> <u>erythrorhynchos</u> - " | |
| 23 <u>Progne</u> <u>subis</u> - Two or three | |
| 24 <u>Piranga</u> <u>erythrorhynchos</u> . - Very common | |
| 25 <u>Poocetes</u> <u>gramineus</u> . - " " | |
| 26 <u>Passerculus</u> <u>torrens</u> - Two singing | |
| 27 <u>Melospiza</u> <u>foenicata</u> - Very common | |
| 28 <u>Spizella</u> <u>socialis</u> - " " | |
| 29 " <u>pusilla</u> - Two or three | |
| 30 <u>Passerina</u> <u>cyanea</u> - Very common | |

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5th
Aug. 15th

I came to Peterborough from Glendon on July 5th and spent the remainder of the month and the first half of August at "Ben Mee farm", going to Cambridge twice, however, for two or three days, in July. I had hoped to be in the woods a great deal but an unfortunate return of my chronic hip lameness prevented me from doing much walking and my excursions were mainly confined to the fields and woods near the house and those about the shores of Cunningham Pond to which, by the aid of an old boat, I had easy and frequent access. I also took a few drives but none of great length. Walter Deane was with me from July 18th to 25th and H. A. Purdie from July 30th to Aug. 3rd and both covered a good deal of ground that lay beyond my walk thereby adding materially to the information that I have gained respecting the bird fauna and the flora of the Peterborough region. Mr. Deane has also given me a number of notes on the birds which he has found about Joffrey (where he has been staying the greater part of the summer) and I shall refer to some of them in what I am about to write. Joffrey lies some five or six miles west of here at a lower elevation than that of our house but above that of Peterborough village.

During our stay at "Ben Mee farm" the weather was for the most part fine with, however, occasional rains which, almost without exception, fell during the night. The temperature has been uniformly comfortable and the air remarkably dry and bracing although the reports that have come to us from the low country tell of one of the hottest (and the very most humid) summers there we have had for many years.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to

Aug. 15

(No. 2)

Ben Mill farm (now belonging to Mr. Gerson B. Day, a typical but unusually intelligent New England farmer) lies three miles east of the village of Peterborough and about a mile from the western base of Peak Monadnock mountain. The house (built four years ago) stands on the crest of a knoll at an elevation, it is said, of 1400 feet above the sea. Excepting towards the east, where the Peak Monadnock range rises again to the sky, the view is very extended with "Grand" Monadnock lying directly to the westward some twelve miles off and the horizon line to the south and south-west from twenty to thirty miles distant.

Immediately about the house are open grassy fields divided by old stone walls fringed with trees and half-covered by thickets of viburnums, cornels, black alders and high blueberry bushes. To the north the land slopes gently to the edge of Cunningham Pond (about 150 yards distant); to the south and west it descends steeply into a broad, winding valley down which flows a rapid, piccadilly trout brook.

About one half of the country to be seen from one hill top is wooded and many of the farms which constitute the remaining half are abandoned - or at least neglected - and fast growing, up to trees or bushes. The woods are almost wholly "second growth" but many of the trees are of fair size and nearly all sturdy and vigorous-looking. Sugar-maple forms a much larger proportion of the trees than is often the case in Massachusetts. The woodland soil is everywhere a deep, rich, clay mould and ferns, clubmosses, trailing arbutus and other lovely plants flourish in great profusion.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5thAug. 15th

(No. 3)

The brook valley just mentioned is all over the most attractive and the most "birdy" place that I have found in the neighborhood of our farm. It is singularly diversified, containing extensive, rich, mixed woods; rounded knolls, partly wooded and partly open, with scattered, spreading red oaks and rock maples; old pastures growing - or grown - up to young white pines, red spruces, hemlocks, birches, etc.; and - especially near the brook - picturesque stretches of primitive meadow land covered with wild grasses and spinnel^{led} alders or dotted with tufts of ree and the graceful, clustering blossoms of the yellow lily (*L. canadense*).

Immediately below the house, on the edge of this valley but at some distance from the brook, lies an interesting bog meadow filled with *Pogonia*, cotton grass, and various attractive wild sedges and ferns and surrounded by dense young woods, chiefly composed of white pines and red spruces growing in thick clusters with grassy or fern carpeted openings between. In the openings and often intermingling with the pines and spruces are numbers of red cedars, the only ones that I have seen near Peterborough. Ground junipers also grow here in some profusion. Both cedars and junipers almost wholly lack their usual olive tinge the foliage being of a lighter and decidedly glaucous green.

This bog, with its encircling woods and thickets, was alive with birds and being within short ~~hunting~~ distance of the house I have spent many evenings there and have become, I think, pretty well acquainted with its feathered inhabitants or occasional visitors from the woods lower down along the course of the brook. The most abundant birds were Hermit Thrushes, Black & Yellow Warblers, Maryland Yellow throats

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to

Aug. 15

(No. 4)

Song Sparrows, Field Sparrows and Towhees. There were also a few Robins, Cat Birds and Brown Thrushes and at least two male White-throated Sparrows. All of these were settled in or near the bog, and in neighboring woods, thickets or fields within easy hearing were Black-throated Green Warblers, Red-eyed Vireos, Grass Finches, Indigo Birds and Goldfinches. Among the occasional or chance visitors were Winter Wrens, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Solitary Vireos. Still more rarely a Marsh Hawk would appear through an opening among the trees and after beating the bog systematically pass over at the opposite side. On one occasion a Quail whistled for an hour or more at short, regular intervals in a field not far off. The wide-winged Swallow, Swifts and Night hawks were, of course, often seen passing and re-passing close over the trees.

This intermingling of northern and southern birds, not often seen in such close association, at least during the breeding season, never failed to interest us and there there was the rich musical treat afforded very fine evening when the Hermit Thrushes, Peabody birds and Field Sparrows were singing freely. There were always two, often three, and occasionally four Hermits singing within hearing of our attention and the best bird had an almost faultless voice. One of the Field Sparrows, also, was an exceptionally fine singer.

Peterborough, New Hampshire

1898.

July 5 to

Aug. 15

(No. 5)

At Cunningham Pond, too, I ~~have~~ passed very many pleasant and profitable hours. At first sight it did not attract me for its shore lines are straight and angular, most of its northern side is bordered by open farming land, and its western end is disfigured by a row of cheap summer cottages; but the southern and eastern shores are as primitive and unspoiled as are the shores of Lake Umbagog.

Cunningham
Pond.

Along the southern shore the land rises rather steeply to the crest of a ridge and the slope is everywhere densely wooded with pines, hemlocks, spruces, beeches, red and white maples, paper beeches, ^{a few black birches, poplars,} etc. The spruces and hemlocks predominate and many of them are of large size. The trees not only come quite to the water's edge but many of them stretch their branches low out over the pond forming pretty bowers beneath which a boat may float in the densest shade, even at low tide. In places the water laps the sides of large, lichen-covered boulders or washes against banks covered with rich green mosses spangled with the pretty white flowers of Dolichopus repens; in others an undergrowth of mountain holly, Viburnum (Cassinoides et Coutainoides) with hawthorn, mountain ash, Cassinidia and yew, with an occasional high blueberry or striped maple, forms a solid wall of foliage forming the outer light and completely filling in the vertical space between the ground or water and the lower branches of the trees. A week ago the mountain holly bushes were thickly studded with crimson berries but these are now, ^(Aug. 15th) falling fast or else the birds are eating them. I doubt if it can be the birds for they seem to avoid these woods. Indeed I have found there only a Wood Thrush, a family of Robins & one or two Red-eyed Vireos.

Peterborough, New Hampshire

1898.

July 5thAug. 15th

(No. 6)

But at the head or eastern end of the pond, in a grove of hemlocks and spruces, quite open or free from undergrowth beneath, as well as in a brush-grown pasture that borders a pretty little cove where the arrow-shaped leaves and blue flower spikes of the pickleweed rise thickly from the shallow water, the bird life was almost as abundant and varied as about the bog on the Mear farm and at evening, when the conditions were favorable, the air fairly rang with the songs of Hermit Thrushes, Peewee birds, Towhees, Field Sparrows, Song Sparrows etc. Evidently spruce woods and old pastures growing up to pines and spruces form the favorite haunts for most of the smaller birds of this region. The mixed woods of old growth are everywhere nearly barren of bird life.

Cunningham
Pond

Early in July I heard two Green Herons calling in some maples on the shores of the pond and on August 2nd Purdie and I found a Great Blue Heron at the head of the little cove, standing in the water among the pickleweed, apparently watching for fish as his attention was so concentrated on the bottom that he did not notice us until we paddled nearly within gun shot. Ducks are said to alight in this pond in spring & autumn. I have no doubt that a Kingfisher, which flew past our house one day, was on his way there. Muskrats are numerous and I have seen a few Painted Turtles on floating logs. Bull Frogs & Green Frogs make the shores echo with their trumping and tramping.

Of aquatic plants the pond contains, besides the pickleweed, the floating heart, the cow lily & the dwarf white pond lily (see under). Pickleweed runs fish & horse points are caught there but the fish are small & the horse points are small.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to
Aug. 15
(No. 7)

There but the pickered, though to say, are more caught (or were seen) escaping through the ice in winter. That because of them in summer is a mystery. They cannot leave the pond at any season for there is no inlet and there is a dam across the hollow outlet.

Cunningham
Pond.

I should have noted before that this pond is said to cover a surface of about fifty acres. The water is clear and nowhere of very great depth.

Still another excellent place for birds is at the head of the brook valley where the old stage road passes the base of Peak Monadnock through a gap between the range of hills that bound our view to the eastward. Here there are more open pastures as well as some extensive and rather scrubby mixed woods ~~covering~~ covering the valley sides of the mountain and here I found Hermits, White-throats, Kinglets, Magnolia, Nuthatch & Blue and Yellow Warblers, as well as most of the other species which occur on or near Ben More farm but nothing that was not noted there. Nor did Mr. Deane add anything to our list when he drove to the top of Peak Monadnock (said to be 2400 feet above the sea) on July 24th but along the whole extent of its base and gently ascending crest he found Junco in abundance. He also saw Robins and Grass Finches ~~there~~ near the summit.

Peak
Monadnock

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to
Aug. 15
(No. 8).Trees &
Shrubs

Although in connection with other subjects I have already mentioned most of the trees and shrubs which I have noticed in this region it may be worth while to note more definitely the respective distribution and relative abundance of the different species.

The white pine, the hemlock, the birch, the red oak (apparently the only Quercus), the paper, yellow and gray birches, the rock and red maples, the white ash, the rum cherry and the choke cherry are all abundant and very generally distributed. The red spruce occurs only sparingly in mixed woods but it springs up in dense thickets in many of the neglected pastures especially those which lie along the slopes of the Packer Mountain range of hills. Some of the older trees are tall with straight, clear stems suitable for timber.

The striped maple, the mountain ash, the huckle-bush and the yew are common but nowhere very numerous; the red cedar and ground juniper appear to be confined to Bee Mead farm and I have seen the red pine only in a pasture near Cunningham Pond where there are a few trees of fair size; the hop hornbeam seems to be also uncommon and the balsam fir is apparently rare for, with the exception of trees growing near houses and evidently planted, we have found only a single small specimen near Bee Mead farm and less than a dozen were seen by me. None on the summit of Packer Mountain. The alder vitae and mountain laurel are said to be wholly absent and, strange to say, we have found no sweet fern although these hilly pastures seem admirably adapted to it (after this was written I found a little near Cunningham P.)
Of cover there are rubus (caseinoides & dentatum)

Pittsborough, New Hampshire

1898

July 5 to

Aug. 15

(No. 9)

cornels, high and low blueberries, black alders, alders, etc. in the usual profusion and *Rhodora* is especially abundant growing in differently on low and high ground in the swamps, throughout the pasture and in many places along the roadsides. The mountain holly is almost equally common and widespread.

Of the more lovely plants, which carpet the ground under the trees, the painted and the purple williams, the trailing arbutus, *Dalechandra repens* and the club mosses have often attracted my attention for they occur nearly everywhere.

Ferns also grow in great quantity and profusion but there are fewer species than I had expected to find.

In connection with the list of trees I should have mentioned the bass-wood, which is rather common, and the chestnut, of which a fine old specimen, apparently indigenous and the only one seen by us or known to Mr. Day, stands on the crest of ~~the~~ a knoll in the valley below our house. On the eastern slope of the ~~the~~ Mount Monadnock ridge, however, the chestnut is said to be abundant as is, also, the mountain Laurel.

I should have noted, also, that the paper and the gray birch are about equally abundant and that they are often to be seen growing together. Mr. Day says that the black birch occurs sparingly but I have not seen it. (I afterward found a few tall black birches at Cunningham Pond growing on a northern slope among paper birch & two red species)

Trees
shrubs

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to

Aug. 15.

(No. 10)

The bird fauna, as already indicated, contains an interesting mixture of forms supposed to be more or less typical, especially, of the Alleghenian (or Appalachian) and the Canadian faunas. Thus the Hudson Thrasher, Coot Bird, Field Sparrow and Towhee are all abundant and found in close association with the equally numerous Hermit Thrasher, Golden-crested Kinglet and Black & Yellow Warblers while the Wood Thrush (only one specimen seen), the Baltimore Oriole (not common), and the Screech Owl (~~screech~~) may be met with in the same localities as the Winter Wren (not common), the White-throated Sparrow (generally but sparingly distributed), the Junco (uncommon excepting on the ~~more~~ higher ridges) and the Myrtle Warbler (not numerous). Swainson's Thrush occurs abundantly on Monadnock (see Abbott Hoag), but not, apparently, at all at lower levels. ~~The~~ Canada Nuthatch, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Canadian Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher may be looked for here with some confidence for I found them all at Wrentham, Mass., in June 18.

Save in respect to the apparent absence of the four species last named the summer bird life of the Peterborough region is essentially the same as that of Wrentham but I do not remember (I am writing so long from memory) seeing at the latter place anything like the numbers of Field Sparrows, Towhees and Indigo Birds which have been present here this season. Another point of apparent difference is that the Blackburnian Warbler was one of the most abundant of the woodland birds at Wrentham whereas only one specimen has been noted here (Mr. Deam has seen two or three at Joffrey).

I have looked here in vain for the Wilson's Thrush (abundant at Joffrey - Deam), Yellow Warbler, Savannah Sparrow,

Peterborough, New Hampshire

1898.

July 5th

Aug. 15.

(No. 11)

Henslow's Sparrow (abundant at Peniston, Mass 26 miles S. of here)
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak (several seen at Joffrey & N. Dean) Swamp
 Sparrow (do.) House Wren (one at Joffrey-Dean, Washburn
 trees (do.), Yellow-bellied Woodpecker, Gairdner's Flycatcher,
 and Whippoorwill (abundant at Joffrey-Dean - and said
 by Mr. Day to be occasionally found here).

Pittsborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5th

Aug. 15.

(No. 12)

The Brown Thrasher had ceased singing before my arrival and I heard the Bluebird warble but once - on July 17th. The least Flycatcher was silent after July 7th, the Redstart after the 12th, the Nighthawk and Flicker after the 17th.

With these exceptions all the birds sang vigorously and were on the ground up to July 20th. After this they dropped out in rapid succession in the following order:

July 20. - Chestnut-sided Warbler, Chickadee, Kinglet (Sapsucker), Chipping, Phoebe

July 21. - Robin, Nashville Warbler, Myrtle Warbler.

" 24. - Colaptes, Black-throated Green Warbler, Junco.

" 25. - Cross Finch, Scarlet Tanager (heard only on this date)

" 29. - White-throated Sparrow.

" 30. - Black & Yellow Warbler, Maryland Yellow-throat, Oven-bird.

August 2. - Red-eyed Vireo

" 3. - Solitary Tanager, Field Sparrow, Hermit Thrush

" 8. - Indigo Bird.

The dates given are those up to and including which the species sang regularly and vigorously. The Robin, the Nashville, Myrtle, Chestnut-sided and Black-throated Green Warblers, the Cross Finch and the White-throated Sparrow ceased very abruptly and - with the exception of the Cross Finch - absolutely. But some of the others, especially the Chickadee, Chipping Sparrow, and Indigo Bird, sang occasionally or sporadically in the early morning or during rainy weather. The Hermit Thrush was silent on August 4th - 5th - 6th but I heard one singing steadily on the evenings of the 7th & 8th. On the morning of the 9th, which was then being cloudy & rather cool after a rainy night, I heard at about or shortly after sunrise the first songs of two Song Sparrows, ^{a Field Sparrow,} a Chickadee, a Red-eyed Vireo and a Phoebe; at 10 a.m. a Towhee began singing at short regular intervals.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5th toAug. 15th.

(No. 13)

On July 23rd I found a mixed flock containing, besides a number of Chickadees and Kinglets, several young ^{nestlings} Chestnut-sided, Black & Yellow and Black-throated Green Warblers all of which were in full contoured plumage. These Warblers were no doubt raised in the vicinity but where were their parents? I looked the flock over very carefully and under saw that it included no adults of any of the Warblers just named. This and other considerations lead me to believe that prior to this date at least some of the old birds had already departed southward.

Migration

The first unmistakable evidence of migration occurred, however, on the evening of July 29th when I heard Upland Plover passing one at 8.30 and again at 10 P.M. and a Warbler of some kind at 9 P.M. The night was foggy and warm.

The next flight occurred on the night of August 2nd when the weather was clear, still and very warm with a full moon; Upland Plover were heard at 8, 9 and 10 P.M. (as well as just before day-light the next morning). From 8 to 10 P.M. Warblers were migrating in great numbers their piping calls being heard every few minutes. I could detect no northern birds and no accession to the numbers of our local birds the next day but on the contrary, there was an apparent diminution in the number of the local birds. From this I infer that the flight did not come from far to the northward but simply cleared the local flocks.

On August 6th, a clear, warm night, a few Warblers were heard passing overhead between 8.30 and 9 P.M.

On August 9th Warblers in considerable numbers were migrating from 9.30 to 10.30 P.M. The night was cloudy & calm.

August 10th to 16th. Warblers heard in small numbers almost every night. No considerable flight during this period.

New Mexico, Peterborough, N. H.

1898.

July 5 to
Aug. 15.
(No. 14)

As nearly as I can learn by questioning the sportsmen and farmers the Black Bear ceased to exist in a way to visit this region many years ago. Deer were absent for half a century or more but they returned there or four years ago and are now not uncommon. Foxes and Raccoons are very numerous as are also Porcupines and Woodchucks. The Northern Hare and the Coy "Rabbit" are about equally numerous but the former is confined to the swamps and wet holes along the brooks while the latter occupies the higher grounds. A few Otters are still said to linger in Contosook River and Muskrats and Winks are common in the brooks & in Casewagon Pond. The Gray Squirrel is found in considerable numbers and the Red & Chipmunk Squirrels are of course abundant. The Black Rat swarms in Mr. Day's buildings and is said to be the only rat that occurs in this neighborhood.

Mammals

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1878.

July 5 to
Aug. 15
(No. 15)

Scalia hialis. - Several broods of young with their parents seen at different places in fields or pastures. A male in full song July 17th, another working feebly August 9th.

Merula migratoria. - Abundant up to July 20th but after that date seen only occasionally and in small numbers. In full song up to July 21st and heard singing feebly on the 24th, after which all singing ceased.

Turdus merulina. - One in mixed spruce and hemlock woods on the shores of Cunningham Pond, August 2. It acted as if it had young following us about and uttering the sharp challenge cry incessantly. Nevertheless it may have been a migrant for I visited the place many times after ward without finding the bird again.

Turdus pallasi. - If the Hermit Thrushes of this region suffered serious losses in the South during the terrible winter of a few years ago (their numbers have been since very materially diminished in most parts of New England) they must have recovered very rapidly for I have never seen them more abundant than they have been this season. During July they were singing almost everywhere and in white pine woods and old pastures growing up to pines and spruces one might often hear two or three and sometimes even four males at once. They were in full song up to and including August 2, when

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to

Aug. 15

(No. 16)

They ceased very abruptly and generally although I heard a bird singing continuously on the evening of August 6th and another at the same hour on the following evening. During July they sang more or less freely through the day when the weather was cloudy or cool, but when it was clear and warm they were ordinarily silent except in the early morning and at evening.

I noticed that at evening, after finishing singing, they repeatedly called to one another for several minutes before going to sleep, using chiefly the low, whining, Cooey-like e-e-e-e but also giving, not infrequently, the clear, whistling note which they use when migrating at night.

Harporhynchus rufus. - Very common, especially in thickets along the roadsides and in brush-grown pastures. Silent during my whole stay.

Galeoscoptes carolinensis. - Abundant in thickets near the shores of Cunningham Pond and often seen elsewhere along brush-bordered roads. Heard in full song July 6, 20, 23 & 24.

Troglodytes hyemalis. - W. Deane found two males in full song, July 24, in deep woods near the brook on Ben Meier farm. Afterward - on July 29th - I heard what was probably one of these birds singing in the bog near the house.

Sitta carolinensis. - Frequently heard calling near the house on Ben Meier farm through July & the first week of August. Also heard at the Howards' July 29.

Peterborough, New Hampshire

1898.

July 5thAug. 15th

(No. 17)

Parus atricapillus. - Common. Song (flesher) heard July 14 & 20 and Aug. 2 & 9. A nest containing young about ready to fly found Aug. 9th. The hole was near the top of a pile that formed one of the outer supports of the new way of the ice house at Cunningham Pond and was fully 15 feet above the water.

Regulus satrapa. - Abundant in sparse grown pastures and mixed spruce & hemlock woods (See Merri farm, Cunningham Pond and base of Pack Mountain). Heard singing July 6, 18 & 20. A brood of eight or nine young in company with Chickadee & Warbler met within July 23rd.

Mniotilta varia. - Common. Young on wing July 7.

Helminthophila ruficapilla. - Abundant and very generally distributed but seen oftener in sparse-grown pastures and thickets bordering roadides or second growth woods. Previous experience has led me to believe that this species, like H. chrysoparia, does not sing often or freely after the close of June but here it continued in full song up to July 21st when I heard it for the last time (July 7th, 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st). On July 23rd I found two young which had nearly completed their autumnal plumage.

Dendroica coronata. - Found sparingly in sparse, hemlock, and white pine woods. Ceased singing July 21st (July 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st).

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to
Aug. 15.
(No. 18)

Dendroica pennsylvanica. - Common in thickets bordering woods,
flow roads, roadsides and brooks. Silent after
July 20th (July 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 17th, 20th)
Two young birds, seen July 23rd in a mixed flock
of Titmice, Kinglets & Nuthatches, were in full autumnal
plumage.

" blackbreasted. - It would be indeed strange if this
species is not at least fairly common here but
the only individual noted was an adult ♂ seen
by Mr. Deane, July 19, in pasture spaces on
Bear Mere farm.

" maculosa. - Abundant, frequenting open grass pastures
(Bear Mere farm) and open and hardwood woods
(Livingston Pond & base of Park Mountain). At
the bog near our house I frequently heard them and
occasionally from woods adjoining at once. The usual
forms of song here are witthy-witthy-witthy, witthy-witthy
witthy-witthy or witthy-witthy-witthy. Song in full
autumnal plumage seen July 23rd. The old males
continued in full song up to July 30th and I heard
one on August 2nd (July 7th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 19th, 20th, 21st,
24th, 25th, 30th; August 2nd.)

" virans. - Common in white pine, hardwood & spruce woods.
Singing recorded July 11th, 12th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st,
23rd, 24th. Song in full autumnal plumage, July 23rd.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5th
Aug. 15.
(No. 19)

Geothlypis trichas. - Very common in moist thickets in brook meadows and about the shores of ponds and not at all uncommon among bushes bordering stone walls and roadsides on high and perfectly dry ground. The singing heard is as follows: July 17 $\frac{1}{2}$, 18 $\frac{3}{4}$, 19 $\frac{3}{4}$, 20 $\frac{3}{4}$, 21 $\frac{3}{4}$, 23 $\frac{1}{2}$, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$, 30 $\frac{1}{2}$. August 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Sciurus aeneocephalus. - Common in mixed woods and white pine groves. In full song up to July 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ (July 11 $\frac{1}{2}$, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$, 20 $\frac{3}{4}$, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$, 25 $\frac{1}{2}$, 29 $\frac{1}{2}$, 30 $\frac{1}{2}$).

Setophaga ruticilla. - Several pairs found in maple and birch woods at the east end of Cunningham Pond but none noticed elsewhere. Not heard singing after July 12th.

Vireo olivaceus. - Probably the most abundant of the smaller birds and of practically universal distribution but more numerous in mixed woods and old pastures growing up to birches and maples. In full song everywhere up to (and including) August 2nd but on the 3rd & 4th, although the weather continued fine, I did not hear a single bird. It was as if an edict had gone forth declaring absolute silence of the entire region on those days. Afterward there was occasional singing as the following record will show: August 5 $\frac{1}{2}$, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ (singing for a short time at dinner), 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ (singing rather steadily as intervals from 6 to 10 a. m.) 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ (in full song much of the time from 6 to 9 a. m.) 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ (early morning) 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ (do)

Vireo solitarius. - Found only in deep woods near the brook on Ben More farm where two birds were singing near together July 24 and one was heard on July 23, 25, 28 & 29 and on August 1, 2 & 3.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to
Aug. 15.
(No. 20)

Progne subis. - Two or three seen flying over the village
July 25th & 28th. Also heard calling at
New Wren farm August 1st.

Petrochelidon lunifrons. - From one or two to five or six were
seen almost daily on New Wren farm from July 15th
to 31. Evenly in August some good-sized flocks
appeared there associating with the New Wren flocks
& perching on telegraph wires. (August 1st 2⁰, 2⁴⁰,
3²⁰, 12 head).

Tachycineta bicolor. - Two perching on the roof of the barn
at New Wren farm July 22. The species doubtless
breeds in the stubs about Long Pond (E. Joffery's)
for a dozen or more were seen there July 5th.

Chelidon erythrogaster. - Abundant. Nearly every suitable Open
having its colony of breeding birds. There were
eight nests in the barn & one under a thatch on
New Wren farm. On Aug. 5th three of the broods
had flown, on the 11th only one brood remained
in the nest. Feeding began July 20, old & young
birds collecting in long lines on telegraph wires.
(July 20²⁰, 21³⁰, 24³⁰, 28²⁰, 29³⁰, 30²⁰. Aug. 1²⁰,
2²⁰, 3¹⁵, 6²⁰, 7³⁰, 8¹⁰.) The song twitter was
heard constantly through July & up to Aug. 15th.

Chondestes riparia. - Five or six fresh. Feeding nesting holes
in a barrel near the village but no
birds went with. Deane saw a few at Joffery.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to

Aug. 15.

(No. 21)

Ampelis celtorum. - From two or three to six or eight seen daily. On July 20th upwards of thirty were noted at Cuningham Pond where the attraction seemed to be dead bush berries on which the birds were feeding greedily.

Parus erythronotus. - Only one noted - a male in full song for an hour or more within hearing of the house on Beech Hill farm. (Surreal was observed on Joffrey by W. Deane).

Carduelis purpureus. - Apparently uncommon, an old male in full song July 6th and one or two females or young seen in the same place (near the house on Beech Hill farm) July 8, 10, 12 & 18 and Aug. 9, being all that were met with.

Spinus tristis. - Very common and generally distributed.

Although several pairs of birds were evidently breeding near the house and constantly under observation I heard the full song only a few times during my stay (July 18th, 20th, 30th; Aug. 4th, 6th).

I have satisfied myself this season that Mr. Deane is correct in his contention (of Osprey, Nov. 1897) that the summer flight call of the Goldfinch (i.e. the pre-chieoree) invariably begins just as the bird opens its wings after passing the lowest part of its curve. It ends invariably with the completion of the upward curve. In other words the downward sweep is always performed in silence. That is the meaning, by the way, of this galloping flight

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to (Sturnus tristis) with its accompanying perchicorix* call? *I should
 Aug. 15. It appears to be peculiar to the ♂ and to be performed under this
 (No. 22) only in the breeding season; yet the true song and the call
 birds manner of flight when singing, are wholly different. ker-chie-
chee-chee

Pooceter gramineus. - Throughout this region the tropic Sparrows
 appear to have the upland mowing fields
 wholly to themselves and everywhere they are
 abundant. The record of singing is as follows:
 July 5th to 12th (2 or 3 daily) 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 24th
 25th August 8th (all song over at sunrise). The birds noted on
 the 24th were found by Mr. Deane near the
 summit of Poole Mountain.

Turdus hyemalis. - My record for the region lying about
 Bear Mear farm July 7th (Cunningham Pond) 20th July,
 first plumage (in field near our house), 21st (Cunningham
 Pond) 23rd (valley below house) indicates that
 the Turdus is not common at the middle or
 lower levels but on July 24th ^{at sunrise} found it in
 great abundance along the base east of
 Poole Mountain, hearing them, he felt sure,
 the songs of at least a dozen different birds.

Sturnella socialis. - Common about farming lands & houses.
 Vigorous and general singing ceased about
 July 20th but there was occasional ~~singing~~
 or restless singing for two weeks or more after this.
 July 18th 19th 20th 30th August 1st (at sunrise),
 August 3rd (sunrise) 5th (do.) 8th (do.) 9th (do.) 10th (do.)

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to

Aug. 15.

(No. 23)

Spirilla pusilla. - Quite as numerous here as at Belmont & Arlington, Mass. and decidedly more numerous there about Concord, Mass., frequenting chiefly the shrubby along roadsides and old walls and repeated sometimes growing up to birns, spruces etc. Some of these Peterborough birds are remarkably fine singers. One at the box near our house frequently gives two ~~or~~ ~~more~~ trills on different keys, the second lower than the first. Occasionally he adds a third trill on the same key as the first running the three together. The chirp of pusilla is a little louder & fuller than those of socialis.

Melospiza fasciata. - Generally distributed without regard to altitude and nearly everywhere the most commonly represented of the Fringillidae. In full song up to July 24th after which my record is as follows: - July 28th 1, 29th 2, 31st 1, August 1st 2, 2nd 3, 3rd 5, 7th (one only, at sunrise), 8th (sunrise), 9th (early morning), 10th (in full song from sunrise to 5 a.m.)

All the birds of this region (including those on the top of Park Mountain according to W. Deane) have a peculiar, abrupt way of ending their songs. With most of them the song ends with a guttural wet-wet but sometimes it is nearly cut short before the usual termination is reached. This voice, however, seems to me unusually clear and sweet.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to
Aug. 15.
(No. 24)

Zonotrichia albicollis. - Two males sang through July at the
bog just below our house, a third at Cunningham
Pond and a fourth at the base of Park Mountain.
These were all that I met with. They continued
in full song up to (and including) July 29th after
which they maintained absolute silence.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus. - Excepting on Mastha's Vineyard I
have never seen the Towhee so numerous as it has
been this season about Peterborough. Its favorite
haunts here are the neglected pastures where wither
pines, red spruces, hemlocks and gray or paper birches
are springing up in dense clusters or thickets
interfered with openings filled with high blackberry
bushes. but it is also common along wood edges
and brush-gum roadsides. In many places
in the pastures I have had two or even three males
in sight at once perched on the opposite sprays
of young pines or hemlocks, singing in apparent response
to one another. The forms of song oftenest heard
here are seet-bird, ti-ti-ti-ti-ti-ti-ti-ti-ti-ti and
kee-chee, chi-i-i-i-i-i. The best rendering of the
call note has seemed to me on careful study to be
kee-wie given in shrill yet somewhat guttural and
very quavering tones the second syllable thoroughly accented
and ending with a rising inflection as if the bird
was asking a question.

I think the Towhee must be "two-brooded" for
although I saw secondaries of young on wing July 11th
& shortly afterwards the old males continued in full
song unintermittent through July. My record of August

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5th (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) singing is as follows: Aug. 1st,
 Aug. 15th.
 (No. 20)
 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ (in full, continued song from 9 to
 9.15 a.m. weather cloudy & misty at the time).

Passerina cyanea. - Abundant, frequenting chiefly thickets of low
 bushes along stone walls, roadsides and the border
 of woods. The males frequently perch and sing on the
 telegraph wires along the road to the village. They
 continued in full song up August 8th (later than
 any other bird found here) but after the close of
 July their songs, although losing nothing in vigor &
 sweetness, were heard less frequently and chiefly in
 the early morning or at evening. My full record is: -

July 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ 28 $\frac{1}{2}$
 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ August 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ (sang only once,
 at sundown),
 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ (sang once, briefly & feebly, at sundown) 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ (full song
 once 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ a.m.) 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ (once
 10 a.m.)

The song of the Indigo Bird, like that of the Phoebe,
 has a peculiar quality of hoarse sweetness. (Metallid
 sweetness would be perhaps a better term in the
 case of the Indigo). At its best it is one of the
 sweetest as well as most technically perfect songs that
 I know. The finer notes seem to have studied their
 theme with the greatest care for every note is distinctly
 enunciated and nicely inflected yet there is no trace
 of effort or self-consciousness in the smoothly flowing
 yet intricate strain. The inferior notes, however,
 shriller & hesitant do nothing. I have observed that
 they are usually in measure (i.e. down - mottled/
 flourish). The Indigo Bird ~~sings~~ ^{never} ~~then~~ ^{then} does any other of its birds
 I saw broods of young Indigo birds, as young as early
 as July 12th. They were always accompanied by both parents.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to

Aug. 15.

(No. 26)

Passer domesticus. - Confined to the village where it was not numerous the greatest number seen by me on any one visit being less than a dozen.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus. - Mr. Day says that the Bobolink is seen here regularly in spring arriving about May 18th. He thinks a few pairs breed. A flock of about 25 (including several old males seen in black & buff) were seen by Mr. Deane about half-way between our house & the village on July 21. (Seen on July 22 and again on August 10) I heard the chirp note at New Hill farm. Also on Aug. 14, 15

Agelaius phoeniceus. - Apparently rare here as, indeed, it is in most of the elevated, interior parts of New England. The only bird seen by me was an adult ♂ flying over the Contoocook River near Noon's Station (South Peterborough), July 27. Mr. Deane met with a female accompanied by three young at Long Pond, S. Jeffery. His store of water is admirably adapted to the Red-wing's habits than hundreds of the birds would be breeding there were it near the coast.

Peternis galeata. - A brood of young heard calling at intervals near our house on July 12th. On August 2 a single bird was seen by Mr. Peckin.

Corvus americanus. - Common but less numerous than in Boston Massachusetts. Frequently seen feeding in the roads, apparently feeding on horse manure.

Peterborough, New Hampshire

1898.

July 5th

Aug. 15.

(No. 27)

Cyanocitta cristata. - Either uncommon or remarkably silent and retiring through July but seen and heard frequently in August. (Mr. Deane reports them abundant and very noisy in July at Joffrey.)

Tyrannus tyrannus. - Common and very generally distributed throughout the open farming lands. Not less numerous, I should say, than in Eastern Massachusetts.

Sayornis phoebe. - More numerous than I have ever seen them elsewhere in New England. In full song July 20th and 24th; singing feebly July 30th; full song repeated several times at Amherst on August 2nd.

Coutopis virens. - Mr. Deane is positive that he saw two birds here, one near the brook on New Manchester, the other lower down the valley. I did not come into it.

Empidonax minimus. - A few old and young birds, all possibly members of one family, seen or heard in maple & birch woods at the W. end of Cunningham Pond. Full song heard July 6 & 7, feebly singing July 20.

Copelains plicatus. - Mortar holes and fresh chips, unquestionably the work of the Jay were seen by us in these woods at the base of Park Mountain. Mr. Deane also noticed similar signs at Joffrey where, moreover, a farmer assured him that he had seen one of the birds early last Spring.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5th
Aug. 15.
(No. 28)

Colaptes auratus. - Common. Heard "horning" July 4, 8, 17
and 22.

Dryobates villosus. - One in mixed woods near the Cross
on Bear Hill from August 11th.

" pubescens. - Two seen July 11th, one August 1, and
one August 9th.

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. - Not uncommon. First song-call
heard frequently through July and on August 5th,
7th and 10th.

Antrostomus vociferans. - Although the Whippoorwill was not
met with here this season I do not hesitate to
include it on the authority of one former host
Mr. Day who assures me that he has often heard
it on Bear Hill farm in former summers.
It was so abundant at Joffrey in July of this
year that Mr. Deane often heard four or five
and on one occasion his birds, singing in
a high whining.

Ceryle alcyon. - One flew past our house, calling hoarsely, on
July 30th. It was apparently on its way to
Avery's Pond.

Chordeiles virginianus. - The following record includes all the
birds seen or heard by me here: - July 5th 6th 7th 17th
20th 21st August 2nd 7th 10th 14th ^{ing. s.} _{after hours.}
(Abundant at Joffrey when it "bomed" as late as)

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to

Aug. 15.

(No. 29)

Chaetura pelagica. - A pair nesting in the chimney of the old farm house here and others seen almost every evening (as well as during cloudy days), flying about over the fields & woods. The species, however, is evidently much less numerous about Peterborough than at most localities in New England.

Troglodytes colubris. - One seen July 7th, another on the 9th, and a third on the 13th, all about Epilobium blossoms.

Buteo calurus. - A pair of adult birds, seen in mixed woods near the house on the New farm, by Mrs. Deane, July 24th. He had a good view of one of them & heard it utter the Killdeer cry. He also reports seeing others at Jeffrey's.

Accipiter velox. - On July 17th I saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk flying swiftly past our house pursued by a mob of excited Barn Swallows which repeatedly outstepped it and apparently struck at its head from above.

Bonasa. I started an old cock Partridge, July 11th, and heard another drumming at short, regular intervals just before sunset on the evening of August 2nd. A local sportsman tells me that it is by no means unusual to start fifty or even seventy-five birds in a single day in autumn. Whether the former found here is umbellus or topote I know, at present, no means of determining.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to

Aug. 15.

(No. 30)

Colinus virginianus. - On the afternoon of July 11th I was surprised to hear the bob-white of a bird coming from a field near the house. The bird continued whistling at intervals for half-an-hour or more. My sportsman friend (whose bird was at hand) also heard it and was equally surprised for, as he afterwards advised me, the bird is of very rare occurrence here although not uncommon (he says) about Concord, New Hampshire.

Phalaropus lobatus. - My sportsman (a carpenter, by the name of Stratton) further informs me that the Woodcock breeds here regularly in limited numbers and that a good many birds are killed every autumn in flight time. I think I heard one whistle past the house on the evening of August 2nd.

Actitis macularia. - On my arrival I found a Spotted Sandpiper, that evidently had either eggs or young, in a field that had been laid down to grain near the house. Whenever one little spaniel crossed this field the Sandpiper would circle low around him calling peep incessantly in anxious tones and occasionally alighting on a grass-stem. I saw the bird last on July 20th.

Bartramia longicauda. - Heard migrating on the night of July 29th (warm and dusky hour) at 8.30 and 10 P.M. on the night of August 2nd (clear & very warm with a full moon) at 8.9 & 10 P.M., and on the morning of August 3rd at day break.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to
Aug. 15.
(no. 31)

Ardea herodias. - On the afternoon of August 2nd a Great Blue Heron passed high over our house coming from the south-west and flying in the direction of Cuningbarn Pond. As soon as we found what was no doubt the same bird standing in the shallow water near shore at the head of the pond, He was a fine large bird in full adult plumage.

" relicans. - Two at Cuningbarn Pond on July 7, flying about and alighting in the water, calling to one another. One also seen at Long Pond, E. Joffrey, July 25 and one in the same place July 27.

Buteo borealis. - A large female soaring over a pasture at base of Rock Mountain, Aug. 14th.

Circus hudsonius. - An adult ♂ seen staining ten fields on Ben Merri farm

Peterborough, New Hampshire.



Rentonbough, New Hampshire.



Peterborough, New Hampshire



Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1898.

Aug. 18

Clear and bright. Ther. 82° at noon.

I returned to Cambridge yesterday afternoon to prepare for my annual trip to Umbagog. At sunrise this morning I heard a Redstart, a Yellow-throated Vireo, and a Baltimore Oriole sing a few times in loud, clear tones. Three Red-eyed Vireos were in full song for half an hour or more. I was greatly surprised to hear so many near the house. Later in the day a Goldfinch sang at intervals.

The summer has been hot and wet and vegetation has made a rapid growth in the old garden. Hummingbirds are numerous about the flower beds and I hear a Water Thrush chirping in the jungle. There were also two or three Robins and a Brown Towhee this forenoon. The House Sparrows appear to be rather less numerous than usual.

Last summer the garden was infested by House Wren. A large Norway Rat is living there now. Hence it appears that the cat-proof fence is not without its drawbacks. Not a single cat has been seen in the garden this season.

At sunset several Swifts were flying over the garden and later I heard the Screech of a night Heron following the old win path to the Charles River marshes which the stream dredges are now fast destroying.

Bethel, Maine.

1898.

August 21 A hazy day, cloudy for the most part, with frequent showers and occasional bursts of sunshine.

Left Boston yesterday morning at 9 a. m. and reached Bethel at 4.30 P. m. Traveling all the way by rail.

Dr. Gehring was on at the station and drove me to his home where I am to stay until to-morrow.

We spent the greater part of to-day sitting on the piazza or walking about the grounds near the house looking at the Doctor's interesting collection of flowers. There were a great many common birds about, Goldfinches, Chipping, two Phoebe, Song Sparrows, several Hummingbirds etc. A Red-eyed Vireo sang lustily at intervals in the early forenoon. Bobolinks were also heard chucking a down tune or more between 9 and 11 a. m. I think they were passing overhead & probably migrating. Gilbert sang for Baltimore Orioles, two in one place, then in another.

Small
birds.

Night closed in dark and showery but by half-past eight the stars were out & I think remained so most of the time until morning. As soon as it had become fairly dark I began to hear the chirping calls of migrating Woodpeckers and very few minutes the flight call of a Wren's Thrush. This continued up to the time I went to bed (11 P. m.) and after waked, whenever I was awake, I heard ~~both~~ both calls through my open windows. Rarely if ever I know such a tremendous "leech" lasting through an entire night. During most of the time when I was listening the calls came at intervals of only a few seconds and often from three or four points at once.

Heavy
nocturnal
migration

From Bethel to Lakeside.

1898.

August 22

A sunny, very warm and settling day with dense, hazy haze.

Bobolinks were migrating in numbers this morning. I heard them at frequent intervals as I sat on the piazza and once I saw two flying together rather high.

Bobolinks
migrating in
numbers

At noon Gilbert and I started for the lake in Davis's stage. The roads were in good condition and we had a very pleasant and interesting drive. Golden rods, asters and Eupatorium were in full bloom everywhere along the roadsides. The trees for the most part were as green as in midsummer but I noticed a few rock maples that had begun to turn yellowish. For the entire distance the country is unchanged since last year. In fact scarce a tree was missing. However heaven the march of modern "improvement" has not touched this region as yet.

We saw a great many birds. Song Sparrows & ~~Robin-throats~~ Small in the various thickets; Grass Finches and Savannah Sparrows in the grassy fields; clouds of Chipping Sparrows rising from weedy places as the stage rattled by; a Wood Pewee in an apple orchard; two families of Bluebirds, one of them the other of four birds, in Newry; several smaller parties of Kingbirds; three Robins; several Cedar birds; one flock of eight, another of twelve, Night Hawks zig-zagging about, feeding, over the meadow flat in Grafton; a flock of fully fifty Barn Swallows over the same meadow; Barn Swallows everywhere in small parties or singly & one pair feeding young still in the nest; eight or ten Crows; a few Chipping Swifts; a Humming bird; and last but not least a fine female Duck Hawk circling over the woods about a mile north of Grafton meadow.

Night Hawks
Barn Swallow

Duck Hawk

Reached Lakeside at about seven o'clock.

Lake Michigan

Pine Point.

1898

August 23

Cloudy and warm with light south-east wind and occasional showers.

We took the steamer up the Lake this morning reaching Pine Point at about nine o'clock. There were few birds - two or three Ospreys, one Eagle, a Loon, and a Northern Phalarope being the most interesting ones seen during the trip.

The Phalarope was sitting on the water off Black Island. It flew as the steamer approached and went back off one the Lake with the usual erratic flight.

Northern Phalarope.

Spent the remainder of the day putting things in order at the camp and working on the canoe. There were a good many Woodhoop & other small birds on the woods on the point but I had no opportunity to investigate them closely. Heard a Red-eye saying loudly and a Jay call "honny". Several Eagles & Ospreys flying about and a Loon calling in the distance. Once a flock of White-winged Crossbills flew overhead, chattering. There were also a Spotted Sparrow and two Kingfishers flying about the cove.

White-winged Crossbills.

The Lake is very high - almost at spring tides, indeed, the marshes at the Outlet being completely submerged. This argues ill for woodcock but Will Sargent tells me that he saw a number of Golden Plover, Yellow legs & Greas birds a week or so ago before the water (sent down by raising the gates at Middle Dam) covered the feeding grounds.

Little high

Golden Plover
Yellow legs
Plover

Both last night and this I heard Woodhoop & Wilson's Thrushes migrating but the flight was evidently not nearly so heavy or continuous as that noted at Holland on the night of the 21st.

migration

L. K. U.

Pine Point.

1898.

August 24

Sunny and warm much of the day but with threatening cloud masses drifting across the sky and distant thunder late in the afternoon. Shortly after dark it began raining and through the remainder of the night it rained very heavily.

I awoke at daybreak this morning and the first sound that I heard was a rapid ~~whuff~~-~~whuff~~-~~whuff~~ closely resembling the puffing of a steam engine and passing directly over the tent. I knew at once that it was made by the wings of some large bird and a moment later the prolonged, quavering laugh of a loon proclaimed the particular species. Loons often fly over Pine Point in the early morning but seldom or never by day.

Ulimitor
under

At sunrise several birds sang rather freely for a few minutes, a Red-eye, a Canadian Warbler and an Hairy Woodpecker keeping it up the longest. I heard Pileated's Hyla not only at sunrise but during the whole night when I was awake.

Just after breakfast a Horned Grebe alighted on the tent pole in front of the camp remaining there nearly a minute before he discovered our presence.

Bald Eagle
alights on
our pole
Cascade
Porcupine

Both in the afternoon Gilbert discovered a Porcupine in a poplar on the edge of the woods at the extremity of the point. He was sitting erect on a stout branch clasping smaller branches above with his fore paws, his general attitude and the use of the fore paws reminding us all of an ape. When we filled him with pebbles he walked back along the branch and climbed higher up the main stem of the tree, showing it exactly like a Bear. Wild Stom and George Farrowboth arrived by the boat this morning.

1898.

Pine Point

August 25 Heavy rain with S. & W. wind through the forenoon. Afternoon clear. A succession of thunder storms at evening lasting well into the night.

Spent most of the day at camp working on the canvas whenever the rain held up. In the afternoon Bill Stone, Geo. B. Fairhead, & I sailed across the lake to my old camping ground. Saw four Herring Gulls, all old birds, floating together on the water near the Outlet. During the rain storm in the forenoon a Black-bellied Plover was flying about Beeth-head over the lake without any.

" 26 A superb day, cool, with fresh but very steady west wind.

We all went out sailing in the forenoon and again in the afternoon, visiting the submerged Outlet mouths on both occasions and in the afternoon taking a stretch up the lake as far as Whale-back marsh Head Cove. Saw a ♀ Marsh Hawk, a Great Horned Owl, a Wilson's Tern, two Great Sandpeeps, flying over the lake, several Ospreys, four Barn Swallows, a Swift, and a flock of eight Skuas.

There were a few Warblers in the woods on the point but the wind blew so hard that I could not get a good view of them among the trump foliage. Heard White-winged Crossbills chattering in the air overhead. At sundown a Canadian Warbler sang a few times & later a Red-eye warbled a little in broken tones. No migration either east or west.

Outlet.Sailing on
Lake.marsh
HeadW. TernGreat S.OspreyWarblersWhite wingCrossbills.Birds insong

1898.

August 27

Clear and cool with strong east wind. The sunset was unusually fine.

Spent most of the day looking over the lake taking the launch out in the afternoon. Saw nothing of much interest. A flock of Leontine Black Ducks, the first that I have noted here this season, passed over us late in the afternoon when we were off Pine Point carrying directly over one of the canoes within good gunshot - a most exceptional occurrence.

Sailing on the lake.

Black Ducks

Lake Umbagog

1898.

August 28

Clear with light S. to S. E. breeze alternating with periods of dead calm. A dense fog in the early morning.

Awaking at day break I heard ^{either Rose-breasted Grosbeaks or} Swainson's Thrushes calling out over the lake. There seemed to be a number of them and they were evidently wandering about, bewildered, in the fog for the sound of their voices approached and receded many times and continued altogether at least ten minutes. Later in the morning Mr. Sargent, while rowing to B. Moore Point, saw two dead birds floating on the water but he did not pick up either of them.

There was a large mixed flock of small ~~water~~ birds on the Point this morning and I spent sometime trying to identify them but they kept in the tops of the tallest trees and I made out only a very few among which were a Bay-breasted Warbler, a Black-burnian and two Lesser Warblers. I heard one of the last-named singing freely. A Canadian Warbler and a Black-throated Green were in nearly full song earlier in the morning. Red-eyed Vireos sang at intervals during the whole day and one of them was in good voice. A Solitary Tanager was singing loudly on the Mygaleway early in the forenoon.

At 8 a. m. we all started across the lake each in a sailing canoe. We entered Leonard's Pond at the eastern end, passed around the island by the northern channel, thence down the Androssaggin to the Mygaleway and back to camp by way of Mell's Carry and across the Outer marshes now five or six feet under water.

Pine Point.vs
migrationMixed
flock on
Pine Point.

Bay-breasted W.

Birds in
songLeonard's P.
& Outer
marshes

1898.

August 28
(No 2)

Later in the afternoon Mr. Storn and I walked through the woods to Osgeard's Point. Last autumn the guides threw a half-bushel of salt on the ground near this path. The deer find it and the effect of their visits to the place is surprising enough. Over a space of a quarter of an acre or more there is not a trace of vegetation save that represented by the larger trees—not a fern, nor a patch of moss, nor so much as the smallest leaf or blade of grass. The ground everywhere is trampled smooth and hard and in several places holes a foot or two deep and a yard in diameter have been dug. The whole area looks like a much used cattle pen.

As we were sitting on the rocks at the end of Osgeard's Point we saw a number of Shearwaters round the S.W. extremity of Pine Point about half a mile away. As they were heading towards us we decided to sit still and see if they would not come past us watching them the while through our glasses. It might have concealed ourselves easily enough but I wanted to test the truth of a statement that Mr. Johnson had made to the effect that Shearwaters will not notice a man in the most exposed situation provided he remains motionless. These birds came on rapidly following every indentation of the rocky shore, now they are in single file, next scattered about or huddled closely together, occasionally thrusting the water with their wings and frequently diving.

Pine Point

We put
out salt
for Deer
with
astounding
results.

^{or X}
Merganser
American

1898.

August 28
(No. 3)

THE GULLS

Osgood Point.

Merganser
Americanus.

I had several opportunities for watching the threatening performance closely and I am satisfied that on this occasion, at least, it was not performed, as has been suggested, for the purpose of driving fish in shore. The birds did not first arrange themselves in a semicircle as had been described (in Forbes & Stearns) nor did they move towards the shore while beating their wings. On the contrary they simply kept on their way (over in bright file), first beating their wings and ^{then} just ducking under for a moment at the end of the "threatening". The whole thing seemed to me to be done in three spots. Black Ducks indulge themselves in much the same way but less frequently.

When diving for fish the Sheldracks often spring forward quite out of water and arching their backs cleave the surface so deftly as to leave scarce a ripple. Their dives were usually short and invariably made in the general direction in which the flock was moving. That is to say they were turned back but occasionally a bird would come safe a little way out from shore when it would at once paddle hurriedly in to join its comrades.

At length the flock reached us and rounded the point within three feet of the shore and not over half feet from where we were sitting! Yet so far as we could make out not a bird discerned us or even suspected the presence of danger. There was just a breath of them and for a moment or two a blast would have covered them all.

1898.

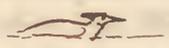
LADY GOWAN

Osquard's Point

August 28
(No 4.)

Beautiful creatures they were with their soft gray
plumage and fluffy, taney crests carried low down on
the head and terminating in delicately drawn points

Merganser
Americanus

 Just as they came abreast of us each
bird lowered its bill suddenly and thrust its
head beneath the surface until the water came about
half-an-inch above its eyes. In this attitude and
without for an instant checking their speed they
paddled steadily on and passed out of our
sight behind a projection of the shore. Will Sargent
tells me that he has often seen Shorelarks partially
immerse their heads in this way & he agrees
with me ^{in believing} that it is done for the purpose
of enabling the bird to discover its fishy prey
without the trouble of diving.

After passing the point these Shorelarks entered
our Duck Cove and exhibited it finally passing
out around the next point beyond. During the
whole time that we watched them they must
have covered nearly a mile of shore line. I do
not doubt that they often traverse a dozen miles
a week in a day keeping all the while within
a few yards (often within three or four feet) of
the water's edge.

1898.

August 29

Cloudy with strong S. E. wind.

Spent most of the day sailing canvas off the point where the strong wind and heavy sea made the sport exciting enough. Saw very few birds and nothing of any special interest. A Red-eyed Vireo warbled occasionally during the forenoon but there was no other flying.

Sailing on
the Boiler

Will Sargent tells me that late last autumn (in November he thinks) his brother Sumner saw a Snowy Owl at the Meadows of Richardson's Lake. It was perched on an upturned root at the water's edge. Just as he was about to shoot it flew and rising above the trees made off over a point of land. He afterwards came on its again further up the lake & fired at it catching one of two wing feathers which he describes as brown white with black markings.

Snowy Owl
on
Richardson's
Lake

At about noon to-day I was surprised to hear a Great Flycatcher directly in front of the camp. First it called whit a few times and then it gave at least a dozen chab in quick unbroken succession but in rather feeble tones.

Great
Flycatcher

Owls are either scarce or very silent this year. I heard the first to-night, a Great Horned Owl that hooted a dozen times or more (at 8.30 P.M.) in the direction of Mossy Rock.

1898.

August 30

Early morning clear, still, warm. A strong west wind and drifting cloud masses during the remainder of the day.

The night was clear and warm. Heard Wrens chirping at intervals but the flight was neither heavy nor continuous. From 7 to 8 a. m. the Point was alive with small birds among which I identified Chickadees, Canada Nuthatches, a Downy Woodpecker, a Black-throated Green Warbler, a Black-burnian, two Black-throated Blue Warblers, a Solitary Tanager, a Red-eye, a Goldfinch, a Junco, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a Blue Jay & a Downy Woodpecker.

The two Wrens were in full song for some time; the Black-burnian sang feebly for several minutes, at brief intervals.

The Grosbeak, a young ♂ with the whole breast suffused with pale rose color, alighted in the tall pine in front of the camp when he sat for several minutes creaking teck and peep.

At about noon Bill Sargent saw a Hummingbird fly into our open shed camp where it alighted on the corner of our dining table. It may have mistaken the dark crimson table cloth for a bed of flowers.

We spent the day down the Andersons-creek-trail down, Green Falls-creek, Jim, & I - going in four canoes and visiting Sweet and Curtis Meadows and Emerald Hill Pond. I did not go in to the last, however, but waited by the brook while the others went. Two Solitary Wrens were singing near me and Jays screamed at intervals.

There was no water food in either Sweet Meadows or Emerald Hill Pond but in Curtis Meadows we started 23 Black Ducks and two Wood Ducks, the latter among the Wood the fallen logs at the inlet. Heard two Hudsonian Chickadees T. Hudsonian calling near this inlet.

Pine PointMigrationHummingbirdSweet M.Curtis M.Emerald HillPond.Black DucksWood "

L. S. Silliman

1898.

August 30
(No 2)

Several mixed flocks of warblers were seen in the woods along the Androsippien but I had no opportunity to determine them closely. In Great Marshes 30 or 40 Barn Swallows were flying over the water and I saw three or four Barn Swallows near the Outlet of the Lake.

Barn Swallows
Barn "

Several Ospreys and one fine adult Bald Eagle were seen during the day. Eagles are comparatively scarce this year although Blackland is said to have trapped only one.

Ospreys
Eagle

A number of the maples along the Androsippien have begun to turn and I saw several that had attained their full autumnal coloring as have trees at our landing at Pin Point.

Autumn
foliage.

We came home late in the afternoon most easily and pleasantly sailing practically the entire distance from the head of Carter's Marshes to Pin Point.

1898.

August 31

Early morning clear and calm with fleecy masses of clouds running swiftly across the sky foretelling the strong north-west wind which started at 8 a. m. and blew all through the remainder of the day.

Pine Point.

During the whole of the early part of last night and afterwards, whenever I was awake, I heard Warblers and ^{either Mockers or Throats} calling incessantly. The flight must have been practically continuous and of unusual vigour. When I awoke at grey dawn, this morning the calls were still coming from every direction. At 5.30 a. m. when I went down to the cove for my bath I found the woods literally swarming with Warblers. They kept in the tops of the tallest trees and were very restless & nervous chirping incessantly and taking long flights across the cove & over the woods. At 6 a. m. they began rising from every part of the woods on both sides of the cove, mounting to a height of 300 or 400 feet and then flying off in various directions in small parties. Sometimes one would chase another, in play apparently, but most of them seemed to be impelled by some desire of ill-defined purpose. The majority ^{descended} returned and shot down into the tree tops on the point only to make another general start a few minutes later, repeating this many times. There were so many in the air at once that it was impossible to keep track of them all and I am by no means sure that a good many did not follow the example of two birds (D. coronata, I think) which started with the first flight from the Point and keeping

Migration

*

1898

Pine Point.

* Migration

1898.
August 31
(No. 2)

close together continued rising until they had attained an elevation of at least 2000 feet. They then started due south (i.e. directly down the lake) flying on an apparently level plane and in a most curious manner, alternately flapping and scaling on set wings like a Gannet or Shearwater. There was, moreover, something connected with this manner of flight which made the birds look more than double their usual size. When they were fully a mile distant I could see them distinctly with the naked eye, and with the glass I followed them to beyond ^{base} Pine Point, or more than two miles from the place where I was standing. When I finally lost them they were keeping straight on down the lake. Just before they passed beyond my vision I happened to raise the glass slightly when I made out a cloud of small birds flying above the Yellow-rumps at a very much greater elevation and flapping & scaling in the same manner. The conditions were unusually favorable for an observation of this kind the air being very clear and the sky to the horizonward of a dead, opaque white against which the dark little forms showed distinctly. It is possible, also, that there was some magnifying quality in the atmosphere at the time.

While my attention was absorbed by watching the two Warblers, just unnoticed all the others must have left the Point for good for when I turned & walked back to camp the woods were silent & deserted. Later in the day a few small birds appeared in the birch grove. At about dinner I heard an Oven bird sing twice & afterwards a Solitary Vireo & a Red-eye sang a little.

*

Late October

Pine Point

1898.

September 1

Last night was clear still and warm (60° at 9 P.M.) with a nearly full moon. Up to 9 a. m. to-day the sky was cloudless and there was not a breath of wind. Later a S. E. wind arose and the sky clouded over. There has been no fog the past two nights.

Hawks and Swainson's Thrushes were migrating all last night but I heard them at infrequent intervals and only in small numbers. An immense flight must have reached here about daybreak, however, for when I went down to the cove at 5.30 the woods all over the Point were simply filled with little birds. Indeed I do not think I have ever seen so many there before. For an hour after this they were exceedingly nervous and restless keeping high up in the trees, continually dashing hither and thither in small parties and every few minutes rising above the woods and leaving the Point in large numbers. They rose in spirals and to such a height that I could not follow them even with my glass. Sometimes practically all would depart in the course of a few minutes but ten or fifteen minutes later there would be as many on the Point as before. As nearly as I could make out successive large flocks came from the north, flitting from tree to tree through the woods, and each flock on reaching the end of the Point mounted high in air and started on a more or less extended aerial journey southward but it is possible that there was only one flock and that it made a number of "false starts", returning to the Point after each in such a manner as to elude my observation.

On this as it may the movements ceased at about 7 a. m. after which, for two or three hours, the birds were much less restless and occupied themselves almost wholly in feeding. During this period they were quite as numerous as at any time earlier in the morning. They were spread

*

Migration

Date: _____

Pine Point.

1898.

September 1

(No 2)

pretty evenly over the entire Point but I found the greatest numbers in the birch grove near the camp. Following the foot paths which give easy access to every part of these woods I took as complete and careful a census of the flock as possible but the birds kept chiefly in the tops of the trees and the density of the foliage made it difficult to identify them. Indeed I doubt if I made out all the species present and certainly very many of the individuals escaped my notice. Here is the list which I made.

✳
Big mixed
flock.

1. Turdus brewsteri? - Heard sing, last night. ^{Am. - breasted Grosbeak (9 June Sept 201} Perhaps all these birds are really
2. Troglodytes hyemalis. - None or young
3. Parus atricapillus. - 7 in or by.
4. Regulus satrapa. - Several; one in full song for several minutes
5. Helminthophila ruficapilla. - Three or four
6. Minioptila varia. - Full song heard twice but no bird seen.
7. Empidonax griseus. - One in full song, found a few seen
8. Dendroica coronata. - 7 in or by in autumn plumage.
9. " castanea. - One ♀ or juv. ♂ with only a trace of song or flight.
10. " flavica. - One young bird
11. " maculosa. - Full song 8 or 10 times 6 A.M. About 8 birds seen
12. " pennsylvanicus. - One young bird wholly without constraint.
13. " viridis. - Two young birds
14. " caerulea. - At least a dozen of better sizes.
15. " caerulea. - A young ♀ deep, pure yellow beneath, in top of tall birch.
16. Setophaga ruticilla. - ♂ ad. in full song for 10 minutes, 8 A.M. Also ♀ a juv. ♂.
17. Vireo olivaceus. - One in full song, two singing feebly, several seen
18. " solitarius. - One singing feebly.
19. Ampelis cedrorum. - Heard
20. Coereba c. minor. - 7 birds heard
21. Spirurus tristis. - One heard.

1898.

Pine Point

- September 22. Habia ludoviciana - One chipping
(no 3) 23. Corvus americanus - Two
24. Empidonax flaviventris - One
25. Chordeiles pictus - Two flying over
26. Ceophthalmus pileatus - One showing
27. Picoides arcticus - " chipping
28. Dryobates villosus - " hoop
29. Spizopneuste vociferans - One seen flying
30. Accipiter velox - Adult ♀ in birds grove watching the little birds
31. Pandion carolinensis - One flying past the Point
32. Merganser americanus - A flock of twelve swimming close under the Point.

I have never seen the woods on Pine Point more beautiful than they were this morning with the low sun sending shafts of light in among the densely-growing, white-throated birds. The presence of the birds lent an added interest, of course. At one time I was surrounded by warblers which were making the branches shake and the foliage tremble on every side while a Sharp-shinned Hawk sat perched within twenty yards watching them on the birds and a dozen Shrikes were swimming and diving close under the rocky shore on my left and not thirty yards away.

Dendroica coronata has two notes which closely resemble those of the Junco. One is a soft teep, the other a twittering flight call (ti-ti-ti-ti-ti) of undingly like that made by the Junco when first taking flight but less loud. These warblers are exceptionally numerous here this autumn. I saw at least a dozen this morning. They are often seen in the tops of tall trees at this season.

*
An interesting
experience

Dendroica
coronata
(Call notes)

1898.

Pine Point.

September 2 Last night was cloudy and warm with a light rain. There was a thin fog at daybreak. The forenoon was cloudy, hazy and dead calm. Heavy thunder showers from 7 P.M. to midnight.

Cf. Journal
for Sept 20

I heard a few Warblers, Swainson's Thrushes and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks² migrating at intervals through the night. At daybreak a Bay-breasted Warbler sang a dozen times or more. He was in fairly good voice and must have been an old bird. Later a Solitary Tanager and one or two Red-eyes sang in flocks, broken tones.

Migration

About fifty Warblers spent the forenoon on the Point keeping down their usual feeding busily among the Grebes and alders along the shore. I looked them over very carefully and found among them a young(?) ♂ Helminthophila celata and a ♀ Dendroica tigrina, both in full autumn plumage. There were also two Canada Warblers, one Black-burnian, a number of Nashvilles, Black & Yellows, Black-throated Greens, Black-throated Blues, Yellow-rumps and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Big mixed flock

Hel. Celata

D. tigrina

One of the Yellow-rumps, a ♀ in worn breeding plumage, was feeding a brood of young which were still in first plumage.

D. coronata

feeding

An unusually tame Boon, a young bird in gray dress, fishes off the Point and at the mouth of the boat cove nearly every day, often working close in shore.

young.

Rabbits appear to be scarce on the Point this year and there are not as many Red Squirrels as usual. Chipmunks are in the usual numbers. We have turned at least four which will eat or rather take care from our hands carrying it off to their store houses. We have seen no Flying Squirrels as yet. Porcupines visit our door yard every few nights.

Rabbits

Red Squirrels

Chipmunks

Porcupines

1898.

September 3

A beautiful day, clear with fresh W. wind which died wholly away in hour before sunset. Evening still clear & very warm.

I heard no birds migrating last night and there were practically none on the point this morning except the local Titmice, Kinglets etc. But a flight of unusual magnitude began this evening as soon as it became fairly dark and lasted until I went to bed at 9 P. M. During this period Woodpeckers and Thrushes were calling incessantly in the star-lit sky. I do not think that I have ever heard so many Thrushes before in any one evening. Perhaps some of them were Rose-breasted Grosbeaks for I am not sure that I can always tell the night call of the latter from that of Harrison's Thrush. All the small birds heard to-night seemed to be flying lower than usual and very many of them passed, apparently, just over the tops of the trees on the Point.

Will Stone and I spent the day on the Megalloway going in two of the sailing canoes and paddling up river as far as Bear Brook. He landed at Pulpit Rock and visited the big boulders on the hillside above. He saw very few birds - a pair of Whistlers, two Kingbirds and two Cedar birds at Bear Brook pond, a flock of White-winged Crossbills at Pulpit Rock, a solitary Vireo, several Swamp Sparrows & a Black & White Cuckoo. Sailed the whole of the way back reaching camp at about 4 P. M.

Pine Point

Migration

Megalloway
River.

Kingbirds

White-winged

Cuckoo

1898.

September 4

Clear, warm and still with a thunder storm
in the early evening.

Spent the day near camp photographing Chipmunks
etc. Very few birds about although there was a good
flight last night, Warblers & Grosbeaks passing overhead between
8 and 9 P.M. in immense numbers. Saw a ♂ Sharp-shinned
hawk in the brick yard this morning. As I was watching
him he left his perch and gliding with incredible
swiftness through the trees struck with both feet
into a bush of leaves. He did not harm anything in
his talons when he came out nor did I see
anything fly away.

- " 5 Another clear, still and very warm day followed by
a calm, ^{partly} cloudy & warm night.

At daybreak this morning I heard a number of
Warblers chirping and a party of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks
singing as they circled over the Point. The Geese
apparently settled down for the day as I heard them
calling to one another at breakfast time but there
were very few Warblers on the Point at any time.
I saw one Black-burnian & heard an Urban Warbler
and two Red-eyed Vireos singing.

Later in the afternoon I saw some Black Ducks
flying up the Lake & afterwards I heard others
grackling on Moon Point.

A fairly heavy flight of Warblers started this
evening some after dark & continued until
bed time. I also heard Grosbeaks several times.

Pine Point.Migration



Table of Contents







Lake Umbagog

1898.

September 6

Still another clear, calm and very warm day.

Although I heard a good many Woodpeckers & Grosbeaks migrating just before daybreak, as well as earlier in the past night, there were only a few small birds on the Point through the day. Parula Warblers and Red-eyed Vireos were singing most of the forenoon and with almost as much energy and persistence as if it had been June instead of September. Apparently they were old birds. I also heard a Kinglet and a Solitary Vireo sing a few times. I do not think that I have ever before heard so much autumn singing as here, during the past week. It has been due, no doubt, to the continued warm, still weather. Yesterday and the day before Bullfrogs were thumping all around the lake.

On the 3rd I found on Shepard F'ing and to-day a Wood F'ing. Hypos have been calling incessantly, night & day. Mosquitoes have been very common & troublesome the past two evenings.

Along the shores of the lake & near the woods are turning slowly and some of them are already quite common but in the woods only two *Scolecophila* lizards have been found.

The weather was settling and the sky heavily clouded this evening but as soon as it became dark and it became very dark indeed by 8 o'clock - Woodpeckers and Grosbeaks began flying in great numbers. Indeed up to the time I went to bed (10 P.M.) they were calling almost incessantly in every direction; later it began raining heavily & continued through the night. This is migration of small birds have been unusually heavy & continuous for the past week.

Walter Stone & I spent the greater part of the day photographing.

Pine Point.

Migration

Usnea Warblers
singing freely

Other birds
singing

Autumn
foliage

Migration

1898.

September 7

Morning sunny and very warm. Afternoon cloudy with heavy showers. Much cooler at evening.

Spent the day about camp taking a short sail on the boat in the forenoon. A Red-eyed Vireo and a House Wren singing freely, a Black-throated Blue Warbler in full song for several minutes at about 8 a. m. Very few small birds on the Point this morning although a good many warblers and a few Grackles were heard migrating last night.

L. E. O'Connell.





1898.

September 8

A brilliantly clear day with fresh N. to S. breeze. Early morning cool, mid day warm (68°).

Taking advantage of the unusually heavy & steady breeze we spent practically the entire day in the sailing course beating about between Pine Point and the Outer marshes in the forenoon, in the afternoon going to Rapid River and sailing both ways as well as up to the river to the head of the island above the old piers.

The rain and wind made so much noise last night that I heard no sound of migrating birds & there were very few fowls on the Point this morning.

While off Pine Point this forenoon we saw a northern Phalarope starting at a number of times. It was very restless continually making short flights from place to place, alighting frequently & bobbing on the waves with a cock. Once I saw it fly straight upward from the water & catch a flying insect, then alight on the spot where it started. It called quie, quie when stretched. I sailed very close past it within ten or twelve feet.

Saw two Eagles, a Red-tailed Hawk, a Broad winged Hawk, two Ospreys (the first for this season), and a Skuasaker, at Rapid River. On the Outer marshes started a Great Blue Heron and two Black Ducks & saw a Marsh Hawk & two Saw Swallows circling about. A ♂ Picoides arcticus was humming at the trunk of a dead balsam near the camp this evening just before sunset.

Sailing
on the
Loche.

Northern
Phalarope

Rapid River.
Eagles
Red-tail H.

Earl Swallow
Picoides arcticus

Little Chats

1898.

September 9

Similar to yesterday but with less wind. Early morning
densely foggy.

Pine Point.

Only a few warblers migrating last night, although the
conditions seemed favorable, and scarce half-a-dozen seen
on the Point to-day. Probably the greater number have
already gone south. There seen a heard to-day were
Black-throated Blue, Yellow-wings and Black-throated
Green Warblers. One of the last song fairly as did a
Red-eyed Vireo.

Migration

Just before day break I heard the flight call of a Thrush
or Grosbeak in the distance. The bird appeared suddenly
and circled low over the Point as I could tell by
the distance & direction of its notes. Finally it alighted
in the bushes very near the tent and began making
the whining e-e-e cry of a Hermit. Up to this time
I had not been able to work up my mind whether
the bird was a Thrush or a Grosbeak; the night calls of
the two are really almost indistinguishable I fear.

Hermit Thrush

When I first looked out from the tent at about
half-past five the lake was densely shrouded in fog.
As I stood listening to the cry of a loon some
twice rolling out from the shore attracted my attention
to a file of Sheldrakes that were passing within twenty
yards of me close in under the rocks. I counted
six of them. A few moments later I saw them
crossing the mouth of the boat cove, leaving deep
furrows in the glossy surface. I could trace each
furrow to its apex after the grayish colored bird that

Merganser
americanus

1898.

September 9
(Wed)Trip down the Lake.

was walking it had become completely merged in
 the gray fog.

At 8 a.m. Will Stone and I started down the Lake
 into Will's dugout in the big boat. The fog was rising
 and breaking into scattered fragments under the influence
 of the breeze, apparently, for the surface of the Lake
 remained unrippled for half an hour longer. I
 have rarely seen the mountains more beautiful than
 they were this morning as we saw them through
 the sea-~~land~~ ^{land} wreaths of dissolving mist.

Near Mitchell's Island we witnessed a singular phenomenon
 the like of which one of us had ever seen before.
 The sun had risen well above the trees and the
 Lake was still perfectly calm. About 200 yards from
 us to the N.W. the surface of the water over a space
 apparently fifty feet long by five or six feet wide appeared
 to be colored with the most vivid gold, crimson, copper &
 violet and pale yellowish green. Presently this brilliant
 belt faded slowly & disappeared when another similar
 one appeared to the West of us. At first we thought
 there must be some floating matter such as fine
 freestone but this was certainly not the case. Then
 we suspected that we were looking at reflections from
 a "sun dog" but nothing of the kind could be detected
 in the cloudless sky. ~~The~~ final & no doubt ^{the} true
 explanation, was that some thin wreaths of mist, lying
 on a very near the water, were tinged by the
 sun's rays, or possibly that they acted as prisms
 for the colors were noticeably prismatic in character
 and very solid as well as brilliant.

X
Singular
 phenomenon
 of colored
 fog.

1898

1898.
September?
(No 3)

We saw two Phalaropes. One, a very large light-colored bird, was, I think, a Red Phalarope but it was so far away that I could not make sure of its identity. The other was a young G. hypoleucum. It was sitting on the water and I paddled the boat up to within twenty feet of it where we stopped and watched it for several minutes with our glasses. It was behaving in the most singular way turning around and around very rapidly dozens of times on the same spot & in the same direction thrusting its bill deep down into the water then a few times during each turn and evidently getting an abundance of food of some kind too minute to be visible to our eyes. At length it saw us and stretching up its neck uttered three or four but distinct scats almost exactly like that of a Wilson's Snipe. Then it flew giving the usual Sanderling-like guit, guit just as it left the water. It alighted again about 100 yds. off and began fluttering about in circles alternately flitting & rising just above the surface for all the world like a big moth, occasionally ^{raising} ~~flapping~~ ^{wings} ~~flapping~~ ^{spread} to a height of several feet & apparently collecting some flying insect. Surely the Northern Phalarope is an exotic little fellow.

Red (?)
Phalarope

Northern
Phalarope



Lake Umbagog

1898

September 10

Forenoon cloudy; afternoon clear with strong N. W. wind. Magnificent cloud effects at sunset.

We spent the forenoon taking and developing photographs while the men were at work getting the house boat ready for a trip down the lake. We started immediately after dinner and had a glorious sail covering the distance to Upton in about three hours and dropping anchor at our old station near Peaslee's ~~Spring~~. While crossing the upper part of the lake we saw a Herring Gull. As we entered the Cambridge marshes (now submerged but with some grass showing about the edges & along the river banks) a small flock of Black Ducks rose and cycled over the woods. At evening saw a two Great Blue Herons come flying past our boat.

Sailed the
house boat
to Upton.

Lake Umbagog



1898.

September 11

Cloudless with strong N.W. wind. Very cool in the early morning with frost in the low places.

Trip up
Cambridge
River.

We spent the day up Cambridge River taking the hunting boat and canvas and leaving guides and guns behind. Starting at about 7 A.M., paddling very slowly, often stopping or landing to take a rest we reached B. Meadows at eleven o'clock and after going up there nearly to the middle of the open ground we returned to the Falls for lunch and a long rest and talk afterwards, lying on the sand bar, with the little river eddying fast at our feet and the shaggy, natural meadow stretching off into dim distance towards the east. Then we started back reaching the Falls just before sunset.

On the way up the river we saw a Solitary Sandpiper, a Great Blue Heron, a Bittern, two Kingfishers, and a number of small birds chiefly Yellow-rumped Warblers. Winter Wrens were very numerous and there were a few Maryland Yellowthroats along the river banks. A flock of five Red Crossbills flew over us and Cedar Birds were heard chirping several times. Two Flickers were "chattering" almost as freely & frequently as if it were May instead of September & both were in the depths of the woods far up from the hillsides. There were actually the only Woodpeckers noted.

Heron, Bittern,
Kingfishers.

Red Crossbills
Flickers
"chattering"
freely.

On the way down we started a Wood Duck from beneath some overhanging alders.

Jim Mc. had a number "water" snakes vs. They had been above the Sluice and had with them an adult & Broad-winged Hawk which they had

LAND BIRDS

1898

September 11
(No. 2)

that with a rifle, the ball ~~striking~~ its wing badly. It was a fine bird, very spirited in flying, with flashing hard eyes. I bought it for a trifle and after photographing it, perched on mossy stump, I killed it for there was no hope of its recovery.

Just as we were leaving the horse boat this morning we saw two Sparrows Hawks playing together, chasing an another along the shore, alighting on the lopsided sprays of the pines and spruces. Some of their aerial evolutions were very graceful and beautiful. While we were at the Falls another bird of the same species passed directly over us.

Sparrows
Hawks

As we were paddling down the river at about 3 P.M. we saw a Great Horned Owl. It was quite as alert and shy as a Hawk, starting from an ash tree close among the water where we were fully eighty yards away & flying back into the woods where it alighted on a large branch and sat watching us while we looked at it through our field glasses. With frequent calls we soon saw other Great Horned Owls along the banks of the Cambridge. He thinks they are attracted there by the muskrat which they prey upon freely.

Bubo
virginianus

Lak Takang.





Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Lake Umbagog

Prin Point.1898.
September 12

Clear and cool with strong W. wind which died away at sunset.

Spent the day about the boat taking a number of photographs. Late in the afternoon we went out in the canoe going nearly to Lakeside. Saw two Hens and three house Ducks. The latter were feeding along the edge of some grass just below our umbagog. One of them was a drake in full plumage.

" 13

Clear and much warmer with dense fog in the early morning and a strong S. wind in the afternoon.

Return to
Prin Point

At 8 a.m. the steamer appeared and took us in tow getting the home boat back to Prin Point two hours later. The boat was exquisitely beautiful this morning when the fog cleared. As we were passing out of the mouth of the Cambridge we saw five Sparrows, three Hens and two Gulls, flying about low over the water.

" 14.

Clear and calm. Spent the day about camp. At 8 a.m. heard a Yellow-rumped Warbler singing at home, regular intervals in the woods behind the camp and finally saw the bird sitting on the opposite shore of a tree trunk. I think it must have been an old male but it was impossible to make out details of color & markings against the bright sky. Its song was full and finished but somewhat listless. A solitary Wren and Parula Warbler were also singing.

Yellow-rumped
Warbler in
field song

Went to Lakeside by boat to meet the Melvins this evening

Lake Umbagog



Labiata



1898.

September 15

Clear and warm with fresh S. E. breeze in P. M.

Spent last night at Balaclava. Mr. & Mrs. Melvin and Mr. Baker arrived by the evening stage and Will Stone left for Balaclava this morning. The rest of us took the morning boat for Pine Point. The day was spent in getting our things in order.

Will Stone
departs &
the Melvins
arrive

About an hour before sunset Melvin and I got out our guns and went to Moon Point. I have seen a few Ducks alight there at evening of late and have heard others quacking after dark but I did not suppose that any number were resorting there and expecting at the most only two or three shots I took but six shells of # 4 shot & two of # 8. I went in the old fishing canoe, Melvin taking a guide to the big boat. Scarcely had we reached the mouth when the Ducks began alighting and for the next hour or so they came thick and fast, singly, in pairs or threes, and in small flocks. I have not seen such an evening flight before for one twenty years, although I have often seen as many or more more birds arrive in two or three large flocks. Had we been well placed & concealed and abundantly supplied with shells we might easily have killed twenty five or thirty birds. They came in boldly and low down evidently suspecting no danger. Many birds passed us within a few yards & several alighted very close by. I fired five shots and bagged a Mott Duck, a Wood Duck and a Hooded Merganser. Melvin got a Wood Duck & a Coot (Fulcr)

Evening at
Moon Point

Arrival of
the Ducks

I shoot
three Ducks

LAK. IDAHO

1898.

September 15

(No 2)

In all we have seen at least seventy or eighty Black Ducks, fifty Wood Ducks and between a dozen and fifteen Hooded Mergansers. Besides a Loon (*Colymbus aurus canadensis*), which was flying in company with four Black Ducks.

Melvin saw the *Fulica* swimming about in the flooded grass & watched it for a long time. It finally disappeared in the grass but a little later while passing the boat across the marsh he flushed and shot it. It is only the second bird of this kind that I have ever seen at Unweyog.

At Baderia this morning I heard a White-bellied Nuthatch calling woat-woe-woe at short, regular intervals for ten or fifteen minutes.

Moss. T. S.
at
Unweyog.

Fulica
canadensis

Sitta carolinensis
singing in
autumn.

1898.

Sept. 16

Cloudy with occasional showers.

2 Moon Point with Melvin at camp. Only a very few Ducks come in and we did not see either of us get a shot. A flock of Western Rusty Grackles came past very close flying just above the top of the grass and finally alighting in some half submerged bushes.

Moon Pt.
at
evening.

Megalloway River, Maine

1898.

September 17

Clear with strong W. wind.

The Melvins, Mr. Baker and I left camp at 10 a.m. on the Steamer Canal for the Upper Megalloway, taking three guides (Jim Berwin, Will Sargent and Belsworth Bantoul) and their boats. Fred Flint went up at the same landing and drove us and our boats & camped out first to his house where we spent the night. Jim Berwin went to the dam at the head of Oakes Falls and camped about thirty miles from here before dark.

On the lower Megalloway saw three Whistlers & a few Kingfishers. A flock of about 40 Crows on the hillside opposite Flint's arching about and alighting, making a great clatter and acting like migrants.

Whistlers
Big flock of
Crows

Upper Megalloway River, Maine

1898.

September 18

Early morning densely foggy; forenoon cloudy with heavy rain; afternoon clearing with a bright sunset.

From Flints
to the
Meadow Camp

Left Flints at 9 a. m. and drove across the Carry (2½ miles) to the head of Arischo's Falls. The steamer came at 10.30 and at 11 we started up river in a howling rain. The curtains were all covered and we saw but little of the scenery. The Captain showed us where a large bull moose had been seen a few days before standing on a strip of marsh at the mouth of a brook.

The boat runs up only 16 miles to the Meadow Camp where we reached at 1 P. M. This camp belongs to the Parrochessue Club but outsiders are entertained when there is room for them and we spent the remainder of the day and the following night there.

Boats in the afternoon we roved up river about two miles seeing a Blue Jay, several Kingfishers, a Robin & a number of Swamp Sparrows. The wing of a young night Heron, freshly cut off, lay on the ground at the landing. One of the guides said that it had belonged to a "Hawk" & that the bird had been shot on the river near by. Huttonian Chickadees & Yellow Rumps were heard near the camp and a Winter Wren & Song Sparrow seen there. At evening a Parula bird & Swamp Sparrow sang freely a few times.

Night
Heron

Small
birds

Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius*) had dug some wells in the trunk of a rather large yellow birch that stands in front of the camp and at least two birds (both young) kept about the place at all hours of the day resorting frequently to the saps well to drink. Twice they met there and on each occasion a suspiciously prolonged and bitter

Sapsucker
fighting

Upper Megalloway River, Maine

1898

September 18
(No 2)

combat around. There was no preliminary dodging or forcing but the moment the two birds came together they clinched and went fluttering down to the ground where they rolled one end over for two or three minutes. Once they separated of their own accord but the other bird one of the guides walked to the spot and knelt at them just missing them. I could not make out their action but decided any means injury was caused I do think they pecked or struck at one another. It was simply a bad-day-like grip from beginning to end.

Sapsuckers
fighting

Tyrone Mountain, Tenn. - 1904.



Upper Megalloway River, Maine.

1898.
September 19

Sunny but with very sultry atmosphere and a violent N.W. wind. A heavy thunder storm in the early evening.

From the
Meadow Camp
to the Falls.

Left the Meadow Camp (where we left Mrs. Melvin) at 8 a.m. and reached Passadumbeque Cove (near the Falls) at 11.30 a.m. covering the whole distance (12 miles). The river for the whole of this stretch reminded me of the Cambridge but it is wider and even more beautiful with frequent glimpses of eastern high mountains. It is quite as winding as the Cambridge and a straight stretch more than 100 yards in length is a rarity. For the first eight miles it flows through wide meadows lands dotted with clusters of elms and white poplars and thicket with rock beds of wild grasses. For the last four miles there are high banks covered with "green woods" and the current is very rapid in places. I have rarely seen a country so nearly barren ^{with} animal life. A Fish Hawk, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, two Kingfishers, a Flicker, ten or twelve Blue jays, and a few Yellow-rumped Thrushes were all the birds that we saw during the trip but I heard a Pine Grosbeak and several Woodcock Chickadees. Not a Mole, nor a Muskrat was even a Red Squirrel was seen. The total absence of Drakes was the strangest thing of all for there are countless logans & pond holes admirably suited to the wants. I remember that twenty five or more years ago when Drakes were very numerous about Umbagog there was said to be almost none on the Upper Megalloway.

Scenery

Birds

Pine Grosbeak

Total absence
of Drakes!

Fruit
fishing.

We fished at Grass Sedge at sunset but caught only two small trout. A Peabody bird sang twice & a Hawk circled near us. Night closed in dark windy & rainy but the stars were out by 10 P.M.

Upper Megalloway River, Maine.

1898.

September 20

Morning broke cloudy and raining but soon they began to appear shortly after sunrise and most of the day was bright and sunny although the sky was filled with clouds & there was a violent N. W. wind. The turkey hunt had entirely disappointed.

We pitched the tents last evening on the river bank opposite the Carry in a thicket of alders under some tall firs and paper birches. No Owls were heard during the night but whenever I was awake I heard the calls of Thrushes and Herons passing southward. At daybreak this morning a small party of Thrushes circled over us and finally pitched down near the tents. The expression of the last four weeks has convinced me that the wintertime flight calls of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and the Swainson's Thrush are practically indistinguishable. Early in September I heard Grosbeaks come over Pine Point & shortly were very tame gradually changing the night call into one of the characteristic day notes. One of the Thrushes heard this morning changed the form call in the same way into the unmistakable T-chur-1-1 of Thrushes Swainsoni.

As we were eating breakfast a number of small birds came flitting about us in the alders. There were 5 or 6 Chickadees, about the same number of Parus ludovicianus, a Nuthatch, a Wren, a Canada Warbler or two and a young Wood Pewee! The last was very tame & I identified it beyond my doubts. At daybreak I heard a Peewee bird & a Swamp Sparrow sing several times. A Pine Siskin was also heard passing overhead and once I thought I caught the piping note of a Pine Grosbeak in the far distance.

Morning at
Parnachenee
Carry.

Swainson's
Thrushes
migrating.
their night
cry edu-
tified

Upper Megalloway River, Maine.

1898

September 20

(No 2)

Much of the forenoon was devoted to breaking camp and packing our things into the boats. At 11 a.m. we started down river. Jim and I stopped several times to take photographs so that we fell far behind the others but we joined forces again at Upper Metabee Pond (where we had arranged to spend the night) at about 2 P.M.

Upper Metabee Pond

On the way down Melvin, who led, saw a Fish Hawk, two Shorelarks & a Muskrat; I saw a Flicker, a Spotted Sandpiper, a Canada Nuthatch, a number of Blue Jays and Yellow-rumps and I heard Hudsonian Chickadees several times. Deer signs are very numerous. Every sand bar was covered with tracks and broken paths led along the banks and were worn deep into their faces where the animals were in the habit of crossing or crossing the river.

Osprey.
Goosander
Small birds
Deer signs.

Upper Metabee is a pretty little pond of about forty acres in extent, shallow, with large patches of lily pads and strips of grassy marsh all around its edges. It is directly connected with the river by a short winding creek. There are extended & very beautiful views of distant mountains to the north & west.

We camped near the water edge on the lower shore away down down young balsams. Just before sunset I went out on the pond and cast for half an hour or more taking two trout, one of nearly half a pound. While thus engaged I saw a Bittern rise from the marsh and fly off down river croaking loudly. A pair of Hairy Woodpeckers near us were making a great racket, foraging on some Leonard Herbs & calling. The sunset was magnificent

Trout fishing
Bittern.
Hairy Woodpeckers

Upper Megalloway River, Maine.

1898.
September 20
(no 3)

Just after supper as we were sitting around the fire smoking & talking we heard a Great Blue Heron waddling a continued loud squawking in the distance up river. A little later a deep, hollow grating sound came from the forest behind us. I do not remember to have heard anything like it before & I cannot imagine what animal could have produced it.

Still later something flitted by just within the extreme outer circle of light from the camp fire. It looked like a large bird but just beyond the spot where I had lost sight of it I came suddenly face to face with a Saw-whet Owl. He was perched on a drooping spray of arbutus vine scarcely six feet above the ground and within five feet of my head, balancing himself gracefully with half-spread wings. Such a pretty, alert little creature, as unlike as possible to the grotesque, blinking birds we find doing by day in our Massachusetts woods. I wish I could have had a better look at him but the moment after I discovered him he took flight again and brushing close past me flitted back towards the camp apparently alighting nearly over it although I failed to find him again!

I forgot to note that Melvin, on entering the pond, found three Common Grebes swimming together near the Outlet. I saw one of these afterwards when I was engaged in fishing.

Two Partridges were heard drumming to-day one on the river bank, the other near camp this afternoon. Mr. Sargent hunted up both killing one of the

Soon after we went to bed a fearful gale of wind swept over us threatening to blow down the tents.

Upper
Megalloway Pond

Saw-whet
Owl visits
our camp.

Red-bellied
Grebes

Partridge

Upper Middlebrook River, Maine.



Upper Meadow near Lake, Idaho.



Upper Megalloway River, Maine.



Upper Megalloway River, Maine.

1898.

September 21

Another wild, windy day, the sky filled with masses of roiling clouds amid which the sun by times shone and hid his face. Melrose Pond to Thirsty.

At daybreak a Black Duck quacked loudly and incessantly Black Duck on the pond until Booker, starting forth in his boat to try the trap again, disturbed and drove him away.

By 8 a.m. the camp was dismantled and everything packed in the boats and we started down river. It was a hard chance for photographs but I kept taking them, nevertheless, and again fell behind the rest of the party. Photography

We came together at the Meadows Camp, however, and at Lincoln Brook where we stopped for lunch.

The afternoon was spent in going down to Anisette Falls where Flint met us and took us to the boat to his home for the night.

The distances covered to-day were as follows.

Melrose Upper Pond to Meadows Camp	3 miles
Meadows Camp to Lincoln Brook	3½ "
Lincoln Brook to Anisette Falls	12½ "
Total - 19 "	

Below the "Narrow", where the river passes through a narrow channel between two ledges, the scenery is comparatively unattractive if not, in places, positively dreary for the river banks are fringed with long rows of dead or dying trees killed by the back water from the dam below. Nevertheless the views of the mountains are constantly changing & some of them are very beautiful. Scenery

Upper Megalloway River, Maine.

1898

September 21

(No 2.)

The most interesting birds seen to-day were a pair of Golden Eagles soaring in company high among the clouds (pair thought at least three miles above the water) over the river & better below Upper Mallets Pond, a Sharp-shinned Hawk near the Meadows Camp, and several Flickers just below this camp. Blue Jays were really numerous and there were more Kingfishers than we have seen above. Merlin started three Black Ducks & I saw a Hooded Merganser just above the falls. Of course there were troops of Chickadees, Kinglets, & Yellow-rump Warblers every where and then & one I heard Goldfinches, but taken as a whole this stretch of river had scarcely more bird life than that above the Meadows Camp.

I was greatly interested to be within half-a-mile or less from this camp a large Wood Tortoise basking himself on the bank of the river. He passed within six or eight feet of him without disturbing him. A year or two ago I saw what I took to be one of these Tortoises on the lower Megalloway near Peepit Rock & "Luttes" of some kind are said to be numerous in the lower Cambridge just above the falls but no Tortoises of any description are known to have occurred in Lake Umbagog into which both these streams empty although Umbagog with its muddy bottom and warm, shallow water would seem to be admirably adapted to them.

At Flint's this evening we were called out to hear a "Deer Howl". The sound proved to be the bark of a Coyote which was in the field very near the house.

Golden Eagles

Birds seen
between upper
Mallets Pond
& Flint's.

KingfishersBlack DucksHooded MergSmall birdsWood TortoiseCoyote barking

Upper Malheur River, Maine.



Upper Megalloway River, Maine.



Upper Megalloway River, Maine

1898.

September 22

A beautiful day, very warm, dead calm up to 10 a.m., afterwards with strong soft S.W. wind.

From Flint's
to River Pt.

Left Flint's at 8 a.m. and landed the boats at the landing about a mile below his house and seven miles by river above the Brown farm. This stretch of river was new to me and I was at once surprised and delighted to find it by far more beautiful than anything either above or below. Unfortunately I had only four plates left but these I used to the best possible advantage.

The most
beautiful
stretch on
the Megalloway.

Just as we were putting the boats in the water a flock of light colored Black Ducks passed flying up river. We saw no Ducks below until we had passed the Brown landing where we halted for lunch.

Black Ducks

We had intended to visit both Moose Point on our way down but as we found a canoe at the landing above we kept on & Melvin went up Bear Brook where he killed a downy Partridge. Jim & I meanwhile waited at Home for the boat where we saw three Whistlers.

Bear Brook
Partridge

We reached the boat at noon. I kept straight across to camp but Melvin stopped at Moose Point until dark. He saw a number of Ducks & a flock of 4 Golden Plover & he heard several Snipe. The water has fallen during our absence so that the grass is showing all over the meadows but there is no ground or even mud exposed as yet and a boat may sail cross anywhere without dragging.

Moose Pt.Ducks
Golden Plover
Snipe

Upper Megalloway River, Maine

1898.

September 22.
(No 2.)

The distance from the head of Arischo's Falls to Paumotu's Carry is said to be 28 miles. For the first six or eight miles above the Falls there are many long, straight reaches of dead water and the banks, as well as more or less wide belts of low, flat land back from the river, are covered with dead trees. A little above the Narrows the stubs disappear, the river becomes narrow and winding and mixed woods crowd closely down on either side to the water's edge. Still farther up we enter the "meadows" which extend for twelve miles or more with occasional breaks caused by the jutting out of ridges from the mountains on one or the other side of the river valley. These meadows are park-like in character & extremely beautiful, and the river winds through them in endless curves and loops constantly climbing back on its course. Along its banks grow elms, black ash and white poplar whose branches arch over the glancing water; farther back, as far as the eye can reach, are low stretches of low but in this season perfectly hard and dry ground covered with rank wild grasses and thickly sprinkled with fine old elms scattered about singly or in small groups. At the head of the meadows one enters the "green woods", largely composed of evergreen trees growing on high, steeply sloping banks between which the river races over a rocky or pebbly bottom or takes sudden turns around big boulders or outcroppings of ledges with here and there a bar or bank of light yellow sand. The distance from the beginning of the "green woods" to the Carry is about 4 miles

*
Resumé of
trip up the
Megalloway
to Paumotu's
Carry.

Upper Megalloway River, Maine.

1898

September 22

(no 3)

The smaller mammals appear to be very scarce along the Upper Megalloway. I actually did not see either a Red Squirrel or a Chipmunk during the entire trip and but one Muskrat was seen. Deer, as I have already mentioned, are evidently very numerous. Indeed I have never seen them better so numerous & so deeply worn elsewhere.

There were many small birds of the commoner kinds but I failed to meet with many that I expected to see such as Brown Creepers, Crossbills, Canada Jays, Blue-tails, Golden-winged, Pileated and Downy Woodpeckers, Goshawks, Bald Eagles and Golden-eyed Doves. I also failed to have any of the Cooper Owls but they are said to be very common & noisy at certain times & places.

Here is a full list of the species met with:

1. Tuechus pallasi - one
2. " americanus - several
3. Microtus virginianus - one
4. Thryomys hudsonicus - one
5. Sitta canadensis - several
6. Regulus satrapa "
7. Parus atricapillus } about equally
8. " hudsonicus } common.
9. Helminthophila ruficapilla - one
10. Dendroica coronata - very common
11. " cuticularis - one
12. Vireo solitarius - one
13. Arrephobus cedeon - several
14. Parus canadensis - One Sept. 19
15. Spinus tristis. Several in heart of wild cherry
16. " pinus "
17. Tamias lutescens - Three or four



Lake Umbagog.

1898.

Sept. 23

Calm, cloudy & very warm with light showers.

To Moon Point at evening. About fifty Ducks came in - Black, Wood & Mergansers. I shot down a Black Duck but lost him in the tall grass. Also fired at a Merganser but missed. A Canada Rail calling in the grass was very abundant. Several Snipe seen on ground.

Moon Pt.
at eveningDucks
I shot down
one but lost
him.
Sora Rail.

" 24

Cloudy clearing at times.

To Moon Point at evening. Seven Black Ducks and six Wood Ducks, five Whistlers and three Hooded Mergansers constituted the entire flight of water fowl. I fired a long shot at one of the Wood Ducks & missed.

Moon Pt.
at evening.
Black Ducks
Wood "
Whistlers.
Hooded Merg.

As I was crossing the marsh after it had become nearly dark I started a Gull (Fulica) from a rank bed of half-submerged grass at about the exact place where Melvin shot one a week or so ago ^(on Sept. 15). I could have killed this bird easily enough. It pattered off over a space of open water, half running, half flying and finally alighted again in tall grass beyond.

Fulica
americana

Lake Umbagog. Pine Point.

1898.

September 25 (Sunday) Cloudy with E. wind.

At about seven o'clock this morning the mysterious Owl that we hear at Pine Point only at wide intervals began howling on the hillside behind the camp keeping it up for several minutes and then moving further off to the eastward. He did not hoot at all on this occasion.

Great Gray Owl visits Pine Point again.

Melvin went to Lakeside this afternoon.

" 26 Morning cloudy, afternoon sunny & warm.

Early in the forenoon a flock of seven Ducks which we all took to be Scoters were discovered swimming in the lake about midway between Pine Point and the Outlet. I paddled out to them getting within 150 yds. when they flew & I saw that they were Greater Scaups.

Greater Scaup Ducks.

Baker returned from B. Pond this afternoon with a fair lot of trout. He reports seeing a flock of about twenty large black Ducks, which Bellamoth (the guide) says were Mottled-bellied Scoters on B. Pond this morning.

A flock of Scoters in B. Pond.

At Upton, Melvin Hubert & Woodcock & a Jay (the latter in an olive wing). He also saw a considerable number of Flickers (400 or 500 he says) scattered everywhere in the fields & woods.

Great flight of Colaptes.

Lake Umbagog.

Pine Point.

1898.

September 27

Clearing with occasional heavy showers. Strong N. W. wind.

Melvin came up on the thames this morning but he & Baker returned to Lakeside in the late afternoon. They hunted Partridges on Pine Point in the early afternoon steadily until ten and killing four. I have never allowed any birds to be killed here before but have now given up all hope of preserving them as they are constantly hunted after I leave.

My guests
shoot
Partridges
on Pine
Point.

" 28

Cloudless with strong N. W. wind and brilliantly clear air.

Baker came and sailed the home boat down the lake leaving Pine Point at 11 A. M., anchoring near Bear Island for dinner and reaching Lakeside at 4 P. M. The big boat behaved unusually well but soon has lost sail for I have decided to have all the rigging removed and the hull cut down so that she will be turned into a floating house without means of propulsion.

We sent the
home boat
to Lakeside

Baker killed a small deer at Moulisquank this afternoon & bird buyers shot a pair of Sparrow Partridge with a rifle better winning the bird for a specimen. Two young Sparrow Hawks were killed in the same locality yesterday & last Spring Paul West found an adult pair, the ♀ of which laid an egg the next morning.

Lakeside to Bethel

1898.

September 29

Clear and very warm with S. wind.

Lakeside to
Bethel

The Melvins, Mr. Baker & I left Lakeside this morning by Davis's Stage and drove to Bethel where I stopped to pay a ~~half~~ ^{half} ~~mile~~ at the Gehring's while the rest of the party pushed through to Hooton.

The drive down was delightful. The foliage about the lakes here was only just begun to turn but in the notch and below we saw much rich and some really brilliant coloring.

In Thale Brown's meadow in Grafton two large flocks were engaged in catching grasshoppers. One was in a very anxious manner first rising about in the grass & then leaping suddenly forward. He stopped & watched them for several minutes.

Flycatcher
Grasshopper.

Birds were common. I saw a flock of four or five young White-crowned Sparrows in Grafton, we saw them thru flocks of Bluebirds (with 8, 4 & 2 birds respectively) in heavy, and all along the road great flocks of Goshawk Sparrows & scattering Robins, Tit-larks, etc. In Grafton three Partridge flew from the woods into the woods. Tit-larks & a Howard Hawk were heard flying in a playground field near Thale Brown's.

White-crown
Sparrows.
Bluebirds.Partridge
Howard Hawk.

1898.

October 2

Cloudy (a very dreary day), warm and calm.

I came to Concord last night and have settled at the Hayes' where I am to spend the next two weeks.

There were great numbers of birds about the house this morning. At sunrise several Song Sparrows were singing, most of them fully and fitfully, but one, evidently an old bird, at short, regular intervals and with as much strength and finish as in spring. A Phoebe also sang fairly well and a number of times in succession. A Purple Finch sang brokenly as did some Meadow Larks. A Flicker thruted in four times separately and a Chickadee gave the Phoebe call. Besides these I saw or heard a White-bellied Nuthatch, several Robins and Robin-throated Sparrows, a number of Rusty Blackbirds, Crows, Blue Jays, Chipping & English Sparrows etc. Bluebirds were in sight on hearing most of the day and there must have been a good many of them. An old male warbled repeatedly near the house.

In the forenoon I drove down to the Bassett farm. Autumn coloring
The foliage has reached the full perfection of its autumn coloring in places, especially in the low lands along the river, but in others hence a leaf has turned. The sumacs and some of the maples on the Bassett place were already with color. I saw few birds there.

1898.

October 3

Clear and warm with fresh W. wind - a rich, mellow October day.

Song Sparrows again singing freely about the house this morning and I heard one at about 9 a.m. along the river chanting at about intervals previously as in Spring.

I spent the day at Ball's Hill sailing down in the morning and paddling back in the late afternoon. The river was all over the meadows most of the summer but it is well within its banks now. Very little grass has been cut and the meadows and river banks are even more shaggy than they were last autumn. Pat tells me that Surfs have been plentiful and that a flock of 10 or 12 Teal spent a week or more on Great Meadows last summer. I saw a solitary Blue-winged Teal this morning just below Ball's Hill. It came flying past me and alighted well out in the river starting off again when I came within about 100 yards. Kittiwakes and Rusty Grackles were numerous, all along the river and the tall grass was simply swarming with Song & Swamp Sparrows. At Ball's Hill I saw two White-throats and heard a Cat-bird. I also started a Parula sp. I had so much to do about the cabin that I took only one shore walk.

The tulips and red maples are near the height of their autumnal glory but the upland woods show little color as yet.

A Pine Warbler was in full song on Ball's H. at 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Pine Warbler
in full song

1898.

October 3

(No 2.)

As we were at breakfast this morning a Solitary Vireo began singing loudly but rather brokenly in the large mountain ash that shades the house on the eastern side. It is unusual to find one of these birds so near a house and so far from the woods.

Solitary Vireo

The Rusty Grackles have established an enormous roost in the picked wood (already blackened and withered by the early frosts) and weevil grass about the edges of the shallow little lagoon at the head of Beaver Dam Rapid (is just below Daldried Hill).

Roost of
Rusty Grackles

As I was leaving the cabin I saw several flocks flying up wire and when I reached the lagoon (5 P.M.) they were coming in from every direction but chiefly from that of Concord. The flocks varied in size from ten or a dozen to forty or fifty birds each. As they came over the lagoon they circled over or twice and then swooped down on the wire. As I was watching them arrive the entire body of birds already settled were kind with a sudden panic and took flight in two detachments each of which must have contained nearly two hundred birds. The noise made by their wings was like that of a gale blowing through pine aves. Many of them returned to the woods after a short flight but upwards of 200 settled among the branches of a nearby leafless maple covering it as with a black hail and keeping up their jingling melody until I had passed beyond hearing. As I kept on up wire flock after flock of these Blackbills passed on their way to the woods. In all I certainly saw 500 birds.

1898.

October 3

(No 3)

and I believe that the number was really very much greater. There must have been at least a few Cow birds, if not some Red-wings, also, but I identified only Partridges. I have never seen anything like to large a roost of this species before nor do I remember one before being a roost among barberries vegetation, but always in bottom bushes or low willows or maples.

On the way up river I also saw a Solitary Sandpiper & a Kingfisher

1898.

October 4

Forenoon clear with fresh W. wind, afternoon
windy calm with gathering clouds; an unusually
warm and sunny day.

Song Sparrows and Meadow Larks in full song
near the house early this morning & a Flicker thrashing
just after breakfast. Two Pine Warblers singing feebly
on Ball's Hill at noon. A Partridge drumming at
short, regular intervals on the floor wall at
the S. end of the hill at 2 P.M.

Song Sparrows
& Meadow Lark
in full
song.

Spent the day at Ball's Hill, working down
in the evening. As I passed the Siga ground
I saw a wren and a dog barking it and
heard for three fields, no doubt on Siga.

Siga.

Walked to Davis's Hill just after dinner. Heard
a number of Sparrows & Wrens chirping &
calling in the dense foliage but saw only one
bird distinctly - a Black-bell Warbler

A Chipmunk has a hole in the threshold
between the two cabins. Gilbert had baited him
with corn and he took some from the ground
between my feet but would not touch himself
in my hand.

A camp
Chipmunk.

The only birds about the cabin to-day were
a Cow bird, a House Wren & four Chickadees.

Passed the Blackbird nest at 4.30 P.M. About 300 birds
there & others among very many. Cow-birds heard among
them. Blackbird
nest.

1898.

October 5

Cloudy with heavy rain all day.

Drove to W. Bedford in the forenoon, to the Barnett farm in the afternoon. Many large flocks of Sparrows seen rising from the woodlands but only Chipping and Song Sparrows certainly distinguished. Two or three flocks of Robins in pasture. A flock of 20 Bluebirds over the Messy's house.

" 6

A brilliantly clear and rather cool day with fresh N. wind.

Meadow Larks & a Song Sparrow singing at sunrise. The Song Sparrow kept it up steadily until nearly after 11 o'clock. It was delightful to hear his sweet, cheerful voice coming in at the window at short, regular intervals. I do not remember to have heard Song Sparrows sing in this way in autumn before.

Song Sparrow
in full song

On my way down river this morning I started a pattern on Hunt's Pond and saw two Great Blue Herons flying together over Great Meadows. As I was passing Ball's Mill a flock of four Black Ducks passed high over it. A sportsman was beating the surface ground & I heard him fire his shot in all.

A Cat-bird, a Black-poll Warbler, a Yellow Warbler, a Downy Woodpecker & two Jays & Chickadees were seen near the cabin. Started a large flock of Chipping in Benson's field.

1898.

October 6

no 2

As I was passing the Blackbird roost at 4.20 P.M. on my way up river a flock of Rusty's came in. I think they were the first to arrive for I neither saw nor heard any others near the place. About I saw a number of flocks coming from the direction of Concord. Most of them passed on towards the roost but one flock containing fully 200 birds alighted in a wough on the river bank. I paddled under them and looked them over carefully with my glass. As far as I could make out they were all Cowbirds & I was plain that a considerable proportion of the birds which resort nightly to the roost belong to this species.

Hatched

roost.

Last afternoon at about this time a Carolina Rail Carolina spent two days in the narrow fringe of bushes Rail near on the river bank nearly in front of the the cabin. cabin. Gilbert saw one there yesterday & he & I saw what was doubtless the same bird this afternoon. We drove it into the end of the thicket which we attempted over for several minutes without flushing it. Finally we saw it swimming out into the river through the broken weeds. After swimming several rods one deep water it rose & flew to the shore near the upper Carolina. I have an idea that it was the same bird that was here last year.

1898.
October 7

Clear and warm with light S. wind. A sharp
breeze from last night.

Paddled down river this morning proceeding
slowly and stealthily in the hope of getting
a shot at a Duck. Sighted a Bittern at
Hunt's Landing & another directly in front of
the cabin. As I was passing Dakin's Hill on
about 3 Buteo borealis flew past me & alighted
on the top of a green pine on Holden's Hill.
A few minutes later a pair of Buteo lineatus
appeared soaring in circles over Great Meadows &
screaming loudly. They drifted in over Holden's
Hill & later I saw & heard one at Ball's Hill.

Buteos.

As I approached Brace Dam Rapids I saw two
Pied-billed Grebes at the entrance to the lagoon
on the right & a moment later a Coot (Fulica).
The latter had evidently discovered me for it
was waiting for the pickered wood which I soon
reached & entered. I paddled to the spot where
it had disappeared & stood up in the canoe
when it rose within 20 feet of me and flew
up to the extreme end of the lagoon. The
two Grebes, meanwhile, had passed me under
water and gone to the head of the lagoon where
I cornered them and had a fine view of them
through the glass. They kept diving & reappearing
in nearly the same place evidently hoping that
the pickered wood covered them. At length
they swam out past me under water. I did
not see the Coot again.

Coot &
Grebes

October 7

1898
October 7
(W 2)

While going through the small piece of pine & oak woods on the west Bedford House opposite the cabin this forenoon I heard a Partridge drum a dozen times or more. Gilbert & Mr. South were with me and we were talking & tramping wildly through the brush but we went entirely around the bird within 30 yards or less without detecting him. Finally I went directly to the spot where the sound came & flushed him. His drumming place was unlike any I have ever seen before on perfectly level ground but on the very edge of an old sand bank one grown with bushes. The ground on the edge of the bank one a foot or two above a foot square was worn smooth & hard but there was no excavation or features. Probably this is not a station that has been much used.

Partridge
drumming
on level
ground.

Sailed down to Birch Island in the afternoon. Saw a Pigeon Hawk skimming over the pines on Davis' Hill.

1898.

October 8

Heavy rain last night followed by cloudy & thimby weather to-day then they clearing at sunset.

To Ball's Hill as usual. Took a long walk in the woods in the forenoon. Saw a Yellow Palm Warbler in the hump behind the hill. A Greater Yellow-leg flying about over the marshes whistling. Pittman came to be in in the afternoon. He & Gilbert says they saw them 9 of Sparrows on the W. Redford shore but I doubt it.

" 9

Clear & cool with brilliant light & strong N. W. wind

Drove to the Bonnett farm in the forenoon. Saw a Phoebe flitting about the old barn eaves in which, on the decaying beams, are literally dozens of old nests of this Flycatcher.

Phoebe
revisits a
nesting house

At sunset I walked across Red Bridge to the club bathhouse. Song Sparrows were singing almost as vigorously and fully as in spring. From every direction over the meadows their sweet notes came to delight my ears. At least two and I think three that I heard were old birds whose voices sounded as fresh as full as at the height of the breeding season. I also heard a great number of them last evening as I was hauling up the wire but on that occasion most of them seemed to be young birds. I do not understand why the Song Sparrows are singing so much more than usual this October. I have certainly never heard anything like it in former years.

Song Sparrows
are full song

1898.

October 10

There was a sharp frost last night but to-day was cloudless and warm with a light S. wind.

At day break a Screech Owl wooded for ten or twelve minutes in the pines near the house & when I told Gilbert about it he said that he had heard one at Balls Hill on the night of the 9th & 9th.

A Screech Owl
visits the
cabin.

I spent the day at the cabin. A Brown Creeper, two Juncos, two Golden and one Ruby crested Kinglet and a Downy Woodpecker were seen near the river bank. The leaves have fallen from most of the red maples in the swamp but there has been no fallowt coloring anywhere as yet. Many of the maples on high ground are still quite green. On my way down river in the morning I saw a Mallard & a Black Duck. I hear Killdeers every day but they are less numerous along the river than usual owing, no doubt, to the fact that the grass has not been cut on the meadows this year.

It has been cut over a space of about an acre near the head of Means Dam Rapid and in this little opening the sportsmen find all their Snipe. A man who was beating the place this morning told me that he & two companions bagged seventeen Snipe there on September 17th. He said there were many more that escaped. They would rise high & fly all over the meadows but they always returned sooner or later & alighted again in the opening.

Wilson's Snipe

1895.

October 10
(1892.)

Just as I was about to start up the
river Gilbert came in to tell me that he
had seen a Duck on the opposite side of
the river below the cabin. I paddled to
that place and found a Blue-winged Teal
swimming among the pines, wood feeding
busily. I shot it just as it raised its
head and started off. It is probably the
same bird that I saw on the 13th near
Dunn's bar.

I shot a
Bl. w. Teal

1898

October 11

Clear with strong S.W. wind.

To Boali's Hill for the day, starting down in the early evening.

As I was passing the head of Beane Dam Rapid I saw two Coots (Fulvica) swimming in the lagoon on the right. They discovered me almost as soon as I did them and at once paddled with the picked up. I went in after them but could not be within of them. When I hoisted my boat, however, one of them started from the reeds very near me and flew off down river, returning, just as I reached the middle of the rapids, and circling around me over the meadows finally alighting near the head of the lagoon again. It flew very fast with its legs stretched out behind.

Coots

Saw very few small birds to-day. A pair of Black Ducks passed high over Boali's Hill & I started them Pentridges in the woods on the W. Madford shore opposite the cabin.

Gilbert says that at least fifty or fifty shots were fired on the high grounds early this morning. Six or eight were seen frisk them after I reached the cabin.

1898.

October 12

Heavy rain last night & early this morning the fog clearing at about 10 a. m.

Spent the day at the Barrett farm. The bird thickets alive with small birds among which Yellow-rumped Warblers were the most numerous.

" 13

A superb day cloudless and calm with brilliantly clear air.

Another day at the Barrett farm experimenting the way to work them. Took a number of photographs of the old house & barn. Many small birds about. A Partridge drumming in the bush near near the house late in the afternoon.

" 14

Cloudy with heavy N. E. wind.

Still another day spent experimenting the way at the Barrett farm. Drove to the cabin for lunch.

While on my way back and just as I was descending the slope beyond Berwin's a large flock of juncos accompanied by several White-throated Sparrows & a few Yellow-rumps started from an asparagus bed and flew into the thickets by the roadside. Among them was an albino which I took to be a White-throated Sparrow. It was very tame & most conspicuous in the thicket cover. I watched it a long time. It was wholly snow white with a white bill. In the absence of all color I could only judge of its identity by its form & shape

Albino
White-throated Sparrow

1898.

October 14

(No 2)

which seemed to refer it to Zonotrichia. It would not make any sound so I could get no clue in that way. The only thing that made me at all doubtful as to its being a Winter-throat was the fact that it hopped & flitted about very much after the manner of a junco but it seemed altogether too large for a junco. It was decidedly the finest albino I have ever seen living and I regretted that I had no means of securing it.

" 15

Cloudy with heavy rain last night & several thick showers through the day.

C. came from Cambridge this morning & spent the day with me going over the Bassett place & dining with me at the cabin. We had planned to go long walks in the woods but the rain made them impracticable. Saw no birds of any particular interest.



Oxford, Mass.





1898.
October 16

Clear and cool with violent N. W. wind.

I left the Kites' this morning and sent my effects by team to the cabin sailing down myself in the old Revolution course. Almy joined me at 10 a. m. and we dined together to the Barrett farm returning to the cabin for dinner.

In the afternoon we took a long walk in the woods. Small birds were scarce apparently but we started several Partridges and a Great Horned Owl. The latter we found first in the Prescott woods, but we saw it afterwards on Davis's Hill & Lawrence's farm ridge. It was as shy as any Hawk starting out of your legs and taking long flights although the afternoon was bright & clear. At about 7 P. M. either the same bird or another visited Ball's Hill and called for several minutes in one of the trees on the ridge directly behind the cabin. It gave the short, choking cry, peculiar, I believe, to young Great Horned Owls. Gilbert thought this note very cat-like. He both wondered whether or no the bird was the same that we missed here last Spring & afterwards liberated in the Prescott woods. It must have been one of the pair seen in Lawrence's woods

Bubo vir.

1898.

October 17

Cloudless with brilliant sunlight & a moderate N. wind.

Spent the entire day on Ball's Hill. Saw very few birds & nothing of any especial interest.

" 18

Cloudy with E. wind & ^{other} unmistakable indications of a gathering storm but with the sun clear. There was a hard frost last night & our pump was frozen this morning.

To the Bonnet farm through the woods in the morning and again in the afternoon by way of the vine & Davis's Hill. Saw a Hairy Woodpecker and a flock of 13 Bluebirds in the old orchard, a Nuthatch and a flock of Chickadees in the woods. As I was returning to the vine just before sunset I came upon a Partridge in a wild apple tree in an opening among some pines. When I first saw him he was standing motionless on a dead branch with his neck & body in line the neck appearing as long as the body. I stopped instantly hoping that he had not discovered me. Presently he began to walk along the branch spreading his tail & creeping & twitching his legs at every step. Walking along the branch & hopping from one to another he went directly through the main body of the tree top (which was dense & bushy) & after I had lost sight of him I heard him fly. He was a very large & old cock bird. Probably he was breeding

Behavior of
a Partridge
in apple tree

October 18

1898.

October 18
 (no 2) Before I disturbed him, I wish I could have seen him or its be as it was I saw something new to me for his manner of moving among the branches was unlike anything I have ever before witnessed.

On reaching the wire at Davis's Hill I climbed the cause and had just taken up the saddle when I heard a rushing sound as loud as that of a gale of wind blowing through a pine grove. The next instant an enormous flock of Brown Grackles passed nearly over me flying directly down wire and keeping on out of sight in the direction of Coakle bridge. Although moving in compact order the flock covered a space of nearly a quarter of an acre. I estimated the number of birds at one four hundred. There was not the slightest doubt as to their being Brown Grackles & not either Rusty Black birds or Cowbirds. It was past sunset at the time & they were probably on their way to their roost. I have never seen such a flock here in autumn before.

Evening flight
 of
Brown Grackles

1898.

October 19

Cloudy with strong S. wind & heavy rain beginning just before noon and lasting into the night.

Spent the forenoon superintending work on the wood road behind Ball's Hill. I am carrying it around the N. end of the little meadow & it promises to be very pretty just there.

In the afternoon, despite the rain, I spent nearly two hours in the woods on the Ballston ridge & Holden's Hill. At times the rain came down in perfect sheets & the east wind roared through the tree tops and lashed the branches about. I was curious to see what wild creatures were out in such a storm. First I met a party of three Chickadees, half drenched but as cheery and busy as usual. Next I saw two Gray Squirrels one of which crossed a flooded swamp by leaping from branch to branch among low alders & wild rose bushes. He had evidently been to Holden's Hill in search of chestnuts & he also seemed cheery enough although his tail & back were sadly bedraggled by the wet.

As I was standing at the west end of Holden's Hill an immense flock of Throated Grackles came from up river & passing directly over the rusty Blackbird roost at Brown Down beyond kept on eastward. Ten minutes later I found them in the oaks & chestnuts on the Ballston ridge. They appeared to be looking for acorns & chestnuts for very few

Immense flock
of Throated
Grackles

Deposited 3/18/18

1898

October 19 (W 2) from tree to tree clustering all over the ends of the upper branches. As far as I could see they were unsuccessful in their search (both acorns & chestnuts are scarce this autumn). Finally they all took wing or over and crossing the Bowlett meadows swept over the woods beyond in the direction of Beane Down Bogon. As it was nearly dark at the time I am inclined to suspect that they roosted at the Bogon with the Rusties to-night. They were probably the same birds that I saw at Davis's Hill Cove evening for the flock was of exactly the same size apparently.

The water is all over the meadows again and the Squirrels grounds are completely submerged. I heard a Carolina Rail there last evening but neither Rail nor Squirrels to-night. On the evening of the 17th at about 8 o'clock the day being clear & still on the river a Carolina Rail called Kur-wee three in succession in the meadow opposite the cabin and at evening just after sunset I heard the Kur-wee again once or twice and the ordinary autumnal call (Keep) several times in three different directions. I also heard a Squirrel on this morning just after the Rail had ceased. Yesterday forenoon a Greater Yellowlegs was roosting on this same meadow.

Porzana
Carolinia
gins Kur-wee
call in
autumn

1898.

October 20

Cloudless and very warm despite a rather fresh north wind.

To Barrell farm in early morning & again in the afternoon going both times by way of the river as far as Davis' Hill & thence walking through the woods.

Saw an adult Red shouldered Hawk & a Marsh Hawk. Started for Partridges, then all together, & in the late afternoon heard two drumming out in the Barrell woods, the other in Davis' hump.

There was a small flock of Bluebirds in the Barrell woods.

At evening a Carolina Rail called at intervals for ten minutes or more in the woods opposite the cabin. At first the keep note only, I was struck by the resemblance of this call to the first of Thalassidroma's Hyla - the spring peep I mean. The Rail's note was a little less mellow, much less shrill, and given more slowly.

Carolina
Rail.

In the evening twilight as I was standing at the cabin door I saw a Green Owl glide past & alight in a bush by the river where it sat for a moment before it took up & down Wood frogs croaking near the cabin at evening.

Mr. & Mrs. Albert B. Carl of Trinidad B. W. I. arrived this evening by the S. 30 train. They are to stay with me until the 25th.

October 21

1898.

October 21 Heavy rain all day with S. E. wind.

Spent most of the day in the cabin. At evening a Great Owl worked a number of times in the bushes on the river bank in front of our door. Just before dark I heard a Duck pass over the river its wings making a peculiar loud, rattling sound.

" 22 Showery with S. W. wind the clouds breaking away in the W. just before sunrise.

In the afternoon I drove the Cows to Concord where we visited all the places of historic interest. Saw large numbers of Sparrows along the roadsides & a few Robins in the fields.

" 23 A brilliantly clear day with very strong & rather cool N. W. wind.

Spent the forenoon in the woods taking the Cows over all my land to the north & west. Started three Partridges & saw a flock of about a dozen Juncos, Jays & Crows numerous. At sunset a Duck that I took to be a King, well seen ^{near the cabin.}

" 24 Clear & warm with light W. wind.

Spent the entire day in the woods, the forenoon on Holden's Hill, the afternoon on the Bowen farm. Saw only a few common birds.

1898.

October 25

Clear and very warm with strong S.W. wind.

The Coors left me this morning catching the 8.15 train for Boston where they go to Washington.

I spent most of the day in the woods going to the Bonnell farm in the afternoon. As I was taking ~~past~~ Pod Island on my way to Davis's Hill (where I usually leave the canoe walking through Prescott's woods to the Bonnell place) a Coot (Fulica) started from a bed of flooded grass and, half wading, half flying, sought refuge in a thicket of bushes. I have heard Emotion Rails very many of late up to to-day.

" 26

Cloudy & very warm. Rain began falling at 11 a.m. and during the entire afternoon it came in torrents. At 5 P.M. the wind suddenly shifted from E. to S.W. and later it blew a heavy gale which lasted well into the night.

Spent the forenoon at the Bonnell farm. A Partridge was drumming steadily on the stone wall near where we found the nest last Spring. All was just as the rain began a Great Yellowlegs was whistling on the meadows opposite Ball's Hill.

Took a short walk in the afternoon, but saw no living creature except one Song Sparrow.

The recent heavy rains have caused the water nearly to spring white & the Great Meadow is now completely submerged. This fact is doubtless the cause of the breaking up of the great Blackbird roost. I have within ten or more hours seen many birds flying about of late.

High water
drives the
Ruddy Duck
birds from
their roost

1898.

October 27 Clear & cool with light N. W. wind.

Spent the forenoon writing. In the afternoon walked to the Barrett farm. Saw very few birds there Yellow-wings, a Robin, one Cooper & two Golden-crests being the most interesting.

" 28 Clear with light S. E. wind. Cold at morning & evening, very warm in the middle of the day.

Just after breakfast I discovered a Duck in the air about opposite the cabin. When I had got the gun and loaded the canoe the bird was just disappearing in some tall grass. It started soon after this & flew over into open water on the flooded meadow. I paddled a short distance & then finding that the wind was strong enough to drift me at a good pace set ~~the~~ with the gun ready. The Duck paid no apparent heed to my approach but drifted idly about near some grass. When I came within about 30 yds. I fired at the bird on the water killing it instantly. It proved to be a Greater Scaup or young ♂, I think. I shall preserve the skin (It proved to be an adult ♀)

Greater Scaup
Duck

To the Barrett farm in the forenoon and again in the afternoon. Made the morning trip by canoe landing at Dallas Hill where I saw a Marsh Hawk skimming the brook meadow & a Red shouldered Hawk flying from Holder's Hill. At the Barrett farm saw two Hermit Thrushes & a small flock of Robins, besides the usual number of Chickadees, Hooded Mergansers & Rusty Blackbirds & Flashed two Partridges.

Concord & Cambridge, Mass.

1898

October 29 Cloudy with light rain.

Early this morning heard a Snow Bunting calling high in air over the meadows and saw two Fox Sparrows at the S. end of Boss's Hill.

Went to Cambridge by the 9.40 a.m. train. Found several White-throated Sparrows in the old garden although none have been seen at Concord for some time. Spent the night at Cambridge.

" 30 Cloudy with frequent showers of fine rain, the clouds breaking away at sunset.

Returned to Boss's Hill by the noon train and on reaching the cabin looked out over for Concord in the open canal. There was no wind and the mist hung down over the hills & meadows. On the way up river saw a Red-shouldered Hawk at Holden's Hill and a Marsh Hawk skimming over the fields on the Hunt farm. Returning in the twilight heard a Black Duck quacking and splashing among the grass on the flooded meadows opposite Holden's Hill.

1898.

October 31

A clear breeze but most of the day cloudy & threatening but without rain

To the Barrett farm by way of Davis's Hill in the forenoon. Secured three Partridges in Prescott's pines & saw two Hermit Thrushes. As I was returning shortly after noon I heard Crows cawing & calling up and a flock of fully five hundred nearly over Ball's Hill and at fully the elevation at which Wild Geese ordinarily fly when on migration. The Crows were coming from the N. E. & were evidently looking for a place to alight or roost, as I felt assured by their behavior, were heading towards a place where the best some of them had often halted to rest & feed in former migrations. After circling a few times they descended to the fields beyond Harris's to behind Holden's Hill, where I heard them cawing every word & then during the remainder of the afternoon. This is the first migratory flock that I have seen here this autumn.

Arrival of
great flock
of northern
Crows.

Just after dinner I noticed a Golden eye in the wire opposite the cabin. It was diving for food & I watched it a long time. Finally I got the gun and attempted to huddle out to it but it was as soon as it saw the cannon & flew off down wire returning to the same place an hour later. It was with a ♀ or a young ♂.

Whether in
the wire

1898

November 1

A rare autumn day, warm and still with unusually clear, transparent atmosphere & a brilliant sunset.

Spent the forenoon on Ball's Hill where I saw a Hairy Woodpecker & a flock of Chickadees. One of the latter was unusually tame flitting about me within three or four feet looking at me curiously.

Early this morning I saw three Rusty Blackbirds flying past the hill. All three uttered the flight call and one the jangling melody as that I was sure of their identity. This, I believe, is the first time I have ever here this species here after the end of October.

The Crows that arrived yesterday from the north were here through the forenoon - at least two hundred or more of them were - flying about in detachments coming singly.

Crows

The Golden-eye was also here again - in the river just below Ball's Hill. The Joneses fired twice at it but I saw it afterwards apparently unharmed.

I went down river in the afternoon, landing first on Bennett's woods where I dug some plants for the wild garden at the cabin and afterwards walking through the woods to the Bennett farm. Saw two Downy Woodpeckers & a few Chickadees. Heard a Nuthatch on Davis's Hill. Heard Titlarks flying over the meadows at sunset.

1898.

November 2

Morning clear and warm with violent S.W. wind. Afternoon cloudy and threatening.

Spent the forenoon on Ball's Hill. Chickadees & a Brown Creeper there. In the afternoon walked to the Barrett farm through the woods ignoring the paths and exploring many dense, bushy places. Saw a great many juncos, six or seven Tree Sparrows, four Fox Sparrows etc. Started at least six different Partridge. They seem to be increasing in numbers here as the autumn wears on.

Last Spring we trapped a rat at the cabin and this autumn we have House Mice for the first time. They have apparently wholly supplanted the White-footed Mice, whose screaming I have not heard in the cabin since this autumn. The House Mice are much more noisy than the White-footed Mice and they gnaw more.

Journal, 1898

1898.

November 3

A superb day cloudless and warm with almost no wind.

Spent the forenoon working on the wood land on the back side of Ball's Hill. In the afternoon went to the Barrett place by way of the river to Davis's Hill & across through the woods.

Saw at least a dozen Tree Sparrows, about fifteen Juncos, two Fox Sparrows and two Hermit Thrushes.

Dr. Arthur P. Chadbourne joined me this evening.

A Carolina Grackle appeared this morning on the river opposite the cabin.

1898.

November 4

Weather if possible more perfect than that of yesterday, the sky without a cloud, scarce a breath of wind, the air as soft and warm as in September, the sunshine rich & golden.

Chadbourne and I spent the whole forenoon in the woods. The country was alive with small birds chiefly Sparrows of which a heavy flight must have arrived from the N. last night. He saw at least twenty Tree Sparrows and about the same number of Fox Sparrows and heard both species in full song. Juncos were also very numerous.

At sundown this evening two Carolina Grebes & a bittern were swimming in the river opposite the cabin and a little earlier Gilbert saw two Ducks of some kind flying past up river.

At about 8 a.m. Chadbourne & I discovered three Canada Geese floating on the river a little below Birch Island. We saw them first from Davis's Hill. Making a circuit through the woods we approached them from behind Birch Island, but they had gone further down stream & close to the eastern shore. Presently two of them entered the grass & began feeding the third bird, a very large gander, keeping watch, floating on the open water with head & neck erect. When we showed ourselves all three birds drew together & swam out but we did not hear any alarm note

Canada Geese
in the river

1898.

November 4

(No 2)

quinn now did the birds fly. He put on life thrown in the water after looking at them as long as we wished.

At noon Chasbonum crossed the river to visit the spring in Pallen's pasture. On crossing the shore 60 or more yards back from the river on the flooded meadow he passed a single Goose within forty yards. The bird did not fly but merely paddled off through the thin, half-submerged grass. I went in search of it with my gun on Chasbonum's return but I could not find it nor could I see any signs of the other Geese although I paddled down river nearly to Birch Island. No shots were fired down river & no boats passed during the entire day. At evening I paddled down to Conkish Bridge & back but saw nothing except a large flock of Blackbirds which I took to be Cow-birds.

I heard afterwards that three Geese, which, doubt without doubt, were the same that we saw this evening, alighted about noon in Mill Brook meadow in a pool of water. A quinn attempted to stalk them but they were out of range & flew off in the direction of Sandy Pond.

1895.

November 5

Early morning cloudy. Remainder of day clear and very soft and warm with a light S. wind.

C. & S. R. S. came up this morning & we had a long walk in the woods going as far north as Birch Island and ending up at the Boule farm. Sleuthed thru or from Partridge's & saw a number of Juncos & Tree Sparrows.

The Whistler paid us another visit this morning and at noon two Grebes, doubtless the same as those seen yesterday approached the cabin within 30 yards coming from across the river and swimming very fast with heads & necks erect. Suddenly both took wing rising from the water with slight difficulty. One led the other by twenty yards or more being headed first. It alighted in the middle of the river and, just as its companion was passing over it, at a height of six or eight feet, it dived making a great splash. As nearly as I could make out all this was done in play, for neither bird showed any signs of being hurt or although we were standing at the time, in the open door of the cabin.

^{very}
Red-billed
Grebes take
wing.

1898

November 6

Forecast cloudy & rainy with S. W. wind. Afternoon cloudy & dead calm. A superb sunset - the finest remarkably fine one that we have had in four consecutive evenings.

Spent the forenoon in the cabin writing. Saw a White-throated Sparrow at the S. end of Bell's Hill. In the early afternoon a number of Crows were walking a great way in the woods over the vine and presently I saw them trooping across the Great Woods in the wake of a big bird that flew like a Great Horned Owl alternately flapping & sailing. I have repeatedly of late seen Crows trailing Red-shouldered Hawks but these birds do not excite them nearly so much as do the larger Owls.

On the evening of November 3rd, on that of the 4th, and again this evening, shortly after sunset, when the light was beginning to fade but the western sky was still aglow I heard Rails calling in the flooded meadows. To-night there were at least two birds a gun shot or more apart. I suppose they must have been Carolina Rails for their notes did not differ noticeably from the keep or kille which this species utters in autumn but it is very late in the season for Carolina Rails to be lingering here.

Carolina
Rails
still here

Cambridge, Mass.

1898. About two weeks ago I learned through John Sheehan that
Oct. 22. there were some turtle's eggs in the garden where they had
 been set out by Gilbert about the end of June. Wm. Brewster
 had come upon the turtle, a big snapper, laying her eggs in
 Concord not far from the cabin. The date was, I think, June
 20th last. The eggs were taken up and set out in the ground
 in another place near by and about the end of June Gilbert
 took up some and took them to Cambridge in a strawberry-box
 filled with dirt. He set them out in the box in the garden
 here in the north west corner just south of the asparagus bed.

 I visited the spot when I learned that the eggs were
 there and was shown the place. Some short sticks marked the
 boundaries within which was the box hidden under the soil.
 With a stick I carefully found the box and pried up one egg
 which I found was broken almost in two, the halves held to-
 gether by a slight connection which acted as a hinge. Open-
 ing the egg a little I saw within a small turtle well formed
 and completely filling the shell. A thin transparent membrane
 still covered the little creature. I immediately closed the
 egg and put it back exactly as I found it covering it careful-
 ly with soil. The egg was less than an inch below the sur-
 face of the ground. I had John put a wire screen around the
 spot. This screen was, when arranged, 13 inches high and 16
 inches in diameter. It was sunk into the ground all around

Cambridge, Mass.

1898. so that there should be no chance for the young turtles to
 Oct.22. crawl under.

(No.2). For the past two weeks I have visited the spot almost
 daily and till to-day found no change. Yesterday I was at the
 enclosure in the latter part of the afternoon. This morning
 I went there at 12 o'clock and found in about the centre of
 the little yard a small hole narrowly oblong in shape, the
 dimensions being at the top 1 inch by $1/2$ inch. The hole was
 $1\ 1/4$ inches deep and I could plainly see two halves of an
 egg at the bottom. They were separated far enough to allow a
 young turtle to crawl out.

But where was the turtle? Not in the enclosure, cer-
 tainly. The dirt around the edge of the yard was not in the
 least disturbed and the only possible way for departure was
 by crawling up the wire screen. The meshes was very fine and
 I presume the turtle must have done it. I had never dreamt
 of danger from that quarter. When I saw the little turtle in
 the egg I remember the fine white tiny claws of the creature
 that were moving slowly about. John has put a netting over
 the top of the enclosure and if any more eggs hatch, I dont
 know how many eggs there are, we shall secure the young ones
 this time surely.

Brewster Museum, Cambridge, Mass., Oct.22, 1898.

Walter Deane.

Cambridge, Mass.

1898. The netting that we put over the turtles' eggs on the
 Oct. 22. 22nd Oct. was the sieve from the ash-barrel inverted. This
 (No. 3). precluded any chance of escape on the part of the young tur-
 tles. I have visited the place every day since then without
 seeing any change on the surface of the ground. John was the
 last to go there yesterday at about three o'clock in the af-
 ternoon.

 I made a call there this morning at 9.30 A.M. and was
 much pleased to find a young turtle out and resting on the
 ground against the side of the sieve and so much the color of
 the soil that at first I did not see it at all. The turtle
 was perfectly still with head and legs partly exposed and
 tail curled around against the side of the shell. The shell
 measured 1 inch long by 1.1 inches wide. The tail was very
 long in proportion to the body, being 1.2 inches long.

 On searching for the hole whence the young turtle had e-
 merged I found that the old hole of Oct. 22nd had been enlarged
 what was apparently the pieces of the old shell filling up
 one half while the other half was the exit for the turtle of
 to-day. This hole was $3/4$ by $1/2$ in. in extent on the surface
 and went down at an angle of about 45 degrees for the depth
 of 3 inches and at the bottom I could see the white surface of
 an egg shell. I am doubtfull whether this shell belongs to
 the turtle just hatched for when I gently poked the shell with

Cambridge, Mass.

1898. a stick some liquid matter oozed up as if the egg were still
 Oct.28. full of something.

(No.4). I took the turtle into the Museum and put it for a time
 in the basin in my room with a little water. It soon showed
 signs of activity and began to move about.

John has made a pen in front of the Museum surrounded by
 wire netting. A large saucer of a flower-pot is sunk into
 the ground and is filled with mud and water to simulate as
 nearly as possible the little creature's native element.

The shell of the turtle was still quite soft.

Museum, Cambridge, Mass.

Walter Deane,

Nov.3. John and I have visited the turtle bed every day since
 my last entry. Yesterday I was there in the afternoon but
 still there was no change. This afternoon John went to the
 spot and found that another young turtle was out. It came
 from the same hole that the others had come by. It was about
 1.30 P.M. About 1 1/2 inches of umbilical cord was hanging
 underneath. I took this turtle right down to Mr. Samuel Garman
 and he was pleased to get it. He will raise it. He showed
 me one of this same species that he had raised, it was two
 years old and yet was only about three years inches long.

The turtle that was hatched on Oct.28th we have kept in

Cambridge, Mass.

1898. the little pen mentioned above. It has remained most of the
 Nov.3. time buried in the mud. This afternoon at about 3.30 o'clock
 (No.5). John found the little creature climbing up the fine meshes of
 wire netting. It was within two inches of the top and eleven
 inches from the ground, so that now I know for a certainty
 that this was the way that the first turtle escaped, for at
 that time there was no netting over the top. I gave this
 turtle this afternoon to Miss Woodman who will rear it. The
 animal must be properly cared for and fed.

Nov.7. The turtles' hole has been visited every day since the
 last entry. Yesterday John was there at 3 A.M., but nothing
 had hatched. This morning I visited the spot at 9.30 o'clock
 and found another young turtle hatched. It was crouched
 against the side of the sieve. No umbilical cord was attach-
 ed to it. This turtle came out of the same old hole, there
 is economy in this but I do not quite see how each turtle
 knows how to work its way to the hole. The hole now measures
 at the top $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 1 inch and it descends as far as I could
 ascertain $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches at an angle of about 45 degrees. I
 could feel the bottom with a stick but could not see it. On
 Nov.3 Miss Woodman pulled the piece of shell from the mouth
 of the hole. The turtle this morning was drawn in, tail
 curled against the shell.

Cambridge, Mass.

1898. This morning I took the turtle of Nov.7th and put it into
Nov.8. the pond between the Museum and the house. It sank slowly
(No.6). out of sight. We shall now see if it appears there in the
spring.

*Brewster Museum,
Walter Deane.*

1898

November 9

Clear, calm and warm - a typical "Indian Summer" day.

I went to Cambridge on the 7th and in the old garden there saw several Wooded Sparrows and Yellow Warblers on the afternoon of that day.

Returned to Concord by the 8.34 train this morning. Heard Tit Larks piping over the fields near the W. Bedford Station & started a large cove Partridge in the latter cluster of pines.

Went to the Baer's farm in the afternoon. A Partridge was drumming there on Hawth, regular intervals on the stone wall in the rear. Either this bird or another "chests" almost daily in an out-hill near the wall. It is a common habit of the Partridge to resort to out-hills for this purpose probably because they afford almost the only clear, dry dirt that can be found in the leaf-covered woods. Gilbert saw a Partridge eating a mushroom yesterday and brought in the fragment. It plainly showed the marks of the bird's bill but unfortunately it was so mutilated that Miss Hume to whom Miss Hayes took it for identification was only able to say that it was one of the latter kinds.* Miss Hume also said that she has seen Crows (as well as Cowbirds) eating mushrooms & that they attack only the humblest species.

Late in the afternoon a flock of about 100 House Grackles followed a minute or two later by a second flock of fully 300 passed over the Baer's House flying S.W. The first flock was at an elevation of about 300 ft., the second at an minimum height, fully 1/2 mile S. through.

Partridge eating mushroom

Another Partridge obtained by Gilbert Hume, afterwards obtained by him & by Miss Hume. It is a common habit of the Partridge to resort to out-hills for this purpose probably because they afford almost the only clear, dry dirt that can be found in the leaf-covered woods. Gilbert saw a Partridge eating a mushroom yesterday and brought in the fragment. It plainly showed the marks of the bird's bill but unfortunately it was so mutilated that Miss Hume to whom Miss Hayes took it for identification was only able to say that it was one of the latter kinds.* Miss Hume also said that she has seen Crows (as well as Cowbirds) eating mushrooms & that they attack only the humblest species.

Bronzed Grackles.

1898.

November 11. A heavy north-easter yesterday with strong wind
 a torrents of rain. Both wind & rain ceased during
 the night and early this morning the sun was shining
 dimly through thin clouds. At about 9 a.m. the
 clouds dissolved and the sun came out brightly.
 A strong W.W. wind came on about the same
 time and the remainder of the day was mild
 and breezy with a brilliant but cool sun.

I saw nothing of any interest yesterday although
 I went to the Bourne farm through the woods
 as usual. This afternoon just as I was
 looking at Birch Island a flock of about
 40 Canada Geese passed high overhead coming
 from the N.E. and following the river as far
 as Bock's Hill when, as is their almost
 invariable custom in autumn, they turned
 abruptly westward.

A few minutes later a flock of just sixty
 Cranes came in the track of the Geese but
 at a much lower elevation. They crossed the
 river at nearly right angles and went off
 directly over the Bourne farm. They were
 almost entirely ungrazing.

Before the wind rose this morning I saw on land
 a number of small birds, among others a flock
 of about fifteen Goldfinches feeding in alders
 near the river. I think I saw a Skink also.

1898.

November 12

Clear with light W. wind. Early morning cold the ground freezing hard and the river meadows covered with thin ice. Middle of day soft & warm. Evening frosty again.

Spent the entire day at the House farm working there from the cabin in the early morning and returning after lunch. During the morning walk I saw nothing but two or three 7's Sparrows and a few Chickadees, but I heard some Goldfinches calling.

About the House farm I saw a solitary Kinglet and, later in the afternoon, two flocks of Brown Grackles flying S.W. Without doubt they were a part of the flock that I witnessed at the lower place and the lower house on the 9th but on the present occasion they were moving at a moderate height - certainly not over 300 ft. above the ground. I am now convinced that there would be a great noise for off to which they go every evening. The course which they take is almost exactly in the direction of Punkston Hill.

Brown
Grackles.

I saw five Partridges on my walk homeward this evening, two in the House woods, three among the thickly grown behind Punk Hill. One had two others across the river this morning.

Gilbert had a Whistler & a Carolina Duck in the river in front of the cabin at about noon.

1898.

Nov. 13-23

During this period it did not seem worth the while to keep up my journal for I saw very few birds and my daily walks were singularly barren of interesting specimens. These walks were mostly to and from the Barrett place where I have had to spend the greater part of my time superintending the work of repairing the old house and barn. Ordinarily I left the cabin at about eight o'clock in the morning and got back to it a little before dark. Sometimes I went and returned all the way by land but after a while I would go by canoe as far as Dalin's or Davis's Hill. I varied the land routes as much as possible paying but little attention to the established paths but pushing through the more tangled thickets in the hope of finding something new. I did discover two plants not hitherto found in my woods viz Arctostaphylos uva-ursi under the Prescott pines and Chimaphila maculata in two places - on the Barrett farm behind the old barn & in the Prescott woods near the road to the greenfield. Birds of birds I saw almost none, even of the commoner kinds. A few Chickadees daily, a Jay or a Crow very often, a Mountain Crow ^{or a Kinglet} now & then, two Sparrows in small flocks occasionally & once or twice a few Hot Sparrows ^{Junco} or Goldfinches are about all that I can recall now excepting Partridge which I rarely failed to see each day. There were also a few Pine Squirrels about for I repeatedly heard their calls notes, usually in the early morning.

Apparently the migrants all passed south before the 12th but on the morning of the 21st there were indications

General Notes.

1898.

Nov. 13-23 of a small flight chiefly composed of Juncos and
(see 2) Tree Sparrows.

The Chickadees are comparatively scarce this autumn and the flocks are small, rarely containing more than five or six birds each and ordinarily not more than three or four. Last autumn I was with many flocks which contained ten or twelve birds each.

Chickadees
Scarcely in
small flocks.

No regular winter visitors have appeared as yet. I have not seen or heard of a single Red-billed Nuthatch during the entire season.

One rainy evening (that of the 19th if I remember rightly) I was passing through some pine woods (at the S. end of Davis's Swamp) when a small Owl started from a low branch and flew off through the trees with irregular, wavering flight like a big moth. The bird looked small enough for a Saw-whet & I think belonged to that species but in the dim mist-laden twilight positive identification was impossible.

Small Owl
seen at
evening

For the first time in four or five years a flock of Quail have established themselves in my woods. Gilbert saw them first on the evening along the river path near the cabin & counted eight birds. The flock was next seen with by Pat on the near the entrance to the wood road to the grass field but Pat could count only six birds. On the 24th he killed two in the grass field and the next morning he saw six in the bush pasture on the forest fence just west of the grass field. Probably some Hawks were the killed two birds from the flock since Gilbert says it

Quail on
Balls Hill

1898.

November 26

I went to Cambridge on the 23rd and returned to the Cabin last evening. Up to yesterday the season has continued remarkably mild & open with no snow whatever and few frosts hard enough to stiffen the ground, while in the Hill grass fields butterflies have been fluttering about & cicadas chirping up to within two or three days whenever the sun shows warmly.

The change from autumn to winter came last night when the thermometer fell to about 20°. At day break this morning the meadows, now covered two or three feet deep with water, were frozen almost thickly enough to bear a man's weight and the open water in the river flowed in the thick, biting air. Just as the sun was rising a flock of five Sheldrake ^{Goosanders} came swimming past the Cabin following the edge of the ice on the bottom side of the river, moving very fast and diving, sometimes all practically at once, but often one immediately after another in quick succession, each bird springing quite clear of the water as it took its downward plunge. They reminded me forcibly of a school of Porpoises, as they approached and disappeared making the calm water flush and sparkle in the sunlight. Apparently they had all success with their fishing for after they had passed the Cabin they all took wing and went off one the four members towards the S. W.

A few moments later a Carolina Grack came swimming down river starting the Cabin there closely and was entering the thicket of submerged bushes directly in front of the open door at which I was standing. I slipped

[✓]
Red billed
Grack.

1898

November 26
(1898)

ant, clapped my hands & shouted, but this bird would not drive nor did it appear to notice me in the least for it kept steadily on its way chiefly within the belt of bushes through which it pursued a devious course moving very rapidly. Once or twice it stopped and peered its feet on or even & flapped its wings. Had I not had such a good view of it I should have doubted its being a Goshawk its behavior was so very peculiar. It was a young bird without trace of black on the throat.

I spent the day at the Baller's place. Saw nothing in the woods but a solitary Partridge and a small flock of Chickadees.

We have apparently exterminated the House Wren in the cabin - after collecting about a dozen - and the White footed Wren has returned for we found one in the traps a few days ago. We also found a Shrew which entered a trap set on the shelf over the fire place and baited with raw meat.

Wren
Shrew in
cabin

I have not seen a Hawk of any kind for over two weeks and, strange to say, I have not met with a single Shrike this autumn. Crows are unusually scarce and there are practically no Blue Jays.

Scarcity of
Hawks &
Shrikes.

The Chickadees come daily to the cabin for meat but the Downy Woodpecker attacked it to-day for the first time.

Dover, N.H.

1898.

November 27

The sky clouded over early yesterday forenoon and at evening, when I came home through the fields & meadows behind Holden's Hill, there was a strong N.E. wind and the air felt like snow. It began snowing soon after dark and this morning when I arose the ground was covered to the depth of nearly a foot and the air was still thick with the driving flakes. At 9 a.m. the sky brightened & the snow ceased falling but a little later the storm began again with redoubled energy. During the remainder of the day the snow fell almost ceaselessly but at no time very thickly but the wind blew a living gale from the N.E. lashing the trees about on the crest of Ball's Hill and forming deep drifts in the open fields. Along the river path the wind scarcely reached and the trees were laden with light, dry snow the effect, especially where there were pine & hemlocks, being very beautiful. By nightfall the snow measured sixteen inches deep all along this path. I have never known so heavy a fall before at this season.

Heavy
Snow Storm.

The Chickadee attacked the nest bravely to-day. In fact whenever I looked out I saw from two to five or six flitting about it and helping themselves liberally by turns. Once I saw one attack & drive another away from it, a rare instance, I fancy, for ordinarily the Chickadee is one of the most unselfish and amiable of all birds. Then the Sparrows and some Goldfinches, also came about the cabin and a solitary Robin came to feed on some bitter sweet berries, both in the afternoon I walked to Susan's landing & back striking a Partridge very near the cabin.

Chickadee
guarding

1898.

Nov. 28

Clear with strong, cold N. wind. The snow melted a good deal on sheltered sunny slopes like those near the cabin but on the open fields it drifted incessantly before the high wind.

As our stock of firewood and provisions had run low and as there seemed no hope that the woods would be again accessible for sometime to come we decided, early this morning, to return to Concord. This was not accomplished without much difficulty & labor. It took Benson the entire forenoon to break a road to the cabin and the road from his house to the village was barely practicable for the broad, heavy wood sled on which he took us and our effects in the early afternoon. The drifts were six or eight feet deep in many places and between Peter's & the top of Panscott's Hill they filled the wood from wall to wall and we were obliged to take to the fields where the wind had blown the snow away. We left Concord at 4.26 P.M. but our train was held at Bedford for nearly six hours and finding that it would be nearly midnight before I could get home I went into Boston & spent the night at the Parker House.

A Robin and six Chickadees came about the cabin in the forenoon. On the way to Concord we saw a Blue Jay (near Holden's) and two flocks of loons on containing five, the other six birds. I also heard a Brown Creeper near the woods.

1898.

Dec. 8-10

I returned to Concord on the afternoon of the 7th and spent the following two days there at the Keys'. On the 8th I went to the Barrett farm where I saw a Kinglet, a flock of eight Chickadees, a Downy Woodpecker, five Tree Sparrows, five Crows, and a Partridge. The day was sunny with a strong, cold N. W. wind. The fields were bare in most places but in the woods the ground was covered to a depth of four feet to twelve inches with heavily crusted snow.

On the 9th I drove to Green Pond to be about four miles there has been quite a fire and to Anger's Mills to order some shales. The weather was clear and cold with a bitter N. W. wind. The only birds noted were five Crows which were stalking about in a field on the Moore farm.

As I was passing the Concord jail the Sheriff came Scrub Owl out with a red Scrub Owl which he had found dead in the only a few minutes before in one of the cells. One of the neighbors told me that she had seen the Owl sitting at the window of the cell every day for a week or more past. Craig (the Sheriff) thought that the Owl must have come down the chimney and entered the cell through a hole leading into the fire where a floor had formerly stood. He gave me the bird which was somewhat incriminated & had apparently died of starvation. Another red Scrub Owl was picked up dead on Monument Street, Concord, December 4th by Charles Russell. Bill Boutwell showed me this bird the following day. It had a broken wing but showed no other signs of injury. It had a Horse Manure in its throat, the tail & hind feet of this animal protruding just

1898.

Dec. 8-10 a little beyond the edges of the tightly closed bird. It
(no 2) is a mystery how the bird could have met its fate.

Miss Keyes is feeding the birds this winter as usual and she had a fine lot of them to show me. There were three Nuthatches (*Castorinus*) four Downy Woodpeckers, six Chickadees, four Blue Jays (six have been here together on one or two occasions) besides, I am going to add, a flock of at least thirty English Sparrows. The Nuthatches, Chickadees and Woodpeckers fed exclusively on suet, a large piece of which is kept hanging in the mountain ash in front of the dining room window. The Woodpeckers helped themselves first and while there had satisfied their appetites the smaller birds had to wait. In no instance did I see more than one bird of any kind on the suet or over time even the social & amiable little Chickadees taking their breakfast by turns. The Sparrows ate bread & suet indiscriminately but the Jays, though to say, rarely touched anything but the bread and this, Miss Keyes tells me, has been the case ever since she first attracted them to the house three or four years ago. I watched them for an hour or more both mornings and only once saw one of them attack the suet but he helped himself liberally.

On each morning the four Jays that come soon after sunrise and around an hour or more, during this time they made away with nearly half a loaf of bread. This had been broken up rather finely and thrown out on the lawn under the window. The Jays ate a little of it and carried off the rest filling their throats and bills just as the Canada Jays do and taking their loads into

Birds eating
suet.

Blue Jays
prefer bread
to suet.

Jays caching
bread.

1898

Dec. 8-10
(no 3)

a neighboring orchard (about 30 yds. from the house) where they buried most of them in the ground depositing a small piece, however, behind scales of loose bark or in small holes or crevices of the old apple & pear trees. The fragments hidden in the ground were scattered about over spaces where the wind had drifted among the trees. Some were merely thrust carelessly under fallen leaves or tufts of grass, others were driven into the ground by repeated powerful strokes of the birds' bills; the pieces placed in trees were almost invariably tamped fairly down before they were left.

The Jays were very tame and our presence at the windows did not seem to disturb them in the least. It was a beautiful sight to see them hopping about on the snow bank picking up the crumbs within two or three yards of us. They seemed to be quite free from jealousy or selfishness and I did not once see one of them interfere with or threaten another although all four were often collecting their loads at the same time on a space less than a yard square. ~~They~~ ~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~did~~ they molest the Sparrows but the latter, I observed, did not venture to feed with them although three of them alighted within a few inches of them on the trees & bushes near at hand.

On both mornings the Jays remained for some time at day break in the pines west of the house but while collecting the crumbs they frequented, at all times, a perfect heaven

