Cyanocitta cristata

Cyanocitta cristata. * = breeding.

1889

April — Ed. 11 1 * 1889. Ed. 6 2 * - Wm. 8 (3) - Ed. 9 hd - R. 14 (2) Belmont - B. 21 1 * - Cd-Way 25 4 * - 26 4 * - Cd. 27 2 * 1891.

May — Ed. 10 1 * - Wm. 14 1 - B. 30 1 * 1889. Wm. 9 2 * - Wm. 16 3 - Wm. 19 2 * - Ed.-Way 30 2 * - Way 31 4 * 1890 M.V. G. 3 1 - M. V. 9 5 - 10 3 * (Fay) - 12 3 * - Cd-Way 23 4 * - C. Cark. 28 2 (with nest Hyp) - 1891.

June — G. 4 ad. * 3 (3 yng out) - Way 16 1 * 1889. Ed. 1 2 - S. 10 3 * - Sw. 14 2 * - Rie. 21 (Belmont) - 28 6 1890 M. Truro 3 1 1891

Aug. — Ed. 28 1 * 1889

Nov. — Wm. 25 6 * - B. 26 1 - 1889.

Dec. — Ms. 5 3 - 6 8 - Hubbard 11 1 1889 Concord 1 (2) * - 5 3 - 8 2 * - 10 2 * - 13 (4) - 15 6 * - 16 hd - 20 15 * - 28 8 * 1891.

Jan'y — Wel. 26 3 (Dem) - Wd. 29 1 (?) - 1890 B. 28 1 1891. 22 1 * - 24 2 * - 25 1 * - 29 (3) * 1892. C. 15 hd - B. 13 hd - C. 22 hd

Feb. — W. 13 1 Battey 1890 Brookline 22 (Bolles) - A. 28 (Bolles) - 1891

July — Fel. 6 8 * 1890

Sept. — N. 10 4 * - N. 15 2 - 1890.

March — Weston 1 3 (Bolles) - Bedford (4 mig) 8 (Bolles) - B. 22 1 * - B. 28 1 * 1891.

" — B. 8 1 - C. 14 5 *

April

May

Sept.

Oct. — Milton 3 6 * - 4 15 * - Milton 11 12 - Concord 16 hd - 17 hd - 18 4 - 19 4 - 20 6 - 21 10 - 22 8 - 23 10 - 24 6 - 25 4 - 26 10 - 27 2 - 28 4 - 29 8 - 30 8 - 31 4 1891.

Nov. — 4 3 - 5 4 - 6 4 - 7 6 - 8 20 - 11 6 - 12 12 - 13 4 - 29 1 - 30 3 > Concord 1891.

Dec.

Cyanocitta cristata.

* = swarming.

1892.

January	22¹*. 24²*. 25¹*. 29(3)*
February	2²*. 4⁶*. 5(2). 6(2). 9*. 10²*. 14¹*. 15². 16⁴*. 20². 21⁵*. 25⁶. 26²
March	4¹*. 5¹*. 7¹*. 9²*. 10². 13¹*. 15². 20¹. 21¹. 22¹*. 24⁶*. 28⁴. 30²
April	1². 3²*. 5²*. 13 (6-5)(2)(2). 19¹. 20. 21². 24³. 25². 26². 27²
May	1². 2². 3⁸. 7². 8². 9¹. 10¹. 12. 14. 15⁴*. 18⁴. 19¹. 20*(4)(2). 21¹. 23². 24². 25². 28¹. 29⁶*. 30². 31²*
June	1². 2²*. 3². 4¹. 5. 6¹*. 7¹*. 8¹. 15¹*. 17. 18². 19²*. 20¹. 21. 22¹*
July	1¹*. 5¹*. 8²*. 9³*. 11¹*. 14⁴*. 16. 17. 18. 19¹*. 21²*. 26²*. 28¹*
August	2¹. 15¹*. 21²*
September	1¹*. 3¹*. 7⁴*. 8⁵*. 16⁷*. 18. 19⁸*. 20(5)10*. 21*. 22⁶*. 23³⁰*. 24²⁵*. 25⁵⁰. 27. 28²⁰. 30⁴
October	1². 2⁴. 6³. 7⁶. 8⁶. 9¹⁵. 10²⁰. 12⁶. 14¹⁰. 15⁸. 17⁴. 18⁶. 19⁴. 21⁶. 22⁴. 23². 24⁵. 25⁴. 27⁶*. 28⁸*. 30⁴. 31⁵
November	1³. 3(3). 6(4)3. 7³. 9². 11². 12³. 13². 14⁴. 17³. 19(3)
December	

1893

January	C. 10¹*. B. 13¹*. C. 22¹*
February	C. 14¹*
March	C. 8¹. C. 14(3)2. C. (7)5 (Max). C. 18¹*. C. 19¹*. Cd. 31¹
April	2². 3³*. 8⁷*. 9². 10²*. 11²*. 22¹*. 23¹*. 26(2). 29²*. Concord.
May	1(5)*. 9¹*. 12¹. 15³*. 16¹*. 19¹*. 21¹. 26¹*. 29¹. 30¹*. Concord.
June	Cd. 30¹*
July	13¹*. 14¹*. 19¹*. 21³*. 24(4)*. 30³*. Concord.
August	9*(4). 25¹. 27 (25) c Pasture near Bateman's Pond. 31². Concord.
September	2¹*. 3²*. 9¹*. 12¹*. 13²*. 16⁷*. Concord
October	25⁴ 26⁶ Concord 27² 29⁵* 30⁵ 31(3)
November	1². 3² Concord. 4¹. 5³*. 11². 12³*. 13²*. 19¹*
December	Cd. 8¹. C. 10¹*(Nichols place). C. 15¹(Winchester pl.). C. 19¹(do.). C. 20¹(do.). Cg. 28¹(Denton)

Cyanocitta Cristata

* = screaming.

1894.

January

February

March

April — W. Nw. 29²

May — Concord 3² * 6¹ * Cd. 20² * 26¹ * 27¹ *

June — Cd. 7¹ 9¹ Warrenham 10⁸ (rose keeper) 11⁴

July — C. (Reservoir St.) 9¹ * (complains above young, apparently) W. Newton do. 13² * 17¹ eating cherries 20 (6) * Cd. (Goose Pond)

August

September

October — 7² * 12¹⁰ * 13² * 14¹⁵ * 16⁶ 17⁵ 18⁶ * 19⁸ * 20¹⁵ * 21¹⁰ * 25⁴ 26² 27³ 28² 29² 30¹ Concord

November — 1² 2¹ 3¹ 4³ 13⁵ 14² 15⁴ 16 (5) 17³ 18² 20³ 21² Concord 24 (7) Cd. C. (from muffler)

December — Cg. 5¹ * C. Fresh Pond 6¹

1895.

January — Cd. 20¹ * (very)

February — Cd. 24²

March — Wm. Rock Mt. 24¹ * Concord (Keyes Pl.) 27 (2) 28 (2) Cd. 30 (2) (3) 31 (2)

April — Cd. 1 (3) 2 (2) Concord (Keyes Pl.) 3¹ 5¹ 7¹ 13¹ Cd. 15 (7) * Beall Hill 17⁴ * Concord 19² 28¹ * Keyes Pl.

May — Concord 1² 2² 3² 4² 5¹ 6² 11¹ Provincetown 18¹ * Cd. 23³ *

June

July

August — Mitten 11¹ *

September

October — Cg. (in direction of Wm. Reed) 5¹ * 6¹⁰ * 7²⁰ 8¹⁵ 9⁶ 10 15³ 16³ 17¹⁵ 18¹⁰ 19⁴ 20⁴ 21¹² 22¹⁰ 23⁶ [Cg. 25¹ *] 26³ 27² 29³ 30⁵ 31³ Concord

1⁴ 2² 3 (2) 4¹² 6⁶ 7⁵ 20 (6) 22³ 23³ 24¹⁰ 25 (7) (3) Concord

a. 8 (5) Wm 15 (4)

Cyanocitta cristata.

+ imitation of Butes lineatus
* = Jay + Jay scream

1896.

January

February — u. 2(2) Cd. 14(4) Cd. 24 - C. (Gray's woods, Field & Farm) 27 1 *

March — Weston 15 - hd Wayland 22 3 -

April — 1 2 - 2 6 (Fresh Pond) 3(4) 6(24) 10 (2)(4) 12 - 13 1 * 14(4) 15 - 4 16 12 * 17 2 18 2 19 2 20 1 21 25(2) 26 3 27 2 Concord 6

May — Cd 3 4 -

June

July

August — C. (Haymeadow Brook) 2 1 *

September

October — Cg 10 hd. 11 12 - 15 - 12 8 20 8 21 6 22 8 - 23 10 24 20 25 - hd. 26 8 27 10 28 8 29 4 30 12 31 15 Concord

November — 1 6 - 2 10 - 14 1 - 18(5)(4) 19 (2)(3) * 20 hd. 21 (3) River banks. 23 3 - 24 1 - Concord

December

1897

Cd. (Bell's Hill) 27 2 (1 *)

February

March — McAuburn 23 1 * Cg (on Lincoln's at summer) 30 1 *

April — 1 + 2 4 - 3 5 4 1 + 5 1 - 8 6 * 10 1 * 11 hd 12 1 + 23 1 * 24 1 * 25 - 2 * 26 1 * 29 (2) 1 * 30 1 (2) collecting sticks for nest Concord

1897.

August — C. nichols pasture 22 1 * C. Gray's woods 27 1 2 *

September

October — 20 2 * 22 # 23(2) 27 6 * - 28 2 - 29 - Concord

November — 1 6 - 2 2 - 3 2 - 4 2 - 6 2 - 7 2 - 8 2 - 10 3 - 14 1 - 15 - 17 - 18 (2) 19 (2) 20 hd. 21 hd. Concord

December — Concord 9 3 - 10 (2) (2) 16 5

Cristata
Cristata

The Garden,
Cambridge, Mass.

Cyanocitta cristata

x = screaming

1900 January 6hd March 25② 30hd Sept. 11x 22x Oct. 24'

1901 September 25x October 1x

1902 May 9x August 3x W.D. 6② x W.D. 12x (2 in blinding rain) / September 1② x W.D. 22 W.D. 29 W.D. 30 W.D.

" October 3 W.D. November 2 W.D. 14 W.D. 23x 24x 25x 26 27' 28' December 11x 15x 19x 12x 13x

1903 January 2x 7x (1 in Parkman's apple) 9 (1 in Parkman's apple) 10/11②/12 13' 14' 15' 20x 25x 26x February 26② (in white maple)

March 4x 5x 6x 17' 18' 22x 24x 25x 31x May 2x November 4' 5' 24② 30'

December 1' 3' 4² 5' 7② 14' 15' 19' 21' 22' 23' 28' 29'

1904 January 21② 28' February 13' 22' March 5x 19x September 12x 25hd 27hd 30hd

October 1hd November 3' 7② 14' 17' December 18² 21' 22' 27②

1905 January 10x 24x February 1x 8②x 11x 14x 16x 20x 21x 28² March 2② (feeding in Parkman's apple) 9hd 13hd 14 do.

(March) 15hd 16hd 18② 22x 31x April 1x 3x 4x 10x 12x 13x 17²x 18² 19④ (in purple at Vaux W.D.)

(April) 25x 26x 27' May 1② 2x 3x 6x 13' 24' (in cut bud lilacs Carlton's store W.W.) 25x 31'

September 1x 11x 30x October 4' November 3²x 6hd 7hd 8hd 10x (Rain) 11hd

(November) 25hd 27hd December 2hd 4hd 12hd 13hd 23' 26hd 27²x

1906 January 2hd 3hd 5② 6② 27x March 19' 20' 23' April 7② (Carl) 14x May 9x

(May) 11x 12x 19x August 30 (hard screaming in early morning) December 4' 5' W.D. 18' 26'

1907 January 3② 7③ February 4' 6' 16' March 3 (seen W.D.) 4x 5' April 11' 13②x 30hd

May 15x 17x 20x June 6x July 3²x 24²x August 13²x 18x 28x

October 23' 25' 26' Nov 2' 7' 8' 16' 18' 21²x 22x 27x 30x December 8hd

(December) 21x 26x

8 June 4hd in distance towards N.W. a Highland St. July 3hd. in distance towards Appleton St. September 8' screaming in Garden at 6 + 9 a.m. [November 3' 26' Hubbard P.]

November 30 (2 screaming in woods) 18' (perched in tree in Jungles screaming loudly) 20' (in pine on lawn)

9 January 3③ (in Jungles) 19② (in lilacs) 24 (in [illegible]) 31' [illegible] 7 [illegible] 4 [illegible] 6hd. 9hd. 10hd. 16hd.

(February) 18② 22② 23② 25hd. March 4hd. 6④ (in lilacs - very tame. I got within 15 ft. of them) 8hd. 9hd. 10hd 11hd 13hd

April 9hd. (in early morn) 16 do. May 22' 24' 25' 30' October 15hd 16' November 6' 7' 12² 18'

(November) 14' 21hd 22' 23' 24② (eating bread in lilacs; very tame) 26² 27' 28' 30'

December 16' 19' [illegible]

1910. January 2x 3x 5' 6② 7' 8② 9② 10② 12② 15x 20x 22x

" March 14hd. 17② 22hd. 23hd. 25hd. 26hd. 27hd. 28hd. 29² 30② 31²

" April 11② (bathing in fountain) 12hd. 20 do. 22 do. July 4hd. 21hd 22hd 27' 28'

" August 8hd. 9hd 11hd. 18² 19hd. 22³ 23hd. 24hd. 25hd 26² September 23² 28' October 6² 12² 26² 28' 29hd 30' 31' 6

" November 7② 8② 9② 10hd 21② 22② 25② 29hd 30' December 3' 4hd 5hd 7' 9hd 10hd 12' 13hd 14hd 16hd 17hd 18hd 20hd 22hd C. cristata

The Garden.

Cambridge, Mass.

Cyanocitta Cristata

x = Screaming

1911. January 2^2 $3^{hd.}$ $4^{hd.}$ $5^{hd.}$ $6'$ $7'$ $8'$ 9^2 $10'$ $11'$ $17^{hd.}$ February $5^{hd.}$ $7^{do.}$ 14do $15'$ $16'$ $25^{hd.}$

March $3^{hd.}$ 6^2 26^{hd} April $1^{hd.}$ 5^2 (singing) May $1'$ $2^{(2)}$ $3'_x$

August 10^2 screaming 11^{hd} 16^{hd} 17^{hd} September $8^{(2)}$ $9^{hd.}$ $11^{hd.}$ $26^{hd.}$ November $2^{hd.}$ $4^{(2)}$ in leaves, very Coarse

(November) 7^2 $22^{hd.}$ $23'$ $24^{(2)}$ 25^2 27^{hd}

December $3^{(2)}$ $6'$ $7'$ $9^{hd.}$ 10^{hd} $13^{(2)}$ $14^{(2)}$ $18^{(2)}$ $19^{(2)}$ $20^{(2)}$ $21^{hd.}$ $27^{(2)}$ $29^{(2)}$ $30^{hd.}$ 31^{hd}

1912 January $1^{hd.}$ $6^{hd.}$ $7^{hd.}$ $8^{hd.}$ $9^{hd.}$ $10'$ $11'$ $12'$ $14'$ $16^{hd.}$ $18^{hd.}$ $19^{hd.}$ $20'$ $21^{hd.}$ $22'$ $24'$ $25^{hd.}$ $30^{hd.}$ 3

February $1'$ $2'$ $3'$ $4'$ 5^2 $12'$ $13^{(3)}$ $17'$ $18'$ $20'$ $21'$ $25^{hd.}$ $26^{hd.}$ $27^{hd.}$ $28'$ $29^{hd.}$

March $1'$ $3'$ $4'$ $5'$ $6'$ $7'$ $8'$ $9'$ $12'$ $13'$ $16^{hd.}$ $17'_x$ $18'_x$ $19'$ $20'$ $21'$ $22'$ $23'$ $24'$ $25'$ $26'$ $27'$ $28'$ $(30')$

April $10'$ $13'$ $22'$ $23'$ May $13'$ in Chicago $27'$ do. June $7'$ $17'$ (1 adt with 2 young just from nest & because adt flyby (Gilbert))

July $1'$ $2'$ $3'$ (2 adt 2 juv) $4^{do.}$ $5^{do.}$ $8^{do.}$ $9^{do.}$ $10^{do.}$ $12'_x$ $13'$ $17'$ $18'$ $19'$ $20'$ $24'$ $26'$ $27'$

August 1^2_x $2^{hd.}$ $3'$ $6'_x$ 7^2_x $8'$ $9'$ 10^2_x $12'$ $14'$ $15'$ $16'$ $17'$ $19'$ $20'$ 21^2_x 22^2_x $23'_x$ 24^3_x 25^2 26^2 $27'$ $29'$ $30'$

September $23'$ $30'$ October $8'$ November $3'$ $4'$ $5^{(2)}$ $6^{(2)}$ $7^{(2)}$ also a bird with original young, unable to fly, not seen as yours 8^2 9^2 $20'$ $21'$

" $23'$ 25^2 30^2 December $1^{(2)}$ $8'$ 9^2 $11'$ $13'$ $15'$ $17^{(3)}$ 19^{hd} $20'$ $23^{(2)}$ $28'$ $29'$ $30^{(2)}$

1913. January $2^{hd.}$ $7^{do.}$ $9^{do.}$ $10^{(2)}$ $11^{hd.}$ $12^{hd.}$ $15^{hd.}$ $17'$ $19'$ $20'$ $22^{(2)}$ $25^{hd.}$ $26^{hd.}$ $27'$ $28'$ 29^2 $30'$ $31^{(2)}$

February $1'$ $2^{(2)}$ $3^{(2)}$ $9^{(3)}$ $10^{hd.}$ $12'$ $14'$ $17^{(8)}$ in top of tall poplar, 19^2 $20^{hd.}$ $24'$ $25'$ $26^{(2)}$ $27'$ $28'$

March $2'$ $4'$ $5'$ $6'$ $7'$ $8'$ $9'$ $10'$ $11'$ $12'$ $23^{hd.}$ $24'$ $26^{(2)}$ 28^2 29^2 $30'$ $31^{(2)}$

April $1'_x$ (making various sucking liquid & gurgling notes), $9'$. May 8^2 $17^{(2)}$ 25^{hd} June $5'^{hd.}$ $16'$ do.

Noted by R. A. Gilbert

July $3'_x$ 4^2_x $5'_x$ $6^{(2)}$ $7^{(2)}$ $8^{hd.}$ $10'$ 12^2 $15'$ $17'$ $18'$ $19'$ $21'$ 24^4 25^4 26^4 29^2 30^2

August $12'$ 13^2 $15'$ $18'_{(s)}$ $22'_{(s)}$ $23'_{(s)}$ $25^{hd.}$ September 13^{hd} $23'$ $29^{(2)}$

October $30^{hd.}$ November $14^{hd.}$ 23^2 $27'$ $28'$ $29'$

December $2^{hd.}$ $5'$ $6'$ 11^{hd} $16'_x$ 17^{hd} 19^3 $21^{hd.}$ $23^{(2)}$ $28^{hd.}$ $29^{(2)}$ $30^{(2)}$ $31^{(3)}$

1914. January $2^{(2)}_x$ $4^{(2)}$ $5'^{(3)}$ $6^{(4)}$ $7^{(2)}$ $11^{hd.}$ $12^{(3)}$ 17^{hd} $18^{hd.}$ 19^{hd} $23^{hd.}$ $28^{(2)}$ $30'$

February $1^{hd.}$, $2^{hd.}$, $3'$, $5'$, $8'$, $10^{hd.}$ $13^{hd.}$, $15'$, $17'$, $18'$, $19'$, $20'$, $23^{(2)}$, $26^{(2)}$, 27^2, $28^{(2)}$

March $3^{(5)}$ $4'$ $6^{hd.}$ 7^2 8^2 $10^{(2)}$ 11^2 $12^{hd.}$ $14'$ $16^{(2)}$ $17^{(2)}$

Noted by R. A. Gilbert

April $3'$ $4'$ $6'$ $7'$ $8'$ $10'$ $11'$ $13'$ $14'$ $17^{hd.}$ $18'$ May $15'$ June $12'$ (5 young just out of nest, on ground in jungle (Percy Hatch)) $24'$ (5 juv 1 ad)

July 7^2 eating cherries! 8^2 9^2 10^2 $11'$ (young just out of nest found dead under lindens by front gate) 12^2 in Cherry 15^2 16^2 17^2 18^4 20^4 $21'$ (1 ad feeding young of second brood not long fr. nest)

" 22^5 24 29^3 August $1^{hd.}$ 2 adt & young $3^{do.}$ $6'$ (1 ad 2 juv) $7^{hd.}$ $8^{hd.}$ $9^{hd.}$ $10^{hd.}$ $11^{hd.}$ $12^{hd.}$ 13^{hd}

(August) 14^{heard} $15^{do.}$ 18do 19do $20^{do.}$ $21^{do.}$ 26do $27^{do.}$ $28^{do.}$ September $1'_x$ 19^3_x $23^{(2)}$

October 3^2 $5'$ 31^2. November 1^2 14^2 $15^{(8)}$ 16^2 $24'$ $25'$ $27'$ $29^{(2)}$

December $2'$ $3^{(3)}$ 4^2 $9'$ $10^{hd.}$ 11^2 12^2 $14^{hd.}$ 16^{hd} 18^{hd} $20'$ $22^{(2)}$ $28'$ 30^2_x

Cyanocitta cristata

1889 Mass.

Dec. 11 Fitchburg. – One seen about a mile north of town. We did not find it at Ashby (Dec. 12–14) but were told that a very few winter there each season.

" 15–16 Mt. Graylock. – One heard on the 15th, a single bird & a flock of six seen on the 16th all in ~~birch~~ hard-wood (yellow & paper birch, beech & sugar maple) timber at about 2300 ft. Faxon considered it much less numerous than in summer.

1890

Dec. Belmont, Waltham etc. "I find birds very scarce; have not seen a Blue Jay this month." W. Faxon (letter Dec. 14th 1890).

1891.

March 8 Bedford. – Fourteen seen by Bolles during a walk from Bedford to Concord. "They were noisy restless" and "moving northward". Then came to an orchard and fed on frozen apples. He has not seen half as many any previous day ~~these~~ past winter as seldom more than two or three in one day. Those met with on this occasion were doubtless migrating. Spring migration. Ate frozen apples.

1893

March 14 Cambridge

There were three Blue Jays in the trees along the avenue in front of the Winchester place and I heard others screaming over Arsenal Brook. Faxon saw a dozen or fifteen (seven in one flock) at Arlington this morning and he is very sure that most of them were migrants just arrived from the South as they have been very scarce this winter. Blue Jays arrive from the South

Brewer, Maine. I have never seen one in January or Feb. & rarely if one in December & x x I never saw or heard one before March x x x They are first seen on foot in the roads" Mr. Hardy letter Mch. 12, 1891 Do not pass the winter at Brewer, Me.

Cyanocitta cristata.

1906 Mass.

Sept 20 Glendale. — These Jays were collecting beech nuts this morning in the woods behind Mr. French's studio. I watched them for some time. They obtained the nuts from the top and upper branches of a large, spreading beech that stood on the edge of an opening and took them either to a maple or an ash (both old, full-grown trees) near at hand. Here they placed them in crevices of the bark on the larger branches and hammered them vigorously with their bills. At first I thought they were caching them but after repeatedly seeing the husks fly off in small fragments under their powerful blows I concluded that they were merely extracting the kernels, which I think they ate on the spot although I did not actually see them do this. They worked busily and in the main amicably although over or twice there was a brief but spirited squabble when two birds, each bearing a nut, came together on the same branch. While engaged in searching for the nuts in the top of the beech their movements were very animated and they fluttered their wings noisily at times among the thick foliage but of vocal sounds I heard none save the low ac-ac-ac which they habitually make when searching for food in company.

Collecting beech nuts.

Cyanocitta cristata.

Concord, Mass.
May 1. 1893.

May 1

Early in the forenoon three Blue Jays came flying past where I was working screaming loudly. There they turned back towards Brown's & presently returned with two more. Again they flew back and soon after eight came past flying in a bunch like Blackbirds all screaming at once & all evidently together in one flock. They acted like migrants just in a mood from the South.

Strange behavior of Blue Jays

Cyanocitta cristata.

Concord, Mass. Large flock.

1893. Aug.27. I was greatly surprised to see no less than 26 Blue Jays together in a pasture near Batesman's Pond. They flew from some birches into a large hickory and thence across the pasture to the woods. When in the air the bulk of the flock kept as close together as Blackbirds but three or four birds lagged behind and followed the others in straggling order. There was literally no screaming, not even a single cry in fact. They were moving south but not, I think, migrating at the time although there can be little question that they were collected together for the purpose of starting on a long journey.

Massachusetts.

1892.

Cyanocitta cristata. (No. 1).

May 20. Concord. A Jay in a belt of trees along a wall mimicked a Cohat so perfectly as to deceive me for some time. It gave the long series of whistles of the Cohat.

May 20. In some oak woods I met a party of four Blue Jays rollicking together, screaming, clucking, & whining just as they do in autumn. It is evidently hard for them to keep silence even at this season of serious responsibilities. The merry mischievous Jay nature will break forth.

June 17 The young had also left the Blue Jay's nest in the pine by the path along the river and were fluttering clumsily from branch to branch in the neighboring oaks making the low gasping sound which the old bird utters at times. The young were bobtailed & evidently just out.

Sept. 20 Jays were numerous and noisy everywhere to-day. I am satisfied that many have already arrived from further north. Their calling was almost incessant.

Sept. 25 It was a great day for Blue Jays, I am not sure that I ever saw more within the same time & distance. They were flying about everywhere in the fields, swamps & in every kind of woodland I am forced to mention what I seconded, a short time since, in disparagement of the Jay's imitations of the screaming of the Red-shouldered Hawk

Massachusetts,

1892.

Cyanocitta cristata (No. 2)

It is usually shorter than the Hawks notes, but several times to-day a Jay very near me deceived me perfectly. Once the screams, repeated a dozen or more times, came from the top of a white oak where several Jays were flitting about. Although I saw them I was not really satisfied that there was not also a Buteo there, until I went to the tree and drove the Jays out. They were imitating this Hawk scream very generally to-day but I heard one bona fide Buteo, also.

Oct 19 Concord. The flight of Jays seems to have passed. I see no more than the average winter quota now.

Oct. 25 The migrating Jays have all passed long ago and those that are here now are evidently our winter residents. They are silent and retiring. The migration evidently takes place in September and early October.

Nov. 6 One of the Jays mimicked the hurry scream of a Red-tailed Hawk so perfectly as to deceive me completely until I approached the tree & saw the bird.

Cyanocitta cristata.

Concord, Mass.

1892. Sept.25. It was a great day for Blue Jays. I am not sure that I ever saw more within the same time and distance. They were flying about everwhere in the fields, swamps and in every kind of woodland. I am forced to withdraw what I recorded, a short time since, in disparagement of the Jay's imitation of the Red-shouldered Hawk. It is usually shorter than the Hawk's outcry but several times to-day a Jay very near me deceived me perfectly. Once the screams, repeated a dozen or more times, came from the top of a white oak where several Jays were flitting about. Although I saw them I was not really satisfied that there was not also a Buteo there until I went to the tree and drove the Jays out. They were imitating this Hawk scream very generally to-day but I heard one bona fide Buteo, also.

Cyanocitta cristata.

Concord, Mass.
1894.
Oct.11
to
Nov.21.

The Blue Jays were most numerous between the 12th and 21st of October. After the latter date I seldom saw more than three or four in a day except on the 24th November when I found a flock of seven in the belt of white maples along the river bank just above the Holt. At first I took these birds to be migrants but when they finally scattered and flew off into the woods in twos and threes in different directions I concluded that they were our local birds which something had attracted to this spot from more or less distant haunts.

Cyanocitta cristata

I am obliged to you for backing up my reputation, as I understand you did the other night when the Club seemed inclined to look upon my story, as repeated by Dr. Townsend, as ichthyological rather than ornithological.

I told him the Blue Jay had seven acorns in its throat, but on looking over my notes made at the time (Sept. 22, 1885) I find I squeezed out ten. As I picked him up I noticed his throat was more or less rigid, and hard and nubbly to the touch. On opening his bill I saw an acorn in his mouth, and taking it out, another beyond it. The mystery of the stiff neck was solved, for by squeezing I soon got out the acorns which had apparently had lain in his throat end to end in a line reaching well down to his stomach. I cannot recall whether I opened his stomach or dissected him at all. I should say not, as my notes make no such mention, and probably the wings were all I wanted, the bird for anyway. I should say the ae acorns were of moderate size, and they had been swallowed whole, with shells unbroken.

What recalled this incident to my mind when talking with Dr. Townsend on the food of birds, was an item I had just read in some paper mentioning the curious habit of Blue Jays of swallowing nuts (or acorns) whole. The writer presented the query (which suggested itself to me on that afternoon twelve years ago) does the Blue Jay disgorge the acorns and then store up a supply for winter's use? I suppose that is merely a fancy as I do not know that a Blue Jay could crack an acorn if he wanted to. However that may be, the

Cyanocitta cristata

fact of my Blue Jay and his ten acorns remains.

Hoping I have not bored with the account of rather a curious incident I am.

(Copy of a letter written by Mr. Julius Ross Wakefield to Mr. Charles W. Batchelder. Dedham December 4. 1895.)

One fact I forgot to mention in my note to you was that the Blue Jay of which I wrote was actually shot by Mr. Worthington (not by myself) though I personally squeezed out the acorns. Mr. Worthington supplemented my notes by saying that the acorns were of the Red Oak variety. If you say anything to the Club about the matter please mention this also---then you know, two witnesses of a fact are always better than one.

(Copy of a letter written by Mr. Julius Ross Wakefield to Mr. Charles F. Batchelder, Dedham Dec. 7. 1895.)

Cyanocitta cristata.

Concord, Mass. Singular vocal performance.

1896. A little after sunrise this morning a Blue Jay came into
Apr.13. the mountain ash in front of my window at the Keyes's and at short intervals, for 15 to 20 minutes, made a long series of the most singular sounds - clucks, chuckles, low whinings (like Vireo solitarius) and (more frequently than any of the other calls) a noise precisely like that produced by twisting a wet cork in the neck of a bottle and hence very like one of the Eave Swallow's wellknown notes. The Jay would keep up this medley of sounds without the slightest pause for two minutes or so, then stop for a minute before beginning again. At the end of it all he screamed a few times before flying away. It was a very grotesque and indeed laughable seranade. A Jay at Lake Umbagog last autumn did precisely the same thing.

Cyanocitta cristata.

Concord, Mass. Imitating a Canada Jay.

1897. Oct.29. As I was standing near the cabin this noon I heard the ordinary whistling call of the Canada Jay given five or six times near at hand in the maples by the canoe landing. Of course I was greatly excited feeling sure that at last I was to see a *Perisoreus* in my Concord woods. But when, a moment later, the bird hopped out into clear view on a leafless branch it proved to be a *Blue Jay*. It gave the call two or three times more while I was looking at it and then flew across the river. Evidently it must have been a migrant from some northern region where Blue Jays abound. Only once before have I heard the Blue Jay mimic this cry - at Pine Point, Lake Umbagog two or three years ago. The imitation given to-day was simply perfect.

Concord, Mass.

1897. Cyanocitta cristata.

April. Either unusually scarce or very silent and retiring. On April 30th a pair appeared about the cabin at about 7 a.m., one of them breaking some dead twigs off a birch and flying with them to the crest of the hill. Next day I found the beginning of a Blue Jay's nest in a small pine near the cabin!

Concord, Mass. Barking like a Cooper's Hawk.

1897. While at Ball's Hill this afternoon I heard the barking

Oct.28. cry of a Cooper's Hawk given several times in succession very near me. As I had never before heard this call in autumn I went at once to the spot and found - a Blue Jay. Although he would not say anything further I have no doubt whatever that he was the author of the sound. It was an absolutely perfect imitation.

Cyanocitta cristata.

Concord, Mass. Mimics a Cooper's Hawk.

1898. Early this A.M. I heard a Blue Jay screaming near at hand.

April 27. 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 Glacial Hollow was also made by a Jay. Why does the Jay mimic all our Hawks and no other birds?

May 18. Blue Jays were remarkably scarce about Concord through March, April and the early part of May and Purdie told me on May 1st 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.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898. Either uncommon or remarkably silent and retiring through

July 5 to Aug.15. July but seen and heard frequently in August. (W.Deane reports them abundant and very noisy in July at Jaffrey).

Concord, Mass. Prefer bread to suet.

1898. Miss Keyes is feeding the birds this winter as usual and

Dec.8-10. she had a fine lot of them to show me. The Jays, strange to say, rarely touched anything but the bread (there was suet

Cyanocitta cristata.

Concord, Mass.

1898. also) and this, Miss Keyes tells me, has been the case

Dec.8-10. ever since she first attracted them to the house three or four

(No.2). 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.

Cacheing bread.

On each morning four Jays came soon after sunrise and remained an hour or more. During this time on each occasion they made away with nearly half a loaf of bread. This had been broken up rather finely and thrown out on the snow under the window. The Jays ate a little of it but carried off the rest filling their throats and bills just as the Canada Jays do and taking their loads into a neighboring orchard (about 30 yards from the house) where they buried most of them in the ground depositing a small part, however, behind the scales of loose bark or in small holes or crevices of the old apple and pear trees. The fragments hidden in the ground were scattered about over spaces where the wind had drifted away the snow. Some were merely thrust carelessly under fallen leaves or tufts of grass, others were driven into the ground by repeated strokes of the birds' bills; the pieces placed in trees were almost invariably tamped firmly down before they were left.

The Jays were very tame and our presence at the windows

Cyanocitta cristata.

Concord, Mass.

1898. Dec.8-10. (No.3).

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. Nor did they molest the Sparrows but the latter, I observed, did not venture to feed with them although they often alighted within a few inches of them in the trees and bushes near at hand.

On both mornings the Jays screamed for some time at daybreak in the pines west of the house but while collecting the crumbs they preserved, at all times, a perfect silence.

Cyanocitta cristata.

Lobster Lake, Piscataquis Co., Maine.

1899. Sept. In regard to the manners and customs of Bluejays I found that not only owl-baiting but the far more dangerous sport of hawk-baiting was extremely popular among them. No doubt it is the regular habit of a jay; but I hugely admired the "sarse" of one bluejay who all alone worried an agile sharp-shinned hawk by the hour at a time. The precise method of the sport appeared to be this:- A hawk being perched high upon a dead elm tree above a shrubby marsh at the border of lake and woods; this Jay would promptly perch beside him upon a nearby bough in apparent obliviousness. The Hawk would sometimes turn his back to the Jay; the Jay to the Hawk - almost shoulder to shoulder. In about fifteen seconds the Hawk without so much as a preliminary ruffling or quiver would pounce at the Jay. The Jay with a scream, the Hawk with a guttural (literally a "hawking") sort of snarl would dash through the neighborhood for thirty seconds, when sullenly the Hawk would return to his perch, followed by the Jay, none the wiser or the worse. This sport (sometimes with several Jays) went on almost anywhere in the woods and all the time.

Copied from a letter to William Brewster from Reginald C.Robbins, dated Boston, Mass., Sept.28, 1899.

Cyanocitta cristata annoying Merula migratoria.

Copy. Waltham, Mass., May 14, 1901.

Dear Mr.Brewster,

x x x x x . I am going to tell about two instances where it seemed as if one kind of bird was teazing another. x x x x x x . The other case has just taken place this spring. A pair of robins started to build in an apple tree in front of our house & were getting on quite well when one day a pair of blue jays appeared & for no reason that I could see except to be hateful, began to pull the nest to pieces & throw things about. Of course the robins fought for their rights & for one whole day whenever I looked out the fight was on. I did not see the final conflict, but the robins must have been victorious, for the nest is finished, the eggs laid apparently & the mother sitting on them. Every once in a while I see those hateful bluejays slinking round & the other day the male robin flew at one of them with such violence that I heard a loud thud when he struck. x x x x .

(Mrs.) Elizabeth J.Worcester.

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

57. **Cyanocitta cristata** (*Linn.*) *Strickl.* BLUE JAY. — Common at Grand Falls. At Fort Fairfield it was rather common, but shy and seldom seen.

Bull. N.O.C. 7, July, 1882, p.140

Birds within Ten Miles of Point de Monts, Can, Comeau & Merriam

46. **Cyanocitta cristata.** BLUE JAY.—Resident but not very common.

Bull. N.O.C. 7, Oct, 1882, p.286

Last Dates Migratory Birds observed by E.D. Wintle, Fall 1885, Montreal, Can.

Oct. 18. Blue Jay,

O.& O. XI, Mar. 1886. p. 44.

Summer Birds of Bras D'Or Region Cape Breton Id., N.S. J. Dwight, Jr.

27. *Cyanocitta cristata.*

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887. p.16

A Collecting Trip-Dec. 1887. John Ewart, Yarker, Ont. Can.

Blue Jay. Abundant. By far the most common bird we met with.

O.& O. XIII, June. 1888 p.94

Summer Bds. Restigouche Valley, N.B. July, '88. J. Brittain and P. Cox. Jr.

Cyanocitta cristata. BLUE JAY.—Common.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p.117

Dwight, Summer Birds of Prince Edward Island.

Cyanocitta cristata. BLUE JAY.—Not abundant, and only occasionally met with. No *Perisoreus canadensis* were even heard of.

Auk X, Jan, 1893. p.10

Some Winter Birds of ova Scotia. By C. H. Morrell.

12. **Cyanocitta cristata**. BLUE JAY.—Frequently seen toward spring.

Auk, XVI, July, 1899, p. 251.

31.

Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region, Nipissing District, Ontario.
by Frederick C. Hubel, Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907. p. 60.

31. **Cyanocitta cristata**. BLUE JAY.—Fairly common; observed every day.

Birds of Toronto Canada,
by James H. Fleming.
Part II. Land Birds.
Auk XXIV, Jan. 1907. p. 77.

176. **Cyanocitta cristata**. BLUE JAY.—Resident, sometimes abundant; rather rare breeder; nest May 15, 1892.

Summer Birds Tim Pond Me. by F. H. C.

Blue Jay, (*Cyanocitta cristata*). Tolerably common.

O. & O. XI. Feb. 1886. p. 25?

Fall Birds of Northern Maine.
F. H. Carpenter.

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta crystata*). Second of these birds ever seen.

O. & O. XII. Nov. 1887 p. 188

Summer Residents on South-west Coast of Maine. T. H. Montgomery, Jr.

477. Blue Jay. Saw two pairs at Boothbay, in the spruce woods.

O. and O. 15. Nov. 1890. p. 162

Bethel, Maine.

1900.

Cyanocitta cristata
(Eating suet)

Dec. 31 At about noon to-day I heard a Blue Jay screaming wildly in the elm at the S. W. corner of the house. Looking out I saw him perched near the middle of the tree evidently regarding with longing eyes the piece of suet which hung from a branch just below the level of my window & about 12 ft. distant from it. After screaming almost incessantly for two or three minutes, flirting his tail & half opening his wings the while he descended to the suet by a succession of short hops through the branches and at once attacked it with great gusto

tearing out and devouring six or eight good-sized fragments (as large as chestnuts certainly). Having thus appeased his hunger he flew away in silence.

Summer Birds Tim Pond Me. by F. H. C.

Blue Jay, (*Cyanocitta cristata*). Tolerably common.

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O. and O. 15. Nov. 1890. p. 162

anocitta cristata. — Very abundant. Shelburne, N. H. Aug. 8-29-1865. R. D.

Winter Birds of Webster, N. H. by Falco.

Blue Jay, (*Cyanocitta cristata*).

O. & O. X. Jan. 1885. p. 14

Summer Birds of Presidential Range,
White Mts. A. P. Chadbourne

15. Cyanocitta cristata. BLUE JAY.—On July 26, 1884, a small flock was seen opposite the Half-way House (altitude, 3800 feet), and on July 11-12 others were seen farther down the Mountain. It probably breeds from the base to the timber line, but is far from plenty everywhere. None were seen in 1886.

Auk, 4, April 1887, p. 104

Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem
N. H. July-August, 1874. ~~W. Faxon.~~
J. A. Allen.

15. Cyanocitta cristata. Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 154

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N. H
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '86, W. Faxon

19. Cyanocitta cristata. BLUE JAY.—Not common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 150

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N. H. June 11-21
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87, W. Faxon

23. Cyanocitta cristata. BLUE JAY.—Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 151

Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N.H.
July 21-Aug. 11, 1883. F.H.Allen

Cyanocitta cristata.—Quite common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 78

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N.H.
July 12-Sept. 4, 1883. F.H.Allen

Cyanocitta cristata.—Not common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 77

Bird Notes, Central N.H. Winter '91-92
J. H. Johnson

Blue Jays, plenty.

O.& O. Vol. 17, May 1892 p. 72

Birds of Hillsboro Co. N.H. June 27, '92
Arthur M. Farmer, Amoskeag, N.H.

Blue Jay, pair with four young.

O.& O Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 136

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

Cyanocitta cristata.

1894.

June 16 18 20 22 24

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

1895. Cyanocitta cristata

May

29 30 31

1

Notes from Taftsville, Vt. by C. O. Tracy.

Following the very abundant Autumnal migration has been a period almost destitute of bird life, but for an occasional Jay, ~~Hairy~~, ~~and Downy Woodpecker~~, ~~Nuthatch~~, and ~~Chickadee~~.

O. & O. X. Jan. 1885. p. 10.

Winter Birds of Southwestern Vt. 1886.

Blue Jay, A. F. Johnson. Hydeville Vt.

O. & O. X. Apr. 1885. p. 63

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

27. Cyanocitta cristata. BLUE JAY. — Observed sparingly from the base of the mountain to about 3000 feet altitude.

by Arthur H. Howell. Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 341.

Cyanocitta cristata Mass.-
1886 Feb. 9[4] - 10[3]
April 9[12] - 23[1]

near Cambridge.

Cyanocitta cris Dec. 31[13] 1884 - E. Mass.
E. Mass. 1885 chadbourne
Cyanocitta cris. Jan 1[1] - 3[2] - 5[4] - 6[1] - June 10 - July 10 pair in my
Rindus - Sept. 30[14] - Oct. 2[50] 5[30]
E. Mass. 1885. Sept. 30[14] 2 chat 4 1
16. Cyanocitta cristata - Jan. 1 - 3 - Feb. 5 - 6 - a pair in my Rindus - June 10 - July 10.
Princeton & No. Rutland, Mass. June, 18-1886.
39 Cyanocitta cristata. Common.-
16 Cyanocitta cris. Nov. 8[4] E. Mass. 1886.

Mass. (Concord) Cyanocitta cristata

1886

May 7 Several Jays were screaming loudly in the bushes along the Assabet this morning I do not remember to have heard them make as much noise before at this season

Mass. (near Concord).

1887
April 12[3]
May 9[3]* - 10[4] - 11[2] - 16[4]* - 17[3] - 21[4] - 23[4] - 26[1]
June 2[1] - 4[4] - 6[2] - 7[2] - 13[1]
July 7[1] - 10[2]* - 15[3]* - 31[1]*
Aug. 1[4]* - 9[4]* - 10[6]* - 13[2] - 15[1] - 17[3]*

* = screaming

Cyanocitta cristata
Mass. (Winchendon)

1887
June 24[1] - 25[1] - 26[2]

Cyanocitta cristata
Mass. (near Cambridge).

1887 1888
* = screaming
Oct. 4[10] - 8[10] March 22[1]* - 24[1]*
Nov. 9[15]
1888 - ~~Apr. 5[3] - 9[4] - 12[2]~~
Oct. 26[20] - 27[20]
Nov. 2[10] - 6[10] - 17[1]

Cyanocitta cristata
Au[illegible] 12[4] - 13[4] - 16[4] 17[2] - 18[2]
Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.

1889. Cyanocitta cristata Wellesley, Mass.

May. 5. 4792

S. W. Denton.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Cyanocitta cristata (Linn.), Blue Jay. Resident, common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 139

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

27. Cyanocitta cristata.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire
Co, Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Faxon

21. Cyanocitta cristata. BLUE JAY. Rather common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 44

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire
Co. Mass. June 28-July 16. W. Faxon

20. Cyanocitta cristata. BLUE JAY.—Common up to summit of Graylock, where they often came to feed on the refuse thrown from the door of the mountain house.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 100

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.
June 25-30, 1889.

Cyanocitta cristata

One heard at West Townsend June 25th.; another the following day on Mt. Watatic. These were the only individuals noted in this region; but it is probable that they are not uncommon here, inasmuch as they are ~~so~~ very silent at this season ~~that~~ the failure to hear or see them does not necessarily imply their absence.

Notes on the Summer Birds of Berkshire County, Massachusetts.

Cyanocitta cristata. Also noticeably uncommon. The only birds heard were on Greylock and in the Hopper, three individuals altogether.

Reginald Heber Howe, Jr., Longwood, Mass.

Auk, XIX, Oct., 1902, p. 404.

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Cyanocitta cristata

June 4 2. 7 3 8 6

" 22 2 - 23 6 24 4 25 2

Although we have but little of the Blue Jay it is doubtless as common in Connecticut as in Mass. It is so silent and retiring in June & July that during months one may spend days in the woods when it is numerous without seeing more than one or two birds

1896. Cyanocitta Cristata

Hoosic, Conn.

Mrs. Watrous tells me that in this region the Blue Jays occasionally imitate the Whippoorwill very closely but they usually give only one or two "whippoorwills" and never more than three or four. A tame bird also imitated the bob-white of Colinus perfectly.

Birds observed in Naval Hospital Grounds, Brooklyn. G. H. Coues

51. **Cyanurus cristatus.** BLUE JAY. — One specimen secured.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p.32

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

87. **Cyanocitta cristata** (*Linn.*) *Strickl.* BLUE JAY.—Abundant resident.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Oct. 1881, p. 231

Proc. Linnaean Soc. of N.Y. 88-89
On the Former Abundance of Certain Species (1820-50) on New York Id. - - - Lawrence.

At the same time* Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*) passed south in large flocks.

* about 1st October.

Auk, 6, Apr. 1889, p.202

Birds Tioga Co. N.Y. Alden Loring.

289. Blue Jay. Common. They are found in the wooded districts. Their flight is regular and they stay with us the entire winter, living on acorns which they have stored away for winter use.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p.84

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the Northern Adirondacks [Axton], New York [1901]. April 20 to 25.

Blue Jay. Not common.

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p.298.

Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

C. cristatus has been taken in the albino state. I have in mind a beautiful specimen of a peculiar character of albinism, the bright plumage being modified as though a white veil had been thrown over it, yet all the natural markings of the birds could be plainly seen.

Bull. N.O.C. 1, April, 1876, p.22

ALBINOS.—Mr. J. Calhoun writes from Illinois that a white Blue Jay came with others to feed on the soaked bread fed to his chickens. Noticing its peculiar color he secured it on Jan. 30th, and is having it carefully mounted. He writes that he also saw a White Crow feeding on the carcass of a dead horse, but was not able to secure it. At a later date Mr. C. writes: "We have been having fine, balmy weather for ten days. Most of the Spring birds are here. They came from one to two weeks earlier than last year. The Meadow Larks came Feb. 3d, Blue Birds 6th, Robins 9th. The Brant, Geese, and Ducks came by the hundreds, the latter on the 11th and 12th. The sportsmen report all kinds of Water Fowl very plenty on the prairies, in the sloughs and ponds. I saw a great many Wild Pigeons on the 3d inst. flying in all directions. William E. Hart and George Hunt killed an Owl with a steel trap to his leg the 5th inst. It measured four feet from tip to tip of wings, and was spotted.

~~Speak a good word for the Ornithologist to your correspondents.~~

O.&O. VII. May. 1882. p. 115.

BOSTON SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.—At the meeting of the Boston Scientific Society, June 26, the subject of albinism in birds was discussed by Mr. F. A. Bates. He inferred the remote cause of the phenomenon to be a disease in the birds. The immediate cause is the failure of a supply of coloring matter or pigment. Climate at any rate is not the cause, as specimens are found in various latitudes. He exhibited several specimens, one of which was a pure white jay of the species known as the blue jay. Another was a "rusty blackbird," which was partly white.

O.&O. XIII. July. 1888 p.1[illegible]

We recently received the following Albinos: Blue Jay—Shot near Lynn, Mass., about 1857. Pure white, with slight pearly indications of the regular markings.

O.&O. XIII. Aug. 1888 p.128

Correspondence.

[Some three years since we had an Albino Blue Jay, white as a bird could be. On the wings a faint tracing in white could be seen of the usual markings.—ED.]

O.& O. Vol. 17, Jan. 1892 p. 14

Correspondence.

I have recently mounted an Albino Blue Jay and would be glad to know if any readers of the O. & O. ever came across one of the kind. This specimen is of a rich cream color and I regard it quite an acquisition to my collection.

O.& O. Vol. 17, Jan. 1892 p. 14 J. E. Tylor

North Conway, N. H... J. Waldo Nash.

I had something new, to me at least, sent in last week. A Blue Jay, with a pure white collar, half an inch wide all around the neck just back of the crest, crossed on the sides by the usual black line, the crest in front being made up largely of pure white feathers, making a very curious looking bird.

Birds are not plenty here this winter, owing, I suppose to the severity of the weather, indeed, so far, I have not seen a single Nuthatch, though I have been in the woods a great deal.

There are a few Blue Jays, but they do not appear like their usual saucy selves, but half frightened as if they expected an avalanche of snow. Redpolls have been fairly common among the gray birches. I have noticed some Crossbills on Moat and Middle Mountains.

O and O. XIII. July. 1888. p. 104.

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Corvus frugivorus. CROW.

Cyanocitta cristata. BLUE JAY.

With these birds there appears to be little relation between the use of the voice and the seasons.

The Blue Jay seems disposed towards quiet in the breeding season, particularly in the vicinity of its nest, and is most noisy during its migrations in autumn.

The cawing of Crows belongs to all seasons.*

Auk, 2, July, 1885, p. 253.

* I regularly hear the strange croak of the Fish Crow (*Corvus maritimus*) from early spring until summer. The boundary dates of my record are February 22 and August 15; but I do not often hear the bird after May. Whether it is absent through the late summer, autumn, and winter, or is present but silent during this time, lies beyond my observation.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

Cyanocitta cristata

1884.

Cambridge, Mass.

June 9th. I discovered a Blue Jays nest to-day in the very top of one of the tallest linden in front of my father's house on Brattle St. The height above the ground must be at least fifty feet. The nest is placed near the end of a branch among comparatively fine twigs. It is unusually large and bulky with a bristling exterior. I saw the Jay enter it to-day apparently with food for its young as it remained in

Mass. (Concord)

Cyanocitta cristata

Nesting habits

1886

May 13 Found two nests near the Lime Kiln, one with 4, the other with 5 eggs. They were similarly placed in low bushy white pines about 5 ft. above the ground next the stem of the tree and resting on the lateral twigs. One tree stood in the middle of an opening where the wood had been cut last winter with neither shade nor concealment of any kind. The other was among rather scattered bushes. Both birds were sitting. They slipped off in silence when I was about 20 yds. away and flying a few rods only

for only a minute or two. The Robins, Red eyed Vireos & Warbling Vireos in the neighborhood are in a chronic state of anxiety & uproar at the presence of these unwelcome intruders. The Jays themselves are tame and perfectly silent. Indeed I have not heard them utter a sound though they are always present in the vicinity.

May 30. C. R. Lamb found a nest with six newly-hatched young in Waltham, Mass.

August 7. After the almost total silence of the breeding season the Jays are getting noisy again. I heard them screaming loudly in one instance to-day (Cambridge).

" 8. Heard them screaming in Longwood (Brookline) where they are numerous in the gardens & shade trees, & very tame too.

matter in footing but is taken from neighboring bushes & that Bill was found then & is gamey. Probably the nest does not matter.

Curious Nesting Place. I found a Blue Jay's nest this Spring among the roots of a large tree that had been prostrated by the wind, turning up a large mass of roots with the adhering soil. Near the top of this mass, some eight feet high, under the border of the turf, which had curved over making a screen for the nest, which with its five eggs was hid from view.—*J. N. Clark.*

Saybrook, Conn

O.&O. VIII. Oct. 1883. p. 78

"Curious Nesting Places."—My attention was recently called to a Blue Jay's nest which is built in the lattice work to the front veranda of Mrs. E. Wheeler's residence, Poquetannoc, Conn. The nest is built in the usual manner, within six feet of the front door, and at the time of my visit, June 10th, contained two young birds. The front door was open and small children were at play in and out of the house, and on the veranda. Yet during my stay the old birds came several times to feed and nestle the young without showing much fear. This is such an unusual place for a Blue Jay to build it seems to be worthy of record.—*G. R. C., Norwich.*

O. & O. VII. Aug. 1883. p. 148

Effect of a Storm

At last it was over, and the sun once more shed its welcome beams abroad with as warm a smile as if he had not for a whole week given place to the raging tempest. As I renewed my walks over the hills, the orchards and fields, I visited the old robin's nest which had two eggs before the storm began, but it was empty; the little sparrow who had one egg, I found sitting on three; the old blue jay, who had four eggs before the storm broke, I found sitting on two; did she, driven to desperation by the pangs of hunger, devour her own offspring? I believe it is the fact. There was a little Yellow-throated Vireo, which I had watched with much interest, as day after day during that last pleasant week she had diligently labored, bringing lichens and fibres and webs, to suspend her beautiful cradle from some forked twigs, now were to be found only a few weather-beaten shreds waving from them to mark the scene of so much skill and labor wasted. Where was the artisan? I could no more hear her note or the cheering warble of her mate as on the week before he had poured it forth in soul-stirring song. I saw them no more. I also found the relics of many another little nest without tenant or claimant.

Saybrook, Conn. . . . John N. Clark.

O.&O. 14. Mar. 1889. p. 36.

A Few Nests Collected at Cornwall, Vt. Spring-1889. C. H. Parkhill.

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). Collected May 11th. Nest in a small elm tree seven feet from the ground, and contained five eggs slightly incubated.

O.&O. XIV. Oct. 1889 p 150

I have a set of the Blue Jay, containing eggs of the Cowbird—in my store. F. B. W.]

O.&O. XV. Feb. 1890 p. 31

Auk, XV, July, 1898, p. 296

Habits of the Blue Jay.—It may be of interest to the readers of 'The Auk' to learn that I can add, what is to me, a new bird to the list of those making their nests in or about buildings. We have a pair of Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*) in Brookline, Mass., that have this year built their nest in a most conspicuous place, between the stems of a Wistaria vine and the capitol of a pillar, supporting a piazza roof. This piazza is in almost daily use, and the path leading immediately beside it is also used constantly. At the time of building, and even on June 3, when I saw the nest full of young ones, there were no leaves in the immediate vicinity to hide the nest, thus leaving it in a very conspicuous position.

We all know that certain birds change their habits in accordance with the march of civilization, and I was not very much surprised a few years ago, when I knew of a Blue Jay building its nest in a maple tree, immediately beside our town hall, in the heart of the town; but I was surprised at the above incident, and thought that it might be of interest to others. —FRED H. KENNARD, *Boston, Mass.*

Habits of the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*).—Under this title, Mr. Fred H. Kennard recorded an interesting note in 'The Auk' for July, 1898, page 269. It must be generally acknowledged that the nesting site described is very unusual, but strange enough, my attention was called last June to a nest of this Jay, built under a piazza roof of an occupied dwelling, placed on the capitol of a pillar, and among the stems of a Wisteria vine, almost exactly as described by Mr. Kennard. I am indebted to my young friend, Flint Drew, who lived at the house in Highland Park, Ill., for giving me the opportunity of examining the nest, which at that time contained young.

As the general habits of the Massachusetts and Illinois Jays differ very materially, and as our bird is more domestic, and lives near the haunts of man, it would not be so unusual to find their nests in such locations, although this is the first instance which now comes to my notice.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.* Auk, XVI, April, 1899, p. 182.

New Hampshire (Tamworth)

— Cyanocitta cristata —

1888 Wintering

Dec. - 30	Mr. Bolles returned from Tamworth Dec. 31st. He spent several days immediately preceding this date in the woods there. During his walks he saw more Blue Jays than any one other species. He estimates the number seen each day at from two to five.

Reason or Instinct?—I made some observations last summer on the habits of the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) which, if not showing reason, certainly show a degree of sympathy and kindness worthy of imitation by animals of a higher order. Last August (1887) on an old farm in Jefferson County, Wisconsin, my attention was attracted by the notes of a Blue Jay, not the ordinary cry, which could be heard at almost any time, as they are very numerous there, but a series of regular calls followed by answers from a neighboring tree. There was something so peculiarly suggestive of a communication of thought about the sound, that I went to the place, and saw an old Blue Jay perched on a fence some distance from a tree where there were several others.

On my nearing the bird, the calls from the tree became more frequent and loud, changing from a low, pleasant, communicative tone to a shrill alarm which became more frequent and intense as I approached. Thinking that he must be injured in some way, I went cautiously up to him when I found that he was at least partially blind. The eyes were blurred and dim, and the lids nearly closed. I had little difficulty in catching him and found him to be an old and helpless creature with scarcely a vestige of his former beauty. The beautiful blue feathers were much faded, in fact, the general appearance of the bird was so different as to be apparent at a glance. The claws were very much worn, the bill dulled, and the primaries and tail-feathers ragged. Every feature suggested old age and feebleness. Yet he was cared for and watched as tenderly as was ever a young bird in the nest. No sooner had I caught him than there were at least a dozen Jays close at hand, whose sympathy and interest were manifested as plainly as could be without words. After a thorough examination, I liberated him, when he flew in the direction of the sound of the others but did not succeed in alighting among the smaller branches of the tree and finally settled on a large limb near the ground. I saw him every day after that (from August 10 to August 17), and never did his companions desert him; some one of them being always near and warning him of approaching danger; whereupon he would fly in the direction indicated by the sound of their voices. They guided him regularly to a spring near by where I saw him bathe daily, always, however, with some of his companions close by. They not only watched and guided him but they fed him. I had noticed some days previously some Jays carrying food, and thought it strange at that season, as there were no young then to feed, but found afterwards, to my surprise and pleasure, that the poor old blind bird was being fed by those whom he could no longer see.

About a week after first noticing this bird I was compelled on account of sickness in the family to relinquish my observations. There is no doubt whatever that the bird was an old one. The young of the year are easily recognized, not alone by their plumage but by their peculiar teasing, whining notes, unmistakable to anyone familiar with the species.—FRITHOF KUMLIEN, *Milwaukee, Wis.*

[My attention has just been called by my friend Prof. G. W. Peckham to some notes in Darwin's 'Descent of Man,' 1875, pp. 102, 103. The existence of these observations was entirely unknown to my brother (the writer of the above, now recently deceased) or to me at the time his notes were made. I quote from Darwin, p. 102: "Capt. Stansbury found on a salt lake in Utah an old and completely blind pelican, which was very fat, and must have been well fed for a long time by his companions."* Also foot-note on same page: "Capt. Stansbury also gives an interesting account of the manner in which a very young pelican, carried away by a strong stream, was guided and encouraged in its attempts to reach the shore by half a dozen birds." Darwin adds: "Mr. Blyth, as he informs me, saw Indian crows feeding two or three of their companions which were blind."—LUDWIG KUMLIEN, *Milwaukee, Wis.*]

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 434-435.

* See H. Stansbury, 'Exploration and Survey of the Valley of the Great Salt Lake of Utah, &c.' Phila., 1852, p. 193.—ED.

Our Talented Blue Jay.

Billy first saw the light of day in the spring of 1892. He had left the nest before being captured, but soon became accustomed to cage life and a diet of boiled potato and bread and milk.

About midsummer he began to show the results of good training. His whistle often brought the dog to the back door when he was not wanted. It is the dog's duty to keep the hens off the lawn, but he often sleeps while on duty, — a "shee," "shee," from anyone in the kitchen always had the desired effect. Billy never slept during the day and his "shee," "shee" was as effectual as a human one. He never would utter these notes unless the hens were on the lawn or a team was passing by. His setting the dog on teams was a trick we could not appreciate.

Little Frank, 12 years old, reported at the house several times before he found that Billy's "Whank, Whank" had enticed him there. When Frank started for school Billy's "Whank gon cool," was spoken so plainly that any stranger would know what he said. In the afternoon his flying back and forth through his cage, calling "Whank, Whank," was a sure sign of the little fellow's being in sight.

His singing, like the canary, was as good as going to the Howard Atheneum. To cut a long story short, he was a perfect mimic. He would imitate almost any noise, only to be forgotten when the noise ceased.

But such pets are usually fated to come to some sad end. A friend, early in February, 1893, desiring to increase my family of Screech Owls, brought me one securely (?) caged in a wooden box. He was at liberty in the mornlng and our Billy was dead in his cage. 'Tis needless to say that Mr. Scops quickly joined him over the river.

Was this bird anything out of the ordinary? Would another be as interesting as he? I shall try another next season and you may hear from me again.

A. W. Morse.

O. & O. Vol. 18. Mar. 1893 p. 44-45

765. *A Surprised Blue Jay.* By S. H. L. *Ibid.*, p. 88. (From the Germantown 'Telegraph.') O. & O. Vol. VIII

477. *The Blue Jays.* By Charles Aldrich. *Ibid.*, XV. p. 904.—A permanent resident at Webster City, Iowa (!). and believed to have been seen feeding their young early in May. Amer. Naturalist.

1661. *The Blue Jay.* By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, Vol. LXI, No. 364, Feb., 1888, pp. 266-270.—Habits in captivity. Atlantic Mon.

1471. *Strange Behavior of a Blue Jay.* By A. A. Hinkley. *Ibid.*, No. 5, May, 1886, pp. 33,34. Rand. Notes Nat. His. III

Young Oologist. 1533. *A Singular Duel.* By C. B. Wilson. *Ibid.*, No. 7, Nov., 1884, p. 98.—Between a Blue Jay and a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Auk, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 82

Amer. Naturalist. 160. *Our Social Blue Jays.* By Charles Aldrich. *Ibid.*, XV, p. 319.

BLUE JAYS TAME. Last Spring I took a brood of young Blue Jays and have two of them matured and perfectly tame and interesting pets. They have their freedom, going in and out at will, spending a good deal of time hunting through the orchard. They have greatly increased my respect for the species, which I considered my duty to kill at sight, for their weakness of robbing other birds.—*J. N. Clark, Saybrook.* Conn.

O. & O. VIII. Oct. 1883. p. 78

BLUE JAYS have appeared in great numbers around farm houses in this vicinity, probably because of a scarcity of food in the woods. I succeeded in catching one, Jan. 29th, weakened by long fasting, and have him in captivity now. His principal food is meat, beechnuts and corn while confined, and he is lively and apparently contented, sometimes giving vent to one of his shrill screams, or exercising his powers of imitation, which are admirably developed.—*W. E. Jenkins, Northwood, N. H.*

O. & O. IX. Mar. 1884. p. 36

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

60. *Cyanocitta cristata,* (Blue Jay). This species was as noisy and self-assertive as ever, in this wilderness. In spring it kept more to the woods, where they were to be met with in jovial bands of a dozen or more, although it was in the breeding season, when well regulated families should be in *pairs.* In latter summer they were very gregarious, keeping in large flocks, and they presented a very pretty sight when flitting about some forest edge, apparently discussing matters of moment to their interest. Their nests were found in June and were placed at a considerable height in the spruce and hemlock, and resembled the well known type of this species.

O. & O. XI. Nov. 1886. p. 161

Brief Notes.

R. H. Carr took a Blue Jay at Brockton, Mass., with mandibles crossed. He claims that it is a Crossbill.

O. & O. Vol. 17, May 1892 p. 79

1636. *A Bird of Affairs.* By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, Vol. LIX, No. 352, Feb., 1887, pp. 178-183.—*Cyanocitta cristata* in captivity. Atlantic Mon.

J. Waldo Nash has a Blue Jay taken at North Conway, N. H., Feb. 20, with a decided cross-bill. Length of upper mandible, 1.51; lower, 1.48.

O. & O. XIII. July. 1888 p 111

45

Charleston, S. C.

Cyanocitta cristata

1884.

April 14. A ♀ shot to-day had the ovaries highly developed.

" 16. Witnessed a singular performance which I dimly remember to have seen elsewhere before (perhaps in Illinois when Mr. Ridgway killed seven Jays with two barrels.) A number of Blue Jays were scattered through an extensive tract of oak scrub on James Island. Suddenly they began to collect in one spot, among the branches of a few low, dense trees on the edge of the woods. Upon going to the place I found at

least fifty congregated, every bird of them acting as if he had gone mad. They kept hopping from branch to branch in little groups of a dozen or more, the members of each group moving nearly in a circle, each bird bowing and scraping with wide-spread tail, drooping wings, and lowered head, and making a singular medley of low, grating notes interrupted with occasional soft, almost cooing ones. At intervals one would scream loudly when at once every bird in the flock would join in the combined outcry being something tremendous. It seemed to be a sort of war dance like that of the Sand Hill Crane & certain Grouse. At first I suspected the presence of an Owl but could discover neither this nor any other disturbing cause. While engaged in this dance the birds were so tame that I could approach within 10 feet of them. Indeed they did not seem to notice me at all and I shot several before they took the alarm. Then they scattered with one final outcry and five minutes afterwards the woods were perfectly silent and I could not find a bird of them although these Jays are abundant. Wayne has never found a nest.

A Surprised Bluejay.—At the back end of my store, and just outside of a window, is a box on which we mix the dough to feed the chicks. On Sunday morning when I shaved myself I took my mirror to the window so I could have a good light. Just as I finished my work I noticed an old Bluejay drop down on the box and begin eating the dough from the pan of chicken feed. As I was on the opposite side of the glass it did not see me. I looked at it for a moment and then "for fun" turned the mirror around so the glass would face the bird. It was just taking a mouthful of dough as it looked up and saw, as it supposed, another Jay with its mouthful also. It seemed greatly astonished and failed to swallow its food for some time, but soon did so, and then in Bluejay style "bowed," as much as to say "good morning, sir." As a matter of course the glass made the other Jay bow also, and the next salutation was "kechunk! kechunk!" I suppose that is Jay language, but I do not understand it. Then it proceeded to fill its mouth full of dough again and its shadow did the same. This seemed to anger it very much, and after giving one Bluejay war-whoop, it flew against the glass. Its astonished look at the result of its attack was laughable. The first thing it did was to retreat to the farther side of the box, and from there eye the antagonist. After gazing for some time its hunger overcome it and it took another mouthful, "as did its shadow." The Jay stopped with full mouth, turned its head first one way then the other, and finally hopped around the glass and stood face to face with me. Our faces were not more than six inches apart, and I never expect to see a more astonished look than was in its eyes just then. But one look was enough; and after another big Jay yell it made as good time from there as a Bluejay ever made, I guess; and my dough has remained undisturbed ever since.—*S. H. L., McLeanborough, Ill., in Germantown Telegraph.*

O.&O. VIII, Nov. 1883. p. 88.

Fun Among the Birds.

BY DR. W. S. STRODE, BERNADOTTE, ILL.

That some birds possess a sense of humor is often made evident to the close observer of their actions. Perhaps no other birds possess this faculty to a greater degree than that of the family *Corvidæ*, Crows, Jays, Magpies, etc. And many instances are on record showing that the love of fun and mischief is highly developed in some of these birds.

A short distance from my office stands an old locust tree, where in a cavity about twenty feet up, made by a Flicker (*Colaptes Auratus*), a Screecher (*Scops Asio*), has made his winter home. I often run up this tree to see if he is at home, and generally find him present, his sleepy eyes blinking at me in a lazy "don't bother me" fashion. This *Scops* has recently been discovered in his home by a half-dozen Blue Jays (*Cyanositta cristata*), and the discovery seems to afford them a great deal of mirth. One at a time they will edge up to the cavity and take a peep at his *Scopship* and then go screaming and shouting away in an apparent great fright, only to return in a few minutes and repeat the same proceedings.

O.+O. XIII. June 1888. p. 95.

Perisoreus canadensis

A Remarkable Migration of Canada Jays.— On the 5th of September, 1884, Mr. Napoleon A. Comeau wrote me from his home at Godbout, on the north shore of the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence: "We have lately had a most extraordinary migration of the Canada Jay (*Perisoreus*). One afternoon I counted over a hundred in the open space near the old Hudson's Bay Company's house here; and almost every day since the first of this month it has been the same. I believe this unprecedented flight must be owing to scarcity of berries in the interior, and, since they happen to be plentiful along the coast this fall, the birds follow the shore to feed on them."— C. HART MERRIAM, *Locust Grove, New York.*

Auk, 2, Jan., 1885. p. 107.

Allen, Summer Birds Bras d'Or Region

Perisoreus canadensis.—A few observed.

Auk, 8, April, 1891. p. 165

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

58. **Perisoreus canadensis** (*Linn.*) *Bp.* CANADA JAY.—At Houlton: "very common. These birds do not often appear in the thickly settled part of the town, but are very abundant around the lumber camps in this vicinity." This no doubt explains the fact that the species was not seen by any of us at Grand Falls and Fort Fairfield.*

Bull. N.O.C. 7, July, 1882, p.149

Birds within Ten Miles of Point de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam

47. **Perisoreus canadensis.** CANADA JAY.—A tolerably common resident.

Bull. N.O.C. 7, Oct, 1882, p.236

Records from Toronto. E.E.T. Seton.

CANADA JAY. **Perisoreus canadensis.**—In the winter of 1836 and the spring of 1837, according to Mr. Doel, this bird appeared about Toronto in great numbers. It was previously unknown in the district, and has not since been observed.

Auk, 2, Oct., 1885. p.335

Breeding Dates of Birds in Kings County, N.S. Watson L. Bishop.

Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*). May 16, well incubated.

O.&O. XIII. Mar. 1888 p.45

A Collecting Trip-Dec. 1887.
John Ewart, Yarker, Ont. Can.

Canada Jay. Only saw three or four, two of which I obtained. Reported as very common, and very familiar some winters.

O.&O. XIII. June. 1888 p.94

Summer Bds. Restigouche Valley, N.B.
July, '88. J. Brittain and P. Cox. Jr.

Perisoreus canadensis. CANADA JAY.—Not common.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p.117

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.
A. H. Alberger.

484. Canada Jay. Tolerably common.

O.&O. XV. June, 1890, p.87

Some Winter Birds of Nova Scotia. By C. H. Morrell.

13. Perisoreus canadensis. CANADA JAY. — A common resident. Very fearless, coming about the buildings for scraps. I saw birds with grass in their bills late in March. They evidently nest in April.

Auk, XVI, July. 1899, p. 251.

Newfoundland Notes. A Trip up the Humber River, Aug. 10 - Sept. 24, 1899.

32. Perisoreus canadensis. CANADA JAY. — Abundant and very tame.

Louis H. Porter, New York City.

Auk, XVII, Jan., 1900, p. 72.

Ontario Bird Notes.

A Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) was also taken by J. W. Anderson, at Aylmer on Nov. 9, 1901.

J. H. Ames, Ontario (Toronto)

Auk. XIX, Jan., 1902, p

An Unusual Abundance of the Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) **in and near Ottawa, Ont.** — Whereas the winter from 1903 to 1904 was notable for the abundance of the Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicolor enucleator*) in the streets of Ottawa, their early arrival and long staying, this last winter was notable for the abundance of the Canada Jay. Mr. E. White, a very reliable ornithologist, tells me he has never before seen them in or very near the city, but this year they were about all winter. I saw the first ones September 28 in the next county, but by October 7 they were near Ottawa; on October 13 I saw three on the driveway in the heart of the city. Some were taken and brought or reported to me on Octoher 15, 20, 22, 28, November 8 and 12. November 19 to 23, while on a trip of forty miles north into Quebec, I saw them frequently, especially where farmers had butchered or skinned hares, at the kitchen refuse, etc. One was taken February 2 at the city limits, and I saw one March 1 in the neighborhood. The reason for their unusual abundance is not clear. Their usual food supply, which I think is not great in any winter, was surely there last winter, the lumber camps, about which they congregate, not having diminished in number. — C. W. G. EIFRIG, *Ottawa, Ont.*

Auk, XXII, July, 1905, p. 313.

Notes on some northern birds - Notes on birds of Ottawa, Ontario and Vicinity - Auk, XXIII, July, 1906, p. 316-317. By Rev. C. W. G. Eifrig.

CANADA JAY (*Perisoreus canadensis*).—While this bird was abundant here during the winter 1904–5, it is entirely absent this winter. Last Sept. 28, I saw a pair at Inlet, Quebec, where they seem to breed— the Ottawa River may be put down as the southern boundary of their breeding range in this section. One of that pair looked strange, even comical, because he was entirely without tail. Nor was it because it was moulting, for it was fully feathered otherwise as was also its mate. Neither did the absence of its caudal appendage dampen its spirit of bravado, for it sailed into a wasp nest with a great deal of vim, not minding the wasps in the least. Wasps seem to be a staple article of food with them, when to be had, as Mr. Kingston, a local ornithologist, tells me that he has found wasps in their stomachs repeatedly.

Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region, Nipissing District, Ontario.
by Frederick C. Hubel. Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 50.

32. **Perisoreus canadensis.** CANADA JAY.— This bird was not met with during July or August. Kay found it common after the middle of September.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming.
Part II, Land Birds
Auk XXIV, Jan. 1907. p. 77.

[2] Canadian Journal, I, 1852–53, 167–72.
[3] Auk, II, 1885, 335.
[4] Ontario Natural Science Bulletin, I, 1905, 11, 12.

177. **Perisoreus canadensis.** CANADA JAY.— In the winter of 1839–40 a considerable migration of this jay occurred at Toronto, and is recorded by the late Hon. G. W. Allen.[2] This is the migration referred to by Mr. Ernest Seton [3] on the authority of the Rev. John Doel as occurring in the winter of 1836–37. Mr. Doel says, "the bird was previously unknown in the district and has not since been observed." Specimens from this migration are in my collection. There are no further records till October, 1904, when another migration visited southern Ontario and a number of birds were taken at Toronto and other points on Lake Ontario. I have given a full account of this elsewhere.[4]

Summer Birds Tim Pond Me. by F. H. C.

Canada Jay, (*Perisoreus canadensis*). Not common. Not more than half a dozen seen each year.

O. & O. XI. Feb. 1886. p. 25.

Fall Birds of Northern Maine.
F. H. Carpenter.

Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*). Conspicuous, rather than abundant.

O. & O. XII. Nov. 1887 p. 188

THE CANADA JAY AT PORTLAND, MAINE.—A specimen of the Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) was killed in Scarborough on October 15, 1880, by Mr. Luther Rellon, of Portland, and delivered into my hands a few hours after its capture. The specimen is worth noting from its being the first that I have ever known to occur in the vicinity of Portland, although its kind is said by Professor Verrill (Proc. Ess. Inst., Vol. III, p. 151) to winter commonly at Norway, Maine, only forty miles farther north.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

Bull. N. O. C., V, April, 1882, p. 122.

N. H. (Mt. Osceola)

Perisoreus canadensis

1887

Chadbourne saw five or six on the top of this Mt.

Summer Birds of Presidential Range, White Mts. A. P. Chadbourne

16. **Perisoreus canadensis.** CANADA JAY.—Much more common than the Blue Jay, though nowhere plenty. Small flocks of half a dozen were seen on three or four occasions, but usually there was only one or at most two. We found them early in July from near the base of the mountain to the limit of the spruce and fir forest, a little above the Half-way House (altitude, 3850 feet). A short distance below it, at the limit of good sized spruce and fir trees, they were more plenty than anywhere else.

Auk, 4, April 1887, p. 104

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

1895. Perisoreus canadensis

[illegible] old birds, apparently a pair seen by the Fowlers on Moosilauke at about [illegible] ft. They [illegible] along the [illegible] and [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] one

Mt. Washington, N. H.

Perisoreus canadensis

1884

July 12 About quarter of a mile below the Half-way House we came upon a party of five or six of these birds. They were collected about a spring by the roadside, some in the bushes, one or two hopping about on the ground. They were soon off progressing in their usual manner by alighting near the base of a small tree, hopping up from branch to branch to the top, thence launching into the air and sailing without flapping forty or fifty yards to alight near the base of

N.H. (Mt. Osceola) Perisoreus canadensis

1887

Chadbourne saw five or six on the top of this Mt.

Summer Birds of Presidential Range, White Mts. A.P. Chadbourne

16. **Perisoreus canadensis.** CANADA JAY.—Much more common than the Blue Jay, though nowhere plenty. Small flocks of half a dozen were seen on three or four occasions, but usually there was only one or at most two. We found them early in July from near the base of the mountain to the limit of the spruce and fir forest, a little above the Half-way House (altitude, 3850 feet). A short distance below it, at the limit of good sized spruce and fir trees, they were more plenty than anywhere else.

Auk, 4, April 1887, p.104

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

1895. Perisoreus canadensis

[illegible] five adult birds, apparently a family, seen by Mr. Fogg on Moosilauke at about [illegible] ft. They flew from [illegible] to the top of the mountain, and seemed to be entirely [illegible] the summer.

another tree and repeat the performance. It was difficult following them over the rough mountain side but I got them [illegible] with my 32 cal. rifle and secured one bird, resembling another this specimen is in fine plumage (it is Arthur P. Chadbourne's coll.) just beginning to take on the second or winter plumage in places, as on the breast and about the head. Mr. Chadbourne (who first got a shot into the flock) thinks that there was only one young bird in it but I am very sure that I saw another.

The ordinary cry of this jay is a loud shrill whistle very like the cry of Buteo lineatus.

July 26. Saw an adult in the same place. I called it by imitating it whistle when it alighted within fifteen yards. It was apparently in perfect plumage.

Notes on Birds about Brandon, Vt.

A single specimen of the Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) was taken in December, 1874.

Bull. N.O.C, 7, Jan, 1882, p. 64 F.H. Knowlton.

The Canada Jay in Southern Vermont in Summer.—While camping out last summer in Somerset, Vermont, I obtained a fine specimen of the Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*). The place was about 30 miles from the Massachusetts State line, in thick evergreen woods. It was on the morning of August 5, about 6 A. M., when I observed a pair of strange birds near the tent. I stepped back and got my gun, when the birds flew a short distance. I fired and brought down one of them, and on picking it up saw it was of this species. I have been unable to obtain the exact altitude of the place, but it was about 1500 feet. The latitude is about 43° north. Is not this very far south for this bird in summer?—HUBERT L. CLARK, *Amherst, Mass.* Auk, 4, July 1887. p. 2[illegible]

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

28. Perisoreus canadensis. CANADA JAY.—Mr. Bradford Torrey records one seen on the mountain.[1] I did not observe the species.

[1] The Foot-Path Way, p. 100.

by Arthur H. Howell. Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 342.

Capture of a Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) **near Cambridge, Massachusetts.**—Mr. James R. Mann has given me permission to announce the interesting fact that a Canada Jay was shot at Arlington Heights (within sight of Cambridge and less than four miles distant in an air line) by Mr. E. B. Winship, Oct. 17, 1889. The specimen was mounted, and is now in Mr. Mann's collection. It is a male in perfect autumnal plumage. The stomach was filled with the remains of "wasps or bees," but contained no traces of other food.

Mr. Maynard has reported (Birds of E. N. A., 1879, p. 168) seeing a Canada Jay in Newtonville "in early summer" about 1875, but Mr. Mann's bird seems to be the first that has been actually taken in Massachusetts.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.* **Auk, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 91-92**

General Notes

Perisoreus canadensis in Massachusetts. — While on Mount Graylock, in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, June 18, 1892, Mr. Wm. W. Colburn and myself observed the presence of a Canada Jay. — ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Auk IX, Oct. 1892. p.395

Boston Oct 19th 89

Dear Sir:- Juding that it might be a matter of interest I write to inform you that a Canada Jay was shot at Arlington Heights Mass Oct 17th 89 by E. B. Winship.

I have the specimen mounted. Bird was a male in perfect pleumage, and stomache was full of wasps or bees without any trace of nuts. Mr Winship also shot 2 Cormorants ("Shags") about 3 weeks ago at same place. I should like to know if this is the first Canada jay on record as captured in Mass, and judge that you have statistics at hand which will enable you to ascertain easily. Yours Truly J. R. Mann Arlington Heights

Dear Sir:- Your postal of 5th inst. at hand. As you are probably familiar with the typographical arrangement of the Auk together with the importance of the item - I would be pleased to have you present it in such shape as you think best. The only facts that I have are ~~also~~ full pleumaged male shot at Arlington Heights Oct 16th 89 - and stomach contained wasps or bees with no trace whatever of nuts. The Cormorants were of the common variety not double crested and were shot on the meadows just beyond Arlington Heights reservoir - Both birds were shot by E. B. Winship who gave them to me for my collection.

Yours Truly
J R Mann

Boston Nov 6 - 89 [Red polls - pine finches - pine crossbills are abundant this fall.]

A Canada Jay was taken at Arlington Heights, Mass. October 16th, by E. B. Winship. Adult ♂. Stomach filled with bees and wasps. J. R. Mann.

O. & O. XIV. Nov. 1889 p.175.
Brief Notes.

Some Birds of Lewis Co, N.Y,
C. Hart Merriam

In the Eastern (adirondack) district

Perisoreus canadensis, is found breeding.

Bull. N.O.C. 3, April, 1878. p.53

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

88. **Perisoreus canadensis** (*Linn.*) *Bonaparte.* CANADA JAY.—Resident; tolerably common in summer and very abundant in winter. Breeds very early—before the snow goes off.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Oct, 1881, p.231

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the Northern Adirondacks [Cayton], New York [1901]
May 25 to 30.
Canada Jay. Tolerably common.

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.
Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p.299.

THE NEST AND EGGS OF PERISOREUS CANADENSIS. — The nest upon which the following description is based was found by Mr. P. S. Glasier on April 7th, 1881, twenty-three miles from Grand Falls, New Brunswick. It was built in a small fir tree with few branches, about ten feet from the ground. The tree was in "mixed land" beside a brook, on the south side of a hill and near a lumber camp. From the men in the camp it was learned that the bird built the nest about the middle of March, and had been sitting for ten days. The parent bird was found on the nest, shot, and forwarded to me, so that there can be no doubt of identity.

The nest is rather a large structure, between nine and ten inches in diameter and five inches deep. The cavity is slightly oval, measuring three and six-tenths by three and two-tenths, and is two inches deep.

The bottom is formed of large pieces of rotten wood, which must have been torn from some neighboring stump, while the sides are supported by a scraggy structure of long twigs. The walls are formed of strips of bark and the subjacent rotten wood, apparently of cedars, cocoons, the remains of wasp nests, lichens and the like. All this material is closely packed together, but not woven, so that were it not for the outer coat of twigs the whole would quickly fall apart. On one side, snarled up among the twigs, is a long piece of white twine, which shows that the neighboring camp was called upon to pay its tribute. The lining is quite thick, and offers a decided contrast to the walls. Rootlets of various kinds form the greater part, though grass and the remains of wasp nests form the floor. A few feathers are scattered throughout the structure and about as many more are to be found inside. By far the greater part of these are from the Jays themselves, and they might be regarded as of accidental occurrence were it not for a few from some species of Grouse. As a whole the nest is a substantial structure, admirably adapted to keep the eggs and nestlings warm.

The eggs were three in number, and are of about the same size and form as those of the Blue Jay. Their ground color is a light green of much the same color as the Field Sparrow's egg. Two of the eggs are thickly covered with fine spots of lavender and light brown, the spots being most abundant at the large end. The third has less lavender and more brown, while the spots are of considerable size and evenly distributed.—J. AMORY JEFFRIES, *Boston, Mass.* Bull. N.O.C. 7, July, 1882, p. 181-182.

CANADA JAY.—On a visit to a logging camp in northwestern Maine in the Winter and Spring of '80–'81, I found a nest of the Canada Jay, March 16th, with four nearly fresh eggs. The nest was in an evergreen, ten feet from the ground, and composed of moss and twigs on the outside; inside, like the Blue Jay's, of fine roots. Found another March 20th, with four eggs; took one and found it fresh; the remaining three hatched in fifteen days. They are a noisy bird at certain times, rather odd in actions; color of eggs, grey, marked with different shades of brown.—*F. H. C., Rehoboth, Mass.* O.&O. VIII. Aug. 1883. p 62

4. Austen O.&O. vol. XVII, July 1892 p. 97

April 22. Was down to Porter's Lake about sixteen miles from here and took a nest of Canada Jay containing two eggs. Nest was built on limb of a low, thick, black spruce. The ♀ was seen on and off nest; eggs were slightly incubated.

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F.H.C.

61. *Perisoreus canadensis*, (Canada Jay). Common throughout the entire wilderness north of Dead River. I do not hesitate to ascribe it as breeding in this region, having shot in June young birds of the year, and found about the camps at Seven Ponds old nests which were without doubt constructed by this bird. It may not be out of place to mention two sets taken in the

being blotched, with none of the lines so characteristic of many of the *Icterids*.

58. *Quiscalus purpureus*, (Purple Grackle). A few seen at North Anson in the village streets. They evidently bred in the vicinity, but we did not remain a sufficient length of time to investigate.

59. *Corvus frugivorus*, (Common Crow). Nested in the small hardwood forests of the valley of the Carrabassett river. In autumn and late summer

1921. *Captive Canada Jays.* By Shelley W. Denton. *Ibid.*, June 5, p. 389. For. & Stream. Vol. 34

730. *Canada Jay.* By F. H. C[arpenter]. *Ibid.*, p. 62.—Description of nests and eggs found in Northwestern Maine, March 16 and 20, 1881. O. & O. Vol. VIII

File under Per. canadens.

1709. *Jay, Pigeon, Camera.* By Ebeemee. *Ibid.*, June 28, p. 452.—*Perisoreus canadensis* and *Ectopistes migratorius.* For. & Stream. Vol. 30

1274. *Sight and Smell.* By F. H. D. Vieth. *Ibid.*, No. 4, July 23, p. 78.—On the sense of smell in the Canada Jay. American Field. XXVIII

1708. *Familiarity of the Gray Jay.* By W. B. Mershon. *Ibid.*, June 21, p. 432.—*Perisoreus canadensis.* For. & Stream. Vol. 30

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The Canada Jay with its various uncomplimentary apellations, shares with the rest of its family the contempt of students of bird-life. I may therefore be accused of rank heresy, when I state that the "Moose Bird," as I love to call him, is my first choice among all the birds of the Maine forests. He greets me, when I pitch camp for the night, with demonstrations of welcome, calls about him his particular chums and acts well his part at the preparing of the evening meal, and retires for the night in some adjacent evergreen that he may be convenient for the breakfast crumbs. He devours the "angle-worms" in my bait box, when fishing from a boat, and ransacks the camp provisions in search of "goodies" if left unguarded. He may be a thief, but his jovial companionship is beyond the price of his board bill, in the dark still forests he claims as his home.

O.&O. XI. Nov. 1886. p. 161-162.

57

A CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF THE CANADA JAY.

BY OSCAR BIRD WARREN.

On the 22d of February of this year (1898), while returning from a walk to a lumber camp near Mahoning, Mich., I discovered a pair of Canada Jays (*Perisoreus canadensis*) building a nest.

Though on the lookout for the nest of the 'Meat Hawk' ever since its acquaintance was first formed, never before had it by any sign or action revealed its nesting place to me. Many a long walk through almost impenetrable spruce swamps, floundering in several feet of soft snow too light for snowshoeing, had been unrewarded. These birds had often been abundant around the lumber camps and in company with the Blue Jay, were common about the houses during the fall and winter months; but their breeding habits remained a secret. Therefore this discovery coming so unexpectedly after many fruitless searches was all the more joyfully received.

I was walking down the Wright-Davis railroad through a spruce swamp at the time, and had come to a place known as the 'Sink,' where a few years ago a large stretch of roadbed had suddenly disappeared in the seemingly bottomless 'Muskey' swamp, and where the track is now laid on a mass of pine and tamarac logs, the only means of support; when my attention was attracted by a flock of noisy Chickadees chasing through the trees. Looking up, what should I see but a pair of Canada Jays pulling beard moss and spider nests from some dead trees and making short trips to a neighboring live spruce about 150 feet from the railroad track, where they were evidently building a nest.

Taking a short circuit I reached a position where I could watch their movements better without attracting attention. They brought small sticks, beard moss, spider nests and strips of bark from the trees and sphagnum moss from about the base of the trees where not covered with snow, and deposited all of this in a bunch of branches at the end of a limb,—a peculiar reversed umbrella-shaped formation commonly seen in the small spruce trees, probably caused by some diseased condition of growth. The female arranged the material, pressing it into the proper shape and weaving it about the small twigs to form a safe support. Though the birds obtained the material so near, where it was abundant, yet they carefully picked up any which accidentally fell from the nest, and there were no signs of sticks or any fragments of nesting material at any time during the construction of the nest.

My first observation was short, owing to the cold weather. A

Canadensis
nigricapillus

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador
by Henry B. Bigelow.

61. **Perisoreus canadensis nigricapillus.** LABRADOR JAY. — Locally common, even abundant as far north as Port Manvers.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p.29.

Otocoris alpestris

Otocoris alpestris.

O. alpestris

1889

Dec. 4 (15) ms. – 6 hr. – 1889.

March Ipswich 22 (15) 6 – 1891. Ipswich – Paxton 25 – 4 – 26 (20) (15) 1894(?)

April 2 hd. – 2 (Rollins) – 1891.

Oct. Concord 29 (10) – 30 (22) c 1891. 1891

" 24 (6) (Ploughed field) 25 (2) (Farm field) 27 (3) (do.) 28 flock heard in air Concord 1892

" 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 30. 31 (Extremely abundant) Ipswich W. Paxton 1893

" Ipswich 27 about 150 (W. Paxton) 1894 1894

" Great Meadows, 30 hd 31 2 Concord 1896 Great Meadow 23 hd – 27 hd Concord, 1897. Bull's Hill 29 hd flying Concord 1898

Nov. Cd. 6 (30) 1891. Great Meadows 3 hd – 4 hd Concord 1897.

" 1. 2. 3 Ipswich (Paxton) Cd. 19 (18) c – 1893 Barrett F. 3 (16) 6 hd. Great Mr. 21 (3) 23 hd Concord 1899.

" Concord 2 hd – 24 hd 1894 1894

" Concord 6 hd 7 hd 1895

Dec. Ipswich 15 – 25 (R. H. Howe) 1894

January Ipswich 20 (12) (Great Meadow) (Paxton) 1894

" Nahant (Fax) Ipswich 2 (Fax) (number of birds not noted on either occasion) 1889

Otocoris alpestris.

1888

Dec. 14-16 — Great Island, Hyannis, Mass. — Found Horned larks abundant feeding in mowing fields, pastures, ploughed fields, and occasionally on mud flats in the salt marshes. As a rule they were rather shy but it was not difficult to approach within long gun shot. At sunset saw a large flock settle among tall, dense weeds in a "garden patch" and suspecting that they had gone there to spend the night I returned when it had become nearly dark and as I had expected flushed them nearly where they alighted an hour before. — *Roosting place*

Saw at least 100 each day, usually in flocks of 10 to 25, a few flocks containing upwards of 50 birds. Mr. Cory has seen them equally numerous in February and believes they winter on the Island. Curiously no Snow Buntings occur there except during the migrations. I shot 25 Horned larks on Dec. 15. Among this number were two *O. praticola*. Of the *O. alpestris* only one ♂ was adult. Several that I dissected had the stomach filled with sand and small black seeds — *Adult ♂* *Food*

188-

Jany-Feb — Scarboro, Maine. — Goodale tells me he found Horned larks numerous through Jany & Feb. at Pine Point. He used to see them almost daily in flocks of 15-20 birds each. — *Wintering in Maine*

188-

Jany 1 — Revere Beach, Mass. — C. F. Batchelder has several specimens which he thinks he took January 1st at Revere. (Cf. his specimens if necessary) — *Wintering at Revere Bch., Mass.*

Massachusetts.

1891.

Otocoris alpestris.

Nov. 11 Concord. Were all the birds I saw except a flock of Horned Larks, twenty-five in number, wheeling about in air over, and finally alighting in, a broad level field on the north side of the river just beyond Hunts' Pond. This field is intervale land, perfectly drained and intensely green to-day with what appeared to be winter wheat. As far as I can learn the Horned Larks do not alight in the river meadows (or marshes) at all.

Otocoris alpestris

1893 Mass.

Jany 31 - Feb 4 Martha's Vineyard. There a few small flocks seen by O. Bangs in fields near W. Tisbury daily between these dates. The winter has been exceptionally cold and Wayne has taken Horned Larks (true alpestris) at Charleston, South Carolina, for the first time. Very possibly these two points represent the extremes of the birds range on the Atlantic coast this winter. — Winter range on Atlantic Coast.

Jan.-Feb. Duxbury - Abundant according to one of Mr. Hoffman's correspondents although these two months have been colder with more snow than during any winter since 1857. — Wintering

1894

January 20 Ipswich. Faxon found a flock of about a dozen on the hills at Great Neck — Wintering.

Oct 20-29 Ipswich. - "Most abundant on the 27th when I estimated the number at Great Head to be about 150" (W. Faxon in letter) — Autumn

1896 Maine.

Sept. 26 Lake Umbagog. Yesterday on Moose Point saw and shot one. It was running about on the shore. — Migrant on Umbagog

1900 Mass.

January 14 Ipswich. - Several flocks aggregating perhaps 50 birds seen by C. W. Townsend at Ipswich to-day. The winter has been one marked thus for bird Townsend says that he thinks Horned Larks were equally numerous ~~last~~ at Ipswich last winter when extremely cold weather & deep snows prevailed from December to March. He cannot verify the above impression either by specimens or notes, however. — Wintering in numbers.

" 21 Ipswich. - Two flocks of 25 birds each & there or four other flocks of 2 or 3 birds each seen by Drs. Townsend & Goodale in fields (more on sand dunes).

Birds within Ten Miles of Point de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam

9. **Eremophila alpestris.** Horned Lark.—First seen April 21, 1882, after which they were common for about three weeks and then disappeared. I found a young one, dead, at Godbout in July, 1881.

Bull. N.O.C. 7, Oct. 1882, p. 234

An Ornithologist's Summer in Labrador
M. Abbott Frazar.

Otocoris alpestris, Horned Lark. Only observed at Cape Whittle, where two or three pair were located. It is an exceedingly fine singer, in fact the sweetest I ever heard, surpassing even the Winter Wren. I might say that I determined the identity of this variety by a reference to the A. O. U. list, and seeing where such and such a thing ought to occur, which I am afraid is the only method for us poor mortals of the lower strata to do, but however, we will probably soon see some ornithological detective around with a descriptive warrant of arrest for breach of promise against some poor Lark found outside his prescribed limits, and then what a holocaust of names there'll be.

O. & O. XII. Mar. 1887. p. 34

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador
by Henry B. Bigelow.

60. **Otocoris alpestris.** Horned Lark. — Abundant everywhere on the bleakest and most exposed hillsides. So far as I could determine, all the Horned Larks observed belonged to this race.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 29.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming.
Part II, Land Birds.
Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 77

174. **Otocoris alpestris.** Horned Lark.— This was the original form here and probably bred as late as 1886. I have examined three specimens taken since then, two in 1889 (September 28 and October 12), and one taken October 24, 1891, which is the last record.

Maine (Scarboro)

Otocoris alpestris

Wintering in numbers

About 1845 Mr. Jos. Goodale found Horned Larks numerous ~~through~~ Jany & February. He saw a flock or two of 15 to 20 birds each day

Maine (near Bangor) In March

1887

"A Horned Lark was shot about Mch. 20 by Mr. Harry Merrill. They are often seen in flocks at Moosehead L. in autumn (about 70 miles north) but this is the first I ever heard found here."

(Manly Hardy in letter of Apr. 11-1887)

Otocoris alpestris.

Eremophila alpestris

Moosehead Lake, Maine.

Under date May 15, 1884 M. Hardy writes that Shore Larks, according to Mr. True of Moosehead Lake, occur in considerable numbers at that Lake.

Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) **Nesting at Newbury, Mass.**— On August 4, 1908, I discovered this species in a low brood tract, a short distance outside the city limits, locally known as 'Common Pasture.' This is nearly level, clayey, open pasture land extending from the rolling coastal hills on the west, down to the border of the salt-marshes, with an area of about two square miles, a region which I should think was well suited to the tastes and habits of this bird.

On this date I saw a single lark, in company with Vesper Sparrows, along the roadside, and for several days following noted the same bird in about the same locality, mingling freely with the sparrows, or alone.

Each season since 1908 I have found this species in about the same place. During the earlier years I saw rarely more than two or three birds but of late they have increased in numbers. In June, 1915, I found, and frequently saw throughout the remainder of the month and during early July two adults and five immature birds, which would seem to indicate their breeding here.

During the season of 1916, necessary attention to business precluded my searching for more substantial evidence of their breeding. The birds were present however throughout the greater part of the summer and I saw what were probably individuals from this family on one or two occasions in one of the neighboring towns. Apparently they have become regular summer residents.— S. W. Bailey, *Pittsfield, Mass.*

Auk. Vol. XXXIV. July. 1917. p. 338.

Otocoris alpestris

1904 New Hampshire.

Oct. Shelburne. A. E. Philbrook tells me that he saw Horned Larks in Shelburne last winter constantly between February 28 and March 10. He sent me a drawing of one of the birds at the time, showing the ear tufts and the characteristic markings. During the month of October of this year I saw several flocks of O. alpestris in Shelburne in the open ploughed field near the railway station. They were true alpestris. Walter Deane.

Dec. 28 Shelburne. Under date of Dec. 28. 1904, A. E. Philbrook writes me:- "The Horned Larks were feeding along the logging roads from the droppings of the horses. I think they are here on and off all winter. I have seen a small flock within a week. I am going to keep an account the rest of this winter for them".
Walter Deane.

[Shelburne, N.H.]
Have seen a few Horned Larks in with Snow Buntings all winter. Just today seen twenty eight (28) in a flock by themselves. Blue Jays and Crows have been here all winter - Beautiful weather now. Dr Wrangle & wife have just left for Boston. Regards All Gus
[A. E. Philbrook, Esq.]

Mch. 11/[05]

Otocoris alpestris

1904 New Hampshire.

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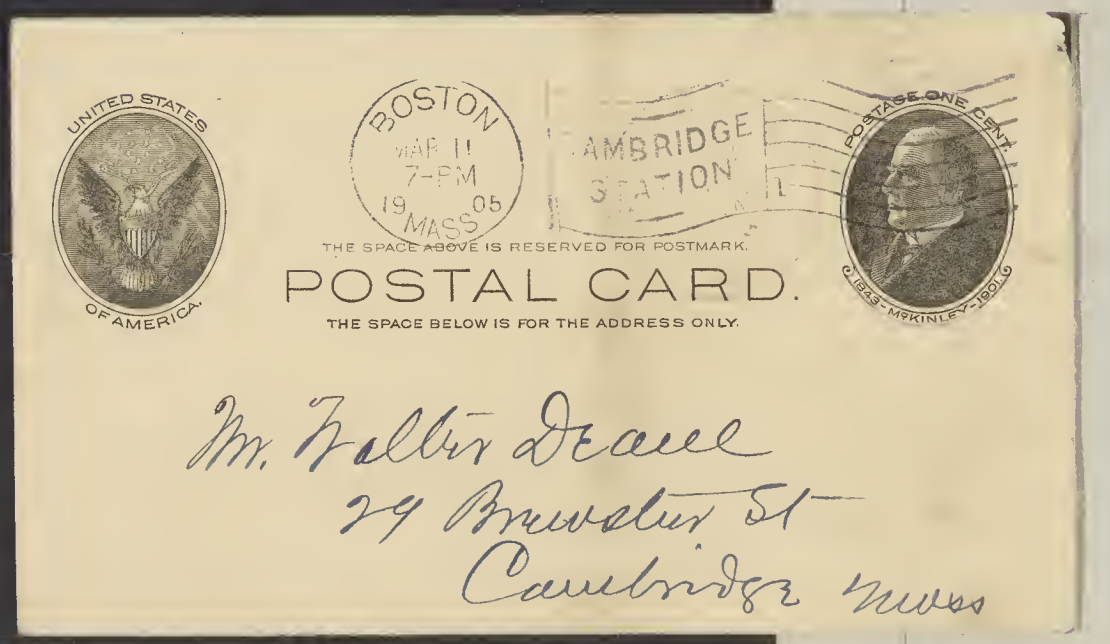

Feb. 23d I saw the first Shore Lark that I ever saw in this locality. It was in the highway, and as I drove along it would fly a few yards in advance of me and alight, then fly again, keeping on in this way for two miles.

C. O. Tracy. Taftsville. Vt.

O. & O. VIII. Sept. 1883. p. 71

Winter Birds of Southwestern Vt. 1885

Also, February 28th, saw four Horned Larks, which are the first birds observed, that are not Winter residents

A. S. Johnson. Hydeville. Vt.

O. & O. X. Apr. 1885. p. 63

The welcome voice of the Shore Lark was first heard Feb. 3, 1890. Owls have been common and the winter has been one which has furnished many notes of interest.

C. H. Parkhill.

Cornwall, Vermont, Feb. 8, 1890.

O. & O. XV. Mar. 1890 p 43-44

Mass. (Ipswich) — Eremophila alpestris

1886

Nov. 10 — About two hundred in flocks of from six or eight to thirty individuals, in no case mixed with any other species (saw no longspurs and less than a dozen Snow Buntings). They were feeding mostly on the great grassy hills where the turf was cropped short by sheep and cattle.

Mass. (Ipswich)

1888
March 30 20
Oct. 30 400
Nov. 8 200 - 15 50

8. Eremophila alpestris, Nov. 11 (Sev. Rev. 40 Spr.), 13 (30 Spr.), 17 E. Mass. 1884.
24. Eremophila alpestris - Mch. 28 (2 Revere B.); Apr. 1 (20). Nov. 28 100 E. Mass. 1885.
20 Er. alpestris Nov. 10 (Spr.) 200 E. Mass. 1886.
Nov. 21-23. 5. Eremophila alpestris - 21 100 - 22 40 - In flocks flying on hills & marshes. Great Id. Mass. Dec. 1886.

Eremophila alpestris

Mass. (Ipswich) — MAR 30 1888 — Eremophila alpestris

1888

Mch. 30 — Saw about 15, all flying north, passing over flats & pastures alike without stopping. They were in flocks of 4 to 6 & piped as in autumn.

Torrey saw 15 to 12 along the beach on the sand among drift at high water mark, one taking a sand bath. He found them very tame.

Great Id. Mass. Dec. 1888 - Eremophila alpestris, 14 50 - 15 100 - 6 100

Mass. (Nahant & Ipswich) — Otocoris alpestris

1889 — In January.

January — During the first week in January Dr. W. Tayon found several Horned Larks. He saw none later

Eremophila alpestris

Spring migration.

Nahant, Mass. March 29, 1883

Saw two small flocks evidently migrating, as they passed the entire length of the beach (flying northward) without alighting.

On March 26 I saw a flock of about a dozen at Phillips Beach, feeding on a ploughed field where they were often noted last autumn.

March 31. A small flock at Nahant. (This is the latest date this season)

Eremophila alpestris.

Revere Beach, Mass. Feb. 24, 1883

I shot a Shore-lark to-day which had lost the entire upper mandible only the stump remaining; evidently it had been shot off some time ago as it was perfectly healed. Despite this loss the bird was in good condition & was busily feeding at the time. It is the only one I have seen or heard of since December but Welch tells me that a few winter regularly.

Cambridge

"In Cambridge near the Belmont line in a large ploughed field I saw a flock of about 15 Shore larks one of which I shot."

(Note book C. R. Bowles)

75

Ipswich, Mass. Eremophila alpestris

1884

Nov. 13. At Ipswich to-day I saw less than forty in all to at least two thousand Snow Buntings. Either the bulk has gone or it has not yet arrived. The latter seems improbable in view of the exceptionally heavy flight of Buntings which the former is also unlikely in view of the usual dates of migration. Chadbourne saw several large flocks in the last days of October (at Revere) He saw only one flock (about fifteen) to-day; the others occurred singly & in pairs among Snow Buntings on

Mass. (Ipswich) Eremophila alpestris.

1885.

Nov. 28 Saw at least 100 at Ipswich, a few on the sand-dunes but the majority on a large grassy hill south of the mouth of the river where they were feeding in a grain stubble grown up to dense but very short (4 inches high) weeds. They were in flocks of from three or four to a dozen and were unusually tame. Nearly every flock contained a few Plectrophanes lapponicus but none of the Eremophilas were associated with Snow Buntings. The latter were rare not above 25 being seen. The call-note of the Shore Lark

is a shrill, piping whistle, apparently feeble yet audible at a distance of at least 500 yds. in still weather. It is sometimes a high note, sometimes doubled.

The flight of the Short Duck is performed in long, gentle undulations. It is very swift at times. Often one of the members of a flock will attack and pursue a companion as the flock is passing along. The pursuer and pursued twisting, doubling, turning now high up, next glancing close over the earth, finally resuming a straight course and quickly overtaking their companions. All this is apparently in sport.

The ♂♂ always greatly outnumber the ♀♀, at this season at least. Of twelve shot to-day only 2 were ♀

The Green-Winged Teal. Nettion of Stephens Cat.

Nov. 17. Saw about thirty or twenty in three flocks of from two to five, mostly associating with Pintail. Almost as soon as I came on the Beach of Sunset Island the flock rose and nearly circled over the Island. Still when they alighted on the bar close to shore, flying, in the Beach grass. When the Beach birds left or the tide forced them beyond the reach of the decoys and nearly in the morning of Sunday.

Mass. (Ipswich) — Eremophila alpestris

1886

Nov. 6 — Goodale (Dr. G. Ston) found them very numerous on the sand dunes behind Woodbury's where they came to feed(?) to a sand hill strewn with large stones and boulders. He visited the large grassy hills at the mouth of Ipswich River but saw none there.

" 10 — I visited Ipswich and saw about 100 Horned Larks on the sand-hills opposite the "Neck" and on the great hill to the south.

" 24 — Chadbourne visited the grounds just mentioned and saw several flocks.

Mass. (Ipswich) — Otocoris alpestris

1888 — Habits - adults - preponderance of ♀♀ etc.

Oct. 30 — About 400 to 500 in flocks of 6 or 8 to 30 or 40, also single birds & pairs. Shot about 40. Of them nearly 2/3 were ♀♀. & 5 or 6 adults. About 200 feeding on ploughed land (10 to 12 acres) on south slope of hill just north of Light house. Scattered over entire field. Wherever the eye rested for a moment several would be made out creeping along the furrows or crossing their operating ridges, looking like big brown mice & nearly as hard to see. Here and there a single bird, a sentinel, perhaps, standing erect and still on some prominent rock or clod of earth his yellow throat and black cravat gleaming

Mass. (Ipswich) — *Eremophila alpestris*

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" 24 — Chadbourne visited the grounds just mentioned and saw several flocks.

Mass (Hyannis) — Otocoris alpestris

1888 — Wintering in Mass; also on Maine coast.

Dec. 14-16 — Found Horned Larks abundant feeding on mowing fields, pastures, ploughed fields and to some extent on mud flats in the salt marshes. Saw at least 100 each day usually in flocks of 10 to 25, some few flocks containing upwards of 50. As a rule they were rather shy but it was not difficult to get within long gunshot. Mr. Cory has seen them equally numerous in February & believes they winter on the island. Mr. Goodale (of Cambridge) also tells me that a few years since he found them numerous

Mass. (Great Island) — Otocoris alpestris

1889 — Wintering

January — C. B. Cory visited Great Island about Jan'y 15 and found Horned Larks numerous in flocks. He is sure they winter there regularly.

Winter Birds of Massachusetts.. H. K. Job.

Horned Larks came October 20,* followed in three days by the Snow Buntings. Both of these usually retire northward early in March, but on May 27, 1882, I started a Horned Lark almost from under my feet on a rocky beach at Scituate. No nest was to be found, and whether it was breeding or not, I cannot say.

*1881.

Bull. N. O. C. 8, July. 1883, p. 148.

Winter Notes from Taunton, Mass. J. E. Crabtree.

A flock of Shore Larks have paid us a flying visit several times.

O. & O. XI. May. 1886. p. 77

Birds of Bristol County, Mass. F. W. Andros.

Octocoris alpestris (Linn.), Horned Lark. Winter visitant, common near the coast.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 139

at Pine Point (Scarboro) Maine in January & February. He said to be there regularly each day in flocks of 15 to 20.

Mr. C. H. Bradlee is very sure that he found numbers at Prum Beach on Jany 1st a few years ago. He took fire a nest & certainly and is a nest certainly to the date doubtful only as to the date (of his specimen of curiously the great Island, curiously enough, the Snow Bunting is not found in winter although common in spring & autumn.

Mass. (Great Island) — *Otocoris alpestris*

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O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 139

Breeding of the Shore Lark in Western New York. — My attention has been drawn to John M. Howey's note in the January number of the Bulletin (Vol. III, p. 40), on the breeding of the Shore Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) in Western New York. For the past two years this bird has been quite common in our locality, and on June 6, 1876, it was my good fortune to find a nest and eggs of this species. The nest was placed on the ground in nursery rows of young apple-trees, and was composed of dried grasses very loosely put together. It contained four eggs, which were blown with difficulty, the embryo being about one third developed. During the past season several pairs remained with us all summer, but I was unable to find their nests. — H. T. Jones, *Rochester, N. Y.*

Bull. N.O.C. 3, Oct., 1878, p. 189.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

89. **Eremophila alpestris** (*Forster*) *Boie*. Shore Lark.—Rare, but becoming more common. Breeds on the sandy fields along the western border of the wilderness and probably at other localities.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Oct. 1881, p. 231

The First Nest and Eggs of Eremophila alpestris found in Niagara County, N. Y.—If there is one nest which I have looked for more than for another, it is the nest of the Horned Lark. From early in March till late in May, for the past five years, I have searched in vain. On the 17th of June, 1884, while collecting in the town of Porter, Niagara County, I was fortunate in securing the coveted prize. I was in company with a young farmer, and, as we were returning from our forenoon's tramp, he asked what bird it was, with a black throat, which he saw early in the morning and late in the afternoon, running in the road, and which breeds three times a year. I asked him if it ran or hopped, and how he knew it bred three times a year. He answered that it always ran, and that he had seen young birds in April, June, and August. I told him that it undoubtedly was the Horned Lark, which was getting to be quite common in this vicinity, and also added, "Have you ever found its nest?" He did not know with certainty, but thought he knew where there was one, and took me to it. The nest was built in the side of a manure heap in the field, and contained four fresh eggs. I secured the male bird only, not having time to secure the female. But I was content to get what I did; and I know that I am safe in saying it is the first nest and eggs of *E. alpestris* secured in Niagara County, and think I might also include Orleans County. A week later the young man sent me a young bird alive, just from a nest, which I killed and sent to Dr. A. K. Fisher, who pronounced it 'a jewel.' I secured a number of young birds in July, but did not succeed in finding any August broods; and but for the assertion of my young friend that he had seen them in that month, I should not have expected to find them; but I am quite certain that I saw birds after the 5th of July that were breeding.— J. L. Davison, *Lockport, N. Y.*

Auk, 2, April, 1885, p. 217-218.

Winter Notes from Stephentown, N. Y.
Benjamin Hoag.

A flock of twenty Horned Larks, the true *Alpestris*, were seen February 5.

O. & O. Vol. 18, Jan. 1893 p. 11

Breeding of the Shore Lark in Western New York. — The Shore Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) is common during October, November, the latter part of February, and March, and occasionally a specimen is seen in April, but on May 29, 1876, I observed a bird of this species, with a worm in its bill, fly into a meadow, and on June 11 I found an old bird accompanied by three young ones, in a highway adjoining. The young were just able to fly. A flock, mostly composed of young birds, was seen on some ploughed land, September 1, 1876. I do not know of a previous instance of this bird's nesting in this State. — John M. Howey, *Canandaigua, N. Y.*

Bull. N.O.C. 3, Jan., 1878. p. 40.

Breeding of the Horned Lark in Eastern New York.—On April 22, 1881, Edward Root, of Green Island, N. Y., brought to me two young Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*), about three-fourths grown and able to fly. On April 29 of the same year he brought to me an adult pair of the same species. Mr. Root informed me that he took the young and the old all at the same place, on Green Island, which is at the junction of the Mohawk River with the Hudson, about thirty feet above tide-water level, and at latitude 42° 45′.—Austin F. Park, *Troy, N. Y.*

Bull. N.O.C. 6, July, 1881, p. 177.

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the Northern Adirondacks [Axton], New York [1901].
April 25 & 30.

Horned Lark. A few transient visitors.

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p.298.

Mass. (Ipswich) APR 3 1888 Otocoris alpestris

1888

Apr. 3 Two ♂♂ shot at Ipswich on the beach near the light-house where they were feeding among wet sea-weed in company with five Snow Buntings & one Pas. princeps. One appears to be in full breeding plumage having the yellow of the forehead and the black of the breast pure & unmixed. The other - although the paler bird of the two - shows light tipping on the black feathers of the breast "cravat." Both

Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

I have recently obtained from Mr. W. H. Collins of Detroit, Mich., a strange-looking specimen of the Shore Lark. The under parts are white, the upper parts being slightly washed with a rusty brown. The feathers are much worn, and the bird has a sickly appearance.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 23

Look like dusky spotting on the breast of autumn specimen.

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Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p.28

Mass. (Ipswich)

Otocoris alpestris

1888 Singing in autumn – adult ♂♂

Nov. 8 About 200 near the mouth of the river, a few alighting on the sand-hills, many flocks "trading" back & forth high in air, fully one hundred birds in a ploughed field on the big hill, many on the grassy slopes of this hill & also on the Neck. Shot 29 specimens of which several were adult ♂♂

Three or four times during the afternoon (the weather cloudy with chill east wind) I heard a ♂ sing; not the full song but a few of the preliminary notes merely with a snatch of the remainder. These notes struck me as sweeter & fuller than those of either pratícola or

Eremophila alpes. pratícola

1884.

Lewis Co., New York.

June 3. We found these birds fairly abundant to-day on an extension plateau, open, barren, sandy, and altogether not unlike in character to the western plains. They were especially numerous near the French Settlement, Boonsville, in a large field recently sown to oats which were just beginning to give a scanty greenness to the sandy soil. The males were singing freely, sometimes on the ground (just a little elevated on a mound or hump of earth) sometimes soaring several hundred feet in air flapping the wings with a

arenicolus. Each time the bird was on wing circling over the spot where others were feeding. Once I saw one apparently hover for a moment while thus singing.

quick nervous motion as they ascended during the intervals of silence, fluttering with out spread & motionless wings while singing. The song is rather sweet but very monotonous and unvaried. It sounds like chip, chip, cheeee; chip, chip, cheeee repeated from two to four or five times. It is feeble and cannot be heard at any great distance.

We saw two families, composed of three or four young accompanied by a pair of parent birds. The young were in first plumage & evidently already getting their own living. The ♀s were apparently just on the point of laying. Second clutches for two out of five had eggs in the oviduct ready for the shell. There were probably others sitting for we saw many single males which acted as if they had mates & nests near. In habits, flight & song these birds resembled the Colorado form. They were much shyer, however, & could only be heard with heavy charges at long range.

Some of my Best Finds to June 8, 1892.
A. E. Kibbe.

May 2. a set of five Horned Lark.

O. & O Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 133

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April 26. a set of six Horned Lark.

O. & O Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 133

Some Birds of Lewis Co, N. Y,
C. Hart Merriam

At my request, Mr. A. Jennings Dayan, one of our most careful, enthusiastic, and conscientious collectors, sends me the following notes concerning a few species found in the middle (Alleghanian) district of the county. When not otherwise stated, his observations pertain to the town of Lyon's Falls, in the Black River Valley.

"**Eremophila alpestris.** HORNED LARK.—A tolerably common spring migrant; a few breed. Dr. C. P. Kirley of Lowville [middle district] has kindly given me this note on its breeding: 'I first observed *Eremophila alpestris* July 16, 1876, when I shot one two-thirds grown, and saw the parents. In the same locality, June 24, 1876, I noticed a pair of old birds, and on searching for their nest, I found it not more than eighteen inches from the main road. It contained three unfledged young. Since then I have both seen and taken it during the breeding season.'

Regarding this bird Dr. Coues, in his inexhaustible "Birds of the Northwest" (p. 39), says: "East of the region above specified [from Iowa and Minnesota westward] the Horned Lark is not known to breed in the United States; and the only record of its occurrence in summer which I have seen, that given by Mr. Maynard, as above [Massachusetts in July], most probably indicates a highly exceptional instance." Since the publication of the above (1874) it has been ascertained that the bird in question breeds, sparingly, in the western and central portions of the State. In the last number of this Bulletin (p. 40) Mr. John M. Howey calls attention to the fact of its breeding in the vicinity of Canandaigua, in Western New York, but states that he does not "know of a previous instance of this bird's nesting in this State," thus overlooking Mr. Rathbun's record in his "Complete List of the Birds of Cayuga, Seneca, and Wayne Counties," which appeared in the "Auburn Daily Advertiser" of August 14, 1877. Mr. Rathbun states that it is "resident and tolerably common in winter," and that "a few breed," in Central New York. Mr. Dayan's note (on the authority of Dr. C. P. Kirley) is particularly interesting, as it extends the known breeding range of the species, *within* the United States, eastward to the western border of the Adirondack Wilderness, beyond which it must pass to the northward (through St. Lawrence County) into Canada, and thence to Labrador. Whether it has for many years bred within the limits of the State of New York, or has recently extended its breeding range, as seems to be the case with the Lark Finch (*Chondestes grammaca*) and some other species, remains to be decided; I incline to the latter view. It breeds about Hamilton, Canada West (McIlwraith), and abundantly along the Labrador Coast (Audubon and Coues).

Bull. N.O.C. 3, April, 1878. p. 53 - 54.

since a new race made its appearance, smaller in size, the the colours paler. and having altogether a bleached, washed-out look about them when compared with the others. These have remained permanently, and, increasing from year to year, have now become our most common winter resident in the country. They breed very early by the road sides and in the low commons everywhere, and at this season of the year are seen either running in the road-tracks or sitting in rows of fifteen or twenty along the fences waiting till you pass that they may return to their regular feeding ground.

Bull. N.O.C. 8, July. 1883, p. 145.

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"**Helminthophaga peregrina.** TENNESSEE WARBLER.—I have taken two of this species (May 19 and 23, 1877), the only record of its occurrence in this locality.

"**Collurio ludovicianus** [var. **excubitoroides**, see below]. LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE.—I shot a fine adult male September 24, 1877. Through the kindness of Mr. A. M. Church, I have examined a nest and five eggs of this bird, taken here May 11, 1877. He secured the female as she left the nest.

Winter Birds of Western Ontario.
J. McIlwraith.

Getting outside the city we at once lost sight of *Passer domesticus*, who has *not yet* betaken himself to the farm-houses, but almost immediately met with another recent addition to our birds which promises ere long to be as abundant in the country as the Sparrow is in the city. This is the *Eremophila alpestris*, Shore Lark. When I first made the acquaintance of this species twenty years ago, the few individuals observed came and went with the Snowbirds, and kept always with them while here. They were stout, well-developed birds, with the black and yellow markings clear and decided. Some ten or twelve years since a new race made its appearance, smaller in size, the the colours paler, and having altogether a bleached, washed-out look about them when compared with the others. These have remained permanently, and, increasing from year to year, have now become our most common winter resident in the country. They breed very early by the road sides and in the low commons everywhere, and at this season of the year are seen either running in the road-tracks or sitting in rows of fifteen or twenty along the fences waiting till you pass that they may return to their regular feeding ground.

Bull. N. O. C. 8, July. 1883, p. 145.

A Crossbilled Horned Lark. — Professor H. W. Parker, of the Agricultural College of Iowa, recently sent me drawings and a description of a Horned Lark with crossed mandibles, shot at Grinnell, Iowa, December 9, 1879. Both mandibles are of the same length, rather longer and slenderer than usual, the upper curving downward and the lower upward, passing by each other and crossing in the same manner as in the Crossbills. The specimen is thus truly a *crossbilled* Horned Lark. Deformities of the bill in birds is not a very rare occurrence, but examples are rare in which the mandibles are so fully and symmetrically crossed as in the present case. A similar deformity in a Magpie is recorded by Dr. Brewer (Familiar Science and Fancier's Journal, June, 1879, p. 106), and a few other like cases are on record. — J. A. Allen, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Bull. N.O.C. 5, April, 1880, p. 115.

602. *Early Nesting of the Shore Lark.* By E. E. F[ish]. *Ibid.*, p. 71. Bull. Buf. Nat. Field Club, 1888

56. *Nesting of the Horned Lark (Eremophila cornuta) in Central New York.* By Fred. J. Davis. *Ibid.*, IV. p. 9, April, 1878.—Nest, with three young birds and one egg, found [illegible]

2013. *The Shore Lark.* By Frank H. Nutter. *Ibid.*, No. 2, Feb., 1889 [,p. 5]. The Naturalist, Vol. 4.

275. *Horned Lark. Nesting Habits in Orleans Co., N. Y.* By F. H. Lattin. *Ibid.*, VI, pp. 10, 11. O. and O.

610. *The Horned Lark.* By Rev. J. H. Langille. *Ibid.*, No. 4, pp. 66, 67.—Its habits and abundance in Western New York. For. & Stream, Vol. XX

868. *Early Breeding of the Horned Lark.* By Bar Lock. *Ibid.*, p. 145.—At Virgil, N. Y.—a young bird taken March 13. For. & Stream. XXII

99. *Breeding of the Shorelark in Winter.* By Chas. Linden. *Ibid.*, XIV, p. 489.—*Eremophila "cornuta"* with half-fledged young the middle of February at Buffalo, N. Y. For. & Stream

The Oologist. 1621. *The Shore Lark in Canada.* By John A. Morden. *Ibid.*, p. 149.—Early nesting. Auk, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 85.

741. *Arrivals.* By C. O. Tracy. *Ibid.*, p. 71.—Among early spring arrivals, at Taftsville, Vt., the Shore Lark is mentioned as seen for the first time at this locality. O. & O. Vol. VIII

484. *Nesting Habits of the Horned Lark.* By F. E. L. Beal. *Ibid.*, XVI, pp. 240, 241.—Snow seen "blowing over the nest and mother bird when the weather was as severe as midwinter." Amer. Naturalist.

Auk, XIV, Oct., 1897, pp. 371-4.

THE HORNED LARKS OF MAINE.

BY O. W. KNIGHT.

UNTIL the present year, 1897, *Otocoris alpestris* had been the only variety of Horned Lark which had been recorded from Maine, but in view of the fact that *O. a. praticola* had been reported specimens at North Bridgton, Cumberland County, by J. C. Mead. Some time previously Mr. Mead had written me that he had been looking for Horned Larks in his locality for nearly twenty-five years, but so far his search had been in vain. In March he again wrote that on the 13th he had observed a flock of about twenty-five individuals running along in the road near his residence, and had secured four specimens which from the lack of yellow markings he was inclined to refer to *praticola*. These were later sent to Mr. Norton and their identification verified. When I learned these particulars, I resolved to secure the loan of specimens of the genus *Otocoris* from various collectors in the State with the hopes of discovering more specimens of *praticola* among them. Sixteen specimens were obtained from seven different sources, and eight of these proved representatives of the subspecies in question, all but one being perfectly typical. Three of these, including the least typical one, were sent to Mr. Brewster in order to be absolutely certain of their identity.

The Maine specimens of *praticola*, known to exist in collections are as follows: four taken at North Bridgton, March 13, 1897, by J. C. Mead. Two of these are males and one a female by dissection, while the fourth is a male by proportions and markings. A pair in the collection of the University of Maine were taken at Bucksport, Hancock County, in the winter of 1886 or 1887 by Alvan G. Dorr. A male taken at Bangor, Penobscot County, March 30, 1887, by Harry Merrill, and at present in his collection, is the earliest Maine specimen whose exact date of capture is known. C. H. Morrell of Pittsfield, Somerset County, has in his collection three specimens taken near his home; these are a male taken March 29, 1892, a male taken March 27, 1893, and a female taken March 22, 1894. The ovaries of this last-mentioned specimen were distended to the size of number five shot. A specimen which is seemingly a male was taken at Waterville, Kennebec

Otocoris alpestris.

tory, they necessarily have received frequent mention at the hands of authors and have, indeed, figured in almost every local bird list that has appeared. It needs but a glance at them to

Naturalist for publication, but I am informed never reached its destination, having probably been lost in the mails. The specimen was returned soon afterward, and I am therefore without memoranda respecting it, except measurements, which fortunately were preserved.* According to my recollection, however, the Colorado specimen agreed pretty closely with the type, except in the color of the primaries, which were marked much like those of *B. borealis* and *B. harlani;* that is, instead of being uniform hoary grayish on the outer webs, they were more brownish, and distinctly marked with dusky quadrate spots. Both specimens differ conspicuously from any plumage of *B. borealis* in having the

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the facts of geographical variation, of which this bird is a most conspicuous illustration, to be recognized and expressed. Of the two alternatives, the former appears to the writer to be the logical and proper course.

The causes for the extreme variation witnessed in this species are not far to seek. Like several other birds, notably the Song Sparrow, which split up into a number of geographical races, the Shore Larks are to a great extent resident wherever they occur, and, although individually they are by no means local, but wander far and wide for a considerable portion of the year, their movements do not carry them far enough, or last sufficiently long, to subject them to any considerable changes of food or climate. As the result of being subjected to practically permanent conditions, or owing to the possession of an unusually plastic organization, the Horned Lark varies with locality to an extent unprecedented among our birds, even the Song Sparrow, hitherto supposed to illustrate the extreme degree of susceptibility to geographical changes, falling behind in this particular.

Although not, strictly speaking, migratory, the extent to which the Horned Larks change locality is sufficient to materially complicate the geographical relations of the several forms. Over much of the west coast, and in almost all the southern part of the United States, these birds can scarcely be said to migrate at all, although they may, and doubtless frequently do, wander in winter from the localities which form their abode the greater part of the year. In the more northern parts of the United States, and

Pica pica
hudsonica

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming,
Part II, Land Birds. Extralimital List.
Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p.89.

2. **Pica pica hudsonica.** AMERICAN MAGPIE.— Two specimens taken at Odessa, near Kingston, in March 1898, are recorded by Dr. C. K. Clarke.[1]

[1] Auk, XV, 1898, 274

praticola

317 Lancaster St.
Jam. Plain, June 6. '91

Dear Walter

You may settle with Mr Namee & I return the bill. I have had previously bound by Mr Namee 3 vols of the Bst. Gaz. just like these, price $1.50 & 3 vols of the Jour. Bst. Bull. at $1.35. The last vol. of each was bound in Oct. 1888. Is the Mr Kinley bill affecting the price of book binding? Whatever you pay him I will credit to you or pay you in cash, as you prefer.

I got home last evening. On Thursday last I saw what I suppose to be a pair of Shore Larks in a grassy field on Shear's farm, Franconia. After I disturbed them they stood on small boulders which were scattered over the lot, and watched me closely but were not very shy. Their call was a rather pleasant, not very short whistle, given mostly when changing from one stone to another, slightly resembling a sand piper. The male had a very strong, black curved line across the throat  , with white adjoining it below. Belly light grayish or ash, top of head black, a strong, black line down each side of the neck from the gape or base of mandibles. Back variegated or mottled & striped with various shades of bay & brown & whitish, very much like one of

the handsome sparrows or buntings. The black markings on the front & sides of the neck were very conspicuous & peculiar. The female was somewhat less marked, and looked more like a sparrow. I judged them to be a little larger than the Wh. th. sparrow. I was then making my last visit to the Tennessee Warbler who still remained at the place where I had first seen him 10 days previously & four times in all. I felt sure that the bird described above was new to one in that region & Charles suggests the Shore Lark. What do you think of possibility of that bird being found in such a locality far from the sea shore. If not a Shore lark what was he? I think the head in Baird's Manual (which I have not looked at till this moment) is just the bird exactly, except that I could not see the horn like projection, & the white of the throat & of the lines over the eyes did not seem so very strongly, but it was a very cloudy day & that might not bring out the colors very strongly, but the black markings were very sharply defined & very black. If it had not been the afternoon of my last day in Franconia I should have looked into the matter more fully. They were at the same spot when I came back from my walk an hour later, & occurred to me as if they might have a nest there.

The field was an old worn out piece of stony grass land & the grass very thin & short with many patches of brown dead last years crop. Date June 4th.

Next Monday I shall see Mr. Kaw & try to arrange for a trip to Mt Desert Island, and will then inform you about what time we shall go. We want you to join us.

Truly Yours
Edwin Hayes

P.S. I heard a ruffed grouse drumming in a dense thicket not 2 rods from me, near Echo Lake, but did not have time to approach him scientifically & so did not attempt to see him do it. I never was near enough to one before to be able to hear all the minutiae of the sounds & the rush of the air, in the process.

Otocoris a. praticola

1894 Vermont

East Berkshire? or St. Albans? Mrs. Nelly Hart Woodworth writes Bradford Torrey under date Mch. 31, 1895: "The Shore Larks visited here again last season; indeed they are here as large but a common bird" (Mrs. Davis writes this from St. Albans but the Larks at East Berkshire)

1897 Mass.

Aug 21 Belmont. Driving with H. a. Purdie in Payson Park late this afternoon we came to short stretch of newly-made road where a dense growth of seed-bearing weeds had sprung up over the gravelly surface. These weeds were alive with Chipping Sparrows and Grass Finches which rose in clouds just before the horse. Suddenly we heard the unmistakable piping call of a Horned Lark and the next instant saw the bird doubling back past us. It alighted in a bed of weeds through which we had just passed. Purdie went in pursuit of it flushing it from the weeds when it flew to a ploughed field. A few minutes later it returned and ~~flew~~ passing within a few yards of the buggy in which I was sitting dropped into the road about thirty feet ahead of the horse. Here I had a fine view of it watching it for several minutes as it rambled about searching for food stepping now & then and flounding erect with the feathers of the crown raised in a pointed crest. It was a young bird still in the spotted first plumage but with the wings and tail fully grown. It looked small even for praticola ~~to which form it must conjecturally have belonged~~ and its general colouring was rather paler & more grayish than is usually the case with the young of that subspecies & more as in the young of arenicola. Nevertheless there can be little doubt that it was really a young praticola. Unfortunately I had no means of securing the specimen.

In Payson Park in August.

This bird was looked for after weeds by Pearson & myself but was not again seen

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming.
Part II, Land Birds.
Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 77.

175. **Otocoris alpestris praticola.** Prairie Horned Lark.—Common resident, February 2 to October 22; breeds commonly, April 10 to June 15. This form is a comparatively recent arrival; McIlwraith gives the date at Hamilton as between 1871 and 1873;[1] *hoyti* has not been found here.

[1] Nuttall Bulletin, VIII, 1883, 143.

Otocoris alpestris praticola
The Horned Larks of Maine.
By C. W. Knight.
Auk. XIV, Oct. 1897, pp. 371-4.
See under Otocoris alpestris.

Prairie Horned Larks Nesting in Maine. — In his 'List of the Birds of Maine,' page 82, Mr. Knight says respecting the occurrence of *Otocoris alpestris praticola*: "It is a regular migrant in many parts of the State, and it is not improbable that it may ultimately be found breeding within our State." Its first record of occurrence in the State was made by Mr. James Carroll Meade of North Bridgton (*cf.* Maine Sportsman, April, 1897, p. 6).

The members of the Maine Ornithological Society then naturally looked more carefully to their identifications of Otocoris, with the result, as stated by Mr. Knight in his list, as mentioned above.

In the January, 1900, number of the 'Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society,' page 2, Mr. Arthur H. Norton, of Westbrook, mentions seeing two specimens of Otocoris in Andover, Oxford Co., Maine, which he believed undoubtedly were of the Prairie variety, but he was not able to make sure, as they took wing before he could train his glass on them.

After this note our members were on the lookout for a definite record of its nesting in the State. The writer had the pleasure of making this record, for on June 26, while driving from Waterville to Pishon's Ferry, on the east side of the Kennebec River, I heard the unmistakable notes of Otocoris. Getting my glass from my traveling case, I alighted from my carriage and went in search of the two birds, which had flown from the road into a field of plowed ground near by. The birds were too wary and could not be approached near enough to decide positively that it was *O. a. praticola*.

Three weeks later, July 17, while driving along the same route, six Horned Larks flew from the road into a cornfield beside the road. Having my glass ready for use, I at once left my team and went in search of them. I flushed them, and farther down the road, I saw several more Larks feeding in the road with the Grass Finches. While examining them with my glass, they flew to a large piece of plowed ground and scattered about. In all there were twelve or fourteen birds, mostly young birds. I then drove to the next house, borrowed a gun and shells loaded with number six shot and went back and shot one adult female and two young. I could not get near enough to get any more adult birds. These proved to be *praticola*, and established a record of their breeding in the State. August 7 (three weeks later), I looked for them at the same place, but was not able to find a bird.

The plowed ground which they frequented was a large patch, that had been plowed in the spring, but being so wet, the owner, Mr. Lowell White, had not planted it, though in July it was dry enough and rather sandy, and well covered in patches with weeds. This field is situated about one half mile from the Kennebec River, in Kennebec County, bordering Somerset County. There are large fields of sandy land, and it is a typical location for *Otocoris alpestris praticola* to nest. — J. MERTON SWAIN, *Portland, Me.* Auk, XVII, Oct., 1900, pp. 387-388.

The Eastern Distribution of the Prairie Horned Lark: A Question of Evidence. — In view of the data we possess to-day such a question would seem irrelevant, were it not a fact that recent works of importance reiterate the old dogma that this bird of the western prairies is rapidly pushing its way eastward.

It is true that our knowledge of its distribution has been worked out from West to East in a "back-handed fashion," as has been well shown by various data, and by several tabulations, part of which have aimed to prove the foregoing assumption.

First named in 1884 by Mr. H. W. Henshaw from a type selected from Illinois specimens, it has been rather slowly identified until we now have a fair knowledge of its distribution.

It is especially noticeable that as soon as attention was called to it, it appeared in various quarters where it had been confounded with its larger eastern relative, *Otocoris alpestris*, and had actually been collected on the Massachusetts coast a year before it was distinguished as a well marked race. Yet its history began much earlier. In 1833 Audubon discovered it at Bras d'Or, Labrador, and about a year later figured it in the 'Birds of America,' II, pl. CC, fl., and in the second volume of the 'Ornithological Biography' (1834), page 575, he described it as the nuptial plumage of the Common Horned Lark.

Another early record of it is to be found in Maynard's 'Naturalist's Guide,' where in 1870 it was published as having been seen in July, 1869, in Eastern Massachusetts. This record is re-cited in Coues, 'Birds of the Northwest' (p. 38, 1874).

The working out of its distribution in Maine (where it is the first migrant to appear in spring, and one of the first birds to breed), is certainly the result, in no small measure, of anticipation and careful search, and in no less measure, to opportunity, and it seems very probable that the same is true of the greater part of its somewhat recently discovered range. In addition to the foregoing evidence, the rediscovery of the bird in Labrador in 1891 by the Bowdoin College expedition (Proc. Portland Soc. Nat. Hist., II, p. 153), after a lapse of fifty-eight years, shows conclusively that it has not suddenly extended its range eastwardly.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Mus. Nat. Hist., Portland, Me.*

Auk, XXIII, Apr., 1906, p. 225-226.

The Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) on Mount Washington, N. H. — I have lately spent thirteen days (July 7–19, 1905) at the summit of Mount Washington, where I was surprised to find two Prairie Horned Larks at home in or near what is known as the Cow Pasture, a comparatively level, sedgy, boulder-besprinkled place far above the tree line. One or both of the birds was seen and heard daily (usually twice a day — forenoon and afternoon) up to the 16th. On two occasions one was seen with its mandibles loaded with what seemed to be insects, and in general their behavior was such as to make it all but certain that they were breeding near by; but all my attempts to find the nest were unsuccessful. On the 18th and 19th I failed to see them, perhaps because on both days an extremely high wind was sweeping across the 'pasture.' Possibly they had been driven away, with their young, by the sight and sound (and smell) of the racing automobiles, which from the 16th to the 19th had possession of the mountain road! The species has been recorded from several valleys in the White Mountain region, but, so far as I know, not from Mount Washington or any similar locality. — BRADFORD TORREY, *Wellesley Hills, Mass.*

Auk, XXII, Oct., 1905, p. 414-415.

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

26. * Otocoris alpestris praticola. PRAIRIE HORNED LARK. — Mrs. Straw reports that these birds have appeared in some numbers in Stowe Valley within quite recent years, having been first noticed in 1898. The present season (1901) several pairs have nested and as many as 25 young have been seen. They disappeared early in July.[1]

[1] Concerning the eastward extension of their breeding range, compare Faxon and Hoffman, 'The Birds of Berkshire Co., Mass.,' p. 32.

by Arthur H. Howell. Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 341.
* Fide Mrs. Carrie E. Straw of Stowe, Vt.

A Few Nests Collected at Cornwall, Vt. Spring-1889. C. H. Parkhill.

Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris pratincola*). Has been previously described in the June, 1889, number of the O. & O.

O. & O. XIV. Oct. 1889 p150

The Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) **on the Coast of Massachusetts.** — Looking over a large series of Horned Larks in my collection I lately found a pair of perfectly typical *O. a. praticola* labelled "Revere Beach, Massachusetts, February 28, 1883." Under this date my journal has the following entry: "I shot these birds [Nos. 7925, 7926] with another, a female similar to No. 7926, near the beach in a field where the ground was partly bare of snow. There were only three of them in all. The testes of the male were of large size but the ovaries of the females not correspondingly developed."

The female "similar to No. 7926" was badly shot, if I remember right, and not suspecting at the time (fully a year, it should be noted, before the appearance of Mr. Henshaw's admirable paper on the genus *Otocoris*) that it was anything more than a small dark specimen of *O. alpestris*, I doubtless threw it away. The fact that *praticola* has been found breeding within less than twenty-five miles of the western boundary of Massachusetts,* taken in connection with that of the captures above recorded, makes it seem not improbable that the form in question may occur regularly, if rarely, in Eastern Massachusetts during the migrations, and perhaps as a summer resident in the extreme western portions of the State.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Auk, V. Jan. 1888. p. 111-112.

Second Occurrence of the Prairie Horned Lark in Eastern Massachusetts. — In recording* not long since the capture of three specimens of *Otocoris alpestris praticola* at Revere Beach, Massachusetts, I ventured to suggest that this form might prove to be a regular if rare migrant through the eastern portions of our State. Some added probability is given this surmise by the fact that I have just taken two more perfectly typical examples of *praticola* at Great Island near Hyannis, Mass., Dec. 15, 1888. Both are males, one an old, the other a young bird. They were in flocks of *O. alpestris* which very possibly contained still other specimens of *praticola*, but I had neither time nor inclination to settle this point definitely by shooting a large number of birds, the only possible way, for the two forms could not be distinguished when living. As it was I killed twenty-three *alpestris* to get the two *praticola*, but none of the former were wasted.— WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 71-72.

*Auk, Vol V, No. 1, Jan., 1888, pp. 111, 112.

Springfield, Mass., Bird Notes.

Otocoris alpestris praticola. — A flock of about twenty-five Prairie Horned Larks passed last winter in Longmeadow, just south of Springfield; their presence in this vicinity has never been recorded before.

Robert O. Morris, Springfield, Mass.
Auk, XVI, Jan., 1899, pp. 85-6.

Otocoris alpestris praticola at Ipswich, Mass. — On October 26, 1899, at Ipswich, Mass., with Dr. Walter Faxon and Mr. G. M. Allen, I took a male Prairie Horned Lark out of a flock of four birds (two others were also seen later), the other three appearing to be of the same race. The specimen taken seems of especial interest, as its measurements and paleness make it approach very nearly to *arenicola*, — the specimen being almost intermediate as it is. Mr. Harry C. Oberholser and Mr. William Brewster, and all who have examined the bird, are of the opinion, however, that it is perhaps nearest *praticola*, and must be called such. Geographically of course, the bird is *praticola*, for if *arenicola* it is a straggler far out of its usual range.— REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

Auk, XVII, April, 1900, p. 175.

General Notes.

Breeding of the Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) near Pittsfield, Mass.—Sometime since I received a letter from Mr. Henry R. Buck, of Weathersfield, Conn., giving a detailed account of the discovery of a small colony of Prairie Horned Larks, evidently breeding, near Pittsfield, Mass. Although the old birds were not taken, they were carefully observed, and Mr. Buck's intelligent description of them, and of the nest and eggs he obtained leaves their identification scarcely open to question, as is shown by the following extracts from his letter. Mr. Buck writes: "This summer [1892] I became interested in a nest . . . . of *Otocoris alpestris*, which I thought was only a winter visitor here. Mr. C. H. Buckingham of Pittsfield, Mass., with whom I was walking, found the nest July 10, 1892. . . . The bird had built her nest in a sheep pasture, on the very top of a treeless mountain west of Pittsfield; on the ground of course. She could hardly have found a more unprotected spot, and had not roofed over the nest at all. It was about four inches in diameter, sunk even with the surface of the ground, and was composed of a thick wall of moss lined with dry grass, several locks of wool, and two or three leaves.

"The eggs were four in number, *fresh*, of about the same shape as an English Sparrow's, of a pale greenish ground color, spotted indistinctly but thickly with light brown and purplish. The spots are not at all clearly defined and not perceptibly thicker at one end than at the other. The eggs measure .62 × .84, .61 × .85 and .61 × .83 inches. No. 4 got cracked, so I did not measure it, but it was about the size of the others.

"We could not get a very close look at the bird, since she would sneak off when we were yet quite a distance from the nest, and after she had gone about forty yards would run unconcernedly about, among some rocks near there, but would always keep about the same distance away from us. If we followed her closely she would fly off with a steady, rapid motion of the wings, very like the flight of a Meadowlark. On the ground she ran easily and seemed to be able to go quite fast.

"We saw five or six other birds of the same kind near the place but could find no other nest. The birds were a little longer than a Bluebird—I should say about seven inches—but much plumper and stouter, reminding one of a Meadowlark in this respect. They were brown above and white below, with the sides of the head below the bill, and also the throat, white, and a narrow black spot, shaped somewhat like a sickle, across the breast. I did not notice any black streaks on the sides of the head or the horns, but as I did not get very close, and did not look for them especially, it is not strange.

"On a second trip to the place, a week later, there was a very high wind blowing and we saw nothing of the birds."

This form of the Horned Lark has been already recorded as breeding in North Adams and Williamstown, Mass. (Faxon, Auk, IX, 1892, p. 201), as well as in Vermont, New Hampshire, and near Troy in eastern New York.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Auk XI. Oct. 1894 p. 326-327

Auk, XII, Oct., 1895, p. 393.

Otocoris a. praticola, Summer Resident of Berkshire Co., Mass.

On the 27th of last June I was delighted to find a little flock of six or seven Prairie Horned Larks — probably members of one family — feeding in a ploughed field in North Adams, near the edge of Williamstown. One of them was in full song. This is the place where Mr. J. B. Grimes had told me that this bird breeds (see 'Auk,' IX, 1892, 202). The discovery of the nest of the Prairie Horned Lark near Pittsfield, Mass., by Mr. C. H. Buckingham in 1892 was announced in 'The Auk,' XI, 1894, 326.—WALTER FAXON, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

Notes on the Summer Birds of Berkshire County. Massachusetts.

Otocorys alpestris praticola. Several pairs were found breeding on Northwest Hill (1000 ft.). They were seen feeding in the roads, on the ploughed lands, and in the long grass meadows. One was heard singing from the ridge-pole of a barn. The song consists of a few notes, followed by a rising, rolling trill, ending with a few single notes. It is unpretentious, but sweet.

Reginald Heber Howe, Jr., Longwood, Mass.

Auk, XIX, Oct., 1902, p. 404.

Otocoris alpestris praticola?

[See reply in copy book Aug. 19, 1903]

Ipswich, Mass
Aug 11, 1903

Nahant.

Wm Brewster Esq.

Cambridge - Mass.

My dear Sir -

On Aug 11th I shot at Ipswich two Otocoris alpestris which were evidently young of this year. To be sure of my identification I sent the birds in the flesh to Mr. M. A. Frazar who says he is sure they are shore larks. Do you think they could have been bred at Ipswich? Even

if they were not is it not very early for young birds, bred in what is considered the usual breeding place for these birds, to have gotten so far south. I saw three others. I should like to hear your opinion if you are not too busy.

Very sincerely,
Thomas S. Bradlee

Nahant - Mass

Aug 13th [1903]

To Wm Brewster Esq.

Extension of the Breeding Range of the Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) **to the Eastern Coast.**— On August 9, 1903, at Ipswich, Mass., Mr. Ralph Hoffmann saw two adults of this species with a fully grown young bird. Two days later, on August 11, Mr. Thomas L. Bradlee shot, at the same place, two young birds, both females, and saw three other individuals. They were near a road in open fields not far from the sea. Again two days later, on August 13, I secured a young male of this species that was alone on the upper edge of Ipswich beach.

The specimens secured by Mr. Bradlee were examined by Dr. J. Dwight, Jr., who stated in a letter to Mr. Bradlee that the birds "were undoubtedly *praticola*" and "were in juvenal plumage, moulting into first winter dress, only two or three primaries and a few rectrices remaining. In this condition this species (or any sparrow) does not and probably can not migrate, so I have no doubt the birds were hatched near where they were found."

My own bird may have been from another brood, as although it was taken four days later, its plumage is more juvenal, being more spotted above, and having 9 juvenal rectrices and 4 juvenal primaries, against 5 rectrices and 3 primaries in Mr. Bradlee's birds. It was taken three miles from the first station.

The Prairie Horned Lark has been seen at Ipswich before in the fall migrations, but this is the first time it has been found there in the breeding season. At last this enterprising bird in its progress eastward has reached the sea. Formerly a bird of the western prairies, it was recorded as breeding near Troy, N. Y., in 1881 (Park, Bull. N. O. C., VI, 1881, p. 177). Its first recorded breeding in New England was at Cornwall, Vt., in June, 1889 (C. H. Parkhill, O. & O., XIV, 1889, p. 87). In 1890 specimens were secured in the breeding season in Williamstown and North Adams, Mass., by Mr. Walter Faxon (Faxon, Auk, IX, 1892, p. 202), and a nest and eggs were found near Pittsfield by Mr. C. H. Buckingham July 10, 1892 (Brewster, Auk, XI, 1894, p. 326).

In 1891 it was observed in June and July at Franconia, N. H. (Faxon, Auk, IX, 1895, p. 202). The foregoing records are from Faxon and Hoffmann on 'The Birds of Berkshire,' 1900, p. 138. They state that the bird is a "rare summer resident at Williamstown, North Adams, Lanesboro, Pittsfield."

In 1899 the bird was found breeding as far east as Hubbardston in Worcester County, Mass., Mr. Frederick Cunningham, Jr., in July of that year "finding a nest with eggs from which the young were safely reared" (Howe & Allen, 'The Birds of Mass.,' 1901, p. 81).— CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M. D., *Boston, Mass.* Auk, XXI, Jan., 1904, p. 81.

Breeding of the Prairie Horned Lark in Eastern Massachusetts.— As a supplement to Dr. C. W. Townsend's note on the discovery in August, 1903, of young *Otocoris alpestris praticola* at Ipswich, Mass., where they had undoubtedly been bred (Auk, XXI, p. 81, Jan., 1904), it may be worth while to record that on Sept. 4, 1905, I obtained two birds of this subspecies, shot in my presence by a gunner (who mistook them for plover!) out of three which were flitting about a stony beach and a grassy hillside at Ipswich. One of these birds is apparently an adult, but the other is a young bird in juvenal plumage just moulting into the first winter plumage. They are now in Dr. Townsend's collection. As further evidence of the eastward spread of the breeding range of the Prairie Horned Lark, I may add that on Aug. 16, 1903, I saw a lark, doubtless of this subspecies, with a spotted breast and a yellowish bill, evidently in the juvenal plumage, at Natick, Mass. This bird was seen a few days earlier at the same place by Mr. R. B. Worthington of Dedham, Mass.— FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

Auk, XXIII, Jan., 1906, p. 101-102.

Prairie Horned Lark in Rhode Island in Summer.— While walking on the morning of June 25, 1914, down a road through some fields bordering Brightman's Pond, near Watch Hill, R. I., two birds were noticed running rapidly ahead of me. Finally they stopped and dusted themselves in the sand, permitting me to approach within close range by careful stalking behind a fence. They proved to be Prairie Horned Larks in fine plumage, the throat and sides of the head being very white. In about five minutes they flew away over a stone fence, uttering the characteristic lark note, but a long search failed to reveal them again. Two days later the whole territory was thoroughly searched, but the birds could not be found, and my hopes of finding some evidence of breeding were frustrated. The Prairie Horned Lark has always been rare in Rhode Island, and I know of no other summer record.— LUDLOW GRISCOM, *New York City*.

Auk XXXII. Apr. 1915: p. 229.

Notes from Northwestern Connecticut.— *Otocoris alpestris praticola.*— On May 25, 1905, I secured a pair of these birds in a meadow on the crest of a low ridge about eight miles south of the village of Litchfield. They undoubtedly had a nest there, for they both had been seen in the same meadow the preceding day, and the thin skin of the belly of the female indicated that she probably had a brood. Both were very shy, which I have not found to be the case with these birds later in the season. I believe that this is the first breeding record for the State of Connecticut.

Helminthophila peregrina.— It may be of interest to note that the Tennessee Warbler was almost common in the *village* of Litchfield during the nine days from May 19 to 27 inclusive this last spring. Litchfield is situated on a high ridge, along the crest of which runs the main street, bordered with tall elms. To these trees and to those in the grounds about the houses close to the street the birds seemed to be restricted; for though I was in the field every day throughout the migration, I did not see or hear one outside of the village. I secured five on different days within that time out of one tree in our own grounds, and heard or saw several others in the neighboring yards.— EDWARD SEYMOUR WOODRUFF, *Litchfield, Conn.* Auk, XXII, Oct., 1905, p. 420-421.

The Prairie Horned Lark a Summer Resident in Connecticut.— In 'The Auk,' Vol. XXII, July, 1905, I reported having secured a pair of Prairie Horned Larks (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) on May 25, 1905, at Litchfield, Conn., which were undoubtedly breeding birds and which made the first breeding record for Connecticut. Though no nest has yet been found, there can be no question but that these birds are regular summer residents in the vicinity of Litchfield, and not rare, for they have since been seen quite often both by my cousin, Mr. Harrison Sanford, and myself during the months of April, May, June, July, and August on several of the high ridges in the vicinity of the village.— E. SEYMOUR WOODRUFF, *Litchfield, Conn.* Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 461.

Winter Notes from Stephentown, N. Y.
Benjamin Hoag.

Prairie Horned Larks were again noted on February 8, a flock of ten feeding on the horse droppings in the road. Seen almost daily since. None were noted during December and January.

O. & O. Vol. 18, Jan. 1893 p. 11-12

(1)

~~Probable~~ Breeding of the Prairie Horned Lark (Otocoris alpestris praticola) near Pittsfield Mass. — Sometime since a letter received from Mr. Henry R. Buck, of Weathersfield, Conn., giving a detailed account of the discovery of a small colony of Prairie Horned Larks, ~~[illegible] what seems to be~~ evidently breeding near Pittsfield, Mass. Although the old birds were not taken, they were carefully observed, ~~seen at close range~~, and Mr. Buck's intelligent description of them, and of the nest and eggs he obtained ~~belonging to one pair of the birds, renders~~ leaves their identification scarcely open to question, as shown by the following extracts from his letter. Mr. Buck

Parus bicolor

(2)

writes: "This summer [1892] I became interested in a nest ~~which~~ .... of Otocoris alpestris, which I thought was only a winter visitor here. Mr. C. H. Buckingham of Pittsfield, Mass., with whom I was walking, found the nest July 10, 1892.... The bird had built her nest in a sheep pasture, on the very top

of a cruise mountain west of Pittsfield, on the ground of course.

She could hardly have found a more unprotected spot, and had not roofed over the nest at all.)

It was about four inches in diameter, sunk ~~in~~ even with the surface of the ground, and was composed of a thick wall of moss lined with dry grass, ~~also~~ several locks of wool and two or three leaves.

"The eggs were four in number, fresh, of about the same shape as an English Sparrow's, of a pale greenish ground color, spotted indistinctly but thickly with light brown and purplish.

A

III

The spots are not at all clearly defined and not perceptibly thicker at one end than at the other.

The eggs measure .62 X .84, .61 X .80 & .61 X .83 inches. No. 4. got cracked, so I did not measure it, but it was about the size of the other.

II "We could not get a very close look at the bird, since she would sneak off when we were yet quite a distance from the nest, and after she had gone about forty yards would run unconcernedly about among some rocks near there, but would always keep about ~~so far~~ [illegible] away from us. If we followed her closely she would fly off with a steady, rapid motion of the

wings, very like the flight of a meadow lark.)

On the ground she ran easily and seemed to be able to go quite fast.

"We saw five or six other birds of the same kind near the place but could find no other nest.

The birds were a little longer than a blue bird — I should say about seven inches — but much slimmer and slender, reminding one of a Meadow Lark in this respect. They were brown above and white below, with the sides of the head below the bill, and also the throat, white, and a narrow black spot, shaped somewhat like a sickle, across the

breast. I did not notice any black streaks on the sides of the head or the horns, but as I did not get very close, and did not look for them especially, it is not strange.

"On a second trip to the place, a week later, there was a very high wind blowing and we saw nothing of the birds."

Will you kindly tell me if there is any previous record of the breeding of the Shore Lark in New England, and if so how can I get at it and oblige

Yours Truly
Henry R. Buck.

This form of the Horned Lark has already been recorded as breeding in North Adams and Williamstown, Mass. (Faxon, Auk, IX, 1892, p. 201), as well as in Vermont, New Hampshire, and near Troy in eastern New York.
— William Brewster, Cambridge, Mass.

Cornwall

Cornwall Vt. May 2 1889

Mr. Brewster.

Dear Sir.

I send you a bird by mail to day. If you will be so kind as to identify and return.

I took the ♀ with nest and four eggs on Ap. 19.

I sent my notes to J Parker Norris Ed. of O. & C. in reply he said that Otocoris alpestris does not nest in the United States but my bird is probably Otocoris alpestris praticola.

As refers me to you, I await your reply

Nesting of the Prairie Horned Lark in Vermont.

Upon looking up the records on the subject I have not been able to find any authentic record of any of the Shore Larks breeding within the New England States, and therefore the following notes on the nesting of the Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) will be of interest.

It occurs in this section from September through the winter until July, with the exception of December and January.

The birds arrive about the middle of September, and become generally dispersed by the twentieth of that month, and are common during October and a greater part of November, when they depart. They reappear again about the middle of February, and become common by the last of that month, when they remain in greater or less abundance during March. The bulk of them migrate in March, leaving a few pairs here and there which doubtless all might be taken in the act of breeding.

From its occurring during this part of the year I have long thought to place it on the list of the birds which breed in this locality, but I have not until recently been able to do so from a positively identified nest.

Two of these have come to my notice, one found early in April, 1885 (I can not give the exact date of either), contained three young birds and one egg. Unfortunately the parent bird was not taken with the nest, but as it was collected by an ornithological friend who is familiar with the species, there can be no doubt as to its identity. The other was also taken early in April and contained four eggs. I have examined one of these eggs and it is unquestionably that of a Shore Lark.

I can also note one instance (April 6, 1888) of an immature egg taken from the ♀ which must have been deposited in a short time.

The nest which removes all uncertainty in regard to the breeding of this species in this locality, however, I collected April 19, 1889. While passing through a meadow, I flushed an old bird, which tried in every way possible to decoy me away. Upon looking around I discovered the nest, which I took with the ♀ bird. The nest was situated on grass land, on slightly sloping ground. It was a loose structure, like most ground nesters, and was sunk in the ground to the rim. It was composed of coarse grass lined with the same and contained four eggs slightly incubated.

I think the Shore Lark will yet be found to be not a rare breeder in this locality.

C. H. Parkhill.

Cornwall, Vermont.

[At my request Mr. Parkhill sent the ♀ bird which he took to Mr. William Brewster for identification, and Mr. Parkhill writes me that Mr. Brewster pronounces it to be a typical specimen of the Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*), and, furthermore, that it is the first recorded instance of the breeding of any form of *Otocoris* in New England.—*J.P.N.*]

to prove the identity of the specimen
I inclose postage for return of skin.

Yours Respectfully
C. H. Parkhill
Cornwall
Vermont

This specimen agrees closely with breeding birds from Dutchess Co. N. Y. There is no yellowish on the forehead or superciliary line (which are brownish white); the yellow of the throat is very pale primrose slightly tinged with brownish; the bill is wholly clear horn color. The bird (a ♀) measures: Wing, 3.78; tarsus, .80; tail, 2.52; bill from nostril, .37
It is a perfectly typical A. a. praticola

Otocoris praticola (breeding ♀)

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O & O. XIV. June. 1889 p. 87

Please return to W. B.

Wethersfield Conn Sept. 6th, 1892

Mr. William Brewster,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:

This summer I became interested in a nest which I thought so rare that I communicated the facts concerning it to Mr. Robt. Ridgway of the National Museum, who suggested to me that I write the facts to you. The nest was that of Otocoris alpestris no. of J.A. which I thought was only a winter visitor here. Mr. C. H. Buckingham of Pittsfield, Mass., with whom I was walking, found the nest July 10 92 but gave me the eggs.

The bird had built her nest in a sheep pasture, on the very top

Breeding of the Prairie Horned Lark in Eastern New York—A Correction.—In the Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Vol. VI, p. 177, I noted the capture, in April, 1881, of two young Horned Larks, just able to fly, and two adults, male and female, at Green Island, N. Y., and called them, specifically, "*Eremophila alpestris*"—not knowing their proper race name.

Mr. William Brewster lately saw the mounted skins of these birds and informed me that they are of the variety *Otocoris alpestris praticola*, described and named, in 1884, by Mr. H. W. Henshaw, in 'The Auk,' Vol. I, pp. 254-268.

I have given very little attention to the Horned Larks of this vicinity, but know of specimens of the variety *praticola* taken within five miles of Troy, N. Y., February 22, 1883, and in March and October, 1887. A larger and darker colored variety, probably *alpestris* proper, visits this locality in winter; and I have a specimen of that race captured here about April 25, 1845.—AUSTIN F. PARK, *Troy, N. Y.* Auk, V. Jan. 1888. p. 111.

Early nesting of Octocoris alpestris praticola.—March 26, 1888, while returning from a trip after Crossbills, I flushed a female Horned Lark within one hundred feet of where I found my first nest last season (April 11, 1887), and as she acted as they usually do when nesting, out of curiosity I began to search, and was rewarded by finding the nest, a mere cavity in the side of a sandy knoll, lined with dead grasses, a little thistle down, and a few mayweed blossoms. The eggs had been incubated a few days. On the 21st, 22d, and 23d the thermometer ranged in the vicinity of zero, and in fact the spring has been very backward. When you approach the nest, *usually* the female sneaks from two to three rods before flying, then flies to a short distance, observes you closely, begins to pick on the ground, and then flies to a distant part of the field to be joined by her mate. Occasionally a female will hover for a moment over you, if you are close to the nest, but they vary so in actions that it is hard to describe the different peculiarities.

Since the above I have taken other sets. April 3, three nests of three eggs each in stubble fields on knolls. April 4, one set of four eggs, much incubated, in oat stubble. April 6, set of four fresh eggs in stubble, and the same day a nest with one young fledgling, which I should judge to have been two or three days old, on the side of a knoll in a newly seeded meadow. The young bird was about a foot outside of the nest, and very cold, but alive, for which I cannot account as the old birds were flushed about a rod from the nest. April 7, nest of four nearly fresh eggs, in oat stubble as usual, on the side of a knoll. I find these birds breeding as late as June in favorable localities, "barren fields with not much if any herbage in them," which shows they must at least raise two broods annually. Before nesting the male is very active, singing from early morning until late evening, both on the ground and high up in the air. But as soon as the female begins her incubation he becomes silent, and keeps in a distant part of the field to warn her, as I often have seen him do, by flying close to her in the nest, *but not alighting*, soon to be followed by her and chased around as when mating.

Where early in the season you saw dozens of pairs singing, you will be surprised at the quietness now. But after beating about the field you will begin to disturb them, and will find as many birds as formerly.—GEO. E. HARRIS, *Buffalo, N. Y.* Auk, V, July, 1888. p. 320-321.

Bird Notes from Long Island, N. Y.
William Dutcher.

18. Otocoris alpestris praticola. PRAIRIE HORNED LARK. — Mr. John Hendrickson, of Long Island City, Queens Co., has the honor of having secured the first specimen of this variety of the Horned Lark on Long Island. July 31, 1886, he shot one near his home. His brother, Mr. W. F. Hendrickson, when writing to me about it, asked if it was not early in the season for a Shore Lark to be found, and also stated that the specimen was very small. Subsequently he sent it to me, but as I had no others to compare it with, I forwarded it to Dr. A. K. Fisher, at Washington, for comparison and identification. He replied to my inquiry as follows: "The specimen is *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. To make doubly sure, I had Mr. Ridgway examine it and he said there was no question but that it was *praticola*. I should not be surprised, if in a few years the bird would be a common breeder on Long Island." September 14, 1887, the Messrs. Hendrickson sent to me in the flesh a Horned Lark which, from its immaturity, had evidently been bred on the Island, and consequently must be *praticola*.

Auk, V, April, 1888. p. 180 - 181.

Proc. Linnaean Soc. of L. I., 88-89

Mr. Dutcher read extracts from a letter written by Mr. Austin F. Park, Troy, N. Y., regarding *Octocoris alpestris praticola* breeding there on Green Island. Six, including three young, were taken July 21, 1888, and six others, one young just from the nest, on July 28. This is of special interest in comparison with the early breeding of the species in the western part of the State, as has been repeatedly recorded, as it doubtless indicates that the birds rear more than one brood each season.

Auk, 8, Apr, 1889. p. 200

O. praticola breeding at Troy, N. Y. 7

Mr. Edward Root, - who lives with the birds on Green Island, and who has brought me most of the Horned Larks that I have - says that he knows that the Horned Larks have bred on Green Island for more than ten years, and every year of that ten, last past. - and I believe him! -

(Austin F. Park. Jan. 9 - 1889)

1989. *The Prairie Horned Lark.* By Lynds Jones. Orn. & Oologist's Semi-annual, Vol. 2. No. 2.

The Oologist. 1631. *The Prairie Horned Lark.* By J. V. Crone. *Ibid.*, p. 231. Auk, VII, Jan. 1890. p. 86.

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Auk, 6, Apr, 1889, p. 200

Otocorys alpestris praticola:
See "Henshaw on the North American Shore Larks"... under Otocorys alpestris.

Auk I. July, 1884. pp. 254-68.

1989. *The Prairie Horned Lark.* By Lynds Jones. *Ibid.*, pp. 27-9.
Orn. & Oologist's Semi-annual, Vol. 2, No. 2.

The Oologist. 1631. *The Prairie Horned Lark.* By J. V. Crone. *Ibid.*, p. 231. Auk, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 86.

Otocoris a.praticola.

The Horned Larks of Maine.
By O. W. Knight.
Auk, XlV, Oct., 1897, pp.371-4.
See under
Otocoris alpestris.

alauda arvensis

On the Capture of Escaped Cage-Birds:

Skylarks and other European birds were set loose, some years ago, in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, but are supposed to have all soon died.

J. A. Allen.

Bull. N.O.C. 5, April, 1880, p. 120.

hoyti

Notes from Connecticut.

Otocoris alpestris hoyti. Four adult males,— Guilford, March 7, 1903; and West Haven, January 24, 1905.

Louis B. Bishop.
New Haven, Conn.

Auk, XXIII, July, 1906, p. 345.

Milvulus forficatus

Swallow-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) **in New Brunswick.** — Through the kindness of Mr. W. H. Moore, Scotch Lake, N. B., the Biological Survey has received the first record of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in New Brunswick. The bird was shot May 21, 1906, by Mr. G. S. Lacey at Clarendon Station and has been mounted by Emmach Bus of Scotch Lake.— WELLS W. COOKE, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 460.

Some Birds of Rare or Accidental Occurrence in New England. H. A. Purdie

9. **Milvulus forficatus.** SWALLOW-TAILED FLYCATCHER. — Mr. Jencks informs me that a specimen of this species was shot by Mr. Carpenter, at Wauregan, Conn., about April 27, 1876. The bird first attracted Mr. Carpenter's attention by its opening and closing the tail while flying about a small sheet of water in quest of insects. The only other Eastern United States capture of this species is a male taken at Trenton, N. J., a few years ago, as recorded by Dr. C. C. Abbott.* Of course its appearance here is entirely accidental.

Bull. N.O.C. 2, Jan., 1877. p. 21

Albinistic Plumages. R. Deane.

19. **Milvulus forficatus.** FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER. — A specimen in the Derby Collection, Liverpool, England (*Merrill*).

Bull. N.O.C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 28

Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Maine.— In late December, 1908, a correspondent wrote to me giving the description of a "peculiar bird" she had seen in the flesh while in the possession of an Indian guide and "taxidermist," and asking what it could possibly be. Her description made it absolutely certain that the bird must belong to the genus *Muscivora*, but which species was a matter requiring more data. After nearly a year's waiting I have at last had the specimen sent to me for identification and it is before me as this is written. It is a typical specimen of *M. tyrannus*, agreeing in measurements with those given by Ridgway for the female of the species. Though originally in good plumage it has been mounted by "main strength and foot power" and would require careful remounting to make it presentable.

The bird was shot near the mill of Mr. S. M. Holway in the town of Marion, Washington County, Maine, December 1, 1908, by Mr. G. H. Graham, and is now owned by Mr. Holway who has kindly submitted it to me for positive identification.

It is rather interesting to note in this connection that many birds of the southern regions have been taken from time to time in or near this section of Washington County. The late George A. Boardman personally secured several rarities in this general region, and subsequently others have taken equally unexpected species. The statements of taxidermists are naturally open to suspicion where pecuniary matters are concerned, so it is always desirable to have confirmatory evidence where obtainable. The evidence in the present case seems entirely satisfactory.— Ora Willis Knight, *Bangor, Me.*

1015. *Valuable Notes from Vermont.* [By F. T. Jencks.] *Ibid.*, No. 8, p. 3.—Gives some notes contributed by Mr. C. W. Graham, which include a record of the capture of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Mivulus forficatus*) at St. Johnsburg, Vt., some time previously. The specimen "now reposes in Dartmouth College." Also refers to the recent capture near the same place of the Kittiwake Gull and the Stilt.

Insert

Mivulus forficatus said to have been killed at St. Johnsbury Vt. & to be in Dartmouth College Museum (Rand. Notes N. H. I, No VIII Aug., 1884 p. 3.)

Hanover, N. H.
Jan. 16, 1895.

Dear Mr. Brewster:

Your letter of the 13th came yesterday, & I have been trying to look up that flycatcher.

Our ornithologist is not much in evidence, & our stock of birds is small. I do not find any such bird as you ask for in our collection. This collection was made by Rev. Henry Fairbanks of St. Johnsbury, Vt., whom some time professor here. When he left the college he took with him a part of the collection, which was in our rooms, as being a part of his private stock. This bird for which you ask may have been in that part of the collection, & I have therefore sent your letter to him with the request that he communicate with you if he has the bird in question.

Sincerely yours, John K. Lord.

1015. *Valuable Notes from Vermont.* [By F. T. Jencks.] *Ibid.*, No. 8, p. 3.—Gives some notes contributed by Mr. C. W. Graham, which include a record of the capture of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Mivulus forficatus*) at St. Johnsburg, Vt., some time previously. The specimen "now reposes in Dartmouth College." Also refers to the recent capture near the same place of the Kittiwake Gull and the Stilt.

Hanover, N. H.,
Jan. 26, 1895.

Dear Mr. Brewster:—

I received yesterday from Mr. Fairbanks the letter which I herewith enclose to you. It tells its own story, & may interest you from its portrait if not from its main fact.

I doubt if the scissors tail is in our museum, at least I cannot find it, & as the collection is small, I think that I should do so if it were here.

Sincerely yours,
Frank. Lord.

HENRY FAIRBANKS,

St. Johnsbury, Vt.
Jan 17 1895

Prof J K Lord
Hanover N H

My Dear Professor Lord,

Referring to your enquiry of yesterday,- I have here a very fine specimen of Milvulus Forficatus which came to me from "near Boston Mass, May 1880". to copy the inscription on the stand. Mr Graham put up some native birds for me which went into the cabinet at Hanover, but I do not remember about this species, though I have an indistinct impression that I knew of his obtaining one here, and very likely I bought it. He is not here now and I cannot make enquiry of him. I will enquire of others about this bird being seen here.

Yours cordially

Henry Fairbanks.

Jan 24, I have held this letter waiting for the return of one of our best observers, who was absent when your letter came. He knew most of Mr Graham's work, but does not remember that a scissor tail was ever shot here. Mr Brewster may be interested to know that a Cape May warbler was killed here in mid-summer some years ago. I think that is more rare, and more out of its latitude than a scissor tail would be. I only this week learn of the death of Prof Hitchcock, which saddens me as it does you at Hanover.

Yours sincerely

H F.

O and O. 360. "*Fork-tailed Flycatcher*," *Correction*. *Ibid.*, VI, pp. 93-94.—This heading covers letters from H. Nehrling, Geo. B. Sennett, R. Ridgway, and William Brewster, in reference to H. Nehrling's paper bearing this title in the preceding number of the *O. and O.* (See above, No. 351.)

O and O. 359. "*Fork-tailed Flycatcher*." Editorial. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 92.—Explaining how in Dr. Nehrling's article on this species (see above, No. 351) it came to be spoken of as *Milvulus tyrannus* instead of *M. forficatus*, the name used in the author's manuscript.

351. *Fork-tailed Flycatcher*. By H. Nehrling. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 83, with cut.—Erroneously mentioned as "*Milvulus Tyrannis*," and the cut is of that species. See below, Nos. 359, 360, for correction. O and O.

Sunny So. Ologist. 1498. *The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*. By. E. C. Davis. *Ibid.*, p. 17. Auk, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 80

117

Muscivora tyrannus (**Linn.**) **in Massachusetts.**— On October 22, 1916, I saw a Fork-tailed Flycatcher perched on the top of a wire fence at the side of the main road a short distance below Gay Head Lighthouse, Martha's Vineyard, Mass. When disturbed by my repeated approach, the bird flew only a short distance each time, and returned to the fence. The conspicuously long outer tail-feathers and general coloration made it easily recognizable. Subsequently, by the kindness of Mr. Outram Bangs, of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, I have examined specimens of this and other species, which entirely confirm my identification.— FRANCIS A. FOSTER, *Edgartown, Massachusetts.*

Auk, Vol. XXXIV. July. 1917. p. 337.

Tyrannus
Tyrannus

Tyrannus tyrannus. * = long flight.

J. tyrannus

1889

May B. 11¹ - 14³ - Cd. 17¹⁵ * - Cd. 19¹⁰ - Cg. 26¹ - Cg. 28¹ hr. - W. 29⁶ - B. 30⁶ 1889. Cd. 4² (full) - Wm. 7⁶ - Cd. 15¹⁶ - Wm. 16⁶ - Sim B. 19⁴ - Ch. 22² - C. 23¹ - Cb. 25² - Cs 28¹ - B. 29³ 1890

June Cd 1⁶ (m. 4 yr) - G. 3² - W. 4⁴ - Cb. 9² - Way 16² - W. 20⁴ - Cd. 21⁶ 1889. May-Cd. 1²⁵ - Cb. 5¹ - Cb. 6¹ - B. Wm. 8⁶ - S. 10⁶ - B. 12⁴ - 13² - 14⁸ - 15² (Swampscott) - Rin. 21⁴ - Rin. 22⁴ 1890

July B. 17⁶ 1889. Fal. 6² - 16² - 20⁴ - 21² - 30⁶ - 31⁶ (Martha's Vineyard) 1890

Aug Cg. 2¹ - C. 7¹ - C. 9¹ - B. 11² - C.R. 16³ - B. 17³ - Cd. 20¹ - Merrimac 24⁶ 1889 m.v. 3 (4) - Fal. 17³ (Woods) - C. 20* - Cg 21¹* - Longwood 22 (5) * - Fal 24⁸ - Cg 27 (1) * 1890

May Cd.-Way 30³⁰ - Way 31⁴⁰ 1890 Walpole 9 (2) - B. 10¹ - 10² (Fall) - m. v. 12¹ - B. 17² - Cd. 22 - Cd.-Way 23⁴⁰ (estimated) - C.-Carl 28⁴⁰ - N. Truro 31⁶ 1891. (31⁸ Concord)

" 3¹ 5² 6¹ 7³ 8⁴ 9⁶ 10⁶ 11⁶ 12⁸ 13⁸ 14¹⁰ 15² 16⁶ 17⁴ 18² 19⁴ 20⁴ 21⁴ 22⁸ 23⁴ 24⁶ 25⁴ 28⁶ 29⁸ 30⁶

" C to Cd. 9 (2) (2) 6 - 10⁶ * - 11⁶ * 12⁸ - 13⁴ - 14⁸ - 15⁴ * - 16⁴ (building) - Cd. to C. 17²⁰ (building) 19⁴ - 20⁴ - 21² - 22 nest finished 23² - [Cd. to C. 24¹⁰] 25⁶ - 26⁴ - 27⁶ -

" 28⁸ - 29¹⁰ - 30¹⁴ (5 nests) Concord. 1893

" 1³ (Fal.)

June Fal. 24⁶ - 25⁴ - 26² - m. v. 28⁴⁰ - 29¹ * 1890 - North Truro 1⁴ - 2⁶ - 3⁴ 1891.

" 1⁶ 2⁴ - 3⁶ 4⁸ 5⁶ * - 6⁶ * 7⁸ - 8⁶ - 12⁴ 13⁴ 15⁴ - 16⁴ - 17 - 18¹⁰ * - 19⁸ * 20⁴ - 21⁶ - 22⁸ - 23⁴ Concord

" Concord 26² 30²

(26⁸ 27⁶ 28 29⁶ 30⁴ 31⁶ Concord)

July 1¹ * 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 * - 7 - 8 - 9⁴ - 10⁸ * 11 * 12 - 13 - 14⁸ * - 15⁶ * - 16⁸ 17⁸ 18¹⁰ 19⁸ 20¹⁰ 21⁶ 22⁶ 23¹⁰ 24⁶ 25³

1³ - 3⁶ (young flying) 5¹²ᶜ - 6 - 7 - 11 - 12⁶ - 13 * - 14³⁰ (count) 15 - 16 * - 17 - 18⁶ * - 19⁶ - 20¹⁶ - 21 - 22¹⁵ - 23²⁰ * - 24 - 27¹⁰ - 28⁸ - 29¹⁰ -

30⁷ - 31⁵ Concord. 1893.

August 1⁶ - 2⁴ - 3¹⁵ - 4⁴ - 13⁸ * - 14² - 15² - 17⁸ (2) * 20⁶ - 21 - 22⁴ - 24² - 26 (2) - 28 (3) - 30 (3) - 31¹ Concord

1² - 2⁶ - 4⁵ 5⁵ * - 6⁴ - 7³ - 8⁶ - 9² - 10 (8) (Balls H.) 11⁶ - 12⁴ * - 13² - 14⁵ - 16² - 19³ * - 20² - 21² - 22¹ - 24⁷ - 25² - 26, 27 (6) mig! 31 (3) Concord 1893.

Sept. 3¹ 4¹ 5 (3) Concord 1892. 2 (3) Concord 1893.

Tyrannus carolinensis

1889 Mass.

May 17 Concord. – About fifteen along the river, paired, and evidently settled for the season. I saw one take a song-flight late in the afternoon rising to about 150 ft. and after finishing his erratic plunging and still twittering descend on a gentle incline, very slowly, his wings set, sailing down as lightly as a bunch of thistle down. — Song flight

June 1 Concord. – A nest with 4 eggs, another with 2 eggs, several in various stages of building, all over the river on low horizontal branches of willows; white maples ~~and~~ Saw a ♂ perform the song flight at about 4 P. M. — Nest 4 eggs. Song flight

" 16 Wayland. – A nest in button bushes only 2 ft. above surface of river. No eggs; nest not finished. — Nest.

" 20 Watertown – A nest near the end of a long horizontal branch of a pitch pine fully 20 ft. out from the tree and 40 ft above the ground. ♀ sitting; ♂ perched on top of tree — Nest

Aug. 20 Nelson Highlands. "King birds still sing and tumble towards night as if they were too full for utterance" (Torrey Ct. Aug. 20 – 1889) — Song flight

1890

May 30 Wayland. – Nest in button bush over water – 2 ft – very exposed as foliage was not half developed. 4 eggs, apparently slightly incubated. Bird started off when we were fully 20 ft. away. Two other nests finished but empty; King-birds very numerous along river. The males indulging in song flights every evening — Early nest

Aug. 17 Falmouth. – Three or four going to roost at evening with Robins & Grackles in a white cedar swamp. — Roosting

Tyrannus carolinensis

1890 Mass.

Aug. 21 Cambridge. – Song flight this evening in fields near Reservoir

" 22 " " " " Morning at 8.30 over my garden, the weather still and warm with thin curtain of clouds. Song flight in forenoon

" " Longwood. Several hawking about the outskirts of a Robin roost. One pursued a Chimney Swift which was flying at top speed over a pasture & slightly down hill and, to my great surprise, overtook him with apparent ease when he delt him a series of furious blows apparently on the back of the head bringing him nearly to the ground. The Swift at length doubled sharply and threw him off when the Kingbird rose in the air, twittering. The Kingbird was fully two feet behind the Swift when they first attracted my attention. He flew at such meteoric speed that I took him at first for a Hawk. After overtaking the Swift he kept just above him striking downward. Outflies a Chimney Swift

1894

July 25 Concord. – In a field near the Sorrell R.R. Station I saw a beautiful albino King Bird. The under parts were white, the back, wings & tail of a nearly uniform pale cream color. The ~~bro~~ head appeared to be lighter than in the normal bird but it was decidedly darker than the back. At a distance, especially when flying, the bird looked almost pure white. It alighted on fence posts & apple trees and twittered like any other King Bird. There were three or four other King Birds scattered about over the field evidently members of the same family. I could not make out the age of the albino but if a bird of this season it was in full autumn plumage. Albino

Massachusetts. *Tyrannus tyrannus. (No. 1)*

1892.

June 8. Concord King birds uttering their metalic tzu, tzu, in the black willows. Yesterday I saw one sitting on her nest in one of these trees. This nest was built on the side away from the river and over the meadow a departure from the rule induced, perhaps, by frequently molestation from egg collectors in previous years.

July 14 During my last trip down river I noticed what I took to be a bunch of drift clinging to the extreme end of a half-dead branch of a willow which extended out, over the river scarce two feet above the water. This morning, to my astonishment it had developed into a nicely-finished nest in which a King Bird was sitting on one fresh egg. Both nest and bird were absurdly conspicuous and I was not surprised when passing the spot on my return, late in the afternoon, I found the nest empty and the bird gone. Yet what could have taken the egg? certainly not a Squirrel, probably not a Jay and there are no Grackles along the river now. I am inclined to suspect that a Cuckoo was the thief. (I afterwards found the egg in my canoe! In some mysterious way I must have shaken it out of the nest.)

July 14 The song flight of the King bird puzzles me. I see it much oftener now than I did in June. During the intense heat of this afternoon the birds were going up every little while and diving + plunging in their eccentric way.

Massachusetts.

Tyrannus tyrannus, (No. 2.)

1892.

Aug. 17. Concord. King birds are quite as numerous as ever along the river and this evening just after sunset I saw two go through the song flight performance.

Tyrannus carolinensus.

1892. Mass.

July 18. Concord.- I now see many broods of young Kingbirds accompanied King-
(No.5) by their parents sitting on bushes along the river and usually birds.
well our over the water. The young are more active and animated than most birds of their age and already show much of the irritable quarrelsome disposition so characteristic of their species The parents are feeding them largely on Dragon flies and I see them chasing these insects continually not always with success for the Dragon fly is a good dodger and Kingbird's stock of patience small. A bird to-day pursued a dragon fly upwards to a height of more than a hundred feet and after snapping at it vainly four or five times in quick succession gave up the chase in evident great disgust and sailed down and back to its disappointed brood which were sitting on a button bush.

Aug.20. Concord.- Kingbirds seem to have diminished greatly in numbers Tyrannus.
during the past few days.

Tyrannus tyrannus.

Concord, Mass.
May, 16. 1898.

May 16

Early this morning a King bird collected [illegible] moonlight [illegible] from [illegible] (probably flight) in front of the [illegible] across the road. [illegible] on a nest building [illegible] have [illegible] [illegible]

(On the 17th while driving through Belmont I saw a King bird cross the road bearing in its bill a large fluff of cotton wool which it took into a nest in an apple tree. The nest appeared to be nearly finished.)

King Birds building unusually early

Concord, Mass.
May, 22. 1898.

May 22

The King Birds that began building on Honeysuckle Island May 16 have finished this nest. I experimented with it this morning & found it lining & all complete. It is upright & securely placed in a stout upright fork of a large willow about four feet 1 ft above the water in the center of a cluster of upright stems at least 10 ft. below the fork. [illegible] the stems at the fork [illegible] site.

King Bird

Concord, Mass.

May 30
(No 3)

1893

May 30
(No 3)

King Birds are very numerous along the river this year. I saw no less than seven pairs between the Buttricks' & Bedd this this morning and found five nests, all nearly or quite completed but none with eggs. One one of the nests a bird was sitting quite steadily, however. This nest was in a hollow broken branch only about 2 ft. above the water. Two nests were in willows, one in a stout upright fork like the one near the Buttricks'. The fifth nest was on a leafy horizontal branch of a maple fairly well concealed.

King Birds' nests.

Tyrannus tyrannus.

Concord, Mass. Overtakes a Robin in fair flight.

1893. Once in 1890 and again in Connecticut last month I saw

July 6. a Kingbird pursue and overtake a Chimney Swift. Less remarkable but yet well worth noting was the pursuit of a Robin by a Kingbird this evening. I was paddling in towards our landing when the Robin came dashing through the big white willow and made for the further side of the river. The Kingbird was at least twenty feet in the rear at first but although the Robin did his best he was overtaken before he reached the middle of the stream and suffered a severe pummeling before he could gain the trees on the further bank. The Kingbird in fact dealt him a dozen or more blows on the back of the head, the poor Robin squealing the while as if he were in the clutches of a Hawk. Whether or no the Robin had done anything to merit this chastisement I had no means of ascertaining. It is evident that the Kingbird can, upon occasion, fly more swiftly than any other of our small land birds.

Aug.27. At about 9.30, before the morning fog had cleared and the sun come out, I saw six Kingbirds crossing the Great Meadows flying 100 ft. or more above the earth and due south in a loose flock. They kept steadily on flapping their wings with perfect regularity and passing over the line of trees which fringe the river. I was satisfied at the time that they were migrating.

Tyrannus tyrannus.

Concord, Mass. Roost over water.

1893. Kingbirds at this season roost in small parties (each
Aug.14. consisting, probably, of a brood of young with one or both parents) on leafy branches of willows or white maples which stretch out over the water. Last night, as well as on another recent occasion, I started three or four birds after dark, from the same branch, by hitting the end of the branch with my head or shoulder while paddling past in a canoe.

Tyrannus tyrannus

1896. Penobscot Bay, Maine.

Deer Island. June 27th } Stinson's Neck
" " July 6 ♀ 9', 11-14'
" " " 16 pair with nest in Knights orchard.

July 15 Sedgwick. Two or three pairs seen in a near apple orchards.
" 16 Brooksville. One or two " " " " " " "

June 16-22 Mathieus Island. Very common. Fide W. K. Job

On arriving at Stinson's Neck, Deer Isle, June 20th, I was told that a Kingbird had been trying for a week past to build a nest in the furled topsail of a small sloop lying in the little harbor in front of the Emersons. Every day or two the sail would be spread & the nest cast out until finally the bird gave up the attempt. The boat was anchored about 50 yards from shore. I did not see the Kingbird until the evening of June 27 when it went through its song flight directly over the sloop in question.

A bird tries to build in the topsail of a sloop at anchor.

July 6 Saw the pair of Kingbirds in one tree sitting close together on the furled mainsail of a small schooner

Birds of Upper St. John,
Batchelder.

59. **Tyrannus carolinensis** (*Linn.*) *Bd.* KINGBIRD. — Rather common at Fort Fairfield. At Grand Falls several were seen, but it was not common.

Bull. N.O.C. 7, July, 1882, p.149

Birds within Ten Miles of Point de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merrian.

48. **Tyrannus carolinensis.** KING-BIRD. — Not rare. Earliest seen June 9, 1882.

Bull. N.O.C. 7, Oct. 1882, p. 236

Last Dates Migratory Birds observed by E. D. Wintle, Fall 1885, Montreal, Can.

Aug. 9, Tyrant Flycatcher,

O. & O. XI. Mar. 1886. p. 44

Ornithological Trip to St. Bruno, P.Q. May 25, 1885. E. D. Wintle, Montreal.

Tyrant Flycatcher, plentiful in the elm trees growing in the fields around the mountain. This species seem to prefer the vicinity of elms.

O. & O. XI. May. 1886. p. 70

Summer Birds of Bras D'Or Region Cape Breton Id., N.S. J. Dwight, Jr.

24. *Tyrannus tyrannus.*

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887. p.16

Breeding Dates of Birds in Kings County, N.S. Watson L. Bishop.

Kingbird (*Tyrannus carolinensis*). June 15, 18, 19, 20.

O. & O. XIII. Mar. 1888 p.45

Birds of Magdalen Islands. Dr. L. B. Bishop.

32. **Tyrannus tyrannus.** KINGBIRD.—One seen and heard frequently on Grindstone on the afternoon of June 21, the day of our arrival. The next day it was gone, and no other Flycatcher could we find on any of the islands during our entire visit, although Mr. Cory found *Empidonax minimus* quite common in 1878.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p.147

Summer Bds. Restigouche Valley, N.B.
July, '88. J. Brittain and P. Cox Jr.

Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD.—Seen only in the neighborhood of houses near the mouth of the river. Very rare.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p.117

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.
A. H. Alberger.

444. Kingbird. Tolerably common.

O. & O. XV. June, 1890. p.87

Dwight. Summer Birds of
Prince Edward Island.

Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD. — Rather common, and no doubt greatly enjoys life where there are so many Crows to be harrassed.

Auk X, Jan. 1893. p. 9.

26.

Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region
Nipissing District, Ontario.
by Frederick C. Hubel. Auk. XXIV, Jan 1907, p. 50.

26. **Tyrannus tyrannus.** KINGBIRD.— Fairly abundant about the lakes and along the creeks. Young birds seen late in July.

Birds of Toronto Canada,
by James H. Fleming,
Part II, Land Birds.
Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 76.

166. **Tyrannus tyrannus.** KINGBIRD.— Common summer resident, May 11 to August 27; latest record September 15, 1900 (C. W. Nash); breeds (June 11, 1892).

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

62. *Tyrannus carolinensis*, (Kingbird). Noticed sparingly in the vicinity. "They breed at Farmington."

O. & O. XI. Nov. 1886. p. 162.

Summer Residents on South east Coast of Maine. T. H. Montgomery, Jr.

444. Kingbird. A few pairs at Boothbay and others at Camden.

O. and O. 15. Nov. 1890. p. 162

Tyrannus carolinensis. — Plentiful, Shelburne, N. H. Aug. 3-29-1865. R. D.

Rye Beach, N. H. 1866. Young on wing.

25. Tyrannus carolinensis. - Aug. 27

Tyrannus carolinensis. - Aug. 13 (a.); Sept. 2 (a. mig.) Rye Beach, N. H. 1871.

Tyrannus carolinensis. - July 24 (Young on wing). Rye Beach, N. H. 1872.

Rye Beach, N. H. July 23-24 1885.

27. Tyrannus carolinensis. " Young on wing.

Wolfeboro, N. H. June. 17-1887.

Tyrannus carolinensis - two

Wolfeboro, N. H. June. 18-1889.

Tyrannus car. - several

Birds of Hillsboro Co. N. H. June 27, '92
Arthur M. Farmer, Amoskeag, N. H.

Kingbird, several pairs noticed.

O. & O Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 136

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N. H
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '86, W. Faxon

14. Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD.—Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 149

Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem
N. H. July-August, 1874. ~~W. Faxon.~~
J. A. Allen.

10. Tyrannus tyrannus. Occasionally seen at both Franconia and Bethlehem.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 154

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N. H. June 11-21
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

15. Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD.—Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 151

Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N. H.
July 21-Aug. 11, 1883. F. H. Allen

Tyrannus tyrannus.—Quite common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 78

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N.H.
July 12-Sept. 4, 1883. F.H. Allen

Tyrannus tyrannus.—Common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 77

Breezy Point Warren, N.H.

1894

June

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H

1895

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

19. Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD. — Not uncommon in the valley.

by Arthur H. Howell. Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 341.

Mass. (Concord) — Tyrannus carolinensis ✓

1886

May 7 One on the river yesterday, two to-day; perched on dead branches over the water, silent and dumpish as is their wont for a few days after their arrival.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.
June 25-30, 1889.

Tyrannus carolinensis

West Townsend, Ashby, Mt. Watatic--- Common and very generally distributed throughout the region, ranging nearly to the top of Mt. Watatic. As ~~last June~~ elsewhere?, they seemed to show a marked preference for the neighborhood of water, and several ~~birds~~ were found ~~nesting~~ in low willows about the pond of the region.

E. Mass. 1885.
77. Tyrannus carolinensis. — June 12, 1p, 2m.
Pigeon Cove, Mass. July, 29-1885.
10. Tyrannus car. — Juvenal broods
Princeton & Rutland, Mass. Aug. 2-1885
26. Tyrannus carolin. Abundant — Young flying

Princeton & No. Rutland, Mass. June, 18 -1886.
40. Tyrannus carolinensis Common

Mass. (near Concord).

1887
May 6 1 - 8 20 * - 9 10 - 10 6 - 13 6 - 17 4 - 23 8 - 26 12
June 2 10 - 4 20 - 6 50 - 7 50 - 16 10 - 17 10
July 7 10 # - 10 6 - 15 10 * - 24 6 * - 26 10 - 31 20
Aug. 1 6 * - 9 6 - 10 4 - 13 4 - 14 4 - 15 6 - 17 6

* song flight observed # young out

Tyrannus carolinensis

Mass. (Winchendon)

1887

June 24². 25². 26⁴

Tyrannus Carolinensis

Mass. (Framingham)

Tyrannus carolinensis

1888

Apr. 5 One seen by a friend of F. C. Browne's. The same bird seen again Apr. 15. (Browne in letter of Apr. 22 to Purdie)

Tyrannus 12². 18⁶ Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.

Falmouth, Mass. 1889.

20. Tyrannus carolinensis July 1⁶. 14⁴. 21⁶. 28³

Falmouth, Mass. 1889.

5 Tyrannus Carolinensis Aug. 1²⁰

1888. Tyrannus tyrannus. Wellesley, Mass.

May 6. 1² 11. 10 13. 12 are paired. 16. 6 23. abundant

26. many seen. June 4. 10 nests but no eggs laid.

1889. May 14. 3

S. W. Denton.

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.
1885. Charles H. Andros

Sept. 3; weather cool and fair with light N. E. wind. The last Kingbird was seen to-day.

O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886. p. 1

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Tyrannus tyrannus (Linn.), Kingbird. Summer resident, common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 139

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

22. Tyrannus tyrannus.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p.389

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire
Cy, Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Faxon

15. Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD.—Common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 44

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire
Co. Mass. June 28-July 16. W. Faxon

13. Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD.—Common in the open, cultivated country.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p.100

Auk, XV, July, 1898, pp. 268-9.

Early Arrival of the Kingbird at Cambridge, Mass.—I saw a Kingbird Saturday, April 16, in my yard. I suppose it is a very unusual date for the arrival of *Tyrannus tyrannus*. It has been seen there eleven other days; from the 23d to the 29th of April it was cold and rainy with northeast winds during which the bird was not seen.

I suppose it is the same Kingbird which, with another, nests near by.—THOMAS B. BERGEN, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Tyrannus tyrannus

1895 Falmouth, Mass.

July 20 2 29 1 31 1

Connecticut, June. 1893.

Tyrannus Tyrannus.

June 3^{4} - 4^{5} Fairfield

" 5^{5} 6^{6} 7^{6} 8^{3} 9^{4} 10^{3} - 11^{2} (Saybrook

12^{3} 13^{5} 14^{3} 16^{4} 18^{5}

19^{4} 20^{3}

" 22^{2} 23^{3} 24^{6} 25^{3} Cendome

Common & generally distributed but much less numerous than in E. Mass. (not [illegible] about Concord)

Birds observed in Naval Hospital Grounds, Brooklyn. G. H. Coues

13. **Tyrannus carolinensis.** KINGBIRD. — Common; breeds.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p.31

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

90. **Tyrannus carolinensis** (*Linn.*) *Temminck.* KINGBIRD.—Breeds. Common in many places.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Oct, 1881, p.231

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886, Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

May 11, *Tyrannus tyrannus*, (444). Kingbird.

O.&O. XI. Aug. 1886. p. 125

Proc. Linnaean Soc. of N. Y. 88-89
On the Former Abundance of Certain Species (1820-50) on New York Id. during Southward migrations -- Lawrence.

In September Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) flew south in considerable numbers. They were much prized as game, by our foreign citizens with shooting proclivities.

Auk, [illegible] 1889. p.202

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the Northern Adirondacks [Axton], New York [1901].

May 15 to 20.

Kingbird. Tolerably common.

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.
Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p.299.

Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds. Ruthven Deane,

I am induced to think that among the *Tyrannidæ* but few examples have been detected, as *T. Carolinensis* is the only example I have ever heard of. This specimen was in the collection of Mr. James Booth at Niagara Falls. The bird has a stained or creamy plumage, but the most interesting point is that the flame-colored patch on the crown remains; a case similar to *A. linaria*.

Bull. N.O.C. 1, April, 1876, p. 22

Some albinos in Museum of the Philadelphia Academy. (C. H. Townsend)

the Kingbird (*Tyrannus carolinensis*).

Bull. N.O.C. 8, April. 1883, p. 126.

Mass. (Concord) — Tyrannus carolinensis

1886 — Evening song flight

June 10 — Every evening for a week or more one of a pair of King birds inhabiting our orchard regularly goes up into the air to about 100 ft and dives and plunges about in the most insane manner imaginable describing nearly half of a great circle uttering the usual double note incessantly and finally falling with closed wings to the orchard. Evidently this performance (which I have seen dozens of times before) is a song flight similar to that of T. minimus. (over)

1887 JUN 7

Mass. (near Concord) — About 100 feet [illegible] half [illegible] with quick flutter of wings.

JUN 7 1887

Tyrannus ca.

Mass. (near Concord). — Note.

MAY 25 1887

The ordinary note of the Kingbird has a metallic ring, like that of two pieces of steel clashed together

Tyrannus carolinensis

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Tyrannus carolinensis. KINGBIRD.

From the time of its arrival on through the season of family cares this bird's notes are louder and more frequent than later in its stay. But the Kingbird does not easily hold its peace under annoyance, and its harsh twitter constantly breaks forth in those dissensions which are ever rising between the irritable birds when they are flocking in the late summer preliminary to departure.

But at this season their notes are usually much abbreviated, for their voices are declining; and when the great body of the little combatants have fought their last fight and departed, which is about the end of August, it is the exception if the loiterers that continue to be met with are not mute.

Auk, 2, July, 1885. p. 253.

Myiarchus crinitus.

Mass. (near Concord). *Hale.*

The crinitus nest I the Kingbird has a metallic metal like that of the Purple Martin and stained together

Myiarchus crinitus

later, when more graceful and gifted songsters are with us, the plain Phœbe does appear a trifle unsophisticated, and its notes may grow monotonous. Nevertheless their jerky character seems to be held in high opinion by their author, and is admirably

June 11. A P walking a long flight in Concord Rim at noon to-day the Rim shining hot at the time. The P sitting on a nest which had an egg only about 50 yards away. The Kingbird came to visibly begin incubation as soon as the first egg was laid. He eight a tin cans has been found no exception to this.

Tyrannus carolinensis

Curious nesting-place.

Mr. Charles Lamb tells me that he has lately found a Kingbird sitting on a set of eggs laid in an abandoned Robin's nest. The Kingbird had made no alterations save the addition of the usual lining of fine roots.

Belmont, Mass. June, 1883

Curious Nesting Traits of Birds.

On May 16, 1889, as I was passing through my orchard, I observed a Kingbird (*Tyrannus carolinensis*) building her nest, and seating myself under an adjoining tree for a few minutes, to watch her movements, I noticed that while she was gone for more material a Warbling Vireo (*Vireosylvia gilva*) who was also building a nest close by, would dart into the Kingbird's nest and after selecting such tit-bits as she thought she could make use of, would fly directly to her own nest, thus saving her the trouble of finding at least part of the material she needed. It was amusing to note how careful she was to see that the Kingbird was absent from her nest when she made her visits. But twice she was caught in the act of stealing, when the Kingbird gave her a warm reception and close pursuit.

Plymouth, Mich. James B Purdy

O.&O. XIV June 1889 p. 93

PECULIAR EGGS OF THE KINGBIRD.—I have just come into possession of a set of eggs of the Kingbird (*Tyrannus carolinensis*,) which present very curious markings. They were collected in 1882, in the town of Braintree, Mass. The nest was in a tree overhanging a mill pond. Eggs, 4; fresh, with the following markings:

No. 1. Normal in ground color and markings, spots being at large end, forming a sort of wreath. Size .92x.69 of an inch.

No. 2. Much like No. 1, but the spots are larger and fewer, with one faint blotch or stain. Size .87x.75 of an inch.

No. 3. Has no *distinct* large spots, but is thickly stained with a reddish lilac; at the large end the stains form a blotch. Size .97x.62 inches.

No. 4. Has *no* large spots or stains, but is faintly and finely stained all over. Size 1.00x.75 of an inch.

These eggs are now in my collection at 73 Hanover street, where I should be pleased to show them to any visitor.—*Frank A. Bates, Boston.* O.&O. X. Apr. 1885. p. 63.

The Number of Eggs in a Set of Certain Species.

BY HON. JOHN N. CLARK, SAYBROOK, CONN.

Samuels in his *Birds of New England* tells that the King Bird, (*Tyrannus carolinensis*) usually lays five eggs to the set, and Minot's *Land and Game Birds* says four or five eggs constitute a set. Now the bird is one of our most abundant species, nesting in great numbers in every orchard, and I have been watching for the past five years every nest that came under my observation—and that not a few—to get a full set without having been able in all that time to secure a single one with either of these numbers.

The birds are not at all shy, building right in my yard. One placed its nest in a small peach tree, within a few feet of the Bee house, where it could secure a breakfast without much exertion, and where I could stand on the ground and put my hand in it; and a large portion of the nests I have observed were equally convenient of access. I remember but one that overreached me and his security was based on his "cheek," for I slay them with little mercy when they gather around my apiary. This nest was in the eve trough directly over the kitchen door, and there he successfully reared his brood in the face of many dangers, chatting defiance at me as I popped in and out, my ladder being a little too short.

In this time I have climbed to numbers of promising nests to find the completed sets numbering never to exceed three and frequently but two. I will not say that I never found four, but think I have rarely done so, and five absolutely never. Two-thirds of these observed in the above period have contained three eggs when complete and the remainder complete with only two.

O and O. XII. Oct. 1887. p. 173.

horticulturist will not be scientifically conducted. Let us take their observations as offered, and after approved methods establish or disprove these things that lie along the line of the practical value of our favorite study. Such work will help us more than bird laws by closing many a field that is now open to the boy-with-a-gun, and by opening hospitable front doors and cellar doors and inviting fields to the student who to-day glances nervously around at sight of "No trespassing."

I will be glad indeed to correspond through O. AND O. or personally with any one interested along this line of ornithological work.

Observations on Nest-Building.

BY WALTER HOXIE, FROGMORE, S. C.

The year before last I went "cooning." It was late for coons, and I rapped at many hollows without success. At last I dislodged a Pileated Woodpecker, and made a careful note of the spot for future reference. In the next [illegible] George Clark, as sets containing each number have been found in equal proportions. It has long been a matter of note with me that this species was content with a trio of eggs for a full complement as often as four, and it afforded additional interest to learn from an exteuded observation that in some localities the lesser number was in a decided majority.

It is further interesting to note that in many instances the species deposit only a trio, pair, or even single egg for a set worthy of the tedious period of incubation. Most ornithologists reason, and rightly too, that in such cases in which the counts falls short of the typical number, some casualty has occurred to prevent a full oviposition, but in many instances which have come under the writer's notice, and afforded individual identification, it has been observed as occurring in cases to which no such reason could be applied. Perhaps a brief mention might be made, without detail, of some species which have been recorded, as not fulfilling what is regarded as a complete requirement of nature's laws. Sets of Cat Bird, one, two, and three have been noticed very frequently within the past three years, a circumstance the more noteworthy from the fact that the observation is confined to more recent dates. The Red-eyed Vireo is usually very regular with her set of four eggs, but three have been noted as a full satisfaction to the parents. The Sparrows seem to have abstained from any proclivities to

WHITE EGGS OF THE KINGBIRD. While examining the collection of a friend in Ulster Co., N. Y., I was shown a nest and eggs of the Kingbird, (*Tyrannus carolinensis*), which differed from the usual type, as the eggs were perfectly white. The identification was correct.

H. TAYLOR.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

O.&O. XII. Dec. 1887 p. 206

Some Curious Sets of Kingbird's Eggs.

In glaneing over a large series of eggs of any species one cannot fail to notiec some odd and abnormal ones. And such is the case with the series of eggs of the Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) now before me, and common as they are, the following sets are so very peculiar that they seem to be worthy of mention.

July 17, 1888. Taunton, Mass. Two eggs, fresh. Ground color and markings normal, but their sizes are extraordinary, one of them measuring 1.12 x.69, and the other .77 x.57. Taking .95 x.68 as the average size of the eggs of this bird it will be seen what a very odd pair these are.

June 17, 1885. Smithborongh, Ill. Three eggs, fresh. Light ereamy white, marked with lilac-gray and heliotrope-purple almost entirely, there being only two or three small and indistinct spots of the chestnut which is typical of the normal Kingbird's egg: .89 x .67; .90 x.67; .93 x .68. No one could recognized these for eggs of this bird.

June 6, 1886. Rozette, Illinois. These must unquestionably belong to *T. tyannus* for no other *Tyrannus* is found in Illinois, but they exactly resemble typical eggs of the Gray Kingbird, (*Tyannus dominicensis*,) having the peeuliar deep cream or pinkish-buff ground color charaeteristic of that bird's eggs: .98 x.74; .98 x.73; .96 x.73; .95 x.73.

The smallest sized sets measure .81 x.65; .81 x.65; .82 x.66; and the largest sets .96 x.79; .94 x.78; .94 x.78 (extremely broad) and 1.06 x.77; 1.01 x.76; .98 x.74. *J. P. N.*

O. & O. ~~15, July, 1890~~. p. 102.

Birds Tioga Co, N.Y. Alden Loring.

304. Kingbird or Bee Martin. Common. Breeds. The food of this bird consists of insects and great numbers of bees. The nest is usually built near some telegraph or telephone line where the birds sit and watch for their prey. It is eomposed of wool, weeds and small roots, and is lined with small roots. The eggs, usually four in number, are yellowish-white with a rosy tinge, and are spotted and blotched with light brown. This bird arrives from the south about the first week in May, and departs about the last of September. They are very pugnacious and soon drive away any hawk or Crow that eomes near.

O. & O. XV. June, 1890, p. 84

The Number of Eggs in a Set of the Kingbird.

BY F. H. CARPENTER.

I was very mueh interested in the article by Mr. J. N. Clark in the October issue of the ORNITHOLOGIST AND OÖLOGIST, in regard to his experience with the number of eggs in a set of the Kiug Bird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). My own observations of this subject will agree with those of Judge Clark to a great extent. I have never found five eggs in a nest, and I have examined a large number for this very purpose. With the sets of four and three, I must slightly disagree with Judge Clark, as sets containing each number have been found in equal proportions. It has long been a matter of note with me that this species was content with a trio of eggs for a full complement as often as four, and it afforded additional interest to learn from au extended observation that in some localities the lesser number was in a decided majority.

It is further interesting to note that in many instances the speeies deposit only a trio, pair, or even single egg for a set worthy of the tedious period of incubation. Most ornithologists reason, and rightly too, that in such cases in whieh the counts falls short of the typical number, some easualty has occurred to prevent a full oviposition, but in many instances whieh have come under the writer's notice, and afforded individual identification, it has been observed as oecurring in cases to which no such reason eould be applied. Perhaps a brief mention might be made, without detail, of some species whieh have been recorded, as not fulfilling what is regarded as a eomplete requirement of nature's laws. Sets of Cat Bird, one, two, and three have been noticed very frequently within the past three years, a cireumstance the more noteworthy from the faet that the observation is confined to more recent dates. The Red-eyed Vireo is usually very regular with her set of four eggs, but three have been noted as a full satisfaetion to the parents. The Sparrows seem to have abstained from any proclivities to shirk the full demands of nature, and in none of that family, with the possible exeeption of the Towhee, which speeies I have found sitting on two and three incubated eggs, and again in two exceptions, a set of five has fallen to my lot, or rather box. Nearly all the Warblers lay uniformly four eggs, excepting *Dendroica ætiva*, which has given me the pleasure of examining many nests with five and onee with six.

The eommon Robin is extremely careless as to how many eggs she devotes her time and energies if it does not exeeed four. Only twiee have I obtained sets exeeeding the latter number, and frequent rumors with the eountry collectors in this section of larger numbers have, when followed up, proved delusions. Scarcely any species is exempt from these traits, but whether it is an individual charaeteristic, or local influenee, is a matter of opinion. The subject has been discussed at some length with the Hawks and Owls, but I fail to see that that family proves any exeeption from others, as careful observation would immediately prove. O.&O. XII. Nov. 1887 p. 182.

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O. & O. XV. June, 1890. p. 84

Auk, XV, July, 1898, p. 268.

Unusual Nesting Site of Kingbird.— The following may be of some interest to the readers of 'The Auk.' It is certainly unique in my experience There is a fence post within 50 feet of the Shady Hill Station, Bedford, Mass., and within 35 feet of the railroad, and immediately beside a road, over which men are travelling back and forth all day long, from the office and packing sheds of the Shady Hill Nursery. This post was made of an abandoned railroad tie, whose end had been somewhat hollowed by decay; and in this hollow, in the summer of 1896, a pair of Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) built their nest and raised four young.

One would imagine, judging from the usual characteristics of the Kingbirds, that this pair might have been in constant trouble; but Messrs. A. H. Kirkland, of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, and E. L. Beard, President of the Shady Hill Nursery, to whom I am indebted for this information, seem to be under the impression that, all things considered, they got on very well. The top of the post was only about four feet above the ground, and being immediately beside the road, was, of course, a matter of some interest to the passers-by; but as orders had been issued by Mr. Beard to his numerous workmen, not to have the nest disturbed, the old ones were able to bring them up.

I have no date except that of June 9, 1896, given me by Mr. Kirkland, at which time, he writes me, the nest "contained four young."

Mr. Beard is responsible for the information that on days of extreme heat, the old birds could often be seen standing over their young, and with vibrating wings, sheltering and cooling them.— FRED H. KENNARD, —*Boston, Mass.*

Mass. (Concord) — Tyrannus carolinensis

1886 Picking floating insects from the water.

June 20 The Kingbirds along the river here get much of their food by picking up floating insects. I saw one to-day take five or six in quick succession before returning to his perch. He would skim swiftly above the water dipping down and just perceptably breaking the glassy surface with the tip of his bill as he seized his prey.

Mass. (Wellesley) — Tyrannus carolinensis

1888 Eating Actias promethea

July 23 The Denton Bros. have been exposing ♀ moths of A. promethea to attract and capture the ♂♂. The latter came in great numbers but nearly all were captured by Kingbirds a flock of which assembled about the house.

A writer in the Hartford Times states that he has seen Kingbirds eating Robin's eggs, and classes them as an enemy of that bird in consequence. Some years ago while riding on the train at full speed below Moosup, Conn., a Kingbird flew across a field and alighted on the railroad fence with a robin's egg in its mouth.

O. & O. VII. Oct. 1882. p. 163.

Kingbird and Colorado Beetle.

I have known the Kingbird to feed on the Colorado potato beetle. Have others noted it?—*Theo. G. Lemmon.*

O. & O. XI. May. 1886. p. 67.

Tyrannus carolinensis.

Attacking a Hawk.

Concord, Mass. June 20, 1878

Over the Great Meadows a Kingbird was mobbing a Red-tailed Hawk. The plucky little fellow took care to keep above his opponent but the fierceness of his onslaughts was none the less admirable. At first he was content with the usual mode of attack:— quick plunges from above, a vigorous peck or two, then retreat. At length, however, he perched for an instant on the Hawk's head, again alighted for a little longer space, and finally remained on this singular resting-place for over a minute, pecking away with incessant strokes. The Hawk meanwhile made

Cambridge, Mass.

Tyrannus carolinensis

1884

Aug. 18 Saw dozen over the Fresh Pond marshes, sometimes single birds, more often little family parties of five or six, hawking after insects, perching on dead bushes or telegraph wires, and oftentimes passing leisurely on toward the south. Like the swallows they seem to migrate chiefly, if not entirely, by day.

" 20 Saw several on the Coolidge farm (Watertown)

" 27 Several last evening and about a dozen to-day in the Maple Swamp lighting on dead trees (Cambridge).

frantic efforts to escape, plunging, doubling and seeming to lose all presence of mind as well as his accustomed easy grace of flight. As he rose higher and higher the King bird could still be seen outlined against the sky like a knot on the Hawk's head. A Red-winged Blackbird, meanwhile, assailed the enemy's rear but his attacks were insignificant compared with those of the daring Fly catcher.

June 26th 1878. A second episode similar to the one described, only the victim this time was a Crow. He seemed to take it more coolly than the Hawk altho' the King bird perched on his head for fully half a minute.

August 31, Saw Journal (Watertown)

Mass. (Concord) — Tyrannus Carolinensis

1886 Murderous attack on a Sparrow

June 21 A Kingbird sitting on a branch over the river suddenly dove down into a tuft of grass beneath and emerged on the other side in close pursuit of a young Sparrow (M. melodia). The chase was directly across the river, here perhaps 60 yds wide. About mid-stream the King bird overtook the Sparrow and rising slightly above it dealt it a succession of blows with its beak on the back of the head. The Sparrow faltered in its flight and was apparently about to fall when the old Sparrow which had been close in the

Maine (Brewer) — Tyrannus Carolinensis

1886 Chasing a Woodpecker.

"I have this year seen a Kingbird repeatedly attack a Yellow-bellied Woodpecker chasing it from tree to tree waiting until it flew again precisely as a Sharp-shin Hawk will chase a Pileated Woodpecker". (Manly Hardy in letter of Sept. 20-1886)

A KINGBIRD'S REVENGE. Of the courage and deeds of daring of the Kingbird, (*Tyrannus carolinensis*), all observers of bird life are aware, and yet but few persons I think realize the power and extent of warfare carried on by this spirited bird. A young collector related to me a little incident a few days ago concerning the Kingbird which I think is worthy of mention in the O. & O. He said that he was crossing a field one day, when his attention was attracted by two Kingbirds that were pursuing a crow, which most likely had robbed their nest. The crow tried to dodge one of the birds, when the other dashed down on him like a flash. With a yell of pain the crow fluttered to the ground into a bunch of bushes as if shot. My friend walked up to the bushes, looked in, and saw the crow staggering around as if blind. He secured the crow, and upon examining saw a small hole in the right eye from which the blood was slowly oozing. The Kingbirds as if elated at their victory were screaming overhead.—*J. C. Cahoon, Taunton, Mass.*

O. & O. IX. Nov. 1884. p. 135.

they birds will not look and
assailed him from behind, this
occasion diversion gave the young
bird first enough time to reach
the branches on the farther bank but
scarcely had the boys closed behind
it when they were startled again
by the tiny bird who actually
dashed headlong into the thicket
the old Sparrow still attacking
his rear. The affair ended
knows not how; then was a
medley of Sparrows and Kingbirds
cries which the corn and finally
the Kingbird appeared alone. Probably
the young bird escaped. I fully
believe the Kingbird tried his best
to kill it. His method of pursuit
and attack was hawkish similar
to a shrike's.

Maine (Brewer) — *Tyrannus carolinensis*

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O. & O. IX, Nov. 1884. p. 135.

The Kingbird in a New Rôle.—The following note is from the pen of my friend, the Rev. Frank W. Ritchie, who has courteously permitted me to publish it.

"On the afternoon of June 15, 1884, I was walking near the bank of the Massawipi River when my attention was drawn to a pair of Crow Blackbirds by their cries of evident distress, and, upon looking to see the cause of the outcry, observed, in a tree near by, a Crow with an almost fully fledged Blackbird dangling from its beak. In a few moments afterwards the Crow started across the river, the parents of its victim in hot pursuit, and when about midway the stream was charged upon by a Kingbird with such vigor that the young Blackbird was released, and half fell, half fluttered in a slanting direction toward the shore, the Kingbird following, and by flying under and against the youngster was evidently endeavoring to assist it in reaching the shore. Some bushes intervened between me and the birds, as they approached the water, and though I rushed down quickly, to observe the end of this interesting scene, by the time I reached the edge of the bank the birds had disappeared. As I could see nothing of the young bird's body floating on the water, I concluded that the Kingbird had succeeded in its generous endeavor."—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.* Auk, 2, Jan., 1885. p. 108

The Crown of the Kingbird.

In connection with the current discussion in your natural history columns in regard to the use of the coronal decoration of the Kingbird and other species, permit me to quote from a paper written by me in January, 1883, and published in the July number (of that year) of the "Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History," viz.: "A List of the Birds of Bardstown, Nelson County, Kentucky."

"107*. *Tyrannus carolinensis* (L.) Temm.—Kingbird; Bee Martin. An abundant Summer resident; arrives April 20th. Several years ago, in May, I saw one of these birds occupying an exposed perch on a Pear tree in bloom, about which many bees were darting. Several times I observed that he caught the insects without leaving his perch, by quickly turning his head and grabbing them. My attention being thoroughly aroused, I noticed that many of them seemed to fly directly toward the bird, the majority appearing to 'shy off' a short distance from him and change their courses, but very few escaped him. Did the thrifty *Hymenopteræ* mistake the fully displayed crimson crown for a flower? Once since I have observed the same phenomenon."

In a recent edition of this paper, entirely rewritten, however, published during September by the Kentucky Geological Survey (a copy of which I forward to you), the following additional remarks are added, page 33:

"Mr. C. C. Nutting, who has spent considerable time studying the birds of Costa Rica and Nicaragua in their native haunts, states that he has seen *Muscivora mexicana* perched upon a twig and waving its curious and brilliant fan-shaped crest after the manner of a flower swayed by a gentle breeze, and thus attracting insects within reach."—*C. W. Beckham in "Forest and Stream."*

O.& O. X. Nov. 1885. p. 176

NOTES.—Dr. Edwards of Hyde Park, Mass., reports that while visiting a patient at Readville, he noticed a child being attacked by a pair of Kingbirds. He called the father's attention who ran out, and although armed with a stick, was so vigorously attacked in turn that he was forced to pick up the child and retreat, leaving the birds masters of the situation. F.B.W. Sept. 10, 1885.

O.& O. X. Oct. 1885. p. 160

The Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) **in Rhode Island.**—Last fall I spent at Watch Hill, R. I. The migration reached its height on September 24. I was working towards a small swamp, trying to count the birds, as the trees, bushes and grass were literally swarming with them. A large flycatcher suddenly flew out of an oak tree in front of me, and settled on a dead branch near the ground about 75 feet away. While on the wing it looked exactly like a Kingbird, and as this would have been an uncommonly late date I hurried up to get a closer view with my binoculars. What was my surprise when I discovered that my Kingbird had bright yellow underparts and no white band on the tip of its tail. There was no doubt but that it was an Arkansas Kingbird. The slate gray back with a very faint tinge of olive and the absence of any rufous on the tail distinguished it from the Crested Flycatcher, not to mention that its shape and flight and habits were totally different. I watched it for half an hour, several times getting within very close range. This is the first record for the state of Rhode Island.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *New York City.* Auk. xxxi. Apr. 1914. p. 248.

Note Pocket

Miller

Atlantic Monthly
Vol LXVI, no. 395. Sept. 1890

comforts and faith of a very small body of unknown, expatriated English yeomen; but generations of a great people have given that record largeness; and we shall search far to find a similarly noble account of the beginnings of any other people.

In conclusion, I may confess that I have made of history a thing of shreds and patches. I have only to say that the life of the world is a thing of shreds and patches, and it is only when we consider the well-rounded life of an individual that we find permeating the record a reasonable constancy of purpose. This is the province of biography, and we must not confound biography with history. Their conduct and their lessons are different and independent. The man is a part of his age, but he requires a different gauge. The age is influenced by the man, but it is fickle where he is constant, halting where he is marching, and active where he is contemplative. Neither the man nor the age can fall behind the years, but, like cannon-balls linked by a rod, the onward course of the twain is marked by different revolutions, and no one can tell which will strike the target first.

Justin Winsor.

A CHRONICLE OF THREE LITTLE KINGS.

THERE was

> "Riot of roses and babble of birds,
> All the world in a whirl of delight,"

when the three baby kingbirds opened their eyes to the June sunlight. Three weeks I had watched, if I had not assisted at, the rocking of their cradle, followed day by day the patient brooding, and carefully noted the manners and customs of the owners thereof. At last my long vigil was rewarded. It was near the end of a lovely June day, when June days were nearly over, that there appeared a gentle excitement in the kingbird family. The faithful sitter arose, with a peculiar cry that brought her mate at once to her side, and both looked eagerly together into the nest that held their hopes. Once or twice the little dame leaned over and made some arrangements within, and then suddenly she slipped back into her place, and her spouse flew away. But something had happened, it was plain to see; for from that moment she did not sit so closely, her mate showed unusual interest in the nest, and both of them often stood upon the edge at the same time. That day was doubtless the birthday of the first little king.

To be sure, the careful mother still sat on the nest part of every day, but that she continued to do, with ever-lengthening intervals, till every infant had grown up and left the homestead forever.

All through the sitting the work of the head of the family had been confined to encouraging his partner with an early morning song and his cheerful presence during the day, and to guarding the nest while she sought her food; but now that her most fatiguing labor was over, his began. At first he took entire charge of the provision supply, while she kept her nurslings warm and quiet, which every mother, little or big, knows is of great importance. When the young father arrived with food, which he did frequently, his spouse stepped to the nearest twig and looked on with interest, while he leaned over and filled one little mouth, or at any rate administered one significant poke which must be thus interpreted. He did not stay long; indeed, he had not time,

O. and O. 327. *Kingbird and Kingfisher.* By Fred T. Jencks. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 64. —The latter attacked by the former.

1113. *The Colored Crown of the Kingbird.* By J. G. R[ich]. *Ibid.*, Oct. 1, p. 184. For. & Stream. XXV

1114. *The Crown of the Kingbird.* By C. W. Beckham. *Ibid.*, Oct. 8, p. 204. For. & Stream. XXV

1108. *The Colored Patch in the Crown of the Kingbird.* By C. Hart Merriam, M. D. *Ibid.*, Sept 14, p. 144. For. & Stream. XXV

144. *Kingbirds catch Fish.* By Milton P. Pierce. [illegible] Kingbirds catchings minnows. For. & Stream

1110. *The Colored Patch in the Crown of the Kingbird.* By J. L. Davison. *Ibid.*, Sept. 24, p. 164. For. & Stream. XXV

24. Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD. 'BEE-BIRD.'—Not particularly common, and restricted to the cultivated valleys. It is said to be most numerous about places where bees are kept. Auk, VII. Jan. 1890, p. 38-39. Pickens Co. So. Carolina. I. Coues.

1115. *Kingbirds and Bees.* By G. L. Barnes. *Ibid.*, Oct. 8, p. 205. For. & Stream. XXV

Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD.— This bird is comparatively common, and in June can be found breeding in every clump of cedar trees on the island. It raises two broods every year. Auk, VII, Oct. 1890, p. 328 Seven Mile Beach, N. J. C. S. Shick.

150

verticalis

Geo. E. Browne - Elliot, Me.

Tyrannus verticalis.

For Maine record see A. O. U. Check List
2d Edition, 1895. Also Bull. N. O. C. 1, 1876. 73
New Eng. Bd Life II, 1883, 13

Tyrannus verticalis. [48693] in Brewster coll.

Extracts from letters from George E.Browne to W.Brewster & W.Deane.
May 26, 1903. "The flycatcher was taken in Elliot, Maine, in the fall between 1863 & 1865. I think I can get the month & year as it was the last time that I was there. It was badly shot and I was not able to sex it". To Wm.Brewster.
July 22, 1903. "As I think I told you the Arkansas Flycatcher was shot in Elliot, Me. during my vacation which must have been in August. It was shot by myself on an oak tree some distance from where I was staying. It was quite badly mutilated and I threw it away but after going some half a mile it bothered me so I went back and got it. I made it into a skin as I had not facilities for mounting it at that time, but I mounted it myself about a year later." x x x "When I shot the Flycatcher I did not keep any notes". To W.Deane. Letters on file.

Arkansas Kingbird in Massachusetts.— On October 20, 1912, at Monomoy Island, Chatham, Mass., and just off the heel of Cape Cod, I shot an immature male Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). The bird was flitting about some clumps of bayberry bushes, among the sand dunes near our club house, and first attracted the attention of our club attendant by its bright yellow belly.

I was unable to get near enough to the bird to examine it closely, for while by its actions evidently lost and confused, it was still shy, and I shot it on the supposition that it would prove to be in all probability a stray Crested Flycatcher. This species has been but seldom seen east of the Mississippi River; being, I believe, reported in Wisconsin, New York, New Jersey, and Maryland, and once only in New England, a specimen having been shot at Elliot, Maine, in October, 1865, by Mr. George E. Brown, as reported by Henry A. Purdie in the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' Vol. 1, no. 3, p. 73.— F. H. Kennard, *Boston, Mass.*

Auk. XXX. Jan. 1913, p. 112-113.

CAPTURE OF ~~TWO~~ RARE BIRDS AT RIVERDALE, N. Y. — Among the rare and accidental avian visitors which have come under my observation as having occurred at Riverdale, N. Y., it may be well to note the following: —

Tyrannus verticalis. ARKANSAS FLYCATCHER. — A young male, in somewhat worn plumage, taken on October 19, 1875, furnishes the third extra-limital eastern record of the species, and the first for New York State. The bird was first observed on the afternoon of the day previous to its capture, pursuing its avocation of insect-hunting from the topmost branches of some tall trees near a private residence, and the following day was again found about the same spot and without much difficulty secured. Its stomach contained parts of a small beetle and partially digested berries of *Ampelopsis quinquefolia*, the latter also often forming the principal food supply of its congeneric species, *T. carolinensis*, during the last few days of its northern stay.

E. P. Bicknell, Riverdale, N. Y.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan, 1879, p. 60-61.

110. Tyrannus verticalis.

First plumage: male. Above similar to the adult, but with the crown patch entirely wanting, the ash-gray of that part washed with brown, and the back uniform grayish-olive. The wing-coverts are also tipped with brownish-fulvous and the secondaries margined with greenish-yellow. The outer webs of the outer rectrices are yellowish-white. Throat ashy-white; rest of under parts similar to adult, with the yellow of a deeper shade and extending higher up on the breast. From a specimen in my cabinet collected by Mr. C. A. Allen at Nicasio, Cal., July 8, 1878.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 42.

Unusual Nesting Sites
Walter E. Bryant by J. P. N.

Mr. Bryant then tells us of an old nest of Bullock's Oriole, (*Icterus bullocki*) which he found, which had been relined, and which contained four eggs of the Western Kingbird, (*Tyrannus verticalis*). The same species also attempted to construct a nest "upon the outer end of a windmill fan. A horizontal blade had probably been first selected, but an occasional breath of air had slightly turned the mill, bringing into place another and another, upon each of which had been deposited the first material for a nest until several nests were in different stages of construction, varying with the time that the windmill had remained quiet, while upon the roof below was strewn a quantity of debris that had fallen as the wheel revolved. Of course nothing but failure could be expected from their repeated attempts."

O.&O. XII, Sept. 1887 p.144

Birds of Grant and Traverse Cos.
Minn, June, 1879 Roberts & Benner

35. **Tyrannus verticalis**, *Say*. ARKANSAS FLYCATCHER. — The first notice of this bird was near a small post-office called Pleasant Hill, on the borders of Lake Traverse. It was sitting on a fence near a group of oak-trees in a gully running down to the lake. It was shot, and proved to be a female. No more were seen until we searched the strip of woods along the Minnesota River at the Valley, where we discovered two pairs nesting in company with many of the preceding species. The nests were in elm-trees, and were placed on the top of the limb, but not so much exposed as the Kingbird's. They are somewhat larger than those of the latter bird, but the eggs are so similar that identification was only possible by seeing the female sitting upon the nest, which was no easy matter, for after they were once disturbed they would hover over the tree for a while, uttering a short note, and then one of the pair would disappear for some time, and only return when its mate had escorted it back, and then both would sit upon an adjacent limb for twenty minutes or more before the female would approach the nest. At this date (June 17) one of the nests contained four eggs perfectly fresh, and the other was not quite finished. The first was composed of stems of plants and dried grasses, and lined with finer grasses and a few bits of wool. The second was about the same, except the lining, which was composed entirely of feathers.

Bull. N.O.C. 5, Jan., 1880, p.15