

Journal. 1913

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Cambridge, Mass.

1913.

Feb. 13

Clear and cold with brisk N.W. wind. Hudsonian Tit Parus  
appears at Sweet at 4.50 P.M. heralding his arrival by calling Hudsonian  
three, thus: - Pse-pse-dee. Pse-pse-dee-dee. Pse-pse-dee  
Stays 35 seconds.

" 14

Clear, cold, windless. Hudsonian Tit pays three visits to Sweet,  
1 P.M. Stays 10 seconds and calls pse-psee; pse-psee only,  
without emphasis.

2.07 P.M. Stays 20 seconds. Calls pse-pse-psee on arriving,  
psee when about to depart.

3.35 P.M. Stays 10 seconds. On arriving calls in sweet & liquid tones  
t'swil-it, t'slwee-t'swee. This very like one  
of the common utterances of P. atricapillus. For  
which, indeed, I at first mistook it.

" 16

Sunny, hazy, calm, warm. As Dr. William Simions (of  
Bangor) and I stepped forth from the back door of our house at  
1 P.M. to go to the museum our ears were greeted by what  
seemed to be a song of the Hudsonian Tit. He was in the  
bloes immediately behind the house and very tame, coming  
within 8 feet of us to sing, and sing, and sing, always  
uttering eight notes divided into two sets of four each by a  
brief pause in the middle of the song. They may be rendered  
thus: - T'slee-t'slee-t'slee-t'slee, t'slee-t'slee-t'slee-t'slee.

All were essentially alike and given in the same key,  
in a loud, insistent, monotonous voice which seemed to  
fill the whole garden and doubtless could have been heard  
100 yards from the bloes. The song reminded me more of  
that of the Carolina Wren but was less melodious. In  
intervals between its many utterances the bird sometimes  
called tip or ti-ti a few times.

Cambridge, Mass.

1913.

Feb. 17

Clear, calm and mild. The Hudsonian Tit *Parus hudsonicus* heralded his approach to the street by my window on 2.55 P.M. by calling see-see, see; see-see. Stayed 35 seconds. Returning at 3 P.M. he called chik-chik-chik-chik, tree and remained 15 seconds.

" 22

Cloudy, calm & very warm. Raining all day, at times heavily. At 11.17 A.M. the Hudsonian appeared on the street. After calling see-see-see-see, see twice he feasted for 5 seconds. At 12.45 I heard (but failed to see) him in the rhododendron thicket just outside my window. He was now calling twice-ee-ee-twice-ee-ee uttering these notes very rapidly in a rather loud voice. They reminded me of some of those variations given by the Carolina. Horn. I think they would represent one of the apparently rather numerous variations of the Hudsonian's song.

" 23

Clear, calm, cool. At 12.40 I heard the Hudsonian call te-te-te-te-te twice in quick succession. He next instant he appeared on the street. After perching within reach of it he remained there only 2 seconds & then departed without so much as a single peck at it.



Cambridge, Mass.

1913 .

March 4

Cloudy, chilly & calm. At 2.45 P.M. I heard the Parus Hudsonianus among the rhododendrons near my window calling hudsonicus chee-dee; chee-dee; tsip; tsip; tsip; chee-dee; chee-dee; chee-dee; The Garden tsip-chee-dee, dee. All this repeated many times but the bird did not show himself. At 3.30, however, he appeared at the tree and spent 5 seconds there announcing his arrival by calling pse-pse-dee, pse-pse-dee several times very like a Black-cap Chickadee.

" 6

Cloudy, calm & chilly but not frosty. Storm evidently gathering. The Hudsonian appeared at the tree at 11.40 A.M. and remained 40 seconds. He called pse-pse-pse over in faint, hoping twice just as he reached it. At 2.03 P.M. he returned and without showing himself called tsip twice and twice uttered a song which reminded me of a House Wren's being almost equally gushing and musical but different in form & less loud. I rendered it: Sweet, swee-swee-swee-swee, Sweet. In some respects this performance was unlike anything that I have heard from the bird before.

Cambridge, Mass.

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Feb. 5

Clear and rather cold with blustering N.W. wind. Ground buried beneath 4 inches of snow & evergreen branches well loaded with it.

The Hudsonian Tit came to the sheet at 4.45 P.M. as I was writing Parus at my desk. Just before reaching and immediately after leaving it, ~~while~~ hudsonians within a yard or it and scarce three yards from me, he uttered a succession of notes unfamiliar to me. I wrote them down, only a few seconds later, as follows: Til - li - hee, lee - hil - lee; til - li - hee, lee - hil - lee. Can this be the "song" described by Allen, Townsend & others? If so I think it has been overestimated although all the notes were bright cheery and pleasing while some (the til & hil ones) were liquid and rather musical. The whole performance was very like that which the Black-cap Chickadee often indulges in when in merry mood yet appreciably different. I heard every note distinctly, although through the closed windows. The bird also uttered a faint li - li and the ordinary harsh, emphatic call which I heard to unusual advantage and rendered immediately afterwards thus: tse - tse - dee.

Feb 6

Clear and cold with high N.W. wind.

Hudsonian Tit came four times to the sheet by my window remaining each time from 20 to 60 seconds (estimated) I noted his visits thus: -  
11.45 A.M. Approached with the ordinary tse - tse - dee call, given twice  
3.45 P.M. " " " " " " " " "  
4. " " " " a low, musical chirrup (ti - i - i - i, ti - i - i - i) very like the subdued, drowsy chirping of Black Field Creeper of a frosty morning. This was repeated as he went off.  
4.15 " " " " the ordinary tse - tse - dee, dee call  
4.47 " " " " " " " " "

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1913.

Feb. 7.

Clear and cold (8° min.) with brisk northerly wind.

The Hudsonian Tit came to the Suet by my window at least half-a-dozen times when I was at my desk. On a loose piece of paper, kept within easy reach for the purpose, I noted the call notes he uttered on each occasion as follows: - Parus  
hudsonicus

(9.20 a.m.) Pse-tee-dle, pse-tee-dle, pse-tee-dle; pse-tee-dle, pse-tee-dle, pse-tee-dle. These notes were all clearly enunciated, rather loud and bright if not also merry in quality.

(9.25 a.m.) Tweedle-tweedle-tweedle-tweedle. These notes were all on the same key, without emphasis on either syllable and flat and monotonous. They suggested those of one of songs of the Carolina Wren but were more listless and less loud. The bird repeated them five or six times within flashing through the Rhododendrons near my window.

(9.40 a.m.) Spée-ey, spick-a-dlee, spée-ey

(11.20 a.m.) Tse-dee. Bird called only once. Spent 30 seconds at Suet.

(11.50 a.m.) Tse-tse-tse very like call of Reg. satrapa. given only once. Bird remained at Suet 35 seconds.

1.45 P.M. Pse-psee Equal emphasis on both syllables. Bird spent 15 seconds at Suet.

Cambridge, Mass.

1913.

Feb. 8

Clear and cold. Although at my desk all day I saw Parus hudsonicus nothing of the Hudsonian Tit until 3.40 P.M. when he appeared among the shrubbery in front of the museum and presently descended almost if not quite to the ground among the wooded stems of a Syringa bush in which a Black-cop Chickadee was then flitting higher up. The two birds became separated a moment later when the Hudsonian flew off westward. Less than two minutes after this I saw him on the Suet where he remained only about 10 seconds, going, as he had come, in perfect silence or at least without sound that reached my ears, something which has not happened here before to my knowledge. Walter Deane had come down especially to see him but failed to do so, being unable to catch sight of him in front of the museum and a moment too late in joining me in the study when the bird was at the Suet.

Feb. 10

Brightly clear and intensely cold but windless. For the second time this winter the Hudsonian paid a silent visit to the Suet - at 1.45 P.M. At 3.45 he came again and was seen by Smith O. Dexter, who happened to be calling on me. On this second occasion the bird called tse-tse-tse several times just before and after his stay on the Suet which lasted only 12 or 15 seconds. The first visit was similarly brief. I was at my desk all day except between 1 and 1.40 P.M.

Feb. 12

Clear and cold with light wind. The Hudsonian was noted only once to-day - at 10.40 A.M., when he appeared at the Suet and remained there only 15 seconds, twice calling pee-pee-pee-pee without special emphasis on any of these notes. They were thin and somewhat wavy in quality

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Cambridge, Mass.

For purposes of direct comparison all my renderings of the vocal utterances of the Hudsonian may be brought together and summarized as follows;

Parus  
hudsonicus.

Variations of Song.

Til-li-lee, lee-hil-lee; til-li-lee, lee-hil-lee. All these notes bright, cheery and pleasing, some liquid & rather musical (Feb 5)

Pe-teedle, pee-teedle, pee-teedle; pee-teedle-pee-teedle-pee-teedle  
all these notes clearly enunciated, rather loud, bright, if not also merry, in quality (Feb. 7)

Tweedle-tweedle-tweedle-tweedle. Repeated four or five times & suggestion of song of Carolina Wren but more listless & less loud. All the notes alike & on the same key. They sounded flat & monotonous in my ears. (Feb. 7)

T'slee-t'slee-t'slee-t'slee, t'slee-t'slee-t'slee-t'slee. Always just light notes essentially alike & in same key, divided by a slight pause into two groups of four each, given in a loud, insistent, monotonous voice which seemed to fill the whole garden. Song reminded me of Carolina Wren's but less melodious.



Cambridge, Mass.

1913.

March 29

The tall flower stalks of numerous hotchkes, Carlispsus, Hairy & Downy Helianthus, Rudbeckia and various other perennials long established Woodpeckers in our garden were left standing through the past winter. About a week ago the gardener cut them all off two or three inches above the ground which was rolled clean at the same time. Within the space - some ten yards square - thus cleared a ♂ Hairy Woodpecker and a pair of Downy Woodpeckers spent almost the whole forenoon to-day, pecking at the stubs of the perennials with an eagerness and persistence which indicated that they must be supplying an abundance of especially attraction food. What this was I failed to ascertain by subsequent examination of the stubs. Most of these had been split with shreds by the birds' bills. The few whole ones contained no grubs that I could discover. Nor did I see the Woodpeckers

feeding  
among  
stubby  
stems of  
perennial  
plants  
protruding  
above  
bars &  
cracking  
ground.

1913

March 24  
(No 2)

extract anything from any of them. After demisting  
one the bird would at once attack another, working  
with what seemed almost frantic haste & energy.

All these birds moved about from place to place on  
the ground with surprising ease and quickness for such  
habitually arboreal creatures advancing by a succession  
of vigorous hops stiff & waddling yet by no means  
clumsy or awkward. When approached they would  
stand very erect for a moment and then fly to the  
nearest tree, returning to the ground again as soon as  
the coast was clear. There were a dozen or more  
Browed Grackles & a Flicker feeding close about them  
much of the time but not, so far as I could see,  
paying any attention to the Stubs which he attracted

them. The Flicker's hopping runs were much more  
smoothly & gracefully performed than those of the Stub,  
Dryobates. I have never known the latter birds behave  
in a similar manner before.

Concord, Mass.

1913

April 7

As S. O. Dexter & I were standing in front of the farm house about 4 P.M. we saw seven Crows alight in a tree in the berry pasture. A few moments later they took wing & began harassing a ♂ Marsh Hawk. Paying little heed to this annoyance he continued to beat over the thickest encumbered ground until at length he made a quick turn and dropped out of sight among the high blueberry bushes. As he did not reappear in the course of ten next ten minutes we inferred that he must have captured some prey and was devouring it. Approaching the spot we saw him fly off carrying nothing in his talons. But on the ground precisely where we had mistak him down at first we found a Cottontail Rabbit's carcass quite fresh yet wholly devoid of animal heat and apparently in the state of general muscular relaxation which follows

that of Zigea murina. The viscera had been removed and all the flesh cleanly stripped from both hind legs and along the spine as far as could be reached from the inside of the abdominal cavity. This had evidently been done several hours before for these parts were somewhat just clean & white by the melting snow that had been falling all day. We thought the crows might have done it and also that they had probably injured one of the eyes the socket of which was simply washed out. In the Marsh Hawk we attributed obviously fresh work on one of the fore legs from which all the flesh had been stripped to the same as far up as the body while some more was missing from contiguous parts of the breast. Both these parts were bloody & seemed to have been operated on only a very short time before. The work

had been prepared somewhat less thoroughly than those about the hinder parts, there being some ragged shreds of flesh still adhering to the bones, indicating that the flesh had been torn, rather than picked, off.

While it cannot be claimed that absolute proof was obtained the Marsh Hawk had been feeding on the Rabbit the evidence points strongly to such a conclusion and Mr. Dexter fully agrees with me in believing that this actually happened. Some indication that Crows had participated in the feast was afforded by what looked like their excrement and by a pellet lying near the carcass. I am inclined to think that the Rabbit had been dead about 24 hours. He failed to detect any evidence as to the cause of its death. The skin of its entire upper parts (with the feet) was intact.

As we were about to leave the place after spending perhaps ten minutes there the Marsh Hawk returned & circled around us apparently reluctant to give up further chance of completing his interrupted meal.



Spring and early Summer.

Concord, Mass.

1913.

March 15<sup>th</sup>July 3<sup>rd</sup>

During this period I was at Concord practically the entire time save between March 22 and 31<sup>st</sup>, on May 5, 6, 26 and 27, and from June 2 to 7. Early in the season there were comparatively few birds except Blackbirds and Meadow-larks which were present in unusual numbers. Robins and Song Sparrows were especially scarce at first but doubled or were quadrupled in numbers about the beginning of their breeding season. The earlier flights of north-bound migrants such as Tree Sparrows, Juncos and Song Sparrows were exceptionally light and almost no Tree Sparrows were seen until April when they were by no means abundant. The north-bound Waxwings drilled through, a few at a time, in late April and the fore part of May the only "rush" of any magnitude occurring on the 25<sup>th</sup> of the latter month when Canadian Waxwings and Black-burnians passed in considerable numbers. Despite the exceptional earliness of the season as regarded the vegetation few of the birds arrived before their usual dates and many were much behind them. After all

General  
field notesScarcity of  
early birdsLight  
migration

Spring and early summer.

Concord, Mass.

1913.

March 15  
to  
July 3  
(No 2)

The summer residents species had come and settled in their accustomed haunts about the Farm and at Ball's Hill they seemed, for the most part, to be just as numerous as usual although there were comparatively few Robins, Starlings and Grackles and almost no Field Sparrows and Towhees.

Summer  
resident birds  
in usual  
numbers &  
variety.

Ball's Hill was thoroughly sprayed with Arsenate of Lead June 9-11 and practically all the orchard & shade trees as well as about two farm buildings treated between the 11<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. As far as I was able to observe this resulted in but little if any harm to the birds. At the Farm only a very few were afterwards missed and the disappearance of them (except, perhaps, that of one single pair of Orioles) may well have been due to something else. Ball's Hill has had but few breeding birds of any kind within recent years. Such as were there this Spring before we began spraying remained after it.

Effects of  
spraying.

Fearful ravages were committed this season by caterpillars of

Spring and early summer.

Concord, Mass.

1913

March 15

5

July 3

(No 3)

various kinds on practically all unpruned foliage excepting that of  
 pines and maples. Brown-tail larvae were numerous, Elyas ones  
 exceptionally so, but Caterpillars far more abundant than they have  
 ever been known to be before within my experience and Forest Tent  
 Caterpillars almost as countless and destructive as any of the rest.  
 By one or another of these pests - or by all force of them combined -  
 the greater part of our woodland had been stripped so  
 completely of foliage by the end of June that the trees were  
 almost as bare as in mid winter - Davis Hill and Bush  
 Field seemed hopelessly ruined when I saw them last,  
 even the winter pines being nearly denuded. Our spraying  
 was everywhere perfectly effective but it cost a lot of money  
 (over \$700.) & lots of my time & that of my farm hands.

Lawrence's cats, to the number of half a dozen or more, overrun

Cats

the Farm through the entire season but if they caught any birds I failed  
 to detect any signs of such depredations. They exterminated the Chipmunks  
 almost completely & thinned the numbers of Red Squirrels very appreciably.

Depredationsof  
insect pests

Spring and early summer.

Coveport, Miss.

1913.

March 15  
to  
July 3  
(No 4)

while Rats seem to have totally deserted our farm building, not one having been seen there since last autumn. If the cats may be credited with killing or driving away the Chipmunks & Rats they have thereby rendered us no slight service - possibly offset by the killing of a few birds. I suspect they may have got the pair of Towhees, which returned as usual to the Harry Postons but shortly afterwards disappeared, and they may also have slain a Cat-bird whose feathers (including some from the wing) I found strewn over the ground near the fore-threshold in front of the house but after this happened I frequently saw both ♂ & ♀ Cat-bird together in this threshold and the pair breeding behind the house went through the season without mishap. Nor did any of the Song Sparrows disappear. Strange to say the pair then frequented our flower garden and a full brood of young, early in the season, in a nest built among thin grass within two yards of the hot bed & equally near a foot path constantly traversed by the cats. During the nine years that James lived in the Rungalows his snarling little fox terrier, "Laddy" kept the

Cats &  
their effect on  
Squirrels, Rats  
&  
Birds

Spring and early summer.

Courant, Mass.

1913.

March 15  
to  
July 3  
(1913)

entire farm practically free from cats. They did not begin to invade it numerously until early last autumn, a month or two after he and his equally busy master had departed.

Deer have been very scarce this season. My men saw no signs of them during the winter and I noticed their tracks in only a few places during the Spring. A large doe appeared in the field in front of the house on the evening of May 31 after which she left tracks there on several occasions and in our flower garden, also.

Deer

The increase in the number of Ring-necked Pheasants during the past two years has been very marked. They seem now to greatly outnumber the Ruffed Grouse. In April and May one could hear them crowing at morning and evening in every direction, far & near, both at the farm & at Bass Hill.

Pheasants

Another imported avian pest, the Starling, appeared in Courant this Spring for the first time. I saw a ♂ near Bass Hill on May 8, another near Flat Bridge on the 22, a pair in the latter place on June 8, a ♀ near West Bedford Station on June 21.

Starlings



Spring and early summer.

Concord, Mass.

1913.

March 16  
to  
July 3  
(No 4)

Two or six years ago, as well as still earlier, I had no little difficulty in preventing the House Sparrows from occupying bird boxes at the Farm and on the Rector's place and was obliged to shoot more or less of them every season. Early one spring (that of 1908 or 1909, if I remember rightly) I thus broke up a rather populous roost which they had established in the corner of the preceding winter among the dense young pines in front of the Bungalows where they paid frequent visits to our poultry yard. They have since ceased to visit there and during last year, as well as this, have made no attempt to nest in any of my boxes while it became unusual for them to alight anywhere within our grounds although on the turn passing to and fro high overhead on their way from Mr. Howe's chicken pens to Mr. Lawrence's, in both of which they continue to feed unmolested, sometimes extending their to the number of a dozen or more. It is, I think, rather interesting that they should thus widely have learned to shun our place.

House  
Sparrows.

Spring & early summer.

Concord, Mass.

1913.

1. Wood Thrush.-- A bird singing-- mostly at morning & evening-- in the run near the foot of the lane at the farm from May 18 to 23, inclusive. I have not noted one there before since May 27 1910. The species bred there last in 1908.
2. Wilson's Thrush. Arrived May 9. First heard singing (in Davis Swamp) on the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup>. In fullest song June 19-23. After they had settled down to breed I heard a male singing regularly at the farm (either in the berry pasture or near foot of lane), another near the Bassett Spring, one or two in Davis Swamp, two in Ball's Hill Swamp, two in Pine Park Swamp and at least three in the swampy courts opposite Ball's Hill on the West Bedford shore near our steam boat house. Thus they were present this year in normal if not maximum abundance. Their singing seemed to improve in quality as the season advanced & to be at its very best about June 20.

Spring & early summer.

Concord, Mass.

1913.

3. Swainson's Thrush. One seen by Dexter in Fairyland May 17.

I saw one at the farm on the 19<sup>th</sup> and two on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

4. Hermit Thrush. It is evident that this species has not as yet recovered from the heavy losses it must have suffered in the South during the winter of 1911-1912, for I did not note a single north-bound migrant this spring although keeping close watch of the more favorable places.

We had a breeding pair, however, in Birch Field when I first heard the ♂ singing at 5 P.M. on May 1. After that he was heard at frequent intervals up to June 24. Late in the afternoon of May 21 I heard both him and his mate answering our question with the whining call. In or near Fairyland S.O. Dexter heard a Hermit singing on May 8 and two on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Our Birch Field bird was but an indifferent singer. I did not visit the breeding grounds near Everett Mass. this year.

Spring & early summer.

Concord, Mass.

1913.

5 Robin. During March and April Robins were pathetically scarce in our part of Concord. In the neighborhood of Bassie Hill I heard only one singing; at ten o'clock there seemed to be no more than two pairs. About the middle of May they increased in numbers until there seemed to be at least twice as many as there were last year. By the 24<sup>th</sup> I had located three occupied nests near one farm house and a fourth in the berry pasture.

Although the birds suffered no harm they seemed to be having ill luck with their nests and up to the date (June 30) when I returned to Concordly not one young bird was seen or heard about the place.

I repeatedly found eggs punctured with small holes, but still retaining their contents, on the ground in the orchard and along foot paths. Here eggs in a Chipping's nest were similarly perforated.

I suspect House Wrens may have done it. We had 2 nesting pairs this year.

Spring & early summer

Concord, Mass

1913

6. Cat bird... Arrived May 2. Singing next day. Not in full regular song until after 15<sup>th</sup>. Height of first song period 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. Sang fitfully through June at times freely for a day or two. At the farm we had, as usual, a pair nesting in the dense Forsythia thicket directly in front of the house and another in the Syringa hedge towards the rear of the flower garden. Although I did not find either nest I think young were hatched & reared in both for the parent birds were seen taking food into the bushes for a week or more in June and once I heard young calling. On June 14<sup>th</sup> I found body & wing feathers of an adult scattered over the ground near the Forsythia thicket indicating that one of the parent birds had been killed there but both birds of both pairs were seen together after this. They fed freely on ripe cherries late in June. A ♂ Cat. bird sang throughout the season in our back pasture & I heard another occasionally across the river from the boat landing at Ball's Hill.



Spring and early summer.

Concord, Mass.

1913.

7 Bronze Thrasher. Quite as scarce this year as they were last year.

On April 25 I saw a silent bird near our hen house at our farm. He frequented the thickets on the neighboring hill side during the remainder of the season occasionally appearing in the flower garden or in front of the house. Beginning to sing on May 3 he flooded the place with his glorious music in the early morning between the 9<sup>th</sup> & the 21<sup>st</sup> and sang almost continuously all day long on the 15<sup>th</sup>. After the 22<sup>nd</sup> I heard him only twice - on June 12<sup>th</sup> when he sang for about 2 minutes shortly after sunrise and again on the 29<sup>th</sup> when he was in full song for several minutes about 8 a.m. During the height of his song period he usually perched, while singing, in the tops of the tallest trees about the place, usually in those of the oaks just behind the barn or of the elms in front of it. If, as is probable, he had a mate & nest I failed to obtain definite proof of the fact. The only other Thrasher I noted this year was a ♂ in full song near W. Bedford Station on May 5.

Spring and early summer.

Concord, Mass.

1913.

8. Blue bird. - There seemed to be at least twice as many Bluebirds as there were last year. During automobile rides in May & June I saw them in almost every orchard by the roadsides. A pair nested successfully, I believe - in the box in the apple tree near our well house on the Farm and another pair certainly reared young in the pole box in Benson's garden where there was a nest last year.
9. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. - A ♂ singing in the barn on the Farm on April 18 and a bird chattering in back garden at Hall's Hill on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.
10. Golden-crowned Kinglet. - Scarcely noted on March 19 & April 7, 10, & 11 - a single bird each time - in full song on Apr. 11<sup>th</sup>.
11. Chickadee. - Apparently scarcer than usual. I saw very few but at the height of the singing season (April 15 - May 5) as many as three males were sometimes heard whistling in the course of a morning. No nests found. Birds in ragged, shabby plumage & uttering low whistling calls after June 1. They seldom visited the bait in front of our house, even on March.

Spring and early summer.

Canaan, Mass.

1913

12. White-Breasted Nuthatch. - As usual we had a breeding pair at the Farm. They nested in the big elm that overhangs the road in front of the house in a natural beautifully rounded hole entering the west side of a stout horizontal branch 20 feet out from the main trunk and about 40 ft. above the road. So this they were seen taking nesting material on April - and food for their young on May 30. During the winter season both birds visited the suet bush, hanging in the corner in front of our house, at frequent intervals through the day. Before they began breeding they often carried off small fragments of it and cached them under seeds of corn bark, sometimes working steadily thus for hours at a time. On May 31<sup>st</sup> & afterwards I saw the ♂ taking little pieces of suet to the nest we doubt to feed the young. This he continued to do for half an hour or more. His woot-woot-woot song was not often heard after the close of April but was occasionally uttered freely & lustily in June. On the morning of June 11 both parents were seen taking food into the nesting hole. About 5 P.M. next day (12<sup>th</sup>) I found them, with their brood, in the large elm by the ~~well~~ in our door-yard where the ♂ was feeding them & every now and then uttering an oo-oo song. On the 15<sup>th</sup> the whole family was in the oak grove behind the barn at 8 a.m. The young kept well together and often in a rather close cluster, clinging to the rough bark and moving about comparatively little and behaving awkwardly when doing so, jerking legs & fluttering their wings to help maintain their balance. Yet they could now fly well enough & I saw one of them dart out after a short walk and capture it on wing with admirable address. The parents were still feeding them constantly however. Henceforth they arrived with food the young set up a loud & prolonged chattering so very like that of young Blackbirds just from the nest that both Gilbert & I mistook it for that.

Nesting  
habitsFeeding young  
on suet.Behaviour of  
young fresh  
from nestYoung chatter  
- like Blackbirds

Spring and early summer.

Essex, Mass.

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13. Brown Creeper. In March I noted Creepers - a single bird each time - Nest of on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> and in April on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and Brown Creeper 25<sup>th</sup>. The bird nest with on the last date was in full song at intervals through the forenoon in Puffin Tuck woods where I hoped it might be about to breed but never saw or heard it again. On May 17 S.O. Dexter met with a singing ♂ in the old growth woods on the hillside at Farmland. Next day (18<sup>th</sup> May) the nest of this bird was found by Walter Taxon under a scale of bark loose attached to the trunk of a big dead oak. The pair succeeded in hatching & rearing their brood which were seen, just after they had left the nest on June , by Mrs. Taxon (see his letter to me).

14. House Wren. This year, as last, we were blessed by the presence of two breeding pairs of Wrens at the Farm. The first bird was noted on April 29 scolding at a Swallow sitting on a bird house on a pole over grape arbor in front of house where a pair of Wrens nested last year. On May 3 a ♂ Wren in full song was seen to enter & emerge from this box repeatedly. On May 12 I saw two birds together near this box. During the next few days they were seen then constantly striving for its possession with the Tree Swallows, in many a hotly contested scrimmage which always ended with the displacement & ejection of the Wrens. The Swallows seemed to be animated by a "dog-in-the-manger" spirit for all the while they had their nest in another box by the big forest tree thicker than the wall, although they had, earlier in season, taken some straw feathers into the box over the arbor. Failing to secure possession of the latter at this time the Wrens turned their attention to a third box of similar design on a short birch pole attached to the eastern gable end of our wood shed. In this they began building on May 19 reducing the size of 1 1/2" diam entrance hole by several protruding sticks as is their wont. He saw them daily entering, or leaving, or close about, this box during

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(House Wren) the next four weeks. On June 11<sup>th</sup> and for a week or more later they might be seen on all beams of the bay entering it with food for their young. Much of this they obtained from a space just above the ground between the half-decayed front sill of the house and an outer board casing. Entering this narrow space at one end they would soon emerge from the other (after having traversed the entire width of the house) and then fly straight to the bay carrying in their bills what looked like sweet spider. During the next week or more I was absent from Concord most of the time and hence was unable to keep a close watch on the Wrens although I still saw them going to the bay every now and then up to about the 21<sup>st</sup> when to my surprise I found that they had abandoned it and were carrying food into the bay over the glass arbor in which their young were now chattering loudly and almost incessantly. The brood left it on June 24<sup>th</sup> and for several days later was to be seen scattered along the Canada ground stone wall bordering the neighboring lawn, after which they ceased to be noted. How or why they removed to the arbor bay at least three days before winning their freedom from all such shelters is more than I can conjecture. From May 19 to June 20 no Wren was seen to visit it. When first I saw the young along the lawn on the 25<sup>th</sup> they looked small and feeble and seemed scarcely able to flutter more than a few yards at a time. When this pair of Wrens were foraging about the place before their nest was completed the ♂ rarely sang without being answered by his mate who with swelling throat and quivering wings would utter a rather prolonged series of stuttering, halting, unmusical yet song-like notes too feeble to be audible at a greater distance than 50 or 60 yards and in their general effect reminding me strongly of those which constitute the confused song of the Hedge Acunter or "Sparrows" of England. I heard them very frequently up to May 23; occasionally during the next week, - not once after June 1. They were sometimes given when the birds

Song? of female House Wren



(House Wren) near together, often when they were rather far apart.

House Wren

The other pair of Wrens nested in a box on a short pole nailed to the east gable end of our carriage house in front of an Abingdon and distant from our road shed about 100 yards. I first heard the ♂ singing near it on May 13 and did not see him with his mate for a week or more later yet they brought out their young on the same date (June 24) as did the pair at our house from the other box. Several days later (on June 28) a Sparrow hawk flying straight and rather high over the carriage shed suddenly shot down to the box and apparently thrust one foot into the hole as he perched in front of it for an instant, after which he resumed his flight without anything visible in his talons.

Sparrow Hawk  
thrust foot  
into their nest.

During practically the whole of May and June both male House Wrens sang almost ceaselessly at the shortest intervals from daybreak to dark whatever the conditions of weather or temperature. Sometimes one song of one bird would be followed almost without pause by another until five or six had been given in breathless succession. This did not happen often after the hungry young demanded constant attention but even then the father seldom approached or left the box without singing over or under. Thus the place was flooded with Wren music for almost two months at least. Nor could one's interest in watching the charmingly confident, funny-assertive little creatures ever flag. More than once I said to myself "they are worth more than all the other birds about the farm put together." To many of the others, however, they undoubtedly seemed suspicious & unwelcome neighbors. Whenever they appeared on wing they were sure to be hotly pursued & driven to cover by vast flocks of Swallows, Song Sparrows or Catbirds. It is to be feared that these & other birds may have had good reasons for such persecution. For as the season advanced I noticed that feet of the two nesting birds except those banding in holes had succumbed

Disliked by  
other birds



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(House Wren) in rearing young which were seen and then I found on the ground under an apple tree the egg of a Robin pierced with one or more small holes but otherwise intact and retaining nearly or quite all its contents which would not have been the case had a Jay, a Crow, a Cuckoo or a Squirrel pecked it. All these eggs in a Chaffinch's nest well concealed among the foliage of a low drooping branch of an apple tree often visited by the Wrens were treated in this manner and of course deserted by the bird soon after they were laid. Hence I am inclined to suspect, however reluctantly, that many winter depredations of such a nature were committed by these Wrens since it is definitely known that they are given to similar practices elsewhere. They did not interfere in any way this year with the Phoebe's nesting in our wood shed although last year the ♂ Wren carried these birds' eggs away over by picking it up with bills from day to day, after the young had left it, however.

15. Black and White Creeper. - Arrived April 25. Less numerous than usual during migration. Only a very few remained to breed, perhaps two pairs in woods at Farm & another at Ball's Hill.
16. Golden-winged Warbler. - One heard singing at Farm near foot of lawn on May 14 & another in Berry Pasture on 21<sup>st</sup>. None noted afterward.
17. Nashville Warbler. Arrived April 27. No others north bound migrants noted. At least two ♂♂ remained into June. On the 9<sup>th</sup> heard one at foot of lawn, another in Bird Field. There was probably a nest in each of these places.
18. Tennessee Warbler. - At the Farm heard a ♂ in full song in oaks behind barn on May 21 (8-8.20 a.m.), 23<sup>rd</sup> (whole forenoon), 24<sup>th</sup> (through entire day), 25<sup>th</sup> in Berry Pasture (8 a.m.). On 21<sup>st</sup> had good view of bird, low down in elm.

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19. House Warbler. Arrived May 6. Last seen 388x) on 25<sup>th</sup> but numerous on any fair this season.
20. Yellow Warbler. - Arrived April 26. Through May and June a ♂ sang regularly in shrubbery in our garden at the Farm and another in the extensive flooded thicket of reeds, Cutler Brooks etc. opposite Ball's Hill. I occasionally heard a third near Post Island and a fourth in an apple orchard near W. Bedford Station. No north-bound migrants noted.
21. Black-throated Blue Warbler. S. O. Dixie noted a ♂ (singing) in Fairyland and another in woods behind Bensen's, on May 17.
22. Yellow-rumped Warbler. Much less numerous than usual. April flight (beginning on 20<sup>th</sup>) especially light, no more than 4 birds being noted in any one day. Maximum number (6) seen on May 4. Last seen on the 10<sup>th</sup>.
23. Magnolia Warbler. May 14-25. Migration light this year. I noted only 5 birds in all, feeding them at the Farm in the Berry Pasture, in the Run, and in Birch Field. The ♂♂ sang freely - in low vigorous notes.
24. Chestnut-sided Warbler. - Arrived May 3. All the usual breeding stations occupied. At the Farm at least 3 males sang regularly in the Berry Pasture and 1 on the slope below our barn. At Ball's Hill, where they used to be numerous but have become scarce within recent years, I could find only one singing bird - in the large Swamp. There was another on North Island.
25. Bay-breasted Warbler. - A ♂ singing freely among lower young pines near Pulpit Rock on the morning of May 25. No other notable

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26. Black-poll Warbler. Uncommonly scarce. S. O. Dexter heard a ♂ singing on May 7 in Concord Village and 3 were taken on Apr 22<sup>nd</sup>. I noted only 3 in all, one on the 21<sup>st</sup>, two on Apr 31<sup>st</sup>.
27. Black-burnian Warbler. Arrived May 2 (♂ singing in Puffin Rock pines, a local summer resident bird, I think). Rather heavy flights of nests found nights on May 25. A ♂ singing through fern in Puffin Rock woods and another on Pine Hill were the only breeding birds I could locate.
28. Black-throated Green Warbler. Arrived April 24 (1/2 Bush Field). Heavy migration on May 9. Exceptionally numerous through breeding season when there were at least five ♂♂ singing regularly on Pine Hill, almost if not quite as many in Prescott's pines, two or three in Puffin Rock woods, two within hearing of our farm house, one on Balls Hill and several others within the confines of our land.
29. Pine Warbler. Arrived April 2 (♂ on ground in middle of Burden Pasture). All the usual breeding stations occupied. There a ♂ sang through the season on Balls Hill, another on Pine Hill, a third on Davis Hill, a fourth in Prescott's pines, a fifth near Puffin Rock, a sixth in the Boardwalk area. On May 12 I heard one in a small, isolated group of pine pines in the woods, open pasture lands S.W. from Mr. Harris. Two broods of young just from nest seen on June 8, ♂ parent feeding one of them.
30. Yellow-throated Warbler. April 10-25. Not very numerous, 4 seen on 24<sup>th</sup> & as many more on 25<sup>th</sup> represented maximum numbers noted in any one day. Found in apple orchards & among scattered pines.
31. Oven-bird. Arrived May 4. Breeding everywhere in normal abundance. Young on wing June 14.
32. Water Thrush (northeastern). May 17-23. Noted only 3 in all.

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33. Wilson's Black-cap. A ♂ singing in thicket by river bank at Ball's Hill on May 9 and another in our Berry Pasture on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
34. Canadian Warbler, Arrived May 17. Heavy flight of north-bound migrants on May 25 when I noted at least 8 males in full song at the Farm, mostly in the sun. On this same date large numbers were just entering in Lexington & elsewhere by Foxon & others. During the month of June there was, as usual, a ♂ singing in Ball's Hill Swamp and another in Davis Swamp.
35. Redstart. First seen May 8 at Farm where two pairs settled down to breed. One male sang regularly in the oaks behind our barn the other in those below the house near the road. The male of the former bird began a nest in a plum tree by the lane on May 25. A few days later I saw her sitting in it apparently brooding eggs. Somewhat, probably a jay but possibly a crow, landed at shortly afterwards & tore out the lining. When this pair nested a second time I failed to ascertain. Pierce & his men finished spraying all the trees & shrubbery at the Farm on June 13. I heard both male Redstarts singing in their accustomed places the next day & again on the 15<sup>th</sup>. After that I heard one on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & saw an adult ♂ by the roadside near the Beech place on July 2. Whether or not they were affected by the spraying I could not make sure but it is to be feared that if some of them were not poisoned by it they were at least induced to leave before their usual time because of the resulting scarcity of leaf eating insects. The only other breeding station in our neighborhood that came to my notice was on the river bank opposite Paul's, where I heard a ♂ singing in dense white maples on June 14, as far as I was able to observe there was no flight whatever of north-bound Redstarts this spring at the Farm or at Ball's Hill.

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36. Red-eyed Vireo. Arrived May 8. No marked flight of north-bound migrants noted. Breeding birds less numerous than usual. Walking from Ten Farm to Ball's Hill I seldom or never heard near them 5 miles. Lots of them sang near our house. First sustained singing did not begin until May 13. A nest deserted before completion was begun in an apple tree on June 1. I found no other this year. No young seen or heard up to the date of my first departure (July 2).

37. Solitary Vireo. - Arrived April 19 (2<sup>1/2</sup> at Ten Farm), no obvious flight of migrants going farther north. Breeding birds now numerous there for several years past. I heard male singing near our farm buildings, in Puffin Ball woods (usually 2 there), at Ball's Hill (1) and Pine Hill (1). In Passcotts farm there were three in father's yard and within hearing of our mother on the morning of May 11 when on following up the song of one I presently found the bird sitting in his nest which was at least 20 ft. above the ground at the end of a long, heavily-foliaged branch of a big white pine - a rather exceptional situation. When I visited this place a few days later the nest was torn to shreds & the bird gone. These Vireos sang well and freely, too, up to the very end of June.

38. Yellow-throated Vireo. This has been the first year since I bought the Barrett farm when it has been unobscured by the constant presence in the breeding season of a pair of Yellow-throated Vireos. It is true that a ♂ appeared there on May 15 and was afterwards heard singing almost daily through the month and occasionally up to our coast of June also, but he did not, as a rule, frequent the immediate neighborhood of the house and was often almost out of hearing from it which his mate was never seen. I heard either him or another near Barrett's on May 30 & one near the house June 11.



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- 39 Warbling Vireo. Arrived May 6 at Lowell village where a few couples  
to breed. Heard one singing at the Farm on May 14 and again on June 28<sup>th</sup>,  
in trees overlooking the road there.
- 40 Cedar Waxwing. First noted May 20 in orchard at Farm after all the apple trees  
had shed their blossoms. Through remainder of month and the whole of June they  
were seen every few days in pairs of from 3 to 6 together oftentimes near our house  
but occasionally in pine or oak woods at Ball's Hill, Pine Hill or Pellet's Park.  
I cannot doubt they breed in our neighborhood although I have yet to find  
a nest there. On June 10 I saw two perched very near together in an oak picking  
insects of some kind from its leaves and passing them back & forth from bill  
to bill many times after their pretty custom. By June 10 they began eating  
the remaining cherries in our orchard and kept at it as long as they lasted.
- 41 Purple Martin. Arrived April 26 (S. O. Denton) at Lowell village where  
upwards of thirty pairs assented later to breed in a bird house put up  
last year on Nashawank Hill by Mr. Parker and occupied that season by  
only three or four pairs. I saw only English Sparrows about Capt. Dakin's  
bird houses when passing his place on June 29. At the Farm & at  
Ball's Hill I saw or heard Martins rather frequently in May & June -  
much more so, in fact, than for several years past.
- 42 Earl Swallow. At the Farm I saw one on May 8, two on June 23  
and two on July 2; at Ball's Hill I heard one on May 9 and saw another  
on June 21. The two seen on June 23 appeared late in the afternoon  
close about the Bungalow barn and repeatedly flew up under its wide  
projecting eaves to cling for a moment against its shingled walls as  
if seeking a nesting place there.
- 43 Barn Swallow. Arrived April 15. Scarcely there one before. A pair selected nest  
in our Bungalow barn but deserted it before laying. About 6 pairs nesting in W.C. Davis's  
barn June 1. Brood of 4 young on telephone wire opposite Theodore Peterson's barn  
June 30. Lawrence's barn apparently untenanted.



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44 White-bellied Swallow. Arrived April 2 (at Farm). No marked flights of north-bound migrants. Breeding birds more numerous than usual, especially almost every day I find up for them. Three pairs nested at Farm, one at Rabbit Hole, two in Benson's pasture & Pine Park, then in the meadow at east end of Ball's Hill. As far as I could make out they all built their broods best, (though to day, some still going in and out of the nests at the very end of June with no young were seen on way up to that time). At the Farm they had one breeding female perched incessantly and whenever a Hawk appeared gave chase to it as one with noisy alarm the entire colony trailing on close behind it like the tail of a comet. A Sparrow Hawk which appeared there occasionally seemed especially to excite and annoy them. They paid no attention whatever to passing Crows even when these come very near their nests. At daybreak I frequently heard the monotonous, unvaried twit-twit-tse songs of the males. The sweet, low, rippling calls of both sexes at the season of love making and nest building went on all day, almost ceaselessly and were to my ears among the most delightful of all birds voices about the place. On April 26 I saw a pair carrying nesting material into a box at short intervals through the entire day.

45 Bank Swallow. Arrived May 9. Very scarce this year. I seldom noted them in May or June, even at Ball's Hill, and no more than 4 or 5 were seen at any one time. Whether or not any nested in the bank near the Catholic Cemetery I do not know.

46 Scarlet Tanager. Arrived May 8. No obvious north bound flights. Breeding birds less numerous than usual. Through June a ♂ sang regularly on or near Ball's Hill (usually in oak woods bordering Pine Park, another near the Barrett spring, a third at the Farm either in the trees near my house or in those along Lane. On July 2 I heard 2 males singing not far apart near Ball's Hill (in oaks on Pine Park).

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- 47 Purple Finch. A male singing at the Farm, usually in trees not far from the house, through April, May and June as well as during the latter half of March. On May 30 I saw a pair (the ♂ adult) in the big red oak at east end of Ball's Hill.
- 48 Red Crossbill. Call note heard at Farm on April 4. On July 2 six birds circled low over the cabin at Ball's Hill calling loudly.
- 49 Goldfinch. Seen frequently from March 22 to July 2, usually at the Farm, in pairs and small flocks. In full song after May 3. On June 28 I saw 10 ♂♂ & 4 ♀♀ feeding together on white mulberries in the tree in front of our house. ♂♂ in full plumage as early as May 18.
- 50 Grass Finch. Arrived April 5 (1st at Farm). he marked with-bird flight. Usual number of breeding birds, the ♂♂ singing freely through April & May. In June I heard them less often, but by no means infrequently, to the close of the month. As the season advanced their song steadily improved in structure and volume and was at their best towards the very end of my stay.
51. White-throated Sparrows. Light migration this year. Saw no more than a dozen birds in all, the first on April 21, the last on May 21. They sang but little.
- 52 Tree Sparrow. March 17 - April 16. Only about 20 seen in all & never more than 4 or 5 in any one day. Song heard only twice.

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53 Chipping Sparrow. Arrived April 12. Breeding in nearly if not quite their usual numbers. At the farm we had at least two pairs. One heard an early bird successfully in a nest built in a clematis vine on the front porch of the Barnyard. Another laid three eggs in a nest in a chrysanthemum nest of foliage at the end of an apple tree branch in the garden but they were all perished with small holes a few days later, I suspect by one of our breeding House Wrens who was much given to foraging for food in these pastures etc. The contents of these eggs were not removed. The 3 Chipping's sang steadily through May & June. There was a third pair in the pasture across the road where I found their nest & eggs in a little cedar near our well house. On June 10 I heard a ♂ singing well back in Prescott from woods. He may have straggled there from Rowland's farm where there was a pair bred.

54. Field Sparrow. A male <sup>first</sup> heard in our Barnyard on April 12 sang there at intervals through April and up to May 25 but was either absent or silent for days in succession during both months. Hence I doubt if he had a mate & nest there. This was literally the only Field Sparrow noted by me anywhere in Coweset this year. On April 21 he appeared with some Junco's under the front windows of our house attracted there by millet & hemp seed which he ate greedily.

55. Junco. March 15 - April 30. Most numerous during first half of April. Maximum number of birds - about 30 - seen on April 2.

56 Song Sparrow. The well-marked north-bound flight. Breeding birds almost if not quite as numerous as they were last year. At least three pairs settled at the farm and perhaps as many as five or six within hearing of Ball's Hill. Most of young hatched early in nest on ground near our well out.

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- 57 Swamp Sparrow. Very scarce. A single ♂ heard occasionally near Boss's Hill - sometimes in the swamp, on its ear, often in the marsh across the river - from April 23 to July 2 was the only bird I could find anywhere.
- 58 Fox Sparrow. - March 22. April 16. Uncommonly scarce. In March I saw only one; in April less than twenty and never more than three or four in any one day. The gleaming song was given only a few times within my hearing.
- 59 Towhee. For the first time within my experience the Towhee bred anywhere on our place. At the Farm I saw a ♀ on April 27, heard a bird call two days later and again on May 9, and noted a singing ♂ on the 12<sup>th</sup> and again on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May. At Boss's Hill I heard the call note on May 9. These were literally all the observations made.
- 60 Blue-breasted Grasshopper. Much scarcer than formerly but perhaps not less so than during the past few years. First bird noted May 6. No obvious north-bound flight. A pair bred at the Farm and another at Boss's Hill where the ♂ was in full, capturing song as late as July 2 & 3 - something unusual, I believe. The birds at the Farm fed much on the ground in a field in front of the house where *Jophanes* millet had been sown broadcast late in May, eating it, no doubt, although of this I failed to make sure.
- 61 Indigo Bird. Arrived May 12 when a ♂ appeared on the ground under our window at the Farm and fastened on millet & hemp seed scattered there. During the breeding season there were at least 2 males singing at the Farm, one at Ratchie's place, one in Parish Field, one near Barron's. Found a nest in hazel bush on edge of woods at Ratchie's place. On June 27 it held 4 young about 1/2 grown.

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62 Bobolink. Arrived May 2 (1x, Monahan). Breed in about normal numbers in Lawrence's fields, in Howe's meadow and about West Bedford station. Thus I could hear them singing at almost any hour while at the farm or on Ball's Hill. What their numerical status was this year on the slightly elevated grassy benches along the river between the Holt and Flint's bridge I failed to ascertain for I made no use whatever of my canoe and did not once go about Benson's landing by boat. On June 21 I heard two ♂♂ in full, rapturous song in the Grotto meadows. One continued to sing at intervals for several minutes carrying all the while in his bill a dangling mass of limp larvae for his young. Two adult ♂♂ accompanied by about ten ♀♀ & young was seen in these meadows by Gilbert on July 1.

63 Cow-bird. March 18 - June 29. Present in normal numbers haunting chiefly the cultivated fields and orchards in the neighborhood of the farm. The field directly in front of our house especially attracted them after it had been ploughed, harrowed and sown to millet. Here on the afternoon of May 23 I saw a ♂ alight by the side of a ♀ with whom he had been sexual intercourse after strutting about her once or twice puffing out his gulars and uttering the a-ack note. Most of the birds noted were in pairs but sometimes there would be 2 ♂♂ keeping company with one ♀. The long-drawn whistled flight call was heard frequently through April & May & occasionally in June.

64 Red-winged Blackbird. - Exceptionally numerous in March and April when flocks containing any where from 50 to 200 members each were seen frequently along the river near Ball's Hill or in neighboring cultivated fields. But when the breeding season began the birds did not seem more abundant than usual. After they had laid their eggs in early May the meadows were overflowed by heavy rains & most of the nests doubtless spoiled. The birds returned after the waters had receded but that of necessity or before. They were that at a good deal in May by wading in boats around water shrub and willow.



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65. Meadow Lark. Never before have I known Meadow Larks so numerous or at least widely distributed in our part of Lowell. Every grassy field and meadow which could be made to serve as a breeding place was crisscrossed by at least one pair. For the first time they frequented Bowen's pasture & I think nested not far from it. At Ball's Hill and on our farm I constantly heard their sweet, plaintive voice from March 18 to July 2. At the farm a male frequently sang for hours perched in the very top of a tall elm close to the house but his mate & nest were doubtless in Lancaster's field across the road. There was general but not complete cessation of singing in early June followed by <sup>partial</sup> resumption of it after the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.
66. Baltimore Oriole. Arrived May 5 (1st, W. Bedford). During the next week or two they were heard everywhere in their accustomed haunts in fair but scarce normal numbers. Many of the birds nested during this period were perhaps north-bound migrants for comparatively few remained to breed and of those the majority disappeared soon after the shade trees along the village streets and town roadsides and about the farm buildings, were sprayed with arsenate of lead. This happened late in May and early in June when the only nest built on our place - in the big elm that corresponds the western end of the house - was deserted. Either this pair or another reared young successfully, however, near Edwin Lawrence's house and the ♂ continued to visit our elms & to sing there while the brood of young frequented the oak behind our barn late in June (they left the nest about the 26<sup>th</sup>). The only other breeding pair I had under frequent observation nested in Bowen's elm (unsprayed this year) & I think reared young there. During my wife's recent visit to Lowell village in June I failed to hear any Orioles but saw a pair feeding young in the nest at Corlies in a partially sprayed elm on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Ball's Hill (sprayed) was occasionally visited by wandering birds & a ♂ was singing there July 2.



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67. Rusty Blackbird. - Exceptionally scarce. Heard at the Farm on March 18, at Balls Hill on April 3, at Bush Field on the 21<sup>st</sup>, near West Bedford R.R. Station on May 8. These observations were all I made. Mr. Dexter reported seeing a small flock near Concord village sometime in April.

68. Bronzed Grackle. - For upwards of three weeks later in March and early in April an immense flock of Concord blackbirds frequented the fields near West Bedford R.R. station occasionally appearing about Concord village and attracting widespread attention on the part of farmers & others. Gilbert saw it several times on or near Mr. Grack's farm. While I was waiting for a train on West Bedford on the afternoon of March 22 the dense, widespread cloud of sooty birds came sweeping low over a ridge to the eastward and circling once or twice alighted in a ploughed field. There must have been at least 500 of them but not all were Grackles for I caught the gleam of red shoulders here & there in the flock indicating unmistakably the presence of Red-winged Blackbirds which may have represented ten or fifteen per cent of the total number to judge by what I saw. After the breeding season began there were certainly more Concord blackbirds than anywhere about Concord. A few nested at Pod Island and I saw others flying back & forth over our Farm. They were said to be very numerous in & near Concord village.

On January 26 of this year three Bronzed Grackles were seen by S. O. Dexter feeding on the ground in a cornfield near the Concord Hospital not far from Chamshell Hill. This is the first instance of local occurrence in mid-winter of which I have knowledge. The entire winter was exceptionally open & mild. During it Red wings were seen twice in Concord by Harry Richardson & his son.

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69. Crow. March 18 - July 2. No marked north-bound flights noted. Migrant birds present in normal numbers; among them from first to last, ranging from West Bedford to our farm but chiefly frequenting the woods about Ball's Hill, was the odd-voiced bird which has haunted this region at all seasons for the past four or five years. His caw, caw cry was heard this Spring almost daily. On one occasion I was almost sure that two different birds were giving it and Post Flamingy is quite positive that at least two males use it. A pair of Crows were constantly hanging about our orchard and farm buildings through May & June - evidently on the keen lookout for birds' nests and occasionally much anxious to the Migrant Robins who were ever harassing them. They alighted in the early morning in our front yard to feed on the grain thrown plentifully then but made no obvious attempt to molest any of the young chickens in a neighboring enclosure. At Ball's Hill I saw them visiting the marshes in search of nests pursued by white Red-wings whenever they went.

70. Blue Jay. March 20 - July 1. No evidence of any north-bound migration <sup>except perhaps on May 18 when I noted at least 10 scattered birds between our house & especially</sup> <sup>March 20</sup> scarce through the entire season. I rarely saw or heard them at the farm and doubt if more than two or three pairs had anywhere within our boundaries. As usual there was a nest in the dense cluster of young white pines just to the eastward of the wood house on Ball's Hill. When, on June 9, this nest was exposed by Pierce & his men the Jay remained on her nest during the whole time just as she did two years ago. On the 11<sup>th</sup> she was still sitting although after she had left the nest on that occasion I found, to my surprise, that the young were almost fully grown & fledged. The weather, at the time (on both days) was cloudless & not unseasonably cool.

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71 King bird. Arrived May 3. Breeding later in normal numbers. One pair at Ball's Hill, another at Farm. Found no nests.

72 Crested Flycatcher. Arrived May 8 at the Farm when, as usual, I haunted the apple orchard and nearby woods especially those about Phipps Pond. They were often seen near the apple tree to which is hung a hollow stub in which they have nested for several years past and which, no doubt, was occupied by them this season although I have no definite evidence that such has been the case. On May 29 I heard a bird calling at Ball's Hill & on June 14 I saw one in Berens's cow yard. It may or may not have come from one form.

73. Phoebe. Arrived March 20. During the breeding season every regular nesting station in or near our place was occupied. Thus there was a pair in the hen shed at Ball's Hill, another in the wood shed at Pine Point, a third at Berens's, a fourth in the shed called at the Rethin place, a fifth in the barn cellar and a sixth in the wood shed at the Farm. As far as I know all these birds raised their first broods without mishap. They were in collecting their second broods in most of the nests when I left on July 2. During April they sang comparatively little and while building about the middle of the month - were silent everywhere for days in succession but after the females had laid and begun to set the males poured out their delightful songs quite regularly in the early morning & more or less freely at all hours of the day, continuing to do so through May and June. All day long on June 1 the pair in our wood shed at the Farm were catching big Dragonflies in the dove yard & taking them to their young which were still in the nest. At 1 P.M. I saw the pair copulating. Sexual union seemed to begin in the air

Young taken  
Dragonflies.  
Act of  
copulation

& was consummated on the ground. It was prolonged for at least two minutes & the action was so violent that I thought at first that the birds were fighting for the & pushed the head of the ♀ backward. The young did not leave the nest until the ♀ & the old birds had not completely finished early in July when I found 2 eggs in & under it, evidently deposited

Spring and early summer.

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- 74 Wood Pewee. Arrived May 22 (Sleepy Hollow Cemetery). On the 24<sup>th</sup> a bird appeared at the Farm and remained there up to at least July 2 haunting especially the big elms close about the house and the oak grove behind the barn. Of his especially sweet and plaintive notes, given oftentimes at morning and evening, I never tired. If he had a mate and nest I never saw the one nor found the other. Another bird who sang through the season in Pulpit Rock woods doubtless nested there being seen repeatedly with his mate, with whom he seemed to be often keeping up a family quarrel. There was a third singing male at Holden's Hill who occasionally visited Ball's Hill. There were all I noted this year.
- 75 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. On June 8 and 9 I heard the free-e call given many times and coming from the swampy woods just to the south of Pulpit Rock. Two birds were heard on this same late date (June 9) in 1907, one in precisely this same place which seems to be a favorite haunt for the species.
- 76 Least Flycatcher. Arrived April 26 (Concord Village). We had only one breeding pair at the Farm this year. Their first nest, built in an apple tree just behind the house, was begun on May 21 and torn down not long after completion. When the birds nested a second time I do not know. They continued to haunt the orchard through June. There were others scattered along the roadside near road & one or two near W. Bedford Station. They seem to be gradually diminishing in numbers in our neighborhood.
- 77 Hummingbird. Arrived May 19 (at Farm). After this I noted a ♂ on May 24, ♂ ♀ May 31, ♀ June 8 & 12. All these seen in former garden at Farm. Quite evidently the species failed to nest anywhere near the Farm this season for the first time since I have had the pleasure of seeing a bird at Holden's Hill on June 23.

## Spring and early Summer.

Concord, Mass.

1913.

- 78 Chimney Swift. Arrived April 26 (two, Concord Village). Comparatively scarce in our neighborhood through May and June. At Ball's Hill, where they used to congregate so numerously towards sunset and during cloudy days, I saw them but seldom and never more than 3 or 4 together. At the Farm there were usually from 2 to 4 and occasionally as many as 5 or 6, hovering about over the trees at morning and evening. I saw them entering the chimney of the Burgoyne's and that of our old house. As we sat in the parlor after dark the sound of their "drumming" and twittering frequently came from the fire which serves the fireplace there and was also heard at the fireplace in the south-west corner room. One the evening of June 8, just after sunset, I was watching these birds flying together over our garden when one of them began uttering a monotonous chiff, chiff, chie repeating it several times in succession. These notes were distinctly unlike those of the ordinary flight calls and closely similar to those of the songbird song of the Tree Swallow. I cannot help suspecting that they represented some attempt at a real song - perhaps unheard by me. Song?

- 79 Whip-poor-will. Last year there were apparently no Whip-poor-wills breeding anywhere in the neighborhood of Ball's Hill or on the Farm for a bird singing to the westward of the latter on the evening of May 23 was the only one I noted. This year we heard them almost every favorable evening from one farm house, from May 15 to June 14, and occasionally two were singing at once. As a rule their voices seemed to come from the rather distant woodlands at the rear of Lawrence's beyond the old Bigelow road but wandering birds sometimes approached much nearer and about 5 P. M. on May 18 one came as a rather overwhelming serenade, apparently from the stone wall curb directly in front of the house. Another sang once or twice in Pulpit Rock woods. None was noted at Ball's Hill. Mr. Deyle heard them in various places at Concord.



Spring and early summer.

Bowcord, Mass.

1913

80 Night hawk. May 21-31. North-bound flight lighter than usual. No birds noted after it had passed. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> one spent the entire day in the big elm in front of our barn on the farm betraying his presence thru his uttering long wows and thru his loud caw-note, ja-a-h. No doubt he was crunched lengthwise on one of the big lateral branches high in the tree but Gilbert & I scrutinized them vainly on each occasion. On the evening of the 31<sup>st</sup> I saw a bird flying northward high in air. He bravely hurred this Spring -

81 Hairy Woodpecker. February 11 - July 2. Seen on several occasions frequently in our woodlands adjacent to or near Ball's Hill where a pair doubtless nested as usual, probably in the maple trunk just to the westward of Pine Pond. Here on April 24 I watched a ♀ exploiting the peck holes which support the wood shed roof for grubs. Those of the shed near our cabin have been almost denuded by these Woodpeckers. At the farm single birds often visited the elms close about the house and the beech tree in front of it attracted two birds on July 1. No doubt they come to the beeches for the larvae of the beetles that bore into these trees so successfully and injuriously.

82. Downy Woodpecker. March 20 - June 14. At the farm we had, as usual, a breeding pair nesting - for I think the sixth season - in a dead branch of the elm that overspreads the east end of the wood-shed. In this branch they invariably drill a new nesting burrow every year enlarging its entrance after their young have left it to make it seem more conveniently as a winter sleeping place. Wrecked by such progressive excavation the branch, eight or ten inches in diameter & originally at least fifteen feet in length has broken off from time to time so that now there is only a short stub left (perhaps 15" long). The male drummed on its upper side frequently & sometimes on the long; from March 20 to May 24, the ♀ began well on the entrance hole May 4. If any young were reared or hatched I neither saw nor heard them - I occasionally saw an old bird at Ball's Hill but none were noted elsewhere.



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83. Yellow-bellied Woodpecker. On April 24 a ♀ Sapsucker appeared in the grass behind the old barn at the Farm and spent the day there, digging "wells" in the smooth bark of a medium-sized hickory.

84. Flicker. March 15 - July 1. Present in normal numbers. At the Farm two pairs nested in hollow trunks boarded over at both ends & hung in apple trees. Similar accommodations at Ball's Hill were taken advantage of by a pair who chose the hollow section suspended in a maple growing on the edge of the river meadows. The "shooting" of the male Flicker ceased towards the end of May and was seldom heard during the first half of June but was partially resumed later in the latter month. Young fresh from the nest were heard "shooting" freely at the Farm on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

85. Kingfisher. April 8 - July 2. As usual one or two birds were seen daily along the river near Ball's Hill whenever we went there to look for them. No doubt they nested in Mr. Howe's sandbank, as they have done for several years, but I did not visit it to see.

86. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. First noted May 25. After that they were heard very frequently up to July 2, both at the Farm and at Ball's Hill. They seemed to be present in somewhat greater numbers than usual.

87. Black-billed Cuckoo. Arrived May 18. Throughout the remainder of that month and the whole of June they were apparently just as numerous & represented as the Yellow-bills & to be frequenting much the same places. Both at Ball's Hill & the Farm the notes of one species were often heard immediately following that of the other, in the same place or shortly

Spring and early Summer.

Coverland, Mass.

1913.

88 Screech Owl. This Owl is seldom much in evidence in our neighborhood on Coverland in Spring or early Summer. My sole evidence of its presence here this year was afforded by the finding of a freshly-killed hawk feather at the rear of Babb's Hill on April 3 and by a fleeting glimpse of a bird which flew from an apple tree shading the lawn at the Farm as twilight was gathering on the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup>.

89 Sparrows-hawk. - On March 19 I saw a ♂ Sparrows-hawk flying low past our house at the Farm. What looked like another started from the elm over the wood shed as I stepped out of doors about 8 a.m. on June 15. Later that same day Gilbert saw it perched on the bay directly in front of the house, in which there was a brood of young Tree Swallows at the time. The parent Swallows were darting close about it trying to drive it off. On June 25 I saw a ♀ Sparrows hawk skimming low over the flower garden pursued by a mob of irate Tree Swallows. Another appeared on the 28<sup>th</sup> as Toph Passer & I were standing in front of the Bungalow. Suddenly swooping downward it hovered for an instant in front of a box on a short path rising above the gutter end of the carriage shed. Toph said that he saw it thrust one foot into the narrow hole but this escaped any notice. A brood of young thrush were heard left this box only a day or two before. When the hawk flew off to head, as I could plainly see, no prey in its talons.

90 Fish Hawk. At or near Ball's Hill I noted this species, usually flying low over the lake or flooded meadows, on April 2, 8, 9, 10 & 20 and May 4 & 10. At the Farm I saw three - on April 7, 8 & 30. The one seen on the 7<sup>th</sup> was flying low & heavy as coming through Puffer Hole woods where it seemed to be seeking a roost in the tops of the large white pines. It passed actually below or well as near, level of them.

Spring and early summer.

Concord, Mass.

1913.

96 Marsh Hawk. At or near Ball's Hill I saw an adult ♂  
Marsh Hawk on wing on April 1 & 16. At the former one was  
noted on April 2, 7, 15 & 29 and on May 2 and June 29. It  
is not improbable that the same bird may have been seen  
on all these occasions for Marsh Hawks range widely when on wing,  
even during their breeding season, and on occasions do  
rope or creep inwards in the room floors. Mr. S. O. Dexter  
and I had an unusual and very interesting experience with one  
observed on April 7. About 4 P.M., as we were standing in front  
of one farm house, he appeared in the heavy Pasture across the road  
and began beating it from end to end, showing land over the  
bushes in decisive courses. Near its center he suddenly checked  
his flight, circled over, and then dropped out of sight. As he  
failed to reappear in the course of the next few minutes we  
went to the spot, approaching it as stealthily as possible. The  
bird flushed at a distance of perhaps 40 yards and flew off straight  
southward out of sight returning ten or fifteen minutes later  
to swing around us in a wide circle out of gun range.

In the meantime we had closely scrutinized the place where he  
had been finding them, to our surprise, a fully grown and  
partly decomposed Cotton-Tail Rabbit. At first we thought that he might  
have killed it but more careful examination of its condition soon  
satisfied us that such was probably not the case. For its body was  
perfectly cold and the abdominal cavity, from which all the viscera had  
been removed, as well as the thighs where much of the flesh had  
melted, had been washed clean & white by a gossamer of wet sun's earlier  
in the day. The eyes, also, were missing. All this seemed likely to have been

the work of crows, several of which were hanging about & had attempted  
to drive the Hawk away when he first appeared. He, however, had apparently  
just been feeding rather bountifully on flesh torn from one of the fore hind legs  
of the Rabbit. After the exposed surface of such of its as remained in all cases  
was not only fresh & deep red but also more or less coated with blood. As far as  
we could make out the Rabbit had been dead at least 24 hours & perhaps  
longer if he may have died a natural death. I am writing all this very  
(July 26) from memory. There is, I think, a better account of it elsewhere, as they were very common

A ♂ Marsh  
Hawk feeds  
on dead  
Rabbit

Spring and early summer.

Lowland, Mass.

1913.

92. Cooper's Hawk. - Occasionally seen or heard at Ten Farm or in neighboring woods from March 19 to June 25 inclusive but I doubt if there was a nest, this year, anywhere in that vicinity. The characteristic spring utterance, consisting of short, staccato, almost explosive, hoisting notes delivered singly, at short intervals, or in behaviorally belays, was heard on March 21, April 7, 8, 13 & 15 and on June 25. On July 1 a bird was seen skimming low over the marsh opposite the cabin at Bona's Hill, followed by Red-wings.

93. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Single birds noted, respectively, as follows: - On April 8 & 19 at Bona's Hill; on April 23 & 26 at Ten Farm. All these were probably north-bound migrants. None was noted later.

94. Red-shouldered Hawk. The nest in the fork of the big Chestnut on the south side of Warden's Hill was occupied by a breeding pair as it has been for several years past. A bird was heard screaming near it on March 15. I passed beneath it only once - on May 21, when the ♂ parent stooped at my sight in quick succession, starting about 50 yards away on a level with the tops of the trees, coming with metric swiftness and passing directly over and within two yards of my head to mount, circle and plunge again, screaming all the while in fearfully shrill tones. As he passed his set wings made a rather loud rushing sound. It was difficult to withstand his threatening onset without flinching, he doubtless there were three young in the nest but I could not see them. It is probable that another pair had still made one place where I often hear the birds whistling & soaring with loud cries, separately singly or in pairs, sometimes thus together. Their wild, ringing notes continued to be heard through May & June.

Spring and early summer.

Concord, Mass.

1913.

95 Carolina Dove. It is a regrettable fact that Doves have almost ceased to frequent our part of Concord within recent years. They seemed scarce there ever this season. On April 2 one feeding in Benson's asparagus field - then barren of vegetation - furnished rather close approach and allowed me to watch it for several minutes. On Apr. 19<sup>th</sup> I saw two birds flying low eastward close past our farm house and on April 27 and May 2 a single bird going past it in the same direction. There may have been a nest at this time somewhere to the westward along the old Bigelow road. I doubt if there was one anywhere in our woods. On a date unrecalled but probably in late April a Dove cooed a few times, not far from me, among Prescott's pines. This was the only time I heard one.

96. Ruffed Grouse. March 15 - July 2. Present in normal numbers early in the season but seldom noted towards its close. There must have been several nests in woods near the Farm where, as usual, a ♂ drummed regularly in the tree either at the foot of the lane or on the old wall where the broad fern grows. Another was heard very frequently near the Borron Spring. At Ball's Hill there have been seen together repeatedly in April and a nest with 10 eggs was found by S. O. Dexter on May 17 at the foot of the wooded slope near the big hillory on the north side of the trough. I failed to see a nest this year and alas to meet with any young. Practically all our best grouse cover are now completely overrun by Ring-necked Pheasants which have become more numerous of late than the Partridges have ever been in any town.

97 Bob. White. - A bird whistling somewhere to the westward of our Farm on the evening of June 14 & again the next morning. At Ball's Hill we regularly heard one & sometimes two, at morning & evening & occasionally through the day, from June 19 to July 2. They seemed to be in the open fields toward Mr. Galt's or Ansell's. A flock of about 15 birds of several kinds was counted near Steffy Hollow Cemetery.



Spring and early summer.

Concord, Mass.

1913.

98

Ring-necked Pheasant. Literally swarming throughout the entire Concord Region and perhaps nowhere there more abundantly represented than on our place. Near Ball's Hill they seem to haunt by preference the narrow belts of woods and thickets bordering on the level meadows on which they also roost whenever the water is not high enough to flood the grass. At morning and evening they feed out in open cultivated fields & sometimes remain in town throughout the day whenever they can find sheltering patches of grass or bushes however restricted. At the farm they seek their food chiefly in the field in front of the house resorting to it soon after sunrise and an hour or so before sunset. Their favorite animal haunts there are the lawn and our beetle-grass Berry Pasture. I saw the latter a ♂, followed closely by 3 or four ♀♀, has been in the habit of emerging daily, on the lawn just mentioned, through March & April to visit our fields. Crossing the grassy meadows and the road on foot and from a fine birds would often pass up our driveway in single file before entering the field, where they might feed quietly & close together for an hour or more, if undisturbed, gleaming <sup>chiefly</sup> in a casual stubble early in the season, roaming over the whole field after it had been down beset with Japanese millet. If, as often happened, there was another male Pheasant already there the bird coming from the Berry Pasture would at once make straight for him, running very swiftly, and drive him out. In every direction, far and near, Pheasants could be heard cawing at morning & coming from the house. They are exceedingly wary birds, impossible to approach closely in the open & difficult to stalk as Black Ducks where there is sheltering cover. Yet they often leave their tracks in our flower garden & sometimes enter the front yard to feed there.

I picked up a freshly dropped egg in Puller's Rock woods on April 30 & hatched several young as big as chick and accompanied by Green Peewees, at the Peter's place on June 27, but as yet I have found no nests.



Spring and early summer.

Concord, Mass.

1913.

- 99 Green Heron. Late in the afternoon of July 2 I saw an adult bird on wing low over the river in front of the cabins at Ball's Hill. Either the same or another was seen there by Gilbert the next morning. These were the only occasions on which the species was noted by either of us this year. Heretofore it has always occurred more or less commonly along the river near Ball's Hill in April, May and June, breeding chiefly in gray birch covers bordering on, or not far back from, the edges of the meadows. Its disappearance of these breeding haunts may well be due to the noisy motor boats which now ply so numerously along the river.
- 100 Night Heron. - Last year the Great Meadows, with various stretches of river more or less far above or below them, were frequented regularly and rather numerously by Night Herons in May and June because, no doubt, of the small fish left by thousands in shallow ponds when the Spring flood subsided. Nothing of the kind happened this year. Indeed I noted two birds only twice, hearing one call on the evening of May 13 at the Farm and another on that of June 20 at Ball's Hill.
- 101 Bittern, "Pumpkin" more or less regularly and frequently from April 22 to June 24 inclusive. At first there seemed to be only one engaged within hearing of Ball's Hill and he kept well off towards the upper end of Great Meadows - flooded at the time. After the Spring fresh had subsided we heard one there, another directly opposite the cabins & a third near Rich Island. Two of these birds could often be heard faintly but distinctly from our farm house at a calm evening. Sometimes one of them would jump occasionally far into a moonless and rather dark night but this did not happen often. The favorite jumping times were early morning & late afternoon.

Spring and early summer.

Concord, Mass.

1913

(Belted). On May 8 I had an exceptionally favorable opportunity observed for seeing a Belted display his nuptial plumage. Returning from a trip plumage of to Cambridge I had walked down through the woods to our Belted, stone boat house when Gilbert, who was awaiting me on the sand landing was, called my attention to the bird. He was then some 30 yards away standing erect & motionless among the grass evidently somewhat disturbed by my approach and with his white plumage could attempt Gilbert had been seeing them shortly before. Within two yards of him stood a decidedly smaller and slender-looking Belted, no doubt a ♀ and his mate. After regarding us intently, through a thin screen of intervening foliage for several minutes, during which they preserved their erect, stalk-like attitudes, both birds crouched and stole away a few yards under though the grass reappearing, still close together, in an almost perfectly open space beyond where we had a good view of them. Shortly after this the nuptial plumage of the ♂ once again expanded and very conspicuously, as well as continuously, displayed for at least ten minutes during which the bird walked slowly about, every now and stopping a few feet. They looked as white as driven snow and of about the size and shape of the wings of a Quail or a Meadow Lark. The ♀ meanwhile remained standing in nearly the same place apparently paying little or no attention to her mate. Besides jumping half a dozen times he went through the preliminary snapping & gulping at least three or four without following it by the usual loud, "booming" notes. This I cannot remember ever witnessing before. Now here I was before either seen the plumage exhibited by the ♂ when jumping or when accompanied by a ♀. This account of the observation was on May 8 has just been written (at Concord) from memory, on July 22. There is probably a fresher & better description of it in journal sheets written at our town & now in Cambridge.

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1913.

- 102 Greater Yellow-legs. About 10 A.M. on May 20 I heard, while at a farm, the rolling flight call of this species coming from an far distance eastward. At 5 P.M. next day I heard the ordinary whistle as I was passing through Bush Field. No doubt the species would have been noted much earlier had I spent more time along the river this Spring.
- 103 Solitary Sandpiper. During a canoe trip down river on May 17 S. O. Dexter & his brother saw at least seven Solitary Sandpipers between Flint's Bridge and Balls Hill. I did not encounter any this season.
- 104 Spotted Sandpiper. May 4 - July 2. Less common than usual. There seemed to be only a single pair near Balls Hill. I did not go much further up river this season.
- 105 Virginia Rail. On the evening of June 20 I heard the pig note of this species given once or twice on the marsh just across the river from the cabins on Balls Hill. A few evenings later it was heard again - on a date I failed to record.
- 106 Carolina Rail. At 6.30 P.M. on May 8 a Sora was in full, continuous song - scatology near the middle of Great Meadow where he sang, plaintive *ee-ee* notes came distinctly to my ears as long as I stood listening for them on the shore at Benson's knoll. Either this same bird or another of the same species was heard singing near the mouth of Country Brook on May 17 by S. O. Dexter. The Great Meadows were not in good condition for marsh nesting birds of any kind this Spring being twice submerged for a considerable period.

Spring and early summer.

Barnard, Mass.

1913.

107

Little Black Rail (P). At 6.45 P.M. on June 19 a Thicket began singing just across the river from Balls Hill near the mouth of our boat canal but a little to the left of it where there is a shallow cove covered with lily pads and dotted with tiny marshy islands haunted, just now, by bell-shaped Blue Flies. The mysterious bird had an unusually harsh voice and began his serenade by unfamiliar notes which sounded like kitty-cra-cra. After repeating these a dozen times or more he gradually changed to the ki-ki-ki, ki-queer utterance which we have heard in former years but which seemed, on this occasion, <sup>(a trifle)</sup> less shrill and squeaky than of yore. It was kept up practically without cessation until 7.15 P.M., after which the bird lapsed into complete silence. Nor did I ever hear him again although listening for him very frequently during the next following week. The evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> was calm, warm and cloudy with misty rain falling at intervals. That of the 20<sup>th</sup> was similar in character.

108

Canada Goose. While at work near the cabins at Balls Hill about 10 A.M. on March 27 Pat Flannery heard Geese honking to the westward. Two birds presently passed, flying low over the water down river but the outcry from above continued unabated. Following up the sound Pat presently waded along the river path to Ben's house where he could command a view through interminable leafless trees of the flooded Barrett Meadows which, to his surprise, was literally besprinkled from one end to the other with Geese, swimming and floating in the shallow water. After watching them for several minutes he returned to his work, leaving them undisturbed. He continued to hear them for an hour or two later but does not know what finally became of them. There were, he thought, upwards of 100 in the meadows when he viewed them there.

My only sight or sound of Geese this season was on April 18 when at 8.30 A.M. I saw a flock of about 40 passing N.E. over Field so very low that, as I stood in front of Old Barn, they seemed to be flying below the tops of our Purple Black Juniper. They travelled very low.

1913

- 109 Black Duck. On March 20 five Black Ducks which may well have been north-bound migrants were started by Pat Fleming from a little pond of surface water in Roy's field near the railroad embankment. In April, May and June birds which must have been breeding were seen at intervals along the river in the neighborhood of Ball's Hill, usually singly or in pairs although 5 were noted flying together on May 10. On July 21 Gilbert saw a flock of 7 circling low over the meadows opposite the log cabin.
- 110 Golden-eye. While passing through Birch Field in the evening twilight on April 16 I heard the humming-bug sound of a Golden-eye wings overhead. On the morning of April 3 I saw two birds swimming in the river at Beaver Dam Rapids. At least one of them was a drake in full plumage.
111. Herring Gull. March 15 - April 29. Seen or heard rather frequently along the river and over its bordering flooded meadows where the sound of their clew, clew, clew calling sometimes reached my ears faintly but distinctly when I was at the farm. For the most part they appeared singly or in couples but 7 were flying about Ball's Hill in company on March 8 - according to Pat Fleming.
- 112 Pied-billed Grebe. Noted only once - on April 22 when, late in the afternoon, I heard repeated many times and coming from the direction of Paul Island, the characteristic, Anas-like calls of an unseen bird. The river meadows cover their submerged.
- 113 Starling. *Sturnus vulgaris* has at length reached Concord. I saw a ♂ flying near Ball's Hill on May 8, another in front of Darby Ferguson's house at Concord on the 22, a pair on the ground in a door yard across the road from Ferguson's on June 8 & a single bird, a ♀, perched on a telegraph pole near W. Bedford R.R. Station, on June 21.



Spring and early summer.

Concord, Mass.

1913.

114 Pileated Woodpecker. About 10 a.m. on May 25, a calm and oppressive warm Sunday - I was with Septimius Pesser on the Titicut place when a Pileated Woodpecker proclaimed his presence somewhere on the ridge to the eastward when, along the road leading to Bensen's from the school house, we cut off all the oaks last winter leaving only a few, scattered, large white pines. He gave not the rapidly-announced, shrieking calls so like those of the Flicker save for their abrupt, diminutive termination but the prolonged succession of disconnected cuks which are absolutely characteristic of pileation. Jeph, who has worked fifteen years at lumbering in northern New England, recognized him instantly by his voice, exclaiming: - "See! that's one of them big Maine 'leather-heads'" a name new to me. Although I hurried at once to the pine besprinkled hillside but the bird was not there nor could I find him in any of the denser woods beyond. No doubt his calls were uttered just before or after he took wing to fly to some distant place, perhaps a mile or more away. This was the very first occasion when the species has been noted by me anywhere in or very near Concord.

115 House Sparrows. Early in the season a dozen or more of these winged pests frequented Mr. Howe's poultry yard to feed on grain scattered there, flying thence to his woods for similar plunder. During such flights they regularly passed high over our farm which they have evidently learned to avoid because of the hostile reception they have met with there in former years. After shooting at two of them in the Forsythia thicket in front of the house early this Spring I had no further trouble with them. They made no attempt whatever to roost in any of my bird boxes and were not even seen in or near the Chicken yard. Most of them departed the entire neighborhood, including Mr. Howe's & Edwin Sommers' farms, at the beginning of the breeding season although there may have been one or two birds' heads somewhere in this neighborhood as I occasionally saw scattered adult birds there in May & June.

Glendale, Mass.

1913

July 12

The main entrance to Tom Finckel's house, in  
constant use by all the members of the family & their guests,  
is through an open porch facing northward on the  
driveway and supported outwardly by two stout, round  
wooden columns. On some projecting unornamented moulding  
at the top of one of these, close under the rough  
plastered ceiling of the roof of the porch & about eight  
above its flooring, a pair of Robins nested successfully last  
year. This spring they brought out their first brood from  
a nest placed on the corresponding moulding of the opposite  
column and they are now feeding almost fully grown  
young of a second brood in a nest built outside the  
porch among cardboard packing over it. This last  
year's nest, still in excellent preservation, was  
taken possession of several weeks ago by a pair  
of House Wrens who made it serve their purposes

House Wrens

nest in

last year's

nest of

Robins

under porch

Glendale, Mass.

1913

July 12  
(no 2)

by merely adding to it a loosely interwoven superstructure ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~brooding~~ <sup>brooding</sup> ~~dead~~ <sup>dead</sup> ~~things~~ <sup>things</sup> which are almost to the platform  
ending through them the parent birds seem to pass at  
various places, but chiefly downward from near the top,  
during their frequent visits to their young to which they  
are carrying winged insects of considerable size, as well as  
also small, green measuring worms.  
which look like small spiders; <sup>one may stand within</sup>  
8 ft. of the nest & watch them come & go at all hours  
of the day. <sup>Occasionally!</sup> <sup>frequently seen</sup> ~~Just before end~~ of the, feeding his offspring the  
male bird usually bursts into full song once or twice,  
when his rich, quacking voice penetrates through the open  
door to almost every part of the house. When I arrived  
here on the 9<sup>th</sup> the cheeping of the young was interrupted  
and so feeble as to be scarce audible a few feet away.  
It has since become well-nigh incessant & is shrill  
& insistent on the near approach of a food bearing

Haven  
Haven  
was in  
last year's  
Rabbits nest

Glendale, Mass

1913

July 12  
(1913)

parent that I now have it distinctly, which in my  
room in the second story of the house, through the  
open windows 15 or more feet from the nest. The  
heavy chirping of the young Robins mingling with it  
is fuller and louder yet not on the whole so very  
different. Saw you a House Wren breeding at our  
Concord farm made a similar addition to the  
nest of a Phoebe in the wood shed there but  
it was not begun until after the pair of Wrens  
had hatched their second brood in a bird house  
on a nearby pole and no practical use was afterwards  
made of it by them. The shells seemed to be brought in  
only by the ♂ Wren, constantly in long whole lines  
employed. They were regularly thrown out towards  
the end of every day by the Phoebe although these  
also had ceased to use it at the time.

House  
Wren  
nest  
at  
our  
farm

Glandale, Mass.

1913.

July 24

The young House Wrens were in the nest under the eaves of our house at six o'clock last evening when their parents were feeding them there. At 8 o'clock this morning they had all left it and were scattered through the shrubbery on the front side of the lawn where the old birds were kept busy through the day supplying them with food & scolding anyone who passed along the neighboring driveway. At first shrill & chirping the calls of the young, which in the nest, gradually became more and more harsh and grating until, several days before they left it, these cries were closely similar to the rasping chatter of their parents. From morning to night both adult birds worked with unceasing and almost frantic energy to support their ravenous young bringing food to them every few minutes. It seemed towards the left to consist very largely of green meadow worms about an inch in length obtained mostly within fifty yards of the nest in apple trees & shrubbery.

House of  
young  
House Wrens



Concord, Mass.

1913

Aug. 26  
to  
Nov. 13.

After spending most of the summer elsewhere I returned to Concord on August 26 and remained there practically the entire time up to November 13 living in the old farm house and working chiefly in its immediate neighborhood but paying occasional visits to Ball's Hill.

September was for the most part a delightful month with warm days and cloudless skies so that the severe drought that had prevailed through the summer continued unabated save by rather copious rainfalls on the 19<sup>th</sup> and a still heavier down-pour on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was brought finally to an end ~~early~~ in October, however, by almost incessant rainy or misty weather which made this month a memorably dreary one but filled the springs with water and set the brooks to running merrily again after a long period of almost total inactivity. Despite the almost uniformly perfect weather in September there was, during that month, an exceptionally heavy & most interesting flight of migrating Warblers & other small birds.

Indeed I have seldom if ever known them to be more numerous or in greater variety. Of the Warblers I met with almost all the

Concord, Mass.

1913.

Aug 26

Nov. 13

(No 2)

cases as well as commoner kinds that occur regularly in N. E.

Among the former I noted the Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Cape May, Bay-breasted, Western Gull, Mourning and Councilbluffs. Two Lincoln Sparrows were seen together on September 24 and an adult White-crowned was noted on October 1. The September flight of several migrants were much less interrupted or intermittent than usual flowing past almost ceaselessly from day to day although the birds fluctuated considerably in numbers. In October we had an exceptionally heavy flight of White-throated Sparrows & rather more than the usual number of Juncos but only a very few Fox Sparrows. Pine Siskins began to arrive early in the month and occurred abundantly in large flocks during its latter half. On the 27<sup>th</sup> then Hudsonian Tit appeared together near our home remaining there at least up to November 8. The Pine Grosbeak & the Lesser Redpoll were noted on November 6 but not before nor after this date.

I saw more Winter Wren than usual, the first on October 29. Horned Larks arrived on Oct. 28, about their usual date - & were

## Concord, Mass.

1913.

Aug. 26

Nov. 13.

(No 3)

seen or heard almost daily after this. Great flocks of migrating  
 Pomeroy Grackles were observed on October 19, 27 & 29, lesser ones on  
 September 30 and October 20. Noteworthy flights of South-bound Crows  
 occurred only on October 21 and 29.

Hawks of every kind were exceptionally scarce during the whole  
 autumn; Puffed Grouse more than ordinarily numerous (at least in  
 my corner); Ringed Pheasants literally swarmed in fields and  
 thickets at the Farm and about the edges of the wine meadows.  
 At the Farm I saw for the first time an English Pheasant - a  
 fine old cock bird without trace of white on the neck.

The copious rain of September 22 brought a fair number of Wilson's  
 Snipe into the wine meadows and still heavier flights appeared there  
 during the protracted wet spell of early October when Gray Herons  
 bagged no less than fifteen birds in the course of a few  
 hours. I noted only a few Ducks and but 2 Pied-billed Grebes  
 while Canada Geese were neither seen nor heard at all.

Concord, Mass.

1913.

Aug. 26  
Nov. 13.  
No. 4.

Deer.

Deer in varying numbers haunted our woods almost continuously. I saw their fresh tracks frequently in very many places. On October 4 a tired doe hunted by two yapping Airedale Terriers ran first on across the berry pasture on sunset. On October 14 Henry Henshaw & I saw three large bucks with full sets of horns and a small doe in the fields just across the road from the farm house. Here they spent almost half an hour in the early afternoon walking slowly about and munching. It was foggy & also raining, at the time. Some large sweet apples. The bucks seemed on perfectly friendly terms with one another although two of them could occasionally spar a little with their horns, never striking or threatening with them but merely pushing slowly & bitterly just as cows so often do. First one, next the other, would be forced backward a foot or two by this pressure. After separating the two might walk off calmly side by side. The doe regrettably with one & all of them & also gambled about by herself. It was a pretty and interesting sight to watch them thus engaged.

On October 22, in the Latabrook woods not far from the Lime Hill Pratt (the nurseryman) found a Canada Porcupine which someone had shot & hung up in the fork of a birch. It was then in fresh condition. Reginald Heber Howe is said to have secured it for Faxon Museum. All this I learned by telephone from Henry P. Richardson.

Canada  
Porcupine

Concord, Mass.

1913

Aug. 26  
Nov. 13.  
(No 5)

1. Turdus fuscescens. - Two heard calling in one berry pasture on the evening of September 2 were the only ones noted.
2. " a. bicknelli. - A very small bird, tame & closely approached, among cedars and birches bordering the wood road near one peach orchard on September 24.
3. " rossinoni. - Noted on September 4, 5, 11, 12, 14, 16, 23, 24, 28, 29 and finally on October 1, mostly in woods on the west bordering our cultivated land at the Farm. As a rule they were met with singly & no more than one or two accounted in any one day but on September 24, during a walk to Boss's Hill I identified no less than five & had glimpses of several others which looked like Chis-backs. One or two were seen in the apple orchard & one visited a cluster of lilacs close to the house. At evening I frequently heard them calling peenk or chur-ee as triolepis was falling. Their flight calls were also heard at night, sometimes at long intervals. There was an especially heavy flight, thus witnessed, on the night of the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
4. " pallasi. The extreme scarcity of migrating Hermits which has prevailed for several seasons past continued through this autumn although I noted the birds oftener than last year at the same places, hearing one chucking in one berry pasture on the evening of October 4, another three at the same place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> & seeing one in one lane on November 1 & another in Birch Field on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
5. Murela migratoria. - Present continuously but in less than normal numbers. Feeding on grapes in September, on barberries & cedar berries later, mostly in small flocks, 32 seen together on Sept. 14 and 38 on Nov. 13.



Concord, Mass.

1913

Aug. 26

Nov. 13

(no. 6)

6. Galuscoptes carolinensis. Two or three birds seen or heard almost daily through September and up to October 4 at the Farm where the species was noted for the last time on Oct. 11. There was also at least one bird in the swamp behind Ball's Hill. The Cat birds at the Farm were, I think, then their last bird there. They haunted the thickets in the berry pasture & those in front of the house and along the lane, making a good deal of noise & worry but keeping silent through the day. Through September they seemed to be feeding chiefly on elder berries.
7. Horolophopus rufus. September 3-27, a single bird haunting thickets in the berry pasture & about our farm buildings. At evening I occasionally heard it calling phew & making the peculiar snake-like blowing or hissing sound.
8. Sialia sialis. September 1 - October 23. Rather less numerous than usual but good sized flocks occasionally seen drifting about our fields & through orchards with Chipping or Yellow throats trailing after them. On September 14 & again on Oct. 6 at least 30 birds were thus seen together.
9. Regulus calendula. - noted much oftener than usual - on September 25 & 28 and October 9, 13, 17, 19, 28 & 29. On the 19<sup>th</sup> (Oct.) two were seen together. As the others occurred singly, in berries, cedar & apple orchards for two most part. One met with on October 9 was in full song (at 8 a.m.); one of those seen on October 19 was singing to-to to-to in a decidedly soft & subdued tone.
10. Regulus satrapa. - Arrived Sept. 30. Afterwards present in several numbers. Six birds together in cedar & beech on Nov. 6.

Concord, Mass.

1913.

Aug. 26

Nov. 13

No. 7

11. Parus atricapillus. - In rather less than normal numbers, occurring oftener in couples or singly although flocks of from six to eight birds each were occasionally met with. The phoebe call, given strongly & repeated many times, was heard often in September usually not long after sunrise of a clear, calm morning. In October I heard it only twice - on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>.

12. Parus hudsonicus. - During the forenoon of October 27 - a clear, almost windless and delightfully warm day - I heard at rather frequent intervals, near our farmhouse, the characteristic call of a Hudsonian Chickadee but it was not until almost noon that I succeeded in tracing it to the bird - or rather birds, for there proved to be three of them together on the eastern slope just below the old Barrett barn. Here they were flitting about among clusters of spruce of one or two seasons growth where grey birches, poplars & oaks were cut away to free the scattered young hickories from all danger of being too much crowded. Keeping for the most part only a yard or two above the ground & sometimes descending to it they fed busily and as a rule silently during the next ten or fifteen minutes while I stood watching them some more than a rod away. Not once did they show any inclination to join several Blue-capped Chickadees calling incessantly in the large oaks near the barn. On the following day (28<sup>th</sup>) I heard them repeatedly in the apple trees behind the house and finally saw them fly thence, one after another, to the top of the huge elm that stands by the roadside just below the house. I saw them in it again about 2 P.M. on the 29<sup>th</sup> and also heard them calling about the place both before & after this hour. The familiar & unmistakable call was again heard, very near at hand, in the apple trees behind the house on November 4 and somewhat faintly, yet distinctly, in Birch Field on the 6<sup>th</sup>. It is my strong impression that all three birds remained together in the immediate neighborhood of the house up to at least the 4 and after that wandered more or less far away from it. As far as I was able to observe they invariably kept together & quite apart from all birds of other kinds. I heard them utter only the usual emphatic chick, chee-dee, dee-note.

November 25. While cutting grass this morning I heard a Hudsonian Chickadee call once very near me, in the belt of maple birch, etc. that extends along the eastern base of Birch Hill near the meadow. I looked in vain for the author of that note but found 3 Blue-capped Chickadees near the spot where they seemed to come.

## Boned, Mass.

1913.

Aug. 26

Nov. 13

(No. 8)

13. Sitta carolinensis. - A frequent but by no means daily visitor to the big chow that shade our farm house. Sometimes one but often two birds appeared, usually not long after sunrise. When two came they were invariably ♂ & ♀ & I thought the male fair that regularly feeds them. On November 6 I saw them together but these were in the trees. I occasionally saw or heard one near Burdett's or on Ball's Hill or in Puffer's Rock woods.

14. Sitta canadensis. - In the large chow about our house come also this species of Nuthatch, less frequently, however, than the other kind. I first noted it here on August 31, <sup>after</sup> ~~before~~ during September and but seen in October (22<sup>nd</sup>), On November 6 & 11 I heard its call in Woods Field and on September 24 I saw a ♀ on Pine Hill. Little evidently there was but a light incursion of this species this autumn.

15. - Certhia f. americana. - Arrived September 21. <sup>(early November)</sup> During October I was usually able to find one bird in Puffer's Rock woods whenever I went there & another was occasionally met with on or near Ball's Hill.

16. Troglodytes aedon. - August 30 - September 28. Seen or heard very frequently in stone walls and thickets bordering the lane in front of the farm house & in the berry pasture. There may have been several birds haunting these places but not more than one was certainly noted. No doubt it (or they) had lingered thus during the close of the breeding season. For the most part it (or they) merely chattered & scolded when disturbed but soft warbling of a very sweet if faint quality was indulged in on Sept. 4, 5 and 6.

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 Nov. 13  
 (no 9)

17. Troglodytes hyemalis.— On September 17 I found a Winter Wren on the edge of the Run just below our pond on Chase in the morning & either the same or another bird in Puffer's Rock woods later in the afternoon. On October 17 Henry W. Henshaw & I met with one in the deep hollow below the Barre Spring "squeaking" it out of a bed of ground juniper to within a few feet of us.
18. Anthus pusillirostris.— First noted on September 28. Afterwards seen or heard almost daily up to November 6, the date of Cabot record. Rather less numerous than usual. Noted chiefly on wing, flying to & fro over the Farm. Met with in Henshaw's pasture only on October 16 when fifteen birds were feeding on the clover-cropped turf there. The largest number of birds seen in any one flock did not exceed 25.
19. Mniotilta varia.— Single birds seen every few days between August 30 and September 25, mostly at the Farm where they haunted the big elms about the house & barn in company with Black-birds & other migrating Woodpeckers.
20. Helminthophila rubricapilla.— Noted certainly only on September 25 when two birds were seen in gray birches at the Farm with many Black-birds & other Woodpeckers.
21. Helminthophila celata.— S. O. Dexter & I found one in Birch Field on the afternoon of September 24 when the country was flooded with migrating Woodpeckers of various species. The bird appeared suddenly in a dead or at least leafless bush surrounded by dense foliage of gray birches & white pines. Here we viewed it for several seconds through our glasses at a distance of not

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Nov. 13

(No 10)

Helminthophila celata) more than 20 ft. & in clear sunlight. It was a dull & almost unicolorous individual, showing little or no yellowish, even on the under parts. It jerked up its tail twice but uttered no call. There were many Black-polls close about it. At length it took a short flight into a leafy corner & was seen no more.

22. Helminthophila jaegerina. - On the morning of September 9 a young Tennessee Warbler very green (apparently grass-green) above, with strongly yellow (primrose?) yellow / under parts, appeared in a low apple tree in front of our farm house where I had a close and open view of it, watching it for several minutes through my glass. Long noon & then it uttered a sharp chirp much like that of a Nashville Warbler. There were several Black-polls & Black-throated Green Warblers with or near it in the apple tree.

23. Comptothlypis a. ussuri. - House Wrenblers occurred more commonly than usual this autumn at our farm haunting the orchard trees & the tops of the big elms for the most part. I saw them here rather frequently from September 11 to October 9 and met with one belated bird (♀ juv.) on November 4, an exceptionally late date. During September they were often heard singing and on the mornings of the 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> one gave the full song repeatedly while flocks & more halting song was heard on October 1 & 9.

24. Dendroica tigrina. On September 20 a female Cape May Warbler colored & marked almost precisely like the one noted on Sept. 17 of last year & similarly tame but more restless & less sedentary appeared near our house, at first in the little "Wheatley" apple tree



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1913.

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Nov. 13  
(No 11)

(Dendroica tigrina) in the flower garden when I stood within 12 feet of it watching it flit actively about among the terminal foliage of low, drooping branches 5 or 6 feet above the ground. Here it was quite alone but after dashing off hurriedly, with excited chirping, towards our big elm it must have soon flown to the lawn in front of the barn where, some fifteen minutes later, I found it in rather close association with a dozen or more other Woodpeckers of different & diverse kinds. Nevertheless it continued to keep somewhat apart from them and much lower down, chiefly in a dense oak. When I watched it through my glasses several minutes. Like the one seen last year it impressed me as a rarely beautiful and attractive little bird singularly graceful of shape and movement, with plumage kept in perfect order and most exquisitely colored and marked with delicately harmonizing or jarringly contrasting tints & shades. It seemed to have little fear of me and neither inclination nor aversion to the company of the other birds in the little mixed flock. Its movements were at times quite as animated as those of any of the rest.

About noon of the next following day (21<sup>st</sup>) I saw what was no doubt the same bird bathing energetically in the big hollow-topped stone in front of the house in company with a Black-bellied Woodpecker, a Song Sparrow & 2 Chipping. All five kept at it almost ceaselessly for a minute or two. When the Cape May emerged from her bath and flew up into an apple tree she looked very unlike the trim little beauty I noted yesterday for her plumage was completely soaked and bedraggled. But by shaking & preening it vigorously she soon restored it to something like its normal appearance & then flew off towards the lawn.

25. Dendroica aestiva. Noted only once - on September 2 when a ♀ was observed at the Farm, in the oak grove just behind the barn, in company with D. virens at Junco hyemalis.

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(No. 12)

26. Dendroica caerulescens. A ♂ juv. seen in mixed flock in Birch Field on September 21. On the 26<sup>th</sup> I was pruning an apple tree in the orchard when a ♀ appeared directly over me and presently tried to perch on the terminal and still moving end of my pole pruner which seemed to excite her curiosity greatly.
27. Dendroica coronata. Arrived September 12, Present in the largest numbers Sept. 24-25, frequenting gray birches in company with D. striata. Common from this time up to October 16 after which comparatively few were noted, the last on November 13. During this as in many a previous autumn I frequently saw Yellow-rumps, to the number of a dozen or more, accompanying flocks of Bluebirds flying over wide open fields & meadows sometimes rather high in air, and usually bringing up the rear of the loose, straggling procession of birds and calling quite as freely as the Bluebirds. Not infrequently the flock would contain more or less Chipping, also. When the dew-soaked roofs of our farm buildings were steaming in the haze of the early morning sun they were often resorted to by Yellow-rumps who hopped all over them & peered in under the eaves or perched on fluttering wings to do so, apparently seeking insects there.
28. Dendroica maculosa Only one record, that of a ♀ seen among gray birches, in Birch Field, on September 24.
29. Dendroica pennsylvanica. A young bird in big elm near barn on farm on August 31, another in oaks behind barn on September 2 & an adult ♂ (showing wide chestnut stripes on sides) in Birch Field on September 21, all three in company with Waxwings of other kinds.

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(No. 13)

30. Dendroica castanea. - On the morning of September 5 I saw, in company with other Woodpeckers flitting about in the top of the large elm that stands in front of the old barn at the Farm, an adult ♂ Bay-breast so richly colored that had the month been May, instead of September, I should have thought him in full nuptial plumage. For the chestnut on his breast & flanks appeared to be quite as bright & widespread as in Spring and the blackish markings on the head, ordinarily characteristic of that season only, were also conspicuously present. Another adult ♂ seen feeding in gray birches in the Berry Pasture, with some black-poll, late in the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> showed broad and solid bars of chestnut on the flanks but otherwise was in normal autumnal plumage. The species was not certainly noted on any other occasion.
31. Dendroica striata. - Arriving on September 4 (when a single young bird was noted) the black-poll continued to increase in numbers up to the 24<sup>th</sup> when, during a walk from the Farm to Bass' Hill, Mr. Dexter & I saw not less than 200 of them. On the following day they were perhaps half as numerous. After that they gradually decreased the last (2 birds) being seen on October 6. During the two days of greatest abundance they were so universally distributed through woods, thickets, orchards and shade trees about houses that wherever one went they were almost constantly in sight or hearing. Even in the depths of extensive pine woods there were troops of them drifting to & fro with soft chirping calling. But by far the larger numbers resorted to gray birch covers to feed on the Aphididae swarming them, as usual at this season. Once or twice I heard the little song, given faintly.

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 to  
 Nov. 13  
 (No. 14)

32. Dendroica blackburni. - ♂ juv. with pale yellow throat in big elm, front of farm house, September 5; ♂ ad. with orange throat in pine on Back Hill, September 6; ♂ juv. in line of tall oaks near our peach orchard and ♀ juv. in gray beech in Run, September 24. All these birds come in company with hordes of other kinds.
33. Dendroica virens. - August 26 - October 5. Present in normal numbers. Frequently not only white & pitch pine woods but also - and almost, if not quite, as constantly & numerously - the tops of the big elms standing close about our farm buildings which I occasionally saw them in apple trees in the orchard. Amid such cultivated surroundings, as well as in the gray beech in Birch Field to which they resorted freely, they were usually seen in company with other Warblers of various kind but in pine woods they were not usually to be found apart by themselves in little flocks containing any other than 3 or 4 to 7 or 8 birds each & perhaps including an adult ♂ with full black throat. I did not hear any of them sing this autumn.
34. Dendroica virens. - Less in evidence than usual. A ♂ seen on Back Hill, August 26; another heard singing (two full song, given only once, however) in the apple orchard on the Farm, October 1; a ♀ feeding in gray beech in Birch Field, with D. striata or coronata, October 5; and an imperfectly seen & not quite certainly identified bird, closely pursued by a Shrike through the pines on Green Hill, November 2.
35. Dendroica palmarum. - On September 24 S. O. Dwyer & I found a typical bird (showing almost no trace of yellow beneath) in Birch Field when it kept very low down & sometimes alighted on the ground. There were several Yellow Palm

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to  
Nov. 13

(No. 15)

(*Dendroica palmarum*) Warblers near at hand but it seemed to keep apart from them. Later in the day we found another bird which looked like *trise holoserena*, in the Berry Pasture. An utter typical one, having literally no yellow on the under parts save on the sides, was met with among some little pines on the edge of an opening in Birch Field on September 25. It was very tame & anxious flitting close about me sometimes within 4 or 10 feet. There was a typical *hyposcypha* note for a way.

36. *Dendroica f. hyposcypha*. In Birch Field, keeping low down in gray birch & young white and forest pines, I saw three or four Green Palm Warblers on September 24 and one on the 25<sup>th</sup> which still another was noted in the same place on October 16.

37. *Scirrus auricapillus*. - Noted only on September 3 & 28 - a single bird on each occasion -

38. *Scirrus naboracensis*. - On September 15 Gilbert saw a Water Thrush perched on the rim of a hayrack full of water just behind the barn on the 7<sup>th</sup> am. I heard another chirping in Birch Field on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

39. *Geothlypis agilis*. - Shortly after sunset on the evening of September 30 I was strolling through our Berry Pasture when a Connecticut Warbler began chirping excitedly in a thicket near at hand, keeping it up incessantly for at least two minutes, and uttering only the usual loud, insistent, trill-like whink. This note is not unlike one of the calls of *G. philadelphia* but is more metallic in quality and not to be mistaken, I think (at least by one familiar with it), for the utterance of any other New England frequenting bird -



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 Nov. 13  
 (No. 16)

40. Geothlypis Philadelphia. - About 9 a.m. on September 28<sup>th</sup> I was standing at the edge of our raspberry patch when a bird began chirping in dense shrubbery bordering the road some three separate ten leaf bushes from the house. Although it uttered only a note not unlike those of a Maryland Yellowthroat I suspected at once that it was a Hairy Woodpecker which presently proved to be the case when, impelled, apparently, by insatiable curiosity, it showed itself at the edge of our thicket flitting about among the branches of <sup>about</sup> our <sup>raspberry</sup> bush when, in bright sunlight & scarce thirty feet away, it permitted me to watch it for at least 2 minutes through my glass. It looked like an adult ♀ in antennal plumage having a good deal of ashy on the sides & top of the head but the entire under parts, including the throat and breast, was clear & almost perfectly uniform yellow. It chirped excitedly, rapidly & continuously for fully a minute and jerked or fluted its tail a good deal. At length it flew down into the thicket where I felt sure of finding it again when, a few minutes later, I returned to the place with Gloria M. Allen & several youths interested in birds who happened to have been left on the house. But notwithstanding it quite in vain, not only there but elsewhere in various similar places in the neighborhood.

41. Geothlypis Trichas. - In September - up to at least the 24<sup>th</sup>, when the species was last noted - one or two birds frequented thickets close about our old farm house, sometimes visiting a bed of Juncus in front of the house.

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1913.

Aug. 26  
to  
Nov. 13.  
(No. 17)

42. Setophaga ruticilla - Single birds, mostly in ♀ plumage and in company with other Warblers were noted in clus at the Farm, in Birds Field or at Balls Hill, on August 30 & 31, September 1, 4, 5, 6, 11, 21 and 24. Adults ♀ seen on September 4 and another on 24<sup>th</sup>, the former in apparently full plumage, the latter moulted & having only a streak of a tail.

43.

Vireo olivaceus. - Heard singing feebly & fleetly, & only in the early morning, on August 31 & September 2, 3 & 5. Four birds together in mixed flock of warblers at Balls Hill on Sept. 6. A single bird noted on Sept. 9 & another on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

44. Vireo solitarius. - Much less common than usual. Noted on three occasions only: - September 6, when one was seen at the Farm & another heard in full song on Pine Hill; September 15, when another was seen with at the Farm; October 3, when the single bird in the clus at the Farm furnished the last record for the season.

45. Vireo flavifrons. - Noted only in Concord village where, in clus near the Common, one was heard in full song on the morning of August 27 and again on that of the 28<sup>th</sup>.

46. Lanius borealis. About 9 a. m. on October 29 I heard the peculiar rusty-hinge-like sound of a Shrike's call and looking up saw two birds flying together, high in air over one farm house, towards the South east. They were apparently migrating. In the afternoon of the same day I again heard one but failed to see the bird. On November 2, rather late in the afternoon, one passed me, within a few yards, on Green Hill, in hot pursuit

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Nov. 13.

(No. 18)

of a lesser bird which looked & chirped like a Pine Warbler and was flitting through dense white pine foliage. Being eaten too much on two little flightless to make vigorous use of its wings it progressed rather slowly and was easily and repeatedly overtaken by the Shrike but while within our view always eluded him at the last moment by doubling or wheeling suddenly, nor did we hear it cry out afterwards although we listened intently & the air was calm. Hence we thought it must have finally escaped. The Shrike followed it closely, with the utmost eagerness, spreading his tail wide every time he had to walk on a sharp turn.

On November 6 I was approaching the foot of one lane from the River when I heard the odd shrieking cry of a Shrike repeated several times in quick succession and coming apparently from the upper orchard. From the same direction there came, a moment later, the agonized cries of some small birds which the Shrike must have caught and killed - not too quickly for they continued for upwards of a minute, growing ever fainter and fainter and more despairing as it seemed. On reaching the orchard I looked in vain for the Shrike but saw several Chickadees and Juncos. Either species may well have furnished the poor victims that supplied the ravenous Buteo with his coveted meal on this occasion.

Not long after sunset on November 12 I was surprised to see a Shrike flying into the dense young pines in front of our bedroom at the Farm with several Juncos which he seemed to be accompanying rather than pursuing with sinister intent. At least he made no obvious attempt to molest any of them, although for an instant in the very midst of them, nor did they show any fear of him. After disappearing with them among the pines he emerged just beyond and glided off low over an open field across the road.

While returning to Cambridge on November 26 we saw a very large & brown Shrike that flitted from tree to tree ahead of the car, in Lawrence

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47. Ampelis cedrorum. - We seldom see many Cedar Birds in autumn at Concord. They were even less numerous than they usual this year being noted only on August 29 and September 5 and heard, mostly, on each occasion.
48. Hirundo erythrogastra. - Not long after sunset on August 26 I was strolling through Pine Park on the lawn of Bobb's Hill when a flock of about 50 Swallows came whirling past. Judging by their cries I thought that mostly if not nearly all, of them were Barn Swallows. Two birds of this species were seen on the 27<sup>th</sup> and two more on the 28<sup>th</sup>, flitting low over the turf in grass fields near Concord village.
49. Tachycineta bicolor. - There must have been at least a few birds of this species in the big flock of Barn Swallows seen at Bobb's Hill on the evening of August 26 for I heard the calls of two females several times. The species was not noted afterwards. What has become of the mid-autumn flights of the Swallows that we used to see along Concord River? I have not noted one for many years past.
50. Cotile riparia. - A few Bank Swallows, also, must have been mingled with the Barn & Tree Swallows seen at Bobb's Hill on the evening of August 26 when I heard three calls more than once coming from the twirling flock. None were noted after this.
51. Parus erythronotus. - A ♀ in elm at Farm, September 1; an adult ♂ with jet black wings & tail but no rufous red in mixed flock of Warblers

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(on the 6<sup>th</sup>;

etc. among flocks at near of Ball's Hill & a bird imperfectly seen in a  
flock on Pine Hill in the evening twilight of the 15<sup>th</sup>. On these  
occasions only was the species noted this autumn

52. Pinicola enucleator. - On November 6 I heard the flight call  
of a Pine Grosbeak, oft repeated, in Birch Field and  
also near our farm house. Apparently the notes were  
uttered by a single bird, wandering about in air  
& seeking others of its kind. Precisely such a bird  
(in ♀ plumage) alighted, about noon on the 25<sup>th</sup>,  
in the big elm near our farm house where it commenced  
calling anxiously for several minutes. Its flight call  
was heard that dawn morning at Pine Hill and on  
the following day (26<sup>th</sup>) again at the Farm.
53. Carpodacus purpureus. - Seen or heard almost daily at the Farm  
through September and October. Noted for the last time  
on November 6. When seen there was usually only a  
single bird or at most a couple perched in an  
apple tree in the orchard or in a red cedar near  
the front of the lawn. On October 1 a bird sang at  
frequent intervals, through most of the forenoon, in  
the orchard, for the most part feebly and brokenly  
but once it was in nearly if not quite full voice  
for a half minute or so. Another on the lawn,  
was again singing feebly in the lawn here on  
the 27<sup>th</sup>. On September 6 the species was noted  
(by hearing) at Ball's Hill.
54. Loxia minor. - Heard at the Farm on September 16, the sole  
record for the entire autumn



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55. Acanthis linaria. - First noted in the early morning of November 6 when the chattering flight call was heard especially in Birch Field mingling with the calls of Pine Siskinets. Four birds of each species were seen here together feeding in the top of a gray birch on its abundant seeds, on November 25 when the flight call of the Redpolls was also heard elsewhere at intervals throughout the day. Between the 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> I found Redpolls very numerous on Bethel, Maine, indicating that the flight, this action, is general (or will be) throughout most of New England.

56. Spirus tristis. - Early in September many Goldfinches appeared daily close about our farm house attracted by the seeds of sun flowers on which they fed greedily & ceaselessly until the supply was quite exhausted. Sometimes there were upwards of a dozen birds, mostly young, assembled in a cluster of sun flowers growing close to the old barn. The adult males were then still in summer plumage, worn & faded, however. Throughout the month the young remained about the place frequenting the upper orchard after the sunflower seeds were all eaten and calling almost incessantly at all hours of the day, uttering the sweet, plaintive may-be notes which are especially associated with this season, as well as with later August, and which are now most pleasing & grateful to hear. By October 4 the old males had begun changing to winter plumage which was almost fully perfected a month later. After the middle of October the birds frequented gray birch canes chiefly feeding on the birch seeds on small stalks.

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57. Spizus pinus. - A rather heavy autumnal flight noted first on October 6 the birds became soon so abundant that on the 13<sup>th</sup> I pass upwards of thirty seen over apple orchard at the Farm and as heavy seen in Birch Field. They frequented the latter place in varying numbers up to the close of my stay and when I returned to the farm for a couple of days still later I found flocks of them there (on November 25) feeding on the gray birch buds in company with some Redpolls. By that time the bulk of the flight had evidently passed on elsewhere, probably further to the southward but up to the 13<sup>th</sup> I had noticed no marked decrease although I thought the birds were somewhat less numerous than when they had been about the middle of October, when one might see or hear them about constantly during an entire day. The largest flocks I met with contained not more than thirty or forty members each while the usual number collected together did not exceed a dozen or fifteen. They were restless & nervous, as a rule, spending much of their time rising about on wing and taking flight alarm when disturbed by any loud sound although indifferent enough to my close approach provided I made no noise.

58. Plectrophenax nivalis. - Noted only once - only in the morning of November 13, when the flight call of an unseen bird, passing overhead over the Farm, was clearly heard.

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59. Pooecetes gramineus. - While strolling over Mr. Harris' pasture on the evening of September 4 I heard a Grass Finch singing freely and the first song of another came over to my ears on October 15 as I was standing in front of our front door.
60. Zonotrichia leucophrys. - On October 1 I heard a White-crowned Sparrow uttering the whit call note (so like that of the Least Flycatcher) incessantly & excitedly in a grape vine covering a young elm growing at the back of the house at the Farm. The bird proved to be an adult in handsome plumage. It was so tame that I approached it within ten or fifteen yards & watched it for several minutes, without, however, discovering the cause of its evident apprehension or suspicion - which may, perhaps, have been due to the near presence of a cat.
61. Zonotrichia albicollis. - Beginning to appear by September 9 (when a single immature bird was noted) White-throats became abundant at the Farm not long after the middle of the month. On the 24<sup>th</sup> there was a flock of 50 assembled there. In nearly or quite equal, but at no times greater, numbers they continued to be seen daily up to about October 10 after which they became gradually less and less numerous, the last (eight in number) being observed on the 29<sup>th</sup>. During the period of their greatest abundance they haunted our grape vines by day and fed almost exclusively on the fruit of these vines preferring that of the Concord and Delaware and neglecting that of the Niagara until after the supply

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of the more favored kinds had come to an end, after they had been frequenting the vineyard numerous for a week or ten days it was difficult to find a single bunch of Concord or Delaware which they had not mutilated more or less. Excepting at the very last of the season they seldom or never destroyed all the grapes of any one bunch but usually left at least one half of them untouched. As a rule the largest ones were attacked first. It was interesting to watch them thrusting their bills into grape after grape. Apparently they sucked out only a portion of the juicy pulp, leaving part of it within the skin and never eating the seeds. The damage thus committed would have been deplorable had the grapes been intended for market but such being not the case we had more than we could eat and did not mind the loss of those which the Sparrows had pecked. As far as I could ascertain very many birds remained about the place day after day, if not week after week, during the period when the grapes were at the best. There was, however, frequently evening fluctuations in their total numbers due, no doubt, to successive arrivals from the north and departures for the south. When the weather was fine & warm they sang rather freely at all hours of the day, usually in flocks, broken tones although very near and then one would pour out its characteristic notes in clear, full & almost normally loud tones. At evening, shortly before or after sunset, they invariably deserted the vineyard and flew, one after another, across the road to our Berry Pasture where one or all of them invariably spent the night, cooing in blueberry bushes & in dense young junos. Here they chirped, and called, and sang to one another until twilight began to fade making, at times, a surprising amount of pleasing & more or less musical sound. After the last grapes had gone they fed chiefly on the ground, among weeds.

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62. *Spizella monticola*. First noted on October 29 when a single bird was seen in our Berry Pasture. After this I met with them almost daily (but never numerous, no more than 2 or 3 being ever encountered together) at the Farm where they fed chiefly on the ground, among rock woods, and also, not infrequently, on the seeds of gray birches gleaned among the tops and upper branches of these trees. I often heard their tinkling, musical tweedle-tweedle calls and faint chirping ones but not the song. Returning to Concord later in the month of November I found them somewhat more numerous, being 6 together in one place and 2 in another - on the 25<sup>th</sup>

63.

*Spizella socialis*. During September and the first half of October I could almost always be seen feeding 30 or 40 Chippins in our front orchard where they fed among some rock woods on the ground and flew up into the trees with rather loudly fluttering wings on my near approach. Scattered & far the most part single birds were also occasionally seen feeding in the tops of gray birches in company with black-hair & olive-backed but whatever, like them, they were descending the hooping birds Aphididae or merely the seeds of the birches, I failed to ascertain. On October 16 I saw upwards of 30 birds in our flock and on the 17<sup>th</sup> about 12. After that they diminished rapidly in numbers and the last (a solitary bird) occurred on the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month. About 9 a.m. on October 1

64. *Spizella pusilla*. - Noted only on October 5 when a single bird in company with Junco was seen among gray birches at the Farm.



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(No. 26)

65. *Junco hyemalis*. - Arrived September 21 when seven birds were seen together in Birch Field. It continued, through the remainder of the autumn, to be one of the most locally favored haunts of the Junco. Upwards of fifty were seen here and rather more elsewhere, on October 16, apparently the date of the heaviest of our the autumnal flights. Although almost as many were found together (I counted sixty-two) in one other outbreak on November 7. Up to this date, indeed, there had been no very appreciable diminution in the average number of birds present from day to day. After that they decreased rather rapidly. Returning to the Farm on November 24 I noted only one Junco on the 25<sup>th</sup> & but one on the 26<sup>th</sup>, so probably the entire migration of birds toward South Forest has passed before these dates. Where most numerous they occurred practically everywhere, even in the heart of dry upland woods, but far more abundantly in wood grown fields and gray Birch thickets than elsewhere. Early in November they were constantly present at the Farm in flocks of from 10 or 12 to 40 or 50 birds each which drifted to spots through the day visiting every patch of woods and gleaming, also, the smooth cut belts of corn close about the house. About sunset they flew either into the farms in front of the Barnyard or into the dark thicket across the road, to pass the night. As I was returning one evening, when the light had had almost faded from the east, across a wide & perfectly open mowing field I flushed three Juncos from a little prostrate white fern leaf that one of the

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Aug. 26 men had dropped their wings before. These they had settled in  
 Nov. 13 or under its shelter for the night can scarcely be open to doubt  
 (No. 27) On November 7 and again on the 8<sup>th</sup>, I heard the whirring song  
 given repeatedly but rather feebly.

66. Melospiza melodia. - Present in abundance of not quite normal  
 autumnal numbers. At the Farm from 4 to 8 birds  
 were always to be found about thickets and wood patches  
 near the house up to about the 5<sup>th</sup> of October and  
 one or two continued to linger there almost through  
 the month, the last being noted on the 29<sup>th</sup>. I  
 heard young singing feebly and broken almost daily  
 and adults in full song on September 12, 19, 20, 21,  
 22, and 28 and on October 1, 5, 8, 9, 13 and 29.

67. Melospiza georgiana. - Being seldom within sight or sound of  
 the river meadows this autumn I had but few  
 opportunities of encountering the Swamp Sparrow and  
 indeed noted it on three occasions, only September 21,  
 21 and 27 - at Ball's Hill. A bird heard there  
 on the last named date gave the full song over  
 about sunset.

68. Melospiza lincolni. - Late in the afternoon of September 24  
 - a day memorable for the great number and variety of  
 migrating warblers that it brought - Mr. S. O. Dexter & I  
 found two Lincoln's Sparrows in our Berry Pasture. At  
 first they in a dense swampy alder thicket where  
 one was closely viewed in a low bush, the other on  
 a stone wall. Later - about sunset - they appeared  
 together on the bare muddy shore of our little pond

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when we watched them to uncommon advantage for several minutes gliding or creeping to and fro, with lowered heads and bellies almost brushing the wet mud, so that they looked, in the already fading light, more like mice than birds. Sometimes they crouched or crept so near together that their bodies seemed almost to touch. When a Song Sparrow joined them he appeared by contrast almost twice as large and much more loosely straddled, especially above.

69. Passerella iliaca. The exceptional scarcity of Fox Sparrows at Concord last Spring was almost as marked this autumn - tending to confirm my impression, formed in the Spring, that the species must have met with heavy numerical losses within the past year and doubtless at the South Coast winter. At the Farm I noted a single bird - presumably the same bird on each occasion - on October 22, 23, 25, 27, 29, November 4, 7, 8, & 12. Four birds were seen together there on November 5 and 10. Two were met with just across the river from Boer's Hill on November 11. The full song was heard on October 29 and sotto voce singing on the 25<sup>th</sup> of that month.

70. Pipilo erythrophthalmus. - At least two flocks of opposite sexes were seen singly at the Farm, at frequent intervals, from September 16 to October 13, usually in the forsythia thicket directly in front of the house or along the lawn where they associated with White-throated Sparrows and like these were almost certainly feeding on Concord grapes although I have only indirect evidence that such was the case. They often called loudly & insistently at morning & evening but no song was heard.

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71. Habia ludoviciana. - In Sleepy Hollow Cemetery a Grosbeak was heard clicking on August 29. Another was heard near Auger's Mill on September 3. At the Farm two young birds appeared together in the big elm in front of the house on August 31 and the click note was heard on September 1, 4 and 21 (on the last named date at Birchfield).

72. Passerina cyanea - Up to about the middle of September there were at least two Indigo Birds haunting Umbrella orchard trees and weed patches at the Farm. After the 12<sup>th</sup> I noted only one - for the last time on the 27<sup>th</sup>. At sunset on the 16<sup>th</sup> I heard the song normally long and otherwise finished and complete but given only once and in subdued tones - especially low and sweet. Just before noon on the 14<sup>th</sup> a young bird spent upwards of twenty minutes fluttering on the outside of a closed window on the ground floor on the rear of our old farm house, returning to it again and again at short intervals, never once flying head at the glass but beating it so forcibly with its wings that the sound produced by them was very distinctly audible within. Sometimes it would perch for a moment on the sash and strike a pane repeatedly with its bill, making a loud tapping noise. About 4 P.M. it appeared at a window (also of the lower story) at the front of the house where it fluttered and tapped as before but only for two or three minutes.

Indigo Bird  
flutters at  
closed window

73. Dolichonyx oryzivorus. - Rather less common than usual. Noted chiefly in the early morning and on the strength of its call notes heard mostly at the Farm - for the last time on September 18.

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74. Sturnella magna. - Ten Meadow Larks seen in a field near the Concord Hospital on August 29, several observed in the meadow just above the bridge on September 25 and a solitary bird flushed in Mr. How's field on October 12 were all I happened to note.

75. Icterus galbula. - In the early morning of August 27 & 28 an adult ♂ Oriole sang freely & well in the trees that shade Colonial Inn where I was staying at the time. At the Farm I heard what was doubtless a young ♂ singing freely on August 30 and saw two birds together, in oaks behind the barn, on September 5.

76. Scotophagus Carolinus. - Decidedly less numerous than usual - as was also the case last spring. At the Farm I saw or heard four birds on October 1, one on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, two on the 8<sup>th</sup> (eating sweet corn from the ear), one on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, three on the 28<sup>th</sup>, then on November 5 and eleven (together) on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Upwards of twenty-five were observed in a single flock on Nashawtuck Hill (Gay Lark) by H. W. Henshaw and S. O. Dexter, on October 17.

77. Luscalus g. cinereus. - Passing flocks of south-bound migrants were noted at the Farm on the following dates & hours:- One of 45 birds (counted) flying low S. at 7 a.m. on September 30; another of 600+ (estimated) rising with a roar of wings & intermingling voices from Lawrence Corn field before going off S.W. at 11 a.m. on October 19; a third of 25 birds (estimated) in one clump in the early morning of October 20; a fourth of 150+ (estimated)



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circling low over the house at 11 A.M. on October 27; a fifth of 300+ (estimated) and a sixth of approximately the same number which passed, respectively, over the orchard towards the S.W. at 8 A.M. & 4 P.M. on October 29. In every instance when the flock was moving straight on to the southwest all its members flapped their wings incessantly (or nearly so) and kept to a level plane, wholly differing from the successive undulations so characteristic of ordinary flight. Their speed, also, was very much greater than usual and, indeed, rather surprisingly so. The only straggling bird noted during this outbreak was a ♀ that alighted in the oaks behind our barn on October 17.

78. Cornus americanus. - Constantly present in normal numbers. The bird with the odd caw-caw cry heard almost daily. On August 27 I was not a little surprised to see 62 Crows rise, one after another, from the meadow just across the ever from Ball's Hill to which they must have been drawn by some unusual attraction for it is scarcely reasonable to assume that they were migrating. Unmistakable south-bound flights coming from further north were noted on October 21 when upwards of 300 birds appeared circling in a dense cloud over the farm at 8 A.M.; on the 29<sup>th</sup>, when about 150 passed rather high in air & in loose, straggling order, so that the first was well nigh out of sight to the S.W. before the last appeared in the distance to the N.E. - much as they fly over Washington of a winter evening. A flight (scarcely straggling) of 31 birds passed in the same direction at 1 P.M. on November 6 and another

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of only about 25' at 7 a.m. on November 7. When moving high in air and in loose order, on migration, the birds ordinarily kept perfect silence. It was very impressive to watch them flit thus, one after another, at widely spaced intervals, ahead of the flock, each following closely the course set by the leaders of the main procession.

79. Cyanocitta cristata. - Although constantly present, Blue Jays were, for the most part, so much less numerous than usual that I seldom saw or heard more than two or three in the course of a single day except towards the close of September and early in October, when as many as seven or eight might be noted at the Farm, whether they were attracted by the abundant supply of acorns and chestnuts borne by trees protected by spraying against the ravages of gypsy and brown tort caterpillars which elsewhere had devastated the foliage in early summer, thus preventing the trees from yielding any fruit. During the entire autumn I failed to notice anything in the nature of obvious migration from further north or even of departure of our local birds for the South, the number of jays which frequented our woods seeming to remain about the same during the whole autumn save when, as above stated, they congregated at the Farm to harvest the acorns & chestnuts there.

80. Otocoris alpestris. - Horned Larks presumably of this northern breeding race were noted at the Farm on October 28 and November 7, 11, 12 & 13. They were seen or heard only on wing flying low just the floor in various directions & in small flocks.

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81. Tyrannus tyrannus. - Present almost daily at the Farm up to September 11 haunting the tops of the big elms & oaks near the house in couples or little family groups one of which (on the 5<sup>th</sup>) contained five birds, another (on the 8<sup>th</sup>) four of which two were young apparently fully grown yet fed almost every other minute by the two parent birds with elder berries. These were obtained from the large bush growing by the woods in front of the house. Having within a few inches of the cyrus of ripe fruit the bird would pluck over a single berry at a time and at once fly with it in his bill to young perched in the elm above.
82. Mniarchus cinctus. - Apparently wholly absent from the Farm but a bird was heard calling on Pine Hill (August 27) and another (apparently a white) closely viewed in Prescott's pine (September 6)
83. Sayornis phoebe. Of Phoebes I saw much less than usual in autumn and in fact surprisingly little my only records being of single birds noted respectively at the Farm on August 30 & 31 and September 9, and at the Ritchie place on September 17 & 24. The song was not over heard.
84. Contopus virens. - A bird singing faintly well in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery on August 28 & 29; a silent bird at the Farm in one doorway elm on September 4; another singing freely at times the full spring song with all its variations and modulations in this same elm on September 6; one singing feebly & listlessly then on the 7<sup>th</sup>. These were all I noted.

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85. Trochilus colubris. - At the Farm a gorgeous Bed of Quinis attracted a white throated Hummingbird on September 4, 9 & 14 while another was seen in the Case on the 5<sup>th</sup>. At Concord Village one came to Nasturtium in front of the Colonial Inn on the 20<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, according to James C. Melvin, who, on the 26<sup>th</sup>, saw an adult ♂ with full ruby throat above their Savon flowers

Hummingbird  
♂ adult  
with full  
ruby throat  
at Lois date

86. Chaetura pelagica. - At sunset on the evening of August 26 I saw three Swifts flying straight & low S.W. past Ball's Hill, apparently on migration. This species was last seen on September 14 when a single bird passed low over the Farm towards the S.E. at 4 P.M. During the interim between these dates Swifts were noted not infrequently but in no great numbers. Indeed with the exception of four observed on September 1 I never saw more than two together or in any one day. Most of them were heading southward & doubtless migrating

87. Antrostomus vociferans. - At the Farm I heard Whippoorwill singing on several occasions in early September. One day broke on the 1<sup>st</sup> about a dozen successive calls were given. At the same hour on the 11<sup>th</sup> a bird sang almost continuously for at least two minutes and repeated its call a few times (8) at evening (6.20 P.M.). On the 12<sup>th</sup> one indulged in five brief snatches of song (4.8 calls each time) between 6.20 & 6.26 P.M. (Over!) thought I saw it gliding low past me for the

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twilight. On the 13<sup>th</sup> a few calls were heard at 6.27 P.M.  
On the 14<sup>th</sup> a bird gave 4 calls at 6.20, 8 at 6.23 and  
4 at 6.24 P.M. In every instance the songs were heard to  
the westward of the house and apparently coming from  
beyond the confines of the Berry Pasture, except on the  
morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> when the Hopperwell was much nearer at hand  
and I thought within a few yards of my chamber window.  
It is not unlikely that one and the same bird was the subject  
of all these records.

88. Chordeiles virginiana. - Two night hawks heading southwest  
over Ball's Hill were seen by Gilbert about 6 P.M.  
on September 1. I saw one going in the same  
direction over the Farm at 5.45 P.M. that  
same evening and another than circling high  
in air at 6 P.M. on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

89. Dryobates villosus. - Present in normal numbers not  
apparently increased, as the autumn advanced,  
by an inflow from farther north. As usual  
the local birds ranged over the entire place but  
were oftener seen or heard in the large elms  
at the Farm or on Ball's or Davis's Hill.  
On August 29 I saw one in Sleeping Hollows Cemetery.

90.

Dryobates pubescens. Single birds seen at infrequent intervals  
at the Farm oftener in the old elms close about  
the house. There were two birds together in one  
of these trees on October 22 and one at Ball's Hill  
on November 2. Apparently there were fewer  
Downy than Hairy Woodpeckers in one woods this autumn



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91. Sphyrapicus varius. - Scarcely of more frequent occurrence than usual but this may have been because I spent the entire autumn at the farm which is evidently a favorite stopping place for migrating Sapsuckers. I noted the first a juv. ♀, in the oak grove behind the house on September 2d. On the 27<sup>th</sup> a young ♂ spent most of the day in a large apple tree at the rear of the house, digging "wells" in its trunk about ten feet above the ground where there were several perfectly fresh ones extending half around the tree and similar in every respect to the countless old ones with which it was elsewhere encircled and which were of the ordinary type commonly attributed to the Downy Woodpecker. That the Sapsucker made at least one of fresh holes is open to me doubt for he did it before my eyes. I failed to see that he got either Sap or Cambium layer from it. There was a young ♂ in elms & apple trees along one lane on September 30 and a similar looking bird in the large elm just to the west of the house on October 4. On the 5<sup>th</sup> two young Sapsuckers, ♂ & ♀, appeared in a small apple tree in front of the house. The ♂ remained there only a few minutes, the ♀ during most of the day, digging a dozen or more "wells" three of which I saw her make, spending about two minutes at work on each. On the following day (6<sup>th</sup>) she was in a neighboring tree & again making "wells" while another Sapsucker flew past as I was watching her. On the 7<sup>th</sup> I saw her again in the same tree. On the 9<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> the sneaking joy-birding was

Sapsuckers  
digging  
wells in  
trunks of  
apple trees

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uttered within my hearing and near the house by an unseen bird (or birds). The species was last noted on October 15 when a juv. ♂ & ♀ were seen in the orchard digging wells industriously in the trunk of an apple tree and gleaning over their possession incessantly, the ♂ usually preworking and driving the ♀ away for a moment every time he made a lunge at her with his sharp bill.

92. Colaptes auratus. - Flickers are seldom much in evidence in autumn about our place on Concord. This year they seemed less common than usual for during the entire month of September I noted the species scores more than a dozen times and saw in all not to exceed twenty birds of which many or less were doubtless mated with on more than one occasion thus reducing the actual total number. On the 21<sup>st</sup> one was seen at the farm, another in Basin Field, then together at Mendon's pasture.

No evidence of any flight from England's pasture north was obtained. The very latest date of observation was September 30 when a single bird was seen at the farm. About 5 P.M. on September 7 I was passing beneath an apple tree in which a pair of Flickers reared their brood last spring when a ♂ showed his head at the hole, looking out and down at me calmly. No doubt he was intending to spend the night there.

93. Ceryle alcyon. - Seldom visiting the river this autumn I did not note many Kingfishers. Indeed my field book records only four in all, of which Gilbert saw one at Ball's Hill on September 1 and I then near it on October 5.

94. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. - But one autumnal record - that of a bird which I saw on September 5 flying from tree to tree in our apple orchard at the farm & identified positively.

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(no 38)

95. *Megascops asio*. Evidence of the presence of Screech Owls

at the Farm was afforded only, but not infrequently, by their nocturnal cries heard usually during the earlier part of the night & oftenest of all when twilight was fading but the moon was still glowing with waxy light. The commonest utterance was the familiar wailing one and next to that the succession of rattling whistles. On the evening of September 12 and again on that of October 21, I heard a short, gasping, throaty cry repeated several times at brief intervals. It was rather loud and very impressive, suggesting the choking utterance of some human being in deep distress and calling for help or trying to. Sometimes it sounded like ah-h, again more like ei-e. Neither of these renderings conveys any idea of its agonized quality which positively made me shudder as I listened. I have heard it before but not, often and always in summer or autumn, I believe.

Nocturnal  
cries of the  
Screech Owl

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96. Pandion carolinensis - noted only once - on

September 28 when a bird was seen high in air, flying south-west over the crest of Punkatasset Hill

97. Bircus hudsonius. - Owing, no doubt, to

the infrequency of my visits to the river meadows I saw

only a few Marsh Hawks this autumn. A ♂ juv. was seen at

Ball's Hill on August 27, a ♀ at the Farm on September 4, an

adult ♂ and a ♀ near Ball's Hill on the 6<sup>th</sup>, an adult ♂ in

our Berry Pasture at the Farm on the 14<sup>th</sup>, another (or the same)

in this pasture on October 7, a ♀ in Howe's meadows on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

a brownish-looking bird at Ball's Hill on the 26<sup>th</sup>

98. Accipiter cooperii. - Noted only on September 21

when one was seen on wing near Ball's Hill.

99. Accipiter velox. - This species, also, was noted

on only one occasion - September 12 when a ♀ appeared

at the Farm, soaring above the apple orchard.

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(no 40)

100. Buteo borealis (?). Late in the afternoon of November 2 a large, slow-flapping Buteo which I took to be a Red-tail flew from a tall oak as I was passing the northern base of Punkataw<sup>sk</sup> Hill. Unfortunately it was seen only on wing, at a distance of more than one hundred yards, and silhouetted against the dazzling light on the sinking sun so that I could not make out its coloring which looked very dark and indeed almost black - as would that of almost any bird viewed under similar conditions. It was certainly not a Red-shouldered Hawk but may possibly have been a Black-throated Bluebird although its manner of flight was, I thought, characteristic of B. borealis.

101. Buteo lineatus. Noted at the Farm on August 31, September 11 & 15, October 9. On all but one of these occasions its wild, ringing cries were heard. On September 6 two birds (one adult, the other young) were in sight at once from Ball's Hill - perched on poles in the meadow just across the river.



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Aug. 26  
to  
Nov. 13

(No 411)

102. Zenaidura macroura. A Dove seen flying low and swiftly to the eastward from our farm house on October 3 furnished my sole autumn record for this year.

103. Bonasa umbellus. Most of the sportsmen whom I have questioned on the subject agree in thinking that Ruffed Grouse have been unusually plentiful in the Concord Region during the past autumn. Such is decidedly my impression regarding the birds in our own woods when I have certainly seen them in numbers greater than for several seasons past. They have been noted oftenest in Birch Forest, the Run and the Berry Pasture - sometimes to the number of eight or ten during a short walk. More or less of them came regularly every evening just after sunset, for hours in succession, to the lane in front of the barn to feast at first on Concord grapes, later on hawberries - both more than commonly abundant there. They were also beginning to bud the apple trees before I left the place. One bird that

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Aug. 26

Nov. 13

(No 42)

frequented the Run became so tame that he would stalk slowly along a path only a few yards in front of me. Another (or perhaps the same), in the Berry Pasture remained for upwards of half an hour in a thicket within thirty yards of where one of the men was cutting down tall bushes under my direction. When one of them fell with a loud crashing of branches the bird raised sometimes chitter excitedly and walked on a few yards but he did not fly until I finally made him do so. All the haunts of the Partridge at the Farm constantly harbored Ring-necked Pheasants in at least equal numbers. As far as I can ascertain none of the former have as yet been driven away by the latter species. There was less autumnal drumming of Partridges than usual but I heard it not infrequently between October 3 and 22 and for the very last time on the latter date - often at the lower end of the Run, in the timber-houseed place.

At Ball's Hill there were at least three locally resident Partridges one of which was observed on ~~the~~ <sup>tame & confiding</sup> as the bird at the Farm.

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to  
Nov. 13.

(No 43)

103. Phasianus torquatus. - The increase of Pheasants throughout the Concord Region has been not less marked than general within the past two years. In and about Old Farm they literally swarmed this autumn, especially early in the season. Towards its close I saw much less of them, possibly because they then retired more into dense cover although the frequency with the reports of guns were heard early in the morning at ten o'clock of a neighbors home led me to suspect that many a bird may have been illicitly slain there by him or some one else. Throughout the autumn they fed at morning and evening well out in open grass fields and weed-grown cultivated lands spending the warmer hours of the day in bordering woods and thickets. It is to be hoped they also resorted to spend the night usually in the tops of bushy young white pines fifteen or twenty feet in height. Several such trees in our Berry Pasture they came very regularly next long after sunset often flying to them from rather far off in the fields

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to

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(No 44)

and indulging in repeated outbreaks of abominably loud and prolonged coc-coc-coc-coc calling, as well as occasional cawing, before finally settling on their nests. Sometimes only two or three came but often there were four or five or many and on October 27 they congregated there to the number of fifteen or twenty, making the still air resound with their clamor. A male adult that I watched from my house on the 22<sup>nd</sup> was actively engaged in the pursuit of grasshoppers in the field across the road. After standing on he would dive after it very swiftly and perhaps flutter upward a few feet in an attempt to seize it - with what success I could not make out. On another occasion I saw two adult males in this field face one another seven or eight feet with threatening gestures, occasionally pulling out with their bills & I thought, alas, I was, but not apparently with much effect. There was not nearly so much cawing this autumn as last. Indeed it was heard on only a very few occasions even in early morning.

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1913.

Aug. 26  
to  
Nov. 13.  
(No 45)

104. Phasianus colchicus.— On September 21, 26 and 27, a fine old cock Ring-necked Pheasant followed by four hens was also accompanied by another adult ♂ bird which showed no trace of white on head or neck and hence was apparently a typical English Pheasant. Perhaps he had strayed here from Cavendish, Mass. where Bayard Thayer is said to have turned out a considerable number of British Pheasants or their offspring within a year or so. Strange to say he and the other cock seemed to be on perfectly friendly terms despite the presence of the hens. All six birds were, at the time, haunting our Berry Pasture where they were accustomed to visit a milch patch in front of the house traversing the intervening open space on foot in a rather conspicuous manner.

105. Ardea herodias.— On September 6 I saw three birds circling and slowly drifting S. E. over the farm at an immense height quite as great, indeed, as those at which Geese are ever known



Concord, Mass.

1913.

Aug. 26

Nov. 13

(No. 46)

to fly. A single Heron going in the same direction but much

lower, passed on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Two seen from our front house at 8

a.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup>, were flying due south at no great height above

the trees. I got no October record but on November 11 saw

a bird flying low over the river just Davis Hill in the

direction of Carlisle Bridge.

106. Nycticorax n. naevius. - At the Farm early in

the evening of August 31 I heard the barking notes of a

Night Heron in the distance towards Heston's Pond one

which the bird was probably cycling before alighting; at

the same hour on October 20 at least two birds were

heard quacking very loudly, apparently while roosting over

the house low down towards this same pond.

107. Charadrius d. dominicensis. - About 8 a.m. on

September 4 I was standing near our front house when

the squealing flight call of a Golden Plover came faintly but distinctly  
to my ears. It was rain falling & a light easterly wind blowing, on the river

Lowland, Mass.

1913.

Aug. 26  
9 to  
Nov. 13  
(No 47)

108. Philohela minor... just before sunset on October 21 a Woodcock, coming from the eastward, passed me within twenty yards and dropped into deep, swampy cover in one Barry Poston's when I flushed it a few minutes later when it flew off out of sight over Mr. How's brook pasture to the westward.

On the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and again on that of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and of the 27<sup>th</sup> I heard a bird which may well have been the same, undoubtedly, rise on whistling wings from a place, if not precisely the same spot and go off beyond ear shot in the same direction. On each of these occasions

I looked at my watch as soon as the sound was first heard and on every one of them the hour and minute were exactly the same (I cannot say as to the second) or just

5:20 P.M. - when twilight was fading but the water still

still gleaming. How could the Woodcock, carrying no watch, have timed his departure (with which I had nothing to do, not having entered the cover or otherwise disturbed him) with such astonishingly close approach to the same instant on three three wings. I noted no other bird there

Concord, Mass.

1913.

Aug. 26  
to  
Nov. 13.

(No 48)

109. Gallinago delicata. - My only personal record for the autumn was made on September 6 when, at Ball's Hill, with the sun shining brightly on the tinn, I heard the flight calls of at least two birds which <sup>have</sup> apparently on wing at the same time over the marsh across the river although I failed to get sight or action of them.

The river meadows were then too dry to harbor many Snipe but were thoroughly soaked and for a time partly flooded by rains that came early in October when the birds occurred plentifully enough according to the local gunners, one of whom told me of the killing of eight about the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month which another <sup>(George Holden)</sup> claimed to have flushed upwards of twenty, and to have bagged no less than fifteen, in the course of two or three hours on October 12 (or "about" some date).

Concord, Mass.

1913.

Aug. 26

to

Nov. 13

(No 49).

110. Actitis macularia. - Noted for the first and last time on August 26 when a bird was heard calling in the coming twilight over the river at Ball's Hill.

111. Fulica americana. - A gunner who landed from his boat at Ball's Hill on October 23 showed R. A. Gilbert a freshly-killed Coot which he said he had shot in the river near Castle Bridge an hour or two earlier than forenoon.

112. Anas obscura. - About 3 P.M. on October 5 I was standing in front of the cabins at Ball's Hill when three Black Ducks, accompanied by a lesser bird which looked like a Shoveler, passed low over the water, flying down river. I failed to note the Black Duck either before or after this, not being often where it was likely to be seen.

113. Spatula clypeata (L.). I have just mentioned seeing at Ball's Hill on October 5 a which "looked like

Concord, Mass.

1913.

Aug. 26

Nov. 13

(No 50)

a Shoveler. A few minutes after it had flown down stream with the three Black Ducks it came back without them and passed me within 150 yards, when I had a much better view of it than before, seeing quite plainly that it was of just the right size for a Spatula clypeata; that its general coloring was rather light brown; that it had a good deal of white in the spectrum; that its head and bill were conspicuously larger, proportionately, than those of any other surface feeding duck except the Species just named. At the present time when these observations were made the bird was flying low and steadily across the marsh where our boat canal joins it. Further to the westward the Duck alighted in some little pool in the meadows, putting down very abruptly with a peculiar twisting motion which, if I remember rightly, is rather characteristic of the Shoveler.



Bowdoin, Mass.

1913.

Aug. 26

Nov. 13

{No 51}

114. Podilymbus podiceps - Not being often near the river this autumn I had few opportunities of viewing Grebes and indeed saw but one which was floating within sight of the cabin on October 14. Sanford Bowen reported seeing the same or another similar Grebe on or on 25<sup>th</sup>.

Bethel, Maine

1913.

Nov. 15-22

Reached Bethel on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup> and spent one week there, returning to Boston on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Found the conditions there and between there & Boston almost precisely as I had left them in Concord & Cambridge. There was - and had been - no snow whatever even on the tops of the highest mountains. The grass over the village lawns was still vividly green & dotted here & there with dandelion blossoms. The surface of the ground was hard frozen & some of the smaller ponds encased in thin ice on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. After that it became warmer & warmer all night & day. On the 20<sup>th</sup> the thermometer rose to 62° Fahr. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> I saw cattle & sheep grazing in the pastures & farmers ploughing their fields all the way from Bethel to Portland. A young man on the train who had come, that morning from Fitchburg reported the same conditions in the heart of the White Mountains with no frost or snow anywhere.

Especially  
with conditions

Bethel, Maine

1913.

Nov. 15-22

(No 2)

1. Parus atricapillus... Apparently by no means numerous. One or two appeared close about the house almost every morning & I met with a few others in forest depths, sometimes in company with Golden-crowned Kinglets. The greatest number found together did not exceed 5 or 6, nor were more than 8 or 10 noted in any one day.

2. Parus ludovicianus... Single birds noted on 16, 19, 20 & 21 all in dense conifer forest. On the 20<sup>th</sup> I found one in one place, another in another. One or two others of these two perhaps furnished the single observations on the remaining three dates so that only two different birds may have been noted in all; since they were within hearing distance of Moose Lake Chickadee yet not in association with them; they were very noisy, calling at short intervals but using only the ordinary harsh, wisp, twat call notes. One that I watched closely for a long time seemed less active than a Chickadee & did not over

1913

Nov. 15-22

(No 3)

bird or long head downward but nearly hopped & flitted through the branches like a Lark or Sparrow

3. Sitta Canadensis. - Two met with on the 18<sup>th</sup> and two near the same spot on the 19<sup>th</sup> in dense, tall balsams in the Glen Woods. They were very noisy, indulging in prolonged outbursts of intermingling or alternating whining and harsh coo-coo-coo calls.
4. Regulus Satrapa. - Two found together on the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> and two couples in widely separated places on the 21<sup>st</sup> all in dense conifer forest well back from any clearing.
5. Catherpes f. americana. - Two together on the 19<sup>th</sup>, a solitary bird on the 21<sup>st</sup>, all three on the trunks of white pines in the Glen Woods.
6. Lanius borealis. - One heard calling somewhere in (or over) the village elms on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>

Bethel, Maine.

1913.

Nov. 15-22 7. Atlapapha vesperina - About 9.30 A. M. on Nov 21<sup>st</sup> - a  
(No 4)

clear, mild day with light westerly winds. I was on my way  
down the driveway from Dr. Selwigs house to the "Crown Cottage"  
intending to spend the forenoon working there in my room when  
there came to my ears a succession of unfamiliar whistling in  
notes very loud, shrill & penetrating yet without rather musical  
or, at least pleasing, in quality and best described, I thought,  
as cree-c, cree-c-c, cree-c-c. They reminded me of the  
squeaking flight calls of young Golden Plover but were not clearly  
like those. On first hearing them I said to myself "that  
cannot well be anything but an Evening Grosbeak." A moment  
later I saw the bird flying through some shrubbery but  
got only the nearest glimpses at it through intertwining branches  
seeing only that it was of about the size & shape of the  
bird I had in mind. Its calling ceased almost immediately  
& I looked for it about the place in vain so went into the

Bethel, Maine

1913.

Nov. 15-22  
(No 5)

Evening  
Grasshopper

house & up to my room. Scarcely had I started myself than the whistling calls were resumed, seeming to come from very near at hand. Pushing down and out I could still hear them but growing fainter & fainter until they quite died away in the distance, towards Paradise Hill. Thence I hastened, without avail, however, for the bird that made them was neither heard nor seen again. On mentioning it at the Doctor's table, at luncheon time, I learned that he too had noted its loud voice while treating a patient in Green Gables cottage & stepping to the window had seen one looking for it in the shrubbery. Just after I returned the house he saw it fly from the shrubbery into the top of an oak that stands midway between the two houses, where he had a good view of it but against the sky so that its colors were not well shown. Before this, however, and just before I had emerged from the Gehring mansion it had



Bethel, Maine.

1913.

Nov. 15-22  
(No 6)

been viewed to excellent advantage by William Bingham 2<sup>nd</sup>, one of my fellow guests, who on approaching the Benson Cottage, noticed the bird perched in a Forsythia bush growing by the front porch directly beneath my windows. Standing within fifteen feet of it he had it in full sunlight and watched it for several minutes noting especially its short, thick bill and its interesting grayish, olivaceous and yellow coloring - for according to this description it must have been either a ♀ or a young ♂.

By imitating its whistle he set it to calling excitedly. This happened just as I was leaving the Gehring house. Half a minute later the cat ran across the lawn towards it and caused it to take flight, where it sought refuge in another & neighboring shrub - where I overlooked it. It was perhaps attracted to another by our door by the Japanese barberry bushes - loaded at that time with bright red fruit. Thus by a narrow chance did I both see & hear, yet fail to satisfactorily view, my first Evening Grosbeak.

Evening  
Grosbeak.

Bethel, Maine

1913.

Nov. 15-22 8. Pinicola enucleator. - Heard calling on the 16<sup>th</sup> near Dr. Gehring's  
(no 7)

house & on the 21<sup>st</sup> far back in the forest.

9. Acauthis linaria. - Seen or heard daily, whenever I went out of doors. On the 18<sup>th</sup> I saw at one time 14 birds & at another upwards of 50, feeding in the tops of a larch thickly hung with cones which the Redpolls were pecking to pieces. For the most part, however, they seemed to affect gray birches, frequently fruiting <sup>(many of)</sup> ~~competition~~, beneath which the ground was littered with the chaff-like seeds of the disintegrated cones they had been working on. As far as I was able to make out under favoring conditions, with the aid of my glass, all the birds that came under my notice were typical linaria. There were but few sooty-breasted ones. I heard the swelling swee-e-e-e-e song over on the 18<sup>th</sup> just as the flock took wing -

Bethel, Maine

1913.

- Nov. 15-22. 10. Spizella monticola. - One seen, in company with a Junco, (no 8) in Dr. Gehring's apple orchard on the 16<sup>th</sup>; another heard chirping in swampy thickets east of the house on the 18<sup>th</sup>.
11. Junco hyemalis. - On the 16<sup>th</sup> I saw a Junco with a few sparrows in the apple orchard. On the 18<sup>th</sup> another (or the same) was noted near the house.
12. Passer domesticus. - Upstarts of a dozen birds chattering along the upright trunk of a large elm in the village, on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
13. Cyanocitta cristata. - One heard screaming long & loud on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Then seen (along wood edges near the Gehring's) on 19<sup>th</sup>, one on 21<sup>st</sup>.
14. Dryobates pubescens. - On the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup> I met with a ♂ & ♀ Downy far back in the forest and rather widely separated from one another.
15. Bonasa c. lagotis. - One seen on the 16<sup>th</sup>, four on the 20<sup>th</sup>, two on the 21<sup>st</sup>, all quite as wary as our Mass. birds.



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Feb. 1  
1900.