

Journal, 1899.

at
7
Dec.



Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

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Wm. Brewster checked the passages in this volume for 1899. I have copied them all into "Systematic Notes, Vols. 1-63".

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Walter Deane, October 27, 1900.

For the most part, was clear and mild the thermometer seldom falling below 20° at night and usually going above 32° at noon, while it rose to, or a little above, 40° on the 11th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 23rd and 24th. Under these conditions the snow wasted rapidly and a deluge of warm rain which came on the 16th removed practically all that remained in the roads and fields while the grass, which it had shielded from the severe frosts of late December and early January, came out almost as fresh and green as in spring. There was a second heavy rain on the 24th but the only snow fall which occurred actually within the month was one of two or three inches on the evening of the 31st. On the 27th another cold wave began and lasted through the remainder of January but the lowest temperature reached was 8° on the 28th.

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January.

The month began clear and cold with the ground deeply buried in snow. Of this a portion had remained from the great November storm but about eight inches fell on the night of December 31st. At sunrise on January 2nd the thermometer stood at -3° , the lowest temperature of the whole month. At noon on the 5th the highest temperature, 58° , was reached. From the 5th to the 26th the weather, for the most part, was clear and mild the thermometer seldom falling below 20° at night and usually going above 32° at noon, while it rose to, or a little above, 40° on the 11th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 23rd and 24th. Under these conditions the snow wasted rapidly and a deluge of warm rain which came on the 16th removed practically all that remained in the roads and fields while the grass, which it had shielded from the severe frosts of late December and early January, came out almost as fresh and green as in spring. There was a second heavy rain on the 24th but the only snow fall which occurred actually within the month was one of two or three inches on the evening of the 31st. On the 27th another cold wave began and lasted through the remainder of January but the lowest temperature reached was 8° on the 28th.

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January. With the exception of two trips to Boston my ramblings
(No.2). during the month have been confined to short morning walks in
the immediate neighborhood of our place and a single drive to
Mt. Auburn and Fresh Pond. Those of my friends who have been
further afield report birds exceedingly scarce with no rare
or irregular winter visitors present. O.A. Lothrop has found
in the Fresh Pond swamps only a few Song Sparrows, two or
three Tree Sparrows, a flock of twelve Meadow Larks (near
Fresh Pond, Jan. 8th) and one of ten Chickadees. For the first
time in years no Shrikes and neither the Red-tailed nor the
Red-shouldered Hawk have been seen in these swamps but I found
a Shrike at Fresh Pond Grove on the 17th. On the 8th Walter
and George Deane walked from Arlington to Waverly through
woods and cedar grown pastures looking carefully for birds but
meeting with only two Brown Creepers, about six Chickadees and
five Crows. Two Kingfishers have been seen, one at Mystic
Pond, by W. Faxon, on the 15th, the other in Boston, on the
Beacon St. sea wall just west of Harvard Bridge, by A. Hathaway
on the 24th. Hathaway also saw a female Red-winged Blackbird
at the Bay State Clay Pit on the 7th. Herring Gulls and
Whistlers have frequented Charles River Basin whenever this
sheet of water has been reasonably free from ice but the
Whistlers have been much less numerous there than is usual at

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1899. this season. Fresh Pond has been closed with ice ever since January. Christmas.

(No.3). The following birds were noted during the month in our

garden or in the large trees in front of the house:-

1. Parus atricapillus. Seen almost daily in numbers varying from one to ten.
2. Sitta carolinensis. A male on the 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 & 11th
3. Certhia f.americana. Two together on the 5th & 9th, a single bird almost daily through the month.
4. Regulus satrapa. A female Knight, usually alone but sometimes with Chickadees, was noted on the 13, 16, 26 & 28th
5. Ampelis cedrorum. A solitary bird with full wax tipped wings appeared in the garden on the 30th visiting the cedar tree and spending some time in the little crab apple at the east end of the Museum. (It paid us a second visit on February 1st).
6. Zonotrichia albicollis. Two birds present during the first week of January and seen once or twice afterwards.
7. Passer domesticus. Present constantly in numbers varying from 10 or 12 to 40 or 50.
8. Corvus americanus. Frequently heard cawing in or over our lindens at daybreak. One also visited the suet in front of the dressing room window on two occasions but without apparently eating any of it.

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- January. 9. Cyanocitta cristata. Two birds together in the garden on (No.4). the 4th and one on the 3rd, 6th & 13th. They inspected the suet in the elm but did not touch it.
10. Dryobates pubescens. Seen almost daily.
11. Colaptes auratus. Two on the 3rd, a single bird on the 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13 & 23rd.
12. Merascops asio. At about 5 P.M. on the 30th, a Screech Owl was reported in the garden. Walter, Purdie, Gilbert and I rushed out and at once heard the bird wailing. A moment later we discovered it perched about 35 feet above the ground in an apple tree just back of the lilacs. We could see it distinctly against the sky sitting erect and moving its head freely, both up and down with a bobbing motion and revolving from side to side. We walked directly beneath it before it took alarm and flew off towards Hubbard Park. During the past ten or fifteen years Screech Owls have been seen frequently, at all seasons, in other parts of Cambridge and nests have been found in the College grounds, on Kirkland Street, and near the Botanic Gardens but this is the first bird that has visited our place for a long time.
13. Accipiter velox. An adult female appeared in the garden on the 10th, perching for several minutes in the large apple tree where the Screech Owl was seen. On the 24th

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January. what was doubtless the same bird paid us another visit alight-
(No.5). ing first low down in the lilacs over the little pond behind
the house and afterwards flying to the elm over the driveway.
On both occasions all the Sparrows on the place rushed to
cover at once hiding behind the slats of blinds or in the
vines which cling to the walls of the Museum and not venturing
forth again until after the Hawk had departed.

Several of the species above mentioned, although of not
uncommon occurrence here at this season, were evidently at-
tracted to our grounds in unusual numbers and with exceptional
frequency by some suet of which, late in December, I hung a
large piece in the elm over the driveway in front of our
dressing room window at the same time placing another piece
in the crab apple tree at the east end of the Museum within
two yards or less of the library window. For a week or more
both pieces passed apparently unnoticed but early in January
the birds began coming to them and after this one or both were
visited more or less regularly and frequently by Chickadees,
Brown Creepers, a White-breasted Nuthatch, several Downy Wood-
peckers and a number of English Sparrows. The Chickadees and
Woodpeckers were almost daily visitors; the Creepers appeared
less often but still not infrequently; the Nuthatch came reg-
ularly up to the 11th after which it disappeared. Crows and

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January. Jays came into the elm on a few occasions but although they (No.6). looked at the suet longingly they did not venture to touch it.

The canny English Sparrows, bountifully supplied with bread crumbs from the kitchen in addition to such grain as they could pilfer from the Pigeons (they not^{only} entered a wire-enclosed yard for this purpose but a few of the bolder ones even ventured into the pigeon loft over my study) regarded the suet at first with a mixture of indifference and suspicion but when the native birds began to partake of it freely they gathered close about and watched them with grave attention. At length - on January 22nd - having satisfied themselves by repeated observations that the suet was neither poisoned nor the bait of some hidden snare they attacked the piece in the elm coming to it singly or in small parties the members of which, clustering over it like bees, feasted greedily. Although they often quarrelled with one another I could not discover that they ever molested or even threatened the native birds. Nevertheless the Creepers and Woodpeckers either disliked them or distrusted them for neither species would approach the suet when a Sparrow was on it nor would either continue eating when one came very near.

The plucky little Chickadees, however, showed no fear whatever of the Sparrows but met them on all occasions with

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January. the same independent yet friendly spirit which they display (No.7). towards most other small birds. Their numbers apparently varied from day to day but the first flock evidently contained ten birds although only twice during the month were they all seen together. I suspected, however, that most of them really visited the suet daily, coming singly or in parties of from two to five or six. One member of the flock was wholly destitute of a tail and was accordingly christened (by Walter) "Sine cauda". When several birds appeared in company they usually ate singly, each awaiting his turn with evident impatience but great good temper and when his opportunity came flitting to the coveted perch the instant his predecessor vacated it. Apparently there was some understanding among them as to the maximum length of time during which each bird might occupy it for they changed places very frequently usually once every two minutes or less. The same bird, however, often returned more than once before his appetite was appeased.

Occasionally two birds would alight on the suet at once; if on opposite sides or one at the top, the other clinging back downward beneath, neither seemed to object to the other's presence - possibly because it was not noticed - but if side by side a short but spirited contest for exclusive possession invariably occurred. Twice, however, I saw a Chickadee and an

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January. English Sparrow, perched on the top of the suet in full view (No. 8). of, and scarce six inches from, one another, continue eating for several minutes, neither bird paying the slightest apparent attention to his vis-a-vis. On another occasion a Chickadee and a Downy Woodpecker were observed eating on opposite sides of the suet at the same time. The Chickadees visited the suet at all hours of the day but oftenest during the forenoon. I heard them give the phoebe call a few times but not with much spirit.

The Creepers, with the timidity characteristic of their kind, never ventured to approach the suet when any of the other birds were engaged at it. It was amusing to watch one of them slowly climbing the opposite side of the elm pretending to regard the bark closely but at every convenient opportunity peeping around the bole to see if the Chickadee or Sparrow had departed, and, if he had not, dropping to the foot of the tree and ascending again, often repeating this many times in succession. When the coast was finally clear the Creeper would alight on the top of the suet and eat greedily for several minutes never pecking at it vigorously as did the Chickadees and Woodpeckers but laboriously prying or tearing out shreds or fragments, often of such large size that he had difficulty in swallowing them.

Twice during the month I saw a Creeper descend to the

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January. ground under the elm and ramble over a large area of bare and
(No. 9). frozen turf, moving rather gracefully and easily by a succession of elastic Sparrow-like hops. His head was carried high, his neck, which was held at nearly right angles with the body, appeared unusually slender and elongated. He frequently stopped to pick up something from the surface of the ground, possibly small particles of suet which had fallen from above. Once the bird was joined by a large flock of English Sparrows whose presence, strange to say, did not appear to disconcert him in the least.

The Brown Creeper while ascending the trunk of a tree ordinarily carries his tail nearly in line with ^{his body but with} the spiny tips of the rectrices pressed lightly against the bark. Occasionally, however, the tail is jerked sharply outward and upward at each upward hop. This motion always accompanies the act of voiding the excrement.

At about 9 A.M. on the morning of the 9th a Creeper in one of our apple trees gave the full spring song twice in quick succession but in rather subdued tones. The weather, at the time, was mild with a fine rain falling.

Scarce a day passed when the garden or the large trees about the house were not enlivened by the presence of a Downy Woodpecker and frequently, especially towards the close of

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January. the month, two females came together while on a few occasions (No.10). a male and female appeared in company. Like the Chickadees they were evidently attracted by the suet of which they ate freely usually attacking the sides of the piece and using their powerful bills so effectively that their appetites were soon satisfied. Although at Concord they never give place to and frequently displace the Chickadees they seem to either fear or dislike the English Sparrows here never attempting to drive them from the suet and when approached by one or more of them showing evident uneasiness; sometimes even leaving the suet abruptly and flying away to a distance. They have been so strictly and uniformly silent during the month that I do not remember once ~~having~~ hearing a note or call of any kind.

The Flickers came into the garden every few days, either singly or two birds in company. They ignored the suet but after the middle of the month were frequently seen eating of the abundant fruit of a Parkman's apple tree. I heard their ki-u call several times but there has been neither "shouting" nor drumming.

The two White-throated Sparrows were with us during the whole of December last and up to January 8th when they departed suddenly and without obvious reason reappearing, however, on the 15th and again on the 18th. One was in full plumage, the other a dull colored bird with ashy throat. They were

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January. nearly always seen together, either in the dense thicket of (No.11). lilacs at the rear of the house or near the kitchen where they and the English Sparrows were liberally supplied each morning with toast or stale loaf bread broken into small pieces. They showed neither fear nor aversion towards the English Sparrows but mingled with them on apparently friendly terms and, so far as we observed, they were never molested or even threatened by them. Like the English Sparrows they appeared to prefer bread to anything else although they also ate some millet seed which I scattered under the lilacs. During December the white-throated bird frequently answered my whistled imitation of the peabody call and once fairly started he sometimes sang dozens of times in succession in fairly full clear tones; after January came in I failed to get any response from him.

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February. The first half of February was steadily cold, the mercury falling to zero on the 9th & 12th, to 5° below zero on the 10th, to 6° below on the 11th, and rising above 32° only once - on the 4th at noon when it reached 33°. The 1st, 2nd, 9th, 10th and 15th were the only perfectly clear days. About three inches of snow fell on the 3rd, two inches on the 5th, four inches on the 7th, six inches on the 8th, six inches on the 12th and sixteen inches on the 13th.

On the 16th the weather moderated and continued mild to the end of the month, the temperature rising above 40° almost every day and seldom falling much below 30° at night, the extremes being 48° ^{(reached} at noon on the 17th, 20th, 21st, 22nd and 27th) and 19° (at 6 A.M. on the 26th). During most of this period the sky was cloudless, the air brilliantly clear and there was almost no wind. The only precipitation came in the form of a light rain on the night of the 26th and the forenoon of the 27th.

The snow storm of the 12th & 13th was characterized by the Boston Transcript as "one of the greatest known in the past thirty-two years". It extended over the whole of the eastern United States and was everywhere accompanied by low temperature and violent North to North-east winds which drifted the snow badly, the railroads being almost completely

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February disabled for two or three days. At Cambridge the thermometer (No.2) marked zero at 7 A.M., 3° at noon, and 10° at 6 P.M. on the 12th; on the following day 8° at 7 A.M., 10° at noon and 18° at 6 P.M. During both days as well as the intervening night snow fell almost continuously, but most heavily on the afternoon and evening of the 13th. The 14th was cloudless with a temperature of 14° at 7 A.M. and 22° at noon. Throughout the South Atlantic and Gulf States, exclusive of central and southern Florida, this storm was in some respects actually more severe than at the North. The snow fall varied from five to eighteen inches and the mercury sank, at very many places, nearly to zero while at a few it went below zero. In Louisiana all the orange trees are said to have perished. At New Orleans the mercury fell to 6°.

A.T.Wayne, writing from Mt.Pleasant, South Carolina, Feb.18th, says:- "We have just passed through the coldest weather ever known here for 200 years. Thermometer on Monday, 13th, 9° above zero and on Tuesday at 6.55 A.M., 5° above zero! The whole county was covered with snow to the depth of 5 inches and drifts were two feet deep. The mortality among birds was simply appalling: Fox Sparrows and Snow birds perished by the millions. Grass Finches, Chipping Sparrows, Cat birds, Doves, Killdeer, and innumerable Woodcock were frozen to death.

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February. Pine Warblers and Blue birds were decimated as I have seen (No.3). none since the blizzard. Thousands of Woodcock were shot by would-be sportsmen. One man sent to Charleston market 200 pairs that he shot in a few hours. I skinned a good many that I found frozen. It will take 20 years for these birds to establish themselves under the most favorable conditions. It was a most heart-rending and pathetic scene which I can never forget. When the Fox Sparrows were so benumbed with cold that they could not move, Boat-tailed Grackles and Black birds would peck at their heads - kill them - and eat them. The stronger Fox Sparrows would also eat the remains of their companions. It was simply awful. A great many mules, horses and cows were frozen to death on this plantation".

At Raleigh, North Carolina, according to C.S.Brimley, (cf.letter, Feb.23rd, 1899) the storm began "at about 1 P.M., Feb.11th and it continued snowing without intermission till about 6 P.M., Feb.13th. In all 18 inches (official) of snow fell. The lowest temperature was 2.3 below zero, Fahr., on Feb.14th, A.M. Feb.14th & 15th were bright and the snow thawed rapidly. On Feb.16th 1.24 inches of rain fell on the snow, converting it into slush. Since then it has melted very rapidly and is all gone now. The minimum of -2.3 and the depth of snow, 18 inches, are records for this locality.

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February. Of dead birds since the snow I have seen three, 1 Song (No.4). Sparrow, 1 White-throated Sparrow & 1 Robin. The thaw followed the snow so rapidly that I do not think much injury to birds resulted. x x x x x Robins were common during and after the snow; during the first three or four days after the snow I heard Shore Larks frequently".

Reports from outlying districts near Cambridge have been meagre this month. The deep snows have deterred even the most active of the younger men from attempting to look much after birds. Reginald Heber Howe saw a Robin, a Horned Lark and a small flock of Snow Buntings in Arlington on the 15th. The Robin is the only one that has been reported and but one Cedar Bird has been seen. O.A.Lothrop has found only a solitary Shrike and a few Tree Sparrows in the Fresh Pond Swamps. Walter Faxon has not been out since the great storm.

My only field excursion was on the 3rd, when I went to Concord with Gilbert. We got off the cars at the West Bedford station and crossed the river on the ice to Ball's Hill where we dined at the cabin. While there we saw two Chickadees and a male Downy came repeatedly to a small piece of suet which Pat had hung up in an oak in front of the door. These were actually the only birds met with on my land although I walked up river to Holden's Hill and down to the north end of Davis's Hill. Near the West Bedford station I saw a solitary

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February. Crow and heard a Blue Jay screaming. There were a few tracks (No.5). of Rabbits and Gray Squirrels in the woods and two or three fresh tracks of Foxes leading across the frozen meadows.

With the exception of this trip and a drive around Mt. Auburn on the morning of the 26th I spent practically the entire month on our home place where the following birds were noted:-

1. Parus atricapillus. Almost constantly present in numbers varying from one to eight. When the weather was clear and mild their visits to the suet were brief and infrequent; when cold they came to it oftener and stayed longer; during the great snow storm of the 12th and 13th they scarcely left it from daylight to dark. On the 13th there were six in the crab apple tree most of the time and sometimes as many as three feeding on opposite sides of the suet at once. A [♂]forth alighted on it for a moment but did not stay. Chickadees invariably pick at suet with half opened bills.

Once in January and very frequently during February, usually when the weather was clear and mild, we saw Chickadees carrying small fragments of suet to various parts of the garden and concealing them in crevices or behind loose scales of bark as well as in dense evergreen

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February.
(No.6).

foliage. Possibly only one bird had adopted this practice, though we have reason to think that there were more ~~for~~^{but} on no occasion was more than one engaged at it at the same time. He worked very busily and steadily, making a trip every minute or two and never using the same hiding place twice although he often took several fragments to different parts of the same tree. He tamped them firmly in place with his bill before leaving them and sometimes returned, shortly afterwards, apparently to make sure that they were all right. Once he was seen to remove a piece which, only a few minutes before, he had fixed with unusual care. Some of the fragments were hidden in the tree in which the lump of suet hung but the majority were taken distances varying from ten to fifty yards.

One tailless bird, sine cauda, was seen almost daily up to the 17th after which he disappeared.

I did not hear the phoebe-whistle during the month.

2. Certhia f.americana. A single Creeper seen on the 17th, 20th and 21st. On the 26th two birds appeared together in the elm over the driveway. One of them did something which I have never before seen nor even, I think, heard of. He was ascending the trunk of the tree and had just

1899.

February.

(No. 7).

passed the base of the branch on which the suet hangs when a Sparrow that had been feeding at the suet flew away. The Creeper at once turned about and descended the vertical trunk for a distance of nearly two feet, moving head downward, like a Nuthatch, and with perfect apparent ease, although rather slowly and cautiously. On reaching the branch he followed it out to the suet which he at once attacked but before he had taken many mouthfuls a Sparrow came and frightened him away. This was the only occasion in February when I saw a Creeper at the suet. The bird noted on the 21st sang twice and in tones so loud and clear that I heard him distinctly as I sat at my desk in the museum with the windows closed.

3. Ampelis cedrorum. A solitary Cedar bird with wax tipped wings appeared in the crab apple tree at 1 P.M., Feb. 1st. It was doubtless the same bird which we saw in the garden, January 30th. Strangely enough it did not appear to notice the unusually abundant fruit which still hangs on our Parkman's apple and on some Viburnum opulus bushes, and still more strangely this fruit has not attracted any other birds of the same species. Perhaps the February flight of Cedar birds did not take place this year. I certainly have not heard that it did.

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- February. 4. Zonotrichia albicollis. On the morning of February 4th (No. 8). when the ground was covered with about four inches of fresh fallen snow I saw a White-throat eating bread crumbs from a dish on the kitchen steps in company with a number of English Sparrows. An hour later I heard it chirping and, as I was confident at the time, another bird of the same species answering it. But after this date only one bird was seen - on the 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24 & 25th. At first I supposed that this individual was one of the pair that had been seen together so often, earlier in the winter, but on examining it closely I discovered that it was unlike either having the pure white head stripes of the one combined with the dull gray throat of the other. Unless it may be assumed that one of this pair had changed plumage the bird seen after February 4th must have been a new comer to the garden.
5. Passer domesticus. The cold and snow of the 12th & 13th banished nearly all the Sparrows from our neighborhood. The half dozen or so that remained were evidently sorely pressed. Two came down the chimney of the Museum on the night of the 13th and were found next morning in the large room. The others spent the greater part of both days in the pigeon loft. This led me to hope that the

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February.

(No:9).

bulk of those which had departed would perish. But when the weather moderated on the 15th they began to return and by the next day they were apparently as numerous as ever. During the first ten days of February they swarmed about the suet in the elm at all hours of the day and evidently kept away the native birds (even the Chickadees) but after the middle of the month they neglected the suet and the native birds returned to it. On the 9th they attacked the suet at the Museum for the first time and in considerable numbers but we drove them off and they did not ~~attempt to~~ return.

6. Corvus americanus. Crows were frequently heard cawing in the early mornings in the old lindens and during the great snow storm of the 12th and 13th one alighted repeatedly in the elm ^{of the} driveway and inspected the suet closely but I did not see him touch it.
7. Cyanocitta cristata. Only one February record for the garden - that of a bird which visited the lilacs behind the house on the morning of the 15th.
8. Dryobates p. medianus. Two female Downies have been frequent - in fact almost daily - visitors to both pieces of suet, coming sometimes singly, sometimes together, but we have not seen a male in the garden this month. On the

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February.

(No.10).

15th I heard a Woodpecker which I think was a Downy drum softly a few times. On the 24th Walter heard one drum a dozen times or more in an elm on the Greenleaf estate just below Mason Street. He saw the bird but it was so high up that he could not make sure of the sex. The drumming of this species is probably the very earliest spring sound that one can hear in the region about Cambridge.

We have repeatedly observed this winter that the Downy always keeps his bill tightly closed when pecking at suet whereas the Chickadees invariably strike it with half opened bills.

9. Colaptes auratus. The Flickers have been almost unceasing in their attentions to the Parkman's apple tree but they do not seem to have perceptibly diminished its bountiful supply of fruit. This is perhaps not to be wondered at since this little tree contained, last November, according to a computation made by Walter at least 45,000 apples. These apples are scarce larger than currants and the Flickers swallow them whole. A male and a female or two males and a female have usually appeared in company but once we saw two males together and on another occasion a male and two females. Hence there must have

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February.
(No. 11).

been at least four birds in all. They have been absolutely silent during the whole month. On the morning of the 28th I saw a pair hopping about together on a space of bare turf under the elm over the driveway where a piece of suet hangs. They were picking up something which I believe to have been fragments of suet that had fallen from above but I could not make sure that this was the food they found.

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March.

March has been an unusually cold and dismal month. The temperature rose above 50° only once (on the 12th when it reached 64°) and above 40° only five times (on the 1, 6, 13, 16 and 29th) while it fell below 32° on the 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27 & 30th, dropping to 16° on the 17th and to 18° the following morning. There have been but ~~th~~ fifteen clear days in all. Snow fell on the 2nd (four inches 4th (a mere dust), 7th (four inches), 14th (a dust), 18th (two inches), 22nd (a dust), 26th (four inches), ^{31st (two inches).} Heavy rain fell on the 15, 23 and 28th, light rain on the 4 and 5th. The ground was covered with snow and the surface frozen more or less hard up to the 28th. After this date the grass began to show traces of green in sunny sheltered places. The yellow crocuses in front of the Museum showed green shoots on the 6th, ~~the~~ closed but deep yellow flower buds on the 14th, four fully opened flowers on the 16th.

I have spent the entire month in Cambridge and have taken but few walks and only one drive. Faxon (has also) been closely confined. Lothrop has been out a few times only. Hence the birds have not been very closely watched in the outlying districts. The only arrivals reported to me are as follows:

Bluebird. March 6, two, Arlington, (G.M. Alley); flock of twelve,

Wellesley, (The Listener in Boston Transcript).

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March. Robin. March 9, on Charles Deane estate, Cambridge, G.C.Deane.
(No.2). " 10, flock of thirty, W.Roxbury, Dr.Reagh.
" 24, " " fifty, Belmont, O.A.Lothrop.

Cedar Bird. March 12, flock of fifteen, Payson Park, O.A.Lo-
throp. March 31st, flock of seventeen, Chas. Deane estate, W. Deane

Bronzed Grackle. March 5, flock seen on Greenleaf estate,
Cambridge, Fisher.

Red-winged Blackbird. March 12, eight or nine, Wayland,
Chas.Paine.

Rusty Blackbird. March 13, Arlington, W.Faxon.

Fox Sparrow. March 18, one, W.Roxbury, Dr.Reagh.

Purple Finch. March 27, flock of five or six, Arlington,
W.Faxon.

Sparrow Hawk. March 12, one; March 26, a male, Harvard Lawn,
Belmont, O.A.Lothrop.

Black Duck. March 7, flock of nine flying over Glacialis,
O.A.Lothrop.

Gooseander. March 11, "a few", Wayland, Chas.Paine.

A Mockingbird was seen by George C.Deane near the Hittinger
Farm on School St., Belmont, March 25.

☞ Forenoon of the
On the 12th I drove up through Belmont and around the
Mystic Ponds. The day was sunny and very warm for the season
the thermometer standing at 50° at 8 A.M. and rising to 64° at
noon or a little after. The snow melted rapidly and the roads

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March. (No. 3). were deep in mud and slush. In the Lower Mystic just below the inlet where there was a space of open water several acres in extent, two Black Ducks and five Herring Gulls were standing on the edge of the ice and as I was passing around the head of the Upper Mystic a Whistler alighted in the open channel where the brook empties into the pond. These with a few Crows were the only birds observed, although I stopped and listened for Bluebirds and Song Sparrows in several places.

The following birds were noted during the month in our garden or its immediate neighborhood:

1. Merula migratoria. Six silent birds, all apparently males, feeding on the fruit of Parkman's apple and Viburnum opulus on the morning of the 26th during a blinding snow storm. Four of them returned in the afternoon after the storm had ceased. A single bird was calling in the gar-

den on the morning of the 27th, and one was seen there on the ^{morning of the} 31st. On the evening of the 31st it appeared just before sunset and one bird, perched in the limb of the cedar and the house, ^{was loudly} ~~was loudly~~ ^{was loudly} for ten minutes or more, ^{calling} ~~calling~~ ^{calling} the whole neighborhood with his rich notes.

2. Parus atricapillus. Seen daily (excepting on the 10, 12 & 19th) in numbers varying from one to six. Their attacks on the suet were frequent and energetic when the weather was stormy or cold, infrequent and listless when it was clear and mild. The Sparrows interfered with them much less often than was the case in January and early February. No storing of food was observed during March.

1899.

March.
(No.4).

After the middle of the month the phoebe call was heard almost daily. "Sine cauda" has not been seen since February 17th.

3. Certhia familiaris americana. A single Creeper seen on 3, 9, 15, 17 and 25th. On the 29th four birds were seen together in the large willows at the N.W. end of the garden. They came flying across the garden in quick succession and when all were assembled chased each other around the trunk and among the branches. The willow contained, for a brief time, not only these Creepers but four Chickadees and a Downy Woodpecker. The full song of the Creeper was heard on the 9 & 15th and on the morning of the 29th a bird sang at short, regular intervals for nearly an hour and in tones as loud and clear as I have ever heard in the Maine woods. On the 17th I saw a Brown Creeper run down the lower part of the trunk of an elm for a distance of two feet or more to the ground on reaching which it hopped about ~~about~~ precisely like a small Sparrow (most nearly like Spizella socialis), stopping every now and then to pick up and swallow a fragment of suet which had fallen from above.
4. Sitta carolinensis. One seen in the garden on the morning of the 4th by W. Deane.
5. Zonotrichia albicollis. One seen in the garden on the

1899.

March.

(No. 5).

2, 3, 6, 9, 14, 15, 16, 18, 24, 25, 27, 28 ^{v 31st.} and 29th. It was evidently the same bird that visited us in February. It sang in low, broken tones on the 3rd and 27th, rather loudly and clearly, but **not** quite perfectly, on the 29th. It was very tame and familiar coming close about the Museum, once alighting on the bulkhead and on the morning of the 18th feeding for sometime in company with House Sparrows directly under one of the windows. The ground was covered with snow at the time and the White-throat uncovered some grain which lay beneath the snow by jumping first forward and then quickly backward, precisely as the Fox Sparrow does when scratching.

6. Passer domesticus. Present during the whole month in large numbers feeding, as before, on bread put out from the kitchen and on grain in the pigeon loft. The House Sparrows which were with the White-throat on the occasion mentioned in the last paragraph did not once attempt to scratch away the snow but merely pecked into it at random in search for the grain hidden ^{beneath} _A. I doubt if they know how to scratch. Towards the end of the month a few House Sparrows were seen carrying building material about, but they have not begun their demonstrative and noisy courtships as yet.

1899.

- March. 7. Quiscalus quiscula aeneus. Mr. Fisher (of the Nuttall Club) reports seeing a flock of Bronzed Grackles on March 5th at the Greenleaf place, Brattle Street, where five were observed by W. Deane on the 15th. Lothrop met with two somewhere in Cambridge on the 11th. A solitary male appeared in an apple tree in the garden on the 21st and others were heard there on the 23th, while a bird was observed on Brattle Street on the 27th. ^{A flock of 14 flew over the garden at sunset on the 30th.} These are all the Cambridge records for the month.
8. Corvus americanus. Seen every few days, flying overhead or perched in the lindens, usually in pairs, never more than three or four together, very noisy after the middle of the month. ^{I am satisfied that these birds are the same individuals which nested on pine in January and February, and that they, or also the birds which bred in this neighborhood.}
9. Dryobates pubescens medianus. Downy Woodpeckers were almost daily visitors to the suet in the elm or that near the Museum. A pair appeared together on the 16, 17 and 20th, on the other occasions a single female. No drumming was heard and but rarely a vocal note of any kind. The Downy habitually spends a longer time at the suet than any other bird.
10. Colaptes auratus luteus. Present on the 2, 4, 5, 9, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28 and 29th; two birds being seen together on the 2, 4 and 21st, one on

1899.

March.
(No.7).

two other occasions. The fruit of the Parkman's apple continued the chief attraction for the Flickers through the month. The first "shouting" was heard by W.Deane in the Botanic Garden on the 9th. Two birds were shouting near Mason Street and one in the garden on the 27th, two on Appleton Street near the Wyman place on the 28th. There must be a good many Flickers in Cambridge this season, more, I think, than at any time within the past forty years.

11. Accipiter velox. A large female circling low over the garden on the 24th. This bird without much doubt was the same that twice visited the garden earlier in the winter.

12. Ampeelis cedrorum. None appeared in the garden this month but a flock of 17 were seen on the Charles Deane estate,

Sparks Street on the morning of the 31st. (A flock of 12 visited our garden on the morning of April 1 and greedily attacked the fruit of the Parkman's apple although it is now winter & tasteless.)

13. Passerella iliaca. One found dead on the lawn in front of the Brick Block on Sparks Street on the morning of the 31st. It may have flown against something during the snow storm of the preceding night.

Concord, Massachusetts.

1899.

April 4

Brilliantly clear with moderate north wind. Although the ground
frost had last night the middle of the day was warm & springlike
- the first really springlike day thus far. Saw an *Arctia* Butterfly. First Butterfly

I came to Concord late yesterday afternoon and am to spend
a week or two at the Hayes' before settling down at the cabin
for the remainder of the Spring.

It was delightful to hear the birds singing early this morning
before I was up and through most of the forenoon while Gilbert, Pat
and I were putting the covers in order by the river in front of
the house. I heard a Robin, a Bluebird, a Phoebe, two or three Song
Sparrows, several Red-wings and a Flicker. There was also a Downy Woodpecker
and, of course, the distant cawing of Crows. One must go well
back into the country to enjoy such a concert in these days.
I was impressed by the sweet, tender quality of most of the
voices. The Phoebe delighted me most of all. He was perched in
an elm over the women.

Birds singing
near the
Hayes'

There is no snow remaining in the fields and on heavy banks
the grass is faintly greenish but wasted drifts lie everywhere
on the north side of walls and everywhere there. A little ice
lines the south side of the Mill Brook meadows but bright
blue water comes over of the flooded meadows which are
in sight of the house.

While at the Bretts' in the late afternoon I
saw a Gull hovering over Great Meadows which, of course,
are all under water with a border of snow covered ice
along the bottom there. At sunset Red-wings were
perched all along the river near the Messer, singing.

Herring Gull

Red-wings

Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 5

Colder than yesterday with a piercing N. E. wind but brilliantly clear and ^{with} delightfully warm sunshine.

Not a bird of any kind song this morning nor during the forenoon but just before sunset some Red-wings were answering one another from the tall reeds on Miller's meadow & later Robins were calling about the house.

I went to Ball's Hill just before noon paddling all the way down. Saw a pair of Goshawks on Great Meadows and an adult ♀ Red-bellied Hawk at the edge of the woods on Holden's Hill. A Nuthatch was calling woot-woot-woot at the house and a Phoebe flitting about the North Bridge. Gilbert saw another Phoebe at the cabin but when I was there nothing appeared save a pair of Titmice and a Chickadee. There was not a single sparrow of any kind along the river path nor did I notice any higher up the river although I followed the shore closely.

I started back at 2 P.M. taking to Dublin's Hill where I landed and struck across the fields to the Barrett farm. In a pasture near Holden's great oak I saw a flock of 12 Robins accompanied by two Red-wings. As I was crossing the Barrett run a Cock Partridge was with a prodigious wing of wings and on my way back I flushed a keen little woodcock who creaked into me a field and back into the cover near the Red Pines. ^{Several} No birds were seen or heard near the Barrett house but as I was standing on the slope behind the barn an Osprey came overhead high in air and was seen for minutes later a pair of adults

Woodcock in
Barrett Run

Osprey

Concord, Mass.

1899
April 5
(No 2.)

Red-tailed Hawks soaring in company, One (the male) held a small snake dangling from its talons. The other had lost one of the primaries from the right wing, a good mark to remember & identify her by in the future. Both birds passed directly over me at a height not greater than 100 yards, and I watched them with the keenest enjoyment and admiration as they whirled and rotated on set wings showing their red tails at every turn.

Red-tailed
Hawks.

On reaching the canal I hunted the soil and was soon driving nicely homeward before the brisk wind. As I got out into the Great Meadow I began to see Ducks rising from the water in pairs and small flocks at distances varying from a few hundred yards to a mile or more. They mounted high in air when, for a few minutes, they flew about aimlessly their numbers steadily increasing until one fifty birds were collected when they went off to the southward. Before I got across the meadows I had started at least twenty for a thirty more Ducks. I had no glass with me but I think more than half these birds were hens and the remainder boonies. I also observed a pair of Blow Ducks from a traverse of London. Earlier in the day I saw two adult Herring Gulls flying above the cabin. Altogether it seemed quite like the old days to find so many water fowl on these meadows.

Water-fowl
on the
Great Meadows.

About a dozen Painted Tortoises on logs & boards
swimming

Painted
Tortoises on

Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 6

Weather closely similar to that of yesterday but warmer & with less chill in the continued N.E. wind. I have not noticed a single cloud these past three days and nothing could be clearer than the air & horizon.

The birds were in full song again this morning and well into the forenoon. Near the barn and on the way down river I heard on a tree Robins, four male Bluebirds (two accompanied by their mates), two Phoebe, two Meadow Larks (the first), two Cow-birds (do), three Song Sparrows (when are the multitudes that I have always found here before on this season?), numerous Red-wings, two White-bellied Swallows (the first), a Kingfisher (do), 2 Blue jays and a number of Crows. At the Cabin Gilbert had seen only a Chickadee, a Phoebe and a Downy!

Gallant, whom I met hunting "rats", asserted that he had seen a flock of five Wood Ducks up the Appold but he is not very trustworthy about such matters. He had five or six Muskrats in the bow of his old skiff but he says that comparatively few have been killed this Spring, Holden leading with some forty skins.

After leaving down things at the Cabin I kept on down river, paddling against the strong wind westerly to Cobble Bridge, and having a glorious sail back. I flushed a pair of Geese from Holden's meadow and thirty or forty, with nearly as many more Whistlers, from the long, straight reach below Park Island. Here only the river was open the meadows on both sides being covered with

Early morning
singing.

Scarcity of
Song Sparrows

First
Swallows.

Wood Ducks

Muskrats.

Water fowl.

Concord, Mass.

1899
April 6
(No 2)

in which, on examination, I found to be from four to six or eight inches thick with an upper coating of white snow ice. Most of the Ducks were swimming near or standing along the edge of the ice but a few were lying on the ice apparently asleep. Some of them rose more than half-a-mile from me but several flocks followed me to paddle within less than 200 yards of them. The Gooseanders were nearly all in pairs although a number of pairs were often collected together into a small flock. At a distance the old ducks looked as white and almost as large as swans on the dark blue water. I do not think there was any immaturity marks for in any case when I saw two birds sitting together, one was a drake in full plumage, and the other its modest garbed mate. I do not remember to have ever seen so many fine old males here before. The rich salmon of their under parts was conspicuous enough when they passed me within three or four hundred yards. On the ice they stood rather erect but when walking they carried their bodies nearly horizontal like Mallards or Black Ducks. They walked easily and were ungraceful and once I saw one take a quick but short run just before rising or wing. When rising from the water they usually protruded their feet along the surface for a few yards before getting fully fluffed but I saw a few spring directly into the air with almost as much ease & vigor as a Black Duck. This was invariably against a fluff breeze, however.

Water-fowl.

Gooseanders

Concord, Mass.

1899

April 7

Cloudy with a strong, damp S.W. wind which brought heavy rain shortly after nightfall.

Spent last night at the cabin. For the first time since I came to Concord this Spring the ground did not freeze yet the early morning was raw and gloomy and no birds were singing. There has been snow near the cabin with nearly none upon a Chickadee & a pair of Downys visited the nest. Gilbert also heard a Pine Warbler (the first) singing on the crest of Balls Hill. There were no sparrows along the river front.

Nights at the Cabin.

First Pine Warbler.

Ashton Rollins spent last night & to-day with me. He sailed over the Great Meadows and down river to Birch Island in the forenoon being an Osprey, 20 Green Herons, and 15 Killdeers. Landing at Davis's Hill he flushed two Partridge and found two Herring Gulls on the shore. No Botulism cases yet.

Water-fowl.

The Davis Hill woods were severely injured by the ice storm of March 19. The ground is so covered with broken off tops & branches that it is difficult to traverse these woods. The white pines, hickories, elms and maples suffered most. At the Barrett farm great injury was done especially to the fine old elms and hickories near the house. The ice is said to have loaded the trees & to have remained for several days, a heavy wind adding greatly to the destruction. Under white pines the ground is densely covered with tufts of green muds which the ice broke off. One of my white willows has been almost completely stripped of its lateral branches & is little more than a tall, bare pole. The white maples along the river suffered a good deal.

Effects of ice storm. of March 19th

Concord, Mass.

1899
April 7
(no 2)

Sailed back to Concord in the afternoon landing at
Dakin's Hill and visiting the Barrett farm.

Came upon three Bluebirds in Holden's pasture, a female
sitting on a rock and two males dancing and fluttering
about her with wide spread tails and half-opened wings,
working in a deliciously soft undertone, each evidently striving
to outdo the other in the display of his beautiful
plumage and exquisite voice but without showing the
least ill temper. It was indeed a pretty picture with
the setting of bleached grass and a line of misty snow
drifts against the old stone wall that formed the
background. A Flicker was haunting in an oak and his
mate Red-wings perched in an apple tree not far away.

Bluebirds

Looking for the Woodcock in the Barrett wood I found
him within twenty yards of where he lay on the
5th - the same small water bird evidently. I wonder
if he will remain & breed here. (I afterwards learned that
during the last week a Woodcock was heard singing several nights in succession
near the small meadow W. of the Barrett home by Mrs. Geo. Holden & Henry Lawrence.)

Woodcock in
Barrett Run.

In the Barrett woods the snow lies three or four feet
deep in many places - not in isolated drifts but
in fields across in extent. But only, of course, in densely
shaded spots. Almost everywhere in the shade the ground
is free from as hard as iron.

Snow lies
deep in
the woods.

On my way home at evening I saw nothing of
any interest. The sky was bleaking & the wind
damp & chilly. No birds were singing.

1899.

April 8

Cloudy with occasional short intervals of sunshine. Much the warmest day of the month thus far. Ther 42° at 8 a.m. 60° at 1 P.M. (Much cooler at evening with N.W. wind).

It rained heavily all last night but when I embarked for Ball's Hill at 9 o'clock this morning there was only a fine mist falling and the clouds had begun to break in the west. A light breeze filled my sail and I glided slowly and smoothly down stream between the rows of flooded river maples. How the birds sang! It was worth all the long, dreary winter that has just passed to hear this one concert. Song Sparrows were really numerous and generally distributed for the first time. I counted twelve between the Hayes' and the cabin. There were also a good many Red wings (at least seen or sight), two or three Flickers, three Bluebirds, & four Phoebe's. Near the Mass a Brown Creeper was singing at short, regular intervals, and just below Flint's Bridge a Fox Sparrow sang twice in a timber very near me. I saw another of these Sparrows in the brush along the river near the cabin but there were no Song Sparrows there.

A Pair Hopper lay over on Ball's Hill at about noon. An Osprey was flying about our Great Meadows and Gilbert saw a flock of eleven Herring Gulls.

At 11 a.m. as I was standing in front of the cabin a flock of seven Great Blue Herons passed overhead very high in air flying in close order like Geese for which I at first mistook them. They kept on out of sight due north. I cannot remember ever being so many migrating in company before.

Sail down river.

Birds singingSong SparrowsCreeper singingFox SparrowPair HopperOspreyHerring GullsA flock of
Order herons

Concord, Mass.

1899
April 8
(No. 2)

Between 1 and 3 P.M., Ducks were passing and repassing Water-fowl.
Ball's Hill every few minutes in flocks of from five or six
to fifteen or twenty birds each. Most of them were Golden-eyes. Whistles.
I could hear the silvery whistle of their wings with perfect
distinctness as I sat writing in the cabin with the door open.
They flew at a considerable height as a rule. The gunners
were stirring them up as I heard a little later when
the Jones Boys called and when Richardson & Herbert Holden
passed. The Joneses showed me a pin about 3 Goswends
which they had just shot. They have a gross screen
which they attach to the bows of their little canoe
canoe. They reported seeing a flock of eight birds which Geese?
they took to be Brant, in the river near Birch Island.
They paddled within about 80 yards when the birds
rose with a chorus of low honks. They had black heads
& necks and brown backs and were too small for
Canada Geese. Tony Richardson afterwards told me
that the flock passed directly over him and that
he called them Black Ducks! Gilbert saw two Black
Ducks pass the cabin and a flock of eleven Herring Gulls
below Davis's Hill. As I am writing thus a pair of Herring Gulls
are circling over the river very near the cabin
making the air ring with their wild, shrill cry
(cl-e-ee, cl-e-ee, cl-e-ee). Altogether, this has been
a great week for water fowl on the Concord. I
do not think I have seen as many there for the
past twenty years. Richardson tells me that he
came upon a flock of one fifty Goswends this
morning below Collier's bridge. I must have
seen fully fifty Whistles passing Ball's Hill. If
only the gunners would have the Ducks & Muskrats down.

Goswenders.

Concord, Mass.

1899.
April 8
(No 3)

It was nearly 5 o'clock when I left the cabin and started up river. The wind had died away and the sun reflected from the calm water was uncomfortably warm. Great numbers of Painted Tortoises were out on floating boards from which they tumbled into the water as I approached. I fear the gumes have destroyed most of the small lots for use on home I saw yet.

Evening on
the river.

Painted
Tortoises.

Muskats.

Landing at Dobbins Hill I went to the Bassett farm. It was so warm in the woods that I had to take off my coat & carry it on my arm.

Bassett
Farm.

I saw several Song Sparrows along the stone walls.

Just after I reached the Bassett home the sun came out from behind a cloud and a Robin, a Bluebird, a Flicker & a Pine Warbler began singing in the old elms. Ten minutes later a violent

Birds singing
at sunset.

westerly wind arose and chilled me through & through. I had a hard paddle up river against wind & current & long waiting of interest except five White-bellied Swallows flying about together among some stubs. Robins were singing everywhere this evening for the first time despite the gloomy skies and the strong cold wind. It was good to have them.

Just before the wind rose a dozen or more Hylas were peeping merrily in the meadow below the orchard at the Bassett farm. They were the first that I have heard this Spring.

First
Hylas.

Concord, Mass.

1899

April 10

Clear and cool with keen, rather strong W. wind. The ground
froz hard and sheltered cools on the flooded meadows stannid
one with thin ice last night. Wind changed to N. in P. M.

I heard a delightful concert of Robins, Song Sparrows & Bluebirds
assisted by a few Sparrows or two, a Phoebe and a Meadow Lark,
early this morning, as I lay in bed with the windows open but
when I started for Ball's Hill at 9 a. M. the fields and
orchards were as silent as the grave for although the sun
was shining brightly there was an icy chill in the keen
west wind. It is singular how sensitive the birds are at
this season to such influences. I saw a Red-tailed Hawk
soaring high in air over the Derby farm, seven or eight
the Swallows scattered along the river from Red Bridge to
Dakin's Hill and a few Red-wings and Song Sparrows.
I also saw my first Mink rat.

Early morning
singing near
the Keys.

Red-tail Hawk

Swallows.

At Ball's Hill I found two pairs of Chickadees, a Song Sparrow, Birds at
and a Fox Sparrow, the last in the same place and no doubt Ball's Hill.
the self same bird that I noted on the 8th. There was also
an Osprey circling about, whistling, and Gilbert reported a
flock of four Whistlers. A solitary & Gosawkie passed
about noon flying up river.

Sailed here in afternoon landing at Dakin's Hill & going to the Barrett farm
as usual. A Robin was singing in the Barrett duns and then a few
Hoyes (the first) were jumping in the neighboring run a little before sunset.
Near the head of Great Meadow I saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk
skimming low over the water, just as I reached the Keys' there
was a general outbreak of Robin song in every direction.

Birds singing
at evening.

Gilbert saw three Fox Sparrows & three Song Sparrows near the
cabin later in the afternoon.

Concord, Mass.

1899

April 9
(no 2)

Edward W. Emerson told me this afternoon that on the morning of March 27th as he was dressing he heard a sound which he took to be the violent slamming of a door in the next room. On entering this room, a bed chamber in the second story at the N.E. end of the house, he noticed a tuft of feathers clinging to the glass of one of the east windows and the next instant he perceived a Partridge standing on the roof of the parson within a few feet of the window. The bird saw him almost immediately and flew swiftly off towards the Assabet. The snow on the roof was marked all over with its foot prints. A few feathers attached to a bit of thin skin which has dried on the glass will show me as proof of this interesting story. The day was bright and the sun an hour or more high in the time. If this was a case of "Partridge madness" it is the first instance which, so far as I am aware, has ever been noted in spring. Partridges were seen before & after the above date budding in some apple trees on the opposite side of the road. They come, I believe, from the woods across the Assabet.

A "mad"
Partridge.

Beverly, Mass.

1899.
April 9

Cloudy most of the day with violent & very cold N. W. wind.

Early this morning when the sun was shining brightly and before the wind rose a number of birds were singing close around the house. Besides the usual Robins, Bluebirds, Song Sparrows, Phoebe, Meadow Lark, & Chipping Sparrow etc. I heard two Junco and a Jones. Later in the day I found a single Jones and two Bluebirds in one open orchard. I fear the past terrible winter - especially terrible in the South - has well-nigh exterminated the Juncos. Like Fox and Song Sparrows are also exceedingly scarce comparatively. Of the latter I am being told where there should be hundreds and of the former I have three for seen but two. Chickadees, also, are unusually scarce and I have yet to meet with the Rusty Blackbird. Red wings are common enough but very rarely come to look mass in and in comparison with those of former years at this season. Meadow Larks are also very scarce. Robins, Bluebirds, & Chipping and Cross are present in their usual numbers.

Early morning
singing at
the Keyes'.

Scarcity of
Song Sparrows.

As I was returning from the Emersons this evening I met Fred Hooper. He told me that he had seen a flock of about 12 Fox Sparrows accompanied by several Juncos at White Pond and two Fox Sparrows in another place, all this morning. During the home walk he saw in Dorgan Brook meadow near Maxwell Miles's (his own corner) "a Plover about the size of a Meadow Lark, with a white ring around the neck and some conspicuous bright cinnamon brown on the back or wing. It was noisy and shy, flying from place to place, alighting on a sheet of ice, bobbing its head up & down as it stood watching him. When I imitated the cry of a Killdeer he said "that was the bird". William Emerson saw a Grebe this morning above Put bridge

Killdeer

1899.

April 11

Brilliantly clear with rather strong N. E. wind. The ground
frozen hard again last night & snow in covered many of the
shallower ponds through the forenoon.

The usual birds flying about the barn this morning.
Song Sparrows and Bluebirds being most of the forenoon.
I heard the obliging cheer, with notes of a Tree Sparrow
near the Buttricks & saw a solitary bird of the same species
further down the river. Heard no less than five different
Phoebes, one at Tom Kings', another at North Bridge, a
third at Hildens' boat barn, a fourth at Hildens', the
fifth at the Barrett farm. Gilbert reported a sixth flying
at Davis Hill early in the morning.

Early morning
singing.

I started down river at the usual time heading to
Davis Hill where I landed and went to the Barrett
farm. Pat told me that a Partridge had been seen during
the course of the morning. A Phoebe was flying about
the barn, singing.

Dined at the cabin. Then 7 or 8 Sparrows, then Song Sparrows,
a pair of Downys & two or three Chickadees were flying about.
Gilbert started a Bittern (the first) from the path
just east of the coal room.

Birds at
Davis Hill.

Along the river on my way down I saw an Osprey, then
Goswunders, two or three small flocks of Kinglets, and ten
White-bellied Swallows.

The Osprey was perched on a stake, eating a large fish.
Several Crows were working him vicinously. Gilbert tells
me that he saw the same thing happen near the cabin
this morning & that the Osprey (who was flying) was so
hard pressed that he finally dropped his fish. The fall

Osprey

Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 11
(Wed)

in the water among some bushes directly in front of the cabin. The boys did not attempt to take it. I doubt if they were after the fish in either case. Just as I was finishing the preceding sentence I heard an Osprey whistling and stepping out discovered him perched in the top of a white pine on the crest of Ball's Hill.

The water rose nearly a foot after the last rain and has since remained at about the same level. I have rarely seen it higher. The river path on Ball's Hill is submerged for half its length. A broad belt of ice still lies the opposite (Bedford) shore of the meadows.

Aethya Northrupii an one in number now. Yesterday I saw a small brown *Northrupii*. On the 8th I found a number of large mosquitoes on the inside of the front window of the Beecher house.

Butterflies.

Went to the Beecher farm on the way home. Heard the first wood frog croaking in the new south of the house. I have not heard any Hyles for several days. Observed frogs out in numbers this afternoon along the edges of the flooded meadows but not one of them made any sound.

Fresh Wood
Frog Croaking.

Saw a pair of Black Ducks flying over Great meadow as I was starting homeward this evening.

Black Ducks.

Cambridge, Massachusetts

1899
April 12

Cloudy and cool with rain in P.M.

Just after breakfast this morning George Hayes saw two Pied-billed Grebes swimming in the river directly in front of the house. Gilbert saw three Red Sparrows at the cabin

Pied-billed Grebes.

I went to Cambridge by train at a.m. today. Found birds in two or three Robins in our garden. The White-throated Sparrows are gone was also taken in field today. Grackles appear to be very scarce in Cambridge this Spring & only a few have visited our garden.

" 13

Clear with strong north west wind. Cold in the early morning. Warm at noon (therm. 56°).

Took a drive past the Poyson plain & back by First Pond. Heard a Red-billed and saw a few Robins.

The White-throated singing in the garden at intervals through the day. Saw two Cedar birds there in the afternoon. The grass is quite green on some of the lawns.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 14

Sunny but hazy, warmer than 48°-50 a.m.; 60° P.M. Winds varying from W. to S. in forenoon, S.W. in P.M.

Returned to Concord by the 9.10 a.m. train and spent the day down river dining at the cabin and visiting the Basset farm in the afternoon. Sailed across the meadows both going and returning.

A Purple Finch in full song was the dominant, flock of 7 Tree Sparrows (singing) on Honeyuckle Island, two Kingfishers, flock of 20 White-bellied Swallows on the meadows, then Field Sparrows, then Bluebirds flying, about 18 Robins, two or three Phoebe, and a fair number of Song Sparrows. A Swamp Sparrow was in front of the cabin by Gillett, 12 Black Ducks and 5 Gooseberries in Malford Swamp, by Madeline Holden

Birds along
the river.

In the open, treeless, springy run which empties into the meadow east of Dakin's Hill I flushed two Wilson's Snipe early this afternoon. George Holden tells me that he saw one in the same place about a week ago.

Wilson's Snipe

As I was paddling out into Great Meadows at about 5 P.M. I saw what I took to be a large duck floating on the water near the head of Howe Dam rapid. On getting nearer I made it out to be a Red-necked Grebe the first I have ever found here. It was preening its feathers & paid no attention to me until I was within about 80 yds. when it stretched up its long, slender neck & a moment later took wing, rising heavily like a Swan. It circled low over the meadows flying very deeply with its neck extended in front & its legs behind looking exceedingly like a Red-throated Diver. Before it left the water I saw distinctly

Red-necked
Grebe

Concord, Mass.

1889

April 14

(No 2)

that its smell was light or faded chestnut, its throat oily, its crown dark brown. It finally relinquished footing up the meadow but when I reached the place it had disappeared.

In the meadow on the edge of the woods just east of the old orchard on the Barrett farm Hyaes and Wood Frogs were in full cry late the afternoon. Judging by the volume of sound there must have been very many of them. I also heard dozens of Leopard Frogs around the edge of the same meadows. This is the first time I have heard the Leopard Frogs this season.

In a shallow ditch near Dallas's Hill I saw a large nest spanning among some water plants.

The snow has disappeared rapidly the last few days & there was but little left in the Barrett woods this afternoon. The ice went out of the meadow opposite the cabin on the night of the 11th. The grass is very green in places near the village but the fields are as brown as in early March throughout the Ball's Hill region.

Leopard Frogs
Croaking for
first time.

Snow going
fast.
Ice leaves
the meadows.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 15

Clear with strong but warm N. W. to W. wind. Ther. 52° at 6.30 a. m., 66° at 1 P. M.

Spent the day down river visiting the Barrett farm in the forenoon, dining at the cabin, and going to the Bedford Swamp in the afternoon. Started a Snipe in Dakin's meadow and a Hermit Thrush (Townsend's) in the Bedford Swamp. A Golden-crested Kinglet was singing busily and a Partridge chattering in the Barrett mead. In Holden's pasture I heard a Grass Finch piping but did not have time to follow up the sound. Along the river I saw a Kingfisher, and three Greenherons. Three Noddies saw two Greenherons and an Osprey near the head of Great Meadows.

Snipe.
Hermit Thrush
Grass Finch.

A Pair Warblers was singing on Ball's Hill. No Fox Sparrows have been observed near the Cabin of late but I had a good view of one in the Bedford Swamp to-day. It was scolding among the leaves of the wood pasture and appeared to be a solitary bird.

Scarcity of Fox Sparrows & Junco.

The scarcity of Fox Sparrows and Junco has robbed this Spring of much of its charm for me. Song Sparrows, Song also, continue to be comparatively scarce and none have been seen at Ball's Hill since the 12th. The

Sparrows also scarce.

Rusty Blackbirds are also conspicuous by their entire absence here but I hear that numbers have been met with near Cambridge.

Rusty Blackbirds wholly absent.

Still another serious "miss" is the musical piping of the Red-shouldered Hawk. I saw one or two birds at Holden's Hill soon after my arrival & made sure that they would breed there but they have not been either seen or heard here.

No Red-shouldered Hawks.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 15
(No 2)

Horned Grebe

As I was crossing Holden's meadow early this afternoon I came upon a Horned Grebe, the first that I have ever found in Concord River. It had discovered me and was swimming rapidly out into the rough water of the tidal current but it did not seem to be very much alarmed and after I had waded the canoe close inshore it began diving for food springing nearly clear of the water like a porpoise and remaining beneath the surface for periods varying from thirty to forty-two seconds. It remained in nearly the same place, occasionally very near shore but really in the river itself off the South end of Davis's Hill. I watched it for fifteen or twenty minutes through my glass. It was in the very fullest & richest, ^{as large as a duck} plumage. Its head looked very large & fluffy and the chestnut patch showed distinctly, the neck was slender & gracefully held.

When I started towards it again it swam out into the choppy sea and dived down through kelp in the deepest part of the current and making a succession of remarkably long dives. Although I paddled hard I did not succeed in overtaking it until it turned into the meadow & then I did not get nearer at any time than about 100 yards for it doubled on me continually and went almost as far under water at each dive as a loon. When it came to the surface it invariably showed its whole body or at least as much of it as a Whistler or Old Squaw would have shown under similar circumstances. But from the moment when I began chasing it the long, buff-like plumage of the head was pressed down so tightly that the head looked scarcely thicker than the ^{thick} neck. I could not make it fly & finally left it diving.

Concord, Mass.

1899

April 16

A stormy day with heavy rain changing to snow in the afternoon. Wind N. E. Ground white with snow by nightfall.

I was confined to the house all day by a cold. Whenever I looked out towards the flooded meadows I saw swarms of Swallows skimming close to the water both above and below Red Bridge. I would have given much to paddle up or down stream for a few miles just to see how many of these birds I could count. Judging by the numbers in the Wild Brook meadow (there were certainly thirty or more there) they must have been very numerous on the Great Meadows. I have no doubt that most of them were White-bellies but they were too far off to be definitely identified.

Heavy flight
of Tree Swallows

" 17

Clear and cold with strong north wind.

Although my cold was better I did not venture out for a short walk at noon.

Only a few birds singing; Song Sparrows in the forenoon, Robins at evening.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 18

Brilliantly clear with fresh N. to N. W. wind. Much warmer - in fact very warm through the middle of the day.

Left the Keyes' this forenoon and moved to the cabin sailing most of the way with the canoe packed full of things. On reaching Ball's Hill found Parker awaiting me. He spent the night.

I leave the Keyes' & settle at Ball's Hill.

To the Bassett farm in P. M. Saw three Hermit Warblers together, two small flocks (4 & 5 birds) of Juncos & several Pine Warblers two of them in an apple tree in the middle of Bassett's farm far from any woods. A Grass Finch singing on the Bassett place. Two Tree Sparrows were the main. Three Fox Sparrows along the path E. of the cabin.

The "April hush" has fallen on the land. This evening, just before sunset, when Parker and I walked through the fields to Menan's not a single bird of any kind was heard singing. They began to sing together nearly a week ago & yesterday & to-day there was a general silence at all hours. The Pine Warblers sang, however,

The April hush begins.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 24

Clear and very warm with fresh S. E. wind. Ther. 54° at 6 a.m.,
64° at 4 P.M.

Spent the forenoon at Ball's Hill. In the afternoon went
to the Barrett farm by cover as far as Davis's Hill.

Early this morning a pair of Black Ducks and a little later Black Ducks
a single bird passed the hill flying high in a southerly
direction. Surely there must be local birds.

About 8 a.m. a ♀ Pine Warbler made several visits
to the cabin in search of nesting material. She tapped
persistently but ineffectually at some timber which was
tied to an oak and picked up and carried off a
little oakum from the ceiling of one log wall. She
flew to the east of the hill, where the ♂ was singing
as usual. The same thing occurred last spring at
about this time. Apparently the ♂ Pine Warbler does
not accompany his mate when she is looking for
nesting material.

Pine Warbler
building
nest.

A Hermit Thrush was singing vigorously but latter voice
in a dense thicket of young white pines on the
Barrett farm this afternoon. Rarely have I heard a
fine performance although at a distance of thirty yards
I could only just hear the lower notes. I estimated the
distance by the bird's chuck for I did not see him.
In the little opening where I was standing a pair
of Antelope Buntings were toying with one another
in the warm sunshine.

Hermit Thrush
singing in
Barrett woods

Concord, Mass.

1899
April 24
(No 2)

A Partridge was drumming this afternoon in the Bennett run and another in Prescott's pines was the road to the gun field, both on storm roads. Gilbert heard a third in the Mallowen woods. I think that the bird in Prescott's pines was the same that I heard yesterday at the north end of Davis's swamp (where the drumming stand is a small log) and I also believe that the Mallowen bird is the one we hear so frequently at the east end of Ball's Hill. In other words I think that each bird has two drumming stations.

Partridges
have more
than one
drumming place.

A few Robins came to the spring coast in the down pines behind Ball's Hill this evening. All appeared to be males and there was, as usual, much singing and calling. I was astonished to see one bird sing on wing. I heard him in the distance at first. When he appeared he was flying in the usual manner over the cotton thicket. He continued his song without the slightest break when and after he reached his perch on the topmost spray of a tall pine. There was nothing peculiar about the song. Evidently it was not a real flight song but the bird was simply so full of his theme that he could not wait until he reached the end of his short journey.

Robin song.

Robin sings
on wing.

There was a solitary Yellow Palm Warbler about the cabin yesterday and again this evening. Gilbert saw a single Yellow-rump on the 17th. I miss sadly the large mixed flocks of these Warblers which we usually see at this season and for that nearly all must have perished in the south last February.

Scarcity of
early Warblers

Concord, Mass.

1899

April 25 Sun shining dimly through thin clouds or dense haze; no wind; an oppressively hot and very warm day for the season. Thunder showers late in the afternoon. Ther. 54° at 6 a.m., 80° at 1 P.M.

Spent the entire day at Ball's Hill - the forenoon directing Benson's work on a new wood path which I am springing to reach the north-eastern base of the Hill. Saw a White-throated Sparrow by the river and heard a Ruby-crown and a Solitary Tanager singing behind the Hill. Saw, also, a single Yellow-crow. At about noon a Black and White Cuckoo began singing near the Cabin. The first and last named, with the Tanager, were noted for the first time here this season.

Arrivals.

Early this morning two Thoms, flying together, appeared over Ball's Hill. They were almost as high up as Green fly. After circling over the Great Meadows they turned back and on reaching Davis's Hill turned again and went off over the road to the eastward. One of them uttered a deep, raucous note unlike anything that I remember to have heard before. One was distinctly larger than the other. They carried their legs stretched out behind & their necks well stretched. Through the glass I could see that they were striped on the under parts and that their bills were long and slender. They certainly were not Night Thoms & I am nearly sure they could not have been Great Blue Thoms. They looked like Bitterns but I have never seen the Bittern fly at such a height nor heard it utter such a cry.

Peculiar flight
& call notes
of the Bittern

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

April

The following species were observed in the garden by
W. Deane:

Birds
noted in our
garden by
Mr. Deane.

1. Merula migratoria. - Constantly present, at least one or two being seen daily, while they were counted on the 10th, four on the 15th, & three on the 11th. They were eating the little Parthman's apples on the 1st & 2nd.
2. Parus atricapillus. - 1^②/₃ 3¹/₃ 4^③/₃ 5^②/₃ 6¹/₃ 7¹/₃. One every day but the last they were seen eating sweet.
3. Ampelis cedrorum. - A flock of 75 on the 1st, one of 30 on the 2nd, and 2 birds on the 13th. These seen on the 1st & 2nd were eating the fruit of Parthman's apple.
4. Spizella socialis. - Two males singing in the garden on the 24th & one on the 29th.
5. Zonotrichia albicollis. - One in full plumage, no doubt the same bird which frequented the garden during the whole of March, was seen three in April by Mr. Deane on the 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 20, & 21. He sang freely after the 8th his voice gaining steadily in strength & clearness until, toward the close of his song, it had nearly or quite attained the perfect characteristics of the breeding season.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

April

6. Passercella iliaca. - Two, apparently a pair, secreted among the sun flower stalks, the male singing alternately by itself, on the 8th, one on the 10th, and a fourth on the 11th. Birds noted in our garden by W. Deane.
7. Leucocotus g. cinereus. - 2 @ flying one, 5th, 6th, 7th 8th 27th. A flock was also seen in the Smith's place, Beulah Street on the 3rd & 13th, twenty birds being counted on the latter date.
8. Corvus americanus. - Six flying one high on the 1st & a high bird seen on the 13th.
9. Cyanocitta cristata. - One heard screaming in the garden on the 25th.
10. Dryobates pubescens. - 1 ♂ on 2nd, 6 ♀ on 8th, 10 ♀ on 11th, 12 ♀ on 13th, 13 ♀ on 13th, 20 ♀ on 21st, 22 ♀ on 25th, 26 ♀ on 27th, 29 ♀ on 29th in each of the.
11. Colaptes auratus. - A ~~female~~^{male} frequented the garden during the whole month. On the 5th he began working on the entrance of artificial nesting box covered with bark which I had built up in an elm in the jungle. After this date ~~the other birds~~ he frequently visited the box and pecked away at the edges of the entrance hole which I finally (on the 14th) enlarged for him. On the 15th he appeared at the box accompanied by a ♀. After looking in & pecking the edges of the hole for about 10 minutes the ♂ entered. 5 min after this both birds flew away together. Flicker's nest in artificial box.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

April

12. Branta canadensis. - At about 1 P.M. on the 12th a flock of 60 Canada Geese passed over the garden flying a little west of east. Birds noted in one garden of W. Deane.
13. Passer domesticus. - In moderate numbers.

Concord, Mass.

1899

May 1

Clear, calm, oppressively hot (ther. 88° at 1 P.M.). Revolution of a hot wave through showers from 6 to 9 P.M. cooling the air (to 68° - 8 P.M.)

When I awoke this morning I heard a Redstart singing Arrivals near the cabin and soon after wards a Cat-bird. Walked around the Hill just after breakfast & heard a Christine-tidee warbler in the blueberry hump. Later in the forenoon heard an Oven-bird in Prescott's pines and two Marsh Wrenblers on the Barrett farm besides two more Christine-tides and two Prairie Wrenblers. In the afternoon heard an Ear Swallow on the W. Bedford Hill of the river and at evening a Whippoorwill singing near Benson's. All these were "arrivals".

There was also a great increase in the number of Black & White Cuckoos and a single one in that of Black-throated Green. (of the former I heard at least fifteen notes today. Some Flycatchers had also arrived in force (I heard the first on the 28th).

Evidently the warm wave had brought a good flight of early May birds. It is curious to find some bird life in the woods at least after the well-nigh bitter April. But where are the Worm Thrushes? I have yet to hear any first. Song Sparrows are pitifully scarce. Swamps unusually numerous. Red-wings are now in their usual numbers.

Vegetation is advancing by leaps & bounds. Seed bed & Corn order in bloom to-day. Apple buds almost open on early trees. March narcissus in bloom yesterday.

Vegetation

Spent the forenoon at the Barrett farm, the afternoon near the cabin & on the opposite side of the river.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 2

Cloudy most of the day, the forenoon calm and hazy, a cool east wind in the afternoon. Two thunder showers passed to the southwest. Ther. 65° at 6 A.M., 69° at 1 P.M.

Arrivals: - Wilson's Thrush, one calling near the cabin early in the morning; Brown Thrasher, one singing gloriously on the W. Bedford shore at 8 A.M.; Water Thrush, one singing near the cabin, Mayland Yellow-throat, one singing in the swamp behind Balls Hill; Bobolink, a number of song coming at first from directly over the cabin, again from beyond the crest of Balls Hill at 3 P.M., evidently from a bird migrating at the time.

Arrivals

Down-birds singing in every direction this morning. Two White-throated Sparrows at the Barrett Spring. An immature Bald Eagle in a pine on Davis's Hill. I was about the farm bird house April 29th. A White-breasted Nuthatch calling wo-wo-wo in Parker's orchard. Yellow-rumped Warbler heard calling. ♂ Hairy Woodpecker on Balls Hill.

Bald Eagle

At evening as twilight was falling I saw at least 300 Swallows skimming close over the meadows under the lee of a high bank which sheltered them from the keen E. wind. They kept alighting on some isolated stink-bushes of broken bushes & in clusters as dense as any of the hum in autumn. About two-thirds of the flock were White-bellies, the remainder Barn Swallows.

Big flock of Swallows

First Dragon Flies (two) seen

First Dragon Flies

Spent the forenoon on the W. Bedford shore getting wild flowers. Went to the Barrett farm in the afternoon by way of Davis's Hill. Woods silent. Only a Phoebe in the old orchard. Anton's Wood Warbler, a Mayland Yellow-throat, a Red-start, Carpenter & Scarce Sparrow singing in the swamp behind Balls Hill this morning.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 3

Cloudy up to 10 a. m. Remainder of day clear with strong, cold N. E. wind. Ther. 48° - 6 a. m.; 66° - 1 P. m.

No arrivals noted and no apparent increase in the numbers of the species already here. The raw E. wind discouraged singing on the part of the Woodpeckers but the Red-wings and Song Sparrows sang more freely than has been the case for some time.

A Solitary Vireo was in full song in the oaks near the cabin at noon and earlier in the day I saw a little company of three Yellow-rumps at the east end of the hill.

On the W. Bedford shore I saw a flock of 20 Red-wings and two pairs of Song Sparrows.

At the Barrett farm later in the afternoon I heard a Chipping sparrow singing and two Great Flycatchers & a Downy Woodpecker. The apple trees in the old orchard are green with small leaves and faintly pink with fruit buds on the point of bursting. It seems strange that there are so few birds there.

At evening as I was strolling through the pines just behind Ball's Hill I heard a single drum tower over Holden's meadow. A Virginia Rail was calling cutee in the Hackberry swamp and Robins ^{were} singing and calling all around me in the pines. One bird was a superb singer with an unusually clear, full voice.

Elbert saw two Wilson's Thrushes near the cabin ~~and~~ I heard one calling this evening. Late this afternoon I heard an Ovenbird give the flight song.

Shad bush is in full flower nearly everywhere now. Adiantums in flower in front of the cabin.

Solitary Vireo

Scarcity of birds at Barrett farm

Birds at Ball's Hill

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 4

Clear and cool with strong N. to N.E. wind. Therm. 36° at 6 a.m., 66° at 1 P.M. A hard frost last night killing ferns, asparagus & even the tender leaves of trees, but only on upland.

For the first time this spring the woods about the cabin were swarming with birds this morning. I heard them singing at sunrise & when I got out at 6.30 I found the trees abuzz with them. There were fully fifty Yellow-throats, several Parula, Nashville & Great-crested Green Warblers, a Yellow Robin Warbler, a Redstart, a Water Thrush, several Chipping Sparrows & a Solitary Tanager. I do not think these had arrived during the night but on the contrary believe that they had come from the colder inland woods to the sunny, sheltered, southern slope of the hill where they were protected from the raw north wind. They clustered all along the river front from the east end of the hill to Morris' landing & many of them remained through the forenoon although the flocks diminished steadily after ten o'clock before they got warmer.

A cold wave of migrants drives the birds from inland to the river banks.

As I was digging Edwin's Hoppers on Davis's Hill in the forenoon I saw an in. Wood Pewee & heard a Great Yellowlegs & an Osprey. Both in the afternoon I saw the Osprey again. A Marsh Hawk & two night Herons also passed Davis's Hill at 8 P.M.

Bald Eagle.
Greater Yellowlegs
Osprey.

To the Barrett farm in P.M. Nothing singing within hearing of the house save a Purple Finch. Saw a Thrasher in the birds field & heard another opposite the cabin early this morning. Two King birds along the river at evening (common).

Birds still scarce at the Barrett farm.

I cannot understand the affair & almost told a number of birds on the Barrett farm. I saw only two this morning a Robin & a Phoebe. First apple blossom (only one) open.

Concord, Mass.

1899

May 5

Brilliantly clear with cool E. wind. Temp. 48° 6 a.m.,
60° 1 p.m., 51° 8 p.m.

Six or eight Yellow-rumps, three or four Parula Warblers, two or three Nuthatches, a Chestnut-side, a Redstart & a House Wren were singing near the cabin this morning. These birds appeared to be the remnants of the flock seen in the same place yesterday and were fresh arrivals. Across the river a House Wren was singing. On the edge of a pool in Parker's pasture a solitary Sandpiper was feeding.

Early morning
singing at
Ball's Hill.

Spent the forenoon digging wild flowers in Nevins' woods & along the railroad embankment where there was a wonderful display of anemones and violets on a tract that had been recently burned over.

Wild flowers

To Cambridge by the 4:20 P.M. train. Found two Yellow Warblers singing in the old garden and W. Deane afterwards told me that he saw them there this morning, the first for the season. Bothrops also saw them to-day for the first time. Deane saw an Oriole yesterday. The cherry trees were all in full bloom - a beautiful sight.

Cambridge.
Birds in the
garden.

Deane also told me that there have been very few birds in the garden the past month - especially the latter half of it. There have been two or three Robins, a pair of Flickers which are apparently going to nest in a bark covered box which I put up for them, & an occasional Chaffinch. The first Purple Finch appeared yesterday, where a Redstart also arrived.

Cherry trees
in full bloom

East Lexington, Mass.

1899.

May 6

Forenoon cloudless; afternoon slightly cloudy or very hazy.
breeze with soft S.W. wind. Ther. 48° - 6 a.m., 72° - 1 P.M.
58° - 8 P.M.

Took the 8.34 a.m. train to East Lexington where I
met O.A. Bathrop and A.W. Hathaway by appointment.
They had brought their boat in a wagon and had landed
it in the flooded meadows where we were to spend the
forenoon looking for Grebes' nests. Within fifteen minutes from
the train we left the shore and found two one with 7, the
other with 8 eggs. Both were in thickets of Sweet Gale, within
thirty yards of the railroad embankment, anchored heavily
among the stems of the Grebes but floating in clear water
about two feet deep. The set of screens was unweaved, that
of light almost completely hidden by a thin layer of moss
& water plants which the bird had evidently drawn over
the egg just before leaving them. Both nests were very
neat and compact and very buoyant also as I found by
pressing them down with my hand. The eggs lay in a
saucer-shaped depression the bottom of which was only
slightly (less than an inch) above the surface of the water.
The entire nest was hollow with its materials fresh &
green seen on the very top when there was a thin layer
of light brown material that gave it the appearance of
floating meadow "tuft". Each nest was almost perfectly
round and the cover on was slightly domed
but its top rose scarcely two inches above the water
& it would not have attracted the attention of any
one who was unfamiliar with the Grebe's peculiar
manner of nesting. Indeed I did not see either
nest until it was pointed out to me although I

Nestling 03
Pink-bill Grebe

East Lexington, Mass.

1899

May 6
(No 2)

were looking "with all my eyes". The Great Gull, already in half bay, gave some trouble, of course, but even had it been less the character of the nests was such that they might have been easily overlooked on a distance of a few yards.

Later we found a third nest with seven eggs, in a more open place among scrubby, Cooper's Button Bushes. This nest was similar in every way to the other two. In fact it was a partly finished nest which the birds considered a "bluff nest". We saw many of these "bluff nests" elsewhere. They were evidently the work of the Grebes but whether built to draw attention away from the real nests or merely structures which had been abandoned because the sites proved for some reason unsatisfactory I was unable to determine. The eggs in this last nest were fresh for they sank when placed in the water, but the lot of eight which I took were incubated to judge by the way they behaved when subjected to the test just mentioned.

We did not catch sight of a single Grebe the whole forenoon but they were very noisy at times. Almost immediately after we had left a nest the birds set up a loud outcry near it in tone, as it seemed to me, of triumph and our supposed inability to discover it.

We found a Red-wing's nest with one egg (an early date) a Brown Grackle's with three eggs (nest in Button Bush only a foot above the water) and a Bluebird's (in a bush opposite the) with five eggs.

We heard several Carolina Wrens, a "Big Grackle", & a Yellow-throated Vireo besides many common birds

Nesting of
Red-billed Grebe

[✓]Red-wing's nest
Grackle's "
Bluebird's "

[✓]The Big Grackle
heard.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 6
(no 3)

I returned to Concord by an early afternoon train. Between Lexington & Bedford I saw some excellent Kingbirds flying over the fields.

Walking at evening around the east end of Ball's Hill I saw a pair of House Hawks & the numerous Eagle that has been frequenting this locality of late.

Black Ducks

Song Sparrows

A Virginia Rail was calling cutta on Great Meadows & another gave the pig notes in the blueberry swamp behind the Hill where I think there is likely to be a nest or with later.

The Robins come into this swamp to roost as usual - about a dozen of them, all males I think.

Robin ^{nest}

They are roosting this spring in the blueberry bushes - not in the pines or fennels.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 7.

Cloudless with light W. wind. Very warm at midday. Therm. 56°
6 A.M. 72° - 6 P.M.

Arrivals.. Yellow-throated Vireo, two singing on Davis's Hill;
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, one singing on W. Bedford Brook early
in the morning & afterwards near the cabin; Baltimore Oriole, two
at Concord, one here by Miss Marion Keyes, the other by W. Holton;
Hummingbird, one at Concord by Miss Marion Keyes; Least
Sandpiper, one at the Hill; Carolina Rail, two on Great
Meadow singing after dark.

Arrivals

Walking to Davis's Hill this morning (8-9 A.M.) I found the
woods and swampy thickets alive with warblers all of which
belonged to one summer fauna. Chestnut-sided, Orange & Black-
throated Green being the most numerous.

Heavy flights
of Warblers.

In the afternoon I peddled to Concord. Saw several spotted
Sandpipers, one Least S. and at least half Solitary Sandpiper
along the river banks & heard Bobolinks in one of the places.

In the Keyes' pasture at sunset a Snow Bunting was singing
gloriously & a Yellow-rumped Sparrow gave the striking song.
I heard these other Buntings earlier in the day.

Left the Keyes' at 8.15 P.M. and reached the cabin at 8.45.
The night was dark, damp & still the stars very bright.
Two Carolina Rails and a Virginia were singing in Great Meadow
One of the Carolines I recognized at once as a bird which sang
in the town place (about opposite Bowen's landing) last year.
It has a peculiar note which I described in my journal of last
year. A Swamp Sparrow was also singing steadily
opposite the cabin when I landed.

Carolina Rail
with peculiar
note of last
year
on Great M.

1899.

May 8

Foggy dawn, afternoon heavy. Moderate & cool E. wind.

I passed a restless night and whenever I was awake the Swamp Sparrow that I heard when I landed at Bow's Hill last evening, and afterwards (from 9 to 10 P.M./as I sat writing in the cabin, was singing at short, regular intervals. I believe that he sang through the entire night, which was clear and starlit but nevertheless rather dark. The only other Sparrow which I have ever heard sing steadily, regularly and frequently at night is the Henslow's,

Swamp Sparrow sings all night

Chickadee, Lined Warbler, Redstart, Black Throated Green, Black & white Cuckoo, Oven birds, Red wing, a Grosbeak & a White Throated Sparrow were singing over the cabin early this morning.

I spent the forenoon at the Barrett place working both ways through the woods. The country was literally alive with birds but the only species new to my list was a Blackburnian Warbler whose very song I heard in some tall pines on the Davis woods behind Beacon's. There was a good many White Throated Sparrows & I saw two Yellow-rumps. All the other birds belonged to species which spend the summer here.

Blackburnian Warbler arrives

I found a Partridge's nest with 12 fresh looking eggs in a patch of Huckleberry bushes under a Red Pine on the north edge of the Barrett Run about 50 yards from the drumming well & 40 yards from the site of the nest with 13 eggs which I photographed last year. He was throwing out bushes & Mr. Ditty cut down a large one that stood within 15 feet of the nest, as it fell the Partridge rose flying slowly about like a Red. The tree fell within a yard of the nest. He had been talking & carrying other trees down about the spot. On

Partridge's nest with 12 eggs

1899.
May 8

Concord, Mass.

(To Wayside Inn, Sudbury, in P. M.)

May 1st I finished a pair of Partridge within 60 yards of this nest. They rose together within four feet of an omnibus. I started a mole this evening about 100 yards from the nest. I have not heard a Partridge down since April 25th although I have been in their haunts daily & out all homes.

Partridge
nest

A pair of Phoebe have a nest in a water hole in a beam in the barn cellar on the Barrett place. I found it April 28th when it was nearly finished. 2-day it held four eggs. Neither of the birds was about. I have not heard a Phoebe sing for several days. (Five eggs laid; hatched May 27; young left nest June 11th)

Phoebe's
nest with
4 eggs.

Here is a list of the birds that I saw or heard while standing in the orchard at the Barrett place early this forenoon: -
1 Robin, 2 Chickadees, 2 Chestnut-sided Woodpeckers, one Black-billed Cuckoo, 1 Nuthatch, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Barn Swallow, 1 Bank Swallow, 1 Yellow-throated Vireo, 1 Solitary Tanager, 1 Grass Finch, 1 Field Sparrow, 1 Cowbird, 1 Kingbird, 2 Least Flycatchers, 2 Chipping Sparrows, 1 Flicker, several Chimney Swifts. The Phoebe might also be added on the strength of the nest. In all the list includes nineteen species.

Birds noted
at Barrett
place.

In the afternoon I paddled to Concord and thence down to the Wayside Inn where I spent the night. On the way up the river I saw a number of Solitary & Spotted Sandpipers and heard a Bobolink & Meadowlark. Along the road from Concord to Sudbury I saw nothing but the commonest birds. Sawdust being going out of bloom. Apple trees coming into bloom. The season is now in advance of the average at this date.

To the
Wayside Inn,
Sudbury.

1899.

May 9Wayside Inn, Sudbury, to Hudson, Mass.

(Return to Concord in P. M.)

Cloudless with light N. to S. E. winds. Ther. 72° at 1 P. M.

Left Wayside Inn at 9 A. M. and drove to Hudson (8 miles) Drive from
 passing through a beautiful country diversified by farms and Wayside Inn
 woodland with oaks and pines of the Cooper line and to Hudson
 many fine & very old chestnuts standing along the roadside.
 The woods and thickets were in that exquisite but so very Vegetation
 excrement condition when they appear to be oiled in
 tender green, pink, salmon and rose gray with the
 unfolding leaflets. The bear oaks were in full blossom.
 A few apple trees in bloom, others pink with half-
 opened buds. There were many birds chiefly Birds
 of the common kinds. I am very sure that I heard
 a Prairie Warbler in Northbrook. In the villages we
 heard Orioles & Warbling Vireos with Yellow-throated
 Vireos also. ~~The~~ Bobolinks, Meadow Larks & Grass Finches
 were on hand everywhere.

Returned to Concord by train from Hudson at noon Return to
 and at 3 P. M. Concord. Concord.
 at Hudson, a Meadow Lark near Flint's bridge.
 Solitary & Spotted Sandpipers were numerous all Sandpipers &
 along the river banks in marshy places. On a flat Green legs.
 at the base of Dalton's Hill upwards of a dozen of
 Gull's Sparrows were collected & with them was eight
 Greater Yellow-legs, which were so tame that they allowed
 me to handle within 25 yards of them before they rose
 & flew off with great clamor. I also saw a Night Heron
 & a fine adult Night Heron, both standing on the river bank.
 Parson joined me at 5:30. He walked around the house
 at evening but heard only a few birds.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 10

Cloudless with light n. to n.w. wind. Ther. 52° - 60° N.,
73° - 1 P.M., 59° - 8 P.M.

Arrival -- Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

In a.m. (8-10) walked to Davis Hill by the river paths
and back around Ball's Hill. Found only common
birds and not many of them.

To Barrett farm via Davis Hill in P.M. Heard the
five Cuckoos, a Yellow-bill, in the Barrett pasture.

Yellow-billed
Cuckoo americana

Visited the Partridge's nest in the Barrett run and
found it all right with no additional eggs. The bird
soon at 10 yds. distance flew about 10 feet (then had
to fly to get clear of the dense huckleberry bush)
then dropped to the ground and rose until out
of sight crossing several open spaces and moving in
a crouching position with her head close to the ground.
This behavior was so widely hindered to that of the
bird that had the nest with 13 eggs last season that
I am satisfied they are one & the same individual.

Partridge's nest.

Heard two Thrashers to-day one behind Ball's Hill
the other in the Barrett pasture. In the dense young
pines near Puffin Rock an Olive-backed Thrush was in full
song at least making the woods ring.

Thrashers.

Swinson's Thrush
in full song.

As I was paddling up from Davis Hill in the
evening twilight I heard three Yellow-bills whistling.
I saw a pair of Black Ducks flying over Ball's Hill,
Apple trees in nearly full bloom to-day.

Yellow-bills.

Black Ducks
Apple trees in
nearly full bloom

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 11

Morning clear with hot, dry & very strong W. to S. W. wind. Clouds gathering in the afternoon bringing at about 4 P.M. a shower that lasted over an hour and did an immense amount of good (the country has been suffering badly for rain for nearly two weeks). Ther. 53°-6a.m., 68°-1 P.M., 54°-8 P.M.

Arrivals. Red-eyed Vireo 1st. Ball's Tit
Henslow's Sparrow 1st. Springy, bushy near behind Holden's.

Arrivals.

In the forenoon Pondin & I crossed the river and walked up the track towards Concord looking for wild flowers but finding nothing of much interest. Heard a Bobolink, a Field Sparrow & numerous Crows & constant loud whistles. Saw a flock of about 15 Least Sandpipers flying over the meadows.

Least Sandpipers

In the forenoon Pondin & I crossed the river and walked up the track towards Concord looking for wild flowers but finding nothing of much interest. Heard a Bobolink, a Field Sparrow & numerous Crows & constant loud whistles. Saw a flock of about 15 Least Sandpipers flying over the meadows.

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Henslow's Sparrow

Night Heron

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 12

Clear with strong, cool N. to N.W. wind. Ther. 52°-60 a.m.,
73°-1 P.M. 59°-8 P.M.

Arrivals: - Wilson's Black-cap Warbler, 1^x, the late end of
cabin, Scarlet Tanager 1^x, Balls Hill, 8 W. Bedford.
Indigo Bird, Coastal, Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1^x, Balls Hill, Nighthawk, 1.

Arrivals

The woods about the cabin were alive with birds this morning. No doubt most of them had come from more exposed places to the sheltered, sunny slope of Balls Hill as they usually do when there is a strong N. wind but there had evidently been a flight from the south during the night although not, I think, a heavy one.

Birds again driving in numbers to the sheltered side of Balls Hill by a cold N. wind

At and shortly after sunrise, as I lay awake listening to the concert of voices, I noted the following species, twenty one in number: - ^{Robin,} Wood Thrush (1), Chickadee, Black & white Creeper, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Water Thrush, Cat bird, Redstart (2), Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Red-winged Blackbird, Blue Jay, Chipping Sparrow, Carolina Wren, Virginia Rail, Nighthawk. To this list may be added the Wilson's Black-cap Warbler, heard singing near the cabin at breakfast time.

Birds singing near the cabin at sunrise.

After breakfast Pondin & I walked around the big blueberry swamp. It was filled with birds but we noted nothing new although a number of species not on the above list were here or heard. Such as the Maryland Yellow-throat, Pine Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, Nashville Warbler etc. There were three adult male Redstarts at the east end of Balls Hill & one or two more beyond.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 12
(No 2)

We took the 9.06 a.m. train to Concord where C. & B.R.S. Drive from
met us with the buggy and whence we drove together to
Bedington. Heard an Indigo Bird singing near the junction
& saw several Nuthatches (on a g.) and a Meadow Lark
in John Mann's meadow. Orioles were abundant all
along the road. & I heard Warbling Vireo in Lexington.

Concord to
Bedington.

I returned to Ball's Hill by an early afternoon train.
After tea I walked to Benven's farm ridge and back
by way of the wood shed. It was a perfect evening,
clear with a gentle breeze from the north. The birds
were singing gloriously - all but the Wilson's Thrushes which
are still silent. The Wood Thrush heard this evening
was the cabin had walked his way northward as far
as Davis's Hill where he was singing steadily. He had a
wing, broken bag of inferior quality. As I stood waiting
to him a Nighthawk passed directly over me flying
due north at a rapid rate & no doubt migrating.

Evening at
Ball's Hill.

Wood Thrush
singing at cabin
in early morning,
near Davis's Hill
at evening.

The Holden meadows east of Ball's Hill seemed to be alive
with Raids of both species which were very noisy at times.
When I got back to the cabin two Virginia Raids were singing
in their meadow and whenever I was awake during
the following night I heard their hoarse voices. I have no
doubt that they called incessantly through the entire night,
as they have done for several nights past. Both birds say
cutta-cutta-cutta.

Raids booming in
Holden's meadow


A Bittern was pumping in the Holden meadows just before
dusk. I had a fair view of him & watched him for a
long time. He coughed and shuttered his neck just

Bittern seen
pumping.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 12
(no 5)

Before he began snapping his bill. During the snapping (Bittern
his throat was puffed out and drawn in very like a Trumpet.) snapping)
When snapping he throws his head forward & back but not
at all forcibly. I could not see his breast. When not snapping
or snapping he stood erect and still his bill pointing upward
at an angle of about 45°.  Early in the afternoon
I heard a deep, low croaking sound and hearing
one saw three Bitterns flying low over the river past the cabin
in company. They turned and went off over the woods
on the Bedford side of the river. As a rule the Bittern
flies with head & neck extended but these birds had their
heads drawn in like Wright Herons. (cf. note under April 25th)

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 13

Forenoon sunny and warm but hazy with light S.W. wind. Afternoon cloudy with strong W. wind. Light showers in the early evening. Ther. 51° 6 a.m., 71° 1 p.m., 53° 8 p.m.

Arrivals:- Black & Yellow Warbler 1 ♂ (Ball's Hill), Canadian Warbler, 1 ♂ (Davis's Hill), Golden-winged Warbler 3 ♂♂ (Barrett farm), Lincoln's Finch, 3 (Ball's Hill & Benson's/Great Crested Flycatcher 1 ♀, (Barrett orchard).

An immense flight of migrants, most have arrived last night for the country was swarming with them this forenoon. They were nowhere in flocks but, on the contrary, evenly distributed everywhere throughout the woods and thickets, at least between Ball's Hill and the Barrett place. There was no fair wind to drive them into sheltered places and the foliage is now so advanced that shade and food can be had in the thickest thickets. At Ball's Hill there were not nearly so many birds as yesterday evening. I was awoken at daybreak and heard but little singing and that of the common birds only.

Great "rush" of migrants.

My walk to the Barrett place immediately after breakfast was filled with interest, humor, and at times with positive excitement. I took the path through the blueberry hump to Davis's Hill, thence through Prescott's pine woods, past the Barrett spring & through the apple orchard to the house which I reached at about 9 a.m. Half an hour later I started back by a different route - through the Barrett run, the oak woods on the road, the road itself to Benson's, and down through the fields to the vine landing and thence along the river path to the cabin.

Walk through woods to Barrett place.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 13
(no 2)

During this walk I saw or heard three Linnæus's Finches, Birds seen
 a Black & Green Warbler, a Canadian Warbler (Davis's Warbler), during a
Golden-winged Warbler, four Black-burnian Warblers (two on walk from
Davis's Hill, one in Prescott's pine, one in the Barrett woods, Barb's Hill
one singing) six Wood Thrushes, three Parula Warblers, one to the
Yellow-rumped Warbler, one Wilson's Black-cap, an Ohio-backed Thrush, Barrett farm
a Wood Thrush (singing loudly in Barrett run), a Great Auklet & back.
Flycatcher (in the Barrett orchard), an immature Bald Eagle
(struck from a pine on Davis's Hill) four or five White-throated
Sparrows and great numbers of Chestnut-headed Warblers, Down birds,
Black & white Creepers and other common birds. A Thrasher
was singing opposite the cabin & another in the Barrett run.
I heard six Cow-birds, four or five Orioles, two Robins,
two Field Sparrows, three House Flycatchers (two males in
the Barrett orchard, one at Bennett's). A Towhee was
singing on the bank of the Barrett run, a pair were
perching in a thicket lower down the run, and I saw
a single female on Barb's Hill. Down birds were very
common. I heard three Yellow-throated Vireos, two
Red-eyes, two Towhees, one Grosbeak, three Song Sparrows,
& several Maryland Yellow-throats. I have met with
no Solitary Ticks since May 8th and feel that none
will breed on my land this season. The only Grass Finch Society of
I know of in the whole Barb's Hill region is one Solitary Vireos
that has sung up to within a few days in & Grass Finches
Savanna's field within hearing of the Barrett house.
Yesterday I saw my first Savanna Sparrows - three
birds together in Parker's orchard, West Bedford.

The woods were silent this afternoon. I peddled up
 river to Dodkin's Hill hearing three Greater Yellow-legs,
four Solitary Sandpipers & the usual number of Red wing

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 13
(No 3)

One of the Lincoln's Finches spent the entire day near the cabin. At about 8 a.m. it sang six or eight times in a dense thicket. I recognized the song at once although I had not then seen the bird. It began with five or six disconnected, stuttering notes and ended in a low, rich, rippling trill almost exactly like a House Wren's. Although not loud the song at once attracted my attention and the general din of bird voices that came from every side. I went into the thicket to try to drive the bird out but I got only a glimpse of it. Later, when I returned from my walk, I found it directly in front of the cabin. It acted very like a Wren digging in behind the stem of a birch when I moved & coming out or peeping around the trunk on me when I stood still. I watched it for ten minutes or more at a distance of only about 12 feet. When I squeaked it became excited and raised its crest & feathers in tail. It sang it several times afterwards in the same place.

I found the second bird by the roadside in the hollow just above Benson's. It was exceedingly shy, flying on ahead of me, crossing the road twice, once alighting on a stone wall where I got a good view of it, finally disappearing in a thicket.

The third bird was feeding with or very near a White-throated Sparrow on the ground among some bushes on the bank above the swamp near the wood shed (Blackburn woods). Something within the thicket startled both birds almost as soon as I discovered them. The Lincoln's Sparrow flew directly towards me & alighted in a birch near the yard off, where it sat very still for awhile & then began pecking its feathers. When I moved at length it dashed off as if greatly alarmed & plunged into the dense foliage of an isolated pine in Benson's pasture. I left it there

Song &
behavior of
Lincoln's
Finch.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 13
(no. 4)

I heard Golden-winged Warblers singing in four places on the Bassett farm, one by the spring, another in the front-garden opening, a third near the head of the run, a fourth in the hollow near Benson's, where I saw the bird at first flitting about among some bushes, at length on the ground hopping about among the dry leaves. It was very probably the same individual that I had heard earlier in the morning at the spring for the two localities are not far apart but I am very sure that I am safe in counting these different birds in all.

^{Golden-winged}
Warbler.

The Black & Yellow Warbler was in the black oak in the middle of the large spring behind Bassett's Hill flitting about in the full sunlight among the unfolding leaves, jutting out flitting up its tail & half opening its wings. It seemed fairly delicious with its movements on the ground. I have rarely seen so handsome a male. The black stripes on the sides were very broad & clear.

^{Black & yellow}
Warbler.

Seeing a Cat bird singing this morning in a thicket very near me I was surprised that I could not see it for the foliage was nearly a thin veil through which the eye penetrated easily in every direction. At length I discovered the bird crouched in a last year's nest where it kept moving around very slowly singing steadily and loudly all the while. I did not see its mouth.

^{Cat bird}
singing in
old nest.

Found a Flicker at work excavating a hole in an apple tree in Benson's orchard. I was passing the tree within six feet when I heard a low tapping accompanied by a continuous ruffled whirring sound. Turning I at once saw the

^{Flicker}
behaviour
of Flicker

Barnard, Mass.

1899

May 13
(No. 5)

bird's tail projecting from the hole which was not over 5 feet above the ground. For a minute or more the pulling and whining continued ~~uninterruptedly~~, the tail wriggling violently the while. Evidently the bird had crawled in the hole to just that point where she had less room to work than she had had before or would have afterwards. In other words she had just about reached the point where the entrance hole must begin to be expanded into a chamber & to turn downward. It seemed to me that the whining sound expressed rage or impatience. Perhaps it is the Flicker's form of swearing! Unfortunately the bird heard me as was trying to steal off a little way to get behind the next apple tree & flew off in alarm. I waited for some time but she would not return. I had to move away for had I stayed she would certainly have come out of the hole with a mouthful of chips in the course of a minute or two & discovered me. The 3 Flicker was shouting about 200 yds. off.

As I was crossing the opening beyond the stump I saw a hen Partridge perched on a little mound under a pine in a crouching position. The ground over a space of several yards around the mound was as smooth & open as a well kept floor. I was less than twenty feet away & the bird would have seen me as I approached. She did not move until I stopped & put the glass on her when she began walking slowly off making the squirrel-like chattering sound. & when she got behind a tree she flew. I saw a cock Partridge a few days ago do nearly the same thing but he was standing rather erect & as still as a statue in an opening. In both instances the bird was only a few yards from these bushes.

Partridge

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 14.

Clear with cool W. to N. W. wind, Therm: 51° - 6 a.m.,
69° - 1 P.M., 54° - 8 P.M.

Yesterday's birds were all gone this morning and a
small flight of woodpeckers had taken their place. Early
in the morning a Wood Thrush sang for half-an-hour
or more very near the cabin. It was not the bird heard
on the 12th but a deep, rich-voiced singer.

After breakfast I examined the birds on the south
side of the hill with some care & found in addition
to the locally established Redstarts, Cuckers, Chestnut-sided
etc. a Wilson's Black-cop and a Black-poll Warbler
only the last-named being the first that I
have seen this Spring.

Later in the morning I crossed the swamp &
then went to Holden's Hill. During this walk
I found only one northern bird, a Black & Yellow
Warbler. As far as I could judge the local-birding
species were represented by only about their normal
summer numbers. It was a great change from
yesterday. In fact I should say that the
total number of small birds in the region about
Boyle's Hill was not an tenth to-day what it
was yesterday.

The Red-shouldered Hawks nest in the big pine
at Holden's Hill looked dismantled & is evidently
not at present occupied. Yet I heard one
of the birds screaming high in air towards Beacon.
I wonder where they are nesting this Spring.
Hyles & Cooper's 7 logs still noisy as usual.

A second
Wood Thrush
visits the
cabin.

Few north-
bound migrants
about.

Black-poll
Warbler arrives

Red-shouldered
Hawk's nest
at Holden's
Hill not
occupied this
year.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 15

Brilliantly clear with light W. wind. Ther. 46° - 6 a.m.,
52° - 8 p.m.

Spent the forenoon in the woods on & behind Bull's Hill. Saw
no arrivals & met many birds. The Linnæus's Thrush spent the day. Finished
day in front of the cabin and I saw another in a thicket
at the north-east end of the Hill. A Water Thrush,
Wilson's Black-cap and Black & Yellow Warbler were
singing near the cabin early in the morning.

To the Barrett farm by way of Davis's Hill in P.M. Savannah Thrush
An olive backed Thrush in full song near the spring. in full song.
The Partridge & Phoebe both sitting. A Great-crested Flycatcher
calling in the orchard.

Saw a Redstart beginning her nest this morning at about Redstart builds
7.30 when only a few threads of material were in place. a nest in one
at 3 P.M. the nest holled finished from below although the day.
bird no doubt will work on the lining for a day or two more.
The nest is in the upright fork of a white maple at E. end of Bull's Hill.

Paddled up to the Keys this morning starting a little
after sunset & getting back at 9 P.M. Saw 3 night Herons, Waders.
5 Least Sandpipers (at the Holt) & a number of Solitary &
Spotted Sandpipers. Heard three different Carolina Parakeets Four backing.
and several Virginias. A Fox was backing in Long's
meadows (just below the swimming place) as I paddled
on my way down.

1899

May 16

Cloudy and cool with light rain in P.M. Wind W. Ther. 52°-60. M.,
60°-1 P.M., 51°-8 P.M.

To Cambridge by 8.13 a.m. train. Spent the day in the garden working the weed flower beds & cutting out some trees from the jungle. Two Swainson's Thrushes on high in family.

" 17

Millimetry clear with strong E. wind. Ther. 51°-69°-52°.

Spent most of the day at work in the garden at Cambridge. Scarcity of birds are pitifully scarce than this spring. The only ones which appear to be settled are a high pair of Robins, a pair of Flickers (working in an artificial tunnel three feet up in a pine) a pair of Redstarts & a Yellow Warbler & two. There are no Chipping, no Purple Finches & no Crows. I forget Orioles of which we have at least one pair. A Swainson's Thrush was singing all the forenoon. birds in our garden.

Took the 5.01 train back to Concord W. Dam accompanying me. On reaching W. Bedford we walked down to the ditch standing a Partridge eye in the Asplen Swamp. At the cabin we found a Lincoln's Finch which Gilbert told us had spent yesterday & to-day in the thicket in front of his door wintering one whom all was told to cut the winter had he had here in the bed of ferns. There were two White-throated Sparrows there yesterday & five to-day.

Walked around Ball's Hill & to Pine Hill at evening. Birds very numerous along the main path, Tanagers, Grosbeaks, birds, Warblers, the two Flickers pumping on Great Meadows. There has been a fair cawing caw.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 18

Cloudy with raw E. wind. A light shower at evening.
Ther. 44° - 6 a.m., 54° - 1 P.M., 48° - 8 P.M.

Fin bird concert at cabin early this morning, Robin, Thrasher, Cow-bird, Yellow, Christ-mas-tree, Black & White, Pine, Black-throated Green & Canadian Warblers, Wilson's Black-cop, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Finch, Grosbeak, Junco, Red-eyed & Yellow-throated Vireo, Redstarts, a Water Thrush, Bobolink, Red-wings etc.

Birds singing near cabin in early morning.

2 Barred form in fawn with W. Scam. A Black-brown Warbler singing in Prescott's pines, another in Barrett's pines, a Golden-winged Warbler was flying, another at head of run, two Green-crowned Flycatchers in Barrett orchard, a Purple Finch (a rare bird this year) near Barrett house, two Yellow-billed Cuckoo, a Black-billed C. & many common birds. No evidence of the arrival of any migrants since the 15th but all those common on that date have evidently remained. Apple trees out of bloom. Partridge & Phoebe stilling.

Birds noted at Barrett farm.

No migration since May 15. Apple trees out of bloom.

In P.M. went up river to the Hill. Four Solitary Sandpipers, saw a eight spotted, one Great, one Greater, and one Lesser Yellow-Cys.

Waders.

The Lesser Yellow-Cys was feeding on a mud flat at the mouth of Bigelow Brook at the base of Dalton's Hill. He did not see it until it took wing. He came out past us within fifty yards uttering the characteristic double & triple whistles as it flew. We had a good view of it & there can hardly be no doubt whatever as to our identification.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Swallows & Swifts in immense numbers over the meadows all day.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 19

Cloudy and misty with fine rain for brief periods. East wind in a. m. afternoon dead calm. Therm. 49°-6 a. m., 56°-1 P. m., 50°-8 P. m.

A great "bird day". A small migratory flight must have arrived last night for there was a marked increase in the numbers of Black-jacks & Water Thrushes and I heard the first Yellow-bellied Flycatcher but the unusual abundance of small birds on & about Ball's Hill was chiefly due, no doubt, to the lowering, easterly weather which always, at this season, causes them to congregate here. More than 100 Chipping Swifts were circling all day about the oaks on the crest of the Hill and the meadows were alive with low-flying Swallows of all five species. The trees along the south slope of the hill and the thickets bordering the river were simply swarming with birds - Redstarts, Maryland Yellow-throats, Blue-jacks, Water Thrushes, & Canada Warblers, a Wilson's Wren-tit, 2 Dendroica Virens, 2 Winter-throated Sparrows, Cat-birds, etc. etc. I spent the forenoon watching these birds. In the afternoon I paddled down to Birch Island. As I passed Davis's Hill I heard a Black-burnian, a Wilson's Wren-tit & then several Flycatchers and some small Water Thrushes. Almost nothing at Birch Island or in the neighboring mass woods.

Walking around the east end of Ball's Hill on evening I heard a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in the blueberry hump, a Wilson's Wren-tit descending (thence) over Holden's meadow, and two Solitary Sandpipers calling high overhead. A Whippoorwill was flying in the distance, apparently on Davis's Hill, & two Night Hawks passed rather low down, hovering for insects. The air was deliciously soft & very still. The absence of mosquitoes is remarkable. There are almost no mosquitoes although three weeks ago they were very numerous. The small Black flies have also disappeared.

Birds swarming at Ball's Hill.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

Evening walk around Ball's Hill.

Snipe descend. Night hawks.

Scarcity of mosquitoes.

Concord, Mass.

1898

May 19
(No 2)

Wilson's Thrushes began singing to-day. I heard the first at 9 a.m. on the side of Ball's Hill. Gilbert heard another near the cabin about the middle of the afternoon. At evening there was general and protracted singing all around the hill and in the blackberry swamp behind it, at least five or six birds taking part. All of them seemed to be in excellent form.

Why is it that this species remains silent so long after its arrival? I saw the first this season on May 2, and by the 10th they were abundant. Living, as I do here, in the very midst of their favorite haunts I should have known it had been some singing before to-day. They have called a little at evening and evening & uttered the bleating notes but not over have I heard the song before this morning. Sometimes there is a longer period of silence than usual, however.

A Partridge drummed all day long on the flower wall at the N.E. end of Ball's Hill. Gilbert heard one on the 17th in the Blackman woods but I have not heard any drumming before since April 26th.

Two ragged, soiled, bedraggled-looking Chickadees visited the hole at the cabin to-day & helped themselves freely. The only sound they made was the low, querulous shé-de, shé-de, a shé-dee-de peculiar to this season. Is there a low note? call note. Chickadees are very scarce this Spring. Still eating berries.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 20

Cloudy with a succession of short but brisk showers in the afternoon & evening. Wind N. E. to North, at times strong. Ther. 49°-6 a.m., 54° 1 P.M., 50°-8 P.M.

Gray-checked Thrush a very large bird in nearly full song at 8 a.m. near the cabin. Song indistinguishable from that of Biller's Thrush, so far as I could perceive.

Arrival
Gray-checked
Thrush in full song

Birds literally swarming under the lee of Balls Hill all day, hundreds of Swallows & Swifts coming back & forth close to the water or just over the tops of the trees, Thrushes, Mockers, vireos, Flycatchers and Sparrows flitting among the thickets by the river or in the tops of the blossoming oaks on the hill-side. Most if not all of these birds were evidently the same individuals seen yesterday & some of them have been here since the first of the week, weather-bound. The Gray-checked Thrush song has been an arrival but I suspect that I caught a glimpse of it yesterday. The Canadian Warblers, Wilson's Mockers, Water Thrushes, White-throated Sparrows & Mockers were in the same numbers & same places as yesterday. The Brewer's Finches at the cabin came to feed on the millet seed many times during the day & when not feeding was usually noisy. I watched him a long time both yesterday & to-day and jotted down a number of notes which I shall write out in full after he has left us. I could not find the other bird which I saw yesterday near the house.

Bird swarm
at Balls Hill.

Lincoln's Finch

There was one new comer, however, viz. a Great-crested Flycatcher, the first I have ever seen at Balls Hill. It was flitting about in the tops of some young oaks near the river path about 100 yards west of the cabin & was silent and unusually tame & sluggish.

Great Crested
Flycatcher at
Balls Hill.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 20
(no 2)

visited Davis's Hill twice during the day & found a great many birds there; Water Thrushes, Common Thrushes, Wilson's Mock-cops, ^{cat birds} Prothonotary birds, Wilson's Thrushes & a ♀ Towhee in the thickets by the river; in the large trees on the crest of the ridge two Yellow-throated Vireos (one singing), two Least Flycatchers, a Black-burnian Warbler, a Pine Warbler, a Mock-crowed Wren, a Herringbird & a Cedar bird.

Birds at
Davis's Hill

In Prescott's pine I heard another Black-burnian but almost nothing else save the omnipresent Com. Birds, Chipping-sparrows, Redstarts etc.

Saw two pairs of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks this morning, one near the cabin, the other on the river bank of the Black-burnian woods. Both females were collecting building material and saw building. The Black-burnian Hill bird goes to the nest which was in the top of a Tall Heron on the hillside about 40 yards from the river. The male followed their mate closely but rendered no assistance whatever. Neither sang but both kept up a low, tender call (wi-e, wi-e or wi-e-e) which was also occasionally given by the females. The ♀ at the cabin was collecting dry grass at the river bank. The mate finally left her side at work & flying off to the east end of the Hill began singing almost one of hour. Earlier in the morning (the nest building was at 8 A.M.) I saw the pair at the cabin probing the blossoms of a Black oak with their big bills flitting from branch to branch & keeping up the wi-e call.

Rose-breasted

Love call.

As I was paddling back to the cabin this evening I heard a big Quaker in the woods opposite Davis's Hill. It had a tremendous voice. It called only once - the quacking call - not the quacking. I do not remember hearing it here before.

Quaker
chiquet

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 21

Cloudy with strong N. to N. E. wind and frequent brisk showers, more rain falling than within the same period for several weeks.
Ther. 49° - 6 a.m., 50° - 1 P.m., 48° - 8 P.m.

Swallows and Swifts were less numerous about Ball's Hill than they have been during the last two days but all the other small birds were present in undiminished numbers. Indeed it was quite evident that nearly all the birds which were here yesterday remained over night and that no fresh arrivals came from the South. The Lincoln's Finch, Gray-cheked Thrush, Canadian, Wilson's Black-cap and Black-poll Warblers, Peabody birds, with a number of summer resident Sparrows were all in the same number as yesterday. The only changes were the absence of the Great-crested Flycatcher here yesterday & the presence of a ♂ Hermitbird that was busying about among the blossoms of a high blackberry bush.

Most of the birds kept low down to-day even the Juncos & Grackles spending much of their time in the bushes along the path. I saw three ♂ Juncos together in a small oak. The Wilson's Thrushes, Maryland Yellow-throats, Redstarts, Crows, & Chestnut-sided Warblers filled close about the cabin visiting the ground & hopping through my bed of wild flowers. The Gray-cheked Thrush alighted on our door step & then hopped off along the foot path that leads to the work room. The Lincoln's Finch was in his usual place. He sang frequently & vigorously in the forenoon. Most of the other birds sang in the early morning.

In the afternoon I walked to Pine Hill where I found my few birds. The blackberry swamp was also deserted. Evidently most of the birds were at Ball's Hill. At evening I heard Golden-crowned Kinglets whistling over Great Meadows

Mathew-bound
migrants at
Ball's Hill.

Gray-cheked
Thrush.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 21
(Wed)

Ovenbirds were rising and singing over the woods in all directions as I crossed Benson's field shortly after sunset.

^v
Flight song of
the Ovenbird.

One continued his song during the whole of his descent although he shot down along a steep incline & on thinner down ground.

How can a bird maintain loud vocal sounds under such conditions?

One would suppose that if he merely opened his mouth his breath would be driven down his throat.

As twilight was deepening into night two night-hawks appeared following the edge of the woods and hovering & circling close about the tops of the oaks like great moths. Apparently they found insects plentiful for they beat back & forth over the same ground several times. Earlier in the evening I heard a night hawk purring & saw him high in air but he did not buzz.

^v
Night hawks
feeding about
the tops of
oaks.

Saw two Black Ducks at Hunt's Pond yesterday and Gilbert there this afternoon flying over the meadows. Night Herons do not seem to come into these meadows very frequently because the water has fallen so low. He has two Bitterns pumping very early, one in the meadow opposite Davis's Hill, the other in the old place on the south side of Great meadow. I think there is a third bird near the head of Great meadow.

Black Ducks

Night Herons

Bitterns

The Bald's Hill Partridge was again drumming all day long on his stone wall & I heard the Davis's woodcock bird drumming steadily late in the afternoon. What has started them up again? Is it the cool breezy weather or have their nests been destroyed?

^v
Partridges still
drumming.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 22

Clear and cool with E. wind. Therm. 46°-60°-48°.

A mangled dress in the number of weather-bound migrants at Balls Hill but all the species seen there during the past four days still represented. The Quinsin Tit in full song from 7 to 9 a.m. but not heard after this and not here at all to-day (he was gone next morning).

Arrived at Wood Pewee singing at Davis' Hill.

Paddled to Concord & back in the forenoon. The high water which has prevailed for the past year has killed more of the grass along the river and now that the water has fallen to a stage unusually low for this season there are extensive flats of soft, heavy mud. There have attended great numbers of waders.

I saw to-day a Greater Yellow-leg (with a Golden leg), 4 Solitary, 8 or 10 Spotted and about 8 Least Sandpipers. At evening a flock of 9 Least Sandpipers came whirling over Balls Hill.

I also saw this evening two Green Herons & a pair of Kingfishers.

Bobolinks appeared to be in their usual numbers. I heard at least a dozen different notes between Balls Hill & Concord.

The Towhees were singing in Concord village, one in the one the common the other in the hillside burying ground.

In the evening I went in the afternoon. Visited the Partridge's nest & found the bird about to set the egg gone. No shells in or near the nest & no feathers or trace of any struggle. It looks as if some person had robbed the nest. The male Partridge was drumming on the stone wall held by & I heard the Balls Hill & Davis Swamp birds drumming also. As all these have been silent for a long time I cannot understand their sudden resort of the drumming unless all have lost their eggs. Found an Oven Bird's nest with 1 egg on Davis' Hill.

Weather-bound migrants thinning out.

Wood Pewee arrives.

High water of last year kills grass along river forms mud-flats which attract many waders.

Bobolinks

Towhees in Concord village

Partridge's nest

Partridge drumming freely again

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 23

Clear with easterly winds. Slightly warmer. Therm. 49°-62°-56°.

Most of the northern birds gone this morning & we saw none to take their places. 1 Wilson's Black-cock, 2 Black-jacks, 3 or 4 Water Thrushes & 2 White-throated Sparrows seen or heard.

The immature Bald Eagle again seen at Davis's Hill. The birds in full cry this evening for the first time this season. A Fox bawling in the meadow opposite the cabin at 8 P.M.

Most of the
weather-bound

migrants gone

Bald Eagle.

First Fox bawling

Fox bawling

" 24

Clear with light E. to S. E. wind. Therm. 54°-64°-59°.

The country was nearly drained of north-bound migrants to-day. A Wilson's Black-cock, a Canadian Warbler and several Water Thrushes were the only ones seen on Ball's Hill. Another Canadian Warbler was singing in Davis's brush when no doubt it will remain to breed. A Hummingbird which I saw on Davis's Hill was also probably killed there for the summer.

North-bound

migrants

scarcely all

gone.

" 25

Clear with strong S. W. wind. Therm. 53°-75°-62°.

Water Thrushes continue abundant. I also noted a Canadian Warbler at Ball's Hill, a Swainson's Thrush (singing) at Davis's Hill, and a Greater Yellow-leg and Semipalmated Sandpiper (the characteristic chatter heard) on the river meadows. Virginia Rails continue as abundant & noisy as ever but the Carolina Rails have either departed or become wholly silent.

Common Toads began giving the summer squeak this evening for the first time.

Water Thrushes

Swainson's

Thrush singing

Waders.

Rails.

Toads began

summer

squeak

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 26

Clear with fresh S. W. wind in the afternoon. Ther. 56° - 78° - 68°

Water Thrushes present in undiminished numbers. One Canadian Warbler at Balls Hill, another at Davis's Hill. All the other small birds which nested here in the spring and most of them were down to about their normal summer numbers. All the northern-breding warblers appear to have departed.

Water Thrushes
still numerous

W. Deane arrived by the 5:30 P. M. train to pass the night. After supper we paddled up river to the head of Beaver Dam Rapid seeing three night-hawks and a flock of six night hawks flying about over the marshes. Two Killdeers were pumping and about six Virginia Rails giving the culla cry. We also heard a Goshawk whinny over so there is at least one of these birds remaining here.

Evening on
river.

Rails.

" 27

Clear with violent W. wind. Ther. 58° - 77° - 66°.

North-bound migrants apparently are gone. Found a nest of Wilson's Thrush containing four eggs. It was among dry leaves in the side of a bank on the edge of the path to Davis's Hill. The Olive-backed Thrush nest found on the 22nd and held five eggs to-day, (they were destroyed before hatching by some predatory bird or animal). I paddled up to Concord and sailed back in the evening. Fireflies were out by hundreds, an early date for them to appear numerously if I am not mistaken.

North-bound
migrants
off all gone

Fireflies.

Miss Maria Hayes & Miss Barrett saw a Painted Tortoise which had just finished laying 30 eggs a quantity of which it had taken out directly see one three several plants directly over the eggs working exhausting plants over with her hind feet and was over looking back. This happened about 3 P. M. her nest in the opening between Balls Hill Swamp & Davis's Hill. I visited the site later. See the birds land, grass & blissed disposal the same disposal

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 29

Spent last night at the 'Keyeses'. Just before sunset saw a Hummer among the blossoms of their Japan quince and heard a Meadow Lark and Yellow-winged Sparrow singing, the latter bird in the back pasture on the north slope of the hill.

At day break this morning great numbers of birds were singing close about the house. I noted Robins, a Cat bird, noted at Yellow Warbler, Maryland Yellow-throat, Red-eyed & Yellow-throated Keyes place Vireos, a Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, Chipping, Grosbeak, ^{Bobolinks} several Bobolinks, Baltimore Orioles, a Phoebe, Kingbird, 2 or 3 Barn Flycatchers, Chimney Swifts, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Purple Martins, and Barn, East & Barn Swallows. These with the Hummer, Meadow Lark and Yellow-winged Sparrows noted last evening make a list of 27 species which are evidently breeding on or very near this place.

On my way back to Ball's Hill in the early forenoon I heard two Black-poll Warblers singing in trees on the nine banks.

Black-polls

" 30

Clear with strong W. wind. Ther. 56°-77°-69°.

A Black-poll Warbler was singing near the cabin this morning. At evening I saw two Night-hawks and a ♀ Cooper's Hawk at Davis's Hill.

Many Turtles (among them a Wood Tortoise) were laying their eggs in sandy patches & openings near Ball's Hill this forenoon.

Turtles
laying.

Concord, Mass.

1899

May
24

I have seen at least six different Lincoln's Finches here this month, three on the 13th, two on the 15th and 19th and one daily in the same place, chiefly in front of the cabin from the 15th to the 22nd unless. One, an exceedingly shy bird, was by the roadside in the bushy hollow just above Benson's where it skulked along the back side of a stone wall & finally disappeared in a thicket. Another was on the ground among bushes on the edge of the Meadman woods in company with a White-throated Sparrow. Something within the wood edge alarmed the two. The Lincoln's Finch flew directly towards me & alighted in a small bush where it sat for some time peering at fingers within ten yards of me. When I finally moved towards it it flew into the top of a shrub from that stands above in the pasture near the road through Benson's field. Both these birds were seen but a third which I found earlier the same morning in the thorny thicket east of the cabin and which spent the entire day there song of or eight times at about 8 a.m. giving the Horn Wren form of song each time. It is possible that this bird was the same which established itself directly in front of the cabin on the 15th & remained there until the forenoon of the 22nd but if so I failed to detect its presence on the 14th although I looked for it carefully. On the 15th I found what was certainly a different bird in the bed of brooks along the water front at the western end of Ball's Hill. It was alone & comparatively tame but an adept skulker keeping constantly behind the stems of the bushes & running nimbly from one cover to the next as I advanced. On the 19th I got a big but satisfactory glimpse of still another bird in a thicket of low bushes behind Ball's Hill.

Notes on
Lincoln's Finch

1899.

May
(b)

From five of these birds I learned practically nothing that was new to my experience but the eighth gave me some rare opportunities for studying its interesting notes and habits. It appeared, as I have already said, on the 16th and remained until the forenoon of the 22nd spending its whole time within a on the outskirts of the thicket of bushes between the house cabin and the canoe landing. In a bed of grass on the edge of this thicket, directly in front of the small cabin and some fifteen feet from the door, we kept a quantity of millet seed scattered about over the ground. This was visited by the Finch at frequent intervals and, no doubt, constituted his chief food happily during his stay. It may have had something to do with the length of his stay, also, but the weather was very cool during this period & a number of other birds stayed in the same thicket for nearly the same length of time.

The Sinclair's Finch was very shy at first and at all times exceedingly alert and suspicious but he showed a nice and, on the whole, wise discrimination in his judgment of different sights and sounds. A keen, intelligent little traveler, evidently, quite alive to the fact that dangers threatened at all times but too cool-headed and experienced to be subject to the needless & foolish panics which seize upon so many of the smaller birds. He soon learned to disregard the movements and noises which we made within the cabin and the trains thundering by on the other side of the river did not disturb him in the least but if our door was suddenly thrown open or if a footstep was heard approaching along the river path he at once retreated into the thicket behind the fence dodging from bush to bush & keeping behind anything that would serve as a screen until all was quiet again when he

Notes on
Sinclair's Finch.

1899

May
(2)

would frequently appear at the edge of the cover and after a short reconnaissance begin feeding again: But however busily engaged at the seed no sight or sound escaped him. If a chipmunk rattled the dry leaves on the neighboring hillside he would stand erect and clean up his neck turning his head slowly from side to side to watch or listen. When a Swift, of which there were many flying about, passed close overhead with a sound of rushing wings the Sparrow would crouch down to the ground and remain motionless for a minute or more. But when nothing occurred to excite his suspicions he would feed busily and unconsciously for minutes at a time. Some of the seed had sifted down among the dry leaves and for this he hatched precisely in the manner of a Field Sparrow making first a forward hop of about two inches and then a vigorous backward jump & kick which scattered behind him all the leaves that his feet had stirred. In this manner he would quickly clear a considerable space and then devote himself to the uncovered seeds which he would pick up one by one & roll in his bill after the manner of winter Sparrows.

He was invariably silent when at the seed bed but within the recesses of his favorite thicket he sang freely at all hours especially in the morning or early forenoon or when the sun had just emerged from a cloud.

He never sang from the top of a bush like a Song Sparrow but usually from some perch only a yard or so above the ground in the depths of the cover and not infrequently on the ground itself as he rambled from place to place hopping slowly over the dry leaves. His voice was rich and hoarse at times but it had little carrying power & was not distinctly audible at a greater distance

Notes on
Lincoln's Finch.

1899.

May

(14)

than forty or fifty yards.

Of its ^{form} ~~quality~~ it is impossible to treat briefly or in general terms, for the birds had several songs which were not only different but very dissimilar. Most birds who possess a rich and varied repertoire give their different songs or notes in rapid succession or frequent alternation but with this Lincoln's Finch the change was invariably made only after a period of silence and the theme selected on each occasion was repeated with little or no variation down of terms was occasional while sometimes it lasted the bird for a whole morning. Some of the songs were fixed and uniform at all times; others varied, as I have just described, but only within definite limits. All resembled, and two or three appeared to exactly reproduce, the songs of other species of birds. Indeed not one could be safely regarded as original either in form or tone. What other North American bird sings in this way, borrowing his songs from half a dozen other birds, not intermingling or combining them with notes of his own, but selecting one for one hour or occasion, another for another?

The different songs with their variations which this Lincoln's Sparrow used may be described as follows.

1. A simple, level, woody trill usually indistinguishable from the hummer song of the Junco but at times with a resonant, lyrical quality approaching that of the second rump song - both forms given at those bird's distant intervals.
2. The same trills with the intervals completely filled with short, soft, liquid notes the whole forming a melody exactly like that uttered by the Junco in

Notes on
Lincoln's ^{Finch} Finch.

1899.

May

(2)

early spring with the June Wren or Wren coming in frequently among the Wrens, Conjunct notes. This song should perhaps be regarded as a variation of No. 1 but I did not ever hear the bird change from one to the other. That both songs were literal copies of those of the June Wren admits of no doubt.

3. A rapid warble, at times flowing smoothly and evenly and in general effect exceedingly like the song of the Purple Finch; at others brighter & more glancing the notes rolling one on another & suggesting those of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet; again with a rich, thrushy quality and in form as well as tone very closely like the song of the House Wren; still again guttural and somewhat broken or stammering and very suggestive of the song of the Song-billed Wood Wren. Although the first and last of these songs are very unlike I have classified them under one head because the bird often gave them all during one singing period and, moreover, changed from one to another by insensible gradations.

4. Song in slow, measured bars or cadences, separated by brief intervals, swelling and backing, some of the notes "licked" or "shaken" the whole given after the manner of the song of the Hermit Thrush & Bobolink's Finch and almost equally spiritual in quality.

With such a repertoire - even though it be borrowed or stolen - Lincoln's Finch might readily take rank as the first among North American singing birds were it not that his owner has apparently so little power that one must be very near him to appreciate its ~~its~~ remarkable beauty & flexibility.

Notes on
Lincoln's Finch

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.
May

The following list includes all the species which Birds noted
were noted in our garden during the present month by Mr. Dean in our

garden, by
Mr. Dean.

1. Merula migratoria. - One to three birds daily.
2. Turdus fuscus. - 22¹/₂ 23¹/₂ 24¹/₂ 25¹/₂
3. " swainsonii. - 15²/₂ 16¹/₂ 17¹/₂ 27¹/₂
4. Parus atricapillus. - 1¹/₂ 17¹/₂
5. Campylorhynchus a. usneae. - 11¹/₂
6. Dendroica aestiva. - 5³/₄; after this one ♂ daily.
7. Setophaga ruticilla. - 4²/₄; after this an adult ♂ present daily.
A ♀ or im. ♂ was seen on the 13th
8. Seiurus aurocapillus. - 14¹/₂ 26¹/₂ 28¹/₂ 29¹/₂
9. " noanacensis. - 23¹/₂ 26¹/₂
10. Geothlypis trichas. - 15¹/₂, 19¹/₂.
11. Vireo flavifrons. - 15¹/₂
12. " gilvus. - 7¹/₂ 8¹/₂ 10³/₄ 11¹/₂ 19¹/₂
13. Tachycineta bicolor. - 15¹/₂ (flying over)
14. Carpodacus purpureus. - 5⁵/₁₂ 6¹/₂
15. Sporilla socialis. - 13¹/₂ 17¹/₂ 19¹/₂ 22¹/₂

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

May

16. Pterus galbula. - 4[♂], 8[♀], 11[♂], 12[♂], 13[♀], 15[♂], 21[♀], 26[♀] Birds
noted in our
17. Corvus americanus. - 6[♂], 15[♂], 16[♂], 26[♂]. (A nest, in which garden by
a brood of young was reared, was built in a W. Deam
pin over Dr. Myron's chimney, Spack Street)
18. Agaveitta cristata. - 15[♂] seen in the garden.
19. Chaetura pelagica. - 4[♂] flying over at 2 P.M. // over flock
flying over.
20. Trochilus colubris. - 16[♂]
21. Buphodonax minimus. - 15[♂], 28[♂] (Did not nest in the
garden this year).
22. Dryobates pubescens. - 9[♂], 11[♂] seen
built.
23. Colaptes auratus. - A pair nested in a box, covered with Flicker nest
in box.
bark & otherwise made to resemble a stump, which
I put up for them last month. The ♂ "shouted" through
this month. He was frequently seen sitting in the
box looking out of the round hole at the top.
The Sparrows repeatedly attempted to build in the
box but the Woodpeckers threw out their hairs
and finally laid 8 eggs at just what date we
do not know, but probably sometime this
month. None of the eggs hatched & the
birds after incubating them through June
abandoned the nest early in July.
24. Passer domesticus. - Rather less numerous than usual.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

June

(2)

Although heavy rain fell during the afternoon and night of the 7th, light rain on the 19th, and thunder showers on the 15th, 24th, 25th and 28th the total precipitation was not sufficient to do more than mitigate the rigors of the drought which has prevailed since last March. The grass crop was very light and the vegetation generally suffered perceptibly but enough to keep the streams and ponds here not so much as is usual in dry seasons. White and Nagog Ponds were two or three feet above their normal levels when I visited them on the 8th & 13th respectively and Holden was also said to be exceptionally high but, as is well known, all three are subject to mysterious fluctuations which appear to be quite independent of the conditions which affect the levels of all the other bodies of water in this region.

The first week of June brought very warm weather the thermometer rising above 80° on the 1st and 3rd, to 93° on the 5th and to 94° on the 6th. The remainder of the month was, for the most part, rather cool with an unusual number of fine, clear days.

On May 22nd I walked further than was prudent bringing on an attack of hip lameness which lasted through June and severely interfered with my field work, especially with the photography of birds' nests at which I did practically nothing. As I was unable to get about enough in the woods to accomplish anything worth the while and as, after the departure of the migrants, time hung rather heavily on my hands at Balls Hill I closed the cabin on June 5th and after a day's visit at Cambridge went to the Hayes' where I remained until the 17th returning later for two more days (24th & 25th). During my stay there I drove about the country a great deal; to White & Nagog Ponds,

Summary of
Weather, Con-
cord, Mass.

My personal
remarks.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

June

(b)

through the Marlboro and Estabrook woods, to Bedford, and through many primitive lanes, wood roads and by ways in the remote parts of Carlisle and Acton. I also spent several days at the Barrett farm and on a brief visit visited the Ball's Hill woods. The only trip which I attempted up river by canoe was frustrated by a heavy shower which forced me to seek shelter under a bridge & to return in the early evening without having accomplished my purpose.

During these drives I gained some interesting knowledge respecting the local distribution and comparative abundance of each of the birds as can be seen or heard along country roadsides and wood paths but on the whole the month may be said to have been practically wasted. Of the flora of the region I learned little there was none to me save that Zephrosia occurs commonly but very locally at a station near Bedford Springs and at two places in Carlisle — near the Hannah Green farm on the old Estabrook road and some two miles beyond on the road to Chelmsford. There are also two plants still lingering at the old station in Caesar's woods and fir at Ball's Hill was the Cabin as well as two on the roadside just north of Benson's house.

Plants.

After the end of May I gave up keeping a field journal but a brief record of each day's happenings was posted in the pocket diary which I started at the beginning of 1899 and practically all the birds which I saw, common as well as rare, were noted in the condensed field list for Eastern Massachusetts. From these two sources I have compiled the above summary of general observations as well as the notes which follow.

Gouverneur, Mass.

1899.

June 8

(2)

Awaking just before day break (at 3.20) this morning, before the first Robin had uttered his first call, I heard, as I was lying in bed at the Hayes', and for the first time in my life, the song of the Purple Martin. It was a monotonous er-e-er-ity-er-e repeated rapidly without pause or interval many times in succession. As nearly as I could make out there were two or three birds singing at once and they kept it up for at least eight or ten minutes. The sound came from the direction of the Horners' meadow and always from the same point leading me to conclude that the birds were perched, probably in the tops of the large elms that line the road which skirts this meadow. I have heard this same song when he was living at Lexington a few years ago. If I remember rightly he told me at the time that it is never uttered excepting at day break.

✓
✓
Early morning
song of the
Purple Martin

The first bird after the Martins to sing this morning was a Wood Pewee, then next a Red-wing, then Robins, Song Sparrows, Cowbirds, Great Flycatchers, or day break. Yellow Warblers etc.

Succession of
other songsters

1899.

June

(14)

Turdus mustelinus.— Heard them on four different males singing in the Eastbrook woods and one at the Barrett farm on the 9th & 24th, on the latter occasion in the oak grove directly behind the barn.

Turdus fuscescens.— About the usual number breeding at Ball's Hill. Found two nests, both in dry situations; one among oak leaves at the base of a bush of oaks on the side of the hill near its foot & only a few yards from the river path, the other in the side of a sandy embankment near the path to Davis's Hill. The former nest contained 3 eggs on May 28 and 3 young apparently only a few hours old on June 12th.

Troglodytes aedon.— One singing in the apple orchard on the Gray Thyme place from 5th was the only bird that I met with. I did not hear it after this date although I frequently visited the orchard.

Cistothorus palustris.— The birds which breed at Crane Dam Rapid just above Ball's Hill always arrive late. I heard the first one there this season from 1st. As I left the cabin shortly after this date I did not make any further observations on this colony, which seldom contains more than two or three pairs.

Dendroica discolor.— Prairie Warblers have bred in the Holden woods rather numerously since this region was transformed by the great fire three or four years ago. I heard two males singing there this month on, on the 23rd, the other on the 26th, both near the Holden road.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

June

(2)

Dendroica blackburnia.— A ♂ heard singing on Davis's Hill June 3rd and another on White Pond on the 5th both in white pine woods. These Warblers appear to be slowly but steadily increasing and spreading over the region about Concord during the breeding season.

Sylvania canadensis.— A ♂ was singing in the swamp just behind Ball's Hill on the 15th. I did not visit Davis's Swamp this month but one or two birds which were singing there the last of May were apparently killed for the museum.

Setophaga ruticilla.— This species has increased greatly in numbers during the past ten years in the region about Concord. At Ball's Hill it now breeds abundantly. We found no less than five nests there this season. Two were begun on the morning of May 17th and two on that of the 19th while the fifth was apparently completed on the latter date. Two of the five pairs hatched & reared their young successfully, the other three nests were destroyed soon after the eggs were laid. Gilbert took some careful notes respecting one of these nests from which I have compiled the following:

At about 6 A. M. on May 17th a ♀ Redstart brought a long, transparent, silky-looking fibre, apparently that of a milkweed stalk, to a gray birch in front of the cabin and placing it at the intersection of a rather short limb with the main stem began moving it about until its position suited her when she pressed it down firmly by rubbing it with the side of her head which she turned slowly from side to side. This was literally the first bit of nest material that was put in the clutch. Many others of an apparently

Concord, Mass.

1899.

June

(B)

(*Scotopaga ruticilla*) similar kind were brought during the forenoon and treated in the same way although the bird had to use her bill rather vigorously in tamping some of the more refractory ones into place. She worked busily & steadily until noon when the foundation of the nest was finished.

At about 2.30 P. M. she began the frame by attaching one end of a strand of fibrous material to the right hand side of the trunk a little above the branch on which the foundation was laid and fastening the other end to the foundation on the same side the strand inclining downwards at an angle of about 30° or 40° . Next another strand was placed on the left side in the same position as the first the ends of the two overlapping on the trunk. Then a third piece was brought and one end rubbed lightly against the center of the strand on the right, the opposite end being carried a little beyond that of the left hand strand. Next a fourth strand was rubbed on the trunk a little above the upper end of the left hand guy to the middle of which the opposite end was fastened. By rubbing the two together, each piece of fiber was fastened into the general shape of the nest as soon as it was attached at both ends and more were brought and carried from point to point until a complete framework of about the size & shape of the half of a hen's egg was created around & resting on the foundations. This framework was so delicate that it looked as if the mere breath of wind would blow it away. During its construction the bird worked entirely from the outside standing on the branch and shaping each piece of fiber with her head

Concord, Mass.

1899.

June (Scotophaga ruticilla) or beak.

(9)

The next day (May 18th) she began using cocoon fibres as well as milkweed bark. The former she obtained from a groove near the top of the cabin door in front of which she would hover on rapidly vibrating wings until the operation compelled her to alight for a moment to rest & regain breath either on the top of the door or its hood knob. As soon as she had filled her beak she would fly to the bricks, alight on the branch and distribute her load around the inside of the nest; then hopping into it and squatting down with head & tail raised and back deeply hollowed she would move slowly around to the right and then to the left, making usually a half but sometimes a whole turn and, with her head and breast, pressing the materials which she had brought into the meshes of the framework until they were completely filled. Working thus, always from the inside, she modeled and remodeled until by the constant application of fresh material she had transformed the original skeleton framework into a compact, firmly woven nest. Occasionally she would drop directly into the nest without first alighting outside but she did not attempt to perch on its rim until it was nearly completed.

After putting in the lining, which consisted of horse hair, dry grass, and shreds of birch, grape vine and milkweed bark; she drew in the loose ends which had been left projecting or hanging down around the top and outside of the nest. These ends were drawn & tucked in to bind the lining and were held down by the bird's breast

1899.

June

(4)

(*Setophaga ruticilla*) until all within her reach were secured. She then managed to rub them still more firmly into place by craning her head over the rim of the nest and bringing her bill, throat & neck to bear on its top & inner & outer surfaces as one & the same time.

After this nest was finished it was frequently visited by Black & White Crows, Yellow Warblers and Red-eyed Vireos all of whom attempted to appropriate some of its component materials for their own dominions. They sometimes succeeded in getting away with a few strands despite the vigilance of the Redstart who defended her castle with the greatest spirit. In the end she hatched & reared her young *perfectly* but we do not know just when they left the nest.

Sialia auricapilla. - A nest containing one egg found May 22 on the crest of Davis's Hill. Four more eggs were laid, one on each successive day. When I visited the nest for the last time on the morning of June 4th the bird was still sitting and the eggs undisturbed although they were very dark colored. I learned afterwards that something destroyed the nest & its contents a day or two after the visit just mentioned.

Habia ludoviciana. - On the afternoon of June 2nd a ♂ sang for nearly an hour without changing his perch which was in the top of a large chestnut on Holden's Hill.

Poocetes gramineus. - Two Grass Finches which I heard singing on June 8 near White Pond were the only birds that I met with during the month. The species must have suffered considerable losses in the South Coast winter.

1899.

June

(A)

Coturniculus hesperus. - In addition to the bird noted on May 11th near the Barrett farm I heard four additional males singing near Concord in June, three on the 10th in Carlisle, the fourth on the 25th in the meadows above Cyrus Clark's in Concord.

Coturniculus passerinus. - A bird heard singing in the Hayes' pasture May 7th & again on the 28th was the only one met with this season although in June I took many long drives about Concord & through the bordering towns.

Myiarchus cinerascens. - A pair of these Flycatchers bred in the Barrett orchard this season and I saw another pair at the upper end of the Estabrook wood in Carlisle on June 10th.

Sayornis phoebe. - The Phoebe at the Barrett farm reared two broods in the same nest this season. The nest was placed in a rotten hole in a beam in a dark corner of the barn cellar. I first saw it on April 28 when it was nearly finished. On May 8th it held four eggs but the bird was absent. Another egg was probably added the following morning for the nest contained five on the 22nd. After this it was examined daily. The young hatched on the 27th and left the nest fifteen days later, i. e. on June 11th. On June 24th I found four eggs, which looked fresh, in the same nest. It did not look as if the birds had done anything to it. The ♀ was fluttering about & apparently had not begun sitting again. She reared the second brood safely but I do not know just where they were hatched on May.

1899.

June

(1)

Circus hudsonius. — Two adult males seen during the month, one about two miles S. E. of Bedford on the 11th, the other beating the fields near the Concord Post Farm on the 25th.

Colinus virginianus. — A pair running in the road near Heath's Bridge on the 8th, one calling near the Market farm on the 15th and a ♂ calling bob-white on the Hayes place on the 25th. A pair was also seen in Bedford on the 11th.

Zenaidura macroura. — This has been the first year since I settled on Ball's Hill when I have failed to hear the solemn voice of the Carolina Dove in one or another part of the neighboring woods. Gilbert saw a pair on April 15th & a single bird two days later flying past the cabin but my only personal observation during the entire season was confined to glimpses of a bird near Cuddekerk's bridge on May 31. On June 24th Mr. Dudley Pickman told me that a pair of Doves had been frequently seen during the past week in the woods on his estate in Bedford about a mile below the bridge just mentioned.

I attribute the disappearance of these attractive birds from the Ball's Hill region when they breed so numerously a few years ago to the presence there during the last two or three seasons of one or more pairs of Cooper's Hawks. I doubt if these Hawks often succeed in catching them but they certainly frighten them away from the immediate neighborhood of every piece of woods where they settle for the summer.

Anas obtusa. — One seen flying over the meadows opposite the cabin on the 1st & the same or another bird heard quacking there during the evening.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

June
(12)

Birds at
Barrett farm

The Barrett farm has been full, thro' out, from the presence of the obnoxious House Sparrows and during the present month it was literally humming with birds. During my visits I was nearly sure to hear close to the house Robins, a Wood Thrush, Bluebirds, Cat birds, Meadow Larks, Chickadees, Black & White Cuckoos, Nuthatch, Golden-winged, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green & Pine Woodpeckers, Redstarts, Maryland Yellow-throats, Oven birds, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Purple Martins (visitors from the town) Barn Swallows (none breeding in my buildings, none although there are two old nests in the barn) White-bellied (a pair nested in Mrs. Ritchie's orchard) Bank Swallows, Scarlet Tanagers, Purple Finches, Goldfinches, a Grass Finch, Chipping, Field & Song Sparrows, Towhees (very numerous), Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo birds, Bobolinks, Cow birds, Baltimore Orioles (several pairs nesting in the elms), Crows, Blue Jays, Crested Flycatcher, Kingbirds, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Least Flycatcher (about 3 pairs in the old orchard) Chipping Swifts (several nests in my chimney), Whippoorwill, an occasional Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker (a nest in the orchard last year but none found this), Flickers (a pair nested in the big elm over the driveway), both Yellow-billed & Black-billed Cuckoos, Screech Owls & an occasional Red-shouldered or Red-tailed Hawk, while the drumming of a Partridge in the woods beyond the orchard was often distinctly audible.

At least two & I thought three of Golden-winged Woodpeckers frequented the run and one or all of them frequently visited the tall elms immediately about the house & song there for half an hour or a hour.

No Solitary Vireos nested anywhere on my grounds this year.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

June
(2)

Several pairs of Bobolinks spent the season in the fields just across the road from the house but I think their nests were all on Mr. Lawrence's Concord although I am nearly sure that at least one pair nested in my meadows last year.

Barrett's farm

The Towhees were numerous and familiar coming close about my door and singing for hours in the thickets which fringe the stone walls along the road just below the house as well as in the grove behind the barn.

Towhees

As already noted a Henslow's Sparrow was in full, persistent song on the afternoon of May 11th almost within hearing of my house, in the brushy brook meadows on the Hildrum farm opposite Mrs. Kitch's but I did not hear it there again although I passed the place frequently.

Henslow's Sparrow.

On June 10th I discovered a cluster of small, reddish brown Bats clinging to under side of the roof of my shed. They were huddled so closely together that it was difficult to count them but I made the number to be 10. At afternoons increased to 14 or 15 when four or five of the animals were very small & apparently young. These Bats regularly roosted in this shed through the summer & early autumn but they disappeared before the weather became cold. They were always to be found at exactly the same spot beneath which their rat-like excrement found a small mound on the board floor.

Bats

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1899.

June 6

Clear and very warm with S. wind. Ther 94° at 1 P.M.

Spent most of the day in the garden when I saw or heard Robins, a Yellow Warbler, Redstart, Yellow-throated Vireo, Woodchop Vireo, 2 Cedar Wicks, a pair of Scarlet Tanagers, a Chipping Oriole, a pair of Flickers (nesting in a box that I put up for them last Spring, and a ♀ Hummingbird and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Garden
birds

The Tanager appeared early in the afternoon in the top of a white maple in the jungle when it sang a dozen times or more before flying off. It is the first ^{adult} that has ever visited our place within my recollection although I heard one singing years ago in the distance in the direction of the Kennedy's woods on Highland Street (I saw a ♀ or juv. ♂ in the garden, Oct. 1, 1898).

Tanager visits
the garden

Just before noon Mrs. Kitchell who was sitting in the jungle watching the birds saw a Gray Squirrel carry several young from a nest box in one of the apple trees near the south gate towards the binders taking away one young at each trip and holding it lightly in its mouth. I saw it take what was probably the last of the brood. It passed very near me as it ran over the ground under the trees. The young squirrel appeared to be nearly naked and scarcely larger than a Field mouse. I have little doubt that the extreme heat prompted the animal to remove its young from the close, stifling box to one of the well ventilated nests of twigs & leaves which the Squirrels have built in the upper branches of the binders.

Gray Squirrel
carrying young
in its mouth

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1899.

June 29 The garden alive with birds mostly Robins, Redstarts Birds in
and Yellow Warblers with their broods of young. A our garden.
Grosbeak was in full song thru this evening for half-an-hour
or more, a late date for her continuous singing.

" 30 The evening when warblers are attracting Robins and Mulberries
 Orioles to the garden in great numbers. Grosbeaks also attract birds
 come to feed on the warblers and I saw an old
 bird accompanied by a brood of fully fedged young in
 the tree this evening. Singing is fast declining but
 I still hear Red-eyed & Warbling Vireos, Redstarts, Yellow Warblers
 and an occasional Chipping. Robins continue in full
 song on all hands but they are less numerous than
 on places this season than usual.

Wolfeboro, New Hampshire

June 19, 20 I went to Wolfeboro on the 19th when, with a party of
 teachers from the Academy, I strolled all over the Lake.
 The only birds of any interest seen on this occasion were
 a pair of Loons.

On the 20th I heard Red Crossbills a number of times in
 the trees near the Academy building. Judging by their calls
 there must have been a large flock of them.

Redbills and Purple Martins appeared to be as numerous
 as was in the village and its surrounding forest.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

June.

During this month Mr. Deane & I noted the following birds in the garden:

Birds
noted in our
garden by
W. Deane &
W. Brewster.

1. Merula migratoria. - From 1 to 3 seen daily up to the middle of the month after which the number increased sometimes reaching 7 or 8. The first young were seen on May on the 3rd but more than two pairs & perhaps only one nested on our place this year.
2. Dendroica aestiva. - A single pair present during the month. I did not find the nest but young were seen on the 25th & afterward.
3. Setophaga ruticilla. - Apparently only one pair nesting on our place this season. Both birds frequently visited the pond under the alders to drink or bathe.
4. Vireo olivaceus. - A ♂ singing (& no doubt nesting) in the lindens as usual.
5. " flavifrons. - Noted only on the 6th & 7th, a single bird in full song on each occasion.
6. " gilvus. - A ♂ heard singing on the 3, 8, 10, 13 & 16.
7. Parus cyathroterus. - A fine ♂ singing in the pines on the 6th.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

June

8. Ampelis cedrorum. - Heard on the 6th & two seen the birds
following day. noted in our
garden by
W. Deane &
W. Brewster.
9. Spizella socialis. - One on the 6th, the only bird
^{until the close of}
winter, ~~during~~ the month. This has been
the first season since my earliest recollection
when the Chipping has not wintered in our
garden.
10. Habia ludovicianus. - A ♂ in full song on the 1st
and 29th and a ♀ accompanied by a
brood of young on the 30th. There was
evidently no nest on our place this season.
11. Icterus galbula. - At least one pair & I think two
wintered on our place this year.
12. Lanius calurus g. aeneus. - Frequently seen in the garden
where they come to bathe in a ditch
just out for the pigeons as well as to
eat cherries which they began attacking as
early as the 14th.
13. Trochilus columbis. - 1[♂] 6[♀], 10[♀].
14. Chaetura pelagica. - 3[♂] 5[♂] 6[♂] 10[♂] 11[♂], all flying
over the garden.
15. Coccyzus americanus. - 7[♂] 10[♂].
16. " Ceryle alcyon. - 8[♂] (1[♂] 7[♂])

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

June 17. Colaptes auratus. - A pair nesting in an artificial
box (as already noted in the May list).
On June 22nd we opened the box for
the first time & found that the nest
contained 8 eggs. These were hatched
early in July. The "Flicker" "hatched"
through June.

Birds
noted in our
garden by
W. Deane &
W. Brewster.

18. Myiicorax n. naevius. - On the afternoon of the
21st at 2 o'clock a Nighthawk
was seen flying over the garden
by W. Deane. It came from the
direction of the Brighton woods.

1899

July & Aug.

Exceptionally pleasant and comfortable weather prevailed Weather.
 during these months there being an unusual number of
 clear, cool days and but few excessively warm ones.
 Heavy thunder showers fell on July 8, 9, 12 and 27 and
 on August 22; lighter rain was accompanied by thunders
 or lightning on July 16 & 29 and August 10 & 11. This precipitation
 kept the vegetation fairly green and thriving but it
 was not sufficient to materially affect the ponds and
 streams which remained very low during the whole season.

Our family removed to Petersboro, N. H. July 3rd and we Personal
 spent the rest of the summer there - at the "Days" on moments
 "Ben Mees farm" where we were last year. Mr. & Mrs. & occupations
 Walter Deane were with us during the first week, Mr. & Mrs.
 William Stone from the 11th to the 18th. Mr. H. C. Puckie
 visited us twice in August; 2-7 and 17-22.

I led a much more active life this summer than last
 rambling about in the woods either alone or with
 my near friends in the forenoon, talking long evenings
 with the family in the afternoon. We also frequently
 drove out Sunday to town pretty, lightly spiced when we
 had a pic-nic tea, returning in the cool of the
 evenings. The weather was exceptionally favorable for such
 excursions and we enjoyed them greatly. In addition
 to one good gray horse "Dando" we had, most of the
 time, a small bay horse ("Whit") which I hired in
 the village and drove in my Concord wagon.

Although I did not by any means neglect the birds
 a large share of my attention was given, this season,
 to the plants of the Petersboro region. With the help
 of Deane & Puckie I found & identified many birds

Pittsboro, New Hampshire.

1899.

July & Aug
(no. 2)

Plants

were new to me and I dry very many of the more attractive kinds to transplant in my wild gardens at Cambridge and Concord whether I want on the average about one every week or two days.

Among the more interesting plants found this summer were Monarda grandiflora which carpeted the ground over a space of about an acre or more on a hillside shaded by white pines near the brook below our house; Habenaria fruticosa abundant, H. orbiculata common, and H. hookeri a few plants all growing in a deep rich fern swamp east of Cunningham Pond, Geranium robertianum and Eupatorium ageritoides growing abundantly on the face or at the base of a low, rocky cliff on the east side of Paoli Monksrock within a few yards of the carriage road which ascends the mountain, Goodlysea pubescens one small patch, S. tessellata widely distributed but nowhere common, S. repens only in the orchard swamp where we have upwards of one hundred plants. Of Arenaria usa-alei I found several large patches by the roadside in the valley near the river.

To the list of ferns we added Phlegmaria dryopteris of which Mrs. Packer discovered a small colony growing on the side of a wood patch near our brook, Aspidium humile which was abundant throughout the orchard swamp, Asplenium trichomanes of which fifteen or twenty plants were clinging to the crevices of the cliff on Paoli Monksrock, Cyrtopteris fragilis about equally numerous on the same cliff, Botrychium lunatum abundant in the open fields & common also in woods, B. scriptum & B. convolutum a few plants growing near together in woods on the shore of Cunningham Pond.

The common houseleek (Coleuria) is common along the Cutbrook.

1899.

July & Aug

As I dealt rather fully with the bird fauna of the Peterboro region in my journal for July & August, 1898, I shall confine myself, in the present connection, to noting only such facts and observations as supplement those obtained last year. The species added to the list this season are as follows:

Birds.

Turdus fuscescens. - A male in full song in the woods near Day's house July 11th and five or six birds (one singing) noted the next day along the banks of the Contoosook River half-a-mile above the village. On the 17th one was heard singing and on the 30th within the same or another, calling in a dense spruce swamp half-a-mile east of Cunningham Pond near the western base of Park Mountain.

Additions
to the
1898 list.

Sitta Canadensis. - One seen July 15th in hemlock woods near Day's, two August 6th on Park Mountain, others at frequent intervals during the latter half of August the greatest number (six birds) being noted on the 30th of that month. Associated with chickadees and mixed flocks of warblers etc.

Comptolathypus a. ussuri. - One heard singing July 5th in hemlocks along the brook below Day's house.

Dendroica aestiva. - Apparently not uncommon in thickets along the Contoosook River half-a-mile above the village where two were seen and a third heard singing July 12th. There can be little doubt that these were summer residents here.

Sylvania Canadensis. - An adult ♂ in full song met with by Mr. Deane on July 6th in swampy woods E. of Cunningham Pond.

1899.

July & Aug.

Scopio caesepetra. - A single bird observed August 6th flying about just over the tops of the Spruces on the summit of Park Mountain uttering the characteristic notes of that region in tones.

Additions
to the
1898 list

Spirurus pinus. - On July 28th while in the hemlock woods which border the brook that passes through the farm I distinctly heard the flight-call of a Pine Siskin repeated several times near at hand. The bird appeared to be passing low down over the tops of the trees.

Coturnix borealis. - On August 3rd and again two days later an Olive-billed Flycatcher was heard calling out intervals during most of the forenoon in the spruce woods beyond the meadows just below the Dairy house. On both occasions the "three deer" note was exclusively used. The bird must have come from some other locality or region, otherwise its presence would certainly have been detected before the dates just given.

Botaurus lentiginosus. - On July 12th I had a fleeting glimpse of what I took to be a Bittern flying around a bend of the Contooscook River half-a-mile above the village. A certain identification was made of one at West Pittsboro two days later while on the 20th and again on the 31st I saw a bird standing erect in the marsh that borders the long pond or bayou between West Jeffrey & Rindge.

Anthus trivirgatus. Included in the 1898 list on hasty evidence merely. On August 7 of the present summer one passed close over my head as I was driving at evening in the valley not far from the village.

Peterboro, New Hampshire.

1899.

July & Aug.

The following species included in my list for 1898 were not met with the present summer.

Coturnix viridis. - On Mr. Deane's authority. The correctness of his identification now seems to me open to some doubt.

Birds noted in 1898
not met with in 1899.

Cophocatus pekatens. - On the strength of fresh holes newly; no birds seen.

Buteo breastri. - Only one bird seen in 1898.

Colinus virginianus . " " " "

Bartonia longicauda.

1899.

July & Aug.

The following supplementary notes and observations were made this season.

Sialia hialis. - One singing near the village July 12 and a flock of 17 seen August 29th on the George Morrison place was the only birds met with.

Supplementary
Notes &
Observations

Muscula nigrotarsis. - In full, uninterrupted song up to August 5th or about two weeks later than last year.

Turdus mustelinus. - One seen August 2nd by Mr. Purdie in dense young woods about a quarter of a mile west of Cunningham Pond.

Turdus pallasi. - Numbers reduced about one half from those of last year. The reduction was not uniform over the whole region for in some localities, as in the woods near the Dairs - the birds were as common as usual but in many places were not found though last season they were wholly abundant. They sang regularly up to August 5th this year.

Harporhynchus rufus. - Much less numerous than last season. In full song on July 4, 5, 6, & 26.

Regulus satrapa. - Not nearly so many were seen this year as last although more ground was covered.

Minutilla varia. - Last year I noted the Creeper as "Common". This summer it was met with but once - on July 7 when a male was heard in full song.

1899.

July & Aug

Sialia noveboracensis. - One seen August 22nd on the banks of a small trout brook in dense spruce woods east of Cunningham Pond near the western base of Peak Monadnock.

Additions
to the
1898 list

Loxia c. minor. - Seen or heard almost daily during both months and in various places but oftenest and in the greatest numbers early in July when several good-sized flocks were met with feeding on larch cones of which the tree bore an abundant crop this year. Most of the birds observed in August were adults in pairs although several pairs were often seen in company forming a smaller flock. During the latter half of July and the first week of August one or two pairs resorted daily to a space of bare, hard-brodden ground just behind Mr. Day's barn coming usually in the morning or early forenoon and at each visit spending half-an-hour or more picking up particles of loose earth & licking the ground with their red tongues extended between the mandibles which was passed sideways on the ground. At first I supposed that some salt had been spilled there but when I found out a small quantity it was ignored & I finally concluded that the birds were eating the plain dirt which was dry & of a gravelly character. They moved by elastic bounding hops like English Sparrows, I heard Crossbills in what appeared to be full song July 7, 26, 27, & 28 and on August 2, 3, and 7. One of the males which visited Mr. Day's would frequently perch on the ridge pole or eave of the barn and sing almost continuously for ten or twelve minutes at a time sitting rather erect and motionless save for a occasional side turn of the head. Some of his notes were liquid and sweet ^{but metallic,} others harsh or guttural. The song as a whole was monotonous and tiresome. It may be rendered thus: pip-pip-wit-wit-whink-whink-pip-pip etc.

1899.

July & Aug

Halimotrapida rufigrilla. - A male heard singing on July 4, 7, and 14 and a young bird seen on the summit of Park Mountain August 6 was the only individuals noted this summer. The bird heard on July 14th (near Abbot's Thayer's home to Upton at Dublin, N.H.) sang on wing mounting at an angle of from 45° to a height of about 100 feet. Just as it cleared the treetops (pitch pine), it began chirping; next followed six or eight short, full, rather liquid notes, then the normal song at the close of which the bird then descended to the earth.

Notes &
Observations
Supplementary
made in
1898.

Dendroica coronata. - Decidedly less numerous than last year.

" blackburnii. - One heard singing July 5th another on the 15th, both in hemlock woods along the brook below Day's house.

Seiurus aurocapillus. - Ceased singing after July 24.

Setophaga ruticilla. - Abundant along the wooded banks of the Contoocook River where eight notes were heard singing and a brood of young seen on July 12. After this date the song was not heard until August 29th when an adult ♂ was singing steadily and loudly at about 7 a.m. near the village.

Geothlypis trichas. - Last heard in full song July 26.

Vireo olivaceus. - Singing regularly and loudly to August 5th, fully & bravely as late as August 30th.

Vireo solitarius. - At least three different notes heard singing in July (8th - 20th) and a fourth on August 4. One of the birds observed in July was singing in the same place Aug. 12.

Peterboro, New Hampshire.

1899.

July & Aug

Piranga erythromelas. - At least three different notes heard singing in July. Notes & Observations supplementing those made in 1898

Progne purpurea. - Five flying over a meadow near Noon's July 29. than made in 1898

Chelidon erythrogaster. - A brood of young were fed by their parents on the same branch (a short dead branch of a beech over the house) daily from July 9th to 14th. ✓

Alvicola riparia - Two birds skimming the fields in front of the house on July 25.

Corpedocens purpureus. - Rather commoner this year than last and seen at many different places in the region. In full song to July 18th.

Pooecetes gramineus. Numbers reduced at least three quarters from those of last year.

Turdus hyemalis. - Found in greatly reduced numbers this season and only on the top & upper slopes of Park Mountain. This fact taken in connection with the scarcity of migrants in Eastern Mass. last spring shows that the species must have suffered heavily during the February storms in the South. ✓

Spizella socialis. - Less numerous than last year. In full song up to August 3rd.

Spizella pusilla. - Numbers slightly if at all reduced from those of last season. Song especially & fairly up to August 5.

1899.

July & Aug

Melospiza fasciata. - Here as at Concord the Song Sparrow was a comparatively uncommon bird this summer. The greatest number that I heard singing in any one day was four and ordinarily I did not meet with more than one or two. This indicates that the species suffered severely in the South East winter. The full song was not heard after July 29th. Most of the birds heard here last summer ended the song in a peculiar way but the songs of one that I observed this season were normal.

Notes & Observations supplementing those made in 1898.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus. - In normal numbers and full song to August.

Zonotrichia albicollis. - Only two met with, one in the cedar woods near our house, the other at the base of Park Woodside. In full song up to July 27.

Cyanospiza cyanea. - Sang regularly and strongly up to August 6, intermittently and feebly as late as the 19th & 20th.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus. - Much more numerous than last summer. Several old birds frequented the fields about my house almost constantly from July 4th to 19th and small flocks of young appeared there early in August. On July 12th I found nine adults (3♂♂ & 6♀♀) in the meadows bordering the Concord River. Males were heard in nearly or quite full song July 4, 7, 13, 14 & 19.

Icterus galbula. - An adult male heard singing in the village August 18 and either the same or another in the same place on the 29th.

Agelaius phoeniceus. - A flock of timber birds, mostly young, seen in a pasture nearly noon July 29. Also seen from the cars about the pond near Bridge.

1899.

July & Aug

Cyanocitta cristata. - Heard almost daily during July and a flock of six seen August 20th.

Sayornis phoebe. - Last singing July 8.

Empidonax minimus. " " " 6

Colaptes auratus. Heard "thumping" almost daily up to July 28 but during August only on the 2nd & 3rd.

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. - Song notes heard frequently through July but in August only on the 3rd 5th & 6th.

Chordeiles virginianus. - Only one bird observed in July, a ♂ booming over Park Monowick on the 17th. In August three birds were seen migrating southward on the evening of the 17th, two on that of the 20th, one on that of the 28th. One was also heard before August 18th.

Aircus hudsonius. - My record for the summer is as follows: July 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 28th August 6th & 27th. The bird noted July 6th was flying over the brook meadow near our house and was in sight continuously for fifteen minutes. During part of this time she soared in circles like a Buteo rising to a height of 700 or 800 feet. She also repeatedly poised for minutes at a time at a height of about 200 feet, beating a strong south-west wind and hanging suspended on set wings without drifting perceptibly but changing the inclination of both wings and tail continually and occasionally beating her wings. She looked for all the world like a stuffed bird supported by a wire and was evidently engaged in scanning the meadow beneath for prey. I have seen a Marsh Hawk soar before but never poise like a Kinglet or a Kestrel as this bird was doing.

Notes &
Observations
differing
those made
in 1898.

1899.

July & Aug

Accipiter velox. - One seen August 18th

Notes &

Observations

Supplementary

than made
in 1898.

Falco sparverius. - On August 28th as I was standing on the summit of Post Mountain a young ♀ Sparrowhawk came flying past skimming low over the rocks. This bird was no doubt a migrant (it was moving southward on its way), but the species probably breeds sparingly in this region for I saw an adult between Rindge and Wickenden or about twelve miles south of Peterboro on the morning of July 10, 1899.

Ardea herodias. - One seen at Crommyhorn Pond on August 28th and another near West Jeffery on August 24th.

Ardea tricolor. - Single birds seen Aug. 2, 19, 27 & 28.

Philohela minor. - One seen at Temple on the evening of August 20th flying from a wooded hillside to a brook meadow. Albert Meyer tells me that Woodcock bred abundantly this year in the woods near his house on Dublin and that early in July his son Gerald saw one alight twice on the topmost twigs or sprays of some white pines which were thirty or forty feet high. This happened during the evening twilight but Gerald saw his bird distinctly against the sky & is positive that it was a Woodcock.

1899.

July

1. Mniota migratoria. - 4_{*} 5_{*} 6_{*} 7_{*} 8_{*} 9₃ 11₃ 12₃ 13₃ 14_{*} 15₃ 17_{*} 18₃ 19₃ 20₃ 25₃ ^{at home}, 26₃ 27₃ 28₃ 29₃ 30₃.
2. Turdus pallasi. - 4_{*} 5₃ 6₃ 7₃ 8₃ 9₃ 11₃ 13₃ 14₃ 15₃ 16₃ 17₃ 18₃ ^{Hand at Petersboro C.S. house} 24₃ ^{at home}, 26₃ 27₃ 28₃.
3. " fuscus. - 11₃ 12₃ 17₃ 30₃ ^{Contaminated}
4. Saloscopus carolinensis. - 4_{*} 5₃ 6₃ 7₃ 8₃ 12₃ 14₃ 15₃ 28₃ 29₃ ^{Contaminated}
5. Harporhynchus rufus. - 4_{*} 5₃ 6₃ 7₃ 20₃ 26₃ ^{in full song} 6.30-7 P.M.
6. Parus atricapillus. - 4_{*} 7₃ 15₃ 28₃ 27₃ 28₃ ^{Sitta carolinensis 6; Sitta americana 5; Myiophobus californicus 5; Myiophobus carolinensis 5}
7. Mniotilta varia. - 7₃
8. Helminthophila ruficapilla. - 4_{*} 7₃ 14₃ ^{Dublin}
9. Comptosia a. usneae. - 5₃
10. Dendroica maculosa. - 4₃ 5₃ 6₃ 7₃ 11₃ 13₃ 15₃ ^{Peter C.S.}
11. " blackburniana. - 5₃ 15₃
12. " coronata. - 6₃ 9₃ 17₃ ^{Peter C.P. 2nd}
13. " viridis. - 4₃ 5₃ 6₃ 7₃ 9₃ 13₃ 15₃ 20₃ 28₃ ^{at home} 9.30-10 P.M.
14. " castanea. - 12₃ ^{Peter}
15. " pennsylvanica. - 4₃ 6₃ 7₃ 12₃
16. Sitta carolinensis. - 4_{*} 5_{*} 6_{*} 7_{*} 8_{*} 9₃ 11₃ 13₃ 14₃ 15₃ 18₃ 24₃
17. Geothlypis trichas. - 3₃ 4₃ 5₃ 6₃ 7₃ 11₃ 12₃ 14₃ 15₃ 17₃ 18₃ 20₃ 24₃ 26₃ ^{Contaminated}

1899.

July

18. *Sylvania canadensis*. — ^{Cunningham P.} 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ (W. Army)
19. *Setophaga ruticilla*. — ^{Contonville} 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{Cunningham P.} 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{Contonville} 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{Contonville} 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{Contonville} 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{Contonville} 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{Contonville} 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{Contonville} 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{Contonville} 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{Contonville} 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{Contonville} 30 $\frac{1}{2}$
20. *Vireo olivaceus*. — 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ 30 $\frac{1}{2}$
21. " *solitarius*. — ^{Cunningham P.} 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{Cunningham P.} 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{Cunningham P.} 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{Cunningham P.} 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{Cunningham P.} 20 $\frac{1}{2}$
22. *Empidonax virens* 51
22. *Ampelis cedrorum*. — 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ 17 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ 29 $\frac{1}{2}$
23. *Chelidon cythrogaster*. — 3, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ 13, 14, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ 17, 18, 19, 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ 28 $\frac{1}{2}$
24. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. — 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ 26 $\frac{1}{2}$
25. *Carpodacus purpureus*. — 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ 28 $\frac{1}{2}$
26. *Loxia c. minor*. — 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ 29 $\frac{1}{2}$
27. *Spinus tristis*. — 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ 18, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ 29 $\frac{1}{2}$
28. *Poocetes gramineus*. — 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ 26 $\frac{1}{2}$
29. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. — 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ 27 $\frac{1}{2}$
30. *Spizella socialis* 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ 30 $\frac{1}{2}$
31. " *passilla*. — 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ 28 $\frac{1}{2}$
- ? *Junco hyemalis* 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ 30 $\frac{1}{2}$

1899.

July

- Melospiza georgiana* 59
32. *Melospiza fasciata*. - 3² 4² 5² 6² 7² 9² 11² 12² 13² 14² 15² 16² 17² 18² 19² 24² 25² 26² 27².
29²
33. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. - 3² 4² 5² 6² 7² 9² 13² 14² 15² 16² 17² 18² 24² 25² 26² 27² 28² 29²
34. *Cyanospiza cyanea*. - 3² 4² 5² 6² 7² 9² 11² 12² 13² 14² 15² 16² 17² 18² 19² 24² 26² 27² 28² 29² 30² 31²
35. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. - ^{Dougherty's do.} 4² 5² 6² 7² 8² 9² 11² ^{New Dorp} 12² 13² ^{Conte's do.} 14² 19² 27² ^{Doug's farm} 27²
- Agelaius phoeniceus* 1641
36. *Corus americanus*. - 3² 6² 7² 14² 15² 19² 25²
37. *Cyanocitta cristata*. - 5² 7² 9² 14² 15² 16² 17² 18² 25² 26² 27² 28²
38. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. - ^{Conte's do.} 4² 5² 6² 7² 12² 14² 15² 17² 26² 27² 28² 29²
39. *Sayornis phoebe*. - 7² 8² 9² 13² 14² 15² 16² 18² 19² 20² 26² 29²
40. *Empidonax minimus*. - ^{Conte's do.} 4² 6² 12² 29² ^{New Dorp} 29²
- Tachycineta thalassina* 501
41. *Chondestes pelagicus*. - 3² 4² 5² 6² 7² 12² 14² 15² 17² 18² 19² 26² 27² 29²
- Geothlypis trichas* 101
42. *Dryobates villosus*. - ^{Doug's farm} 7² 28²
- " *pubescens* 1821
43. *Colaptes auratus*. - 4² 6² 7² 8² 12² 26² 27² 28²
- Chordeiles virginianus* 601
44. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. - ^{Doug's farm} 7² 15² 17² 18² 19² 26² 27² 28² 29²
45. *Buteo calurus*. - 4² 6² 15²
46. *Circus hudsonius*. - ^{Doug's farm} 4² 6² 7² 28²

1899.

July.

47. Passer domesticus. - ^{single} 7 ^{W. Down}
48. Ceryle alcyon ^{Antonovsk. 7-10-1881} 12 ^{1/2} ^{1/6} ^{1/8} 26 ² 31 ^{1/2} ^{Post on}
49. Ardea virescens ^{Antonovsk. 11-1-1881} 12 ^{1/2} ^{1/4}
50. Fulicaria cristata ^{Antonovsk. 12-7-1881} 12 ^{1/2} ^{1/8} 15 ^{1/2} 18 ^{1/2} 28 ^{1/2}
51. Pelecanus erythrorhynchos ^{Antonovsk. 12-8-1881} 12 ^{1/2} ^{1/4} ^{1/8} 17 ^{1/2} 29 ^{1/2} ^{Richard. Golden. Sui. Augustus. 1881}
52. Dryobates pubescens ^{Days 18 ^{1/2} 18 ^{1/2}}
53. Tachycineta bicolor ^{Days 14 ² 20 ⁽³⁰⁾ 25 ²}
54. Sialia sialis ^{single} 12 ^{1/2}
55. Botaurus lentiginosus - ^{Com. River. 12-11-1881} 12 ^{1/2} ^{1/4} 14 ^{1/2} 20 ^{1/2} 31 ^{1/2} ^{Post on 1881}
56. Sitta canadensis - ^{Numbered by Peterson} 15 ^{1/2}
57. Regulus satrapa ^{Numbered by Peterson} 15 ^{1/2} ^{Observed by Peterson} 20 ^{1/2}
58. Progneptis hiemalis ^{Numbered by Peterson} 15 ^{1/2}
59. Melospiza georgiana - ^{Peterson} 14 ^{1/2}
60. Chordeiles virginianus - ^{Wilson of Paris, N.} 17 ^{1/2}
61. Cotile riparia ^{Days 25 ^{1/2} 25 ^{1/2} 25 ^{1/2}}

Pittsburg, New Hampshire

1899.

July.

62. Spinus pinus 28¹ (heard flying over
Pittsburg at break)

63. Progne purpurea ^{nois} 29⁽⁴⁾

64. Agelaius phoeniceus 29⁽¹²⁾ ^{Pittsburg near} ^{nois} Also seen from cars at pond in Pittsburg.

65. Sitta carolinensis 26¹ on large elm at deserted house on road to New Ipswich 1 m. beyond Pittsburg

1899.

August

1. Merula migratoria. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 18¹ ^{Peak Mt. on Mt.} 29⁸
2. Turdus pallasi - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 $\frac{2}{2}$ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 4 $\frac{2}{2}$ 5 $\frac{4}{2}$ 6¹
3. " muscleinus ^{near Cassin's from Penn.} 2¹ ^{1st taken, June 27} ^{4. a. - Rhode}
4. Catocoptes construcis 2⁽³⁰⁾ 29¹
5. Harporhynchus rufus 2^{hd.} 4^{hd.}
6. Parus atricapillus 2^{hd.} 4^{hd.} 18^{hd.} 20^{hd.} 29^{hd.} 30^{hd.}
7. Vireo olivaceus 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 4 $\frac{3}{2}$ 5 $\frac{2}{2}$ 1^{sup. 5} ^{Peak} ^{mount.} 19⁽²⁾ 29¹ 30²
8. Ampelis cedrorum 2² 4⁶ 5⁴ 6⁴ 18⁶ 19⁶ 20⁶ 30^{hd.}
9. Chelidon erythrogaster 2, 3, 4⁽³⁰⁾ 5⁽³⁰⁾ 6⁽⁴⁵⁾
10. Cotile riparia ^{only} 1⁽³⁾
11. Progne subis ^{Disjunct from} 3^{hd.} ^{3 birds at} ^{mount.}
12. Loxia c. minor 2² 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 4^{hd.} 5^{hd.} 6^{hd.} 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{Peak Mt.} 18^{hd.} 19^{hd.} 25^{hd.} 26⁽²⁾ 27^{hd.} 28^{hd.} 29^{hd.} 30^{hd.}
13. Spinus tristis 3^{hd.} 4^{hd.} 5^{hd.} 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ 21 $\frac{1}{2}$
14. Spinetta socialis 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 26⁽¹²⁾ 29⁽⁶⁾
15. Spinetta pusilla 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 20²

Peterboro, New Hampshire

1899.

August

16. Melospiza fasciata. ^{2 days} 2^⑥ ^{top of house} 6¹ 29⁴
17. Pipilo erythrophthalmus 2¹ 3¹ 4² 5¹ 29²
18. Cyanospiza cyanea 1¹ 2¹ 3¹ 4¹ 5¹ 6¹ 19^⑧ 20^⑧
19. Dotichomyia ovum 2^① 5^②
20. Corvus americanus 6^② 27^②
21. Cyanocitta cristata 20^②
22. Sayornis phoebe 2^⑧ 20¹ 29²
23. Contopus borealis ^{2 days} 3¹ ^{to 4 days} 5¹
24. Chaelidon pelagica 3 hds 6¹ ^{20^⑧ 21^⑧ at} ^{Mr. Jeffrey found} 23^② 24^②
25. Colaptes auratus 2¹ 3¹
26. Buteo latissimus 2 (Banks) 3 hds. 5 hds.
27. Vireo solitarius ^{11 days} 4¹ ^{C.S. 19¹} 5¹ 19¹
28. Petrochelidon lunifrons ^{2 days} 5¹
29. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus 3² 5¹ 6²
30. Scolecophagus trichas 4¹ 18¹ 27¹ 29¹

1898.

August

31. Andra virescens ^{More than 1000} 2' ^{19'} 27' 28'
32. Bonasa umbellus 3[♂] R.S. 17⁵ R.S.
33. Loxia leucoptera ^{Summary of} 6' ^{Base} ^{Monardville.}
34. Regulus satrapa ^{Orisk. Is. Park Is. Lake} 5' ^{6' 20'} 22' 29' ^{20'}
35. Turdus hyemalis ^{Base Monardville} 6' ^{adults} ^{3 birds young} ^{18'} ^{21'} ^{28'} ^{Summary of} ^{Park Is.}
36. Sitta canadensis ^{Base Is. do} 6' ^{18'} ^{20'} ^{29'} ^{30'} ^{Orisk. Is. do} ^{6' 20'}
37. Heimantophila ruficapilla ^{Sp. of} 6' ^{Base}
38. Dendroica coronata ^{Sp. of} 6' ^{2' Base} ^{18' juv} ^{near 2000'} ^{27' 2 juv}
39. Tyrannus tyrannus 5-6⁽²⁾ 18² 19² 20²
40. Dryobates pubescens 5-6'
41. Circus hudsonius ^{Half very heavy,} 6' ^{Base} ^{27'} ^{monad.}
42. Actitis macularia ^{Cumpton Pond} 18' ^{heard on} ^{island}
- [Rhyacionia obtusaria ^{much taken at Cumpton Pond} 16' ^{near W. Papp's}]
43. Icterus galbula ^{2000' from} 18' ^{Swamp Is. at} ^{18' from} ^{Peterboro Village} ^{29' and 30' from} ^{center of} ^{but better fully at 7 a.m.}
44. Accipiter velox ^{Half very heavy} 18' ^{Base} ^{Monardville}

1899

August

45. Chordeiles virginianus 17^② @ mig. S. ^{Pale Monksense seen} 18^① ^{first half way} flying above. 20^② @ mig. S. 28^① at evening.

[Phibetula minor 20 ^{Temple (See Miller's book)} ^{feeding from weeds to} ^{nesting at evening.}

46. Surus noveboracensis 22^① ^{nest found in} ^{Great Swamp.}

47. Falco sparverius 28^① ^{seen} & ^{skinning} one ^{dwelt} of ^{Park Woodcock.} ^{Saw} another ^{near} ^{Hillsboro} on ^{July} 10

48. Setophaga ruticilla 29^② ^{seen} ^{along} ^{road} ^{near} ^{town} ^{July} 10

49. Sialia sialis 29 ^② ^{same} ^{nest} ^{seen}

50. Ardea herodias ^{Ampton} ^{3 1/2} ^{mi} ^{July} 24^①

51. Poocetes gramineus 29^②

52. Anthus trivirgatus vociferans 7^① ^{seen} ^{at} ^{evening} ^{flying} ^{along} ^{road} ^{near} ^{village}

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1899.

July & Aug

As the summer advanced the local birds became less and migration less numerously represented from week to week until the country was nearly drained of them but their places were well made good by the arrival of more western breeding species or individuals. Indeed the usual August migrants of the Eastern seem to fly to & winter as to be almost wanting. The only well-worked westward flights occurred on August 18th when, as I was camping on the crest of Peck Mountain, I heard a small number of Woodpeckers chirping overhead and on the following night between 8 and 12 P. M. when there was a continuous and rather heavy flight of Woodpeckers as well as of those mysterious birds which I hear in such numbers on Pine Point and which are either Thrushes or Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, or both. As I have already used night hawks over here passing southward at evening on several occasions later in August. The departure of the Swallows was effected gradually and unobtrusively the birds first removing from the farm and collecting on the telegraph wires along the roadbeds and then thinning out from day to day until all were gone.

August 21

I made up a bed this evening on the piazza of a doctor's house a familiar on the crest of Peck Mountain and went to sleep at Snaker about 11 P. M. An hour later I awoke to find a Snake about five inches long coiled on my left cheek! I brushed him off when he glided to the edge of the piazza & coiled. Sometime afterwards I again awoke to find him in the old place. This was repeated till a third time when I caught & put him in a box & sent him to Gosman. The night was cool & damp & the doublets brought very close because of the congealed moisture. The piazza was raised on posts to a height of six feet above the ground.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

July & Aug

July 22

Although the Flickers have been present in the garden almost constantly up to this date we have not seen them about the nest in the box since July 20th. Suspecting that the nest must have been deserted I examined it this evening and found the eight eggs still unincubated. Gilbert blew them carefully but afterwards dropped the tray in which they had been placed and broke them all. Most of them were infertile and addled but a few contained small dead embryos. The birds must have incubated them at least a month and I believe much longer than this.

Flicker's
nest

August 1

At day break I heard the flight call of an Upland Plover which was apparently passing low over the house. Crows were cawing and Gray Squirrels barking in the old lindens. Robins, Redstarts and Yellow Warblers are still numerous in the garden. I heard a Wood Pewee in the Lindens late in the afternoon.

Upland
Plover

" 8

A Robin singing in the Lindens. Swifts flying over the place in evening.

" 9

A Chickadee calling phoebe and an adult ♂ Redstart in full song. Robins (2 or 3), Yellow Warblers, Cedar birds & Orioles in the garden. A ♀ Goldfinch in the juniper collecting nest material.

" 10

Adult Redstart, Yellow Warbler & Yellow-throated Vireo singing early this morning, two Robins in full song in the forenoon. Cedar birds & a Downy Woodpecker seen. A Night Heron heard low over the house at 2 a.m. My Pigeons are eating the fruit of the near cherry fully. They abate

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

July & Aug

During these months I visited Cambridge nearly every week usually spending a day and night but on several occasions staying two or three days. The following notes are all that I find in my diary which relate to birds seen during these visits.

July 1 Three Red Crossbills flew over the garden this morning piping loudly. Red Crossbills

" 2 Young Robins, Yellow Warblers, Redstarts, Grosbeaks & Orioles in the garden. The ♂ Flicker "chattering" and what I took to be the ♀ her to fly from the nest in the box.

" 3 The Flicker chattering and a Grosbeak singing solter voce in the garden.

" 10 A Hummingbird in the garden.

" 21 Awaking at daybreak this morning I heard Cross coming, Gray Sparrows chattering, a Flicker chattering and a Robin singing in the hedges in front of the house. Later I found the garden abun with Robins, Yellow Warblers, Redstarts, Red-eyed Vireos and Orioles, most of them being young birds. There are comparatively few English Sparrows about the ~~place~~ this season.

In the afternoon took a drive through Haverley and the hills to Wellington Dam returning by way of Prospect Street. The country was drought-stricken & the roads deep with dust. Heard five Song Sparrows singing and saw a flock of fully thirty Orioles accompanied by several Robins & Kingbirds in a cluster of oaks opposite the western end of Prospect Street. Most of the Orioles were young birds.

Found several plants of Actea rubra here with deep red fruit on the banks of a brook near the western entrance to Wellington Dam.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

July & Aug.

Aug. 10 all over the trees and walk out on the branches to their very tips.
(no. 2)

The garden is swarming with bees & wasps which cross the paths and are seen scrambling about among the flowers at all hours of the day. Their numbers and boldness are due, no doubt, to the complete absence of my cat-fury fever. Only one cat has been detected in the garden this season and she came in through an open gate.

" 15 A Water Thrush, one or two Robins & Orioles and a Yellow Warbler were seen in the garden to-day. A Wood Pewee was singing in the old lindens.

The only Hummingbird which I saw in the garden this summer was the bird noted July 30th. I believe that a few others were seen during my absence by Gilbert or Karl (the gardener), but they were certainly exceptionally scarce this year although we had as many flowers of the kinds that attract them as we have ever had.

Unusual scarcity of Hummingbirds.

Robins were somewhat less numerous than usual; Redstarts, Yellow Warblers, and Red-eyed Vireos in about their usual numbers; Mocking Vireos, Yellow-throated Vireos and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks nested in a far off; we had Yellow-billed Cuckoos but no pair of Chipping Sparrows settled either on the place or very near it. Purple Finches have not nested for several years and Great Flycatchers not since 1897. Chipping Swifts still nest sometimes in the neighborhood to judge from their frequent visits.

Concord, Mass.

1844.

July 7 Aug

On my way to or from Cambridge I usually stopped at Concord and visited the garden and the Ball's Hill woods introducing taking there, on each occasion, more or less plants most of which were set out on or near Pulpit Rock where the conditions seem to be especially favorable for the successful introduction of the "Hazel" or more interesting northern species such as the Strawberry, Dickcissel, Worm-eater, etc. I also planted a good many things along the northern slope of Pulpit Hill and some purple-fringed and round-leaved Habenaria near paths in Davis's Swamp and Woodcock Run. As I shall enter a full list of these introduced plants in this journal at the end of the season I will not dwell further on them here. During my visits to Concord the following birds were noted

- July 10 Hairy Woodpecker heard in the Barn yard. Hairy Woodpecker
- " 23 Two Bluebirds in full song. I killed a brood of young Partridge; Bluebirds which were about as large as Pigeons.
- " 31 Red Crossbills heard near Pulpit Rock. Wood Pewees common throughout Red Crossbills my woods and singing freely. Several Wilson's Thrushes. Small flocks of Warblers, mostly Chestnut-bellied and Redstarts, in the oaks on Ball's Hill. An adult Downy Woodpecker in badly worn and stained Downy Woodpecker plumage visited a piece of bee comb which has been hanging in an oak comb comb near the cabin since last April. Although it was very black with age & covered with mould the bird ate it all of its quarry.
- August 18 Red-eyed Vireos and Wood Pewees singing in the woods. Many Warblers, most of them Chestnut-bellied, on Ball's Hill. A Wood Thrush flown by the river near the cabin. Red-eyed Vireos
& Wood Pewees
still singing

Covesid, Mass.

1899.

July Aug.

August 23

A Partridge drumming steadily at short, regular intervals in the woods South-east of Pulpit Rock (not at the usual station on the west) drumming.

" 31 The Partridge again drumming near Pulpit Rock.

1899.

Aug. 11-15

I went to South Yarmouth on the afternoon of the 11th and returned on the morning of the 15th spending the three intervening days with the Stones. Their house is about a mile from the center of the town near the mouth of Bass River.

We drove a great deal and devoted much time to searching Plants for plants of which I brought back a number of living specimens to put in my wild garden. On the 12th we crossed the Cape to Scargo Hill on the north shore, on the 13th visited Herring Pond, on the 14th went to Dennis and thence through dense woods to the shore losing our way and traversing miles of blind half-grown-up wood roads along which *Cornus canadensis* grows abundantly in places. One of the most conspicuous and attractive of the wild flowers in bloom at this season was the yellow aster. *Tephrosia* was common but of course out of bloom. The butterfly or orange milkweed was seen in several places but it is much less common in this region than I had supposed. Partridge pea was abundant along the roadside near Scargo Hill.

Post calls were common in several places. I saw all our other common New England owls except the red & brown winter.

Birds were rather scarce. In the open patch pine woods I heard Birds. Pine Warblers, Hooded Pigeons and Chipping Sparrows flying and song (on the 13th) a Hermit Thrush. I saw only one Meadow Lark Scarcity of during my stay (and but two or three during the journey from Meadow Larks to Boston) and I did not see nor hear a dove. A few Wilson's Terns visited the Bass River daily and on the 13th I saw a dozen or more as well as several Least Terns flying over Herring Pond. Night Herons in small numbers came into the marshes along the river at evening. Grass Finches were exceedingly scarce and I found no Yellow-winged Sparrows.

South Yarmouth, Mass.

1899.

Aug. 11. 15
(no. 2)

Directly in front of the Stone's house stands a large, spreading willow ^{under which, at the time of my visit,} was a wooden bench. As I was walking past this within a yard or two in the twilight on the evening of the 14th a Whippoorwill started, apparently from the rear of the bench, and flitted slowly off calling wuck-pix, or o-pit twice in quick succession and opening and shutting its large wings the whole alternately flashing and disappearing in the dim light.

Whippoorwill

We found fresh tracks of a large Otter on a sandy beach at Fishing Pond and a farmer whom we met there told us that these animals have become numerous of late years in the region about South Yarmouth. He added that they were seldom killed and that no one had succeeded in trapping any of them although the attempt had been frequently made.

Otter

During a long drive after dark on the night of the 12th I learned that here, as about Petersboro, N. H., the Cuckoo sounds, (Acis pygmaea) are generally distributed throughout the woods instead of restricted to cultivated grounds & special locations as is usually the case in Middlesex County, Mass. Rob. birds are rather numerous in the South Yarmouth woods but they are confined to certain localities there. In the fields near the Stone's house as well as elsewhere I heard at night the prolonged cicada like notes of the large green locust that is so common about Yarmouth and to the southward of New England.

Insect

1899.

September

The drought which prevailed during the Spring, Summer and autumn of the present year was broken in September only by light rain on the 2nd, 11th, 24th and 25th, by continuous and rather heavy rain on the 20th & 25th, & by two or three thunder showers on other dates. There were twenty wholly clear days and four when the sun shone nearly or quite half the time. Killing frosts occurred on the evenings of the 14th & 30th. Most of days were warm & several of them uncomfortably so. There was but little windy weather.

Weather.

I visited the Swales at Glendale from the 1st to the 14th, Read of my the Cheshams at North Scituate from the 15th to the 19th, visited the Gellings at Bethel (Maine) from the 22nd to October 4th unusually. I was at Concord during a portion of the 1st & 15th & the whole of the 20th & 21st. My only trip to Concord was on the 21st.

At Cambridge I noted in one garden a Brown Thrasher and a flock of 12 Cedar Birds on the 15th and a Swainson's Thrush on the 21st. The Cedar Birds were feeding on worm chisels. The Thrush sang almost continuously & in nearly full tones for fifteen minutes or more during a light shower just before sunset.

Birds in
our garden

Swainson's
Thrush.

At Concord I heard a Partridge drumming near Pulpit Rock and found the woods very often alive with Red-bellied Nuthatches.

Birds at
Concord.

At North Scituate I heard the challenging call of a Wood Thrush on the evening of the 15th & the scarp of a Brown Creeper on the 15th. Canada Nuthatches, Amos, Jays, Robins & Thrushes were numerous. A Phoebe was singing fully on the 16th & flocks of Cedar Birds were seen on the 17.

Birds at
No. Scituate.

1899.

September

1-15

During my stay at Glendale I devoted most plants of my time to studying and collecting plants of which I sent many living specimens packed in sphagnum moss to Cambridge and Concord where my men received and reported them. The flora of the woods in the immediate neighborhood of Mr. Francis' house was so rich and varied that I rarely went more than a mile away in any direction and I often spent half a day patting over a space of a few acres. A marked peculiarity of the plant life as compared with that of Eastern Massachusetts was the general distribution and abundance of most of our species and the surprising number ^{of species} which could be often found growing in close proximity. Few plants seemed to be locally restricted and still fewer monopolized certain areas as is so often the case at home. On the contrary it was usually possible to find within the space of an acre or so ~~the~~ representatives of pretty nearly every species which occurred on similar ground throughout the whole surrounding region. ^{Most} Hepaticas, blood root, Trilliums, Arbutus, Maiden's hair ferns, Ladies Slippers (white & purple), Canada violets, yellow violets, & many other interesting plants were scattered everywhere through the woods. There was a fair representation of ferns of which I found & identified no less than twenty-four species, among them Aspidium gelidum which, by the way, was an exception to the rule just mentioned for I met with only three specimens and these grew very near together.

The soil throughout most of the woods was exceedingly rich yet very light & friable, ~~what~~ even when the ground was springy.

Glenade, Berkshire County, Mass.

1899.

September
1-13

The following birds were noted at Glenade:

Sialia sialis. - Flight call heard on the 10th.

Merula migratorius. - A flock of Titmice seen on the 2nd and another of 4th on the 4th. Besides a few Screeching birds on other occasions.

Larus marinus. - One heard calling in the evening twilight on the 3rd.

Parus atricapillus. - Rather common in small flocks for being the greatest number seen together on any one afternoon. The flocks were often accompanied by Titmice & various kinds of migrating Woodpeckers.

Sitta carolinensis. - One seen on the 6th, another the following day, both in an orchard near the house.

Sitta canadensis. - Heard on the 4th, 5th, 6th, & 7th in hemlock woods.

Minutella varia. - An adult ♂ in full song on the 4th was the only individual met with.

Dendroica virens. - An adult ♂ with full black throat & a ♀ or young male seen on the 4th, but ♀♀ or young ♂♂ on the 6th.

Dendroica caerulescens. - A ♂ on the 4th.

Dendroica pennsylvanica. - A ♂ with rich chestnut flanks & a plain green & white had been on the 4th.

Glendale, Berkshire Co., Mass.

1899.

September

1-15

Dendroica blackburniana. - An adult ♂ + a young bird seen together on the 4th.

Dendroica maculosa. - Two on the 4th, one on the 6th, and three apparently young birds.

Dendroica castanea. - One with chestnut flanks seen on the 6th.

Dendroica striata. - A young bird on the 7th.

Sylvania canadensis. - An adult ♂ with heavily spotted breast was seen on the 4th.

Sylvania pusilla. - An adult bird (probably ♂) with black crown seen in hemlock woods in company with hooded Redstarts on the 6th.

Setophaga ruticilla. - An adult ♂ in full plumage seen on the 6th.

Scirrus americanus. - One on the 10th.

Ampelis cedrorum. - Heard on the 4th, but birds seen together on the 6th, and a flock of thirty noted on the 7th and in a more than cherry trees covered with ripe fruit.

Parus cyathrostris. - One in nearly full song close to the house on about house on the 10th and the chip-chim call heard on the 7th & 12th.

Spinus tristis. - 4 (♂) 5 (♂) 7 (♂)

✓
anager
singing
Sept. 10th

Glendale, Berkshire County, Mass.

1899.

September
1-15.

Pooecetes gramineus. - Five seen together on the 10th.

Turdus heermanni. - Four or five together on the 11th.

Spizella socialis. - Two seen on the 9th, three on the 10th, & a flock of fifteen on the 12th.

Melospiza fasciata. - Although Song Sparrows have been comparatively scarce everywhere this year I was surprised to meet with only one during my stay at Glendale. This bird was started from a nesting place near the house.

Scarcity of
Song Sparrows

Habia ludoviciana. - One note heard on the 4th & 7th.

Corvus americanus. - Crows were decidedly scarce about Glendale. I did not see more than two or three them in any one day.

Cyanocitta cristata. - Seen or heard almost daily. On the 7th I noted at least ten different birds.

Icterus galbula. - One in the orchard on the 2nd.

Dryobates villosus. - One on the 12th & another on the 13th.

Dryobates pubescens. - One on the 4th, another on the 7th.

Colaptes auratus. - Only two noted, one on the 6th the other on the following day.

Contopus virens. - One singing freely on the 5th.

Glenade, Berkshire County, Mass.

1899.

September
1-15

Chaetanus pelagicus. 2[♂] 3[♀] 6⁽⁸⁾. All these birds were seen at evening flying about Mr. French's fields into one of the chimneys of which they dropped in quick succession after making a number of seemingly vain attempts to do so. Such feats are not uncommon but on these occasions the birds descended dozens of times only to shut off just as they reached the top of the chimney.

Chordeiles virginianus. - On the evening of the 3rd no less than five parties of night hawks crossing respectively 6, 5, 4, 3 & 2 birds each passed within sight of our house all moving due south at a moderate height and evidently migrating. I afterwards learned from Miss Kyles that a considerable flight passed over Mr. Mansfield the same evening. On the evening of the 5th I saw a single night hawk flying south over Stockbridge.

Bonasa umbella. - The Glenade sportsman considered Partridge scarce this autumn. I saw them together in Mr. French's woods on the 11th & five days later.

Bethel, Maine.

1899.

Sept 22 to

Oct. 4

Plant life

I went to Bethel on September 22nd and returned to Cambridge on October 4th spending the interim, with the exception of one day and a portion of two others which I devoted to a flying trip to Umbagog, with my friends the Gehrigs, and giving most of my time to a careful study of the ~~flora~~ ^{fauna} of the region although the birds were by no means neglected.

The flora, like that at Umbagog, proved comparatively meagre and disappointing. It lacks variety and one quickly tires of the monotony of finding everywhere the same species in excessive abundance and small variety. This was especially true of the ferns of which the best was surprisingly fewer. *Aspidium spinulosum* & its varieties was by far the commonest form and in most places it filled the woods to the neglect of choice of anything else. *A. cristatum* was fairly common, however, as was also *Phlegmaria polytrichoides*. *P. hexagonum* I found in only one locality. Of course there were the *Onocleas* (of all their species if I remember rightly) as well as *Aspidium thelypteris* & *A. nodosum*. I did not find any species of *Asplenium* or *Mosses* and *Aspidium marginatum*, *A. acrostichoides*, *Polypodium vulgare* and *Adiantum pedatum* were also apparently wanting. *Platyneuron aquilina* was abundant everywhere I came. A pine swamp eastward of the village was filled in places with *Larix* and *Abies nigra*. *Chiocypus*, *Linnaea*, & *Coptis* were everywhere abundant and most of the other common northern-growing lowly plants present in fair numbers. Red pines grew by thousands along the river road west of the bridge that crosses the Androscoggin & I have a dozen of little ferns on the outskirts of the village. I drove a little & walked a great deal. On my return to Cambridge I bought many plants for my cold garden.

1899.

Sept. 22 to Oct. 4. List of Birds noted at Bethel, between Bethel and Upton, and at Lake Umbagog.

✓ Sialia sialis. - Sept. 30 [✓] near Newry.

✓ Muscula migratoria. - Sept. 23[♂] 27[♂] Bethel; 30[♂] ⁽²⁰⁾/₄₀ Oct. 2⁽⁴⁰⁾ between Bethel and Upton.

✓ Turdus pallasi. - Sept. 23⁽²⁾ 25[♂] 28[♂] 29[♂] Bethel; 30⁽²⁾ Oct. 2[♂] between Bethel & Upton.

✓ Turdus a. bicknelli. - Oct. 2[♂] very small birds by roadside in Newry.

Parus atricapillus. - Sept. 23[♂] 25^(♂) 26^(♀) 27[♂] 29[♂] Bethel.

Sitta canadensis. - Sept. 23[♂] 25[♂] 27[♂] 29[♂] Bethel.

✓ Regulus satrapa. - Oct. 2[♂] roadside.

Regulus calendula. - Sept. 25[♂] 26[♂] Bethel.

Certhia f. americana. - Sept. 29[♂] Bethel (in full song)

Troglodytes hyemalis. - Sept. 29[♂] Bethel.

Minicetta varia. - Sept. 25[♂] Bethel.

✓ Anthus ludovicianus. - Oct. 2[♂] Upton.

Dendroica coronata. - Sept. 23[♂] 24⁽²⁾ 25[♂] 26[♂] 27[♂] Bethel.

" striata. - Sept. 23[♂] Bethel.

Oxford County, Maine.

1899.

Sept. 22 to *Dendroica virens*. — Sept. 25⁽⁴⁾ 26⁽⁵⁾ 27² Bethel.

Oct. 4

Dendroica caerulescens. — Sept. 28⁷ Bethel.

Dendroica palmarum —

" "

hypochrysa —

On Sept. 26⁵ a large mixed flock of warblers visited the shrubbery about Dr. Gehring's house at Bethel. Among them were one *D. palmarum* & two *D. h. hypochrysa*. I saw all these birds distinctly & identified them positively.

Geothlypis trichas. — Oct. 1¹ Upton.

Vireo olivaceus. — Sept. 26⁽⁶⁾ Bethel (singing freely & loudly)

Corcia leucophaea —

Sept. 23⁽³³⁾ 26⁴ 27⁴ Bethel.

Under date of Sept. 26 I note in my diary, the country is flooded with possibilities of both species. I see or hear them about Bethel, & more is the more abundant of the two.

Corcia c. minor —

Sept. 24⁴ 26⁴ 27⁴ 28⁴ 29⁴ Bethel.

Turdus hyemalis. — Sept. 27⁽⁶⁾ Bethel.

✓ *Spinus socialis*. — Sept. 30²⁰ Oct. 2¹⁵ between Bethel & Upton.

Oct. 1⁽³⁾ Calais.

✓ *Zonotrichia albicollis*. — Sept. 23⁴ 24³ 27³ 28⁽⁵⁾ 29⁽⁶⁾ Bethel.

Sept. 30⁴ Oct. 2⁴ between Bethel & Upton.

✓ *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. — Sept. 23¹ 24¹ 29⁴ Bethel.

" 30³⁰ Oct. 2²⁰ between Bethel & Upton.

Melospiza fasciata. — Sept. 23¹ 27⁴ Bethel.

1899.

- Sept. 22 to Melospiza georgiana. - Sept. 27¹ Bethel.
- Oct. 4 Cyanospiza cyana. - Sept. 27^{1/2} (in full song) Bethel.
- Scotocophagus carolinus. - Sept. 23¹ 30⁽¹²⁾ Bethel.
- ✓ Corvus americanus. - Sept. 23¹, 25⁴, 26³, 27¹, 28⁴, 29³ Bethel.
Oct. 1⁽²⁵⁾ Cambridge River nearsides, L. Umbagog.
- Cyanocitta cristata. - Sept. 23⁵, 25², 26³, 27⁴, 28⁴, 29⁴. Bethel.
- Sayornis phoebe. - Sept. 27¹ Bethel.
- ✓ Contopus virens. - Oct. 1¹ near Lake Umbagog (cf. detailed notes)
- Dryobates villosus. - Sept. 28¹ Bethel.
- Dryobates pubescens. - Sept. 23¹ Bethel.
- Sphyrapicus varius. - Sept. 27¹ near Bethel.
- ✓ Colaptes auratus. - Sept. 23⁴, 25¹, 26¹, 27⁽²⁾, 28¹, 29³ Bethel.
" 30⁽²⁾/⁽²⁵⁾ between Bethel & Upton.
- Accipiter cooperii. - Sept. 27¹ Bethel.
- ✓ Circus hudsonius. - Oct. 1¹ Lake Umbagog.
- ✓ Haliaeetus leuccephalus Oct. 1⁽²⁾ Lake Umbagog
- Bonasa a. togata. - Sept. 27¹ Bethel.

Oxford County, Maine.

1899.

Sept. 22 to

Ardea herodias. - Oct. 1⁽³⁾ Cambridge River marshes, Baker Umbagog.

Oct. 4

Anas obscura. - Oct. 1⁽³⁾ Baker Umbagog.

Pelecanus porphyrio. - Oct. 1 " "

Megascops americana. - " 1⁽²⁾⁽⁷⁾₍₂₅₎ Baker Umbagog.

Flying trip to Lake Umbagog.

1899

September 30
to
October 2

I left Bethel at noon on the 30th and went to Baldwin by Stage arriving at 6 P.M. The day was clear & cold with a strong N.W. wind, the mountains were wholly free from haze and the autumn coloring was on its height & exceptionally brilliant. Several Hairy Woodpeckers, a few Bluebirds & Gray Finches, large flocks of Robins, Chipping and Titmice and two Red-tailed Hawks were seen during the drive.

I returned to Bethel on the 2nd by a private team leaving Baldwin at 8 a.m. and reaching the Exchange shortly after noon. The weather was cloudy & cold with fine pellets of snow or hail or hail-like snow falling almost incessantly & rattling on the dry leaves. Two Chickadee Thrushes were seen in Henry.

During both days the country between Henry & Upton, and on the 1st that immediately around Baldwin, was alive with White-crowned Sparrows. I must have seen in all upwards of 100, the greatest number on the 2nd. They were in small flocks (some of which also contained one or two White-throats or Song Sparrows) and were usually seen in patches of woods or thickets of low bushes by the roadside. More than half of those that I examined closely were adults. Throughout the open country they probably outnumbered any other species of the smaller birds, at least on October 2nd, which probably marked the height of the backward migration this year.

White-crowned
Sparrows
abundant.

October 1st was a bitterly cold day for the season with cloudy sky, a keen N.W. wind and frequent flurries of snow, which melted as soon as it struck the ground on the lower levels but whitened the upper slopes of the mountains from morning to night.

I spent the forenoon up the lake going by

1899.

October 1

steamer and landing at Melaine Island and Pine Point. During this trip I saw 2 Bald Eagles, 8 Black Ducks and many Sheldrakes. The water was low and Ducks are said to be scarce this autumn.

In the afternoon I picked one of my canoes out to Upper river being then Great Lake Means, a ^{Moosehawk} Sheldrake, and a flock of about 60 Crows, all along the Combs River between its mouth and the hills. Off the mouth of the river I came upon a ♀ a young Surf Scoter which was floating with its head buried among the Kaponee fadens and apparently fast asleep. The canoe was moving at great speed and its prow was not more than six or eight feet from the unconscious bird when the latter happened to raise its head & discovering the danger rose hurriedly & flew out over the Lake.

a downy
Scoter

The most interesting experience of the afternoon was that of finding a Wood Pewee cowering under the lee of my boat house. Its plumage was ruffled and somewhat bedraggled and the bird acted as if benumbed and discomfited but its eyes glowed brightly and it made occasional sallies into the air among the falling snow-flakes as if mistaking them for flying insects. It spent most of its time on the ground or rather on a pile of chips and pieces of boards where it hopped or fluttered from place to place apparently finding & pulling up some kind of food but just what I could not discern. It was so tame that I almost caught it in my hand. Once it alighted on the threshold of the front door & looked in as I thought wistfully. It was a young bird & showed the grayish neck swelling conspicuously.

a belated
Wood Pewee.

1899.

October

The 1st & 2nd were bitterly cold days for the season with piercing N. W. winds and temperatures well below freezing over the greater part of New England (22° at Concord on the 1st, I am told) and flooding of snow in the more northern portions. On the mornings of the 21st and 22nd the surface of the ground was frozen hard (at Concord). The remainder of the month was exceptionally mild with a number of almost uncomfortably warm days and, for the most part, dry, clear weather although heavy rains fell on the 18th, 20th and 31st and light ones on the 6th, 9th, 23rd, 28th & 29th. They were insufficient to effect the ponds, streams, wells and springs which remained at a very low ebb but they kept the grass green throughout the month.

Weather.

The autumn coloring reached its height on the 12th & 13th when it was more varied & brilliant than I remember to have seen it before, at least in Massachusetts. This was due largely, no doubt, to the fact that the foliage of the oaks and beeches turned this year at the same time as that of the maples, tupelos, chestnuts, elms, birches & poplars - something unusual if not quite unprecedented. Nearly all these trees shed their foliage in one forenoon - that of the 14th - when I happened to be in the Estabrook woods at Concord. The morning had been cloudy, densely foggy and perfectly calm up to about 10 o'clock when the sky cleared and a brisk N. W. wind arose. In the next hour the falling leaves filled the air as thickly as snow flakes and the surface of the ground was soon covered deeply by them. By noon most of the trees were perfectly bare. Never before have I seen the woods so quickly & completely stripped of their foliage.

Autumn
Coloring.

Oaks & maples
at same time

Fall of the
leaves.

Drive from Peterboro to Cambridge.

1899.

October 7-10

Went to Peterboro by rail on the morning of the 7th. C. joined me at Ayer. We dined at Tucker's Tavern and in the afternoon drove to Ben Mear farm where I dug several large holes of moles in the pine woods beyond the brook. Heard Cedar Birds & Canada Nuthatches, the former in a run cherry tree by the roadside, the latter in pine woods. Spent the night at Tucker's Tavern.

" 8

The next day we drove to Gorton stopping at West Townsend for dinner. The weather was cloudy, calm and rather warm. The most beautiful part of the drive was a stretch of about three miles between Greenville and West Townsend where the road passed through old pine woods filled with mountain Laurel which formed a dense undergrowth and fringed both sides of the roadway with its masses of shining green foliage. Many of the Laurel bushes were six or eight feet tall.

During the day's drive we saw at least fifty Bluebirds, 100 Chipping, 60 or 80 Grass Finches, 18 or 20 Yellow-rumps and a few Song Sparrows. No Hawks or other large birds were noted.

" 10

The 9th was rainy and we remained at Gorton but the 10th was a clear, calm & very warm day and we drove through to Cambridge, dining at Lexington where we started a Secretary Meadow Lark in a field near the hotel.

Between Gorton & Lexington we saw about fifty Bluebirds.

The foliage was brilliant in spots but few trees other than the maples had attained the heights of their autumn coloring.

Concord, Massachusetts.

1899.

Oct. 12-31

(a)

I went to Concord on the afternoon of the 11th and (with the exception of the 26th & 31st when I was at Cambridge) spent the remainder of the month there staying at the Hayes' and visiting the Ball's Hill region nearly every day, usually going & returning by river. There were fewer strong winds than usual and hence less sailing but as the weather, for the most part, was not only calm but exceptionally soft & beautiful I indulged, on the whole, of the opportunities which a few use of the paddle afforded for lingering or even stopping by the way whenever I felt tempted to do so by an especially attractive prospect or by the appearance of some interesting bird or other animal.

Not that these morning & evening trips yielded many very profitable observations. On the contrary they, as well the days spent in the woods or at the farm, were singularly barren of novel experiences. This was due partly, no doubt, to one of those mysterious runs of ill luck which at times pursue & discourage field observers as well as other visitors but still more largely, I fancy, to the extreme scarcity of the larger birds, especially waders & waterfowl. Actually the only Ducks seen during the month were three Anas of which few pass Ball's Hill on the afternoon of the 21st and Dippers (Podilymbus podiceps) were so nearly absent that I met with but one - in the reach just below the red bridge on the 16th. I saw an adult ♂ Marsh Hawk on the 16th, 24th & 29th (probably a different bird on each occasion), an immature Red-tail (in the same place & doubtless the same bird)

Scarcity of
large birds
especially of
waterfowl.

Concord, Massachusetts.

1899.

Oct. 12-31

(b)

on the 19th, 21st & 23rd, an Osprey on the 17th, a Cooper's Hawk (at the Barrett farm) on the 24th; a Short-eared Owl skimming low over the river marshes in the evening twilight on the 21st & 25th; and a Bittern at "Hunt's Pond" on the 19th. Kingfishers were only twice seen - on the 17th & 21st - and Wilson's Snipe but once - on the evening of the 16th when three birds started from the river bank just below the swimming place and flew over me, scarping. I saw no Yellow-legs nor Sandpipers of any kind.

Large birds

Of the smaller land birds which regularly frequent the river banks ~~off~~ their background of marshes at this season Titlarks, Song Sparrows, Rusty Blackbirds, Crows & Blue Jays were somewhat less numerous than usual; Meadow Larks painfully scarce; Yellow-rumps and Swamp Sparrows exceptionally abundant; Juncos, Savanna Sparrows & Fox Sparrows in about the normal numbers; Bluebirds rather more numerous than they have been during the past four years; Robins less common than usual. Neither Crow Blackbirds ~~nor~~ Redwings were met with and Cow-birds were seen but once - on the morning of the 23rd when I paddled past a flock of 5-4 birds which were collected in the tops of Sauer trees growing on the river bank just about "Hunt's Pond".

Small birds

In the woods or openings between Ball's Hill and the Barrett farm Chickadees and Jays were less numerous than usual. Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Juncos, and Flickers in about their normal numbers; Partridges decidedly scarce. There was a rather heavy flight of Herring Finches (I saw seven on the 21st and four on the 23rd) and Red-billed Nuthatches fairly swarmed. Pine Siskits appeared on the 13th and were rather common for the

Concord, Massachusetts.

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Oct. 12. 31

(C)

next two weeks. Although a dozen or more White-throated Sparrows were present in the garden at Cambridge on the 4th & 5th. I met with only a single bird (on the 29th) during my stay on Concord.

The scarcity of waders and water-fowl just mentioned was apparently due largely if not wholly to the dryness of the season. There were few spots on the Great Meadows where Sandpipers, Snipe or Greens-legs could have obtained food and I have always noticed that when the river is as low as it was this autumn the Ducks, Geese & Coots do not visit it in any numbers although one would suppose that the contrary would be the case.

Musk-rats were fully up to their usual numbers although few of them built houses, possibly because of the low stage of the water.

The remarkably heavy crop of chestnuts, acorns and hickory nuts was accompanied, as is invariably the case, by a marked increase in the number of Red Squirrels and Chipmunks but Gray Squirrels were less numerous than last year.

At about 7 A. M. on the 25th Hansen, a Swede who has been working for me this year, saw a Deer in Holden's meadow. It was standing on the dry ridge not far from the entrance to the path which leads to the cabin. When he started towards it it ran to the edge of the river, leaped a moment as if about to take to the water and then, whirling around, bounded back across the meadow and disappeared in the bush at the E. end of Ball's Hill. Hansen said it had a fine set of horns. Judging by its tracks which I found afterwards on Ball's & Pine Hills it must have been a three-year old.

Scarcity of waders & water-fowl
Its probable cause.

Musk-rats

Heavy crops of nuts & abundance of Squirrels.

A Deer seen at Ball's Hill.

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Oct. 12-31

(d)

The preceding summary, as well as the notes which follow, was compiled from my field list and pocket diary for I kept no field journal this autumn.

Sialia sialis. - Bluebirds were more numerous about Concord this autumn than they have been at any time within the past five or six years. None was their abundance confined to this one locality for, as already mentioned, I saw upwards of fifty birds while driving from Peterboro (N.H.) to Boston (Mass.) on the 8th and on equal number between Boston & Lexington on the 10th. Their numbers remained undiminished at Concord up to the 22nd after which I noted the species only on the 24th & 26th getting no November records this year although I was in the field constantly during the first ten days of the latter month.

Abundance of
Bluebirds

On October 13th I saw four Bluebirds in company with a number of Robins & Yellow-rumps eating mountain ash berries in the trees at the Kings place. The weather on the time was clear & warm.

Eating berries
of Mountain ash

Sitta canadensis. - There was a heavy flight of Canada Nuthatches this autumn. Just when they reached the Concord region I do not know but they were abundant there during the whole of my stay. I saw them in orchards & about houses on several occasions but oftenest & in the greatest numbers in fields or where thin woods were more than a foot together although they frequently associated with Chickadees, Kinglets and Brown Creeper. I repeatedly observed them extracting seeds from hard-shelled cones and carrying them to the tunnels of rough-barked deciduous trees where they thrust them firmly into cracks or crevices rarely depositing more than a single seed in any one place.

Concord, Massachusetts.

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Oct. 12-21

(2)

Anturus ludovicianus. - Litterals were decidedly less numerous than usual owing, no doubt, to the fact that the river meadows were by far the best to afford them suitable feeding or roosting grounds. On the 17th I saw five birds perching among the branches of a small leafless elm in company with a number of Governor Sparrows. The two Hawks on the river bank (on "Hunt's Pond") & I found in my camera within a few yards of it getting a positively certain identification of the Littorals. They sat rather erect and appeared quite at their ease although they did not wag their tails or walk along the branches. I do not recall ever seeing this species alight in a tree before although I have known it to do so on a fence or the top of a cow building.

✓
Perching in
the branches
of an elm.

Asio accipitrinus. - The Short-eared Owl seen on the evening of the 21st was beating the meadows in the twilight much as the Marsh Hawk does by day, skimming just above the tops of the taller grasses, moving rather slowly but with infinite ease & grace, now gliding in a nearly straight line for fifty or sixty yards on level, outstretched wings, next beating its wings gently a few times to renew its impetus, frequently inclining slightly to left or right and occasionally momentarily upwards for a few feet or turning abruptly to quarters back over the lower ground. As it was passing within about one hundred yards across the river at the head of the "Hole" I squeaked like a mouse when it whirled suddenly & from straight towards me coming within ten or fifteen paces before it disappeared in the deep shadow.

The other bird, noted on the 25th, may have been

1899.

Oct. 12-31

(f)

a Long-eared Owl for although it started from a tree (one of the maples on the river bank just below Flinn's bridge) very near at hand and flew directly over me within a few yards it was nearly dark at the time & I could make out little more than the bird's general size & shape as its shadowy form was outlined for an instant against the sky.

Bubo virginianus. - On the 29th I found the remains of a freshly-killed Crow under a large pine on the western edge of Davis's Swamp. The head, wings and legs were intact and attached to the skeleton of the body from which probably every morsel of flesh had been removed. The ground close around the carcass was white with the chelly excrement of some bird of prey and a pellet of the very largest size showed beyond question that the murder had been committed by a Great Horned Owl. One fact especially interested & to some degree puzzled me; viz. that the pellet, which lay within less than a yard of the remains, was composed entirely of the feathers & bones of a Crow. It seems hardly possible that the pellet could have been found & ejected within less than two or three hours after the Owl had finished his meal but he may have passed the intestine sitting on the ground by the remains of his victim or he may have returned for a second feast; or still again the feathers & bones comprising the pellet may have belonged to another Crow. The bird which I found was probably caught while roosting in the pine under which it lay but I could discover no real evidence that such had been the case.

1899.

October

Sialia sialis ^{Reynolds to Weston} 8²⁰ 10²⁴ 12¹⁰ 13²⁰ 14¹⁰ 15¹⁴ 16⁸ 17¹⁵ 18, 19, 21¹² 22²⁰ 23⁸, 24¹⁴, 26¹⁴.

J. pusillus 21¹⁰ 23¹⁰ 24¹ 27²⁰ 30¹

Merula 12⁸ 13²⁰ 14¹⁰ 16⁸ 17¹⁰ 18, 19, 21¹² 22²⁰ 23¹² 24²⁰ 27¹⁰

Harporhynchus 10¹

Certhia 12¹ 14¹ 16¹⁴ 17¹⁴ 19¹ 21¹ 23² 24²

Sitta carolin. 12¹ 13¹ 14¹ 16¹ 17¹⁴ 22¹ 24¹ 25¹

" *canadensis* 12¹ 14¹ 15¹ 16¹ 17¹ 19¹ 21¹ 22¹ 23¹ 24¹ 26¹

Regulus sat. 23¹⁴ 24¹⁴ 25¹⁴ 29¹⁰

" *calendula* 13¹ 29¹⁴

Parus atr. 12¹⁴ 13¹² 16¹⁴ 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29¹⁰

Arcturus 13¹⁴ 15¹⁴ 16¹² 17⁸ 19² 21¹ 23¹⁰ 24¹⁰ 26¹⁴ 29¹⁴

Empidonax 12¹⁴, 22¹⁴

Pooecetes 13¹

Mel. melodia 10²⁰ 12¹ 13¹ 16¹ 17¹² 18¹ 23¹

Zon. albicollis 29¹

Mel. georgiana 15¹ 16⁴ 17¹⁵ 18²⁰ 21¹ 23¹ 24³

Scolecophagus 12¹⁰ 13¹ 16¹⁰ 17¹ 21¹ 23¹ 24⁸ 26¹

Corvus 12¹⁴ 13¹² 14¹⁴ 16¹⁴ 17¹⁴ 18, 20, 21²⁰ 22, 23, 24⁸ 26¹ 29⁴

Caprimulgus 12¹⁴ 13¹⁴ 14¹⁴ 16¹⁰ 17¹⁴ 18¹⁴ 19, 21¹ 23¹ 24¹ 26⁴ 27¹ 29¹

Dryobates vil. 15¹ 16¹ 24¹ 29¹

" *puber.* 13¹ 16¹ 17¹ 19¹ 21¹ 22¹

Colaptes 16¹ 17¹⁰ 21¹ 23¹ 26¹

Stemella 12¹ 15¹ 17¹ 21¹⁰ 22¹ 23¹

Megascops 13¹

Bonasa 13¹ 14¹ 16¹ 17² 21² 23² 24² 25¹ 28¹ 29¹ 30¹

Dend. coronata 12¹⁰ 13²⁰ 14¹ 15¹ 16¹⁰ 17²⁰ 18, 19²⁰ 21¹ 22¹ 23⁴ 24¹⁰ 26⁴ 28⁴

" *stricata* 16¹ 17¹ 18¹ 23¹

Passerculus 16² 17¹⁰ 23¹⁰ 24¹⁰ 26¹⁰

Junco 16¹⁰ 17¹⁰ 19¹⁰ 21¹⁰ 23⁸ 24¹⁰ 25¹ 27⁴ 28⁴

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October

Circus huda ✓ 16♂ ad. ^{Swamp Hill} 24♂ ad. 29♂ ad.

Gallinago ✓ 16 ^{Swamp Hill} ^{at Swamp}

Podilymbus ✓ 16 ^{Swamp Hill} ^{at Swamp}

Pandion ✓ 17[♂]

Ceryle ✓ 17[♂] 21[♂]

Spizus tristis 13♂ ad.

" *pinus* ✓ 13♂ ad. 17♂ ad. 21♂ ad. 22♂ ad. 23♂ ad. ^{Swamp Hill} 24♂ ad.

Anas obtusa 21♂ ^{Swamp Hill}

Asio accip. ✓ 21[♂] 25[♂] ^{Swamp Hill} ^{at Swamp}

Buteo borealis ✓ 19[♂] 21[♂] 23[♂] ^{Swamp Hill}

Botaurus ✓ 19[♂]

Ceryle ✓ 19[♂] 21[♂]

Spiz. monticola ✓ 19[♂] 21[♂] 23[♂] 24[♂] ⁽¹⁰⁾ ⁽¹⁵⁾ 25[♂] 29[♂]

Melospiza ✓ 23 ⁽⁵⁾ ^{Swamp Hill} ^{at Swamp}

Accipiter cooperii ✓ 24[♂] ^{Swamp Hill}

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1899.

October.

The following is a full list of all the birds, individuals as well as species, which were seen within the confines of the home place at Cambridge. Most of the observations were made by Walter Deane who was at the museum daily (excepting on Sundays) throughout the month, the few notes which were made by me during brief visits on the 4th, 5th, 11th, 26th & 31st being signed by my initials.

Birds seen
or heard in
our garden.

Sialia sialis. - The flight call of a passing bird heard by me on the morning of the 5th - for the first time in this immediate locality for very many years. - (W. B.)

Merula migratoria. - Two birds present on the 3rd & 5th, a single bird on the 11th, 12th, 16th, 19th & 23rd.

Turdus swainsoni. - One on the 3rd 4th & 5th.

" palmarum. - A very tame bird on the 25th.

Parus atricapillus. 5th 10th 14th 23rd 24th.

Sitta carolinensis. - One heard on the 12th.

" canadensis. - One seen by me on the 27th. (W. B.)

Certhia f. americana. One seen by me on the 11th & 27th. (W. B.)

Dendroica coronata. - 2^d, 3^d, 16^d, 23^d, 25^d W. B. 27th W. B.

" striata. - Two seen on the 5th (W. B.) & Deane on the 16th & 20th.

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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October

Spinus tristis. - Five present on the 5th & 25th, one seen on the 22nd & 31st call note heard on the 12th. Birds seen
or heard in
our garden.

Junco hyemalis. - One heard by me on the 5th - W.B.

Zonotrichia albicollis. - For several years past I have cultivated a rather large patch of prince's feather (Polygonum orientale). The seeds of this plant ripen in October and attract many kinds of birds as well as, unfortunately, rats & mice. The White-throats are exceedingly fond of these seeds and during the present month from one or two to a dozen birds might be found daily feasting on them in company with the still more numerous House Sparrows. The male White-throats sing rather freely & at all hours but usually in hedged and somewhat broken tones. Mr. Deane's list of their varying numbers is as follows:
5-2 10th. 11th (W.B.) 12th 13th 14th. 16th 17th 18th. 19th. 20th 21st 22nd 23rd & 24th
25th 26th 27th 28th. 29th. 30th. 31st

Corvus americanus. - 10th 11th 14th. 23rd. 24th. 25th. 27th 28th 29th 31st.

Cyanocitta cristata. - Heard screaming on the 12th 15th 16th,
19th & 29th

Sphyrapicus varius. - One seen by me on the 4th 5th 10th & 11th (W.B.) and one by W. Deane on the 13th, probably the same bird on each occasion. I cannot recall seeing this species in our garden before for over thirty years. The bird which visited us this autumn spent most of his time in the large apple trees and did not, so far as I could discern, sink any of his sap wells in my birches or mountain ashes.

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1899.

October

Colaptes auratus luteus. - Flickers were seen or heard in the garden on the 5th, 11th, 13th, 19th, 21st & 27th. On the last two occasions a pair appeared and visited the box which contained the nest last spring both birds alighting on it at the same time uttering the low whick-er note and putting their heads into the hole but not entering it.

Birds seen
or heard in
our garden

1899.

November

This was a rarely beautiful month, scarce colder Weather than October with very many clear, mild, windless days and but one real storm which came on the 11th, beginning at 10 a.m. with damp snow ~~which~~ ^{that} clung to the trees and whitened the ground until it was washed away by the heavy rain that fell during the afternoon & evening. On one or two other occasions the ground was again powdered with snow for an hour or two but with these exceptions it remained bare and wholly free from frost (save in the early mornings when the surface was frequently stiffened) while the grass on city lawns and highly cultivated fields continued as fresh and green as it had been in October.

In view of these conditions it is an interesting fact that Birds. most of the autumn birds which regularly go further south for the winter departed at rather earlier dates than usual and that there was a considerable flight of irregular winter visitors from the far north. Immense numbers of White-winged Crossbills and a good many Redpolls appeared early in the month, a very few Pine Grosbeaks towards its close. Small numbers of Goshawks & Screech Owls were also reported. Red-bellied Nuthatches continued abundant but Pine Siskins apparently departed before the 15th. Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, White-bellied Nuthatches and Tree Sparrows were in about the normal numbers, Chickadees rather less common than usual, Fox Sparrows and Shrikes so scarce that I saw only one bird of each species. Practically all the Red Crossbills disappeared before the close of October and the flight of North-bound Juncos passed before the middle of November. The death of birds of prey & water-fowl continued through the latter month.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

Nov. 1-11
(24th 21, 23
+ 26)
a 1

I was at Concord during this period living in the cabin at Ball's Hill spending much of my time in the woods and usually walking to & from the farm daily. After returning to Cambridge I visited Concord (for the day nearly) on the 21st, 23rd and 26th. The following observations were taken on the only ones which merit detailed notice:-

Parus atricapillus. - Chickadees were comparatively scarce in my woods this autumn and the flocks met with were unusually small most of them containing only from four to six birds each although two flocks of eight or ten birds each were seen on the 21st and one of eight on the 23rd.

Parus canadensis. - On the 23rd I heard a Pine Grosbeak at the Bassett farm. It was evidently flying for whom I whistled an imitation of its call it approached and circled about me apparently coming very close at one time although I did not succeed in getting a sight at it. Early in December (on the 2nd I think) Mr. Bigelow met with a small flock of Pine Grosbeaks at Coburn's & there was a team of them.

Alarctia hirsuta. - On the 6th, 8th, 9th & 11th I heard the flight calls of Redpolls at Ball's Hill, on each occasion in the early morning. On the morning of the 7th a flock of four birds alighted near me for a moment in the top of a gray birch. As none of our other local observers met with this species during the present autumn I conclude that the flight which I noted at Concord must have been near identical & of short duration. (Four or five Redpolls were seen Jan'y 21, 1900 at Sparrow Mass. by Dr. C. W. Townsend & Dr. J. S. Woodcock. They show one which proved to be typical hirsuta.)

1899.

Nov. 1-11

(also 21, 23

726)

(6)

Spizus pinus. - The unmistakable flight call of this species was heard almost daily from October 13th to November 11th, usually in the early morning. Judging by the number of my calls alone (I did not once see any of the birds) the birds were sailing about over the country singly or in small parties but on October 23rd I heard the confused clamor of what must have been an exceptionally large flock.

Loxia leucoptera. - I have never before known these Crossbills to be anything like so numerous in any part of Massachusetts as they were at Concord during the present month. They appeared there on the 6th when I saw two flocks, one containing two, the other about thirty birds. After this I saw or heard them every morning when the weather was favorable and often at short intervals during the entire day although they seemed to be most active & noisy & have most conspicuous - at about sunrise or shortly afterwards when flocks containing from fifteen to thirty birds each were almost continually passing or re-passing over Ball's Hill. Whether I saw on such occasions a dozen or fifteen different flocks or the same flock a dozen or fifteen times it was impossible to tell but although I usually kept within safe bounds by noting only one or two flocks in my field list at the end of each day I have little doubt that the wooded region lying between Ball's Hill and the Barrett farm was visited daily between Nov. 6th and 23rd by at least six or eight different flocks of White-winged Crossbills containing in the aggregate over an hundred birds.

On several occasions at Ball's Hill and once in the

Concord, Mass.

1899.

Nov. 1-11
(Dec 21, 23
& 26)

(5)

(*Boxia leucophaea*) Barren woods I saw a flock alight for a moment, always in the tops of pitch pines. These trees had few cones this year but the white pines were loaded with green cones which, however, did not appear to attract the Crossbills. What these birds found to eat in the Concord woods I was unable to ascertain but in the region about Cambridge (where they were present in considerable but by no means unprecedented numbers during ^{most of} November & the first half of December) they fed chiefly on the seeds of the Norway Spruce which bore an abundant crop of ripe cones. The hemlocks also fruited heavily and the Crossbills were seen eating their seeds on several occasions.

I learned nothing new about the habits of these Crossbills. Indeed their restless & erratic movements made it practically impossible to study them as well closely. As far as I was able to ascertain they were never accompanied by Red Crossbills nor did they appear to associate with any other species of birds. I heard them utter only the regular flight notes but Mr. Globe Allen tells me that during the past summer (in August, I think it was) when he found them very numerous on the upper slopes of some of the White Mountains the males were singing freely.

Lanius borealis.—Shrikes were apparently as scarce this autumn as they were last year. I saw only one during the present winter, a brownish-colored bird, near the West Bedford Station, on the 6th.

1899.

Nov. 1-11
(Am 21, 23
& 26)

(d.)

Passerella iliaca. - A solitary ♂ of Sparrows, nesting among
the trees in a thicket of alders behind Ball's Hill on
the 11th, was the only bird noted by me at Concord.

The migration last Spring was also very light and I have
~~not~~ ^{heard} ~~heard~~ that the number of birds breeding
in Newfouland was sadly reduced the past summer. All
this indicates that the Sparrows must have suffered very
heavily in the South last winter (G. Wayne's notes on the
destruction by cold & snow which he witnessed at Charleston
S. C. + Acad. XVI, pp 197/8).

Scopsopagus caeruleus. - A solitary bird in the woods
on the river bank opposite Paul Island, on the evening
of the 9th. It was uttering the melody of jingling notes
which seems to represent the song. This is the ~~only~~ third
instance of the occurrence of the Sparrow in November which
I have noted at Concord.

Branta Canadensis. - A flock of 21 birds which passed
over Ball's Hill rather low down during the snow storm
on the forenoon of the 11th was the only instance of
occurrence which came under my observation this
autumn but Mrs. Edward W. Emerson writes me that she,
her husband, and their two sons saw a flock of
fully 100 birds rise from the wooded reach of the
Assabet River directly in front of their house on the
morning of December 23rd & mounting high in all
pass on snow-covered. The boys thought that the birds had
flown the night either in the river or in one of the
pools near its banks. The Geese made a great clamor
as they flew off.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

Nov. 1-11
(also 21, 23
& 26)

(2)

Clangula americana. — Two whistles which flew past Ball's Hill just before the beginning of the snow storm on the evening of the 11th were the only Drills of any kind that I saw or heard of during November.

Accipiter cooperii. — On the afternoon of the 4th I was standing under an oak in the Bassett woods when I heard a Downy Woodpecker calling chick, chick rapidly & excitedly. Presently the bird came in sight "galloping" through the tree tops with a Cooper's Hawk in hot pursuit but forty yards or more behind. The Hawk gained rapidly on the slow-flying Woodpecker of course, ^{but} discovering me when nearly overhead doubled sharply and turned back.

1899.

November

Turdus palmeri ✓ ^{Palmer's} 1st - 2nd (Palmer's)

Merula ✓ ³⁻⁴ 5th Nov 7th

Cathartes ✓ 1st 3rd 4th 6th 7th 8th 9th 23rd

Sitta carolinensis ✓ 5th 7th

U. canadensis ✓ 1st 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 21st (4) 23rd

Parus atricapillus ✓ 1st 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 21st 23rd (6)

Regulus satrapa ✓ 1st 5th 23rd

Corvus ✓ 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 23rd

Cyanocitta ✓ 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 9th 10th 11th 23rd

Dryobates pubescens ✓ 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 6th

Colaptes auratus ✓ 1st 3rd 4th

Bonasa ✓ 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 9th 21st 23rd

Junco ✓ 1st 2nd 3rd 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 23rd

Spizella monticola ✓ 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 23rd

Otocorys alpestris ✓ 3rd 6th 21st 23rd

Dryobates virens ✓ 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th

Buteo borealis ✓ 3rd

Accipiter cooperii ✓ 3rd

Spizella pinus ✓ 2nd 5th 6th 7th 8th 11th

" tristis ✓ 2nd 3rd 4th 6th 7th 11th 21st 23rd

Loxia leucoptera ✓ 6th 7th 8th 9th 11th 21st 23rd

Acanthis lincolnii ✓ 6th 7th 8th 9th 11th

Merula ✓ 6th

Scotopelia ✓ 9th

Passerella iliaca ✓ 11th

Branta canadensis ✓ 11th

Chondestes ✓ 11th

Pinicola enervator ✓ 23rd

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1899.

November

Shortly after leaving Concord I went to Philadelphia for a week returning to Cambridge for the winter on the 18th. After this I spent most of my time in the Museum but I took a number of drives in the early mornings, usually around Fresh Pond which was frequented by an unusual number of water-fowl this autumn. I also visited Wellesley College on the afternoon of the 25th. Walter Deane who was at his desk during the entire winter, kept a close daily watch on the garden. The results of our combined observations are as follows:—

Merula migratoria.— One spent the 24th in the garden visiting the Porter's apple tree but was, so far as we observed, attacking its abundant fruit. Another was seen by W. D. in the Observatory grounds on the 29th.

Parus atricapillus.— Heard in the garden on the 20th & 23rd and five birds seen together there on the 22nd when one of them gave the throat call a few times. I also saw a flock of 8 birds feeding on the beds of the Norway Spruce in the Wellesley College grounds on the 25th and W. Deane found a flock of 10 in the Botanic Gardens (Cambridge) on the 29th.

Regulus satrapa.— Four together in the Wellesley College grounds on the 25th, two in our garden on the 27th and two in Harvard Park on the 30th.

Certhia f. americana.— One in the garden on the 27th, 29th & 30th.

Sitta carolinensis.— Two in the Wellesley College grounds on the 25th.

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1899.

November

Sitta Canadensis. Two in our garden on the 19th and two feeding on seeds of the Norway Spruce at Wellesley College on the 25th.

Amphelis cedrorum. - During the heavy rain storm of the 11th a flock of 12 Cedar Birds visited the garden spending some time sitting in the top of the large apple tree near the house. (W. Deane)

Loxia c. minor. On the morning of the 20th as I was walking in the garden I heard the flight calls of Red Crossbills and looking up saw a flock of 15 birds passing overhead, low down, towards the W.

Loxia leucoptera. - On the afternoon of the 25th I found 5 of these Crossbills feeding on the seeds of a Norway Spruce in the Wellesley College grounds. One bird was a sooty-red male; all the others being either females or young males in yellowish-green plumage. The flock walked busily & for the most part steadily each bird clinging to the upper end of a cone and bending forward and downward as to pick out the scales which contained the seeds.

On the 30th. I heard the flight call of White-winged Crossbills near Poyon Park & on the 29th at Fresh Pond Grove where Tapon also saw some birds on the 25th in the alder catkin hedge along the driveway.
Spirurus tristis. - Heard by W. Deane in the garden on the 5th & 8th.

Plectrophenax nivalis. - As I was driving around the western hills of Fresh Pond on the morning of the 28th a flock of 14 Snow Buntings came flying in over the water & alighted on the life-raft stone pavement on the shore.

Cambridge,

1899.

November

Spizella monticola. - On the morning of the 19th I distinctly heard the thin, feeble chirp of a Tree Sparrow coming from a thicket of shrubs in the garden but I was unable to get a sight at the birds.

Junco hyemalis. - A solitary ♀ seen at Payson Park on the 30th.

Zonotrichia albicollis. - Two seen (one of them "sang quite well") on the 1st and one heard chirping on the 2nd and again on the 7th - all by W. Dean in our garden.

Passerella iliaca. - One seen in the garden on the 28th by W. Dean.

Corvus americanus. - From one to four birds visited the garden every two or three days through the month alighting either in the apple trees or lindens. They have become so tame during the last two or three years that I am often able to walk or stand directly beneath them when they are perched in the tops or upper branches of the trees.

I also saw a few Crows about Fresh Pond during each of my visits this month and on several occasions they allowed me to draw post them within fifteen or twenty yards.

Cyanocitta cristata. - Two seen in the garden on the 11th & one heard on the 21. W. Dean. I saw three together in Payson Park on the 30th.

Dryobates p. medianus. - Two birds seen together in the garden on the 8th & 22nd, a single bird on the 19th & 20th.

1899

November

Colaptes auratus hirtus. - One seen in the garden on the 8th, 22nd, 25th, 27th & 29th, another on Payson Park on the 30th.

Falco columbarius. - On the morning of the 25th as I was driving around Fresh Pond a ♀ Peregrine Hawk started from the oak & beech woods on the south shore, crossed the pond to the hemlock grove, and then turned back coming almost directly over me & flying with great brightness.

Anas obscura. - Black Ducks have been constantly present in Fresh Pond during the entire autumn & in numbers considerably greater, on the average, than in any previous year without my recollection. My November counts were as follows: 20¹⁰⁰, 25¹⁰⁰, 28¹⁴⁰, 29¹⁵⁰, 30¹⁶⁰. (Detailed notes on habits etc. will be found on a following page under date of Nov. 29th.)

Anas boschas. - I think I saw an adult ♂ in the Pond on the 24th & again on the 28th. But it was so far away that I could not learn here of its identity. No such doubt is attached to a male in full plumage (~~which was~~ probably the same bird seen on the 24th & 28th) which I watched for an hour or two on the 29th & identified beyond any question. (See notes under the date last given). This was the first ♂ Mallard in perfectly mature plumage that I have ever seen living. At a distance it had looked black and its back very light grayish giving it a general resemblance to a Scaup. In view of this fact it is not impossible that two Ducks which were swimming near the middle of the Pond on the 20th and which I took at the time to be Scaups were really, as Lothrop, who was with me, insisted, Mallard ♂♂.

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November

Sophodytes cucullatus. — On the afternoon of the 20th I had a good view through my glass of a ♀ that was basking in the Pond in the midst of a great raft of Black Ducks.

Sarus a. smithsonianus. — Whenever the weather was calm & rather mild Herring Gulls resorted to Fresh Pond in greater numbers than I have ever seen them before, but few or none alighted there on cold, windy days. They came to the Pond from the eastward as well as southward and usually at a great height, not all together but in a straggling flight or procession which lasted for an hour or two in the evening when they were always constantly in sight over our garden. If the wind rose during the day most of them at once started back but if the weather remained calm the return flight would not begin much before sunset. Sooty Gulls were that noon of them ever remain in the Pond one night. My counts were as follows: 25⁻¹⁵, 28⁴⁰⁰, 29⁷⁷⁰, 30²⁴⁰.

Sarus glaucus. — One seen in Fresh Pond on the 29th (of definite notes under this date).

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1899.

Nov. 29

Clear, mild, mazy calm up to 9 a.m., a fresh W. wind during the remainder of the forenoon. Afternoon heavy & calm.

Spent most of the forenoon at Fresh Pond watching the water-fowl assembled there. Gulls and Ducks intermingled covered an area of at least twenty acres. W. Deane counted 770 Gulls and I 150 Ducks. A few Gulls were coming in from train to train at 9 a.m. and at about 11 a.m., when the west wind started and began to ruffle the pond, at least one third of the Gulls rose high in air and departed in the direction of Boston. One count was probably under at about the time when the birds were present in the greatest numbers.

At least eighty per cent of the Gulls were old birds (a sad commentary on the results of the last breeding season). I examined nearly every one of them carefully with my double telescope and, as far as I could make out, all but one were Herring Gulls. The exception was a Larus glaucus in the "hutchinsoni" plumage, i.e. wholly white without trace of blue in the mouth or of mottling anywhere. I could see this distinctly with the glass for the bird was not far away and in a good light. I could also see that its bill was larger than that of the Herring Gulls which were swimming near and feet-colored with a dark band near the tip. The bird spent most of the time during which I watched it in sleeping although it also preened its feathers once or twice.

Many of the Herring Gulls also left by flocks but the majority were slowly about or "soda at anchor"

Water-fowl
in Fresh Pond

Herring Gulls

Glaucous Gull

v v

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1889

Nov. 29
(No 2)

beating the wind and rain and falling with the waves after the wind had ruffled the pond. Over them was a ladder and to me quite mysterious when the lead of the flock started and circled about a few times before halting but with this exception the Gulls remained very quiet during the time I was watching them. As far as I could make out they were not getting or even looking for food which in the water and none of them flew about in search of it although they used to do so years ago when there were alders in Fresh Pond. I saw a young bird do a very singular thing. It rolled over squarely on its back in the water and floated thus for half-a-minute or more paddling the air with its feet precisely after the manner of a dying duck that has fallen or turned over on its back in the water. This performance was repeated several times.

I also repeatedly saw Herring Gulls start and fly for a few rods and then suddenly pitch down on their sides with flapping extended wings making the water fly as they struck the surface and sometimes making nearly one of a flip. Occasionally several would do this in quick succession one following the other.

Bothey tells me that there are never many Gulls in the pond when the weather is cold and gloomy and that the colder and milder the day the greater the number assembled there. This is confirmed by my own observations in this & former years. We have both noticed also that all the Gulls leave the pond before dark each night,

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Nov. 29

(no 3)

The Ducks with a single exception were all Black Ducks. ^{Black Ducks} They have been haunting the pond constantly, I am told, in ^{the} Fresh Pond since early in October. but their numbers have increased of late and they are gradually getting bolder and approaching the shores more. On the 24th I saw a dozen or more within gunshot of the shore off the hemlock grove and yesterday others had waded in equally near the Indian shore. This morning they were feathered out and scattered everywhere among the hills although not at all early for in places there were single birds or pairs only which in others fifteen or twenty were collected in a close bunch. They were very active and noisy at times swimming rapidly to & fro and quacking loudly but they did not seem to be feeding. Sometimes two birds would wade and go through a curious performance nodding their heads up and down either together or alternately as if balancing one another, keeping their up for a minute or more. Again a single bird would swim very rapidly for yards with its head and neck stretched out ^{flat} on the water and its body deeply immersed looking like a dark line drawn on the surface. Of course there was much plucking, feather-pulling and thrashing of the water and not infrequently several birds would plunge their heads and necks beneath the surface and raising them suddenly scatter a shower of drops over their backs as they come thru beating the water with their wings. Once but or eight birds rose and flew up to windward diving from an wing in rapid succession & not only disappearing beneath the surface but remaining under in some instances for nearly half-a-minute then rising on wing & diving again, once from a greater height than for a big fish.

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Nov. 29
(No 4)

In company with the Black Ducks in Fresh Pond [✓] Mallard ducks
this morning was a ♂ Mallard in fully adult [✓] in Fresh Pond.
plumage. Though the glass had cold early water
out his shing from head and close yellow bill
but to the walled eye his head looked black
for he was out no time worse in than this or
four hundred yards. Although I watched him for
a long time I noticed nothing of particular interest
connected with his carriage or behavior which, indeed,
seemed to me to be in every way essentially the
same as those of the Black Ducks by which he
was usually surrounded.

Besides the water fowl I saw at Fresh Pond a
few Crows and heard, at the huckle gown, a
flock of White-winged Crossbills which were apparently [✓] White-winged
flying. On the 25th Mr. Farson found seven [✓] Crossbills.
of this species feeding in arborescences along the
dairyway ~~from~~ leads to the gown.

In the clayey bank that fronts the pond was the [✓] Kingfisher's
apertures of the huckle gown I noticed, this morning, [✓] nest at
a Kingfisher's hole & Walter Deane tells me that [✓] Fresh Pond.
he saw a Kingfisher enter it repeatedly with food
for its young sometime last summer

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

Nov. 30

Calm and mild thin clouds obscuring the sky and
at times blotting out the sun.

When I visited Fresh Pond at nine o'clock this morning
I found an imposing array of water-fowl floating on its
glassy surface. They covered, indeed, more than half of the
main part of the pond exclusive of the coves and in places
were crowded closely together. A dense haze and the absence
of sunlight made it difficult to identify them even with
the aid of a glass and I could not in the case of the
more distant birds always distinguish between the the Ducks
and the dark colored young Gulls, much less attempt to
determine the species of Duck or Gull to which the different
individuals belonged. But it is ~~probable~~ safe to assume, of course,
that practically all the Ducks were A. obtusa and the Gulls
L. a. dominicensis. Of the former there were certainly upwards
of 150 present. ~~The~~ Gulls seemed to me to be more numerous
than they were yesterday but Walter Deane was able to count
only ~~one~~ when he visited the pond at 11 a. m. to-day.

Both Ducks and Gulls were comparatively quiet and inactive
to-day, the former floating motionless here & there in small groups,
the latter moving slowly about in a stately, beam-like manner
on the water. Most of the birds were within
100 yards of the shore but elsewhere the outer edges of the
flock or bed were thiner than their distance from the land.

Waterfowl
in Fresh Pond.

1899.

December

A remarkably mild and pleasant month with no snow whatever and the city lawns fresh and green nearly or quite up to the 25th. During rather more than half the days the thermometer was ^{constantly} above the freezing point and it rose to 61° on the 12th & to 54° on the 13th while it did not fall below 20° until the 29th when it went to 16°. On the 30th it fell to 14° and on the 31st to 6°.

Weather.

I was closely confined most of the time but I visited Fresh Pond repeatedly in the early forenoon and on the 27th went to Concord for the day driving through the Esplanade road and making a big call at the Barrett farm.

My personal movements.

White-winged Crossbills in considerable numbers, Red Crossbills & Canada Nuthatches in smaller numbers and a few Pine Finches were reported by the younger men who were frequently asked and Mr. H. B. Bigelow met with a flock of 5 Pine Grosbeaks at Cohasset on the 2nd.

Winter Birds

Fresh Pond was partly skinned over for the first time on the 17th, opened the next day and closed wholly & for the winter on the 28th. Up to the late last mentioned its waters were constantly enlivened by the presence of great numbers of Black Ducks among which were usually two or three Mallards, on several occasions two male Pintails and from one to two or three Whistlers, while over them was a Green-winged Teal. I think that Göttsch also saw two or three Hooded Mergansers on one occasion but he has not yet given me a copy of his notes.

Water-fowl in Fresh Pond

Ducks.

Herring Gulls visited the pond less often & in smaller numbers than during November but their numbers were by no means small to find from 15 or 20 to 200 or 300 of them there in the forenoon when the weather was calm & mild, and on the morning of the 13th I counted the very unusual number of 860 among which were two Black-backed Gulls in adult plumage.

Gulls.

1899.

December

My personal observations, as well as those made by Mr. Walter Deane, may be summarized as follows:

Merula migratoria. - Two solitary birds, one seen on the 10th in a grass yard a little to the south-west of Fresh Pond, the other the following day at Arlington Heights, both among red cedars. The bird seen on the 10th was a male in exceptionally fine plumage.

Regulus satrapa - Two birds in our garden on the 3rd 7th & 12th, one on the 8th (♀) and 19th.

Certhia familiaris americana. - One in our garden on the 7th 10th, 11th, 12th, 19th & 23rd sometimes alone but usually in company with Chickadees or Kinglets.

Parus atricapillus. - Visited the garden frequently - on the average about once in every three days. Six birds came together on the 17th, four or five on the 11th & 19th but usually there were only one or two. They first attacked the nest on the 14th although it was put up in November.

Sitta carolinensis. - One seen in the garden on the 6th & either the same or another on the 20th. I also noticed one in the trees above William Reed's house on Appleton Street on the 11th.

Ampelis cedrorum. - Five Cedar Birds appeared at a mountain ash tree in the Dodges' place on Sparks St. on the 7th. After this they were seen there daily up to the 17th. Their numbers varied but seldom exceeded five although nine were present on the 14th & fourteen on the 17th - George Deane fifteen birds, visited our garden on the 14th & 17th eating berries of Malvastrum apple, honey & trichium species.

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Loxia leucoptera. - On the morning of the 9th I heard the flight-call of this species as I was walking in the garden over which the bird or birds were apparently passing. At about the same time Walter Deane saw a flock of 4⁺ in a ~~White pine~~ ^{White pine} ~~tree~~ on the Lawrence place, North Street. Other flocks were reported in the neighborhood of Cambridge but the consensus of opinion seems to be that the species was less numerously represented here this winter than last. (A flock of from 50 to 100 was seen in W. Roxbury ^{on Dec. 20th} by Dr. A. S. Reagh.)

Spinus pinus. - Heard one calling over the garden on the morning of the 3rd.

Spizella monticola. - A single bird in company with English Sparrows among weeds behind the Cambridge Hospital on the 3rd.

Troglodytes albicollis. - No White-throats were seen in the garden this month and I doubt if any are passing this winter in our neighborhood but I found one creeping in the deep, brush-grown hollow below the green yard to the S. W. of Fresh Pond on the 10th.

Corvus americanus. - Crows visited our place every few days frequently alighting in the lindens and answering the coming of my feet. Raven, sometimes descending to perches only a few yards above the fern in which the latter is confined. The number of Crows seen at one time varied from one to four.

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1899.

December

Dryotates pubescens. - Seen in the garden on the 11th, 14th, 21st, 25th, 27th & 28th, a single bird on each occasion. As it always proved to be a ♂ when closely examined I am inclined to think that it was always the same individual. Last winter we had three different birds here. The one seen this month did not attack the first until the 27th. I found a Downy Woodpecker in the hunkle grove at Fresh Pond on the 17th.

Colaptes auratus. - Flickers were noted in the garden only three this month on the 18th, 19th and 30th a single bird being seen or heard on each occasion. I met with them several times in the region about Fresh Pond & beyond.

Anas obscura. - Constantly present by day in Fresh Pond up to the time its harbor was completely closed by ice (the night of the 28th) in numbers usually exceeding 100 & sometimes reaching 150 to 160. They became tame or more daring as the season advanced approaching the shore to within a few yards and sometimes swimming just in and landing on the rocky beach when they would walk about or stand erect preening their feathers & basking in the sun until startled by the approach of a carriage, bicycle or pedestrian when they would fly out & alight in the middle of the pond. The flock scattered over nearly the whole pond at times but I saw no birds in the cove when the fountain discharges the evening water although the whole assemblage often drifted well down into Cambridge Hook. The place often rang with their quacking when the air was still.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.
December

Anas boschas. - A fine Mallard drake, no doubt the same that was noted in November, was swimming among the Black Ducks during all the visits but one that I made to Fresh Pond this month. The date of his absence was the 21st when I feared that something had befallen him but I found him back in the Pond on the 25th. He was a very old fellow and invariably kept at a safe distance from shore. On the 17th a ♀ Mallard appeared in the Pond and I saw her there again on the 21st. On the 25th there were two females one of which kept the drake close company, although the other avoided him as did the female seen on 17th from which I concluded that the bird was on the same one both occasions as well as the 21st & that the female which was with the drake on the 25th was the newcomer. The first seen on the 17th went ashore in company with some Black Ducks and spent upwards of fifteen minutes walking about or standing on the rocky pavement near the water's edge.

Dasyla acuta. - Two in the Pond on the 13th and again on the 21st. There can be little doubt that they were the same birds on both occasions for one was a fine old drake, the other a young male in a plumage about intermediate between that of the adult of its own sex and the female. The adult male showed the white on the neck conspicuously at all times. Both birds swam about among the Black Ducks but invariably kept close to one another. I did not see either of them stretch up its neck to the full length. Indeed they usually carried their heads quite as low as did the Black Ducks. I had an excellent view of them and their identification was wholly satisfactory.

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December

Nettion caesarinus. - One in Fresh Pond on the 13th. It was a young male changing into the full plumage the head & neck being strongly tinged with reddish and the tail vanes nearly completed although the body plumage was colored like those of the ♀. It kept close company with a number of Black Ducks.

Clangula americana - Three adult ♂♂ in Fresh Pond on the morning of the 14th and a solitary ♀ on the 17th.

These are the only occasions on which I have seen Whistlers in Fresh Pond since January 1891 when during a protracted spell of severe cold a small flock frequented a space of open water about the fountain for several days in succession. These noted this month kept rather apart from the Black Ducks. I did not see any of them since.

On the Back Bay between the two bridges that connect Boston with Cambridge Whistlers have been present almost daily during the present month but in rather smaller numbers than usual. I counted 40 birds there on the 29th. Their favorite feeding grounds this autumn are just below Howard Bridge on the Boston side. On the Cambridge side where they used to congregate the bottom has been deepened considerably by dredging during the past two years & no doubt, more if not all of the food destroyed.

Larus marinus. - On the morning of the 13th I saw two fine adult birds of this species floating near the inside of an immense bed of Herring Shells in Fresh Pond.

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December

Larus a. smithsonianus. - Walter Dean & I made the following counts at Fresh Pond. 11³⁰⁰, 13⁸⁶⁰, 14²³², 17⁵⁰⁰, 21⁶, 25⁶⁶. On several occasions when the weather was exceptionally calm & mild I visited the Pond without finding a single Gull there. On the 17th the eastern moon thru half the horizon was clouded by thin ice along the edges of which was the middle the birds. Beyond counting until about 400 were assembled in a gray & white mass. In this throng we counted 85 gray birds rather more than the usual proportion of gray to adults.

On the afternoon of the 11th as I was passing Fresh Pond shortly before sunset the Gulls started on their evening flight to the sea, all departing in two flocks, the second following the first after an interval of about five minutes. All the birds of each flock left the water at practically the same moment and flew straight down into Cambridge Nook. When they reached its extremity they turned back and began ascending in spirals until they had reached an elevation of about 200 yards when they found out a compact cluster and gradually drifted off out of sight to the eastward leaving in small circles for the first quarter of a mile and at the last moving more swiftly in a straight course. There were about 300 birds in all and their flight was very beautiful & impressive.

Not once during the past autumn have I seen any of the Gulls which have assembled at Fresh Pond in such numbers flying about in search of food. They used to be seen back & forth along the shores frequently swooping down to pick up a small fish but of late years they have evidently frequented the Pond solely to rest & bathe on its shallow shores.

1899.

December

Galoscopus canadensis. - On Dec. 2nd my assistant R. A. Gilbert found a Cott Owl in the bushes along the river path near the cabin at Bad's Hill, Concord. The bird was very tame and Gilbert got within a few yards of it being the blackish cap and the eufers under the wings distinctly.

Miscellaneous
notes

Regulus calendula. - On the 23rd W. T. Faxon & Ralph Hiffman met with a Parula among the hedges that border the driveway to the lumber grove but it afterwards flew to an apple orchard nearby. Its characteristic chatter was heard several times but the bird's sex was not definitely ascertained. This is the only December record known to me.

Picus canadensis. - Mr. H. B. Bigelow saw a flock of five Pine Grosbeaks in maple woods at Ashcroft on the 2nd. All were in the plumage of the ♀. Two specimens were shot. These were the only birds reported during the present winter although, as already noted, I heard one at Concord on Nov. 25th.



Jour
18
Sun.