

Journal, 1914-  
1916.

21  
-  
16



Waltham, Mass.

1914

January 5

Baltimore  
Oriole  
in  
midwinter

At noon to-day I learned by telephon  
 from Mrs. Worcester of Waltham that she had seen them  
 this morning, in a thickly-settled neighborhood near the  
 Watch Factory, a male Baltimore Oriole which was in  
 strikingly handsome and apparently fully matured plumage.  
 For some two weeks past this bird has been coming,  
 she was told, to the piazza of a house (# 274  
 Crescent Street) where there are still shrouded Delaware  
 grapes clinging numerously to the vines. She saw the  
 Oriole there and also saw that the floor of the  
 piazza was thickly strewn with the skins of the  
 grapes which it had eaten. A family living next  
 door had been keeping a close watch on the bird &  
 are much interested in it. (Walter Deann went there  
 on January 6 hoping to see it but failed to do so.  
 It was last seen, he tells me, rather early in the morning  
 of that day.)

Cambridge, Mass.

1914.

January 14

Loring M. Blanchard of Newry, Maine, called on me this forenoon bringing the skin of a very large & old Black Bear killed last autumn near Poplar Tavern. He says Bears occur as commonly there now as ever before. Some of his other testimony relating to conditions there & at the Lake is as follows:

Blanchard's  
call &  
testimony.

The nest of the Saw-whet Owl found by Blanchard several years ago in Newry was in a yellow birch by the roadside. He found it by happening to see the bird looking out of the entrance hole which was of about his size. Passing that way almost daily after this he could always make he then knew there by a whistled imitation of the whet-Saw notes. The nest was not disturbed until he thought the bird had completed her job when he broke it open & found four eggs in the cavity which was almost as deep as a water feet

Nest of  
Saw-whet  
at  
Newry, Maine

John B. Hooper.

He wrote me about this at the time. The eggs were sold to,



1914

January 14  
(No. 2)

Blanchard claims to have introduced Horned Poets L. Urubogus  
into Loch Urubogus "thirteen years ago" i. e. in 1900 or 1901.

The lake was swarming with them when I was last there in June 1909 but all I saw then were no more than one-half grown. Blanchard says that they are now mostly of maximum size and so numerous & greedy that they may be caught almost anywhere as fast as they can be taken off the hook & re-baited. When the refuse from Dutton's camp is thrown into the lake they assemble to feast on it by thousands so that the water is fairly black with them. Thus far they have increased steadily & continuously with no set backs.

Blanchard asserts that the epidemics which Pickeral  
epidemics  
annihilate the Pickeral so completely occur regularly every

seventh year and that the last one happened in 1912. He failed to find a single Pickeral in the lake last summer.

Cambridge, Mass.

1914

January 31

A Brown Thrasher is wintering here. He was first noted by me on November 23 last in our Garden where we saw him again on December 14, 19, 20, 21, 23, 30.

a wintering  
Brown Thrasher  
in our  
Garden.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> he was seen by one of C. T. Bartholomew's sons in grounds on Willard Street. After that I lost track of him until January when he reappeared in our Garden.

Since then he has roosted frequently, and for the past few nights regularly, in the honey-suckle vine that runs up a trellis on the left side of the Museum door.

Into this he comes at nightfall, usually ten or fifteen minutes before sunset, always settling on the same perch in a dense cluster of tendrils above on a level with my head, as I stand on the upper step, and not two feet from it. Yet he will now sit there quite motionless when I pass in or out, or even when I stop to look at him in the twilight,

Cambridge, Mass.

1914.

January 31  
(No 2)

although at first given to flying off whenever the door was opened or shut. At 6 o'clock to-night I saw him climb against the sky in his usual place although it was raining heavily and overflow water from a clogged gutter above deluging his retreat every half minute or so. Of late he has spent his days elsewhere than within our grounds & probably at the rear of our old house, 149 Brattle Street, where Professor F. W. Putnam is said to have been feeding him for two weeks or more. We have had Indian meat spread for him on a tray among the leaves and something has been eating it which over I saw him in the early morning within a yard of it. He is a handsome bird, apparently in vigorous condition and full plumage. He will not permit very close approach in the daytime.

Cambridge, Mass.

1914.

February 1

March 3

Brown  
Thrasher  
in  
our Garden

The Brown Thrasher which was first noted in our garden on November 23 last, and afterwards at intervals in December and January, was almost constantly present through February, surviving a temperature of  $-13^{\circ}$  Fahr. on the 12<sup>th</sup> (said to have been the coldest day for eighteen years) and more than a week of exceptionally severe and continuous cold about that time, as well as a rather prolonged period succeeding it when the ground was covered with snow averaging in depth from ten to twenty-two inches. Of course he could not have done this but for the food liberally and constantly supplied by one neighbor, Professor Putnam, and that on our part out for him, also - ours being chiefly mixed corn & oat meal and bread crumbs. During February the bird came to his roost in the vine by the Museum door on the wings of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>.



Cambridge, Mass.

1914

February 1  
to  
March 3  
(No 2)

28<sup>th</sup>. On the evening of Jan 18<sup>th</sup> he was seen to fly into some pines in the yard where <sup>he</sup> doubtless spent not only that night but various others when the vine house was not occupied. In or near the block at the rear of the house we saw him by day when he was not noticed that evening on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

Brown  
Throated  
in  
our Garden

Without doubt he would have resorted more constantly to the vine to roost had he not been so frequently disturbed there by people passing in and out the door. The Metall Club meetings must have proved especially trying to his nerves and indeed I think that he was repeatedly driven away by them although withstanding at least one or two early in the winter. Towards the last of his stay he became so nervous as often to fly from the vine and not return to it again that evening, when one or another of us approached it

Cambridge, Mass.

1914

February 1  
to  
March 3

(No 3)

from within or without the building. It returned  
to it for the last time on the evening of March 2 and  
then permitted us to go in and on several times between  
sunset and dark without moving from a perch somewhat  
higher up and further back than the one that he had  
hitherto always occupied. Unfortunately the Nuttall Club  
met that night at eight o'clock and after all the  
members had departed at eleven I found that the  
Thrasher had also gone. Percy saw him next morning  
on the ground under the Parkwoman's apple tree, this  
being the final date of observation. Hence the bird  
was with us more or less continuously from November  
23 to March 3 following. At the latter date the  
weather was mild and the ground partly bare. After  
it we had no temperature lower than 18° and only one

snow fall - which was of trifling amount & soon melted.  
(at the date of writing the above (March 15) the ground is almost wholly bare)

Brown  
Thrasher  
in  
the Garden

Cambridge, Mass.

1914.

March 17

A prolonged succession of kla-kla-kla cries, given very rapidly in a shrill, falsetto voice, fell on my ears about 9 a.m. as I was standing in front of the Museum. Thinking they must come from a Sparrow Hawk, performing a low flight, I scanned the heavens for such a bird. It was not until hearing them for the third time that I traced them to an apple tree in which were three Hairy Woodpeckers hopping about near together, bowing and scraping precisely like so many Flickers. That the Sparrow-Hawk-like notes (they were very like) was uttered by one of the Hairy Woodpeckers is almost beyond question although I did not actually see that such was the case, being too far off. Nor did I ascertain the respective sexes of the members of this interesting trio.

Hairy  
Woodpecker  
uttered an  
unfamiliar  
note.

Cambridge, Mass.

1914  
March 17  
(No 2)

Passing around Fresh Pond in a motor car this forenoon I saw upwards of a hundred Black Ducks and a few Herring Gulls standing or lying on the ice along the edge of a large space of open water in Boat Haven Cove which the winter (when the fountain used to be) has kept open or less frozen from ice all winter. The pond elsewhere is still frozen over - rather solidly, it seemed.

After leaving it I returned to Concord, in a steady, fine rain, without getting eyes on a single bird of any kind.

I fully expected to see Bluebirds, if not Robins & Blackbirds also, for the fields are almost wholly free from snow & have been for nearly a week.

Water  
found in  
Fresh  
Pond.

No birds  
seen  
between  
Cambridge  
& Concord



Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17  
(no 3)

Reached our farm house at 12.15 noon. Shortly after this the driving rain, which had been falling, ceased and the sun shone bright & warm. The remainder of the day was cloudless, windless and altogether Spring-like. I was out, walking about the place from 3 to 6 P.M. Plenty of snow & ice in evergreen woods but fields mostly bare except for waxy drifts on northly exposures especially those shaded by brush and stone walls. Mud or water everywhere and ploughed lands almost impassable. Heard three voices characteristic of early Spring:-  
The ringing screams of a pair of Red-throated Loons soaring high over the orchard and over Pulpit Rock woods, the shouting of a Flicker in Birch Field, the raucous croaking of a Wood Frog (only one) in a pool at the edge of the

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17  
(No 4)

found in our Berry Pasture, which, for the most part, remains encased in solid ice. Although the afternoon conditions were especially favorable for the singing of Bluebirds and Song Sparrows I heard none. Daxon, however, reports seeing a Bluebird in Carlisle yesterday and Davis (the marketman) a flock of about twenty Geese flying northward over Concord bridge late in the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>. There were several Crows flitting to and fro about the Farm all this afternoon. Their subdued cawing, mingling with the crowing of roosters, came pleasantly to the ear at frequent intervals. Less pleasing were the chattering of one or more House Sparrows which must have been in or near our front yard. Taken altogether the country seemed dreary & nearly lifeless.

Concord, Mass.

1914

March 19

Yesterday (a stormy day) I saw 5 Juncos, 2 Crows and a  
cock Pheasant. To-day (clear & cold with violent N. W. wind)

Birds  
exceedingly  
scarce

I noted 1 Junco, 2 Crows, a cock Pheasant and some  
Lutescens Redpolls (heard in Beech Field). This meagre list  
would seem to indicate that birds are exceedingly scarce  
here now and that few, if any, migrants have arrived, or  
yet, from farther south.

No migrants  
have yet

In Beech Field I found to-day most of the feathers  
of a hen Partridge among sweet fern in an opening where  
the sun had melted the snow. A fox had evidently killed  
the bird & eaten her on the spot, after biting off her wing  
& tail feathers. It must have happened weeks ago for the  
feathers were frozen together in a compact mass. The Partridge  
was probably sleeping under deep snow when caught.

Partridge  
feathers & colors  
by  
fox.

A Gray Squirrel, among very slender pendant twigs in  
the top of a tall elm, swinging to & fro in the violent wind  
and looking precisely like an Oriole's nest.

Gray  
Squirrel.

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1914.

March 20-31. The 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> were cold days which failed to bring any migrants from the South. During a snow storm on the 22<sup>nd</sup> a Song Sparrow, the very first harbinger of Spring, appeared in the frosty thicket in front of our house but uttered only a few calls. The 23<sup>rd</sup> was a chilly day with snow squalls & without other than winter birds. The 24<sup>th</sup> was clear, calm and comfortably warm but I noted nothing of interest save a Carr Crow nest and a Shrike in full song in an apple tree. The 25<sup>th</sup> was sunny, almost windless & very warm. Heard my first Bluebird. A Nuthatch & a Chickadee singing near the house & Red-shouldered Hawk screaming in the distance. Saw a Sparrow Hawk alight in the big elm in dooryard. Gilbert saw flock of 9 Browed Grackles flying northward, high up, at 8 a.m. Straggling north-bound flight of Crows 8-10 a.m. About 30 birds passed, mostly singly, none more than 3 or 4 together, some at immense heights looking no bigger than Robins.

Wintery  
conditions  
decreased  
birds  
First  
Song Sparrow

First  
nest

First  
Bluebird

Sparrow H

Browed  
Grackles

Crows  
migratory  
singly



Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 20-31

(No 2)

The 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> were for the most part sunny and windless, and almost uncomfortably warm especially on the 27<sup>th</sup> when the temperature rose to 72°.

Heavy  
flight of  
early  
spring birds

On the 26<sup>th</sup> I heard countless Bluebirds. All day long, wherever I went, the songs or calls fell on my ears at short intervals, yet I saw only a few of them.

Flood of  
Bluebirds

Heard Robins calling twice. Dexter reports them at Concord village yesterday & to-day & Song Sparrows also. Saw my first Butterfly a large, lashed-winged brown one. First snow drops in bloom front of house.

First Robins

The 27<sup>th</sup> brought an exceptionally heavy flight of early spring migrants chiefly Robins, Song Sparrows Bluebirds and Blackbirds (Red-wings & Cow-birds & our Rusty). The whole country was simply flooded with Bluebirds and Song Sparrows and their sweet voices fell almost constantly on

First  
Red-wings  
Cow-birds  
Rusty Black

Countless  
Song Sparrows

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 20-31  
(No 3)

my ears coming from far & near in every direction, throughout open farm lands and orchards. I cannot remember ever before noting greater numbers of either species anywhere in the course of a single day.

The influx of Robins was equally great and in some respects especially interesting. They began to appear about 7 a. m. and continued to come at frequent intervals for the next two hours, mostly in parties of 5 or 6 although I saw 15 in one flock and 29 or 30 in another. Almost all seemed to be working northward by short flights. Some pitched down into our apple trees or elms from a considerable height & after eating awhile mounted again into the air to resume their journeying. Most had disappeared by noon but a few remained until sunset singing gleefully there as well as early in the

Influx  
of  
Robins  
migrating  
by day

Covead, Mass.

1914.

March 20-31

(No 4)

forenoon. Most of what I witnessed was apparently diurnal migration of birds, some still further north although a small proportion were probably our local summer resident birds.

The first Phoebe appeared this day. One was in full song at sundown in our dove yard and I heard another about noon on the Petunia place.

First  
Phoebe

Red-shouldered Hawks were screaming all day long and during most of the time one or two were in sight, soaring high in air over field & wood. I saw one shoot down at a steep angle, hundreds of feet, with metric speed, screaming all the while.

Red-shouldered  
Hawks

Two Starlings passed low over our barn at about 8 a. m. flying northward very rapidly.

Starlings

Saw the first Anthopa Butterfly.

Anthopa  
Butterfly

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17  
to  
May 31.

I was at Concord this spring quite continuously from March  
March 17 to April 2 and later (after a visit to Washington) almost  
the entire time from April 18 to June 5. When I first reached there  
there was plenty of snow in the woods but little or none in fields &  
roads. The channel of the river was open but fields of ice still  
covered much of the flooded meadows. Up to the close of March the  
weather was for the most part cold with occasional light snow falls  
& the ground hard frozen almost every morning, but the 25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> &  
27<sup>th</sup> were comparatively warm days on the coast of which the temperature  
rose to 72°. Up to this time birds had been very scarce with almost  
no migrants coming from the South but there was a general arrival  
of Bluebirds on the 26<sup>th</sup> and a perfect flock of Robins, Bluebirds &  
Song Sparrows on the 27<sup>th</sup> when I also noted the first Phoebe, Cow-bird,  
Red-wings & Hairy Woodpecker - all exceptionally late, of course.  
Fox Sparrows began coming on the 29<sup>th</sup> and there was a rather strong  
flight of juncos on the 30<sup>th</sup>. One Hyle peris & 2 Wood-Trogs arriving on 31<sup>st</sup>



Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17  
to  
May 31.

Concerning conditions of weather, bird flights etc. at Concord during the April earlier part of April I have no definite knowledge because of absence at Washington. During the latter half of the month there was much chilly and not a little rainy weather with an occasional warm day. As late as the 24<sup>th</sup> the ground was hard frozen on the surface at Concord. Because of such conditions the advance of Spring during this period was slow & halting and vegetation remained unusually backward up to the close of the month. Not was there any marked increase of migrant birds although many species became represented by a few pioneer individuals or, not long after, the average date of arrival. Those that had come earlier on this way feathered much later uncommonly late. Thus we had Juncos in considerable numbers through the month and one or two Fox Sparrows stayed on up to May 2. The flights of both species were lighter than usual this year. Garden Larks began their musical trilling on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Concord, Mass.

1914

March 17

to

May 31.

(No 3)

May-day was decidedly wintry in character for a violent May.  
A piercing chilly N.W. wind neutralized the beam of sunbeams from a  
cloudless sky. Moreover there was actually ice in the early morning, as  
thick as window glass in a pan in our front yard, slipping over  
many a shallow puddle in the muddy road. After this the weather  
became more normal and was for the most part fine through the  
month. On the 26<sup>th</sup> the temperature rose to 90° & on the 27<sup>th</sup> to 92°.  
I noticed the first unfolded apple blossoms on the 11<sup>th</sup> but our trees  
were not generally in full bloom until the 18<sup>th</sup> were wholly out  
of bloom before the 25<sup>th</sup>. At the latter date the oak leaves were 1/4  
to 1/2 grown and not fully developed until the very end of the month.  
The first gypsy moth larvae hatched on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Dragon flies  
appeared in great numbers on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Four of the migrating  
Beats reappeared in our stand left on the 9<sup>th</sup>. On the 10<sup>th</sup>  
there were nine, on the 11<sup>th</sup> ~~fourteen~~ <sup>fourteen</sup> which proved to be the  
maximum number or at least remained so until June 3.

Bowcord, Mass.

1914

March 17

May 31

(no 4)

The May flight of migrating birds was disappointing and indeed one of the most meagre I have ever known. They came a few at a time, with never anything approaching a "cock". Of species bound still farther north exceedingly few were noted, even the Black-bird failing to appear in any numbers. Almost the only exception to this was furnished by the White-throated Sparrows of which there was a pretty heavy flight, especially on the 7<sup>th</sup> when I noted upwards of sixty birds at the Farm & Boris Hill. Two White-crowns appeared at the Farm where one of them lingered several days, feeding on hemp & millet seed in front of the barn and singing freely & delightfully where not thus employed. Almost no migrating Warblers visited the apple orchard, even when the trees were in full bloom, but I did see a ♀ Cape May in one of them - on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Bay-breast wholly escaped my observation this Spring & so also did Wilson's Black cap while only a few Magnolia & Blackburnian Warblers were seen.

May  
notes

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17

to  
May 31

(No 51)

Swinson's Thrushes were less numerous than usual & I saw no Gray-checked or Bicknell's Thrushes. Hermits, also, were scarce. Ruby-crowned Kinglets passed in fair numbers.

May notes.

Our local Summer birds came drifting in, a few at a time, like the rest but after all had arrived most of the species was quite as well represented as usual and some rather more so. Chipping & Snow-blycatchers were especially plentiful, Bobolinks and Orioles in average numbers, Robins much scarcer than of yore yet no more so than last year.

Field Sparrows occurred only sparingly as north-bound migrants, were remaining to breed. Chickadees & Downy Woodpecker were almost locally extinct, there being certainly not more than two pairs of the former & one of the latter in the entire wooded region (300 acres) included within our estate. Fayon thinks both species suffered severely last winter & wd doubt he is right. Ruffed Grouse & Pheasants were in normal numbers.

Bowcord, Mass.

1914.

March 17

to  
May 31

(No 6)

The wide meadows remained flooded through April & May. For the first time within my recollection they were comparatively & indeed almost literally barren of bird life during both months. A few Red-wings were scattered over them at season of calm, even coming in April, singing in the tops of flooded Horsetails and on the Butternuts were heard perching around their caps in early May, but after the middle of an October month I failed to note either species there. Driven from their ancestral haunts by the exceptionally prolonged stay of high water the Red-wings resorted to ground to various brack meadows lying well back from the river. I heard of Butternuts being in similar haunts but did not personally verify such reports. Song Sparrows seemed to be entirely absent, even in the beady swamp behind Bob's Hill, and I failed to note a single Rail of any kind. There were a few Black Ducks, Winters & Geese on the flooded meadows early in the season & some Black Ducks in May. Gulls were scarce & I saw no Grubs or Fish Hawks.

May notes



Bowdoin, Mass.

1914.

March 17  
to  
May 31  
(No 7)

Deer were exceedingly scarce. I saw fresh tracks of a large doe in the Berry Pasture in April and those of another (or perhaps the same) in North Field late in May, but obtained no other evidence of their presence. None was any seen by the men (or looked by them) last winter.

I saw one or two Chipmunks at Balls Bluff last year on the Farm where they were completely exterminated by Cats last year. Less Red Squirrels than in most of this year probably next the same fate later as I failed to see or hear them after May 1. Gray Squirrels were as numerous there as usual early in the season but towards its close they, too, were evidently disappearing fast. As I actually saw one (of the largest size) caught & killed by a cat in front of the house on April 27 & as Jeph reported seeing another which a Cat was carrying home along the road it seems probable that their decrease must have been caused by these felid depredations although they do not appear to me suffer much in such a way in Cambridge.

Dorchester, Mass.

1914

March 17

to  
May 31

(No 8)

Cats of every size and color, coming presumably from nearby  
farms, literally swarmed about our house & grounds & in neighboring  
woodland, all through the Spring months until at length I bought  
a little Irish terrier who seemed to drive many of them off  
cats in May. One that seemed fearless of the dog and suspiciously  
interested in a pair of Cowbirds nesting in front of the house  
felt a victim to my gun towards the close of my stay but I  
did not directly molest any of the others save by throwing stones  
at them occasionally. As far as I was able to ascertain  
they got no birds near often tried to but spent most of their  
time watching the stone walls & beds of meadow grass, presumably  
for Squirrels & mice. Certainly a pair of Song Sparrows hatched  
& reared their young this Spring, as well as last, in a ground  
nest in long grass within a few feet of a foot path traversed  
daily by several different Cats. Nevertheless it disturbed my peace  
of mind to see so many Cats about, as I have just indicated.

Canaan, Mass.

1914

March 17

to  
May 31

(No 9)

Bird-killing Hawks were exceptionally scarce this Spring and our numerous Chockers were not molested by them or by the Crow. I saw Cooper's Hawks & Sharp-shin only once on Union near the Farm & doubt if they did much harm there although the features of a grouse which one of them was once killed were found among some bushes bordering the Cove. Red shouldered Hawks were as common and voracious as usual. A pair occupied the nest in the big chestnut on Nelsons Hill & others were apparently breeding to the westward of the Farm in the Estabrook woods country. A male Marsh Hawk came skimming through our fields or over the Orchard every few days & his mate was seen there occasionally. Sparrow Hawks also paid us a visit every week & there. Starlings were seen over the Farm & especially near Flatt's bridge where a pair nested in a hollow apple tree on the old Buttrick place according to its present owner, Stephen Buttrick.

Bowcord, Mass.

1914.

March 37

To  
May 31

(No 10)

There were plenty of *Pezomachus* *luteus* nests but only a very few were tenanted so we cut them off early in the orchard trees & in the Bay Postum. In the woods they did better however except near Bertram's Landing on Balls Hill where they attempted to strip the oaks which had to be sprayed. At least 90% of them must have perished during the winter, as some pupae became of the autumn color although Dr. Howard believes that in winter parasites were the chief cause of their destruction.

*Glyphis* *luteus* larvae began hatching on May 14. Few of them had attained a greater length than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch by the close of the month when the oaks were in nearly full leaf & showing little signs of injury. The larvae were numerous enough in spots of limited extent but nowhere abundantly & generally distributed, at that date and were then dying by thousands of the "wilt" although still so very small. Hence our spraying operations were much less extended & expensive than usual, costing in all perhaps \$200. whereas last year & in 1912 I must have spent \$1000. each year.

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17  
to  
May 31.

(No 11)

The worst-infested (by gypsy larvae), spots this year are the northern portion of our Holly Pasture, the oaks in the Run bordering on the Ricketts place and those in the opening behind Balls Hill. Those on Blackman Ridge are also rather bad. Balls Hill itself is almost free from the "gyfts" & quite so from brown-tails. Other the former ranged more last year as in Birch Field than on first or none now. Elsewhere in Concord the oak woods look better than for several years past even where they have had no protection. Dr. Howard thinks that the worst is over as regards "gyfts" & "brown-tails".

June Caterpillars were worse last year than I had ever before known them. They were still more numerous this spring fairly loading apple & some cherry trees with their "refectory tents" and stripping all foliage of those & other trees where they were left unmolested. I saw all one fruit tree & most of one wild cherry by timely spraying. I must think Caterpillars were bad in spots but on the whole no worse than last year.



Barnes, Mass.

1914.

March 17  
to  
May 31.

The killing of the Gray Squirrel by an Cat, to which I have briefly referred, is worth describing more fully. It happened about mid-day on April 27. All the while that Gilbert & I were at dinner (12-12.30) the Cat (a large mottled & white one) was sitting erect & still in the middle of the field in front of the house which had been ploughed last autumn. She was so very conspicuous there that no one could have failed to notice her on the first glance. Shortly after dinner she began moving about slowly and uncertainly with her nose to the ground like a dog seeking a cold scent: Then she made a long, swift, gliding run to a deep furrow in which she crested so flat as to be lost to my view. Only a few seconds later an unaccountably large Gray Squirrel appeared ambling sedately towards the center of the field from woods to the south of it. Apparently quite oblivious to the presence of the crouching Cat he kept on at first straight for her & then veered a little to the left of where she lay. As he was passing it at a distance of perhaps twenty yards she sprang out from the ground

Concord, Mass

1914.

March 17

May 31

(No 13)

when he instantly wheeled and fled back towards the woods.

She pursued with amazing speed, covering the ground by an unbroken succession of long, graceful bounds and going at least two feet to his own. Overlaken before the nearest tree could be reached he dodged her once successfully by a sudden turn but she soon overtook him then and caught him only a second or two later. For perhaps half a minute later there was a confused & animated struggle difficult to trace, during which the Cat seemed to roll over & over with the Squirrel sometimes uppermost & flitting as fast he could for life. It was soon over when the Cat rose to her feet and trotted off into the woods holding the Squirrel in her mouth & carrying her head high & proudly. As far as I could make out the Squirrel was then quite dead but his feet, bushy tail was kept waving to & fro either by the Cat's movements or by wind.

Why he had failed to notice her before entering the field is difficult to understand.

Barnard, Mass.

1914.

March 17

to  
May 31

(No 14)

Foxes have been scarce or wanting in our neighborhood for several years past. I doubt if any live there permanently now as I have found no occupied "carts" of late while trails have often been wholly wanting after snow falls. Nevertheless the animals continue to visit us at infrequent intervals. I noted two this spring. The first was met with in Birch Field in mid-afternoon of April 19, a clear, warm day.

I was walking quietly along a cane path near the Spring when slight rustling sounds in dense brush to the right attracted my attention & brought me to a stand-still. A moment later I saw a very large Fox, within 20 yards, stealing off at a slow, gliding trot with head and brush held low. He looked as black as a black Cat but this I attributed at first to the dense shade of Bush by some young pines. Until, at length, he showed his fine body tail rather distinctly for an instant in a comparatively open space when I saw that it, at least, was black, or nearly so, with a brassy white tip. As to the coloring of his head & body I could not make sure, because of the dim light & interfering screen of branches

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17  
to  
May 31.  
(No 15)

A conductor on the Lexington - Concord Branch of the Boston & Maine R.R. whose name I forget with Howard's company autumn attended one last year that he & his family had reportedly started a Black or Silver Gray Fox not far to the southwest of us and had occasionally driven it into our woods. He has known of its presence in this region for several years past. Without much doubt it was the same that I saw. My second observation above referred to was by ear alone - on the evening of May 19 when as Gilbert & I were sitting in the parlor of the farm house we heard the creature begin "barking". When we opened the front door the hoarse, gurgling, throaty sounds seemed to come from very near at hand and apparently from the rear just across the field in front of the house. As I listened to them they impressed me deeply by their social, uneasy quality. Some were subdued & husky, others very loud & startling & had an agonized expression, suggesting intense fear or pain. Yet they varied but little in other respects being clearly alike in form. They reminded me most of the choking sound of a steam exhaust & were totally unlike the barking of dogs of any breed.

Cowdard, Mass.

1914

March 17  
to  
May 31  
(No 16)

In the days of my early youth a deep hollow in Dr. Wynn's Fairy Shrimp place on Sparks St., Cambridge, always abounded, when filled with water by rain & melting snow in April, with aquatic creatures of wondrous form & hues, which we boys used to dip up & take home in preserved jars or similar glass receptacles. They were a scant inch in length, as I remember them, and swam on their backs by means of delicate & numerous plum-like filaments waving rhythmically. Some were salmon, others pinkish, but others almost were colored. I have never seen anything like them since until this Spring when Mr. Dexter informed me that he was accustomed to finding them near Providence & that Harry Richardson knew of a pond hole near Fairhaven Bay where they occur. We intended to look for them there but having no good opportunity sought & found them abundantly in two ponds behind Ball's Hill. All we examined here, however, were dull olive green. Edward Swanson thinks this their normal color but Dexter has seen pink & iridescent ones like



Concord, Mass.

1914

March 17

to  
May 31.

(No 17)

those we used to get in Cambridge. He called them "Fairy Shrimp"

and says that the scientific name is Branchipus. Emerson knows

them as "Mermaids" and with Ned Baileys was want, in his

years, to find them in a little pond near Fairyland. He

thinks that the Concord ones are more brilliantly colored

but Dexter opines that they are so in early spring. I am

inclined to suspect that those we saw near Ball's Hill must

belong to a different species from those inhabiting the Cambridge

pond in terms long feet. The former were not only much darker

colored but also more lively & wary, darting off like tiny

Pickard, when closely approached. We caught a few & took

them to the farms in a glass jar but they all died

during the following night

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17  
to  
May 31.  
(No 18)

1. Wood Thrush. On May 7 one was heard singing, near his home in Concord village, by S. O. Dexter. I failed to note the species anywhere in our neighborhood which it seems to have permanently deserted.

2. Wilson's Thrush. Arrived May 11. Began singing on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Apparently less numerous than usual. Only one pair at Farm (in Run & Berry Pasture) and not more than two pairs near Ball's Hill with a fourth pair located near the Barrett Spring in Birch Field.

3. Swainson's Thrush. Unusually scarce. I heard one calling in the place at the rear of our farm house on May 22 & saw another in Prescott's pine woods on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Dexter heard one singing near Mrs. Howe's house on June 2.

4. Hermit Thrush. Little, if any, obvious north-bound migration seen perhaps on May 2, when a single bird was found in Prescott's pine, & on the next day, when two were seen together on the Run at foot of Case.

One appeared in Birch Field on April 19 & two on the 20<sup>th</sup>, no doubt the pair that bred there last year. I saw them almost daily through last week of April & heard the ♂ in full song there on May 9 & 20, but on no other date.

Concord, Mass

1964.

March 17

to

May 31

(no 19)

5. Robin. Dexter saw the first Robin in Concord valley on March 25.

I heard one calling in Back Field on Apr 26<sup>th</sup>. Next morning (27<sup>th</sup>)

There was a paper flood of Robins arriving from South. Between 7 & 10 a.m. they were constantly in sight or hearing and singing freely there and all around. Most of the birds comprised in the morning in-rush were in flocks some of which contained upwards of 30 members each. All were moving northwest restlessly flying at us great heights above the tree tops & occasionally falling down into fields or trees to rest or feed although many kept on without any such halt. The evening singing indicated that at least some of our local summer birds had come & this was doubtless the case for after that I saw a few daily. More assured about the middle of April. After that we had at least four pairs settled to breed within one hundred yards or less of the farm house & one pair built a nest near the cabin at Balls Hill but apparently disappeared being either killed by hawks or driven away by jays.

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17

to  
May 31.

(No 20)

(Robin) At the farm a Robin began building, early in May, on a wooden shelf under the eaves of an old barn. For upwards of two weeks she worked industriously, and through some days almost ceaselessly, without making the least permanent headway for literally all the material she brought was blown off the smooth shelf by the wind, often as fast as she left it there. It consisted chiefly of dry grass and weed stalks with now and then green blades or fronds of grass, weeds (including dandelions & tansy) and ferns.

All these littered the ground under the eaves profusely, and were sometimes retrieved from it by the bird almost immediately after they had fallen there although she usually, went further afield, for fresh material. When, at length, we decided to interfere in her behalf the shelf remained almost perfectly bare. But within an hour after we had nailed a piece of board 2" wide to its outer edge the bird began to make some progress & by the end of the next two days her nest was

1914.

March 17  
to  
May 31  
(No 2.1)

completed. It consisted of no more than a shagreen mat of the material above mentioned covering the entire shelf (about 2' x 10" in surface area) to a depth of from 2" to 4" and held in place by our chest, no need being used. Somewhere near the middle of this mass of trash the bird laid her eggs and hatched them successfully. I saw her taking food to the young for a week or more and without doubt she got them out safely in the end but that I did not see. It would be interesting to know whether or not this was a young Robin. Just evidently she had no knowledge of the art of nest building usually characteristic of her kind but knew no more than to bring together a lot of stuff so light & fragile that the merest breath of wind would sweep it off the shelf. Another interesting question is as to how the Robin could have retained her eggs so long. She did not lay them until more than two weeks after the



1914

March 17  
to  
May 31  
(No 22)

nest was begun yet when she began to she must have expected to deposit them within a few days, such, at least, being customary with birds of her species.

Another Robin at the Farm built her a dozen almost equally trashy nests under the eaves of the Burgobans, taking material first into one space between supporting roof timbers and then into another, evidently being unable to distinguish between these precisely similar spaces. She, too, worked for at least a couple of weeks and then gave it up without laying in any of the nests, probably because she was so often disturbed by members of my farm's family. A third bird nested in a grape vine that clings to the pigeon house and a fourth built in an apple tree in the orchard. Both these reared their first broods. A bird that nested first in an oak over the road & was in a pine in front of the Burgobans was unsuccessful both times.

Cambridge, Mass.

1915.

March 28

Blue jays have frequented our grounds all winter in numbers varying from two or three to six or eight. They have subsisted mostly on bread thrown out for them or for the Squirrels, and have also been seen eating the fruit of Pookman's apple in company with Thrushes and Purple Finches. One that I watched this morning ate the pulp of two nightshade berries, after peeling them to pieces very delicately, thereby making more than "two bites" of each. This happened directly beneath my study window in a thicket of Rhododendrons constantly haunted of late by two jays, evidently a mated pair. They spend much of their time perched close together on twigs only a foot or two above the ground and within two yards of the window, thereby enabling me to watch them to excellent advantage. For two weeks or more I have heard one of them, presumably the male, singing

Blue jays  
in the  
Garden

Eating  
Nightshade  
berries.

Cambridge, Mass.

1915.

March 28

(No 3)

Colaptes. It may be kept up ceaselessly for minutes at a time and with occasional brief intermissions for an hour or more. I have had it almost constantly in my ears while writing the foregoing account of it.

Song of  
Blue Jay

March 30

Now, at 12.30 P.M., the jay is singing again almost ceaselessly, just outside my study window.

Among the fainter notes he keeps interpreting the usual loud bell call and with equal frequency an unfamiliar imitation of the Flicker's hi-eeek or hi-on.

This I have not known happen before.

Earlier in the day I saw one jay of this mated pair pluck a golden nightshade berry and take it to the other (only a few feet away) who at once accepted and swallowed it, at the same time quivering its half-expanded wings and tail just as young birds are accustomed to do when fed.

Cambridge, Mass.

1915-

March 28

(No 2)

almost daily, oftener between eleven and twelve  
o'clock in the forenoon when the sun was shining brightly.

Song of  
Blue Jay

He utters an infinite variety of notes unlike the usual calls and so low-pitched that I doubt if any of them could be heard more than fifty yards away yet one and all come to my ears with perfect distinctness through the closed window when the bird is on the rhododendron ~~thicket~~ <sup>tree</sup> near <sup>it</sup>. Some are scarcely more than whispers; others subdued chatters and whinnings, intermingling with guttural or squeaky sounds; still others brief musical chirrings; others again delightfully liquid in quality. Taken altogether the melody is not unlike that of a Catbird singing solts over but less replete with mimicry although sometimes including notes obviously borrowed from other birds among which I heard the chirp of an Junco and the wicker of

Concord, Mass.

1915.

April, May  
June.

I went to Concord for the first time this year on March 31 and remained there continuously - excepting for an occasional day spent in Cambridge or Boston - up to June 3, living altogether at the Farm and seldom even visiting Ball's Hill. After this I was there again June 10-13 and 21-26. Constantly out of doors at most hours of daylight I was enabled to keep a rather close watch on the bird and other animal life in fields, orchards and woodland near our house despite the fact that my chief attention had to be given to farm work and gardening or to supervising men engaged in it. There were always frequent opportunities for taking short walks into the woods, however, especially in late afternoon when I rarely failed to have a quiet stroll, usually either to Birch Field or through the Berry Pasture, with "Tim", the keen little Irish Terrier, as my sole companion.

It was delightful to thus have opportunity for noting and enjoying the oncoming of Spring and early summer - this year more gradual and even than usual because of the general absence of extreme fluctuations of temperature. We had, it is true, a belated and very heavy frost on the night of May 26-27 when water froze in pans, to the thickness of windows glass, but there were no exceptionally warm days before June - or, indeed, July - and the nights were uniformly cool so that the weather was almost continuously fine with little or no rainfall through April and May and no snowfall whatever save on April 3, when the ground was covered briefly to a depth of some ten inches with heavy shabby snow. Because of these conditions vegetation advanced slowly and evenly and the blooming period of most Spring flowers was unusually protected. Rarely if ever before have I known migrating birds bound further north so little in wisdom during these months. In April there was literally no well-marked flight except ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> finches on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> while the only May flight of warblers worth mentioning occurred on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of that month. On various other

Spring  
notes

Slow oncoming  
of Spring  
summer.

Belated frost

Late snowfall.

Absence of  
vegetation

Scarcity of  
north-bound  
migrants.

## Concord, Mass.

1915.

April, May  
June  
(No 2)

dates there were, of course, a few northern-birding to be found inconsiderable but their numbers were for the most part trifling. Our local-birding arrivals of birds arrived similarly, a few at a time, some about the usual local-birding dates, others decidedly later than usual. Even with these birds there birds was at no time any general influx of the members of any one species. Hence they seemed uncommonly scarce at first although finally repopulating their accustomed haunts in normal numbers for the most part. Bluebirds, however, were scarcer than usual, and Wilson's Thrasher, altogether absent from swampy corners about the Farm which they have never failed to inhabit in former years while even at Bass's there were only one or two breeding pairs.

Robins, on the other hand, were much more numerous than for several years past and Maryland Yellow-throats exceptionally so.

Of Chimney Swifts we had comparatively few, of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks only a single pair. Orioles seemed exceptionally common when they first came, especially in Concord village, but only one pair nested in our elms at the Farm.

I saw, as well as heard, a Pileated Woodpecker in swampy woods near Pulpit Rock on April 6. He spent the entire day there and made a prodigious racket, both by incessant cawing and hammering on resonant tree trunks, but I did not note him afterwards. A Barred Owl, hooting there on the following day, was afterwards heard at occasional intervals, for the last time on the evening of June 10 when his deep voice came from westward, beyond our Berry Pasture.

Of the rarer north-bound migrants I noticed very few—a Tennessee Warbler that remained for a full week (May 13-20) in or near the oak grove behind our barn and sang there freely, a Lincoln's Finch singing in the Forsythia thicket in front of the house on May 22 and a White-crowned Sparrow seen on a stone wall by the roadside near Biggie's, being the only ones worthy of mention.

Scarcity or absence of  
Bluebirds,  
Thrasher, Towhee  
& Field Sparrows

Pileated  
Woodpecker

Barred Owl

Rare north-  
bound migrants



Concord, Mass.

1915.

April, May  
June.  
(No 3)

The Spring Chorus of Batrachian voices began much later than usual and indeed not until April 8 when Wood Frogs were croaking by scores, all the afternoon in the pond hole below our orchard. I heard the first Hyla on the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> and the first Garden Toad on that of the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Batrachians

The first Bat appeared in our wood shed loft on April 27, thereby establishing the only arrival record for that month that I have ever noted. It remained there alone until May 6 when another joined it. On the 7<sup>th</sup> there were five Bats in this loft; on the 8<sup>th</sup> eight; on the 9<sup>th</sup> eleven; on the 10<sup>th</sup> eleven; on the 11<sup>th</sup> twelve; on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, fifteen; on the 16<sup>th</sup> and thereafter up to the end of June, sixteen. In cool weather they invariably spent the day clinging all together in a compact cluster but when the weather was very warm they scattered about singly. I watched for the appearance of young but saw none.

Migratory  
Bats.

Deer scarce this Spring. None reported seen. I saw the tracks of one at the Farm and of another near Ball's Hill, in April or May. Gray Squirrels less numerous than usual, yet common enough especially about the Farm. One behaved like an egg robber. The birds evidently regarded him as such, chasing him away whenever he approached their nests. To him I am inclined to attribute the raiding of nests in apple & other orchard trees, almost all of which were despoiled of fresh-laid eggs & had their linings torn out. Jays may have been partly responsible for this but the Squirrel was, I fear, chiefly so. The Robins reared no young seen in a nest under the eaves of a piazza, another on the wood pile in our shed, and in a third in an apple tree close to the house. The Squirrel finally came prowling about even these nests, apparently with sinister intent, but I peppered him with a light charge of dust shot at long range and after that he kept away from them. Another Gray took

Deer

Gray Squirrels

Bowcord, Mass

1915.

April, May  
June  
(No 4)

possible possession of a Flicker's hole in an isolated apple tree near our well house and gave birth to several young therein. A few days afterwards our Irish terrier "Jim" caught the mother Squirrel as she was running across the open field and bit her so severely that she died as did the young in consequence. Shortly after that the Flicker reoccupied the hole and presumably reared her brood there, for I saw her entering or leaving it daily for several weeks. I do not think she had laid when first excited by the Squirrel for no trace of eggs was then to be found in it. Only one Red Squirrel was noted anywhere near the Farm. He ranged up and down the Run for its entire length but did not even approach any of our buildings. There were perhaps others of his kind in the Ball's Hill region but if so I failed to see or hear any of them during my infrequent visits to it.

Red Squirrels

Chipmunks were almost, if not quite, completely exterminated; every where about the Farm last year, and in 1913, by Cats which were repeatedly seen carrying them off to neighboring farm houses. They reappeared this Spring, however, in something like their normal numbers, doubtless because of the well-nigh total absence of Cats, most of which have been killed of late by those of our neighbors who owned them, especially the Howes who used to keep a dozen or more and now have none. The Lawrenceas, also, have reduced their formerly superabundant stock to one or two, apparently. Freed from dread of them, their most unrelenting foes, the Chipmunks again took possession of their favorite old-time haunts close about our building. One lived in a hole by our front door step, another beside the well, a third near the Bungalows, still others in stone walls along our lawn & elsewhere. These new comers have committed no obvious depredations as yet, even on our beds of tulips & crocus bulbs which they were wont to despoil most thoroughly & sparingly by several years ago. Whether or not they continue to display similar forebearance I am truly glad to have them back again because of their attractive appearance and characteristically confident ways.

Chipmunks

Concord, Mass.

1915.

April, May  
&  
June  
(No 5)

Of Cottontail Rabbits we have had comparatively few within recent years. This Spring I saw them often than for several years past, usually in the Berry Pasture or in back corners near the cow pasture. In May a young one, scarce bigger than a Red Squirrel, frequented our lawn and often appeared at evening on the lawn in front of our house where it frolicked about most charmingly, often tumbling swiftly in narrow circles and sometimes leaping abruptly straight upward to an astonishing height. I fear it perished when the dogyard chow was thrown in early June for after that it was not seen again among the many poison laden bushes beneath their shade.

Cottontail  
Rabbits

Concord woods generally, as well as those lying along the roads leading from that town towards Cambridge were less troubled by Gypsy and Brown-tail caterpillars than for six or eight years past and almost nowhere severely devastated. They would have been, however, close about our Farm (especially in the Run) and also on Ball's Hill had we not sprayed heavily and thoroughly there for there were large and flourishing colonies of Gypsy larvae hatched in both localities. The growth of these pests was much retarded by the exceptionally cold weather and the poisoned foliage caused the death of most of them. Brown-tails were comparatively scarce except at Ball's Hill and Tent Caterpillars much less numerous than last year. Practically all the latter perished of "wilt" when about half grown. I afterwards saw only one fully mature one. Forest Tent Caterpillars appeared in moderate numbers & did some damage. I failed to note that the "wilt" troubled them at all or the Gypsies one much but the latter must have suffered considerably from the Callosoma beetles which were numerous distributed every where. Towards the close of June the unsprayed woods showed traces of denuded foliage in many places and in a few localities were almost completely stripped over several acres in extent but for the most part remained clothed in luxuriant foliage.

Moth larvae

Concord, Mass.

1915.

April, May  
 June  
 (No 6)

We began spraying on May 15<sup>th</sup> when our apple and other orchard trees were dealt with thoroughly. Various large Oaks about the Farm were heavily sprayed on the 16<sup>th</sup>, shrubbery along wood lands there on the 20<sup>th</sup>, the Berry Pasture & portions of Birch Field on the 21<sup>st</sup>, more wood-land edges on the 27<sup>th</sup>, part of the woods at Ball's Hill on the 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, some of the elms near our house and the line of large oaks bordering Cedar Park on the 31<sup>st</sup>. On June 2, 3, 4 & 5 the spraying at Ball's Hill was continued and completed (by Deerson.) all but a small one along its northern base being well finished. On June 24 we dealt with the remaining large elms at the Farm and with the brooms of the road leading from Pine Point to Brewer's river landing. The oak knoll there and most of Ball's Hill were as badly infested as I have ever seen similar woodland anywhere & all the trees would surely have been stripped had they been left untreated.

Spraying  
 operations.

As far as I was able to ascertain our spraying operations this year had little if any effect on the birds. Certainly none of those daily watched at the Farm suffered obviously because of it. All, indeed, continued to occupy their accustomed haunts after it was finished - even the single pair of Orioles although the elm by the wood shed in which they had bespoken their nest was thoroughly finished. I noticed, however, that they, with other birds breeding close about the house, sought food for themselves and young elsewhere after the trees had been sprayed there. The Orioles regularly took long, straight-away flights to obtain it. The Robins, Wrens, Chipping & Yellow Warblers were less given to doing so.

Effect of  
 spraying on  
 bird life.

The following list includes all the species that I was able to record during this season. Unless otherwise stated the accompanying notes relate to birds seen or heard by me personally, in or near our fields, orchards and woodland at the Farm.

Concord, Mass.

1915.

Spring  
Birds here

1. Wood Thrush. A ♂ in full song, 5-6 a.m., in the Run. I did not hear him again nor was the species noted by, or reported to, me on any other occasion elsewhere.
2. Wilson's Thrush. Single birds seen or heard calling at 7 a.m. on May 15, 16, 25 & 26. One found dead on ground near our poultry yard was found on 18<sup>th</sup>. Another singing faintly in Run on 22<sup>nd</sup>. For the first time in my experience none remained to breed anywhere in their accustomed haunts within ear-shot of our farm house although I did hear one calling near Bassett Spring on June 24. They were seemingly absent from Davis and Pine Point Swamps but two males were singing in Both's Hill Swamp and another bird calling near our cabin, on June 22. I thought I heard the song of one coming from beyond our Berry Pasture on the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> but was not sure of it.
3. Bicknell's Thrush. Two - both very small birds - seen near Concord village on May 20 by S. O. Dexter.
4. Swinson's Thrush. One calling in Birch Field on May 10, another in Cedar Park on the 21<sup>st</sup>, a third <sup>seen</sup> in the Run on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Also noted at Fayland on the 20<sup>th</sup> - by S. O. Dexter.
5. Hermit Thrush. No north-bound migrants met with. Our local breeding pair occupied their accustomed haunts in Birch Field where I found them oftenest in or very near a deep hollow filled with young pines, birches and black spruce. I first saw one of them on April 14 in neighbouring woods of large pines. The ♂ was in full song 6-6.30 P.M. on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> but I did not hear him again that month or so much as over during May. Both birds were seen together repeatedly in April & May when they would come close about me, chucking and whistling as if anxious regarding eggs or young. The male resumed singing on June 22 &

Concord, Mass.

Spring  
Birds

1915.

April, May

June.

(No 8)

(Hermit Thrush) continued to on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. His voice seemed richer and fuller than it was last year. After seeing him & his mate together on May 23 I went direct to the Ball's Hill region and heard there what was doubtless another male, singing freely on Stakewood Ridge where it borders on the Pine Meadows. Dexter reports the species breeding commonly about Foxhollow Bay this year. I did not have opportunity to look for it in the woods along the old Bigelow's Road where several pairs occurred a few years ago in June.

6. Robin.



Lexington, Mass.

Evening  
Grosbeaks

1916

January 6.

Brilliantly clear with fresh, cool westerly winds. Grounds covered to depth of 4 or 5 inches with ice-crustled snow, melting rather freely in sheltered & sunny places, for the day was not really cold.

Went to Lexington this morning with Walter Deane to see some Evening Grosbeaks. They were first noticed there on January 3 by Dr. W. M. Tyler who informed me of the fact by telephone that evening and requested me to announce it at the Nextball Club meeting. Five birds were seen together on this occasion. Only three could be found next morning when Dr. Tyler and Mr. Walter Faxon visited the place together, not to remain there long, however, for that day was bitterly cold and very windy. Walter Deane went with Dr. Tyler yesterday, when the temperature was comfortably mild but the sky overcast, with light rain falling. After waiting for a considerable length of time they saw nine Grosbeaks alight in a Norway Elder where they were watched at close range for half an hour. They were eating the winged seeds of the tree with which <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ was well laden. Walter made careful observations as to just how they dealt with them and has it all written out in his journal. He told me about it during a telephone talk we had last evening when I agreed to go with him to Lexington this morning, in the hope that the Grosbeaks might favor me, also, as they had him, ~~with an opportunity of seeing them near at hand.~~ If then the much larger flock was frequenting the village of Schminster a few years ago most of our local ornithologists journeyed thither to see the birds, among which were several old maids. I declined to go with the rest because hopeful of some day achieving the same result without similar guidance. The nearest I have since come to it was when I merely heard the flight call of a ~~Hebrew~~ ~~Hebrew~~ at Belmont two years ago. Hence it seemed best not to let the present chance pass.

Lexington, Mass

1916

January 6  
(No 2)

Walter and I left home at 8.30 this morning and went to Lexington by trolley cars. Leaving the car near Monroe Station we took a street that leads to the left up a steep hill side dotted rather sparsely, but nowhere thickly, with suburban houses of well-to-do people, surrounded by ornamental grounds planted with <sup>cultivated</sup> trees and shrubs. There were also very many red cedars and pitch pines which had been left standing when they must have been found when the hill side was first settled, for they are much older than any of the houses. These primitive growths increased in frequency and extent as we climbed upward until on the crest of the ridge they dominated the landscape although even here it was not devoid of dwelling houses scattered about and half hidden among enormous trees, with every now and then a stretch of open pasture or mowing field.

My first  
view of  
Lexington  
Greenbacks

Lexington, Mass.

1916

January 6  
(no 3)

Almost on the hill-top, yet sufficiently beneath  
its eastern brow to be sheltered by this and by a neighboring  
cedar grove from the full force of westerly winds, stands,  
within twenty feet of the street and no further from a house,  
the Box Elder which the Grosbeaks have been frequenting.  
They were not there when we reached it but Miss Tyler,  
who had preceded us, thought she had seen them on  
wing only a few minutes before. Her brother joined us  
shortly as did also several of her lady friends and neighbors,  
all of whom carried opera glasses and seemed more  
or less keen to make use of them. After we had  
stood or rambled about for perhaps half an hour without  
sighting anything of interest Dr. Tyler suddenly exclaimed  
"There they are!" An instant later I saw all the  
members of the flock, now eleven in number, flying  
across an open field to an isolated, leafless tree

Longington, Mass.

1916.

January 6  
(No 4)

where they alighted. Remaining there only a few moments they next flew down to some sumacs growing close about the rear of a horse and began feeding on the deep red fruit. Here I approached them closely and watched them for several minutes but not to good advantage, for the sun was directly in my eyes, shining from beyond them. Before my position could be changed for a better one a man suddenly emerged from the back door of the barn and the Grosbeaks, evidently startled by his appearance, flew off out of sight in an easterly direction. Nothing more was seen or heard of them until almost an hour later when (shortly after 11 a. m.) they reappeared among some tall and crowded cedars just across the road from the hay bales into which they presently flew, one after another, and began feasting on its partly divided yet still abundant fruit. Scarcely had all

Lexington, Mass.

1916.

January 6  
(No 5)

reached it when excited outcry arose among them  
and more than half the flock dashed off through the  
cedars to be quickly followed by the rest. Just as the first  
lot were disappearing I caught sight of a rather large  
Hawk, perhaps a Cooper's, whose line of swift, gliding  
flight (on set wings) seemed to describe slightly form,  
rather than to follow, them. He was visible only for  
an instant, while crossing a narrow opening in the densely  
crowded trees. Although he evidently gave the Grackles  
a good fright they soon recovered from it and returned  
to the Box Elder where, during the next half hour,  
I had them constantly under my glass, and watched  
them to the best possible advantage as regarded light,  
backgrounds etc., especially when, as not infrequently  
happened, several of them descended to the ground and  
hopped about over its snow-covered surface. At length

Lexington, Mass.

1916.

January 6

(No 6)

They began leaving the box elder, one or two at a time, and fled down the hillside, keeping low among the dense cedar groves that clothed it and scattering widely throughout the woods. Feeling assured that they had finished their noon meal and were unlikely to reappear soon we sought ours by returning to Cambridge. While we were on the hill-top several birds of other species were seen, including two hen Pheasants, stalking gracefully over the snow beneath red cedars very near at hand; two Jays, also in these cedars; an adult ♂ Purple Finch, in the box elder, one or two Chickadees; a few House Sparrows; and the rather large Hawk already mentioned.

Thus after so many years of half-expectant waiting for a sight of living Evening Grosbeaks in New England has such hope finally been fulfilled.

Its realization has proved in some respects disappointing



Longington, Mass.

1916.

January 6

(No 7)

chiefly, perhaps, because the flock included no male bird, .  
also because its eleven female members looked at times not unlike House  
Sparrows & uttered similar calls. For the most part, <sup>however, they seemed</sup> very admirable to

behold, especially when viewed near at hand in light that  
fully revealed not only their gracefully rounded outlines but  
also all the more subdued tints and silky sheen of their  
trim plumage. Some with decidedly blackish heads were  
presumably adult. Others had the sides of their necks just above  
the shoulders of the folded wings rather strongly yellowish.

All showed dusky malar stripes and more or less  
conspicuous white markings on otherwise black or blackish  
wings and tails. Nevertheless, the general effect of their mostly  
grayish or pale olivaceous  
coloring tended to make them inconspicuous at all distances

beyond thirty or forty yards and when they were in the  
box elder it harmonized so well with that of the blacked  
clusters of winged seed vessels that it served very obviously  
to "obliterate" them. Nor were they especially noticeable among

Lexington, Mass.

1916.

January 6  
(No 8)

The olive green foliage of the cedars. Even when perched in leafy tree tops they seemed no more likely to attract one (at such times, indeed, they might easily have been mistaken for the former species. notice than so many House Sparrows or Cedar Birds.) When thus

perched they remained for the most part inert, much after the manner of Waxwings but clustering less thickly.

When feeding they habitually scattered all over the tree or shrub, each bird working quite independently of the rest and, as a rule, in perfect silence although every now and then this might be broken by individual or general utterance of vocal notes. Mostly two subdued to bravido more than a few rods away and singularly diversified in character, yet not sufficiently unlike those of other and commoner New England birds to impress one as very novel. Some closely resembled the ordinary husky call of the Purple, others the low chattering of House Sparrows, while a single rather loud, staccato note was very like that of Passer.

Lexington, Mass.

1916.

January 6

(No 9)

and a whistled peep almost indistinguishable from that of the Pine Grosbeak. There were also various chattering, screeching and even warbling utterances, emitted so very faintly that one had to listen intently to catch them out at all, even when coming from very near at hand. Sometimes most if not all the members of the flock would employ their voices, for half a minute or more at a time, in giving utterance to one or another of the sounds above described, thereby producing a confused medley apparently no less significant of social bird gossip than that to be heard so often from Redpolls, Goldfinches, Sandpipers and various other gregarious birds whenever they assemble numerously.

Only when obviously apprehensive or startled - as by the appearance of the Hawk - did the Grosbeaks utter any calls that could be heard far away. On such occasions they made use chiefly of the whistled peep.

Lexington, Mass.

1916.

January 6  
(10)

I did not ever hear them make any sound during flight.

This they performed in loose order, sometimes well abreast, but oftener one following the other ~~at~~ intervals so wide apart that the string-out flock was not less than thirty or forty feet in length. Otherwise they flew not unlike Pine Grosbeaks, with well marked but not exceptionally deep undulations, and I noticed that they were given to descending abruptly from the upper air in much <sup>meteoric</sup> fashion, on half closed wings.

As has been said the Evening Grosbeaks ~~observed~~ to-day impressed me as exceptionally inconspicuous birds, partly by reason of their subdued coloring and habitual silence, also because of their comparative inactivity. Even when most busily engaged in feeding they displayed ~~some~~ more animation than so many Cedar birds <sup>of</sup>, which, moreover, they constantly reminded me by their erect, graceful poses

Lexington, Mass.

1916.

January 6  
(11)

and gentle dignity of bearing. In respect to their almost unvarying creases of posture they seemed very unlike Pine Grosbeaks but had essentially the same methods of dealing with the winged seeds on which they were feeding. These were first plucked off and shown of their wings, then extracted from their sheaths and swallowed, the whole being accomplished most dextrously, within the space of no more than a few seconds. The discarded seed cases and wings strewn the board thickly everywhere beneath the <sup>elder</sup> box, and another <sup>the</sup> of the same kind, ~~previously~~, had been completely stripped. Just how the several berries were dealt with we could not certainly make out.

Although these Grosbeaks seemed wholly undisturbed by our presence, movements, voices etc. at all distances extending ten or fifteen paces, they would not tolerate much nearer approach. ~~than this~~. Invariably when I attempted it they first raised their crests and uttered cries of alarm, then flew off into neighbouring trees. Never they were less confident than our most Pine Grosbeaks.

Cambridge, Mass.

1916.

January 8

Clear and cold with fresh northerly wind.

Evening  
Grackles.

Lowell Thompson, an intelligent boy about twelve years of age and the son of one of our neighbors, called this noon to tell me that he had seen three female Evening Grackles yesterday in white pine growing in Manning Emory's grounds at corner of Beattle and Lowell Streets. He had a good view of them, within twenty feet, and seems to have noted all their characteristic markings accurately.

Seen at  
corner of  
Beattle &  
Lowell Sts

After looking over my slide of Hesperiphona we had returned to my study and were approaching its one eastern-facing window when I first heard a faint peep call and then saw three female Evening Grackles, followed closely by a handsome male, fly low and swiftly across the garden from the direction of our house towards Brewer's Street. As they passed within twenty feet of the windows, in bright sunlight, I had an unobscured if only momentary

Four in  
our Garden.



Cambridge, Mass

1916

January 8  
(No. 2)

views of them and hence feel reasonably sure of the correctness of the identification. Their white wing and tail markings showed conspicuously, as did also the rich scal brown coloring of the male bird, while several House Sparrows that accompanied, or rather trailed after, them furnished a good basis for size comparison. Young Thompson, being unfortunately behind me, had only the merest glimpse of them.

Mrs. Cook of Lexington telephoned this evening to say that the boys' elder tree was visited both yesterday and to-day by a flock of Grosbeaks evidently not the same individually as those frequenting it heretofore for on both these later occasions there were seven birds of which two were males and five females while the latter were all duller and grayer colored than any previously observed.

Evening  
Grosbeaks  
in our  
Garden.

At  
Lexington

Lexington, Mass.

1916.

Evening

January 24 Cloudless, almost windless and very mild for midwinter Grosbeaks.  
The temperature rising from 30° at sunrise to 42° at noon.

Visited (for third time) the hilltop haunts of the Evening Grosbeaks in Lexington. Arriving there about 10.30 a.m., I found seven birds (2 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀) feeding in flowering apple trees having fruit at least three the size of ours but otherwise similar. This they dealt with as Pine Grosbeaks & Purple Finches deal with the fruit of our trees, i.e. eating the seeds & discarding their pulpy covering. They soon flew off through down cedars beneath one of which Dr. Tyler & I afterwards searched them for at least 20 minutes hopping about on the bare ground and eating something that we could not certainly make out, but we thought it might be the bird seed cones that were scattered about rather profusely there. Tyler saw ten birds scatter over on his side, very like a Fox Sparrow, he said. They were quite mute for the most part but occasionally uttered faint, low-pitched, chattering notes not unlike those of Sayia Reverberans and also suggesting the "cheep-teet" call ascribed to the Evening Grosbeak by Chapman (Handbook Bird E. N. A. p. 280). We heard them utter no sounds other than these to-day. After remaining on the ground as long as they desired they flew back to the apple tree and spent upwards of half an hour in the cutting up of its fruit in their massive bills. Here, as on the ground, I viewed them to excellent advantage, at close range & in clear sunlight. The two males were certainly very handsome birds, apparently fully adult, with much yellow & comparatively little steel brown about the head. Nevertheless they, like all the rest I have seen, seemed somewhat disapproving - perhaps because so silent & inert.

Concord, Mass.

1916.

April 4  
to  
July 9

My <sup>Spring</sup> customary visit to Concord began this year on

April 4 and terminated on July 9. Lying altogether at the farm

I spent most of my time in its immediate neighborhood

seldom going beyond Birch Field and even less often to Ball's Hill

while no use whatever was made of boats or canoes kept at

the latter place. Being, as usual, almost constantly out of doors

I was able to keep a rather close watch on the seasonal movements

of the birds and to make some interesting field observations

relating to certain species. Brief entries made from day to

day in diary and note books furnish the basis for the fuller &

more detailed statements about to be written.

We motored to Concord on April 4 on deeply rutted roads  
 and in dreaching rain which half-obscured a water-soaked and  
 dreary-looking landscape. But when the sun rose clear next

morning it shone on snow-drops and purple Ladies' delights

blooming close about the old farm house and <sup>on</sup> fields every where

Concord, Mass.

1916

April 4  
to  
July 9

free from snow on which large and small brown Butterflies were seen on being later in the day. But our woodland were a more wintry aspect; for there, especially under pines - the ground was still covered to a depth of a foot or more in many places with snow that had fallen weeks, if not months <sup>before.</sup> Wood Frogs were already in full cry in the pond hole below the orchard while practically all the birds to be expected at such a date had re-occupied their accustomed haunts and were filling the air with that tender, plaintive, rather subdued music so characteristic of early spring in Massachusetts and so very delightful to listen to anywhere. No less grateful to my ears was the thrilling outcry of Red-shouldered Hawks, coming every now and then from birds soaring high over fields or woods.

After this the on-coming of spring progressed more steadily, if also slowly, than usual being neither checked nor accelerated abruptly by alternating, unseasonable extremes

Concord, Mass.

1916

April 4

5

July 9

of cold and heat, as so often happens in Massachusetts.

There were, however, snow storms that covered the ground to a depth of an inch or two on April 9 & 14, <sup>and 28</sup> and rather hard frosts as late as the 11<sup>th</sup>, while the average temperature throughout both April & May must have been considerably below normal. The retarding influence of these conditions was evidently not offset by the favoring effects of much brilliant sunshine and frequent copious rains, at least as regards vegetation which advanced only very tardily and continued a week or more backward up to at least the middle of June, although botanists & horticulturists are given to assuming that it invariably attains about the same stage of development by the 1<sup>st</sup> of that month, whatever may have been its condition at earlier dates that year.

Most of the flowering plants retained their blossoms <sup>considerably</sup> longer than usual. As late as May 16 all our cherry trees, many peach trees and a few plum trees were still in full bloom,

Concord, Mass.

1916

April 4

5

July 9

together with a few early apple trees - a most unusual thing to witness. During the next day the apple orchards generally became pink and white with crowded blossoms although these did not all open until somewhat later. We did not spray them until the 27<sup>th</sup> when most of the petals had fallen. Spraying of forest trees began with us on June 1 although scarce any of them were then in full leaf. It was so constantly interrupted or delayed by heavy rains that it was not finished until June 21. There were almost no Brown-tails to contend with this year and comparatively few Forest or Common Looper caterpillars, but those of the Gypsy moth swarmed by millions throughout most of our deciduous woods, stripping countless trees including some that had been carefully sprayed - for even the best mixture of lead could not retain much effectiveness when so often opposed to drenching rains immediately after being applied to the foliage.



Concord, Mass.

1916

April 4

July 9

Bird migration was less hampered or delayed than might have been expected, by the exceptional conditions which so retarded vegetation through April and May. It is true that there were no really heavy flights of north-bound migrants in April and only two such in May - on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, the latter being a typical "howler day".

This, however, is what commonly happens during Springs unaccompanied by extreme variations of temperature, when birds migrating northward may come and go from day to day without attracting much attention, because never numerously assembled at any one time or place. They seldom appear anywhere in excessive numbers except when their advance is abruptly checked by sudden cold or unduly hastened by correspondingly unseasonable heat. Then they may literally flood our New England woods & fields for a day or two before and after which few if any

1916  
April 4  
to  
July 9

of the same species will be seen. Nothing of that kind transpired this Spring, even the movements of May 2 & 20 being in no wise exceptional. Some species arrived later than usual - especially in April - but most appeared at about their customary date and a few - including the Bobolink - somewhat earlier than common. Migrants bound further north were at no time very numerous represented but almost constantly passing on their way, singly or in small flocks. They included nearly all the species ordinarily seen, besides the Orange-crowned Warbler and the Evening Grosbeak, neither of which has ever before been met with by me in Spring anywhere in Massachusetts. Tennessee Warblers were so exceptionally common as to be noted oftener than the Black-polls - which, however, were fewer than usual. The <sup>Tennessee</sup> appeared almost daily from May 20 to 27, in the trees close about our house, where as many as four or five might sometimes be heard singing at one time.

Concord, Mass.

1916.  
April 4  
July 9.

For the most part our local-breeding birds re-occupied their accustomed summer haunts in normal numbers and variety, but several species, including the Yellow Warbler, Redstart, Yellow-throated Vireo and Baltimore Oriole, failed, for the first time since I have owned October Farm, to nest within its boundaries although appearing there more or less often in May and June. We did not lack the usual pair of Phoebe in the barn cellar and of Crested Flycatcher in the old apple orchard where the latter birds reared a brood of young successfully, as they nearly always do, in the dilapidated section of hollow trunk first prepared for their occupancy ten or a dozen years ago.

Our deciduous woods, being now more or less completely denuded of their foliage by Gypsy Moth & Forest Tent Caterpillar in June & July, no longer harbor many summer birds of any kind,

Concord, Mass.

1916

April 4

to

July 9

Of those which formerly tenanted such woodland regularly and not uncommonly the Wood Thrush, the Golden-winged Warbler, and the Yellow-throated Vireo have wholly, and the Blue-breasted Grosbeak and Hooded Merganser almost, ceased to frequent but there are still Downy Woodpecker in plenty, a fair number of Red-eyed Vireos and a few Scarlet Tanagers.

Pine-frequenting birds, such as the Black-burnian, Blue-headed Green and Pine Warbler and the Solitary Tanager, have not been similarly banished but continue to be as numerous, represented as of yore, for the dense evergreen foliage of their favorite trees is too unpalatable to forest caterpillars of every kind to be much injured by any of their pests.

Inasmuch as the river meadows were almost continuously, and for the most part deeply, submerged throughout April, May and June they offered little congenial food and even less shelter to the birds which ordinarily inhabit them.

Concord, Mass.

1916

April 4  
5  
July 9

in summer. A few Swamp Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds and *Belted Kingfisher* remained and doubtless bred in grass, or brush-grown places lying just out of reach of the flood water, but most of these birds returned to brack meadows not far away where, perhaps, they had seldom, if ever, been known to thus settle before. So also did practically all the Rails and Marsh Wrens although Mr. S. O. Dexter heard a *Sora* singing at the edge of Concord River, near where the *Attitash* unites with it, on the evening of July 3. On May 30 he, with Dr. Lyba & Walter Faxon, visited an extensive brack meadow, lying just to the eastward of Lexington Park, in which Marsh Wrens of both species together with *Soras* were then breeding rather numerously and Virginia Rails at least sparingly.

Because, no doubt, of their banishment from river marshes the Red-wings visited our cultivated lands much oftener than in their wont which not infrequently we heard a *Belted Kingfisher* jumping at no great distance, perhaps, in some low-lying part of Horns or Lawrence's many fields.

Concord, Mass.

1916

April 4

to

July 9

The Concord Tree Swallows probably suffered rather severely from the snow storm of April 28 for after it they were decidedly less numerously represented than before and only three pairs nested about our premises, in boxes that ordinarily shelter at least twice as many.

Starlings are said to have bred very commonly in and about Concord village this season, especially in old apple orchards. That at Octobor Farm certainly failed to attract any of them but Mr. Howe reported two pairs seen entering holes in the large trees that shade his house and Mrs. Abbott saw one the finding, in one of her hollow apple trees, of a nest with eggs which were permitted to hatch although I counseled their destruction. From them, without much doubt, came the brood of loud-clawing young that appeared later, with one of the parent birds, in trees overspreading the roadside in front of our farm house.



Concord, Mass.

1916.

April 4  
to  
July 9

Wood Frogs, as has been noted, were croaking freely on  
 April 5<sup>th</sup> but I did not hear the voice of the first Hyla until  
 the 11<sup>th</sup> or that of a Garden Toad before the 29<sup>th</sup> - an exceptionally  
 late date for the last-named species to begin its musical trilling.  
 Last spring and this there were comparatively few Hylas  
 keeping in our neighborhood - none, indeed, enough to unite  
 their high-pitched voices in the evening choruses that used  
 to rise at evening from every swampy hollow, well nigh obliterating  
 all other sounds. Nor did I hear more than an occasional  
 Bull Frog this year, during my infrequent visits to the  
 river near Ball's Hill & elsewhere, which I cannot  
 remember hearing a single Leopard Frog or Pickerel Frog.  
 Green Frogs and Tree Toads were no less common and  
 vociferous than usual, in the neighborhood of our farm  
 lands, at the height of their spawning season. When  
 several pairs of the latter species frequented a small artificial pond  
 close to the old well directly in front of the house

Concord, Mass.

1916

April 4

July 9

X  
Gray  
Squirrels.

Gray Squirrels were less numerous than usual early in the season and towards its close they disappeared for the most part, having reared, I think, comparatively few young. Several that frequented the immediate neighborhood of our farm house devoted themselves rather constantly in May and early June to what looked suspiciously like a systematic quest for birds' nests, especially in orchard trees. That the Robins so regarded it could not be doubted for they were frequently seen chasing the Squirrels through the orchard, with excited clamor, which has not often happened in former years.

Moreover very many of their nests, together with those of other birds, were despoiled of eggs or young about this time.

Although I suspect that many if not most of these depredations must have been committed by Gray Squirrels the only positive proof of such guilt on their part

Concord, Mass.

1916.

April 4

July 9

is furnished by the testimony of my foreman, Maxwell C. Norbank, who actually saw a Squirrel take several eggs from the nest of a Robin built on a rafter under the piazza roof of our Bungalow at the farm. He failed to notice that the Squirrel ate any of their contents but this probably happened for his wife afterwards examined the shells when they had been dropped on the piazza floor and found them almost wholly free from either yolk or albumen.

There were only a very few Red Squirrels in our neighborhood Red  
Squirrels this Spring. I saw or heard one occasionally among the red pines near the Robin place and also in Pulpit Rock woods. They must have bred there or elsewhere with unusual success, however, for their young appeared numerously throughout our woodlands before the close of summer.

Chipmunks occurred in something like their old time abundance, especially in the immediate neighborhood of one house where

Gray  
Squirrels  
Blunders  
Robin's  
nest.

Concord, Mass.

1916  
April 4  
to  
July 9

X  
Chipping

(Chipping) they might be seen at almost any hour of every sunny day, scampering along stone walls or sitting in graceful poses on the well curbing. This interesting restoration of almost, if not quite, their normal numbers has been accomplished within the past two years and is doubtless due to the fact that they have well-nigh ceased to be preyed on by Cats, the most destructive of all their enemies. Few of our neighbors now keep more than one or two Cats and these have learned to avoid our place because certain to be hotly pursued by "Jim", the little Irish Terrier, whenever he finds them prowling there.

The Chipping used to dig up and eat very many tulip & crocus bulbs but they no longer trouble us in this or indeed any other way. Nor did their abundant & familiar presence seem to disturb the birds <sup>this spring</sup> this spring, ~~even when they had eggs or young in their nests sheltered by thickets through which the Chipping would scurry fearlessly running to & fro.~~

1916.

1. Wood Thrush. A ♂ with rather thin weak voice singing in the Run near foot of Lane 5-6 a. m. on May 8. I heard one at the same hour, in the same place, on May 9 of last year. In both instances the bird was not again noted & hence must have gone elsewhere to pass the summer. Mr. Dexter reports hearing the song of a Wood Thrush once his house in Concord being on May 19 of this year. We know of no other instance of local occurrence.
2. Wilson's Thrush. One calling in one Run on evening of May 13, another singing faintly in Berry Pasture on that of May 24. First full song heard in latter locality on that of 26<sup>th</sup>. During the month of June I heard the males constantly in both localities, often two answering each other in the posture, once (on the evening of June 17) three in full song, one far apart, in the Run above & below Pulpit Rock. There were apparently not more than two breeding pairs in Ball's Hill Swamp, one in Davis Swamp & one in Pine Point Swamp.
3. Scariness's Thrush. Noted only once - in one Run, on May 20 where a bird was heard calling at 11 a. m.
4. Hermit Thrush. These silent birds, presumably north-bound migrants, together among dense young pines near Pulpit Rock, on April 15. A male singing there on June 2, in Birch Field on June 6 & 7, in a knoll by the river just north of Davis Hill, on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere in Concord the species seems to have been more numerous & generally distributed during this breeding season than ever before within my experience. In the scrubby, oft-burned - one woodland

1916

(Hermit Thrush) lying between Fairyland and Walden Pond, Mr. Dexter heard no less than four different males in full song on April 24. He noted them repeatedly thru later in the season & others were reported to him as killed about Fairhaven Bay. On May 28 I heard two males along the Bigelow Road, one near Huletts Pond on north-west slope of Puckett's Hill, the other near the big "Bear" Oak.

The bird frequenting our woods in June was a fair singer - better by far than any heard there in former years.

Apparently he had no mate which perhaps accounts for his drifting so from place to place during the singing season.

5. Robin. Throughout much of the township of Concord and especially in and about the village, Robins seemed decidedly more abundant this year than last, after setting to breed, according to Mr. Dexter's observation. In and close about the farm their numbers were not apparently much increased although scattered pairs occurred here and there in remote parts of our dark woodlands where I have seldom or never noted them at such a season before. At least five or perhaps as many as seven or eight pairs nested within the limits of our cultivated grounds, mostly in apple trees, although one nest was begun and deserted when half-finished, in our wood shed and another completed and laid <sup>in</sup> under the eaves of the front piazza at the Burgalows where a brood of young were hatched and raised last year. They failed here with the present season for on June 9 a large Gray Squirrel destroyed all the eggs and then tore out the lining of the nest. This Brabant claims to have actually witnessed. He thinks that the eggs were merely thrown down on the floor of the piazza but his wife, who was



1916.

(Robin) not present at the time but examined them shortly afterwards, asserts that the shells were almost free from yeast or albumen and evidently had been swelled. A similar fate attended almost all the nests built in orchard trees early in the season and was almost certainly due to the same agency for whenever a Gray Squirrel (we had no Red ones this year) appeared there, as happened very frequently, he was sure to be mobbed and followed about by several excited, clamorous Robins. Together with other obviously apprehensive small birds. Thus was it is true another suspicious characteristic similarly attended whenever he moved abroad, viz. a gray Screech Owl who spent his days in our old barn. To what extent he may or may not have molested the Robins by night I cannot say but the first flight he took in the evening twilight invariably occasioned wide-spread alarm and inquietude among all our local-nesting birds. So, also, did those of his mate, a red Owl, of whose presence with young in a hollow oak close behind the barn I first learned on May 26 when about 9.30 a.m., with the sun shining bright in cloudless sky, she flew past me to the hole carrying in her bill a small, flesh-colored object that looked suspiciously like an unfeathered young Robin and may well have been one taken from a nest with the lining torn out that I noticed afterwards in an apple tree where the Owl seemed to have come when first sighted. What with the presumption molestation of Owls and Squirrels, together with that of Crows & Jays, who made frequent stealthy visits to the orchard & shade trees in early morning hours, our farm-nesting Robins had an exceptionally anxious & trying experience during the earlier part of the season and in my certain knowledge failed to get any young on wing until June 18. After that several broods appeared

1916.

(Robin) and old birds brooding eggs or young in the nest were no longer often disturbed in any way, all the Owls and nearly all the Squirrels having then disappeared. As far as I was able to judge by less close observation the woodland-frequenting Robins reared not young whatever, yet continued to the last in their Crow- and Jay-infested haunts where practically all their eggs were doubtless destroyed almost as soon as laid.

On April 30 an immature ♀ Robin, in exceptionally pale, faded plumage, began fluttering long and persistently at one or another of four windows at the rear of one farm house, on its ground floor. She continued this practice almost daily, sometimes for two or three hours at a time, up to May 19 after which it was not again observed. Sometimes she came in the early morning, sometimes in late afternoon, not infrequently at mid-day hours. Always her behavior was essentially the same. First alighting on the bare-sweeping branch of a near-by apple tree she would fly to the window and cling to its bottom sash or to one of the narrow wooden strips that held in place its small, old-fashioned panes and then would peck at the glass and beat against it with her wings for several minutes at a time, never hard enough to cause any visible physical injury beyond the loss of a few breast feathers yet so vigorously and ceaselessly as to become obviously exhausted towards the close of each period of attack, after which she would rest awhile, with wide-open bill & drooping wings, on a perch in the apple tree, before undertaking another of these futile sallies. It seemed possible at first that, having just abandoned a half-finished nest in our wood shed, she might be trying to enter one of the lower back rooms with some thought of building there; but whenever the windows at which she had

1916.

(Robin) been beating was opened she invariably removed to another and similarly lost interest in it if it was covered by a cloth outside or by closing the blinds. This led me to infer that she must be attracted by something in the small glass panes which, because of their complete isolation from sunlight, reflected very perfectly, at all hours of the day, the neighboring tree and shrubbery to which they gave outlet. Another possibility - to my mind less probable - is that she may have been attracted by her own image, reflected in the glass, perhaps mistaking it for that of another bird. Be this as it may she apparently roosted about these locks of her breeding season by her fatuous assaults on the window panes for it was not until they finally ceased that she laid her first clutch of eggs - in a nest long known in the very apple tree where she had been accustomed to fly against the glass. During this continuation she seemed to have only one other equal occupation - viz that of running about over the lawn with her mate in quest of angle worms for food.

A ♂ Robin frequenting the grove at the base of our old barn regularly interpolated in his song, at frequent intervals a note resembling so closely the second & higher-pitched one in the song of *Vireo flavifrons* that I could not doubt it had been borrowed or copied from that source.

The Robin singing about our fence seemed to me less fervent and general than usual, this year. Even at daybreak and in the evening twilight I rarely heard more than two or three males at any one time and sometimes they remained mostly silent at all hours, for days in succession.

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6. Cat bird: Never before has I known so many Cat birds to breed within sight and sound of our farm house. There appeared together in flocks of it on May 5 and by the end of the month we had two pairs nesting in the shrubbery behind it, a third in that near the old cemetery yard, a fourth in that just south of the cow pasture, a fifth at the Rabbit place and at least two more in the Berry Pasture across the public road. The birds last mentioned were probably harassed by fox & apparently raised no young but those near the house were but little disturbed and were feeding young within in or just out of the nests before the close of June. One nest was built in a snow-berry bush directly under & within a yard of the pantry window. The ♂ of this pair had a singularly unusual song consisting wholly of disconnected rasping and stuttering notes very trying to my ears although perhaps not similarly displeasing to those of his mate. Although this nest was begun on May 18 the young had not left it by June 27.

One of the three birds that arrived on May 5 was frequently employed during that day and the next in picking up nesting material and carrying it into the hole of their thicket where, however, she dropped at least most of it. While thus engaged she (for the bird was evidently a ♀) was closely followed by the other two, both of which looked like males. They kept fanning out their tails & quivering their half opened wings, at the same time uttering subdued, wheezy sounds but no musical notes. Although apparently rival suitors of the female bird they did not once display the least animosity towards each other.

No Cat bird in our neighborhood was heard to mimic the note of any other species of bird this year.

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7. Brown Thrasher. A male singing in our neighborhood from May 2 to June 7, usually near the front of the lane in Cedar Park, sometimes at the rear of the old barn, up to the close of May. I wish before that, what was presumably the self-same bird was heard at the Ketchie place and once he sang in Horv's pasture across the road from there, when I saw him last on June 15. Perhaps it was also the same individual that I heard in the Green Field on June 6 & 7. The only other noted by one or another was a male singing near Dr. Charnoy's house at Concord on the latter date. Mrs. Dexter heard but one other this season - somewhere in wooden woods.

8. Bluebird. Present in normal numbers throughout most of Concord Region. Only one pair bred in our neighborhood. Their first nest must have been somewhere beyond my ken. The second, begun on May 17, was in a box on a pole, about 15 ft. above the ground, well out in the field in front of our house. On May 28 I saw both birds flitting about or perched on it quietly at 8 A.M. but at 5 P.M. found the shells of four apparently fresh eggs lying close together on the ground directly beneath it while the smooth surface of the bark box pole was scored here and there all the way up to the box by claw marks so fine and near together that they must have been made by some mammal considerably smaller than a cat and perhaps by the same Brown Weasel seen often of late in neighboring Stone walls although it is possible that a Squirrel may have been the murderer. After losing this set of eggs the birds nested in a box on the fronting horizon when I saw two fine fledged young looking out at the entrance hole on June 28.



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9. Ruby-Crowned Kinglet. Noted first on April 17, last on May 16. Five records made between these dates and eight birds met with in all, most of them males in full song and no more than one during any one day.
10. Golden-Crested Kinglet. Single birds, often alone but occasionally accompanied by Chickadees and one by a Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, were noted on April 7, 10, 17, 19 & 23. None heard singing. One uttered a monosyllabic screech exactly like that of a Brown Creeper for whose call, indeed, I mistook it until the bird was plainly seen.
11. Chickadee. There were almost no Chickadees to be found anywhere in our woods when I reached the Farm early in April. After that I located only a single breeding pair, who frequented Birch Field. There was also a male who sang almost daily through April and May in our farm orchard or in Bethel Park, but I never once found him accompanied by a mate and doubt if he had one. He was last heard in full song for several minutes - on July 7. In addition to these records I can give but one other - that of a male heard singing near the old Bigelow Road on May 25.
12. White-breasted Nuthatch. Ever since the Barren Farm came into my possession in 1898 it has, <sup>hitherto</sup> never failed to be frequented by a pair of breeding Nuthatches, <sup>who nested</sup> ~~was~~ sometimes in one of the big elms close to the house, sometimes in the apple orchard, occasionally in neighboring woodlands. This Spring I noted the species there only twice, on April 20 when a ♂ visited the orchard & calls near the barn and on April 29 when a bird was seen in the same calls. I saw another in Concord Village on April 12.



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13. Red-bellied Nuthatch. Only one record - that of a bird heard in white pine woods near Pulpit Rock on June 29.
14. Brown Creeper. A male singing near Pulpit Rock on April 20. In the same neighborhood another bird noted on the 29<sup>th</sup> & again on the 30<sup>th</sup>. There were presumably north-bound migrants but a Creeper heard (screeping) at Holden's Hill on May 29 was almost certainly breeding there doubtless on one or another of the coniferous dead oaks (killed by bygon, caterpillars) which now compose the greater part of this one flourishing & attractive woods. I searched in vain for the nest, however, under the big scales of loose bark clinging to almost every tree along the southern slope of the hill.
15. House Wren. This year, as last, we were favored by the presence of three male House Wrens and by their incessant gushing music. The first appeared on May 7 in front of the old farm house & was joined <sup>joined</sup> there on the 10<sup>th</sup> by its mate. The pair nested in the same hole but by the holes that they occupied last year and were seen feeding young in it from June 17 to 27. On the 28<sup>th</sup> the young had left it and were scattered about in neighboring thickets. Their mother, unlike the ♀ of last year, had no song notes. She & her mate foraged fearlessly for spiders throughout every accessible nook & cranny of our house & especially behind its front base boards. Another ♂ sang on or about the same & stuck on the Bangalore from June 4 to 13, after which he disappeared, probably because unable to secure a mate. The third male was always in the hands from June 6 to the close of that month, whenever I visited the kitchen place where he presumably had a mate & nest although I did not actually note either. On June 6 I found a Chipping's nest in a cedar in our lane, with a single egg pierced by a small hole, yet unsucked. This looked like a Wren's work but

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(House Wren) if so probably represented an isolated case of such depredation for no other similarly damaged eggs were found and the Wrens *flittas hites* & their about the place without exciting any of the alarm & resentment which they so constantly aroused among Robins, Chippies & other familiar nesting birds whenever they went a year ago.

16. Black and White Creeper. First noted April 30. No subsequent evidence of any considerable north-bound migration. Usual number of breeding birds distributed in widely-scattered pairs throughout woodland of every character bordering on our farming lands. On the evening of June 17 I saw a ♂ in above the tree tops and sing on wing—a rare happening. His song flight was performed much like that of a Nashville Warbler and his flight song differed from that heard on ordinary occasions only by the addition of a few short, preliminary notes not essentially very unlike the rest.

17. Nashville Warbler. Arrived May 3. Most numerous represented May 7-20 when as many as five or six birds, probably north-bound migrants, mostly, might be seen daily, sometimes in blossoming apple trees & lower along wood edges & in swampy coves. On May 28 I flushed a ♀ from her nest containing 5 typically marked, fresh-looking eggs. It was composed almost, if not quite, entirely of fine dry grasses which lined a shallow hollow in the face of an almost vertical bank upwards of a foot in height & fronting on a now disused wood road—the old Bigelow Road—when it led through scanty growths of white pines & gray birches clothing dry, acid soil. As I was walking quietly along it the bird fluttered out along the ground, almost underfoot, and quickly disappeared amid the shrubbery when she afterwards left out of sight. Two ♂♂ of her species were singing not far off. At least two & think there might be heard in our Farm woods any day early in June and one sang freely & vigorously in Birch Field up to the very close of that month. There was doubtless a nest there and another in or near our Berry Pasture although I failed to locate either by June

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18. Orange-Crowned Warbler. My very first Spring record of the occurrence of this Warbler was made on May 13 when, about 6.30 a.m., I came upon a bird sunning itself in a leafless thicket overrun with wild grape vines near our hill-side front yard. Thence it flew, presently, to a low-sweeping branch of a large hickory and began feeding the terminal, brooded birds in much the same deliberate, abstract manner as that so often characteristic of the Tennessee Warbler. It was very tame & sluggish, permitting close approach. From distances no greater than ten yards I looked it closely through my glass, in clear sunlight, for upwards of fifteen minutes, identifying it beyond all possibility of doubt. It was an exceptionally dull colored bird, probably a ♀, with dusky olivaceous upper parts and grayish under parts tinged only very slightly with yellowish. The top of head appeared uniform with the back in general coloring but its sides showed ill defined & scarce rather all superficial stripes. The bird was quite alone and uttered no sound save an occasional faint chirping Tidip sometimes abbreviated to Tid.

19. Tennessee Warbler. Never before than I know this species occurs so numerously during Spring migration in any part of eastern Mass. On the morning of May 20 there were two ♂♂ singing at once in the tops near our big elm while a third was noted in Concord village by Taxon & Robbins; on the 21<sup>st</sup> I heard one in ash elm over our lane and another in white pine woods near Putnam Road; on the 22<sup>nd</sup> there was one in the lawn elms, on the 25<sup>th</sup> one in the neighboring orchard; on the 26<sup>th</sup> there were at least four in full song at the Farm, two in the elms to the house and two in the trees, while one or two heard elsewhere in our woodlands may or may not have been additional birds & on this same day Mr. Dexter heard two others in Concord village; on the 27<sup>th</sup> there were again two near our house and one (noted by Prof. Norton) in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. To what extent the self-same birds may or may not have been hearded by me more than once at the Farm I cannot say but probably the total number of individual birds thus noted was somewhat in excess of the actual total. However that may have been it apparently equaled that of passing Black-polls of which I noted only eleven in all & no more than two in any one day.

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20. Usnea Warbler. Arrived May 2, last seen on the 27<sup>th</sup>. During the interim between these dates the species occurred commonly but not numerously no more than two or three different birds being ever observed in any one day. They sometimes visited blossoming apple trees in the orchard or the big elms in our dooryard but were noted oftener in mixed woods especially those along the Run.
21. Yellow Warbler. Heretofore we have always had at least one pair of Yellow Warblers and sometimes two, nesting in cultivated shrubbery close about the house. This year a ♂ was noted then on May 5, 6, 7, 8, 22 and 23 while another, with different type of song, was heard on May 27, June 1, 2, 6 & 7, but both were apparently unmated and merely wandering bachelor birds although one or the other may have had a spouse & nest in Mr. Horst's grounds when I heard the song of a male on May 28 & June 18. Another heard at Flett's Bridge on June 28 completes my Concord Region record for the present year.
22. Black-throated Blue Warbler. Of normally sparing occurrence during May migration when I noted a ♂ on the 13<sup>th</sup>, two ♂♂ on the 14<sup>th</sup>, one on the 19<sup>th</sup>, one on the 20<sup>th</sup> and a ♀ on the 21<sup>st</sup>. One of these birds was met with among red cedars near the foot of our lane, all the others in the Run leading thence to Pulp's Rock. The males sang freely, at various times of day.
23. Yellow-rumped Warbler. First noted on April 30 when a single ♂ was seen. During May 2 there were not less than fifty birds, mostly males, scattered about in apple trees, oaks & hickories near our farm buildings. As they flitted hither & thither in small, loose flocks their low-pitched, trilling songs came pleasantly and almost ceaselessly from every direction. No more than a dozen remained over the next day and after that only a few stragglers were seen the last, a ♂ & 2 ♀♀, on May 21. A ♂ singing all day long near our house on the 6<sup>th</sup> had a peculiarly sweet, full & loud voice.

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24. Black & Yellow Warbler. North-bound migrants passing in normal numbers from May 12 to 27. Occurring singly for the most part and never more than three or four in any one locality, they frequented thickets of cedars, young white pines, gray birches & mixed growths along the River, also appearing occasionally in more open places. I saw only one this spring in one blossoming apple tree to which they have sometimes resorted freely in former years.

25. Chestnut-sided Warbler. First noted on May 6. No obvious flight of migrants bound further north. By the middle of the month one local breeding bird had re-occupied all their accustomed haunts. After that a ♂ was usually to be heard singing on the brushy slope below the barn, another near the feet of the larch, two or three others across the road in the Perry Pasture. One of the latter birds remained in early June to the Portulaca thicket in front of our house & I think nested there. Four males were heard singing along a hay mile of an old Bigelow Road on May 25 and two at Davis Hill on June 29. I noted none at Ball's Hill this year.

26. Bay-breasted Warbler. The spring flight of Bay-breasts was neither exceptionally heavy nor light this year. The first bird was met with in Fairyland by Taxon & Robbins, on May 20. On the 26<sup>th</sup> I heard one singing near our house at Sunrise and later in the day noted three ♂♂ & a ♀ near Pulpit Rock while another male was singing at noon near the head of the River, then was in the oaks behind our barn on the 27 and again on June 1 - the latest record for ten seasons.

27. Black-poll Warbler. Ever since (including) the year 1914 there have been comparatively few Black-polls passing north or south through Concord in Spring or autumn. This spring I noted, personally, only seven in all, a single ♂ on May 20, another on the 25<sup>th</sup>, a ♂ & ♀ on the 27<sup>th</sup>, a ♂ on June 1, two males on June 2. Mr. Dexter reports hearing in Concord village or in Fairyland, a ♂ on May 16, another on the 19<sup>th</sup> & two on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

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28. Blackburnian Warbler. A ♂ in elm close to our farm house on May 2 and another there on the 6<sup>th</sup>, were perhaps north-bound migrants. On May 7 and thereafter up to June 5 a ♂ was always to be heard whenever I visited Putpit Rock woods singing in the pines there. On and after June 7 they heard two ♂♂ whose regular singing stations were scarce one hundred yards apart. No doubt they had mated and nests in these old white pine woods where they have bred every season for many years past. I failed to locate any other birds of this kind this spring, either during migration time or later.

29. Black-throated Green Warbler. Arrived May 2. Apparently no more numerous represented at any time during the next two weeks than later in the season after all north-bound migrant Warblers had passed. On May 28 I heard 5 ♂♂ singing along half a mile of the Bigelow road. There were 3 (the usual number) in Putpit Rock woods & another in Cedar Park, through June. Near the river I noted fewer than usual - one at Halden's Hill and another at Ball's Hill on June 15, one at Pine Ridge (where there should have been four or five) on the 29<sup>th</sup>. One or another of the birds breeding in woodland near the farm occasionally visited the elms corresponding our dove yard - as has ever been their habit in May & June.

30. Pine Warbler. First noted on April 18. A male sang all day long in our blossoming apple orchard on the 20<sup>th</sup> and I saw another in an isolated apple tree at the Ritchie place on June 6. During the entire breeding season the species was represented locally by the usual number of birds, occupying their accustomed ancestral haunts. Near the farm we had a pair in the patch of tall pine grove on south side of them & another in Putpit Rock woods - where two males were heard on June 28. On the 29<sup>th</sup> I heard two at Davis Hill. There must have been one at Ball's Hill also & probably another on Pine Ridge but the species was not actually noted in either of these localities. The males sang ceaselessly through May & June but mostly early in the former & late in the latter month.



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31. Yellow Red-fell Warbler. Occurring from April 12 to May 3 in about normal numbers, i.e. but sparingly, four birds seen on April 30 being the greatest number noted in the course of any one day. They were met with singly, for the most part, usually along wood edges and brush-grown stone walls. On May 2 two appeared in one apple orchard, intermingling with herds of Yellow-rumps assembled there. The ♂ Red-fell warblers uttered their feeble, halting songs not infrequently on some occasions but as a rule were more nearly silent than are most migrating warblers of other kinds.
32. Oven bird. Arrived May 4. No obvious subsequent flight of migrants bound further north. Local birds as common and generally distributed as usual. Eight males heard singing along half mile of Bigelow Road on May 28.
33. Northern Water Thrush. I failed altogether to meet with this species but Mr. Dexter reports hearing a ♂ sing in Fairy land on May 8.
34. Mourning Warbler. The first song of an unseen Mourning Warbler came thence to my ears in quiet succession about 7.30 a.m. on June 5, from somewhere within the depths of the forest that thickets in front of our garden-house, as I was standing near it.
35. Maryland Yellow-throat. Arrived May 5. Rather more numerously represented than usual, in May & June, about our Farm where as many as four or five males might be heard daily. One frequented the forest bushes in front of the house & the shrubbery along the Cam, another that bordering on the cow pasture, a third the Run, two others the Berry Pasture. On June 29 I heard no less than six males singing along the edges of the flooded river meadows lying between Davis's & Holden's Hills. A ♀ was seen collecting building material in the Berry Pasture on May 24.

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36. Canadian Warbler. A ♂ singing in our Room May 21, two ♂♂ heard there on the 26<sup>th</sup> and two more along the Bigelow Road on the 28<sup>th</sup> were literally all the birds of this species noted by me the present season. Although there has always been a breeding pair in Deer Swamp and scarcely another in the swamp behind Ball's Hill but I failed to detect their presence in either locality during visits to both made in June.
37. Redstart. Arrived May 11. During the next two weeks I noted single birds almost daily at our Farm. There were seen there on the 26<sup>th</sup> and two, apparently a mated pair, on the 27<sup>th</sup>. After that there was only a presumably bachelor ♂ not always present and shifting from place to place whenever he reappeared. Almost certainly the species failed to nest anywhere in our immediate neighborhood this year although formerly accustomed to do so abundantly at Ball's Hill & at the Farm.
38. Red-eyed Vireo. First noted on May 13. No obvious migration of birds passing further north. During the latter half of May and the whole of June two ♂♂ sang daily in the tops near our house. There must have been at least three or four more in woodland lying between it & Bird Field with perhaps as many on and near Ball's Hill although my notes record six as the greatest number certainly heard in all these localities during a single day. Only one nest found.
39. Solitary Vireo. Arrived May 3. On the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> two males were singing in Pulpit Rock woods. After that no more than one was ever heard there. He shifted his ground from time to time & was never seen accompanied by a mate but remained in or near these woods through June & in full song up to July 7. I heard another ♂ at Blackman Ridge (near Ball's Hill) on May 25 and still another in woods bordering the Bigelow Road, on May 28.

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40. Yellow-throated Vireo. For the first time since I have owned the Barrett farm it failed, this year, to harbor a pair of nesting Yellow-th. vireos. A ♂ was heard singing there, near the house, however, on May 2, 23 & 24 and on June 2, 2 & 5. Elsewhere, one was noted in Bedford bridge on May 14 & June 21, in Concord village (by Dexter) on May 15. Throughout the entire Concord Region the species seems to have been diminishing steadily in numbers during recent years until now it has become, apparently, of less common occurrence than the Solitary Vireo. This widespread and very considerable decrease is perhaps due to the almost universal spraying with poison of shade trees near houses - in which Vireos of this species almost invariably nest.
41. Warbling Vireo. At our farm, a ♂ sang in trees overlooking the road near the big elm on May 12 and either the selfsame bird or another in the apple orchard on the 21<sup>st</sup>. I heard still another in Billerica, near Dudley Pitman's home, on June 4.
42. Cedar bird. A flock of 20 (counted) flying low over Green Field on April 15. Two in blossoming apple tree in one orchard on May 13. After that noted almost daily through May and June, usually singly or in pairs & very near our house, but seven birds were seen together, flying over the Berry Pasture, on May 24 and nine, eating black-bush berries by the roadside in Carlisle, on June 21. One of a pair that appeared close under the front windows of the house on June 18 was collecting fine blades of dry grass which she selected and plucked, with characteristic deliberation, from a neglected tuft on the border of a flower bed, and finally carried off in her bill towards the Bumpstone, no doubt to a nest in some apple tree or white pine thereabouts. Both she & her mate were in full plumage with conspicuous "sealing wax" adornment on their wings.

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43. Purple Martin. Seen or heard at the Farm on May 2, 4, 5, 22, 27 and June 21, at Ball's Hill on May 25. Mr. Dexter reports all the breeding colonies in or near Concord Village sadly depleted in numbers and some boxes, hitherto occupied annually, completely deserted this year.

44. Earl Swallows. Single birds seen occasionally at the Farm, the first on May 15. The breeding colony established last year under the eaves of Stedman Buttrick's master-coated garage near Fletcher's Bridge was reoccupied again this season. Acting on my advice Mr. Buttrick had all the old nests knocked down in April to prevent House Sparrows from taking possession of them. Twenty-two finished new nests & others begun were seen there by Messrs. Foxon & Tyler on May 25. Four days later Mr. Buttrick informed me that the Sparrows were fast driving the Swallows away and laying in their nests. I urged him to shoot the Sparrows which he did shortly afterwards, killing upwards of 40 in the course of a few days. On June 27 he reported that most of the Swallows had returned and were feeding well-fledged young in some 18 or 20 nests while only a single pair of Sparrows had escaped his gun, to remain about the place. I also learn from George S. Hayes that 6 or 7 Swallow nests were built & occupied under the eaves of his wooden barn this year - no doubt by birds banished from the Buttrick colony by the Sparrows. In the days of my youth there was always a large colony of Earl Swallows & another of Martins, at the Hayes place.

45. Barn Swallows. Arrived April 17. No obvious passage of birds bound further north. Those breeding along one road more numerous than for many years past. Almost every barn with convenient openings sheltered from one or two to six or eight pairs. They were flying in or out of the old Bigelow barn incessantly and skimming

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(Barn Swallow) low over every neighbouring field & meadows when I visited that locality on May 28. Duren reports a very considerable increase in the numbers frequenting his place. We had none breeding at our farm last year but <sup>this season</sup> a single pair reoccupied the old nest built there originally a dozen or more years ago and after that tenanted for many successive years. After adding to it somewhat the present spring the ♀ laid 5 eggs and incubated them awhile but both birds disappeared about June 10 and on the 12<sup>th</sup> I found wing & tail feathers of one of them strewn over the cement floor of the neighbouring open shed. As the nest was undisturbed I think the bird must have been caught outside the building, while skimming low above the ground, by some prowling cat.

46. Tree Swallow. Two appeared at our farm on April 6 and five on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Towards the end of May we had three pairs nesting in boxes one over the horse shed, another over the carriage shed, the third in an isolated apple tree across the road near the well house. There was a fourth nest in Benson's pasture but none at the Ritchie place. The birds at the farm were feeding young in two boxes from June 18 to 28. The third nest there (on one shed) had been for some reason deserted before this date. I saw the pair at the box in Benson's pasture on June 15 & believe they reared their young.

It is not improbable that the Concord Tree Swallows suffered rather severely from a heavy snow fall on April 28 for they were decidedly less numerous after than before it. Two birds that had begun a nest in one of our boxes rather early in the season were driven from it, when half completed, by a pair of Bluebirds the ♀ of which laid in it afterwards - only to have her eggs devoured subsequently by some predatory mammal - as already related in these notes (under the Bluebird heading).



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47. Bank Swallow. Occasionally seen or heard about the farm, for the first time on May 2. Noted at Ball's Hill on June 15. I failed to visit any of the sand pits where the species is accustomed to breed and had no report of them through other observers. Nor were the river meadows scouted closely enough to ascertain whether or not the birds occurred in the usual numbers there.
48. Scarlet Tanager. First noted on May 18, when a silent ♂ was seen. No obvious passage of birds bound further north. After the local-breeding ones had all come there were apparently only four pairs settled in our woodland, one near the foot of the Farm Lane, another in Birch Field, a third in Prescott Pines, a fourth on Holden's Hill. The ♂ of the farm-frequenting pair sang not infrequently in clods or other tall shade trees standing close about our house. His mate built her nest in a small, slender red cedar growing by the side of a cart path near the foot of the lane. Into it she certainly flew carrying building material in her bill on June 19 when, by merely looking through its flimsy walls (it was scarce above the level of my face), I could see, apparently, that it was quite empty and still unfinished. Similarly cursory inspection made two days later (21<sup>st</sup>) revealed only a single egg. Nevertheless I must somehow have been misled in respect to both observations for when I next visited the nest, on June 28, it contained three young and these at least two or three days old. Hence the full set of eggs was doubtless laid at least as early as the date of my first visit although how I could then have altogether overlooked them seems rather difficult to comprehend. Elsewhere than within the boundaries of our land I noted the Tanager this season only near the Bigelow Road on May 28 and in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery on July 6, hearing a ♂ in song on each occasion.



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49. Evening Grosbeak. Miss Mary & Miss Hattie Eaton dwell not far from the village center of Concord on a shaded hillside that slopes steeply down to Monument Street from the rear of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Close about their house stand several large white oaks, felled upwards of sixty years ago, and various other ornamental trees among which are two or three well-grown Norway Spruces. Shortly after settling at our farm I was called to the telephone one evening (that of the 8<sup>th</sup> April) by Miss Mary Eaton who informed me that six Evening Grosbeaks, a ♂ and 5 ♀♀, had appeared at 10.30 that forenoon, in trees near the house. When, at length, they flew off several others joined them but just how many there were in all she could not say. The next day four were seen by her at 8 a.m. and eight (1 ♂ & 7 ♀♀) by Mr. Dexter about noon. On the 10<sup>th</sup> the same flock of eight reappeared to be seen by both Miss Eaton & Mr. Dexter. Learning on that day of their presence Reginald Helen Howe Jr. telephoned her to request permission to shoot one of them for the Shoreland Museum Collection. Being refused he was not heard from again & is unknown to have visited the place to see the birds. They were unnoticed by any one on the 11<sup>th</sup> but at 9.15 on the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> Miss Mary telephoned me that they were back again. I motored there as soon as our Ford car could be got ready, reaching the Eaton house at 10.40. The Grosbeaks had flitted away only a few minutes before, Miss Eaton said, but we found them presently, further up the hillside and just outside a boundary wall of the Cemetery, the ♂ on grass ground in a sunny opening directly beneath a straggly apple tree in which the others were perched. On counting the members of the flock repeatedly & carefully I was not a little surprised to find that besides the ♂ there were no less than ten birds in ♀ plumage or clean altogether. Miss Eaton's surprise was even greater for no one had hitherto made certain

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(Evening Grosbeak) of more than eight and she felt positive that this number had never over before been exceeded except perhaps on the occasion of their first appearance & departure when, she thought, there might have been as many as ten together saw. The latter remained long in the apple tree sometimes scattered all over & throughout its branches, occasionally clustering here and there by threes or fours, always perching erect & statuesque when most, ever sluggish and listless of movement when hopping or flitting from twig, silent for the most part but every now and then uttering staccato calls which might easily have been mistaken for those of House Sparrows although although appreciably shriller or more piping and perhaps, as Miss Eaton thought, somewhat suggestion in quality of the springy notes of *Psaltriparus Hyemalis*. No other vocal notes were heard by us on this occasion. At length the birds took wing and with swift, moderately undulating flight swept over the open hill-top to a cluster of gray birches beyond where they sat as inactive as before for many minutes finally flying off in a northwesterly direction until lost to sight in far distance. Nor are they known to have ever returned after this. On examining the ground close to the house, on or over which they have been feeding mostly, I found it thickly strewn with white ash seeds, evidently scattered widely by strong winds for very many were not under any tree from which they could have come.

There were also less numerous but elder seeds, beneath two tall grove trees of that species, and these, Miss Eaton thinks, may have supplied most of the food of the Grosbeaks for she did not see them eating the white ash seeds although Purple Finches had been feasting on them for a week or more and were still doing so when I was there. It is noteworthy, if not also rather remarkable, that this flock of Evening Grosbeaks, like that viewed by me at Lockington on January 24, should have suddenly increased from a lesser number to just eleven members, on the occasion of my only visit to their haunts and after that should never have been seen there again!

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(Evening Grosbeak) Early in the morning of May 4 a solitary ♂ Evening Grosbeak paid our farm a fleeting visit. He was first seen, just as we were sitting down to breakfast, crossing the open field in front of the house, with low, undulating flight, to alight in the top of the big elm by the roadside where he uttered loudly & incessantly the usual House-Sparrow-like call sometimes closely followed by a rolling or chuckling whistled one. Soon after this he flew across the road to a bushy wild apple tree growing by a wall, near the well house, perching on one of its outer, low drooping branches no more than eight feet above the ground, where Gilbert and I approached him closely (certainly to within 20 yards) and viewed him to excellent advantage, for several minutes, in clear, well-diffused light, under an overcast sky. Thus seen he seemed to possess an unusual amount of yellow, especially on the back, and this of an exceptionally pale cast. There was also more conspicuous white in his plumage than birds of his kind & sex commonly show. His next flight, to and along the public roadway, terminated at the young white oak that shades our meal box, in which he sat for a few moments before rising high in air and crossing Lawrence's fields to extensive woodland beyond when I had my final view of him perched on the topmost spray of a tall Chestnut, not less than four hundred yards away & looking scarce bigger than a pin head, yet even from that distance his harsh call came faintly to my ears. Altogether we had him under observation for about ten minutes, during which he sat bolt upright and never once shifted his foothold, when perched, while he called ceaselessly, except when on wing, as if hoping to be answered by others of his kind - which never happened. The harsh, Sparrow-like note and the short, guttural, rolling whistled, already mentioned were the only utterances heard on this occasion.

On nearly if not precisely this same date a ♀ Evening Grosbeak appeared in Bedford village, as I after wards learned from Mr. & Mrs. Blinn. They report that it tried to enter a bird box close to their house, from which it was driven away by some House Sparrows. Of its sex they are quite certain, having viewed it long and at near range.

1916.

50. Purple Finch. Several Purple Finches in full song were frequently ash trees in Miss Eaton's grounds at Concord village when I visited her on April 12. She said they had then been there for two weeks or more, feeding on the ash seeds, sometimes in company with Evening Grosbeaks. On the 17<sup>th</sup> a ♂ appeared near our farm house to sing daily and most delightfully in its neighborhood through the entire season. Sometimes he was accompanied by a ♀. Just when the pair nested I failed to ascertain. Two young presumably reared by them were seen on wing in the apple orchard on June 24.

51. Red Crossbill. My only records are of five or six birds flying together through Pulpit Rock woods, calling loudly, on April 25 and of a single bird seen on wing, among the same white firs, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

52. Goldfinch. Seen singly, in pairs or occasionally as many as four or five together, at not infrequent intervals during the entire season. They continued to feed on gray birch seeds as late as May 18 and not long after that began eating dandelion seeds while the ripe fruit of our white mulberry tree attracted them to it daily early in July. Some of the males had acquired a mostly black & yellow plumage by May 3 but few perfected it until June. One was heard in nearly full song on April 17. All began singing more or less freely about the middle of June.

53. Pine Siskin. The flight call and wee-e-e-e song (3 notes) of a Pine Finch were heard in Birch Field on April 10. I failed to see the bird and noted no other during the spring.

54. Savanna Sparrow. Mr. Dexter heard two males singing in Mill Brook meadow, to the eastward of the Moore farm, sometime in June.

1916.

55. Vesper Sparrow. First noted on April 5. Afterwards present in normal numbers during the entire season, throughout all their accustomed haunts in our neighborhood. Singing freely at all hours up to close of May after which they were heard less often, usually at morning & evening only, until the first week of July when the second song phase began with renewed vigor and obviously improved sweetness and finish of their delightful chattering, in the fields that had "release from the sickle and the rake"

56. Grasshopper Sparrow: Listed herein solely on authority of Mr. Dexter who, moreover, noted only a single bird - a ♂ heard singing in June not far from the <sup>Baker</sup> ~~Baker~~ farm. From all that I can learn of its present & recent local status the species would seem to have well-nigh ceased to frequent any part of the Concord Region in summer although not uncommon there formerly.

57. Henslow's Sparrow. A male singing in June, in a grassy meadow on the half-fad ~~half-fad~~ <sup>Wheeler</sup> farm not far from the Fitchburg R.R. station, was reported to me by Mr. Dexter. So far as I am aware no other bird of its kind was noted within Concord limits this season.

58. White-crowned Sparrows. Two handsome plumaged birds together in our farm lane on May 13. One uttered every now and then a sweet, plaintive song beginning with two notes very like a Vesper Sparrow's opening ones & followed by here a downy note suggestive of those of the Fox Sparrow. My crow, whilst imitation of them was often promptly answered by their author. On the 14<sup>th</sup> a single bird, also in the lane, sang at intervals all day long. His song wild & plaintive reminding me of a Meadow Lark's. He also uttered the whist call and a faint, hissing chirp common to most Sparrows. It was, no doubt, the self-same male that continued to haunt the



1916.

(White crowned Sparrow) came on the Forsythia thicket in front of our house during the next two days. On the 15<sup>th</sup> he was heard in full song, every now and then, through the entire day but on the 16<sup>th</sup> kept silent save in early morning. He had a wild, sweet, plaintive voice and notes essentially unvaried in form & sequence yet differing sufficiently in quality or expression from time to time to remind me by turns of those of the vesper Sparrow, of the tree Sparrow, of the meadow lark and, occasionally, some of the Hermit Thrush. Such suggestiveness implies, of course, that the song was very pleasing and it so impressed me despite the fact that it was not sufficiently loud to be heard distinctly & to the best advantage at distances exceeding fifty or sixty yards.

59. White-throated Sparrow. First noted at our farm on April 27, last on May 21. On three and various intervening dates birds were seen or heard along the lane or in Birch field, never more than one daily save on May 13 when two were observed. Most were immature and sang but feebly or listlessly.

60. Tree Sparrow. Heard a male singing freely & delightfully in our Bury Pasture on April 12 but failed to note the species on any other occasion.

61. Chipping Sparrow. Arrived April 16. Bred in normal numbers throughout our farming lands & others in their neighborhood. Nest in vine on Bungalow porch held 3 eggs on May 21. The young left it on June 13. Another nest, begun in a cedar in front of our house on May 13, was not laid in. Still another, in a cedar growing in the lane, contained, on June - , a single egg pierced with a small hole, presumably by one of the pair of House Wrens nesting in a box hard by. A pair of Chippies seen in Birch field on May 14 probably nested there.



1916.

62. Field Sparrow. First noted in Concord village (by Dexter) on April 10, at our farm on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Between the latter date & the 30<sup>th</sup> I heard at least three different males singing in our orchard, or lane, or in the Forsythia bushes in front of the house, each of the three having a song unlike that of either of the others. Through May and June a male sang in Horv's pasture (near the northern end of Darling's Hill) and another in our Dewy Pasture while in the latter two males were answering each other on June 18. Thus there were certainly two & perhaps three birds of that sex spending the breeding season in our immediate neighborhood - something that has not happened there before for several years past. The bird frequently Horv's pasture sometimes shifted across the road to the open ground sprinkled with young firs, just to the eastward of the Fletcher place, and sang there for days in succession. Elsewhere I noted the species only once - in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery on May 4.

63. Junco. Resident through the past winter at our farm, in some numbers, according to Bourbark. Normally abundant at usual dates during north-bound migration in April, the heaviest flights occurring on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, when from thirty to fifty birds were noted daily. Last seen (a single ♀) at the farm on May 5. On the 20<sup>th</sup> a mated pair were observed in Fairy land, on the steep wooded hillside that slopes down to the eastern shore of the pond, by Faxon & Robbins. Dexter found them together three two days later. Although no nest was discovered it seems probable that they had one in that neighborhood. The pair that reared a brood of young in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery last year were not seen there this season although looked for carefully by Faxon, Robbins & others.

1916.

64. Song Sparrow. Two ♂♂ singing at the Farm when I reached there on April 4. Six were heard next day and five on the 6<sup>th</sup>, some of these being north-bound migrants, doubtless, for after that no more than three were noted within the same area, one singing daily in or near the Forsythia thicket in front of our house, another across the road in the Bee Pasture. The third, with his mate, haunted a belt of bushes at the foot of the slope next the Cow Pasture, where they were seen with young just out of nest on June 8. There was also a pair frequenting the Ritchie place and another Mr. Howes' flower garden. Thus the birds breeding in localities that I am accustomed to visit regularly remained about the same in numbers and occupied the same stations as in former recent years. I saw little of the Bee's Hill region this season but when there on June 29 heard no less than six Song Sparrows in full song along the edge of the River meadows which at that time were mostly under water - and had been continuously during the entire spring.

65. Swamp Sparrow. Because of the exceptionally long continued period of high water, just referred to, the accustomed breeding haunts of the Swamp Sparrow along Concord River Harbor, <sup>Comparatively</sup> few birds of this species this year. Indeed I noted only one ♂ singing in May (28<sup>th</sup>) near Ball's Hill but on June 22 two were heard there & a third at Davis Hill, all three among bushes bordering the still flooded meadows.

66. Fox Sparrow. Only a trifle more numerous represented during this spring than last - a season of exceptional scarcity. Noted by me only at the Farm where four birds were seen on April 6, two on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, three on the 11<sup>th</sup>, one on the 15<sup>th</sup>, one on the 16<sup>th</sup> - or not more than fifteen in all, as compared with some thirteen met with last year in the same locality, during the corresponding month. They appeared in something like old-time abundance during north-bound migration in 1914 but during the autumn of that year I met with only a single bird at Concord.

1916.

67. Fowhee. First noted on May 6 when a pair spent the day in a thicket at the rear of our barn. During the remainder of that month and almost to the close of June a ♂ sang regularly in Birch Field and another among oak scrub on a ridge South of the Farm while a third, sometimes accompanied by his mate, was seen or heard not infrequently in Cedar Park. All three birds presumably nested where they were constantly to be found. Elsewhere I met with the species only along the old Bigelow Road where two birds were heard calling on May 28.

68. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The Misses Eaton saw a ♂ Grosbeak near their house in Concord village on May 2. The species was first noted by me at our farm on the 8<sup>th</sup> when a ♂ was heard singing in the Berry Pasture. It was probably this self. Same bird that remained in our neighborhood during the entire season delighting me constantly with his rich, flowing song coming by turns from orchard or shade trees close about the house, from those along the lane, from woods on the hill in the Pine and in the Berry Pasture. On May 22 he was seen in the orchard accompanied by a mate. No doubt the pair bred somewhere in or near it but if so their nest escaped my notice. Two males sang there daily, not far apart, from May 24 to 28. I heard one in Birch Field on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May and another at Balls Hill on June 15. Thus, during the present breeding season, the species occurred as commonly in our neighborhood as it has within any very recent year although much less so than in the now rather remote past when it used to be found so numerously, in summer, especially on the wooded ridges stretching along the river from Holdens to Davis's Hill. Our Farm bird continued in full song up to the middle of June and later was heard singing rather freely on the 29<sup>th</sup> of that month which he sang twice loudly & well out 10 a. m. on July 8.

69. Indigo Bird. Arrived May 10. Later in the month & through June we had the usual number of birds, occupying their accustomed stations, i.e. one near our house, another at the Beehive place, a third just across the wall at H. W. corner of Birch Field.

1916

70. Bobolink. First noted on May 1, when a single ♂ passed over our orchard at 4 P.M., flying high in air, heading due south and indulging in frequent brief outbursts of rolling song, especially good to hear thus coming out of the sky, at so exceptionally early a date. After all the Bobolinks had arrived and settled for the season there were no more than last year and hence only a very few as compared with those we used to have breeding throughout the Concord Region not so very long ago. Many, indeed, of their former accustomed summer haunts have been completely deserted of late and even those most favored now are but sparsely populated: Within half a mile or so of the Farm I noted certainly this Spring no more than three different breeding pairs, one in Lawrence's fields another in Howard's meadow at the rear of Holden's Hill, the third in Bigelow Brook meadow, above the road. The male of the first-named pair was always to be heard plainly from our farm house and sometimes sang for half an hour at a time perched among the upper branches of the big elm by the roadside or somewhere in one grassy field beyond. He continued in full song up to the middle of June and did not altogether cease to sing listlessly & briefly until the close of that month.

Elsewhere than in the immediate neighborhood of our Farm Bobolinks were nowhere numerously represented this season if I may judge from what little was seen of them by me during occasional motor rides along roads leading through open, grassy country where they once bred abundantly.

71. Low-birds. Seen or heard occasionally in April, May & June, usually in our orchard or flying past the house. Four birds (2♂♂2♀♀) feeding in newly ploughed field on April 5, by together on wing on the 27<sup>th</sup>. By May 18 a Chippy had finished her nest in a little red cedar

1916.

(Cow-bird) growing within two yards of our dining room front windows. At 1 P.M. on that day a ♀ Cow-bird came flying low over the lawn straight for the cedar and disappeared in its dense foliage, just where the nest was, almost without checking her speed while still exposed to view. She remained there only a few seconds, however, for, acting thoughtlessly, or impulsively afterwards regretted, I rapped loudly on the window pane and frightened her away. Although the Chipmunk was seen to enter this nest next day she laid no egg in it and presently built another, not far off.

72. Red-winged Blackbird. The male Red-wings received command before I did, of course. They afterwards visited our farm lands or those of our near neighbors, not infrequently, although somewhat less numerous than usual, especially during the month of April, feeding in ploughed ground or stubble fields, and every now & then clustering to sing awhile in some leafless tree top. From the river meadows they were banished during the entire breeding season by exceptionally long-protracted floods due to almost incessant rain in May & June. A few pairs nested along Bigelow Brook and other small streams that flow through meadows above the level of those bordering on the river. In June I saw many birds of both sexes in meadows lying near the source of the Shaw-shen River, in Bedford, and to the eastward of Burlington Park, as we were motoring to or from Cambridge. On June 15 I spent the entire forenoon at or near Ball's Hill without seeing a single Red-wing but a ♂ was singing there and another at Davis Hill on the 29<sup>th</sup> of the month, when the water had fallen somewhat although it continued to overflowed the greater part of the river meadows.



Concord, Mass.

1916  
October 24

Early this forenoon (about 9.30) I heard what seemed to be the calls of an Evening Grosbeak coming apparently from somewhere near the foot of our laces. They were the notes which rather closely resemble those of the House Sparrow but much louder than those of any Sparrow and otherwise sufficiently unlike them in quality to attract my attention at once & to also recall the voice of the Grosbeak heard here last May. After they had been repeated at least a dozen or more in quick succession I hastened down the lane but they ceased before I reached the cedar grove and then came even fainter & fainter from afar, indicating plainly enough that the unseen bird had taken flight southward. It may be well to add that no House Sparrow has been seen or heard anywhere about the place thus far this autumn. That the bird heard this morning was an Evening Grosbeak I feel almost as certain as if it had been clearly viewed & recognized thus by sight instead of ear.

Evening  
Grosbeak (?)

" 27

Shortly after breakfast (about 8 a. m.) I heard an Evening Grosbeak calling very near our house (in front of which I was standing) and apparently somewhere in the trees or shrubbery at the head of the lane. This time there could be no doubt whatever as to the identity of the bird for although unseen its voice, reached my ears with perfect distinctness and, as with the Grosbeak that appeared here last May <sup>in May</sup> began with a series of harsh, House-Sparrow-like chirps which presently changed through <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>voice</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>bird</sup> <sup>itself</sup> <sup>into</sup> <sup>softer</sup> <sup>notes</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>mellow</sup> <sup>whistling</sup> <sup>calls</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>unlike</sup> <sup>those</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>Pine</sup> <sup>Grosbeak</sup>. All these utterances were given in quick succession and sounded very loud in the calm morning air. After coming from apparently nearly the same spot for half a minute or more they ceased abruptly, from which I inferred that their author was perched at first and then flew off in silence. It was provoking enough to thus fail to catch sight of him.



1916.

73. Meadow Lark. Present in normal numbers throughout most, if not all, its accustomed summer haunts. A ♂ sang freely through April & May, only occasionally at noon & eve, during the first half of June (silent after the 15<sup>th</sup>), within ear range of our house, usually in Lawrence's fields, sometimes closer at hand, perhaps in the big elm or in one of the isolated apple trees across the road. There was another frequenting Howie's pasture & the Ritchie place.

74. Starling. Within the boundaries of our Farm I saw only one Starling in April (on the 6<sup>th</sup>), and never more than two birds daily before May 28 when a family party of six, four of which were young just on wing & clamoring loudly for food supplied incessantly by their parents, appeared in trees by the roadside. These young were perhaps reared in a hollow apple tree in the Abbott Lawrence orchard, where Mrs. Lawrence reports finding a nest containing several blue eggs about the first of the month. Another pair nested in a large shade tree close to the old Holden house according to its present occupant, Mr. Howe. I saw no Starlings in large flocks before July 7 when upwards of 40 that had apparently been feeding in our Cow pasture came flying from it low over the orchard. The species is said to have bred very commonly in and about Concord village this season.

75. Baltimore Oriole. Arrived in Concord village, May 3 (Dexter), at our Farm on the 6<sup>th</sup>. For the first time since I have been familiar with them the elms about our dooryard sheltered no Orioles' nest this year although visited daily by one or both of a pair of birds who hatched & reared their brood in an elm near Lawrence house. Elsewhere throughout settled parts of Concord & especially along its village streets the brood in what seemed normal numbers.

1916.

76. Rusty Blackbird. Noted only three this Spring in the neighborhood of our farm where four birds were seen flying, together, S.W. on April 12, and five in an elm on the 18<sup>th</sup> while one was heard on May 7. No did they occur much more commonly about Concord village, according to Mr. Dexter who, however, met with a flock of fifteen near Flint's Bridge on April 17.

77. Bronzed Grackle. Two birds flying over our orchard on April 17, three on May 2 & one on the 21<sup>st</sup> represent all noted in that locality the present season. They probably came from the river marshes near Carlisle Bridge where I saw several of them, flitting to and fro, whenever we went that way in May & June, while motoring to & from Cambridge. Further down the river, near Mrs. Pitman's house, at least two or three pairs were noted among white juncos on June 4. The breeding colonies in & about Concord village were frequented by the usual number of Grackles, apparently.

78. Common Crow. No flights of north-bound migrants noted. Doubtless they had passed before I reached Concord. Our local-breeding birds seemed somewhat less numerous than usual. I seldom saw or heard more than half a dozen in the course of a single day. On June 15, however, upwards of twenty collected on the crest of a wooded ridge near the river, mobbing something with prolonged din of protesting voices among which could be distinguished that of the bird who habitually, if not invariably, says caaw, caaw, accenting the second syllable very strongly. He was heard not infrequently during the entire Spring, often near our farm house. Late in May crows made stealthy visits to our orchard not long after day break, presumably in quest of unfledged young Robins, many of which disappeared from the nests at that time. They also watched one newly-hatched with obvious evil intent but could not get at them because of overhead wire netting. On the evening of June 29 I disturbed a dozen or more crows which had evidently collected to roost in the tops of large dense-foliaged forest trees on Holbrook Hill.

1916.

79. Blue Jay. Noted only five times in all during April - on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. Nor were they more numerous represented before the middle of May after that I saw them almost daily, often as many as 5 or 6 together, ranging through our orchard or bordering woodland in obvious quest of birds' eggs, sometimes maintaining a discreet silence when thus engaged, at others screaming in exultation. They also paid frequent visit in May to a field where corn has had been soon picking up & divorcing all that had been left unharvested by the harvest. In June they fed mostly in the tops of tall oaks & other forest trees, presumably on larvae of the Gypsy & Forest Tent Moths, seeking these sometimes in close proximity to the house. To what extent, if any, they preyed on the eggs or young of our orchard-nesting birds I failed to ascertain but certain it is that few such birds succeeded in rearing broods this year. No nest of the Blue Jay happened to come under my observation during the entire season.

80. King bird. Arrived May 6. Afterwards present in rather more than the usual number in the neighborhood of the farm. Nesting pairs settled in Lawrence's orchard, Horv's pasture & elsewhere but none within our boundaries although they paid not infrequent visits to orchard & shade trees close about our house.

81. Crested Flycatcher. As usual this species was represented in our neighborhood by only a single pair, of which one bird arrived on May 6 and after that proclaimed his daily presence in the orchard by incessant loud, hoarse calling, whereas the other was not certainly noted until June 5, when the two were seen together flying into and from the hollow section of an apple tree, suspended in the orchard near the back shed, where they have nested regularly for ten or a dozen years. I saw

1916

(Crested Flycatcher! one of the Old birds visit it repeatedly with food for the young, on July 6, but gave it no closer attention during the present season, being unwilling to thereby risk disturbing the Flycatcher, whose long continued occupancy of it has been a source of so much pleasure & interest to me.

82. Phoebe. Dexter reported a ♂ singing in or near Concord village on March 28. I heard & saw the first on April 5<sup>th</sup> at our home, when his mate did not appear until the 12<sup>th</sup>. He sang more or less freely on both the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> but after that was heard only twice during the remainder of the month - on the 17<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. During May, also, he remained silent for the most part, being heard only on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, while my notes record but a single instance of singing in June - on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Yet the pair nested as usual in our barn cellar and constantly frequented the dooryard close to the house. Their nest contained 3 eggs on May 2 and on the 20<sup>th</sup> 5 young which had not left in by the 28<sup>th</sup>, although they apparently about to do so. Soon after this they disappeared, to be seen no more - as almost invariably happens when young Phobos first take wing - but both parents continued to be seen daily above the mouth of the cellar through the entire month of June and on the 28<sup>th</sup> I found that the ♀ had laid a second clutch of egg in the same nest but just how many there were I failed to ascertain. The nest was, as usual, in an open-fronted box suspended from the ceiling of the cellar where rats & squirrels cannot get at it. Hence the birds are never troubled by them or other four-footed marauders but a gray Scaled Owl, who from May 15<sup>th</sup> to about June 12 spent most of his days in the barn above the cellar, gave them no little concern when he showed himself at evening in an opening under the eave or gliding from it on wing, although he is not known to have molested them or their young. Another pair of Phobos bred, apparently successfully, in the cellar at the Talcott place but for the first time in many years I failed to note the species at Bass' den.

1916.

83. Wood Pewee. Within the boundaries of our lands at Covered the Wood Pewee nested regularly, not so very long ago, in half-a-down or more settled woodland places, as well as in the big clump that stands on downland, but has since deserted us after another of those ancestral haunts, probably because so many of the larger oaks & other forest trees have been destroyed by Gypsy & Brown-toothed moths. Last year only a single bird was noted but he favored us delightfully by singing daily, from May 24 to the close of June, close about the house. Either he or another with similarly pleasing voice, reappeared there this season on May 25<sup>th</sup> after which I heard him <sup>up to July 7,</sup> very frequently, sometimes near the house, often in the fern just behind Cedar Park or in the pine woods north of Pulpin Place, occasionally in or about Birch Field. Being thus apparently given to wandering somewhat widely he was presumably without mate or nest but there may, after all, have been more than a single bird and, indeed, certainly some two on June 19 for I then heard one just behind our house immediately after leaving the other singing hundreds of yards away, in the fern. Elsewhere the species was noted by me only twice this year - in woodland bordering the Old Bigelow Road, on May 28 and near Dudley Pittman's place in Bellevue, on June 4.

84. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Heard one on May 21, an early date of arrival - in dense, swampy covert near the head of our Run, where a small flock of migrating Woodpeckers had also congregated. The Flycatcher uttered its listless fee-e call repeatedly & less often its che-let song notes, thereby establishing its identity, as well as presence, for I fastidiously set eyes on it.
85. Alder Flycatcher. An unseen bird calling fee incessantly for several minutes, about 3 P.M., on May 26, in dense thicket bordering brook that flows through our Berry Pasture.



1916.

86. Scarlet Flycatcher. One noted by Dexter in Concord village on May 1. Another calling ~~robustly~~ in orchard behind our house on the 3<sup>d</sup> but he was not heard to utter the che-bee until the 8<sup>th</sup> after which it was given freely, at all hours of the day but especially at noon & ev, up to about the middle of June and occasionally still later in the season - for the last time, to my knowledge, on July 8. Only one pair nested in this orchard or elsewhere within our boundaries. I saw or heard a few other birds in apple orchards along Mount Street but they were, on the whole, decidedly less numerous than usual anywhere in our neighborhood.
87. Hummingbird. First noted at October Farm on May 16. After that a single bird, usually a male, appeared five times in May & three in June about flowers blowing close about the house. Directly in front of it, on June 8, I saw a ♂ swoop down many times in deep, jeradulum-like curves, over a ♀ perched on a latinate spray of the big Forsythia bush. On no other occasion were paired birds seen together. Hence I doubt if any nested in the immediate neighborhood although they have long been accustomed to do so.
88. Chimney Swift. Seen at Concord village by Dexter on May 2 & 3 but not at our farm until the 4<sup>th</sup>, after which they were constantly present during the remainder of the season. Both in May & early in June as many as 5 or 6 sometimes appeared towards evening, cawing together over the house & orchard with happy wattering, but often times would be no more than 3 or 4 then present. We first heard them raveling & calling after dark in chimney flues on May 25. At least two flues connecting respectively with the parlor & the dining room fireplaces - were occupied by a nesting pair each. I doubt if either reared any young. Two of the old birds descended to the fireplaces & died there during our absence from the house in shells of apparently unincubated eggs were found on the parlor hearth.



1916.

89. Whip-poor-will. A bird heard singing at evening on May 9, another on the 12<sup>th</sup>, three together on the 26; one on June 4 one on the 4<sup>th</sup> and two on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The voices of all these came to my ears while I was in or near our farm house, from varying distances and directions invariably to west or northwest, however, and oftentimes, it would seem, from low growth, scrubby woodland beyond Lawrence's fields & bordering on the old Bogalusa Road. Only occasionally was one heard near at hand in our Berry Pasture and never once did the pleasingly husky notes sound anywhere to the south or east, hence the entire wooded country lying between the Grass and the road that leads to Benson's was apparently shrouded at all times by Whip-poor-wills this season although formerly much frequented by them, at least during hours of darkness. Whether or not there were any near North Hill I cannot say. Why those which must have passed the entire summer within earshot from our house & to the westward or northwardward of it were heard so seldom is difficult to comprehend. Certainly they are and all remained severely silent throughout morning or calm, warm evening in May and June and even when the sun was bright midnight was much less vociferous than is their wont at such times & seasons.

90. Nighthawk. No bird of this species, basking by day in full sunlight on a branch of any of the big elms that shade our dooryard, proclaimed his presence there by occasional harsh outcry as has happened so often at this season in former years, but one on wing was heard passing at 5 P.M. on May 25 and another noted flying northward shortly before sunset on the 26<sup>th</sup>. A third, seen about 7 P.M. on June 6, soared in wide circles to a great height over Berry Field and then swooped down, directly over where I was standing, as if attempting to brood but making no sound that reached my ears although keeping distinctly enough during upward flight. This was repeated several times.

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91. Hairy Woodpecker. Somewhat less numerous represented than in recent past years despite the ever-increasing amount of standing dead timber in our woodlands although whenever this abundance one had not to go far to see or hear one or two birds. They sometimes visited our orchard trees and very often came to the old locusts standing close about the house. At least two or three pairs must have been nesting the summer the summer in one neighborhood yet I failed to ascertain where any of them nested.

92. Downy Woodpecker. When, some twenty-five years, I began purchasing the woodland that is now owned in Concord it was frequented at every season by at least a dozen Downy Woodpeckers to one Hairy. Since then the smaller bird has diminished and the larger increased in numbers until by now the former is comparatively rare if not absent total extinction, locally. This season I failed to note a single juvencus anywhere until the very last day of August when one was seen in a bush by the roadside near our house.

93. Flicker. First noted on April 7. Shortly after this settled for the season in normal numbers, two pairs nesting at the Farm (in hollow trunk sections hung up in apple trees) and a third at Rich's place. All three presumably reared young of which many not long on wing frequented Orchard & shade trees near our house towards the last of June, calling to one another freely and using for this purpose much the same, if not the same, notes as those which make up the "chattering" of adult birds. The latter continued to utter it daily up to about June 7 but after that were not often heard.

Whether or no there were Flickers breeding at Ball's Hill this year I failed to ascertain.

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94. Kingfisher. Being seldom anywhere near the river this Spring I saw comparatively few Kingfishers. Two appeared at the Farm on April 11 flying low over the lawn when one of them alighted in the top of an elm before following the other to the little pond in the Berry Pasture where a single bird was afterwards stalked from a leafy nook on May 3. Another was heard at the Farm on April 16 and still another seen than one being, on June 28. Norton informs me that a pair bred in a sandbank east of Sleepy Hollow, near Bedford Street, and the long occupied hole in How's sand bank near Herden's this year, I think, again tenanted for a bird was flying about it on April 16.

95. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. First noted at Linton Farm on May 27 - a late date of arrival. Afterwards heard there almost daily through the latter months of June, usually in the Berry Pasture, sometimes in the apple orchard, occasionally in Beech Field. It is doubtful if more than a single pair bred anywhere in that immediate neighborhood. Elsewhere I noted the species only at Balls Hill - June 29.

96. Black-billed Cuckoo. Arrived at the Farm on May 27 - again an exceptionally late date for such appearance. Present throughout the breeding season in various numbers which exceeded those of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo in at least the proportion of two to one. Like that species the Black-bill seemed to prefer the brush-grown Berry Pasture to all other haunts in our neighborhood. One heard there on the night of June 1 could ceaselessly, at short intervals, from 10 to 12 P.M. although there was then no light other than that shed by myriad stars shining in a cloudless sky. All the while the birds voice came so loudly and insistently through the calm air and my open window as to effectively prevent me from going to sleep - yet it was very pleasing to listen to.

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97. Screed Owl. At either end of our old barn, just under the projecting peak of its gable roof, is a heart-shaped opening about 12 inches high by 8 wide, cut by my order years ago in the hope that Swallows might make use of it - which thus far they have failed to do. Passing this way about 9 am on May 15 I happened to glance at the aperture opening eastward and at once perceived that it was occupied by a gray Screed Owl, sitting bolt upright, with <sup>his</sup> <sup>eyes</sup> <sup>open</sup>, gazing dreamily through half-closed eyes, out into brilliant sunshine. Thus engaged he was to be seen almost daily, at any hour, from the date just mentioned to June 12, in one or the other opening but sometimes he retreated to a rafters within the barn and occasionally could not be found anywhere in the building or its neighborhood. His choice of a diurnal perch did not seem to be much governed by weather conditions for he showed himself in the opening quite as freely, and for hours at a time, when the sun was shining brightly as when the sky was clouded - although most given to doing so, perhaps, in the early morning and late afternoon. With the oncoming of evening twilight one might see him glide forth on silent wing to spread terror & dismay among our nesting Towhees who followed him hither & thither through orchard and woodland protesting his unwelcome presence with clamorous outcry. Nor did it fail to give dissimilar concern to the Phoebe who for unnumbered years has nested in the cellar beneath the old barn. To the best of my knowledge & belief he never once molested any of these birds or their young but that cannot be said with equal confidence regarding his mate & red Owl with a brood of young occupying a hollow oak trunk standing to the rear of, & scarce thirty yards from, the barn. Of her & their presence so near at hand I had no knowledge or even suspicion until May 26 when she flew low & close past me to the oak carrying in her bill a hairless, featherless

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(Screech Owl) flesh-colored object which looked very like an unfledged young Robin and not improbably was one. For upon following back her line of flight I thought she must have come directly from an isolated apple tree and this was found to shelter a Robin's nest with the lining freshly torn out. Between this tree and the oak lies a perfectly open space fifty yards or more in width which the Owl was seen to cross. Yet it was then 9.30 a.m., with the sun shining brightly from a cloudless sky. That at such an hour and place she should have sought and captured prey of any kind seems rather surprising. On reaching the hollow oak she ceased checked her swift-gliding flight hurriedly before entering a round hole originally drilled by a Flicker and not since enlarged, being roused about by sound made. It afforded so poor a view of the dimly-lighted chamber within that the young Owls, unquestionably there at the time, could not be sighted. Nor did we afterwards set eyes on more than one and he, poor bird, was found lying dead beneath a neighboring shed, albeit without sign of external injury and having flight quills fully developed although his red body feathers were still plentifully intermingled with whitish natal down. This happened about June 15. As the dead bird was in fresh condition he and the others presumably left the nest about that date. Save on the single occasion above mentioned the mother bird remained unseen and probably within the oak, by day, but often appeared when twilight was deepening at evening, gliding on mistletoe wing through the apple orchard with repeated Robin's clattering in her walk. Strange to say no vocal sound of any kind, however trifling, was ever once heard from any of these Owls during April, May or June, despite the fact that the parent birds certainly hatched and reared their brood within sixty yards of the house in which I was not only living all the while, but also strutting about constantly long after nightfall. That they should breed and all have preserved such apparently unbroken silence during so long







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98. Pigeon Hawk. A ♀ seen on May 7 flew back & forth low over the field in front of our farm house, in company with a ♂ Sharp-shinned Hawk, frequently swooping at him, apparently sportively, and accompanying each swift lunge by a shrill cree, cree, cree outcry not unlike that of the Duck Hawk but less hurried and prolonged, only three or four notes being uttered at any one time and these in rather slow succession.
99. Sparrow Hawk. Noted only twice - on April 30 when one appeared at the Farm flying over, high in air, towards the south-east, and on the 18<sup>th</sup> of the same month when a ♂ was seen on way near Great Pasture Station.
100. Fish Hawk. At 3 P.M. on April 20 I saw a Fish Hawk flying north-east, over our orchard, so very high in air (not less than a mile, I thought) that he looked no bigger than a Swallow, yet was easily recognizable, moreover, by his white underparts & characteristic set of wings etc. Norton reported another seen by him near Concord bridge on May 20.
101. Marsh Hawk. Although this species has obviously been diminishing in numbers for several years past throughout the Concord Region it has not ceased as yet to appear occasionally, even in late spring & early summer, at October Farm. During the present season I noted three a ♂ on April 17, May 23, June 5 and 8<sup>th</sup> and a ♀ on May 13. The bird seen on June 8 was flying through the apple orchard, just below the tops of the trees, when I made a few squeaking, rattle-like sounds. Upon hearing these the Hawk turned back and beating strongly for me came within 20 yards before discovering that he had been tricked. Yet I was standing in an open space, fully exposed to his view.

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102. Godhawk. When, early in April, I went to Oxbow Farm Burbank informed me that a Coop Hawk had frequented it during the latter part of the preceding winter and twice to his knowledge had approached the poultry yard closely, thereby occasioning much alarm among our fowls. Shortly after this I found in brushy ground places, within or bordering extensive woodlands, feathered remains of no less than four Ruffed Grouse all of which had been killed, plucked and devoured - to the very last fleshy morsel, evidently by some Coop bird of prey who had voided its chollie waste excrement freely over more than one of the spots where he had feasted so sumptuously. That it was a Godhawk can scarcely be doubted for on April 16 I had a glimpse of what looked very like one flying over Birch Field and on the 19<sup>th</sup> fully identified a very large female, also on wing and following precisely the same line of flight as the first. As she passed me within 60 yards, in full sunlight and a little below the tops of the latter trees, I could see that she was not fully mature, the "blue" of her upper parts being somewhat tinged with brownish and her under parts having coarse, dark longitudinal streaks. She looked almost as big as an Osprey but resembled Coop's Hawk in respect to form & proportions, and had much the same swift, gliding flight, performed, ~~about~~ <sup>for</sup> the most part, with only occasional wing beats. It seemed suggestive alike of irresistible momentum and of stealthy, insidious intention. How fear-inspiring to all lesser defenceless woodland creatures must be the appearance of a Godhawk in their haunts. Once fairly sighted and pursued by him even the wary and fleet-winged Partridge can have but little if any chance of escape although resourceful enough to commonly elude almost all other predacious birds & beasts.

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103. Cooper's Hawk. The woodland half encircling Octavia Farm & stretching uninterruptedly thence to Davis's & Ball's Hills has heretofore never failed to be frequented in Spring & Summer by Cooper's Hawks while one or two pairs of these birds have often been found nesting within its confines. This year, however, I noted the species only once - on May 11 when a ♂ flying northward passed low over our orchard.
104. Sharp-shinned Hawk. - For this species, also, I can give but a single record - that of a ♂ seen on May 7 flying to and fro low over the field in front of our house, occasionally soaring above it to a height of 100 feet or more, sporting all the while with a ♀ Pigeon Hawk as already described in the note relating to that species. It was interesting to directly compare the flight of the two birds. That of the Sharp-shin was slower and more buoyant or floating than that of the ♀ alone, giving one the impression of decidedly inferior momentum. The Alcipiter uttered no sound that reached my ears. The two finally drifted off out of sight to the eastward still keeping close company.
105. Red-shouldered Hawk. Almost if not quite as commonly represented as in previous years, soaring and screaming high above our farm & woodland whenever the weather was fine, from early in April to the close of June, although appearing thus less often after than before the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Certainly one and perhaps two or three pairs bred in that neighborhood but the nest in the big chestnut at Holden's Hill was apparently unoccupied for when I visited it on May 25 it was domed over with dry leaves as if by Gray Squirrels. Beneath it I picked up the tanned feathered joint of a young Butcher boy so weathered that it must have lain there since last year.

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106. Broad-winged Hawk. A ♂ perched in a dead tree top in our Run on April 25 permitted rather close approach and was very clearly seen. He looked uncommonly small and indeed seemed bigger than a female Sharp-shin. A similar-looking bird, probably the Self-Sown one, was seen three on the 29<sup>th</sup> of the month, flying low through our orchard.
107. Bald Eagle. An immature bird in plain brown plumage seen on May 20, by Mr. & Mrs. Robbins, soaring high over the wooded country near Walden Pond. It is interesting to recall in this connection that a similar looking Eagle was sighted on May 19 of last year at our farm & by these same two country field ornithologists.
108. Carolina Dove. Noted on the following dates, only: April 21, when a bird cooed many times at short regular intervals, about 9 o'clk, in Prescott's pen; April 26 when one was heard cooing on Davis Hill & either the same or another seen flying through our Run; May 31, at dusk; June 4, when a solitary bird, startled by the approach of our motor car, rose from a sandy roadside near Carlick Bridge; June 9, when two Doves flying over the river meadows bordering Caesar's woods, were seen by me from the windows of a passing railroad train.
109. Ruffed Grouse. Remains of four birds killed & eaten by some bird of prey, presumably a Goshawk, were found by me early in April, in brushy places about the edges of our Cultivated Land. Nevertheless the number of Partridges afterwards seen in neighboring woodlands was nearly if not quite normal for that time of year. Cuck birds began drumming on April 16. They were heard at the head of the Run, on the old wall further down, near Barrett Spring & on Beech Field. I met with no brood of newly hatched young this year.

1916.

110. Israil. A ♂ whistling bob. white from 6 to 9 a.m. on May 26, in field just across road from our farm house. I noted no others in that neighborhood but flushed a pair, on June 4, near Dudley Pitman's duck pond in Billerica. Prescott reports a boy that passed last winter at the rear of Sleepy Hollow cemetery, breaking up in Yung. It may have included the bird that paid us so brief a visit, besides others heard by Steadman Buttrick in June, near his place at Flint Bridge.
111. Ring-necked Pheasant. The sight of 5 hen Pheasants feeding together on the morning of April 5 led me to think that several broods of young were likely to be hatched and reared in that neighborhood. I met with none, however, and neither saw nor heard as many old birds as usual. The cocks began crowing as early as April 4 but did not indulge in it freely until on & after Apr 28<sup>th</sup>. I heard no more than three at any one time & place.
112. Great Blue Heron. One seen by Zephaniah Proctor on April 30, in a brush meadow near the old Hannah Green place in Caridia.
113. Night Heron. On April 27, about 7.30 P.M., I was standing in front of our farm house when the quawk-ing outcry of two Night Herons, calling to each other, came distinctly to my ears, seemingly from somewhere in or over Pulpit Rock woods.
114. Bittern. For the first time within my knowledge & recollection the river meadows were continuously, & for the most part deeply, submerged this season through April, May & June. Being thereby banished from their accustomed haunts the Bitterns were mostly forced to seek others elsewhere, although some merely removed to the nearest grassy or bushy ground above the reach of the flood. Thus one bird jumped regularly



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(Bittern) Somewhere near Birch Island and another at the extreme western end of Great Meadows while a third frequented Bigelow's Brook meadow. All three of these could be heard more or less distinctly from our farm house at evening when the air was calm. Occasionally one or another approached at still more closely to ~~hear~~ awhile in some grassy hollow in How's or Lawrence's fields whenever its strident voice came loudly to our ears, even through closed chamber windows. Although scattered thus widely the Bitterns seemed as numerous as usual. Whether or not they had their customary success in rearing young I failed to ascertain.

115. Woodcock. Iphigeneia Prosser heard a Woodcock feeding & singing near his house in Carlisle on the evenings of April 11, 12, 15 & 16. I noted the species at our farm only on May 9 when our little Irish terrier, "Jim", flushed a male under some scattered junis near the south east corner of the cow pasture. That this bird should have been found there at such a date, yet neither before nor afterward, seems rather remarkable.

116. Wilson's Snipe. On the evening of April 16 I heard from our farm door yard a Snipe drumming in the direction of Bigelow's Brook and on that of the 26<sup>th</sup> another much nearer than the first and seemingly over Lawrence's fields just across the road. Very many birds were heard about the same time over a broad meadow in Carlisle. They could not frequent any of the wine meadows this Spring because of exceptionally protracted submergence there.

117. Greater Yellow Legs. The calling of one or more unseen birds, presumably flying over flooded wine meadows, was heard at our farm house on April 24 & at the Ketchikan place on the 30<sup>th</sup>.



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118. Solitary Sandpiper. I met with no bird of this species during the present spring but Mr. Dexter saw one in Fairy Land on May 16.
119. Spotted Sandpiper. Noted by me only on May 14 when two birds were seen flying together over the Assabet River near Clark's Nest Island.
120. Carolina Rail. At least half-a-dozen birds were heard singing or calling on May 30, by Walter Foxon & Smith O. Dexter, in a brush meadow lying just to the eastward of Lexington Park. They could find no congenial cover in most of the Concord River meadows because these remained flooded through the entire season but Mr. Dexter heard a bird singing near Egg Flack at the mouth of the Assabet, on July 3.
121. Canada Goose. Men in my employ reported seeing two flocks of Geese flying northward over Carleton on April 1 and passing the house of meson birds there on April 11.
122. Mallard. On reaching Concord early in April I learned that a ♀ Mallard had spent the winter in the river just below Flint's Bridge where the swift, eddying current prevented ice from forming over a space more less than several yards square. Here the bird remained continuously from sometime in December to well into March. Steadman Bullwick tells me that he fed it regularly with bread & dismembered thoughtless boys from stoning it.
123. Black Duck. Noted at October Farm only on May 1 when two birds appeared on some very high in air (1000 ft., I thought) flying eastward. At Dudley Pitman's place in Billerica I saw, on

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(Black Duck) June 4, a mated pair of native wild Black Ducks that had of their own accord joined the flock of Mallards in his pond where the female was first seen last August (1915) and the male some two months later. For a time they came and went on wing without any restraint & whenever they landed but at length were enticed into an inner enclosure and fenced. They are now very tame but as yet have not bred. Both are typical birds, with dull blackish plumage and olive brown legs & feet noticeably tinged with reddish. The drake's bill is uniformly dark, dull greenish in color; that of the duck is dull blackish. All this I saw unmistakably, while the birds were standing or walking about on land within a few yards of me.

Concord, Mass

1916

August 30  
to  
November 4Autumn  
field notes

During the entire period included between these dates I lived so uninterruptedly at our Concord farm that not a single night was spent elsewhere. H. W. Henshaw was with me from September 2 to October 1. Rarely if ever before have I known an autumn so uniformly beautiful & serene. Up to November 1 it had no wholly rainy day and few dark, cloudy ones which not many were too windy or too chilly to be very enjoyable out-of-doors. Because of the infrequent rainfall there was little or no surface water to be found in most of the bushy swamps and grassy meadows that seldom lack it at any season and the surface soil throughout all upland woods became dry as tinder. But as this drought came so late and followed an exceptionally wet summer it did not cause much injury to vegetation, nor were the tenderest plants in our garden harmed by frost until October 18 when the

Fine  
weatherSlight  
rainfallFrost  
killing  
frost

## Concord, Mass

1916.

Aug. 30  
to  
Nov. 4

Temperature fell, overnight, to  $27^{\circ}$  Fahr. and most cultivated flowers perished. Before that there had been only loose frosts, attractively whitening the landscape at sunrise every now and then and killing more or less herbs in lowland places. The thermometer mercury did not again fall below the  $32^{\circ}$  mark until the middle of November.

Autumnal coloring developed later and lasted longer than usual but otherwise was not exceptional. The coloring of some swamp maples and most species of any kind were above by October 5<sup>th</sup> but <sup>many of</sup> the maples did not change <sup>with</sup> this before the 12<sup>th</sup> and a few <sup>with</sup> remained almost as uniformly green as in midsummer until after the 15<sup>th</sup>, while not all their leaves had fallen by the 20<sup>th</sup> - something that very seldom happens in our neighborhood. The splendid pageant was renewed and in some respects

Autumnal  
coloring.

Concord, Mass.

1916

Aug. 30Nov. 4

even finer than before, between October 28 and 25  
when the coloring of oak, hickory, elm and birch foliage  
was at its richest and best. Almost all deciduous trees  
shed their last leaves before the close of the month. Their  
general retention of them beyond the ordinary date of  
shedding must have been due, I suspect, to their exceptionally  
tardy development in May and June

Autumn  
foliage.

Autumnal migration of small, wood-frequency birds

Bird  
migration

Coming from further north was evidently well under way before  
my departure from Cambridge. After I had settled at Concord  
they appeared there in greatest numbers and variety  
during the next following three or four weeks, the  
heaviest flights occurring on September 9, 13, 26 & 30.  
Although for the most part no more than ordinarily  
abundant on any of these or other dates, northern-breeding  
Warblers of various kinds were noted almost daily,

Warblers

Concord, Mass.

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Aug. 30  
to  
Nov. 4

sometimes by dozens or even scores in Birch-Yield where, Migrant  
as in their regular custom at this season, they assembled Warblers

to feast on the gray-green Aphidæa which, however, was not  
plentiful enough to attract them numerously until towards  
the close of the month. Before then the Warblers were  
more widely dispersed and hence less likely to be noticed.

Of the species which may be looked for, not without hope of success,  
at such a time and place, very few were met with except  
the Connecticut, the Mourning and the Orange-nosed.

The Tennessee Warbler was noted three (September 4, 5 & Tennessee

October 5), the Western Palm Tanager (September 26 & October 22) W. Palm

and the Prairie one (September 4), no more than one Prairie

representation of any of these being seen on each occasion.

Yellow-rumps were normally abundant, Black-halls Yellow-rump

Black-halls

comparatively scarce - as they have been, both in Spring & autumn,

for several seasons past, Bay-breasts no more plentiful Bay-breast

than they were last autumn & much less so than in that of 1914.



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1916.

Aug. 30  
Nov. 4

Cape May  
Warblers  
occure  
commonly.

The Cape May Warbler used to be considered - no doubt rightly - a rare and irregular visitor to eastern Massachusetts. Within the past few years it has been reported oftener and more regularly but never heretofore in anything like the numbers which appeared about our Concord farm this autumn. It was first noted there on September 4 when three young birds (♂♀)

were seen feeding together in gray birches & white birns in Bird Field, in company with Warblers of several other species.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> not less than ten or a dozen Cape May Warblers spent the entire day (a dark-cloudy & mostly rainy one) in trees or shrubbery near our house, ranging hither & thither through the apple orchard, drifting to and fro along the old farm lane and lingering for upwards of an hour in thickets bordering on the lawn across which Henshaw and I viewed them through our opera glasses and a plate glass window of the dining room - within which we were

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1916

Aug. 30  
to  
Nov. 4Cape May  
Warblers.

them sitting. Nevertheless it proved impracticable to count them accurately at this or any other time for not all were ever in sight at once although as many as five or six sometimes showed themselves <sup>perhaps</sup> ~~they~~ on the same tree top or ~~part~~ <sup>part</sup> even on the same branch, while several others might simultaneously be less plainly seen, or merely heard chirping, amidst dense foliage not far off. Some were almost constantly engaged by couples in Spertin pursuit of one another, during which they dashed ~~hither & thither~~ <sup>at</sup> top speed, alternately appearing in open spaces & disappearing among bordering thickets. Yet even the more widely scattered birds kept ever sufficiently in touch with all the rest to follow the same direction pursued by them while drifting back & forth. As has been stated there must have been altogether at least a dozen of them & it is not improbable that there may have been quite half

## Concord, Mass.

1916.

Aug. 30  
to  
Nov. 4Cape May  
Warblers.

as many more. The only birds of other species seen with them were a Red-eyed Vireo & an Allen-bird. Hence the flock consisted almost solely of Cape May Warblers. Most of them were females showing little or no yellow and evidently young of the year but there were at least two males, one a handsome adult, the other immature. In the same neighborhood, but not equally near our house and for the most part in second-growth woods of birch oak & pine, I afterwards noted a young ♀ Cape May on September 9, another on the 13<sup>th</sup>, a young ♂ on the 17<sup>th</sup> an adult ♂ on the 25<sup>th</sup> and two ♂♂, one adult, the other immature, on October 3.

The appearance together at Concord of so many of these Warblers on one occasion and the not infrequent presence of others during a period covering almost an entire month would be more surprising were it not that within the past few years the beautiful birds have been

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1916.

Aug. 30Nov. 4

reported as occurring elsewhere in ever-increasing numbers, Cape May  
Warblers.  
 especially while migrating southward in early autumn  
 through Massachusetts and the Middle Atlantic States.

Whether or not there has been corresponding increase in  
 throughout their breeding grounds in Northern New England  
 and the Maritime Provinces, such as New Brunswick  
 and Nova Scotia, it would be interesting to learn.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets, White-throated Sparrows and Kinglets.  
 Juncos came and went in normal numbers but the  
 White-throats lingered less long than usual probably Peabody  
 because the cultivated grapes of which they are so very fond side.  
 failed to mature for the most part. The Juncos, on the Juncos.  
 other hand, stayed longer than common, being tempted to  
 do so, no doubt, by a superabundance of millet seed  
 furnished by a bed directly in front of the house. They,  
 together with many other birds of various kinds, also  
 were attracted

Concord, Mass.

1916.

Aug. 30  
to  
Nov. 4

attracted to that neighborhood by a broad and shallow Bathing  
 cemented pool made expressly for them at the edge of birds.  
 our little lawn and kept constantly brimming full. In this  
 they bathed very frequently and with evident keen enjoyment,  
 sometimes by dozens at a time and oftentimes when the sun  
 shone bright and warm, although by no means wholly  
 ungiven to similar indulgence during cloudy or perhaps  
 rainy weather, or even when, late in the season, the  
 water was not altogether free from ice. Such gatherings  
 often included Warblers, especially Black-polls & Yellow-rumps,  
 while Jays and Flickers came singly every now & then &  
 Robins very numerous, and regularly. There were times when  
 the pool was literally crowded with birds of various kinds  
 and sizes, thrashing the water with their wings and flinging  
 it upward in jets of silvery spray that sparkled in the  
 sunshine - a pretty sight to witness.

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Aug. 30  
to  
Nov. 4

Rusty Blackbirds appeared oftener and more  
numerously than they have for several seasons in the  
recent past—although much less plentiful than during  
their earlier years. I sometimes saw as many as ten  
or a dozen together on wing but never more than three or  
four at once in our corn field to which they resorted  
thus sparingly, but almost daily, throughout October,  
eating the kernels of sweet corn both before and after  
they had become hard & shriveled.

Rusty  
Blackbirds.

Fox Sparrows were so deplorably scarce that I  
met with them only twice during the entire  
autumn and noted no more than a single bird  
on each of these occasions.

Fox  
Sparrows.

The south-bound flight of Blue Jays commencing  
from further north was exceptionally heavy this year.  
Beginning about the middle of September if not somewhat

Blue  
Jays  
migrating.



Concord, Mass.

1916

Aug. 30  
to  
Nov. 4Blue Jay  
migration.

earlier, it reached its maximum height between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of the month when, for three or four days in succession,

the loud-voiced birds were so abundant and wide-spread that one could not go anywhere without hearing them almost constantly in flight or hearing. During this period they especially frequented our deciduous woods through which they roamed ceaselessly in small, scattered flocks, seeking food which must have been rather scarce for most of the trees had suffered too severely from the attacks of gypsy moth & other larvae to mature fruit of any kind. There was, however, a single large scarlet oak, growing in an open field, which, having been protected by spraying, bore its plentiful crop of acorns & on these the jays feasted as long as they lasted, holding them underfoot while hammering them with their beaks to remove the outer shell and throwing the nut at all hours of the day. I saw them thus engaged for the last

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time on October 6. During the remainder of that month Blue jays it was unusual to note more than two or three clearly and almost none remained after November 1.

Flocks of Crows, bred or breeding further to the north Crow migration and migrating southward over or past our farm, were noted there on October 13 (40+), 14 (2), 26 (large flock), 27 (37 counted / 115), 28 (37 c.). November 3 (198 roughly counted), 4 (50+), 11 (40+). Almost all these flights occurred between 7 and 10 a.m. The birds composing them invariably pursued a south-westerly or perhaps even westerly course, never a directly southward one. They usually passed very high in air, following one another in straggling order and at such wide intervals that the vanguard of a flock containing no more than one hundred members might become lost to view in the far distance before its rearward appeared in sight. Such, at least, was their custom in clear and serene

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to  
Nov. 4Migrating  
Crows.

weather when it was interesting to watch their leisurely, level and straight-onward flight as they passed in seemingly endless and impressively well-ordered procession all keeping to nearly the same elevated, aerial path way but following one another at least fifty or more yards apart. On such occasions the sound of their voices, coming from far & near, was very pleasing, especially when mellowed by distance. For the most it consisted of single caws, uttered with ever-varying intonations by widely-separated members of the fable throng. There was seldom or never any clamorous and general outcry excepting when, as occasionally happened, the birds descended to feed awhile in grassy meadows or fields of unharvested corn. Then and there they were given to not infrequent outbreaks of prolonged & vociferous cawing in which every member of the flock seemed to be

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Taking part.

Migrating  
Crows.

Although passing oftenest during tranquil weather the migrant Crows sometimes appeared when it was otherwise and then might be seen in rather compact flocks now mounting, above, next disappearing below or behind wooded ridges with many a graceful, curving swoop, as they advanced laboriously against violent, adverse gusts of wind. Our locally-resident Crows seemed disinclined to interfere with alien ones invading their haunts of such occasions but instead busied themselves with their own affairs, in accustomed way.

That most if not all of them remain in Concord throughout the year is open to little doubt. Such, at least, is certainly the case with one particular bird whose unvarying and characteristic law - caw - caw

Resident  
Crows

(very strongly emphasized on the second syllable) has

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been heard at every season, for now half a dozen  
 or more years, in the neighborhood of our farm and  
 at Ball's Hill. Both localities have been frequented  
 still longer, if less constantly, by another Crow whose  
 habitual, if not only, utterance (I have heard him give  
 no other) is a deep-intoned oh-ah not unlike that of a  
 Barred Owl and having acoustic qualities which render the  
 sound extremely difficult to locate both as regards distance  
 and direction. Often have I thought its author far away  
 when he was close at hand - or vice versa. He comes and  
 goes at all seasons but sometimes is apparently absent for  
 several successive weeks - or even months.

Resident  
Crows with  
peculiar  
calls.

Diurnal birds of prey appeared rather more numerous  
 than in the autumn of 1915 but decidedly less so than  
 was their custom at corresponding seasons of still earlier years.  
 Most of them, indeed, are no longer seen in anything

Diurnal  
Raptors.

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like their former numbers although exceptions to the rule are afforded by the Red-shouldered Hawk, which continues to reappear as plentifully as ever, and by the Sparrow hawk, now a common frequenter of much open country where it occurred only very rarely, if at all, not long ago. The Red-tailed Hawk, on the other hand, has wholly ceased within the last decade to reoccupy any of its former haunts near Concord while most of those which the Marsh Hawk once tenanted ~~is~~ visited so regularly in Spring and Summer, and so, <sup>very</sup> abundantly in early autumn, no longer afford daily opportunities of watching the graceful, low-gliding flight of that attraction. Equally obvious if somewhat less to be deplored is the fact that Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks have diminished rapidly and very considerably in numbers during the past few years. I failed to obtain evidence that

Hawks.

Red-should

Sparrowhawk

Red-tail

Marsh H.

Cooper's &  
Sharp-shin



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either species bred anywhere in our neighborhood last spring, nor was the former bird ever noted there this autumn. But Sheep-skins, occurring singly and presumably coming from regions lying further north, were observed on September 1, 14, 19, 30 and October 1 while two such birds were seen on September 20.

Cooper's  
Sheep-skin  
Hawks

Early in the forenoon of September 7, H. W. Henshaw and I were rowing down Concord River from the Mares to Bell's Hill when a very large and conspicuously long-tailed Hawk appeared, at first flying straight and swiftly towards us, two or three hundred feet above a wide expanse of grassy meadow land, next soaring on set wings to a somewhat greater height over the little non-lagoon known as "Hunt's Pond". This viewed in clear sunlight, and no more than 150 yards distant from where our boat floated in mid

Goshawk.

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stream, the big bird was certainly recognized as a female Goshawk, immature as to the plumage of her breast & flanks, which were coarsely marked longitudinally with blackish, but with much blue on the back, which, however, overspread that part in broad patches separated from one another by more or less brownish, instead of quite uniformly, as with fully adult Goshawks. We could see all this plainly enough through our field glasses as the bird swung around and around in narrow circles, alternately showing the upper and under surfaces of her body, wings and tail. She finally resumed direct, southward flight and quickly passed out of sight beyond some tall maples that line the river banks.

Goshawks

A second Goshawk, differing from the first by being altogether clothed in plumage characteristic of young - not merely immature - birds of its species, was observed by

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Henshaw and myself on September 28, at Birch Field.

Goshawks

Accompanied by two Red-shouldered Hawks, keeping one  
 with or near them and occasionally swooping down abruptly  
 at one or the other it remained in sight for several minutes  
 and once circled low over us (within fair shot-gun range)  
 when we saw that it had a plain brown back and  
 profusely dark-streaked underparts. As compared with the  
 Red-shouldered Hawks it looked larger than either—although  
 one was an adult female and showed a conspicuously  
 longer tail. Its soaring flight resembled theirs very closely  
 but when gliding straight onward, with alternating  
 quick-flapping and stiff-set wings it might have been  
 mistaken for a young Cooper's Hawk but for its greater size.

On October 3, a Hawk that looked precisely like  
 the one last mentioned and was probably the self-same bird,  
 passed high over Birch Field to the southward, while  
 S. O. Dexter & I were strolling there together.

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The Marsh Hawk was noted only three during  
the entire autumn—on September 14, 28 and October 25.

Marsh  
Hawk

On each of these occasions a single adult ♂ was seen  
roaming in quest of prey, after the usual manner of his kind,  
over grassy upland fields within or near the boundaries  
of our farm. Birds of the same species, similarly  
employed, may perhaps have visited the river meadows  
somewhat often, but as to this I am unable to  
testify because so seldom there myself.

Ospreys, migrating southward, were seen on two  
occasions;—September 7, when one passed near Belle  
Isle while Henshaw was practicing golf in Brewster's pasture,  
and September 17, when I happened to spy another  
flying above our farm orchard so very high in air  
that it looked no bigger than a Swallow. Journeying  
thus, through elevated space unobscured by either cloud  
or haze, it may then have had within range of its keen

Fish  
Hawk

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✓ far-reaching vision very much of southern New England  
if not also Long Island Sound.

A ♀ Pigeon Hawk, flying swiftly westward about  
noon of October 28, passed low over several pairs  
white Tame Pigeons, perched on a shed roof at our  
farm, without showing any signs of noticing them  
but they, without exception, kept their mild eyes  
fixed on her, each bird tilting its head over sideways  
so as to bring one eye uppermost, for they seldom  
employ more than one while gazing thus at anything  
directly overhead. I saw the hawk well enough to  
feel assured that it was a young bird.

Pigeon  
Hawk

Screech Owls were heard not infrequently at evening  
throughout the month of October, in trees growing close to  
our farm house or in the Berry Pasture. They uttered their  
wailing cries oftener about sunset, and sometimes before it,  
although I have seldom known this happen in former years.

Screech  
Owl.

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Within that autumnal season to which the Barred Owl. present record especially relates no Owl other than Megascops was noted by me at Concord but during a fleeting visit to one farm on December 6 I ran across a Barred Owl. It happened unexpectedly, as such occurrences almost always do, and early in the afternoon, when George Baker & I were returning from Bird Island, through dense pine woods at the north-east extremity of Bird Field. We had stopped to look at a tree marked for cutting and were talking about it rather loudly when the bird started from the upper branches of a tall pitted pine, standing some twenty yards away, and flew off through the tree tops, with incessant, leisurely, moth-like wing beats. His feet and legs being down and showed conspicuously, (almost if not quite for the entire length of the tarsi) when he first took flight but were drawn up over



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of sight within the body plumes before he had gone  
Ten rods. Marking his course he followed it for several  
hundred yards but failed to see eyes on him again.

Barrd  
Owl.

Early in the forenoon of September 18, while straggling  
through Birch Field, I flushed Ten Carolina Doves from  
a sunny opening on the crest of a sandy knoll for  
the most part densely overgrown with tall gray birches  
and young robin pines. Eight birds rose all at once, in  
as compact a flock or bevy as so many startled quail,  
and like these drew farther - yet not widely - apart  
after flying a few rods. The silvery whistling sound  
made by their rapid - beating wings was very pleasing  
especially when coming more and more faintly to my ear  
as they passed out of sight beyond a line of trees.

Carolina  
Doves.

They were followed by the remaining two birds a few moments  
later. It is unusual to meet with so many of these Doves  
together anywhere near Concord. They occur there less  
commonly now than fifteen or twenty years ago.

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to  
Nov. 4Ruffed  
Grouse.

Ruffed Grouse were somewhat more numerous represented than usual in September, throughout woodland bordering on our farm lands. By day they especially frequented the Swampy Run, at evening certain parts of the Berry Pasture where wild grape vines, trailing over trees & bushes, were loaded with ripening fruit.

The crop of one killed and eaten thus by a Fox was filled with these grapes which had been swallowed whole. Signs were not wanting to show that the unfortunate bird had been seized, presumably at night, while roosting only a few feet above the ground in a bushy young white pine and that the Fox had taken her thence to an opening scarce ten yards away. After biting bit off many if not most of her feathers, as is customary with all members of his tribe when dealing with a devoured quarry, he had apparently partook of flesh and bone except the crop; the entrails;

Eaten by  
Fox

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both feet and legs with the thigh bones and all flesh belonging to them intact; one entire wing, severed close to the body; and the anterior half of the skull. Some of these remains lay beneath the fur, others in the opening. I found them on September 24 when their condition indicated that the Partridge must have been killed only a few hours previously. It is unusual for a Fox to leave so much of any victim, feathered or furred, but its entrails are never eaten.

Ruffed  
Grouse

Shortly after breakfast on the morning of September 10 H. W. Henshaw and I were following an old wood road that leads past Pulpit Rock when "Jim", the little Irish terrier who accompanied us, flushed no less than eighteen Partridges, mostly young about two-thirds grown, from a brushy hollow only a few yards square & within close shot gun range of where we stood. At least a dozen of them rose all at once &

Flock of  
eighteen  
Partridges

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so very near together that a large bird spread might have covered every one of them or a charge of shot fired into their midst have killed three or four. The remaining birds followed them singly in quick succession. Seven or eight presumably belonging to the same flock started from essentially the same spot when we repeated it late that afternoon. Its only obvious attraction for them was that afforded by the presence of some low blueberry bushes, then but scantily supplied with over-ripe fruit.

Pluffed  
Grouse.

Not more than ten or a dozen Grouse remained in the immediate neighborhood of our farm when the shooting season began on October 12. They were then most likely to be found singly, either along the Run or in Bush Field. "Jimmy" & I hunted them for an hour or two almost daily, during the remainder of the month. Thus harassed they soon became exceedingly wary, often flushing beyond gun-range and

Partridge  
Shooting

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Partridge  
Shooting

when on wing within it usually taking such prompt and systematic advantage of cover afforded by dense foliage or crooked tree trunks that only the most difficult "snap shots" at them could be had. But every now and then a bird more heedless or less resourceful than the rest would be driven in my direction by the little dog and perhaps brought lifeless to earth by a charge from the 20 gauge gun. It was oftentimes discharged in vain, however, even at grouse not far off & in open view, for such skill as once attended its more frequent use has largely ceased to do so either through disuse or because of somewhat impaired eyesight or less steady nerves. Nevertheless I enjoyed the pursuit of these admirable game birds exceedingly and was especially pleased to bring one down lifeless, just as it disappeared among dense pine foliage, after crossing one opening only a few yards wide, and another where it

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Aug. 30  
to  
Nov. 4Partridge  
Shooting.

was dashing at meteoric speed through the tops of tall birches. The total bag consisted of only five and three of these were "treed" by "Tim" and shot while perched.

To thus take advantage of such opportunities may be considered <sup>some but</sup> unfortunately, <sup>by</sup>, has never been so regarded by me. For it cannot often be accomplished without preliminary "stalking", usually to escape the notice of the ever-watchful birds unless very skillfully conducted, yet certain to yield its own reward in the way of much pleasurable excitement whatever may be its final indirect outcome.

Besides the five Grouse actually bagged as above mentioned no others are known to have received any injury from my gun or any other, in wood land where I hunted them. Yet it apparently harbored only two when & after the shooting season closed. Before



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Ruffed  
Grouse

This Birch Field was regularly frequented, for weeks  
 in succession, by half a dozen or more birds. They were  
 more or less given to scattering about singly by day  
 but almost invariably came together shortly before  
 sunset, in a sheltered little hollow partly shaded by  
 a few small Barches and hemmed in on every side  
 by taller pines and bushes. Here I flushed them  
 oftencst from the ground, near or perhaps directly  
 beneath the barches. It must have afforded them  
 some food especially attractive or exceptionally abundant  
 but to my eye the vegetation, both herbaceous & arboreal,  
 did not differ essentially from that common to the entire  
 neighborhood, except as regards the barches—originally  
 planted by me there & elsewhere in a few places where  
 they are not indigenous. Their presence may have accounted  
 for that of the Grouse although I was unable to find

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anything in or under them which seemed likely to be eaten by the birds.

Ruffed  
Grouse.

Cock Partridges drummed less often than usual in our woodlands this autumn, although the weather was apparently more than ordinarily favorable for such performers. I heard them engaged in it only twice in September (22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>); but four times during October (4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>); not once after the close of the latter month. On all but one of these occasions the sound came either from swampy cover near the head of the Run or from where, <sup>lower down,</sup> ~~lower down,~~ it is crossed by an ancient stone wall enveloped in tangled thickets. This, ever since I first became familiar with it, <sup>has been</sup> resorted to every spring and autumn by drumming Grouse although they frequent it somewhat less regularly now than formerly.

Autumnal  
drumming

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Ring-necked Pheasants cannot have reared many, if Ring neck  
Pheasants  
any, young last summer, at least in our neighborhood, for those appearing there in autumn were few in number and apparently, without exception, adults of which nearly all were cocks, handsomely plumed and thoroughly versed in wiles by the exercise of which birds of this kind and sex safeguard themselves so generally from every danger. They and their hens frequented the Berry Pasture chiefly but so sparingly and inconsistently as to be seen for the most part <sup>only</sup> singly & not oftener than once or twice weekly. One or two resorted occasionally to a field of millet at the Ritchie place or to Sawman's wide-stretching mowing fields, but none were either seen or heard in many another near-by haven from which they have seldom absented themselves in former years. During the entire open season (Sept 12 - Nov. 12) I hunted them persistently, at every one

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favorable opportunity but with such indifferent success

Pheasant  
shooting.

that only two were brought to bag - both in the Berry Pasture, where a small patch of sweet corn had been grown and left unharvested, last year as well as this, for the express purpose of attracting Pheasants. They came to it only in the early morning and late afternoon. Any that happened to be found there at such hours could usually be closely approached without much difficulty by stealing up behind a neighboring brush pile and thence making a quick dash in among the tall and crowded corn stalks. Birds thus surprised while filling their crops with ripening maize might rise at once on wing, perhaps from well-nigh underfoot, mounting almost straight upward to a height of fifteen or twenty feet before adopting level flight - thereby offering me conspicuous targets which it seemed impossible to

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miss but at which the 20 gauge gun was, I am bound to Pheasant  
shooting.  
 confess, discharged more than once in vain. Nor could it  
 always be brought to shoulder before the big birds had  
 passed almost beyond its range for they flew quite as  
 swiftly as Ruffed Grouse although rarely seeming to do so.  
 Some of those encountered among the corn were too  
 cool-headed and resolute to risk exposing themselves  
 in the manner just described but instead sneaked  
 off on foot between the rows, into tangled thickets  
 beyond, where it would have been futile to follow  
 them with any hope of obtaining a fair shot.  
 Although Pheasants retiring thus were almost never  
 seen I could usually trace their no less rapid than  
 stealthy progress through the corn by hearing the pitter-  
 patter of their feet on its fallen husks, or fainter & more  
 rattling sounds made by their bodies brushing past crisp.

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low-drooping fronds, while every now and then some bird Pheasant  
more hurried or heedless than the rest might strike a  
slender, semi-prostrate stalk hard enough to make it  
tremble perceptibly. for an interesting.

Shooting

During September and October I never once  
noted more than three Pheasants in the course of a  
single day, but four were seen in the Busy Pasture  
on November 1 and six on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The first one shot,  
a splendid cock, was instantly killed and quickly found  
lying back upward in a matted bed of low blueberry. The  
other, an adult female, fell broken-winged & being otherwise  
unhurt made such prompt use of her legs that she would  
doubtless never have been seen again had not "Jimmy" trailed  
her through dense brush, for upward of sixty yards, to a  
ground juniper beneath which she lay crouching. This seems  
worthy of record because it has so often been asserted  
that no dog can ever overtake a merely wing-broken Pheasant  
except, perhaps, when pursuing it by sight, in open ground



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When an old cock Pheasant is flushed by either man or dog he is likely to call oc-oc-oc-oc-oc in hoarse tones and almost certain to make - presumably with his muscular wings - a rather loud clattering sound not unlike that which may be produced by drawing the tip end of a cane across the slats of a pocket fence. He has no inguine to any vocal outcry on such occasions - or, for that matter, many others - but his flight is commonly accompanied by a continuous whistling noise, unquestionably proceeding from the wings. It is lower-pitched than that of the Woodcock; less silvery than that of the Carolina Dove; perhaps most like that of the Golden-eye Duck, although not nearly so far reaching - being quite inaudible at distances exceeding one or two hundred yards and perhaps not to be heard beyond fifty or sixty yards when there is strong wind blowing.

Vocal &  
wing sounds  
made by  
wing  
Pheasant's

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Of the larger marsh and river frequenting birds I saw Marsh  
river  
frequenting  
birds.  
little or nothing this autumn excepting while rowing from  
the Mass. to Ball's Hill, with H. W. Henshaw, during  
the forenoon of September 7. They were then encountered  
in greater numbers and variety than has happened  
within my personal experience and along the same stretch  
of river, for my many years. Besides enjoying the  
sight of them we were glad to infer from their exceptional  
fearlessness, as well as comparative abundance, that  
they must be resorting there regularly and could not  
have suffered recent molestation from gun-bearing men  
or boys. This was especially indicated by the behavior Great  
of them or from Great Blue Herons who flew on singly,  
ahead of one adorning boat, for the distance of a mile  
or more, sometimes alighting in trees but oftener stand  
deep in shallow river reaches where they might stand

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Sept. 4

watching our approach or perhaps ignore it seemingly  
 while facing in other directions and bending their heads  
 downward as if looking for fishy prey. Rowing slowly  
 in mid stream we repeatedly got within long shot-gun  
 range of them and almost equally near eight Black Ducks  
 that rose on wing together from the shallow expansion of  
 the river known as Heron's Pond. Similarly, if not even  
 more, confidently were the two Night Herons, three Green  
 Herons and five or six Kingfishers seen during the trip. Kingfishers  
 Of all the interesting experiences connected with it perhaps Wood  
 the most noteworthy was that occurring just before it  
 ended when a Wood Duck first appeared on wing above  
 the crest of Ball's Hill and then pitched down into the  
 little bush-enclosed lagoon across the river, to be flushed  
 there with two others of its kind only a few minutes  
 later, when our boat was pushed in through a narrow

Great  
Blue Herons

Black  
Ducks

Night's Green  
Herons.

Wood  
Ducks.

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connecting channel. All these birds rose together from a flooded thicket beside the open pool and flew low over Great Meadows, uttering a few oh-cel calls. It was good to hear these once familiar but now almost forgotten notes and to have even so fleeting a view of their antics.

Besides the birds above reported and a Red-bank Goshawk mentioned in a previous connection, we saw three Red-shouldered Hawks, soaring together high in air Red-shouldered Hawks above the meadows while their shrill outcry, pleasantly softened by distance, came to our ears every now & then throughout most of the forenoon.

An Avian Romance

It has long been known, of course, that animals not specifically related and perhaps very unlike sometimes become strongly attached to each other especially when in captivity and rather closely confined. An interesting instance of this first came to my notice upwards of a year ago.

It resulted indirectly from chance perusal of a dealer's catalogue wherein "fancy fowls" in bewildering variety and of apparently rare attractiveness of remarkable utility, were alluringly pictured and described. There were also so-called "setlings" of their eggs. Being particularly tempted by the latter I purchased rather many - at appropriately "fancy" prices. Plymouth Rock hens incubated them at our farm in Concord with admirable fidelity but not great success. Of the few that hatched one produced a gosling said to have originated from an "African Goose", another a Guinea-fowl chick - each sole representation of its kind then and there brought into the world.





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Both birds were soon afterwards put in a small, grass-grown enclosure which had no other occupant save one of the foster-mothers already mentioned and she had been removed when I first saw them there - on August 30. They were then more than one-half grown and already well feathered. We separated them a month or so later, placing the Goose in a large poultry yard tenanted by about fifty adult Plymouth Rock <sup>hens</sup> and a few roosters, the Guinea fowl in a smaller one devoted to chickens of various ages. This arrangement proved ill-advised for during the remainder of that day each bird refused to eat and tried persistently to escape, by thrusting its head and neck through meshes of a wire fence, or else paced ceaselessly to and fro, calling pitiously and evidently "pining for its lost mate." "Coincidentally" as ~~it~~ <sup>as</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>as</sup> ~~my~~ <sup>my</sup> foreman said. So we took the Guinea-hen to the larger enclosure next morning

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whereupon she ran straight to the door and the oddly-  
 contrasting couple became happily reunited, never again to  
 part company for so much as a single hour while both  
 lived. It was no less touching than pleasing to witness  
 the unrestrained joy of their first meeting, manifested so  
 prettily by tender caresses lavished alternately by each on  
 other for upwards of twenty minutes, during which there was  
 almost ceaseless flow of subdued cooing, chuckling, gurgling  
 or murmuring vocal utterances, also presumably expressive of  
 endearment.

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Its physical manifestation could not have been mistaken for anything else - albeit for the most part devoutly restrained, and never so much as readily suggestion of sensual passion or desire. Sometimes the big and the little bird contacted themselves with merely cuddling close together; oftentimes there was frequent interchange of gentle fondling; by bill or cheek touched lightly or rubbed softly against a corresponding part or perhaps elsewhere. The Guinea hen seldom essayed more than this but the Goose repeatedly thrust ~~his~~ his long neck over her shoulder back and thrust beneath ~~one~~ of her folded wings until his head appeared just beyond it - a grotesque attention which seemed to give both birds especial pleasure and satisfaction. That all these demonstrations, together with the vocal sounds accompanying them, must be

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interpreted as already suggested is open to no question, at least in my mind. Similar behavior was afterwards indulged in daily, if not hourly at every season, but perhaps never again so raptuously as on the first occasion.

The affectionate devotion thus indicated seemed to be equally shared by both birds and wholly unalloyed by sexual passion although otherwise so love-like. Continued without known interruption or abatement through the ensuing year it apparently dominated individual tastes and preferences, <sup>to such a degree</sup> that little or no interest was taken in any pleasure or pursuit which could not be shared in common.

Yet these two companions differed no less obviously in character and temperament than in physical appearance, the Goose being confident, intelligent and placid-minded, the Guinea-hen persistently distrustful and nervously restless - after the usual manner of her kind.

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Perhaps this very dissimilarity formed the chief basis of their romantic friendship, just as the so-termed "attraction of opposites" is thought to promote human relations of corresponding kind, <sup>so</sup> often entered into ~~so~~ happily by persons altogether unlike and ~~otherwise~~ <sup>seemingly</sup> ~~predestined~~ <sup>to</sup> get on well together in ~~some~~ <sup>some</sup> cases.

After passing their first winter in the large poultry yard the Goose and Guinea-hen were removed early next Spring to a sort of aviary built against the shed-end of our farm house and partly under a projection of its roof but elsewhere having ~~no~~ <sup>no</sup> ~~better~~ <sup>better</sup> protection against the weather than that afforded by wire netting overspread with grape vines. Here they lived contentedly enough for several months, in ~~close~~ <sup>close</sup> companionship - for the ground space was limited - with three Mallard Ducks, half a dozen domestic fowl of various kinds and about three or as many white Pigeons.

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Indifferent, yet not unfriendly, in their attitude towards all these the devoted <sup>couple</sup> kept apart by themselves as much as possible and either coolly ignored or mildly repelled occasional advances made by one or another <sup>of the others</sup> with evident desire for closer acquaintance.

This spirit of ~~independence~~ aloofness was especially shown when, as happened every now and then, the inmates of the aviary were turned out to do whatever they liked — except scratch in former beds. Thus first, the Ducks, Hens and Pigeons usually remained close about the house whereas the Geese and the Guinea hen invariably went off together to a ~~bank~~ <sup>bank</sup> ~~shrubbery~~ <sup>shrubbery</sup> by the ~~length~~ <sup>length</sup> the shade of orchard trees, amidst <sup>fragrant</sup> meadow grass or through tall growing, unharvested corn, perhaps to rather distant woods beyond. It may well be doubted if either bird would have cared to go ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> the other on these excursions. The Geese, assuredly, would not thus have undertaken



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them, being too ill-adapted by nature for prolonged terrestrial locomotion. Nevertheless he accomplished it cheerfully enough by plodding straight onward after his beloved, more than content, apparently, with enjoyment of opportunities thereby afforded of having her wholly to himself. She, meanwhile, was likely to keep somewhat in advance, running hither and thither swiftly, answering his occasional clarion calls with harsh, cackling ones and otherwise behaving in the manner characteristic of all her light-footed, feather-headed and objectionably vociferous race.

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Although unknown to ever quarrel with other inmates of the aviary the Guinea-hen often did so with those of the larger poultry yard, sometimes attacking them most viciously, perhaps without much if any evident provocation. On such occasions the Goose always hastened to her aid with wide-spread wings and loud outcry. Thus assailed by both no Plymouth Rock hen, however big and sturdy, could hope to escape a sound drubbing unless by quick retreat. Even a veteran rooster of that breed, truculent and domineering as befitted an overlord of the harem, was once made to share liberally in such punishment when trying to safeguard one of his wives from it. He, indeed, was finally driven into a remote corner of the yard and remained there mooping for the next half hour, pitifully humiliated in spirit and perhaps also suffering bodily pain - for the Goose could strike hard with both bill and wings when so inclined.

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The inscriber, a dull peated Guinea-hen, thought to be a female but never certainly identified as such, seemed undesirous of human notice and hence got little of it. Not so the Goose who both inspired and witnessed it, being ever an attractively friendly, sagacious and interesting bird much liked by everybody about the place. When closely approached and spoken to by anyone familiarly known he would promptly adooose with glad outcry, slow-flapping wings and sinuous curving of head and neck - all alike betokening amicable greeting. It must be confessed that large greenish eggs which no other fowl could possibly have laid were sometimes found in the aviary but that did not happen until general use of the name "Dick", and of masculine pronouns similarly applied, had become too firmly established to be then discredited or afterwards discontinued, because of any such belated evidence of femininity.

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Both birds seemed perfectly well when I left them and returned to Cambridge for the winter, on November 4. Beesbuck noticed nothing wrong with either of them during the next two months but early in January, 1917, the Grouse hen sickened and died - somewhat emaciated. Although then in apparently vigorous health & normal flesh the Grouse breathed his last only a few days later - having meanwhile declined all food, however tempting. Perhaps it merely happened so but I am more inclined to think that the one no longer cared to live without the other. Nor is it difficult for me to believe that if there be really spiritual existence after death for any mortal creature it will not be denied these two or vouchsafed them on terms less mutually intimate than those enjoyed by them while living. However all that may be regarded everyone who takes interest in this avian romance must admit that it had a singularly appropriate ending.

Cambridge, Mass.

1916.

November

16

There was a somewhat belated Myrtle Warbler in our garden on November 12. Either the same or a similar-looking bird appeared there again on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> when, about 9 o'clock, I watched it for several minutes as it flitted through the branches of a scedled pear tree, seeking food of some kind among the terminal twigs, where it repeatedly hung back downward like a Titmouse, chirping cheerily every few seconds and behaving altogether in a manner indicative of sound health and high spirits.

Three hours later (at 12 o'clock, noon) I heard Cross coming in the jungle and presently saw three of them perched rather high in leafy trees. One hid beneath his foot, on a stout branch, a fluffy, grayish object which I thought at first might be a dilapidated bird-nest; but when, presently, he brought it into a cherry tree not far from my window I could see plainly enough that it was a dead Myrtle Warbler whose bright yellow rump and other characteristic markings showed conspicuously in the clear

Crow  
eating  
dead  
Myrtle  
Warbler

Cambridge, Mass.

1916

November

16

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Sunlight. For several minutes after this he continued to tug and jerk at it vigorously, pulling out several feathers at a time and tossing them aside to be blown away by the strong wind or plunging his bill into the limp little body as if endeavoring to extract from it strands of meat or viscera which, however, he apparently failed to thus obtain. Indeed I was not a little surprised to note how futile and bungling he seemed to be at both these undertakings. The other two Crows watched him from near-by perches all the while but made no obvious attempt to interfere with him in any way. Followed by the others he finally flew afar off to the northward, carrying the Warbler away in his bill. Presumably it was the self-same Yellow-crow seen above earlier in the day for no other was afterwards to be found within our grounds. If he really caught and killed the unfortunate little bird it would be interesting to know just how this was accomplished.

Crow  
with dead  
Myrtle  
Warbler



Cambridge, Mass.

1916

Nov. 22

A Junco seen in our Garden on the afternoon of Nov. 20 attracted my attention by its peculiar coloring which led me to suspect that it might be either oregonus or Shefeldti. Of this I could not then make sure for the bird was then only imperfectly visible, - flitting beneath corymb branches in the "jungle". But early this afternoon it reappeared and permitted me to watch it closely for many minutes as it hopped fearlessly along the garden walk in the middle of which I was standing, at first some ten or fifteen yards away, finally within not more than five or six feet. All the while it was exposed to clear, if pale, November sunlight and accompanied by three other Juncos typical of hyemalis, a ♂ and 2 ♀♀. Thus the conditions were in every respect as favorable as they well could have been for noting, accurately the bird's color and markings and also for comparing it directly with Juncos of both sexes characteristic of the common eastern race and in corresponding seasonal plumage. Thus compared it looked somewhat larger than any of the others and was colored so unlike them all that the difference was very striking. For it had a dull black head and neck (somewhat washed with ash along the nape), a coal black chesty viraceous - cinnamon flanks which its back and scapulars were very strongly tinged with rich, warm chocolate brown, more or less obscured, however, by gray or tawny. Immediately after observing all these details I went into the museum and looked over very many skins of eastern Juncos. Three of the latter which most resembled the living bird (several of them matched it almost perfectly) are perhaps intergrades between Shefeldti and oregonus, being somewhat too richly colored for the former, yet not sufficiently so for the latter. But as one of them was labeled "Shefeldti" not long ago by Mr. Ridgway it seems safe enough to assume that the bird seen in our garden should be similarly referred.

The above note was written shortly after the second observation was made. Later in the afternoon (of the 22d) the four Juncos came (with 2 Phoebe birds) close under my window, eating millet seed placed there for them.

Shefeldti  
Junco in  
our Garden.

Cambridge, Mass.

1916

November

23-30

During this period the Sherbald's Junco reappeared in the Garden on five different days. He was accompanied on the 23<sup>rd</sup> by two Eastern Juncos (hyemalis), on the 25<sup>th</sup> by five, on the 27<sup>th</sup> by five or six, on the 29<sup>th</sup> by six, on the 30<sup>th</sup> by four. Walter Deane had a good view of him from my study window on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and was much impressed by his rich, dark coloring, especially that of his chest which looked, as Walter said, quite as glossy black as that of a male Towhee. The bird was then feeding with other Juncos and still more numerous House Sparrows, on a space of bare ground within a few yards of the Museum, where millet seed had been scattered profusely. A liberal supply of it, renewed from day to day, continued to attract birds of all three kinds up to the very close of the month, after which the Sherbald's Junco was not again seen although from one to four common Juncos came to the seed on

December 2, 3, 4 & 5.

Sherbald's

Junco  
in  
our Garden



Low  
1911  
1