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THE  
JOURNAL



...OF...

The Maine Ornithological Society.



The Journal of  
*The Maine Ornithological Society.*

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF MAINE ORNITHOLOGY.

VOL. III.

WATERVILLE, MAINE, JAN. 1901.

NO. 1.

**The • Maine • Ornithological  
Society.**

Prof. Wm. L. Powers, Gardiner, Pres.  
Capt. H. L. Spinney, Seguin, Vice Pres.  
A. H. Norton, Westbrook, Secy—Treas.  
J. Merton Swain, Waterville, Editor  
Prof. A. L. Lane, Waterville, Councillor  
Ora W. Knights, Bangor, Councillor

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**Editorial.**

With the beginning of Vol. III we are pleased to inform our readers that we are able to enlarge our Journal, and we hope at no very distant date to give a few illustrations. As we are able to enlarge our paper, we hope to receive a more hearty support, by gaining a larger membership, and a longer list of subscribers.

A very interesting meeting was held in Lewiston, showing a deeper interest is growing for our Society. We hope to see this interest deepen and spread all over the State. As the next annual meeting is arranged to convene at Augusta and the date fixed upon, we

ought to have a greater attendance of members.

The evening session was made a success through the untiring efforts of Prof. Lee, who so kindly volunteered to make and show the lantern slides from the bird photos the several members had. Prof. Stanton was also very untiring in his efforts to make the whole meeting a success. His talk on birds was very interesting and instructive.

We were very much pleased to add to our membership Hon. L. T. Carleton, of Augusta, Chairman of the Fish and Game Commission. We need the efforts of such men, to aid in the work of our Society.

A scarcity of winter birds has been remarked by several of our members. The editor in his travels over the State of five days each week, has noted but one flock of seven Pine Grosbeaks, and one large flock of Redpolls. Several small flocks of Tree Sparrows have been observed, also large flocks of Snowdukes, being seen more common near the coast.

After a critical examination of the winter specimen of Mandts Guillemot, recorded in the October number by Mr. Johnson, Mr. Norton pointed out the fact that it was a somewhat peculiar specimen of the Black species. So we are still without a record of the Mandts in our State.

Every effort will be made by our "Committee on Protection" with the

committee on legislation to get a new law enacted at the present session of the legislature. No pains will be spared to get this change, which the committee has recommended. Mr. Wm. Dutcher of New York, and Dr. Palmer of the Biological Survey, at Washington, have very kindly volunteered to come to Augusta to meet the legislative committee and make a plea for the enactment of the changes needed.

It is with the deepest regret that we learn of the death of one of our oldest and best known members, Hon. George A. Boardman of Calais, in his eighty-third year. Mr. Boardman was a life long naturalist, and has contributed much to Ornithological lore. He was an honorary member of our Society and contributed a very interesting paper, "How I Became a Naturalist," which was read at one of our annual meetings. His collection of birds and animals numbered nearly six thousand specimens. These were offered to his native city, if they would build a suitable building for them. His offer was not accepted, and his collection was sold to the government of New Brunswick.

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ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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The fifth annual meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society was held in the Dingley Training School Oak street, Lewiston, Maine, Dec. 21 and 22, 1900.

The first session, a public one, was called to order Dec. 21, 1900, at 8 P.

M., with President William L. Powers of Gardiner in the chair.

After the meeting was called to order, Professor Powers gave his presidential address.

Professor Leslie A. Lee was then introduced, who gave an exhibition of about eighty lantern slides illustrating birds and their nests. These had been chiefly made by Professor Lee from negatives furnished him by members of the Society.

The following members gave remarks as their slides were shown: A. H. Norton, J. M. Swain, Messrs. Swain and Knight for C. H. Morrell; Mr. O. W. Knight, Professor Lee for Capt. Spinney, and Mr. Everett E. Johnson.

In the absence of the author, Homer R. Dill, Professor William L. Powers read a paper entitled "A Brown Pelican in Captivity."

The bird had been captured alive in a weir at Mt. Desert and forwarded for the State Museum.

The business session was called to order Dec. 22, at 9 A. M., with President Powers in the chair, and all members of the council, with the exception of Vice-President Spinney, present.

Committees were appointed as follows:

Nominating Committee—Professors Lane, Lee and Stanton.

Resolutions—Messrs. Knight, Swain and Johnson.

On motion of Mr. Knight, the Society voted to continue the study of the Warblers another year.

On the recommendation of Mr. Johnson, William F. Burbank was admitted to membership; and on the recommendation of President Powers, Hon. Leroy T. Carelton was admitted.

The majority of the members of the Council present urged the Society to determine the time and place for the next annual meeting.



Therefore it was decided to hold the Sixth Annual Meeting at Augusta, Maine, Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving, 1901.

On motion of Professor Lee, a committee of three, with Professor Lane, chairman, was appointed to consider the matter of requirements for membership. The chair appointed Professor L. A. Lee and Mrs. A. H. Norton.

Mr. J. M. Swain, chairman of the Committee on Protection of Birds made the following report.

The little that has been done by this committee the past year was done practically before its appointment at the summer meeting held in July. The Committee was appointed to act with the A. O. U. Committee on protection. The work commenced in March by Mr. William Dutcher's writing to the members of the Society and to all those who were recommended to him as being able to give information in regard to the breeding colonies of gulls and terns along our Maine coast.

Mr. Dutcher is treasurer of the Thayer fund, an appropriation made to be expended in hiring wardens to give what protection they could to the birds on their breeding grounds. Mr. Dutcher's letters to many of the members and sportsmen, especially in the interior of the State, were sent to me to get what information I was able and to assist him as best I could. Several reports from persons residing along the coast were referred to me, and I found these reports somewhat at variance. I called on those I was able to, and found their observations were not recent that their reports were based on trips taken to the islands several years ago. None of these reports that came to me had taken into consideration that a war had been waged on these beautiful and innocent birds, with no other accusation than that they have a pretty

plumage and that the women needed them to wear on their hats.

Part of their destruction was due to the so-called sportsmen, who go to the islands where these birds were breeding in numbers, on the wild rugged islands which, to my mind, were created for our sea-birds to make their summer homes upon in security; their excuse being less of an excuse for they only wanted to try a new shot gun or to try their skill as a marksman, leaving the bodies along the shores where they fell, murdered wantonly.

Most of these reports stated that along the southwest coast from Harpswell to the New Hampshire line there were several large colonies of common and Arctic Terns—one on Bluff and Stratton islands off Cape Elizabeth, one on Richmonds, and one on Ram island also off the cape. A colony of Herring Gulls some said; others said Common Terns on Outer Green and Junk of Pork, toward Half-way light; one on the Brown Cow and another on Mark Island at the entrance toward Harpswell.

From my recent trips I had made to these places, I was led to believe that these reports were somewhat behind the present time. So trips were again made to those places to ascertain just what could be done for protection where there should remain a colony of breeding birds. Trips to Mark Island, Brown Cow, Outer Green and Junk of Pork showed that not a gull or a tern was left on these once large breeding-grounds. Richmonds and Ram Islands, also, were a thing of the past. Only one colony of terns were found to remain on this part of our beautiful coast. On Bluff and Stratton islands about 500 or 600 pairs of terns came back to nest. This was partly due to the fact that Mr. J. C. Jordan, owner of the islands, having a man

living on the islands, had prevented what shooting he was able to.

Correspondence was then made with Mr. Dutcher and Commissioner Carlton, with the result that Mr. George E. Cushman of Cape Elizabeth was appointed a regular State warden; also made a special warden for the A. O. U. Committee, being paid for his services from the Thayer fund. Mr. J. P. Haynes, living on the island, was also made a special warden to work with Mr. Cushman to protect this colony of Terns.

Mr. Cushman proved a very conscientious warden, doing all in his power to prevent any destruction of birds or eggs. Several attempts were frustrated from shooting the birds as they came along the coast to feed. One arrest was made fines collected and forwarded to the State treasury. (Mr. Cushman has also visited the millinery places this fall and winter).

Mr. Knight's work began in the winter by some agitation in the local papers and by his request to Mr. Carleton to send wardens into Bangor millinery shops. The wardens came, searched and made some seizures. What little agitation this made, with what was published in local papers, set many people to thinking and some good resulted therefrom. Mr. Knight also gave what information and assistance to Mr. Dutcher he was able to, relative to the larger colonies of gulls and terns breeding in Penobscot bay. Wardens were appointed along the coast (light-house keepers when possible) from Old Orchard to Eastport and some arrests were made.

It is Mr. Dutcher's purpose to continue the warden system on our coast the coming season, if our laws are so altered as to give a better chance to protect the birds. There is much work to be done along the protection line in our State, and it is to be hoped that our Society will be prom-

inent in this work of bird protection.  
(Signed).

J. M. SWAIN.

O. W. KNIGHT.

L. A. LEE.

Mr. Jed Frye Fanning, Chairman of the Committee to frame and propose at the next Legislature measures for better protection of birds made the following report, which was accepted for further consideration:

An Act to amend Chapter 42 of the Public Laws of 1899, entitled, "An Act to consolidate, simplify, revise and amend the laws pertaining to Inland Fisheries and Game, as contained in Chapters thirty and forty of the Revised Statutes, and in amendments and additions thereto, and to repeal old and obsolete, private and special laws pertaining to Fishing in the Public Waters of the State."

Be It Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

Section 12 of Chapter 42 of the Public Laws of 1899 is hereby stricken out and the following section is inserted in its stead:

Section 12. No person shall, within the State of Maine, kill or catch, or have in his possession, living or dead, any wild bird other than a game bird, nor shall purchase, offer, or expose for sale, any such wild bird after it has been killed or caught. No part of the plumage, skin or body of any bird protected by this section shall be sold or had in possession for sale. Nor shall an person within the State take or needlessly destroy the nest or the eggs of any wild bird, nor have such nest or eggs in his or her possession.

The English, or European House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), the common crow and the hawks and owls are not included among the birds herein protected; and for the purpose of this act, the following only shall be considered game birds; The ana-

tidæ, commonly known as swans, geese, brant, and river and sea ducks; the Rallidæ, commonly known as rails, coots mud hens, and gullinuits; the Limicolæ, commonly known as shore birds, plovers, surf birds, snipe, woodcock, sandpipers, tattlers and curlews; the Gallinæ, commonly known as wild turkeys, grouse, prairie chickens, peasants, partridges and quails. Nothing in this section, however, shall be construed to affect in any way the protection of game, birds, as provided in sections 11 and 13 of the act hereby amended.

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and when convicted therefor, shall be fined five dollars for each offence and an additional five dollars for each bird, living or dead, or part of bird, or nest and eggs, possessed in violation of this section, or to imprisonment for ten days, or both, at the discretion of the court.

Professor J. Y. Stanton of Bates College was then introduced by the chair and delivered a very interesting and instructive lecture on the evolution of color in birds, through the law of sexual selection, beautifully illustrated by specimens, published plates, and geological charts. By use of a pair of Scarlet Tanagers, attention was called to the diversity between male and female, illustrating respectively sexual selection and natural selection; natural selection operates through the medium of dull or neutral tints to protect the female, while encumbered with the care of a weak brood; while the aesthetic taste of the female causes her to accept the most brightly colored mate, and thus perpetuate, through the sexual selection, the bright hues to her male offspring.

In the course of the lecture Professor Stanton pointed out the belief that

the Creative power must have been at work more than a million of years in evolving from the reptilian stock, the Archeopteryx, and as great a period in evolving from this stock the Cretaceous avian types; that most or all of the present families, including the woodpeckers, had become established in the Miocene period.

At this point the speaker called attention to a section of a petrified pine trunk from the Miocene formation of Arizona, showing two excavations, undoubtedly made by a woodpecker about the size of *Dryobates villosus*. Upon closer examination, the marks of the 'chiseling' were found to be distinct.

Professor Stanton assumed that these primitive birds had dark reptilian colors, which have been slowly differentiated into the brilliant tints of recent birds, by sexual selection. The speaker exhibited a series of Red-headed Woodpeckers, which have the adults of both sexes alike, but the young of neutral tints, pointing out the theory that the neutral colored young inherit their tints from some ancestral stock which had the females neutral, and sexual selections had evolved the bright tints of the nuptial and later plumages in both the male and the female, as the latter's brooding being performed in excavations, the law of natural selection is dominated by that of sexual selection, through the law that like begets like, when other laws are not operating.

The Phalaropes were used to illustrate a reverse case in the order of sexual selection, the females being bright and the males dull. In the few known anomalous cases of this nature, the lusty and brilliant females take the initiative in the courtships, and after the nuptials and egg-laying have been completed, leave their mates to perform the duties of incubation and caring for the young.

At this point, a most interesting

narrative of a pair of emeus kept in captivity was given.

The male it was soon learned was the smaller of the two; the female being a larger bird, with an air sac by the trachea, which was used to produce a booming sound at the season of mating; she like the Phalaropes, leaving the duties of incubation to the male. After a certain period of incubation, the male began at evening to roll out some of the eggs which, on inspection, were found to contain active young, which so disturbed the incubating male that he could not sleep until they had been thus rolled forth.

Sexual selection manifested by special adornments, was illustrated by the Ruff, *Pavoncella pugnax* L, and the Hoopoe, with its remarkable habit of deceiving raptorial birds.

The lecture closed with a brief allusion to the Isabelline tints of desert species

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After lunch, the members repaired to Bates College and from thence to the home of Professor J. Y. Stanton, for the purpose of viewing the collections of birds. At the college was exhibited an unrecorded specimen of the White Jerfalcon, *Falco islandus*—Brunn—taken near the lights at Cape Elizabeth some years ago. At his home, Professor Stanton exhibited the specimen of Gray Gryfalcon recorded by Mr. N. C. Brown, (*Proc. Port. Soc. N. H.*, Vol. II, p. 21), several fine albinistic birds and many rare and interesting specimens.

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The afternoon session was re-opened at 2.35, with the President in the chair.

The committee on nominations reported, by Professor Lee, recommending the re-election of last year's officers.

The Secretary was authorized to cast

the ballot for the Society; whereupon the Board was declared re-elected.

The Committee on Membership reported, through its Chairman, Professor Lane, recommending that each member be a committee of one to work for an increase in membership, or failing to secure new members, to secure subscriptions to the Journal; that the Secretary be instructed to prepare a circular stating the objects of the Society and its advantages.

The report was adopted and the Secretary so instructed.

While waiting for the report of the Committee on Resolutions, the paper of Mr. C. H. Morrell, entitled "Some Winter Birds of the Cumberland Shore," was read by the Secretary, in Mr. Morrell's absence.

The Committee on Resolutions made the following report, which was adopted:

Be it hereby resolved that the thanks of the Maine Ornithological Society be and they are hereby extended to the Trustees of the Training School for their courtesy in extending the Society the use of the building as a meeting place; to Professor J. Y. Stanton for the interesting talk he gave before the Society, and for other courtesies extended to us; to Professor Lee for his kindness in preparing numerous lantern slides of birds and exhibiting them at our meeting; to the Maine Central Railroad for their kindness in granting reduced fare to our members. And Be It Hereby Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions shall be made part of the record of the Society, and sent to each of the parties named therein.

(Signed.)

O. W. KNIGHT,

J. M. SWAIN,

EVERETT E. JOHNSON."

Mr. Fanning's report was taken up and adopted.

The Society voted to instruct this Committee, and the Executive Committee of the Society, to use their utmost influence for its passage.

Voted to request Mr. O. W. Knight to prepare a supplement to the Birds of Maine, and to instruct the Council to prepare for the publication of the same.

Owing to lack of time, the following papers were read by title: "How We Added Bob White to Our Bridgton List," by J. C. Mead; "A Pair of Cat-birds," by J. Merton Swain; "Some Prehistoric Cliff and Cave Dwellers," by Ora W. Knight; "Reminiscences of Bird Life, and the Rapid Decrease of Same on Our Coast," by Capt. Herbert L. Spinney.

Meeting adjourned.

A. H. NORTON, Secretary.

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#### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

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Another year has passed away, and once more we meet to compare notes, and to consult how we may best attain the ends for which we stand organized. Our growth, during the six years that have passed since the founding of our society, has not been phenomenal, nor have we accomplished wonders in promoting a love for our feathered friends, or in according them protection from their human enemies who harry them by land and sea; neither have we proposed any change in our statute laws to stop the ruthless slaughter of countless thousands, to supply the demand of fashion; neither can we show an awakened and enlightened public spirit of reverence for the aesthetic side of Bird Study.

The last I hold to be paramount to all other considerations. For, notwithstanding the demands of science,

it is the beauty of birds that appeals most strongly to the souls of men.

Birds alive possess a monetary value also, to the practical man. Mercenary as this consideration is, it is the only one that will appeal to a certain element of our population. How strikingly this has been proved is shown by an incident which happened at the State House two years ago. Knowing that the Committee on Agriculture had under consideration a plan to place a bounty on Hawks, I went to Augusta to consult with them on the matter. I interviewed one member only of the committee, a hard fisted farmer from the rural district, who, with the wisdom of a Solon, replied, "We can not afford to kill off the hawks, for they destroy more than mice enough to pay their 'keep.'"

If we can as satisfactorily impress the student that birds have an intellectual value, and show the boys and girls that their pleasure would be enhanced by as much as they encouraged and protected the birds of our villages and streets, we should not be obliged to pass laws to prevent their extermination by the careless and unsympathetic.

The history of the millinery trade, on the other hand, proves conclusively that strict laws rigidly enforced can alone hope to stay the wholesale destruction of whole colonies which has been going on in various parts of our country. For the purchaser is so far removed from the scene of cruelty and bloodshed, and so plausible are the stories told by the dealers, that it is difficult for the wearer to believe the awful truth of suffering and death.

The small membership of our society and the consequent curtailment of our resources has prevented us from making our influence felt to a degree commensurate with our desires. The members individually have done much

to encourage a love and respect for our feathered friends; but, until our membership is numbered by hundreds, it seems hardly reasonable to expect that we shall be able to branch out along such lines as shall enable us to best subserve the aims of our society.

The publishing of our proceedings in a quarterly magazine which from its nature is limited in circulation has, it seems to me, narrowed our horizon very perceptibly. The argument that there is seeming unfitness in publishing our papers beside those recording captures of fish and game is to me a lame one, for since the days when Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison," it has been honorable to hunt and fish. And as long as men and lower animals exist upon this earth, so long will our laws uphold those noble sports. Therefore it seems peculiarly fitting to print our articles where like the "still small voice" they may, in the solitude of nature, appeal to those who hunt.

It has been my desire, since our organization was effected, to enlist the sympathies of the already overworked teachers in our cause. To be sure the statutes already assert that the Principles of Agriculture and Temperance shall be instilled early into the minds of our children, and it would seem cruel to encumber the teacher further. But an experience of two years as teacher of Nature Studies in our Summer Schools has convinced me that here we might find our strongest supporters. With this end in view, I arranged with the Maine Pedagogical Society to assume part of the expense of securing Frank M. Chapman, assistant curator of Mammalogy and Ornithology in the American Museum of Natural History, New York City,—to come to Lewiston, Dec. 28, and lecture to both societies at the same time and place. But I am obliged to report that the expense precluded any possibility

of engaging him. It was for this reason solely that I desired to hold our meeting one week later.

The one crowning work to which every member of our organization points with pride, however humble the part he played in the completion, is the publication of "Birds of Maine," under the efficient editorship of Ex-President Ora W. Knight of Bangor. And should we disband tonight, we should separate with a triumphal satisfaction that we had not lived in vain. For, though other observers had tabulated and published the results of their labors in special localities, Mr. Knight's book was the first to give a perspective view of the avifauna of our entire State. And so carefully and critically was the work done that not a record stands today in doubt or dispute, and every prediction made three years ago has since been verified.

In other respects our work thus far has been internal. We have become acquainted with each other and the work in general, until we seem prepared to accomplish something of still greater importance. I, for one, have learned much of the subject of Ornithology, and I am sure that other members will acknowledge their indebtedness to those leaders who have started us aright.

We have much to accomplish in our business meeting tomorrow morning, and I hope each member will come prepared to speak boldly on each question that comes up for discussion. The matter of influencing legislation in behalf of our birds, if not the most important one, should claim our earnest attention. This year two of our members, Mr. Carleton and Mr. Mead, will occupy seats on the floor of the House, and can do much to forward this important cause.

The question of the publication of our proceedings should be settled at once and for all. If we are to con-

time with our present method, every effort should be put forth to so enlarge and popularize our paper that the public will demand a share of our blessings. If possible, a monthly edition should be published, for the lukewarm member will certainly lose interest if our paper reaches him but four times in the year. An added circulation and monthly publication would enable us to persuade advertisers that its pages offered an effective medium for reaching their patrons.

Whatever we decide, however, in this respect must not detract us from the consideration of increasing our membership list for its own sake. I have already suggested what seems to me a possible way of doing this. If it meet with your approval, you will take such action as you deem expedient.

Another matter that should be attended to at this meeting is the consideration of another "List of Maine Birds," that shall embody all our present knowledge of the subject. Much has been learned in the three years that have elapsed since Mr. Knight's book was published, and were this not so, the fact that the first edition has been exhausted, is sufficient reason for another edition and consequent revision. I hope to see a committee to take this matter in charge.

I think much benefit would result to all, if we should decide also on the date of our next annual meeting. When the appointment is left to the council, they, in trying to suit all, find that different interests clash. The location may well be left to their discretion. We can not tell where any of us will be one year from today, but those who are alive and well on that date, if they have decided to attend at all, can go to Bangor or Augusta as well as to Lewiston or Portland.

With confidence in our integrity, and with an appreciation of the importance

of our mission, I welcome you one and all to this, our fifth annual meeting. And to you, citizens of Lewiston, who have come tonight to learn what our society has been doing the past year, I extend a hearty welcome. I sincerely hope that some of you may see fit to become members of the Maine Ornithological Society, and cast your influence with us in the matter of better Bird Protection.

WM. L. POWERS,

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#### NOTES FROM CARIBOU, MAINE.

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The writer spent the first two weeks of August, 1898, at Caribou in Northern Aroostook County. Caribou is about on a parallel with Quebec, Can., and its fauna seems to be almost wholly Canadian, with a slight tinge of the Hudsonian.

The birds observed were as follows:

1. *Totanus solitarius*, Solitary Sandpiper—A few of these birds were seen between the 8th and the 12th of August, flying past overhead. They appeared to be migrating in a south-westerly direction.

2. *Actitis macularia*, Spotted Sandpiper—A few of these birds were seen along some of the small pebbly streams. Most of those seen were single birds, but occasionally a pair was found.

3. *Accipiter atricapillus*, American Goshawk—On the 6th of August, some wet woods, an immature bird of while watching for a chipmunk in this species flew past me with a loud scream and alit on a small tree, about six feet from the ground. The bird was secured, and seemed to be quite young, as, though full grown, its feathers still retained a few downy tips.

This was doubtless the same bird which I saw the preceding day near the same spot. It was perched in a dead tree on the edge of a clearing and allowed a near approach before flying. As it sat in the tree, it uttered loud screams sounding almost exactly like the "ke-yoo" of the Redshouldered Hawk. Its stomach contained a mouse.

4. *Falco sparverius*, Sparrow Hawk—Several of these birds were seen at Caribou, usually along woods bordering open fields. One old bird, accompanied by a single young one, stayed about the fields on a certain hill for several days. On Aug. 15, while coming down on the train from Caribou to Bangor, I saw several pairs and a few groups of three Sparrowhawks from the car window. Evidently the birds were migrating leisurely.

5. *Ceryle alcyon*, Kingfisher—A few of these birds were noticed along the small streams and on the Aroostook river.

6. *Dryobates villosus*, Hairy Woodpecker—A few were seen in the woods, but it did not appear common.

7. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*, Downy Woodpecker—I saw but few of these birds, and all were singles.

8. *Sphyrapicus varius*, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—The commonest woodpecker. They were found especially on the large birch trees where they had made tappings. I frequently observed them clinging motionless to the trunks by their "wells," apparently waiting for the sap to collect. Occasionally, large hornets would come and fly about, as if going to alight. These, the birds would follow by turning their heads back and forth as the insects darted past. I saw none alight at holes where a bird was on guard but those places which the birds had left were often swarming with large white-tail hornets, and other insects. One Sapsucker was ob-

served making "peck-holes" high up in the bark of a living fir balsam.

9. *Colaptes auratus luteus*, Northern Flicker—A few Flickers were found in the more open cleared places about the village.

10. *Chordeiles virginianus*, Night Hawk—Small numbers of these birds were seen flying at almost any time of the day, but no large flocks were seen.

11. *Cnaetura pelagica*, Chimney Swift—Rather common about the houses in the village.

12. *Trochilus colubris*, Ruby-throated Humming-bird—This species was found in numbers about the beds of jewel-weed (*Impatiens*) in open spots. I saw twelve birds about one such place on the 10th of August. They were feeding from the blossoms of the jewel-weed and the thistle, and after a short period thus engaged, would rest a few minutes on some small twig. Suddenly one would dart off after another, and both, after a short rapid flight, would settle down again on the twigs; or one would go off, and the other return to the flowers. Once a brilliant male alighted on the same twig with a dull-colored bird and both touched bills and apparently ran out their tongues once or twice, but I was not able to learn just what was being done. Possibly, one may have been a full-grown young bird, but certainly the other one was not feeding it as far as could be made out. Several times as one of the birds darted by, it made a single short and distinct note, sounding exactly like the noise produced by blowing over the top of a small bottle. This noise was evidently produced with the wings, and so far as I know has never before been described. On several occasions I observed a single Humming-bird hover before one of the yellow-bellied Sapsucker's "wells," but in all cases which I observed, there were so many large hornets about the



punctured spot, that the Hummingbird flew away after a brief look.

13. *Tryannus tryannus*, Kingbird—Rather common in open places about the village. Aug. 8, I saw six birds, evidently a family, in a tree near some woods. As with many of the Fly-catchers the brood kept together, moving about from tree to tree in the fields.

14. *Contopus borealis*, Olive-sided Fly-catcher—I saw and heard about four of these birds during my stay. They kept to the tops of the tallest trees in large woods.

15. *Contopus virens*, Wood Peewee—There were two or three of these birds to be found usually, in some large trees by the roadside, at a certain spot near the village.

16. *Empidonax traillii alborum*, Alder Fly-catcher—The commonest Fly-catcher. A pair of these birds was to be found at every few rods among the alder thickets lining the numerous small brooks.

17. *Cyanocitta cristata*, Blue Jay—In all I saw and heard about a half dozen of these birds. They were shy and difficult to approach in thick undergrowth which they usually frequented. All, but one or two, of those noted were in a dense alder thicket by a small brook. They seemed unusually silent and would not respond to an imitation of their notes.

18. *Corvus Americanus*, American Crow—Small numbers of these birds were usually to be found in flocks of from three to eight, feeding, on the mowed hay fields or about vegetable patches. They kept near dwellings as a rule and appeared to avoid the woods.

19. *Carpodacus purpureus*, Purple Finch—Uncommon. I saw one or two pairs nearly every day.

20. *Loxia curvirostra minor*, Red-Cross-bill—Two only were noted, these being on the 5th of August.

21. *Astragalinus tristis*, American Goldfinch—Rather common about the village and open places near woods.

22. *Spinus pinus*, Pine Siskin—Two single birds were noted Aug. 10, and a single one the next day.

23. *Poocates gramineus*, Grass Finch. Rather common about the mowed fields, and along the roads near such places. They were still singing the first week of August.

24. *Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*, Savanna Sparrow.—Less numerous than the preceding and found in the same localities.

25. *Zonotrichia albicollis*, White-throated Sparrow.—A common bird in open bushy places on the edges of abundant in pieces of burned over woods. I found them especially ground, grown up thickly with raspberry canes, and where the dead trees and stumps afforded convenient perches. Although they were flocking at the time of my visit, I often heard the singing with all their springtime vigor.

26. *Spizella socialis*, Chipping Sparrow—About the houses in the villages, a small number of these birds was present, the most I recorded in one day being eight.

27. *Junco hyemalis*, Slate-colored Junco—A common bird in bushy places on the edge of woods.

28. *Melospiza fasciata*, Song Sparrow—Abundant in the more open country away from woods. They seem to like the bushy spots near small streams, often close to houses.

29. *Melospiza georgiana*, Swamp Sparrow. I observed two of these birds on the 10th of August, chipping, as is their habit, in a small marsh at sunset.

30. *Cyanospiza cyanea*, Indigo Bird—I saw only a few of these birds in a bushy place on a dry hillside. There appeared to be but a single family here, and the entire

brood seemed to remain in a loose flock, feeding among the bushes. Mr. Knight, in his "Birds of Maine," does not mention this species from Aroostook County.

31. *Progne subis*, Purple Martin.—A couple of pairs were seen daily about the village.

32. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*, Eye Swallow—On the 9th and 10th of August I saw three birds.

33. *Hirundo erythrogaster*, Barn Swallow—Small numbers were seen, apparently migrating, almost every day of my visit. Aug. 1st, I saw large flocks from the car windows from Bangor to Presque Isle.

34. *Tachycineta bicolor*, Tree Swallow—Four were seen on the 7th of August.

35. *Ampelis cedorum*, Cedar Bird—I saw but few of these birds, the most observed on a single day being five, August 2.

36. *Vireo olivaceus*, Red-eyed Vireo—Apparently not common. They were still singing when I arrived, and were to be found also with flocks of chickadees and warblers in the spruce and balsam woods.

37. *Vireo solitarius*, Solitary Vireo—Uncommon. I saw but three single birds.

38. *Mniotilta varia*, Black-and-white Warbler—I saw but a very few in the woods, with flocks of other warblers and black-capped chickadees

39. *Comptothlypis Americana usneae*, Northern Parula Warbler—Two were seen on the 9th of August with a flock of other warblers in the woods.

40. *Dendroica aestiva*, Yellow Warbler—By the Aroostook river, on the outskirts of the town, I found one or two pairs of these birds in a bushy swamp. They were still singing, Aug. 10th.

41. *Dendroica coronata*, Yellow-rumped Warbler.—Two were seen on the 5th of August.

42. *Dendroica maculosa*, Magnolia Warbler—A few were noticed in the woods and were still singing Aug. 8.

43. *Dendroica pensylvanica*, Chestnut-sided Warbler.—A very few were noted accompanying flocks of chickadees and warblers in the thick spruce and balsam woods

44. *Dendroica virens*, Black-throated Green Warbler—I saw but a few in the woods.

45. *Seiurus noveboracensis*, Water Thrush—Fairly common along the wooded banks of small streams. They were frequently heard singing during my stay.

46. *Geothlypis trichas*, Maryland Yellow-throat—Rather common in the thickets along the streams. One was heard singing Aug. 8. On the same day I saw a young bird just able to fly a little, and accompanied by its parent, in a swamp by the roadside.

47. *Wilsonia pusilla*, Wilson's Warbler—I saw several single birds with flocks of warblers and chickadees or alone in bushy spots. Aug. 13 I saw a young one in some low bushes by a stream. The young bird could fly quite well and may have been hatched in the vicinity.

48. *Wilsonia Canadensis*, Canada Warbler—Fairly common in the damp woods. I heard them singing occasionally the first week in August.

49. *Setophaga ruticilla*, American Red-start—Common in the woods, and often noted with flocks of other warblers and black-capped chickadees. Many were still singing during my visit.

50. *Troglodytes aedon*, House Wren—On the 10th of August, while passing through a large field, in which were many dead stumps, from two to four feet high, I saw a House Wren which seemed rather more than usually excited over something. I remained quiet for a few minutes and watched her. A few yards distant was a

stump about three feet high, sawed off nearly flat on top. A large tin pail had been put over the top of the stump at an angle, leaving a space between the stump and one part of the rim of the pail. Presently the wren flew to the stump and disappeared under the pail. Soon she emerged, having in her bill a small white object with which she flew to a small bush about three rods away. When I saw her an instant later, the white object which was doubtless excrement from the nest (which as I soon found was under the pail) had disappeared. I went to the stump and lifted the pail, and found the space inside almost completely filled with the nest material. Four young birds, nearly fledged, and with eyes open, were lying in the nest, all facing toward the opening, except one which was turned a little away from the others. The field in which this nest was found was near a house a little to the southward of the main part of the village. Mr. Knight does not mention the House Wren from Aroostook County, in his "Birds of Maine," and so far as known to me, the present is the most northern record for the breeding of the bird in New England.

52. *Anothura hiemalis*, Winter Wren—Several birds were seen on different occasions in the woods among the heaps of dead limbs, where trees had been cut, or darting in and out among the roots and fallen trunks of forest trees. I saw only single birds and found them singing during the first week in August.

53. *Sitta canadensis*, Red-bellied Nuthatch.—Small numbers of these birds were found in the spruce and balsam woods, often accompanying flocks of chickadees and warblers. It is noticeable that this species is often found traveling in pairs than the white-breasted form, which latter, by

the way I do not find in the region covered

54. *Parus atricapillus*, Black-capped Chickadee—Rather common in flocks in the woods. These flocks are almost invariably accompanied by warblers or other small insectivorous birds at this season.

55. *Regulus satrapa*, Golden-crowned Kinglet—I saw but few of these birds. They frequent the coniferous woods.

56. *Hylocichla ustulata swainsonii*, Olive-backed Thrush—These thrushes were through singing when I arrived, but on several occasions I heard their liquid "pip" from the bushes by a small stream. Three birds were noted in all.

57. *Hylocichla aonaloschkae pallasii*, Hermit Thrush—I found small numbers of Hermit Thrushes in the woods, and heard them singing several times during my stay.

58. *Merula migratoria*, Robin—Rather common about the village, near houses, and in open country.

It may be added that a flock of five birds were seen on the Aroostook river Aug. 10, but they were too far away to be certainly identified. As nearly as could be made out, however, they were American Golden-eyes (*Clangula clangula Americana*).

As it rained on all but two days of my stay opportunity for seeing many birds was poor, but the above list, it is hoped will be of interest, from so far to the north in New England.

GLOVER M. ALLEN

#### NESTING OF ZONOTRICHIA LEUCOPHYRS IN MAINE.

I desire to call the attention of the Ornithologists of Maine to the probable nesting of the White Crowned

Sparrow in Maine. That it does breed in this locality I have no doubt, for I have seen them in pairs near my home during nearly all the summer months, and while camping at Androscoggin Lake in June, 1898, my companion, Mr. Teague, called my attention to a pair of these birds which were near our camp, in a coniferous growth of pine and hemlock. They were a male and female, and seemed to be mated. They were scratching about in the pine needles. Davie says: "They migrate northward in spring to their breeding grounds, which are in the higher mountain ranges of Western United States, Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains, and eastward north of the Great Lakes to Newfoundland and Labrador." (Nests and Eggs, 4th edition.) If so, why are they in Maine during the breeding season? I would like to hear from others in regard to the nesting and habits of the White Crowned Sparrow.

GUY H. BRIGGS

Livermore, Androscoggin Co., Me.

[Note:—I knew of a pair of these birds to remain at Farmington, Me., late in June, '87, and watched them carry nesting material for several days. They, however, left the locality, in a few days, and were seen no more about the place. I did not believe they intended to rear their young in that locality.—Ed.]

#### ADDITIONAL LIST OF BIRDS FOR WALDO AND KNOX COUNTIES.

By Reginald Heber Howe, Jr.\*

*Gavia lumme*, Red Throated Loon—One seen near Islesboro on Aug. 16, and Sept. 22 1900, by G. C. Shattuck.

*Larus marinus*, Black-backed Gull—Seen on Aug. 25, and Sept. 21, 1900, by G. C. Shattuck, near Islesboro

*Sterna dougalli*, Roseate Tern—Three seen on Aug. 31, 1900, by G. C. Shattuck near Islesboro.

*Stercorarius* (parasiticus?), Jaeger—One seen Aug. 25, 1900, by G. C. Shattuck, near Islesboro.

*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, Leach's Petrel—Abundant on Seal Island, but does not enter the bay apparently even at night.

*Phalacrocorax (dilatophus?)*, Cormorant—Not uncommon from July 5, through September, 1900. Roosts on Robinson's Rock.

*Oidemia deglandi*, White-winged Scoter—Two were seen near Islesboro on July 2, 1900, by G. C. Shattuck

*Potaurus lentiginosus*, American Bittern—One seen Sept. 16, by G. C. Shattuck, on Seven-hundred Acre Island.

*Helodroma solitarius*, Solitary Sandpiper—Seen on Sept. 10, 12, and 16, 1900, by G. C. Shattuck on Seven-hundred Acre Island.

*Barrania longicauda*, Bartramian Sandpiper. One heard flying over Islesboro on Aug. 13, 1900, by G. G. Searls.

*Numenius hudsonicus*, Hudsonian Curlew—One seen flying over Seal Island on July 19, 1900

*Myiarchus crinitus*, Crested Flycatcher—One seen at Islesboro on July 7 and 11, 1900.

*Sayornis phoebe*, Phoebe—A bird was seen at Camden on July 2, 1900.

*Corvus corax principalis*, Nests on Saddle Island. A pair was seen at Pulpit Harbor, North Haven, on July 2, 1900.

*Chivicola riparia*, Bank Swallow—A few were seen off Marshall's Point, Long Island, on July 10, 1900. Though omitted from my former list, they were seen in July, 1899, at the same place.

*Vireo gilvus*, Warbling Vireo—A single bird was heard singing at Camden on July 2, 1900.

*Wilsonia canadensis*. Canada Warbler—At least a pair bred at Islesboro. Two were seen on July 9, 1900.

\*See Journal Maine Ornithological Society, Vol. II, No. 3, July, p. 28-32, 1900.

### THE BROWN PELICAN.

By Homer R. Dill.

Read before the Maine Ornithological Society at Lewiston, Dec. 21, 1900.

During my experience in the taxidermy business I have had many rare and beautiful Maine birds in my rooms. The one whose picture is now before you, although not the most beautiful, was certainly a "record breaker," for being rare and interesting.

This bird, a live Brown Pelican was sent me by Hon. L. T. Carleton, to be mounted for the State Museum. It was captured at Bar Harbor, Maine, in the autumn of 1900.

When it came, it was in a large cage, and looked anything but beautiful, with its great beak which, when opened, looked like a pair of tongs, and the great pouch on the under side large enough to hold a peck of peanuts, a long neck, very short legs, and such feet. The webs extended around to the hind toe, and so broad were they that, when standing, part of one foot overlapped the other.

He seemed very stupid at first and did nothing but preen his feathers, and snap his beak at intruders. He was offered all kinds of food but refused everything until a small boy offered him a live yellow perch, which "Bill," as we then called him, seized and ate with apparent relish. This settled the problem of keeping him

alive long enough to study him thoroughly.

In a few days he became very tame and would let me stroke his head, and would take fish from my hands. Strange to say he knew better than to trust women, and he would hiss and snap his beak whenever they approached. (Bill was a wise bird).

After a time I took him out of his cage and hitched him by a string around his leg. He seemed perfectly contented. One day I took him to the stream. How he did splash around and swim and dive! You would think he had gone crazy.

At last he tired of the sport and came out and shook himself. Then, wonderful to relate, he swelled his body to twice its natural size. To say that I was surprised would be expressing it mildly.

Upon investigation I found that "Bill" could inflate his skin and this helped to dry his feathers. After his swim he sat in the sun two hours and preened each feather carefully, and when he was dry, what a change! Why, he looked like a different bird. His plumage shone, and he was clean as could be. A friend came with his camera and Bill posed his prettiest, and was kind enough to swallow a small bass whole so we might make a picture of the performance. He swallowed all his food in this way.

The public learned what an interesting bird Bill was and how they came to see him. There were crowds and crowds, and Bill soon tired of so much attention. In spite of their wonder and admiration he would tuck his beak under his wing coverts and go to sleep, regardless of company.

I thought perhaps he might like some straw to sleep on and so I gave him some. He was as pleased as he was with the bath. He ran his beak through the straw and played with it a long time. At last he decided to

make a nest and succeeded very well for a clumsy bird.

One day some small boys offered Bill an apple. He seized it with evident delight, and played with it a long time by tossing it up in his beak and running after it, much to the amusement of the small boys.

In the morning when I went out to feed my pet, he would stretch out his wings, arch his long neck and turn the pouch inside out over his neck.

At last the time came for Bill to die. It makes me sad to write about it, for it was with deepest regret that I took him to my work room. When I put him into the box to chloroform him, he looked at me so innocent and trusting with his soft brown eyes little suspecting that he whom he had learned to love was about to take him from this bright, beautiful world. I felt very badly indeed, and for once I wished I had never been a taxidermist. Had there been any way out of it I would have been excused gladly, for I had learned to love him, ugly as he was. I laid a napkin over his beak where his nostrils should

have been and turned on chloroform, but as it did not seem to have the desired effect, upon investigation I found that "Bill" had no nostrils, but breather through a windpipe that terminated in the pouch.

At last he "gave up the ghost," and in skinning him I found a spongy tissue between the body proper and the skin which he filled with air at pleasure and thus made himself buoyant as cork.

He was the most difficult specimen in the bird line I have ever mounted for when his skin was removed it was very large and stretched to such an extent that if the artificial body had been made to fit the skin, the mounted specimen would have been twice the size of the living bird. But as experience has taught me how to treat such skins, after many hours of patient labor I had "Bill" standing on my work bench, and his many friends were kind enough to say that he looked as well as ever.

He now adorns the State museum at Augusta, where he can be seen at any time.



The Journal of  
*The Maine Ornithological Society.*

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A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF MAINE ORNITHOLOGY.

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' BIRD PROTECTION. BIRD STUDY. THE SPREAD OF THE KNOWLEDGE THUS GAINED,  
THESE ARE OUR OBJECTS.'

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VOL. III.

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NO. 2.

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The • Maine • Ornithological  
Society.

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Sixth annual meeting to be held the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving, 1901, at State House, Augusta.

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Editorials.

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It is with pleasure that we are able to inform our readers that the bill framed by our law committee and recommended by our Society, has passed both houses and has been signed by the Governor and has become a law.

The thanks of the members and all those who have an interest in the new law are due to Mr. Dutcher and to Dr. Palmer for their efforts and the interest they have taken in its behalf, as

well as to Mr. Carleton and Mr. Mead, whose influence at the State House has greatly aided the bill in its passage. Also to Prof. Lee, who so kindly went to Augusta on the day of the hearing before the committee with the stereopticon to show the pictures that Mr. Dutcher wished to show, most of which he took on the Maine coast last summer. Other members who were present in the interest of the bill were Prof. Powers, Secretary Norton and "ye editor." The Committee on Bird Protection hope to see some good results from the new law the coming season.

The Horned Larks were first noted on Feb. 21st. One individual was seen near Liberty, in Waldo Co. This one was, without much doubt, Praticola. The next flock I saw in Lincoln Co., near Alna, on Feb. 27th. Small flocks have been quite common since. I have observed them in Kennebec, Somerset, Piscataquis, Knox, Lincoln, Waldo and Franklin Co's. From careful examinations made with the field glass, I am of the opinion that the larger part of the birds I've noted were Praticola. On one bright, pleasant day while in Waldo Co, I heard some very pleasing musical bird notes, which much resembled the suppressed medley often made by *Carpodacus purpureus*. I immediately made search, expecting to find the Purple Finch, when I discovered three Horned Larks feeding in the mid-

dle of the road a short way off, and occasionally giving vent to a soft, warbling, ventriloquial sound. I approached them quietly and they allowed me to get within a few feet of them, and with the field glass I decided they were of the Prairie variety.

The Crow reached the interior of the State on "town meeting day" (Mch. 4), and have been quite common since. Two small flocks of Siskins were seen on March 12th, the only ones seen for the winter. Capt. Spinney writes me that the land birds have been unusually scarce all winter on the island. That it has been the most lonesome, dreary winter he has ever spent on the island. He has only seen a few Snowflakes for land birds for over three months. He mentions seeing a few Horned Grebes and says they are of unusual occurrence of late. He also mentions a beautiful pair of Pintails and a pair of the Baldpate from Popham Beach, shot late in November. He is waiting anxiously to hear the pleasing song of the Song Sparrow, which is expected daily.

An interesting letter, dated March 4, from Mr. Ruthven Deane, of Chicago, (President of the Ill. Audobon Society, also a prominent member of the A. O. U. and a jolly, good fellow in general) stating that he learned that the Brown Pelican captured at Bar Harbor, whose photo. from life, figures on the Jan. No. of the Journal (See Dill, Jan. No. Vol. III, page 15), was originally brought from South America on board a ship and escaped from Castine. Several members of our Society have mentioned this fact.

#### NOTES FROM HANCOCK COUNTY.

From an interesting letter written by Mrs. W. H. Gardner, we quote the following: "As I find the data upon the

Philadelphia Vireo, in the 'List of the Birds of Maine,' is brief, it may be of interest to hear that, unless I am mistaken, we have this bird breeding with us in Bucksport. I have been watching a nest for some time, but thinking it might be, possibly, only a Redeye, I did not quite dare call it the rarer bird, until the evident yellow tint of the under parts, the lack of the dark line at the edge of the crown, and as one becomes more familiar with it, the difference in the song lead me to think such was the case. I would like to add, too, to our Hancock county list, a few other birds. The Crested Flycatcher, I saw last year and this season also. With a number of others, I saw in the garden belonging to the Moses greenhouses, last March 21, a Mourning Dove. Last June I spent the best part of one day watching a Cape May Warbler, feeding tiny birds which could hardly have been out of the nest more than a few hours.

With us, the Solitary Vireo seems unusually plenty this season and Bobolinks are more plenty than last year.

I am glad to know you are doing so much to protect the birds of our State."

AUGUSTA GARDNER.

Bucksport, June 27, 1900.

#### HOW WE ADDED BOB WHITE TO OUR BRIDGTON LIST.

A Paper Before the Maine Ornithological Society, at Lewiston, Dec. 22, 1900.

By this time the members must know that I can never make a strictly straightforward, scientific statement. If I could I should simply write "On July 6th, 1897, I observed at North Bridgton, Cumberland Co., Maine, a Bob White, *Colinus Virginianus* (Linn) and not write all the way around Rob-in Hood's barn. But to me, attending



circumstances are often times quite as interesting as bare facts—if they are not to you, you have listened long enough. In June, '96, Mrs. Mead told me one evening that she thought she must have heard a Bob White calling in the pasture back of our house that morning. Although she had never heard the note before, it was so plainly whistled that she called out a Colorado lady who was visiting at our near neighbor's. This lady unhesitatingly pronounced the author to be the veritable "Bob," not knowing but he was as common in Maine as in the West.

A few days later a farmer living about two miles away called at my shop to inquire if "Quail" were ever found in our State. I told him I believed N. C. Brown had Cumberland Co. records. "Well, years ago," he said, "I used to be in Massachusetts a great deal and I worked one season on a farm in Illinois, so that I got well acquainted with them. Now the other day while my son and I were at work in the field we heard one pipe up as clear as life 'Bob White,' 'Bob White!'" My son went over to where the sound came from and flushed a bird, which from his description must have been a sure enough quail." One morning (the 18th of June, 1897), I was sitting on the piazza at home telling "ghost stories" to Bro. Spinney, who was visiting me, when loud, clear and unmistakable came the whistle of Bob White down in the pasture near the lake. "There," said Mrs. Mead, "is the same bird call I heard last summer." Although we heard the call over and over we were unable to discover the bird. But better fortune was in store for us later. The morning of July 6th we were again greeted by the ringing notes from the same locality. I went in search of the bird but it became suddenly silent, and my time being limited I gave up the chase. An hour later I looked up from my work to see my

little girl coming on the run. I knew there was a bird in the case or else our house was afire and I hurried to meet her. "We have found Bob White," she cried, "and if you want to see him come down in the pasture. Mama is watching him and he looks just like his picture." We found Mrs. Mead armed with the field glasses and looking disappointed. "Since you came in sight he has hopped down from that oak stump where I have had the best chance to watch him strut and preen himself." "Bob White," "Bob White," in mellow whistles came the call from the lake-side, and creeping up I flushed a brown ball of feathers, that with the whirl of wings that always makes a sportsman's nerves tingle, mounted upward to a dead limb of a near-by pine and gave me an excellent opportunity to study it. There wasn't a scintilla of doubt as to the identity. I have shot them in Massachusetts and the Southern States and I might have shot this one, but I wouldn't have done it for a mess of pottage, even if it hadn't been "agin the law." Later in the day it was in a field in front of our house and several persons had a good opportunity to watch it. Farmers living within a half mile of our village on either side had their attention called to the noisy visitor within the next few days. Many of them recognized the note but one insisted that he had heard a "wild parrot."

JAMES CARROLL MEAD.

No. Bridgton, Me.

#### NOTES ON THE WARBLERS OF ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY.

##### BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.

This species is a fairly common summer resident, although their nest is hard to find. In the last eight years that I have noted its arrival, April 30, 1896, is the earliest and May 14, 1898,

is the latest. September 25, 1897, is the latest I have seen it in the fall. This year I noted its arrival May 6. June 17, 1898, while descending a steep bank in a small piece of woods, a female flushed from nearly under my feet and I discovered its nest, which contained three young and one egg with one side crushed. The nest was loosely constructed of pine needles and shreds of bark and leaves, lined with fine roots and horsehair, situated on a bank in the edge of some brush at the foot of a small hemlock tree. May 24, 1899, I saw a pair building near the same place, and June 2 there were three eggs in the nest, and no more had been laid June 5. The nest was composed of leaves, shreds of bark, pine needles and grasses, lined with horsehair and situated in a hollow beside a stump on a steep bank. The eggs measure .72x.52, .71x.53, .69x.50 in. June 8 I saw this pair building again and June 18 five eggs were in the nest, which was built up under some brush of the same materials as the former one. Incubation of the eggs was from fresh to well begun, showing that the bird had been sitting on the nest from the time the first eggs were laid. The eggs measure .75x.52, .75x.52, .72x.50, .71x.50, .70x.51 in. June 21, I saw this pair building again, but did not disturb them. A pair—probably the same ones, nested there this last summer. The nest was found after the young had left it.

#### NASHVILLE WARBLER.

This is a common migrant and fairly common summer resident. The earliest date I have for its arrival is May 7, and the latest May 22, and the latest seen in the fall is September 23. This year it was first seen May 13. June 6, 1894, a nest of five eggs was found by F. A. Garcelon in Lewiston. The nest was in a hollow on the ground in a pasture. June 6, 1896, I found a nest in Buckfield containing five badly in-

cubated eggs. June 3, 1899, my brother and I were out, at Lisbon, and he flushed a bird from its nest which after two hours watching I identified as the Nashville Warbler. The nest was composed of grasses and moss, lined with horsehair, situated in a hollow on the side of a hummock on the ground in a pasture. Incubation was slight and the five eggs measured .70x.47, .69x.47, .68x.47, .69x.47, .69x.46 in.

#### TENNESSEE WARBLER.

June 4, 1895, C. D. Farrar found a nest of this species in South Lewiston, containing four badly incubated eggs. The female was shot for identification.

#### NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER.

This is a common migrant and a fairly common summer resident. My earliest date for its arrival is May 7, and the latest is May 22, and September 23 is the latest I have seen it in the fall. May 31, 1899, C. D. Farrar and myself found a colony of Parulas nesting in the Wales Bog at the head of Sabatis Pond. We found six nests, but only one of them contained eggs. This nest was built of usnea moss, hanging on a horizontal limb of a hackmatack tree, about 12 feet above the water, and containing five well incubated eggs. June 11, 1899, a female was seen near the same place, lining its nest, and June 17 four eggs had been laid. The nest was built of usnea moss, with a little hair-like filament for lining, situated eight feet high, on a small dead limb of a hackmatack tree, on a small floating island. The eggs measure .69x.47, .69x.46, .69x.46, and .68x.45 in. June 17, 1900, another nest was found containing five eggs. The nest was composed of usnea moss, lined with a few hair-like strips of milkweed stalk, hanging from a horizontal limb of a hackmatack tree situated in Green Bog at the head of Sabatis Pond. The nest was 6 feet above the water. The eggs measure .74x.52, .73x.52, .73x.51, .72x.51, and

.72x.50 in. Another nest was found the same day, situated 8 feet high, on the end of a live limb of a hackmatack tree growing in the water. I have a good picture of this nest. At another nest I saw the bird feeding its young, and tried to get a picture, but it was in the shade and I did not expose long enough. A boat is necessary for reaching most of these nests.

#### CAPE MAY WARBLER.

Rare in this vicinity. May 6, 1897, one was seen in Lewiston, by W. F. Burbank.

#### YELLOW WARBLER.

Common summer resident. In the last eight years I have noted its arrival May 7 is my earliest date and May 19 my latest, and September 15 is my latest fall date. A nest was found at Lisbon Centre, June 8, 1889, containing four eggs. The nest was composed of hempen fibres, lined with plant down, situated 8 feet high in an alder bush. The eggs measure .66x.52, .66x.51, .63x.49, .58x.44 in. The first egg is thickly spotted around the small end, and the last is noticeably smaller than the others. The earliest date I have found a set of eggs is May 29, and the latest June 30.

#### BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.

Fairly common migrant. Rare summer resident. My earliest date of its arrival is May 12, and the latest, May 18. Have not seen it in the fall. I believe a nest with eggs was found by C. D. Farrar, near Lewiston, a number of years ago.

#### MYRTLE WARBLER.

Common migrant and fairly common summer resident. My earliest date of its arrival for the last ten years is April 23, and the latest May 7, and October 23 is the latest seen in fall. July 3, 1893, I found a nest of this

species in Lewiston containing young. The nest was composed of hemlock twigs, fine roots and some pieces of twine, lined with horsehair and a few feathers, situated 33 feet up on a horizontal limb of a pine tree. July 4, 1893 I saw a female feeding a young cowbird nearly twice as large as the Myrtle. In 1894 I searched for a nest near the place where I found the first one, and June 14 I found the nest containing four young birds about a week old. The nest was in the top of a pine tree on some small branches, snug to the trunk, about 35 feet up. I see this species nearly every breeding season, but am unable to find its nest.

#### MAGNOLIA WARBLER.

Common migrant and a few remain to breed. My earliest date of its arrival is May 9, and the latest June 4. I have no fall date, July 18 being the latest I have seen it. July 18, 1898, I found a nest of this species near Lewiston, containing four young. The nest was at the edge of some woods where it had been cleared off and was growing up to bushes. It was composed of hemlock twigs and dry grasses, lined with pine needles and fine black roots, and situated about 2 feet high in a hemlock bush. I saw both the parents near the nest and watched the female feed the young. June 25 they had gone and I collected the nest.

#### CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.

Common summer resident. My earliest date of its arrival is May 7 and the latest May 23. The earliest I have found a set of eggs is June 6, 1891, at Lisbon Centre. The nest was composed of fine grass and birch bark, lined with fine roots and situated about 3 feet high in a hazel bush. The nest contained three eggs of this species and one of the cowbird. The eggs measure .68x.51, .68x.50, .67x.50 in. This set was exhibited at the World's Fair in Chicago. July 4 is the latest I have found

eggs, and this was probably the second set.

#### BAY-BREASTED WARBLER.

Rare migrant. May 28, 1897 a specimen was taken by W. F. Burbank in Lewiston, and May 29, 1897, I saw one. May 10, 1899 one was seen by C. D. Farrar in Lewiston. A female specimen in my collection was taken in Lewiston May 20, 1900. May 24 I saw a male and May 25 another.

#### BLACKPOLL WARBLER.

Fairly common migrant. May 9 is my first date of its arrival, and May 30 the latest. Last seen in the spring June 5, and last seen in the fall September 8.

#### BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER.

Usually not very common, but were common in the spring of 1900. My earliest date of its arrival is May 10, and last seen May 28. I have no fall data. June 30, 1894, I saw some warblers in tall pines near Lewiston, two of which I identified as Blackburn's, and I think they were breeding there.

#### BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.

Common migrant and fairly common summer resident. My earliest date of its arrival is May 2, and the latest is May 15. Oct. 2 is the latest fall record I have. June 4 is the earliest I have found eggs. I found my first nest in Lewiston, June 6, 1895. The nest was composed of twigs and strips of birch and bark, lined with horsehairs and a few feathers, situated on a horizontal limb of a hemlock tree—three feet from the trunk, and fifteen feet high. In the nest was three fresh eggs of this warbler and one of the cowbird which was well incubated. The eggs measure .66x.49, .65x.49, .65x.49 in. June 19, 1895, a second set was found. The nest was composed of fine roots, twigs, fine

grass, bits of cotton and strips of white birch, lined with horsehair, and situated 11 ft high on a horizontal limb of a hemlock tree. The set contained a runt egg, being spotted heavily on the small end and it had no yolk in it. The eggs measure .69x.50, .67x.49, .66x.49 and .45x.34 in. Of eleven nests I have found six were in hemlock trees two in pine, one in a white birch, one in a maple and one in a hackmatack tree. Most of them were built quite low, the lowest being 10 ft, high and the highest 33 ft. high. One found June 9, 1900, contained five eggs and as I could not get a picture of it in the tree I took it out in the sun on a sand bank. July 1, 1900, I found a nest on which I exposed six plates 2½ to 3 ft. away with the female sitting on the nest but as it was in the woods in the shade, they were not exposed long enough and I developed nothing.

#### PINE WARBLER.

Common migrant and fairly common summer resident, as I see a few nearly every summer, although I have not been lucky enough to find its nest. My earliest date of its arrival is April 14 and its latest April 30 and the latest I have seen it in the fall is Sept. 23. June 16, 1894, I saw a pine warbler in some pines near Lewiston which had something in its mouth to feed its young and it kept chipping around but I could not find its nest. June 2, 1899, I saw a pair near a small pond catching insects to feed their young. They would catch quite a number of insects which would be protruding from each side of their bills and then fly away to their nest, but I could not seem to trace them up.

#### YELLOW PALM WARBLER.

Common migrant. My earliest date of its arrival is April 12 and seen May 20. Earliest seen in the fall Sept. 28 and latest seen Oct. 27.

## OVENBIRD.

Common summer resident. My earliest date of its arrival is April 23, June 9, 1894, I found a nest in the woods at the head of Sabatis Pond, containing four eggs. The bird ran from the nest along the ground like a mouse. The nest was composed of dry leaves and pine needles, ovenshaped, situated on the ground under a hemlock bush. The eggs measure .81x.62, .80x.61, .80x.60, .78x.62 in. June 8, 1895, another nest was found in the woods near Lewiston. It was oven-shaped, composed of leaves, fine roots and pine needles, lined with horsehair and situated on the ground under a running blackberry bush. The eggs measure .86x.62, .82x.62, .82x.61, .81x.62 in. June 10, 1896, a nest with four eggs was found at Buckfield and June 15, 1898, I found a nest in Lewiston containing young.

## WATER THRUSH.

Not very common in spring. May 13 is my earliest day of its arrival and last seen May 30 and one was seen Aug. 21.

## MOURNING WARBLER.

I gave this as a rare migrant in the "List of Maine Birds" but it was a mistake as I do not know of its occurrence here.

## MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT.

Common summer resident. My earliest date of its arrival is May 7 and the latest I have seen it in the fall is Oct. 3. May 28 is the earliest I have found a full set of eggs and June 8 the latest. June 5, 1887, I found a nest at Sabatis containing four eggs. The nest was on the ground in a bunch of dry grass in a swampy place, composed of leaves and dry grass, lined with fine grasses. The eggs measure .64x.52, .63x.53, .63x.52, and .63x.52 in. June 8, 1890, I found another nest containing four eggs. The nest in this case was

in a bunch of grass, about 1½ ft. above the ground.

## WILSON'S WARBLER.

Not very common migrant. My earliest date for its arrival is May 7 and latest seen June 8. Have seen about a dozen in all.

## CANADIAN WARBLER.

Fairly common migrant and rare summer resident. My earliest date of its arrival is May 22. June 4, 1893, I saw a pair in Greene that kept chipping around but I could not find any nest although I am sure they had one there somewhere. July 4, 1898, while going through the woods on my place at Buckfield I saw a pair of this species chipping around as if they had young.

## AMERICAN REDSTART.

Very common summer resident. My earliest date of its arrival is May 6 and the latest May 14 and the latest seen in the fall is Sept. 27. I have found numberless nests of this species, my earliest set being June 3, and the latest June 30. Four is the usual number of eggs laid, rarely five, and I have found several nests with the cowbird's egg in it. June 8, 1891, a nest was found at Lisbon Centre containing four eggs. It was composed of fibres of bark, birch and wool, lined with hen's feathers and a few horsehairs and situated in a maple sapling, about 7 ft. high. The eggs measure .65x.50, .65x.49, .64x.49, .64x.48 in.

## AMERICAN PIPIT.

Fairly common fall migrant. Oct. 23, 1898, F. A. Garcelon saw a large flock on plowed ground near Lewiston. W. F. Burbank saw numbers of them at the head of Sabatis Pond in Oct. 1899, and Oct. 17, 1900, saw a number of flocks in the same place.

EVERETT E. JOHNSON.

Lewiston, Me., Dec. 20, 1900.

## MINOR NOTES.

It is like parting with old friends when woods we have known long and traversed often go down before the unsatiable axe. Yet they must go, and, going, change to some extent the bird life. These changes bring some species in greater abundance, and drive to other and more favored spots those once abundant, or cause them to modify their nesting habits. The relative abundance of different species in a given locality is constantly changing, while the total of bird life does not change much from year to year.

The chimney has afforded so safe and convenient a nesting place to the Chimney Swift that, without doubt, they are now more abundant and widely distributed than they were before the days of civilization. The Eave and the Barn Swallow now nest plentifully over a wide extent of territory that could have afforded no chance for residence in the early days, and the Bobolink now sings where once the forest stood.

Civilization has its compensations as well as its drawbacks and if we ever learn the lesson of our kinship with the wild thing, and protect instead of kill, many a wild bird may look toward a future brighter than the wilderness can ever afford.

In my boyhood days the Grackles nested in the evergreens and seemed content, but later when a dam and change of water level made many a stub with suitable cavity for nesting, they changed to these, and for years have nested in the stubs and in the bushes about, over the water away from shore.

Tree Swallows came, too, and nested in abundance. The stubs are falling now and the Swallows and Grackles are moving away. Last year the Grackle colony was small; soon there will be few or none nesting here.

We see few new birds now, but last

May a Scarlet Tanager was welcomed one morning. We hope he will come again.

Each year the Red-shouldered Hawks come back to their old homes, but we have looked long and vainly for the Red-tailed, though they have been all around us.

The evening woods no longer ring with the chorused song of Hermit Thrushes—only a solo here and there—but the Wilson's evening song comes clear and strong from every grove in early summer. The White-crowned Sparrows migrate regularly, but in no great abundance, and sometimes are seen quite late in the spring, but there has never been any evidence that they had the slightest intention of nesting. Until actual breeding specimens are produced we may well question its nesting in the State.

Mr. Briggs' note is of interest, however, since it directs attention to the possibility.

The winter has been barren of bird life, and bleak and long, but a little more patience and we shall hear the song the Song Sparrow sings.

C. H. MORRILL.

Pittsfield, March, 1901.

## THE BITTERN IN CAPTIVITY.

by

J. M. SWAIN.

Read Before the Maine Ornithological Society at Brunswick, Dec. 28, 1899.

It was in the summer of '89 I first made the acquaintance of the American Bittern (*Botaurus Lentiginosus*) though I had known the bird at sight and had watched them at a long distance off, ever since I was old enough to wander along the banks of Wilson's stream, that wended its way through field, meadow and woodland near my home. I knew but little of its habits,

and nothing of its nesting in those days. My books of reference on my pet hobby were very few indeed. I had but one bird book, and that I prized very highly. It was "Our Birds, Their Nests and Eggs," by H. P. White. It was a book of perhaps fifty pages, small in size and gave but small information on each bird.

I did succeed in naming a few birds such as Crested and Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee and some others, which I have found since were named correctly. But when I found a nest of albino eggs of the Blue-bird and this book contained no description of a blue-bird with white eggs, I decided it was not up to date, and a more complete work was needed, so I ordered Samuels. But I do not believe I brought this work home with quite so much joy in my breast as I felt when I rode home beside my father with my first small book in my pocket.

But to return to the Bitterns, I made their acquaintance, as is usual, in an unexpected way. The last of July, 1889, I was crossing a large meadow about one mile from the stream, and as I came within about thirty rods from the edge of the woods that bordered the meadow, I saw a Bittern fly up. Uttering its "quak," it dropped a frog it had in its mouth and flew toward the stream.

I immediately began to search in the coarse flat meadow grass for a nest; soon up flew another bird, and on going to the spot from which this bird flew I saw a young, ungainly, fuzzy-looking Bittern skulking along through the grass. This I caught, and soon saw another. I captured this one also, and on looking still further I found the nest and a smaller bird that could not get very far from the nest. These three I tied together by the legs and left them beside a stump, and searched for more. Presently one of the old birds dropped in-

to the grass near by, and on going to look for it, I got quite close to it and could not see it at first; but on seeing the bird I found that by reason of the stripes down its neck and back, that so much resembled the coarse grass which it was hiding in, it was difficult to distinguish it from the grass. Here was a splendid example of protective coloration. Soon a fellow who was cutting the grass near by spoke to me and said he had found another young bird. I went to him and found he had cut the poor bird's head off with his scythe. He said the bird stood so still in the grass he did not see it until he had mowed its head off. This made four birds and I decided it must be all the nest had contained, so I began to wonder what I would do with them. I pitied the old birds, but decided to take them home and keep them if possible.

I was about two miles from home, but overtook a fellow with a load of hay, and putting the birds on the hay I rode part way with him. On alighting I found but two birds; the smaller one had fallen from the load. I took the two birds home, and built an enclosure of woven wire fence, near the stable, and built a small shelter in one corner. I caught fish and frogs for them; at first they ate very little, but soon a growing appetite forced them to eat and they began to grow, and the amount of fish and frogs they soon devoured threatened to exterminate them from the vicinity. After they were well feathered I would cut a frog in two pieces, and a pound black bass, or a good sized perch or horn pout I would only cut in four or five pieces and they would seize them and swallow them with a few jerks of the head.

They became soon to seem as contented in their enclosure as in their natural state, but when I took them out and let them run about at leisure, they would work toward a clump of

bushes or some other hiding place, then skulk and hide. Their beaks were very sharp, and they were as cross as could be to all others who attempted to feed them, but they were as gentle and as playful to me as a kitten could be, taking fish from my fingers very carefully. After eating their food they would curl down beside me, and I could stroke their head or neck. Sometimes they would take my fingers in their mouth playfully, but never offered to play rough. They never quarreled with each other except sometimes they both tried to swallow the same piece of fish at once. Then it was amusing to watch them. Often in a bright, sunny day they would stalk with long strides across their enclosure, with their long pointed bills pointing straight up into the sky, sometimes stopping for five or ten minutes, their heads still upturned, and standing as still as a sentry, then they would resume their strides to the other side.

When they saw me coming to feed them they would come rushing along to the corner to meet me, looking as ferocious as an angry lion, the long feathers on their neck ruffled up, and with sharp, glaring eyes, but as soon as I offered them food they lost their angry looks instantaneously. Several visitors tried to feed them, or to stroke their feathers, but only tried it once, as they got a cut with their long sharp beak. And if they tried to play with them, they would throw their heads back, ruffle the feathers on their neck, throw themselves down on the ground and strike at anyone who came in reach of their powerful beak.

In the autumn when the birds began to migrate, my pets gave evidence of a strong desire to go South. They would stalk about their enclosure nervously and try to get through the wire. They were very uneasy, and it was evident that strong instinct urged them to leave this cold climate. When I re-

turned from school one day in October I found my pets had flown up over the top of the wire fence about four feet high, and gone. I went to a brook near by and found tracks they had made. I followed a little farther on to a small bog, lined with willow bushes, tall grass and cat tails and there were my birds, wading in the water. I called to them; at first they paid little attention to me, but soon flew across the water to my feet, and seemed much pleased to see me. I took them home and fed them. The next day they went to the same bog, and were brought back at night as before. I tied a string to one leg, giving them the freedom of their enclosure. The next night when I returned from school one had become entangled with the string on its leg and had pulled its shelter down on its head, and lay dead. The other had cut the string with its sharp beak and gone. I went to the bog as before and found my remaining pet, but he would not come to me. I could not call it or catch it. It kept about the place but crossed to the other side when I tried to get up to it. It staid about the bog for a day or two then left for parts unknown, and I never saw again this bird, which was one of the most interesting pets I ever had. I missed them for many a day.

The only sound made while they were with me was by one of the birds. It threw its head back, stretching its neck to its full length, and drawing air down its spacious throat, that sounded a short distance off like someone driving a stake. It would repeat this several times. I had supposed this sound was only made by the male during the mating season.

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Late records of certain birds at Westbrook, Me., and vicinity:

Am. Woodcock—Remained in 1900 until Nov. 23d, when three were taken.



One was reported from Woodfords Nov. 29, as perching in an apple tree during the snow storm of that date, where it was killed.

Loggerhead Shrike—One identified at Westbrook Nov. 17, much later than ever observed here before.

Duck Hawk at Westbrook—One of these Hawks was observed, perched in a willow by the bank of the Presumpscot River, March 14, 1901. After being observed at 1.05 A. M. it remained for five minutes before flying. It was undoubtedly a migrant.

A. H. N.

#### A MORNING WITH THE WOODPECKERS.

Read before the Summer Meeting at E. Parsonsfield, July 5, 1900.

During the Spring months, when the birds were coming back to spend the Summer with us or to pass to the northward, while a long sickness prevented me from performing the duties that were mine, my Dr. ordered me off to the country to regain my health and to rest up for the coming summer's work. Thus I had the opportunity forced upon me to observe and record the birds as they arrived at Farmington, and I spent much of my time out of doors with the birds on my old "stamping grounds." Early on the morn of May 23d I went to a large patch of woods, mostly poplars, with here and there a hemlock or spruce clump, and some fir-balsams and maples, laying along the banks of the Willson Stream. The warblers were there ahead of me and were busily feeding among the trees. Cape Mays, Bay-breasted and many other species were unusually common. While watching these and listening to the happy chorus of voices, among them could be heard the Rose-breasted Grosbeak,

Winter Wren and Solitary Vireo. The Pine Siskins were very plenty about the hemlocks and spruces—evidently they will nest in that vicinity. A pair of Yellow-bellied Woodpeckers attracted my attention by chasing each other from tree to tree, uttering their harsh, rasping notes. Seated on a stump I watched them until the female flew to a live poplar which was decayed inside, and after "hitching" up and down to several holes excavated in years past, she entered a fresh excavation and soon emerged to the entrance of the hole, and sitting with head outside, watched me as intently as I did her, as though I was an object of great interest. The male flitted from tree to tree, occasionally flying to the nest and talking a lot of soft, silly love-talk to Mrs. W. On climbing to the nest, she left reluctantly. I inserted a small pocket mirror and saw the reflection of five pearly white eggs on the chips at the bottom of the excavation. The nest was about 30 feet up the trunk.

What a lot of work it had been to chisel through the live outside for about three inches into the softer inside, widening out at the bottom to a good sized pocket for the nest. On alighting on the ground a Hairy Woodpecker attracted my attention as he sat on a small birch stub. He gathered some worms or insects and flew up to a dead poplar about sixty feet up and entered an excavation. Soon I heard the noisy young devouring the food he had carried to them. I watched both birds alternately carry food to the young. While thus occupied I heard a pair of Downy Woodpeckers talking silly and rather saucy to each other and saw them fluttering from tree to stub and playing hide and seek about the tree trunks. Watching them closely, I soon learned that they were excavating a nest in a stub or dead

limb of a sugar maple only a few feet from where I sat. Sitting on the same stump, I heard a pair of Flickers getting hilarious over a nest excavation they had in a maple stub near-by.

Matters were getting interesting. Here were four species of the woodpecker family nesting in a colony. The trees they occupied were only about a rod apart, thus covering a small spot to contain so many species of the same family. Thus the morning passed happily on, amid the pleasing notes of the White and Red Breasted Nut-hatches, occasionally varied by the Blue Jay's imitation of the cry of the Red Shoulderer Hawks, which were rebuilding a second nest, having lost their first set, the first of the month.

Time passes all too quickly on such delightful mornings as these. Arousing myself from my reveries I looked at the time and found that "Old Sol" had reached a point almost directly over head and the gnawing of a returning appetite bade me break away from this enchanting spot and climb the hills to my boyhood home and the lunch that was awaiting me. But I shall carry away with me the thoughts and memories of such a morn and shall live over again, many times, those happy morning strolls that were taken during my stay in Franklin County during the spring of 1900.

J. MERTON SWAIN.

Woodfords, July 2, 1900.

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#### NOTE ON THE LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE.

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On April 28, 1900, while in Farmington, Me., I shot a Loggerhead Shrike, *Sanius ludovicianus* Linn, near an old orchard. Its stomach contained seeds of the Hungarian or garn grass, which it had gathered from the plowed ground near by, also several black

beetles were found in its stomach. After I picked up my bird, it occurred to me that there might be a pair nesting in the old orchard. A short search was made and a nest nearly completed, was found with the female near the nest. I decided to watch the nest and female bird, to see what she would do. Several days she waited about the tree for the return of her mate, but after waiting five days for his return and not seeing him, she decided he had deserted her and took to herself another mate. They at once proceeded to finish the nest lining, and on the sixth day after his arrival, the first egg was laid. Each successive morning there was an additional egg in the nest, until five eggs were laid. The Mr. S. No. 2 then disappeared and was seen no more about the orchard. The female commenced incubation, as though nothing had happened, and continued as long as I staid near the place. I regretted that I was not able to watch the female and learn how she came on rearing her brood, with no one to help her feed and care for her orphaned progeny. She sat perched upon a limb beside the nest, and posed while I made two exposures with the camera, but the day was dark and cloudy and the negatives were not very good. I hope to visit this orchard this spring to ascertain if this Shrike will come back to nest near the old site. [Ed.]

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Extract of a letter written by Manly Hardy to the Secretary of the M. O. S., dated at Brewer, Me., Dec. 10, 1900:

"It may interest some of your members to know that two years ago, I was very near to a Black Gyrfalcon, and to-day I saw another. The only two I ever saw alive, although I have seen them dead and have a fine pair of mounted ones. I have of North American Birds, some 3,300 mounted, and about 100 of foreign."

The Journal of  
*The Maine Ornithological Society.*

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A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF MAINE ORNITHOLOGY.

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"BIRD PROTECTION, BIRD STUDY, THE SPREAD OF THE KNOWLEDGE THUS GAINED,  
THESE ARE OUR OBJECTS."

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Sixth annual meeting to be held the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving, 1901, at State House, Augusta.

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**Editorials.**

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Last spring, while driving from Athens to Hartland, in Somerset county, on my regular three weeks' trip, on the "warpath," I observed the Mourning Warbler, evidently nesting. A pair have been observed in the same

locality this season, but no amount of patient research has brought the nest to light. A pair, also, are nesting in Winslow, but I am not able, with the limited time I have, to locate the nest.

—o—

John Lord, the Portland taxidermist, has an adult female Yellow Crowned Night Heron, taken April 13, at Back Bay, Portland harbor. While in his rooms, recently, I had the pleasure of examining the bird. It is a fine plumaged bird, and is the first record of its occurrence in the State. He also has an adult female Caspian Tern, taken at Clapboard Island, Casco Bay, Me., May 11. It is a perfect plumaged bird, and it has been finely mounted. Prof. Lee is to have this bird for the Bowdoin College collection. Records of this bird's occurrence in the State have been few. A specimen was taken at Richmond Island, Cape Elizabeth, Me., in '95. (Cf. Norton, Proc. Port. Soc. Nat. His. April 1, '97, P. 104.)

—o—

Capt. Spinney writes, "I never saw so small flight of small birds as the past spring has brought. Even the Sparrows were limited." He took a little blue heron at Popham Beach, Me., May 19, a female, and the ovaries indicated that the bird would have

nested under favorable conditions. He also received in May, from Port Clyde, Me., a female Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius Parasiticus*), and a Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus Stricklandi*) which was caught in a trawl, some six miles below Seguin. The bird was under water an indefinite time. A friend of the Captain's saved it for him. The Captain says: "You can imagine in what condition the bird was in, after being in a trawl, under water, all night, and being left in the sun, on a lobster trap, all the next day." But the Captain has learned to have a great deal of patience and after much difficulty has a nicely mounted specimen for his cabinet.

From an interesting letter from Mr. Jas. H. Hill of New London, Conn.: A member of the "A. O. U. committee on Protection of N. A. Birds," also member of the "Conn. special com. for the Protection of the Gulls and Terns." we quote the following: "Conn. has followed in the steps of Maine and passed the 'A. O. U.' non-game protection law" in every respect. The House Sparrow, Hawks (except the Fish hawk), Great Horned Owl and Crows, not protected. The millinery interests tried to change the plumage clause, but did not succeed." We are glad to see our sister states fall into line and do the right thing for the protection of birds. Let the good work go on.

Chester Barlow, editor of "The Condor," the official organ of the "Cooper Ornithological Club" of California, writes that the Cooper Club boys did all in their power to get the A. O. U. bill passed. Their bill passed both houses, but the Governor returned it unsigned, without any explanation. They will make another effort for its

passage at the next session of the legislature. We are sorry to see so enterprising a state as California without this law. Sorry, too, that they have such a narrow, pessimistic Governor, in this respect, and wish the "Cooper Club" the success they so much deserve at their next trial.

With an "eye out" for breeding specimens of the Prairie Horned Lark, I have watched for indications of nesting, at Pishon's Ferry, as I have passed the last year's breeding grounds. (See Journal, Vol. II, No. 4, P. 34) or (Auk, Vol. XVII, No. 4, P. 387), with the following results:

On April 23, I saw a pair nest-building in a large field of stubble. The peculiar, twittering, greasy song of the male was the first to attract my attention to the birds. Three weeks later, (May 14) I located the male by his uttering, frequently, his peculiarly penetrating song. He was perched upon a fence-post, near the supposed nesting-place. The female flushed before I saw where she arose from. In fact, she ran along the stubble some distance from the nest, and pretended to be feeding, as unconcerned as possible. I watched her some time, and after joining the male, they circled about over considerable territory, but finally the male settled back on a rail near by. The female circled about the nest, dropped to the ground and fed about the nest, leisurely and unconcernedly, but kept drawing nearer the nest, moving in smaller circles, and soon settled on to the nest. I flushed her and she joined the male. Leaving a fellow commercial man and Mr. White (the owner of the field) by the nest, I went and shot both birds. The eggs, four in number, were typical eggs of *Proticola*, and were about one-

third incubated, but with care I was able to save the set. The nest was of dead grasses, lined with a few feathers and bits of wool.

There were, at least, four other pairs of larks nesting in the near vicinity. I saw a pair, three weeks later, between Hartland and Pittsfield, in the same county.



"Ye editor" has had the pleasure of a short visit with Bros. Knight, Morrill and Briggs, during the month of June, and many interesting birds and nests have been observed. While in Bangor, we waded the "Orono bog." Many Yellow Palm Warblers were heard singing and were nesting, but no nests were located.

The Short-billed Marsh Wrens were chattering as saucily as ever. They were nesting, without much doubt.

While out with Morrill at Pittsfield, we heard a strange sparrow song. Mr. Morrill took the bird, which proves to be a Grasshopper Sparrow, (*Ammodramus Savanarum Passerinus*) (Wils.) There is but one previous record for the State, by Boardman.

At Livermore, we observed two pairs of Golden Crowned Kinglets, evidently nesting. We also saw a Tennessee Warbler, which appeared to be breeding. We saw several pairs of Pine Warblers, evidently nesting in the pines. Briggs took one nest with four eggs of this bird. A nest of the Kingbird built on the steps of a martin-house, at Mr. Briggs' home, was an oddity. The White-Bellied Swallows were nesting in the upper tenement, but the Kingbirds and Swallows seemed to be living neighborly. Mr. Briggs has taken three sets of albino eggs of the bluebird, all from the same pair of birds, one of which, he kindly presented to me.

The following poster has been kindly furnished by Mr. Dutcher of New York, of the "A. O. U. Committee for the Protection of N. A. Birds." Secy. Norton has sent them out to all the post offices in the state to be posted in a conspicuous place.

#### WARNING.

The MAINE GAME LAWS protect GULLS, TERNS and all other wild birds, also their nests and eggs, at all times. Exceptions: Hawks, Owls, Crows, and the English Sparrow, and game birds in their season.

PENALTY. Any person found destroying wild birds, or their nests, or taking their eggs, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and when convicted therefor, shall be fined five dollars for each offense, and an additional five dollars for each bird, living or dead, or part of bird, or nest or eggs possessed in violation of this section, or to imprisonment for ten days, or both, at the discretion of the court.

Under the FEDERAL LAW a fine not exceeding \$200 is also provided:

1—For the delivery of any birds killed in violation of the laws of Maine to any express, railroad or steamboat company, or to any other common carrier, for shipment out of the State.

2—For the transportation of such birds by any common carrier out of the State.

3—For shipment out of the State of any package containing game, birds, or plumage, which does not bear the shipper's name and address, and a statement of the nature of the contents.

Railroad and express agents are cautioned against forwarding any package of birds which are improperly marked or supposed to contain birds killed contrary to law.

Maine Ornithological Society, Wm. L. Powers, President, Gardiner; Arthur H. Norton, Sec.-Treas., Westbrook. Leroy T. Carleton, Henry O. Stanley, Charles E. Oak, Commissioners of Inland Fisheries and Game. American Ornithologists' Union, William Dutcher, Treasurer, Office, 525 Manhattan Ave., New York City.

Most postmasters have shown interest enough in the matter to post them. In nearly every town that I

visit in Franklin, Kennebec, Somerset, Piscataquis, Knox, Lincoln and Waldo counties I have found them posted. A few who had not done so, very kindly posted them at my request. We believe much good is being done by so distributing these posters.

In one town I visit, the people have always shot a few black duck, in the spring, as they come to the ponds to breed. I had the above notices posted in conspicuous places about the pond and asked a friend to keep a sharp lookout to see if any ducks were disturbed on these favorable breeding grounds. After the notices had been posted the shooting stopped at once, and my friend said: "Not a duck was shot about the lake." It may be well here to mention, for the benefit of those members who do not receive the Auk, or have not seen the list of members of the "A. O. U. Committee on Protection of N. A. Birds," with Witmer Stone of Philadelphia, as chairman for 1901, that your editor holds a place on that list and would be pleased to hear from any member or reader who knows of any violations of the new bird law, recently passed in this state.

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#### NOTES ON THE PILEATED WOOD-PECKER.

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Read before the Maine Ornithological Society, at Waterville, Dec. 31, 1898.

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For a number of years my acquaintance with this species was very slight, being limited to the examination of a few mounted specimens and an occasional glimpse of one in the woods, where they always seemed particularly wild and wary. On May 16th, 1895, I unexpectedly formed a

closer acquaintance with a pair of these birds. Returning from a trip through a large block of woodland, I had reached the outer portion of it, a small patch of good-sized trees with a little underbrush, particularly separated from the main growth, by cutting, when my attention was attracted to a large hole, thirty feet from the ground, in a small beech tree. I had taken but a few steps toward the tree when the head of a Pileated Woodpecker appeared at the entrance. Although I had my climbing irons, I did not investigate, thinking the bird was digging the hole, and not wishing to drive it away. I had no idea what time the eggs of this species were deposited and my books and papers furnished no assistance. With some misgivings I delayed visiting the nest until the 28th. I found the bird on the nest; a rap on the trunk brought her to the entrance, and as I started to climb she left, flying out of sight without uttering a sound. A slight noise proceeded from the cavity and by using a small mirror, I could see the chicks were just struggling from the shells. There were four eggs apparently about equal in size. I left at once and did not visit the nest again that season.

I made several visits to the grove early in May, '96, but no birds were seen there, though in the larger growth beyond I several times saw a bird calling and rapping. On the 11th I located a hole in a dead beech standing not far from the tree in which the brood had been reared the season previous. The hole was occupied, but so small a portion of the head protruded that I could not be sure it was the bird I was looking for. All efforts to dislodge the bird failed, so I strapped on my climbing irons and ascended. When half way up the tree the bird, with erected crest and expanded wings, sailed from the nest

to a tree near, from that to another, and so on until out of sight. The nest contained two eggs. On the 15th I again went to the nest and found the male there. I was within ten feet of the nest before he left the hole, and he lit near, staying within three rods of the nest, moving occasionally from one tree to another and tapping in a desultory way on the trunk, all the time seemingly indifferent to my presence. The nest now contained three eggs, which appeared fresh and were left. I had hardly reached the base of the stub before the male alighted at the entrance and after repeated inquiring glances within, entered. On the 20th I was again at the nest. This time the bird flew directly out of sight when I was part way up the stub. The nest hole was near the top of the stub, about 34½ feet above the ground. The cavity was large, being wider at the top, tapering gradually toward the bottom. The entrance was four inches in diameter and did not enter more than two inches before it was worked downward. The horizontal depth of the cavity, the ruler being placed on the lower edge of the entrance was 11 inches. The vertical depth from entrance was 15 inches. The entrance and walls were smoothly chisled. The three eggs differed greatly in size, measuring 1.43x1.03, 1.41x1.02, and 1.28x.97 inches. Ten days later I passed that way and hit the stub in passing. To my surprise the male appeared at the entrance. I climbed to the nest two days later, and found it empty. The male was probably using it for a roost while another nest was being prepared elsewhere. During the winter following, some cutting was done in the grove and the stub just mentioned was cut down and hauled away. I carefully searched the grove for other holes and found a number, sufficient to indicate that the

birds had been nesting in the grove for a period of ten years at least. Several visits were made, but no birds were seen or heard until the 11th of May, when I found the male in the hole used in '95. He drew back out of sight as I approached and I did not disturb him, thinking he was using the old hole as a roost, but searched elsewhere. My search took me some distance from the stub, and I did not return to investigate it that day. On the 16th I was again at the stub, but no birds were in sight, and none appeared when I pounded the stub. This seemed to confirm my roosting theory and I did not climb, but commenced another unsuccessful search. Toward night, on the 20th, I went to the grove again and found the male bird in the '95 hole. He drew back as before. When I climbed his conduct was much the same as it was the season previous; I was allowed to ascend nearly to the hole before he left, and he remained near, moving from tree to tree, tapping on the trunk and limbs, alike indifferent to me and to the fate of the contents of the nest. The nest contained three eggs, counterparts of those taken the previous season.

I could not see that the hole had been changed in any way, but was just as it was left in '95. It was similar in shape to the '96 nest, the entrance being five inches in diameter, the horizontal depth ten inches, and the vertical depth, from entrance, 17 inches. In 1898, I was away from home and did not return until May 14th. The next day I visited my woodpecker grove, and found a new hole had been dug in the old stub, a little below the one last used. I pounded the stub, but could start nothing. On climbing, I was somewhat surprised to see the male leave the old hole, already twice used. The new hole was but partly dug; the old

one contained four fresh eggs. These I left until the next day, when I found the female on the nest. She left as I neared the nest, remaining near and calling once or twice, the first time either bird had uttered a note while I was at the nest. The nest hole was deepened three inches, but not otherwise changed. The four eggs were of nearly equal size, much smaller than those of '96 and '97, and seemingly similar to those of '95. They measure 1.25x1., 1.24x.98, 1.23x1., 1.23x.94 inches.

In his "Life Histories," Bendire says of the nest of this species: "The entrance measures from 3 to 3½ inches in diameter, and it often goes 5 inches straight into the trunk before it is worked downward. The cavity varies from 7 to 30 inches in depth and is gradually enlarged toward the bottom, where it is about 6 inches wide."

My nests differ from this description, being the reverse in shape. The entrances are larger also.

The birds are probably mated for life. One brood is reared in a season. I find that when the set is taken another is laid and the brood reared just the same as if they had not been disturbed. The young birds remain with the parents some time after leaving the nest. I saw three birds at work on one tree on Sept. 20th, '97. They were apparently a female and two young and were not at all suspicious, as I was able to get directly beneath the tree they were on and watch them for some time before they took alarm.

A young bird shot Sept. 26th and given me by an acquaintance was very pin-feathery, with wing-quills and tail but partly grown. It was a male and the red malar patch was noticeable, so this marking is attained the first year. The stomach contained a considerable quantity of whole fruit and stones of the choke-cherry,

as well as remains of ants and grubs. During the breeding season—always the noisy period in a woodpecker's life—my birds retired to the larger growth, a half mile away, to call and rap, never making any noise when in the grove containing the nest that would attract attention.

In my locality, this species does not seem to decrease in numbers, a condition probably equally true in most parts of the state. They are fairly prolific, have few natural enemies, and by their wariness and retiring habits, largely escape the sempiternal gunner. With conditions thus favorable, they may be expected to hold their own fairly well. In "The Auk," Vol. XV, No. 2, Mr. Bangs calls attention to the well-known larger size of our northern bird, which he considers entitled to recognition as a sub-species, and names the Northern Pileated Woodpecker, *Ceophoeus pileatus abieticola*, choosing a Greenville, Me., bird as type. The bird seems to have as good claim to such recognition as some already in the "List."

With the bursting buds of May I hope to find my pair of woodpeckers back in the same grove, where, if nothing happens to them, I expect them to finish and occupy the hole commenced last summer in the old stub.

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Since the above paper was read at our annual meeting in 1898, further observations have been made which may briefly supplement the paper, now requested for publication. Prophecy in bird life is, at best, of doubtful fulfilment, and it was with some satisfaction that I found, when I visited the old stub, on May 13th 1899, that the hole had indeed been finished, and at that date contained four eggs nearly one-half incubated. The entrance to this hole was four inches in diameter and it was 20 inches deep.



The male was on the nest, remaining near and calling once.

It was just a year later when I made my next annual visit, and found that yet another hole had been made, still lower down, which was of the same general proportions as preceding ones, and about 18 inches in depth. The four eggs were much incubated, tho the season was unusually late.

The season of 1901 found me unable to do much outdoor work, but especial effort was made to visit the wood-pecker grove, which was done on May 6th. Another new and still lower hole had been commenced, but it was but partly finished, and the faded appearance of the scattered chips indicated that nothing had been done for some days. No birds were seen or heard and it seemed very probable that this family, so long a resident in an exposed locality, was at last broken, and one or both had come to the inevitable destiny of every bird—a tragic death.

In looking back over the years of acquaintance with these birds, their love of home seems their strongest trait. Undoubtedly they were old and had lived in that grove many years. From a large and comparatively secluded woods, it had been reduced to a small grove, and their winter wanderings must many times have taken them some distance away, but despite the changes, that grove was home, and every April found them there ready to commence anew the real home life, for much of a bird's life is wandering, and home only a summer's joy.

Contrasting with this love of home was the indifference with which they looked upon the interference with the nest. Always the same indifference, never any especial interest, and no apparent regret when the eggs were missed.

Considering their wildness at other times of year, they are unusually tame and unsuspecting at nesting time. In digging the nest hole the chips are scattered about the stub, more being carried away, and are, of course, very noticeable from their quantity.

The eggs of this pair of birds have always been in sets of three or four, and the similarity of these sets is perhaps the strongest proof of the individuality of these birds. If four eggs were laid they were of about equal size, if three, of varying sizes. As time passed the birds seemed to nest a little earlier each year, this perhaps being due to my depredations and the necessity of nesting again, though this is crediting the bird with more forethought than most people would allow. This is probably the closing record of this pair of birds, and though I have known them long, I did not know them well, and most of their home secrets are secrets still. We know but little of the birds about us, after all, and most of that little is the part we bring home and put in the cabinet. The life, the home, the family cares are ever an opening book that he who would may ever read and never finish.

C. H. MORRELL.

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BIRDS OF THE BOWDOIN COLLEGE EXPEDITION TO LABRADOR IN 1891.

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The above is the title of a paper by Arthur H. Norton, which appears in the Proceedings of the Portland Society of Natural History, Vol. 2, Art. VIII, pp. 139-158.

Mr. Norton has given a list of birds collected by the members of the expedition, and also a more or less complete description of the individual

specimens. Four pages, a table of comparative measurements, and one plate are devoted to the Puffin and its trans-Atlantic sub-species. Mr. Norton proves conclusively that all American specimens should be referred to the sub-species, *Fratercula arctica glacialis*, instead of to *F. arctica*, as has been previously done. Birds from Spitzbergen are referred to a new sub-species, *E. a. naumanni*, which is described and commented on in the paper. European specimens are referred to *F. arctica*. The Spruce Partridge of Labrador is shown to be *Canachites canadensis*, while the bird inhabiting Canada, New Brunswick and the Northern United States is a sub-species, *Canachites canadensis canace*. Two new species are added to the list of Labrador birds, *Zenaidura macroura* and *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. New and interesting descriptions of the immature plumage and moults of several species are also recorded, and we congratulate Mr. Norton on his valuable contribution to ornithological lore. O. W. K.

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#### PITTSFIELD BIRD NOTES.

My remarks in the last Journal on the non-occurrence of the Red-Tailed Hawk were hardly printed before one was seen. A fine specimen was seen at close quarters on May 1st, attention being attracted by a band of crows that were making a tremendous racket whenever the Hawk moved. During the recent visit of our editor we added another species to the Pittsfield list. Returning from a short trip we heard a peculiar sparrow song in a large field near home. The song being new, we investigated and were

soon chasing a small and rather shy sparrow about the field. A lengthy chase failed to bring us near enough for Mr. Swain's collecting gun to be effective, and I went after my shotgun. The bird was soon secured and proved an unexpected straggler, a Grasshopper Sparrow. This was June 5th, 1901, late in the afternoon. The bird sang persistently. The water thrushes are noticeably abundant this season, and all along the pond and river their song is constantly heard. Nesting and feeding grounds abound, but this is one of the less noticed birds and perhaps is considered rarer than it really is. Did not see a single Yellow Palm Warbler this year, even in migration when they are usually so common. To be sure, my time was mostly spent indoors, but most of the other warblers were seen and I think this species must have been much less common than usual, probably to be more numerous somewhere else.

Robins are very much in evidence, and more nests have been found than before for several years.

Bluebirds, too, seem to be rapidly gaining in abundance, both as migrants and breeders, and promise to be as numerous as before the great freeze. C. H. MORRELL.

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#### THE MEADOW LARK IN MAINE.

*Sturnella Magna* (Lin.) is of rather uncommon occurrence in this State, and perhaps a few notes will not be amiss. I had not, since about 1880, until last year, observed this bird, when a few pairs were observed, apparently nesting. This year I have noted their return to the same localities.

On April 24, at Athens, Me., Somerset county, while waiting at the hotel for my team, I heard the loud, vibrating call of *Sturnella*, and as I drove along the edge of a large meadow, I saw two pairs of these birds, and in this meadow they remained to breed. Another pair nest, regularly, in a large meadow, along the Sebasticook river, near Pittsfield. Still another pair are nesting down the above river at Burnham. The male of this pair is usually perched in an apple tree, standing alone in a large field, back of the station. As I drive past, early in the morn, every third Wednesday, I have caught the sound of his clear, penetrating call and seen him perched on the same tree. There he sits, whistling "when the spirit moves," until the shrill whistle and heavy rear of the "Bar Harbor Express" causes him to flutter off to the meadow below.

Three other pairs have been observed in my travels. One in Winslow, opposite side of the river from Waterville, another in a meadow near Benton Falls, and a pair near Fairfield Centre, further up the Kennebec river.

The birds seem to range quite a distance from the nest, to feed, thus I have not been able to locate the nests of these birds, with the limited time I have had, near these localities.

I once knew this bird to nest in Farmington (Franklin county) and my friend, Ernest L. Haley, has taken it near Rangeley, Me. (Cf. Brewster, Auk, Vol. XVIII, No. 2, P. 194.

There seems to be but few suitable places for the Meadow Lark to make his summer home in Maine.

J. M. S.

## SOME PREHISTORIC CAVE AND CLIFF DWELLERS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS.

A Paper Before the Me. Ornithological Society, held at Lewiston, Dec.

22, 1900.

Many years ago there dwelt on the North American Continent a race of cave and cliff dwellers, and their descendants are still surviving. These modern cliff dwellers are commonly known as Barn and Cliff Swallows, while the Cave dwellers are the Bank, Rough-winged, Tree and Violet-green Swallows, and the Purple Martin.

That the two branches of the Swallow tribe originated in some common ancestral type is undoubted. It seems quite probable that this original swallow ancestral form nested in hollow trees and was not gregarious by nature. The nests in the hollow trees were not safe from molestation by four-footed enemies, and it seems reasonable to believe that certain individuals who had been much disturbed, were forced to seek other nesting places of a safer character. The instinct to bring forth young and provide a safe resting place for them is possessed by all living beings.

The first individuals to seek other sites doubtless availed themselves of holes in cliffs, but as such locations, though safe, were few in number, the descendants of the cliff dwellers were obliged to seek other sites, such as shelves of rock, and to prevent the eggs from blowing off they were surrounded by mud, bits of bark and other material. Gradually the half-cup shaped nest of the Barn Swallow, attached to the face of a perpendicular cliff, and composed of mud lined with grass and feathers, was evolved. Now nests of this type were open to the attacks of only one class of living foes,

Pres. Powers will teach nature study in the summer schools in this state. It is hoped that the professor will "discover" a few members for our society among the teachers.

these species of raptorial birds, many of which, likewise, were cliff and cave dwellers. In order to secure protection from these enemies, the nest of the Barn Swallow type was gradually made with higher and more converging walls until after generations the retort-shaped nest of the Cliff Swallow type was arrived at. Like the nests their builders had also undergone a slow process of evolution and differentiation into the modern Barn and Cliff Swallows.

Other individuals of the Swallow tribe had betaken themselves to such natural holes as they might find in sand banks, and by a gradual process of evolution, the constructing of the nests of the modern Bank and Rough-winged Swallows was finally reached.

The tree dwelling section of the tribe retained their habits until the advent of man and the erection of bird houses for their benefit caused them in part to seek greater security in the artificial homes provided by man.

The Swallows, originally all solitary, had by congregating together, where suitable nesting places of a safer nature were to be found, gradually developed into gregarious birds, those of a like species seeking each other's company.

The cliff dwelling Swallows lay from three to six, usually four or five, white eggs which are more or less thickly spotted, dotted or sometimes wreathed with brown, umber and gray, and indistinguishable from each other in our tree species. The cave dwellers lay from four to seven, usually five, pure white eggs of varying size, according to the species.

We will now proceed to discuss each species and its habits.

The Barn Swallow, in the east, is a bird which has steadily followed the advancing tide of civilization. In Maine, as houses and barns are erected in the wilderness, these birds appear in localities where they have been hither-

to unknown. Their nests are always placed in the interior of buildings, usually within barns, and upon some beam or rafter. Some nests are placed against the side of a beam, but usually they rest upon something solid for a foundation. On Seal Island, some 20 miles out to sea off our coast, I found the Barn Swallows nesting in a fisherman's shanty. A friend reported finding a nest on this island on the shelf of a cliff, which is the only instance of the kind to come to my notice in the east. While usually nesting in colonies of four or five pairs of birds it is not unusual to find localities where only one pair of birds are nesting.

While in San Diego, California, in 1891, it was my custom to frequently visit a locality called La Jolla where for some miles along the ocean front extended a line of wave-washed cliffs, containing many caves, some of which were accessible at low tide. I frequently noticed Barn Swallows flying along this line of cliffs in early spring but supposed they were migratory. Later in the season when it was time for them to be nesting, the swallows were observed in the same locality. An investigation was made and these birds were found to be nesting on the shelves of rock along the cliffs and in these caves near their tops. The nests were typical Barn Swallow nests in every way.

Like the foregoing species the Cliff Swallows have followed the advancing tide of civilization. In the west they are to be found nesting by thousands in localities far from human habitations, and I have seen hundreds, yes thousands, of their retort-shaped nests plastered in a solid mass on the steep face of some inaccessible cliff, while a myriad of twittering swallows filled the air. In the west they are gradually learning to build under the eaves of barns and ranch houses

In the east they almost invariably place their nests under the eaves of various buildings, and the selection of a barn as a nesting site by a colony of these birds is a godsend to the owner on account of the large number of insects destroyed by the birds. In the building season they may be seen grouped around the edge of some roadside puddle engaged in working a mouthful of mud into shape for nest construction, and when laden they return homeward each individual is greeted in cheerful twitters by its mate who has been in the nest on guard, but who immediately yields its place and itself flies off after nesting material to again return and go through the same actions. It takes from ten to fourteen days for the Cliff Swallows to finish their nests and about the same length of time for the Barn Swallows. The Cliff Swallows, as far as I have observed, always nest in colonies, as I have never seen a single nest alone by itself.

The Bank Swallows also always nest in colonies, excavating their burrows to a depth of from 2 to 7 feet in the face of a sand bank. In beginning the nests the birds alight against the perpendicular face of the sand bank and holding with their feet, bracing with their tails and fluttering their wings, they start the hole with their bills. I think they use their bills very largely throughout the entire work of nest construction, though doubtless the feet also are sometimes used. The holes are about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 inches in diameter and usually about 2 feet deep, but when subjected to the attentions of the small boy, the birds often dig to a depth of 7 feet. The holes usually extend slightly upwards into the face of the bank until back near the end, where they drop downwards and enlarge about twice their diameter into a circular chamber in which is placed a nest of

dry grass stems, lined with feathers. I have observed colonies of from ten to five hundred pairs of these birds.

The Rough-winged Swallow is a bird I am personally unacquainted with. Unlike the Bank Swallow they are said to not always nest in colonies, and some individuals do not excavate their own nesting places but seek crevices in railroad culverts and bridges as nesting places.

The Tree Swallows are not as social by habit as most of the other swallows. They usually seek holes in trees, those made by woodpeckers being often selected. The numerous stubs around the margins of ponds and rivers are favorite localities, and here the Tree Swallows nest in widely scattered colonies or single pairs. If a Tree Swallow be seen flying about during the nesting season, it cannot be watched long before it will go to the nest and relieve its mate in the duties of incubation or present to it some insect delicacy. An incubating bird will usually remain on the nest until removed by one's hand, and no amount of thumping upon the stub will suffice to drive some of them out. A very peculiar characteristic of this species is that if a feather be taken from one of their nests and thrown into the air the owner as well as any other individual of the same species which happens to be in the vicinity will immediately make a dive for the feather, and the bird catching it will retain possession until able to deposit it in its nest. Tree Swallows will also select as nesting places suitable crevices and holes in bridges and buildings as well as bird houses.

The Violet-green Swallow is not well known to me though I have seen the species at a distance in its western home. Its habits are said to be similar to those of the Tree Swallow.

The Purple Martins, as far as I know always nest in houses provided for them by man and always in colonies whose number is proportioned to the size of the house provided for them. Before such conveniences were obtainable they must have nested in hollow trees like the Tree Swallow. Martins are very voluble and talkative to each other. They usually arrive at Bangor from the South about May 5th, seemingly coming during the night as I have always noticed them for the first time each season in the morning when their chatter as they perched at the entrances to their houses and sought to dispossess the marauding House Sparrows would attract my attention to them. Nest building begins soon after their arrival but it is well on to the 5th of June before they have deposited their eggs. I have seen fresh Martin's eggs as late as the 4th of July, whether of a second litter or not I am unable to say.

The eggs of all the Swallow tribe, so far as I am aware, hatch in about 13 or 14 days. In the fall everybody has seen vast concourses of Swallows scattered along the roadsides, perched upon the roofs of barns and on the telegraph wires, preparing for the southern migration and busily discussing the probabilities of a successful flight. The Cliff, Barn and Bank Swallows seem to intermingle most freely together in these flocks. The Tree Swallows and Purple Martins seem to prefer oftener to form assemblies of their own species.

As our Swallows are insectivorous and common in most localities an incalculable amount of good is done by them in destroying injurious insects. As they take their prey while on the wing to a large extent the insect food consists chiefly of flies, mosquitoes, gnats, beetles and similar insects.

ORA W. KNIGHT.

## SOME WINTER BIRDS OF THE CUMBERLAND SHORE.

Read Before the Me. Ornithological Society at Lewiston, Dec. 22, 1900.

To the bird lover there is always promise in a new locality, and when, in the fall of '97, I had opportunity to spend the winter on the Cumberland shore of Nova Scotia, the birds attracted a large share of my attention. Not that the species were many—the locality and season of the year forbade that—but some were new to me and others that were familiar enough seemed strangely out of place on that bleak and cliff-bound shore.

Most of the time was spent at River Hebert and Shulee on one shore and at Parrsboro on the other. Both shores are rugged and cliff-lined, in many places wooded to the edge. The growth is mainly spruce, along the shore. To me an especially noticeable plant was the little mountain cranberry. At Shulee it was especially abundant, literally covering the ground. In my walks in search of birds, nothing impressed me more than the lack of birds' nests. Here one cannot walk along the road for any distance without seeing nests, and in a cutting where stubs have been left standing it is rare to find many that do not contain the holes of woodpeckers, chickadees or other cavity nesting birds. There, one can travel miles along the road and not see a nest, and I searched several cuttings where suitable stubs were numerous and failed to find a single nesting hole. Yet chickadees were abundant and woodpeckers not rare. Evidently I failed to find their favored sites. The first week in December was clear and cold, with less than three inches of snow on the ground. The first bird I saw was a crow, and they

were common on both shores, especially so in Parrsboro harbor, where, when the tide was out, they had a good feeding ground.

At Joggins, on the 7th of December, a belated flock of Canada Geese was seen, and a Loon, swimming close in shore among the reefs. About the coal mines House Sparrows were plenty and apparently contented, as they are everywhere.

The Ruffed Grouse was quite abundant. I saw it frequently, but the Canada Grouse I did not see, though it was considered common.

Golden-crowned Knights were common everywhere, in small flocks, throughout the winter, and in March I heard the summer nesting song quite frequently, somewhat to my surprise, for we never hear it here so early. The spruce groves which clothe the hills must be ideal nesting places for this species and doubtless it is a very common summer resident.

At Shulee I soon found the common Chickadee, and even more commonly its brown-headed relative, the Hudsonian. Both were numerous, usually together, and as at home were frequently accompanied by Golden-crowned Kinglets and Canada Nut-hatches, the latter being frequently seen. The Hudsonian Chickadees were as lively as their Black-headed relatives and as communicative, but their voices were harsher and they were instantly distinguishable by that alone. At Shulee during December, Pine Grosbeaks were very numerous and a flock could be seen at almost any time. None, however, were in adult male plumage and birds showing much red were rarely seen. They disappeared early in January. None were seen at Parrsboro and but a single pair at Shulee when I returned in March.

Ravens were rare, though the rocky shores would seem favorable abiding

places. At Shulee a pair was occasionally seen about the cliffs and another pair at Partridge Island near Parrsboro. On the wing they did not seem much larger than the crows but their voices were very different. Canada Jays were common at Shulee, coming close to the houses for scraps. In March I saw them with grass in their bills and presumed they had commenced nesting. Mile after mile of close spruce thickets, so thick one cannot see but a little way ahead, made the probability of finding nests very slight and after a few attempts I gave up searching for them. Throughout this winter an occasional Downy Woodpecker was seen, but the Hairy seemed less common and was noted but twice. Three American Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen in company on one occasion. They were fearless—almost stupid it seemed—and I was able to approach almost within reach of each of them without their showing alarm.

The day before Christmas was clear and cold, yet a pair of Robins were feeding on the berries of a Logwood tree near the house that morning, and the next morning one was there again. I was told that Robins had wintered there before. A few days later a pair of Purple Finches were seen.

Early in January I went to Parrsboro. Unlike Shulee, which is in the midst of woods, Parrsboro has considerable cleared land, and not as many birds were seen. In the harbor were many Gulls and numbers of Ducks. The Gulls, aside from the common Herring Gull, could not be identified, though I judged several species were represented. The Ducks seemed to be mostly Black Ducks and Old Squaws.

During January and February the coldest weather and most storms occurred. Not many birds were to be seen, and the travelling was not such

as to warrant a very extended search.

A little group of Snowflakes was noted occasionally in the roads, and Slate-colored Juncos were seen several times. Once, in midwinter, two Tree Sparrows were seen with the Juncos and a little later a Song Sparrow was found near Partridge Island pier, where it had evidently wintered.

March was exceptionally pleasant, and on my return to Shulee I found birds everywhere abundant.

Red and white-winged Cross-bills were abundant and were frequently seen associated. They were paired and the males sang constantly. They sang much on the wing, fluttering over the tops of the spruces, like a Bobolink over the meadow. Nesting, apparently had not commenced. Pine Siskins had been noted in small flock the first part of the winter. None were seen at Parrsboro, but in March, on the Shulee shore I found them everywhere. Never before did I see one species of birds represented by such numbers. From River Hebert to Shulee, and doubtless much farther down the shore, they swarmed in the spruces, and the air was ever burdened with their wheezing notes. They had already commenced nesting though the snow still covered most of the ground. One nest was found which, before the last of March was completed and contained its full complement of eggs. That such numbers of Siskins is characteristic of that locality is not at all likely. They are among the most erratic of birds, occurring in numbers one year, only to disappear again, perhaps for several seasons. Thousands must have nested in the spruces that cover the region, and in summer when the flock, with the addition of the summer's broods, prepared to migrate, there must have been an enormous number. Doubtless it was broken into smaller flocks which scattered over a considerable extent of territory.

Towards spring Blue Jays were frequently seen. The continued warm sunny weather brought the migrants from the south, the early birds reaching Nova Scotia quite as early as the average in Pittsfield, perhaps accomplishing this by a direct flight from the Bahamas.

On the 22nd of March the Bronzed Grackles arrived, closely followed by the Song Sparrows, Juncos and Robins. One flock of Fox Sparrows was noted, attention being attracted to them by their pleasing song.

The Juncos soon became very numerous. I found nearly every one knew it, but not as the Junco, or even as the "Snowbird," as it is often called here. Everyone called it the "Bluebird." It has no other name in that part of Nova Scotia.

With the arriving birds I left the shore. The winter acquaintances seem few, but they were interesting, and, for the most part harmonize well with the lifting tides, the rocky cliffs and spruce clad hills.

C. H. MORRELL.

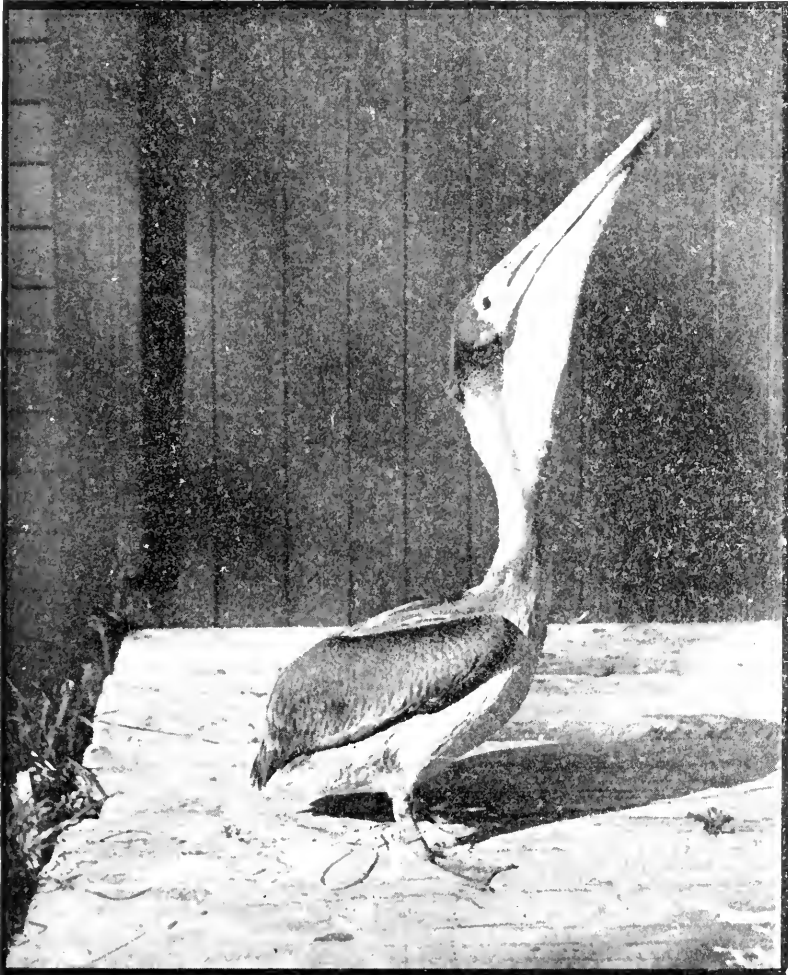
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A supplement to the list of the Birds of Maine is now in the process of preparation and new data, additions to the county records and corrections will be thankfully received. All notes should be sent at once to O. W. Knight, 84 Forest Ave., Bangor, Maine.

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Walter F. Webb of Albion N. Y., always has in stock some nice sets, birds' skins, literature, magazines, and supplies of interest to Bird Men. Correspondence with such always a pleasure. Lists free.







The Journal of  
*The Maine Ornithological Society.*

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A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF MAINE ORNITHOLOGY.

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"BIRD PROTECTION, BIRD STUDY, THE SPREAD OF THE KNOWLEDGE THUS GAINED,  
THESE ARE OUR OBJECTS."

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VOL. III.

FAIRFIELD, MAINE, OCTOBER, 1901.

NUMBER 4.

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**The + Maine + Ornithological  
Society.**

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CAPT. H. L. SPINNEY, Seguin, Vice President.  
A. H. NORTON, Westbrook, Secretary—Treas.  
J. MERTON SWAIN, Fairfield, Editor.  
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All communications requiring an answer must be accompanied by stamps for reply.

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Sixth annual meeting to be held the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving, 1901, at State House, Augusta.

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**Editorials.**

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The journal goes to press late this issue, on account of a delay in getting the program for the annual meeting to be held Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving. And also has the issue been delayed waiting for manuscript needed for this issue. Every effort will be made to have the January number out in good season.

Complaint is sometimes made by our members and readers that they have not received their copy of the Journal. Parties not receiving their copy would do the Business Manager a favor by writing to him, stating that he has not received his copy, and another copy will be gladly forwarded.

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As the date of our next Annual Meeting has been a fixed certainty, during the entire year, it is to be hoped that each and every member will lay his plans to be in attendance. We need the combined efforts of the society. We hope to see a large number of our members and greater enthusiasm than at any of our previous meetings.

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Mr. Carleton called my attention to a newspaper article stating that the fishermen were claiming that the gulls were destroying quantities of the young lobsters, which come to the surface while changing their shell. There is absolutely nothing in this claim, and Mr. Dutcher, writing on this subject says he has considerable evidence to submit to the next meeting of the A. O. U., that the gulls are insectivorous to a certain extent. This claim,

made against the gull, has been started by parties who do not want the gulls protected, and who, no doubt, are working to get the gulls stricken off the list of protected birds.

—o—

Special arrangements have been made for the members to stop, while attending the annual meeting, at Hotel North (opposite the M. C. station). This will be convenient for all, as it is so near the station; the electric passing the hotel go directly past the State House.

—o—

Mr. Guy H. Briggs has taken two more sets of albino eggs of the blue-bird from the same pair of birds mentioned in the July number, (see July number, page 31), this making five albino sets from the same pair in one year. He also reports another nest of the Pine Warbler at Livermore, on July 6, containing four eggs on the point of hatching.

—o—

While in Knox county, in the town of Washington, near Razorville, "Ye Editor" got a specimen, while not ornithological, it is a rare capture, and may be worth mention. On Oct. 4, in the above town, I got an animal weighing about forty pounds. It was new to me, but on looking it up, I decided it to be a male Badger (*Taxidea americana*). It was very fat and gave evidence of being quite old. One of our members, Mr. Manly Hardy of Brewer, who is an authority on birds and animals, writes me that it seems hardly possible that it can be a Badger, as he knows of no such an occur-

rence east of the Mississippi river, and suggests that if it is a Badger it might be one escaped from a menagerie. Yet Mr. John Turner, on whose farm it was taken, says he is quite sure they saw the animal near the house last fall. It is being mounted by State Taxidermist Homer Dill, and will probably be placed in the State House at Augusta.

—o—

Our former editor, Mr. C. H. Morrill of Pittsfield has just returned from a summer's sojourn on the Cumb Shore, in Nova Scotia. Mr. Morrill's health has been poorly since last winter. He was not able to do much work among the birds, in the past spring, securing only a few nest photos and doing very little collecting specimens. He informed your editor, Wednesday, Oct. 9, that in some ways he felt improved since going to Nova Scotia, but on account of the extreme cold of our Maine winters, he started, Tuesday, Oct. 15, for Southern Pines, N. C. Every member of the M. O. S. will heartily join the editor in wishing Mr. Morrill a pleasant winter and a speedy recovery. We all will miss his presence at the next meeting, but hope to see him back in the spring, fully restored to his former good health, ready to fall into line with the returning birds, of which he is an enthusiastic student. Mr. Morrill tells me he saw very few birds while in Nova Scotia, only a few of the more common birds. He was disappointed in not seeing more of the Warblers. We hope to have some notes of interest from him on the birds observed during his sojourn in the South.

—o—

There seems to be considerable evidence of birds and feathers, the sale

of which is prohibited by law, offered to the fall trade in millinery stores. Your editor has called on several retail stores, in every case the proprietor pleading ignorance of a law prohibiting the sale of such birds or parts of birds. There will need to be considerable sharp work done in the State this fall and winter. I am informed that there has been some effort on the part of New York parties to get collectors in this State to procure some of the seabirds for the millinery trade. Mr. Dutcher writes me as follows:

"I am very much interested in your statement that the millinery people are trying to induce the gunners in Maine to kill the gulls. I do not see what use it would be to them to do so, because they could not find a market. I am just now engaged in breaking up the trade in New York City. Have already brought suit against one party for \$3,350, and expect to bring other suits against wholesale dealers. The retail dealers I find are very easily managed; they give up the sale of prohibited birds the moment their attention is called to the law. I expect, within a few weeks, to bring suits against two or three large wholesale houses in this city, and if we win our suits as I expect we shall do, the trade will be effectually broken up, I believe, all over the country."

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES FROM  
LIVERMORE.

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September 25, while at Canton, Oxford county, I observed a male Pine Grosbeak, (*Pinicola enucleator*) and a male White Crowned Sparrow, (*Zonotrichia cucophrys*), the first I have seen this fall.

Sept. 28 I took a trip over hills and through valleys to observe the bird

life of this locality. The following species were seen: Sharp-shinned Red-Shouldered and Sparrow Hawks, Canadian Ruffed Grouse, American Crows, Blue Jays, Downy Woodpeckers, American Goldfinches, White Crowned Sparrows, Chipping and Song Sparrows, Slate Colored Juncos, White and Red Breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Wilson's and Hermit Thrushes, Chickadees and Bluebirds, also an abundance of Myrtle Warblers in immature plumage. They have been very plenty this fall in this locality. I find them most plentiful in orchard trees. Livermore seems to be a fine locality to study the Warblers. I have found fifteen species breeding, and no doubt there are several other species that nest here. Those I have found are Black and White, Nashville, N. Parula, Yellow, Black Throated Blue, Myrtle, Magnolia, Chestnut-Sided, Blackburnian, Black Throated Green, Pine, Oven-Bird, Maryland Yellow-Throat, Canadian Warbler and American Redstart.

I take the following from my note book: "Arrivals for 1901. Crows, March 7; Robins, March 24; Bluebirds, April 1; Phoebe, April 14.

April 13, observed a pair of mated snow Buntings, which I consider very unusual for this locality. April 28, Master Harold Philoon found a nest of the American Robin. It contained three incubated eggs, the earliest record I have of its nesting here.

May 17 found a nest of the Canadian Ruffed Grouse. It contained 13 beautiful eggs. It was situated under a brush heap in a cedar swamp.

June 18 took a young No Pileated Woodpecker. This species seems to increase in numbers each year in this locality.

July 17 caught a pair of young Whip-poor-wills. Very odd looking little birds. They reminded me of pictures I have seen of young Condors. The mother bird felt so badly that I

did not molest them long, but returned them to her tender care.

G. H. B.

Oct. 4, 1901.

Gardiner, Me., Oct. 1, 1901.

To the Members of the Maine Ornithological Society:—

The Seventh Annual Meeting of our society will be held in Augusta on the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving Day. It is hoped that this time will be convenient for the majority of our members, and that all will make an earnest effort to be present.

Augusta is centrally located and the train arrangements the best possible for every member of the society, whether residing in the eastern or western sections of the State. The Friday morning trains reach Augusta about 10.30 in the forenoon, and the Saturday afternoon trains will permit the members to reach home in time for supper, unless they live near the northern or southern limits.

The meetings will be held in the State House; the business meetings in the Fish and Game Commissioners room, the Friday evening lecture in Representatives Hall. The lecture will be illustrated by 100 or more beautiful stereopticon views of birds, nests and eggs, made by the members of the society, and while primarily intended to record the progress made thus far in the subject of general Ornithology throughout the State, it will, we are sure, prove of value to those not previously interested in the subject. It will be free to the public, and all are invited. A special invitation is hereby extended to the schools of Augusta and neighboring towns.

A new feature in this year's meeting will be the exhibition of nests and eggs, skins and mounted specimens of the rarer birds of our State. If any

member has in his collection, or can borrow from others, any rare or unique specimens he is requested to send or bring them plainly tagged, with full data. Do not hesitate to contribute from your collections on the ground that others may not be interested in your own particular good fortune, for if any specimen has aroused interest in you, it will do the same for every member of the society. If you happen to be so fortunate as to hold the specimen that established a record for that particular species in our State, do not fail to have it on exhibition at Augusta.

Tables will be provided in the Fish and Game Commissioners room for the proper display of all. The State collection, though not large at present, contains some rare birds, and all are models of the taxidermist's art. If each member will assume his share of responsibility in this exhibition, the fund of general information will be wonderfully augmented thereby.

If you have a specimen which you can not positively identify, bring it with you by all means. During my work as teacher of Ornithology in the summer schools, I have met several persons who were in doubt concerning one or more specimens in their collection. I remember distinctly an immature hawk skin at Foxcroft which none of us could name.

The program as now arranged will be as follows.

#### Friday Forenoon.

Meet at Hotel North, the headquarters, at 10.30. After exchange of greetings repair to the office of Frank Noble,—just across the street from the hotel.—a member of our society, who invites the others to inspect his collection.

#### Friday Afternoon.

Business meeting at the State House

at 1.30. Reports of Secretary and Treasurer. Matters of importance will be considered, one of which will be the choosing of an appropriate name for our Journal. Several names have been proposed, among others were Puffin, Snowflake, Waxwing, and Flicker. Mr. Ora W. Knight's new "List of Maine Birds" will be ready for the printer early in January, and some provision must be made for its publication.

#### Friday Evening.

Illustrated lecture, to which the public are invited.

#### Saturday Morning.

9 o'clock, Report of President and election of officers.

Presentation of scientific papers. Papers will be presented by Vice President Spinney, Secretary-Treasurer Norton, Editor Swain, Ex President Knight, Ex President Mead, Homer Dill, Miss Nettie Burleigh, A. P. Larabee, Johnson of Lewiston, Briggs of Livermore, and others who have not yet reported their subjects. The forenoon session will close with a lecture by Prof. Stanton of Bates College.

#### Saturday Afternoon.

Unfinished business and papers not read in the morning.

Special rates will be given at Hotel North, and each member will receive a notice through the mail as soon as Thanksgiving day has been appointed, with a statement of trains and rates.

The Maine Central will sell tickets at reduced rates from every town where a member resides.

WM. L. POWERS.

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#### A PAIR OF CATBIRDS.

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Read before the Annual Meeting of  
The Maine Ornithological Society,  
at Lewiston, Dec. 22, 1900.  
My acquaintance with the Catbird

was first made back somewhere in the 70s, when but a small lad, as I trudged along a hilly country road, in Franklin county, on my way to the little red schoolhouse, situated near a crossroad, and nearly surrounded by an alder thicket. The roads leading to this little knowledge box (as we often termed it) were well lined with alder and willow bushes, well interwoven with the vines of the wild clematis. Just a typical place for the Catbird to build its summer home. It was in this dear old rustic spot, associated as it is with so many pleasant memories, that I learned the name of this most interesting mocking-bird, and watched its many strange ways and listened for hours, in a dreamy spell, to its varied songs and scoldings.

Here, too, I first found its neatly woven nest of roots and weeds, carefully concealed from the passer-by, well hidden in the dense foliage of the vines and alders. I gazed with delight into its nest. With four deep, greenish-blue eggs, and watched the old birds, as they moved about nervously, scolding all the while and trying their best to drive away the school children, who were trespassing upon their rights.

No doubt a longing desire to possess those treasures came over me, but I had been taught rigidly that they did not belong to me, and that I had no right to touch them. I watched the mother-bird as she fed and cared for her small, helpless nestlings, and I wanted one of them for a cage pet. But the early training, received while at my mother's knee, bade me forbear. One day an older boy, one who had some source from which he learned new and strange facts, announced that the Catbird ate the eggs of the smaller birds, and that we should exterminate the Catbird. Here then, was the excuse looked for, to take the eggs of this bird. But when my father was told the reason for taking the eggs his

observations had led him to think differently, and his force of argument led me to believe it better to let the catbird's nest alone.

Thus year after year I looked for the catbird's return, and our acquaintance grew and ripened into a better friendship.

While about my home, I did not meet with these birds, as I lived well up on the top of a hilly region, and only met the catbirds down along the streams and lower lands. I envied my cousins who lived on either side of me, near the banks of the Wilson Stream, where they could see and hear these birds, as long as they remained with us. But long after I despaired of ever finding these birds nesting in the thickets of the high, upper lands, I found, on my return from school, in the spring of '93, a pair of catbirds had come to the sidehill, which sloped to the westward of my home, and in a thick clump of hazel bushes about fifty rods from the house, had built a nest and entered upon the duties of homelife. The site chosen, so high up from the bottom lands, and streams, was rather unusual, and afforded me much pleasure, in watching them so near my home. I was so egotistical as to believe that they had come up there out of their usual course, to nest, simply because I was so fond of the birds, and that the catbird was an old favorite of mine. Be that as it may, they left a greater doubt of their liking for me in my mind, for the next spring, (after I had gone away from home, and there was no one left to watch them building their nest and rearing their young) they came to the grape-vine within a few feet of the house, built a nest and entered upon their usual household duties, and cheered those who remained with their morning songs. It was a pleasure to my mother, when she wrote to me that my catbirds had built in the grapevine, and that their songs constantly carried

her thoughts to the one who loved the birds, but was away from home.

In the month of June a severe accident came to me, having fallen and fractured my skull. I was carried home, very weak, with sight and hearing nearly gone, but enough hearing remained to hear the songs of the catbirds, and as the long, weary days wore by, their song was a constant delight to me. As the summer days dragged slowly on, and health and strength crept back by degrees, I was again able to roam about among the trees and flowers, and I felt that the songs of those catbirds had helped to nurse and cheer me back to health and strength, and that they had been sent to cheer me up through those long, never-to-be forgotten days of illness and pain. The next year they returned and reared their young in a clump of roses, near the house, and each successive year I have found them nesting, either in the roses or grapevines, always near the house, as I have returned to my old home for a short vacation.

Of the many species of birds that nest in the garden or orchard, those catbirds have become the favorites with all the family. Thus by giving the birds some slight protection and encouragement they are glad to nest about our homes and gardens. Not only do they bring us pleasure with their songs and strange ways, but they help to protect our trees and flowers, fruits and crops, from the ravages of the many insect pests that are so destructive to the vegetation. Besides this, by encouraging them to nest about our homes, it affords those who love the study of our feathered friends a better opportunity to observe their ways and habits.

For instance: While laying in the hammock in the shade, near the nest of this pair of catbirds, the summer just mentioned, as I watched the two birds flitting here and there among the



branches of the fruit trees, I saw the male fly to the nest of a pair of Baltimore Orioles that were nesting in a Balm of Gilead tree, and had nested near by for years. He perched on the side of the nest, the orioles being away, and peered down into the nest, which contained eggs. He began pecking at the eggs, apparently, but I was not able to learn whether he did any injury to them or not. My mind went back to the old days when the boys said, "The catbird eats other birds' eggs."

I mentioned this instance to Mr. E. H. Forbush, Massachusetts State Ornithologist, while in Cambridge, and he said, "The catbird has been known to disturb other bird's nests." But I do not believe it is, by any means, a common occurrence, and that the catbird can be set down as an enemy to our other song-birds.

Deviating from my subject, somewhat, I wish to mention a series of nests of the above mentioned pair of Baltimore Orioles. As the winds have blown them down after they have served to rock the young orioles in, I have saved them, and they show some very interesting facts. One nest I have is made almost wholly of bits of twine, woven into a neat pocket nest. These bits of twine I threw on the ground beneath the tree, when the Orioles had commenced to construct a nest. The birds would soon come to my feet, and after watching me with many sidewise glances, to see if I really meant them no harm, they would take the twine in their beaks and fly to the nest site and carefully weave it into the structure, soon returning for more. Morning after morning I threw out twine for them, until they completed a nest, almost wholly of twine. One other year I threw out hemp, in a similar manner, and got a unique nest in the fall. Another point in comparing the nests: In each nest, a string is securely wov-

en into the top or rim, and carried up to a twig and wound about the branch twice, so it cannot slip, as it rocks to and fro in the breeze. The peculiarity is that the hitch they take about the limb is the very same in each nest, a peculiar way it is wound about the twig, drawing tightly, so it cannot loosen or slip, one proof that it is the same pair that return year after year.

The cunning of so small a creature is wonderful. It is more than cunning, it is reasoning power, I am led to believe. There are worlds of knowledge to be learned and pleasures untold, for those who would study closely the life histories of our birds, in their natural elements. It is always a source of pleasant anticipation that I look forward to my summer vacation and meeting my old friends, the catbirds. How many years will they live to return to the same locality, and help to make it a pleasant spot, by their presence and songs? Only time can tell.

J. MERTON SWAIN.

Woodfords, Dec. 20, 1900.

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REMINISCENCES OF BIRD LIFE  
ON OUR COAST, AND THE  
RAPID DECREASE IN MANY  
OF OUR SPECIES.

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[Read before the Maine Ornithological Society, at Lewiston, Dec. 22, 1900.]

How silently but surely the environments of the animal kingdom are changing, would be at once manifested if we but stop for a moment and review the recollections of a few years.

It seems to me that no class of this great kingdom has had a more varied history, geologically and anatomically, than has the class Aves. The changes most noticeable to us at this period of

its history are local, and refer to species once abundant on our coast, but now rapidly decreasing.

Of no species belonging to the fauna of our state, or of those which annually pass its boundaries, is this fact more noticeable, than with those belonging to the orders Anseres and Limicolae, and last but not least, those of the subfamily of Laridae, the terns.

That the rapid decrease of the different species under consideration are due to man or his agents, directly or indirectly, is at once apparent when we look the situation over.

The first and greatest agent in the almost extermination of many of these species, has been the gun, with its improvements, with no restrictions as to the number killed, or limited time in which to shoot them. At first only the local gunners hunted the sea ducks with which our coast abounded; for, during the winter months most attention was given to the birds, as the inclemency of the weather forbade the occupation of fishing to a great extent.

At first they used the flint-lock gun, and they ought not to be begrudged the result of a well directed load, as partial payment for the trouble of removing the powder from their eyes after each discharge. Next came the percussion cap. This revolutionized the flint-lock, as the agent necessary to ignite the powder was protected in a better way from the weather, and more often assured the discharge of the gun.

As fast as the gunners were able, the film was discarded for the tube, necessary to use the cap. Another advantage in this improvement was that with the flint-lock the spark from the flint, necessary to discharge the gun, must first ignite with a small amount of powder, called the priming.

This was held in a small receptacle called the pan, on the outside of the gun, which in turn discharged the

load. The flash of the powder from this arrangement often caused the ducks to dive beneath the surface of the water in time to avoid the load. The percussion cap overcame this to a great extent, as the ignition went direct through the cap tube to the load without exposing the flash.

This gave another advantage to the gunner, but lessened the chances for the birds. As the style of the gun depended on the financial standing of the owner, any gun which could be adapted to the improvement was used to save expense, while the more fortunate ones obtained those which came with the improvement. The rapidity with which these guns could be discharged depended on the stoicism of the owner, and the amount of breath he could expend upon his fingers, while adjusting the cap on the tube. As the schools in those sections at that time were poor, if there were any at all, the boys naturally acquired a disposition for the sport of their fathers, which was handed down from father to son.

For a boy to have a gun depended, not so much on his age as on his strength to carry one, and it was astonishing to see the load of iron those boys could carry if it could have been adapted to a load of powder and shot.

At that time the Scooter Ducks, known as Whitewing, Butter-bill and Patch-bill coots, could be taken in large numbers from any of the estuaries which afforded them food. As all sea ducks obtain their food by diving and tearing the mollusks (their principal food) from the rocks, they could remain under water two minutes or more, the time being governed more or less by the depth of water and abundance of food. While the ducks feed around the shores of the mainland, and islands, the ruggedness of the rocks screened the gunner from their view as he approached near enough to shoot at them; but when

the shore was too level to approach them in this way, he would take advantage of them, while they were feeding at the bottom, to run the desired distance and await their return to the surface. Crouching as near to the rocks as possible he waited until they all reappeared. At that moment, if none of the ducks had become aware of his presence, they would all head away from the shore, drawing into a narrow, compact line. This line was the opportunity for which the gunner had waited, and he then discharged his gun which strewed the water with dead and wounded ducks.

This continual persecution caused the ducks to gradually retreat to feeding grounds farther from the shore, which did not offer such opportunities as already mentioned to approach within shooting distance. In some localities ducks were salted for future use, especially the Eider (*Somateria dresseri*), and when wanted were soaked out in water until fresh enough to be eaten. As the ducks became more wary and less numbers could be obtained, necessity, sometimes, but generally pleasure, demanded more birds; then some more enterprising gunner discovered this desire could be satisfied by using wooden decoys, painted to represent the species wanted.

From the time since the percussion cap was introduced, improvements on the shot gun moved steadily forward; and about the time the advantage of decoys was known, an extra barrel on the gun appeared. With these agents combined, a more rapid decrease in the already diminished flocks was assured. About this time the amount of sport to be had with these species became known to inland gunners or sportsmen, as they were called, and many of them soon reached the Eldorado with the most modern weapons of that time for bird destruction.

Up to this period in their history I am dependent for instruction on the

old gunners who took an active part in the drama; from that time to the present I depend on my own observations.

When I was old enough to enter the drama, which only required the ability already named, I at once took an active part, and many a day have I staggered along with a gun, which to think of now, almost causes my knees to bend. Could the boys on the coast at that time have had the Ornithological influence and encouragement we now have, the disposition to protect, instead of to destroy, might have prevailed; and the knowledge of the habits of these birds which could have been obtained can not well be overestimated. Nor is this all. Where today miles and miles of our coast line and rivers do not afford a single specimen of many species, energetic influence at that time might have caused laws to have been enacted by our legislature, the benefit of which would have been manifested by a few of these species in their natural haunts today, whereas now nothing but silence remains. By that time the muzzle loading gun was fast approaching its perfection, but as they were expensive the gunners or fishermen had to be content with the out of date ones, a miscellaneous assortment known as King-arm, Queen-arm, and one more modern, known as the Springfield, which used a diving bell for a hammer, and a keg hat for a cap.

I well remember my first experience with one of those old guns. It was an old Queen's-arm owned by my grandfather, which, from long service had become what was known as britch burnt, and when discharged caused a recoil that was something to be remembered.

For this reason it had not been used for a number of years. At that time I was nine years of age, and my brother was seven, and to fire a gun was our greatest desire; but owing to the so-

licitude of our mother and other relatives, the desire had never been granted. As the guns used by our grandfather and uncles could not be taken without their knowledge, we concluded to make use of the old Queen's-arm. Hastily securing some ammunition, we took the old gun from its corner in the shed, and taking a nail hammer with which to explode the cap, (its own agent for that purpose being gone) we hastily retreated to the woods which were close by.

As soon as the woods were reached, we at once commenced to load the gun; but alas! In our haste we had forgotten to secure paper or oakum, which was needed to confine the load. Failure seemed inevitable, when a happy thought suggested my pocket-handkerchief, and the rapidity with which the larger portion disappeared down the barrel of that gun was incredible.

Every thing was then ready to complete the act but the game, which was at once furnished by a sparrow that was hopping around on the ground. The critical time had arrived. I rested the gun across a stump and took aim, while my brother stood by with unlifted hammer, waiting for the order to explode the cap. It came, and with the discharge of the gun the experience was complete, for I went one way, while the handkerchief went another, and the way the cotton cloth was spread around would have made a laundress shudder. I am happy to say the sparrow was not harmed.

The decrease of the ducks was then noticed by the less number of feeding grounds frequented, especially during the winter months.

As thousands of these ducks could then be seen in May when migrating north to their breeding grounds, and again in October when returning, some said there were just as many ducks as ever, and that the reason for their decrease in certain localities was be-

cause they had been driven away. Others said that they could never be exterminated, that the result of the annual incubation would more than replenish the decrease caused by the shooting season. How true this was, we shall see. The greatest harm that could be done to the ducks was during the spring months, as they were then on the way to their breeding grounds. This was the time when the sportsmen already named took a most active part in the drama, the effects of which then could not remain unnoticed. The gunners, with their knowledge of the habits of the ducks, were able to assure the sportsmen a successful day of sport, and their services were at once secured.

Nearly any morning during the months before named, there could be seen all along our coast, at the most desirable places, boat after boat, each one containing a number of gunners or sportsmen, and a string of decoys waiting for victims. From off the shore it was the same. Wherever it was possible to get within the line of flight, there would a string of decoys be found. From the time it was light enough to see until usually noon, but sometimes near night, the incessant bang! bang! of the gun could be heard as far as the ear could hear. Hundreds of ducks were killed each day, and the more they killed the more they wanted.

Not only ducks were killed, but any species peculiar to the coast, and which would come within range, was accepted as a target.

I do not mean to assert that all sportsmen or gunners possessed this disposition. Many of them were satisfied with a fair day's sport, and many times when the distinction could be made, allowed the female duck to pass unharmed, especially in the spring.

But one thing yet was necessary to complete the work then well begun.

Owing to the time required to reload the muzzle-loading gun, many ducks got by without their intended pill. That was considered a serious offence. The active brain of man, however, soon prepared a balm of Gilead for that wound; the breech-loading gun appeared. "Then was the winter of their discontent made glorious."

With the muzzle-loading gun, the load was at first measured, by pouring the necessary amount of powder into the palm of the hand, and then from the hand into the gun. A wadding of paper was then rammed down with a rod for that purpose, to hold the powder in place, and the shot was treated the same. The cap necessary to discharge the load when exploded was then placed on the cap tube and the gun was ready to discharge. How many times in winter have I stopped to blow my fingers or put them in my mouth to warm them.

In my mind I now see a gunner standing on the rock-bound coast, the sea dashing high upon the shore. The dwarf fir and spruce, characteristic of the coast, loaded with snow, the ends of their low limbs touching the snow beneath, forms a back ground. A bitter cold northwest wind sweeps the ice covered rocks, while he with bare hands numb with cold, tries to reload the gun he has just discharged.

Sometimes in the hurry to load, both loads (if it be a double barrel gun) go into one barrel. Again both powder and shot go in together without any wad between, the delay causing the gunner's fingers to become so numb with cold that he cannot hold the cap between his fingers to place it on the tube.

Such conditions often caused ejaculations to proceed from the mouth, which even the fear of the stocks or whipping post would not have stifled.

The introduction of the breech-loading gun overcome the difficulties just mentioned, as the load is confined in a

cartridge. As many loads as needed can be loaded at home, so that when on the shooting grounds, all time lost is while removing the empty cartridge and substituting a loaded one. The time of cocking the hammers to explode the cap which is now in the end of the cartridge instead of on a tube, had to be considered, and then the hammerless gun appeared. The improvement in that gun is, that when it is opened to load or discard the empty cartridge, it at the same time places the hammer in position to explode the cap.

With all the improvements mentioned time was lost in which some birds got by. To prevent that small chance for the birds, the repeating shot-gun has developed. This gun has all the improvements mentioned and a magazine which holds seven loads. The mechanism is such that two motions throw out the empty cartridge and replace it with a loaded one.

Such a gun when discharged by an expert, reminds me of parching corn. Competition has placed the modern gun in the hands of most men and also boys who want one, and the result is this.

Long after the larger flocks of ducks and other sea birds had been driven from the shore, a few smaller flocks and single birds continued to feed around the shore, but as fast as one came in sight a pair of eyes were glaring at it from behind a rock or some other cover, and as soon as the bird came within shooting distance, it was met with a bang! bang! for an introduction.

If the gunner was a good shot, that ended the play. If not, it served to make the bird more wary in again approaching the shore.

Twenty years ago, during the fall, winter and spring months, it was no trouble for a gunner to take as many birds as he could eat, under such conditions as before mentioned. At the

present time, after walking miles of the same coast, you will be fortunate if you see a specimen of many of our coast species, and your hunger would be something appalling if you had to wait until you shot a bird before it could be appeased.

While the coast gunner has continued his persecutions, his companion of the interior has not been idle. Every brook, river, pond and lake, has been subjected to the same persecutions for the species of ducks and other birds which frequent such places.

Owing to the freezing of the inland waters, gunning could not be carried on in that section during the winter months, as it was on the coast, but with the return of spring, as soon as a hole melted through the ice large enough for a duck to light in, it met the same reception as those peculiar to the coast.

While dummy decoys have been the curse of the coast birds, the gunning float has acted the same for our rivers and estuaries, or wherever smooth enough to be used.

The gunning float as it is called, is a small boat usually about twelve feet in length, decked over about a third of its length, sloping toward the stern within a few inches of the water line, and so modelled as to show as little height above the water as possible.

Around the sides on top of the gunwales, are what are called water cants. These are strips of boards some five or six inches wide and sloping toward the water line on either side.

If ice was floating around, small pieces were placed around the water cant, and on the deck, to disguise the float as an ice cake.

At other times, turf cut from the marshes or upland with grass intact, or other vegetable debris that would serve to represent the surrounding conditions.

The float is propelled in this way,

The gunner lies on his back on the bottom of the float, his head resting against the stern board so that his eye will come on a level with the top of the float. Through the stern board (usually on the left side) just above the water line is the sculling hole which fits the shaft of the sculling paddle. The handle of the paddle is passed through the scull hole from the outside, and comes under the left arm of the gunner and is grasped by the shaft with his left hand while his right grasps the handle. With a motion of the hand and wrist, the paddle blade is made to resist the water with first one hand and then the other, which propels the float ahead at the will of the gunner.

So steadily can the float be propelled in this way, that if the water is not too rough, hardly a motion or ripple from the float can be seen. If the ducks have not been deceived too many times by a float, they can be approached within shooting distance, and often much nearer. As decoys are the curse of our sea ducks, so is the gunning float of those that inhabit our estuaries, rivers, and ponds.

The Golden-eye Duck (*Clangula clangula americana*) once plenty in our open rivers and estuaries during winter, is in many of them seldom if ever seen, and when found there is usually only one or two individuals to represent the hundreds that once frequented the same locality.

The Bufflehead (*Charitonetta albeola*) has become so rare, that seldom is there heard of a specimen being taken.

The Bluebill (*Aythya marila nortica*) is fast following the last named, as are the Green-wing Teal (*Anas carolinensis*) and Blue-wing (*Anas discors*).

The Baldpate (*Anas americana*) and Pintail (*Dafila acuta*) although never as plenty as the already mentioned species, will be looked for, many days

and perhaps years, if sought for a collection.

The Dusky Duck (*Anas obscura*) seems to best withstand the persecution. Why, I do not know, unless it is that its feeding grounds are not as restricted to certain localities as are the former, thus compelling the gunner to hunt them over a greater area than the others mentioned.

The Merganser's (*americanus* and *serrator*) have not been passed by. Although more plenty than many of our coast and river birds, a few years of observations can but impress the observer with the fact, that they too are fast decreasing.

Sometime when speaking of the decrease of ducks, some gunner or sportsman will say "Just go to Merry-meeting Bay and you will not talk that way." They do not stop to think, or will not, that there is only one bay of that name in Maine; or that it cannot (to my knowledge) be duplicated as a feeding ground for ducks in the state.

Also owing to the location that practically all the ducks that cross the state, stop to feed or rest during migration.

Not so many years ago, the same species would have been better represented on any feeding grounds in the state according to their size than are they now at Merry-meeting Bay.

Enact laws to protect all ducks during spring migration and the breeding season, stop the use of decoys and gunning floats (for a number of years at least) the baiting of ducks in certain places during close time that when open time is on a few favored friends may slaughter all the more, pass such laws and it will not be long before ducks will be seen on feeding grounds long deserted.

The almost extermination of many species of Limicolae, such as sand-pipers, plover, etc., has been more rapid than of the former order.

Where a few years ago our beaches and tide flats afforded thousands of the different species, days and days will not now offer many species to the collector.

It is only a few years since, that the beaches of our coast afforded during September, thousands of Surf Snipe (*Calidris arenaria*). Flock after flock, each numbering hundreds, could be seen running along the beach at the edge of the surf, searching for food. So plenty were they, that I have known of fifty and even a hundred killed by the single discharge of a gun. Walk along the same beaches at the same time of year now, and there will be days and days that not a bird of this species will be seen, and if seen at all it will be in straggling flocks of from a dozen to twenty birds. If a hundred be seen they are thought to be quite plenty. What is said of this species may be said of the others that make up the order Limicolae.

Owing to the ease with which the smaller species could be approached, and the fact that owing to such flocks they could be shot into at random with a fair chance of getting one; they have been a target for anything in the shape of a human being that could wear a pair of bicycle stockings, and hold a mouthful of peas.

Of the larger species known as plover, the sportsman and gunner have done their part. As it required some skill and knowledge of the birds to hunt them, the sportsman and gunner is to blame for their almost extermination.

Many hundreds, and I might say thousands, of the smaller species have been shot for sport, and then thrown on the dump to decay.

Many of our gull and tern colonies, and also, those of the herons, have been sacrificed for sport, without even the excuse for millinery purposes.

Thanks to the wise legislation of our state, all birds other than game birds,

excepting the order Raptores and one or two excepted species are protected, and it is to hoped, that ere many seasons shall have passed, the benefit of this law will be manifested by birds returning to their old breeding grounds.

When sportsmen and gunners will sacrifice personal selfishness, then may we hope for laws that will not only be favorable to the hunter, but to the birds as well.

HERBERT L. SPINNEY.

A supplement to the list of the Birds of Maine is now in the process of preparation and new data, additions to the county records and corrections will be thankfully received. All notes should be sent at once to O. W. Knight, 84 Forest Ave., Bangor, Maine.

Walter F. Webb of Albion, N. Y., always has in stock some nice sets, birds' skins, literature, magazines, and supplies of interest to Bird Men. Correspondence with such always a pleasure. Lists free.

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