

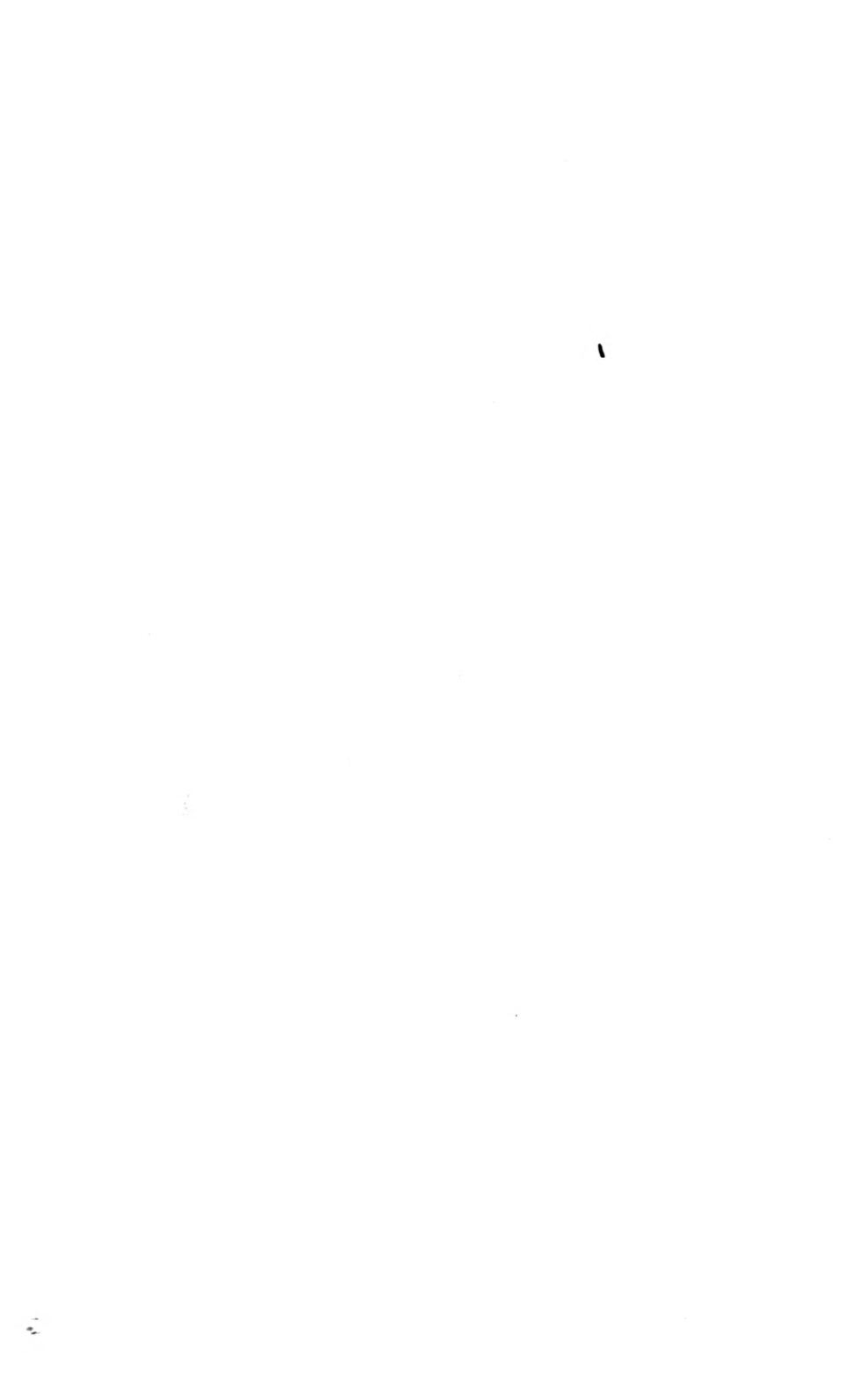
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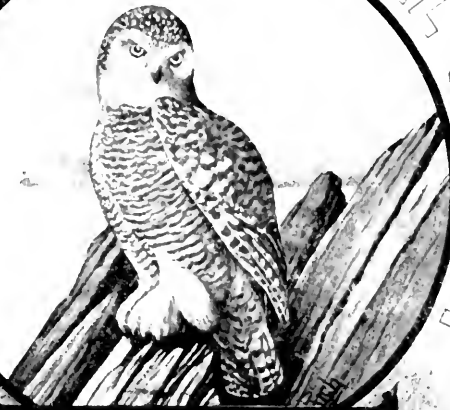
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March, 1908

The Journal  
of the  
Maine Ornithological Society

MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Bird Protection, Bird Study,  
The Spread of the Knowledge thus  
Gained, These Are Our Objects.

Editor, W. H. BROWNSON, Portland

Associate Editor, FRANK T. NOBLE, Augusta

Published by the Society at 97 1-2 Exchange Street, Portland, Maine

# JOURNAL

OF THE

## Maine Ornithological Society.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MAINE ORNITHOLOGISTS.

Issued every quarter on the first of March, June, September and December of each year.

**Publication Office: 97 1-2 Exchange St., Portland, Maine.**

Editor, W. H. BROWNSON,  
Portland.

Associate Editor, FRANK T. NOBLE,  
Augusta.

**Price, \$1.00 per annum. Single Copies, 25 Cents.**

Address W. H. Brownson, 85 Market Street, Portland, Me.

The Maine Ornithological Society comprises in its membership the leading ornithologists and bird students of Maine. The membership is constantly increasing and the interest in the society was never greater than now. If you are interested in birds and wish to know more about them you should by all means send in your name for membership in this society. The dues are one dollar a year, and payment of this sum entitles each person elected to membership to the JOURNAL free of charge. Application for membership should be made to the Secretary, Mr. J. Merton Swain, Farmington, Maine. Mr. Swain is also the treasurer and the annual dues should be paid to him. All persons, both young and old, are eligible to membership. It is not necessary for one to be versed in bird lore in order to insure his election to this society. The larger the membership the more can be done in the way of improving the JOURNAL and increasing its size. Send in your name without further delay. The society will be glad to welcome you to its meetings, which are held once a year in different cities. The officers of the society are as follows:

*President*, PROF. LESLIE A. LEE, Brunswick.

*Vice President*, Dr. H. H. BROCK, Portland.

*Secretary and Treasurer*, J. MERTON SWAIN, Farmington.

*Councillors*, CAPT. H. L. SPINNEY, Seguin; ORA W. KNIGHT, Bangor.

*Editor*, W. H. BROWNSON, Portland.

*Associate Editor*, FRANK T. NOBLE, Augusta.





YOUNG BANK SWALLOWS FROM PILEWADDS BY HODAG, H. CHAPMAN.  
[TO ACCOMPANY A FIELD ON PAGE 5.]



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# Maine Ornithological Society

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Vol. X

MARCH, 1908

No. 1

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## Proceedings of the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society.

By J. MERTON SWAIN, *Secretary.*

The twelfth annual meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society convened at Portland, Nov. 29th and 30th, 1907. A business meeting was called in the lecture room of the Portland Society of Natural History, Elm street, with President Leslie A. Lee in the chair, Friday, at 2.15 P. M. The following officers and members were present:

OFFICERS:—Prof. Leslie A. Lee, President; J. Merton Swain, Secretary and Treasurer; W. H. Brownson, Editor; Prof. Ora W. Knight, Councillor.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:—Thomas J. Emery, Esq., Cambridge, Mass.; Sherman E. Phillips, Canterbury, N. H.

ACTIVE MEMBERS:—Prof. E. F. Hitchings, Waterville; Walter H. Rich, Portland; A. H. Norton, Portland; Hiram Ellis, Portland; Miss Etta Parker, Portland; Miss Sara C. Eastman, Portland; Mrs. Fred P. Abbott, Saco; Miss Helen S. Lewis, Portland; Fred M. David, Damariscotta; Miss Marshall, York.

The records of the last meeting were read and approved.

The report of the Secretary and Treasurer was read and referred to the Auditing Committee.

The report of the Editor was then read and referred to the Auditing Committee.

The following committees were appointed :

NOMINATION:—A. H. Norton, Prof. Knight and Miss Marshall.

RESOLUTIONS:—J. M. Swain, Miss Lewis.

AUDITING COMMITTEE:—Fred M. David, Sherman E. Phillips.

The editor's report showed that there is about the same deficit at the close of this year as there was last. The matter was discussed by Prof. Lee, and Messrs. Brownson and Swain.

The following names were proposed for membership by the Secretary: Mr. W. L. Brown, Bigelow; Mrs. W. L. Brown, Bigelow; Roy T. David, Damariscotta; H. E. Flynt, Damariscotta. On motion of Mr. Norton, the Secretary was instructed to cast the vote for the society, and the ballot was cast, and President Lee declared the above elected.

President Lee then proceeded to his annual address to the Society, which was listened to with a good deal of enthusiasm. He spoke interestingly of the steady, onward march of the society. He spoke of the many dead birds found and reported extensively over the entire State. Many species were reported during the severe storms of last winter, and especially after the heavy fall of snow that came in April after many of our spring arrivals were here. There were many Goshawks reported last winter and also this present winter. One Pine Grosbeak was found dead at Brunswick last week. This was the only Grosbeak he had seen so far this winter. He spoke extensively of the way Mr. Walter H. Rich's book, "Feathered Game of the Northeast," has been received, and suggested that every member should have a copy of this valuable work. He then spoke of Prof. Knight's work, "The Birds of Maine," that is soon to be ready for distribution. He also exhibited and mentioned several other valuable works on ornithology, among them, "The Birds of Labrador," by Dr. Townsend and Glover M. Allen; "Birds of Essex Co., Mass., a Bulletin of the Nuttall Club";

"Birds of Cambridge, Mass.," by Wm. Brewster. He also mentioned many works attempting to popularize ornithology, and thought they were too common, as many of them were incomplete and misleading.

Prof. Knight was called upon for remarks on the birds he saw on his recent trip to the West. He mentioned large quantities of Grackles, Redwings, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds west of the Mississippi river. Along the prairie region he saw thousands of Ducks. Teal, Canvasbacks and Red-heads were recognizable from the train. In Wyoming, he saw what he took to be the Desert Horned Lark, many Magpies, two varieties of Blue Jays, and two of Juncos. He also mentioned two varieties of Chickadees, Ferrug. Rough-Leg, Western Red-tailed Hawks, thousands of Juncos migrating, Golden Eagles in the mountains and Sage Hens in quantities.

Mr. Brownson then requested all the members to assist in the bird census, commencing on the morning of Dec. 22nd, and extending to evening of Dec. 31st, and send reports for the JOURNAL.

Mr. T. J. Emery, of the Harvard Law School, then gave a very interesting talk on "Study of Birds in the City Limits." His observations, of more than usual interest, were made near his home in Cambridge, Mass. He also spoke of a pet Crow in Cumberland that could talk. A discussion followed, relative to the talking ability of Crows, by Prof. Lee, Messrs. Knight, Norton, Hitchings and Swain.

Then followed a discussion of the egg-eating birds. The Crows, Grackles and Jays were especially mentioned. Quite extensive remarks along this line were made by Prof. Hitchings and Knight, Messrs. Norton and Swain and Mrs. Abbott.

Prof. Hitchings then remarked that he would like to hear from any or all of the members relative to a list of the beneficial and also the harmful birds.

Miss Marshall, Secretary of the Audubon Society, then gave a most interesting talk on "Destruction of Birds at York, Me." She spoke of the Italians who set traps and killed many Sparrows and Juncos, but soon the sentiment in town grew so strong against this

killing that it was stopped. She also gave her observations of the quantities of birds that came about the houses and stables to feed during the heavy snow fall last April.

Mr. Hiram Ellis gave a talk on his observations of birds the past year about the old canal in Westbrook, also on a trip to the Rangeley Lakes.

The Nominating Committee here signified they were ready to report. Mr. Norton, the chairman, then nominated the same board of officers as served last year. Some of the board objected to this, and it was voted to consider the matter and the final vote be taken at the business session to-morrow.

Mr. David, the chairman of the Auditing Committee, then reported that they had examined the books of the Treasurer and Editor and found them correct.

It was voted to accept these reports and the Secretary was instructed to spread them on the records.

Voted to adjourn to 8 P. M.

#### EVENING SESSION.

The public evening session was called to order by President L. A. Lee at 8 P. M.

Editor W. H. Brownson gave a very interesting lecture, illustrated with many lantern slides, "The Birds about Portland."

Captain Spinney then followed with a lecture, which was listened to with great interest, "The Birds about a Lighthouse," using many fine lantern slides.

Prof. Knight came last with a fine lecture on "The Birds of the Eastern Coast," showing many beautiful slides of birds taken mostly in the Penobscot Bay waters.

All three lectures were listened to by a very appreciative audience.

The meeting was then adjourned to 9.15 A. M. Saturday.

#### SATURDAY SESSION.

The Saturday session was called to order at 9.20 A. M., President Lee in the chair.

OFFICERS PRESENT:—Prof. L. A. Lee, President; J. M. Swain, Secretary and Treasurer; W. H. Brownson, Editor; O. W. Knight, Capt. H. L. Spinney, Councillors.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—Active, A. H. Norton, Miss Helen S. Lewis, Mrs. Fred P. Abbott, Miss E. P. Parker, Mrs. A. E. Marks, Eben F. Corey, W. H. Rich, Prof. E. F. Hitchings.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:—Sherman E. Phillips, Prof. Thos. J. Emery.

The following new members were elected by the society:

Silas B. Adams, Portland; Mrs. W. H. Brownson, Portland; Miss Helen M. Robinson, Portland; Mrs. Ernest E. Brewer, Portland; Mr. Emil Herms, Turner.

The matter of a summer meeting was here discussed. Professor Lee suggested that we hold a summer meeting with the New England Federation of Natural History Societies, the first week in July, at Mt. Washington. The matter was left, after considerable discussion, for further consideration.

Prof. Knight, chairman of the Nominating Committee, then reported, nominating the old board of officers for re-election. The secretary was instructed to cast the ballot and President Lee declared the following elected for 1908:

President, Prof. Leslie A. Lee, Brunswick; Vice-President, Dr. H. H. Brock, Portland; Secretary and Treasurer, John Merton Swain, Farmington; Editor, W. H. Brownson, Portland; Associate Editor, Frank T. Noble, Augusta; Councillor, Capt. Herbert L. Spinney, Bath; Councillor, Ora W. Knight, Bangor.

J. M. Swain, chairman on resolutions, reported as follows:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Maine Ornithological Society be extended to the M. C. R. R. for reduced rates to attend this meeting, and to the Portland Society of Natural History for free use of its rooms for holding this meeting.

The society voted to accept and adopt these resolutions, and the Secretary was instructed that they be spread upon the records and a copy sent to the parties mentioned therein.

Mr. J. M. Swain then read a letter from Prof. Henry Oldys,

relative to resolutions being passed by the society favoring the continuance of the work of the U. S. Biological Survey and the appropriations necessary to continue the great work this division is doing. The matter was extensively discussed by Messrs. Swain, Lee, Norton, Hitchings and Knight. On motion of Prof. Hitchings the society voted to leave the matter with Prof. Lee, to draw up the resolutions, and send copies to our Senators and Representatives in Washington.

Prof. Lee then brought up the matter of publishing an index to the first ten volumes of the JOURNAL. Discussions followed by Messrs. Knight, Swain, Lee, Norton, Brownson and Hitchings. The matter was laid on the table to await Mr. Emery.

President Lee then proceeded to the scientific papers.

A paper on "The Bank Swallows," by Howard H. Cleaves, of Staten Island, N. Y., was read, in the absence of the author, by Editor Brownson.

Remarks were made by Prof. Lee relative to continued bird photography. He noted a little falling off of enthusiasm, and hoped the members would keep up this part of the work. He would still be glad to make the slides for them. The society now has about four hundred slides. He has a catalogue of the slides nearly completed. Prof. Hitchings remarked that he would like to arrange with the members to get desirable photos to use in his State work.

Recess was declared at 10.15 A. M. for ten minutes.

Resuming, Mr. Norton was called and gave notes on a feather of the Eider Duck, illustrated with lantern slides, which were very interesting.

Mr. Emery was then called to explain his method of an index to the JOURNAL. It was voted to leave the matter of an index to the ten volumes of the JOURNAL in the hands of the following committee: W. H. Brownson, chairman, Prof. T. J. Emery, Prof. Leslie A. Lee.

The matter of deficit on the JOURNAL was discussed, and several members volunteered to give ten dollars each toward this deficit. Mr. Brownson and Mr. Swain remarked that if we could get caught up,

and get square with the printer, so not to have to use the dues collected for this coming year to pay for the 1907 JOURNAL, the society would then be on a sound financial basis, and urged every member to procure as many new members as possible to help make the JOURNAL a continued success.

Prof. Knight then gave an interesting talk, "Random Notes on Bird Migration." Notes by Robert D. Perry and Miss Elizabeth W. Russell, in the absence of the authors, were read by the Secretary.

Capt. Spinney gave a most interesting talk on "Scarcity of Eagles in the Kennebec Valley." He said that where, ten years ago, he knew of fifteen occupied nests, but three now remain. His remarks were followed by observations by Prof. Knight.

The Secretary and Treasurer wished here to thank the many members who have so promptly responded to the notices of annual dues. Never since our society was organized have the dues come in so promptly as they have thus far for 1908. It is very gratifying, both to the Secretary and the Editor, to have the dues come in so promptly, for this is a very important part and helps very much to assist us in planning the publications of the society.

Prof. E. F. Hitchings, entomologist to the Department of Agriculture of Maine, then gave a most instructive talk on "Insectivorous Birds."

On motion of Mr. Norton it was voted to place in the hands of the council the matter of joining the Federation of New England Natural History Societies.

The place of our next meeting was then taken up. Prof. Lee extended an invitation to the society to hold the next annual meeting in Brunswick. Several members expressed a desire that the meeting should be held in Brunswick. The decision was left with the council to report later.

On motion of Prof. Knight, it was voted to adjourn to the call of the council.

J. MERTON SWAIN,  
*Secretary.*

## A Visit to a Colony of Bank Swallows.

By HOWARD H. CLEAVES, Staten Island, N. Y.

Birds that live in colonies are generally very interesting, and, in my opinion, the Bank Swallows are especially so.

They will not build unless a certain kind of bank is available. Very near where I live there are banks which, from a distance, bear the same appearance as the ones which these Swallows have chosen. On close examination of the former, however, I found that the earth was very hard, too hard for even the Kingfisher, while the bank where the Swallows were (four miles distant) was of a sandy character, and easily penetrated. The bank faced to the north and overlooked a large expanse of salt water. Estimating roughly, the colony occupied at least three hundred yards of the rather precipitous bank, the top of which was about thirty feet above sea level.

The holes which led to the nests were made, almost invariably, about twelve to sixteen inches from the top of the bank, where the fibrous roots of the grasses from above helped to strengthen them. Not all, however, had made their nests so near the top. In one place, where the bank was perpendicular, fifteen or twenty holes had been made some ten feet from the top.

I undertook to count the holes of the entire colony. There were three hundred and eight in all, including many, probably, which were not in use; also some which might have been only five or six inches deep, the mere deserted beginnings of nests. The tunnels went straight back from the openings for a distance of about two feet, and terminated in slight enlargements, at the bottom of which were rather frail nests.

At the time of my visit (July 4th, 1906) many of the young had left the nests and were flying about with the twittering swarm of adults, while others were still too young to take to their wings. The old birds would skim over the surrounding fields and water until sufficient insect food had been accumulated in their mouths,



when they would enter their nests, and feed their young. It seemed that they never made a mistake, but always knew what entrance to approach.

Now and then an adult could be seen feeding a youngster on the wing. I imagine it must have been a delicate performance, both birds fluttering their wings rapidly and presenting much the appearance of a combat, such as I have seen between two English Sparrows. Occasionally a young one, not quite bold enough to trust to his wings, would completely obstruct the entrance and be fed there by one of the adults, the latter with braced tail and toes clinging tightly to the earth.

So pleased was I with the colony in 1906 that I decided to visit it again this year, and, if possible, to secure some pictures. On June 30th, 1907, therefore, I went to the place again. The colony seemed not to be quite so large as before, and I removed from one or two of the holes sticks and stones which had been placed there by either an evil-minded or a thoughtless person.

Hugging close under the bank were two young birds, apparently unable to fly well. They were quite easily captured, but I found that they were by no means unable to fly and it was with great difficulty that photographs were secured. When just ready to make an exposure, away would fly the bird. He must have been captured and recaptured at least a half-dozen times. He seemed to be possessed with the natural instinct to fly in a circuitous route and attempt to enter the dwellings at a different point along the bank. His judgment in flying for a hole seemed to fail him, however, and, his strength wasted, he would be obliged to flutter down the steep bank until lodged somewhere and allow me to pick him up.

I do not know whether more than one brood is brought forth in a season, but I am inclined to think not.

At the end of the summer I have often seen the Bank Swallows perched on wires, together with such other species as the Barn Swallow and the Tree Swallow, preparatory to the great southern migration, to the land of insect food.

## Were These Loons Racing?

By FRANK A. BROWN, Beverly, Mass.

This past summer, late in August, while on an idle bird trip in the deepest of the Washington County, Maine, forests, by canoe and portage we reached a lake where I became the interested observer of something I had read of some years before in one of Dr. Long's books, but hardly expected to see personally. We were well into a lonely part of the country, having come from big Nickatous Lake, by paddle and portage, much of the latter included, by way of Big and Little Machias Lake, into Big Sabeo, as it is called. It was rainy and a strong half gale was blowing up the lake as we entered from the dead water above at about five in the afternoon. The increasing white caps and the tree-tops bending to the blast warned us to keep under the lee shore and not attempt the crossing of the lake that night, so we pitched our little shelter tent in an opening among some birches and poplars, almost out of sight of the lake, and hauled our canoes out among the abundant blueberry bushes. After a night of rain and wind, we found it still misty and showery in the morning, but by 7 o'clock it cleared sufficiently for us to see well across the lake. Well under the opposite shore from where we were, across a half mile of water, for we were in a small bay, we saw some eight or nine Loons which were calling incessantly, and were apparently very uneasy.

Our camp and canoes were well hidden, so we were sure our own presence had not alarmed them. Through the glasses, we noted them swimming in circles, and now and then one standing up on its tail and flapping its wings, then swimming round excitedly, and all talking as if it were a ladies' sewing circle. After a time, they swam quickly up in one direction several hundred feet, and then back again, then seemed to back up and scatter along in a string, with the exception of two, who, with a good deal of calling, suddenly started side by side, feet and wings going at utmost speed, and water flying, for perhaps half a mile or more, amid the excited cries of the rest. After that they all gathered again and apparently

talked it over. To me, watching, if it was not a pre-arranged race, I do not know what it was. They all displayed every manner of interest and excitement, of delight and curiosity, as plainly as bird manners could display them, and, although who can say what a bird may be thinking about under such circumstances, it would appear in our own thought as a carefully discussed and premeditated race.

I was pleased to note the past June quite a few Wood Ducks in the vicinity of Grand Lake Stream and elsewhere in Washington County, evidently breeding, although in August, on the trip above mentioned, we saw few Ducks of any kind, and even those few were mostly Black Ducks. At Grand Lake Stream village there is a very prosperous colony of Purple Martins, and Mr. Rose, of "Ouananiche Lodge," their owner, is taking the best of care to keep them, proposing, I believe, the coming spring, to put up a second large house for their accommodation. There were some twenty or thirty pairs there this spring breeding.

### **American Birds, by William L. Finley.**

Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, have recently published a handsome volume, entitled "American Birds Studied and Photographed from Life," by William Lovell Finley, a well-known western ornithologist. The book is profusely illustrated from photographs by Herman T. Bohlman and the author, in fact there are forty-eight full-page half-tones. The interesting articles which are here printed in book form were first published in *The Condor*, and it is gratifying to have them in more convenient and permanent shape. They are suited primarily for popular reading, but they contain a great amount of original information regarding the birds studied, valuable to the ornithologist. Among the birds portrayed and pictured are the

Hummingbird, Flicker, Grosbeak, Crow, Wren, Shrike, Kingfisher, Blue Jay, Phoebe, Gull, Chickadee, Yellow-throat, Red-tailed Hawk, Owl, Oriole, Warblers, Sparrows, Vireo, Robin, Thrush, Heron and Eagle. It should be kept in mind that the author has reference to western forms of these species, but he has given them in every case the familiar eastern names. It would have been better to have figured the birds under their proper scientific names, thus adding strict accuracy to valuable popular life histories. Except this criticism, there is nothing but the highest praise to be written of the book. It is finely printed and the half-tones are admirable. The descriptions and narrative are interesting and trustworthy, and the book, on the whole, is a noteworthy addition to the already large quantity of bird literature of this general character.

## Record of Myrtle Warblers, 1907-8.

By W. H. BROWNSON.

Myrtle Warblers were first discovered by me wintering at Cape Elizabeth in the winter of 1903-4. Every winter since then for five winters, including the present season, the Myrtle Warblers have been observed there. The birds were present last December, but were not noted in January. They have, however, been seen in the same locality in February, thus making the record consecutive for five years. The observations the past winter were as follows:

Nov. 24.—Cold day, with east wind, threatening snow. No snow on the ground, but during the night the first snow came. At Delano Park, at least five Myrtle Warblers, in sheltered place on lee side of hill. Birds in brown plumage, with considerable yellow on sides.

Dec. 1.—Raw and uncomfortable day. Trace of snow on the ground. Visited Delano Park late in the forenoon, the conditions being unfavorable for finding any birds at all. One Myrtle Warbler

sat quiet in low tree for ten minutes and then flew to bayberry bush and ate quite a number of the berries. Then he flew to the evergreen woods on the other side of the road, where it is likely that the rest of the flock were sheltered.

Dec. 8.—Very mild day. No snow on the ground, except traces on shaded northerly slopes. Two Myrtle Warblers seen flying high and lighting on the top of a tall pine tree, half way from Delano Park to Pond Cove. One Robin near Delano Park. Two Black Guillemots not far from the shore.

Dec. 28.—Mild day. No snow on the ground, except traces in hollows and depressions. Two Myrtle Warblers seen near Delano Park. Other birds very scarce.

Feb. 16.—Mild day. No snow on the ground. Five Myrtle Warblers seen at Cape Elizabeth, just south of Delano Park. Warblers were near a great field of bayberries, on which they were feeding.

During January several trips were made to the Cape, but not a single small bird of any kind was seen. Even Chickadees were absent from the locality. The record of Christmas week and the record of Feb. 16 make it evident that the Myrtle Warblers spent the winter in that locality, since the ones noted on the December visits and the last visit in February were found in exactly the same place, feeding in the same field of bayberries. It is thought that the birds found a favorite resort not far away, beyond a stretch of deep woods, since they were seen more than once flying to and from that general direction.

### The Ornithological Magazines.

THE AUK.—The *Auk* for January, 1908, contains, besides the usual number of general notes and reviews of recent bird literature, the following leading articles: "A Long-drawn-out Migration: Its Causes and Consequences," by Rev. G. Eifrig; "Notes on the Spring Migration (1907) at Ann Arbor, Michigan," by Norman A.

Wood: "Nesting Habits of Birds at Stamford, Connecticut, as Affected by the Cold Spring," by Louis N. Porter; "The Breeding Season of the American Barn Owl (*Strix pratensis*) in South Carolina," by Arthur T. Wayne; "Summer Birds of Southwestern Saskatchewan," by A. C. Bent; "Red-spotted Bluethroat of Alaska," by S. Buturlin; "The Generic Names Mycteria and Tantalus of Linnaeus, 1758," by J. A. Allen; "The Birds of Custer and Dawson Counties, Montana," by E. S. Cameron; "Summer Birds of the Green Mountain Region of Southern Vermont," by Francis H. Allen; "On the Status of Brewster's Warbler (*Helminthophila leucobronchialis*)," by Charles W. Townsend, M. D.; "Bird Records from Great Slave Lake Region," by Ernest Thompson Seton.

THE CONDOR.—The *Condor* for January–February, 1908, contains some handsome half-tones of the California Condor, Western Horned Owl, and the New Reserves on the Washington Coast. There are valuable articles on "Life History of the California Condor," by William L. Finley; "The Locust-destroying Birds of the Transvaal," by Dr. Frederick W. D. Evelyn; "Nesting of the Western Horned Owl in Colorado," by R. B. Rockwell; "The Tawny Creeper in Western Washington," by J. H. Bowles; "The Southern California Chickadee," by Joseph Grinnell; "Notes from the Diary of a Naturalist in Northern California," by John F. Ferry; "An Arizona Nest Census," by F. C. Willard; "The New Reserves on the Washington Coast," by William Leon Dawson.

BIRD-LORE.—*Bird-Lore* for January–February, 1908, has handsome colored plates showing three western species of the Kingbird and the Snowflake. There are finely illustrated articles on "The American Dipper in Colorado," by Julius Henderson; "The Bird That Nests in the Snow," by Sidney S. S. Stansell; "Redpoll Linnets," by Lottie Alvord Lacey; "Young Kingfishers," by James H. Miller; "The Migration of Flycatchers," by W. W. Cooke; "The Twenty-fifth Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union," "Clarke's Nutcracker," by Evan Lewis.

THE WILSON BULLETIN.—The *Wilson Bulletin* for December,

1907, contains the following articles; "June with the Birds of the Washington Coast," by Lynds Jones; "The Birds of Point Pelee," by P. A. Taverner and B. H. Swales; "Birds Observed in Hawkins County, East Tennessee," by J. H. Fleming; "The Ruffed Grouse in Pennsylvania," by Frank L. Burns.

BIRD PROTECTION IN MASSACHUSETTS.—In the Massachusetts's *Crop Report* for September, 1907, Edward Howe Forbush, ornithologist of Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, has a valuable article on "Statutory Bird Protection in Massachusetts." He gives the present status of waterfowl, shore birds, upland game birds, Pigeons and Doves, and non-game birds with a history of the legislation in years past, looking toward their protection. He also makes valuable suggestions regarding the enforcement of bird laws, needed legislation, and the prohibition of all spring and summer shooting. He recommends that the sale of game birds be forbidden. He is in favor also of setting aside tracts or reservations of woodland, lake, river or shore within the limit of which all killing of birds by man may be prohibited, under heavy penalties. In such tracts or reservations the resident game and birds can breed unmolested, and can replenish the surrounding country. Here migrants can find safety to stop and rest from their long journey. He says, "A chain of such sanctuaries established along the Atlantic coast of North America would probably preserve our stock of wild fowl and shore birds indefinitely. The sanctuary has succeeded in Europe, and it is no new idea here. Already in Massachusetts we have been experimenting with it in a small way."

## Christmas Bird Census.

**Reports of Winter Birds by Members of the Maine Ornithological Society  
During the Period from Dec. 22 to 31, Inclusive.**

For the past two years, at the Christmas season, the members of the Maine Ornithological Society have reported their observations, which have been published in the March issues of the JOURNAL in

1906 and 1907. The third Christmas Bird Census is reported herewith. The reports are not so numerous as before, but it has been a time of unexampled scarcity of birds all over this State. Therefore the meagerness of the reports is in itself valuable, as correctly representing the prevailing conditions. The only report which is voluminous is that of Mrs. Abbott, of Saco, who seems to have met with better success than any other observer. This report includes several species in the identification of which unusual care should be exercised. Some of them are very difficult to recognize with certainty at a considerable distance. Leaving out all doubtful records, however, Mrs. Abbott still has a fine record, and one that will be read with interest. For the fifth consecutive winter Myrtle Warblers have been observed at Cape Elizabeth during Christmas week.

The reports sent by different members for Christmas week of 1907 are as follows :

PROF. LESLIE A. LEE.

Bird census, Dec. 22 to Dec. 31, 1907, at Brunswick:

Dec. 22.—Sky clear, wind southwest, temperature 26 degrees, eight inches of snow, some on the pine trees. Walked from 9.45 to 11.45, about three miles, in pine woods east of village, along a weedy meadow, and on Federal street. Birds seen—Chickadees, 8 ; Brown Creeper, 1.

Dec. 24.—An hour's walk in the woods and along the roads disclosed no birds.

Dec. 25.—A part of the forenoon was spent in the pine woods in studying the pine blight and marking trees. No birds were observed.

Dec. 29.—A walk of three miles across the plains, among the pitch pines and birches, where some birds are usually seen, gave no results.

Dec. 31.—From the trolley car to Bath six Crows were seen near the New Meadows River, among the pine trees.

Other observers in town report the scarcity of birds during this period.



On January 3rd, 1908, the Kennebec River was only partly frozen over. Between Augusta and Waterville the channel was open for fully half the distance. While on the train I noticed two ducks, probably Black Ducks, flying over the water. For more than two and a half minutes they kept up with the train, or ahead of it, while it was moving not less than thirty-five miles an hour.

D. W. SWEET.

Observations at Avon, Franklin County :

Dec. 22nd, 3 Blue Jays, 5 Chickadees; Dec. 23rd, 1 Chickadee; Dec. 24th, 1 Chickadee; Dec. 25th, 5 Chickadees, 1 Brown Creeper, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch; Dec. 26th, 2 Blue Jays, 2 Chickadees; Dec. 28th, 2 Downy Woodpeckers, 3 Chickadees, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 Brown Creeper, 2 Redpolls, 4 Blue Jays; Dec. 29th, 4 Blue Jays, 3 Chickadees, 2 Redpolls; Dec. 30th, a small flock of Redpolls, 2 Chickadees; Dec. 31, 4 Chickadees.

LOUIS E. LEGGE AND DANFORTH S. HERSEY.

Observations in Cape Elizabeth and Old Orchard:

Dec. 22nd, 14 Chickadees, 1 Myrtle Warbler, 3 Robins, 1 Dovekie, 2 Horned Grebes, 2 Crows, 2 Loons, 15 Red-legged Black Ducks, 200 Herring Gulls; Dec. 25th, several hundred Herring Gulls, 7 Crows, 7 Myrtle Warblers, 15 Chickadees, 1 Black-backed Gull, 1 Horned Grebe, 2 Black Guillemots; Dec. 29th, several hundred Herring Gulls, 5 Crows, 9 Chickadees, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Loons, about 100 White-wings and Surf Scoters, about 75 Old Squaws, 10 Horned Grebes, 2 Northern Shrikes.

W. H. BROWNSON.

Observations at Pine Point and Cape Elizabeth:

Dec. 22nd, 500 Gulls, 1 Black-backed Gull, 6 Horned Grebes, 5 Scoters, 100 Old Squaws, 50 Whistlers, 8 Snow Buntings, 14 Horned Larks, 15 Crows; Dec. 28th, 2 Myrtle Warblers, 1 Robin, 4 Chickadees, 50 Gulls, 2 Loons, 1 Black Guillemot; Dec. 29th, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 Golden-crowned Kinglet.

## SARA C. EASTMAN.

Birds seen at Christmas near Portland :

Although I searched diligently for Horned Larks and Snow Buntings in the locality where I saw them in November, I was unable to find them or to discover a footprint on the sand.

My record is as follows: Dec. 25th, 150 Herring Gulls (estimated), 7 Crows, 1 Loon, 5 Old Squaws, many Black Coots: Dec. 26th, 60 Herring Gulls, 12 Chickadees, 3 Myrtle Warblers, 1 Robin, 1 Crow: Dec. 27th, 5 Chickadees; Dec. 28th, 54 Herring Gulls, 1 Black-backed Gull, 4 Old Squaws, 1 Crow.

## MRS. SARAH RIDEOUT ABBOTT.

Observations at Saco, Maine:

Dec. 22, 1907, fair and mild. Tree Sparrows, 5; Blue Jay, 1; Crows, 11; Herring Gulls, 90; Black-backed Gulls, 3; Brown Creeper, 1; Chickadees, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 1.

Dec. 23rd, severe rain storm. Crows, 42; Herring and Black-backed Gulls, 108; Flicker, 1.

Dec. 24th, fair and mild. Blue Jay, 1; Tree Sparrows, 11; Red-polls, 5; Myrtle Warblers, 8; Partridges, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglets, 7; Shrike, 1; Crows, 19; Gulls, 53; Loon, 1; White-winged, Surf Scoter and Old Squaw Ducks, 187.

Dec. 25th, warm and fair. Downy Woodpecker, 1; Tree Sparrows, 11; Redpolls, 6; Chickadees, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglets, 8; Horned Owl, 1; Shrike, 1; numerous Ducks on the bay, did not count these or the Gulls and Crows: American Goldfinch, 31; small, dark bird, little smaller than a Robin, unidentified; Myrtle Warblers, 3.

Dec. 26th, warm and fair. Sparrow Hawk, 1; Nuthatch, 1; Partridges, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglets, 3; Chickadees, 5; Tree Sparrows, 11; Myrtle Warblers, 2; Crows, 7; Herring Gulls, 87; Loon, 1; Dovekies, 3; Old Squaws and White-winged Scoters, 58; many sea birds too far off to identify.

Dec. 27th, fair and warm. Redpolls, 11; Tree Sparrows, 15;

Blue Jays, 3; Crows, 28; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; small Sparrow-like bird, unidentified; English Sparrows, 18; Goshawk, 1; Flicker, 1; Gulls, many didn't count; Ducks, many not counted or identified; Myrtle Warblers, 7; Chickadees, 17.

Dec. 28th, fair and mild. Whistlers, 7; White-winged Scoters and Old Squaws, 85; Loons, 2; Herring Gulls, 108; Black-backed Gulls, 9; Mergansers, 11; Song Sparrow, 1; Tree Sparrows, 15; Chickadees, 3; Brown Creeper, 1; Blue Jay, 1; Partridge, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglets, 8; Crows, many not counted; Goldfinches, 17; Pine Siskins, 11.

Dec. 29th, fair and warm. American Goldfinches, 23; Robins, 2; Myrtle Warblers, 13; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Tree Sparrows, 5; Golden-crowned Kinglets, 7; Shrike, 1; Robin, 1; Chickadees, 2; Partridges, 2; Blue Jays, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Herring Gulls, 80; Black-backed Gulls, 9; Kittiwakes, 15; Crows, 18; Loons, 2; Old Squaws, 23; many Ducks not near enough to identify.

Dec. 30th, heavy rain storm. Gulls, seen from window, 85; Crows, 17; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Chickadee, 1; Song Sparrow, 1.

Dec. 31st. Gulls, 58; Crows, 27; Tree Sparrows, 12; American Goldfinches, 33; Downy Woodpecker, 1.

#### N. W. LERMOND.

Observations at Warren, Maine:

Birds seem to be unusually scarce. I spent a good part of the 29th out looking for them for your bird census, with this result: Crows, quite plenty; Blue Jay, 1; Herring Gulls, 2 over Georges River; Saw-whet Owl, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Black-capped Chickadees, a few; Ruffed Grouse, 2.

#### J. MERTON SWAIN.

List of birds observed by J. Merton Swain in different Maine counties.

I went to Boston and did not return till Monday, Dec. 30th, so my opportunity to assist on the bird census was rather slim. Dur-

ing the week in Boston, I saw hundreds of Herring Gulls, and a few Ducks, but they were so far out on the sand bars, off Winthrop Beach, that I could not count them. On Dec. 30th, we had a snow squall, I drove from Wilton to Livermore Falls, but only three Chickadees were seen. The 31st, I drove from Livermore Falls to Winthrop. Two Canada Ruffed Grouse and five Chickadees were all that I saw. Have heard of but one small flock of Pine Grosbeaks in the State thus far. This flock was seen feeding in Dr. E. L. Pennell's yard at Kingfield. Have seen four good-sized flocks of Snow Buntings thus far; three of them were seen the week of Dec. 16-20 near Athens (in Somerset County). I saw a large flock Jan. 3rd, between Stratton and Bigelow (Franklin County).

MRS. E. E. BREWER.

Observations at Woodfords, Maine:

My record this year of winter birds seen during the days for the Christmas census is very small. But three species have come to our trees in the time. A little band of a half-dozen Chickadees and three Downy Woodpeckers come many times each day for suet, and a Robin with an injured wing comes to a tree for frozen apples. In these same trees last year at this time I saw twelve species, a single bird of some kinds, others in quite large flocks, thus showing the difference in mild and extremely cold winters.

F. M. DAVID.

Observations at Damariscotta:

Dec. 22nd, 30 Whistlers, 7 Crows, 8 Herring Gulls, 5 Chickadees, 1 Shrike; Dec. 25th, 7 Chickadees, 5 Herring Gulls, 8 Crows; Dec. 26th, 2 Eagles, 4 Chickadees, 4 Crows, 7 Herring Gulls; Dec. 27th, 2 Herring Gulls, 1 Blue Jay, 5 Chickadees; Dec. 28th, 4 Chickadees, 5 Herring Gulls, 3 Crows; Dec. 29th, 17 Chickadees, 2 Crows, 1 Ruffed Grouse; Dec. 30th, 15 Crows, 2 Chickadees. A Great Blue Heron was here up to Dec. 9th, and from two sections reports of Robins nearly every week.

## FRED B. SPAULDING.

## Observations at Lancaster, N. H.:

While I did not have an opportunity to get into the woods during Christmas week, I saw two birds here in Lancaster village that were very interesting to me. Dec. 24th, a Bronzed Grackle was seen, also seen several times during the three preceding weeks, apparently hale and hearty and in beautiful plumage. It was frequenting the same places as the English Sparrows, though not associating with them. Jan. 1st, I saw a Tree Sparrow, the only record I have for this month, as it usually disappears in November.

## SHERMAN E. PHILLIPS.

## Observations at Canterbury, N. H.:

It seems to me that birds are scarce in this section this winter. During the time of taking the census I saw three species. Dec. 23rd, Chickadee; Dec. 25th, about a dozen Chickadees, two White-breasted Nuthatches; Dec. 28th, Blue Jay.

## NELLIE F. DUNTON.

## Observations near Bath:

When I saw in the December number of the JOURNAL the call for the bird census, I fully intended to send my list and did not forget it, but saw so few during the time it did not seem worth while.

Went into the country Christmas day and into the woods for an hour or more Jan. 1st, but saw no birds, so my observations were from the windows only. Have fed a small flock of Chickadees in a tree near the house all winter, so they were there daily, and with them on Dec. 25th and 29th was a Brown Creeper. He now comes nearly or quite every day. Also saw the Gulls flying over the river, but these are all, during those days, excepting the English Sparrows and Pigeons on our streets. A small list surely.

## The Occurrence of Woodcock in Maine at Abnormal Seasons.

By ARTHUR H. NORTON.

A Woodcock was caught on Portland street, Portland, Maine, December 18, 1907, by Mr. Silas B. Adams.

Mr. Adams saw the bird strike one of the poles by the curbing, and jumping from a car caught it without difficulty. It was handled with great care by its captor, and given every opportunity at the rooms of the Natural History Society to regain sufficient strength to be set at liberty, but it lived but a couple of days. Most of its tail feathers were missing. After its death, bruises were found upon the breast, but none upon the head. The limbs showed no previous wounds.

The last of the Woodcock usually leave Maine during the first week of November. There are, however, numerous records of the occurrence of the bird at abnormal dates. During the fall of 1907 I was told of the shooting of one and the seeing of another at Scarborough, Maine, on Nov. 15th. On Nov. 23, 1900, Mr. Ralph Norton shot two females in perfect health at Westbrook, Maine, and duplicated the experience on the same date in 1901.

Mr. Walter Rich has recorded the occurrence of the bird (near Portland) on Nov. 25th and 30th,<sup>1</sup> and what he calls an early occurrence on Feb. 10th.<sup>2</sup>

In 1882, Mr. N. C. Brown wrote, "Stories are current of the appearance of Woodcock in February."<sup>3</sup> In 1883, Mr. Everett Smith reported its occurrence in instances until December, and recorded an instance of one having been picked up dead at Camden, Maine, on Feb. 25, 1882, by Mr. James Wight."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Feathered Game of the Northeast, p. 127.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 108.

<sup>3</sup> Proc., Port Soc. N. H., II, p. 25.

<sup>4</sup> Forest and Stream, XX, No. 4, p. 66—Feb. 22, 1883.

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The Editor announces with much pleasure that the finances of this society are in better condition than ever before. At the last annual meeting there was a deficit of more than \$112.00. Several members made special contributions of ten dollars each, and the result is that not only has the deficit disappeared, but we have money in the treasury after every debt of the society has been paid. If members and subscribers will send in their cash promptly in the future there will be no difficulty in keeping our bills paid as fast as they accrue.

We welcome a new member and a valuable contribution from his pen in the present issue. Mr. Howard H. Cleaves, of Staten Island, N. Y., writes in a very interesting way of a colony of Bank Swallows not far from his home.

The Christmas Bird Census is reported in this number, and it shows that the members have not lost their interest in this branch of the work. The unusual scarcity of birds during the past Christmas week is the feature of the census reports.

The JOURNAL had a narrow escape from disaster during the City Hall fire in Portland, in January. All the material for the present number, the mailing lists, the cash book, and the entire file of the 7th, 8th and 9th volumes were in the Editor's office, directly in the path of the flames. At 4 o'clock in the morning, the Editor, after saving the records of the School Department, succeeded in rescuing all the property of the JOURNAL, which was carried by policemen to a place of safety. The Editor lost many valuable books of his own, including quite a number of government bird publications, which cannot be replaced, because they are now out of print.

During a recent visit to Washington, the Editor had the pleasure of visiting the Zoological Garden, which, under the care of the National Government, is likely to become the leading institution of the kind in the country. There are many Maine birds in the great iron cages, including Night Herons, Bald Eagles, Great Horned Owls, Barred Owls, etc. Turkey Vultures and Cardinals were the noticeable wild birds seen in the reservation. The Editor visited the Biological Survey and made the acquaintance of the director, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, and Prof. F. E. L. Beal, in charge of the department of economic ornithology. It is a pleasure to be able to announce that no trouble is anticipated this year in securing the necessary appropriation from Congress to carry on this valuable work.

## Bird Notes.

Notes and observations upon bird life within our State are earnestly desired from all our readers for publication in this column, and should be sent to the Editor, W. H. Brownson, 85 Market street, Portland, Maine.

We note with much satisfaction the increasing frequency with which the members of our society report to this JOURNAL their ornithological observations. This is an important part of our duties, one to another, and should be shared in by all interested in bird life. The JOURNAL'S columns are always open to contributors of items of general interest relating to Maine birds, and we trust our members will, through this medium, disseminate such knowledge as they personally possess.

FLORIDA GALLINULE, STILT AND BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER.—Arthur H. Norton contributes to the *Auk* for January, 1908, the following note: "On October 15th, a female Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) was shot at Atlantic House Pond, Scarborough, Maine. It passed into my collection. Its gullet contained three specimens of *Planorbis campanulatus*, and its stomach another. In the gizzard were a number of seeds. I am not aware of the previous capture of the bird at Scarborough, though two are recorded from Falmouth in 1894 (cf. Brock, *Auk*, XIII, p. 255).

The only Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*) that I have heard of in this vicinity this fall was taken near Pine Point, Scarborough, a day or two previous to September 26th. It passed into the collection of Bowdoin College.

On September 5th, a beautiful male, Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) was taken in Scarborough, near Pine Point. It is now in my collection. Mr. Blanchard Pillsbury, who brought it to my attention, informs me that it is the only specimen that has come to his notice for at least three years."

A CORRECTION.—In my article on the Yellow Warbler, which appeared in the March, 1907, issue of the JOURNAL, page 8, I note a serious mistake regarding the time given for the young remaining in the nest. As a matter of fact, the real figures regarding the time



young Yellow Warblers remain in the nest are eleven to fifteen days, generally much nearer the lesser period. The period printed in the article, "fifteen to twenty days," is, of course, not only erroneous, but utterly nonsensical. We all know, however, that the printer plays queer antics sometimes.

ORA W. KNIGHT.

Bangor, Feb. 1, 1908.

NIGHTHAWKS REAR YOUNG IN ROBIN'S NEST.—It is said that Nighthawks never build nests, and that they never inhabit trees, but a case comes to my notice of where a pair lived in a tree and used a deserted Robin's nest as their home. When living in the old jail at Farmington, with my father, who was jailer, a pair of Nighthawks took possession of a deserted Robin's nest, laid their eggs in the nest and reared their young. The tree with the nest was burned in the big fire October 22, 1886. I think they must have lived in the tree at least five years before the fire occurred. The male sat on a limb near the nest during the daytime. I think this a noteworthy feature in the lives of Nighthawks.

H. W. JEWELL.

Farmington, Jan. 1, 1908.

NOTES FROM FRANKLIN CO.—Winter birds have been very scarce thus far, on my territory, covered every two weeks. Feb. 4th, two Crows were seen feeding in the road near East Livermore. Feb. 5th and 6th, three small flocks of Snowflakes were seen near Wayne and Winthrop. I have seen but two Pine Grosbeaks thus far. These were seen near Stark, Feb. 20th, feeding on frozen apples. Chickadees have been seen in about their usual numbers. But few Woodpeckers have been seen. Sunday evening, Feb. 16th, between six and seven P. M., my little girl called my attention to a Ruffed Grouse feeding on the buds in a small yellow birch, in the orchard within six rods of the house. For about a half-hour it made its evening meal on birch buds, then flew to a small patch of woods below the orchard. Have noted twelve or fifteen Tree Sparrows, feeding on a patch of weed seeds, in a garden on the road

from Farmington to New Vineyard, for several trips as I drive between the two towns. Blue Jays are seen every day or two. On the whole, I have seen fewer winter birds than any previous winter for a long time.

J. MERTON SWAIN.

Farmington, Feb. 22, 1908.

LATE SAVANNA SPARROWS NEAR PORTLAND, MAINE.—On Feb. 9, 1908, Mr. P. H. Timberlake, zoological assistant at Bowdoin College, and the writer observed a Savanna Sparrow on Old Orchard Beach, and about two miles away another, on Pine Point Beach, Scarborough, Maine. The mercury stood near 10° Fah., yet the birds suffered no appreciable inconvenience. Both were tame and were carefully and satisfactorily observed. Their small size, dark backs, heavily marked breasts and bright yellow superciliary stripes left no question as to their identity.

I am well acquainted with the Ipswich Sparrow, both in life and in the cabinet, and gave due attention to the distinctions between the two species.

The occurrence of the Savanna Sparrow at Seguin on Jan. 24, 1897, has been recorded, as well as Penobscot Bay, Nov. 28, 1898. The latter was deformed and probably could not migrate.

Portland, Feb. 20, 1908.

ARTHUR H. NORTON.

WINTER MYRTLE WARBLERS.—Although I have been out as much as usual, and visited places where I have never failed to find winter birds plentiful, have often returned without recording a single specimen. The winter birds have been unusually scarce.

Feb. 16th, at Pond Cove, Cape Elizabeth, saw to-day two Myrtle Warblers and fifteen Chickadees. This was the greatest number of Chickadees I have seen this winter at any one time. The Myrtle Warblers I have noted at this place in different sized flocks all through the fall and winter months, excepting January, when I did not go in this direction.

LOUIS E. LEGGE.

Portland, Feb. 17, 1908.

<sup>1</sup>Journ. Me. Orn. Soc., VI, p. 45.

NOTES FROM AVON.—I saw two Pectoral Sandpipers Oct. 5th. They were at the edge of a pool of water in a marshy place, but later flew into a dry field some distance away and appeared to be feeding. I saw a Northern Shrike Nov. 7th. I heard the call notes of the Pileated Woodpecker Dec. 21st, and again Jan. 26th. Goldfinches have been rather scarce. The last one I saw was Jan. 26th. I saw a flock of Redpolls Nov. 24th. Later I came upon a flock feeding upon the seeds of a clump of scrub cedars. I have seen but very few since. I saw a Pine Grosbeak Jan. 23rd, and heard one whistling Jan. 26th.

DANA W. SWEET.

Avon, Feb. 20, 1908.

PINE GROSBEEKS.—While at Tunk Pond, town of Franklin, Dec. 23, 1907, hundreds of Pine Grosbeaks were seen, also over a hundred Hudsonian Chickadees in small bands of their own kind or mingled with flocks of the common Chickadee.

At Bangor there has been an absolute absence of winter birds up to Feb. 11th, when a small flock of Snowflakes were seen between Bangor and Orono.

ORA W. KNIGHT.

Bangor, Feb. 10, 1908.

BIRDS OF MAINE.—Press work on "Birds of Maine" is progressing very satisfactorily, and there is no reason to doubt that it will be issued on time. Only a few copies of the subscription edition are now unengaged, and parties not promptly engaging this book may be unable to obtain a copy of the first or subscription edition at any price.

ORA W. KNIGHT.

Bangor, Feb. 10, 1908.

FEEDING WINTER BIRDS.—No winter birds at all so far up this way. Mr. Brown, of Bigelow, has a flock of Chickadees, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers he and his wife are feeding in front of their home.

J. MERTON SWAIN.

Farmington, Feb. 1, 1908.

SPARROW HAWK IN DECEMBER.—On the 20th of December, I saw in the Eastern Cemetery a Sparrow Hawk. He remained there for more than two hours after I discovered him. He flew so near that I could see his markings perfectly. The cemetery is the haunt of English Sparrows, and Pigeons are constantly flying about there, but on this occasion they had evidently detected the presence of an enemy, for not one was to be seen.

SARA C. EASTMAN.

Portland, Jan. 1, 1908.

SCARCITY OF WINTER BIRDS NEAR THE COAST.—During the winter just closing birds of all kinds have been unusually scarce in the vicinity of Portland and all along the coast, so far as I can learn. There has been very little snow in southern and central Maine this winter, most of the time the fields having been bare and in the woods no snow at all, except for a few days at a time. It seems to me that the mildness of the winter explains why birds have not journeyed to the coast regions in large numbers. In hard winters, when the snow lies deep in the woods everywhere, the ordinary food supply of seeds, berries and wild fruits fails and the birds seek a living elsewhere, coming naturally to the coast, where the weather is milder and where in the fields and sunny slopes along the shore they find plenty of bayberries, red cedar berries and the like. Doubtless in the interior of Maine, this winter, birds have been fully as abundant as ever, if not even more plentiful, though this may not be apparent when they are scattered through the woods in small flocks, often some distance apart. Whether this is the correct explanation or not of the fact that there have been few birds in southern Maine this winter, I do not know positively, but it is offered as a theory that may be accepted or rejected, according as one has or has not a better solution of the question to offer.

W. H. BROWNSON.

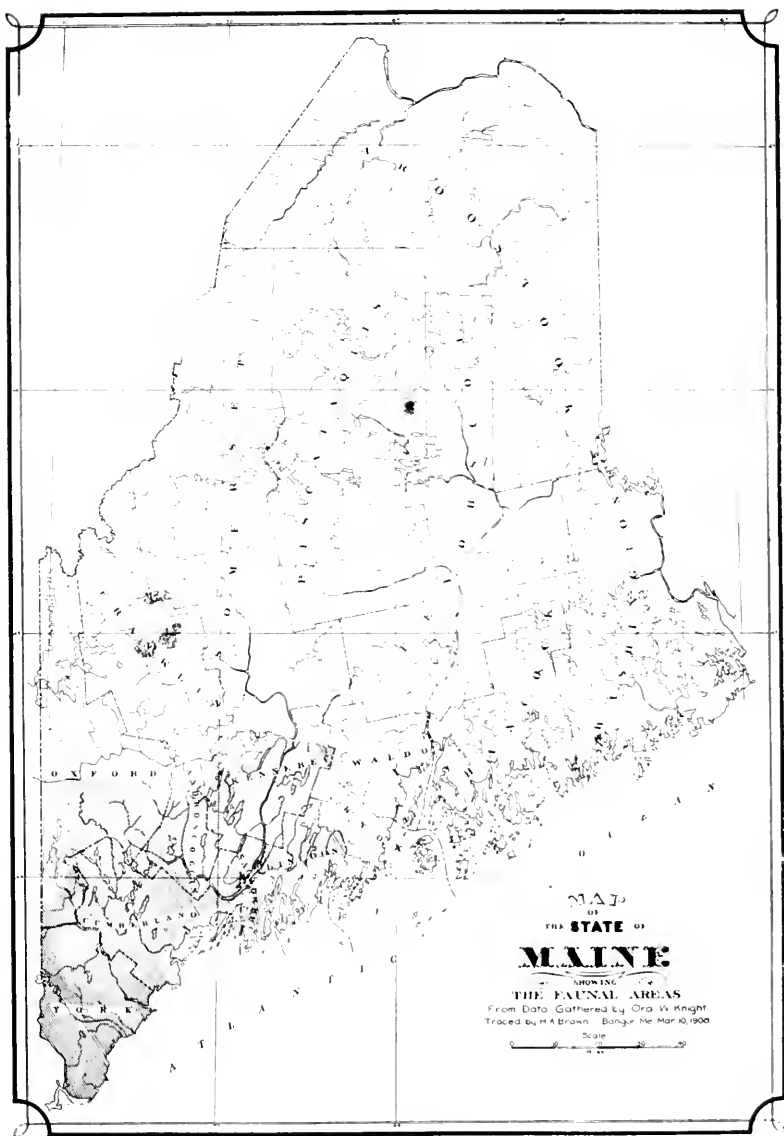
Portland, Feb. 15, 1908.

WINTER RECORDS:—Saw at Delano Park and Pond Cove, Cape Elizabeth, Feb. 23rd, 29 Chickadees, 1 Myrtle Warbler, 1 Purple Finch (male), in fine plumage; March 1st, 5 Chickadees, 4 Myrtle Warblers.

LOUIS E. LEGGE.

Portland, March 2nd.





**FAUNAL MAP OF MAINE.**

FROM THE FORTHCOMING "BIRDS OF MAINE." BY COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR,  
 ORA W. KNIGHT, OF BANGOR.

Unshaded area, Canadian Fauna. Shaded area, Alleghanian Fauna.  
 Mountain Peaks, Hudsonian Fauna.

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### Faunal Areas of Maine.

By ORA WILLIS KNIGHT, Bangor.

Though the subject of "Faunal Areas of Maine" has been quite fully treated in the past (Knight, Bulletin No. 3, The University of Maine, Department of Natural History, pp. 146-151), yet some new facts of interest have since become known. Consequently the whole chapter on "Faunal Areas" was rewritten for "Birds of Maine," now in press, and the map prepared to illustrate the article just mentioned is given herewith, together with a brief summary of the conclusions reached. The map is the chief thing to be shown here, and this article is merely explanatory of certain features of it.

At the beginning it is well to state that there are three *well defined* faunal regions in the State of Maine, the Hudsonian, Canadian and Alleghanian.

The Hudsonian Fauna occupies the smallest area of these three in Maine. It is characterized by such plants as *Diapensia lapponica*, *Rhododendron lapponicum*, *Bryanthus taxifolius*, *Arctostaphylos alpina*, *Saxifraga stellaris comosa*, *Arenaria groenlandica*, *Lycopodium selago*, *Castilleja pallida septentrionalis*, *Hierochloe alpina*, *Ledum palustre dilatatum*, *Anemone multifida*, and *Loiseluria procumbens*. Of bird life I would regard Bicknell's Thrush as a very typical Hudsonian

bird, also the Hudsonian Chickadee, White-crowned Sparrow and possibly Lincoln's Sparrow. The presence of the plants named and the breeding in the same locality of the birds mentioned will indicate that the region belongs to the Hudsonian Fauna. The presence of Bicknell's Thrush as a breeding bird of Maine has been recorded by several observers, and while their records are not to be doubted, yet in accordance with the rule adopted by me in previous publications the actual capture of a specimen within the limits of the State is necessary before the status of that species is satisfactorily established.

The present known areas of the Hudsonian Fauna in Maine, judging more especially by the flora of these areas, are confined to the higher mountains and to certain cold bogs of the upper Woolastook Valley. The fact that *Lycopodium selago* has been taken on Mt. Desert Island, and other significant facts bearing on the question at issue, would incline me to believe that there are a few limited Hudsonian areas along our Maine coast from Mt. Desert eastward. These need working out more carefully before positively indicated on a map. Accordingly the only Hudsonian features shown on the accompanying map are the following mountains, Katahdin, Bigelow, Abraham and Saddleback. All other mountains of the State are not shown, so that the mountains on the map are Hudsonian on their summits at least.

The Canadian Fauna includes the greater portion of Maine and is indicated on the map by the unshaded areas. There is no need of enumerating the sections of the State which are Canadian here, as reference to the map will show the same more clearly. Strong infusions of fir and spruce growth indicate a Canadian area. Such mammals as the Canada porcupine, northern hare, red squirrel and jumping mouse are to be found. As breeding birds there should occur some of the following: Black Guillemot, Herring Gull, Leach's Petrel, Red-breasted Merganser, American Goshawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Canada Jay, Northern Raven, Rusty Grackle, Pine Siskin, Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Olive-backed Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet,



Water Thrush, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Black Poll Warbler, Magnolia Warbler and Alder Flycatcher. Where these birds, animals and plants occur in numbers the region is Canadian.

The shaded areas on the map are Alleghanian Fauna, which is confined to southwestern Maine: A few local infusions of Alleghanian plants and birds occur elsewhere in the State, but no area is sufficiently large to show on a map of the size given. For instance, near Bangor there is a very limited area where grow several typical Alleghanian plants, including at least one typical of the New Jersey sand barrens and not elsewhere recorded in Maine. *Carex bicknellii* grows near Bangor, on the banks of the Penobscot, with such companions as *Ceanothus americanus*, *Corylus americana*, *Anemone virginiana*, and other more southern plants. The area they occupy is limited and surrounded by typical Canadian plants. Likewise we have the Short-billed Marsh Wren occupying limited areas in Bangor and Glenburn, but such areas are limited, and always surrounded by vast expanses of Canadian Fauna. Other typical Alleghanian birds are the Least Bittern, Green Heron, Mourning Dove, Meadow Lark, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Field Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Wood Thrush, Towhee, Brown Thrasher, House Wren and Bobwhite.

## Migration Notes During the Spring of 1908 at Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

By W. H. BROWNSON.

The editor of the JOURNAL begs to present, as the only excuse for printing matter from his own pen, the fact that members of the Society have failed to send contributions sufficient to fill the current issue. The following notes made on consecutive mornings in May, 1908, when the spring migration was at its best, were printed in the *Portland Advertiser*, on three successive Saturday

evenings. They represent many hours of patient observation in the early morning, when the flocks of Warblers and other birds were most numerous.

May 13. — This was an ideal morning for birds, warm and sunny, with a light westerly breeze. I was out before five o'clock and for two hours had a fine opportunity to note what new species had come within twenty-four hours. Birds were by no means abundant, and it is quite evident that the great majority of the late migrants have not yet put in an appearance. A couple of Kingbirds, sleek and self-reliant, had settled down among some low bushes at the edge of a wet meadow, and it seemed plain to me that they had been in that vicinity only a few hours, for they were apparently tired after an extended flight and took long rests. From an alder swamp not far from the meadow came the unmistakable call note of the Veery, not a rod distant from my pathway. Four Catbirds, without doubt fresh arrivals, were sojourning in a thicket, and were seen and heard plainly. There were no considerable flocks of Warblers on this morning, but I saw eleven different species, as follows: Black and White, several; Pine, several; Myrtle, a few; Parula, a dozen; Black-throated Green, common; Yellow, just one; Yellow Palm, several; Magnolia, two; Oven-bird, heard a dozen; Northern Yellowthroat, several; Nashville, one. White-throated Sparrows were not so abundant as the day before, but they were still plentiful everywhere. Half a dozen Barn Swallows were flying over the Manter farm, probably a part of the flock which nested in the big barn there last year. Tree Swallows were also quite abundant. Flickers were not uncommon, and a few of the Sapsuckers, which were seen the day before in large numbers, still remained. With the Warblers quite a number of Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen in the pine and hemlock trees. Hermit Thrushes were fairly common in the underbrush in the clearings in the woods. Chipping Sparrows were singing in a score of places, and they were also frequently seen mingling with the Warblers. A big whitish male Marsh Hawk sat on a log at

the edge of a swampy pond, and allowed me to approach within half a dozen rods of him before he took wing. The same morning a Baltimore Oriole was reported to me in a State street garden, where he was observed by a number of interested bird students, this being the first appearance of the bird this season. From Westbrook, on the same day, came reports of the Redstart, Wilson's Warbler, and the Warbling Vireo, together with a number of other birds already seen in this vicinity. The Redstart was also seen at the Cape by another observer.

May 14. — This morning the sun shone for a few minutes from a ribbon of clear sky on the horizon, and then went into a mass of thick clouds, which a couple of hours later brought rain. Robins were singing at three forty-five, before it was fairly light, this being the season when their notes are the most spontaneous and vigorous. The morning being very dark, it was not a good time for birds, but quite a number of different species were observed on a walk of a mile or two near the Cape woods. Many Crows were flying about above the section of the woods where they are accustomed to nest year after year. In the spring an odd note is frequently heard from the Crow, and this morning it was uttered by a bird almost directly over my head. It is a loud, high-pitched, rapidly articulated group of sounds, somewhat resembling a strident laugh, twice repeated. A quarter of a mile away, on the side of a hill, where a quantity of straw had been scattered upon a piece of plowed ground, I caught sight of a flock of Blackbirds, scarcely to be distinguished without the aid of my field glasses. I crossed a wet meadow to reach this place, and then the birds flew before I could get near enough to identify them. As they took wing part of them looked like Bobolinks, while plainly there were Bronzed Grackles and Redwinged Blackbirds, with probably one or two other species. It took half an hour to ascertain to a certainty what the birds were. It proved that there were Bobolinks in the flock, for a little later I got quite near to nine of these birds perched in a low tree, several of them singing

all at once. The white and buff markings of the back and neck were plainly seen. With the other Blackbirds there were at least twenty or twenty-five Bobolinks, the first that I had observed this season, and there were also Cowbirds and Rusty Blackbirds with the rest. Very likely Bobolinks were in this vicinity as early as the 12th or 13th, but these dates are several days later than usual. On the same morning I saw the White-crowned Sparrow for the first time this year. This bird is easy to distinguish from the White-throated Sparrow, because it is very much lighter in color, has distinct wingbars, no white at all on the throat, and the bill is reddish. Kingbirds were common this morning, half a dozen or more being seen. The song of the Field Sparrow was noticeable this morning, likewise the distant spring call of the Flicker, and the loud note of the Ovenbird. The Indigo Bunting was here on the 7th, an unusually early date for this bird. The record, however, is positive, a dead bird being found in the city limits by a boy, who took the specimen to his teacher in one of the grammar schools.

May 15. — This was an unseasonably cold morning, but it was clear and sunny. During the two hours from 5 until 7 o'clock, birds were very inactive. No new flocks had arrived, and many of those seen the day before had passed along. The Catbirds, which a day or two ago came to an alder swamp at the Cape, were this morning singing. The song is very much like that of the Brown Thrasher, but is rather sweeter; not so loud, and the imitation of other bird notes more apparent. A pair of Brown Thrashers, making ready to nest, had all they could attend to while scolding in vigorous fashion at a cat belonging at the neighboring farmhouse. A little flock of Barn Swallows had been flying over a field, and were now resting quietly on the ridgepole of the barn in which, doubtless, they have made their home for several years. Up in a bushy pasture, I found a flock of six or eight White-crowned Sparrows, the first ones of which were seen by me the previous day. Not over fifty feet in the air, a big Fish Hawk

scaled gracefully in the direction of the shore not many rods distant. There were very few Warblers this morning, in fact the only one that was plentiful was the Ovenbird, whose notes were heard from many different quarters of the woods. The Nashville Warbler, one of the handsomest of his family, the Black and White Warbler, and a number of Black-throated Green Warblers were all that I saw. The flock of Bobolinks which I saw the previous morning had passed along and the birds of this species which are to spend the summer in this immediate locality are yet to come. Baltimore Orioles, which came during the week, are now common and are seen almost every morning. Tree Swallows were more numerous this morning than at any time before this spring.

May 16. — This was a cool, breezy morning, and few birds had come during the night. As the sun climbed higher, the songsters in sheltered places grew tuneful and there was no lack of the most inspiring spring music. The White-throated Sparrow's succession of familiar notes came from all directions, for the most part the bird being out of sight in dense thickets. The Field Sparrow, too, was singing finely, his melody being a sweet, diminishing trill of fine notes, increasing in rapidity towards the close. A Chebec was giving his snappy apology for a song and occasionally dashing out after a passing insect. Of the Warbler songs, the Ovenbird's easily took the lead, so far as volume was concerned, but the Chestnut-sided Warbler was also very distinctly heard, pretty closely articulating the syllables, "I see, I see, Miss Beecher," the word "Beecher" being pronounced with great rapidity and explosive quality. The Nashville Warbler was singing with close resemblance to the Song Sparrows' tune, and the Black-throated Green Warbler whistled his curious succession of notes. A Myrtle Warbler, later than the rest of his species, found insect food so scarce that he flew to a bayberry bush and renewed his winter diet. The little flock of White-crowned Sparrows, reported the day before, were, curiously enough, mingling with a flock of small chickens in a hen-yard, drinking from the same dish, and sharing

the chickens' breakfast. They have been staying in the same place several days, for another observer saw them eating and drinking with the chickens on the previous day. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak, one of the handsomest birds which takes the long journey from South America to Maine, in the spring, was today reported to me as seen a few miles from Portland, on the 14th. A Scarlet Tanager has been at the Cape for a day or two. Many persons have seen it and have wondered at the brilliancy of its plumage. Both these birds ought to be seen in large numbers the coming week.

May 17. — The morning was cold, and a thunder shower prevented me from getting into the woods early. I was out, however, before the rain had ceased, expecting to see very few new birds, but in this I was happily disappointed, for the trees and shrubbery were fairly alive with a dozen migrating species. In a grove of pitch pine I found myself in the midst of a busy flock of Warblers and other small birds, evidently just in from a long flight, for they were so hungry that they searched, without ceasing, for food in spite of the rain. Around me were fully two hundred birds, probably many more than that. The Magnolia Warbler was apparently the most numerous species, a score or two of them being seen. Their gorgeous markings of black, white, gray and yellow made them very conspicuous. Next in numbers were Chestnut-sided Warblers, extremely handsome birds, their bright yellow cap being the distinguishing mark; Nashville, Black and White, and Black-throated Green Warblers were also abundant. The Water Thrush was seen for the first time this season, only two or three of them, down by the edge of a swampy pond, where they bobbed and bowed much after the fashion of a Sandpiper. Chickadees and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were in the flock with the others. Field Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows were abundant, keeping mostly on the ground, while the Warblers, as a rule, were in the low trees and bushes. The White-throats were intent on a search for food among the dead leaves, scratching with both

feet at the same time, just the same as Fox Sparrows. Quite a number of Ovenbirds were in the flock, running about on the ground or perching not far from the roots of the underbrush. Olive-backed Thrushes were seen this morning, but apparently journeying by themselves. I was near enough to them to distinguish their buffy eye-rings and buffy cheeks, these being the tests to make sure that they were not Hermit Thrushes, though the color of the tail is sufficient evidence, if the bird is seen in a strong light. The Olive-backed Thrush does not nest here, but seeks higher ground in the interior. Goldfinches, in a little flock of six or eight, were seen this morning in their full spring plumage of lemon-yellow and black, and their flight song was heard as they passed directly over my head. Bobolinks are getting to be plentiful in the fields. I saw today a number of these birds, all males, but a careful search failed to disclose any females. Purple finches, in splendid rosy tints, are not uncommon. The brownish-gray females, seen by themselves, are not easy to recognize until one learns to distinguish them from Sparrows. In the woods, a Whip-poor-will, at rest on the ground, flew up before me and fled out of sight on noiseless wings. Chebecs and Yellow Warblers are living at Simonton's cove in exactly the same spot where they have been every summer for many years.

May 18. — This was an ideal morning for birds and they were both active and tuneful. The places which yesterday were alive with Warblers were today practically deserted. The swamps and alder bushes seemed to be now the favorite resort for many species. A little band of White-crowned Sparrows had come along and they were doubtless very hungry for they were flocking to the middle of the road and picking up particles of food with the English Sparrows. One of them sat on the top of an alder bush and sang in a clear, mellow whistle. It is a song that is not often heard while the bird is migrating. The loud note of the Veery was heard more than once from the thick bushes, and it is evident that this Thrush is becoming more abundant as the days grow warmer.

Purple finches were very active this morning. I heard several young birds in song, wearing a plain streaked dress, with no rosy color yet showing. The adult plumage is not attained before the third year of the Finch's life. Yellow Warblers are now plentiful and may be seen dashing into the air after insects on the wing, as they are quite expert flycatchers. Chestnut-sided Warblers, both male and female, are common in the Cape woods, and beyond a doubt they will nest there as usual. It seems to me that more White-throated Sparrows than ever before are singing in this locality. Perhaps the cool spring will induce many of the birds to nest somewhat farther south than usual. Ovenbirds are abundant everywhere, and already they are preparing to build their curious nests on the ground. A pair of Kingbirds may build a nest in the same tree which they occupied last year, as they are constantly seen sitting on its branches.

May 19. — There was this morning a great wave of migrants, and more birds were seen than on any day before this season, all the fields, pastures, swamps and roadside bushes being thronged with them. During a walk of two hours I saw forty-two different species, and might easily have found more if I had extended my route where certain birds are sure to be tarrying. Most of the visitors, which had come in during the night or early morning, were Warblers, at least fourteen species of these brilliant little birds being represented. The Black-poll and Blackburnian Warblers were seen today for the first time this spring. These are both very handsome, but they are very different in their markings. The Black-poll, in spring plumage, has the whole top of the head black, while the rest of the body is a mixture of black and white. In the fall, when this Warbler returns from its nesting places, its dress is a streaked yellow. The Blackburnian has a brilliant orange throat and head markings, so that it is easily recognized at all times, being one of the most gaily colored of its family. Quite a few Wilson's Warblers, yellow with jet black cap, were with the others this morning, also the Water Thrush, Parula, Magnolia,



Chestnut-sided, Yellow, Nashville, Black-throated Green Warblers, and Redstart. Many female Yellowthroats, Redstarts, Wilson's, and Chestnut-sided Warblers were noticed this morning, these being all the species present in which the female can be readily distinguished from the male. Eight Warbler songs were heard and recognized, among the most persistent of these being the notes of the Magnolia and Chestnut-sided Warblers. The most unusual circumstance of this morning's observation was a flock of surely twenty-five Olive-backed Thrushes, which were abundant for a quarter of a mile in the bushes along the roadsides. As I followed them they fled before me, taking refuge in trees and scattering through a hilly pasture. With them was a single Wilson's Thrush, quite conspicuous on account of his larger size and reddish-brown coloring. Baltimore Orioles were seen feeding busily in cherry trees covered with blossoms, apparently searching for small worms and caterpillars. On the shore of a swampy pond a Spotted Sandpiper was lingering, intent on securing something to eat. This Sandpiper has been arriving for several days, going to inland lakes and streams as well as to the islands along the coast. While I was watching the Sandpiper a Loon flew over, travelling northward at a great rate of speed. Chimney Swifts were common this morning, the first flocks having been reported to me two days ago. The Black-billed Cuckoo was this morning seen and heard for the first time. I have noticed for several days that nests of caterpillars were getting to be thick in the woods, and as these caterpillars are the favorite food of the Cuckoo, it is quite likely that many of these birds will decide to stay in this locality to nest. The Nighthawk was reported this morning for the first time, but in a few days there will be no lack of this bird in the city limits, or suburbs. The Chewink appears to be more plentiful this year than for some seasons past, as at least a dozen pairs of these birds have been reported to me during the past week.

May 20. — The spring flowers are as late as the birds. This morning a great variety of early blossoms was noted, the Rhodora

beginning to be seen in the gray birches, up to now the lack of leaves, in these saplings, being noticeable. The great flock of Warblers, which was in the Cape woods yesterday, has nearly all departed, leaving comparatively few summer residents. The Chestnut-sided Warbler is quite abundant, and in this locality it is likely that the bird will nest in considerable numbers. The Magnolia Warbler is also plentiful, while Redstarts, Yellowthroats and for the first time showing its purplish pink petals. Birds are just Ovenbirds are everywhere seen and heard. The Olive-backed Thrushes, so numerous near the Manter farm yesterday, were absent this morning, not a single bird of this species being observed. Chimney Swifts are daily increasing in numbers, now being common almost everywhere. A pair of Cowbirds is seen nearly every morning and it is evident that they intend to spend the summer here, though they are by no means welcome. Black-billed Cuckoos were today heard in several different places, and it seems that this bird is to be common in this locality this summer. A pair of Hermit Thrushes, so intent on getting their breakfast that they would hardly move out of my path, hopped along in front of me, occasionally snatching a few juniper berries. The Canadian Warbler came yesterday with the flock of migrants and was seen with them during the late afternoon. Eaves Swallows were seen today for the first time, though doubtless the colonies, which are numerous all through this section, have been arriving for several days past. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird, in small numbers, came on Tuesday with the great flocks of belated migrants.

May 23. — Continued rain and fog have prevented much bird study for the past two days. The migration movement has progressed slowly during this time, but small bands of birds have found their way into Maine under rather adverse conditions. By another week all the migrants will be gone and the summer residents will be nesting all through this region. A walk in the afternoon to Pond Cove, while the fog was heavy, brought very little bird life under my notice. Swallows of three species were not

uncommon, the vicinity of the swamps being most frequented by these birds, on account of the abundance of insects in the warm, damp air. Chimney Swifts are now here in great numbers, being seen everywhere throughout this part of the State, so that there must be many thousands of them within a radius of fifty miles. Northern Yellowthroats and Ovenbirds are distributed so profusely that one cannot find a piece of woods without its Ovenbird song, or a roadside where the "witchety, witchety" of the Yellowthroat is not the most insistent bird note. Yellow Warblers are very plentiful this year, being welcome always on account of their beauty and the confidence they show in building their nests right under the windows of dwelling houses. In the bushes bordering a swamp I heard the call of the Veery and stopped to see if the bird was in sight. In the space of a minute or two he came out into view and grew quite curious as to what I might chance to want near his dwelling place. The Veery is getting to be quite common now and can be heard every morning from almost any section of damp woods. The bird has a way of waiting until an intruder is near and then uttering his call note so sharply and loudly that it is startling.

May 24. — A heavy fog, preceding sunshine and clear sky, made the walking exceedingly wet, but birds proved to be in the Cape woods and fields in greater variety than at any time before this season. During the morning hours fourteen species of Warblers, all the common Flycatchers, four Hawks, five Thrushes, and a great variety of other birds were seen, fifty-four species being observed during the day. The great majority of these birds are summer residents, but a few species which were here in considerable numbers, have not yet finished their migration journey. Canadian Warblers and Black-poll Warblers were very abundant, and neither of these birds stays here to nest, except quite rarely. One Olive-backed Thrush was seen, which shows that not all of these birds have yet gone to summer nesting grounds. The Red-eyed Vireo was today observed for the first time this year, though

a few stragglers should have arrived two or three days ago. Ten or a dozen of this species were seen in one place and no others were noted. Some of the birds were singing while searching the trees for caterpillars, but most of them were silent. This was a fine day for Flycatchers. Besides the Kingbird and Chebec, already recorded as coming several days ago, I saw the Wood Pewee, Alder Flycatcher and Olive-sided Flycatcher. Not one of these gave utterance to a sound, so they had to be identified by their coloring and difference in size. The Wood Pewee was readily recognized while he was flying out after insects in a corner of the woods where for several years past he (or another of the same species) has made a home. The Olive-sided Flycatcher had taken a perch on a dead tree where birds of this species like to sit by the hour during the time of nesting. The Alder Flycatcher is so common in this locality that he was named from his general appearance, which differs considerably from the Wood Pewee. Usually, however, it is not safe to try to separate the small Flycatchers except by the difference in their notes. Cedar Waxwings are beginning to flock to the blossoms of fruit trees, seeking for cutworms and caterpillars. Only three or four Cowbirds are staying in this vicinity, and those are frequently seen around the places where Warblers and other small birds are building their nests. The Black-billed Cuckoo was both seen and heard this morning in the vicinity of a grove of walnut trees on the border of a broad meadow. The Flicker is busy drilling holes for nesting places, and his loud tattoo was heard more than once, near at hand and far away. Goldfinches are becoming abundant, in their handsome summer plumage. They are frequently seen sitting on wires and dashing across country, singing as they dip and rise in broad curves. A Red-shouldered Hawk soared perhaps a thousand feet in the air, and lower down a Fish Hawk passed over on his way to the bay to secure his breakfast.

May 24. — I give the following list of birds seen today at the Cape in the space of five hours. The fifty-four species present

within a square mile of territory well illustrate the abundance of birds during the busiest time of the spring migration. Many species have passed along and are not now in this vicinity. A number of well-known summer residents are not in this locality, but may be found in other sections of the county. Doubtless several species were in the territory covered, but were overlooked, it being especially difficult to distinguish Warblers when they are in tall pine trees, hidden by the dense foliage, and other birds which frequent thickets might easily have escaped my notice. The list below is given as a sample of what bird life can be seen by a careful observer, in one locality, the third week in May: Bluebird, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Wilson's Thrush, Chickadee, Brown Thrasher, Catbird, Redstart, Canadian Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Yellowthroat, Ovenbird, Pine Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Water Thrush, Yellow Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Cedar Waxwing, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow, Eaves Swallow, Song Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Goldfinch, Purple Finch, Nighthawk, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Cowbird, Bobolink, Blue Jay, Crow, Chebec, Alder Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Kingbird, Phœbe, Hummingbird, Chimney Swift, Flicker, Black-billed Cuckoo, Fish Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Marsh Hawk.

May 25. — A bright, warm morning, following a mild night, should be expected to bring along considerable flocks of late migrants, but the thickets were lacking in bird life, which was scarce in comparison with the preceding day. The traveling birds had passed northward and few others had taken their places. The Canadian Warblers had not all gone, but the Black-poll Warblers were missing. The Wilson's and Magnolia Warblers were abundant, while several Water Thrushes moved stealthily among the roots of the bushes in wet places. Several Nashville War-

blers were heard singing, their notes being easy to recognize. A number of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were flitting about the blossoms of wild cherry and shad-bush in a swamp. These tiny migrants, arriving here within a week, after a long journey from South America, are frequently seen perched on twigs, looking even smaller than when they are on the wing. Nighthawks are coming in sizable flocks, and many of them are seen both in the city and in the suburbs every warm evening, when insects are abroad. On the night of the 24th there was a considerable flock of these birds passing over the Cape. The following birds were heard singing this morning between the hours of five and six o'clock: Robin, Hermit Thrush, Chickadee, Catbird, Redstart, Yellowthroat, Ovenbird, Black-throated Green Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Song Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Goldfinch, Purple Finch, Baltimore Oriole, Bobolink, Chebec, Black-billed Cuckoo. The season of song is not at its height, yet bird music is just now as enjoyable as it will be later, the medley of melodies not being so intricate as to be confusing.

May 26. — This was a morning of song, rather than new migrants. A small band of Warblers was on the edge of the woods, without doubt just staying for a few hours before moving away towards the end of their journey. These were Black-poll, Canadian, Wilson's Warblers and Redstarts, most of the last named species being young males, in plumage resembling the females, but singing constantly and thus proclaiming their sex. On the shore of a swamp pond, so familiar to visitors to the Cape woods, I found myself amid a chorus of rare melody. Singing at the same time were a Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Red-eyed Vireo, Robin, Chestnut-sided Warbler, while in a neighboring tall pine a Crow gave utterance to his peculiar high-pitched cackling laugh, not at all unmusical, and entirely different from the ordinary "caw" of the bird. Fifteen minutes later, in a grove in an open field, the chorus was completely changed. Here were heard the

twitter of the Barn Swallow, the hissing note of the Kingbird, the "chebec" of the Least Flycatcher, the "kuk, kuk, kuk" of the Black-billed Cuckoo, the plaintive whistle of the White-throated Sparrow, the flowing Canary-like melody of the Goldfinch, and the rollicking music of the Bobolink. Half an hour after, when I was near the bushes of a swamp, in a grove of sapling gray birches, I noted the call of the Wilson's Thrush, the rare song of the Hermit Thrush, the gay tones of the Purple Finch, the loud "p'cheep, p'cheep" of the Ovenbird, the quick little song of the Magnolia Warbler, the "sic, sic, sic" of the Redstart, and the "zee, zee, zee" notes of the Black-throated Green Warbler, which a friend interprets by the homely words "Everybody works but father," with a distinct falling inflection in the first syllable of "father" and rising inflection on the last syllable. On a high pasture knoll this morning I saw a Junco, who appeared to be at home, if I may judge so by his leisurely movements and the deliberate way in which he picked up one morsel of seed after another. The Junco does not commonly nest on the Cape, but I think this one may be raising a family there.

May 27. — Few travelling birds were seen this morning and it is evident that the spring migration is almost ended. On all sides birds are beginning preparation for housekeeping, while not a few have already built their nests and laid their eggs. Yesterday Blackburnian Warblers were moving northward, the fact being proved by a dead bird found on a cottage piazza, far from the woods. The specimen was taken to the Natural History rooms to be added to the collection of the Society. This morning the Alder Flycatcher was perched in the bushes of a swamp, giving utterance at frequent intervals to his characteristic notes, sounding like the syllables "Pre-be-deer." A quarter of a mile away the Olive-sided Flycatcher whistling his refrain, which being put into words is pretty nearly "See here," repeated time and again until it becomes the most prominent and familiar bird note heard in that locality. Goldfinches grow more abundant every day and almost

any morning their song may be recognized, as the bird sits usually on a prominent perch and sings a clear distinct warble. Summer resident Warblers are now in their glory, flitting busily from tree to tree and singing as well as they are able almost every hour in the day. Warblers known to nest in this immediate vicinity are the Black and White, Nashville, Parula, Yellow, Myrtle, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian, Black-throated Green, Pine, Ovenbird, Northern Yellowthroat, Redstart, and perhaps one or two more very rarely. The Myrtle Warbler is very uncommon here during the summer.

## Fish Hawks Forty Years Ago.

By PERCIVAL B. ROLFE, Portland.

One beautiful morning in the spring of 1868, with two of my friends, Charles Fox and Will Yeaton, I started in a row boat for a little outing at Great Diamond Island. As we were rowing on the left side of the island, I noticed three large pine trees on one of the points standing out alone by themselves. In the top of the tallest one a Fish Hawk's nest could be seen plainly, as the nest is about the size of a bushel basket. We rowed our boat into a little cove, and after beaching her safely we started for the pine trees with the intention of one of us going up to the nest for the eggs. We found that the first limb on the tree was about thirty feet from the ground, so after talking it over we decided not to try that day, but wait until we could come later with ropes and a revolver to keep the male bird away.

We started off over the island for anything that would give us a good time, and as we came well into the center of the island, where there was a swamp, we noticed a lone tree, very large. In the top of that was another Fish Hawk's nest, one of the largest I ever saw, and I can remember that the birds built in the same nest for years. We remained all day and returned late in the afternoon.



The next morning we met at Charles Fox's and made a rope ladder about forty feet long, found a clothes-line about the same length, and added a ball of strong twine and a revolver. We were well prepared for our trip the next day. The weather was fine, and with lunches put up by our mothers (which tasted good in those days), we started for Diamond Island and the Fish Hawk's nest. Nearing the cove we could see the male bird on the limb of the tree and made up our minds the female was on the nest. We landed in the same cove as before, and with our ropes, etc., started for the three pines. Only one of us had the courage to go up the tree and that was Will Yeaton, so I took the ball of twine, tied a stone on the end and threw it over the first limb on the tree, then tied the clothes-line on the end of the twine and hauled that over. That done we tied the rope ladder on the end of the clothes-line, and after hauling that up we had a good strong rigging, and Will Yeaton felt all right when he started for his long climb. I stood at the foot of the tree with the revolver to frighten the male bird when he came too near, as we had often heard stories of that bird carrying boys' caps off to sea, so we were prepared.

I gave Yeaton a ball of twine with a small bag tied on the end, so if he found eggs he could lower them down in the bag. Charles Fox steadied the rope ladder at the bottom while Yeaton went up. It was a good long climb after leaving the ladder, but he arrived at the nest all right and found two eggs. The male bird would fly at him, but after firing the revolver in the air once or twice he kept out over the water and the eggs came down in the bag all right. They are in my collection to-day.

I am very glad to say the birds laid more eggs in the same nest, but were not troubled again, as I only wanted two for my collection. It would be fine for our friends interested in birds if they could see the Fish Hawks still building on Great Diamond Island, but I hardly think they will ever come back.

While I am speaking of the Fish Hawk, I will say at about the same time the Bald Eagles had a nest near Stroudwater.

Let your children get interested in birds, and it will be a pleasure for them all through life.

## Migration Reports, 1907.

The migration reports given below were made by the following members at their respective stations: W. H. Brownson, Sara C. Eastman, Portland, Cumberland County; Everett Johnson, Hebron, Oxford County; J. M. Swain, Farmington, D. W. Sweet, Avon, Franklin County.

	PORTLAND.	HEBRON.	FARM'T'N.	AVON.
Horned Grebe,	Jan. 6			
Pied-billed Grebe,	Oct. 6			
Northern Loon,		Dec. 25		Apr. 17
Red-throated Loon,	Nov. 17			
Black Guillemot,	Aug. 16			
Pomarine Jaeger,	Sept. 22			
Black-backed Gull,	Jan. 6	" 28		
American Herring Gull,			May 6	
Laughing Gull,	Aug. 16			
Bonaparte's Gull,	Sept. 22			
Common Tern,	" 22	July 29		
Leach's Petrel,	Aug. 16			
Wilson's Petrel,	" 16			
Double-crested Cormorant,	" 16			
American Merganser,			" 22	May 5
Red-breasted Merganser,	Nov. 17			
Mallard Duck,	" 15			
Black Duck,	Oct. 6	Feb. 2	" 2	" 22 Oct. 20
Red-legged Black Duck,	Jan. 23			
Wood Duck,				" 22
American Scaup Duck,	Nov. 17			
American Golden-eye,		" 16		
Old Squaw,		Nov. 16		
Surf Scoter,	Aug. 16			
Bufflehead,				" 30
Canada Goose,	Mch. 21			
American Bittern,				Apr. 28
Blue Heron,	Apr. 18	July 17	Apr. 25	Sept. 28
Black-crowned Night Heron,		" 6		
Florida Gallinule,	Oct. 16			
American Woodcock,	Apr. 10		Aug. 28	" 9 May 14
Wilson's Snipe,	Nov. 15			" 30
Pectoral Sandpiper,				Oct. 5
Least Sandpiper,	Sept. 22		May 24	
Red-backed Sandpiper,	" 22			
Semi-palmated Sandpiper,	Aug. 9	" 29		
Sanderling,	Sept. 22			
Greater Yellowlegs,	Oct. 6	Oct. 19		
Solitary Sandpiper,	) " 6		" 14	May 16 May 19
	(		July 25	Sept. 29
Bartramian Sandpiper,	May 5		" 7	May 12
Spotted Sandpiper,	" 23	May 26	May 3	" 12
Golden Plover,	Nov. 15			

Semi-palmated Plover,	Aug. 9	Aug. 1			
Ruddy Turnstone,	" 9	July 29			
Marsh Hawk,	Apr. 6	Aug. 22	Apr. 19		Apr. 18
Sharp-shinned Hawk,	Mch.31	Apr. 21			Mch. 30
Cooper's Hawk,			May 9	Apr. 19	" 18
Red-tailed Hawk,			Sept.17	Mch.29	Aug. 21
Red-shouldered Hawk,	Apr. 6	Mch.29	Mch.30	" 29	
Broad-winged Hawk,				Apr. 30	Apr. 30
Bald Eagle,			May 6		
Pigeon Hawk,	May 2	May 4			
Sparrow Hawk,		Dec. 20	Apr. 28	" 22	
Fish Hawk,	Apr. 18	Sept.21	" 23		May 7
Black-billed Cuckoo,		July 17	June 4	June 4	June 5
Belted Kingfisher,	" 27	" 18	Apr. 27	Apr. 30	Apr. 30
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker,	" 26	Apr. 27	May 20	" 22	" 26
Flicker,	Jan. 15	June 8	Mch.30	" 9	" 29
Whip-poor-will,	May 19	" 28	May 13		May 12
Nighthawk,	June 2	" 1	Apr. 27		" 24
Chimney Swift,	May 14	May 26	May 9	May 8	" 9
Ruby-throated Hummingbird,	" 29	Sept.15	" 14	" 15	" 25
Kingbird,	" 14	May 23	" 14	" 13	" 15
Crested Flycatcher,				" 20	" 19
Phoebe,	Mch.30	Mch.29	Mch.29	Mch.29	Mch. 29
Olive-sided Flycatcher,	May 28	June 20		May 19	June 6
Pewee,	June 2	" 20	June 13		" 5
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher,				June 12	" 23
Alder Flycatcher,	May 18			May 16	" 9
Chebec,	" 14	" 1	May 16	" 16	May 15
Horned Lark,	Jan. 6	Mch. 9			
Prairie Horned Lark,	Mch.17		Mch. 8	Mch.12	Mch. 7
Crow,		Jan. 5	" 13	" 12	" 15
Bobolink,	May 14	May 23	May 16		May 18
Cowbird,	Apr. 2				Apr. 16
Red-winged Blackbird,	Mch.30	" 4	Apr. 4	Apr. 16	Mch. 30
Meadowlark,	" 30	June 17		" 30	" 30
Baltimore Oriole,	May 14	May 23	May 16		May 18
Rusty Blackbird,	{ Mch.23	Apr. 5		" 15	Mch. 30
Bronzed Grackle,	{ " 31	" 6	Mch.30	Mch.29	Mch. 30
Purple Finch,	Jan. 13	May 17	May 16	Apr. 20	Apr. 26
American Crossbill,	" 13				Nov. 28
White-winged Crossbill,	" 13				
Redpoll,	Apr. 7				" 24
American Goldfinch,		" 24			Mch. 26
Snow Bunting,	Mch.17	Nov. 16	Nov. 1		
Vesper Sparrow,	Apr. 12	June 28	Apr. 17	Mch.30	Apr. 18
Savanna Sparrow,	" 26	July 11	" 30	Apr. 21	" 26
White-crowned Sparrow,	{ May 18		May 15	May 13	May 15
White-throated Sparrow,	{ Apr. 28	Apr. 27	May 6	" 6	Apr. 29
Tree Sparrow,	{ Jan. 13	Mch.29		Mch.28	Mch. 30
Chipping Sparrow,	{ Apr. 26	Apr. 11	" 1	Apr. 22	Apr. 30
Field Sparrow,	{ " 26	June 8	Sept.26	May 6	May 19
Junco,	{ Mch.23	Mch.23	Mch.29	Mch.22	Mch. 17
Song Sparrow,	" 17	" 23	Sept. 1		
Lincoln's Sparrow,	June 1		Mch.22	" 24	" 26
Swamp Sparrow,	Apr. 7	May 26		" 30	Apr. 30
Fox Sparrow,	{ Mch.23	Mch.29	May 15	Apr. 20	
			Oct. 26		

Chewink,	May 19				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak,	" 19		May 16	June 4	May 16
Indigo Bunting,	" 28			" 7	June 2
Scarlet Tanager,	" 16	June 1	" 16	" 10	May 19
Purple Martin,		July 2	" 5	May 1	" 19
Cliff Swallow,		June 1	" 20	" 20	" 9
Barn Swallow,	Apr. 29	Apr. 27	" 1	" 1	Apr. 30
Tree Swallow,	" 14	May 23	Apr. 12	" 1	" 30
Bank Swallow,		June 17	May 20	" 1	May 17
Cedar Waxwing,	June 7	" 8	June 8	June 4	June 12
Northern Shrike,			Jan. 27		Nov. 14
Loggerhead Shrike,	Apr. 13			Mch. 30	Mch. 30
Red-eyed Vireo,	May 29	May 31	June 24	May 15	May 26
Warbling Vireo,		June 17			" 18
Solitary Vireo,	" 12	Aug. 15		" 20	" 7
Black and White Warbler,	" 5	May 24	May 16	" 7	" 2
Nashville Warbler,	" 13	June 1		" 6	" 2
Tennessee Warbler,				June 4	" 31
Parula Warbler,	" 13	May 26	" 16		" 16
Yellow Warbler,	" 17	" 23	" 16	May 13	" 18
Black-throated Blue Warbler,	" 13	" 24		" 16	" 16
Myrtle Warbler,	Jan. 13	" 4	" 8	" 6	Apr. 30
Magnolia Warbler,	May 19	June 1		" 15	May 19
Chestnut-sided Warbler,	" 21	May 26	" 16		" 18
Bay-breasted Warbler,		"			" 19
Black-poll Warbler,	" 25	" 31		June 4	June 6
Blackburnian Warbler,	" 17			May 24	May 19
Black-throated Green Warbler,	" 10	" 26	" 16	" 14	" 14
Pine Warbler,	Apr. 7	" 4			" 26
Yellow Palm Warbler,	" 26			" 6	
Ovenbird,	{ Oct. 27	" 26	" 16	" 16	" 14
Northern Water Thrush,	May 18	" 19		June 4	" 10
Mourning Warbler,				" 11	June 4
Connecticut Warbler,				" 10	
Northern Yellowthroat,	" 15	" 26	June 10	May 15	May 19
Wilson Warbler,	" 18	" 24			" 19
Canadian Warbler,	" 25			" 19	June 2
American Redstart,	" 18	" 23	May 11	" 15	May 16
American Pipit,	Sept. 22				
Mockingbird,	May 14				
Catbird,	" 18	" 24	" 17		" 18
Brown Thrasher,	" 14	June 1	" 16	June 4	
Winter Wren,	Nov. 17		Apr. 2		Apr. 29
Brown Creeper,	Jan. 13	Apr. 22			Dec. 9
Golden-crowned Kinglet,		Oct. 5	Oct. 17		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet,	{ Apr. 26	Apr. 27			Apr. 26
Wilson's Thrush,	May 18	May 24	May 16	May 15	Sept. 22
Olive-backed Thrush,	" 19	June 1			May 15
Hermit Thrush,	Apr. 6	Apr. 11	Apr. 27	Apr. 21	Apr. 23
Robin,	Jan. 1	Mch. 28	Mch. 26	Mch. 28	Mch. 26
Bluebird,	Mch. 17	" 29	" 17	" 29	" 17





PROF. LESLIE A. LEE.  
LATE PRESIDENT OF THE MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Journal  
of the  
Maine Ornithological Society

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Prof. Leslie Alexander Lee, of Bowdoin College, President of the Maine Ornithological Society for the past four years, was taken suddenly ill at his home in Brunswick with intestinal trouble and was brought to the Maine General Hospital in Portland on Sunday, May 17th. After undergoing an operation, he died on the morning of May 20th. Prof. Lee was born at Woodstock, Vermont, in 1852, the son of John Stebbins Lee, LL.D., the first President of St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York. Prof. Lee graduated from that institution in 1872. After post-graduate study at Harvard, and several years of teaching in academies, he went to Bowdoin College in 1876 as instructor in natural history. In 1881 he was made professor of geology and biology, retaining this position until his death. He has been connected with the United States Fish Commission, has made a voyage to San Francisco for scientific investigation, paying special attention to Patagonia, and the Straits of Magellan on the way. In 1891 he organized an important expedition to Labrador. At his death he was President of the Maine Ornithological Society and the Portland Society of Natural History. He was a member of the American Society of Naturalists, the American Morphological Society, and the Beta Theta Pi and Phi Beta Kappa fraternities. He was the organizer and chairman of the Topographical Survey Commission of Maine, and State Geologist.

Prof. Lee will be sorely missed by the active members of the Maine Ornithological Society. While he was President he never missed a meeting, and was always ready to help the Society to the extent of his great ability. He contributed freely of his private

funds to help bring the Society up to a prosperous financial standing. His cheerful presence, his winning smile, his ready solution of every puzzling problem, his consent to serve year after year as President when other pressing duties demanded his attention, his kindness of heart, will not soon be forgotten by the little circle of members who have been accustomed to attend the annual meetings. His place can never be filled, but the work in which he was so interested will be carried along by others, as he would wish. The Society last summer gave him full sympathy, when his son was accidentally drowned. He had a wife and two daughters. To them the members wish to give assurance that they will ever cherish his memory and remember his fine character and attainments.

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Mr. Knight's new book, "The Birds of Maine," has not yet appeared, but it is likely to be published before another issue of the JOURNAL. Delays are always likely to occur in printing a work of this size and importance. In the present issue of the JOURNAL, an article is furnished by Mr. Knight on "Faunal Areas of Maine," largely a reproduction of an article on the same subject which will appear in the new book. This is accompanied by an admirable faunal map prepared for "The Birds of Maine."

The first of the migration reports for last year, compiled by Dana W. Sweet, of Phillips, is printed in the present issue. These records are of great value, and it is hoped that more members will send in their lists for publication. Mr. Sweet spends a great amount of time in putting these reports in shape to print, and the Society fully appreciates the important service he is doing.

For the September issue considerable matter will be wanted and there is very little at present in the hands of the editor. One or two important articles are promised, but in addition to these, notes and current news of birds will be needed. Every member should make an effort to send something in the way of a contribution, no matter how brief it may be. The spring migration just closed has furnished many interesting features. Every observer has doubtless seen something worth recording, whether a rare species, or unusual abundance or scarcity of common migrants or summer residents. United effort is necessary to make the JOURNAL of continuous interest and value.



## The Ornithological Magazines.

The *Auk* for April, 1908, contains the usual valuable articles and notes. Mr. Ruthven Deane, of Chicago, contributes more interesting Audubon letters and an article on the Passenger Pigeon in Confinement. There are articles on the Bird Colonies of the Olympiades, List of Birds of Louisiana, and Notes on Birds of Colorado and Missouri.

The *Condor* for March-April, 1908, has a continuation of the life history of the Condor, and notes from Santa Catalina Island, Whetstone Mountains in Arizona, San Clemente island, as well as data from field and study. There is an illustrated article on the Rhea.

Two numbers of *Bird-Lore* have arrived since the last issue of the JOURNAL. The articles on the Thrushes have been completed, and in these two issues the Flycatchers are pictured and described. The portraits are excellent, but they are naturally so similar that one might be substituted for the other without attracting criticism. Horsfall's portrait of the Song Sparrow is almost as good as the Tolman photograph recently published in the JOURNAL, and it closely resembles it.

The *Wilson Bulletin* has been much enlarged and improved. The March number has 56 pages and an unusual amount of interesting and profitable matter. Prof. Lynds Jones continues to be the President of the Wilson Club and the editor of the magazine.

The *Guide to Nature* is a new nature magazine published at Stamford, Conn. It is well printed and finely illustrated, and its design is to cover the whole field of nature study in a popular and scientific way. If the succeeding numbers are as good as the first, the magazine will be well worth while.

*Cassinia*, a bird annual, containing the proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, of Philadelphia, as well as many valuable articles on the birds of that region, has just been published for 1907.

The *Wisconsin Arbor and Bird Day Annual* has been received. It is devoted to good literature on birds and trees.

The *Zoological Bulletin* of the Division of Zoology of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, edited by H. A. Surface, has been received. It has an excellent article on the Purple Martin, written by J. Warren Jacobs, of Waynesburg, Penn., and contains much information concerning the value and methods of preservation of birds.

The Report of the Work of the Biological Survey tells in detail what that important department has been doing the past year. It is a pleasure to know that the Biological Survey is no longer threatened by economists who have no conception of the service it is doing.

## Bird Notes.

Notes and observations upon bird life within our State are earnestly desired from all our readers for publication in this column, and should be sent to the Editor, W. H. Brownson, 85 Market street, Portland, Maine.

We note with much satisfaction the increasing frequency with which the members of our society report to this JOURNAL their ornithological observations. This is an important part of our duties, one to another, and should be shared in by all interested in bird life. The JOURNAL'S columns are always open to contributors of items of general interest relating to Maine birds, and we trust our members will, through this medium, disseminate such knowledge as they personally possess.

LATEST AUTHENTIC RECORD OF THE PASSENGER PIGEON IN MAINE.—Mr. Harry Merrill, of Bangor, recently informed me that in the early summer of 1904 he saw a female Passenger Pigeon at Baxter's taxidermist shop in Bangor. The bird had recently been mounted and had the wrappings still on it when first seen by Mr. Merrill. Mr. Baxter stated that it had been sent him from Bar Harbor in the flesh. The condition of the bird when seen by Mr. Merrill was such as to make certain that it had been recently killed.

ORA W. KNIGHT.

Bangor, May 13, 1908.

SONG SPARROWS WINTERING IN MAINE.—While driving from Livermore Falls to East Livermore every other Tuesday morning all the past winter, on nearly every trip I saw a Sparrow feeding on a bare bank beside the road, near a spring that did not freeze over for the winter. For several trips I did not get near enough to it to make out which one of the Sparrows it was. In January I took my large field glass along and looked the bird over closely as it flew from the side hill beside the road, where it was feeding on grass and weed seeds, to an apple tree. It proved to be a Song Sparrow. I saw it every trip afterwards, near this spring, as long as the snow staid on the ground. The past winter we have not had as much snow as is usual in this locality, and not the usual extreme cold

weather. Thus we have a record of the Song Sparrow staying all winter in Androscoggin County.

J. M. SWAIN.

Farmington, May 10, 1908.

A GREEN HERON AND OTHER NOTES.—On May 5th, while looking over the material in the shop of James & Norcross, State taxidermists, at Winthrop, I saw a Green Heron that had been brought in. It had been taken near Winthrop a few days previous. Mr. Clark, a game warden living at Smithfield, told me he had seen several of this little Green Heron about this section.

April 22nd, while driving from Stratton to Flagstaff, as we came in sight of the Dead River, I saw four Herring Gulls flying up the river in the direction of the Rangeley Lakes. Mr. A. P. Wing, of Flagstaff, tells me the large Gulls in years past nested on Gull Island, in Flagstaff Pond, but visitors had shot at them, and the eggs had been so often disturbed that they no longer breed there.

On April 16th I saw a pair of Yellow Palm Warblers near East Madison (Somerset Co.) I did not see the Myrtle Warblers till the 27th. Usually I have seen these two Warblers at about the same time. This would seem to be an early record of arrival for the Yellow Palm Warbler.

I have noted the Meadowlarks more abundant this spring in the localities I have usually seen them in Franklin and Somerset Counties than at any time previous. It is to be hoped they may thrive and become numerous in all parts of our State that are suitable for their existence.

May 6th, while driving from Winthrop to Readfield, as I came near the shore of Maranacook Lake, near Readfield, I saw and counted twenty-seven Yellow Palm Warblers. There seemed to be considerable of a flight on of these Warblers.

While driving from Farmington to New Vineyard a short time ago, I saw a Chickadee suspended by the neck, in the forks of a small bush, in a thick tangle of bushes and vines. I examined the

situation closely, and it appeared that he went to fly through this dense growth and got caught up in the vines, and in the struggle got his head caught in the forks of the bush. He had not been dead more than a few hours apparently.

J. M. SWAIN.

Farmington, May 10, 1908.

SONG SPARROW WITH AN UNDEVELOPED SONG.—A Song Sparrow, whose song was only about half developed, has come back into our neighborhood now for two consecutive years. He begins to sing like the other Sparrows at first, but when about half done the voice breaks and the remainder of the song is a very mixed-up mess, which is very noticeable.

H. W. JEWELL.

Farmington, May 1, 1908.

MARTIN WITH CROSSED BILL.—A Martin lived for several years in a Martin house here at Farmington, having the bill crossed like the Crossbill. That it caused him no inconvenience about eating was proved by the fact that he lived and came back each year to the same place, and was seen by my father and other people.

H. W. JEWELL.

Farmington, May 1, 1908.

NOTES FROM FRANKLIN COUNTY.—May 6th, while passing through some scattered bushes, I paused for a short rest. As I was about to start, I was very much startled by a Grouse flying up from beneath me with a loud whir. I then discovered that I was standing with one foot snug to a Grouse's nest. As is most usually the case, the flight of the bird had scattered a few loose leaves over the eggs, nearly concealing them from view. They were creamy-white and four in number.

The main body of Warblers began to arrive here to-day. I noted five species, the Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Nashville and the Ovenbird.

I have found this an especially favorable spring for bird observation. I have never seen so many species in the same period during any previous year.

D. W. SWEET.

Phillips, May 10, 1908.

FOXCROFT NOTES.—Have found a scarcity of winter birds this season, both in species and individuals. December 30, 1907, a Brunnich's Murre was sent in to our local taxidermist from Sebois Lake, where it was found dead and frozen into the ice. From December 30, 1907, to January 27, 1908, during a very mild spell a Robin was seen about town, but soon disappeared. January 9th, a Song Sparrow was seen, and January 26th, four Crows were reported, but disappeared with the return of colder weather. February 1st, the first flock of Pine Grosbeaks, eleven in number, appeared, and the birds were quite common after that date until about the middle of March, since then only an occasional individual being seen. While here they fed very largely upon the frozen fruit of the dwarf crab apple.

The first flock of Snow Buntings was seen November 20th, but only an occasional bird or two was noted later until February, 1908, when they became fairly common. Redpolls and Goldfinches were not seen in their usual abundance. Have seen no Crossbills this winter. Hawk Owls have been shot occasionally, and there has been the usual crop of Great Horned and Barred, with an occasional Acadian, but no Richardson's. Have seen several Arctic Three-toed Woodpeckers, while the Hairy and Downy species have been seen in their usual abundance, but have not seen *pilcatus* this season, which appears strange, as it is a rather common species usually.

The Crows finally returned to stay March 6th. On the 11th, the first flock of Wild Geese passed over, and the 20th the first Horned Larks were seen. This species usually winters with us. March 23rd (to-day), the first Bronzed Grackles, four in number, were seen. This constitutes my very meager records to date, but I doubt not that in the near future we shall find our little feathered

friends returning to us in their usual abundance, making the spring-time doubly dear because of their presence, and gladdening our lives by the sweetness of their carols. Our wish for the JOURNAL and its editor is, that the present year may prove to be the best yet along all lines.

SANFORD RITCHIE.

Foxcroft, March 23, 1908.

ALBINO ROBIN.—April 25, 1908, I had the good luck to see a fine specimen of an albino Robin. The wings were almost wholly white, with a large spot on back of neck. The head and breast were of the usual colors, and as the bird flew from me the white wings showed to a good advantage. I have rarely seen a bird whose colors showed up so well.

H. W. JEWELL.

Farmington, May 1, 1908.

WOODFORDS NOTES.—I notice in the March number of THE JOURNAL OF THE MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, that you ask for "bird notes." I no longer go "afield" looking for birds, but for several winters have had a few birds coming to me. Close to my west window, an apple tree bears a small russet apple that will stick to the limbs all winter, and I leave them there. Also, I decorate the tree in the late autumn with meat and suet. A pair of Downy Woodpeckers have "boarded with me," for four or five winters, and Chickadees have been more or less regular visitors throughout the winters. Last fall, the Downies arrived November 9th, and remained until the first of March, feeding daily, except during storms. There were from two to six Chickadees, and they left at the same time as the Downies did. March 23rd, a new (?) Downy appeared, and is still here. I noticed that the Downies preferred the fat, while the Chickadees preferred the lean meat. March 26th, a flock of over thirty Cherry Birds arrived in the morning. They fed first on a barberry bush, but soon discovered the apples and made

havoc there. They all left before ten A. M., but a few scattering ones have come since then. They have come for several years. March 22d, Robins arrived *en masse*, ten on the apple tree, fifty or more in the orchard, first seen this year. One thing interested me especially, the English Sparrows started in on my feast, unbidden, but the Chickadees put them to rout, a pair driving a dozen Sparrows, and now, a month after the Chickadees' departure, the Sparrows have not come back, although they are about the street.

MANASSEH SMITH.

Woodfords, March 30, 1908.

NOTES FROM BRIDGTON.—March 12th, I saw my only Prairie Horned Lark for the season. It was near the railroad station at North Bridgton. On the afternoon of April 13th, a large flock of Geese, estimated at two hundred by many who saw them, settled on the ice in Long Lake, midway between the North Bridgton and Harrison shores. I had an excellent opportunity to study them through field glasses. In my own mind they were Snow Geese, being far too white for Canadas; in fact, to the naked eye they looked almost absolutely without color. Evidently they had lost their leader, for when startled they flew away in a dozen small harrow formations instead of one large one, as is so often the custom of the family. Col. Fred Hale told me of seeing a flock of similar size and description on the ice of Sebago Lake the day following. In this locality there has been a marked increase in the number of Pileated Woodpeckers within the last ten years.

April 14th, in Yarmouth, I saw a Meadowlark, interesting to me as being the only time I have happened to meet this species in Maine.

JAMES CARROLL MEAD.

North Bridgton, May 4th, 1908.

BIRD FATALITIES.—One morning, during one of the early summer months of 1907, two Pigeons sat on the roof for some hours waiting an opportunity to glean their usual breakfast from the streets.

They had several times descended, but on each occasion had hardly rested their feet when they were disturbed and so flew back to their favorite waiting place to wait a more favorable opportunity. A convention was being held in Portland. This particular day was a gala one; the streets were crowded with people. A band was preceding a large army of followers and every one had turned out to see the sights. Most of the guests of the Falmouth Hotel had taken up positions on the sidewalk (it was in this locality the scene occurred), and this was indeed a crowded street. No wonder the birds grew impatient and once more flew to the street, this time in the wake of the band followers. They were hastily picking up morsels of food, and just now the female was hammering on a tough doughnut, occasionally getting off a piece which she seemed much to enjoy. So occupied, she was not aware of the speedy approach of a car until the fender was completely over her. She attempted to rise, but after a little fluttering was caught beneath the wheels of the car and crushed. On the approach of the car the male arose and flew to a distance of about twenty feet when the mangled body of his mate appeared in view. He quickly wheeled and descended in a circular motion until within a foot of the dead body, when he hovered in mid air for several seconds over it, then rose again, only to repeat the same performance. This he did several times, when a young lad, who had evidently been watching the proceedings, picked up the mangled body and deposited it in a rubbish barrel. To me it was indeed a very interesting and pathetic sight, but evidently had not produced the same effect on the ever-present English Sparrows, as they were quickly gathering the stray feathers and carrying them off for nest building.

Portland, Feb. 17, 1908.

LOUIS E. LEGGE.







AMERICAN LONG-EARED OWL.  
(SAMBO.)

PHOTOGRAPH OF LIVING BIRD BY ORA WILLIS KNIGHT, BANGOR.

# The Journal

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### Sambo.

By ORA WILLIS KNIGHT, Bangor.

We called him Sambo, but if you were to seek for him in the pages of the A. O. U. Check-List you would be obliged to look for No. 366, where you would find him posing as *Asio wilsonianus*.

My acquaintanceship with Sambo was made under very unassuming circumstances so far as he was concerned, while as far as I was concerned it was rather a matter of obtaining goods under false pretenses. At least Sambo pretended to be a Grouse, and under these pretenses I sacrificed a charge of powder and shot, to find that in return, instead of a Partridge, the bag was "only an Owl". Later on, however, it proved to be a very satisfactory mistake as far as I was concerned, and now for the story.

Late one fall, I was out hunting Partridge. The sun had already declined far in the west without the day yielding anything more satisfactory than the sound of a few whirring wings and a scanty glimpse of several wary birds which invariably flew straight "into the sun" with one to several dense trees between us. Snap shots under these conditions had so far failed to result in responding thuds and sought-for results. Consequently, about discouraged, I

reclined on the ground for a short rest and amused myself in watching the antics of a roving band of Chickadees, Kinglets and Nuthatches, the former species likewise showing considerable interest in return, and making numerous spicy comments on my general appearance. Presently some of the Chickadees which were in a thicket just ahead began to utter excited cries and scoldings. Among these calls occurred a frequently repeated "Qu'est-ce que c'est?" answered equally often by "Quelque chose," or at least that is what the sounds seemed like to me when put in words.

Lazily I started to investigate the source of the outburst, and before proceeding far a Grouse burst with a "whirr" from the further side of a dense evergreen and flew straight "into the sun." The report of the gun was met with an answering thud and a feeling of satisfaction at the thought of Partridge for supper. However, on going to retrieve the bird there was Sambo, flat on his back, plumage bristling on all sides, while with vigorous hisses and snappings of his bill he expressed his opinion of anybody who would mistake a respectable Long-eared Owl for a Partridge. His feet were up in the air with open talons, ready to clutch anything which ventured to approach him. Past experience had shown me that it was not a desirable task to pick up a wounded Hawk or Owl bare-handed, when it assumed this posture, so I offered him the barrel of the gun and this was quickly grasped and he was lifted until he could be grasped by both wings, and thus safely carried.

Careful examination seemed to show that he was wing-tipped on the right wing, and at that time no other wounds could be detected. Sambo went home with me and was given the range of a large shop in our back yard. After a good night's rest he proved a very interesting character. On going into the shop he would usually be found perched on some shelf, eyes shut, and seemingly sound asleep. He would quickly awake, however, and resent attempts at being handled by hissing and snapping his bill. However, in a few days he would allow himself to be handled without any stronger demonstrations than these noises.

About the most amusing development of Sambo's captivity was the day he made the acquaintance of the family cat, Captain Dannie. The Captain was an investigator, probably owing to his bringing up. At any rate, he made it his business regularly every day to make the rounds of the house and garden, smelling of and prying into every new bundle that had appeared indoors and investigating every new plant that was set out in the garden, or smelling of every new flower that had bloomed over night and showing his great appreciation of the more beautiful ones by rubbing his head against them and purring. The Captain's chief aversion was a strange cat in either his house or garden, and the mere scent left by one passing in the night was sufficient to arouse his ire the next morning, his anger being expressed by vigorous hissings and habs, while with his ever-ready right paw he cuffed the offending spot.

Of course in the making of his daily rounds it was not long before Captain Dannie discovered something new and strange perched on the work bench in the shop and motionless. It is here well to explain that Captain Dannie was thoroughly acquainted with stuffed birds and skins and paid no more attention to them than to look them carefully over, so in this case he probably thought "Ah, there is a new bird mounted. I think I will look it over at closer range." So up jumped the Captain and went up to Sambo and smelled him over. So quietly had this been done that Sambo did not know of any visitor until he was touched, when he opened his eyes and perceived the intruder. Immediately he puffed himself up as big as four Owls, looking for all the world like a greatly enraged mother hen as far as the erected plumage was concerned, and expressed his displeasure by hissing and cracking his bill. Of course the Captain was astonished, and that is where the fun came in, for the expression on his face as he jumped back a foot or so was of great astonishment. He seemed to be saying, "What! A cat in my shed! Why, what a strange cat! I never saw a cat with feathers on it before, but it must be a cat because it has eyes like a cat's and ears like a cat's, and it hisses just like I do." At least that is what

I interpreted his expressions as meaning. Then a hissing match commenced, each trying to outdo the other, and both with plumage and hair respectively erected to their utmost capacity.

The Captain had been punished for interfering with birds, either alive or stuffed, further than that he was allowed to look them over and smell of them a reasonable amount in the case of stuffed specimens. Consequently he did not dare to touch Sambo and confined his actions to protesting at the appearance of this "bird-cat" from a respectable distance. This show was repeated daily, or as many times a day as the two met in the course of the Captain's tours of investigation of the garden and surrounding buildings.

I tried on several occasions to secure a photograph of the pair, but in the semi-obscurity of the shop a flash light was necessary, and Captain Dannie had a pet aversion to flash-light photographs born of his first experience, and would promptly flee whenever he saw signs of such events pending.

Sambo proved a very tractable subject with the camera. On several occasions I took him into the woods and posed him in various positions in the trees and shrubbery, securing a number of good negatives of him, one of which is herewith appended, which, though not the best, shows him in his most characteristic attitude.

Sambo resolutely refused to eat while anybody was watching him, unless his bill was forcibly opened and the food pressed down so that he must swallow it willy-nilly. If the food was left over night it had generally disappeared by morning, and he preferred beef or other red meat to anything else we had to offer him.

During the daytime he was usually very quiet unless disturbed. I feel sure that he was able to see very well, even in the glaring sun, while his hearing was remarkably acute. At night he prowled about the shop from one end to the other, and for all we knew caught mice or rats in quantity. Ultimately he died, as is the fate of all pets, and Captain Dannie has also passed to his final home, but many pleasant recollections of both these pets still remain to me.

## A True Story of a Pet Blue Jay.

By SARA CHANDLER EASTMAN, Portland.

Our Blue Jay came to us in April, 1894. A driving snow storm was in progress, and he had been buffeted by the elements until he fell at our door utterly exhausted and so drenched that every feather clung closely to his little body. As he dropped to the ground he gave three cries so piercing and despairing that we sprang to our feet in alarm.

He was quickly taken up and brought into the house, and, helpless and exhausted as he was, as he lay in my hand he turned upon me a bright, inquiring eye, which plainly asked what I intended to do with him.

Supposing him to be a wild bird that had been beaten down by the storm, we thought to keep him until the weather should be pleasant and then let him go on his way, but after his plumage had become partly dried he was placed in a small cage, and he mounted to the perch with such an air of being at home that it was evident that he had been kept in captivity, therefore we concluded to keep him for a time and find a home for him with some of our friends; but after a little we discovered that we did not wish to part with him, so he was named Charlie from that Blue Jay call which Frank Bolles interpreted as "Yoly-'oly." A Mockingbird cage was provided for him, and he became a much-loved pet.

For more than fourteen years he remained with us, then, during our temporary absence, a window which he often used as an outlook was left open and he escaped, leaving behind sad hearts, for the sorrow we felt at his loss was not greater than that which we experienced in thinking of the dangers to which he would be exposed.

When we first had our bird we did not understand how he should be fed, and as he was extremely fond of all sorts of dainties, and begged for them so prettily with fluttering wings and little coaxing notes, he was indulged very freely, with the result that he became afflicted with epileptic fits. It was most pitiful to see him

suffer, so the family physician was consulted and he pronounced the disease incurable. Next, the old German bird fancier was appealed to, but his verdict was: "I can do noddin' for him. Dot bird will haf to die." Then I bethought myself of that dear woman, Olive Thorne Miller, and wrote her of his condition. Immediately there came the kindest letter, telling what treatment to give him and containing minute instructions as to his diet. Her directions were followed and Charlie was restored to perfect health.

His intelligence was truly wonderful and nothing escaped his notice. He was interested in everything that went on about him, and if anything disturbed or displeased him he would lift his voice in loud protest.

He sang very sweetly, beginning in January and continuing until July, but his notes were fullest and sweetest in the months of February and March. Many persons have listened to his music with surprise and pleasure. I am familiar with the songs of nearly all wild birds, but I could never detect in his any close resemblance to any of them. It was a low, sweet and rather rapid warble, with many rising and falling inflections and now and then a short trill. Occasionally he would stop abruptly in the midst of one of his best efforts and give three call notes and then resume his song. Always his music had a wild and "woody" sound. Sometimes he would dance about in ecstasy as he sang.

His range of expression was very great, and he seemed almost human in his manifestation of love, joy, indignation and disgust. He had a number of call notes, some soft and sweet, others loud and clear, one of them being especially beautiful. In the autumn he always gave the loud, sharp Blue Jay screams that one hears in the woods in that season.

He was very regular in his habits and dainty in all his ways, always keeping himself "well groomed." He took his bath in a large basin of water and would plunge into it again and again, often making little chuckling sounds as he did so.

It would be impossible to tell of all his cunning acts. If left alone for any length of time he would greet the members of the fam-



ily on their return, keeping up his chatter as if he were relating what had occurred during their absence.

When one was sewing he would perch on the edge of her work-basket and amuse himself by taking out the articles it contained and dropping them, one by one, to the floor with the most roguish air imaginable.

He would lift the cover of a metal stamp-box, place in it whatever he wished to keep, and put the cover down.

He was very mischievous and knew perfectly well when he was doing wrong, for, when caught in any of his misdeeds, he would raise his crest, fluff out his feathers, and, putting his head on one side, would look at one in a saucy way, as much as to say, "Yes, I've done it; what will you do about it?"

Sometimes when he was out of his cage he would hide, and if one said, "Where is Charlie? Here is something for Charlie," he would come out with a great flourish of wings. At other times no amount of coaxing would induce him to appear, but when he was found he would manifest great glee.

He had the Blue Jay habit of hiding things, and his treasures were to be found everywhere, for idleness was not one of his faults. In consequence of this trait one had to be very careful about leaving certain things within his reach. Often, when deprived of his booty, he would stamp loudly with his feet, fly at the person who interfered with his enjoyment, and give her one or two sharp pecks.

He did not enjoy being caught, but he would perch on the heads, shoulders and hands of the members of the family, and would take dainties from their lips while on the wing.

One day, shortly before he went away, a hat pin was missing. Charlie mounted to his post of observation in the corner of his cage and watched its owner as she made a fruitless search for it, listening meanwhile to certain incriminating remarks in regard to himself. That afternoon, as soon as he was liberated from his cage, he took the pin from the place where he had hidden it, flew to the one to whom it belonged with it in his beak and laid it before her. This is but one of the many instances of his sagacity.

No person who had not enjoyed his companionship could have any idea of his charming ways. He enjoyed attention, was cared for in the tenderest manner, and I am sure felt himself to be, as indeed he was, an important member of the household.

NOTE.—By inquiry it was ascertained that our bird was bought from a country boy by the German bird fancier, who kept him through the winter and then set him free to shift for himself.

## Our Most Familiar Shore Bird.

*(Being a tribute to the Spotted Sandpiper.)*

By HOWARD H. CLEAVES, State Island, N. Y.

What would the shores and the borders of water courses be like if not adorned for at least a part of the year by the dainty Sandpipers? Their whistling notes lend an atmosphere of cheerfulness and variety to the lonesome and almost endless stretches of salt meadows and winding creeks. At low tide it is indeed a familiar sight to see their trim, delicate forms darting here and there over the murky mud flats, in pursuit of insect food.

Imagine yourself standing in the midst of a salt meadow of great extent, beside a winding creek, whose gently sloping banks are bared by the lowness of the tide. The reaches of salt meadows are beaten by the rays of a June sun, and heat waves may be seen rising as from a furnace. Here and there may be distinguished the songs of Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows, while yonder a Red-winged Blackbird circles up and attacks a passing Crow, or perhaps a Marsh Hawk, and wheels back to his lonely stake, where he simultaneously spreads his tail and bursts forth with his song of "O-ka-lee," as though defying the vanquished enemy to return. Long-billed Marsh Wrens all about are flying up above the tall grasses, and bubbling over with ecstatic song. From a distant water hole a Green Heron flaps away slowly toward the trees that border on the marsh. From no particular place at all, apparently, come the peculiar sounds made by the Clapper Rail, or Marsh Hen.

From far and near come the familiar whistling notes of Sandpipers, for in such surroundings you may well expect to find them. As you look one flies around the bend in the creek, keeping just above the surface of the water. What a peculiar, drooping flight it is, his wing tips almost skimming the surface of the water. Now he



**SPOTTED SANDPIPER.**

"Her light breast appeared above the sod, and I gave the thread a mighty pull."

*Photograph by Howard H. Cleaves, Staten Island, N. Y.*

makes a succession of very rapid wing strokes, after which he glides along with motionless, drooping wings, and turns in toward the opposite shore. Notice what a peculiar landing he makes—running along rapidly for a few feet with his rump noticeably raised, as though blown along by a gust of wind. Then he stops and "teeters" his body up and down a number of times, after which he runs

lightly here and there over the muddy surface, snapping up insects as he goes. Perhaps he will wade out into the margin of the stream, flit across to the other shore, or be off to a distant part of the meadow, just as the mood strikes him.

A few hundred yards away the ocean sends its waves up against endless miles of sandy beach. Here, too, Sandpipers are to be found in numbers. It is amusing to watch them follow a receding wave down the gradual incline and nimbly avoid the next one by running back up the beach. Now and then, however, one miscalculates the speed of the onrushing water, and is compelled to resort to his wings for escape.

Back of the beach, above high water mark, in the thick grasses that grow in the sand, there are perhaps nests. They are generally pretty frail structures (sometimes being little more than mere depressions in the sandy soil), and the eggs, numbering four, are colored to harmonize with their surroundings. It is something of an undertaking, therefore, to find a nest unless the old bird is flushed directly off the eggs. The young take to their legs almost immediately after hatching, and are indeed lively objects to pursue.

In these parts (Staten Island, New York) Spotted Sandpipers arrive in the spring on their way northward about the first week in May. During this migration I think that fewer of these birds are seen than in the fall, when the young return from the north. A peculiar thing which I have noticed that these Sandpipers do at the mating season is to raise their wings high over their backs directly after lighting, and run about for a few seconds with their wings still in that position. This was done for the most part when one bird would light near another, on the ground. Possibly it is done only by the males, and is a part of the mating ceremony. (I have noticed a similar wing-raising habit in certain of the Plovers in Illinois.)

A few Sandpipers remain here every summer, and inhabit the beaches and salt meadows. Previous to this year (1908) I had not been able to find a nest, but had suspected that a few pairs nested here. While preparing to photograph an adult Red-winged Black-

bird on June 7th, I noticed a Sandpiper fly up in a peculiar manner from a patch of salt grass near the bank of a creek. The spot was surrounded by old, dry, salt grass, and drift material was plentiful. It struck me as being a good place for a Sandpiper's nest. I withdrew a short distance, whereupon the Sandpiper worked back toward the place from which she had flown a short time before. After darting here and there with remarkable swiftness over bare spots in the meadow, she disappeared in the grass. I allowed her time enough to reach the nest (if there were one) and then ran in a direction which I thought would be correct, in order to flush the bird. The results were gratifying. The Sandpiper flew up, fluttered off a short distance and alighted where she could watch me. I had little difficulty in locating the nest, which was but a yard or two ahead. It was a substantial structure for a Sandpiper's nest, being made of short grasses, which were arranged in a depression in the ground. It contained four eggs, which is the full complement.

Near the spot where the nest was located runs a salt creek. The stream flows through a quite extensive meadow, which is bordered on all sides by trees. The meadows have been spoiled to a certain extent by drainage ditches, which were dug with a purpose to exterminate the mosquito. The result is that places where water used to stand are now unsightly, barren spots, covered with curled-up mud flakes. I took note that the Sandpiper, in maneuvering to return to the nest, would often follow around the edge of one of these bare patches, and not infrequently run up to the top of some hummock to survey the surroundings.

This suggested a scheme whereby I could take her picture. I proceeded to remove all of these hummocks, so that the whole space was level. Then I arranged a heap of gradually sloping sods which had been cut from the meadow in the draining process near one edge of the open area, and directly in the imaginary path of the Sandpiper, in such a manner that she would be tempted to run to the top of it before proceeding toward the nest. Then I placed my camera in the grass that grew near by, focussed on the top of the inclined, artificial platform and covered the camera with sods and

grass. With a black linen thread attached to the shutter I sat down some thirty yards distant, and awaited the return of the Sandpiper. She was not long putting in an appearance, and, much to my satisfaction, proceeded directly toward the desired spot. The next moment her light breast appeared above the sod, and I gave the thread a mighty pull. At the sound of the shutter away went the Sandpiper to another part of the meadow. I hastily removed the debris from the camera, reversed the plate holder and made ready for another try. Scarcely had I reached my station at the other end of the thread when there came the Sandpiper once more, following almost the exact course that she had taken before. Once again she ran daintily up into position, and once more the thread was given a sturdy pull.

As I packed up my "trappings" and started for home, I decided that at least one Spotted Sandpiper had proved herself to be a most obliging subject for a poor nature photographer.

## A Visit to Grand Manan Island.

By W. H. BROWNSON, Portland, Me.

I went from Portland to Eastport on the steamer Governor Cobb, and from Eastport to Grand Manan Island on the little steamer Aurora. Monday morning, August 3rd, in company with Mr. Allan L. Moses, who is well acquainted with bird-life around Grand Manan, and a skillful amateur taxidermist, I started on a twenty-two-mile motor boat trip to the Murre Ledges.

These ledges are a series of treacherous rock piles, lifting their heads just out of water, and threatening the mariner with destruction if he allows himself to be drawn into their clutches. On one of these ledges stands the Gannet Rock lighthouse, and I have no doubt that in the winter this beacon is buffeted by fearful storms and great waves, which break over its very summit.

The Yellow Ledge, for which we steered, lies three or four miles beyond Gannet Rock, and when we drew near it we saw the

colony of curious sea birds, which we expected to find breeding there. It was not long before we began to be surrounded by quick-flying Razor-billed Auks, birds whose bodies are some sixteen or seventeen inches in length, and whose wings, beating the air with rapid strokes, carried them with great swiftness over and past our boat. On the rocks above high water mark, we could discern many of the Auks sitting solemnly on end and watching our approach with some interest and alarm, for it is a fact that they very rarely receive visitors, and dislike any association with human beings. This is why they choose for their breeding grounds rocky islands so far out in the ocean that sometimes a whole season will pass without a day that will permit any boat to make a landing.

I had seen along the Maine coast some ugly places to get on shore, but I had never had experience with a situation which seemed to promise danger and discomfort in like degree with this. For more than a hundred yards between the dry boulders and the water there were large broken rocks covered thickly with the most greasy and slippery seaweed, so that, even if we could land from the boat, it was likely to be very difficult to make our way to the top of the island without considerable exertion. It was fortunate for my purposes that the water was almost as smooth as in a pond, with not a particle of swell from the ocean, one day in a hundred I was told, for otherwise we should not have been able to leave the boat. The careful skipper rowed the dory half around the island before a little inlet was found to furnish some sort of a shelter from the lapping waves, and here we clambered out of the boat. We reached the dry rocks after ten minutes of patient progress, and looked about us in rather a happy frame of mind, because we had surmounted the obstacles, which seemed at one time to bar the way to our desired goal.

We now had full possession of the island, for the flocks of birds, which had been occupying the rocks before our arrival, took a hasty departure when we landed. Red granite blocks formed the island, with not a vestige of any vegetation. Here the Razor-bills had been laying their eggs and rearing their young in security, if not in

absolute comfort. The eggs were laid right on the rocks, in the crevices among the boulders, some of them in plain sight and others partially concealed in shaded niches. On this 3rd day of August, the breeding was almost over, but there were still many eggs unhatched and apparently sound, while not a few addled eggs were seen. We were able to find a few young birds hidden in the dark nooks of the rocks, and these appeared to be not much frightened when they were drawn out into the light and examined. They were about as large as chickens ten days old. While we were thus engaged the adult birds flew over our heads with some apprehension as to what our intentions might be, but for the most part the flocks had taken themselves off to some distance from the island, and were seen hovering about afraid to come very near to us. I judge that the colony of Razor-bills here must number 200 birds, at least. On this rocky island, seven miles south of the nearest point of Grand Manan, we saw one Song Sparrow, who appeared to be at home there, and who was very shy and apprehensive at our approach. There was no material on the ledge for nest building, but if the bird had been staying there, he had found a living among the seaweed, where insects of various kinds must be plentiful and where seeds might also be gathered.

All around this region are Herring Gulls by the thousand, nesting on the southern end of Grand Manan and on several of the outlying islands. On Three Islands, where there is an abundance of dead trees, we saw many of the Gulls sitting on the bare branches, a sight that is rare enough in the vicinity of Casco Bay. On more than one of these islands the Gulls have the habit of building their nests in trees, where they lay their eggs and rear their families as successfully as the others, which follow the general rule of putting their nests on the ground. In the vicinity of the Murre Ledges almost every Gull I saw was the Great Black-backed species, fully one-third larger than the Herring Gulls, and in every way a stronger and nobler bird. In their flight they were majestic, as they soared and wheeled above and in advance of our boat. These are birds which breed somewhat farther north, though perhaps not so very far



from the Bay of Fundy. The Herring Gulls which had been out fishing three or four miles from Three Islands, where there is a big colony, were returning with their gullets so full of small herring that they seemed to be weighted down and could barely fly with their loads of food for their young birds. There were no Terns in this vicinity, though on Machias Seal Island, some ten miles west of Gannet Rock and the Murre Ledges, there is a prosperous colony.

One of the most numerous sea birds, of this whole region, is the Black Guillemot or Sea Pigeon. This bird in the breeding season is jet black, except a white patch on each wing. In the winter the plumage changes to a gray with black streaks, and in this dress the Sea Pigeon comes to the waters of Casco Bay quite plentifully.

Eider Ducks breed in small numbers on Three Islands, perhaps a dozen pairs nesting there. We saw, as we passed White Head Island, a pair of these handsome birds sitting quietly on the rocks, doubtless resting from their morning food-gathering. In season all three species of Eider Ducks come here, the American Eider (breeding), the Greenland Eider and the King Eider. Leach's Petrel breeds in a number of places on the islands in the Bay of Fundy. Usually the Northern Phalarope or Sea Goose, comes here in great numbers in August, on its way south. Although I had seen a flock of these birds in Casco Bay more than a week earlier, very few were then in the vicinity of Grand Manan, though a week or two later there would of course be immense flocks of them.

On the following day, August 4th, I made a trip to the northern end of the island, in search for a family of Duck Hawks, which Mr. Moses assured me were breeding on the summit of the cliff known as "The Seven Days' Work." We drove to the head of the cliff and prepared to descend to the shore below. For a distance of some three hundred or three hundred and fifty feet, at least, we clambered down the side of the precipice, by a winding path, which most of the way offered a sure footing, and soon we found ourselves on a rocky shore covered with large boulders, among which we made our way with some difficulty. On the summit there was a fringe of vegetation consisting of stunted trees and bushes, which in many

places overhung the rocks. At the foot an ice-cold spring furnished refreshment before we began our walk towards the locality where the Hawks were supposed to be breeding. After a quarter of an hour of painful clambering over round pebbles and rough rocks, we were rewarded by seeing three Duck Hawks come sailing out over the precipice, often disappearing and again wheeling out into full view. For many minutes we watched the big and graceful birds, and then they alighted on some low dead branches, staying in sight while we examined them at our leisure with our field glasses.

The Peregrine Falcon, or Duck Hawk, is practically the same bird with which the readers of Scott's novels are familiar, at that time trained for the sport of hawking, as it is doubtless the most powerful bird of prey for its bulk that flies, and its courage is not less than its strength. The birds we saw doubtless formed a family consisting of two young birds and perhaps the female, the male at the time probably being absent on a foraging expedition. Their breeding here has been watched from year to year by local observers, and it is said that at least one of the adult birds stays in the vicinity of the cliffs during the winter. In cold weather this species of Hawks as a rule moves southward and in the fall it is not unusual to see specimens along the coast and around Casco Bay.

On Grand Manan the Northern Raven breeds in greater abundance than in any place on the Maine coast. In this section the bird nests as a rule among inaccessible precipices elsewhere building its habitation in trees on lonely islands. I walked out to a cove where on the flanking cliffs I was assured that the Raven makes its home. I was then able to get nothing more than a passing glimpse of just one sable bird as it disappeared around a headland. Later I watched the same cliffs for more Ravens, but it was not until I was leaving the island on the Eastport steamer that my desire was realized. High over the bold headland which forms the northernmost bound of the island three Ravens soared four hundred feet at the least estimate from the bay beneath. The great black birds, suggesting Crows, but twice as large and very graceful on the wing, flew back and forth, never going far from the outermost cliff, at

times sailing with motionless pinions as smoothly as Hawks, and again wheeling before the breeze and hastening inland.

Ruffed Grouse formerly bred on Grand Manan, but some one introduced foxes and since then the Grouse have entirely disappeared, as their eggs and young were persistently eaten. In like manner the foxes ate the eggs of the Herring Gulls which nested on the cliffs, and broke up more than one colony. Now the Gulls breed at the southern end of the island, but their eggs are deposited far down the precipices, so that the foxes are not able to reach them, and too there are not so many foxes as in former years. Bald Eagles are found to a considerable extent in this vicinity, as well as on the islands in the bay. A Golden Eagle, shot on the island, was seen at the taxidermist's shop of Mr. Moses.

Of the smaller birds on Grand Manan all five species of Swallows, common in the Canadian fauna were observed, the Barn Swallow being the most plentiful. A small colony of Purple Martins was flourishing in North Head village. The Junco was abundant, and breeds here in large numbers. Young birds of this species were feeding along the roadsides and in the pastures and woods. Several Juncos were noted one evening helping themselves to cherries, which they obtained from a tree on the outskirts of an orchard. Myrtle Warblers were common, and seemed to be the most abundant of the Warbler family. Black-poll Warblers were also seen, and were evidently breeding. Crossbills of both species were there in good sized flocks. Only a few Kingbirds were noted, and occasionally a Golden-crowned Kinglet. A great many Robins were in all sections of the island that I visited, but Bluebirds were very scarce. Cedar Waxwings were plentiful. Pigeon Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks occur here in summer. On account of the limited time I had to search for land birds on this visit, I was not able to obtain anything like a full list of the birds which breed in the woods and fields of the island.

## Migration Reports, 1907.

### Dates of Departure.

The following migration reports were made by D. W. Sweet, Avon, Franklin County; Everett Johnson, Hebron, Oxford County; Sara Eastman, Portland, Cumberland County.

Migration lists of birds, intended for publication in the JOURNAL, should be mailed to D. W. Sweet, Phillips, Me.

	AVON.	HEBRON.	PORTLAND.
Black Duck,	Oct. 20		
Blue Heron,	Sept. 28	Oct. 6	Sept. 21
Black-crowned Night Heron,			" 16
American Woodcock,		" 16	
Pectoral Sandpiper,	Oct. 5		
Solitary Sandpiper,	May 30	May 25	
Spotted Sandpiper,	Sept. 29	Sept. 5	
Marsh Hawk,	" 27	Aug. 12	Nov. 19
Sharp-shinned Hawk,	" 27	Oct. 1	
Cooper's Hawk,	" 12		Aug. 22
American Goshawk,		" 24	
Red-tailed Hawk,		Mch. 9	
Red-shouldered Hawk,	" 15		
Broad-winged Hawk,		Oct. 2	
Black-billed Cuckoo,	Aug. 21		
Belted Kingfisher,	July 30	Aug. 27	" 25
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker,	Oct. 17		Sept. 16
Flicker,	" 7		Oct. 26
Whip-poor-will,	" 6	Oct. 12	" 6
Nighthawk,	Sept. 8	Sept. 21	
Chimney Swift,	" 8	" 14	Aug. 23
Ruby-throated Hummingbird,	Aug. 29	" 11	" 30
Kingbird,	Sept. 12		
Crested Flycatcher,		" 1	" 29
Phoebe,	July 25		
Olive-sided Flycatcher,	Sept. 27	" 24	" 19
Wood Pewee,	July 16		
Alder Flycatcher,	Sept. 24		" 29
Chebec,	Aug. 11		
Horned Lark,	" 22	Aug. 2	" 26
Prairie Horned Lark,			Nov. 16
Crow,		Apr. 10	
Bobolink,	Nov. 21	Nov. 4	Dec. 28
Red-winged Blackbird,	Aug. 22	July 20	Aug. 18
Meadowlark,		Aug. 25	July 27
Baltimore Oriole,	July 17		
Rusty Blackbird,	" 5	July 21	Aug. 28
Bronzed Grackle,	Mch. 30		
	Oct. 6		
	" 1	Oct. 16	

Pine Grosbeak,	Mch. 17	Mch. 27	
Purple Finch,	Nov. 23	Oct. 4	Sept. 6
Redpoll,	Apr. 19	Mch. 28	
Snow Bunting,		Feb. 15	
Vesper Sparrow,	Oct. 6	Oct. 19	Aug. 30
Savanna Sparrow,		July 27	Sept. 28
White-crowned Sparrow,	} May 15	May 20	
White-throated Sparrow,	{ Oct. 13	Oct. 1	
Tree Sparrow,	{ " 13	" 19	Oct. 6
Chipping Sparrow,	} May 8	Apr. 10	
Field Sparrow,	{ Oct. 30		Nov. 9
Slate-colored Junco,	{ " 20	Sept. 24	
Song Sparrow,		" 27	Aug. 19
Swamp Sparrow,		May 15	
Fox Sparrow,	} Nov. 18	Nov. 30	Oct. 14
Rose-breasted Grosbeak,	{ Oct. 25	" 3	Nov. 9
Indigo Bunting,	" 1		
Scarlet Tanager,		May 15	
Purple Martin,		Nov. 18	
Cliff Swallow,	} Sept. 6	Aug. 28	
Barn Swallow,	{ Aug. 21		
Tree Swallow,	July 31	Sept. 12	
Bank Swallow,	Aug. 28	Aug. 14	
Cedar Waxwing,	Sept. 2	Sept. 16	Oct. 31
Red-eyed Vireo,	July 31	Aug. 8	
Warbling Vireo,	" 15		
Solitary Vireo,	Sept. 19	Oct. 7	Aug. 21
Black and White Warbler,	" 23	Sept. 1	" 30
Nashville Warbler,	July 21		
Tennessee Warbler,	Oct. 1		Oct. 5
Yellow Warbler,			Aug. 21
Myrtle Warbler,	June 3		
Black-poll Warbler,	Aug. 11	Aug. 20	Sept. 2
Black-throated Green Warbler,	Oct. 13	Oct. 4	Dec. 26
Pine Warbler,	June 12		
Northern Waterthrush,	Oct. 1	Sept. 30	Aug. 30
Northern Yellowthroat,	" 1		Sept. 15
Wilson Warbler,	May 24		Aug. 18
Redstart,	Aug. 25	" 1	" 30
Catbird,	Sept. 15	Aug. 24	
Brown Thrasher,		July 26	
Winter Wren,	Oct. 20	Apr. 2	
Brown Creeper,	May 4		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet,	} " 16		
Veery,	{ Oct. 12	July 13	Oct. 9
Hermit Thrush,	" 27	Oct. 23	Nov. 12
Robin,	" 27	Nov. 5	Dec. 26
Bluebird,	" 26	Oct. 26	Oct. 19

**The Journal**  
of the  
**Maine Ornithological Society**

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study and Protection of Birds

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Vol. X

Published September 1, 1908

No. 3

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Mr. Howard H. Cleaves, of Staten Island, New York, whose article on Bank Swallows, in the March JOURNAL, was read with interest, contributes to the present number a tribute to the Spotted Sandpiper, with an admirable photograph and a description of how he secured it. Mr. Cleaves is a graceful writer, and his contributions to the JOURNAL are much appreciated.

Mr. Francis H. Allen, of Boston, who contributes to the July *Auk* an article on Kumlien's Gull near Boston, has sent to the JOURNAL a fine paper on the birds of Monhegan Island, on the Maine coast, and it will be published in the December issue. Mr. Allen spent the week from May 30th to June 6th at Monhegan, and made a careful reconnoissance of the birds of that region.

Members who have copies of Vol. 7, No. 1, March, 1905, and who do not care to preserve them for binding, will do a favor by sending them to the editor. The file is nearly exhausted for that number of the JOURNAL, and there are frequent calls for complete sets from libraries in different parts of the country. Those who have copies issued previous to 1905 should preserve them carefully and send them to the editor unless they are intended for binding. There are many of the early issues of the JOURNAL which are now exhausted, and it is getting to be difficult to make up a complete set.

The annual meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society will be held on Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving Day, at

the rooms of the Society of Natural History, in Portland. At this meeting it will be necessary to elect a new President in place of Prof. Leslie A. Lee, deceased.

More members of the society should make an effort to send notes of their observations for publication in the JOURNAL. At present half a dozen members supply nearly the whole of this department, which is of great interest to all readers, and might well be doubled in size. Very often new members send valuable notes, and at the same time apologize because they think they are of too trivial a nature. Almost anything that excites the attention will be read with interest by other members.

The editor is pleased to announce that the financial condition of the society is better than it has been for a long time. The membership list is increasing, and the number of subscribers has not been diminished by the advance in price of the JOURNAL. Bills for subscription to the JOURNAL for 1908 will soon be sent out, and it is hoped that all subscribers will remit promptly. If they do, it is likely that the JOURNAL will close the year free from debt.

Miss Sara C. Eastman, of Portland, in this issue of the JOURNAL, tells the story of a captive Blue Jay 14 or 15 years old, which has recently escaped and renewed its wild life. The account of its accomplishments and habits is of much interest, for it is not often that a bird of so wild a nature is kept under observation for so many years. It would be a gratification to know the thoughts of this Blue Jay when he returned to his native woods and was obliged to gather his own food supply.

Mountain ash berries are unusually thrifty this fall, and the trees on all sides are loaded with great clusters of them. This may mean an abundance of winter birds, particularly Pine Grosbeaks.

## The Ornithological Magazines.

**THE AUK.**—The *Auk* for July, 1908, contains, besides the usual general notes, an obituary of Prof. Leslie A. Lee, and the following articles: "Observations on the Golden Eagle in Montana," by E. S. Cameron; "Notes on the Broad-winged Hawks of the West Indies, with Descriptions of a New Form," by J. H. Riley; "Recent Notes on Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania," by Richard C. Harlow; "Birds of Delaware," by C. J. Pennock; "The Case of *Strix* versus *Aluco*," by J. A. Allen; "Treganza Blue Heron," by Edward J. Court; "*Larus kumlieni* and other Northern Gulls in the Neighborhood of Boston," by Francis H. Allen; "Columbina versus *Chaemepelia*," by J. A. Allen; "The Destruction of Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) at Niagara Falls," by James H. Fleming; "The Macaw of Dominica," by Austin Hobart Clark.

**THE CONDOR.**—The *Condor* for May-June, 1908, contains articles on the birds of Gaudaloupe Island, off the coast of Lower California, migration notes from Arizona, the Mexican Black Hawk, notes on the waltzing instinct of Ostriches, notes from Santa Cruz Island, and the usual interesting notes and editorials.

**BIRD-LORE.**—*Bird-Lore* for May-June, 1908, and July-August, 1908, continues the pictures in color of the Flycatchers, contains handsomely illustrated articles on the Banded Owl, Brown Thrasher, American Bittern, Barn Swallow, Blue Heron, Tree Swallow, and a fine description of the Fish Hawks of Gardiner's Island, by Frank M. Chapman, with a great number of notes of current interest and news of the Audubon societies.

**THE WILSON BULLETIN.**—The *Wilson Bulletin* for June, 1908, contains the following articles: "June with the Birds of the Washington Coast," by Lynds Jones; "Alexander Wilson. II. The Mystery of the Small-Headed Flycatcher," by Frank L. Burns; "The Birds of Point Pelee," by P. A. Taverner and B. H. Swales; with field notes and editorials. In its enlarged form this magazine shows great improvement, and its contents are of permanent value.

**THE GUIDE TO NATURE.**—The *Guide to Nature* for June, July and August contains articles on animal and bird life at Lake Webb, Weld, Maine, La Jolla beach, California, "Nature in Decoration and Pleasurable Resource," all profusely and artistically illustrated, with a large quantity of matter relating to general out-of-door life. Every page is interesting, but to do entire justice to the various departments the magazine should be much larger, and doubtless it will be in course of time. For a publication in its first volume the *Guide to Nature* is deserving of high commendation.



## Bird Notes.

Notes and observations upon bird life within our State are earnestly desired from all our readers for publication in this column, and should be sent to the Editor, W. H. Brownson, 85 Market street, Portland, Maine.

We note with much satisfaction the increasing frequency with which the members of our society report to this JOURNAL their ornithological observations. This is an important part of our duties, one to another, and should be shared in by all interested in bird life. The JOURNAL'S columns are always open to contributors of items of general interest relating to Maine birds, and we trust our members will, through this medium, disseminate such knowledge as they personally possess.

NOTES FROM YARMOUTH.—From frequent reports it would seem that the small wooden boxes first used for the R. F. D. were very attractive to Bluebirds. One which I have observed has been besieged every year by a pair vainly endeavoring to find a crevice which might admit of an opening for nesting. Last spring their perseverance was rewarded. One of the metal mail boxes was purchased, and the other prepared for tenants. It was divided into two parts, and a hole made in each end, over which a piece of tin, cut in saw teeth, was placed, that no cat's paw might enter. The cover was securely fastened. When finished, the Bluebirds immediately took possession, very plainly showing their delight. Three days were spent in deciding which apartment best suited their needs; they would go into one, then the other, sticking out their heads, looking all about, and keeping up a constant chatter. Finally the north-east end was chosen, and furnishing commenced. Sticks were first taken in, and occasionally one longer than usual gave trouble. The maneuverings to get it through the small opening were very interesting and amusing. If unsuccessful it was dropped, and the next one was sure to be short. One day a pair of Swallows started to build in the other side of the box, but the Bluebirds objected, and after a hard fight, lasting all day, succeeded in driving them off, and they were not again disturbed. Four young birds were reared,

which were an object of interest to many passers-by, who could not resist the temptation to peep in. Perhaps for that reason the second nest was not built in the other side, but in a similar box which had been set up inside of the fence just across the street. With very little trouble we may all have *near* bird neighbors, but in so doing let us not *keep cats*.

During camp life I always found the White-throated Sparrow very shy, and was much surprised the morning of April 27th to find a hundred or more here about the orchard and yard. They remained a week, feeding at the door with the Juncos and Sparrows. They were most welcome visitors, their sweet notes giving much pleasure after the long winter, with not a single bird observed.

One member, at least, was most grateful to the editor for using his notes to "fill in" the June Journal.

The constant unfamiliar song of a bird in the border of the woods, which could be heard in all parts of the house, gave me no peace, yet when followed he eluded me. When I read "I see, I see Miss Beecher," the mystery was solved, and that day he very considerably came near the house when I readily identified the Chestnut-sided Warbler, but the chestnut was inconspicuous compared with the bright yellow markings, and but for the notes might have been overlooked, depriving me of that satisfaction experienced by everyone in naming a new bird.

ELIZABETH H. MARKS.

Yarmouth, Maine, August 1, 1908.

THE ENGLISH SPARROW AS AN AGENT IN THE SPREAD OF DISEASE.—Much has been written about the English Sparrow since first it was introduced to this country through the misguided efforts of certain individuals, now gone, let us hope, to their fitting reward, but though much abuse has been heaped on the Sparrows because they did or did not do certain things I am not aware that anything has yet been said from the standpoint of which I am now going to write.

The habits of the Sparrows are well known. They are birds of

the city streets, feeding on filth and loving to bathe in the dry roadside dust. At the approach of anything to scare them, up go the entire flock on to the window ledges of adjoining houses or on to the roof, and there they shake out the germ-laden dust which sifts in through the open windows of our dwellings. One has only to watch the Sparrows a little while to see this round from street to house and from house to street repeated many times, and each time a cargo of death potential bacteria are disseminated through the air to be breathed in by passers-by or to be sifted into our houses.

Many kinds of disease-producing bacteria are very common in the dust of our city streets. A careless passer-by, afflicted with consumption, spits, and later on a Sparrow aids in the dissemination of these germs. I firmly believe that many cases of tuberculosis are due to the dissemination of the germs by the English Sparrow.

Bacteria capable of producing such diseases as lockjaw, influenza, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, blood poisoning, diphtheria and many other troubles may be found in the dust of the streets under suitable conditions. These bacteria await only suitable means of conveyance to reach some person in which to set up their growth and cause sickness. Such means of conveyance are found in the winds, the house flies, and last, but by no means least, the English Sparrows. I would therefore urge upon all local boards of health a careful consideration of means by which to join in the work of extermination of the English Sparrows.

ORA W. KNIGHT.

Bangor, August 1, 1908.

BIRDS OF MAINE.—If "Birds of Maine" has not already been sent to all subscribers before this number of the JOURNAL is issued, it probably will be very shortly received by them. The book is now, at this writing (August 3), ready to go to the binder, and as soon as received from the binder will be sent out.

ORA W. KNIGHT.

SANDPIPER IN A TREE.—It was on the 4th of August, 1907, while in company with Mr. James Chapin and Mr. W. DeWitt

Miller, both from the American Museum of Natural History, New York, that the following observation was made. We had enjoyed a most delightful day afield, covering the region which lies between South River and Runyon, New Jersey. We were returning along a rather unused railroad when, in an area to one side, which was flooded for the most part with a number of inches of water, we noticed a Spotted Sandpiper flying about in circles and acting peculiarly. We had all come to the conclusion that her young were about somewhere, when she did a most peculiar thing. The wet area in question was covered with considerable underbrush, out of which grew rather tall, second-growth timber. The Sandpiper alighted on the tops of some of these trees, on the small twigs, and remained balancing there for some time, fully twenty-five or thirty feet from the ground. This performance she repeated several times, making her appear for the world like a perching bird. Now and then she would whistle her "Pe-pe-weet, pe-pe-weet-weet-weet-weet" at us excitedly from her lofty perch and then fly off, to return again in a few seconds. All of us had seen Sandpipers perch on the roots of upturned stumps near or in the water, perhaps three or four feet from the ground, but to see one swaying on the top-most twigs of a tree we thought was a unique observation.

HOWARD H. CLEAVES.

Princess Bay, S. I., N. V., August 18th, 1908.

A ROBIN'S NESTING.—About a mile from Poplar Tavern is a small mill, and one of the men who works in it wanted me to go up and see how a Robin had built her nest, so I did so. Hanging on the wall inside the mill was a paint can, about one-third full of paint. The can held about two quarts, and was not very large around. The Robin built her nest on top of the can, and after laying three eggs the nest fell into the can and the eggs went into the liquid paint. Just above the can was a small joist with an old leather glove on it, so the Robin laid one egg on the glove without building any nest, hatched it out, and the little one has just flown out into the woods. I hope the next time she will have better luck.

The birds that have nests around Poplar Tavern that I have seen are Robins, Song Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows, Phœbes, Hermit Thrushes, Catbirds, Bluebirds, Myrtle Warblers and Juncos. These nests are all within two hundred feet of the Tavern.

P. B. ROLFE.

North Newry, June 30, 1908.

A SPARROW HAWK WINTERING IN PORTLAND.—In the March number of the JOURNAL I recorded the appearance of a Sparrow Hawk in the old Eastern Cemetery. This Hawk spent the winter in Portland and its vicinity, making constant visits to the spot where I first saw him. He always came between the hours of eleven and twelve in the forenoon and a little after four o'clock in the afternoon. The only two places on which I saw him alight were the top of a tall elm and a large stub which projected from the trunk of a tree which had been broken off.

Much as I disliked this bold marauder, and glad as I should have been to put an end to his career, had it been in my power to do so, I yet found a fascination in watching him, he was so absolutely fearless, so cool and deliberate in all his movements. When he brought his prey to the cemetery he always made straight for the stub. At other times he would come sailing through the air, alight on the top of the elm for a moment or two to take a survey of his surroundings, and then would wing his way across the principal thoroughfare of the city as unconcernedly as if he were flying over the trees of his native woods.

It was his custom to fall to eating as soon as he reached the stub, and his prey was quickly devoured, but on one occasion his hunger had evidently been appeased and he was in a playful mood, for he toyed with his victim, an English Sparrow, much as a cat plays with a mouse. He lifted it and laid it down, turned it over and around, and struck it with his beak in a lazy way very different from the savage blows he was wont to deliver. After doing this a few times, he rose from the stub with the bird dangling from the talons of his right foot, flew to an elm near by, and with much flut-

tering of his wings and spreading of his tail feathers deposited it in a fork of the tree formed by the springing of a large branch from the trunk, and then flew away. After he had finished a meal he would call "Killy-killy-killy" as he left the place where he had feasted. He was in fine condition, as well he might be, for he had found himself most excellently served. I last saw him on the 11th of March, and to my knowledge he did not come to the cemetery again.

SARA CHANDLER EASTMAN.

Portland, July 23, 1908.

NOTES FROM FRANKLIN COUNTY. --April 27th, while I was splitting stove wood near the house, a Sandpiper flew over my head, uttering musical notes. It seemed to exactly resemble a Solitary Sandpiper in its peculiar flight, its color, and in the shape of its wings, but it may have been a little larger in size. Can any reader of the JOURNAL suggest the name of this early migrant?

The Meadowlark has returned in increased numbers, and I have found them in places where I have not previously seen them.

American Crossbills have been fairly common during the summer months, and the Black-billed Cuckoo, which in previous years has been comparatively rare, has this summer been very common. A certain species of caterpillar, which has increased in numbers so as to badly strip the apple trees of their foliage, has not been seen in this locality this year. Tent caterpillars hatched in large numbers, but soon after the arrival of the Cuckoos they entirely disappeared.

Early in the morning, May 14th, a White-crowned Sparrow greeted me with its song while perched on a fence in front of the house. It remained three days, and sang frequently during its stay. There were two or three clear, sweet opening notes, followed by two or three short guttural notes. To me, the bird seemed to say "Dol, dol, dol, dze, dze, dze." On a previous occasion (May 14, 1905), I came across a flock scattered about in a dry, shrubby pasture. They were all singing, and the song never varied—always two clear notes, closing with two short notes. They occasionally uttered

a "Chip-chip." I described the song in my bird notes thus: "See-e-e, see-e-e, je, je." A short distance away the song might be mistaken for that of the Meadowlark.

The same morning that I saw the above-mentioned flock of White-crowned Sparrows, I saw the Chewink, which I have not previously mentioned in my notes to the JOURNAL. While on an upland three miles from home, my attention was attracted to a new song. I found the bird on the bare limb of a large maple bush. Its large size, its jet black head, throat and breast, with white belly, suggesting a giant Junco, the bands on the sides like those of the Chestnut-sided Warbler, and the large, conspicuous tail, left no doubt as to its identity. It was not shy, and as I was observing it a few feet away, a similar but duller colored bird, the female, flew up from the underbrush and perched on a limb near her mate. The song is exceedingly difficult to represent in words, but Chapman's description is probably the best that can be given. These birds came during a great bird wave, and were probably carried far beyond the usual range in the same way that certain southern species find their way to the southern part of the State.

May 18th, I heard what sounded like the ringing of a cow bell. This proved to be a Yellow-bellied Woodpecker tapping on a small dipper hung up on a young hemlock by a spring in the woods. On a previous occasion I found one of these birds pecking at a circular piece of tin which had been hung up on a tree for a target near an old lumber camp. One of the favorite pastimes of the Yellow-bellied Woodpecker is to tap on telephone wires and listen to the sound of the vibration. One day, about the middle of June, I saw one of these Woodpeckers have a little difficulty with a red squirrel. Near the roadside was a white birch, on which the Woodpecker had made a large number of holes a few feet above the ground. The squirrel wished to pass up the tree and as he approached the patch of holes the Woodpecker dived at him and the squirrel was glad to make a quick retreat to the ground. The bird lighted on the trunk of a near-by tree, and the squirrel, not in the least discouraged, renewed the attempt to go up the tree, but again hastily retreated when the

Woodpecker's sharp bill dived at him. I saw this performance repeated several times. The squirrel was stuffy and determined, and the bird would allow no one to walk over his table. As I drove out of sight the contest was still on.

May 20th, I saw the first Hummingbird of the season, which was flying about before a closed window, vainly endeavoring to extract honey from the beautiful display of flowers inside. Nearly every year I have seen my first Hummingbird in a Canada plum tree. This is the earliest fruit tree to blossom, and when in full bloom suggests an immense pop-corn ball.

May 24th, I walked around the shore of a pond in search of the Bay-breasted Warbler. The summer home of this species is in swamps, and if the weather is hot during their migration this is the kind of place to look for them. I found them fairly common in the swamps along the shore. In most cases I found one, two, or more, with other Warblers, but occasionally I found one solitary. The song is very weak and easily escapes notice even when heard near by.

Late in May I came across a male Indigo Bunting, which was brown except about the head and breast, which were of the usual indigo blue. Its song made its identity certain.

June 21st, where I attended church a Barn Swallow entered the room from a window which had been let down from the top. The steel ceiling was not favorable for nesting sites. After flying about over the heads of the congregation and viewing its unusual surroundings, it flew out of the window.

D. W. SWEET.

Avon, August 1, 1908.

MACHIAS SEAL ISLAND SEA BIRD COLONIES.—The third week in August I made a trip to Machias Seal Island, where a colony of about two hundred Puffins breeds. All the young birds had gone, but the old ones were everywhere to be seen and were very tame, as they probably had been very little disturbed this season. One could get near enough to the rocks where they perched



to see them wink, and it was a fine opportunity to study the positions they assume. They are very wary during the nesting season for the keeper told me that in the four years of his residence there he has found but two eggs. There was an enormous colony of Terns on a rocky island, about one hundred yards from the main island. The keeper estimated the number at between five thousand and six thousand. I saw many birds during the trip to the Seal Island. A Jaeger flew quite near to the boat, also a Sooty Shearwater. Four or five small bunches of Phalaropes were seen. I was quite surprised to observe a Black Tern among the birds in the Tern colony, but was not able to get very near it. Leach's Petrel was breeding on the island, but a couple of dogs were making sad havoc among them, quite a number of dead birds being seen lying near the nest holes.

ALLAN L. MOSES.

Grand Maun, N. B., August 25, 1908.

PORTLAND BIRD NOTES.—July 28th, I made a trip to Outer Green Island and proceeded from there to Bluff Island. For several years Common Terns have not bred on Outer Green Island, but this year a small colony numbering perhaps three hundred birds have spent the summer there, and have bred to a considerable extent. Upwards of a dozen nests with eggs were found on the rocks on the highest part of the island. One or two Ruddy Turnstones were seen flying from Outer Green Island to Junk of Pork. On the way from Outer Green Island to Bluff Island, we ran across a flock of thirty or forty Northern Phalaropes, this being an unusually early date for them to be as far west as this. On Bluff Island the colony of Common Terns has considerably increased over last year. Then it was estimated that two thousand birds were living there, but this year it seemed certain that there were three thousand birds. Later in the season after the young birds were all on the wing the greater part of the colony could be seen almost any day on the sandbar between Pine Point and Prout's Neck, and it was evident from the size of the flocks there that the number of birds was fully up to the above estimate. When I visited Bluff Island the 28th of July, the

nesting season was by no means ended, for there were many nests with eggs and young birds in all stages, from those just hatched to the ones nearly ready to fly.

August 22nd, near Cousins Island, I saw a couple of Jaegers, which flew across the bow of the boat, within easy gunshot. They had the light phase of plumage, and there was very little doubt that they belonged to the Pomarine species. They were engaged at the time in chasing and worrying a number of Herring Gulls, both Terns and Gulls being there in considerable numbers, on account of the presence of abundant schools of Herring and other small fish. The Terns were apparently about 200 or 300 in number, and I have little doubt that they were the ones which have been at Outer Green Island this summer.

Several Willets have been shot in August at Pine Point, also a number of Knots, or Robin Snipe.

The colony of Black-crowned Night Herons at Falmouth Foreside is as flourishing as usual this season, and the number of birds there seems to be as large as ever, if not larger.

Black Ducks have been rather more abundant than usual during the latter part of August and the gunners found very good shooting when the season opened September 1st. Several flocks of a hundred or more have been seen moving South the latter part of August.

Purple Martins were in the vicinity of Portland this summer in colonies perhaps a little smaller than last year, but the birds apparently show no signs of becoming scarce.

The abundance of the Black-billed Cuckoo in this section has been often remarked this year.

Flocks of White-winged Crossbills have been observed on the islands of Casco Bay as early as the 22nd of August.

The last week of August the gunners on the Scarborough marshes were reporting very few birds of any kind, though small bags of Lesser Yellowlegs and an occasional Greater Yellowlegs had been shot.

W. H. BROWNSON.

Portland, September 1, 1908.





A GROUP OF ROBINS' NESTS AT EAST ORLAND, ME.  
BUILT THREE YEARS IN SUCCESSION.  
TO ACCOMPANY ARTICLE ON OPPOSITE PAGE.

# The Journal

of the

## Maine Ornithological Society

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No. 4

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### A Group of Robins' Nests.

By MRS. ELIZABETH H. MARKS.

On the porch of Mrs. Charles G. Atkins, East Orland, Maine, there is a group of Robins' nests, which are quite unusual and interesting. Presumably the same birds have built three years in succession in the same corner of the porch, and the three nests are all within the space of a circle one foot in diameter. In the picture on the opposite page the three nests are shown. The lowest nest was built in 1904, the uppermost nest in 1905, and the right hand nest in 1906. In 1906 a pair of Chipping Sparrows had a nest about three feet to the right of the group of Robins' nests, but this is not shown in the picture. The nests are built in woodbine, and not far from the roof of the veranda. The upper nest is four inches above the one below it, and the right hand nest is six inches from the other two. Here the Robins raised three broods three years in succession, without a mishap. The last year, when the Sparrows built near by, there was no disagreement between the two species.

I found at our camp at East Orland that a pair of Robins had built in the same corner for five years in succession, usually the second nest. The place was sold last year. When in the vicinity,

recently, I took a peep at the window and found the last year's nest undisturbed. At my approach, the bird flew from a tree very near the camp, revealing her home this year.

## An Ornithological Reconnoissance of Monhegan Island.

By FRANCIS H. ALLEN.

I spent the week from May 30th to June 6th of this year at Monhegan Island, making rather careful observations of the bird population there. Monhegan, as I suppose most Maine ornithologists know, lies about eleven miles out to sea off Pemaquid Point, Lincoln County, in latitude  $43^{\circ} 46'$  north. It is a small, rocky island, about a mile and five-eighths long by five-eighths of a mile wide, with a shore line of almost precipitous cliffs and headlands on the eastern side. The highest of these promontories, White Head, is said to be one hundred and sixty feet high, and two others, Black Head and Burnt Head, are said to be one hundred and forty feet each. The entire island has a very picturesque configuration, being broken up into rounded or abrupt rocky hills with frequent deep gullies in their outer slopes.

The interior is chiefly covered with woods of red and white spruce and balsam fir, mostly of rather low growth, though at one place the trees rise to quite a respectable height. Much of the island is swampy, and in the swamps alder is the principal growth. There are scattered trees of yellow and paper birch, mountain ash, and striped maple, but the spruces and firs and the alders are the only extensive growths. Along the eastern shore behind the rocky headlands, and on the western side sloping down more nearly to the sea level, are grassy pasture lands, formerly fed upon by sheep, and still comparatively free from the encroachments of the woods. On their edges, just above the rocks, the beach pea grows abundantly, and the creeping juniper, or shrubby red cedar (*Juniperus Sabina*),

is common. Here in the open, too, and near the shore, are bayberry, sweet-fern, staghorn sumach, and poison ivy, all familiar shrubs to a Massachusetts man. At the time of my visit the field chickweed (*Cerastium arvense*) was in full bloom, scattered over these pastures in patches of white. In the woods, or along their edges, the wild red cherry and the shad-bush were in blossom, and the swamps were in some places full of purple rhodora and in others white with buckbean in flower. The season on Monhegan is late in the spring and correspondingly short and condensed, such flowers as cherry blossoms and the dwarf Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum Canadense*), which in Massachusetts come three or four weeks apart, being here found at the same time.

The resident fauna is somewhat restricted as to number of species, at least in the higher groups, doubtless on account of the insular conditions. Of mammals I saw none at all, and the only native species I heard of there was the muskrat, though domestic rats infest some of the outlying rocks, and the woods are said to harbor many cats which have run wild. I found no reptiles, and the only batrachians I observed were a colony of green frogs (*Rana clamata*), twanging their banjo strings in a small ice pond, where they had been introduced from the mainland for the purpose of destroying the mosquitoes. It seemed strange not to see a single squirrel and to hear neither the peeping of hylas nor the trilling of toads.

The island at the time of my visit was fairly well populated with birds, but the number of species represented was not large. It is very possible that some of the summer residents had not yet arrived, for I added one species to my list on the morning of my departure, the Red-eyed Vireo, but it seems probable that most of them had got there by the 6th of June and that the list, therefore, shows practically the entire breeding population, together with a few species which were doubtless only migrants. The list, however, relates to but a single season and can only be regarded as a tentative or "preliminary" list of the summer birds of the island.

## LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED AT MONHEGAN, MAY 30-JUNE 6, 1908.

1. *Gavia imber*—Loon. One seen June 1st.
2. *Larus argentatus*—Herring Gull. Seen constantly in small gatherings along the shores. The most I was sure of having seen in any one day were sixteen adults and two immature birds on June 3rd. They were not breeding on the island.
3. *Sterna sp.*—Tern. Abundant. I was unable to identify any of these birds positively by sight, but to judge by their notes they were all Common Terns (*S. hirundo*). Not breeding on the island.
4. *Phalacrocorax auritus*—Double-crested Cormorant. One observed May 31st, June 3rd, and June 4th, flying along the shore or perching on a spar buoy.
5. *Meergus serrator*—Red-breasted Merganser. One pair seen June 1st.
6. *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*—Black-crowned Night Heron. One seen June 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.
7. *Actitis macularia*—Spotted Sandpiper. Two or three pairs seen.
8. *Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*—American Osprey. A pair seen June 5th, and single birds at other times.
9. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*—Black-billed Cuckoo. One heard singing June 4th, 5th, and 6th.
10. *Chordeiles virginianus*—Nighthawk. One seen June 1st, near Green Point.
11. *Tyrannus tyrannus*—Kingbird. Five observed.
12. *Nuttallornis borealis*—Olive-sided Flycatcher. One seen May 31st, two seen June 2nd, and three on June 4th.
13. *Myiochancs virens*—Wood Pewee. Two singing.
14. *Empidonax traillii alnorum*—Alder Flycatcher. One June 2nd, one June 3rd, two June 4th, four June 5th, and one June 6th, all singing. As I left the island on the morning of the 6th, the fact that I noted but one on that day is not to be taken to indicate that



the others had departed. The abundant growth of alders on the island ought to insure the presence of this bird there as a regular summer resident.

15. *Corvus corax principalis*—Northern Raven. One pair with nest and two young birds. An account of this nest and my observations of the Ravens will be found in the September-October (1908) number of *Bird-Lore*.

16. *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—American Crow. About eight individuals seen.

17. *Astragalinus tristis*—American Goldfinch. One pair.

18. *Spinus pinus*—Pine Siskin. One observed June 1st and 3rd.

19. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*—Savanna Sparrow. The commonest land bird of the island. On May 31st I heard eleven singing and saw one pair besides engaged in courtship. On June 2nd I heard nine singing and observed four that were not singing. Other days fewer were observed, but undoubtedly the total number of pairs on the island was greater than these figures indicate. There was a peculiarity in the song that I do not remember to have noticed elsewhere. The ordinary song of this species is well rendered by Dr. Dwight as *tsip-tsip-tsip' sé-e-e-s'r-r-r*. These Monhegan birds had a loud *wiss*, a short, emphatic note, in the middle of the song, and to my ears apparently synchronous with the *se-c-c* note. Since leaving Monhegan I have heard Savanna Sparrows in two widely separated localities in Massachusetts and have listened in vain for the interpolated note, which I take to be a purely local variation.

20. *Spizella pusilla*—Field Sparrow. Only one noted, singing, June 5th.

21. *Junco hyemalis*—Slate-colored Junco. Probably six or eight pairs on the island.

22. *Melospiza melodia*—Song Sparrow. Not more than six males (singing birds) observed in any one day. It is probable, however, that the number of pairs somewhat exceeded that.

23. *Hirundo erythrogastra*—Barn Swallow. A single bird observed every day.

24. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*—Cliff Swallow. Five seen.

25. *Iridoprocne bicolor*—Tree Swallow. Four seen.

26. *Riparia riparia*—Bank Swallow. Three seen June 3rd.

27. *Vireosylva olivacea*—Red-eyed Vireo. Not noted till June 6th, when a single one was heard singing.

28. *Helminthophila rubricapilla*—Nashville Warbler. Not noted till June 4th, when one was heard singing; three were heard on the 5th, and two on the 6th.

29. *Dendroica aestiva*—Yellow Warbler. Two singing.

30. *Dendroica virens*—Black-throated Green Warbler. Seven singing on June 5th. Other days not so many noted.

31. *Dendroica coronata*—Myrtle Warbler. Only one observed, a male, on June 5th, not singing.

32. *Dendroica magnolia*—Magnolia Warbler. Three singing.

33. *Dendroica striata*—Black-poll Warbler. One singing and one pair, June 1st; one singing, June 2nd; one singing and three females, June 3rd; one singing, June 4th and 5th. The three females seen June 3rd were together and associated with other Warblers. They were doubtless migrating, as perhaps they all were, but one male sang in one place several days, and I am inclined to think he may have been intending to spend the summer there.

34. *Geothlypis trichas*—Maryland Yellow-throat. One male and one female observed.

35. *Setophaga ruticilla*—American Redstart. This and the Black-throated Green were the commonest Warblers. I heard as many as eight singing on the 5th, and saw a pair besides. Other days not so many were noted.

36. *Toxostoma rufum*—Brown Thrasher. I was much surprised on June 3rd to hear the familiar chip, or smack, of this species, and afterwards to see the bird in some bushes. Monhegan

seemed an unlikely place for the Thrasher, and I saw only this single bird, and him only this once.

37. *Penthestes atricapillus*—Chickadee. Seven observed.

38. *Regulus satrapa*—Golden-crowned Kinglet. Three singing.

39. *Planesticus migratorius*—American Robin. The Robin is such a rover that it is hard to say just how many birds were seen on the island, but I do not think I saw more than half a dozen pairs.

There are, I was glad to find, no English Sparrows on Monhegan as yet. Some other birds I missed less willingly, such as the Thrushes, whose entire absence was somewhat of a surprise to me. The White-throated Sparrow is another bird I expected to find there but did not. It seems strange, too, that only one Myrtle Warbler was seen, and that Parula Warblers appeared to be absent in spite of a great abundance of usnea. Probably the limited area of the island is responsible for these absences. Monhegan is, indeed, small enough to make a detailed and comprehensive study of its bird-fauna both comparatively easy and very profitable. From what I heard there, I judged that birds were very abundant on the island during the migrations, and particularly in the autumn. If any observer has made, or does in future make, full and careful records of the migrations there, or of the summer and winter bird population, it would be a kindness to publish them for the benefit of New England ornithologists.

## A Family of Loons at Sebago Lake.

By DR. WM. C. KENDALL, Scientific Assistant, U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

Last year in Camp Cove, Sebago Lake, I took a picture of a Loon's nest and eggs. At the time that picture was made the water was very low and the nest was situated on a sand bar with little or no protection. It contained an unusual lot of material and was con-

structed high above the ground. This nest was unusually peculiar from its situation, amount of material, and in other respects. The customary site for a Loon's nest is on a small island or tussock or the like, surrounded by water and inconspicuous. Here the nest has very little material in its structure, and it closely resembles its surroundings. It is on a so-called floating island, or mass of peat-like stuff and roots that would not bear one's weight.

Having been warned by a certain person that he was going to Camp Cove, and if the eggs were not then hatched he was going to take them, since he believed that they would not hatch, I hied me forth to get a picture of the eggs. My wife and daughter accompanied me. As we entered the cove we saw two old Loons and one young swimming away some distance from the nest. In order to try to get close enough to photograph them, we started slowly toward them. The head Loon, uttering a cry of alarm, began to flap his wings and rush off over the water much as they do when trying to fly or rise from the water. He made a great splashing and mournful cries. Suddenly he shot out of the water, with a shrill cry, and dove, out again with another cry and down, and the third time the same. We continued toward the remaining Loon. This old Loon, uttering short cries, dove and appeared repeatedly in quick succession and left the young one, but was apparently not so agitated as the other. When we approached the young one it came toward us. I had difficulty in keeping far enough away to photograph it. In fact, I got no good picture. The little thing came close to the boat and my wife picked it up and it cuddled down in her hands very contentedly. We returned it to the water and rowed rapidly away from it, but it at first tried to follow, then gave it up. When we were far enough away the old Loon returned and took it away with her. But when we approached the nest the first old Loon came rushing toward us with loud cries and great splashing of water and flapping of wings, now and then diving as before. Some hundred yards or less away he stopped and cried continuously and anxiously. As we got closer to the nest we heard the peeping of the young Loon—another one—but we could not detect it until it began

to swim out to us. Again I had difficulty in getting a picture, as the little thing persisted in coming close to the boat. I managed to get several snap shots. My little girl took this little Loon in her hands and it, too, rested there contentedly. I snapped him in that position.

Some days later I found no Loons in the cove. A couple of weeks or more later I found two old Loons and a good sized young one there. I saw no sign of the other. What had become of it I do not know, but I hope it was there somewhere still alive.

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## **A Noteworthy Addition to the Bird Literature of the State of Maine.**

By W. H. BROWNSON.

THE BIRDS OF MAINE. With key to and description of the various species known to occur or to have occurred in the State, an account of their distribution and migration, showing their relative abundance in the various counties of the State, as well as other regions, and contributions to their life histories. By Ora Willis Knight, M. S., Member of Maine Ornithological Society, Member American Chemical Society, Member American Ornithologists' Union, etc. Bangor, Me., 1908.

Mr. Knight's important new book on "The Birds of Maine," which has long been awaited with keen interest, has at last appeared in a bulky, well printed, and well bound octavo volume of nearly seven hundred pages. It has been in preparation so long that the author must feel delighted to see his task brought to a successful close. Since his early boyhood he stated that it has been his hope to some day write a book relating to the life histories of the birds of his native State, Maine. For years he has been collecting data regarding the nesting and food of our native birds with this object in view. Some years ago he published a list of the birds of Maine, largely devoted to county records, and this served as a beginning for the much more ambitious work now completed.

The book contains about thirty excellent half-tone illustrations. The typography is all that could be desired. The book opens with

a complete summary of characters of the orders and families compiled with regard to those found in Maine. Then follows the body of the book, devoted to full and accurate descriptions of each species, their geographical distribution, and the county records. A full life history of each bird is given, comprising dates of spring and fall migration, notes as to abundance, observations on habitat, description of song and call notes, habits, nesting season, approximate time of incubation, description and measurements of eggs, observations on young birds, and statements regarding food supplies. The order followed is that of the A. O. U. check list. Analytical keys to the various orders and species have been given. Under each species the various plumages are described in a few words, and measurements given. The descriptions and measurements are compiled largely from Ridgway, Chapman and Dwight. Data relating to nests and eggs are taken as far as possible from specimens actually in the author's collection, and which have been collected in Maine.

The author very candidly remarks that some species vary in habits in different localities. For this reason he wishes it distinctly understood that when he states that certain things are so or not so, regarding a species under discussion, such statements of the author are to be understood as being the results of his own observations in the regions where he has observed the species. It is not denied that others may have observed the opposite to be true of a species elsewhere. The author's observations have been made in the regions where he has gained his knowledge of the species, and he has endeavored to describe and interpret things from his personal point of view as carefully and accurately as possible. His contributions to the sum of knowledge regarding the period of incubation of many species are especially valuable, covering a ground which has not been touched upon except in rare instances.

Among the life histories, which are especially full and interesting, are those of the Grebes, Loon, Herring Gull, various Ducks and Sandpipers, Ruffed Grouse, Bald Eagle, the Woodpeckers, Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will, Crow, Blackbirds, many of the

Sparrows, Swallows, Yellow Palm and other Warblers, and the Thrushes. At the end of the book there is a hypothetical list of birds which may almost certainly be expected to occur in the State, but which have as yet not been positively detected. Among these is the Bicknell's Thrush, which is almost beyond doubt a breeding species in Maine, but no specimen has yet been actually taken. In his summary Mr. Knight says, "The number of species given in the list as positively occurring, or as having occurred of their own free will within our limits, or being introduced to have persisted until the present time, is 327. Of these some 26 are permanent residents, including 2 introduced species. The summer residents include 115 species. Those occurring chiefly or entirely as migrants are 75. The winter residents and winter visitors of fairly general or regular occurrence include 40 species. The accidental visitors, casual visitors and stragglers include 67 species, and the remaining 4 species formerly occurred but are now extinct, 3 utterly extinct and the other one extinct so far as its occurrence in the northeast is concerned." A synopsis is given showing the status of the various species, enumerating the different permanent residents, summer residents, migrants, winter visitors and stragglers. There is a chapter devoted to the faunal areas to accompany the map which appears as a frontispiece for the book. Then follows a partial list of various books and periodicals, which contain articles relating more or less directly to the birds of Maine. There is a complete and satisfactory index which renders the book accessible for ready reference.

Mr. Knight has put a great amount of time and thought into the preparation of this volume. He has produced a book which will be invaluable to Maine bird students, and which will readily supply the need of all other manuals so far as local bird study is concerned. The author has collected a great mass of material, which in general has been handled with the utmost skill. From the fact that the book was begun several years ago, a few migration dates may need revision, which can be easily accomplished if a second edition becomes necessary. As a matter of fact, in so exhaustive a work, written by a man who is so thoroughly conversant with

the region in which he lives, it is surprising that those familiar with remoter parts of the State do not find more occasion for criticism upon matters of detail. After all is said, high praise should be awarded to Mr. Knight for his contribution to the bird lore of Maine. There will be a wide demand for the book, both in this State and elsewhere, and it is hoped that the author will receive the pecuniary profit that he deserves, as well as the thanks and appreciation of the ornithologists of Maine.

## List of Members of Maine Ornithological Society, December 1, 1908.

Following is a list of Honorary, Corresponding and Active Members of the Maine Ornithological Society, December 1, 1908:

### Honorary Members.

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 BROWN, NATHAN CLIFFORD, Portland, Me.  
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### Christmas Bird Census.

The Christmas bird census, begun in 1905 and repeated in 1906 and 1907, has proved so successful, and the reports were of so much permanent value, that it will be taken again this year in much the same manner as before. Begin on the morning of December 20th and continue until the evening of December 31st. Keep as accurate account as possible of the number of every species you see and send the reports to W. H. Brownson, 85 Market Street, Portland, during the first week in January. It is desirable that the report be sent, even if the list of birds seen is not large. In connection with the report add all items of interest noted during the twelve days of the Christmas census.

# The Journal

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The present issue of the JOURNAL completes the tenth volume, which contains about one hundred and twenty-five pages made up of contributions of permanent value by the members of the Maine Ornithological Society. Many articles have been printed which are distinct additions to the bird literature of the State. Copious migration reports have been a feature of the JOURNAL for several years, and the latest ones in this volume are compiled with unusual care. The members of the society have furnished a goodly number of notes containing current news about birds, and giving many observations of interest. The list of members printed in this issue shows that the society is having a steady and healthy growth. Very few members are in arrears. It is especially to be desired that dues and subscriptions be paid promptly in advance. The editor desires to thank all the members who have responded so readily to his request for articles and notes. It is urged that during the coming year a persistent effort be made to increase the membership. Almost every member can secure one new name if he makes the necessary effort. If the list of members could be doubled, a larger and better JOURNAL, more satisfactorily illustrated, could be issued. The eleventh volume will be kept up to the former standard, and improved as opportunity offers.

The article by Mr. Francis H. Allen, of Boston, on the birds of Monhegan Island, printed in this number of the JOURNAL, is a careful and satisfactory piece of work. The thanks of the society are due to Mr. Allen for his excellent contribution.

The financial condition of the Maine Ornithological Society is more encouraging than it has been for many years. There is money enough in the treasury to pay all outstanding bills, and to enable the society to begin its work for 1908 free from debt. This happy state of affairs has been brought about by special contributions from a number of leading members, and from the fact that, as a rule, dues have been paid promptly in advance. A continuation of the same degree of interest during the coming year will materially increase the strength and efficiency of the organization.

It is hoped and expected that the coming annual meeting, to be held in Portland, November 27 and 28, will be largely attended, both by local members and those who live in other parts of the State. A program of interest will be provided, the exact nature of which cannot yet be announced. Doubtless there will be, on the evening of the 28th, a talk by several members, with stereopticon illustrations.

This number of the JOURNAL is issued somewhat earlier than usual, in order that it may be in the hands of members in advance of the annual meeting.

Announcement of the coming Christmas bird census will be found on another page. It is especially desired that all members participate to the extent of their ability. No matter how small the list, if it is accurate, it is of value. Observers who have not had long experience are asked to be very careful in their identifications and estimates of numbers.

During the coming year more members should contribute notes to the JOURNAL, as this department is of the greatest interest. Not over a dozen members have sent notes the past year, but it is hoped that three times that number, at least, may be heard from in the near future. Almost any note is worth printing, no matter how trivial it may seem to the writer, if it is correct and does not carry statements that are plainly open to doubt.

## The Ornithological Magazines.

THE AUK.—The *Auk* for October, 1908, completes its twenty-fifth volume. It contains interesting additions to Audubon literature by Ruthven Deane, and Dr. C. Hart Merriam, and there are articles on "Some Birds of Central Alabama," by Aretas A. Saunders; "Birds of the Bellingham Bay Region," by J. M. Edson; "List of the Birds of Louisiana," Part V., by G. E. Beyer, Andrew Allison and H. H. Kopman; "Recent Bird Records from Manitoba," by Ernest Thompson Seton; "Birds of the Region about Needles, California," by N. Hollister; "The Birds of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota," by Albert B. Reagan; "Changes of Plumage in *Buteo Swainsoni*," by E. S. Cameron; with the usual number of general notes.

THE CONDOR.—The *Condor* for July–August, 1908, contains "Sierra Forms on the Coast of Sonoma County, California," by Joseph Mailliard; "A Bit of Early California Natural History," by Frank S. Daggett; "Summer Birds of the Upper Salinas Valley and Adjacent Foothills," by G. Willett; "Field Notes from Alaska," by Joseph Dixon; "The Nesting of the Rocky Mountain Screech Owl in Wyoming," by Charles W. Metz; "Birds on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico," by M. French Gilman; "An Annotated List of the Birds of Mesa County, Colorado," by Robert B. Rockwell; with the usual number of notes from field and study.

BIRD-LORE.—*Bird-Lore* for September–October, 1908, continues the articles on "The Flycatchers," with admirable colored portraits. Also articles on "A Raven's Nest," by Francis H. Allen; "Hummingbird Eccentricities," by Mary Pierson Allen; "A Mockingbird's June," by Albert V. Goodpasture; "The Growth of Young Black-billed Cuckoos," by A. A. Saunders; "Chestnut-sided Warbler," by Mary C. Dickerson; "Rose-breasted Grosbeak," by F. E. Howe; "Florida Blue Jay," by Frank M. Chapman; with the usual number of notes from field and study.

THE WILSON BULLETIN.—The *Wilson Bulletin* for September, 1908, contains "Birds of Point Pelee," by Taverner and Swales;

"Alexander Wilson, III," by Frank L. Burns; "August Notes from a Watering Place," by Althea R. Sherman; "Notes on Henslow's Sparrow in Mahoning County, Ohio," by Ernest W. Vickers; "Winter Notes from Detroit, Mich., and Vicinity," by Bradshaw H. Swales.

THE GUIDE TO NATURE.—The *Guide to Nature* for September, 1908, has finely illustrated articles on "Desert Plant Life," "Microscopy," "Use of the Camera in Photographing the Aquatic Fowl," and many fine half-tones accompanying notes on general nature study.

The United State Department of Agriculture has issued a pamphlet giving in detail a summary of the Game Laws in all the States of the Union.

### **Pine Siskins Unusually Abundant.**

Pine Siskins have been unusually abundant all through Cumberland County since about the middle of October. On the 18th of October, the Cape Elizabeth woods were fairly filled with them. In a circle half a mile in diameter, covered by pitch pines, there were several hundred of them. A week later they had apparently all gone. A week after that, they were again in the same locality, not quite so numerous as before. Up to the middle of November they have continued to be abundant all through the southern part of Cumberland County. Reports from other parts of the county are to the effect that they have been just as abundant everywhere. They have commonly been seen in flocks of fifty or seventy-five, coursing rapidly over the fields and often dropping down into the pines to extract seeds from the cones much after the manner of Crossbills. They are very partial to alder swamps, which they seem to like almost as well as the pines. On account of their exceptional abundance this fall, many people not familiar with them before, have had a chance to make close observations of their handsome streaked plumage, distinctly tinged with greenish yellow.

With the Siskins there are good-sized flocks of both species of Crossbills. Flocks of forty or fifty of these birds are not at all unusual this fall. A flock of White-winged Crossbills has been roaming through the southern part of Cumberland county since early in September.



## Bird Notes.

Notes and observations upon bird life within our State are earnestly desired from all our readers for publication in this column, and should be sent to the Editor, W. H. Brownson, 85 Market street, Portland, Maine.

We note with much satisfaction the increasing frequency with which the members of our society report to this JOURNAL their ornithological observations. This is an important part of our duties, one to another, and should be shared in by all interested in bird life. The JOURNAL'S columns are always open to contributors of items of general interest relating to Maine birds, and we trust our members will, through this medium, disseminate such knowledge as they personally possess.

FALL MIGRANTS.—The Yellow Palm Warbler, which is a rare migrant in my locality, has been common this fall. In previous years I have usually seen about one to three in the fall and never any in the spring, though I have always made a thorough search for them.

Pine Siskins have been plentiful throughout the fall and Redpolls have been abundant since October 22nd.

November 7th, while looking for Ducks, a Dusky Duck from a flock came and lighted on the shore a short distance from me, and viewing it through a field glass I noted that its bill was dark colored, very much like the head and neck, so I judged this to be the typical species.

The same day I saw the following species of land birds: Snow Bunting, Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow and Hermit Thrush. The Fox Sparrows and Hermit Thrushes were quite common. This condition of things was doubtless due to the strong winds which had prevailed steadily for more than a week. That night the wind ceased blowing and the next day I found that the birds had nearly all taken their departure. I saw, however, a few Juncos, a White-crowned Sparrow, and a Hermit Thrush.

DANA W. SWEET.

Phillips, November 9, 1908.

HARLEQUIN DUCKS ON MAINE COAST.—On October 19th current, Sumner Robinson and Wilnot R. Evans, Jr., both of this locality, shot three male and one female Harlequin Ducks in Jericho Bay. They were shot off the Black Horse Ledge, and were on the wing coming in to Eider Duck decoys. Another female was wounded, but not taken, and another male seen. On the same date the same parties took one male Northern Eider Duck.

CHARLES F. JENNEY.

Boston, Mass., October 24, 1908.

A REDHEADED WOODPECKER.—On the morning of the second day of September, I was notified that a pair of strange birds was in the old orchard on the hill that rose above the house where I was staying. Catching up my glass, I hastened to the orchard, but before I reached it one of the birds had flown; the one remaining proved to be an adult Redheaded Woodpecker. In the afternoon and on the next day I again saw an adult bird. There was a family of the birds, for I saw one young Redhead on a telephone post and another in the orchard. The heads and necks of the immature birds were brown, and their breasts were suffused with the same color, but the wing secondaries were white. The old birds were very shy, and as soon as I drew near enough to see them without my glass they flew away. On one of my visits to the orchard I surprised the bird and myself by going under the apple tree on which he was working. Immediately he flew away, uttering as he took wing his loud call, which reminded me somewhat of the rattle of the Kingfisher. Redheaded Woodpeckers are striking-looking birds, and the pure white of their bodies and wing patches makes them very conspicuous in flight. These birds remained about the place four days, and I feel myself to have been very fortunate in seeing these rare visitants, which doubtless tarried there to feast on the black cherries, which were produced in the greatest abundance, and of which they are extremely fond.

SARA C. EASTMAN.

Portland, Me., November 1, 1908.

A FAMILY OF TOWHEE BUNTINGS.—One day in the latter part of July, a bright, observant boy told me that he had seen a bird somewhat smaller than a robin that showed white in its tail when it flew. At once I said to myself, "a Chewink," and resolved, if possible, to verify my conclusion. Accordingly, the next day, in company with a friend and the kindly boy, I took an old wood road that wound through a large pasture and began my search. After walking some distance I heard the note of the bird, and a few steps further on came upon a family of Towhee Buntings. Great was the trepidation of the parent birds. The handsome male flew to the topmost branch of a clump of bushes, and with constant flirtings of his tail, poured forth a torrent of "chewinks" and "towhees," while the mother bird fluttered about, trying to guide the young birds to a place of safety. Through the low bushes I caught glimpses of two little brown birds hopping over twigs in their efforts to get away from the troublesome intruders, and judged from their movements that they were not yet able to fly. I was delighted to find these, to me, most interesting birds, breeding within a few miles of Portland, for except in migration, Sebago is the only place in Cumberland County where I had ever before seen them.

SARA C. EASTMAN.

Portland, Me., November 1, 1908.

NOTES FROM NORTH BRIDGTON.—We noticed a small flock of Yellow Palm Warblers here Oct. 14th. I mention this because Prof. Knight gives Oct. 1st as a late date about Bangor. •

Pine Siskins are abundant, more so than at any time since 1878.

Gunners are bringing in many Barred Owls, indicating an unusually large flight.

Mrs. Mead and I had the pleasure of studying for two or three days a young Sora Rail that, late in October, frequented a bit of marshy shore near our boat house. We rarely see representatives of this family in our locality.

Since we have been living in our home an elm tree has grown up close by our pantry window till now it is quite a stately tree. It

has always seemed a favorite haunt for birds, and when it was smaller, so that it was entirely in view from the window, Mrs. Mead used to notice so many species coming and going that she finally decided to keep a record of them, but the best days for doing so were gone. The tree was rapidly pushing skyward, and the upper branches were hidden by the foliage of the lower, but here is the record as it stands to-day, and it is not a bad one for a single tree, the trunk of which is not more than six feet from the house. The first record is dated February 29, 1904. Hairy Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, Blue Jay, Baltimore Oriole, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, White-throated Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Junco, Song Sparrow, Indigo Bird, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Northern Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Catbird, Brown Creeper, White-breasted Nuthatch, Chickadee, Hermit Thrush, Robin, Bluebird.

JAMES CARROLL MEAD.

North Bridgton, Nov. 7, 1908.

FULMAR IN MAINE.—Mr. Arthur H. Norton calls my attention to the fact that the Fulmar in the New England collection of the Boston Society of Natural History is the only specimen definitely known from Maine, and it is therefore desirable to make a formal record of it. The bird is catalogued as No. 508, collection of the Society, from "coast of Maine," March, 1879, from G. O. Welch. No further data are at present obtainable.

GLOVER M. ALLEN.

Cambridge, Mass., September 15, 1908.

NEW HAMPSHIRE NOTES.—I suppose everyone who studies nature from the love of it has times when he or she would like to study it at home. At least such has been my experience, but with poor success. The animals and birds that I have tried to tame very

soon came to the end of their life, mainly through my ignorance of their habits.

There are some advantages in having a bird where it can be studied at close range, but its cage life would naturally be different from its wild life. The peculiarities of the individual could be seen in captivity better than in the open.

About fifteen years ago, when we were living near the college buildings in Lewiston, we had two Canary birds. They would not pay very much attention to the family and very little to strangers. One of the professors had a soft, musical voice, and whenever he was in the house the birds would start in to sing. When one of the colored students would come in they would screech about as loud as they could.

Late in the spring of 1904, I found the nest of a Saw Whet Owl. At that time there was one young bird and three eggs in the nest. A few weeks later, when I visited the nest again, the oldest bird had flown and the others were nearly ready to fly. The little fellows were about as large one way as they were the other. As I fed them meat wholly, and they had very little chance to exercise, I was able to keep them only a few weeks. They would always face me unless there were several persons in the room. I had heard it said that an Owl would keep turning its head to follow anyone. These little fellows would turn their heads as far as possible, then they would turn and look from the other side. The old Owl objected to my visits to the nest and did not hesitate to show me that I was not welcome. She would sit on the limb of a tree and snap her bill, and then she would fly at my head. Sometimes she would come nearer than I enjoyed.

I suppose every one has noticed the fuss a Robin makes when her nest is disturbed. During the summer of 1907, I spent some time making photos of the nest and eggs of the Song Sparrow, I think it was. When I would place the camera near the nest she would slip quietly from the nest, fly a short distance, perch on a stone and watch me until I had completed my work and left the nest. She would make little, if any, disturbance.

Another instance came under my observation this last spring. One Friday afternoon, as I was going home, I stopped at a bridge to see a Phoebe's nest. As I was working my way carefully towards the nest, and watching the rocks on which I was to step, the bird left the nest. She must have passed within three or four feet of my head, but she went so quietly that I did not see or hear her.

SHERMAN E. PHILLIPS.

Canterbury, N. H., November 11, 1908.

A FOURTH CUMBERLAND COUNTY CASPIAN TERN AND SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE UPON THE THIRD.—I have just examined a specimen of Caspian Tern, at the taxidermy establishment of Mr. W. D. Hinds, which appears to furnish the fourth specific Cumberland County record.<sup>1</sup> It was sent from Bailey's Island, Harpswell, and received at the shop noted October 17, 1908. It was mounted for Mr. Sinnett, of Bailey's Island. The bird is in worn winter plumage, plainly worn through the summer. Some traces of moult are evident.

The third specimen,<sup>2</sup> recorded as in the collection of Mr. J. A. Coolbroth, has recently been given to the collection of the Portland Society of Natural History.

ARTHUR H. NORTON.

Portland, Me., Nov. 14, 1908.

NOTES FROM DAMARISCOTTA.—The morning of Oct. 15th I was near the Seal Rocks, and before the break of day heard two flocks of Robins in flight, bound, as near as I could tell, in the direction of Monhegan Island, which is quite a distance southwest from where I heard the birds.

The same day I landed on the Eastern Egg Rocks and was very sorry to find the wings only of a large number of Carey Chickens. This was all that was left of the birds, the body being destroyed, no

<sup>1</sup>JOURN. ME. ORN. SOC., VII, p. 57.

<sup>2</sup>JOURN. ME. ORN. SOC., VII, p. 57.

doubt, by mink. I put my toe under a nest, and to my great astonishment found a young Chicken, probably about a week old, and as lively as he would be in July. This was the only young bird I could find, and there was not an adult bird seen on my whole week in this section from Matineus to New Harbor.

The Puffin nested here the past summer, and two birds raised young. I was almost sure that this was done last year, but have fully satisfied myself that they really did do so this year.

The Terns nested on New Harbor Dry Ledge the past season, something that never has been noticed before by any of the oldest fishermen.

Two boys were arrested for destroying eggs and young, but the evidence was not strong enough to convict. This section is under the care of a warden who is as interested as the famous Mark Young, and under the care of Mr. E. E. Bailey I have hopes of a good report another year.

I was much amused this summer to see a common Robin feeding the young of the Golden Robin. They left their nest and were on the lawn under the tree which held their nest, and the little ones were being fed as if they were of the same kind. While the Robin was picking at an extra large worm just taken from the earth, along came an English Sparrow and picked up the worm and flew away with it.

October 9th, I observed an extra large flight of Fox Sparrows and Juncos; also saw two Horned Larks the same afternoon.

F. M. DAVID.

Damariscotta, Me., Nov. 10, 1908.

PORTLAND BIRD NOTES.—During the entire fall Red-breasted Nuthatches have been very abundant in southern Maine. Last year they were very scarce, but the year before that they were very plentiful. Several Golden Plovers were shot at Scarborough and near Biddeford, the 19th and 20th of September. A Stilt Sandpiper was shot at Pine Point October 2nd. White-crowned Sparrows have been quite numerous during the two weeks following October 6th.

Yellow Palm Warblers begin to be abundant soon after the first of October, and a few were still remaining October 25th. Goshawks have been more plentiful than usual this fall. A Red-eyed Vireo was seen October 25th, the earliest to date. A number of Bronzed Grackles were reported October 25th. On that same date Pine Siskins began to be abundant. During the fall the migration of White-throated Sparrows has been unusually numerous. The last flocks of them were seen November 1st, the first of the same day. Redpolls in small numbers were reported by S. S. Smith, probably of their migration unusual late for the season, being seen until November 1st. They were not reported by other flocks after that date. Hermit Thrushes were reported by S. S. Smith during migration, the last week of October, or the first two weeks of November. Eight Meadowlarks were seen together at Westbrook, October 25th, October 26th, the latter of the two flocks contained more Brown Creepers than Field Sparrows. On October 26th, within an hour I counted twenty-five flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds were reported in this section. November 1st, a Kinglet was shot at Pine Point, Newry, probably of its fall migration rather later than usual this fall. The last week in November, Tree Sparrows are plentiful, and a Northern Shrike has made their appearance. Horned Larks and Snow Buntings are at Pine Point, a few Robins still remain, some of which may spend the winter in southern Maine. Pine Grosbeaks were last seen November 10th.

W. H. BROWNSON.

Portland, November 17, 1905.

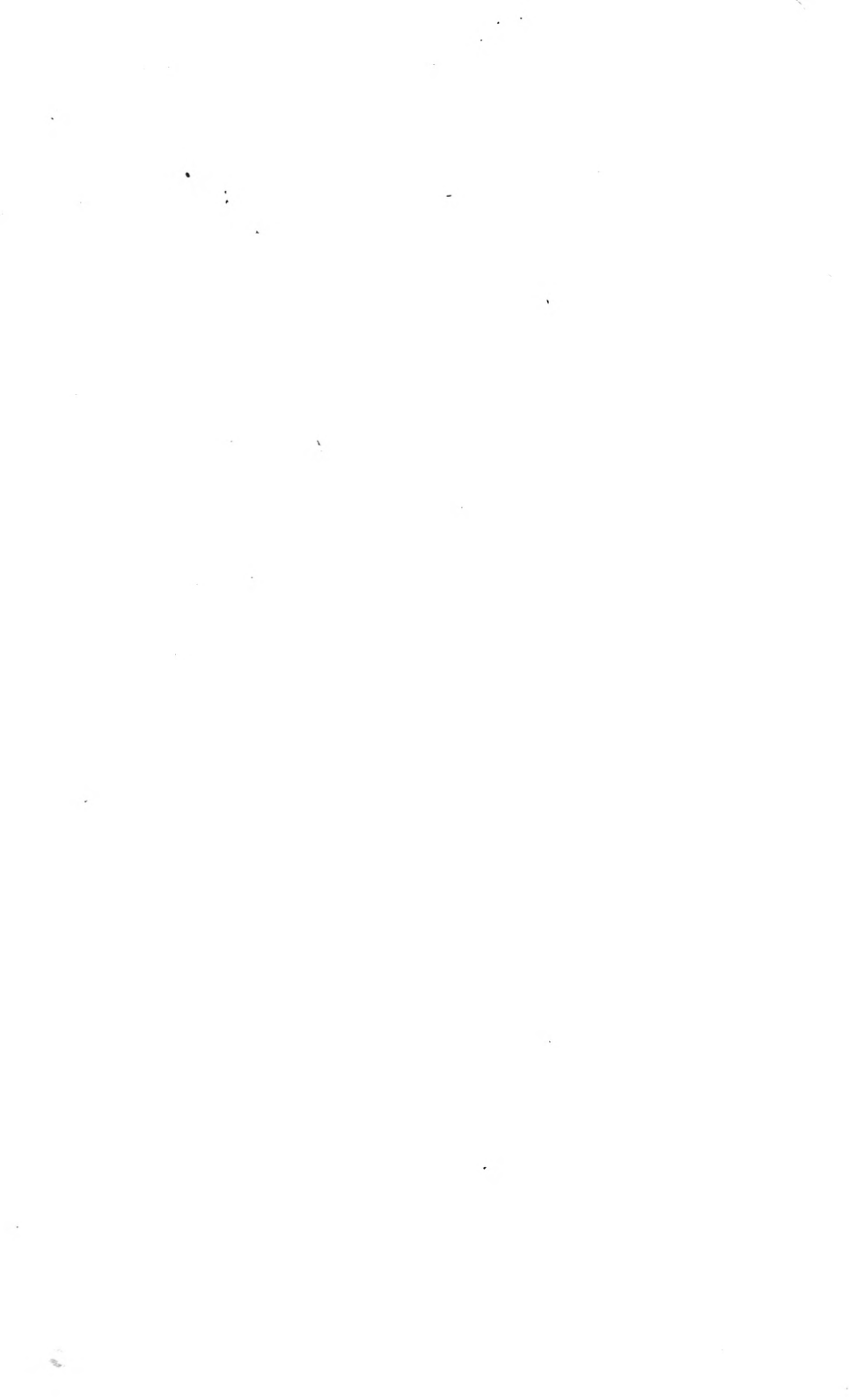
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Members who have copies of Vol. 7, No. 1, March, 1905, Vol. 8, No. 1, March, 1907, or Vol. 9, No. 1, December, 1907, and who do not care to preserve them for binding, will do a favor by sending them to the editor. The file is nearly exhausted for those issues of the JOURNAL, and there are frequent calls for complete sets from libraries in different parts of the country. Those who have copies issued previous to 1905 should preserve them carefully and send them to the editor unless they are intended for binding. There are many of the early issues of the JOURNAL which are now lacking and it is getting to be difficult to make up a complete set.









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