

Sphyrapicus
varius

58v 9/4/9(33)

Spine v. 37

Sphyrapicus varius.

Concord, Mass.

1895. Among some second-growth oaks near Bateman's Pond this
Oct.6. afternoon I came upon a young Sapsucker, a very tame bird who
allowed me to get within a few yards of him although he took
pains to keep a tree trunk between us most of the time peep-
ing out from behind it with a sly, saucy expression like a
Squirrel as it struck me. The species is the slowest and most
clumsy climber of our Woodpeckers. He is also much given to
fits of pensiveness or abstraction when he seems to be quite
oblivious to what is going on around him. I have seen only
few Sapsuckers in eastern Massachusetts within the past ten
years - not more than one or two in any one season and often
none during the entire season. Probably this is because I
have spent so much of my time in Concord where they appear to
occur much less often than in the region about Cambridge.

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Cambridge, The Garden, Mass.

1899. One seen by me on the 4th, 5th, 10th & 11th (W.B.) and
October. one by W.Deane on the 13th, probably the same bird on each
occasion. I cannot recall noting this species in our garden
before for over thirty years. The bird which visited us this
autumn spent most of his time in the large apple trees and did
not, so far as I could discover, sink any of his sap wells in
my birches or mountain ashes.

Newfoundland
Sphyrapicus varius varius. SAPSUCKER.— One seen by Dr. Shattuck.
Arch. XX, Jan. 1913, p. 115.

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

75. *Sphyrapicus varius* (Linn.) Bd. YELLOW-BELLIED WOODPECKER. — Common — the commonest Woodpecker — at Fort Fairfield. They were generally found about recent clearings, or in the more open mixed woods. At Grand Falls they were common in hard woods.

Bull. N. O. C, 7, July, 1882, p. 150

Addendum to List of Birds known to Occur within
Ten Miles of Point de Monts, Quebec, Canada
Notes of N. A. Comrau, taken at Godbout.

169. *Sphyrapicus varius*. Shot June 13, 1884.

Auk, I, July, 1884. p. 295.

G. Hart Merriam
Lousie Grove, N. Y.

Last Dates Migratory Birds observed by
E. D. Wintle, Fall 1885, Montreal, Can.

Sept. 12. Yellow-
bellied Woodpecker.

O. & O. XI, Mar. 1886, p. 44

Summer Birds of Bras D'Or Region
Cape Breton Id., N.S. J. Dwight, Jr.

20. *Sphyrapicus varius*.

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887. p. 16

Breeding Dates of Birds in Kings
County, N. S. Watson L. Bishop.

Yellow-bellied Woodpecker (*Sphyrapicus va-
rius*). June 2.

O. & O. XIII, Mar. 1888 p. 45

Summer Bds. Restigouche Valley, N. B.
July, '88. J. Brittain and P. Cox, Jr.

Sphyrapicus varius. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. — Rare.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 117

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.
A. H. Alberger.

402. Yellow-bellied Woodpecker. Tolerably
common.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 87

Dwight, Summer Birds of
Prince Edward Island.

Sphyrapicus varius. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. — This species was
so unexpectedly rare and seldom met with.

Auk X, Jan, 1893. p. 52?

Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region,
Nipissing District, Ontario,
by Frederick C. Hebel. *Auk* XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 50

20. *Sphyrapicus varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.— Fairly abundant at all times. Breeds.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming,
Part II. Land Birds,
Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 76

157. *Sphyrapicus varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED WOODPECKER.— Abundant migrant, April 8 to May 13, and September 11 to 28; latest records October 7 to 14, 1906. A rather rare summer resident, breeds.

Maine (near Bangor)

Sphyrapicus varius

1885

"Did you know that the Yellow-bellied Woodpecker winters here, at least sometimes? I have heard them in January at Surris when the therm. was at least -25°. It was on the south side of a mountain in a 'flowage' where there were dead ash trees. They were making their rattling calls as in April. I think (but cannot prove it) that they partially hibernate." (W. Hardy in letter of Dec. 11, 1885)

"You ask if I saw the Yellow-bellied Woodpecker, ^{winter} in _{the} No! I did not see them then but they are always

Summer Birds Tim Pond Me. by F. H. C.

Yellow-bellied Woodpecker, (*Sphyrapicus varius*). Only one seen, that being a specimen shot and given me.

O. & O. XI. Feb. 1886. p. 237

seen early in March when the
after falls below zero. There is no
doubt that reaches here so early
The Hawks coming nearest to it. It
is possible, of course, that the bird
I heard rapping was Hairy Woodpecker
but the locality was exactly limited
to the "Yellow-bellied".

(Mandy Handy in letter of Nov 19, 1884)

Summer Birds Tim Pond Me. by F. H. C.

Yellow-bellied Woodpecker, (*Sphyrapicus varius*). Only one seen, that being a specimen shot and given me.

O. & O. XI, Feb. 1886, p. 237

The Sapsucker Wintering in Central Maine.—Inasmuch as the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is a bird of evil repute the facts about to be recorded may not be particularly welcome but as the couplet

“In men whom men condemn as ill
I find so much of goodness still,”

may be true also of ‘our little brothers of the air’ I wish to speak a good word for this much maligned bird.

The Sapsucker is a bird which is not common in our locality. Previous to the winter of 1911–1912 I had seen it only rarely, during migrations, the dates being April 17–19 and October 3–5. Therefore I was much surprised on December 11, 1911, to observe one of these birds in our apple tree in company with a Downy. At first I thought it simply a tardy migrant, but when its visit was repeated on the 13th, 14th and 15th of the month, with snow falling on the last day, my curiosity was aroused to see whether it would winter with us. The nearest approach I could find to a statement of its wintering in our latitude was in an article which appeared in the ‘Lewiston (Maine) Journal,’ under date of April 21, 1893, in which the writer says that the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, “is said to be migratory, but if he is, he frequently stays with us very late and returns very early,” but this statement seems too indefinite to prove the point in question.

My observations were made from the windows of my home and the trees which the bird visited so regularly were sufficiently near to allow most excellent views of him in all positions. He appeared on the 18th, 19th, and 30th of December and on New Year’s Day he spent nearly the entire forenoon in the apple trees near the house, lurching from the frozen fruit which had been left on the trees and hunting over the trunks and branches.

On January 2, he evidently came as soon as it was light and remained until nearly dark, putting in a nine-hour day of hard work without intermission, going at intervals to peek at the apples, but spending the greater part of the time upon the trunks of the trees. The vigorous way in which he threw off great flakes of bark was amusing, and quite a quantity of bark accumulated on the snow under the trees. Who shall say that this work on the trees was not beneficial? One pretty habit which may be worth noting is that while pecking at the apples he would often cling with his feet to the apple he was eating and hang, head downward, as chickadees so often do.

On January 3, he was here the greater part of the forenoon, but about noon there was a great commotion and we rushed to the window only to see an impending tragedy. A Northern Shrike was chasing our Sapsucker. Nearly two weeks elapsed during which time I grieved over the untimely fate of the little feathered friend I was watching with so much interest,—two weeks of extreme cold and of severe storms. On the afternoon of January 16, however, he returned to his old haunts, eating apples and hunting on the tree trunks alternately. He did not seem quite as strong and active as before, owing, perhaps, to the severe weather of the previous fortnight, the mercury having ranged from 28° to 32° below zero.

It was interesting to me to notice on this occasion the perfection of his protective coloring. The trunks of the trees were quite snowy with the rather damp snow clinging to the bark and as the bird remained almost motionless for some time on the trunk of an apple tree his spotted back and the longitudinal stripes on his wings simulated the bark of the tree with the snow upon it so as to almost defy detection. I could locate him only with difficulty even though I knew just where to look. The next day he came again and seemed as sprightly as ever and we also saw him January 19–22, 24 and 31, February 2, 6 and 9, and March 1, 3, 5, 10, 12 and 20. He was also present April 2 and 5, after which date I surmise that he went farther north.

Since that year I have seen the Sapsucker only occasionally during the migrations, the dates being approximately as previously given, in April and October.—HARRIET A. NYE, *Fairfield Center, Me.*

Arch xxxv. July, 1918. P. 353–354.

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N.H. June 11-21 '86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87, W. Faxon

9. *Sphyrapicus varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED WOODPECKER. — Very common. Commonest of the Woodpeckers.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.151

Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem N.H. July-August, 1874. W. Faxon.

J. A. Allen.

5. *Sphyrapicus varius*. Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.154

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N.H. July 12-Sept. 4, 1883. F.H. Allen

Sphyrapicus varius.—Seen several times.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 76

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

Sphyrapicus varius

1894.

June 18 ♂ ad 24 ♂ ad 30 ♂ ad
27 ♀ ad 30 ♀ ad

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.
Sphyrapicus varius

1895.

June 18th seen on Breezy Point
along road a little above
the 1st white post. There
to be, that was the only
Sphyrapicus met with during
our stay May 20th to June 7th

Yellow-bellied Woodpecker, (*Sphyrapicus varius*). Common. Summer resident. Breeds. Arrives in April. Some often remain until late autumn. I have had abundant opportunities to study the breeding habits of this species and with rare exceptions, have found them to select a live tree in which to make their nest.

One hole, from which I took a clutch of five eggs, was twenty feet up in a live, sound looking beech tree, and went four inches horizontally through sound green wood, to the defective heart, in which it went down eight or nine inches.

In a large butternut tree near my home are four holes, in a nearly perpendicular row, about ten inches apart, made by this species (probably the same pair) in four successive seasons, (the last one being made this season), in each of which a family of young have been reared. The Yellow-billed, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers are most unjustly persecuted. The three species are called Red-headed Woodpeckers or Sapsuckers, and are shot whenever there is an opportunity.

Woodpecker found in the vicinity of
Tiptonville, Tn. by G. C. Percy

O. & O. IX, Nov. 1884, p. 132.

Notes on Birds about Brandon, Vermont.

Sphyrapicus varius is a rather rare summer visitant;

F. H. Knowlton.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Jan, 1882, p. 63

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

II. *Sphyrapicus varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.—Two were seen in the valley (one in Stowe village), and a few in the maples on the lower slopes of the mountain.

by Arthur H. Howell.

Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 340.

Mass. (Swampscott)

Sphyrapicus varius

"Abundant every autumn. Have frequently
25 or 30 at once in our orchard"
(W. A. Jeffries)

Mass. (Belmont)

Sphyrapicus varius

1885 In early winter

Dec. 24 Chudbourne tells me that one was ~~shot~~
to-day in Belmont by someone of the
name of Coff(?) Chudbourne saw the bird after it
had been shot. He does not know what
became of it. W.D. Mar. 2 1903.

Mass. (near Cambridge).

887

Oct. 4² 5¹ pm

1888

April 25 (Waltham)

Sphyrapicus varius

Mass. (Melrose)

1888

April 1 (Andover)

Sphyrapicus varius

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1888

APR 25 - Shot a ♀ at Waltham. It was with a
small mixed flock on a wooded hillside
and was hammering on the branch of an oak.
It had no red whatever about the head the
crown being black. Ovaries developed rather full.

Sphyrapicus varius.

1883 *Sphyrapicus varius* Cambridge Belmont

Mr. C. R. Lamb's field catalogue
contains the following record of
specimens taken during the above
autumn: -

432, ♂ Cambridge Sept. 29. Shot
by Genl. Lamb "with his
slings in our garden."

441, ♂ Cambridge, Oct. 6 Shot by Jas Field

442 ♀ " " " " " " Genl Lamb.

470 ♂ " Dec. 1 " " " "

The Yellow Bellied Sapsucker in Bristol County.

BY JOHN C. CAHOON, TAUNTON, MASS.

In the December number of the O & O., 1887, Mr. A. C. Bent writes that he has noticed the omission from Mr. F. W. Andros' list of birds of this (Bristol) county, of several species which occur tolerably regularly, and others which are considered very rare or accidental. He says: "The most noted of these species is the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). This bird, by no means common, could

hardly be overlooked by collectors of any experience."

I consider myself a collector of some little experience, and have spent many days in the woods of this county in the autumn, and I have not taken or seen any of these woodpeckers. I think that I could distinguish this bird from any of the other woodpeckers, as I saw and collected quite a number in Florida in the winter of 1883-84. I have had many of the New England Woodpeckers brought to me to be stuffed and mounted, but none of the Yellow-bellied have been among the number.

If included in the list of the birds of this county, in my opinion it should be recorded as very rare. From Mr. Bent's accounts, he has certainly been more fortunate than either Mr. Andros or myself, and I should like to ask Mr. Bent if his three records of this bird for this fall, were of specimens taken by himself, or seen being without shot.

O. & O., XIII, Apr. 1888 p. 60

Omissions From the List of the Birds of Bristol County, Mass.

BY A. C. BENT, TAUNTON, MASS.

In Mr. F. W. Andros' list of birds of this county in the O. AND O. for September, 1887, I noticed the omissions of several species which occur tolerably regularly, and others which are considered very rare or accidental.

The most noted of these species is the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). This bird, although by no means common, could hardly be overlooked by collectors of any experience.

As a summer resident it is very rare, although I have had eggs brought to me said to be of this species. It occurs in Bristol County as a fall migrant in rather sparing numbers. I have never seen it in the spring. It frequents the same localities as the Hairy Woodpecker, being more often seen in the woods than in open places. The birds are shy and rather difficult to shoot on account of their knack of keeping out of sight; they dodge around the trunks of trees so skillfully that it requires considerable patient waiting to shoot them. I have three records of this bird for this fall.

O. & O., XI, Aug 1886, p. 179

The Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker in Bristol County.

BY A. C. BENT.

Mr. J. C. Cahoon in the April number of the O. & O., refers to my records of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), with some doubt as to their genuineness.

I should like to say in reply that my records are positive in every case. The first bird observed by me in Bristol County was shot last fall and is now in my cabinet; there is no doubt that this specimen is *Sphyrapicus varius*, although not in full adult plumage.

While shooting at Norton a few days afterwards, a Woodpecker flew past me and alighted on a willow tree a few feet ahead of me. I was so close to him that I easily identified him as a fine specimen of this species. While retreating to get a fair shot at him, he darted around the trunk of the tree and disappeared.

The third record is equally good; a bird of this species was shot by a boy living on the outskirts of the city, and brought it to Mr. R. G. White to be stuffed. He will also vouch for the identity of this bird.

I also have two other records for the past year which I cannot guarantee as good from personal experience, still the birds were seen by persons who ought to know them by sight.

Perhaps I made it appear to Mr. Cahoon that the species was common. I do not consider it so, and think it was rather unusual to meet so many of them in one season. Still, there is no reason why this bird should not occur in Bristol County regularly, as it is common in the New England Fauna.

I think it rather strange that Mr. Cahoon has never met with it here, and he may be fortunate enough to take some during our next migration. But they are shy birds and easily overlooked, and very hard to get a shot at when seen.

[During four years experience in the taxidermist business in Boston, I do not think that I have received over half a dozen specimens, nor do I remember a single instance of one in full plumage.—F. B. W.]

O. & O., XIII, July, 1888 p. 107.

R. E. K. Fitchburg.—The birds you write about we think you will not find to be of rare occurrence. Perhaps your Bohemian will prove to be the Cedar. Taking the Yellow-bellied Woodpecker in April was the best catch.

O. & O. XIII, July, 1888 p. 112

**Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire
Co. Mass. June 28 - July 16. W. F. Hou**

7. *Sphyrapicus varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED WOODPECKER. — Several specimens seen at different times on the Graylock carriage road, between two and three miles from the summit. Approximate altitude, 2800 feet. †

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 99

† Although *Ceophloeus pileatus* was not seen by me, the peculiar mortise-like holes which Mr. Brewster assures me are solely the work of this bird, were often noted. Mr. Brewster met with the birds themselves in the Hopper in 1883.

Occurrence of the Yellow-bellied
Woodpecker in New Haven, Ct.

BY W. G. VAN NAME.

The first time I noticed this bird was in August, 1885, in the White Mountains. It was quite abundant, but all the specimens shot were young birds. Returning to New Haven in September I found them tolerably common and they remained late in the fall. In April, 1886, I received a full plumaged male, (April 10th, I think, but I am absent from my collection and can give no exact dates). On the next day my friend, Mr. A. H. Verrill, shot another. I have the specimen still, as well as several others, if any doubt its identity. In September and October 1887, I found them common.

This bird is particularly partial to coniferous trees. I never thought them shy, on the contrary I have considered them quite tame. They are often found within the city limits. I have noticed that they are very active in dodging around the tree when approached closely. Their commonest note is a sort of squeal.

O. & O. XIII, Sept. 1888 p. 135

Some Birds of Lewis Co, N. Y.
C. Hart Merriam

In the Eastern (Adirondack) districts are found
breeding *Sphyrapicus varius*,

Bull. N.O.C., 3, April, 1878. p.53

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

106. *Sphyrapicus varius* (Linn.) Baird. YELLOW-BELLIED WOOD-
PECKER.—Common summer resident, breeding in all sorts of places.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Oct, 1881, p.232

FLEW AGAINST THE WINDOW.—Yesterday, April 2, two
yellow-bellied woodpeckers (*Sphyrapicus varius*), still warm,
were brought into this office. A few moments before, the
birds, one pursuing the other, had flown against the plate-
glass windows of the *Times* office and been killed. It was
rather an odd place for this to happen, in the heart of the
city. They must have been resting in the City Hall Park,
and, chasing each other either in sport or rage, have so met
their death. For. & Tr. Apr. 3-1884 A. 1884

Notes on Some Winter Residents of
Hudson Valley. E. A. Mearns.

14. *Sphyrapicus varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED WOODPECKER.— Fre-
quently observed in the Highlands during the severest winter weather.
Mr. Bicknell gives the following record from Riverdale: "November 24,
1872; December 3, 1874; and January 22, 1876. On the latter date one
was shot while feeding on some decayed apples that still hung on the
branches of a tree, close to the house." Another was taken the same
month, also feeding on decayed apples. Mr. A. J. Huyler states that
"the Yellow-bellied Woodpeckers stayed at Tenafly, N. J., until the last
of December, 1877; and that they were more abundant than they had
been for a number of years."

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p.36

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the
Northern Adirondacks [Cayton], New York [1901]
April 30 to May 5.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Not common.

E. A. Starling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Auk, XIX, July 1892, p.298.

Notes on the birds of Madison County, New York,
with especial reference to Embody's recent list.

8. *Sphyrapicus varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.—Mr. Embody
reckons this a "very common transient visitant." It is only tolerably
common as a migrant, but a few remain to breed.

By William R. Maxon. Auk, XX, July, 1903, p.264.

Albinism and Melanism in North
American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

I have an extremely light colored
specimen of *S. varius*, which I collected at the Umbagog Lakes,
but am inclined to think that this was caused by old age.

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 22

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Sphyrapicus varius. YELLOW-BELLIED WOODPECKER.

The Yellow-bellied Woodpecker poses in a very different character as a traveller than as a settler in its summer home. By reference to Dr. Merriam's entertaining paper on this bird, in the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' for January, 1879, we learn of its habits on its arrival in Lewis County. There it is bold, familiar and preposterously noisy. In the region of which I write it is in general a reserved and quiet bird, and does not often indulge in hammering, even in the spring. Perhaps at the time it passes—April—it is not ready to begin courtship, and drumming, which, as with other Woodpeckers, in a measure takes the place of song, is deferred until the birds are ready to seek their mates.

But though the species in general is undemonstrative with us, there may be an occasional noisy individual. I can cite a good instance under date of April 8, 1880: On the morning of that day a high-plumaged male had chanced upon a wonderfully resonant hollow limb in an old chestnut tree in open woods. No true Woodpecker could miss turning such an occasion to account, and the hard barkless shell was made to do good service. With great satisfaction the bird would deliver at short intervals a loud tattoo—a run of about eight determined raps in irregular succession. After each sally it would throw back its red-patched head with an air of satisfied achievement and survey the woods, which seemed doubly silent after the loud reveille.

I have never known this Woodpecker to drum in the autumn. At that season it seems especially reserved. Many take up their habitation in orchards or on private grounds where there are old apple trees, and from their silence and the close manner in which they hug the limbs seem to haunt them with a constant suspicion, although they are not shy of approach. In these trees they keep up a feeble, restless picking, in their microscopic search of the bark for their hidden food. This is the only sound I have heard from them in the autumn, except an occasional low scream, which may rarely be uttered in the winter.

Auk, 2, July, 1885. p. 258-259.

Nesting of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

This handsome Woodpecker is of common occurrence throughout temperate North America, east of the plains, where it is replaced by its varieties, the Red-breasted (*Sphyrapicus varius ruber*) and Red-naped Woodpeckers (*Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis*). It, however, prefers its northern range in which to breed, and in favored localities it is one of the characteristic summer birds.

This species (*Sphyrapicus varius*) was very abundant during the migrations at Minneapolis, Minn., but very few remained to breed, owing no doubt to the small timber in the vicinity. Lake Minnetonka, fifteen miles from Minneapolis, however, is situated in what is known as the "big woods," and this has always been a favorite resort for the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. It was my good fortune to spend the summer of 1888 at this beautiful lake, and excellent opportunities were offered to observe their nesting habits.

By May 15th the woods were teeming with bird life, as it was the height of their migrations. Gay little Warblers were by far the most numerous, and such rare species as Tennessee (*Helminthophaga peregrina*), Cape May (*Perissoglossa tigrina*), Bay-breasted (*Dendroica castanea*) were abundant. Even the Evening Grosbeaks (*Iesperiphona vespertina*) had not left yet, and their noisy notes could be heard in many directions. The Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were constantly in sight, at times sitting on the top branches of the tallest trees ready to snap up the first insect that showed itself. They are expert flycatchers and live in a great measure on them. Others were seen flying from tree to tree in their peculiar undulating flight. They are a very odd bird and will bear any amount of watching. Their actions at times are most comical. They have a habit of lighting on the trunk of a tree, and remaining in the same stupid position for a quarter of an hour or more at a time as if in deep meditation. At such times they will suffer themselves to be closely approached, and then they seem to wake up and appear greatly startled. Then they immediately dart around on the opposite side of the tree, and as you walk around it they will endeavor to keep the tree between you and themselves, at the same time creeping to the top branches, where they will sometimes lie flat on a limb like a squirrel and in that position they are not readily observed.

At this point the birds were mated and were always together. On May 16th I found a pair busily engaged in excavating a hole in a dead bass wood stump about thirty feet high. They had commenced to dig at a point about two

June 1890.]

AND OOLOGIST.

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feet from the top of the stump, and at about the same distance still further down were two more old holes, probably last year's nesting sites. They had evidently finished work on the first hole, and the next day they immediately began to dig another hole about a foot below the first one. This they completed in two days as the wood was very soft.

I visited the place several times daily, and sometimes I found the birds in one hole and sometimes in the other—the male as often as the female. Things were getting rather mixed, and to add to my consternation I discovered a new hole being excavated on the opposite side of the stump. In this case I always observed it was only the male that was at work, but I could not tell in what hole the female was laying. I thought, however, it was in the lower one, so on May 20th I opened it only to find it empty. I now felt satisfied that the nest was in the upper one, and two days afterwards (the 22d) I tore open this nest and as I reached down I felt eggs.

What a delightful sensation there is about it! I brought them out one at a time until I had a nice set of five. I reached in again for luck and under the soft chips I found another—six. In I went again, one more—seven. This was all, for I removed the chips until they would not cover a Hummingbird's egg. They were perfectly fresh as I could see the yellow yolk through the glossy shell.

In considering the matter I found that in order to lay one egg each day they must have begun on the 16th, the day they finished digging, unless they laid more than one a day. Both the Florida Gallinule and the Sora Rail lay more than one egg a day to my certain knowledge, but whether the Woodpecker did or not I am of course unable to say.

Just as I started up the stump, the male bird, who was on the eggs, flew to a neighboring tree and set up a plaintive cry like *Ki-i Ki-i* shrill and drawn out. When I came down the birds flew immediately to the ragged hole where their nest was, and first one bird would take a peep in a dazed sort of way, then the other; finally the male mustered up courage enough to venture inside, but soon came out, and after a short consultation both flew off.

It was a matter of wonder to me how the birds could enter a hole so small as they did. The entrance to this nest was by measurement but an inch and three-eighths in diameter, and to my eye perfectly circular. It went straight in for a distance of about two inches and then

turned abruptly down and gradually assumed a pear shaped form, wide and spacious at the bottom with a floor of soft chips.

In the meantime I had located another pair building in an iron wood stump. I profited by my first experience and traced the nesting tree by the chips scattered about. The stump was about fifteen feet high, and leaned at an angle of about forty-five degrees. The nest was within a foot of the top and on the underside.

On May 28th I opened this nest. I first cut a suitable tree with a good crotch at the end, and this I placed firmly against a tree and ascended without difficulty. But to open the nest was quite another thing for the wood was dense and solid and thoroughly seasoned. My dull hatchet would hardly make a mark on it, and what was worse, every time I struck the stump it would shake and vibrate so that there was danger of the eggs being broken. I finally succeeded in reaching the eggs by "chewing" off the top of the stub by keeping doggedly at it with the old relic that had served as a wire cutter and coal chisel among other things.

The nest contained a set of five slightly incubated eggs, and whole much to my surprise, as when I was making the opening a great many large chips fell in.

My next was found June 3d, at a height of about fifty feet in the dead top of a large Maple. This nest was also discovered by the presence of chips from the nest. It contained five fresh eggs.

On June 23d, as I chanced to pass the stub I had secured my set of seven from I saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker fly from the same hole that the previous set had been found in. Upon an examination I found another set of four incubated eggs, and what is more I found a small runt egg in the hole on the opposite side of the tree. The runt egg was about the size of a Phoebe's and contained no yolk.

The birds seem to prefer the society of man rather than the seclusion of the woods, as all the nests found were within a hundred yards of a large hotel, where trains and steamboats were moving about.

The eggs are very small for the size of the bird, barely exceeding in size those of the Hairy Woodpecker, but are quite different in shape, being more of a true ovate, and contrary to previously published accounts, those eggs collected by myself are *very glossy*.

I must not forget to mention a peculiar trait the birds have of lighting on telegraph poles and pounding on the wire as it passes over the glass insulation. The result is a loud singing sound that can be heard a long distance. While the wire is vibrating they will stretch out their necks or cock their heads to one side as if enjoying the sound hugely.

January Occurrence of the 'Sapsucker' in Brookline, Mass.—On Feb. 6, 1895, one of the coldest days of the year, with the wind blowing at about forty miles an hour, I sighted a small Woodpecker on the lee side of an apple tree on my father's place in Brookline, Mass. As he seemed a little too large for a Downy Woodpecker, I investigated and found him to be an immature male Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). He was clinging to the trunk of the tree and seemed, upon my approach, to be quite sluggish. I even went so far as to attempt to catch him in my hand, when he suddenly proved that he was not sluggish at all, and flew up into the top of the tree to peck at a frozen apple. So I went back to the house and having procured my gun, gathered him in. He proved to be in fine, fat condition and not crippled in any way. I afterwards found that some nephews of mine had seen him several times on apple trees in the vicinity, but not knowing of the rarity of this occurrence in the month of January, they said nothing to me about it.

I had, on several occasions, during the early part of the winter, noted apparently fresh borings on a Larch tree (*Larix europæa*) on our place, and had heretofore been unable to account for them. I know of no other instance of this bird's wintering in Massachusetts except that Mr. William Brewster writes me he killed one in January some years ago.—
F. H. KENNARD, *Brookline, Mass.*

Sphyrapicus varius

Late occurrence in autumn

Cambridge, Mass

Dec. 1, 1883

One was killed with a "cotaparett" in the Botanic Gardens by George Lamb and is now in the coll. of his brother Charles R. Lamb. I killed one June 1, 1864, in my father's garden in Cambridge but know of no other winter records here.

21

Yellow-bellied Woodpecker see
article under Red-bellied Woodpecker by
Neil J. Posson Medina, N. Y.
O. & O. XIII. Dec. 1888. p. 192

Q. and Q. 312. Yellow-bellied Woodpecker Nesting at Auburn, N. Y. By T. J. Wilson, M. D. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 50.

Q. and Q. 312. Yellow-bellied Woodpecker Nesting at Auburn, N. Y. By T. J. Wilson, M. D. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 50.

614. The Yellow-bellied Woodpecker. *Picus* —. By B. Horsford. *Ibid.*, No. 7, p. 124. Kills trees by girdling them. *For. & Stream*, Vol. XX

469. Habits of the Yellow-bellied Woodpecker. By H. C. Bumpus. *Amer. Naturalist*, XV, p. 738.

929. Nesting of the Yellow-bellied Woodpecker in Northern New York. By S. I. Ingersoll. *Ibid.*, p. 45. *For. & Stream*, XXXIII

File under *Sphyrapicus varius* 1824. Out-of-door Papers. A Question of Taste. By Fannie Pearson Hardy. *Ibid.*, Nov. 14, p. 323. — On food habits of *Sphyrapicus varius*, Vol. 33.

Merula migratoria, *Carpodacus purpureus* and *Pinicola enucleator*. *For. & Stream*, V

Q. and Q. 289. Yellow-bellied Woodpecker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). By J. B. Rathburn [= Rathbun]. *Ibid.*, VI, pp. 25, 26. — On its breeding in small numbers near Auburn, N. Y.

268. *With the Birds on Boston Common*. By Bradford Torrey. *Atlantic Monthly*, LI, Feb. 1883, pp. 203-208. — Contains notes on *Sphyrapicus varius* and *Lanius borealis*, and briefer notices of many other species.

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY.

44 BROAD ST., NEW YORK.

620 ATLANTIC AVE., BOSTON.

POWER DEPARTMENT

BOSTON, Feb. 15, 1896.

My dear Mr Brewster.

As I shall not be able to attend the N.O.L. on Monday I write to let you know that I killed on Feb. 6th, an immature male "Sapsucker". I thought it rather interesting, as I have been unable to find any winter occurrence of this bird in New England.

Kindly let me know if I am wrong about this last.

He was in good condition, pointing fat. Will the museum ever to show that he had been around Brookline all winter. My nephew saw one - and saw barings on apple trees - and a hawk, seem to show his continued presence. Sincerely,
Fred. H. Remond

NOTES ON THE HABITS, NESTS, AND EGGS OF
THE GENUS *SPHYRAPICUS* BAIRD.

BY CAPT. CHARLES E. BENDIRE.

1. *Sphyrapicus varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.

THE general habits of the eastern representative of this genus, *Sphyrapicus varius*, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, have been so well written up by Mr. William Brewster in the 'Bulletin' of the Nuttall Ornithological Club (Vol. I, No. 3, Sept., 1876, pp. 63 to 70), and later by Dr. C. Hart Merriam in the same 'Bulletin' (Vol. IV, No. 1, Jan. 1879, pp. 1 to 6), that there remains nothing new for me to state.

As some of the readers of 'The Auk' may not have access to the above-mentioned articles, I will simply mention that, according to Mr. Brewster, the favorite nesting-sites of *S. varius* are large, dead birches, and that the average height of the excavation from the ground is at least 40 feet, in some instances considerably more, and that a decided preference is manifested by this species for the vicinity of water. He gives the eggs as numbering from five to seven in a set, and varying considerably in shape, some being oblong, others decidedly elliptical. They average .85 in length by .60 inches in breadth, are pure white in color, and, he states, there is much less of that fine polish than in eggs of the other species of Woodpeckers he had examined.

The average measurement of the few eggs of *S. varius* in the Collection of the National Museum, six in number only, is .84 × .65 inches.

Auk, V, July, 1888. p. 225.

BULLETIN
OF THE
NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

Vol. IV. JANUARY, 1879. No. 1.

REMARKS ON SOME OF THE BIRDS OF LEWIS COUNTY,
NORTHERN NEW YORK.

BY C. HART MERRIAM.

(Continued from p. 128, Vol. III.)

Sphyrapicus varius. YELLOW-BELLIED WOODPECKER.— This elegant species, second only to the Red-headed Woodpecker in point of beauty, is a common summer resident in Lewis County, frequenting alike the orchards and hard-wood groves of the central district, and the dense evergreen forests, Canadian in Fauna, of the Adirondack region in the eastern, and the Tug Hill range in the western, portion of the county.

The males reach us about the middle of April (April 13, 1878), and are followed by their partners about a week afterwards. They depart during the latter part of August, though a few scattering individuals, chiefly young, may be seen throughout September and even into October. These individuals I believe to be migrants who breed farther north and tarry with us but a day or two during their journey southward. Still it is true that they are most frequently seen about the "food-trees" (to be mentioned farther on), and it may be that a few inexperienced young of our own summer residents remain, reluctant to leave these favorite provision stores, after their parents and brothers are already well on the way to their winter-quarters.

Their breeding habits have been so fully and graphically portrayed (in an early number of this Bulletin *) by the able pen of

* Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club, Vol. I, No. 3, pp. 63-70, September, 1876.

or Sapsucker is the most numerous. It may fairly be said to be abundant in that district. I base this statement upon my daily count of birds seen between April and the middle of October in the years 1889 and 1890. I frequently record seeing from seven to ten of these birds in a day. Their favorite haunts are mixed growths of young birch, larch, hemlock, maple and white ash bordering water or wet lands.

My attention has been drawn to the Yellow-bellied Woodpeckers on two accounts:—their quickness to observe and persistence in scolding my tame Owls when in the woods; and their destruction of certain forest trees.

Last summer I was led to spend a considerable time in close study of these Woodpeckers and their feeding habits by the peculiar relations which I noticed as seeming to exist between them and Hummingbirds. My observations were given point by my recollection of the difference of opinion among ornithologists regarding the diet of these Woodpeckers and their motive for tapping sap-yielding trees. I had heard it said that their sole reason for drawing the sap was to attract insects which they then fed upon. I had also heard that they ate the tender cambium layer which intervenes between the bark and inner wood of trees. I knew well that the birds were insect-eaters for I had often seen them fly into the air with the grace of a Tyrant Flycatcher or Cedarbird and capture insects on the wing.

On July 19, 1890 while watching a group of birds gathered in the woods around my tame Owl, Puffy, two Yellow-bellied Woodpeckers and a Hummingbird attracted my attention. The Woodpeckers were scolding the Owl, when the Hummingbird darted towards one of them, hummed before it, rushed at the other, and then seeing the Owl flew at him squeaking furiously. Then it flew back to the first Sapsucker and perched near it. On the 21st I returned to the spot and found near by a Sapsucker's 'orchard' of about a dozen *...*

YELLOW-BELLIED WOODPECKERS AND THEIR UNINVITED GUESTS.

BY FRANK BOLLES.

OF THE seven species of Woodpeckers which I have found in the region of Mt. Chocorua, New Hampshire, the Yellow-bellied

April 1892

THE AUK:

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF
ORNITHOLOGY.

VOL. IX.

APRIL, 1892.

No. 2.

YOUNG SAPSUCKERS IN CAPTIVITY.

BY FRANK BOLLES.

AS READERS of 'The Auk' may remember, I spent much time during the summer of 1890 in watching Yellow-bellied Woodpeckers at work in their 'orchards' near Mt. Chocorua, N. H. From my observations I drew the following conclusions ('The Auk,' July, 1891, p. 270), that "The Yellow-bellied Woodpecker is in the habit . . . of drilling . . . trees for the purpose of taking from them the elaborated sap, and in some cases part of the cambium layer; that the birds consume the sap in large quantities for its own sake and not for insect matter which such sap may chance occasionally to contain; that the sap attracts many insects of various species, a few of which form a considerable part of the food of this bird."

These conclusions differed so radically from opinions held by many ornithologists that some persons, who either doubted the sufficiency and unimaginativeness of my observations, or who read my conclusions without scrutinizing my statements of fact, were unwilling to admit that I had proved the Yellow-bellied Woodpecker to be a sap-drinker. In order to present additional and different evidence in the case, I determined to secure several living Sapsuckers, to cut them off as completely as might be practicable from insect food, to feed them if possible upon concentrated maple sap, and to see whether a diet of that kind would

*Geophloeus
pilatus*

Hytobomus pileatus

1890 Mass.

May 17 Winchendon. A set of 4 eggs "incubated 6 or 8 days" taken by C. E. Bailey. Nest, 4 eggs

Mr. Bailey discovered the birds May 12th but did not look for the nest until the 16th when he found it in a dead hemlock 75 ft. high and 3 ft. through at the butt. The nest was 30 or 40 ft above the ground. Both birds were in the hole at one time on this date.

The next day (17th) B. with the help of an assistant built a rude staging up to the nest and secured the eggs without cutting out the hole which proved large enough to admit his hand and arm. The ♀ bird showed much devotion to her eggs remaining in the hole until ^{she} began for a long time ^{and} after being finally ^{driven} ^{she returned} coming out ^{again} before B. got to the nest. After the eggs were taken she ^{came back} ^{retreated} again and entered the hole where she remained looking out, however, much of the time. The ♂ was not at home at first but finally came keeping off a little way and "talking a good deal." On the evening of the 23rd Mr. Bailey returned to the place but could not find either of the birds. (See letter May 24-90. C. E. Bailey) (C. skin of bird shot by Bailey in winter of 1892-3 or 1893-4 in my collection)

1892 Mass.

May 30 Franklin County. Purdie tells me that on May 30th 1892 In Franklin Co., Mass. he saw a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers on Mt. Tobey in Franklin Co. just east of the Conn. Riv. They were in a sugar maple grove on the mountain side.

N. H.

Sept. Franconia. Mr. C. E. Faxon tells me that ^{in September} two or three years ago (about 1892) ~~which he was~~ his elder brother saw a Pileated Woodpecker feeding on rum cherries near the house where he was staying. The bird came every day from the woods & was seen to eat the cherries repeatedly. A boy finally shot the bird Eating rum cherries

M. ABBOTT FRAZAR,

Taxidermist

AND DEALER IN

NATURALISTS' SUPPLIES AND SPECIMENS.

MINERALS, BIRDS' SKINS, STUFFED ANIMAL HEADS, Etc.

No. 93 Sudbury Street.

SEND STAMP FOR CATALOGUE.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 19, 1894. 189

Mr. Wm. Brewster,

Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I have looked over my order book for the Ruddy Duck, but cannot seem to strike it. I think that I gave you at the time a memorandum of the bird, and if you can give me the year and the month I can find it all right.

A customer told me yesterday that he had a Pileated Woodpecker, killed at Quincy. He has mounted it; how good a job of course I do not know. I might be able to trade for it, and if so what would it be worth to you? Can you tell me whether it has ever been taken in Mass. before?

Yours very truly,

M. Abbott Frazar

Geophloeus pileatus.

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

1894. While sitting here (under the shade of a big maple by
June 17. the brook, where W.Faxon and I went this morning), and later in
the day as we were at the house, we heard in the distance be-
yond the orchard a sound which we all took to be the voice of
a White-bellied Nuthatch until Faxon, following it to its
source, found a Pileated Woodpecker to be its author. The
bird was in the forest nearly a quarter of a mile away. It
was very tame allowing him to walk directly beneath it as it
sat crosswise on a branch, calling at intervals. Long before
he got at all near it the resemblance to the Nuthatch's cry
(the whinney) was lost for the bird was really "shouting" in
the normal, Flicker-like manner.

Ceophloeus pileatus.

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

1894. Very warm with showers. Just after breakfast we (F.W. June 21. Batchelder, W.Faxon and I) heard Pileated Woodpeckers calling a little way above the house and Faxon and I went in search of them. We found two birds, a male and female, in some large maple and birch trees in a hollow. They were very tame allowing us to approach to within 30 yards. The male was pecking rather listlessly at a dead prong, the female sat crosswise on a branch about seventy yards away. They called to each other at short, regular intervals using the short Flicker-like "shout". Neither bird changed its perch for full twenty minutes. At length the female flew out into a pasture and alighted on a stump when she was joined by a third bird which we had not seen before. The male remained in the grove where we saw him first. We could not make out whether these Woodpeckers were old or young. While perched in the trees they kept moving their heads about and pointing their bills upward in a way that reminded us of Herons. Occasionally one of them would call cuck, cuck, cuck, etc. very slowly a great number of times. This call may be called a cackle. It is rather hen-like in character.

Brewer 18 April 1893

Friend Brewster

I was glad to receive your last letter and learn that you were having a pleasant time instead of being sick as I feared - as I did not receive any letter when the wrens came - In March I found three holes of log cooke, all made by one pair. evidently for nesting, and while one seemed to be left unfinished on account of the not being fit, the other two were to all appearances from the ground, ready for occupancy though I knew but one would be used - As Capt Bendire was very anxious to know all about size of holes and all things connected with making them, and to get eggs if possible. I went on purpose (Apr 11th) to investigate - found all holes deserted and no signs of birds having

Ptiliata Woodpecker
Hylotanus pileatus

1890

Mar20-Apr21 Florida,
Suwanee River.

Common throughout the wooded bottoms to within at least three or four miles of the mouth of the river; less shy than at the North, but still not as a rule to be approached within less than a long gunshot. I heard only one vocal note during my entire stay on the river, namely, the usual long, laughing cry with its slow and quick variations. Mr. Chapman, however, heard one or both of a pair which were mating, utter a whicker call similar to that of the Golden-winged Woodpecker. On several occasions, I tried the experiment of calling these birds by imitating ^{with my hands} the sound of their pounding on the tree-trunks, and with marked success, in one instance the bird flying directly towards me, coming within a few yards. I observed during this trip a peculiar motion which I did not remember to have seen before, but which was universal among all the individuals which I saw at all distinctly. It was as follows: The bird just after alighting, and while clinging to a trunk with its back towards me, would throw out its head, first to one side and then to the other a dozen times or more in quick succession, the movement being almost as sinuous and graceful as that of a snake.

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

76. *Hylotomus pileatus* (Linn.) Bd. PILEATED WOODPECKER. —
At Grand Falls half a dozen pairs were seen. Probably there is too little
of the heavy forest left in the immediate neighborhood of Fort Fairfield
to suit their tastes, as we did not meet with them. "Common" at Houlton.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, July, 1882, p. 150

Birds within Ten Miles of Point
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam

53. *Hylotomus pileatus*. PILEATED WOODPECKER. — Very rare.
Mr. Comeau has shot but one here.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 236

A Collecting Trip—Dec. 1887.
John Ewart, Yarker, Ont. Can.

Pileated Woodpecker. Tolerably common,
but very wild and difficult to approach. Saw
some nearly every day, but owing to heavy
crust on the snow, it was impossible to go
through the woods quietly. Only obtained one
specimen.

O. & O. XIII, June, 1888 p. 94

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.
A. H. Alberger.

405. Pileated Woodpecker. Occasional.
Said to be tolerably common during winter.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 87

Dwight, Summer Birds of
Prince Edward Island,

Ceophlæus pileatus. PILEATED WOODPECKER. — Said to have been
formerly common. Prof. Earle showed me a stuffed specimen, but I found
no other evidence, save hearsay, of its occurrence. No 'mortise holes'
were discovered.

Auk X, Jan. 1893. p. 9.

Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region,
Nipissing District, Ontario.

by Fredericks C. Hurd, Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 80.

21. *Ceophlæus pileatus*. PILEATED WOODPECKER. — Three of these
birds were met with July 30, near Haileybury.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming,
Part II. Land Birds,
Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 76.

158. *Ceophlæus pileatus abieticola*. NORTHERN PILEATED WOOD-
PECKER. — Said to have been formerly a resident. I have seen specimens
taken within twenty or thirty miles of Toronto some years ago, and I
recently saw fresh workings of this woodpecker thirty-five miles from the
city, near Georgetown.

Summer Birds Tim Pond Me. by F. H. C.

Pileated Woodpecker, (*Hylotomus pileatus*).
Not common. One secured in '84. None seen
in '85.

O. & O. XI. Feb. 1886, p. 237

Fall Birds of Northern Maine.
F. H. Carpenter.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Ceophtæus pileatus*).
Again but one individual heard.

O. & O. XII. Nov. 1887 p. 188

Winter Birds of Webster, N. H. by Falco.

Pileated Woodpecker, (*Hylotomus pileatus*).

O. & O. X. Jan. 1885. p 14

Summer Birds of Presidential Range,
White Mts. A. P. Chadbourne

12. *Ceophloeus pileatus*. PILEATED WOODPECKER.—This bird was not met with, but an old dead spruce full of its large and deep 'peck-holes' was found near our camp (altitude, 3140 feet). The holes were newly made and the chips and pieces of broken wood perfectly fresh.

~~Auk~~, 4, April 1887. p. 104

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N. H.
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '86, W. Faxon

9. *Ceophloeus pileatus*. PILEATED WOODPECKER.—Rare. One seen.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 149

N. H. (Farmworth)

Hylotomus pileatus

1888

Bolles finds it common. Has seen three in one day. Thinks it most numerous in winter.

N. H. (Wolfeboro)

Hylotomus pileatus

In the brick hotel at Wolfeboro there is a mounted specimen which Mr. Horn (the proprietor) tells me he killed in the town of Wolfeboro a few years since. He considers it a rare bird there. (Notes taken June 19, 1888)

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

Cephalæus plicatus

1894.

No. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ 21 $\frac{3}{4}$ 22 $\frac{3}{4}$
23 $\frac{1}{2}$ 24 $\frac{1}{2}$

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

1895.

Cephalæus plicatus

May 27th 1895 - 7 specimens

Notes on Birds about Brandon, Vt. J. H. Knowlton

The Pileated Woodpecker (*Hylotomus pileatus*, Bd.), is by no means as rare as might be expected in so thickly populated a section. Not a year passes but that from one to five specimens are taken. I have notes of at least fifteen specimens, taken during the last four or five years, all of which occurred from the month of September to May, inclusive; the last record being the capture of two young females, September 28, 1881.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Jan, 1882, p. 63

Pileated Woodpecker, Mar. 26

First Arrivals. C. O. Tracy. Taftsville, Vt.
O. & O. VIII. Sept. 1882. p. 71

Pileated Woodpecker, (*Hylotomus pileatus*). Not common. Resident. Breeds. This is the largest and most shy of the Woodpeckers found here. Confined to the more thickly timbered districts. They are closely persued by gunners.

Woodpecker found in the vicinity of
Taftsville Vt. by C. O. Tracy.

O. & O. IX. Nov. 1884. p. 132.

Brief Notes.

WINTER BIRDS OF SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT, FOR 1885.
—Pileated Woodpecker, A. S. Johnson, Hydeville, Vt.
O. & O. X. Apr. 1885. p. 63

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

12. *Ceophlæus pileatus abieticola*. NORTHERN PILEATED WOOD-
PECKER. — Mr. Clayton E. Stone of Lunenburg, Mass., writes me that he
“saw two of these birds in the fall of '98, and heard several others, one in
Johnson, and two in Craftsbury.” They doubtless occur in the environs
of Mansfield.

by Arthur H. Howell.

Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, pp. 340, 341.

Hylotornis pileatus

Salem Mass.

I have lately seen in the collection of Mr. E. O. Damon of Southampton a ♀ Pileated Woodpecker which was taken within a few miles of that place in the autumn of 1879. Mr. Damon also knows of another which was shot a few m. from Burlington but he considered the species a very rare one in that locality.

Mass & N. H.

Hylotornis pileatus

One shot Manchester 3rd week Dec. 1885 } Purdie
" " Framingham autumn 1885 }
Common Hillsboro Co. N. H. Have seen
three or four in one day (Ortram Bangs)
in Sept. 1884

Mass. (Essex County)

Hylotornis pileatus

1885

Dec.

"It may interest you to learn of the recent capture in Manchester, Mass., of a ♂ Pileated Woodpecker. Knowing this to be a rare Essex Co. capture & thinking you may like to note the occurrence I thus write (Raymond Lee Newcomb, post-card dated Jan. 5. 1886.) I afterwards saw this bird at Goodale's.

"I have just seen one more Pileated Woodpecker that was shot

recently at Northfield Mass." (R. L. Newcomb post-card Jan. 7. 1886)

SALEM, Mass., Dec. 28.—A pileated woodpecker was shot last week at Manchester, Mass. This is a rare Essex county bird. There are some golden eye ducks, mergansers and saddle-back gulls, with an occasional snow owl seen. Some quail and partridges yet left.—X. Y. Z.

Forest & Stream Vol. XXV, No. 23 Dec. 31, 1885 p. 443.

Hylotornis pileatus

Mont. & Hampton Mass.

1879

I have lately seen in the collection of Mr. E. V. Damon of Northampton a ♀ Pileated Woodpecker which was taken within a few miles of that place in the autumn of 1879. Mr. Damon also knows of another which was shot a few or two years since but he considered the species a very rare one in that locality.

N. H.

Hylotornis pileatus

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Forest & Stream Vol. XXV, No. 23 Dec. 31, 1885 p. 443.

Mass (Worcester)

1887

June 26. Saw their unmistakable mortice-like holes
in several dead trees. Bailey says that they
are found at all seasons but that they are not
numerous. He thinks there are more in Worcester

Hylotomus pileatus

than in any of the

Mass. (Worcester)

Hylotomus pileatus

1888

Capture of two specimens.

"I have shot two Pileated Woodpeckers
this autumn" (C. S. Bailey letter Nov 10/88)

Decrease of Birds in Mass. J. A. Allen

That the Pileated Woodpecker (*Hylotomus pileatus*) was once a
common inhabitant of all the primitive forests of this State seems
to be unquestionable, though absolute proof of the fact may not be
available. It still occurs in abundance throughout the older States,
wherever the forests remain comparatively undisturbed, while it is
well known to quickly retire where its haunts are invaded by the
destroying axe of the woodsman. Bull. N. O. C., I, Sept, 1876. p. 55.

Pileated Woodpecker.

Foster H. Brockitt,

Boston Mass. July 20, 1883. The same as re-
corded in Bulletin Boston Zoological Socy
Vol III No 1 p. 17

Boston, Mass. Sept 3/94 Saw one & ap-
proached within 30 yds but could not get a shot
A friend of mine who knows the bird also
says he has seen one in Dorchester in the
spring of 1894 & in the spring of 1893.

Auk, XIII, Oct., 1896, p. 346.

Geophloeus pileatus

Plymouth Co., Mass., in summer.

A. P. Chubburne.

few
one and was taken
it

Ceophlæus pileatus in Franklin County, Massachusetts.—During the month of August, 1886, two Pileated Woodpeckers were shot at Ashfield, Franklin Co., Mass.; and on October 7 of the same year a third, which I have, was shot. It is a male, but in not very good plumage, as it was moulting at the time it was shot.—RICHARD NORTON, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Auk, V. Jan. 1888. p. 111.

Notes on Birds of Winchendon, Mass.
William Brewster.

Ceophlæus pileatus.—Resident, but not common. Mr. Bailey sees only two or three pairs each season but thinks that there are more in Winchendon than in any of the neighboring towns. About the middle of June, 1887, one of his friends met with a brood of young in the woods. I did not find the bird during either visit, but its unmistakable mortise-shaped 'peck holes' were frequently observed.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 390

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

17. *Ceophlæus pileatus*.* *Not common.*

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

RARE.—F. H. Kennard, Chestnut Hill, Mass., reports two Pileated Woodpeckers at that locality, May 3.

O. & O., XV, June, 1890, p. 95.

Worcester, Jan 29
Mr Wm Brewster
Dear Sir

I was up to Winchendon
for a few days and
the Bird was taken
and though perhaps you
would like it

This Pileated Woodpecker
was shot in Winchendon
Jan 27 1894
As ever
C. E. Bailey

WILSON'S BIRDS.

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O. & O., XV, June, 1890, p. 95.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.
June 25-30, 1889

Hylotornus pileatus

Mt Watatic--- Although this species was not seen or heard on the mountain, its recent presence there was attested by the numerous and unmistakable mortoise-shaped holes which it had pecked in the trunks of dead spruces on the western side of the mountain. Some of these holes had evidently been made within a week or two, for the wood was perfectly fresh and white. The farmers near the base of the mountain know the bird well and told us that it used to be common there, but none of them had seen one within several years.

Northern Pileated Woodpecker in Massachusetts.—During a trip to the Berkshire Hills early in June for the purpose of seeing birds of that region, while walking up Greylock on the morning of June 7, 1905, we heard the harsh call of the Northern Pileated Woodpecker (*Ceophloeus pileatus abieticola*). The bird flew over the road and settled on a large dead tree trunk at quite a distance, where, guided by his hammering, we found a fine male at work three feet from the ground. We had good views of him then at close range and as he flew away. I was very glad that this beautiful woodpecker of the wild forests should still remain a resident of Massachusetts. — LIDIAN E. BRIDGE, *West Medford, Mass.*

Auk, XXII, Oct., 1905, p. 414.

Harvard, Mass.

Northern Pileated Woodpecker in Massachusetts.—Mr. Henry P. Meade has kindly given to me a Northern Pileated Woodpecker (*Phlaeotornus pileatus abieticola*) which he shot in Harvard, Mass., October 15, 1910. It is a young male. This is an extremely rare bird in this locality.— JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*

Auk 23. Apr-1911 p. 266.

Ceophlæus pileatus — Through the kindness of Mr. Gurdon Trumbull I am able to record a recent capture of this rare Woodpecker. One was shot at Granby, Conn., Nov. 1, 1890, by Mr. Lewis S. Welch of Hartford. Mr. Trumbull saw the bird soon after it was mounted. *Auk* X, Oct., 1893, p. 371

Auk, X, Oct., 1893, p. 371.

Notes on some Connecticut Birds.

Ceophlæus pileatus.—Mr. Gurdon Trumbull tells me that a Pileated Woodpecker was seen at Granby, Conn., during the early part of the winter of 1894-95. It was followed a mile or more and fully identified but was not captured. This bird was in practically the same locality where one was killed Nov. 1, 1890 (*Auk*, X, 1893, 371).

Jno. H. Sage, Portland, Conn.

The Pileated Woodpecker in Connecticut.—Late last December, Mr. Charles S. Starr, a recent graduate of Yale, saw in Cornwall, western Connecticut, what was undoubtedly a Pileated Woodpecker. He describes it as a large black bird nearly the size of a Crow, with a crimson patch on the back of its head, and some white markings, also having a very long bill. It was clinging to the trunk of a dead tree, pecking, and climbing up spirally. It moved by short hops, and was slow and irregular in flight. I think he has described the species very satisfactorily. Its occurrence in this State is now, I think, very uncommon.—HERBERT K. JOB, *Kent, Conn.*

Auk, XVIII, April., 1901, p. 193.

near Litchfield, Conn.

Pileated Woodpecker near Litchfield, Conn.—To-day (June 20, 1908), while driving near my home in Litchfield, Conn., I had the good fortune to see a fine specimen of the Pileated Woodpecker (*Ceophlæus pileatus abieticola*). It was on the wing and high up when I first saw him, and beginning to cross, almost at right angles to our course, a deep valley which we were to drive through lengthwise. He was far off when first seen and my attention was attracted by his lazy, even flight and his great size. But his flight soon brought him directly over our road and a little way in front of us. Then I could see the great white markings on his wings. The bird flew on across the valley and with a swoop, which ended with an upward curve, entered the foliage of a large maple, which stood upon the mountain side, making for its trunk. He had alighted too far up the valley side for me to follow up the search, and, indeed, there was no need for this because his markings and manner of flight had made the identification plain. The region is extremely wild and rugged, in the Berkshires.—JOHN HURCHINS, *Litchfield, Conn.*

Auk 25 Oct. 1908, p. 475.

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the
Northern Adirondacks [Axtell], New York [1901].

April 20 to 25.

Pileated Woodpecker. Rare.

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p.298.

Some Birds of Lewis Co, N. Y.,
C. Hart Merriam

In the Eastern (Adirondack) district

Hylotomus pileatus, is found breeding

Bull. N.O.C. 3, April, 1878. p. 53

Some Birds of Lewis Co, N. Y.,
C. Hart Merriam

Hylotomus pileatus. PILEATED WOODPECKER; BLACK LOG COCK; COCK OF THE WOODS. — This splendid species, commonly known among our hunters as the "Black Cock of the Woods," and, once common, is now becoming rare in Lewis County, although it is still a resident of the deep Canadian forests along our eastern border. A few are killed each year in the Adirondack region, and Mr. Dayan informs me that scarcely a season passes but that two or three specimens are taken in the vicinity of Lyon's Falls, — so near do they approach civilization.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 6

Birds Rare or Accidental on Long Id.

6. **Hylotomus pileatus.** PILEATED WOODPECKER. — Mr. J. Akhurst, of Brooklyn, informs me that at least three individuals of this species have been met with on Long Island. In 1842 or 1843 he saw one at what is now East New York, Kings County. Another was sent to him about thirty years ago from the eastern part of the Island; the third which he obtained two years ago, was captured near Jamaica, Queens County.

De L. Series, Ft. Hamilton.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, April, 1881, p. 126.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

107. **Hylotomus pileatus (Linn.) Baird.** PILEATED WOODPECKER. — A tolerably common resident, and much more abundant now than it was ten years ago.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 232

Birds Tioga Co, N. Y. Alden Loring

371. Pileated Woodpecker. Very rare, but two of these birds having come under my observations. These were shot by farmers.

O. & O., XV, June, 1890, p. 85

Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.

Ceophloeus pileatus. PILEATED WOODPECKER. — There are two specimens of this large Woodpecker in the collection, both of which were mounted from birds brought to Mr. Akhurst in the flesh. One was presented by Mr. H. G. Reeve, and the other belonged at one time to the late Mr. Philip M. Brasher. Further than that they are Long Island birds, Mr. Akhurst can give no information. He states that before the outskirts of Brooklyn were built upon, there was a large tract of forest running eastward from the Flatbush road. While there were many places in it that were denuded of trees and overgrown with under-scrub and second-growth, yet as a whole the timber was large and of the original growth. It was a very fine collecting ground, being situated at the extreme western end of the Island, and a large majority of the birds migrating over Long Island naturally sought this tract for resting and feeding. For years, in the spring and fall, Mr. Akhurst visited this place almost daily, either alone or in company with Col. Pike, and many of the rarest specimens now in the Long Island Historical collection were obtained on these excursions. During one of them Mr. Akhurst saw two Pileated Woodpeckers, but they were so extremely wild that he did not secure either of them. Being perfectly familiar with the species, he is satisfied that he was not mistaken in the identification. These four specimens are all that have ever come to his notice.¹

¹ See Bull. Nuttall Ornith. Club, Vol. VI, p. 126.

Ceophlœus pileatus. PILEATED WOODPECKER.

The Pileated Woodpecker is among the birds most limited in the variety of their notes, and indeed its only cry seems to be the wild clatter that has been so often described. On one occasion I discovered a pair of birds of this species apparently at play amongst the trees of a dense hummock. Wishing to secure them, I shot the female as she clung to a broken limb on a large oak. The male, who had been making a great noise, was silent a minute upon the report of the gun, but directly began again, and at the same time flew about rapidly as if trying to discover his mate. Presently he alighted on the very limb from which the other had fallen, and then I fired at him in the midst of one of his outbursts. Although he fell, he did not pause in his clatter for an instant, but came tumbling down until he caught in some moss at a distance from the ground, where he continued to vociferate without apparently allowing himself to draw a breath. Very soon he fell to the earth, but became quiet only when I pressed my hand upon his lungs. It would seem that this bird must have felt pleasure, fear, and pain during the time I observed him, all of which he expressed by the same sounds.

Orange Co, Fla. D. Mortimer, AUK, VII, Oct, 1890, . 339

From old, hollow chestnut stub. Mr. Rawson says: "Drove female out as usual. Ninth year from this bird. Only one set of two in 1885. A set of two March 18, 1886; tenth year and forty eggs in all from this one female. Not seen in 1887." Two eggs, fresh: 1.92 x 1.67; 1.92 x 1.66.

Set XXII. April 18, 1887. Preston, Conn. Collected by "J. M. W." Nest in large chestnut stub. This is a second set, as first set was found March 26, 1885. A third set was found May 9th. This owl formerly allowed Mr. Rawson to handle her while sitting, but she afterwards became more timid, and flew out when disturbed. Three eggs, fresh: 1.88 x 1.67; 1.91 x 1.69; 1.98 x 1.66.

Set XXIII. March 28, 1886. Norwich, Conn. Collected by "J. M. W." Heavily feathered old nest in chestnut. In trying to secure the bright young male, Mr. Rawson shot the female, which looked as if it was moulting. No more eggs were found in the oviduct ready for extrusion. Two eggs, fresh: 1.96 x 1.61; 1.96 x 1.62.—J. P. N.]

Following the Logcock.

BY R. B. McLAUGHLIN, STATESVILLE, N. C.

I had hoped to secure some additional sets of eggs of the Pileated Woodpecker or Logcock (*Hylotomus pileatus*), during the season of 1877, but I was disappointed. The nest is most easily found while it is being excavated, so I determined on April 9th as an opportune time to explore the woods. Leaving at or about 6.30 a. m., I had gone scarcely a half mile into the nearest wood when I heard the noisy notes of *H. pileatus*, and had no difficulty in following them up. I had passed through some rather dense undergrowth and stepped into a road, when, quite unexpectedly, I flushed two pairs of the birds but a few rods apart, and had got within easy gunshot of them.

As they chose different directions, my search was restricted to a single pair. Now, when I am following a bird for the purpose of seeing it go to the nest, I cannot say that I approve of the bird's wanting to follow me about; but the Logcock does not follow the collector, nor does he care to have the collector following him. Owing to the previous surprise, however, this pair was so unusually hard to approach that I was encouraged and indeed grateful if I got in sight of them in time to see them fly. Having to do so mainly by ear, however, I concluded

that better luck could be had if I went after the other pair, so I abandoned the pursuit, and, retracing my steps, followed the course in which the others had flown. They had not gone far, and when the bird called his mate, he perhaps noted with some spleen that I answered. These, too, were sufficiently wary. Lured on by my zeal, however, I followed the birds the greater part of the forenoon, but with no success.

On April 16th, having occasion to be in the same piece of woodland, I heard a Logcock braying—for surely he could not have been singing—as though that were his only mission here, but when I appeared on the scene he was conspicuous for his noise in a neighboring woods.

Now another had joined him, and the two made the woods reverberate with some of the noisiest notes of the woodpecker dialect. As I approached, however, they abruptly stopped and all was still. On entering the woods, I saw a Logcock leave a tree, and, perfectly mute, disappear. Seating myself on the bank of a brook and waiting for a time, I saw another light upon a tree some distance away. Seeing nothing more I concluded the bird was at home, and I started after it. On climbing the hill, I saw some bits of wood scattered on the ground, which told the tale. I looked for a dead tree but in vain. I saw a round, smoothly-cut hole in the body of a Spanish Oak, yet the tree was turning out full foliage, and had not a dead branch. Needless to say I rapped on the trunk, and anxiously watched for the appearance of the bird's head at the hole above. I was not disappointed, however I beckoned the lady to climb out of her domicile, in lieu of which, she—wondrous tame now—returned the affront by utterly ignoring the signal, and eyeing me in a way that seemed to question my honesty and dispute my right of invasion. I then tapped on the tree with a club and she came out. An examination of the wood particles thrown out showed that they had not been exposed to the weather, which convinced me that the cavity was yet unfinished. Returning on the 21st, I found the bird in. Apprehensive of incubated eggs, I immediately started back for my climbers, a small saw, and a hand-axe.

On my return the bird was again in. I tied a string to the saw and axe, threw it around my neck, allowing them to rest on my back, buckled on my climbers, and climbed up.

The nest was about sixty feet up, and the trees fairly well limbed, after the first twenty feet. I got my arm partially in the hole, but could not adapt it to the winding direction it

took. Finding the use of the saw also imperative, I took the axe and set in. The nest contained two eggs, quite fresh; so the set was incomplete. After the birds had bored through two inches of solid live wood, they found the interior white and soft. How did they know the trees were decomposing? I should say by the sound produced when they rapped on it with their bills.

In April 1886, while walking through a piece of woodland, I saw a Logcock light upon a dead oak, and hopping up nearly to the top, he gave a sharp rap. His mate came out of a hole a little above, and flew away; then he went in, but whether he intended to work or was only curious to know what his wife had been doing, I do not know. It is probable, however, that he assists her.

Not having the time to while away, it was a week later and growing dark when I returned, so I felt sure if the bird had completed the set she would then be in. She was. I called the following day and found her at home. The nest was about forty-five feet high, and the sight of the tree made me rather nervous. It was nearly three feet in diameter and had but one limb, which being "shaky," contributed much by way of picturesque effect, but very little to my support. However, a laborious climb brought me, with bleeding wrists, to the Woodpecker's door, and confident the full number had been laid, I cut through the well-decayed wood. Well, as hard luck would have it, not a single egg had been deposited. I have since frightened the Downy Woodpecker out of her nest after sunset, and cut in to find no eggs; so it would seem the habit of remaining over night in the unfinished cavity is common with the *Picidae*.

Farmers have told me of nests of this bird within ten feet from the ground, but I have never found them near so low. The remaining nests found by me are represented below:

No. 1. About seventy-five feet high in an oak. Saw parent feeding young.

No. 2. In oak forty-five or fifty feet up. Took set of five eggs.

No. 3. In maple thirty-five feet up. A fair tree to climb but quite a distance from home, and the nest not finished. Did not return.

No. 4. About forty-five feet up in ash, without bark or limbs; and weather-bleached. Walked around it a great deal but never climbed up.

No. 5. About eighty feet high, in a frightful oak. Did not disturb it.

The shell of the egg is clear in the first state

of incubation, and the blood in the embryo veins within is clearly visible. It retains its semi-transparency for some hours after being blown, and then gradually dons the white polish of the cabinet specimen. The complement ranges from four to six. No nest, properly speaking, is made, but some fine chips are left at the bottom of the excavation, on which the eggs are deposited.

The Logcock is a strikingly handsome bird, and his lord-like demeanor would indicate he is fully conscious of it. When flying, the white on his wings is shown in pleasing contrast to his otherwise dark plumage. His large head is attached to his body by an almost thread-like neck, but it has no comic effect. He has several ways of winding his horn, all producing a respectable racket. His rapidly reiterated *put! put! put-it! put-it! put-it!* may be heard throughout the year. Mrs. Logcock, too, can "make the welkin ring" when disposed.

One who has only seen the stuffed bird in the museum has but a vague conception of the force of his stroke. When seen in his native haunts, throwing bark from a dead tree, or hammering on a live one, it truly seems a case of "Woodman spare that tree." Yet it is for the good of the forest, not the wanton exercise of a destructive tool. He will go as the forest goes, and the scientist may impose what he will on the taxidermist, but as nature deprives a bird of its office, she will deprive us of our bird.

Ever on the alert, the Logcock is hard to shoot, and unless ambushed or shot at first sight, it is well to make a list of him with your game for another day, for if once chased or frightened, he must have a good night's repose to efface the recollection of it.

This woodpecker seems to be better prepared for continued flight than the smaller ones, while the characteristic woodpecker flap and dip is recognizable. That decided and apparently fatiguing way of jumping through the air, so conspicuously noticeable in the flight of *Picus pubescens* and other diminutive species of the genus, appears to be wanting in the flight of this bird. It is generally seen in couples, at all seasons, and perhaps pairs for life. Once common in our county, it will soon be listed with the rare species; nor does it occasion surprise that such should be the case when one is apprised of the strange ways in which the bird is sometimes abused. I believe no one has killed it in order to obtain its legs for pipe stems, as it is alleged the mariners did the Dodo, but I am told by old sportsmen that it was a once not

Mass. (Worcester Co.)

Hylotomus pileatus

1886.

Breeding.

Mr S. Perry of Worcester tells me that this Woodpecker is still found sparingly in Worcester Co. especially in the more northern towns. He sees one or two each season. G. H. Forbush confirmed this and showed me (on Nov. 4) two specimens which he had received this autumn. He also assured me that one of his friends found a nest, in June 1886, with young.

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

74. *Hylotomus pileatus*, (Pileated Woodpecker). More conspicuous than abundant, the Logcock is a resident of the evergreen forests. Its resonant "soundings" may be heard at almost any time in the spring, and its heron-like flap of the wing added to its rolling flight make it a conspicuous feature of the woods. It can use its feet in a powerful manner, and I have watched it on one occasion strip the bark from a lightning scathed hemlock with the cleverness of a professional "peeler" at the lumber camp. Two nests were found near Tim Pond, but no eggs were secured, but a set of five in my collection were taken in this vicinity by hands, now forever at rest. All nests were in the decayed tops of spruce trees.

162

63

O. & O. XI. Nov. 1886. p. 162-163.

Breeding of the Pileated Woodpecker in Worcester County, Massachusetts:—In a recent paper* I noticed the fact that a few Pileated Wood-

* Notes on the Birds of Winchendon, Worcester Co., Mass. 'The Auk,' Vol. V No. 4, Oct. 1888, pp. 386-393.

peckers still linger in the northern part of Worcester County, Mass., and that a brood of young was seen there in the summer of 1887. Any doubt that may have existed as to whether these birds really breed in this region is now dispelled, for Mr. C. E. Bailey has sent me a set of four eggs which he took at Winchendon, May 17, 1890. The nest was about forty feet above the ground in a dead hemlock fully three feet through at the base and over seventy feet in height. Some photographs taken for me under Mr. Bailey's direction show that the tree stood in an opening surrounded by a dense forest of spruces. One of the Woodpeckers, sufficiently large and distinct to be easily identified with the aid of a magnifying glass, appears clinging to the trunk a few feet from the entrance to its nest. This opening, according to Mr. Bailey's description, was of sufficient size to admit the hand and arm, so that no preliminary cutting was necessary in order to reach the eggs.

When the nest was first discovered both birds were in it together, but on the following day when the eggs were taken the male was away, and did not appear until his home was invaded. He watched the movements of the enemy from a safe distance, relieving his mind, meanwhile, by "talking a good deal." The female parent, on the contrary, showed marked devotion to her eggs. After being again and again driven from the nest by violent pounding at the base of the tree, she would quickly return; and even after the eggs were removed she entered the nest and remained within for some time, peeping out every now and then as if seeking some trace of her lost treasures.

After the nest was robbed, the pair disappeared for a few days, but returned about July 1, and a week or so later (I have been unable to obtain the exact date and particulars) Mr. Bailey took a second set of four eggs from the same hole.

In the eggs of the first set incubation had progressed several days, showing that probably the full number had been laid. They measured respectively: 1.34 x 1.00, 1.28 x 1.00, 1.27 x 1.00, and 1.22 x .97 inch. In shape they are full, somewhat elliptical ovate. Save that they are larger and have an even higher polish, they closely resemble the eggs of *Colaptes*, showing the same conspicuous pits or pores.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass. AUK, VII, Oct., 1890, p. 400-401.

Up a Stump.

BY WALTER HOXIE.

My woodpeckers have gone; I don't know when they went, but I missed them to-day. I ting around that way to see how they were getting along but the old stump was silent and deserted. They have been great company for me ever since I found them carpentering away so busily one breezy day last spring. (What I really wanted was to get their eggs, for naturalists are all thieves by instinct, although on

rare occasions they submit to really moral instincts). In this case the nest was too high to reach easily, and the old pine stump was so decayed at the foot as to rock and feel very insecure when I essayed to climb. I was very glad on the whole to be alone, for if any one had been along to hint that I was afraid of a tumble, I should have undoubtedly gone to the top and had some eggs of the Pileated Woodpecker. As it was I had watched them too long, and as usual in such cases, I hadn't the heart to play a mean trick on this couple of new acquaintances that were just setting up house-keeping, so I sat myself down behind a long screen of moss that depended from a cedar bough, and while I lunched and smoked, continued to watch the movements of the pair. At first, they were quite anxious. Their black and white plumage and gaudy scarlet crests glanced fitfully about from time to time. They were silent too for some time. At last, the male came and stood on the top of the stump for some time and took a careful survey of the surroundings. He seemed on the whole satisfied, but to make assurance doubly sure, he had recourse to a clever ruse. He flew screeching through the woods two or three times, seemingly with an effort to be as conspicuous as possible, and then settled on the side of another stump some ways off and fell to digging away with might and main, pausing every now and then as if to see if his actions would not decoy the suspicious looking intruder away. His mate was the first to conclude that their visitor was harmless however, and when she had once settled to her task in earnest, her mate was profuse in his offer of aid. Every time she left the hole with a mouthful of chips, he would slip in and pound and scoop away till she came back, when he in turn would gather up his bundle and make off. I noticed that they had this habit in common with the Ivory-bills that used to be about here. No chips or litter were left about their dwelling. All the debris was carried away and deposited, and not often in the same place. When my pipe was out, I watched my opportunity and stole quietly off while madam was away and her spouse inside. Over a week elapsed before my next visit. Madam was at home and evidently brooding. Her sharp bill and white chin showed for an instant in response to my knock below. I heard her mate belaboring some dead trees at no great distance, and it was not many minutes after I had sought my place of concealment before I caught sight of gay dress coming in very scalloping flights through the lights and shadows of the pines. He

brought some dainty tid-bit to his patient better half, and was away again without a pause. In fact, he did not really close his wings while supplying Madam with her needed sustenance, but clung fluttering for a few brief seconds while she received her grub—slang, perhaps, but yet a literal fact—and then swung off in quest of more. He was seldom away over ten minutes at a time except on one occasion, when I purposely frightened him in order to secure his prize. It took very little arithmetic to determine that his day's labor must result in the destruction of about sixty-five of those insects, and during the next two weeks, I counted no less than eight old decayed stumps and logs that he had completely pulverized. I now caught him at work upon a living tree, and this caused me some speculation. I question whether my friends saved any valuable timber in their struggle for existence. Their prey consisted of insects that attack trees already dead. The heart wood borers that sap the life of a tree, and the swarming caterpillars that devastated the foliage, seemed both to be exempt from his attacks. But each of these had its appropriate feathered enemy, as I very well know.

It was eighteen days later when I became convinced that there were babies in the home. The response to my usual summons was a report like hissing. Both parents likewise manifested the greatest anxiety at my presence, which had during my frequent visits got to be looked upon as quite a polite attention I thought. The head of the family seemed to work himself up into quite a rage, and, in fact, I began to fear he would resort to personal violence. So I didn't stay long; I reflected that this was a new thing, no doubt, and my friends were excited and agitated, and I promised myself to return soon when every thing was settled and running smoothly.

The next night I shall long remember. I had been at the beach, and the weather worked bad, very bad indeed. I would have started for home in the middle of the afternoon, but there was no wind and the tide very strong and against me. All the sky was covered with "mares' tails," and up in the northeast lumps and masses of clouds began to form. Just at night-fall, the voice of the sea sounded from that way too, and little ragged racing clouds came along looking rosy in the twilight, when a little puff of wind came and I was off. In less than ten minutes it was blowing a gale, gusty and squally, and I was close hauled, pitching into the short waves of the sound and holding to the steering oar for dear life. It grew darker and rougher every

Pileated Woodpecker, vs. Blue Jay.

BY L. O. PINDAR, HICKMAN, KY.

I will relate a little incident connected with the above bird of which I was an amused witness this morning.

I was coming back from a walk when I saw a large black bird, which I knew at once, both from the rolling flight peculiar to all woodpeckers and the large white wing patches, to be a Pileated Woodpecker. He was flying high up in the air but as I watched him he flew down and alighted on a tree not far off. I started to the tree, for although the Pileated Woodpecker is a rather common bird here in the swamps, yet I always like to watch them. As I approached he flew to another limb but this tree was already tenanted by a Red-headed Woodpecker who pecked him savagely and flew behind the tree. Red-head then gave one of those long rattling calls, which is one of the first noises we hear of a morning. A Blue Jay immediately appeared upon the scene and flew at *Hylotomus*, not I suppose out of sympathy for the Red-head but simply because a Blue

Jay cannot keep out of a fight if he can get into one. As he came *Hylotomus* dodged behind the tree and as the Blue Jay passed struck at him with his great dagger like bill with such violence that missing the jay he was almost jerked from his perch and he flew to another tree. Immediately a dozen blue jays were after him, but the moment he faced around all but two took their departure in hot haste. The remaining two, however, charged him, drove him from his perch and chased him all over the large woods. At last, almost tired out, he alighted on a beech tree, taking no notice of his triumphant pursuers who were screaming at him from a limb about two feet away, he commenced to peck the rotten limb he was sitting on. At the first stroke a large piece of bark was hurled to the ground and the frightened jays flew off screaming and left him master of the field.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 146

PILEATED WOODPECKER. I had, some years since, an opportunity to observe the habits of a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers, (*Hylotomus pileatus*) that made their nests in a dead elm in an old clearing, in an excavation in the main trunk, about forty feet from the ground. One day, after the young birds were hatched, one of the parent birds arrived with a large grub, and alighting on the bare, smooth trunk about fifteen feet below the nest as usual, commenced to ascend after the manner of the *Pice*, when a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers attacked it, flying up from below. The *Pileatus* defended itself courageously by striking upward against the air with its wings, and striking its assailants with the points of its vectrices, and actually thus beat them nearly to the ground, before one of them dexterously seized the prize and made off to its own nest. I would like to know if similar rencounters have been observed by yourself or correspondents.—Mrs. Margaret Musick, Mount Carmel, Mo. O. & O. IX, Oct. 1884, p. 127.

Snow Buntings & Pileated Woodpeckers.

I also saw two Pileated Woodpeckers, (*Hylotomus pileatus*.) I think they were wanderers, for the land has been pretty well cleared by fires and loggers. I never saw but one of these birds alive before. It was in the beginning of last winter, near Dover, Del. There had been a "freeze" the night before and all the small puddles, and a good many of the big ones had a pretty thick coat of ice. While walking near a creek I heard something pounding on the ice, and then an angry "squeal" unmistakeably a bird's. A

few steps brought him in sight. He was down on the ice covering a small inlet, pounding till I thought he would break his bill, and stopping every few seconds to squeal. I could not see what he wanted, unless it was water. After several minutes of this occupation he flew up and lit on a tree directly in front of me, and not over six feet away, and pounded it. Then with a series of cries he flew into the swamp and that was the last I saw of him, but his whole performance was extremely ludicrous.—Chas. D. Gibson, Renovo, Pa.

O. & O. VIII, Dec. 1883, p. 94.

Analecta Ornithologica
Leonard Stejneger

XXIV. ON THE PROPER GENERIC NAME OF THE PILEATED WOODPECKER AND ALLIES.

The generic name *Hylotomus* for the Pileated Woodpecker cannot stand, because preoccupied by *Hylotoma* Latreille (given to an hymenopterous insect in 1804). Cabanis was aware of the fact and changed the name in 1862 to *Ceophloeus*, in which genus he placed *lineatus*, *scapularis*, *erythrops*, and *pileatus*, with the first mentioned as 'typus generis.' The following year, however, he separated *pileatus* from the others, bestowing upon it the name *Phloeotomus*. As Mr. Ridgway has convinced me, *pileatus* and *lineatus* are strictly congeneric, and, consequently, the generic appellation of the latter applies as well to the former.

GENUS *Ceophloeus** *Cab.*

- <1831.—*Dryotomus* SWAINSON, Faun. Bor. Am. II, pp. 303 & 104 (type *P. martius*).
<1849.—*Dryopicos* MALHERBE, Mém. Acad. Metz, 1849, p. 320 (same type).
<1850.—*Dryopicus* MALHERBE, Classif. Picin. Sept. 1850 (same type).
×1854.—*Driopicus* BONAPARTE, Consp. Zyg. Estr. At. Ital., No. 8, May 1854, p. 8 (type *pileatus*).
=1858.—*Hylatomus* BAIRD, B. N. Am. p. 107 (type *pileatus*).
=1862.—*Hylotomus* CABANIS, Journ. f. Orn., 1862, p. 176 (emend.).
=1862.—*Ceophloeus* CABANIS, Journ. f. Orn., 1862, p. 176 (type *lineatus*).
>1863.—*Phloeotomus* CABANIS, Mus. Hein. IV. p. 102 (type *pileatus*).

At first sight it might seem as if Malherbe's *Dryopicos* would be available, but a closer investigation shows that this author only emended Boie's *Dryobates* and Swainson's *Dryotomus* to suit his new nomenclature, in which all the four-toed Woodpeckers had names ending in '*picus*' or '*picos*' (!). The two generic names just referred to have expressly *martius* for type, and *Dryopicos* may therefore be considered as having the same type.

The North American species will stand as

R. 371. *Ceophloeus pileatus* (Linn.) *Cab.* PILEATED WOODPECKER,

the authorities being

- 1758.—*Picus pileatus* LINN., S. N. 10 ed. I. p. 113.
1862.—*C[ceophloeus] pileatus* CABANIS, Journ. f. Orn. 1862, p. 176.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
Washington, D. C., Dec. 1, 1884.

* Deriv. κέω = I split, φλοιός = bark.

Auk, 2, Jan., 1885. p. 51-52.

1717. *The Pileated Woodpecker*. By Coahoma [=F. G. Dabney].
Ibid., Sept. 6, p. 122. *For. & Stream*, Vol. 31
1104. *The Pileated Woodpecker*. By Dr. E. Sterling. *Ibid.*, Aug.
13, p. 44. *For. & Stream*, XXV
1517. *The Pileated Woodpecker*. By J. W. Jacobs. *Ibid.*, No. 4, *Auk*, VII. Jan.
April, 1888, p. 31, 1890. p. 81.
1458. *Occurrence of the Pileated Woodpecker (Hylotomus pileatus) in*
Eastern Massachusetts. By Foster H. Brackett. *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 17. *Over*
Quar. Jour. Bos. Zool. Soc. III

Melanerpes
erythrocephalus

Uncommon Birds at Hatley, Stanstead County, Quebec.— It may be interesting to record the fact of having found the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) breeding here this summer, the nest being in a dead maple tree at the roadside about fifteen feet above the ground, and when found on July 16, containing four young birds which left the nest between July 31 and August 4. During the same month, and whilst on my way to visit the above nest I came across an example of the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) on July 31, which I was enabled to follow about in a large wood for some considerable time and thoroughly identify. Two months later, or on September 24, whilst hunting in "the marsh" I was fortunate enough to secure a fine example of the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens virescens*) and shortly after whilst visiting a farmer in the district I was shown a mounted example of the Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*) which he had shot some eight years ago at Fitch Bay about twelve miles from Hatley. At another house I was shown a mounted male example of the Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) which was shot about two years ago in the fall near Massawippi, all these five birds being new to my list.— H. MOUSLEY, Hatley, Que.

Auk. xxxv. Jan. 1878. p. 84 & 85

Melanerpes erythrocephalus.

Newtonville, Mass.
breeding.

copy
July 20

Sunday - August 4 -
1901.

Dear Mr. Deane

(On Thursday
July 18, three of the little
Redheaded woodpeckers at
Newtonville, were out and
flying. On Sunday July 21,
the old ones were still going
back to the nest. Last
Sunday July 28, my sister
and I went over to see
them and the old ones
were still going back
to the nest. This last
week I heard they were
still doing so. Dr

Melanerpes erythrocephalus.

Newtonville, Mass.
breeding.

you not think it is a very long time for even a related young^{bird} to be in the nest? Do you think any thing can be wrong? I am so afraid that a little one is caught in there. I do not see why the old ones go back if all the little ones are out.)

I can make nothing of the sparrows. The more I study them the more confused I get, and the collections at the Natural History Rooms and the Cambridge

museum do not help me much. Do you think the least sandpiper would be likely to come to the sea near here on Quabbin street. There have been few little sandpipers there for some time and they are very different from the ones we saw at Longfellow in the spring. They answer the description of the least sandpiper, as far as we can see, but we cannot make them

Melanerpes erythrocephalus.

Newtonville, Mass.
breeding.

out to be anything else.
I thought the Least
sandpipers went in large
flocks, and there were
only four over by the
reservoir

Sincerely

Blanche Kendall.

20 Dudley street.

Brookline.

[I don't think your nest has
been so late in the hole. Old
birds will beat the old nest.
Did you have food in bill?
Least a few palmed sand-
pipers might be at the reservoir
in small numbers.]

Oct 18/1900.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus
Franklin Park,
Boston, Mass

Wm Brewster Esq.

My dear Sir

It may interest you to know
that on or about Oct. 14
I saw among the oaks of
a Franklin Park (Park)
grove a young red headed
woodpecker. I never saw one
of these birds alive before
and his novel actions
startled me a bit: He flapped
(not pitched) from tree to tree
10' away to make my Eastern
Eyes, accustomed only to
pitching woodpeckers, open with
conservative amazement

His eccentric, flighty, ultra-energetic ways, unlike those of any of our accustomed picidae, also made us gasp in amazement. His voice was different, too from that of any woodpecker that I know.

The identification was beyond a shadow of a doubt and seemed to show that he (who like enough aptly all, was a young she) - had been born and reared not so very far from Franklin Park, for he was not certainly a young of the year. I should say, born late in the season. Still I suppose we cannot be sure that he was "raised" in Massachusetts. I dare say you have seen quite a number of ^{individuals} M. erythrocephalus (of that is now correct) in Eastern Mass. but I, as I say, have seen the best of the bird time alive this way. Cordially and
Alfred Cooper

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

1900. Mass.

Nov. 25 Arlington ? Harry M. Spelman told me this morn that he had just seen a Red-headed Woodpecker in the country at Brown Myrtle Pond. He added that his nephew Rowland Justice had seen two birds of this species there at frequent intervals during the past three or four weeks. He did not say whether they were old or young.

Oct. 14 Boston. - A young bird seen in oaks at Franklin Park
"about October 14" by Fletcher Osgood (cf. Allen F. O. ^{Oct 18} 1900)

1901
May 21 Cambria.
George C. Deane saw two Red-headed Woodpeckers to-day at Fresh Pond in the grove between Fresh Pond and Cedar Mill Pond. Huron Ave. runs through this grove. He saw one bird distinctly and noted its bright red head. The two birds were chasing each other about. I went to the spot on the morning of the 22^d + 23^d between 8 & 9 A.M. and G. C. Deane went there on the 23^d but we saw no trace of them.
G. C. Deane

1901

Newtonville. Mr. H. C. Purdie reports that a male appeared in Newtonville in the spring of 1900 and was seen through the summer till the fall, acc. to reports. It appeared again in the spring of 1901 and has been seen by many people among them Mr. C. J. Maynard

June 15.—A Red-headed Woodpecker
Melanerpes erythrocephalus was discovered
looking out from a hole in a birch stub
about eight feet from the ground. An in-
vestigation disclosed young birds about
ready to leave home. /

St. Johns. N. B. M. Chamberlain.
O + O. ^{April} VII, 1882. p. 112.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming,
Part II Land Birds,
Auk, xxiv, Jan., 1907, p. 76.

159. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—
Common summer resident, April 19 to August 29; breeds. One winter
record (January 28, 1905). This woodpecker was scarce during the
summer of 1906.

REMARKS ON SOME WESTERN VERMONT BIRDS. — The Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Sw.), is a strangely erratic species. Mr. C. S. Paine has taken but a single specimen in the eastern part of the State, and five years ago it was a very rare species about here (Brandon). Now they are nearly as abundant as the common Golden-wings. At Orwell, only ten miles to the west, they outnumber the Golden-wings, and appear to be on the increase. Dr. C. H. Merriam mentions (Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club, Vol. III, No. 3, p. 124) their remaining in Northern New York during some of the severest winters known. I have never observed them in this vicinity later than the 2d of October, except in one instance (January 7, 1879), when I took a single specimen. At Rutland, sixteen miles south of Brandon, Mr. Jenness Richardson informs me that they are a resident species, being as abundant in winter as in summer. They were particularly abundant about here during August and September, 1879, being attracted, no doubt, by the great abundance of black cherries (*Prunus serotina*), which they appear to relish greatly. I have frequently observed this species to employ the same nest for several successive seasons.

F. H. Knowlton, Brandon, Vt.

Bull. N. O. C., Jan., 1882, p. 63

Woodpeckers found in the vicinity of
Dartmouth, Vt. by G. C. Tracy.

Red-headed Woodpecker, (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). Rare. Summer visitor. I have noted it but twice, May 11th, and July 17, 1883.

O. & O. IX. Nov. 1884. p. 132.

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt

13. **Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. — Mrs. Straw says of this bird: "rare; saw two in June, 1896."

by Archd. H. Howell. Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 341.

* Fide Mrs. Carrie E. Straw of Stowe, Vt.

Boston Mass

May 12/96

Dear Mr Brewster.

It may interest you to know that on May 8/96 I shot a fine ♂ Red-headed Woodpecker in Dorchester. It was probably the same bird noticed on Mar 8, as it was shot in the same locality, & not over 100 yds from where it was observed previously. (P. Foster, W. Brackett).

Mass. (Middlesex Co.)

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

1886

Occurrence in autumn

October

Mr. Maynard tells me that several Red-heads have been killed near Cambridge this month. He saw one himself, near Clewatis Brook.

Mass. (Walpole)

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

1888

Wintering

Jan. 31

A friend of S. W. Denton tells the latter that he saw an adult Red-head Woodpecker at about this place. It was on a fence by the roadside.

Mass. (Nantucket)

1889 - Aug & Sept.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Mr. Geo. H. Mackay writes me that he shot a young bird near Hummock Pond, Aug. 31st and saw another in the same place Sept. 23rd. (He has since given me the skin of the former)

Mass. (Sherborn & S. Natick)

Melanerpes

1889

Oct.

Jas. Colford shot adult in Sherborn, another, also an adult, shot by a boy named Boinay in South Natick. Both specimens mounted by Mr. Habersch of Sherborn. (S. W. Harton)

Decrease of Birds in Mass. J. A. Allen

It is also a matter of record that the Red-headed Woodpecker has nearly disappeared, almost within the present generation, from all the region east of the Hudson River, where it was formerly as common, apparently, as it is now in any of the Middle or Western States. In this case, however, the disappearance is without an evident cause. The deforestation of the State has undoubtedly produced a vast decrease among the other species of the *Picidae*, as well as generally among all the strictly forest birds, through the great restriction of their natural haunts.

Bull. N. O. C. I, Sept, 1876. p. 55.

Winter Birds of Eastern Massachusetts.

H. K. Job.

Another bird that I did not expect to see was the Red-headed Woodpecker. Numbers of them had been seen during the fall, but about the first of December most of them disappeared. Still some remained, and were seen in Brookline during the entire winter, not leaving us until the middle of April.

*1881

Bull. N. O. C. 8, July. 1888, p. 150.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus (Linn.), Red-headed Woodpecker. Transient.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 139

Winter Notes from Wellesly Mass
S. W. Denton.

On Jan. 30, a Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), was seen by a young friend of mine while riding from here to Foxboro.

O. & O. XIII. July. 1888 p. 104

General Notes.

Bird Notes from Springfield, Mass.
Robert O. Morris.

Mr. E. H. Barney is devoting several acres of land near his home in the suburbs of Springfield to the cultivation of numerous kinds of trees and shrubs that long retain their seeds, hoping thereby to attract various kinds of birds, that he and others may study their habits. To this place, early in the autumn, a flock of about fifty Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) came and remained several days. Heretofore these birds have not been observed here, except occasionally singly or, more rarely, in pairs.

Auk XII. Jan. 1895 p. 86

General Notes.

Summer Birds of Central Berkshire
Country, Mass. Francis H. Allen. Ralph Hoffmann

16. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. — One seen in Stockbridge, May 30, 1892.

Auk XII. Jan. 1895 p. 88

Auk, XIII, July, 1896, p. 258.

The Redheaded Woodpecker in Eastern Massachusetts.—It is so seldom that a Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) is seen in eastern Massachusetts that its occurrence is worthy of note. On Sunday noon, March 8, 1896, while taking a walk through a grove of mixed elm, maple and pine trees in the section of Boston known as Dorchester, I came across a beautiful bird of this species, lazily climbing about on a partially decayed stump and apparently searching for food. The bird was very tame, allowing me to follow it closely as it flew from tree to tree and to approach to within ten or fifteen yards on several occasions. After watching it for some fifteen minutes and thinking from its tameness and from its partiality to a particular stump that it might be wintering in the locality I quietly withdrew. A thorough search of the woods the next morning failed to discover the bird again and I concluded it was probably a temporary visitor.

On May 8, 1896, while walking early in the morning in Dorchester District, my attention was attracted by the loud calling of a Red-headed Woodpecker. After a short search the bird was located in a clump of tall oak trees and was shot. It proved to be a male in full plumage, and was very fat. This is probably the same bird noticed by me on March 8, 1896, as recorded above, as it was shot within one hundred yards of where it was previously observed.

I have seen this species in Massachusetts only once before, the first time being on May 19, 1878.—FOSTER H. BRACKETT, Boston, Mass.

*2635 Red-headed Woodpecker ♂
near Boston Mass Apr 1882

(In N. S. G. Soc. Dec. 18, 1882)

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Mass.

447 Crafts st. West Newton, June 25, 1901.

My dear Mr. Deane,

I think the best way for you to get the address of the party who collected the nest of the Pine Finch is to write Dr. J. S. Frisbie, Church st., Newton, and ask him to give you the address of the son of Judge Park who was interested in bird's eggs. I should have to write Dr. Frisbie, and this course will save delay. Do not say anything about the collection of the Newton Soc. Nat. Hist. for if you do the Dr. will refer you to me, and, as I told you ~~and~~ that Park collection was withdrawn from the old society's collection before this collection was turned over to the Maynard Chapter.

About the Red-headed Woodpecker in Newton. There is a pair nesting in an old stub just off Cabot st., the stub stands in open sight beside an unfinished road, which is the first entrance beyond Cabot Park, going east. Cabot st. runs from Center st. Newton, to Walnut st., Newtonville. These birds have been breeding in that stub, according to report, since 1900, but I have seen them for the first time this year. By report another pair attempted to breed in Auburndale. One of my pupils, upon whom I can depend, saw a pair on Main st., Waltham. This was on the Bowker estate, and the birds are said

to be breeding there. I heard the characteristic rattle of one as I sat in an electric car in Framingham, near the Normal School. As I was due at the school in a few moments I could not investigate further. Quite a number of the girls at the school are very good observers, but none of them had seen the woodpecker, nor did I see or hear it afterwards. Another pair of Red-heads were reported to me by a teacher from Watertown, as occurring near the Charles River.

You will be interested to learn that I saw a pair of Philadelphia Vireos at Wayland on June 1, of this year. The birds were feeding in low bushes by the road-side, and as they were not wild, I easily got within a few feet of them. One, presumably the male, was uttering a low ~~murmuring~~ ^{trilling} note, similar to that I heard ~~there~~ give that I saw last year.

I trust that Mr Brewster and you will pardon the delay in not answering sooner, but this is the first day that I have not had a class or private lessons for two months. I shall try and get down to Cambridge in July.

Very truly yours,

O. Maynard



Red headed Woodpecker 1881 Oct 24

Mass.

In haul woods on road nearly to W. Auburn
in high trees, another bird also shot. (~~woods where~~
also an immature bird.

Oct 27 Backs at same place shot 1 + saw 4}

Oct 28 " " " 2

[H. M. Spelman]

1881 Melanerpes erythrocephalus ^{near}
Sept. 30. ^{W. Auburn} In the woods
one that in the woods
First Red "Horn head of 60.8"
birds shot in different places were
"red and some others seen"

Oct 5 - " Shot another Red headed
Woodpecker in the same place
of woods. That was the first
" 22 " Shot an adult ♂ in the
same woods. ^{very common}

1882
Feb 11. " White C. ^{near} ^{W. Auburn} ^{Mass.}
shot up the Charles River
In East Water town (Sawing house)
I saw a Red-headed Woodpecker
in the woods.

Feb 11. " To-day shot in the East
Water town woods a ♂ Red-headed
Woodpecker with my first
shot on a barrel!
(From note book of C. R. Bond)

1882 Melanerpes erythrocephalus
June 17 East Water town, Mass.

The nest in my collection;
taken by Charles R. Bond, was
in the oak woods just to the
westward of the trap shooting
grounds (an open field) in East
Water town. "It was about 40 feet
from the ground in an entirely
rotten tree and contained
two or more perfectly fresh
eggs which were broken,
however, in the attempt to
get the nest down"
(above quotation taken literally
from C. R. B's note book)

Melanerpes
erythrocephalus.

"COTTAGE FARM,"
NORTH SCITUATE, MASS.

Aug 11/02

Mass.

Dear Mr. Brewster,

Thanks for your reply
to my question about dead leaves for
horse bedding. It is a relief to know
that the scheme can't succeed at
this season, for I estimated the
cost at about eight times that
of baled straw!

As to the Red-headed Woodpecker:
I have my data now to refer to.
(1) The Cambridge record; "From
Jan 1st to 6th 1883, and possibly earlier,
a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers were
continually about an old elm in
the grounds of the Catholic Church on
the corner of Buckingham St and

—It is not common to see a red
headed woodpecker in the midst of such
abundance of snow as at present. Rev.
Mr. Krietler, J. M. VanHuyck and L. C.
VonTrump each hung a large piece of
suet before the snow came on a tree in
the yard near the house. Birds have
come daily to peck at the suet, nut-
hatches, woodpeckers, chickadees and
juncoes. In the last few days a red-
headed woodpecker has been seen
among the birds in Mr. Krietler's tree, a
welcome visitor because so unexpected.

The Berkshire Gleaner,
Lee, Mass.

Dec. 28. 04

With the compliments
of the season.

W.D.

I fear these data are all I can give you about *M. erythrocephalus*, Am sorry I have no more.

Hoping soon to have you with us at "Cottage Farm" once more

Sincerely

Arthur P. Chastain

You doubtless know that John Thayer found a second Henslow's nest with young birds!

—It is not common to see a red headed woodpecker in the midst of such abundance of snow as at present. Rev. Mr. Krietler, J. M. VanHuyck and L. C. VonTrump each hung a large piece of suet before the snow came on a tree in the yard near the house. Birds have come daily to peck at the suet, nut-hatches, woodpeckers, chickadees and juncoes. In the last few days a red-headed woodpecker has been seen among the birds in Mr. Krietler's tree, a welcome visitor because so unexpected.

The Berkshire Gleaner,
Lee, Mass.

Dec. 28. 04

With the compliments
of the season.

W.D.

Concord Ave. This I learned from H. M. S.
et al. but not until after June 6, ~~xx~~th
"I first saw one of the birds on the 6th,
and not thinking it a breeding
bird," * * I tried to secure it as al-
ready described in my letter to you.
No mention is made of the priest in
my notes, and I can only add "that
the Woodpeckers were not seen again
so far as I can learn."

2. Danville nest I have no record of
in my notes; and I must
have considered it unreliable
3. at Watutown Curran Bangs said
that a pair tried to breed in
1882 (sic!) ("Minutes of N. D. C
on Bird Distribution")
4. at Dedham H. M. S. told me of a
bird taken by Wakefield. Then
in brackets I have added "Casts
spil mon about it."

—It is not common to see a red
headed woodpecker in the midst of such
abundance of snow as at present. Rev.
Mr. Krietler, J. M. VanHuyck and L. C.
VonTrump each hung a large piece of
suet before the snow came on a tree in
the yard near the house. Birds have
come daily to peck at the suet, nut-
hatches, woodpeckers, chickadees and
juncoes. In the last few days a red-
headed woodpecker has been seen
among the birds in Mr. Krietler's tree, a
welcome visitor because so unexpected.

The Berkshire Gleaner,
Lee, Mass.

Dec. 28. 04

With the compliments
of the season.

W. D.

Mass (Watertown)

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

1882

Breeding.

June 17 a pair tried to breed in Watertown ~~about~~ in 1882. The Bangs Bros. shot the pair June 17. Their several nest holes were cut open before the eggs were laid.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Breeding in Mass.

Cambridge - Mass.
1882

The Red-headed Woodpeckers not only wintered about Cambridge but many remained through the summer. On June 17th Mr. C. R. Lamb found a nest at East Watertown (Arsenal woods).

The hole was in the top of a very stately stump at least 40 feet high, so that it was inaccessible. Mr. L. managed to push it over, however, and in the cavity found two badly broken eggs which were perfectly fresh.

Two or three days before this he saw the Woodpecker repeatedly fly from the hole.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus Breeding near Boston.— On the 26th of June, 1901, I saw a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers feeding their young in Newton, Mass., the nest being in a dead stump at a height of twenty or twenty-five feet from the ground. According to Messrs. Howe and Allen's 'Birds of Massachusetts' this would seem to be the first nest ever recorded from eastern Massachusetts, although Mr. Brewster, in his edition of Minot, speaks of one found in Brookline in 1878.— BRADFORD TORREY, *Wellesley Hills, Mass.*

Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 394.

each time bearing a chip in its
bill. Upon following it he found
that it invariably took the
chip and carefully placed it
in some hole in a tree or in
a crevice behind a scale of
bark. He could find no chips
on the ground at the base
of the stub.

Mr. Gordon Sumner also tells
me that several pairs of Red-
heads have bred, this season,
near his house in Brookline.

Mass (Watertown)

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

1882

Breeding.

June 17

a pair tried to breed in Watertown ~~about~~ in
1882. The Bangs Bros. shot the pair
June 17. Their several nest holes were
cut open before the eggs were laid.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus Breeding near Boston.— On the 26th of
June, 1901, I saw a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers feeding their young
in Newton, Mass., the nest being in a dead stump at a height of twenty
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BRADFORD TORREY, *Wellesley Hills, Mass.*
Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 394.

20 Dudley street
 melanerpes erythrocephalus Brookline.
 Belmont &
 Newtonville, Mass.

My dear Mr. Deane

I first heard of
 the Red-headed woodpecker
 of Payson Park last winter,
 and was told that they had
 been there all last year.

I went over on April
 1st and saw one, but it
 was not in full color.

On April 27 I went
 again and saw two. They
 were both very brilliant,
 and making a great noise.

Newtonville

Number



Willow trees

Dead tree with one branch the

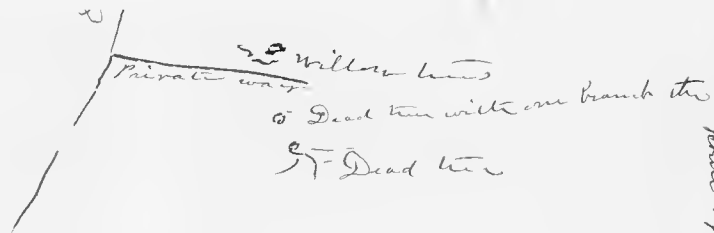
Dead tree

house of the red-headed woodpecker

I am sorry that is all I can tell of them now, as I have not been over them since. but I hope to go the end of this week or the first of next if that will do any good. I should like to oblige Mr Brewster very much. Both he and Mrs Brewster were so very kind to my sister and myself at Lancaster. If the woodpeckers are still at Payson Park

the nest can be easily traced as those in Newtonville are boldly feeding the young ones in the nest. My sister and I saw them this morning feeding them with pieces of cherry. We could not see the little one but heard them plainly. Perhaps you have seen the Newtonville ones, but as you possibly have not I send a rough plan ^{Newtonville} of the place. They are

Newtonville



Home of the red-headed woodpecker

not very high up, and so
easy to see, that I was
sorry we had no camera.

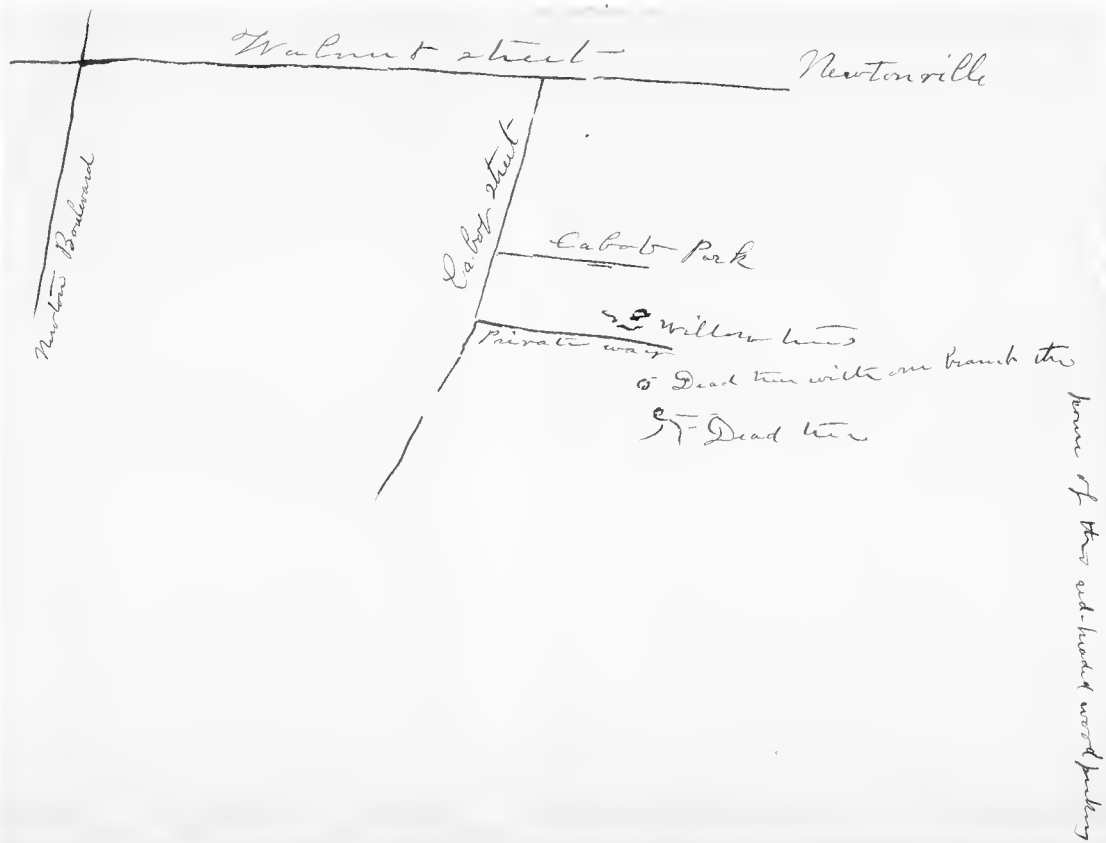
We sat on the bank near
the willow trees where we
had a fine view of them.

It was in the tall trees
of the second drive way of
Payson Park that ~~the~~ birds
were seen whenever I,
or any of my friends looked
for them. If I find
them when I go over I
will notify you

Sincerely

Blanche Randall

Tuesday -
June 25: 1901.



Old Records for Mass. & Rhode Id.

August 31, 1889. Shot one Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), in immature plumage, apparently born on the island. September 23 saw a young bird, on November 23, saw another, and on September 10, 1881, shot one.

Auk 28, Jan-1911, p. 119.

Red-headed Woodpecker at Newburyport, Mass.—On July 13, 1912, while engaged in photographing, in a mowing field, the nest and eggs of the Ring-necked Pheasant, my attention was caught by a flash of bold color in a nearby elm, and on the completion of my work with the camera, I went to investigate the owner of the brilliant plumage. Soon locating him on a dead limb near the upper centre of the tree, I readily recognized him as a Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), an uncommon bird in this part of New England. I had a good view of him, covering a period of several minutes, as he explored the points of interest on the dead limbs of the tree. After a little while he took flight, in a northerly direction, but although I walked for some little distance, I was unsuccessful in getting another glimpse of him.

Inquiries in the neighborhood brought out the fact that he had been seen several times, earlier in the season, but I could find no one who knew of his breeding here. Doubtless he was a solitary wanderer who had strayed from his usual range.

Some twenty years ago a pair of these birds were found nesting in an old orchard in the southern end of the town. Just at the time that the four young, were ready to fly, the whole family was taken, and now graces the private collection of a resident of the town.—S. WALDO BAILEY, Newburyport, Mass.

Auk XXIX. Oct. 1912, p. 541.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS have been quite common the present Fall about Providence, a number of both adults and young being taken. Usually we hear of but one or two specimens being taken in a year.—*F. T. J.*

C. & G. VII. Apr. 1882. p. 112.

Notes from Rhode Island.—The following records seem to me worthy of publication:—

Melanerpes erythrocephalus. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—At Jamestown, Conanicut Island, on September, 1898, I took a young male, and in the Newport Historical Society's Collection there is a young bird, sex not given, that was taken in the same locality in October, 1892, by Amon Parmenter.

Auk, XVI, April, 1899, pp. 189-190.

R. A. Howe, Jr.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—On December
11, I saw an adult specimen, also a WINTER
O. & O. VII. APR. 1882. p. 118
WREN on the 4th, near Hartford.—H. T. G.

Hartford Notes

One Red-headed Woodpecker has re-
mained all Winter in a large oak in an
open lot, where I have seen it come out of
a hole in a dead limb and make dashes out
into the air in manner of Flycatchers, and
returning, alight on the slender twigs of
the outermost branches, swinging head
downwards, uttering its harsh notes.

Harry J. Gates.

O. & O. VIII. Jan. 1883. p. 8

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

1895 Connecticut

Oct., Nov. Portland. — "A few young Red-headed Woodpeckers are here.
Sometime since I've seen any before" (J. H. Sage, letter
Nov. 5, 1895.) Mr. Sage afterwards told me that there
were seven birds in all. They appeared late in
October & kept together in a piece of hard wood
timber.

Connecticut Notes.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.— An
adult male was taken May 27, 1916.

Auk, Vol. XXXV, 1918, p. 232.

Notes on Some Winter Residents of
Hudson Valley. E. A. Mearns.

15. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—
Mr. Huyler says the Red-headed Woodpeckers stay at Tenafly all winter.
They occur at that season about Peekskill; and I observed them in abun-
dant at Locust Grove, Lewis County, Northern New York, during the
last of December and early part of January, 1878. Several adult speci-
mens that I shot had the ventral surface strongly discolored with red,
doubtless derived from the oak-trees, though my friend, Mr. C. Hart Mer-
riam, assured me that no oak-trees grow in that region.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 36

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Grounds, Brooklyn, G. H. Coues

7. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—
Common during summer.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 21

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

108. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (Linn.) Swainson. RED-HEADED
WOODPECKER.—Not common but breeds about the borders of the wilder-
ness.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct., 1881, p. 232

Proc. Linnaean Soc. of N. Y., 38-39

Mr. John N. Drake mentioned finding parasites resembling grains of
rice among the feathers of eight specimens of Red-headed Woodpecker
(*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) taken by him in Sullivan Co., N. Y., last
summer.

Auk, 3, Apr., 1889, p. 198

Proc. Linnaean Soc. of N. Y., 38-39

Melanerpes erythrocephalus:

See "Proceedings of Linnaean Soc. of N. Y."
... Acc't. of Former Abundance of Certain
Species on New York Id. ... by Lawrence
... under *Colaptes auratus*.

Auk, 3, Apr. 1889 p. 202

Oneida County, New York,
William L. Ralph & Egbert Baggs

Melanerpes erythrocephalus.—Messrs. Shepard and Hughes found these
birds at Remsen, Dec. 20 to 22, 1888.

Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 231.

Red-headed Woodpecker see Sharp-
shinned Hawk, by W. B. Howden
Morristown N. Y.
C. & O. VIII. July. 1883. p. 55.

Albinism and Melanism in North
American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus, has been recorded in
melanistic state.

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 24

Albinistic Plumages. R. Deane.

23. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.
— Mr. Henry Garrett has favored me with a letter regarding species af-
fected by albinism in his collection, among which is a Red-headed Wood-
pecker *pure white*, even the tarsi, toes, and bill.* It was shot, Oct. 10,
1871, in Williamstown, Penn.

* In many descriptions of *pure* albinism, the bill, tarsi, feet, claws, etc. are
also given as being *white* like the plumage. In such examples I have generally
found the bill, feet, etc., light flesh-colored, but never of a milky whiteness.

Bull. N. O. C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 28

Melanerpes erythrocephalus. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.

This fine bird is usually uncommon about New York, and long periods may elapse when it appears to be altogether absent. But it is liable to come in flocks any autumn, when many may stay and spend the winter.

The species was common from September, 1881, until the middle of the following May. Their usual note—a guttural rattle, similar to the cry of the tree-toad (*Hyla versicolor*)—was kept up all through the winter. In April their vocabulary was augmented by a hoarse, hollow-sounding cry. Then the birds in small companies still occupied the same woods where they had passed the winter, but were more noisy and active, and would sometimes set up a confused screaming all together. The tree-toad rattle I have also heard in August.

Auk, 2, July, 1885. p. 259.

A Musical Woodpecker.—My attention was first called to this talented bird by the rapid vibrations of one of the four wires running into our office. Looking down the track from where the noise seemed to proceed I spied a Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) on top of a pole not far away. Leaving the office I went down to the stock pens to watch proceedings. I did not have long to wait, for he began in a short time drumming vigorously against a protruding piece of wire. The piece of wire in question was about ten or twelve inches long with a loop in the center; it stood straight up parallel with the pole and about six inches above it, and protruded from a joint or splice in the wire, left there by some careless lineman.

The Woodpecker would drum against it for ten to fifteen seconds at a time, stopping now and then to listen to the humming of the wire, or fly out to catch a passing insect. He would stop and listen in evident enjoyment, then utter a call and proceed. He kept this up for over a month, when he disappeared and I have not seen him since.—OTTO HOLSTEIN, *Muir, Ky.* Auk, XVI, Oct., 1899, p. 353.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus ABOUT BOSTON. — Massachusetts, at least the extreme eastern part, has shared in the flight of Red-headed Woodpeckers that has been reported as visiting Southern Connecticut last fall.* During the latter part of September, through October and into November, the oak groves in the suburbs of Boston were tenanted by numbers of these truly handsome birds. I should judge that about one-third were in full plumage, and their conspicuous dress attracting attention many were shot. Twelve years ago the individual occurrence of this species among us was thought worthy of record. Of late years, during the months above named, it has become a more frequent though irregular visitor, but never in such numbers as have recently shown themselves. In spring or summer it is rarely seen, yet an instance of its nesting in Brookline is given me by Mr. H. K. Job, who early in June, 1878, found five eggs in the hole of an apple tree. According to Dr. C. Hart Merriam, this Woodpecker is a common resident of Lewis County, N. Y.† May not our visitors have come from that direction?—H. A. PURDIE, *Newton, Mass.*

* Ornithologist and Oölogist, Vol. VI, pp. 78, 79.

† This Bulletin, Vol. III, p. 123.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Jan, 1882, p. 57.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Waltham - Marsh.
 January 1st 1882

Mr. Purdie has recorded in the *Bulletin* (for Jan'y, 1882) the unusual flight of Red-headed Woodpeckers which visited Marsh (at Waltham and other parts of M. E.) the last autumn. Numbers were killed in or near Cambridge. Charles Launt found them in the oak or alder grove on both the north & south sides of Fresh Pond as well as near Watstone Avenue. The greatest number perhaps were seen in a small, square piece of oak & chestnut woodland east of the Fitchburg R.R. Station in Waverly. Mr. Shelman, Bangor & then shot several specimens each time they visited.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Oct. 31 - Dec. 16, 1900.

Mystic Pond, Arlington, Mass.

An immature bird, head beginning to show signs of red, was seen by Lower Mystic Pond from Oct 31 to Dec. 16 by Ted Kidder and Richard Eustis. I saw it on Dec. 9, 1900
 W. Deane.

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Bull. N. O. C. 7, Jan, 1882, p. 57.

the place. but always found about as many more on subsequent visits. On Thanksgiving day (Nov) two were seen in Watertown and at nearly the same time three in Brookline by Purdie. The latest date however is January 1st 1882. When Mr. Outram & Bangs saw an adult bird in Watertown near the Upper School House. In October and early November they were feeding entirely on acorns, but this food can hardly be available now, if any of the birds still remain.

Oct. 11th 1882 The Red-heads have actually commenced. about Boston Charles Leunt took one today in Watertown. It had the full red head. but had not quite finished moulted and was evidently a young bird. as a few dark feathers remained on the neck. I did not know that any bird moulted here in mid-winter.

Mr. H. K. Job also writes Purdie that a flock of these Woodpeckers was seen in Brookline during the last days of December.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

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W. Deane.

SOME NEW TRAITS FOR THE RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*).—A remarkable instance of foresight in several birds of this species in "looking out for a rainy day ahead" has been communicated to me by my friend Mr. G. S. Agersborg of Vermilion, Dakota Ter., and I cannot do better than quote extracts from his letter: "I have forgotten to mention to you an interesting fact about *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Last spring in opening a good many birds of this species with the object of ascertaining their principal food, I found in their stomachs nothing but young grasshoppers. One of them, which had its headquarters near my house, was observed making frequent visits to an old oak post, and on examining it I found a large crack where the Woodpecker had inserted about one hundred grasshoppers of all sizes (for future use, as later observations proved), which were put in without killing them, but they were so firmly wedged in the crack that they in vain tried to get free. I told this to a couple of farmers, and found that they had also seen the same thing, and showed me the posts which were used for the same purpose. Later in the season the Woodpecker, whose station was near my house, commenced to use his stores, and to-day (February 10) there are only a few shrivelled-up grasshoppers left. I have now not seen this bird for over two weeks."

A similar habit is related of the California Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) by Dr. Heermann in California, and Mr. J. K. Lord in British Columbia; the food in this instance being acorns, which were wedged tightly in crevices, and in some cases the hollow stems of reeds were used.†
—H. B. BAILEY, *New York City*. **Bull. N. O. C.** 3, April, 1878. p. 97.

were shot in June. Common in Concho County for two months in the fall.

126. *Contopus richardsonii*. WESTERN WOOD PEWEE.—Two shot in fall of 1886, in Concho County.

127. *Empidonax pusillus*. LITTLE FLYCATCHER.—Tolerably common summer visitant. Breeds. Young shot.

128. *Empidonax pusillus trailli*. TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER.—Spring migrant in the western half of Concho County, and I believe it breeds—a point I thought I had already ascertained, but as there may be some doubt, I cannot positively record it yet as breeding.

129. *Empidonax minimus*. LEAST FLYCATCHER.—Tolerably common summer visitant. Abundant in fall. Have shot young; no nests taken. Arrival noted April 27, 1885.

130. *Empidonax hammondi*. HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER.—Fall migrant. Rare in Concho County; tolerably common in Tom Green County and the most abundant *Empidonax* across the Pecos River.

131. *Empidonax obscurus*. WRIGHT'S FLYCATCHER.—Rare fall migrant. Secured twice in Tom Green County.

132. *Otocoris alpestris arenicola*. DESERT HORNED LARK.—Abundant winter visitor. Arrives October 20; departs March 6. This is the only Horned Lark noted for either county. None occur in summer to my knowledge, although I have looked especially for them.

(To be continued.)

THE RED-HEADED WOODPECKER A HOARDER.

BY O. P. HAY.

THE Woodpeckers are eminently an insect-eating family, and their whole organization fits them for gaining access to situations where the supply of their normal food is perennial, if not always abundant. There are, however, in all probability, few members of the group that will not, when opportunities are offered, forego their accustomed animal diet and solace themselves on soft fruits and luscious berries; and when the blasts blow cold, and the soggy limb is frozen hard, and the larva no longer betrays its location by its industry, the few Woodpeckers of the species which brave our winters are, no doubt, glad to avail themselves of such dry forms of nutriment as grains, seeds of grasses, and the softer nuts.

Notwithstanding the many sagacious traits exhibited by birds, it is, to judge from the books, rather unusual for them to lay up

THE RED-HEADED WOODPECKER A HOARDER.

Am. Field. XXVIII, No. 3. — July 16, 1887. pp. 54, 55.
BY O. P. HAY.

The woodpeckers are eminently an insect-eating family, and their whole organization fits them for gaining access to situations where the supply of their normal food is perennial, if not always abundant. There are, however, in all probability, few members of the group that will not, when opportunities are offered, forego their accustomed animal diet and solace themselves on soft fruits and luscious berries; and when the blasts blow cold, and the soggy limb is frozen hard, and the larva no longer betrays its location by its industry, the few woodpeckers of the species which brave our Winters, are, no doubt, glad to avail themselves of such dry forms of nutriment as grains, seeds of grasses and the softer nuts.

Notwithstanding the many sagacious traits exhibited by birds, it is, to judge from the books, rather unusual for them to lay up a store of food for a period of scarcity; and yet it is probable that when we have thoroughly learned their modes of life many will be found to do this. One woodpecker, *Melanerpes formicivorus*, a near relative of our red-headed woodpecker, has long been known as a hoarder of treasures, and an interesting account of its habits is given in Baird Brewer and Ridgway's "Birds of North America." This species is accustomed to dig small holes in the trunks of trees, and to drive into each hole with great force a single acorn. "Thus the bark of a large pine forty or fifty feet high will present the appearance of being closely studded with brass nails, the heads only being visible." It has, by some, been denied that these acorns are collected for food; and it is quite probable that many more are stored away than are ever eaten. It is even related that these birds sometimes hide away in trees collections of small stones. But there are evidences that sometimes, at least, the acorns are utilized. Instinct probably leads the bird to overdo the business of hoarding, just as human reason in a similar direction often misleads its possessors.

Our red-headed woodpecker betrays its kinship to the California species by the possession of somewhat similar habits. Its propensity for hoarding does not appear to have escaped the observation of many persons who make no claims to being ornithologists, and yet I find in no scientific work that I have been able to consult any notice thereof. Gentry, who describes minutely the habits of this species, says nothing about this trait. "The Birds of North America" contains no statement concerning the food of the species; and concerning the hoarding habits of the California woodpecker they are spoken of as being "very remarkable and, for a woodpecker, somewhat anomalous."

Along with the great abundance of grains and fruits of the past year, there has been, in Central Indiana at least, an immense crop of beech-nuts; and the red-heads have appeared to be animated with an ambition to make the most of their opportunities. From the time the nuts began to ripen, these birds appeared to be almost constantly on the wing, passing from the beeches to some place of deposit. They have hidden away the nuts in almost every conceivable situation. Many have been placed in cavities in partially decayed trees; and the felling of an old beech is certain to provide a little feast for a bevy of children. Large

handfuls have been taken from a single knot-hole. They are often found under a patch of the raised bark of trees, and single nuts have been driven into the cracks in bark. They have been thrust into the cracks in front gate-posts: and a favorite place of deposit is behind long slivers on fence-posts. I have taken a good handful from a single such crevice. That sharpest of all observers, the small boy, early discovered the location of these treasures. In a few cases grains of corn have been mixed with beech-nuts, and I have found also a few drupes apparently of the wild-cherry and a partially-eaten bitter-nut. The nuts may often be seen driven into the cracks at the ends of railroad ties; and, on the other hand, the birds have often been seen on the roofs of houses, pounding nuts into the crevices between the shingles. In several instances I have observed that the space formed by a board springing away from a fence-post, has been nearly filled with nuts, and afterward pieces of bark and wood have been brought and driven down over the nuts as if to hide them from poachers. These pieces of bark are sometimes an inch or more square and half an inch thick and driven in with such force that it is difficult to get them out. In one case the nuts were covered over with a layer of empty involucres.

Usually the nuts are still covered with the hulls; but here and there, where the crevice is very narrow, these have been taken off and pieces of the kernels have been thrust in. An examination recently of some of these caches showed that the nuts were being attacked by animals of some kind. The red-heads are frequently seen in the vicinity of these stores and they sometimes manifest great impatience at the presence of other birds. That other birds and animals of any kind disturb these caches I do not know, but it is quite probable that they do.

Since it might be questioned whether or not the woodpeckers use for food the nuts thus stored up, I concluded to apply a test that would probably decide the matter. January 7, after the prevalence for some time of severe weather, I shot two red-heads and made an examination of the contents of their alimentary canal. In the gizzards of both were found considerable quantities of the more or less broken kernels of what appeared to the unaided eye to be beech-nuts. I then made microscopic sections of the pieces and compared them with similar sections of beech-nuts, and the two sets of sections were identical. The red-headed woodpecker certainly eats beech-nuts. In the gizzards there was also some kind of hard vegetable matter that I could not determine, and some coarse sand; but there were no remains of insects.

The laying up of such abundant stores of food for Winter use, in so many places easy of access, and the precautions taken to conceal them, all show a high degree of intelligence in these birds.

The above observations were made in the village of Irvington, near Indianapolis, Ind.—*The Auk*.

Red-headed Woodpeckers.

This bird is a rare visitor in this vicinity, seldom more than one or two being seen during the season, and then only while migrating, usually in the Fall, but very rarely in the Spring. The first one observed this season was on the 10th of September. On the 12th I saw three, and on the 20th I saw one. Early on the morning of the 24th of September they began to pass over in large numbers, and continued to pass until about ten o'clock, after which very few were seen, except straggling groups of three or four, and occasionally a single one was seen to pass over during the day. The flight must have consisted of several hundred, principally young birds. They came from the east and were flying west. Many of them in their flight would alight for a few minutes in the orchards and corn fields to feed on the half-ripened corn, or search among the apple trees for the larva or eggs of insects but would soon continue on their journey, and their places would be supplied by others. I noticed one or two to dart out and seize an insect in the manner of a fly-catcher. The following day but two or three were seen. A few stragglers, however, were occasionally met with up to the 10th of October, and one was seen as late as the 23d of November. I secured several specimens. Upon dissecting them I found their stomachs filled with remnants of acorns and insects. — *A. H. Helme, Miller's Place, L. I.*

C. & O. VII. Apr. 1882. p. 107

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. — *Mr. A. H. Helme's* note on this bird calls to mind an instance of the fly-catching habit of the Hairy Woodpecker. In June, 1881, while spending a few days in the wilds of the Adirondacks, I found a nest of this bird in front of my camp, in the decayed limb of a pine, containing several young birds. Every morning one of the parents occupied itself quite faithfully in capturing insects (in nearly every case large and easily discernable ones), in the intervals of its more dignified labor of searching the bark of the trees. These insects were always fed to the young. Perhaps it is not generally known that fly-catching is quite a common part of the Woodpecker's every day life; but the instances are so many, and come from such varied sources (including nearly all the species that are more or less well known), that it can no longer be considered an individual peculiarity. — *S. L.*

Willard, Chicago, Ill.
C. & O. VII. July, 1882. p. 142

Fidae of Michigan
Stewart E. White

7. Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). Although by no means our commonest, these are our most conspicuous representatives of this class. Arriving sometimes as early as the last of February these birds do not attain the maximum of their numbers until the last of April or the first of May. This is our most familiar summer species inasmuch as it is to be found in the

city as well as in the country, and along the roads as well as in the woods.

These Woodpeckers levy on all classes of food. Besides the insects and larvæ, in the obtaining of which they are as industrious as any of the family; they are also fond of small fruit and the milky kernels of the Indian corn. In cherry time they become as expert as Robins in seizing the ripe fruit from the slender twigs; when the plums, grapes and chokecherries are in good condition they are on hand; while late in the fall and early in the spring, frozen apples are first rate to fall back on. They are connoisseurs too; wherever I found a Red-headed Woodpecker, there was I sure of the sweetest and best flavored cherries. When one is surprised in these depredations his presence of mind never deserts him; with one savage stab he impales the best within reach and retreats, prevented from giving vent to his triumph only by the position of his prey. When the maize is just on the point of maturing they may be seen perched sideways on the most succulent ears tearing off the husks and devouring the sweet kernels. They prepare vast hoards of acorns in abandoned holes, simply for amusement it seems, for apparently no use is made of the provisions so carefully laid away.

Their cry is rattling and quite loud but not as much so as those of some others. These birds are fond of selecting a place of great resonating power and hammering away to their hearts' content, and therefore are often seen perched on the sides of telegraph poles, houses and fence posts.

For some reason they are especial objects of fury to the Robin, and it is by no means an unusual sight to see one hotly pursued by a pair of the latter birds. It is very amusing to see the ease and dexterity with which he avoids their rushes, dodging around a fence post just in the nick of time, escaping to the next when too closely pursued, and finally plumping into a hole, leaving the mystified Robins to speculate on his disappearance.

They are always on hand for a frolic and in companies of six or eight will play by the hour. Often when in pursuit of insects they progress along the tops of large horizontal limbs by a series of hops, but although they often alight on the ground for the purpose of picking up choice morsels, yet I have never seen them searching there as do the Flickers. In September old and young gather together in a large flock, and by the first of October the bulk have gone south.

O. & O., XVI, April, 1891, p. 58.

An Unrecorded Habit of the Red-Headed Woodpecker.

Several years ago my attention was called by a farmer to a singular habit which the Red-headed Woodpeckers in his neighborhood had of robbing the nests of Cliff Swallows. Since then I have collected numerous instances of the kind.

The following incident I believe to be true: Under the eaves of a large barn near Mt. Sterling, O., a colony of Cliff Swallows have built for some years. Last year they were nearly exterminated by several Woodpeckers. The Red-heads would alight at the doors of the mud huts and extract the eggs from the nests with their bills. In some nests the necks or entrance-ways were so long that the Woodpeckers could not reach the eggs by this means, but not willing to be cheated of such choice food they would climb around to the side, and with a few well di-

rected blows of their bills make openings large enough to enable them to procure the eggs. Of the dozens of nests built not a single brood was reared in any. One Woodpecker bolder than the rest began eating hen's eggs wherever they could be found. One morning the lady of the house saw a woodpecker go into a barrel in which she had a sitting of selected hen's eggs. Suspecting his purpose she hastened out and found that he had already broken one egg. The hen was off feeding. Presently the hen returned. Thinking all now safe the lady was about to enter the house when a Woodpecker alighted upon the barrel, and hopping around the top, soon entered. The lady hastened to the barrel and threw her apron over the top and captured the thief.

From my own observations and those of others, the Red-headed Woodpecker, (*M. erythrocephalus*.) must be placed among the egg-sucking birds.—Howard Jones, Circleville, Ohio. O. & O., VII, July, 1888, p. 56

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER EATING GRASSHOPPERS. — Much has been said in relation to the change in the habits of the Red-headed Woodpecker, and the fact that he has been compelled, by the intrusion of other birds, to such ordinary insects, instead of those which inhabit the outside and inside of trees, has been noted by many observers. During the summer of 1877 I saw one on the prairie, half a mile from the timber, very intently bent upon catching grasshoppers (*Caloptenus spretus*). The bird made a fence-post his point of departure and return, flying off a few rods and capturing his game, and then alighting on the post to devour it more at leisure. These birds are apparently much less numerous in this region than they were ten or twelve years ago. — CHARLES ALDRICH, Webster City, Iowa. (Communicated by E. C.) Bull. N. O. C. 3, Oct., 1878, p. 189.

77. *Molothrus ater*.

First plumage: female. Above olivaceous-brown, the primaries, secondaries, greater and middle coverts, and every feather upon the nape and interscapular region, edged with light sugar-brown. Superciliary line and entire under parts delicate brownish-yellow. The throat and lower area of abdomen immaculate; everywhere else thickly streaked with purplish-drab. From a specimen in my cabinet taken at Cambridge, Mass., August 4, 1875. A male in first plumage differs in being much darker and more thickly streaked beneath. Specimens in process of change into the autumnal plumage are curiously patched and marked with the light brown of the first plumage and the darker feathers of the fall dress. All the *remiges* and *rectrices* are moulted with the rest of the first plumage during the first moult.

 REMARKS ON SOME OF THE BIRDS OF LEWIS COUNTY,
NORTHERN NEW YORK.

BY C. HART MERRIAM.

(Continued from p. 56.)

Melanerpes erythrocephalus. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. — This handsome bird, the most beautiful, to my eye, of all our Woodpeckers, may be regarded as a common resident in Lewis County; for since my earliest recollection — and the bird has always been a favorite with me — it has been plentiful throughout the entire year, excepting only during those winters which followed unusually small yields of beechnuts.

Like the Yellow-bellied and Golden-winged Woodpeckers, and to a certain extent the Red-bellied also, it is generally considered a truly migratory species wherever it occurs at all (in the Eastern Province) north of the Southern States. In 1862 Dr. Coues gave it as a "summer resident" in the District of Columbia, stating that it "arrives in spring usually the last week in April; leaves about the middle of September."* Turnbull says (1869) that in East Pennsylvania and New Jersey it is "plentiful, arriving in the latter part of April, and departing in September or beginning of October."† Again, in 1868, Coues gives it as a "rare summer visitant"‡ to New England, and De Kay tells us (1843) that it "arrives in

* List of Birds ascertained to inhabit the District of Columbia. By Elliott Coues and D. Webster Prentiss. From Smithsonian Report for 1861, 1862, p. 403.

† Birds of East Pennsylvania and New Jersey. By William P. Turnbull, LL. D. Glasgow (Cuts), p. 15, 1869.

‡ Proceed. Essex Inst., Vol. V, p. 263, 1868.

Red headed Woodpecker. Boston May 19, 1878 Adult
 (Foster & Braden) Flew past me while out walking

177. *Beechnuts and Woodpeckers*. By C. Hart Merriam, M. D. *Ibid.*, XVII, Dec. 1, 1881, p. 347.—A reply to several pseudonymous articles in previous numbers of this journal (*Forest and Stream*) in reference to the Red-headed Woodpecker's habit of eating beechnuts. Other notes on the same subject, by various contributors, follow in this and succeeding numbers. *For. & Stream*

725. *An Unrecorded Habit of the Red-Headed Woodpecker*. By Howard Jones. *Ibid.*, p. 56.—Robbing the nests of Cliff Swallows and sucking Hen's eggs! *O. & O. Vol. VIII*

196. [*Habits of*] *Red-headed Woodpeckers*. By H. W. Merrill. *Ibid.*, XVIII, No. 5, p. 66, Feb. 23, 1882. *For. & Stream*.

377. *Red-headed Woodpeckers*. By A. H. Helme. *Ibid.*, p. 107.—Large numbers in the vicinity of Miller's Place, L. I., in the autumn of 1881. *O. & O. Vol. VII*

339. *Red-headed Woodpeckers in Southern Conn.* By J. M. Clark. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 72. *O. and O.*

219. *Note on the Red-headed Woodpecker*. By Samuel F. Dexter. *Ibid.*, XIX, No. 4, p. 65, Aug. 24, 1882.—Nesting at Oakland Beach, near Providence, R. I., July 28, 1882. *For. & Stream*.

The Oologist. 1576. *Cannibalism of the Red-headed Woodpecker*. By L[ansing] B. *Auk*, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 42. *F[ontaine]. Ibid.*, p. 29.

345. *Red-headed Woodpeckers [in Connecticut]*. *Ibid.*, VI, pp. 78, 79.

206. *Red-headed Woodpeckers in Maine*. By Everett Smith. *Ibid.*, XVIII, No. 11, p. 208, April 13, 1882.—Their recent appearance in Maine. *For. & Stream*.

179. *Habits of Woodpeckers*. By W. Beeke [and others]. *Ibid.*, XVII, Dec. 15, 1881, p. 387.—In reference to their laying up stores of beechnuts for winter use, particularly refers to the Red-headed Woodpecker. *For. & Stream*

604. [*The Red-headed Woodpecker (Melanerpes erythrocephalus) Robber of other Bird's Nests.*] By E. E. Fish. *Ibid.*, No. 4, p. 92. *Bull. Buf. Nat. Field Club, 1883*, and a note on a carnivorous propensity of the Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (p. 308), by Charles Aldrich. *Amer. Naturalist, Vol. XI, May.*

A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) have bred in Agawam, near Springfield, this summer; this fact may not be worthy of mention, but it is quite rare to find them here.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.* *Auk*, VI, Oct., 1889, p. 340

The Oologist. 1617. *A Murderous Red-headed Woodpecker*. By John A. Morden. *Ibid.*, No. 6, June, 1889, p. 113. *Auk*, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 45

347. *Red-headed Woodpeckers [at Hartford, Conn.]*. By Harry I. Gates. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 80. *O. and O.*

The Oologist. 1600. *A Large Set of Eggs of the Red-headed Woodpecker*. By R. C. McGregor. *Ibid.*, p. 44. *Auk*, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 44.

1832. *Game in town*. By C. Q. etc. Notes on *Bonasa umbellus*, *Columba virginianus*, etc. *For. & Stream*, Vol. 38, Nov. 28, p. 364. *File under Melanerpes erythrocephalus.*

Pickens Co. So. Carolina. 17. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—A few were noticed in the Oolenoy Valley. They were more abundant in the lower part of the County away from the mountains. *S. Carolina, Loomis.*

771. *Red-headed Woodpeckers*. By Moses B. Griffing. *Ibid.*, p. 95. *Auk*, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 38. —At Shelter Island, N. Y. *O. & O. Vol. VIII*

carolinus

Records from Toronto. E. E. T. Seton.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. *Centurus carolinensis*.—A female was taken at Toronto, May 19, 1885.

Auk, 2, Oct., 1885, p. 335

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming,
Part II, Land Birds,
Auk xxiv, Jan., 1907, p. 76.

160. *Centurus carolinus*. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.— Accidental migrant. I have examined four specimens, a female, May 19, 1885,² a male, May 24, 1890, in Mr. Maughan's collection, and two taken November 27, 1899. ² *Auk*, 11, 1885, 335.

CAPTURE OF THE RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Centurus carolinus*) IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS. — A female of this species was taken by Mr. William Adair in a chestnut grove in Newton, November 25, 1880. The male was seen and wounded but was not secured. — GORDON PLUMMER, Boston, Mass. Bull, N. O. C. 3, April, 1881, p. 120

Centurus carolinus

I have just seen (Dec. 24/93) the specimen killed by Matthew Luce Jr. at Cohasset. It is a male in high plumage. Mr. Luce tells me that it was among some rather large scattered oaks and was very shy. Indeed he had to shoot it with #3 shot after chasing it a long distance. He has promised to give me the skin.

A SECOND MASSACHUSETTS SPECIMEN OF THE RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Centurus carolinus*). — At the establishment of Pertia W. Aldrich, the well-known taxidermist, I have lately seen a freshly-made skin of a Red-bellied Woodpecker which Mr. Aldrich tells me was shot at Cohasset, May 28, 1881, by a young son of Matthew Luce, Esq., of Boston. The bird is an adult male in fine plumage. It is the second known Massachusetts specimen, the first having been recorded in the last (April) number of the Bulletin, by Gordon Plummer, Esq. — WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

[Although the two specimens alluded to above are doubtless the only ones thus far known to have been actually taken in Massachusetts it may be well to call attention to two earlier records. In my "Catalogue of Birds found at Springfield, Mass.," etc., published in 1864 (Proc. Essex Institute, Vol. IV, pp. 48-98), I gave the species as a "Summer Visitant. Accidental"; and add: "Saw one May 13th 1863" (l. c., p. 53). I also cite Peabody (Rep. on the Birds of Mass.) as stating that Professor Emmons had found it breeding in Western Massachusetts. Whatever may be the weight of the testimony last cited, I will take this opportunity of stating more fully the instance I give on my own authority. The specimen was shot and fell, but just as it reached the ground scaled off a few feet into a pile of brush thickly overgrown with bushes, and a prolonged search, repeatedly renewed on subsequent days, failed to discover the bird. Nothing in my ornithological experience ever made so deep an impression on my memory, or gave me keener disappointment, for I knew what a prize I had lost. The species was then well known to me, and was as distinctly recognized as it could have been had I had it actually in hand. A specimen of this species has since been taken by Mr. E. I. Shores within five miles (at Suffield, Conn. (see Merriam's Birds of Conn., p. 65), of the locality where my example was shot. — J. A. ALLEN.]

April, Mass.
Usual Record for Massachusetts.

Centurus carolinus. In a collection of birds purchased some time since I found one of this species labelled "♀, Hull, Mass., 1882, W. B. R." (Richardson). The bird is not however a female but evidently a young male.

Bulletin N. 188, 99-200.

Centurus carolinus

♂ or ♀ ad. in coll. Boston Society
taken at Providence R. I.

CAPTURE OF TWO RARE BIRDS IN THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY.—
1. *Centurus carolinus* (Linné) Swainson. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.
—I recently examined a handsomely mounted Woodpecker of this species in the possession of Mr. Jas. S. Buchanan, of Newburgh, which was taken at Cornwall, on the Hudson, in September, 1870.

Edgar A. Mearns, Highland Falls, N.Y.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, July, 1878, p. 146.

Some Birds of Lewis Co, N. Y.
C. Hart Merriam

Centurus carolinus. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.—Mr. C. L. Bagg has a mounted specimen of this Woodpecker, which he shot here (Locust Grove, Lewis County) during the winter of 1871-2.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 6

EDITOR OF O. & O.

Dear Sir,—

It is mine to report the occurrence, in this vicinity of two rare birds.

The first, a Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*) Ridgw. 372, identified by Will

P. Chase and John P. Chase of this place, June 2nd, 1885.

The second, a Yellow-bellied Woodpecker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) Ridgw. 369, found with a nest of four young in an orchard apple-tree, June 5th, 1886.

These birds have never been taken in this county, (to my knowledge) before or since the dates given.

The avi-fauna of Orleans County is now in preparation and promises to show, when completed, the names of over two hundred well authenticated birds.

Respectfully,

NEIL F. POSSON.

Medina, N. Y.

O. & O. XIII, Dec. 1888 p. 172.

Auk, XII, July, 1895, p. 313.

Rare Birds near Buffalo, New York.

Melanerpes carolinus. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.—I saw one at the taxidermist's that was shot at North Collins, Erie Co., in October, 1894.

James Savage, Buffalo, N.Y.

Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.

Melanerpes carolinus. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.—This specimen was presented by the late Dr. H. F. Aten, of Brooklyn; there are no data connected with it. Mr. Akhurst states that during the period he was actively collecting in the tract of timber referred to above, he saw several specimens of *M. carolinus*, but for a great many years he has not found any. The absence of the species probably arises from the fact that the character of the country has been entirely changed by the cutting down of the forests and the occupation of the land by dwellings and streets.

Auk, X, July, 1893 p. 275-6.

Auk, XIII, Jan., 1896, p. 82.

A New Long Island, N. Y., Record for the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*).—When visiting Mr. C. DuBois Wagstaff at Babylon, N. Y., last fall, I noticed a well-mounted specimen of this southern Woodpecker among a collection of local birds, and on inquiring the particulars of its capture, Mr. Wagstaff informed me that he shot it upon a locust tree close to the house, a year or two after the war. A specimen was shot by me in Flushing, N. Y., in October 1870, which I understood was the second record for Long Island, N. Y., but this bird antedates my specimen some years. The specimen in the collection of Mr. Geo. N. Lawrence, which was taken at Raynor South by a Mr. Ward, was killed many years ago and was, I believe, the first record for this locality.—ROBERT B. LAWRENCE, *New York City.*

Notes on the birds of Madison County, New York,
with especial reference to Embury's recent list.

9. *Melanerpes carolinus*. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.—“Of rare and irregular occurrence. One recorded March 8, 1898.” Mr. Miller has recorded also (*Auk*, IX, 201, 1892) taking a bird at Peterboro, Feb. 16, 1886.

By William R. Maxon. *Auk*, XX, July, 1903, p. 264.

Pickens Co. 18. *Melanerpes carolinus*. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. The lower
So. Carolina. elevations seemingly preferred; tolerably common. S. Carolina, 1886, p. 34.
Auk, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 34.

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

97. *Centurus carolinus*.

First plumage: female. Crown dull ashy, each feather tipped broadly with plumbeous; nape with a narrow, inconspicuous collar of pale dull brick-red. Rest of upper parts marked as in the adult, with, however, a brownish tinge in the transverse white bands. Abdomen dull saffron; rest of under parts brownish-ashy, nearly every feather in a broad band across the breast with a narrow, obscure shaft-streak* of purplish-brown. From a specimen in my collection obtained by Mr. W. D. Scott, at Coalburgh, W. Va., July 23, 1872.

* Several Woodpeckers, unmarked beneath in maturer stages, show a tendency to spots or streaks upon the sides and breast when in first plumage.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Oct., 1878. p. 181.

Red Bellied Woodpecker

Florida,
Suwanee River.
March-April, 1890.

One of the commonest species throughout the heavy timber of the bottom lands, but decreasing markedly in numbers as we approached the mouth of the river. In addition to the *Luscalus* note, this Woodpecker utters frequently a long, rattling cry which closely resembles that of the Hairy Woodpecker. When mating one or both sexes also utters a whicker note, very similar to that of the Golden-winged Woodpecker

The Red-bellied Woodpecker.

(*Centurus carolinus*)—(LIN) SW.

BY D. E. L., MANHATTAN, KAN.

In this part of Kansas four species of Picidae are common and permanent residents. These are the Downy, the Hairy, and the Red-bellied Woodpecker and the Yellow-shafted Flicker. The first and the last mentioned are more abundant than the others. The Red-headed Woodpecker is a common Summer resident, rarely remaining later than Sept. 1. It is also a late arrival in Spring migration. The Red-shafted Flickers (*Colaptes auratus* and *hybridus*) are rather common in Winter. The Pileated Woodpecker, although common in more-heavily timbered portions of the State, is rare here, only two specimens having been observed in a residence of six years. Of the Yellow-bellied Woodpecker but one specimen has ever been observed in this locality.

There is so much uniformity in the breeding habits of our Picidae that one would think there is nothing new to learn. Yet I feel that I have been amply repaid for the casual attention given to our common *Centurus carolinus*. Knowing that many of the readers of the O. and O. have not had opportunities for an intimate acquaintance with it, I take for their benefit, a few notes from my records.

One of the first facts to be noted about our western Woodpeckers is their familiarity and boldness even in the breeding season. None but the Hairy seem to have the retiring habits so often noticed in the east. The Flicker, the Red-headed, and the Downy Woodpeckers come into the door-yards in the most thickly settled parts of our towns, and excavate holes for their nests in the decayed limbs of shade trees. The first two frequently make holes in the cornices of buildings, and rear their young under the same roof that shelters us. Singularly enough, the Red-bellied Woodpecker shares in this familiarity, and receives the protection of those whom he favors with his noisy company.

My first acquaintance with its nest was in 1882, when I found a nest near the Big Blue river. This nest was in a large Elm tree which grew in an open space not far from a farm-house, and near the edge of the timber. The excavation was in a large dead limb, about twelve feet from the ground. On climbing to it, I found three fresh eggs, and left them for the full set which I found to be five eggs. These were taken May 12. During last season I found about a dozen nests of these species from which I collected several sets. The nests present nothing new in choice of position, being usually less than twenty feet from the ground. My earliest date for a full set was May 10. On May 13 two sets were taken, one of four and the other of five eggs; both were slightly incubated. It was a great surprise to me to learn how devoted this bird is to its nest. After incubation has commenced, no noise or disturbance is sufficient to drive the bird away. In several cases it was necessary to remove it by force before the eggs could be secured. After being robbed, it almost immediately begins the excavations of a hole for a second set of eggs. This is always in the vicinity of the first, often in the same tree. Their attachment for their nests is an additional trait of character which should commend these birds to our protection. Besides, the fact of its being a permanent resident and thus an ever useful "insecticide," renders it one of the most beneficial of the Picidae.

The eggs of this species are in size and general appearance so much like those of the Red-headed Woodpecker that they cannot be distinguished. In making exchanges of Woodpecker's eggs with others, faith in the reliability of the collector is an essential factor. **O. & O. X. Jan. 1885. p. 10-11.**

A Cross-billed Woodpecker.

BY W. F. WEST, GREENSBURG, IND.

While out collecting one day this winter, I shot a male Red-bellied Woodpecker in normal plumage, but with the mandibles of the bill crossed. When the tips of the mandibles were placed together, there would be a space of about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch between the upper and the lower. This bird was in good shape, but it would seem almost impossible for it to feed after the fashion of woodpeckers.

O. & O. XIII. June. 1888 p. 95

Melanerpes carolinus Eating Oranges.—As corroborating Dr. Warren's account in his late report on the birds of Pennsylvania, it may be worth while to state that when at Enterprise, Florida, in February, 1889, I observed a Red-bellied Woodpecker eating the pulp of a sweet orange. He flew down to the ground and, hopping along rather clumsily, approached an orange, and for several minutes pecked at it in a slow deliberate way. When I showed myself he at once took flight, and sought shelter in the dense foliage of the trees above. Upon examining the orange, I found that it was decayed through the whole of one side. In the sound portion were three holes, each nearly as large as a silver dollar, with narrow strips of peel between them. The pulp had been eaten out quite to the middle of the fruit. Small pieces of rind were thickly strewn about the spot. Upon searching closely I discovered several other oranges that had been attacked in a similar manner. All were partially decayed, and were lying on the ground. I was unable to find any on the trees which showed any marks of the Woodpecker's bill. The owner of this grove was surprised when I called his attention to the above facts, which were quite new to him. Nor had any of the other orange growers in the neighborhood any knowledge of this orange-eating habit of the Red-bellied Woodpecker.—
WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Ank, VI. Oct., 1889, p. 337-338'

Melanerpes carolinus. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.

Possessing very full testimony regarding this bird's habit of eating oranges, as noticed with interest by Dr. Warren and Mr. Brewster, I offer my observations made near Sanford. During February and March, 1889, while gathering fruit or pruning orange trees, I frequently found oranges that had been riddled by this Woodpecker, and repeatedly saw the bird at work. I never observed it feeding upon fallen oranges. It helped itself freely to sound fruit that still hung on the trees, and in some instances I have found ten or twelve oranges on one tree that had been tapped by it. Where an orange accidentally rested on a branch in such a way as to make the flower end accessible from above or from a horizontal direction the Woodpecker chose that spot, as through it he could reach into all the sections of the fruit, and when this was the case there was but one hole in the orange. But usually there were many holes around it. It appeared that after having once commenced on an orange, the Woodpecker returned to the same one repeatedly until he had completely consumed the pulp, and then he usually attacked another very near to it. Thus I have found certain clusters in which every orange had been bored, while all the others on the tree were untouched. An old orange grower told me that the 'sapsuckers,' as he called them, never touch any but very ripe oranges and are troublesome only to such growers as reserved their crops for the late market. He also said that it is only within a very few years that they have shown a taste for the fruit; and I myself observed that, although Red-bellies were very common in the neighborhood, only an individual, or perhaps a pair, visited any one grove. In one case a pair took up their station in a dead pine near a grove and made excursions after the fruit at all hours of the day, being easily located by the noise they kept up.

AUK, VII, Oct,
1890, . 339

8. Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*). Common in the southern part of the state, these birds reach nearly the limit of their northern range in Kent County. As a consequence, while not actually rare, their numbers are so small that opportunities for observation on their habits are necessarily few and far between. In migration one can be found occasionally inside the city limits when his habits are much the same as those of the Sapsucker. As summer residents they are always in the depths of the woods, preferably of a somewhat swampy character. They girdle the trunks very much as the Yellow-bellied does and in the proper season doubtless make many a meal of sap. I have seen one insert his bill into the holes. They are very expeditious in their movements; beginning on the larger trunks, one thence proceeds to the limbs and twigs, pausing every few moments to arch his neck and give utterance to his shrill rolling call. This, though not remarkably loud, has great carrying power, and can be heard in the remotest confines of the woods in which they reside. The Red-bellied Woodpeckers though southern in range appear to be more hardy than some of their brothers; only the severest winters can drive them away, and they are generally resident the year around.

O&O, XVI, April, 1891, p. 58

Eating orangesCenturus Carolinus

1889.

Enterprise, Fla.

Feb. 14

Ever since I arrived here I have heard or seen one of these Woodpeckers daily in the orange grove. I suspected that the oranges were the attraction but no one interested in orange raising knew that this bird was attacking the fruit. To-day however I caught him in the very act. He flew down to the ground and hopping up to a fallen orange pecked at it in a slow leisurely way for several minutes. Finally I approached and he set over my right shoulder in a tree above. In examining the orange I found that it was a sweet one decayed over the whole of one side. In the sound side were three holes each nearly as large as a silver dollar leaving only a narrow strip of peel between. The bird had eaten the pulp in passing to the middle of the fruit. Some of the peel about as large as woodpecker chips long & narrow. Usually on the ground around the spot.

Colaptes auratus. * = "stomping", √ = wicker, ♂ = drumming.

1889

April

Cd. Co. 1 Cd. 4 1889. 10* 14* 16* 17* 18 19 21 22 24 25 26 27 1891

May

5⁴ 10¹ 11² 14¹ 16² 17² 29³ 31² 1889. 3³ 7¹ 13² 15* 16² 17² 19² 22* 23¹ 25¹ 29² 1890

June

1¹ 3² 4² 5¹ 8¹ 16² 20⁴ 1889. 1⁴ 5¹ 10³ 12² 13¹ 14² 21¹ 22² 28¹ 29¹ 1890

July

9² 19⁴ 1889. 18² 19² 1890

Aug

11¹ 20¹ 27¹ 1889. 3¹ 14¹ 1890

Nov.

25² 26¹ 1889. 16¹ 1890 2¹ 1891.

Dec.

5¹⁰ 6² 1889. 20¹ 1891.

Feb.

1² 1890 4¹ 1891 Feb. 12 (Hoffman) 7² 10¹ 26¹ 1893 10¹ 1892

March

6¹ 24¹ 25³ 28¹ 30¹ 1891, 5² (Faxon) 9² (Faxon) 14⁵ (Faxon) 1893

April

2¹ 3¹ 4¹ 5⁵ 6² 7³ 8² 9¹ 13² 14² 15³ 17² 18² 19³ 20² 21 23² 24² 25 26 28 29⁴ 30³ Concord 1892

May

30² 31² 1890 1² 2² 4¹ 11¹ 8¹ 9⁴ (Faxon) 10⁵ (Faxon) 12³ 15¹ 17¹ 23³ 24² 25¹ 28⁴ 31¹ 1891

June

7³ 2² 3⁷ 1891.

Sept.

14¹ 1890

Oct.

4¹ 11² 1891.

Nov.

Dec.

Jan.

13¹ 22¹ 7³ 14¹ 15⁶ (wicker note) 22¹ 23¹ 1892

C. auratus

* = "shouting"
 ✓ = wicker note
 ♂ = drumming

Colaptes auratus

1892

January

February 10¹ Concord

March

April 2¹* 3¹* 4¹* 5²* 6²* 7²* 8²* 9 13²* 14² 15³* 17²* 18² 19³ 20² 21 23²* 24²* 25²* 26²* 28 29⁴* 30³* Concord

May 1¹* 2⁴ 3⁵* 4³* 5²* 6² 7⁴* 8⁴* 9 10 11 12³* 13³* 14⁴* 15² 17¹* 18² 19² 20² 21² 22¹* 23¹* 24¹* 26¹* 28¹* 29²* 30¹* 31¹* "

June 1⁴* 2²* 3² 4¹* 5¹* 6¹* 7¹* 8¹* 12¹ 13² 14 15²* 16² 17¹* 18² 19³ 20²* 21²* 22¹* 30^{*} "

July 1⁴* 2²* 3¹* 4¹* 5¹* 6¹* 7 8 9 10¹* 11¹* 12¹* 13 14¹* 15⁴* 16² 18¹* 22¹* 23¹* 24¹* 27³ 30¹ 31¹ "

August 2¹ 12¹ 13¹ 14²* 15² 17² 18 20¹ 23¹ 24² 28⁴ "

September 1¹ 3² 4¹* 5² 6¹ 7² 8² 9 13¹* 16¹* 18¹* 20³ 21¹ 22¹ 23² 24² 25² 27² 28² 30³ "

October 1¹ 2¹ 4² 6³ 7² 8² 9² 12¹ 18¹ 21¹ 22² 25² 27² "

November 7¹ 12¹ 13¹ 16¹ 19² 20¹ "

December

1893.

January ^B 13¹ ^{C.} 22¹ ^{Belmont Arlington-Faxon} 1³ 14¹ 15⁶ 22¹ 23¹

February ^{Belmont Arlington-Faxon} 7² 10¹ 26¹

March ^{Part P. Bel. A. C. (Fresh P.) Co. M. C. C.} 5² 9² 14⁵ 17² 19¹* 20¹* 22¹ 27¹*

April 4¹* 7²* 8¹ 10¹* 12¹* 20² 21¹* 22¹* 23¹* 24²* 25²* 27² 28¹* 29⁴* 30³ Concord.

May ^{cd. C. C. C.} 1²* 8¹ 9² 10¹* 11¹* 13¹* 14²* 15¹* 16¹* ^{plus 6 hrs} 17⁴ 18² 19¹* 20¹* 21¹* 22¹* 22¹* 23¹* 24¹* 25¹* 27² 29¹* 30¹ Concord.

June ^{C. C.} 30⁴ young

July 4²* 5¹* 12¹* 13¹ 14¹* 16¹ 20¹* (sunrise) 22¹ 25¹ 30² 31¹* Concord.

August ⁹ 1¹ 7¹* 8¹* 9³ 27²* 30¹ 31¹ Concord.

September 13¹ 2¹ 8³ 9¹* 12¹ 16¹ Concord.

October ^{Concord} 25² 26²

November

December ^{Co. M. C. C.} 6¹ ^{C. (Belmont)} 7¹ 13¹ ^{Co. M. C. C.} 14¹ ^{Co. M. C. C.} 17¹ ^{Co. M. C. C.} 18¹ 20¹ (Wichita, Ks.)

C. auratus

Colaptes auratus

* = "shouting."
 ✓ = wicker note
 ♂ = drumming.

1894.

January 7[Ⓞ] 6[Ⓛ]

February 8[Ⓛ]

March

April

May Concord 1[Ⓛ] 2[Ⓛ] 3[Ⓛ] 5[Ⓛ] 7[Ⓛ] Concord 12[Ⓛ] 13[Ⓛ] E. Bay 15[Ⓛ] 16[Ⓛ] Barnstable Cd. 18[Ⓛ] 26[Ⓛ] 27[Ⓛ] 30[Ⓛ] (C. (C. form) nest in buttonwood)

June Great N. Myans Cd. 3[Ⓛ] 4[Ⓛ] 5[Ⓛ] 7[Ⓛ] Wareham 9[Ⓛ] 10[Ⓛ] 11[Ⓛ]

July Milton C. Cemetery 8[Ⓛ] 11[Ⓛ] 2[Ⓛ] Burby Milton Cd. 15[Ⓛ] 22[Ⓛ] 25[Ⓛ] 30[Ⓛ] 31[Ⓛ]

August Cd. Cg. 5[Ⓛ] 14[Ⓛ]

September

October 7[Ⓛ] 12[Ⓛ] 13[Ⓛ] Concord.

November

December C. Fresh P. Lane 6[Ⓛ]

Concord
 20[Ⓛ] Dakins Blvd.

1895

January

February

March

Wm. 10[Ⓛ] A. 20[Ⓛ] Chas R. 22[Ⓛ]

April

B. 1 2[Ⓛ] Cd. 4[Ⓛ] Concord 15[Ⓛ] 16[Ⓛ] 17[Ⓛ] 18[Ⓛ] 19[Ⓛ] 21[Ⓛ] 22[Ⓛ] 28[Ⓛ] 29[Ⓛ] 30[Ⓛ]

May

Concord 1[Ⓛ] 2[Ⓛ] 3[Ⓛ] 4[Ⓛ] 6[Ⓛ] C. Cemetery 13[Ⓛ] Barnstable 17[Ⓛ] Provincetown 18[Ⓛ]

June

July

August Cg. 7[Ⓛ] Cg. 13[Ⓛ] Cg. 25[Ⓛ] Cg. 26[Ⓛ]

Sept.

Oct. 8[Ⓛ] 17[Ⓛ] (min Keys) 21[Ⓛ] 22[Ⓛ] Concord

Nov. 3[Ⓛ] 7[Ⓛ] Concord

Dec. Cg. 4[Ⓛ] Cg. 1 8[Ⓛ] Cg. 29[Ⓛ]

Concord
 24 Sumner Ave.

C. auratus.

* = "shouting"
 ✓ = "wicker" notes
 G = drumming.

Colaptes auratus

1896.

January Cs. 12⁴
 February A. 23 ^{cedar berries} ^{cedar berries}
 March Cs. C. Museum 25¹ 26^{1/2}
 April (West Bedford Mt. Ball's H.) C. Cd. C. Cd. 1¹ 4¹ 6¹ 7¹ 10¹ 11¹ 8¹ 12¹ [13¹] 14¹ 15³ 16² 17⁴ 18⁴ 19³ 20³ 21⁵ 22⁴ 23⁶ 25⁸ 26⁶ 27⁸ 28⁸ 29⁷ Concord 1896
 May Cs. Cg. 3¹ 10¹
 June C (Edenwood) 19¹
 July
 August C. 4¹ 9¹ 13¹ 2¹
 September
 October 20^{hd.} 21^{do.} 22³ 23² 24³ 27² 28¹ 30² Concord
 November Cg. C. Concord 3¹ 10¹ 18² 25¹
 December Cg. Cg. Cg. Cg. Cg. 1¹ 8¹ 11¹ 12¹ 17³ 20¹ 21¹ 22¹ 25¹

1897

January Cg. Cg. 3¹ 7¹ 8³ 10¹ 25¹ 29² 30³ {cedar berries of Harknessy (Celtis) in the garden.
 February
 March C. (Cemetery) C. B. C. Cemetery C. 1¹ mt. Auburn Our garden, C. 6² 10² 11¹ 19¹ 22¹ 23¹ 26¹ 27¹ 28¹
 April Concord Cg. Cg. Cg. Cg. Cg. C. Wm. B. A. Concord: 3¹ 4¹ 5³ 6³ 7⁴ 8³ 9¹ 10¹ 11¹ 12² 13¹ 14¹ 15¹ 16¹ 17¹ 18¹ 21³ 22¹ 23¹ 24¹ 25¹ 26² 28³ 29¹
 May B. Cg. 6¹ 7¹
 June
 July
 August Cg. Mt. Auburn Cg. 19¹ 22¹ 25¹ 30¹ 31¹
 September
 October 22¹ 24¹ 27¹ Concord
 November 2^{hd.} 10¹ Concord
 December C. (Cray's woods) Montpelier bridge Concord 14³ 16¹

C. auratus

R. = Ropes floor
 B.H. = Back Hill.
 * = shouting
 ✓ = "wicker" call
 ♀ = drumming.

Colaptes auratus.

1898.

January

February

March

April

May

June

October

November

December

^{Cg.} 8⁻ ^{Cg.} 20⁻ ^{Cg.} 29⁻ ^{Cg.} 25⁻ ^{B.} 27^②
^{B.} 12² ^{W. Bedford} 16¹ 17¹ 18¹ 19¹ ^{Ca.} 20¹ 21¹ 22¹ 23¹ 24² 25⁴ 27¹ 28² 29² 30² 31¹
^{Our garden Cambridge.}
 1¹ 9¹ 10² 11² 12¹ 14¹ 15¹ 16¹ 17² [18¹ 19¹ 22¹ 23¹] 24¹ 25² 30¹
 1¹ 2¹ 3² 4¹ 5¹ 6¹ 7¹ 9¹ 10¹ 13¹ 14¹ 18² 19¹ 20¹ 29¹ 30¹
^{First P.}
 5¹ 7¹ 8¹ 9² Concord 18² 22¹ 23⁻
^{Cg. (W.D.)} 7⁻ ^{R.} 26⁻ ^{X.} 2¹ 3¹ 4² 5⁻ 6⁻ 7¹ 8⁻ 10² 11⁻ 12² 13⁻ 20⁻ 26⁻ Concord
^{Our garden, Concord, W.D.} 5⁻ 8⁻ 18⁻ 19⁻ 1⁻ 6⁻ 16⁻ Concord.
 4⁻ 12⁻ 18⁻ 19⁻ 27⁻ 30^② Our garden, Cambridge

1899.

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

October

"

November

"

December

^{Our garden Cambridge}
 3^② 4⁻ 6⁻ 8⁻ 11⁻ 12⁻ 13⁻ 23⁻
^{Our garden, Cambridge}
 2^② 4^② 6^② 7^② 8⁻ 10^② 14^② 15² 16^② 17^② 18⁻ 25⁻ [26^②] 27^② 28^②
^{Cg.} 2^② ^{Cg.} 4^② ^{Botanic Garden} 9¹ ^{Cg.} W.D. 14⁻ 15⁻ 16⁻ 18⁻ ^{W.D.} 20⁻ ^{Cg.} 21^② ^{Cg.} 22^② ^{Cg.} 23⁻ ^{Cg.} 24² ^{Cg.} 27¹ ^{Cg.} 28¹ ^{Cg.} 29¹ ^{Cg.} 30¹ Concord 1⁻ 15⁻ 15⁻ 30^②
^{Cg.} 1¹ ^{Cg.} 2¹ ^{Cg.} 3¹ 4¹ 6¹ 7¹ 8^② 9¹ 10¹ 11² 14¹ 15¹ 23¹ 24¹ 25¹ 26¹ 28¹ 29^② 30¹ Concord 1⁻ 15⁻ 15⁻ 30^②
^{Our garden, Cambridge}
 1² 2¹ 3¹ 4¹ 7¹ 8¹ 11² 12¹ 13² 15¹ 18² 19¹ 20¹ 23¹ Concord. 1¹ to 31¹ pair nesting
^{Our garden, Cambridge}
 1⁻ 2⁻ 6⁻ 7⁻ 9⁻ 10⁻ 12⁻ 13⁻ 14⁻ 15⁻ 16⁻ 19⁻ 20⁻ 22⁻ 24⁻ 26⁻ 27⁻ 30⁻ The garden, Camb.
^{Cg.} 21¹ ^{Cg.} 22¹ ^{Cg.} 3¹
 5⁻ 11⁻ 13⁻ 19⁻ 21^② visited box 27^② visited box 28^② Our garden, Cambridge, W. Dean.
 16⁻ 17^② 21⁻ 23⁻ 26⁻ Concord
 8⁻ 22^② 25⁻ 27^② 29⁻ Our garden, Cambridge. 30⁻ Boyton Park.
^{Barrett farm} 1⁻ ^{do.} 3⁻ ^{do.} 4⁻ Concord.
 18⁻ 19⁻ 30^{ad.} Our garden, Cambridge. 11⁻ ^{First Pond.}

C. auratus

The Garden, Cambridge, Mass.,

Colaptes auratus

G. = R. A. Gilbert

1900 January 13[♂] February 2^{2♂♂} 3^{hd} 4^{hd} 6' 20' March 2[♂] 8^{♂♀} 13[♂] 23[♂] 25[♂] April 1[♂] 2[♂] 4[♂] 6[♂] 7[♂] 9[♂]
" 10[♂] 17[♂] 18[♂] 23[♂] 27[♂] 28[♂] May 1[♂] 3[♂] 11[♂] 15[♂] 16' 20[♂] June 2[♂] 4[♂] 5[♂] 6[♂] 8[♂] 12[♂] Aug. 20[♂] 22[♂] 23[♂] 25[♂]. Oct. 11¹²
" 13¹⁴ 17¹⁰ 23¹⁴ 30¹⁴ Nov. 2[♂] 29[♂] December 1[♂] 4[♂] 5[♂] Apples under the tree 17' 18' Apples on the tree 17' 18' Apples on the tree 17' 18' Apples on the tree 17' 18'

1901 January 5[♂] ^{♂ went half way into a spigot hole in the tree} 23[♂] March 22[♂] April 7[♂] 8[♂] 9[♂] 10[♂] 12[♂] 12[♂] W.D. May 1[♂]
13[♂] 14[♂] 15[♂] 16[♂] 17[♂] 18[♂] 19[♂] 20[♂] 22[♂] 23[♂] 24[♂] 25[♂] 26[♂] 27[♂] 28[♂] 29[♂] 30[♂] July 16' 18[♂] 20[♂] 22[♂] 23[♂] 24[♂] 25[♂] 27[♂] 29[♂] 30[♂] 31[♂] August 1[♂] 2[♂] 3[♂] 5[♂] 6[♂] 7[♂] 8[♂] 9[♂]
10[♂] 12[♂] 14[♂] 15[♂] 16[♂] 17[♂] 18[♂] 19[♂] 20[♂] 21[♂] 22[♂] 24[♂] 26[♂] 28[♂] September 2[♂] 3[♂] 5[♂] 6[♂] 7[♂] 8[♂] 10[♂] 12[♂] 13[♂] 14[♂]
16[♂] 17[♂] 19[♂] 20[♂] 21[♂] 23[♂] 24[♂] 25[♂] 26[♂] 28[♂] 30[♂] October 1[♂] 2[♂] 3[♂] 5[♂] 10[♂] 11[♂] November 22[♂] December 3[♂]

1902 January 21[♂] ^{Parkman's Apple eating 8 fruit} 27[♂] February 24[♂] ^{Parkman's Apple eating} March 13[♂] 24[♂] 25[♂] 28[♂] 29[♂] 30[♂] ^{Apple tree} 29[♂] 30[♂] ^{Apple tree}
April 1[♂] ^{Apple tree} 5[♂] 6[♂] 7[♂] 9[♂] 10[♂] 11[♂] 12[♂] 14[♂] ^{Apple tree} 15[♂] ^{Apple tree} 16[♂] 17[♂] 18[♂] 19[♂] 21[♂] 22[♂] 23[♂] 24[♂] 25[♂] 26[♂]
(") 28[♂] May 1[♂] 2[♂] 3[♂] 24[♂] W.D. July 4[♂] 5[♂] 7[♂] 8[♂] 10[♂] 28[♂] 30[♂] 31[♂]
August 1[♂] 5[♂] 9[♂] 16[♂] 20[♂] 24[♂] 27[♂] 30[♂] 31[♂] November 12[♂] December 3[♂] 16[♂] 22[♂] 24[♂] 31[♂]

1903 January 1[♂] 2[♂] 6[♂] 10[♂] 12[♂] 13[♂] 15[♂] 17[♂] 18[♂] 21[♂] 22[♂] 24[♂] February 3[♂] 4[♂] 5[♂] 6[♂] 9[♂] 11[♂] 12[♂]
(February) 14[♂] 23[♂] 25[♂] 26[♂] 27[♂] 28[♂] March 2[♂] 4[♂] 8[♂] eating 5[♂] eating 6[♂] eating 7[♂] (eat) 8[♂] 11[♂] eating
(March) 16[♂] ^{♀ skinned about 6 times} 17[♂] 18[♂] 19[♂] ^{copulating on cherry tree} 20[♂] ^{near my window (W.D.)} 21[♂] 22[♂] 23[♂] 24[♂] 25[♂] 26[♂] 27[♂] 28[♂] 29[♂] 30[♂] 31[♂] ^{Apple tree}
(") 20[♂] 23[♂] 24[♂] 26[♂] ^{♀ clean & strong at least 12 times} 27[♂] 30[♂] 31[♂] April 1[♂] 2[♂] 6[♂] ^{in apple tree (W.D.)}
(April) 7[♂] 8[♂] 10[♂] 13[♂] 24[♂] July 3[♂] 5[♂] 14[♂] 18[♂] 22[♂] 24[♂] 25[♂] 26[♂] 29[♂] 30[♂]
September 10[♂] 12[♂] 25[♂] 26[♂] October 31[♂] November 3[♂] 4[♂] 9[♂] 18[♂] 24[♂] December 7[♂] 8[♂] 25[♂] 29[♂]

C. auratus

1904 January 21[♂] February 13[♂] +1 March 5[♂] 7[♂] 8[♂] 28[♂] 29[♂] April 2[♂] 7[♂] May 3[♂]
June 15[♂] 18[♂] July 7[♂] 14[♂] 26[♂] 28[♂] August 3[♂] ^{repeatedly at 10' 11' 27' 31'} 10[♂] 11[♂] 27[♂] 31[♂]
September 21[♂] 27[♂] October 9[♂] November 7[♂] 18[♂] December 31[♂]
1905 January 1[♂] ^{1 Lindens (W.B.)} 24[♂] 27[♂] February 14[♂] ^{in Calceolary very} 23[♂] ^{near the house} ^{(388) (W.B.)} ^{Parkman's Apple}
(February) 24[♂] 25[♂] 26[♂] ^{shooting} 27[♂] ^{(388) feeding} 28[♂] ^{Parkman's} March 1[♂] ^{Parkman's} 2[♂] ^{Apple}
(March) 3[♂] 4[♂] 6[♂] 9[♂] ^{at Calceolary} 11[♂] ^{at Calceolary} 13[♂] 16[♂] 18[♂] 19[♂] 22[♂] 25[♂] 26[♂] 28[♂] 29[♂]
(") 31[♂] April 1[♂] 3[♂] 26[♂] 29[♂] 30[♂] May 9[♂] 16[♂] 17[♂] 18[♂] ^{using 9} ^{needles} ^{to reach} ^{other (W.D.)}
(May) 19[♂] 20[♂] June 23[♂] 29[♂] July 3[♂] 6[♂] 18[♂] 27[♂]
August 3[♂] ^{(over) (early)} 9[♂] ^{(over) (early)} 10[♂] 17[♂] ^{nearly full} 19[♂] ^{(full) (3 times, noon)} 22[♂] (do.)
25[♂] ^{shooting} ^{W.D.} 28[♂] September 10[♂] ^{(over) (early)} 30[♂] November 11[♂] 18[♂] 19[♂] ^{feeding} ^{Parkman's} ^{Apple}
December 20[♂] 27[♂] 28[♂] 31[♂] ^(giving the bird up notes)

over

Colaptes auratus

1906 January 3' 25' 26' 31' February 2' 4' 6' 7' 8' 12' ^③ 1 seen just before
 11' 17' 19' 20' ^{head shining, three being during} 21' ^{the A.M. Heard the 'whicker' note} 23' ^{me, and the 11-year-old with me in A.M.} 26' 28' March 1' ^{found bird.} 13' 8' ^{apple}
 (March) 2' ^{in the Parkman apple tree. 18' & 18' were together on one side} 3' 4' 5' 6' 7' 17' ^{of the tree (whicker note was). 18' & 18' in the other side}
 (") 19' 21' 24' 26' 27' 29' April 4' ^{partly} 9' 11' 13' 16' 17' ^{all day}
 (April) 18' 19' 20' 21' 22' 23' 24' 25' 26' 27' 28' 29' 30' 31' May 4' 5' 7' 10' 12' 17' 18' 19' June 23' ^{shining} ^{seen in} ^{the} ^{garden} ^{work}
 (June) 25' ^{1 in full from window - 9} saw it. ^{in in one found by child} ^{on fence down and taken} ^{back to garden. The ad.} 27' ^{was seen by}
 July 4' 5' 6' 7' 8' 9' 10' 11' 12' 13' 14' 15' 16' 17' 18' 19' 20' 21' 22' 23' 24' 25' 26' 27' 28' 29' 30' 31' August 3' 6' 7' 9' 15' 16' 20' 21' ^{hd.} 21' ^{hd.}
 (August) 22' 30' November 6' ^{see - in!} December 12' ^{(Hubbard} ^{Park)} 28' ^{8' eating Parkman's} ^{apple.}

1907 January 3' 4' 5' 7' 14' 15' 29' 31' February 1' 6' March 18' 19' 21' ^{shining} ^{whicker}
 (March) 23' 27' 29' April 17' ^{(one was ♀. The other flew to the} ^{pipe house above my window} ^{and rapped on the wood work w.d.)} 18' 26' 30'
 May 10' 31' July 1' 2' 9' ^{shining} 18' October 27' ^{hd.} November 9' 16' 29' December 8' ^{hd.}
 (December) 20' 21'

8 March [9' ^{Buckingham} ^{Street}] 27' ^{1 ♀ on stone} ^{of} ^{park.} June 29' July 2' August 28'
 September 8' ^{hd.} ^{copy} ^{min.} 12' ^{do.} October 6' November 3' 20' 23' 25'
 December 9' 10'

9 January 2' 3' 5' ^{1 eating Parkman's} ^{apple} 8' 9' 10' 11' 13' 16' 17' 22' 23' 24' C. auratus
 " 26' 29' February 4' 5' 8' 9' 11' 12' 17' 18' 20' 21' ^{hd.} 28' ^{hd.}
 March 2' ^{hd.} 7' ^{in catalogue by museum inf. by} ^{showing a downy time or more} 9' 10' June 26' 27'
 November 10' 22' 23' 28' 30' December 14' 15' 16' 19' 27' ^{1 in} ^{Parkman's} ^{apple}

1910 January 3' 5' 6' 9' 10' 11' 12' 13' 14' 15' 17' 18' 19' 20' 23' 25'
 " 27' 28' 30' 31' ^{Feeding on hick & Parkman apple.}
 February 1' 2' 3' 4' 5' 6' 7' 8' 10' 12' 13' 14' ^{3 at work on} ^{museum chimney}
 " 16' 17' 18' 19' 20' 21' 22' 24' 25' 26' 27' 28' ^{1 on moss in} ^{full show} ^{at all hours} ^{of day.}
 March 2' 3' 4' 5' 6' 7' 8' 9' 10' 11' 12' 13' 14' 15' 16' 17' 18' 19' 20' 21' 22' 23' 24' 25' 26' 27' 28' 29' 30' 31'
 April 11' 12' 13' 14' 15' 16' 19' 20' 22' May 6' ^(3 ♂) ^(2 ♀) 7' ^(2 ♂) ^(2 ♀)
 July 1' 3' 4' 5' 7' 8' 13' 14' 15' 18' ^{1 eating} ^{apple} 19' ^{1 on lawn} ^{of} ^{park} 20' 21' 27' 28'
 August 2' 15' 25' 31' September 23' 28' October 21' November 8' 27'
 December 2' ^{hd.} 26' ⁱⁿ ^{Parkman's} ^{apple} 31'

1911 January 4' 7' 17' February 16' 28' March 26' April 19' 27'
 August 10' 11' ^{1 on ground} ^{21' hd.} ^{1 eating} ^{apple} September 7' 16' October 9' 18' November 6' ^{hd.} 98
 December 6' 7' 8' 13' 18' 19' 27' 28' 29' 30' 31' ^{1 eating} ^{Parkman's} ^{apple} ^{9' hd.}

Colaptes auratus

1890

Rhode Island

April 18

Secumitt Point. About sunrise saw a Flicker on On a tree on
that Island try to alight against the mast of a island.
sail boat hauled out on the beach for repairs.
The mast had just been ground and the poor
bird slid down it backward for six inches or more
when it gave up the attempt and flew to the
mast of another boat where it got a good foothold
and chug for a long time. These birds are
numerous here although there is not even a bush
on the island. Perhaps all are migrants.

This morning at 7 a.m. Mr. Mackay saw two Migrating
come ashore about 5 minutes apart. They came by day!
from the S.W. & flew strongly. He thinks they
may have come from Montauk Point. The
birds seen on the island are perfectly silent another
fact which leads me to believe them migrants.
There is not a tree or even the smallest bush on
the entire island. The Flickers alight on the
rocks and ground freely.

Colaptes auratus

1890 Mass.

May 13

Cambridge. A ♂ at work in his nest at 12 M. the day clear & warm. Hole in ♂ Excavating hole
small dead maple (in "Maple Swamp") 8 ft. up. Cavity down about 15 in
judging from the sound made by the bird inside. He would strike four or five
blows in quick succession then keep silent a few seconds. The ground
under the hole was thickly strewn with fresh chips but the bird did Chips beneath
not once throw out any or even show himself during the five minutes
that I watched. I walked past the stump twice within a foot or two
cracking things purposely but the bird did not hear me or at least cease
his labors. A train of cars once thundered past within 100 yds but
when its roar had died away he was still hammering. Finally I
rapped sharply on the stump and he came out in great alarm
uttering the woo-oo-oo call as he flew off. This sound has a
quality strongly suggesting the whirring of wings but I think it
is vocal, nevertheless.

" 17 Passing the Flicker's nest in the Maple Swamp at 9.30 this
morning I stopped beneath it and listened a few minutes; no
sound within. I then rapped sharply on the stub just below junction of
the hole and the ♀ Flicker immediately put out her head Pecking ♀
looked at me for a moment curiously & apparently without
fear, then drew back. I retired a little way and waited but
she did not come out.


1891

March 25

Dorington. One in full song in an apple orchard. Faxon heard the first singing
first singing at Ipswich on the 22nd. To-day found an old ant-hill
in the top of which a Flicker had dug four holes which resembled
those dug in grass land by storks for crickets. There were no feeding ants
ants in this hill but the bird had found them elsewhere for in March
a lump of excrement which it had dropped here was composed
entirely of the heads and legs of the large reddish brown ant
which makes these hills. We opened a hill in another place
and found it swarming with these ants.

Colaptes auratus

1891 Mass.

April 16 Cambridge. - Flickers have not reached their full summer abundance until within the last three or four days. I saw one this morning in the top of a tall stove pipe funnel which rose above the roof of an ice house on the Feder place sitting on the rim of the pipe just under the overhanging smoke cap  "shouting" at regular intervals.

Faxon thinks that our winter Flickers subsist largely on seeds. He has seen their tracks in the snow leading from one weed stalk to another and circling each. Eating seeds
in winter

" 17 Belmont. - Saw one drumming this evening sometime after sunset. He was clinging against a hollow portion of the trunk of a large apple tree and did not even his foot hold during the time I watched him. His drum was a uniform, continuous roll and was not as loud as that usually heard from the Downy. Drumming

May 17 A hole newly finished but empty about breast high in an apple tree. Entrance measured 3 in. in horizontal, 3 1/4 in. in vertical diameter.

" 23 Weyland. - Found apparently fresh eggs in the bottom of a natural cavity in an apple tree. The entrance was a vertical slit 8 inches long by 2 inches wide in the middle, narrowing at the ends, its bottom only 30 inches above the ground. The interior was so narrow or contracted that I could not get my hand and wrist more than half way to the bottom. The bird had done no chiseling save immediately around and about the eggs when the walls had been hollowed out sufficiently to allow the bird room to turn. The eggs could be seen plainly from above. A curious
nest in
a natural
cavity.

Colaptes auratus

1891 Mass.

Vineyard Sound. - Mr. Nath. A. Francis tells me that one day this summer a Flicker flew on board a steamer on which he was crossing from Wood's Hole to Martha's Vineyard and alighting against the Smoke Stack clung there for several minutes drumming loudly at frequent intervals. The boat was crowded with people and moving at full speed at the time

Drums on
Smoke Stack
of moving
steamer

1893 Martha's Vineyard

Jan. 31 - Feb. 4

Mr. Outram Bangs spent these five days looking for Heath Hens on the Vineyard. Although he covered a great deal of ground he did not see a single Colaptes. The species has wintered about Cambridge in the usual numbers.

Wintering

March 5

Cambridge. - Although the winter has been the most severe since that of 1857 Flickers have been present in this region in about their usual numbers. A few have been seen in the heart of Cambridge. Mr. Faxon found two in Point Pond Swamp to-day feeding on the berries of the poison ivy.

Wintering

Eating berries of
poison ivy

" 14

Arlington. Faxon saw five and heard two of them "shouting" for the first time this season. A warm day

Flocks

Shouting

" 19

Cambridge. One "shouting" at short, regular intervals at 2.30 P.M. in the oaks on Dr. Wyman's place. I heard it with perfect distinctness from the back steps of our house. Mrs. Moore tells Mrs. Faxon that he has frequently seen Flickers on Follen St. the past winter.

In Cambridge

History of Flicker's nest.

1892 Mass.

July 7 Concord. The following are my condensed notes on the visits of (No. 12) of the old bird to the young:

July 6

- 3.13 P.M.- Male parent comes and feeds young. He tips down 5 times in all. I cannot see young.
- 3.32 " Male arrives, tips down 7 times but several of these contacts very brief.
- 3.55 " Male arrives, feeds young four times. Young still hidden.
- 4.20 " Male arrives, sees me & flies away.
- 4.40 " Male returns and feeds 4 young, once each.
- 5.04 " " " " " " " " " " " "
- 5.21 " " " " " " " " " " " "
- 6.00 " " " " " i " takes alarm and leaves

July 7

- 9.32 A.M. Male arrives at nest & feeds 4 young.
- 9.55 " " Male " " " " " " " "
- 10.25 " " Male " " " " " " " "

On his next return about 11 A.M. I am sitting in my boat directly under the nest. He remains in the tree until 12.20 calling & flitting or climbing about not daring to come to nest. Finally he flies away & I leave also.

[A further record in this journal under date July 9. (p. 4)]

Massachusetts.

Colaptes auratus.

1892.

June 6 Lowell The Flickers which made the nest in the dead maple branch by the Buttricks landing is now sitting and flies out with a low sur r-r-r-r note every time I pass on the way to my boat house. Her mate is still "shouting" but less vigorously & frequently than a week ago.

Oct. 13 *Colaptes* does not always fly in undulations with intermittent wing beats. One today crossing the Great Meadows flapped continuously and steadily and moved on a perfectly level plane. Until it came nearly over me I mistook it for a Robin. One "galloping" through the air, a few days ago, regularly flapped its wings but once at the beginning of each bound then closed them tightly while its body described the usual curve. Perhaps the single wing beat between the curves is the rule, I must investigate this.

Oct 25 A few Flickers still linger but they are silent and shy. I start them in the pastures and in alder runs.

Colaptes auratus. (210.1.)

Cambridge, Mass.

March 17-1893,

A Flicker perched on the top of a dead railway called *Colaptes*
ke-u (this including I note on the spot) and was answered *calls*
at regular intervals by another on the opposite side of the
cave. I have heard two Flickers "shouting" at Abington on the 14th

Concord, Mass.

April 2. 1893.

Still no Flickers! What can have become of
them? The total absence of their shouting calls is a
bad ^{sign} feature of this early Spring days

Colaptes

still

absent

Concord, Mass.

April 4-1893.

A *Colaptes* was "shouting" in a maple just
below Flint's Bridge this morning but the
appearance of one of these birds at least
but serves to emphasize the absence of the
others that should be making the air
resound with their "shouting" these early Spring
days.

Cambridge, Mass.

April 19-1893.

I see no Flickers I heard a bird during this *Colaptes*
day, in small number in the region & season.

Concord, Mass.

1893

April 22

(No 2)

I saw one Flicker. (a pair of them) I heard
another. One was clinging to the edge of a hole
in a pine maple, where a bird was heard to be
looking in as if considering the desirability of
occupying the premises and the reason. On hearing
then that I was already at hand she kept on
down in. I found that during the undulating
"galloping" flight they invariably pass only on the
of the wings at each bound. This is true, doubtless,
of all the members of the family. The Flicker, however,
after, his march like a Robin flopping steadily
and waving on a level plane.

Barth Hin

Flicker

Colaptes auratus. (no. 2.)

Concord, Mass.
April, 29. 1893.

Flicker

Flickers appeared to be fully up to their normal numbers in the country visited to-day. I made the following notes relating to the "thrust" - Ca-ca-ca etc, a call rather than a thrust, consisting of from 25 to 40 repetitions lasting from 3 1/2 to 7 seconds. Bird sitting on stub just above hole where there was a nest last year. Afterwards it drummed on another stub about a foot above a ^{deep} hole from which a female Flicker flew as I passed at evening. Her drum was a single roll not distinguishable I think from that made by the Downy Woodpecker.

Colaptes auratus.

Concord, Mass.

1896. At about 7 A.M. a Flicker began to "shout" behind the
Apr.16. cabin but suddenly breaking off resumed in an unusual manner
giving the notes disconnectedly by twos with intervals of va-
rying length between the pairs. The varying direction of the
sound indicated that the bird was flying, and rushing to the
door we were just in time to see him cross the river and
meadow keeping up his interrupted shout until he alighted in
an oak on the opposite shore. I think that when he began
shouting he must have been perched in a tree on the crest of
Ball's Hill but this is assumption merely.

Neither Faxon nor I have ever heard a Flicker shout on
wing before, but Ceophloeus pileatus often does it.

Colaptes auratus luteus.

Cambridge, Mass.

January birds in the Garden.

1899. The Flickers came into the garden every few days, either January. singly or two birds in company. They ignored the suet but after the middle of the month were frequently seen eating of the abundant fruit of a Parkman's apple tree. I heard their ki-u call several times but there has been neither "shouting" nor drumming.

February birds in the Garden.

The Flickers have been almost unceasing in their atten- February. tions to the Parkman's apple tree but they do not seem to have perceptibly diminished its bountiful supply of fruit. This is perhaps not to be wondered at since this little tree contained, last November, according to a computation made by Walter at least 45,000 apples. These apples are scarce larger than currants and the Flickers swallow them whole. A male and a female or two males and a female have usually appeared in company but once we saw two males together and on another occasion a male and two females. Hence there must have been at least four birds in all. They have been absolutely silent during the whole month. On the morning of the 23th I saw a pair hopping about together on a space of bare turf under the elm over the driveway where a piece of suet hangs. They were picking up something which I believe to have been fragments of suet that had fallen from above but I could not make sure

Colaptes auratus luteus.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899. that this was the food they found.
February.
(No. 2)

Nest in artificial box.

A male frequented The Garden during the whole month. On April. the 5th he began working on the entrance of an artificial nesting box which I had put up in an elm in the jungle. After this date he frequently visited the box and pecked away at the edges of the entrance hole which I finally (on the 14th) enlarged for him. On the 15th he appeared at the box accompanied by a female. After looking in and pecking the edges of the hole for about 10 minutes the male entered. Soon after this both birds flew away together.

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Nest in artificial box.

May & June. A pair nested in a box, covered with bark and otherwise made to resemble a stump, which I put up for them last month. The male "shouted" through this month. He was frequently seen sitting in the box looking out of the hole at the top. The Sparrows repeatedly attempted to build in the box but the Woodpeckers threw out their straws and finally laid eight eggs, at just what date we do not know, but probably sometime this month. None of the eggs hatched and the birds after incubating them through June deserted the nest early in July.

(W. Deane's notes for May and June).

Colaptes auratus luteus.

Concord, Mass.

Peculiar behavior.

1899. Found a Flicker at work excavating a hole in an apple
May 13. tree in Bensen's orchard(this morning). I was passing the
tree within six feet when I heard a low tapping accompanied
by a continuous muffled whining sound. Turning I at once saw
the bird's tail projecting from the hole which was not over
five feet above the ground. For a minute or more the peck-
ing and whining continued, the tail wriggling violently the
while. Evidently the bird had carried ⁱⁿ the hole to just that
point where she had less room to work than she had had before
or would have afterwards. In other words she had just about
reached the point where the entrance hole must begin to be
expanded into a chamber and to turn downward. It seemed to
me that the whining sound expressed rage or impatience. Per-
haps it is the Flicker's form of swearing! Unfortunately the
bird heard me as I was trying to start off a little way to
get behind the next apple tree and flew off in alarm. I had
to move away for had I stayed she would certainly have come
out of the hole with a mouthful of chips in the course of a
minute or two and discovered me. The male Flicker was "shout-
ing" about 200 yds. off.

Colaptes auratus

1896. Penobscot Bay, Maine.

Deer Island. June 20²*, 21*, 23*, 24*, 26*, 27*, 28*, 29*, 30*

July 1*, 2*, 3*, 4*, 5*, 6*, 7*, 8*, 9*, 10*, 11*, 12*, 13*, 14*

Dumpling Island. June 22 Old hole in balsam stub. No birds on island.

n Dagger " June 29. One started from the ground (Only two or three trees on this island)

Sedgwick - July 15 Two or three seen during a long drive

June 24 Deer Island. At L. Umbagog last month I noted an apparent resemblance between the flight note of the Flicker & the laugh of a Boon. Here this evening I actually mistook one for a Boon. The more the bird the stronger the resemblance.

Flight notes resemble laugh of the Boon.

Notes from St John. N. B.

Harold Gilbert.

During the same Winter I also observed a Golden-winged Woodpecker (*Colaptes auratus*) several mornings in succession feeding on the berries of the mountain ash.

O. & C. VII. June 1882. p. 134.

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

77. *Colaptes auratus* (Linn.) Sw. GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER.
—Rather common at Fort Fairfield. Not common at Grand Falls.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, July, 1882, p. 150

Birds within Ten Miles of Point
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam

57. *Colaptes auratus*. GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER. A tolerably common summer resident. First seen May 14, 1882.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 237

Records from Toronto. H. E. T. Seton.

Colaptes auratus (hybrid with *C. mexicanus*).—This remarkable specimen was shot by Mr. Burton, just outside the City of Toronto, in September, 1883. The following is its description.

Sex? Length, 34 cm.; wing, 16.5; tail, 11.5; bill, 3.5; tarsus, 3; middle toe and claw, 3. Color: Above as in the male *auratus*, but darker and more pronounced. The purplish-gray of the throat is very rich and has a glaucous gloss. Pectoral crescent and black maxillary mark very large. Spots on the breast large and unusually numerous. Breast and sides tinged with yellow. First four primaries with shafts and under side red; the next two shade into yellow in the terminal third. The last two secondaries are as in *mexicanus*. The rest of the quills as in *auratus*. The under coverts are pink. The tail-feathers are as in *mexicanus*, but towards the middle are more and more tinged with yellow. Otherwise this specimen resembles a large male *auratus* in very high plumage.

I have nothing but descriptions and my memory for making comparisons with *mexicanus*, and suspect that the red on the quills is not quite so deep as in the typical bird. Yet this need not invalidate the description of the specimen, which is evidently a fine hybrid, and chiefly remarkable for having been taken at Toronto. This specimen is in the possession of Mr. Cross, taxidermist.

Auk, 2, Oct., 1885. p. 335

Last Dates Migratory Birds observed by
E. D. Wintle, Fall 1885, Montreal, Can.

Sept. 17. Golden-winged Woodpecker,

O. & C. XI, Mar. 1886. p. 44

Colaptes auratus luteus.

The Garden, Cambridge, Mass.

1899. Flickers were seen or heard in the garden on the 5th, October. 11th, 13th, 19th, 21st & 27th. On the last two occasions a pair appeared and visited the box which contained the nest last spring both birds alighting on it at the same time, uttering the low whickee-er note and putting their heads into the hole but not entering it.

Colaptes auratus.

1896 Mass.
Dec. 17 Cambridge. Three birds together in our garden, two of them Courting
engaging for several minutes in the so called in December
courting display, bowing and scraping to one another as they
hopped about sideways among the branches with tails
wide spread, uttering continuously a wickup - wickup -
wickup - ä - ä - ä - ä, wickup - wickup - wickup - ä - ä - ä etc.
(Six inches of snow, ther. 26° but bright sun & no wind,
2 P. M.). I was not near enough to make out the
respective sexes of these birds.

1898

Mar. 12. Cambridge. Two were "shouting" beyond Fresh Pond. [Journ.]

July 2-4 Glendall (in a near), Beekshire Co. Several shouting. [Journ.]
N.H.

July 5 Peterborough. Common. Heard "shouting" July 6, 8.

Aug. 15 17 and 22. [Journ.]

Concord, Mass.

1898.

Oct. 4.

A Flicker shouting just before breakfast.

Colaptes auratus.

1900 Mass.

January 21 Ipswich. - Two seen by Drs. Townsend & Goodale.

1903

Mar. 16 Cambridge. - I saw two Flickers, this morning, copulating, copulating on a branch of the cherry tree, just across the on March 16. walk outside of my N.E. window about 40 feet away. The female was very demonstrative, crouching and spreading her tail. This must be a very unusual performance at this early date (March 16).

I saw the female a little earlier in the morning eating Parkmann apples in the tree in the garden. As I watched her through my glass, she raised her head and shouted about six times rather softly, & shouting. A few minutes before this, I heard a loud, but brief shouting (5 or 6 calls), and looking out of my window I saw a Flicker sitting on the top of the big apple tree directly opposite. It was without doubt the bird that had just shouted. In a few seconds it flew down into the Parkmann's apple tree and, putting my glass on it, I saw that it was the female. This is the bird that I saw shouting a few minutes later.

W. Deane.

1905

Feb. 26 Cambridge. - Several (1 to 3) Flickers have frequented the Garden for four or five days past to feed on the fruit of our Parkmann's apple which they swallow whole. One of them "shouted" a dozen times or more this forenoon (11 a.m.), an exceptionally early date for this performance.

"Shouting"
in February


Cambridge, Mass.

*Flickers
in the
garden.*

1910.
Feb. 14.

The only birds that have visited our place with any regularity this winter and the only ones I have seen there at all thus far in the present month are Flickers. Once I noted four and on several occasions three together but ordinarily there have been only one or two seen at any one time. Their visits have been made oftenest in the morning about eight or nine o'clock. For a time they contented themselves with feasting on the berries of our hackberry and Parkman apple trees. About two weeks ago they began working on the trunks of two large pear trees. After knocking off the loose scales of outer bark they pecked and pushed at the inner bark until the cambium layer was exposed in many places over spaces as large as the palm of one's hand. All this was done in a leisurely and desultory way as if the birds were merely amusing themselves which indeed I suspect was really the case for they did not seem to be obtaining anything in the way of food. After they had done really serious damage to the trees (one of which is a sound and valuable seckel pear tree the other one old nearly worthless tree) I protected the trunks from further injury by wrapping them in burlap. A few days after this I heard the sounds of intermittent tapping above my study in the Museum and every now and then a lump of mortar fell into the fireplace from above. I think this hap-

1910.
Feb. 14.

pened yesterday (13th). To-day it began again and I at once went out taking my opera glass. As soon as I got a clear view of the Museum chimney I perceived a  Flicker clinging to its eastern face about five feet below the top busily engaged in digging out the mortar between the bricks. He would work at it for half a minute or so alternately poking and prying with his bill and then rest for a somewhat longer period before beginning again. I watched him for ten or fifteen minutes. More than once I thought I saw him swallow a small fragment of the hard mortar - it is years since the chimney was re-pointed - but of this I could not make sure. That he had already done considerable damage was evident enough for with the aid of my glass I could see that the lines of "pointing" were broken in many places by the recent removal of more or less mortar. He must have been working at the mortar capping on the top of the chimney when he sent the fragments down into my fireplace but that I did not see. Verily "the devil finds mischief for idle hands

(and bills) to do". Roland Thaxter told me this evening (February 16.) of watching a Flicker picking out mortar from the vertical face of the brick wall of the Museum of Comparative Zoology within a few feet of his window. I understood him to say that this happened within the past two or three days. He was so very near the bird that he could see without

Flicker
Eating
mortar
at Mus.
Comp.
Zool.

1910.
Feb 16

any possibility of mistake that it ate small pieces of the mortar. I was very sure that my bird was doing the same thing (on the 14th). It would be interesting to know whether the mortar is eaten for the sake of the lime it contains or as a substitute for gravel which may be rather difficult to obtain now that the ground is largely covered with snow.

July 18

I noticed this morning that quantities of fresh earth had been thrown out from between the stone flags in the walk in front of the Museum in our garden and I wondered what could have done it. The mystery was quickly explained for early in the afternoon I saw a Flicker busily engaged at the walk. Hopping slowly along sideways on the flags he made a dozen or more holes while I was watching him in the earth between them. It was packed hard on the surface and he had to peck vigorously at first to make any impression it. The cracks were narrow (not more than 1/4 inch wide) in places and more than once he missed his aim and struck his bill forcibly against the edge of a stone making an audible sound. After making these holes he visited and revisited them and others which he had made previously spending some time at each of them and extracted from some of them a quantity of food which I could see him swallow although I could not make out

A Flicker
makes
Earth traps
for ants

1909.
July 18.

at first what it was. But after he had gone I examined the holes which averaged an inch or more in depth finding that most of them contained living ants that had fallen in and were unable to climb up the crumbling sides. Evidently the bird dug the holes not so much to get at the ants (I did not see him get any of them immediately and he invariably moved on and began a fresh hole just after completing one) as to entrap them. They were continually running about over the surface of the flags in numbers but he paid no attention whatever to those thus engaged. When he revisites the holes he did not throw out more earth but simply thrust his bill down slowly into them swallowing visibly as he removed it.

July 19.

A Flicker on our lawn this morning attracted my attention by remaining perfectly immovable for many minutes. At length I walked towards him. As I approached he gave no sign that he was aware of my presence. Even when I got within a yard of him he continued to maintain his statuesque pose. His breathing seemed normal and his eyes looked bright and alert but his gaze was directed toward some distant object I know not what and he completely ignored me. Although I could detect no evidence of any external injury I felt sure he must be either seri-

Strange
behaviour
of a
Flicker

1909.
July 19.

ously hurt or very ill until I advanced my foot. When it was within six inches of him he started as if awakening from a trance and flew up into one of the lindens. After this he behaved like a perfectly sane and vigorous Flicker. I am at a loss to explain his behaviour on the lawn. He seemed to be indulging in a very profound day dream.

Strange
behaviour
of a
Flicker.

Ornithological Trip to St. Bruno, P. Q.
May 25, 1885. E. D. Wintle, Montreal.

Golden-winged Woodpecker. Only saw one.

O. & O. XI, May, 1886, p. 75

Summer Birds of Bras D'Or Region
Cape Breton Id., N.S. J. Dwight, Jr.

21. *Colaptes auratus*.

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887. p. 16

New Species of Winter Birds in New Brunswick.—On January 4 of
the present year a Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) was taken near St. John, N.

B.

Montague Chamberlain, N. John, N.B.

Auk, 4, July 1887. p. 264.

Birds, Haute Island, Bay of Fundy, July
26, 1887. W. L. Bishop, Kentville, N.S.

Golden-wing Woodpecker, *Colaptes auratus*;
rare.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 146

Summer Bds. Restigouche Valley, N. B.
July, '88. J. Brittain and P. Cox, Jr.

Colaptes auratus. FLICKER.—Common around fields.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 117

Birds of Magdalen Islands.
Dr. L. B. Bishop.

31. *Colaptes auratus*. FLICKER.—Common, breeding on all the
islands.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 147

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.
A. H. Alberger.

412. Golden-shafted Flicker. Common.
Breeds.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 87

Breeding Dates of Birds in Kings
County, N.S. Watson L. Bishop.

Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). June 1, 2, 2, 6, 7,
18.

O. & O. XIII, Mar. 1888 p. 45

Dwight, Summer Birds of
Prince Edward Island.

Colaptes auratus. FLICKER.—The only abundant Woodpecker, and
found everywhere in moderate numbers. June 25, a nest with fully fledged
young was examined in the top of a hollow fence post. No excavation
had been made by the bird, and the young were entirely exposed to the
weather.

Auk X, Jan. 1893. p. 89

Newfoundland Notes. A Trip up the
Humber River, Aug. 10-Sept. 24, 1899.

30. *Colaptes auratus*. FLICKER.— One seen September 9.

Louis H. Porter, New York City.

Auk, XVII, Jan., 1900, p. 72.

The Flicker Wintering in Montreal.— On January 14, 1900, while walking with a friend along the woods at the foot of Mount Royal, I was surprised to see a Golden-winged Woodpecker (*Colaptes auratus*) fly from a tree within a few feet of us; it alighted on a sumac near by and began to feed on the seeds. We had a good view of it for a short time, until it flew into some low bushes and disappeared.

We saw one near the top of Mount Royal on November 25, 1899, which was, perhaps, the same bird, this being an unusually late date for its occurrence. The winter here has been milder than usual, but I have never heard before, even in mild seasons, of *C. auratus* wintering so far north.— J. B. WILLIAMS, *Montreal, Can.*

Auk, XVII, April, 1900, pp. 174-175.

Summer Birds, of the Cobalt Region,
Mississauga District, Ontario.
By Frederick C. Hubel. Auk XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 60.

22. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. NORTHERN FLICKER.— Rather common about the less thickly timbered land.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
By James H. Fleming,
Part, II. Land, Birds,
Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 76.

161. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. NORTHERN FLICKER.— Summer resident, common, April 7 to October 24; breeds in all suitable places. Rare winter resident (January 28, 1905; February 3, 1906). Two of the so-called hybrid flickers have been taken here; one is in the collection of Mr. Ernest Seton,³ the other is in the collection of Mr. Geo. E. Atkinson.

³. Auk, II, 1885, 335.

Winter Notes from Portland, Maine.

But the most interesting result of the mild season was the wintering of *Colaptes auratus*. As a rule this species withdraws very early in November, although my brother saw a straggler on November 13, 1881.† Yet while most of the birds disappeared in the autumn of 1888 about the usual time, I saw a single individual (perhaps the same one) almost every day up to December 18. After that date I met with no more until January 1, 1889, when I found a bird feeding on the berries of a mountain-ash tree within the City limits. A friend reported one on Cape Elizabeth on January 3, and Mr. Luther Redlon, of Portland, an accurate observer of birds, saw one in the Portland 'Oaks' on February 10. I met with one again on February 16, and also on the 25th of the same month. From the latter date up to March 1, not a day passed without my meeting with one. It may be worth while to note that all the birds seen after the first of November were males. So far as I am aware the Flicker has not before been known to winter in Maine, though Mr. Everett Smith has recorded ‡ the capture of a single bird at Fort Popham, in January, 1885.—
JOHN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

† See Proc. Port. Soc. Nat. Hist., Dec., 1882.

‡ *Auk*, VI. July, 1889, p. 281.

§ *Forest and Stream*, February 5, 1885.

Summer Residents on Southwest
Coast of Maine, T. H. Montgomery, Jr.

412. Flicker. This was the only Woodpecker I saw, and I noticed but four or five at Boothbay.

Sandwich, 15, Nov. 1890, p. 161

Colaptes auratus .- ^{young as} July 24 Rye Beach, N. H. 1872.
Shelburne, N. H.

Colaptes auratus

1884

July

A common species, seen mostly at this season in hillside pastures in family parties of four to eight, and almost invariably occupied in ant hunting on the ground among stumps or burnt fence bushes. On July 20 I heard one sing several times and another (or the same!) on the following day. After this it was silent.

Rye Beach, N. H., July 23-24 1885.
30. *Colaptes auratus*.—*Silliman*

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N.H.
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '86. W. Faxon

10. *Colaptes auratus*. GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER.—Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.149

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N.H. June 11-21 '86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

10. Colaptes auratus. GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER. —Rather common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.151

Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem N.H. July-August, 1874. W. Faxon.
J. a. Allen.

6. Colaptes auratus. But few seen.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.154

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N.H. July 12-Sept. 4, 1883. F.H. Allen

Colaptes auratus.—Quite common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 76

Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N.H. July 2.-Aug. 11, 1883. F.H. Allen

Colaptes auratus.—Quite common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 78

Early Arrivals.

A. Farmer. Amoskeag, N. H.

March 8, Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). A. Farmer. Amoskeag, N. H.

O. & O. Vol. 17, April 1892 p. 62

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

Colaptes auratus
1894.
June 17th 19th 21st 22nd 23rd

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.
1895. *Colaptes auratus*
May
29th 30th
June 1st 2nd 4th 3rd

Yellow-shafted Flicker, (*Colaptes auratus*). Abundant. Summer resident. Breeds. Arrives in April. A few remain until Oct. In this region they are often called Grass-

O. & O. IX, Nov. 1884, p. 132-133

Woodpeckers found in the vicinity of Craftsville, Vt.

hopper Woodpeckers, from their well-known habit of congregating in open fields, where grasshoppers abound, before the autumn migration. I once saw two female Flickers, each of them trying to gain the attentions of a male, who seemed completely overwhelmed by such an outpouring of caresses. If he attempted to notice one, the other immediately interfered. I watched them for an hour, and left them with their interesting and ludicrous ceremony still progressing.—C. O. T.

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

14. * *Colaptes auratus luteus*. NORTHERN FLICKER. — Common.

by Arthur H. Howell.

Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 341.

* See Mrs. Carrie E. Straw of Stowe, Vt.

Mass. (Middlesex Co.)

Colaptes auratus.

1885 Unusual occurrence.

Nov. 30 In the cedar belt on the Coolidge farm, Watertown, I found three Flickers this morning. They must have come very recently from some remote quarter of the country for they were the most unsophisticated birds of their kind that I ever met. I walked directly beneath two which were sitting in the top of a low oak, and actually shot at one of them twice with a collecting pistol (32) before it would fly.

Dec. 24 Chadbourne started fire from a stubble field in East Watertown.

17. *Colaptes auratus*, Nov. 13¹ 17¹ E. Mass. 1884.
 E. Mass. 1885. ^{Chadbourne} July 17¹ - 18¹ - 20¹ - 22¹ - 23¹ - 24¹ - 25¹ - 26¹ - 27¹ - 28¹ - 29¹ - 30¹ - 31¹ - 1885.
7. *Colaptes auratus*. - Jan. 1² - 3¹ - Feb. 5² - June 16¹ - June 14¹
 E. Mass. 1885. 1 Comb. Dec. 3¹ - 1885.
82. *Colaptes auratus*. - June 14 - 16; July 17
 Princeton & Rutland, Mass. Aug. 2 - 1885
29. *Colaptes auratus*. - Common - silent
- 13 *Colaptes auratus* Nov. 8¹ - 10¹ E. Mass. 1886.
 Great Id. Mass. Dec. 1886.
- Nov. 21-23. 15. *Colaptes auratus*. 22¹. Flew from hold in old ^{house} light.

Colaptes auratus Mass. - near Cambridge.
 1886 Feb. 9⁵
 March 6¹
 April 9² - 17⁶ - 18² - 19⁴ - 23²⁰

Mass. (near Concord).

1887 * = singing
 April 12³
 May 8⁴ - 10⁴ - 16⁴ - 17⁸ - 23⁴
 June 3² - 4⁴ - 6² - 7² - 12⁴ - 16²
 July 9² - 10² - 15² - 23⁴ - 24²
 Aug. 10² - 13² - 17²

Colaptes auratus. * laughing.

1887

1888

Oct. 4⁶ - 5⁴
Nov. 9¹

March 22¹ - 24¹ - 30⁴ (Hemlock)
April 5² - 7⁴ - 12¹
April 28² - 24² - 25⁶
Oct. 26² - 3² (Hemlock)
Nov. 2¹ - 6¹ - 8⁴ (Hemlock)

Colaptes auratus

Colaptes 12² - 13² - Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.

Great Id. Mass. Dec. 1888.

Colaptes auratus 14² - 15⁶ - 16²

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

Colaptes auratus

One at West Townsend; common about Ashby. Several seen in the pastures on the side of Mt. Watatic where they frequented the thickly-growing young black spruces. Those observed in the latter ^{place} ~~thicket~~ seemed to be young birds. They frequently started either ^{from} ~~on~~ the ground or among the branches of the spruces within a few yards of us, making almost ^{as} much a noise and ^{flut} ~~pratter~~ as ~~the~~ a partridge, for which we indeed once or twice mistook them for the moment.

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

18. *Colaptes auratus*.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

Notes from Belchertown, Mass.
J. W. Jackson

Dec. 26, Jan. 24, noted Yellow-shafted
Flickers.

O. & O. Vol. 18, Mar. 1893 p. 45

Colaptes auratus

Waverly, Mass.

January 6, 1891 (Waverly and Waltham).

Walter Faxon (letter January 12, 1891).

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Colaptes auratus (Linn.) Flicker. Resident,
common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 139

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire
Co., Mass. June 17-23, '88. W. Faxon

10. *Colaptes auratus*. GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER.—Common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 44

Bds. Obs. near Graylock, Berkshire
Co. Mass. June 28-July 1. W. Faxon

8. *Colaptes auratus*. GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER.—Common
about the base of the mountains and in the Notch. Also found on Gray-
lock at an elevation of about 2800 feet, but at this altitude *Dryobates vil-*
losus is the commonest Woodpecker.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 99

Colaptes auratus

1895. Falmouth, Mass.

July 17* (in full day for ten to fifteen
minutes)
" 20 3 1/2

A Winter Record for the Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) in Berkshire
County.—In 'The Birds of Berkshire County,' by Dr. W. Faxon and Mr.
R. Hoffmann, the latest autumn date for this species is given as October 24,
and the earliest spring record as April 10. We observed at Williamstown
on December 12, 1900, a single bird which may have been wintering, and
on April 6, 1901, the first Flicker arrived.—FRANCIS G. AND MAURICE C.
BLAKE, Brookline, Mass. Auk, XIX, April, 1902, p. 197.

Notes on the Summer Birds of Berkshire County,
Massachusetts

Colaptes auratus luteus. Noticeably uncommon; only nine birds were
observed during our stay.

Reginald Heber Howe, Jr., Lenox, Mass.

Auk, XIX. Oct., 1902, p. 404.

Connecticut, June. 1893.

Colaptes auratus

June 4th Fairfield
" 5th 7th 10th 11th 16th } Saybrook
" 19th 20th }
" 21st Vernon Vernon
" 22nd 23rd 24th 25th Andover

Fairfield & Saybrook. Very much less
numerous than in E. Mass. in fact,
as far as our personal experience went,
actually uncommon. They do not breed
at all on the marsh islands or very
near the coast, according to Clark.

Andover. About as in E. Mass. Six
birds seen or heard at Galt's Point
on the 24th.

Hartford Notes

March 1st, Golden-
winged Woodpeckers were seen.

Harry T. Gates
O. & O. VIII. Jan. 1883. p. 8

Summer Birds in Winter

Dec. 25th, Golden Winged | Woodpecker

Chas. W. Jeff. Portland, Conn.
O. & O. VIII. Apr. 1883. p. 12.

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Grounds, Brooklyn, G. H. Coues

8. *Colaptes auratus*. GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER. — Common ;
breeds.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 31

Notes on Some Winter Residents of
Hudson Valley. E. A. Mearns.

16. *Colaptes auratus*. YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER. — The "High-
hold" is occasional, but of somewhat rare occurrence, in winter, in the
Highlands and at Peekskill. Mr. Bicknell speaks of it as "rare in win-
ter; only occasionally seen at that season."

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 37

Interesting Birds on Long Island.

Colaptes auratus. — On October 4, 1879, I took, at Fort Hamilton, a
remarkable Golden-winged Woodpecker. It strongly evinces its affinity
to *C. mexicanus*. Its black mustaches are sprinkled with red feathers.
These are most plentiful along the upper edge, and at the lower end of
the black check patch. The back is more strongly tinged with olive, is of
a darker shade, and the black bars are much narrower than in ordinary
individuals of *C. auratus*. The bird was a male. — DE L. BERIER, Fort
Hamilton, Long Island, N. Y. Bull. N. O. C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 47

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

109. *Colaptes auratus* (Linn.) Swainson. GOLDEN-WINGED WOOD-
PECKER. — Rare.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 232

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General Notes.

NYCTHEROPIDUS VIOLAECUS IN KANSAS. — April 17, 1878, Samuel W.
Reed shot, on Crooked Creek, in Coffee County, a female Yellow-crowned
Night Heron, and sent me the skin for identification. The bird was in full
breeding plumage and the head noted in a note accompanying the skin.
ton, D. C.
headed, of some species as yet undetermined. — Elliot Coues, Washing-
position? I consider it established, however, that there occurs in Arizona
in mention. But is not the fact of tree-nesting entirely against such sup-
which unfortunately were not preserved, I suppose them to be the Vulture
nest in a large cotton-wood tree. From his description of the specimens,

*Orwego, New York,
March 13, 1888*

This winter, January 30 (just after a fierce
blizzard lasting four days), I saw a Yellow-shafted
Woodpecker. This is the first time I have ever ob-
served one of these birds here in winter. In spring
they generally arrive here between the 10th and 20th
of April. I have one instance noted, when they ar-
rived March 10, 1873.

Most respectfully yours,
D. D. STONE.

File under Colaptes auratus.

Proc. Linnæan Soc. of N. Y., 88-89

*On the former abundance of certain species
(1820-50) in New York Id. during south-
ward migrations. — Lawrence.*

About the first of October, on the occurrence of a few cold days, there
would be a flight of Golden-winged Woodpeckers (*Colaptes auratus*) and
some Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). They
did not come in flocks, but singly in large numbers.

Ann. C. S. P., 1880, p. 202

8. *Colaptes auratus*. GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER. — Common; breeds.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 31

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Hudson Valley. E. A. Mearns.

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Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 232

COLAPTES AURATUS + *C. MEXICANUS*. — Quite a number of instances of specimens of *Colaptes auratus* showing traces of *C. mexicanus* coming to my knowledge, I have thought it worth the while to record them. In this Bulletin, Vol. V. No. 1, p. 46, I noted the capture of one of these abnormal individuals by myself at Fort Hamilton. Its black mustaches were sprinkled with red feathers, and its back was different from that of ordinary *auratus*, the black bars being very narrow, and the ground color more of a brownish-olive, nearly corresponding to Audubon's Plate of *C. ayresi* (Birds of America, Vol. VII). Last autumn (1880) I shot two more "Highholders" having a few red feathers intermixed with the black cheek patches. These are all the cases of this curious variation that have come under my personal observation, but Messrs. Bell and Wallace of New York furnish me with some valuable notes on the subject. Mr. Bell tells me he has had several such in his many years of experience as a taxidermist. He remembers one in particular which was remarkable for the deep salmon color of the parts which are golden-yellow in normal *auratus*. Nearly half of each of the maxillary patches of this specimen was red. It was shot in Orange Co., N. Y., or in some adjacent county. Mr. Wallace also says he has had a number of these varieties, and among them the strangest case of differentiation I have yet heard of. A few years ago a *Colaptes* was brought to him, one side of which was *auratus* and the other *mexicanus*. That is, one of the mustaches was black and the other red, and the quills and under surfaces of wings and tail on the corresponding sides were respectively yellow and red.

Mr. Ridgway, in this Bulletin, Vol. VI, No. 2, p. 121, says that of two hundred *aurati* taken in the vicinity of Mount Carmel, Ill., which he had examined, he detected only one aberrant specimen showing any trace of *mexicanus*. As out of thirty shot last fall at Fort Hamilton and examined by me two showed this variation, it may be that these mixed forms are more plentiful in the Atlantic States than in the interior. In view of the number of known instances of these "half-breeds" occurring in the East we need not be surprised if some cis-Alleghany collector yet takes a pure *mexicanus*. — DE L. BERIER, Fort Hamilton, Long Island, N. Y.

File under *Colaptes auratus*.

Proc. Linnaean Soc. of N. Y., 88-89

On the former abundance of certain species (1820-50) in New York Id. during southward migrations. — Lawrence.

About the first of October, on the occurrence of a few cold days, there would be a flight of Golden-winged Woodpeckers (*Colaptes auratus*) and some Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). They did not come in flocks, but singly in large numbers.

Ann. C. S. P., 1880, p. 202

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the
Northern Adirondacks [Aptin], New York [1901].

April 25 to 30.

Flicker. Tolerably common.

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p.298.

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

98. *Colaptes auratus*.

First plumage: male. Crown washed with dull red; nuchal band dull scarlet. Otherwise similar to the adult, but with the throat tinged with ash and the spots upon the under parts dusky instead of black. From a specimen in my collection taken at Cambridge, Mass., July 6, 1873.

The female in first plumage I have not seen, but two young females before me, which have nearly perfected their autumnal plumage, have each a *well-defined mustache*, — not black, however, as in the male of any age, but of a dark plumbeous color. Upon raising the feathers, many of them are found to be nearly black at their bases, and a few entirely black ones appear. I have seen two other females, both young birds in imperfect autumnal dress, which had similar dark mustaches. It seems not unlikely that many females of this species may in first plumage be marked nearly like the males. **Bull. N. O. C. 3, Oct., 1873, p. 181-182.**

Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

C. auratus is the only example ^{of albinism} among the *Picidae* that has come under my notice.

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 22

Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

Colaptes auratus, has been recorded in the melanistic state.

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 24

Albinistic Plumages. R. Deane.

A Golden-winged Woodpecker, which I obtained from a dealer in Providence, R. I., and which was shot near that city, is a beautiful specimen, the red nuchal patch and the golden shafts of the feathers of the wings and tail being the only normal colors remaining, the rest of the plumage being a creamy white.

Bull. N. O. C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 26

ARTICLE XXI.—*On the Color-Pattern of the Upper Tail-Coverts in Colaptes auratus.* By FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

Several years ago my attention was attracted by the wide range of variation shown in the color-pattern or *pictura* of the upper tail-coverts of *Colaptes auratus*. Until the present time material to study this variation has not been available. Dr. Allen now places at my disposal the fine series of *Colaptes* which, through the assistance of fellow-naturalists, he has brought together for use in another connection. The variation in question occurs in all of the upper tail-coverts, and its nature may be understood by reference to the accompanying plate (p. 314) in which are figured the middle coverts alone. Figs. 1 and 2 represent the first stages in a series of patterns which terminate in Fig. 15. With few exceptions birds in first plumage agree with Figs. 1 or 2, which represent the amount of variation at one stage. Subsequent changes are apparently accomplished by the moult, and one moult may carry a bird through one or all of the stages figured. For example: No. 103,072 of the U. S. Nat. Mus. Collection (Warren Creek, Col., ♀, Dec. 26, F. Ball) has nearly completed its adult plumage, but there remains of the first plumage one of the long upper tail-coverts intermediate in pattern between Figs. 1 and 2, while the corresponding feather of the new plumage agrees very nearly with Fig. 12. Other examples in a similar stage of plumage show, as has been said, that the change from a barred to a longitudinally-marked feather is accomplished by one or more moults. The large proportion, however,—one-third—of adult birds agreeing with Figs. 1 or 2, and the frequency of intermediate phases, indicate a more or less regular advance by successive moults to the final stage. While in transition the smaller and more anterior coverts are as a rule slightly in advance of the ones posterior to them. The longest and most posterior feather, therefore, is the last to be affected, and the final result has not been achieved until this feather agrees with the ones before it; for this reason it has been selected to represent the upper tail-coverts as a whole. The lower tail-coverts pass through a somewhat similar series of changes, which to a certain extent correlate with those presented by the upper tail-coverts.

Auk, XIV, July, 1897, pp. 275-8.
SOME ABNORMAL COLOR MARKINGS.

BY GERRIT S. MILLER, JR.

MANY instances of albinism, melanism, and other abnormal color conditions in birds have been recorded,¹ but these records are for the most part concerned with cases in which large, conspicuous, and indefinite areas of the plumage are affected. While such abnormalities are interesting they are greatly outweighed in importance by others, usually of a less noticeable character, in which the unusual markings are so arranged as to resemble normal color patterns. Suggestions of characters of related species are often to be found in these symmetrical markings, some of which might be regarded as the result of hybridism did not the well known hypothesis of atavism offer a more satisfactory explanation of their occurrence. I wish to call attention to a few of the more conspicuous among the many cases of this kind that have come to my notice.

Colaptes auratus (Linn.). pp. 275-6.

An adult Flicker (No. 5619, Miller collection, purchased many years ago in the New York markets by J. G. Bell), normal in every other way, has all the white feathers of the rump marked subterminally with round or subcordate spots of black. The larger feathers of the rump are in addition crossed or nearly crossed by from one to three black bars, each of which tends to narrow near the shaft so that occasionally the constriction divides the bar into two distinct spots.

In the Cuban *Colaptes chrysocaulosus* the color is similar to that of *C. auratus* except that it is everywhere strongly suffused with tawny, the black markings are more extended, and the feathers of the white rump patch are closely and irregularly barred with black. Each rump feather in this species has a subterminal broadly cordate black spot extending nearly across both webs. Usually a broad black bar and sometimes a second (the latter always indistinct) crosses the feather below the terminal spot. The proximal bars tend to narrow near the shafts of the feathers, but they seldom if ever break up into pairs of spots as in the abnormal *C. auratus*.

The peculiarities of its rump markings make No. 5619 an almost perfect intermediate between *Colaptes auratus* and *C. chrysocaulosus*. Did the breeding ranges of these two species overlap this specimen would probably be considered by many a hybrid, since so-called hybrids often blend the characters of their supposed parents no more perfectly than this Flicker does the peculiarities of the Continental bird and its Cuban representative.

¹ See, for instance, Deane, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, I, pp. 20-24, IV, pp. 27-30; Brewster, Auk, XII, pp. 99-100; Toppan, Bull. Ridgway Orn. Club, No. 2, pp. 61-77.

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Colaptes auratus. GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER.

The well-known High-hole has, for a Woodpecker, a very varied repertoire. Its long rolling call may be taken as especially representative of song, and is a characteristic sound of the empty woodland of early spring. It is usually given from some high perch, and has a free, far-reaching quality, that gives it the effect of a signal thrown out over the barren country, as if to arouse sleeping nature. This call continues irregularly through the summer, but then loses much of its prominence amid the multitude of bird voices. It is not infrequent in September, but later than the middle of October I have not heard it.

Another vocal acquirement of the High-hole is a sound much like that caused by the whetting of a scythe. These notes I have recorded from April 8 to September 5; but there seems to be no seasonal regularity about their utterance. The species has also some singular, conversational-like tones, and other notes, which are usually uttered when the birds are in company, and are sometimes attended with a great show of bowing and obsequious conduct.

It is hardly necessary to allude to the familiar call-cry of the species, which may well have conferred the name Clape which the bird bears in certain sections.

In the breeding season the High-hole seems to be quieter than either before or after, perhaps from considerations of caution.

Auk, 2, July, 1885. p. 259-260.

Colaptes auratus.

Singing in autumn.

At frequent intervals during the early morning hours a Flicker has been ~~sounding~~ his merry laugh in our garden. I also heard him in the same place, yesterday but do not remember ever to have heard the species sing before in autumn.

Mass. (Concord)

Colaptes auratus

1886

♀ singing - brood of young

June 8

Cut open a nest in a red maple stub. Five young partly fledged. They squatted close about and frightened. Took one with black mustache (all had black mustaches) and on dissecting it found it to be a ♀.

The mother returned as I was in the tree, she was very courageous coming within ten yards, calling pe-uk. After I retired she entered the regular hole and came out the aperture that I had made below repeating this many times and uttering the long laughing call. Finally

Mass. (Cambridge)

Colaptes auratus

1888

but "singing"

Aug. 19

Two Flickers have been about the garden, all day, calling pe-uk, and occasionally uttering the long laugh with quite as much vigor as in early spring. I have also heard the wickup note several times.

The ♂ swarmed in the distance and flew to the nest but the moment he saw me he whirled off again flying nearly half a mile away over the river meadows.

I found this nest nearly a week ago being attracted to it by the clamor of the young. They kept up an incessant hissing rattle that sounded like the buzz of machinery. When I rubbed a branch against the stub near the hole their cry was increased fourfold. It now ceased entirely even for a moment. To-day they were perfectly silent. Probably they had passed the noisy stage of their existence.

June 15. Examined this nest to-day and found the young had left it, the bottom of the cavity was deep with their excrement moistened into a filthy liquid mass by a recent rain.

Cambridge, Mass.

Sept. 21, 1883

Mass. (Cambridge)

Colaptes auratus

1888

but "singing"

Aug. 19

Two Flickers have been about the garden all day, calling pe-uk, and occasionally uttering the long laugh with quite as much vigor as in early spring. I have also heard the wickup note several times

Colaptes auratus.

Singing in autumn.

At frequent intervals during the early morning hours a Flicker has been ~~singing~~ his merry laugh in our garden. I also heard him in the same place yesterday but do not remember ever to have heard the species sing before in autumn.

NOTES ON NESTING-SITES OF THE GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER.
 — About May 1 of this year I noticed some Golden-wings (*Colaptes auratus*) very busy around the shed of an old brick-kiln, although there were no trees near. On visiting it I found they had enlarged two auger-holes in a large, decayed spruce post, and were trying to nest there; but so many people cross the yard every day, they will probably be driven away. I have frequently noticed what a correspondent mentions in a late number of the Bulletin (Vol. V, p. 56) regarding Golden-wings enlarging natural cavities. I have seen them dig two inches through the hard shell of a seasoned ash stub to get to a hollow which showed through a crack, the existence of which they must have perceived; they apparently bored through to it to save the labor of making the whole excavation in solid wood.—MANLY HARDY, *Brewer, Me. Bull. N. O. C.* 5, Oct., 1880, p. 241

On the first of June, 1882, while passing an old orchard, I saw a hole in an apple tree. As I drew near it, a bill stuck out, then out went an old Yellow-shafted Flicker, (*Colaptes auratus*), into a neighboring tree. I was not long getting up to the hole, but when I got there I had to whittle away with my jackknife until I could reach the bottom, where I

found six eggs. I took them; in about a week I passed the orchard again, and, seeing the bird fly out of the hole, I got up to it, and found six more. Then, just for the curiosity of knowing how many eggs she would lay, I continued to visit the nest. At last, I suppose she thought I was a little selfish, and so gave up the nest, leaving me with twenty-seven eggs.

*Hartland, Conn., Notes
 J. M. Goodwin.
 O. & O. IX. Mar. 1884. p. 36.*

Curious Nesting.

May 20—I found a remarkably low nest of the Yellow-shafted Flicker, (*Colaptes auratus*), in a maple stump. The hole was less than three feet from the ground and the bottom of the nest measured one foot eleven inches from the entrance. It contained ten eggs.

J. W. Andrews, Taunton, Mass.

O. & O. IX. Dec. 1884. p. 157.

CONTINUED LAYING OF THE FLICKER. May 6, '83, I discovered in a hole two eggs of the Golden-winged Woodpecker. I took one, leaving the other as a nest egg, and continued to do so day after day, until she had laid seventy-one eggs. The bird rested one day when she had laid thirty-six eggs, and another when she had laid fifty-three eggs, thus taking her seventy-three days to lay the seventy-one eggs. I have the whole set in my collection. Has any one ever heard of as large a number of eggs being taken from one bird?

*O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886. p. 16
 Chas. L. Phillips.
 Dighton, Mass.*

Egg-laying extraordinary in *Colaptes auratus*.—On May 6th, 1883, I found in a large willow tree, a hole containing two eggs of this bird; I took one, leaving the other as a nest-egg, and continued to do this day after day until she had laid seventy-one eggs.

The bird rested two days, taking seventy-three days to lay seventy-one eggs. I think this is something very unusual; I have quite frequently heard of from fifteen to twenty-eight being taken from one bird, but this is a large number comparatively. I have the set complete, in my cabinet, and prize it very highly.

This was published in a small journal called the 'Young Oölogist', Vol. I, No. 2, 1884; but it being a rather obscure paper, and not reaching the general public, I concluded to send it to 'The Auk' for publication.—CHARLES L. PHILLIPS, *Taunton, Mass. Auk*, 4, Oct. 1887. p. 346

*"Irregular" in Birds 699 for 1883
 set of four Yellow-shafted Flicker, all
 spotted with dull red; R. B. Peabody, Fairbault, Minn.*

O. & O. VIII. Dec. 1883. p. 96

*Ficidae of Michigan
 Stewart E. White*

9. Golden-winged Woodpecker (*Colaptes auratus*). As is well attested by the variety of names they bear, these share with the Red-heads the honor of being the best known. They are abundant and well distributed, and in some portions are residents during mild winters. In that season they go in bands of ten or a dozen foraging the country in all directions for enough food to keep them alive. As spring approaches their numbers increase, until by the first of May they are to be met with at every turn. As the season of nesting draws near the antics of the amorous males take a very amusing turn. See yonder coy maiden perched near the top of an old dead stub. Two gallants, the rivals for her affections, are earnestly striving to gain her attention; each flies around and around the object of his devotion screaming "to whit, to whit, to whit, to whit, to whit, to!!" Suddenly one alights on the trunk below the fair lady, hopping rapidly up and down, quirking his head comically from side to side. The other, jealous of the first's success, dashes at him with great fury, drives him from his vantage and takes up the position himself. So the affair goes on until, after many fierce battles, the female signifies her preference, and in company with the

successful swain, sets up housekeeping. She is very fastidious in the choice of a location and during its selection leads her poor husband a pretty life. After digging in here a few inches she informs him that the wood is too soft; there it is too hard; on this side the situation is too exposed, on the other it is unhandy. At last she settles on one spot and both set to work. For a week the chips fly in all directions, and at the end of that time the labors of incubation commence. It is well known that although madam is very particular in her first choice of a site, yet after once deciding she is very loth to leave it, suffering repeated robberies without complaint. In due time the young Flickers emerge from the shells and at a very early age leave the hole, perching around on the branches until able to fly.

The High-hole's flight is easy and graceful and has an elastic freedom that is delightful to behold. They procure their food in the usual manner by hopping up the trunks of trees, besides which they often search on the ground and are sometimes in the fruit trees.

Their well-known cries consist of a single harsh screech and a double cry, "to whit, to whit," sounding like repeated bursts of harsh laughter.

On Mackinac Island they go by the name of "Pink Throat" and are shot for food. This species is often seized by Hawks, some of which, especially the Sharp-shinned, become quite expert in the capture.

Stewart E. White.

Grand Rapids, Kent County, Mich.

Large Set of Flicker's Eggs.

On the 21st of May, 1892, I made preparation for an all day tramp through the woods of Philadelphia County.

I had not gone very far, when I saw a Flicker fly out of a hole in a cherry tree. The hole was about ten feet from the ground and contained five eggs. Three days later I visited the nest again, and was surprised to find three more eggs deposited.

I went to the hole day after day until it contained seventeen eggs. On the night of the seventeenth day it rained, and the next morning the hole was filled with water. Is this not an enormous set of eggs for a Flicker? *M. C. C. Wilde.*

Camden, N.J.

O. & O. Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 137

Five Sets of Eggs From One Bird in One Season.

BY J. P. N.

On May 16, 1888, a set of six eggs of the Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), were found in Chester Co., Penn. Desiring to ascertain some facts in relation to the time occupied by this species in laying their eggs, the eggs were all removed.

On May 23, another set of six eggs were taken from the same hole.

On May 31, a third set of six were taken, also from the same hole.

On June 6, a fourth set of six were removed from the same nest.

On June 18, a fifth set of six were found in the same place. These last eggs were incubat-

ed, while all the others were perfectly fresh.

All of the eggs were remarkably large and pointed for this species, and no nest eggs were left to induce the bird to continue laying, as all were removed in each set each time. They showed no diminution in size, as the last set were as large as the first.

O. & O. XIII, July, 1888 p. 102.

GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKERS NESTING IN A NATURAL CAVITY IN A DECAYED TREE.—I noticed to-day, May 12, 1879, in the vicinity of Princeton, N. J., a hole that looked, on first sight, like that of a Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) that had been just finished. It was on the main trunk of a buttonwood-tree, about eighteen inches in diameter. On more closely examining the hole, I found that it merely pierced the "shell" of the tree, which was hollow entirely through its centre. It had evidently been drilled under a misapprehension, and the work abandoned as soon as the hollow condition of the tree was ascertained. On rapping on the trunk of this tree, I saw a Flicker leave a large branch at its extremity, and the cavity from which she emerged was found on examination to contain seven fresh eggs. This cavity had not been formed by drilling or digging by the birds, but was simply a natural hollow caused by decay. The cavity started at a point where the branch had been broken, and was at its opening about three inches in diameter. It extended into the limb some two feet and a half, and the eggs were laid on the blackened rotten chips at its extremity. The birds had evidently designed to build in the tree, and having occupied much time at the work of drilling the hole spoken of in the main trunk, the female was obliged, by the necessity of laying her eggs, to find some immediate receptacle. So the natural cavity, in an entirely different part of the tree, was utilized.

— W. E. D. SCOTT, Princeton, N. J. **Wall, N. O. C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 56**

Notes on the Flicker.

Spring is here again and before many weeks all our feathered friends will be hard at work with nest building and egg laying, and the collector's field will once more be free for him to roam and enjoy himself to his heart's content. The professional collector, too, will be reaping his harvest of eggs and skins, and the outlook for 1892 is favorable for all of us.

I want to tell you of some curious notes I took last summer in various parts of the country. They may not be new to some of my fellow ornithologists, but they are to me.

I was staying near Middletown, Del., a little while last summer and made observations on three pairs of Flickers. The first pair built in a live tree within ten feet of the house and the peculiarity was that the cavity was natural. It was merely a hollow about six inches deep in the top of a stump caused by a dead limb and was about ten feet from the ground. This hollow was entirely natural and had in no way been altered by the birds.

I watched them carefully and hoped to be able to discover something peculiar in the birds, but after catching both the adults and carefully examining their bills and feet, I could see nothing to cause them to depart from the regular order of nest building of their species. About a week after the young birds were hatched, there came a heavy rain-storm and on ascending to the tree, I found the nest, which as I said was a mere cup and entirely unprotected, filled with water and the young of the interesting family all dead.

Another peculiar instance in the same locality was a nest by a pair of birds of the same species in an apple tree. The hollow in this instance was fully a foot and a half in diameter and extended to the ground, the birds entering through a knot hole about five feet above. I noticed them entering and being unable to reach anything, procured an axe and cut out the bottom of the trunk. The eggs were five in number and laid on the ground at the bottom of the hole. To make sure of these birds I shot the male and have him, together with the eggs, now in my possession.

I have on record another instance of this sort but it being similar to the others I will not relate it. I should like to know if these habits have been observed in any other part of the country as they are entirely new to me.

M. C. Conwell.

Baltimore, Md.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 91

Nests of Flicker and Downy Woodpecker in the Same Stub.

BY C. C. MAXFIELD, WILLARD, NEW YORK.

In the spring of 1884, while camping on the Oneida river, about three miles above its junction with the Seneca, I fortunately found a prize in a small, rotten, soft-maple stub, which was about eight feet high and ten inches in diameter. The stub was standing near the water among a lot of scraggly swamp bushes, that usually grow at the margin of this stream. Just back of this stub was a small grove of walnut (hickory) trees. There was a pathway made by cattle, passing within five feet of the stub.

At a distance of four feet above the ground was a Golden Flicker's (*Colaptes auratus*) nest. Just above, about ten inches more, was a nest of the Downy Woodpecker (*Picus pubescens*).

The stub was so decayed that I picked away the wood with my fingers to get the eggs. The Flicker's nest was eight inches in depth; the Downy's five inches, and both were entirely worked out by the birds and seemed to be freshly built. The Flicker's nest contained

eight eggs, incubation about one week. In the nest of the Downy were five eggs, all fresh.

When I had obtained the eggs from both of the nests, the whole top of the stub had been picked away, leaving about four feet still standing, and in the top of it was a slight convexity: the bottom of the Flicker's nest.

The nests of the Flicker are common in that part of Oswego County, but this is the only time I have ever observed the Downy nesting there. The latter are to be seen at all seasons of the year and probably breed in some numbers.

In the spring of 1885, I was again on my way up the Oneida and passing the stub I found a Crow Blackbird had taken possession of it and had built her nest in the top. I was very near the bird before she flew off and could not be mistaken in such a common bird. I took a set of four eggs from the nest.

This nest was very light and flimsy as compared with other nests of the same species. It appeared to be only lining, and was totally lacking the coarser outside material that is usually found in their nests. In fact some parts of the wood of the stub were plainly visible through the nest.

O. & O. XIII, Sept. 1888 p. 130

Birds Tioga Co. N. Y. Alden Loring.

378. Yellow-shafted Flicker. Common. Arrives here about the fifteenth of March. Its nest is built after the manner of the other Woodpeckers in a dead tree. About the last of May the female commences laying. The usual number of eggs are seven. They are of a clear, glossy, white color. A set of seven in my collection measures 1 1-8 in. by 7-8 in., 1 1-8 in. by 7-8 in., 1 5-16 in. by 7-8 in., 1 1-8 in. by 7-8 in., 1 1-8 in. by 7-8 in., 1 1-8 in. by 7-8 in. The food of these birds consists of larvæ. As the middle of October draws near these birds get ready to depart. At this time they may be found in the fields and orchards living on bugs and wild cherries. About the middle of October they leave for the south.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 85

The Partridge Woodpecker is very fond of nuts, and manages to secure a good many of them even after the snow has fallen, digging out of old stumps and from under the bark of fallen trees. When there is no snow, which is the greater part of the winter here in eastern Massachusetts, he confines his operations mostly to ant-hills, and manages to do considerable execution, if the contents of his stomach is to be relied upon.

Yellow-shafted
Mass.
White
Og O.
XVII, Oct
1892 p.
150

... a Flicker, upon skinning was found to have a deep dent in the dome of the skull, much like one so frequently made in Derby hats; and one, more unusual than all the others, the case of another Flicker which I found dead in an excavation formerly occupied by one of his species as a nest. This was on February 22, 1886, and the feet of the bird were frozen to a sheet of ice on the floor of the cavity. Undoubtedly the bird had taken refuge there during a rain-storm, and a sudden change of temperature had frozen the little water that had blown in by the wind, and thus the poor bird was imprisoned until his death.

O. & O. XIV, May, 1889 p. 72-73
Harry Gordon White,
Amesbury, Mass., April 10, 1889.

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. O.

75. *Colaptes auratus*, (Yellow-shafted Flicker). Common around the farms at Eustis and Stratton as well as farther south. Nesting habits as elsewhere; seen in large flocks in the pastures in September

O. & O. XI, Nov. 1886, p. 133

NOVEL NESTING-SITES OF WOODPECKERS (*Colaptes auratus* AND *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*).—Having often wondered where the above-named birds breed when seen on the open prairies forty or fifty miles from any timber the whole summer, I promised some farmer boys a suitable reward if they would find their nests anywhere outside of hollow trees and was most agreeably rewarded in being shown two nests of the Golden-winged Woodpecker and one of the Red-headed in rather queer quarters. One nest of the former was in an old wagon hub, about two feet from the ground, and hidden by a rank growth of weeds. The other was in a hollow formed by two large willow-sticks that formed part of a hay roof over a cattle-shed. The nest of the Red-head was in the angle formed by the shares of an upturned plow. In no instance was there any attempt at nest-building, the newly-hatched young ones resting on some dirt and rubbish. — G. S. AGERSBORG, Vermillion, Dakota. Bull. N. O. C. 6, April, 1881, p. 120.

Massachusetts Bird Notes.

Colaptes auratus.—The instance of the nesting of the Flicker (*C. auratus*) within a building, as recorded in the Monograph of the Flicker (Wilson Bulletin, No. 31), reminds me of a somewhat similar case which came to my notice in June, 1897. A barn in Lynnfield, unoccupied and seldom visited, was frequented by Flickers, several holes being made by them in the sides of the building. All the holes that I saw were made where a seam was formed by two boards. A pair of the Flickers nested in the barn laying their eggs on some hay. I did not myself see the eggs in position but the facts in the case were later furnished me by Mr. J. W. Ross, the owner of the property.

A pile of hay some five or six feet high occupied one corner of the barn. The Flicker laid her eight eggs on this hay pile, making a slight depression. The eggs were laid close to the side of the barn and about one foot below the hole made therein by the birds.

Mr. Ross visited his barn at infrequent intervals and thinks that this will explain why the Flickers nested therein. On the occasion of one visit in May the bird flew from her eggs on the hay and made her escape through one of the holes. Two of the eight eggs were taken by boys, but the others hatched and Mr. Ross believes that the young were safely reared. This instance of the Flicker nesting within a building differs from that recorded in the 'Wilson Bulletin' in that the Massachusetts bird utilized hay for a nesting-place while in the other case the eggs were laid on boarding.—J. A. FARLEY, *Malden, Mass.*

Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, pp. 399, 400.

A BROOD OF YOUNG FLICKERS (*COLAPTES
AURATUS*) AND HOW THEY WERE FED.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

LATE in May, 1892, I noticed a Flicker's hole, then apparently completed, in a very rotten stump covered externally with gray lichens and a species of woody fungus. This stump was one of seven nearly upright but diverging stems, all evidently sprouts from the same roots and six still living. The tree, an ancient white maple, stood on the bank of Concord River, within a few yards of a boat landing. Besides the Flicker's hole the old stump contained at this time two other inhabited nests; a Downy Woodpecker's near the top, and a little lower down a Bluebird's. The Flicker's nest was still lower — about ten feet above the ground.

The Bluebirds first, and shortly afterwards the Downy Woodpeckers, reared and took away their young, after which a pair of House Sparrows entered into possession of the hole which the Downies had vacated. Scarcely had the female Sparrow laid her eggs, when a boy, attempting to climb the stump, broke it off squarely at the entrance hole of the Flicker's nest. For two weeks or more previous to this, I had frequently started one or other of the Flickers from the nest in passing it on my way to the landing; but I had learned little regarding them beyond the fact that their hearing was so keen that I could never quite reach the tree without alarming them, and that during this period (when, as will presently appear, incubation must have been constantly going on) they were frequently at work pecking at the inside of the trunk.

The accident to the stump happened June 23, at about noon. An hour later I examined the nest, which was now entirely open at the top. In the bottom lay five young Flickers, about as large as plucked House Sparrows and perfectly naked. Their eyes were tightly closed and I judged them to be less than a week old. They were writhing and shivering pitifully, the air being cool and damp at the time. I watched the nest for nearly an hour, but saw nothing of the parent birds. As a cold rain storm began soon after and lasted through the following night I con-

A SECOND MASSACHUSETTS SPECIMEN OF THE RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Centurus carolinus*).—At the establishment of Pertia W. Aldrich, the well-known taxidermist, I have lately seen a freshly-made skin of a Red-bellied Woodpecker which Mr. Aldrich tells me was shot at Cohasset, May 28, 1881, by a young son of Matthew Luce, Esq., of Boston. The bird is an adult male in fine plumage. It is the second known Massachusetts specimen, the first having been recorded in the last (April) number of the Bulletin, by Gordon Plummer, Esq.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

[Although the two specimens alluded to above are doubtless the only ones thus far known to have been *actually taken* in Massachusetts it may be well to call attention to two earlier records. In my "Catalogue of Birds found at Springfield, Mass.," etc., published in 1864 (Proc. Essex Institute, Vol. IV, pp. 48-98), I gave the species as a "Summer Visitant. Accidental"; and add: "Saw one May 13th 1863" (l. c., p. 53). I also cite Peabody (Rep. on the Birds of Mass.) as stating that Professor Emmons had found it breeding in Western Massachusetts. Whatever may be the weight of the testimony last cited, I will take this opportunity of stating more fully the instance I give on my own authority. The specimen was shot and fell, but just as it reached the ground sailed off a few feet into a pile of brush thickly overgrown with bushes, and a prolonged search, repeatedly renewed on subsequent days, failed to discover the bird. Nothing in my ornithological experience ever made so deep an impression on my memory, or gave me keener disappointment, for I knew what a prize I had lost. The species was then well known to me, and was as distinctly recognized as it could have been had I had it actually in hand. A specimen of this species has since been taken by Mr. E. I. Shore, within five miles (at Suffield, Conn. (see Merriam's Birds of Conn., p. 65), of the locality where my example was shot.—J. A. ALLEN.]

A CURIOUS COLAPTES.—The most remarkable case of *C. mexicanus* + *auratus* which has come under my observation is that of a specimen taken here February 20, 1881. The bird is *mexicanus*, excepting the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 5th tail feathers of the left side, which are *auratus*—the golden-yellow in striking contrast with the orange-red of the rest of the tail. The specimen also illustrates the rare anomaly of bilateral asymmetry in coloration. It is deposited in the National Museum.—ELLIOTT COVES, Fort Whipple, Arizona.

A VERNACULAR SYNONYMY.—The compiling of a list of the names of our birds in use among the people to whom they are popularly known has always seemed to me a matter both of interest and value; and I have for some years been making notes for such a Vernacular Synonymy, as it might be termed. There is more in it than the mere grouping of this class of information, since opportunities for philological study exist in plenty, and other general facts of interest are likely to be brought out. As an unimportant example of what I mean, take the case of the Golden-winged Woodpecker (*Colaptes auratus*) which is variously known as follows:

The only other prominent bird on this autumn day was that bird of many names, — the "flicker." A local name used on Cape Ann is, I think, new in print, viz, "Yellow Wing."

The Flicker, when seen at all, is always conspicuous, but on this day he was more plentiful than usual, and twice during my walk I noticed signs of that habit common with its Californian variety, but newly (?) acquired by the eastern Flicker, of boring into buildings. One example was in the side of a barn, and I was fortunate enough to see the occupant entering just at sunset, probably to spend the night. The other hole was similarly situated in an old corn house. On another occasion during a bright morning late in November I saw one of these birds in the act of leaving a hole likewise in a barn, and I know of an ice house which is literally full of holes made by these birds in order to reach the sawdust, into which they burrow for their winter quarters. Two other instances which have come to my attention are worth notice; one of a Woodpecker which had taken up his abode in a hole which he made under the eaves of a dwelling, where he spent several winters. And the other, told me by a friend and frequent contributor to this magazine, of a Flicker which nested several years in a crevice of an unused chimney in his grandfather's house. As I came suddenly into a clearing among a growth of thick bushes and trees, I started a Flicker which was climbing the vertical trunk of a tree, like any other Woodpecker, a position comparatively rare for *auratus* to assume, for he is most fond of feeding on the ground.

H. G. White.

O. & O. XIV. Oct. 1889. p. 157.

Winter Birds in South-eastern Mass. Harry G. White

1. *The Flicker.* This bird is ordinarily considered to be a regular winter resident in this part of the state, and the notes here given are only designed to show the actual status of the species at this season. This, and indeed each of the following species of land-birds, seems to be rather more numerous in the Cape Cod district, (Plymouth and Barnstable counties), and than at more inland points, possibly on account of the diminishing amount of snow, and the somewhat higher mean temperature in the immediate vicinity of the coast. At all events, the Flicker is a comparatively abundant bird in such localities, and the ratio of its increase seems to be more pronounced as we pass from west to east. The data shows that there were fifty-three Flickers seen at three stations during the month of December, namely, at Taunton, eight birds on four days; at Wood's Holl, seven birds on six days; and at Highland Light, thirty-seven birds on twenty-one days.

The entire number of Flickers observed at the various stations in January amounted to seventy-nine, viz., at Taunton, thirty-three birds, on nine days; at Naushon, thirteen birds, on seven days; at Wood's Holl, eight birds on as many days, and at Highland Light, twenty-five birds on eleven days.

Observations for February were not received from Taunton, but were continued as usual at the other stations. The aggregate number for the month was forty-three birds. At Naushon there were seven birds on four days; at Wood's Holl, observations were conducted on each of the twenty-eight days, but no Flickers were seen; at Highland Light, thirty-six birds were recorded on eleven days.

It is, of course, probable, that in most cases the same bird was seen on each recurring observation, and was thus counted over several times. Still, the mere fact of its presence at the same spot on successive days, may be regarded as demonstrating permanency or residence, for, as Mr. Stone once said, "great variation in numbers from day to day, and I will add, from time to time, denotes activity, (migration), while comparatively unchanging numbers denote rest, (non-migration)."

The mean or average numbers of Pigeon-Woodpeckers, as deducted from the monthly sums, are seventeen for December, nineteen for January and eleven for February. Assuming that these means represent the ideal number of Flickers to be met with at any locality with ordinarily favorable surroundings during the respective months for which they stand, it may be considered in localities where the actual number of Yellow Hammers is above the average of the several stations, to denote more than ordinary favorable conditions for their existence; either on account of a greater food supply, unusual protections from the extremes of weather, or from their various natural enemies; but if the actual numbers of the birds present do not come up to the average, then the conditions of environment might be considered unfavorable. In the immediate vicin-

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ton and Wood's Holl, the difference is greater, being as 1: 5, while at Naushon and Highland Light, it is only as 1: 2. It is, however, of the opinion that the effects of the migrational tide, so to speak, are very much more pronounced in the vicinity of Taunton, than in the counties to the eastward of that place, and therefore the excess over the number of actual summer residents or breeding birds, is not in the same ratio at all points, being greatest to the west and diminishing in an easterly direction.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 81-82

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H. G. White.

Oct. XIV. Oct. 1889. p. 157.

ity of Wood's Holl, the requirements of this bird are apparently not as perfectly developed as at points a short distance away.

Across the channel, on Naushon island, they are more plenty, and I have also noticed a great increase in the numbers of this bird about the settlements of shore houses on the branch railroad which connects Wood's Holl with the main Cape Cod line, and notably, at the villages of Wenammet, Cataumet and Monument Beach. Upon inquiry, I have been informed that the Pigeon Woodpecker has become so abundant as a winter resident in these places, that it is classed as a "common nuisance" by people having cottages, and bounties have been offered for their heads because of their destructive habit of boring into the houses for shelter during the winter.

The avidity of the bird to select such excellent refuges, and the celerity with which the new habit is adopted, together with the extent of the new fields to conquer, naturally results in the draining of the surrounding territory and the localization of all available forces in a similar form to the Sparrow rookeries and Robin roosts, described by Mr. Norris and Dr. Brewster.

There was one Woodpecker that had excavated a home in a flag-staff, erected by the Coast Survey on an islet in the harbor, and to which he resorted nightly during the first part of the winter, but when the cold waves of February came, I missed my *Colaptes* from his usual haunts, and I imagine that he was obliged to find quarters less exposed to the sweeping northwest wind.

A comparison of the numbers of this bird during winter and the season of migration may prove interesting, and the following table is given to show the mean monthly numbers at either station during the season of autumnal migration, including September, October and November, and the period of rest, including the winter months already mentioned. Simultaneous notes were not received from all points previous to the first of September.

AVERAGE NO. FLICKERS SEEN PER MONTH.

	TAUNTON.	NAUSHON.	WOOD'S HOLL.	AD. TRURO.	TOTAL.	MEAN.
Autumn,	107	22	23	64	216	54
Winter,	20	10	5	33	68	17

This gives the mean average number of Flickers for the months of migration, as fifty-four, and during the three cold months of winter, it is seventeen; or in other words, these Woodpeckers are likely to be one-third as plenty at that season as in autumn. At Taun-

about the sun marsh near Ramoth and also at various points along the shore between that town and the head of Buzzards Bay. The North Truro record is very complete and probably the Marsh Quail is nowhere more abundant within the limits of the State during the three winter months, than on that part of Cape Cod which forms the forearm of Massachusetts, viz., from Monomoy to Provincetown. Mr. Small's record has a showing of one hundred-six birds in December, they being present in numbers varying from two to twenty-five or no less than ten of the thirty-one days of that month. In January, they were seen on thirteen days in numbers varying from one to fourteen, and aggregating eighty-one. Meadow Larks were present on twenty of the twenty-eight days in February, and the sum of the numbers recorded amounts to fifty. The highest number seen on any one day was six and the minimum number was one.

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This gives the mean average number of Flickers for the months of migration, as fifty-four, and during the three cold months of winter, it is seventeen; or in other words, these Woodpeckers are likely to be one-third as plenty at that season as in autumn. At Taun-

Two Corrections.—In an article which appeared in the July number of 'The Auk' I described at some length a peculiar process of regurgitation employed by the Flicker in feeding its young, believing—and indeed remarking at the time—that the habit was unknown or at least unrecorded. It seems, however, that it had been previously observed by Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller who published an account of it in 1890 in the 'Atlantic Monthly,' the article being afterwards (in 1892) republished in a collection of essays entitled 'Little Brothers of the Air.'

It is a pity that writers like Mrs. Miller—gifted with rare powers of observation and blessed with abundant opportunities for exercising them—cannot be induced to record at least the more important of their discoveries in some accredited scientific journal, instead of scattering them broadcast over the pages of popular magazines or newspapers, or ambushing them in books with titles such as that just quoted. But an opportunity for delivering a properly frank and telling homily on this sad evil is unfortunately denied me on the present occasion, for some one of these writers might be unkind enough to point the moral of a second admission which I am about to make, viz., that my announcement, in the last number of 'The Auk,' of the capture in Georgia, by Mr. Worthington, of two specimens of the Ipswich Sparrow, proves to have been anticipated in a previous issue (Vol. VII, April, 1890, pp. 211, 212) of *the same journal*. It is needless to say that this fact had quite escaped my memory—as it had also, apparently, that of our usually vigilant editors—and I was further thrown off my guard by Mr. Worthington's statement that, as far as he was aware, his birds had never been reported. This assurance—unquestionably given in good faith—affords a striking as well as amusing instance of the fallibility of human memory, for the record just cited was made by *Mr. Worthington himself*.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.
Auk X. Oct., 1893 p 365.

The first of a few birds that in which words are
 its old bird was then being & carrying words, the
 hole was so low down that I put my hand over it
 and slipped her mark by darkening the hole. I concluded that
 the line to lay came before she could finish the great
 should judge it would have taken one of her deep longer
 whether she would have conveyed it to the nest hole or not
 of the summer & question I say Aug - Mr. Hanks

Friend Brewster

I have just rec'd a few new birds, and as I do not know what kinds you lack, thought perhaps you might like to secure some of the same. Mr. Anthony & Mr. Shurber have just returned from San Pedro Mt and I enclose Mr. Shurber's bill to show what he has and his prices. I will say that Mr. Anthony wrote me that the status of San Pedro partidge was still in doubt and he did not wish to put out doubtful skins. I ordered a skin on approval and found that it differs so from what I have that I should have much more faith in it than in the two forms of 'volley quail.' I also had a skin of *Sialia Mex. scabellae* which Mr. Shurber said was an unusual skin, and differed much more widely from the Western, than most of the San Pedro skins and stated that he thought I could not mistake it. I found it to be almost exactly

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like a skin of Western Blue Bird which I had
and so, returned it— I feel quite confident that the
"Berlandieri's" are not, or are so labelled, which I
have is different from any I have ever seen —
Have just read your interesting article on
Flickers— I once found a hole in a hemlock stub
out in an open pasture, it was within reach
and on my approach the young as usual peered
(they do all wood peckers & Chockadees do this
to intimidate snakes and frighten intruders?)
and retreated to the bottom of the hole— As the hole
was lower than usual, I reached down and
got one by the bill— It was the first of Aug and
I had a pair of strawberries— His beak & my hand
I opened his bill and forced in a berry, he
seemed to like it and I did the same by the
others (there were but two and both fully grown)
soon I got them so that when I scratched on the
stub both would put their heads out and open
their bills for berries— I fed them as long as I
could afford time and they seemed capable and
willing to eat all the strawberries I could provide
You of course know how they eat black cherries & with
wood berries. But this is the only case I ever knew
of their eating straw berries— I once found a beautiful
briskish white egg lying on the moss some 10 feet from

77. *Colaptes auratus*—Common resident.

Auk, VI. Oct., 1889, p. 312 314.

349. *Yellow or Red-shafted Flicker, which?* Editorial. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 82.—One side of the bird presented the characters of the Yellow-shafted Flicker, and the other side those of the Red-shafted.

1744. *Golden-winged Woodpecker in Massachusetts.* By Hermit. *Ibid.*, Feb. 14, p. 63.—Food in winter. *For. & Stream*, Vol. 32

1070. *Golden-winged Woodpecker Wintering in Maine.* By Everett Smith. *Ibid.*, Feb. 5, p. 27. *For. & Stream*, XXIV

1746. *Habits of the Flicker.* By C. W. Chamberlain. *Ibid.*, Feb. 28, p. 107. *For. & Stream*, Vol. 32

Young Oologist. 1539. *Flickers in a Church Tower.* By G. F. B[renniger]. *Ibid.*, p. *Auk*, VII, Jan 1890, p. 82.

1321. *Names of a Woodpecker.* By W. W. Colburn. *Ibid.*, No. 12, April 14, p. 248.—A list of thirty-six common names applied to *Colaptes auratus*. *For. & Stream*, Vol. XXVIII

S. Carolina, 1890. *Colaptes auratus*. FLICKER. 'YELLOW-HAMMER.'—I found the
Auk, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 38. Flicker common, ranging from the lower valleys over the mountain tops.
1449. *Notes on Colaptes auratus, containing some Theories regarding*
Variation in Plumage. By C. J. Maynard. *Ibid.*, pp. 33-36.
Quar. Jour. Bos. Zool. Soc. II

1097. A "Brood" of [Golden-winged] Woodpeckers. Editorial.
Ibid., June 25, p. 427.—"Nineteen young ones, alive and in good condi-
tion," in one nest. *For. & Stream*, XXIV

Young Ool. 1525. *Yellow-shafted Flicker.* By W. B. K[ennick]. *Ibid.*, p. 35. *Auk*, VII, Jan 1890, p. 81.