

NOTES ON RHODE ISLAND ORNITHOLOGY

EDITED BY
REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR.

VOLUME III

BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

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1902

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VOL. III

NO. I

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JANUARY

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NOTES ON RHODE ISLAND ORNITHOLOGY.

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No. 1.

NOTES ON RHODE ISLAND ORNITHOLOGY, a quarterly publication for the purpose of furthering interest in ornithology in the State of Rhode Island. Published and edited by Reginald Heber Howe, Junior. Address, Longwood, Brookline, Massachusetts.

Terms, one dollar (\$1.00) a year. Single numbers, twenty-five cents (.25).

All material for publication, advertisements, and books for review should be sent to the Editor.

With this issue the last volume of "Notes on Rhode Island Ornithology" is commenced. With Volume III its planned term of publication expires, and the proposed Supplement to "The Birds of Rhode Island" will be published during the autumn of 1902 or the winter of 1903. The Editor feels that the publication of "Notes" as a stimulous to the study of Rhode Island Ornithology, has been a distinct success, much valuable data having appeared in its pages, and considerable interest in the birds of the State evoked. He wishes to thank the supporters of "Notes" for their earnest and ready aid, and asks that they send in at once all corrections and additions in their possession for the coming Supplement. As this is the last volume the subscribers no doubt all wish to continue their subscriptions and complete their files. Unless however, their subscriptions are paid before the close of January, 1902, their names will be struck from the list.

The Editor also has again to thank Mrs. LeRoy King, Mrs. William Gammell and Mrs. William H. Russell in the behalf of many of the libraries of the State for their kindness in making it possible for him to send Volume III for the current year, and thus complete the library files.

A LIST OF THE BIRDS OBSERVED AT MIDDLETOWN, R. I. BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 6 AND 16, 1901.

BY FRANCIS G. AND MAURICE C. BLAKE.

The following birds were observed about the Paradise Hills and Marshes, and on Sachuest Pt. The birds that are mentioned as taken were shot by Mr. Reginald Heber Howe, Junior.

1. *Colinus virginianus*. BOB-WHITE. — Common.
2. *Rallus virginianus*. VIRGINIA RAIL. — One seen on 14th.
3. *Porzana carolina*. CAROLINA RAIL. — Uncommon.
4. *Podilymbus podiceps*. PIED-BILLED GREBE. — One shot by a gunner on the 13th.
5. *Gavia imber*. LOON. — One seen on 9th.
6. *Sterna hirundo*. COMMON TERN. — Rather common.
7. *Larus argentatus*. HERRING GULL. — Common.
8. *Arenaria interpres*. TURNSTONE. — Two shot by C. S. Hammond on the 8th.
9. *Squatarola squatarola*. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER. — One shot by C. S. Hammond on 8th.
10. *Charadrius dominicus*. AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER. — Rare.
11. *Ægialitis vocifera*. KILLDEER PLOVER. — One shot by C. S. Hammond on 9th.
12. *Ægialitis semipalmata*. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER. — Common.
13. *Numenius hudsonicus*. HUDSONIAN CURLEW. — One shot by C. S. Hammond on 8th.
14. *Totanus melanoleucus*. GREATER YELLOW-LEGS. — One on the 9th.
15. *Totanus flavipes*. LESSER YELLOW-LEGS. — Common.
16. *Actitis macularia*. SPOTTED SANDPIPER. — Rather common.
17. *Bartramia longicauda*. BARTRAMIAN SANDPIPER. — One heard.
18. *Ereunetes pusillus*. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER. — Very common.
19. *Ereunetes occidentalis*. WESTERN SANDPIPER. — Rare. Three shot. One on the 9th and two on the 12th.
20. *Calidris arenaria*. SANDERLING. — Rare. One taken.
21. *Tringa minutilla*. LEAST SANDPIPER. — Common.
22. *Tringa maculata*. PECTORAL SANDPIPER. — Rare.
23. *Tringa bairdii*. BAIRD'S SANDPIPER. — One shot on 14th, 6th record.
24. *Tringa fuscicollis*. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. — Rare. Three taken, 9th to 16th.
25. *Gallinago delicata*. WILSON'S SNIPE. — Rare.
(To be continued.)

GENERAL NOTES.

Birds Observed at Point Judith, R. I., November 5, 1901. — While making a visit of a few hours at the Point, the following birds were noted.

Larus argentatus. HERRING GULL. — A few were seen flying over the Point during the day coming from the northeast. The majority of them were birds in young plumage.

Nyroca affinis. LESSER SCAUP DUCK. — Several were noted at the southern end of Point Judith Pond.

Fulica americana. COOT. — I was informed by Capt. H. M. Knowles,

U. S. Life Saving Service that the Mud Hens arrived the latter part of Sept. and were about the same in number as last year. The southern end of the pond was fairly alive with them. I counted 861 and no doubt there were many more which could not be seen as some were feeding on the shore of the pond.

Calidris arenaria. SANDERLING. — A flock of eight were flushed from among the rocks on the east shore and were the only shore birds noted.

Sturnella magna. MEADOW LARK. — Six birds of this species were started up from the pastures. They are not as plenty as they were last year when twenty of thirty were found in a few hours.

Otocorys alpestris. HORNED LARK. — Very abundant along shore feeding amongst the seaweed. Several flocks of thirty or forty were seen.

Circus hudsonicus. MARSH HAWK. — A fine adult was "mousing," over the meadows it being rather a late date for it.

Plectrophenax nivalis. SNOWFLAKE. — Associated with the flocks of Horned Larks were large numbers of the Snowflakes, who were as uneasy as ever.

Passerculus princeps. IPSWICH SPARROW. — Three birds were seen back of the sandbank between the beach and pond.

Passerculus s. savanna or **labradorius.** SAVANNA SPARROW. — Two birds of this species were feeding in the grass and flew into the cat-tails when flushed.

Melospiza c. melodia. SONG SPARROW. — Several were noted on the edge of the ponds.

Melospiza georgiana. SWAMP SPARROW. — One solitary individual was seen.

Anthus pennsilvanicus. AMERICAN PIPIT. — A flock of about forty birds were feeding in the fields north of the Point and on my approach they flew on to the rail fence along the road. They were staying unusually late.

Cistothorus palustris. LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN. — One was scolding in the "cat-tails." No doubt but it was wintering.

South Auburn, Dec. 18, 1901.

HARRY S. HATHAWAY.

Three Notes. — On September 16, 1901, I took a Stilt Sandpiper (*Micro-palama himantopus*) at Middletown. This is the latest date I know of for Rhode Island. On the 17th I also saw a Nashville Warbler (*Helminthophila rubricapilla*), a later date than I have before gotten for the State, though not late at all in reality for the species in New England. On Sept. 17 I also took a Baird's Sandpiper (*Tringa bairdii*). 8th record. Longwood, Mass.

EDITOR.

The Leach's Petrel taken at Providence. — I made one of the sailing party that captured the first R. I. Leach's Petrel, June 9, 1889. And now, singularly and fortunately, I am the recipient of the third capture, taken under singular circumstances. On Sunday, Oct. 6, the gale that swept Cape Cod was decidedly in evidence with us. On Tuesday, the 8th, Police

Sargent, Joseph A. Prout, picked up from the sidewalk on Potter's Ave. Providence, a bird that the combined wisdom of Station I could not name, and it was brought to me, just barely alive, a fine specimen of a male Leach's Petrel, taken a mile from any salt water, and two or three miles from any open and considerable area, twenty miles from where we would anticipate finding them. This is about the first matter of any consequence to which I seemed to have any prior right to mention.

Providence, Dec. 18, 1901.

JAMES M. SOUTHWICK.

Notes on the Water and Shore Birds about Middletown, Autumn of 1901. — The following birds have been observed on the marshes about Newport and Jamestown from Aug. 7 to Sept. 18, 1901: *Gallinago delicata*, *Macrorhamphus griseus* (about 20 seen and 1 shot (Aug. 12), 2 seen Aug. 16), *Micropalama himantopus* (4 shot Aug. 14, quite common), *Tringa canutus* (saw gunner with two about Aug. 17), *Tringa maculata*, *Tringa fuscicollis* (quite common on marshes this summer), *Tringa bairdii* (1 shot Sept. 14, 7th record), *Tringa minutilla*, *Ereunetes pusillus*, *Ereunetes occidentalis* (several seen or shot in Aug.; quite common), *Calidris arenaria*, *Limosa hæmastica* ? (7 seen Sept. 19), *Totanus melanoleucus*, *Totanus flavipes*, *Totanus solitarius* (1 shot Aug. 14), *Symphemia semipalmata* (several have been seen this year), *Bartramia longicauda* (common in Aug.), *Actitis macularia*, *Numenius hudsonicus*, *Squatarola squatarola*, *Charadrius dominicus* (fairly numerous in middle Sept., shot 2, 1 Sept. 19, 1 Sept. 24), *Ægialitis vocifera* (1 shot by market gunner about Aug. 27), *Ægialitis semipalmata*, *Ægialitis meloda* (?), *Arenaria interpres*, *Porzana carolina*, *Botaurus lentiginosus*, *Ardetta exilis* (1 seen Sept. 14 Easton's pond, there is little doubt of identification), *Ardea herodias*, *Butorides virescens*, *Nycticorax n. nævius*, *Anas obscura*, *Querquedula discors*.

Newport, R. I.

LE ROY KING.

A Correction. — On Nov. 19, 1901, a young ♀ Bald Eagle was shot in Little Compton, R. I., by Richard E. Bullock.

Certain facts in this connection induced me to investigate the recent records of the Golden Eagle in southeastern Rhode Island. One specimen, reported in 'Notes on Rhode Island Ornithology', Vol. II, p. 7, — "Another Golden Eagle in Rhode Island" (Tiverton, Nov. 10, 1900), I found to be a Bald Eagle. While my name does not appear against this record, I consider myself morally responsible for the error, as I had the opportunity of examining the bird, and so I take this means of correcting the record. The other record for which I am responsible "Birds of Rhode Island," page 58, (Little Compton, Dec. 13-15, 1898), I found to be correct. The bird is now in possession of Chas. S. Pierce of Somerset, Mass., and is a fine adult ♀.

Fall River, Dec. 3, 1901.

OWEN DUFEE.

APR 26 1902

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14,609

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BY FRANCIS G. AND MAURICE C. BLAKE.

(Concluded.)

26. *Philohela minor*. AMERICAN WOODCOCK. — One on 15th.
27. *Ardea herodias*. GREAT BLUE HERON. — Common.
28. *Nycticorax n. naevius*. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. — Common.
29. *Butorides virescens*. GREEN HERON. — Uncommon.
30. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. AMERICAN BITTERN. — One shot on 9th.
31. *Querquedula discors*. BLUE-WINGED TEAL. — Not uncommon. One shot.
32. *Oedemia deglandi*. WHITE-WINGED SCOTER. — Rare.
33. *Circus hudsonius*. — One seen on 12th.
34. *Buteo lineatus*. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. — One on 6th.
35. *Falco columbarius*. PIGEON HAWK. — Uncommon.
36. *Pandion h. carolinensis*. AMERICAN OSPREY. — Rare.
37. *Ceryle alcyon*. BELTED KINGFISHER. — Common.
38. *Chordeiles virginianus*. NIGHT HAWK. — Two observed.
39. *Chætura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT. — Common.
40. *Trochilus colubris*. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. — Common.
41. *Colaptes a. luteus*. NORTHERN FLICKER. — Common.
42. *Dryobates p. medianus*. NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER. — One on 6th.
43. *Horizopus virens*. WOOD PEWEE. — Rare.
44. *Sayornis phœbe*. PHŒBE. — Rare.
45. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. KINGBIRD. — Common.
46. *Tachycineta bicolor*. WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW. — Abundant.

47. *Hirundo erythrogastra*. BARN SWALLOW. — Common.
48. *Progne subis*. PURPLE MARTIN. — One flock seen.
49. *Ampelis cedrorum*. CEDAR WAXWING. — Common.
50. *Vireo gilvus*. WARBLING VIREO. — Common.
51. *Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW. — Common.
52. *Parus atricapillus*. CHICKADEE. — Rather common.
53. *Cistothorus palustris*. LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN. — Common.
54. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. CATBIRD. — Common.
55. *Merula migratoria*. — AMERICAN ROBIN. — Very common.
56. *Icteria virens*. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (?). — One on 15th.
57. *Geothlypis t. brachidactyla*. MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT. — Rare.
58. *Icterus galbula*. BALTIMORE ORIOLE. — Rather common.
59. *Sturnella magna*. MEADOWLARK. — Common.
60. *Agelæus phœniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. — Common.
61. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. BOBOLINK. — Two seen.
62. *Melospiza melodia*. SONG SPARROW. — Common.
63. *Spizella socialis*. CHIPPING SPARROW. — Rare.
64. *Ammodramus caudacutus*. SHARP-TAILED SPARROW. — Common.
65. *Passerculus s. savanna*. SAVANNA SPARROW. — Common.
66. *Poœcetes gramineus*. VESPER SPARROW. — One on 8th.
67. *Passer domesticus*. ENGLISH SPARROW. — Common.
68. *Astragalinus tristis*. AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. — Common.
69. *Carpodacus purpureus*. PURPLE FINCH. — One on 14th.

A LIST OF THE BIRDS OBSERVED ON THE ISLAND OF RHODE ISLAND AND THE ADJACENT WATERS.

BY LOUIS DI ZEREGA MEARNS.

OUR observations embrace the period extending from February, 1899, to April, 1902, my father's notes being included with my own in the present list. I have published several short papers on the birds of this locality in 'Notes on Rhode Island Ornithology'; and reports of migrations have been sent quite regularly to the Division of the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The present paper is the summing up of the accumulated data respecting the avifauna of the Island of Rhode Island, and adjacent waters, exclusive of the *published* records of other observers.

1. *Colymbus holboëllii*. HOLBØLL GREBE.—A tolerably common winter visitor. A bird that had recently been shot, was found on Second Beach, May 2, 1899. Many others washed ashore at earlier dates. The foot of a specimen (No. 118 of my collection) found dead on the beach at Brenton's Cove, Narragansett Bay, January 21, 1900, agrees with the measurements of the Crested Grebe given in Coues' "Key to North American Birds," 1872, page 336. My specimen measures: tarsus, 61 mm.; middle toe with claw, 73 (tarsus equals middle toe without claw).

2. *Colymbus auritus*. HORNED GREBE.—A common winter resident. Some seen in May were in breeding plumage.

3. *Gavia imber*. LOON.—An abundant winter resident.

4. *Gavia lumme*. RED-THROATED LOON.—An uncommon winter visitor.

5. *Uria lomvia*. BRÜNNICH MURRE.—Probably a regular winter visitor.

6. *Alca torda*. RAZOR-BILLED AUK.—A rare winter visitant. An immature specimen from Newport, mounted by Mr. Clarke, in December, 1899, is in the Smith Collection of Rhode Island birds at the Museum of Natural History in Roger Williams Park, Providence, R. I. Adult and immature birds, also taken off Newport, were mounted by Mr. Clarke, in December, 1901.

7. *Alle alle*. DOVEKIE.—A rare winter visitor. One was taken off Newport, in December, 1899.

8. *Rissa trydactyla*. KITTIWAKE.—A tolerably common winter visitant off the coast; occasionally seen on Narragansett Bay, and surprisingly tame.

9. *Larus glaucus*. GLAUCOUS GULL.—Two, adult and young, spent the day of March 10, 1900, in a cove at the Life-Saving Station. The immature bird appeared to be entirely white. In December, 1901, Mr. Clarke mounted one that was taken off Newport. It was in the plumage described by Richardson as *Larus hutchinsi*. This is the first authentic record for the State.

10. *Larus marinus*. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.—A rather rare winter resident. Single birds have remained for long periods about Goat and Coaster's Harbor islands; but the species is rare in Narragansett Bay.

11. *Larus argentatus*. HERRING GULL.—An abundant winter resident. August 4 to June 12. In the fall of 1899 a young one was seen August 4; no others until September 4, when several young birds appeared; the first adult was seen September 11; and both young and adult birds were abundant September 12. In 1900, two young and six adults were seen August 31; about forty adults September 8; and about 200, mostly adult, September 25. In 1901, one adult and four young appeared September 13. In the spring of 1899, the last flock of Herring Gulls was noted May 6. In 1900, twelve were seen with the Common Terns feeding about the fish-traps in Sakonnet River, east of Third Beach, June 12; and Mr. Philip Peckham, Jr., saw one there a few days later. On May

22, 1900, a fishing vessel loaded with scup (porgies) sank in Narragansett Bay near Fort Adams. A flock of thirty Herring Gulls at once appeared and began feeding on the fish. The largest number noted was about 2000 gulls, following a garbage scow on February 13, 1902.

12. *Larus delawarensis*. RING-BILLED GULL.—A rather rare winter visitor. November 5 (1899) to April (1899). Common November 5 to 15, 1899. Several were seen in April, 1899. Six, December 1, 1900, April 3, 1902, a flock of twelve seen at Ft. Adams.

13. *Larus philadelphia*. BONAPARTE GULL.—A rather rare winter visitor, usually appearing in flocks.

14. *Sterna hirundo*. COMMON TERN.—A common summer resident, breeding on rocks off the coast and in Narragansett Bay. In the fall of 1899, it became scarce September 14; one seen September 29; several adults October 6. In 1900, it was abundant from September 21 to 26; flock of fifteen, September 29; twenty, September 30; and two, October 2. The young become strong enough to fly to the mainland early in August. The largest number of adults seen in a day was estimated at 250; and twice as many were seen after the young had joined the flocks. Their peculiar cry became familiar; and they were usually present about the fish-traps, often perching on the stakes. The young are usually seen resting on rocks near the shore, attended by their parents. A fishing boat drove all the young Terns ashore from Seal Rock, July 26, 1901. Their heads were fluffy in front, beginning to get black on hinder part of crown.

NOTE.—Two small Terns, possibly *Sterna paradisæa*, were feeding in Brenton's Cove, Narragansett Bay, R. I., November 15, 1900.

15. *Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*. BLACK TERN.—One was seen on Narragansett Bay, September 18, 1900.

16. *Phalacrocorax carbo*. COMMON CORMORANT.—Tolerably common winter resident off the coast. Seen in Narragansett Bay, December 2, 24, and 26, 1899.

17. *Phalacrocorax auritus*. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.—A common spring and fall migrant on Narragansett Bay.

18. *Merganser americanus*. AMERICAN MERGANSER.—A winter visitant to Narragansett Bay and fresh-water ponds. February 20 to May 2.

18. *Merganser serrator*. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.—An abundant winter resident.

20. *Lophodytes cucullatus*. HOODED MERGANSER.—A rare visitor. Two were taken at marshes near Second Beach, in October, 1899; another in Easton's Pond; all mounted by Mr. Clarke.

21. *Anas obscura*. BLACK DUCK.—A common resident.

22. *Nettion carolinense*. GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—One adult male seen December 30, 1899.

23. *Querquedula discors*. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.—A rare spring and fall migrant.

24. *Spatula clypeata*. SHOVELLER.—Mr. L. M. Linfield killed several

of these ducks on Easton's Pond a year or two ago. Mr. Charles B. Clarke says that he never saw them here but once, when one was shot on Narragansett Bay, several years ago.

25. *Dafile acuta*. PINTAIL. — One that was killed in the vicinity of Newport was mounted by Mr. Clarke in the autumn of 1901.

26. *Nyroca americana*. REDHEAD. — A common winter visitor. Frequently seen during December, 1899. Several old males seen February 3, 1900. Two adult males taken at Easton's Pond in October, 1899, were mounted by Mr. Clarke.

27. *Nyroca vallisneria*. CANVAS-BACK. — Several seen on November 16, 1899.

28. *Nyroca marila*. AMERICAN SCAUP DUCK. — A common winter resident. An immature male (No. 117 of my collection) shot January 13, 1900, was beginning to acquire the adult plumage.

29. *Clangula clangula americana*. AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE. — A tolerably common winter visitor.

30. *Charitonetta albeola*. BUFFLE-HEAD. — Abundant on Narragansett Bay during migrations, and occasional in winter. February 20 (1899) to April (1899). Shot on Easton's Pond in the fall of 1899.

31. *Harelda hyemalis*. OLD-SQUAW. — An abundant winter resident off the coast and in Narragansett Bay.

32. *Somateria dresseri*. AMERICAN EIDER. — Usually abundant off the coast in winter. A few years ago thousands of these Ducks frequented Narragansett Bay; but we saw none of them until the blizzards of February, 1902, when large flocks came into the Bay at Fort Adams. Many have been killed on the ocean and East River during the past three winters.

33. *Oedemia americana*. AMERICAN SCOTER. — A common winter resident. Abundant off the coast; usually uncommon in Narragansett Bay.

34. *Oedemia deglandi*. WHITE-WINGED SCOTER. — An abundant winter resident. Large flocks feed throughout the winter on Narragansett Bay; also abundant off shore.

35. *Oedemia perspicillata*. SURF SCOTER. — A common winter resident to June 10, (1900). This species was still plentiful April 25, 1899. In 1900, 2 were seen April 25; a flock of five was feeding in the surf off Purgatory Rock, June 2; and three were seen September 18; eight, September 19 and 20; and five September 25. Common off the coast and in Narragansett Bay.

36. *Erismatura jamaicensis*. RUDDY DUCK. — A fairly common spring and fall migrant at Easton's Pond.

37. *Branta canadensis*. CANADA GOOSE. — Common during spring and fall migrations; occasional in winter.

38. *Branta bernicla*. BRANT. — A rare migrant. Eleven seen April 28, 1900; forty seen, and one shot, March 24, 1902.

39. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. AMERICAN BITTERN. — A rare migrant, perhaps resident in summer.

40. *Ardea herodias*. GREAT BLUE HERON.—A rare resident. One was shot near Goose Neck, November 16, 1901, by Captain Gustaf Soderman.

41. *Butorides virescens*. GREEN HERON.—A common summer resident. Near Brenton's Point a nest was found in a swamp maple, 20 feet above the ground, in 1899. An old nest was found in a red juniper at Hanging Rock, Middletown township, June 2, 1900.

42. *Nycticorax nycticorax nævius*. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—Resident. Rare in winter. It breeds on the mainland and on Prudence Island. It has been occasionally observed here in winter.

43. *Porzana carolina*. SORA.—Occasionally observed during summer and autumn. Mr. Clarke mounted a specimen during November, 1899.

44. *Gallinula galeata*. FLORIDA GALLINULE.—A specimen taken at Newport in the autumn of 1901 was mounted by Mr. Clarke.

45. *Fulica americana*. AMERICAN COOT.—Usually uncommon; but large flocks are sometimes found on the fresh-water ponds of the Island, remaining as late in the autumn as the water is unfrozen.

46. *Phalaropus lobatus*. NORTHERN PHALAROPE.—One flock of about 20 seen floating on Narragansett Bay, near Castle Hill Point, September 20, 1899.

47. *Philohela minor*. AMERICAN WOODCOCK.—Formerly a common summer resident, but now rare; probably bred at Peat Pond, Newport, R. I., in 1900, as one was seen there June 7, and fresh drillings throughout the month.

48. *Gallinago delicata*. WILSON SNIPE.—A common spring and fall migrant. One was flushed from a heap of seaweed on bare rocks at the edge of the sea, an unusual place for it, on September 25, 1900.

49. *Macrorhamphus griseus*. DOWITCHER.—Rare.

50. *Micropalama himantopus*. STILT SANDPIPER.—Rare.

51. *Tringa maritima*. PURPLE SANDPIPER.—Mr. Clarke mounted a specimen, obtained at Sachuest Point.

52. *Tringa maculata*. PECTORAL SANDPIPER.—One October 8, 1900.

53. *Tringa minutilla*. LEAST SANDPIPER.—A rather rare migrant.

54. *Ereunetes pusillus*. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER.—An abundant fall migrant. May 26, 1900.

55. *Calidris arenaria*. SANDERLING.—A common fall migrant.

56. *Limosa hæmastica*. HUDSONIAN GODWIT.—One, August 7, 1899.

57. *Totanus melanoleucus*. GREATER YELLOW-LEGS.—A common migrant. A mated pair was seen on a fresh-water pond on a marsh near Goose Neck, May 23 and 26, 1900. On June 12, 1900, one recently dead bird was found on Third Beach.

58. *Totanus flavipes*. LESSER YELLOW-LEGS.—A common fall migrant.

59. *Helodromas solitarius*. SOLITARY SANDPIPER.—One seen about a little pond near Fort Adams, in August, 1899.

60. *Tryngites subruficollis*. BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER.—I shot a

fine male on a lawn near Castle Hill, September 15, 1900. It was moderately fat. Iris brown; bill plumbeous, dusky at tip; bare portion of tibia, and feet, greenish gray; claws brownish-black.

61. *Actitis macularia*. SPOTTED SANDPIPER. — A summer resident; breeds commonly.

62. *Numenius longirostris*. LONG-BILLED CURLEW. — Several alighted in fields near Brenton's Point, during July, 1901.

63. *Numenius hudsonicus* HUDSONIAN CURLEW. — An adult was taken, near Newport in 1899.

64. *Squatarola squatarola*. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER. — Three September 9, 1900.

65. *Charadrius dominicus*. GOLDEN PLOVER. — A migrant.

66. *Ægialitis vocifera*. KILDEER. — An occasional visitor. March 4, 21, and 28, 1900. One was seen by Doctor Edgar A. Mearns at Fort Adams, R. I., during the week that ended January 3, 1901. One heard March 24, 1902.

67. *Ægialitis semipalmata*. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER. — A common fall migrant.

68. *Arenaria interpres*. — An abundant fall migrant. Local name "Stone Plover." July 26 to October 8. As a rule they are quite tame, and feed regularly beside the Ocean Drive, on which carriages continually pass. On September 14, 1901, thirteen were feeding on the driveway. Three of them, frightened by passing vehicles, flew to a wall on which we were seated, alighting within a few feet of us in total disregard of our presence. We watched them preening, until they all lay down to rest beneath some roadside weeds.

69. *Colinus virginianus*. BOB-WHITE. — Colonel Powel, Mr. Perry Belmont, and Lieutenant Greble liberated a large number of Bob-whites from the Carolinas a few years ago, when the original native stock had been almost extirpated. The species is now quite abundant in Newport and Middletown townships, of course breeding and resident throughout the year. Its whistled "*Bob-white*" is heard through July. In winter the note is different. A flock of at least twenty, when driven to a brushy point of cliff beside a marsh at Hanging Rock, December 28, 1901, uttered a soft call, which, repeated by many birds at once, produced a sweet monotonous song until all took to flight, following each other a few at a time, all going in the same direction.

70. *Zenaidura macroura*. MOURNING DOVE. — Rare. One was seen on the shore of Narragansett Bay near the Lime Rocks late in the autumn of 1899. It was so gentle that a boy made several attempts to hit it with a stone; no others noted.

71. *Circus hudsonius*. MARSH HAWK. — An uncommon resident. Probably these birds are here throughout the seasons, though none have been seen later than October 3.

72. *Accipiter velox*. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. — Abundant during migrations; rare in winter. On October 30, 1899, one sat with a male

English Sparrow (specimen No. 11, 892) in its clutches, on a clothes-pole in our yard at Fort Adams. Another rested on a stake close to our windows, during a storm, February 13, 1902. In the fall of 1900, it was noted September 9, 15, 18, and October 8. In 1901, it was recorded on September 14 and 15.

73. *Accipiter cooperi*. COOPER HAWK.—An uncommon fall migrant. One was shot October 1, 1899; one seen November 21, 1899.

74. *Buteo borealis*. RED-TAILED HAWK.—Very uncommon. One was seen, a Crow chasing it, on November 25, 1899. Another was killed near Fort Adams, several years ago, by Captain Wirt Robinson, U. S. A.

75. *Buteo lineatus*. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.—One was seen, April 4, 1900.

76. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti johannis*. AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK.—A rare winter resident. Several have been shot in the vicinity of Fort Adams, where we observed a few each year.

77. *Falco columbarius*. PIGEON HAWK.—A migrant and winter resident, most common in autumn. Several specimens were obtained. November 21, 1899, I made the following note: A month ago Pigeon Hawks were frequently seen. An immature female has spent several days in an apple orchard, near Fort Adams, except when foraging for English Sparrows in the neighboring corral. When hungry, it was alert and shy; when full of Sparrows, sluggish and readily approached. This individual was shot November 21. Its stomach contained three feet and many bones of *Passer domesticus*, besides a body neatly picked. In the year 1900, Pigeon Hawks were noted on the following dates: April 24, September 20, October 11 and 21.

78. *Falco sparverius*. AMERICAN SPARROW HAWK.—One seen in the spring of 1899, one November 15, 1899, and one late in December, 1899.

79. *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*. AMERICAN OSPREY.—A fairly common summer resident, but not found breeding on this Island, although it obtains fish-food from our ponds during the summer.

80. *Asio wilsonianus*. AMERICAN LONG-EARED OWL.—Rare. One was shot on February 20, 1900. Owl pellets, of species unknown but perhaps this, furnished us with many skulls and bones of *Blarina* and *Microtus*. They were found in a swampy thicket.

81. *Asio accipitrinus*. SHORT-EARED OWL.—An uncommon winter resident. A specimen from Newport was mounted by Mr. Clarke, in September, 1899. One was seen at Fort Adams, December 20, 1901. Two were shot by Captain Gustaf Söderman, on a marsh near Goose Neck, November 20, 1901. Captain Wirt Robinson shot one on the present golf grounds a few years ago.

82. *Syrnium nebulosum*. BARRED OWL.—One, caught in Newport about January 20, 1902, is kept in captivity at Fort Adams.

83. *Megascops asio*. SCREECH OWL.—A specimen, taken at Newport was mounted by Mr. Clarke, in January, 1900.

(To be continued.)

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VOL. III

NO. 3

NOTES ON RHODE ISLAND ORNITHOLOGY

JULY

1902

A. BRISTOL

RHODE ISLAND

NOTES ON RHODE ISLAND ORNITHOLOGY.

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No. 3.

NOTES ON RHODE ISLAND ORNITHOLOGY, a quarterly publication for the purpose of furthering interest in ornithology in the State of Rhode Island. Published and edited by Reginald Heber Howe, Junior. Address, Longwood, Brookline, Massachusetts.

Terms, one dollar (\$1.00) a year. Single numbers, twenty-five cents (.25).

All material for publication, advertisements, and books for review should be sent to the Editor.

A LIST OF THE BIRDS OBSERVED ON THE ISLAND OF RHODE ISLAND AND THE ADJACENT WATERS.

BY LOUIS DI ZEREGA MEARNS.

84. *Bubo virginianus*. GREAT HORNED OWL.—One was seen in Middletown township, in May, 1900, by Mr. Philip Peckham, Jr., who also saw one on September 30, 1900. During the winter of 1899-1900, a pair remained near the Bonaparte House.

85. *Nyctea nyctea*. SNOWY OWL.—In a letter dated February 10, 1900, Captain Wirt Robinson, U. S. Army, writes; "I shot a Snowy Owl in the little marshy valley of the creek that runs into the ocean at Goose Neck, on the south end of the Island of Rhode Island. Just above the stone crusher, near the Bonaparte House, I saw two Snowy Owls." I saw a mounted specimen that was killed on this Island by the grandfather of Forrest Buchanan, of Newport, many years ago.

86. *Coccyzus americanus*. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.—Only observed on the following dates: two July 6, two July 24, one August 2, 7, 8, 9, and one October 7, all in 1900.

87. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO.—A common summer resident. May 20 (1900) to September 16 (1899). Seen building a nest May 26, 1900; another nest, nearly finished, partly of seaweed, June 9, 1900.

88. *Ceryle alcyon*. BELTED KINGFISHER.—A fairly common resident; breeds. April 4, 1900, to October 15 (1900). It fishes in both salt and fresh waters, nesting beside both. In 1899, a pair had a nest in a bank beside Narragansett Bay, near Fort Adams, R. I. These birds often flew over our house, in passing from the nest to Brenton's Cove; but, on the following year, no Kingfishers came to the Cove during the breeding season or before July 15, after which they were constantly present.

89. *Sphyrapicus varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.—Old borings

on apple and other trees indicate the repeated presence of the Sapsucker; but we have seen but two: one seen September 26, 1900; one female shot October 15, 1900 (No. 185 of my collection).

90. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. NORTHERN FLICKER. — Resident throughout the year; abundant during migrations; common in summer; uncommon in winter. Nests in apple, willow, maple, and pepperidge; sometimes in the city of Newport. First egg, May 20, 1900. In winter, it eats the waxy berries of the myrtle.

91. *Chordeiles virginianus*. NIGHTHAWK. — Nighthawks were common September 4 to 14, 1899; none seen since.

SPRING NOTES FROM RHODE ISLAND ON THE MIGRATION OF WATER-BIRDS.

BY LEROY KING.

THE following is the result of my observations in Newport and in its vicinity from April 15 to May 25, 1902.

Colymbus auritus. — Birds seen in Narragansett Bay on April 17 and 19.

Gavia imber. — Continually seen migrating and on the water. About thirty birds were seen flying eastward over Sachuest Point, singly or in pairs on May 12, and others were noted flying over at Sakonnet Point on May 22.

Gavia lumme. — I found an adult bird in full breeding plumage on a beach near Sakonnet Pt., on May 22. It had been shot and washed ashore, evidently a few days previously.

Larus argentatus. — Common. A flock of about 150 birds was seen on Cormorant Rock on May 22.

Larus philadelphia. — I took a pair of these birds on Cormorant Rock on May 22. They were in immature plumage. No others seen.

Sterna hirundo. — Large flock seen on May 20. Common at Cormorant Rock, May 22.

Phalacrocorax carbo. — Six seen on May 15 at Jamestown.

Phalacrocorax auritus. — Two on May 22 at Cormorant Rock.

Merganser serrator. — Common in Narragansett Bay on April 19.

Anas obscura rubripes. — Seen in Narragansett bay on April 17, and one bird flushed from Cormorant Rock on May 22.

Clangula c. americana. — Two birds on April 19 at Bonnet Point, Narragansett Bay.

Harelda hyemalis. — Common near Wickford on April 17.

Oidemia americana. — Rare in the bay; observed on April 19.

Ædemia deglandi. — A few seen on April 19, while at Sakonnet Point on May 21-22, I saw flocks of birds which I supposed were of this species.

Ædemia perspicillata.—The most common of the scoters. Seen at Cormorant Rock on May 21.

Branta canadensis.—One shot at Easton's pond by local gunners on April 27. I saw a flock of about fifteen birds flying north on May 7.

Butorides virescens.—Two on May 15 at Jamestown.

Rallus virginianus.—One was shot on May 15 at the Sachuest marsh by a market gunner named Hammond.

Gallinago delicata.—One brought to the market on May 6; others reported seen.

Tringa maculata.—A bird was shot by C. B. Clarke, a local taxidermist, on or about April 25.

Tringa minutilla.—Common, first observed on May 8. A big flight occurred on May 15 at Jamestown, over 25 large flocks being seen. This species was common at Sakonnet on May 22.

Ereunetes pusillus.—Eight on May 22 at Sakonnet. Two specimens taken.

Calidris arenaria.—Five birds in summer plumage were seen on the Second Beach, Middletown on May 20.

Totanus melanoleucus.—Very common from about April 25 to May 20. One could hardly go to the marshes and beaches without seeing or hearing this species. Owing to absence of all law against spring shooting a number of these birds were shot for the market. It is much to be lamented that this spring slaughter cannot be prevented. The shooting was nearly entirely on the Middletown marshes, scarcely any birds having been shot at Sakonnet as far as I could learn. Height of migration May 8 to 15.

Totanus flavipes.—I am told by C. B. Clarke, who is entirely trustworthy, that a bird was shot about April 28 by a market gunner named Sprague.

Helodromas solitarius (?).—One bird on May 20 which I am practically certain was this species.

Bartramia longicauda.—C. B. Clarke told me he heard one whistling during the last week in April.

Actitis macularia.—Common on rocky beaches and occasionally seen in ploughed fields.

Numenius hudsonicus.—A bird was shot, by a local gunner, on the third beach, Middletown, on April 27.

Squatarola squatarola.—Black-breasts have been quite numerous this spring. Two were shot on May 15 at Middletown and several others seen. There was quite a flight on May 20, several large flocks being observed, and five shot by a market gunner. Three of these, which I bought and preserved, showed different stages of plumage, a male being in full breeding dress, in a female the moult was half completed, while a second female showed scarcely any black feathers on the breast.

I observed several birds at Sakonnet on May 22.

Ægialitis semipalmata.—I flushed one bird from the rocky beach at Jamestown, on May 15.

Ægialitis meloda.—A local gunner named Hammond killed a bird at Middletown, on May 15.

Arenaria interpres.—I shot a fine male on the second beach, Middletown, on May 20, and heard of three others being shot a day or two previously.

GENERAL NOTES.

The Tern Colony at Gull Rock.—This spring I first saw Terns (*Sterna hirundo*), on May 20th, although they arrive in Rhode Island before that date. On the 22nd they were common at Cormorant Rock, and I observed large numbers flying about Gull Rock, which lies a few hundred yards off the Newport Cliffs not far from Rough Point. On June 12th I visited this locality and found the Terns breeding there in abundance. Gull Rock is of much the same formation as Cormorant Rock, but is somewhat more extensive and, as from its less exposed situation, it is rarely, completely swept by the sea, one finds a few weeds and grasses growing on the higher parts.

As we approached the rock a great many Terns rose from it, and hovered over our heads. They were principally Common Terns (*S. hirundo*), although I noticed a few Roseates (*S. dougalli*). Another bird was flying near which seemed to be one of the Shearwaters, possibly *Puffinus borealis*. We landed on the rock and found many eggs. I counted over ninety nests averaging two to three eggs apiece, although I found two nests with four eggs and one with five. The birds themselves were very tame and had evidently been little disturbed.

Later in the day we went over to Cormorant Rock and found perhaps one hundred Terns breeding there. The Gull Rock colony is much larger, numbering at least one hundred and twenty-five pairs, as I did not count nearly all the nests. This locality seems to be one of the chief nesting place of the Terns in Rhode Island.

Newport, June 14.

LEROY KING.

LETTERS.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, ROGER WILLIAMS PARK.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., 7 June, 1902.

MR. REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JUNIOR, Editor.

Dear Sir:—I am very happy to be able to send you notice that Mr. LeRoy King has recently donated to this Museum, his *Cathartes aura*, the one taken June 20, 1893, at Brenton's Point, also his *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides* [*migrans*], the young female, taken at Middletown, Aug. 29, 1898.

Yours very truly,

JAMES M. SOUTHWICK.

JAN 9 1903

VOL. III

14.609

NO. 4

NOTES ON RHODE ISLAND ORNITHOLOGY

OCTOBER

1902

A
BRISTOL
RHODE ISLAND

THE
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MOUNTAIN

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With this issue of "Notes on Rhode Island Ornithology" the publication will cease as has already been announced. The paper has lived its appointed life of three years, spanning the time from the publication of "The Birds of Rhode Island" in 1899 to the prospected Supplement's appearance to that work the coming year. That "Notes" has accomplished a purpose is attested by its forty-eight pages of items of real interest to Rhode Island and even Atlantic coast ornithologists. The hearty thanks of the editor is extended to all those who have helped in making "Notes" a useful medium, and he trusts a success.

The manuscript of the Supplement is now well under way and its issue during the coming spring practically assured. Those interested in the completeness of the proposed additions ask earnestly that all records, corrections and data be submitted without delay to the Editor of this paper.

Address all further communications to REGINALD HEBER HOWE, Junior, *Middlesex School, Concord, Massachusetts.*

A LIST OF THE BIRDS OBSERVED ON THE ISLAND OF RHODE ISLAND AND THE ADJACENT WATERS.

BY LOUIS DI ZEREGA MEARNS.

(Continued from Vol. III, No. 3, July, 1902.)

92. *Chætura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT.—A common summer resident; breeds. May 15 (1900) to August 28 (1900). It breeds in chimneys at Fort Adams, in the city of Newport, and in most country houses on the island of Rhode Island.

93. *Trochilus colubris*. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—Common summer resident. May to September, 1899. June 2 to August 31, 1900.
94. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. KINGBIRD.—A fairly common summer resident; breeds. May 17 (1899) to September 12, 1899.
95. *Sayornis phæbe*. PHŒBE.—Two were seen on April 15, one September 26, and one September 30, all in 1900.
96. *Horizopus virens*. WOOD PEWEE.—An uncommon summer resident; breeds. May 21 to August 2, 1900.
97. *Empidonax minimus*. LEAST FLYCATCHER.—A rare summer resident; breeds. May 1, 1899; two seen May 21, 1900.
98. *Otocorys alpestris*. HORNED LARK.—Common winter resident. October 29 (1900) to April 8 (1900).
99. *Cyanocitta cristata*. BLUE JAY.—From July to October, 1901, several flocks visited Newport and other wooded parts of the island.
100. *Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW.—A common resident; breeds; most abundant in winter and early spring. A pair nested in a maple swamp on Moorland Road, in 1899 and 1900. In 1899, the parents were brooding May 27th; and the eggs were taken by boys May 20, 1900. A pair of Crows, probably those that bred, remained about this place throughout the year. On November 25, 1899, they were seen chasing a Red-tailed Hawk that was flying overhead.
101. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. BOBOLINK.—A common summer resident; breeds. May 21 to September 13, 1900. One flock, in a cornfield, as late as September 13, 1901. The males precede the females, and sing on their arrival. Both sexes are abundant during the last week of May.
102. *Molothrus ater*. COWBIRD.—An abundant summer resident; breeds; first egg June 7, 1900; young on the wing as early as June 16; 1900. April 7 (1900) to October 15 (1899).
103. *Agelaius phœniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.—An abundant summer resident. March 20 (1899) to August 5 (1900). Four eggs in a tussock as early as May 26, 1900. Some young were on the wing June 18, 1899, when other pairs were still breeding. The sexes were in separate flocks by July 26, 1901.
104. *Sturnella magna*. MEADOWLARK.—A common resident. Breeds. Local name "Marsh Quail." In winter it roosts in marshes where it is sometimes covered by falling snow. At that season its coloration makes it very difficult to distinguish in the dry grass. It was heard singing throughout the year, excepting the months of December and January. On December 3, 1901, a pair continued feeding on a weedy lawn near my window throughout a driving rain-storm. It is gregarious except during the breeding season, after which families remain together through July. Six young were found in a nest as early as May 21, 1900. The New England Meadowlark is the largest of all the geographic forms of the species.
105. *Icterus spurius*. ORCHARD ORIOLE.—A rather uncommon summer resident; breeds. May 27 (1900) to autumn (1899). A pair bred in Peckham's apple-orchard, near Brenton's Point, in 1899. The male, a

bird of the second year, was singing beside the nest June 18. Several others were seen during the summer and autumn of 1899. In 1900 and 1901, Orchard Orioles bred more commonly about Fort Adams. Nests were seen in the Agassiz, Peckham, Greene, and Burden estates; and young and old birds were frequently seen during July. One of the notes of the young suggests the call of a *Totanus*.

106. *Icterus galbula*. BALTIMORE.—A fairly common summer resident; breeds, May 17 (1899) to August 21 (1900). One was seen in our yard quite late in the autumn of 1899, but the date was not noted.

107. *Scolecophagus carolinus*. RUSTY GRACKLE.—Noted on March 27, April 1, and April 10, 1899. Forty were seen April 4, 1900. Not seen in 1901.

108. *Quiscalus quiscula*. PURPLE GRACKLE.—A common summer resident; breeds, March 20 (1899) to August 22 (1900). Incubation commenced as early as May 27, 1899; and young were on the wing June 25th. Flocks frequent the shores in July, during which month hundreds roost nightly in a swamp of soft maples near Brenton's Point.

109. *Carpodacus purpureus*. PURPLE FINCH.—A rare summer resident; breeds. May 17 to August 8, 1899.

110. *Passer domesticus*. HOUSE SPARROW.—A permanent resident; breeds. These birds flock to the few trees at Fort Adams, and prevent native birds from stopping. Like the house rat, it acts as a scavenger on the beaches, where it is found in the greatest number in winter. Many are eaten by Sharp-shinned and Pigeon Hawks. Breeding begins in May and June.

111. *Astragalinus tristis*. AMERICAN GOLDFINCH.—A common resident; breeds. Like the Cedar Waxwing it is gregarious and a late breeder, remaining in singing flocks until late in June, when mating begins. In winter flocks of hundreds assemble.

112. *Spinus pinus*. PINE SISKIN.—Rare. Only one flock of four, seen November 23, 1899.

113. *Passerina nivalis*. SNOWFLAKE.—A common winter resident. November 10 (1899) to March 20 (1900).

114. *Poœcetes gramineus*. VESPER SPARROW.—A common summer resident; breeds. April 6 (1900) to September 15 (1901). Sings from the beginning of May to the end of July.

115. *Passerculus princeps*. IPSWICH SPARROW.—A rare winter visitor, frequenting the sanddunes. One or two were seen on December 16, 1899.

116. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*. SAVANNAH SPARROW.—An abundant summer resident; breeds. April 16 to October 23, 1900. In autumn it was especially abundant at the post garden, where at least two hundred were seen October 3. It begins to sing immediately upon its arrival in spring, and its song continues through July. Apparently the same pair returned two seasons (1899-1901) to the vicinity of my house, singing from the same stake on a rocky hilltop. Young were already flying on the Middletown marsh by June 16, 1900. One seen

there on December 28, 1900 may have been the subspecies *labradorius* described by Howe.

117. *Ammodramus maritimus*. SEASIDE SPARROW.—In a letter dated February 10, 1900, Captain Wirt Robinson, U. S. A., writes: "I shot Night Herons, Seaside Sparrows, etc., in the little marshy valley of the creek that runs into the ocean at Goose Neck, Rhode Island."

118. *Ammodramus caudacutus*. SHARP-TAILED SPARROW.—Uncommon. Fifteen were seen and five specimens secured on June 16, 1900, on the salt marshes near Third Beach, Middletown township, R. I. One seen May 26, 1900. One seen October 1, 1899.

119. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.—Only observed in autumn. September 27 to November 24, 1899.

120. *Spizella monticola*. TREE SPARROW.—A common winter resident; most abundant, however, during spring and fall migrations. November 7 (1899) to March 10 (1900).

121. *Spizella socialis*. CHIPPING SPARROW.—An abundant summer resident; breeds. April 20 to October 16, 1900. Young were flying as early as June 25, 1900.

122. *Spizella pusilla*. FIELD SPARROW.—One May 2, 1900; no others seen.

123. *Junco hyemalis*. SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.—A winter resident; abundant during spring and fall migrations. October 5 (1900) to May 7 (1899).

124. *Melospiza cinerea melodia*. SONG SPARROW.—An abundant and permanent resident; breeds. It sings from February to October, and, occasionally, during the rest of the year. Nests with eggs from early May to June 9.

125. *Melospiza georgiana*. SWAMP SPARROW.—Only observed on May 11, 1900 (one) and during October. October 1 (1899) to October 13 (1900).

126. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. TOWHEE.—A rare spring and fall migrant; not known to breed. One male May 9 and 10, 1900. Two, male and female, October 7, 1900; and one male October 10, 1900.

127. *Zamelodia ludoviciana*. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK.—One female was seen at Fort Adams, May 15, 1900.

128. *Piranga erythromelas*. SCARLET TANAGER.—Two males were seen at Fort Adams, May 15, 1900.

129. *Progne subis*. PURPLE MARTIN.—Observed during the spring migration and on August 8, 1899, when a pair of adults were seen on a telegraph wire near Fort Adams. Mr. Peckham informed me that Purple Martins formerly bred on his farm near Brenton's Point, but not during recent years.

130. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. CLIFF SWALLOW.—A summer visitant; not known to breed. May 1, 1899. Two April 28, ten May 20, and two August 4, all in 1900.

131. *Hirundo erythrogastra*. BARN SWALLOW.—An abundant summer

resident; breeds. April 20 (1900) to September 12 (1899). It often builds on cliffs, breeding abundantly by the last week of May. Mr. Charles B. Clarke mounted an immature albino individual, which he shot at Second Beach, in September, 1899.

132. *Tachycineta bicolor*. TREE SWALLOW.—A spring visitant; not positively known to breed. April 8 (1900) to May 26 (1899). On the latter date a pair repeatedly settled on a stone wall in an old apple-orchard near Fort Adams. These may have had a nest.

133. *Clivicola riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.—A summer resident. Several colonies breed on the island. May 15 to August 20, 1900.

134. *Ampelis cedrorum*. CEDAR WAXWING.—A summer resident; probably breeds; not seen in winter. March 28 (1902) to October 8 (1900).

135. *Lanius* sp.?—SHRIKE.—My father saw a Shrike at Fort Adams during the spring of 1899. The species could not be determined.

136. *Vireo olivaceus*. RED-EYED VIREO.—A rather rare summer resident; breeds May 14 to October 11, 1900. A nest contained one egg on June 24, 1900.

137. *Vireo gilvus*. WARBLING VIREO.—One May 23 and two September 25, 1900; no others seen.

138. *Mniotilta varia*. BLACK and WHITE WARBLER.—Rare in spring and fall. One female and eight males were seen May 9, 1900; also observed May 11 and 13, and October 7, 1900.

139. *Helminthophila* sp.?—A bird heard singing in a patch of skunk cabbage and American white hellebore, near Hanging Rock, June 2, 1900, must have been either *Helminthophila pinus* or *H. chrysoptera*.

140. *Helminthophila rubricapilla*. NASHVILLE WARBLER.—Rare in spring and fall. One was seen near Fort Adams, May 10, two May 14, and one September 10, all in 1900; no others observed.

141. *Compsothlypis americana usneæ*. NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER.—Only observed in spring and fall. Two, very heavy from fat, were seen in our yard October 7, 1899. One May 9 and two October 7, 1900.

142. *Dendroeca æstiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.—The most abundant warbler during summer; breeds. May 9 to August 24, 1900. It prefers willow thickets, and sings from the time of its arrival until August.

143. *Dendroeca coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER.—A winter resident, but most abundant during the spring and fall migrations. September 25 to May 10, 1900.

144. *Dendroeca pennsylvanica*. CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.—Rare in spring. One male May 11 and one female May 15, 1900; no others seen.

145. *Dendroeca striata*. BLACK-POLL WARBLER.—An abundant spring and fall migrant. It prefers willow thickets, associating with Myrtle Warblers, and uttering a sharp "*Chíp*." May 13 to 26 (1900) and September 19 (1901) to October 13 (1900). The first female appeared May 15, 1900, and the last males were seen May 26th.

146. *Dendroeca palmarum hypochrysea*. YELLOW PALM WARBLER.—Only observed during the month of September. A female (No. 173 of

my collection) was taken on the beach at Fort Adams where another individual was seen the same day—September 15, 1900. Five were seen September 25 and one September 26, 1900.

147. *Dendroeca vigorsii*. PINE WARBLER.—Two September 15 and one October 11, 1900; no others seen. The young female (No. 183 of my collection) shot in a willow-tree near Fort Adams, October 11, 1900, has the iris hazel; feet and claws brownish plumbeous; bill dusky brownish above and at tip, horn color below.

148. *Siurus noveboracensis*. WATER-THRUSH.—The following are my only records; one, each, August 12 and 28, 1900.

149. *Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*. NORTHERN-MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—A summer resident; breeds; most abundant during the spring and fall migrations. May 9 to October 1, 1899. It sings from the time of its arrival until the end of July.

150. *Icteria virens*. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—An uncommon summer resident; breeds. May 23 to August 5, 1900.

151. *Wilsonia canadensis*. CANADIAN WARBLER.—One female and two males May 23, 1900; eight seen May 25, 1900. An adult male (No. 133 of my collection) was killed by flying against a street lamp at Fort Adams, May 25, 1900.

152. *Setophaga ruticilla*. AMERICAN REDSTART.—Two pairs, seen at Hanging Rock, June 2, 1900, are all that we have observed.

153. *Anthus pennsylvanicus*. AMERICAN PIPIT.—Only seen on the rocky shore of Narragansett Bay, near Fort Adams, September 16, 18, and 25, 1900. They were feeding on insects and small moths or butterflies, which were usually caught from the ground, but, sometimes, by jumping up for them.

154. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. CATBIRD.—A common summer resident; breeds. April 17 to October 13, 1900. Near Fort Adams, a nest was being built May 26, 1899; another nest contained three eggs June 8, 1900. In September and October it frequents grape thickets, and utters a loud clucking sound.

155. *Harporrhynchus rufus*. BROWN THRASHER.—An uncommon summer resident; sometimes breeds; abundant in autumn when it feeds on wild grapes. During the summer of 1900 none were seen after May 27th. Some nested in 1899 and 1901. April 21 (1900) to October 13 (1900).

156. *Troglodytes aëdon*. HOUSE WREN.—One remained in our garden from September 23 to October 7, 1899; no others seen.

157. *Albiorchilus hiemalis*. WINTER WREN.—Not uncommon from November 18 to 28, 1899; no others seen.

158. *Cistothorus palustris*. LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN.—An uncommon summer resident; breeds at Almy Pond, where six birds were noted July 14, 1900. Eggs were collected there by Mr. Forrest E. Buchanan.

159. *Certhia familiaris americana*. BROWN CREEPER.—One visited some trees in our yard April 4, 1900, and remained in the vicinity for several days thereafter. In 1899, it first appeared October 7th, and was

frequently seen during the remainder of the month. One October 16, and one October 22, 1900.

160. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—One appeared October 4, 1899, and remained in one spot, among some ornamental spruces, for several days. Only one other was seen on September 25, 1900.

161. *Parus atricapillus*. CHICADEE.—A rather uncommon resident; breeds; most numerous in winter.

162. *Regulus satrapa*. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.—An uncommon winter resident. September 25 (1900) to March 31 (1902).

163. *Hylocichla aliciae*. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH.—One May 20, 1900; two October 7, 1899; two October 5, 1900; no others seen.

164. *Hylocichla ustulatus swainsonii*. OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH.—One visited our garden, September 27, 1899; no others seen.

165. *Hylocichla guttata pallasii*. HERMIT THRUSH.—Only observed during the latter part of October, 1899, when a number visited our garden at Fort Adams.

166. *Merula migratoria*. AMERICAN ROBIN.—A permanent resident, very abundant in summer, rare in winter; breeds. In 1900, nests contained one egg April 17, one egg April 30, four eggs June 7; and a pair began building a nest as late as June 21. Young were first seen flying May 26, 1899, June 3, 1900. A young bird, taken August 7, 1899, was beginning to acquire a few feathers of the adult plumage on back and scapulars. In July, Robins begin to assemble, and, at dusk of evening, large flocks are seen flying to their roosting places on the southwest corner of the island. In July, as many as twenty-seven Robins were counted in one field. When dusting and pluming themselves they were often observed to sit with their tails bent under them. In November, they begin feeding upon berries of the staghorn, sumach and red juniper which are their staples in winter.

167. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD.—Quite common from March 4 to 27, 1899; one July 31, two August 4, and one September 18, in 1900; common during October, 1901.

GENERAL NOTES.

Arrival Notes.—The following records antedate those in "The Birds of Rhode Island."

Trochilus colubris Linn. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—One seen in Middletown on May 3, 1902.

Petrochelidon lunifrons (Say). CLIFF SWALLOW.—One seen in Middletown May 10, 1902.

Arenaria interpres. TURNSTONE.—One seen on Sachuest Pt. May 14, 1902.

Middletown, R. I.

E. STURTEVANT.

Notes from Newport.—*Gavia imber*.—One bird noted on Sept. 15 flying over Brenton's Point.

Cepphus grylle.—I have in my possession a mounted bird which was shot by a fisherman off the Second Beach, Middletown, in February, 1900. It is in immature plumage. Sex not taken. I believe this is the fourth record for R. I.

Hydrochelidon n. surinamensis.—Reported common in the early part of August. Frequently seen at Easton's Pond, Newport.

Puffinus stricklandi.—I have just obtained a fine male bird from Mr. C. B. Clarke, a taxidermist. It was taken Mar. 28, 1902, near Pt. Judith.

Phalacrocorax carbo.—I saw three birds on Cormorant Rock on Sept. 15, 1902.

Nettion carolinense.—Mr. Clarke tells me an adult male was shot at Lawton's Valley in March, 1902.

Somateria spectabilis.—I took a young male at Cormorant Rock on Sept. 15, 1902.

Chen hyperborea.—I have a bird taken on Sept. 3, 1876, at Easton's Pond by Mr. F. P. Sands, of Newport and a young specimen, shot at Newport on Sept. 19, 1902.

Branta bernicla.—Mr. C. B. Clarke took a bird at Cormorant Rock on Mar. 24, 1902.

Rallus elegans.—There is in my collection a specimen taken Mar. 14, 1899, by Mr. Clarke. The bird was shot on the Middletown marshes and is a male. Mr. Clarke says he has taken two others.

Tringa canutus.—Mr. Clarke shot two birds at Middletown, during July, 1902.

Limosa hæmastica.—Mr. W. A. Dring shot two specimens at Point Judith on Sept. 12, 1902.

Symphemia semipalmata.—A bird was taken at Sakonnet on July 2, 1902.

Tryngites subruficollis.—I have a fine male shot on Sept. 10, 1902, on the Middletown marshes by Mr. Clarke.

Newport, Sept. 20.

LE ROY KING.

Destruction of *Gavia imber* (Gunn.) in Rhode Island.—The Island of Rhode Island is bounded on the east by the Seaconnett River along the shores of which fish traps are set on long poles driven in the bottom. These traps are connected with the shore by fences of net, called leaders, which are floated by corks and kept upright by sinkers, and of such a width that they extend from the surface to the bottom. Thus all the fish swimming up or down the river between the trap and shore are intercepted, and instinctively turn off shore, following the leader into the trap. Sometimes as many as five traps and leaders are connected in line, forming a barrier nearly a mile long.

The loons that pass the summer in these waters are frequently caught like fish. One would naturally suppose that a bird thus trapped would fly over the nets and escape, but unfortunately loons are so heavy that

they must flap some distance over the surface of the water before they can rise into the air, and then only at a small angle. Within the trap there is not space enough to permit of this, and the net that rises perhaps four feet from the surface at high tide forms an insurmountable barrier.

On July 25, 1902, I rowed off to one of the outer traps from the Third Beach, to see what a man was firing at in the nets and it proved to be loons. Four splendid birds floated dead within the seine and two more were still alive, making a desperate struggle for life. They would stay under water until driven by suffocation to come to the surface and literally snatch a breath of air without showing their bodies, and diving again with so much rapidity that only a swirl of water told of their presence. This they did with such speed that the gunner could scarcely take aim at them.

After I had gone ashore I heard several shots fired and could only conclude that the two survivors had given up for want of air and exposed themselves to the muzzle of the gun.

I was told that ten had been caught in this way the day before and that only the white breasts were saved.

What a pity that these beautiful harmless birds should not be afforded some protection by law before such wanton destruction finally causes their extermination.

Middletown.

E. STURTEVANT.

COMMUNICATION.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Sept. 17, 1902.

MR. REGINALD HEBER HOWE, Jr.

Dear Sir:—On May 15, 1902, Mr. Angell took a set of four Blue-headed Vireo [*(Vireo solitarius)*] eggs at West Greenwich, R. I.

On May 21, 1902, he shot a ♀ Philadelphia Vireo [*(V. philadelphia)*] and a ♂ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, [*(Empidonax flaviventris)*] both birds being identified by kindness of Mr. William Brewster.

Respectfully yours,

ANGELL & CASH

INDEX TO VOLUME III

- ACCIPITER cooperii*, 12.
 velox, 11.
Actitis macularia, 2, 4, 10, 15.
Ægialitis meloda, 4.
 semipalmata, 2, 4, 11, 15.
 vocifera, 2, 4, 11.
Agelaius phœniceus, 6, 18.
Albiorchilus hiemalis, 22.
Alca torda, 7.
Alle alle, 7.
Ammodramus caudacutus, 6, 20.
 maritimus, 20.
Ampelis cedrorum, 6, 21.
Anas obscura, 4, 8.
 obscura rubripes, 14.
Anthus pennsylvanicus, 3, 22.
Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis, 12.
Ardea herodias, 4, 5, 10.
Ardetta exilis, 4.
Arenaria interpres, 2, 4, 11, 16, 23.
Asio accipitrinus, 12.
 wilsonianus, 12.
Astragalinus tristis, 6, 19.
Auk, *Razor-billed*, 7.

BARTRAMIA longicauda, 2, 4, 15.
Bittern, *American*, 9.
Blackbird, *Red-winged*, 6, 18.
Bluebird, 23.
Bobolink, 6, 18.
Bobwhite, 2, 11.
Botaurus lentiginosus, 4, 5, 9.
Brant, 9.
Branta bernicla, 9, 24.
 canadensis, 9, 15.
Bubo virginianus, 13.
Buffle-head, 9.
Buteo borealis, 12.
 lineatus, 5, 12.
Butorides virescens, 4, 5, 10, 15.

CALIDRIS arenaria, 2, 3, 4, 10, 15.
Carpodacus purpureus, 6.
Canvas-back, 9.
Catbird, 6, 22.
Cathartes aura, 16.
Cephus grylle, 24.
Certhia familiaris americana, 22.
Ceryle alcyon, 5, 13.
Clangula clangula americana, 9, 14.

Chætura pelagica, 5, 17.
Charadrius dominicus, 2, 4, 11.
Charitonetta albeola, 9.
Chat, *Yellow-breasted*, 6, 22.
Chen hyperborea, 24.
Chickadee, 6, 23.
Chordeiles virginianus, 5, 13.
Circus hudsonicus, 3, 5, 11.
Cistothorus palustris, 3, 6, 22.
Clivicola riparia, 21.
Coccyzus americanus, 13.
 erythrophthalmus, 13.
Colaptes auratus luteus, 5, 13.
Colinus virginianus, 2, 11.
Colymbus auritus, 7, 14.
 holbællii, 7.
Compsothlypis americana usneæ, 21.
Coot, 2, 10.
Corvus americanus, 6, 18.
Cowbird, 18.
Creeper, *Brown*, 22.
Crow, *American*, 6.
Cuckoo, *Black-billed*, 13.
 Yellow-billed, 13.
Curlew, *Hudsonian*, 2, 11.
 Long-billed, 11.
Cyanocitta cristata, 18.

DAFILA acuta, 9.
Dendroæca æstiva, 21.
 coronata, 21.
 palmarum hypochrysea, 21.
 pennsylvanica, 21.
 striata, 21.
 vigorsii, 22.
Dolichonyx orizivorus, 6, 18.
Dovekie, 7.
Dove, *Mourning*, 11.
Dowitcher, 10.
Dryobates pubescens medianus, 5.
Duck, *Black*, 8.
 Lesser Scaup, 2.
 Ruddy, 9.

EAGLE, *Bald*, 4.
 Golden, 4.
Eider, *American*, 9.
Empidonax flaviventris, 25.
 minimus, 18.
Ereunetes occidentalis, 2, 4.

- Ereunetes pusillus, 3, 4, 10, 15.
 Erismatura jamaicensis, 9.
 FALCO columbarius, 5, 12.
 sparverius, 12.
 Finch, Purple, 6, 19.
 Flicker, Northern, 5, 13.
 Flycatcher, Least, 18.
 Yellow-bellied, 25.
 Fulica americana, 2, 10.
 GALEOSOPTES carolinensis, 6, 22.
 Gallinago delicata, 2, 4, 10, 15.
 Gallinula galeata, 10.
 Gallinule, Florida, 10.
 Gavia imber, 2, 7, 14, 24.
 lumme, 7, 14.
 Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla, 6,
 22.
 Godwit, Hudsonian, 10.
 Golden-eye, American, 9.
 Goldfinch, American, 6, 19.
 Goose, Canada, 9.
 Grackle, Purple, 19.
 Rusty, 19.
 Grebe, Holbøell's, 7.
 Horned, 7.
 Pied-billed, 2.
 Grosbeak, Rose-breasted, 20.
 Gull, Bonaparte, 8.
 Glaucus, 7.
 Great Black-backed, 7.
 Herring, 2, 7.
 Ring-billed, 8.
 HARELDA hiemalis, 9, 14.
 Harporhynchus rufus, 22.
 Hawk, American Rough-legged, 12.
 American Sparrow, 12.
 Cooper's, 12.
 Marsh, 3, 11.
 Night, 5, 13.
 Pigeon, 5, 12.
 Red-shouldered, 5, 12.
 Red-tailed, 12.
 Sharp-shinned, 11.
 Helminthophila chrysoptera, 21.
 pinus, 21.
 rubricapilla, 3, 21.
 Helodromas solitarius, 10, 15.
 Heron, Black-crowned Night, 5, 10.
 Great Blue, 5, 10.
 Green, 5, 10.
 Hirundo erythrogastra, 6, 20.
 Horizopus virens, 5, 18.
 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated, 5,
 17, 23.
 Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis,
 8, 23.
 Hylocichla alicia, 23.
 guttata pallasii, 23.
 ustulatus swainsonii, 23.
 ICTERIA virens, 6, 22.
 Icterus galbula, 6, 19.
 spurius, 18.
 JAY, Blue, 18.
 Junco hiemalis, 20.
 Slate-colored, 20.
 KILDEER, 11.
 Kingbird, 5, 18.
 Kinglet, Golden-crowned, 23.
 Kingfisher, Belted, 5, 13.
 Kittiwake, 7.
 LANIUS, 29.
 ludovicianus excubitorides,
 16.
 ludovicianus migrans, 16.
 Lark, Horned, 3, 18.
 Meadow, 3, 6, 18.
 Larus argentatus, 2, 7, 14.
 delawarensis, 8.
 glaucus, 7.
 hutchinsi, 7.
 marinus, 7.
 philadelphia, 8, 14.
 Limosa hæmastica, 4, 10, 24.
 Loon, 7, 12.
 Red-throated, 7.
 Lophodytes cucullatus, 8.
 MACRORRHAMPHUS griseus, 4, 10.
 Martin, Purple, 6, 20.
 Megascops asio, 12.
 Melospiza cineria melodia, 3, 6, 20.
 georgiana, 3, 20.
 Merganser, American, 8.
 americanus, 8.
 Hooded, 8.
 Red-breasted, 8.
 serrator, 8, 14.
 Merula migratoria, 6, 23.
 Micropalama himantopus, 3, 4, 10.
 Mniotilta varia, 21.
 Molothrus ater, 18.
 Murre, Brünnichs, 7.
 NETTION carolinense, 8, 24.
 Numenius hudsonicus, 2, 4, 11, 15.
 longirostris, 11.
 Nuthatch, Red-breasted, 23.
 Nyctea nyctea, 13.
 Nycticorax nycticorax nævius, 4,
 5, 10.

- Nyroca affinis*, 2.
 americana, 9.
 marila, 9.
 vallisneria, 9.
- CEDEMIA americana*, 9, 14.
 deglandi, 5, 14.
 perspicillata, 9, 15.
- Old-Squaw, 9.
- Oriole*, Baltimore, 6, 19.
 Orchard, 18.
- Osprey*, American, 5, 12.
- Otocorys alpestris*, 3, 18.
- Owl*, American Long-eared, 12.
 Barred, 12.
 Great-horned, 13.
 Screech, 12.
 Short-eared, 12.
 Snowy, 13.
- PANDION haliaetus carolinensis*, 5, 12.
- Parus atricapillus*, 6, 23.
- Passer domesticus*, 6, 12.
- Passerculus sandwichensis labradorius*, 3.
 savanna, 3, 6, 19.
 princeps, 3, 19.
- Passerina nivalis*, 19.
- Petrochelidon lunifrons*, 20, 23.
- Petrel*, Leach's, 3, 4.
- Pewee*, Wood, 5, 18.
- Phalacrocorax auritus*, 8, 14.
 carbo, 8, 14.
- Phalarope*, Northern, 10.
- Phalaropus lobatus*, 10.
- Philohela minor*, 5, 10.
- Phoebe*, 5.
- Pintail*, 9.
- Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, 20.
- Pipit*, American, 3, 22.
- Piranga erythromelas*, 20.
- Plectrophenax nivalis*, 3.
- Plover*, American Golden, 2, 11.
 Black-bellied, 2, 11.
 Kildeer, 2, 11.
 Semipalmated, 2, 11.
- Podilymbus podiceps*, 2.
- Poecetes gramineus*, 6, 19.
- Porzana carolina*, 2, 4, 10.
- Progne subis*, 6, 20.
- Puffinus borealis*, 16.
 stricklandi, 24.
- RAIL*, Carolina, 2.
 Virgiana, 2.
- Rallus elegans*, 24.
 virginianus, 2, 15.
- Redhead*, 9.
- Redstart*, American, 22.
- Regulus satrapa*, 23.
- Rissa tridactyla*, 7.
- Robin*, American, 6, 23.
- SANDERLING*, 2, 3, 10.
- Sandpiper*, Baird's, 2, 3.
 Bartramian, 2.
 Buff-breasted, 10.
- Sandpiper*, Least, 2, 10.
 Pectoral, 2, 10.
 Purple, 10.
 Solitary, 10.
 Spotted, 2, 11.
 Semipalmated, 2, 10.
 Stilt, 3, 10.
 Western, 2.
 White-rumped, 2.
- Sapsucker*, Yellow-billed, 13.
- Sayornis phoebe*, 5, 18.
- Scolecophagus carolinus*, 19.
- Scoter*, American, 9.
 Surf, 9.
 White-winged, 5.
- Setophaga ruticilla*, 22.
- Shoveller*, 8.
- Shrike*, 21.
- Sialia sialis*, 23.
- Siskin*, Pine, 19.
- Sitta canadensis*, 23.
- Siurus noveboracensis*.
- Snipe*, Wilson's, 2, 10.
- Snowflake*, 3, 19.
- Somateria dresseri*, 9.
 spectabilis, 24.
- Sora*, 10.
- Sparrow*, Chipping, 6, 20.
 English, 6.
 Field, 20.
 House, 19.
 Ipswich, 3, 19.
 Savanna, 3, 6, 19.
 Seaside, 20.
 Sharp-tailed, 6, 20.
 Song, 3, 20.
 Swamp, 3, 20.
 Tree, 20.
 Vesper, 6, 19.
 White-throated, 20.
- Spatula clypeata*, 8.
- Sphyrapicus varius*, 13.
- Spinus pinus*, 19.
- QUERQUEDULA discors*, 4, 5, 8.
- Quiscalus quiscula*, 19.

- Spizella monticola*, 20.
 pusilla, 20.
 socialis, 6, 20.
Squatarola squatarola, 2, 4, 11, 15.
Sterna dougalli, 16.
 hirundo, 2, 8, 14, 16.
 paradisæa, 8.
Sturnella magna, 3, 6, 18.
Swallow, Barn, 6, 20.
 Cliff, 20, 23.
 Tree, 21.
 White-bellied, 5.
Swift, Chimney, 5, 17.
Symphemia semipalmata, 4, 24.
Syrnium nebulosum, 12.

TACHYCINETA bicolor, 5, 21.
Tanager, Scarlet, 20.
Teal, Blue-winged, 5, 8.
 Green-winged, 8.
Tern, Black, 8.
 Common, 2, 16.
 Roseate, 16.
Thrasher, Brown, 22.
Thrush, Gray-cheeked, 23.
 Hermit, 23.
 Olive-backed, 23.
 Water, 22.
Totanus flavipes, 2, 4, 10, 15.
 melanoleucus, 2, 4, 10, 15.
 solitarius, 4.
Towhee, 20.
Tringa bairdii, 2, 3, 4.
 canutus, 4, 24.
 fuscicollis, 2, 4.
 maculata, 2, 4, 10, 15.
 maritima, 10.
 minutilla, 2, 4, 10, 15.
Troglodytes ædon, 22.
Tryngites subruficollis, 10, 24.
Trochilus colubris, 5, 18, 23.

Tyrannus tyrannus, 5, 18.
Turnstone, 2, 23.

URIA lomvia, 7.

VIREO, Blue-headed, 25.
 gilvus, 6.
 olivaceus, 21.
Vireo, philadelphia, 25.
 Philadelphia, 25.
 Red-eyed, 21.
 solitarius, 25.
 Warbling, 6, 21.

WARBLER, Black and White, 21.
 Black-poll, 21.
 Canadian, 22.
 Chestnut-sided, 21.
 Myrtle, 21.
 Nashville, 3, 21.
 Northern Parula, 21.
 Pine, 22.
 Yellow, 21.
 Yellow-palm, 21.
Waxwing, Cedar, 6, 21.
Wilsonia canadensis, 22.
Woodcock, American 5, 10.
Woodpecker, Northern Downy, 5.
Wren, House, 22.
 Long-billed Marsh, 3, 6, 22.
 Winter, 22.

YELLOW-LEGS, Greater, 2, 10.
 Lesser, 2.
Yellow-throat Northern Maryland,
 6, 10, 22.

ZAMELODIA ludoviciana, 20.
Zenaidura macroura, 11.
Zonotrichia albicollis, 20.



3 2044 103 128 146

