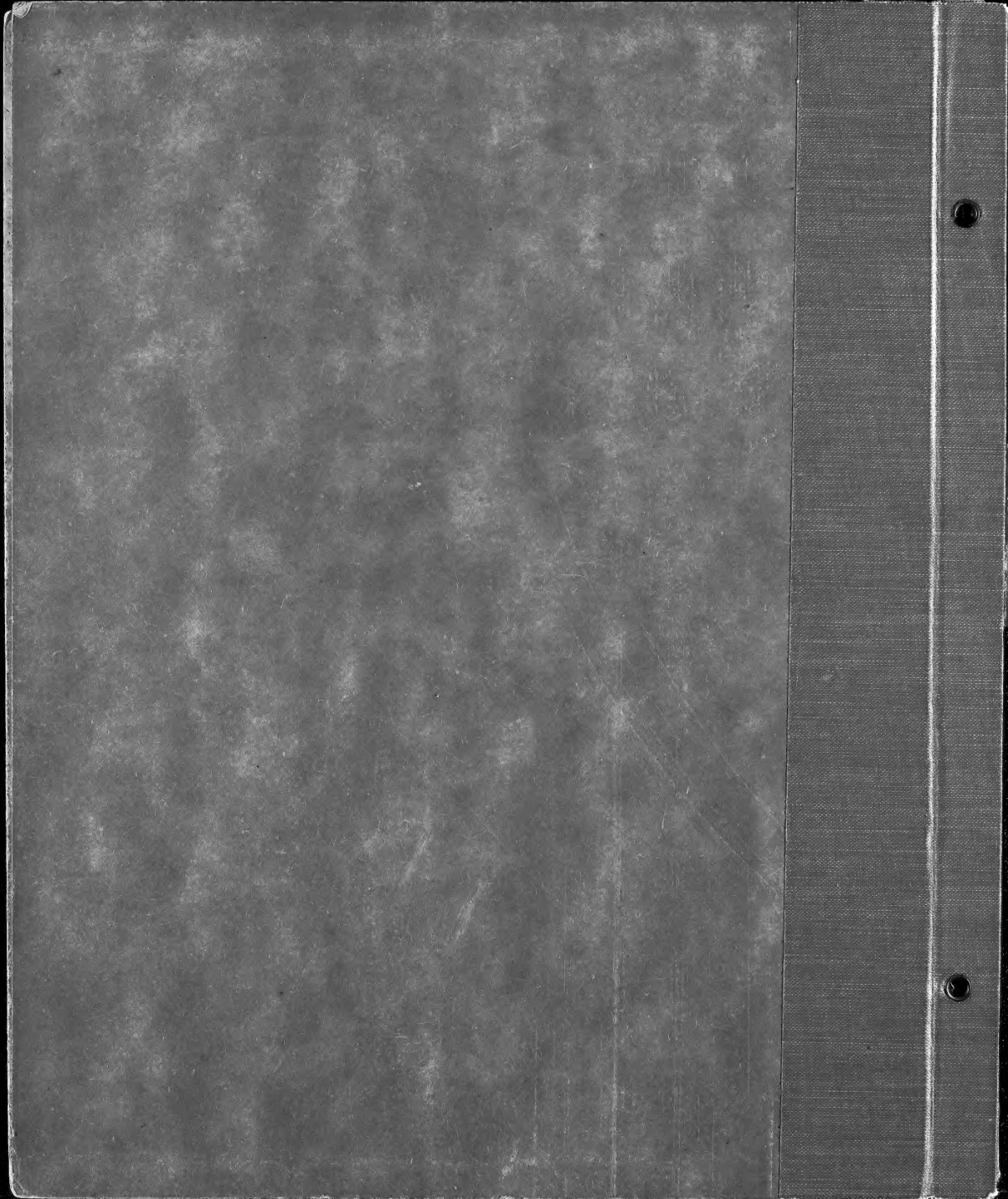


*Journal - 1906.*

FROM  
WILLIAM BREWSTER,  
75 BRATTLE ST.,  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.



Cambridge, Mass.

1906

January 8

A Shrike has appeared in our garden several times of late. On December 16 (1905) I saw him fix the remains of a House Sparrow in the fork of a slender branch of the Paulownia apple tree. He stood on the branch just behind the fork and pulled and tugged at the Sparrow with all his might for a minute or two sometimes fluttering his wings. After securing the Sparrow in this way he tore off one or two small fragments of its <sup>feet</sup> ~~without~~ <sup>without</sup> ~~worry~~ <sup>worry</sup> from his original position. After this he flew away. I then examined the remains and found that they consisted only of the tail and legs attached to the hinder part of the body. As so much of the flesh had been eaten and as what remained was frozen hard the bird must have been killed a day or two ago.

Northern  
Shrike in  
our garden,  
catching a  
Sparrow.

The Shrike was next seen on December 26. About noon of the following day Mrs. F. M. Chapman saw him enter the Garden from the direction of Sparks Street in hot pursuit of a House Sparrow. The latter sought refuge in the tangle of lilacs & other shrubbery at the rear of our house but the Shrike followed him closely through them ~~hopping~~ both birds hopping from twig to twig when the branches were too dense to permit flight. On reaching the eastern end of the thicket the Sparrow again took wing and at once passed out of Mrs. Chapman's sight but the agonized outcry which the poor bird uttered on instant later announced that it had been overtaken & stricken down, no doubt in flight. Half a minute after this Mrs. Chapman found it on the lawn with the Shrike standing within a few inches of it devouring a few final morsels as it still warbling body. Soon after this the Shrike seized the Sparrow in its bill and, after flying a few yards, transferred it to its feet thus carrying it off one of its legs in an easterly direction.

Shrike seen  
to kill  
another  
Sparrow.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906

January 8  
(No 2)

The Shrike has not been noted in our garden since December 27 until to-day, although during this winter Carl Budgett in the remains of what we think would have been a third Sparrow, which had been killed and suspended in a fork in the birch. The Shrike was first seen this morning, about nine o'clock, by Weston Deane, carrying in its bill a bird which looked like a House Sparrow but which was not certainly identified. It flew across the flower beds to the cedar tree by the pond where it spent some time eating its victim after first fixing it in a fork by the usual process of tugging and pulling.

At home or so later the Shrike appeared in a cherry tree near my window where it remained several minutes singing a little. Most of the notes which it uttered on this occasion were harsh and unmelodious but all of them were evidently song, not call, notes. This Shrike is a Brownish bird and evidently not very mature although the black markings on its head are nearly black and very conspicuous. Since it has haunted the Garden the House Sparrows have nearly ceased to appear there and the visits of the Chickadees are also becoming less and less frequent.

Northern  
Shrike

1906.

Jan'y 27.

The weather continues mild over the entire East. So far as I can learn there is little or no snow anywhere south of the Canada border. Coming from Washington on January 25<sup>th</sup> I noticed that the grass was green and the ponds (even the smaller ones) free from ice as far north as Southern Connecticut. In Cambridge the lawns show faint shades of green & the roads are dry and dusty. There is little frost in the ground. Things look much as they do in mid November. Indeed the entire winter thus far may be aptly described as a postponed November. The warmest weather was on January 21 when the thermometer rose to 69°. The trolley lines ran nearly open cars that day and some of our neighbors (among them Mrs. Lodge who is over eighty years of age) were seen sitting on their piazzas with one overcoat or outer wrap of any kind. Birds have been exceedingly scarce, as is nearly always the case during mild winters.

My foreman, Daniel James, who came from Concord Wild Cat! to-day reports much local excitement there over a supposed Wild Cat which has been seen of late by Mrs. Abbott Lawrence and her son Gardner Lawrence near their home and by Benson in the Deer Field. They describe it as a grayish animal with a bob tail. It is supposed to be the creature of a kind, postponed, Owl-like cry which has been heard repeatedly at evening in the woods behind Lawrence's. James also tells me that he saw a Deer last Tuesday (23<sup>rd</sup>, Deer) feeding in Lawrence's field opposite the Bungalow.

Mr. De Mearitt tells me that he saw a Wilson's Snipe Snipe in on the evening of January 23<sup>rd</sup> flying over one of the Boston ponds in the North Bay Texas.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906.  
Feb. 26

Clear and warm with light W. wind.

There has been no real winter this year but simply November weather prolonged through the months of December, January, and most of February. Early spring is already here, two weeks or more before its time. The last snow disappeared on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February and the next morning I found a dozen or more big white snow deep beds in the bed in front of the house. They were partly open on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and fully open on the 25<sup>th</sup>. This morning I saw yellow, white and purple crocuses in bloom in front of a house on Channing Street. The grass is faintly green on the lawns and strongly so on sunny banks. There has been little frost in the ground at any time and the streets and garden paths are now dry and apparently settled.

Early Spring.

Titlarks began 'shouting' on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup>, I have since heard them in the garden almost every morning but their 'shouting' calls have been somewhat abbreviated and disconnected, as well as lacking in spirit, until this morning when I heard two birds uttering the full spring song at short, regular intervals for many consecutive minutes. One was in the pine in the South place on Brattle Street, the other in an elm near the Botanic Garden. One or two Titlarks have frequented our garden daily of late to feed on the fruit of the Calluna's apple. On the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> I saw certainly three and I think four different birds in this garden.

Titlarks  
Shouting.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906.

Feb. 26  
(No. 2)

As I was watching a Flicker this morning, in one of the big elms on Sumner Street, opposite the Botanic Garden, a Sparrow Hawk stooped at it, evidently in play, passing within a foot of it. The Flicker gave a perceptible start but did not leave its perch. The Sparrow Hawk then alighted on a dead branch near the top of the tree and within ten feet of the Flicker. Here it remained several minutes, preening its feathers. A funeral procession passed through the street directly beneath it without alarming it and the bird did not seem to notice me as I stood on the sidewalk looking up at it. The tree it was in is full of holes in some of which Screech Owls have nested for many years. I wonder if the Sparrow Hawks are thinking of nesting there this season!

Sparrow  
Hawk.

Four or five Chickadees, collected in the cluster of lilacs at the rear of our home, were in display, early yesterday morning, in a performance which I have often witnessed in early spring. They were continually flying back and forth, or in irregular circles, over and through the lilacs, making frequent sharp, angular turns and sometimes doubling back. They moved in short, jerky, undulating flights quite different from those which they make on ordinary occasions. Sometimes three or four birds would be on wing at once, sometimes but one or two. Often one would follow in the track of another, several yards in the rear, and evidently, as it seemed to me, in playful but rather listless pursuit of the leading bird. It seemed to be a kind of aerial dance or Chickadee minuet, as nearly as I could understand it. The birds chirped a good deal but did not utter either their shrill or their

Odd behavior  
of a flock of  
Chickadees.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906.  
March 6

Clear with light W. wind.

Scrub Oods have been repeatedly seen on head of Cats in our garden. On February 21 Kael saw certainly one and he thought two in the early morning before it was fully light. One was seen above the barn barn by Spelman. C. heard one working in the windows about four o'clock this morning. She thought the sound was like those we hear in autumn & not the somewhat different spring working.

At 6.20 this evening Kael told us that he had just seen an Ood fly from the red cedar at the base of our house into the garden. I went out at once and soon saw a red bird perched in a cherry tree, low down. It sat erect and motionless until I got within 20 ft. when it began bobbing its head up & down. The next instant it flew across the flower garden and alighted in the lilacs. Immediately after this another Ood flew from the birches into the fir by the pond. Approaching it closely I found that it was a gray bird, a size larger than the first and no doubt a female. When I got within about 15 feet it took a short flight & alighted in a maple in the jungle. Both birds on starting to fly shot down towards the ground and then curved upward as they neared the branch on which they alighted. The bird that crossed the garden vibrated its wings slowly and rapidly at first and sailed on the wings for the terminal third of its flight. The other bird described a much deeper curve and gave only a few flaps just after leaving its perch. I suspect these birds may be intending to breed in the garden. It is singular that they are so rarely seen. Bothwell saw a pair of Scrub Oods in the College Yard a few weeks ago.

A pair of  
Scrub Oods

in our

garden.



Cambridge, Mass.

1906.

March 15

Flickers sometimes climb the trunks of trees in the manner characteristic of other and more typical Woodpeckers stopping to tap out decayed places and peeling off occasional scales of loose bark. They do all this, however, in a listless, perfunctory kind of way as if they were not really interested in the result. For grabs by such means not very sanguine as to its material success. I doubt if they often obtain much of their food in this manner. They have been feeding through the winter, in our garden, on the front of Peabody's apple. Usually there are no more than one or two birds in the tree at once but on two occasions we have seen four there together. They appear at all hours but oftenest in the forenoon. As a rule they bend forward and downwards to get the apple peeling, this action rather clumsily and often spreading their tails and half opening their wings in their efforts to keep their balance. The tiny apples are picked off one at a time, with considerable deliberation, and are swallowed whole.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906.

March 15

(2)

A remarkably handsome Bluebird, very light in general coloring and with deep black hood markings, appeared in our garden this forenoon during a snow storm. It sang almost continuously for fifteen or twenty minutes. Its repertoire was limited and uninteresting. Most of the notes that it used were disagreeably harsh or shrill and some of them were repeated a dozen times or more with little or no variation. Some of them were very jay-like. All were given slowly and deliberately with distinct and often rather wide intervals between each utterance and the next following one. The bird's voice was louder and stronger than common.

Concord, Mass.

1906.

April 6

Cloudy with low N.W. wind.

Came to Concord along Cote yesterday afternoon and spent the night in the village at the Colonial (formerly the Thoreaus) House. A Robin in full song about sunrise.

Edmond Emerson called in the forenoon. He said that a few "Loops" were heard for the first time on the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> and that "they were in full cry" last evening.

I inferred that they were Hylas but he did not say so.

Jones came for me at 2 P.M. and we drove to the farm where I am to remain for the present as I have a rheumatic knee and cannot work much. I had intended to go to the cabin to begin with but that is out of the question just now.

On the plain down I saw no birds save a flock of 5 or 7 of Sparrows near Peets and three Blainbirds opposite Peeters. A Robin sang well for a couple of minutes at evening in the big elm near the farm house.

Mr. Emerson told me that no Geese have been reported to him this Spring but Pat Flannery says that he saw a flock of 20 passing over the village on April 4.

The river is over the windows but not nearly so high as it usually is at this time. The snow is all gone in the fields but there are drifts under pines in the woods. The grass is brown & yellow everywhere and the country wears a dreary, barren aspect.

Lowell, Mass.

1906

April 7

Still mostly clear with fresh, cool N. W. wind. The ground froze hard last night. Jones says the thermometer stood at  $26^{\circ}$  at 6 a.m.

A Robin, a Bluebird and a Fox Sparrow were singing near the house about sunrise. Later in the morning I heard a few Song Sparrows and Juncos, a Nuthatch and a Thriller. There are no doubt very probably few migrating Sparrows about the place but whether they have passed or are still to come I do not know. About 4 P.M. Wood Flies were crawling by dozens in the pond below the orchard and I heard a few in the meadows across the road. As I heard no Hylas I begin to think that Mr. Curran's "flops" must have been Wood Flies.

A pair of White-bellied Nuthatches spent most of the forenoon in the den near the house. The  $\delta$  uttered his hā-hā-hā-hā-hā-hā at frequent intervals. Although far from musical this call has a very pleasing quality to my ear. It is more joyous than one would expect.

I am more and more impressed, as I get older, with the soft, or at least, plaintive quality of most music, especially that heard on this season. The Song Sparrows are still singing the low, plaintive notes that they use to make for the first week or two after their arrival.

I saw a  $\delta$  Cooper's Hawk this afternoon flying westward over the pines near the Ritchie place. He was moving slowly, with alternate flopping and gliding, in a perfectly straight course.

1906.

April 8

Clear and, for the season, cold with high, keen N.W. to N.E. winds.

At sunrise a Phoebe was in full song near the house. I saw him later in the day in the woods and was about the barn. I think he must have come last night.

Yesterday we scattered a great quantity of millet and grass seed over the ground out from under of the house. As I had hoped would be the case it has already attracted a number of Fringillid birds. There were fifteen or more juncos, at least two and I think three or four Fox Sparrows and several Song Sparrows' garden on the head this morning. The Fox Sparrows looked up to several glassing guests of their kind, rich music. Song Sparrows were singing everywhere. Hornblows seem scarce. I heard only one to-day. A Purple Finch flew over the orchard calling. Red-headed Woodpecker screaming in the distance.

Last night about eleven o'clock I was awakened from a sound sleep by the hooting of a Barred Owl, the first I ever heard here. At first, when still but half-awake, I took it for the tooting of a locomotive. The bird was very near at hand & I think in one of the elms, by the wood, just below the house. I heard him five or six times. He gave only the terminal half of the full note i.e. hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo-a. It was a clear night with a waxy full moon.

A Crow perched on the topmost spray of a pine made a rattling noise closely like that of a woodchuck's rattle tailed loudly. He kept twirling the top of his wings nervously as he watched me.

1906

April 9

Cloudy with strong and intensely chilly N.E. wind which brought a snow storm that began shortly before dark. As I write (at 9 P.M.) the ground is covered with snow to the depth of one or an inch.

Drove nearly to Colrain this forenoon. The country excepting heavy-brooding without the slightest trace of green grass was on Hallowell Southern express. Alder catkins fully grown and almost in blossom. White pussy willows gleaming by the roadsides. No other signs of advancing vegetation. Birds of a few kinds rather common. Saw at least fifteen Robins scattered about in the fields. There are plenty of Bluebirds. Saw them in pairs and singly to the number of 16 or 18. Song Sparrows were evenly distributed in suitable places but not so abundant as they usually are at this season. Noted one flock of Junco (about 15) and 10 Fox Sparrows (8 of them in one flock) besides 2 at the farm. A single ♂ Cowbird feeding on the ground in a grassy field was the only Blackbird of any kind that I have seen in Concord this Spring.

At 9 o'clock last night I heard the Barred Owl twice in the distance towards Birch Field and apparently not far from Poplar Hill. He gave the full hoarse call twice with the usual deep hoarse who-a at the end. The full moon had just risen above the trees and was shining from a cloudless sky.

-Barred Owl.  
(April 8)

While listening to the Owl I heard Hylas for the first time this Spring. Their peeping came from almost every direction but there seemed to be only one or two in each place.

-First Hylas  
(April 8)

1906.

April 10

Cloudy with chill N. E. wind changing to N. W. in P. M.  
Fine, misty rain in forenoon. It rained heavily before daylight  
but the country was white with snow up to 7 a.m.

Purdie and I walked down the road after breakfast.  
Song Sparrows singing on every hand. Two Bobolinks (the first  
I have noted) screaming. On reaching the Peterson place we  
heard a Grass Finch in full song and presently another  
further off in Horv's pasture. A few minutes later two  
Coastline Doves began cooing in the oak woods bordering  
the road to Berens's. We returned through the wood land  
that leads across the run. Here we found perfectly fresh  
tracks of a medium-sized Raccoon. They were printed  
with exquisite clearness in the thin layer of damp snow.  
The animal's long claw marks and plantigrade feet were  
beautifully shown. We traced him to and into the corner  
that leads to the barn where the snow faded us. He must  
have passed that way only an hour or two before we did  
for the snow had been melting rapidly yet I never saw  
fresh or closer tracks.

The cooing of a Coastline Dove regularly begins, or rather  
is preceded by, a low murmuring note given with a rising  
inflection. This is ordinarily given but once before each set  
of cooing notes. The whole may be written ur-uk (or ur-uk) coo;  
coo, coo. Sometimes the murmuring sound is repeated several  
times before it is followed by the coos. This morning a  
bird uttered it a dozen or more times at short intervals  
without cooing at all. This manner is closely similar  
to that produced by a domestic Pigeon when disturbed  
on her nest.

Grass Finch  
&  
Coastline Dove  
arrived

Raccoon  
tracks

Notes of  
Coastline  
Dove.

1906  
April 13

Clear, calm, warm. The most spring-like day for weeks. Max tem. 64°

During the past two days we have seen nothing worthy of record. It is true that I have been rather closely confined as the horse Gen. Pouché has ranged widely through woods and fields. He visited Boss's Hill yesterday afternoon but there were literally no birds there. Most of those that we have seen have been very near the farm house. There 7 of Sparrows have appeared both days on the bank in front of the porch & we had a Pine Warbler and a pair of juncos there yesterday afternoon.

There were plenty of birds this morning and indeed all through the day. The Fox Sparrows were the most numerous and conspicuous for there were no less than twelve of them and when they were not feeding on the bank under the peculiar windows they were mostly seen to be singing in the apple trees or in the big Forsythia bush by the well. Rarely have I heard such a flock of their gleaming music.

Two Swallows appeared about the house for the first time. I saw them at once flying about the bird house in the garden at 9 a.m.

First seen  
Swallows

There were two male Chockers singing near the barn this forenoon. At length they had a short but desperate fight in the air & on the ground, after which one of them retired.

There were also two male Nuthatches calling wo-wo-wo at once, one in our elms with its mate, the other in the distance towards the Ritchie place.

Saw a male Cooper's Hawk plunging over the orchard in long undulations. It called (coo) a few times at each swoop. Parker (the carpenter) saw a flock of 30 or 40 Green Jays over northward at 4 P.M. while I was in doors.



1906.

April 14

Cloudy with violent S. W. wind. A gloomy day, not really cold but disagreeably chilly.

A Robin, a Song Sparrow, a Tree Sparrow, a Phoebe and a Flicker were singing near the house in the early morning but later in the day I saw and heard almost no birds of any kind. J. C. Melvin who made me a short visit heard a Dove cooing in Birch Field. Hylas and Wood Frogs were in full cry in every direction at evening.

Yesterday the Wood Frogs croaked unceasingly, by dozens if not hundreds, all day long and as late into the night as I was awake. I heard them first on April 7<sup>th</sup> in the meadow below the orchard where they have been croaking ever since. Two days later they began in the Brook meadow across the road and on the 12<sup>th</sup> I heard them in the Beaver Run. Thus they begin in different pools on different dates.

At sunset last evening twelve Fox Sparrows were feeding on the bank in front of the house. A little later they flew up into the big elm and thence, one after another, at rather wide intervals, to the broody swamp on the border of the brook that traverses our blueberry pasture. I wondered at the time whether they would pass the night in this cover or push on northward. They must have adopted the latter course for not one was seen or heard about the forenoon to-day. I would give much to know just where they staid on their nocturnal journey. They flew into the swamp as twilight was falling and in a manner which indicated that they were going to roost there. I am quite sure they did not begin their migration then.

1906  
April 16

Clear and warm with light N. W. wind.

Heard a Field Sparrow and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
yesterday morning and a Caddy this morning

Warblers.

Purdie and I took a long, leisurely drive this  
afternoon starting at 2.30 and getting back at 5.30. We  
went first to Concord and thence by the lower road to  
Concord returning by the direct road to the farm. Although  
we kept a sharp lookout for birds we saw comparatively  
few. Robins were especially scarce but of Bluebirds there  
were numbers. The Fox Sparrows and Tree Sparrows were  
evidently departed but a few Junco Hill Liner, Meadow  
lark, White-bellied Swallow and two Red-wing were a  
found in Concord. A Pine Warbler was heard singing.  
The Yellow Palm Warblers should be here but have never  
been noted yet.

Although we heard Wood Thrush in many places their  
short singing season is already coming but that of the  
Hylas is at its height. Their clear, silvery voices were  
singing for and wide over the land and in several  
large meadows that we passed they were making a perfectly  
leafing clamor.

The grass is now very green on sunny banks and along  
spring runs in the pastures.

1906

April 17

Clear and warm with light, variable winds, changing from the N. and N. E.

Although last night was especially favorable for migration no new birds were noted to day.

A Partridge drummed several times in the sun below the house about 9 a. m. It is the first time I have heard one this year.

Robins continue scarce. I saw only one or two on the farm and there was no singing to-day, not even at sunset.

About ten o'clock this forenoon I heard our Phoebe calling loudly & excitedly near the house. Looking up I saw a male Cooper's Hawk circling just above the top of one of the large elms. I had a good view of him through my glass at a distance of about 60 yards & made sure of his identity. He soon began rising and continued to ascend, straining all the while with scarce a single wing beat, until he was almost lost to the naked eye although still directly overhead. At length he ceased circling and started off towards the N. E. in a perfectly straight course, flapping his wings incessantly and moving very swiftly. I watched him through my glass until he faded out of sight in the distance, but he did not once falter or change his course. I think he must have started on migration after trying to get something for breakfast. While soaring and rising he moved as smoothly & gracefully as a Buteo but in rather smaller circles, turning always from left to right. ✱

Concord, Mass.

1906.

April 21

I listened attentively to-day to a Carolina Dove  
coming in the Bower Run and jotted down the following  
renderings of its notes:—

$\underline{\underline{O}}\underline{\underline{o}}-\underline{\underline{e}}\underline{\underline{e}}\underline{\underline{e}}$ ,  $\underline{\underline{o}}\underline{\underline{o}}\underline{\underline{o}}$ ,  $\underline{\underline{o}}\underline{\underline{o}}\underline{\underline{o}}-\underline{\underline{o}}\underline{\underline{o}}\underline{\underline{o}}$   
 $\underline{\underline{O}}\underline{\underline{o}}-\underline{\underline{o}}\underline{\underline{o}}\underline{\underline{e}}$ ,  $\underline{\underline{o}}\underline{\underline{o}}\underline{\underline{o}}$ ,  $\underline{\underline{o}}\underline{\underline{o}}\underline{\underline{o}}-\underline{\underline{o}}\underline{\underline{o}}\underline{\underline{o}}-\underline{\underline{o}}\underline{\underline{o}}\underline{\underline{o}}$   
 $\underline{\underline{u}}\underline{\underline{u}}-\underline{\underline{e}}\underline{\underline{e}}$ ,  $\underline{\underline{u}}\underline{\underline{u}}$ ,  $\underline{\underline{u}}\underline{\underline{u}}\underline{\underline{e}}$ ,  $\underline{\underline{u}}\underline{\underline{u}}-\underline{\underline{u}}\underline{\underline{u}}$ .

Coming of  
Carolina  
Dove

The second syllable (ee) rises sharply and abruptly  
above the pitch of the first and is strongly emphasized.  
All the oo notes are similar, very sweet, sad, impressive  
and resonant, and given in most carefully measured  
tones and intervals.

1906.

April 26

Early morning clear; forenoon cloudy with light N. wind; afternoon sunny and warm. Ther. fell to 30° last night. The weather has been cold and windy for several days. Our vegetation is well advanced for the season. The fields of English grass are now bright emerald green nearly everywhere.

<u>Yellow Palm Warbler</u>	One seen April 18; very common since then 2.2 out.
<u>Myrtle</u>	" 1 ♂ April 20; seen almost daily since then.
<u>Sooty Oriole</u>	1 ♂ " 20 & 22.
<u>Black &amp; White Creeper</u>	1 ♂ " 21; none noted since then
<u>Bank Swallow</u>	1 heard " 21 " " " "
<u>Spotted Sandpiper</u>	1 seen " 25 by Pender on Davenport Hill
<u>Kingfisher</u>	1 " " 26 " " " " " " " "
<u>Hairy Thrush</u>	1 " " 26 " " " " " " " "
<u>White-throated Sparrow</u>	1 " " 26 " " " " " " " "
<u>Chimney Swift</u>	2 heard " 26 " " " " " " " "

Arrivals:

One Phoebe had another and did not escape from the talons of a Hawk this morning. Just as I stepped out from the side door I heard his sharp chirp, chirp of alarm and then saw him coming from the orchard with the Hawk about fifteen feet behind him. The two birds seemed to merge into one as they worked an elm in the lawn but the Phoebe made a sudden turn among the thickly growing branches and crossed the door yard in safety. The Hawk stopped in the elm and alighted there, low down, when I saw that it was a large ♂ Sharp-shin. After resting there about a minute it flew off over the river and then began soaring in circles rising higher and higher until it looked no larger than a Swallow when it drifted out of sight towards the south. During its ascent it did not

1906

April 26  
(No 2)

once stop its wings. Its circling was performed exactly like that of the Cooper's Hawk seen on the 17<sup>th</sup>. When flying straight away from the den it alternately flexed and held for a distance of about 100 yards. A Sharp-shin may be easily distinguished from a Cooper's Hawk when flying in this manner for it moves less swiftly and its course is seldom or never perfectly straight. Its flight is more buoyant and erratic and gives one less the impression of momentum. The wings are beaten less often and also less rapidly & continuously. Nevertheless it is by no means easy to distinguish the Sharp-shin from the Cooper's when one has had long experience.

This pair of Downy Woodpeckers which have haunted the trees close to the house are preparing to nest in a deep crevice of the old den at the east end of the shed. I heard one of them out work them about 10 o'clock this morning and the light, whistled sound of its blows went on almost unceasingly from then until sunset. Every few minutes the bird would come to the mouth of the hole and eject a quantity of small chips not all together one over or two on a time until a score or more had been dropped when it would back down out of sight & resume its tapping. The hole is very small. I do not understand how the birds can have carried it down so far without attracting any notice for I have been constantly employed directly under the trees during the past two weeks. Another curious fact is that I saw the pair copulating on the afternoon of the 17<sup>th</sup> while thus engaged the ♀ sat perched crossways on a twig & one or both birds made a low chattering cry. I did not even see the bird leave the hole to-day & I could not understand its cry.

1906

April 28

Brilliantly clear with strong, cool N.W. wind.

Heard a Brown Thrasher in full song yesterday morning in the Bonnet Run and a Towhee about six o'clock this morning in the forget-thin bush in front of the farm house (where he spent most of the day). Arrivals

Although I listened many times through the day beneath the old elm at the east end of the shed I heard nothing of the Downy Woodpecker until about sunset when one of the birds was tapping persistently within the nest. A few moments later a Downy came from the orchard and entered a rather large ragged hole in a fork of the main stem which contains the nest. The two holes are only a few feet apart. The tapping continued in the nest hole after the other bird entered the larger hole which is doubtless only a nesting place.

At then o'clock this afternoon one of the Downy Woodpeckers was at work in the nest. I watched the hole until four o'clock. During this period the tapping was practically incessant excepting when the bird, which proved to be the male, appeared at the entrance and began throwing out chips. This he did at irregular intervals, averaging about five minutes. He brought the chips in his mouth, five or six at a time, and ejected them by a sharp toss of his head. Once he brought water mouthfuls in succession, but as a rule he brought not more than five or six & on one occasion but two. I think he backed down for each successive load but after discharging the last load he invariably came out of the hole and clung beneath it for a moment before entering it again, head foremost, of course. He had to struggle a little to get in for the hole is small. I saw the female Downy repeatedly in an elm nearby. She was idling about & looking in the sun.

1906.

April 29

Clear and warm with light S. W. wind.

Bank Swallows heard near Ball's barn about 9.30 a.m. (On the coming of the 30<sup>th</sup> I saw 3 birds flying together but over the orchard on the farm.)

Arrived

" 30

Cloudy with fresh S. W. wind.

Least Flycatcher. - Heard the chirp with trill in lens near the barn about 9 a.m.

"

May 2

Cloudy with S. W. wind. Hummer heard in chicken about 4 P.M. It began coming down after clouds and continued west into the night.

Brown Creeper. - Saw one in the elms along our lane about 9 a.m.

Arrived

Black-throated Green Warbler. - Four males in the big elm in front of the barn & in apple trees in the orchard at 8 a.m.

"

Nashville Warbler. - One flying in elms near the barn at 10 a.m.

"

Chimney Swift. - Flock of 10 or 12 seen in belly of chimney by Proctor

"

Robin. - Heard one chirping in chicken house when out Robin from the morning.

"

With the Black-throated Green Warblers were two Black and White Creeper, as well as two Ruby-crowned Kinglets (one flying grainily). There were also four White-throated Sparrows among the rookery. Chimney was the best. All these birds were evidently freshly arrived migrants.

There are plenty of Robins now - quite the normal number.

Parula found the nest of a triple sparrow yesterday in Green field. It contained 2 eggs. The bird was on the nest.

Toads & Hylas in full cry every night now.



1906

May 3

Clear with high N. W. wind. Ther. 48° min. 70° max.

Down bird. ♂ & ♀ Hunt at evening near Ricketts place

Unusual.

" 4

Clear with strong N. W. wind. Ther. 32° min. 66° max.

Ussia Warbler ♂ & ♀ Hunt near house in elm about 8 A. M.

Bats. Four in wood shed this morning. They may have come a little earlier for I had not looked for them for the past two days

Unusual.

I took White-throated Sparrows spent most of the day on the ground under the dining room windows where we had the hump seed nearly every morning. They remained here for hours at a time and when not feeding stood or crouched in the short grass keeping perfectly motionless with their heads raised. The white fluff on their crowns evidently made them less, instead of more, conspicuous. More than half of them were in fairly mature plumage. They sang a good deal but without much spirit, even in the early morning. When searching for the hump seeds they often scratched a little after the manner of Fox Sparrows, that is by first jumping forward and then backward. I have seen Junco and Song Sparrows do precisely the same thing here this spring but one of the birds scratches nearly as often or as vigorously as does the Fox Sparrow. The Song Sparrows and Junco both walk a good deal with fairly moving gait.

1906.  
May 4  
(No 2)

As William Stone and I were strolling in the field across the road from the farm house this afternoon a ♂ Duck Hawk passed us within fifty yards. It was flying swiftly but heavily, about twenty feet above the ground, carrying in its talons a bird that looked as large as a Pigeon & which was probably a Carolina Dove. As it approached the road it tried to rise above the bounding trees but failing in this, apparently because of the weight of its burden, it passed directly through them. A narrow water channel, it appeared above them in the direction of the last fence, keeping on to the south-west until lost to sight in the distance beyond the Ritchie place. Stone was perfectly sure that the bird was a Duck Hawk and I had no doubts on this point. He both saw the blackish crown, the bluish back and the characteristic tail markings with perfect distinctness. The sharp, powerful wings were indicated rapidly and incessantly as long as the bird was in sight. It came from the westward where the country is densely wooded for miles. I have never seen a Duck Hawk here before.

Besides the Duck Hawk I saw passing near the house, this afternoon, a pair of Cooper's Hawks, a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a Red-shouldered Hawk. One of the Cooper's Hawks was carrying in its talons what looked like a young chicken.

1906

May 5.

Cloudy and very warm with heavy showers in the distance in the afternoon. Scarcely a breath of wind all day. The air sweet with the fragrance of blossoming cherry and plum trees. Most of the forest trees and shrubs still perfectly leafless but apple trees and lilacs green with young foliage. Vegetation advanced rapidly through the day. A few Red-brooks in full bloom by evening. Grass slightly green & soil covered with spent blossoms.

Yellow Warbler ♂ in apple tree in garden at 8 a.m.

Chestnut-sided Warbler ♂ in Bowtell Run about 9 a.m.

Redstart. ♂ in oak grove behind barn at 8 a.m.

Maryland Yellow-throat. ♂ in berry basket at 6 a.m. & through day.

Red-eyed Vireo ♂ in elms over road at noon. Seen at close range later.

Yellow-throated Vireo ♂ in elm near house at 11 a.m. Sang once feebly.

Scarlet Tanager. ♂ in big elm about 2 P.M.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak ♂ in elm 2 P.M. (♂♂) seen in elms over road later.

Bobolink. - One in field near house at 11 a.m. Another heard later.

Baltimore Oriole. - One heard at 6 a.m. & through the day was the same bird that has been here for years. Another, that sang for long on barn about noon in elms over road was a stranger bird with an odder song than the first.

Acad. Flycatcher. A white bird in elm near house at 9 a.m.

One, probably the same, heard in orchard and at Roper's Road later in day.

Whippoorwill. Two flying at evening; one west of house, one west road.

Broad-wing & Hummer. ♂ ad. seen flying over field in front of house at 9 a.m. carrying something in his talons. He alighted

in the big hickory on edge of barn. I approached within 30 yds. & watched him tear up & devour his prey. It proved to be a ♀ of Red. Her spine was crushed all over the back. Beneath it I found a ♀ Red also but partly paralyzed. I think the Hummer had seized a pair of Reds as they were copulating. I saw him fly over the field & alight on one of the hickories.

Observations

1906

May 5  
(No 2)

The preceding page gives a condensed summary of a bird wave remarkable for the unusual variety of species that appeared here to-day. Most of them were represented by only one or two individuals each so that the total number of individuals was not exceptionally large. The birds, however, were chiefly confined to the immediate neighborhood of the farm house where drifted back and forth from oaks to elms and from elms to apple trees. I visited the woods several times during the day going once to Prescott's farm, and twice to the Beech place but I found birds scarce everywhere excepting on the hill top where one farm building stood. Here, however, the birds seemed to be changing from time to time & several species that were conspicuous in the afternoon were not present at all I think earlier in the day.

Thus for this Spring the different species have nearly all been represented by only a few individuals, at least on their first appearance. Of our best summer birds there are about the usual numbers as a rule. Swallows of every kind, however, are exceedingly scarce thus far. Field and Chipping Sparrows, on the other hand, are more numerous than they have been for several years.

1906.  
May 6

Cloudy with frequent heavy showers. Dead calm all day. Ther. 50°-64°

Black & Yellow Warbler 1 ♂ in apple tree near of house on farm, 9 a.m.

Northern Water Thrush 1 ♂ West Bedford side of river opp. Balls Hill, 12 noon.

Wood Thrush 2 ♂♂ in Barter Run 6-10 a.m. & 6 P.M. Both birds bred

than last year as I imagined by their song.

Cat bird 1 ♂ near of Balls Hill, 4 P.M.

The farm was alive with birds again to-day but most of those noted were evidently "left overs" from yesterday, the only new ones being the Wood Thrushes and the Black & Yellow Warbler. As was the case yesterday they were nearly all in the elms near the house, in the oaks behind the barn, and in the apple orchards. There were almost none in the Barter Run. I think this may have been due to the fact that vegetation is backward in the woods and that it is much further advanced in the cultivated grounds of the farm.

We spent the wind day hours on Balls Hill. There were very few birds in the woods there.

I saw a Chickadee this morning enter a bird house on a pole in the garden at the farm. It went in quickly as if quite at home & remained inside for about a minute. I think it must have a nest there. The box is circular with a hole near the top [diagram], Tolbush made it of chestnut bark. The pole is about 15 feet long & is set in open ground but not far from apple trees. I have heard a Chickadee singing in the garden several evenings of late.

1906.

May 7

Early morning rainy. Most of day cloudy clearing at sunset. Ther 47°-63°.

Black-brown Warbler 8<sup>25</sup> in big elms in our compound 5 P.M. Song only one Arrid.

Nest of Ruffed Grouse, 8 eggs, North and Purple Hawk woods 4.30 P.M. Nests.

" " Green Finch 3 " Green Field. Found by Partridge May 1. 2 eggs then

Birds were scattered about all over the place and singing freely when I walked to the Robin place and to the Berry pasture about 9 a.m. Many of them nested yesterday and day before yesterday were missing to-day and it was evident that fear of my new ones had arrived during the night. In fact I do not think that there has been any arrival of migrants to account for anything since the 6<sup>th</sup> although the Wood Thrushes probably did not reach here until yesterday evening. At evening (about 5 P.M.) a small number of Warblers (perhaps a dozen) had collected to feed in the elms and apple trees near our house. Among them I noted the Black-brown. The others were chiefly Yellow Warblers, Black-throated Greens, Partridge, and Woodpecker.

Purdie and I found the Partridge's nest in the extreme northern end of Purple Hawk woods. It was in very open woods at the base of a large white pine within six feet of Lawson's weed wood which is trampled occasionally by teams & frequently by dogs & men. The bird flushed ten yards away rising through density from the nest & flying straight away. The cock Grouse has been chomping for a week or more in well back about 150 yards E. of the nest. We heard him there to-day just before we found the nest.

Purdie showed me his Veery Spencer's nest in Green Field. I saw the ♀ before she left her 3 eggs. She sat absolutely motionless with head raised. When I advanced very faintly within a yard of her she ran a few yards & then took wing. The males have nearly finished the first period of singing & I hear them but seldom now.

1906

May 7  
(No 2)

I saw the Chickadee leave the bird house on the porch this morning and fly into one of the apple trees. There must be a nest in the bird house. The male Chickadee was singing in the garden next of the forenoon.

Last night about ten o'clock we heard a fox bark a score or more times very near the farm house. He was either in the field in front of the house or in the river just beyond it. His voice was very loud and it fairly rang in the still air. The sound was weird and oppressive. Purdie thought it sounded the outcry of some human being in like distress. It had a throttled or choking quality despite its strength. As one who was ignorant as to its origin it would have been a truly startling cry. It was undoubtedly the howl or wailing of a fox. I wonder why the creature called so long and earnestly. We heard no response. Rain was falling on the train & the night was very dark.

1906.  
May 8

Clear with fresh N. W. wind. Ther. 44° - 62°.

Wilson's Thrush. - I saw a town, silence bird, hopping about on the General.  
ground near the middle of a large opening in Birch field at 4:15  
P.M. It was in a grassy place twenty yards or more from  
the nearest tree. Pardon thinks he heard another calling this morning.

There is a large, new nest of a Robin in an apple tree in Nests of  
the orchard behind the house. It is very conspicuous for the Robin  
tree is practically leafless. I found it to-day

The Phoebe was sitting most of the day on the nest Phoebe  
under the eaves of our barn. I think she must have  
completed her set.

The Downy Woodpeckers are still at work almost exclusively Downy W.  
on their nest in the dead branch of the tree close by our wood  
shed. The ♀ was working there this afternoon from 2 to 3 o'clock.  
At the latter hour she hopped out a lot of chips and then  
came out herself flying to another branch of the tree and  
bawling there on the stem for ten or fifteen minutes. I have  
not seen her since to-day. Think she was at work my  
carpenters were working a steel bander for a door  
which they were putting together directly under the eave. Their  
noise evidently did not disturb her in the least.

The dead branch is evidently very hard and the nest must  
be carried down deep by this time for fourteen days  
have elapsed since I first noticed the birds at work  
there and the hole had then been carried in & down to  
for that the bird was out of sight when at work.

Both birds visit & exit of the hole in the blue book  
at frequent intervals through the day. They are very silent  
& I rarely hear either of them call. They stop cleaning before  
I find their nest



1906

May 8  
(No 2)

White-bellied Nuthatches have frequented the chow and outboard on the Bayview from through the past three breeding seasons but I have never succeeded in finding a nest. This spring I saw the pair together on several occasions early in April but after the middle of the month the ♂ usually appeared alone spending most of the day in the big chow about the house. Indeed I did not see the ♀ between April 13 and May 5. On the latter day, both birds were feeding together in the chow. They were there again this morning when I noticed that the ♀ showed much interest in the numerous holes in the old trees, entering several of them. The ♂ twice approached and fed her just after she had emerged from a hole which I thought might contain the nest. About 2 P. M., however, I found the ♀ hard at work removing an old Squirrels' nest from a hole in an oak in the grove behind the barn. She labored ceaselessly bringing out the fine, shredded inner bark that the Red Squirrels use for their nests, in tufts almost as long as her own body and scattering them <sup>with</sup> the help of the ground of the wind. Some of the strands cling to the trunk & these she picked off one by one and tossed outward. After working a long time in this way she began going over the outer bark of the tree near the hole with her bill in the most curious manner. She swung her head from side to side rapidly & vigorously with long, wide sweeps just touching the bark at each stroke. This was kept up at intervals for ten minutes or more. What she was doing <sup>it for</sup> I could not imagine. I could see nothing on the bark even with the aid of my glass. She worked with furious energy. The ♂ also seemed strangely excited coming close about her & grasping his wings. He fed her repeatedly with small grains which she instantly swallowed. He entered the hole several times but did nothing there as far as I could see.

Nuthatches  
begin work  
on nest.

1906.

May 8  
(No 3)

As I was strutting in Birch Field late this afternoon I heard a loud rustling of leaves near at hand. It was made by a Brown Thrasher who was engaged in getting his supper. He was an unusually tame bird and I watched him with great interest, at a distance of only 5 or 10 yards, without offering to distract his attention for a single moment from his occupation. He was in a grassy opening over which a large number of oak leaves had been drifted by high winds from a neighboring cluster of trees. Seizing his head from side to side and using his bill much as a housewife uses a pitchfork in spreading hay, he was tossing the leaves about with remarkable vigor & success. Sometimes he moved them singly but usually at least two or three were thrown aside on each stroke of the closed bill. That it was closed and used merely as a prod I could see distinctly. Twice, however, I saw him open his bill and pick up a leaf before attempting to throw it. On no occasion did he impale the leaves. He simply put his bill under them & gave them a toss into the air & to one side.

The reward for all this labor was most generous on times for on several occasions he found so much food beneath a leaf that it took him a minute or more to dispose of it. Indeed he was constantly pulling up & gulping down things that I could not see. During the entire time I spent watching him he rambled about in every direction over a space four or five yards square. His gait was invariably a slow, even, gliding walk. Not once did he hop. When a crow came loudly in the distance he stood erect for a brief while watching & listening. This was the only time he showed any alarm or hesitation.

Brown Thrasher  
feeding

1906.

May 10

Clear with strong, cold N. W. wind. Therm 40°-56°

No animals noted since the 8<sup>th</sup>. The weather is too cold and blustering for birds to migrate. Many of those that arrived on the 5<sup>th</sup> are apparently still lingering about the farm. I saw about a dozen Yellow-rumps this morning in "the Run".

About half past four o'clock this afternoon I crossed Birch field and passed the spring, keeping on into the mixed oak and pine woods in the direction of the road that leads to Benson's. On the crest of the hill near the big ledge I heard a broad winged Hawk utter its shrill Ke-dee close at hand. The next instant I saw the bird perched in an oak about thirty feet above the ground sitting erect and still. It was a ♀ in fully adult and very handsome plumage. Whenever I moved it screamed three or four times in succession and would it well down to watch me but I actually could not make it fly although I tramped noisily back and forth directly under it. After watching it for ten minutes or more I began looking for the nest & presently found a large fork looking over a mass of sticks & placed about forty feet up in a white pine. As I was looking at it the Hawk flew for the first time but only from its perch to another one in the same tree where I left it. The ground beneath several of the trees was marked with droppings and Hawk's down was entangled in several of the bushes which I picked up a perfect secondary quill of a Broad-wing near where I found the bird. I shall investigate further to-morrow

1906.  
May 11

Clear with high cold N. W. wind. Ther. 38°-58°

Black-throated Blue Warbler 8 seen by Pardon at Davis Hill.

Canadian Warbler " " " " " "

Accounts.

Although the birds just mentioned have not been noted by me before this season I think they must have come before to-day as the weather has been unfavorable of course for migration.

Pardon and I visited the supposed Hawk's nest this afternoon about the same time that I was there yesterday. We tramped back & forth through the woods but saw nothing of the Hawks.

As we were returning I left the path to show Pardon the telling evidence on the crest of the ridge in the Banner woods. Within ten feet of it I flushed a Partridge from her nest. She was about 15 feet from me and flew off swift & straight. The nest was among oak scrub at the base of a small oak. It contained 10 eggs which were partly covered with oak leaves.

We visited the artificial pond in the Boxy Pasture before going to the house. The surrounding was the pond was marked in many places with deep impressions of a deer's hoofs. The tracks were perfectly fresh & must have been made this afternoon. I should say that the animal was a small doe.

1906.

May 12

Partly cloudy and very hazy with strong, warm S.W. wind. Ther. 39°-69°.

A few northern migrants were seen to-day, but no new birds were noted. In a small flock of Yellow-rumps that we found in a clump of birches on the edge of Horn's meadow was a Red-tail Warbler. It appeared suddenly in a leafless bush within three or four yards of me & wagged its tail. The instant I saw it I thought that it looked like the holosericeus for the under parts showed little yellow down on the throat. Hence I could get my glass fairly on it as it flew & was not long in going. It was probably a double of hypochrysa. At least that is the safest conclusion.

A Red-tail  
Warbler that  
looked like  
holosericeus

We saw both the Hood-winged Hawks to-day flying directly towards the nest over the sun, the ♀ about nine o'clock this morning, the ♂ about 2 1/2 hours afterwards. The ♂ bore in his talons a batrachion of seven kind & was doubt a large food, with its legs dangling & waving to & fro conspicuously. The Hawk's legs were drooped during flight to nearly their full length so that the food was nearly a foot below the bird's breast. These Hawks must surely be breeding in the woods, when I saw them on the 10<sup>th</sup> their line of flight invariably crosses the Run in the same place & the same direction. Indeed they go straight for the nest, like homing bees.

Pair of  
Broad-winged  
Hawks

Started seven Doves in a sandy field near Horn's meadow. Two rose together in one place & five in another. Gilbert flushed a Dove from her nest at Doves Hill to-day.

Flock of  
Doves.

1906

May 12

(No. 2)

Gilbert spent the afternoon on Ball's Hill. Returning by way of Davis Hill he noted many Deer tracks in the sandy loam that leads from the Swamp on the base of Ball's Hill to Davis Hill. He had Larry with him on a look. On reaching Birch Field he crossed the day & saw no more of him. We have since learned that Larry started a Deer soon afterwards and chased it across Deer Field in full view of most of the Benson family who were out work there. Nellie Benson who is a good observer and truthful says that although the Deer seemed to be eating itself to the utmost Larry (a little West Jersey but for so small a dog a remarkably swift runner) gained on it perceptibly. As she expressed it the Deer seemed to spend much of its energy in making high bounds while Larry kept close to the ground and forged ahead. I have been told by hunters in Maine that almost any dog can catch a Deer within a mile on a level open surface but as that of a frozen lake.

1966

May 14

Brilliantly clear with light E. wind: Ther. 52°-68°. Yesterday was very warm in the forenoon the thermometer rising to 83°. No animals were noted except a Cuckoo but there was such a tremendous gale of wind blowing that it was difficult to see or hear anything. The night was warm with a light, gentle rain but entirely dark. I looked for a big flight of migrants but apparently only a few came. There were, however, a good many House Wobblers that had evidently come during the night. Many of our other birds were in full bloom this morning & the House Wobblers were feeding among the blossoms.

Black-billed Cuckoo. Heard the coo-coo call last night about 9 o'clock, evidently given by a bird that was flying over the garden. To-day a bird was cooing (coo-coo) in the garden.

Golden-winged Warbler. Saw a ♂ in our big elm at 6 P.M.

Wilson's Black-cap. - Perched on one in our corn lawn

Herringbird. - Heard one in garden at 8 o'clock. I don't know one and certainly

Animals

A pair of Towhees spent most of the day in the little thicket between our house and barn. The ♂ gave this unusual song but two of its call notes were peculiar. One resembled the note of the Cow-bird the other was peculiarly indistinguishable from the te-hee of the Maryland Yellowthroat. I know as well as I could the bird within both calls. Both ♂'s frequently uttered the prolonged ze-e-e-e-e which sounds a little like the song of a Golden-winged Warbler heard on a distant tree.

Heard a Mocking Warbler utter the flight song over about 7 P.M. noted it thus: tip-tip-tip-tree-ti-ti-ti-ti-ti-ti. The first five notes were additional ones, all the others being those of the normal song. I did not see the bird.

1906

May 15

Clear with strong W. wind. A white frost at day break but  
middle of day warm. Ther. 38°-72°

Tennessee Warbler. A ♂ in elms oaks and blossoming apple trees  
near the house and at the foot of the lane. He sang freely from (Wood.)  
6 to 8 a. m. and occasionally through the entire forenoon. Although  
restless he was very tame and reportedly I got within a few  
yards of him but he seldom moved for more than a  
few minutes in the same tree. In movements and general  
behavior he exactly resembled a Nashville Warbler. He fed chiefly  
at the ends of the branches probing among the terminal buds  
and unfolding leaves with his sharp bill, often hanging head  
downward and working upward like a Titmouse. He was  
alone most of the time but occasionally with one or two  
other warblers. His song was less shrill and incisive than  
usual. It might, indeed, have been mistaken for a Nashville  
Warbler's but for the measured pitchee-pitchee-pitchee pitchee  
notes which formed the prelude and which are so  
characteristic of the Tennessee Warbler.

Besides the Tennessee Warbler I noted nothing new  
and but few birds which were obviously north-bound  
migrants.



1906.

May 16

Brilliantly clear and oppressively warm with scarce a breath of wind. As most of the deciduous trees are still leafless there was little shade to be found from the sun's intense rays. Ther. 50° 87.

Solitary Sandpiper. Saw one on the river bank at Fair's Bridge. Arctic.

Apparently only a few migrants come last night. I heard a Black & Yellow and two Black-throated Blue Warblers singing in the Ravine then this forenoon & then I think have arrived since yesterday. House Wrenches still have their copper tints which were in nearly full bloom to-day.

Returning from a drive to Concord this morning I saw a great swarm of Bank Swallows flying about a well known bank which Peterson has just opened on the west side of Dinkins' Hill. With the aid of my glass I counted over fifty fresh holes in this bank. The colony promises to be as large as those which existed on Bedford Street, Concord several years ago.

1906.

May 17

Clear with light, variable winds chiefly from E. & S. W. Ther. 49°-77°

Black-bell Wren ♂\* 6-8 a.m. in calls near house.

Swarzian's Thrush 1 calling about 2 P.M. in grove at rear of barn.

Indigo Bird. ♂ ad. silent, in top of large oak near house, 9 a.m.

Wood Pewee. ♂ ad. in large tree near house about noon.

Arreobots

Visited the Barns, Rum and Palfret Rock woods this morning. There were only a few winged in either place. Most of the birds noted were in the trees were the hedges especially the apple trees which were in fullest bloom and deeply glowing. In them, feeding among the snowy blossoms were a number of Wrens including House, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Black-headed Green, and a ♂ Yellow-bellied Cuckoo.

I have usually associated the coming of Cuckoos with midsummer and have rarely heard it at all in May or early June but for the first four days Black-bellied Cuckoos have been coming about the house or all hours while I have not as yet heard them give the long succession of notes at all.

Swallows have appeared in considerable numbers within the last few days. A pair of Barn Swallows are repairing the nest that they had last year in the barn attached to the Porch, and a pair of White-bellies have again taken possession of the bay one the hole here in which they are building a new nest. I had supposed that they raised a brood there last year but on opening the bay this Spring I found four unincubated young nearly fully grown & well feathered. Where they had them I do not know.

1906.

May 18

Clear, calm, oppressively hot. Ther 53-88°.

The warm sun brought a big bird swarm. I noted for the first time only two species, however. These were.

Bay-breasted Warbler - 688. <sup>2</sup> one in elms near house, one in hickory pines in the Run, four in white & pitch pines in Puffin Rock woods.

Arrows

Lincoln's Finch. Sighted a bird from a grand juniper among the gray birches east of the camp station. It was silent and rather tame. I had a good view of it at about ten yards distance. It flew up into a wild apple tree where it sat motionless with its head erect watching me.

The bulk of the Warbler flight that arrived last night seems to have consisted of Black-throats, Bay-breasts and Magnolia Warblers. Of the first named I noted 488 & 1 ♀ of the last 2088 and 1 ♀. The Magnolias were scattered about about every where. There were three or four in one blossoming apple tree, one among vines in the Run, while the remaining birds were noted chiefly in Puffin Rock woods. I heard three Black-throated Blue Warblers, one in the Run, the other near Puffin Rock. The House Wren is still here in numbers, especially in the blossoming apple tree. I heard them Black-throats to-day.

Birds of every kind sang through the entire forenoon & well into the afternoon despite the intense heat. but at sunset and for nearly an hour before it. There was almost no singing. Bobolinks, Grackles, Orioles, Tanagers & Wood Thrushes sang like mad nearly all day. I have rarely heard any thing like it here.

1906

May 18  
(No 2)

There are at least two and I think three male Hooded Mergansers settled in our Run. Two were singing their throats within thirty yards of each other most the morning. As I passed on I heard what I took to be a third at the foot of the Run but one of the birds heard before any had moved on as I passed.

A Plain Woodpecker that has been frequenting the cluster of pine trees in the Run for the past month has two distinct songs. One of them is the normal song of the species but if anything fuller, louder and more melodious than is usual. The other song is a short, flat, dry, cooing trill ~~resembling~~ <sup>resembling</sup> that by my ears from that of a Junco & a few singing Juncos in the wood. I heard the bird change from one song to the other several times this morning.

Two male Bobolinks spent the whole of yesterday and to-day in the marsh across the road from the farm house. They kept together the whole time feeding within a yard or two of each other in the tops of lily stems & apple trees and one following the other when it took wing. Their singing was louder, more continuous and more rollicking than any Bobolink music I have heard for years. Not once did they sing together but one would usually begin as soon as the other ceased. Thus they kept up an almost continual flood of music. I fastened my ears on it for nearly half an hour. They kept it up nearly all day. I saw no female. The males acted as if they were close friends rather than rivals.

1906

May 18  
(No 3)

Yesterday morning I saw three King Birds together near the little pond in our Berry pasture. They were behaving very oddly. Alighting on some leafy horizontal branch facing one another and only a few feet apart they would crouch and quiver their wings and bow their heads back at the same time without their usual restless cries incessantly. Finally one would fly to another tree & its two companions would immediately follow when the being & sleeping would be continued. This was kept up at intervals for ten or fifteen minutes. There were two birds in the same place late this afternoon going through precisely the same performance. It looked like courtship but I cannot understand how two males could be courting the same female without fighting. However the third bird behaved exactly like the other two yesterday & the two to-day acted just alike.

The Towhees have nearly or quite ceased trilling but the Hylos keep very noisy as usually and chirped as vigorously as ever. Being on little pond last evening I was surprised to find that many Hylos were perching on dry land well back in the bushes.

The Towhees took to the water to-night for the first time and their course, coming from one pond, was almost directly through the ditch, ending & for a while in the water. (I assumed that they were in the water because their notes came from the pond but on the next evening (May 19) I visited the place & found that all three on this occasion were in the bushes near the pond & not actually in the water.)

1906.

May 19

Clear and oppressively warm with strong S. W. wind  
Ther. 66° - 86°.

The past two days have brought wonderful changes in the vegetation. The apple trees have nearly finished blossoming and their white petals have been whirling in clouds through the air all day before the strong wind, with showers of hard flakes. The trees are leafing out fast and the woods now show masses of green foliage especially where there are birches, maples and poplars.

There were a number of north-bound migrants on the farm this morning. But most if not all of them were probably left over from the swarms that were here yesterday.

In the oak grove at the rear of the barn I heard singing at 8 o'clock this morning. Bay Breasted Warbler, one (I saw a ♀ in the same tree at the same time), Black-poll Warbler, one; Black-burnian Warbler, one; Black-throated Green Warbler, one. In the neighboring apple orchard, feeding among the blossoms, I saw a ♂ Black & Yellow Warbler, three female Yellow-rumps and a ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler. A Canada Flycatcher was singing in the bushes near the barn.

There were only a few migrants in the Run and in Purple Rock woods west of Tom's Big Black-burnians & Black & Yellow Warblers. I visited nothing new to my list.

Two Black & Yellow Warblers heard this morning sang exactly the same although they were widely separated. I noted this song as zee-ter-zee-zee-te

1906.

May 20

A beautiful day, brilliantly clear with strong, breezy N.W. wind. Ther. 50°-76°

Night hawk. Heard one peeping in the calls behind our barn about 9 a.m., I heard one there last year on May 21<sup>st</sup> usual.

There were but few worth-bound migrants about today. In the early morning I heard near the house only one Canada Hummer & several birds. During a walk to Peak's Hill (10-12 a.m.) I heard two Black and Yellow Warblers & a Black-burnian. At the east end of Peak's Hill was two ♂ Black & Yellow Warblers, a pair of Canadian Warblers, a ♀ Wilson's Black-capt & a ♀ Redstart. There was a Green Heron through near the cabin.

The Blue Jay was sitting on his five eggs in the pine at the wood shed. Strange to say a Robin was sitting on the last year's nest of two Jays - which is in an oak within a few yards of the log cabin & not twenty yards from the wood shed. The old nest looks dilapidated and shows no signs from below of having been much over or added to by the Robin but I started that bird from us then or five times & she called accordingly as long as I remained near it so I think she won't leave eggs.

1906.  
May 21

Brilliantly clear with east E. wind. Ther. 36°-64°

Yellows-billed Ardees. Heard full song in air about 11 A.M. Ardees.

The only marsh-bound migrants noted to-day were a ♂ White-throated Swallow x, a ♂ Yellow-rump Swallow x, 3 ♂♂ Black-chinned Throats x, a ♂ Black-bellied Swallow x, 2 ♂♂ Black-burnian Throats x, and 4 White-throated Swallows. Evidently the migration is nearly its end.

Purdie and I went to Bowman's place west by the river this forenoon. As we were passing the marsh western corner of Green Field we heard, near at hand, the unmistakable barling note of a Sharp-shinned Hawk, a dry hee-hee hee-hee hee. It recalls the barling note of Cospar's Hawk but is feebler and less loud. We did not see the bird but we found under a pine the feather of a ♂ Goldfinch which it had probably killed & in another tree of the same kind, west for off, a fresh looking hawk's nest made of rotten pine logs.

Purdie spent most of the afternoon in Purdy's Rock woods looking for the nest of the Barn-swallow Hawk. He saw both birds. The ♀ showed precisely as when I watched her on May 10. Purdie says that he tried in vain to make her leave her perch which was in a small oak within a few rods of where I saw her on May 10. She screamed at him incessantly but would not fly. There was or a nest in these woods but Purdie is not sure that he found it although he thinks, he has.



1906.

May 22

Brilliantly clear with east W. wind. Ther. 38° - 72°.

No water based organisms noted unless in that category I may include a flycatcher which spent the carbon day on a dead branch of one of the apple trees in our orchard. I visited it several times & always found it in exactly the same place and attitude with its eyes nearly if not quite closed. Its grayish mottled plumage admirably matched the lichen covered branch.

Pardon, Gilbert & I spent most of the afternoon in the woods south of Purple Rock searching for the nest of the Wood-wings. Gilbert climbed to three nests (four of them being the one that Pardon thought the bird started from yesterday) but all proved to be abandoned old Sparrows' nests. The ♀ Wood wing appeared twice, once perching rather near us & screaming a few times.

I fear the Great Horned Owls have deserted this neighborhood. I have not heard them this Spring nor could I find any signs of their presence during my visit yesterday to their long occupied strangulated Swallow's jaws by the river. There were two below to extract Swallow's nests and was here then one but Edwin Swallow who owns most of the adjoining woodland has been cutting all winter close to them by fairs. Perhaps the presence of his wood choppers there in late winter may have disturbed the Owls & frightened them away.

1906

May 23

Clear, calm, warm. Ther. (max) 82°

A Canadian Warbler was singing in bushes near our barn this morning but I noted no other north-bound migrants although I was in the woods for several hours and walked to Balls Hill via Davis Hill and back via Holders Hill, thus covering a fair amount of ground.

Migration  
about over.

Heard two Cooled Flycatchers calling on Dullins Hill this afternoon. As I had left two birds at the farm in the morning and as I found none there on my return I think the ones heard at Dullins Hill must be a different pair.

Yellow Warblers are unusually numerous here this spring. I heard no less than three notes singing on the lawn this evening, two in the Bee pasture and the third in the apple trees behind the house. Two were noted near Balls Hill.

Several Barn Swallows were collecting mud on the shore of our little pond this evening. They came to it in pairs & alighted at the water's edge. The ♀ at once began scooping up the mud in long globules which she held for a moment in her bill & then apparently swallowed. The ♂ made a great show of looking for mud but only once did I see him take up any. This time he followed his mate with a lump in his bill.

1906.  
May 24

Clear and warm with light S. W. wind.

A Black-necked Stilt was singing near the house this morning was the only water bird migrants noted to-day.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> a pair of White-bellied Swallows began building in a box on a short pole attached to the gutter end of our hen house. I have watched them repeatedly since but not noted to-day how I saw the ♂ give his mate any assistance although he usually accompanied her on her flights to and from a neighboring field where she was getting dry grass blades. This evening, however, he came to the box bearing a large feather which he at once took in and left in the nest. The ♀ followed him on this occasion but she brought nothing with her nor did she enter the box.

1906.  
May 26

Clear and warm with strong S. W. wind. Ther. 50°-77°

The only northern migrant noted to-day was a  
Black-bell Warbler singing near the house this evening.

Migration.

Hyles and Fox Squirrels have been in full cry ever  
since and this in the pond across the road. Mingling  
with their voices I have heard both evening a yelping  
ow-ow-ow-ow-ow-ow not unlike that of a housecat. This  
cry is new to me. It is less loud than a dog's but  
yet by us means a faint or ill-defined sound. It  
is repeated at long and irregular intervals. The notes  
are given rapidly and their yelping quality is pronounced.  
I am very sure that they come from the pond  
but I cannot even guess what their another can be.  
I have this far heard them only after dark. They  
are usually visible the Stange Road - like when they  
I heard in this woods last year and that I  
think must be the call of the western Wood Cuckoo. They  
have heard at Dublin and have dubbed "the glass."

Another  
mystic  
voice

1906.

May 28

A heavy north-westerly rain storm began yesterday afternoon and has continued through to-day without the slightest signs of abating. The rainfall has been heavy and continuous and the brooks are already swollen as they have not been before this year. When I visited Ross's Hill this afternoon I found that the river was rising rapidly. It was probably backwage the meadows and down on the Red-wings again. Their nests were destroyed in this way in 1903 and 1904 but last year the few birds that frequented these meadows were not disturbed by the water. They were very scarce along the river in April but of late I have seen them in Great Meadows in nearly their normal numbers.

With few exceptions the finest singers among our local birds are not their best musically, for only a very short period. Seldom, indeed, exceeding a week and sometimes not more than three or four days. This is true of the Robin, Wood Thrush, Bobolink, Catbird, Thrasher, Grosbeak, Bobolink and Veery and Field Sparrows. Many of the second class performers, such as the Song Sparrow, Towhee, Tomcovey and all the grays, sing equally well for several weeks in succession. Already the best of the spring singing is over. The Bluebirds have been wholly silent for weeks, the Thrashers, Grosbeaks, Bobolinks, Robin Sparrows and Field Sparrows have nearly closed the seasons singing of a week or two ago. The Catbirds are still in fairly fine song. The Wood Thrushes have become almost wholly silent. Strange to say I have heard only one Veery sing this spring although the birds are as numerous here as usual and I am constantly in or near their haunts.

Briefness  
of the singing  
season.

1906.

June 1

Clear and warm with south-west wind.

I have not heard a Wood Thrush since May 25<sup>th</sup> until to-night when one of the birds in the "Run" sang in a half-hearted way for a few minutes as twilight was falling. It is understood I believe for the Wood Thrush to cease singing so early in the season.

Strange to say I have heard only one Veery sing this spring. Yet the birds are as common here as usual and I hear them calling in the Run over the fence nearly every morning & evening.

A Cat bird that is apparently nesting in the big forgetta bush in front of the house has been singing at all hours and most delightfully for nearly two weeks. He mimics the songs of the Wood Thrush, the Bobolink & the Great Flycatcher & this morning early he gave both the bob-vehicle & the "Heather call" of the Lizard. His imitations are all good and that of the Wood Thrush has reportedly deceived me for the moment.

Early this afternoon Gilbert called my attention to a rather large Milk Eater in an apple tree in the garden. About a foot of the terminal end of the snake was wound around a smooth thick part of the trunk of the tree while the remainder of the body was inside the trunk. The head showing out one small opening & the coils just coming out through another ~~Fig. 20~~. As I looked the head was drawn back out of sight

1906

Jan 1  
(No 2)

while the tail just swayed motionless. Immediately after this a Deer Mouse ran out of the hole when the Snake's head had been and clamped into the very top of the tree although of nearly full size it looked like a young animal & it was in doubt very much frightened & somewhat confused perhaps by the strong sunlight. Scarcely had it disappeared away the fringe than the Snake again showed his head at the opening. He held another mouse exactly resembling the first in his mouth and had already swallowed its head & most of the body. Before I left the place one but the tail and hind feet had disappeared down the Snake's throat. The holes just mentioned were about a foot apart in the sides of a nearly horizontal section of the trunk. Neither of them was much more than large enough to admit my forefinger. One would think a mouse safe in such a retreat but the Snake can go anywhere, opportunity. The other tree was not an old, decayed one but a very vigorous & nearly round tree.

This yelping call like that of a young hound is coming from the western section of the wood as I write these lines. I have heard it a dozen times or more during the past hour (8-9 P.M.) mingling with the voices of Garden Frogs & Tree Frogs. It must be the note of some Batrachian I think.

1906.

June 2

Clear and warm with light S. W. wind.

Heard a Quail near my Stam Great house opposite Balls Hill this afternoon. About the same time Towhee who was at the farm sang a B on the wood by the well in front of the old house. Both birds gave the "scatter call" only.

At Balls Hill about 1.30 P. M. I found in the coat path near the big oak a decapitated Rabbit. Its head had been severed from the neck as clearly as if cut off by an axe & no trace of it could be found. The deed must have been committed to-day & I think the Rabbit had not been chased for more than half an hour for its body was still limp and the blood on the severed neck had not dried. I think I found a Rabbit last year that had been killed in the same way & that at the time I referred the deed to a Fox. The Rabbit found to-day was a pregnant female with young almost ready for birth.

I spent some time this evening watching the pair of Crested Flycatchers that are frequenting our orchard again for the tenth or eleventh year at least. They have bred in at least three different trees during this period. This evening the female flew to the hole in which young were hatched two years ago & feeding near it remained for some time for many minutes. At length I looked away for an instant during which the bird disappeared, I think into the hole.

Both sexes appear to use the same calls & to be equally noisy. I am not sure however, that the ♀ gives the long rolling call. The Crested Flycatcher has a habit of rolling the head steadily almost exactly like a train. It also hops from twig to twig without using its wings much & from branch to branch of the tree.



1906

June 10

A remarkably bold and enterprising Red Squirrel has been hanging about the farm house for several days. On one occasion I saw him trying to get into the pigeon loft. On another Gilbert surprised him on a branch of the apple tree that shades the back door within a yard of a Red-eyes' nest. The Red-eyes were making a great outcry but when the Squirrel saw Gilbert he ran up the tree & jumped on to the roof of the house. This happened yesterday. Again this afternoon Gilbert heard the Vireos crying anxiously. Looking out through the screen door he saw the Squirrel on the branch within a few inches of the nest eating something. Presently he dropped a portion of the shell of one of the birds' eggs. He then wiped his face with his fore paws & wiped the latter on the branch. The next minute he bent forward until his head & fore shoulders disappeared in the nest & almost immediately reappeared on the branch with another egg in his mouth. The Vireos assailed him frontally & one of them struck him with her bill when he was in the nest. Probably because of their attacks he almost immediately took the second egg off with him running up the main trunk of the tree until he lost the sight in the foliage of its crown. This is the first time I have ever known a Red Squirrel to molest a bird nest on this farm. I have suspected for several weeks that this particular Squirrel was a nest robber because of his activities. It is singular that he did not raid the Phoebe's nest under the eaves of the barn for I have especially seen him on the roof but the bird saved her young in safety -

Red Squirrel

robs a

Vireo's nest

& eats the

egg.



Gleedale, Berkshire Co. Mass

1906

July 3

After spending a week with the French at Gleedale I returned to Cambridge Co. Mass. About 10.15 a.m. as I was waiting for my train at the railroad station in Gleedale I saw a pair of Rough-winged Swallows flying back and forth over the Housatonic River. Skimming just above the surface of the rapidly flowing water they passed and repeated the station many times, giving me a good opportunity to make out their characteristic color and markings. Once they alighted on a large flat topped rock at the water's edge where they moved about by short, quick runs reminding me of Semipalmated Plover feeding on a beach. I have never seen any other Swallows move so quickly. After drinking at a little pool of rain water which had collected in a hollow in the ledge they took wing again and resumed their regular, coursing flight. They frequently passed under the bridge by which the road from the station crosses the river to the village and when they turned sharply upward and did so for a moment among its supporting ropes which are barely feet or more above the water. Suspecting that they might have young there I went out on the bridge but I could see nothing under it. On a telephone wire stretched across the river a little above the bridge I found, however, three young Rough-wings, fully grown and feathered, clamoring loudly for food which the old birds brought to them every minute or two. I had a fine view of these young birds for they were perched in the full sunlight within ten or twelve yards of me. Probably there were one or two others of the brood under the bridge but of those I could not make sure. Two of these

Rough-winged  
Swallows

Glendale, Berkeley Co., Mass.

1906.

July 3  
(No. 2)

on the wing were facing me and showed the rich reddish brown or fulvous mottling of the throat and upper part of the breast, which are so characteristic of the young of S. serripennis, with perfect distinctness. The only sound they made was a guttural glee not unlike that of the adult Barn Swallows. Their plumage was wholly free from down and their wings and tails appeared to be of full length. Although from the fact I had entertained no doubts as to the identity of the two old birds I was glad of the opportunity which presently occurred to directly compare them with a number of adult Barn Swallows which were flying about over a shaded stretch of river just above the bridge. As the Rough-wing mingled with them for a moment the difference in size, color and mottling between the two species was very noticeable. The Rough-wing looked a third larger and very much browner than the Barn Swallow while they showed us trace of the dark fuscous color to comparison in the latter species. Their flight was also different being slower, heavier and more direct. I had them under observation for upwards of ten minutes and at times they passed me within a few yards. As I have been long familiar with the appearance of the species in life there can be no question as to the correctness of my identification of these particular birds: the young must have been out of the nest for a week or more. None of the Barn Swallows appeared to have young in the immediate neighborhood. I did not hear the adult Rough-wing utter any sound.

Carver, Mass.

1906.

July 5

Cloudy most of forenoon. Afternoon sunny. Rather cool with S. E. wind.  
Night cloudy, calm & rather warm.

I was in the woods nearly all day, at Ross' Hill in the forenoon, between there and the farm in the afternoon. Saw and heard a surprising number of small birds. They were generally distributed and numerous in flocks. Most of them were singing freely and very few were accompanied by young.

I was surprised to hear so much good singing so late in the season. A Starbuck sang through the entire forenoon in the woods across the river from the cabin, and a Dove was singing there at intervals. About 8 a. m. a Nuthatch gave the fall song with force upon ever. Robins, Red-eyes, Oven birds, Song Sparrows, Pine Woodpecker, Black-throated Green Woodpecker & Swamp Sparrows were singing all day long. At evening there was a fine concert of Veeries in Balls Hill & Davis Swamp. I have not heard these birds sing so freely before this year. Thrushes sang & early from this year almost wholly silent everywhere and at all hours. A Quail whistled all the forenoon on the West Marlford side of the river and about eight o'clock this evening a Woodchuck sang there for several minutes. Later in the night I awoke to hear him very near the cabin on Ross' Hill. I heard no Killdeer but Fielder tells me that they have been pumping freely up to within the last two or three days.

About ten o'clock to night I heard coming from the semi-flooded marsh across the river a song or cry not unlike the "Kicker's" yet differing in several respects. I noted it thus: kic-kic-guar-guar (or ker-guar-a-er). Sometimes the kic-kic notes were omitted. The tone of most of the notes was closely similar to that of the Kicker's but the guar (or guar-a-er) was different & very harsh & plaintive. This call was given only at rather long & irregular intervals varying from over to three minutes. The creature called in all was more than eight or ten hours.

Still another  
ornithological?  
anything

Concord, Mass.

1906

July 14

Clear with light, cool E. wind.

On reaching Concord this afternoon I learned from Torbush that the Red-wings had established a large roost in the meadows near Brown's Dam Road. He first noted them assembling here on July 9<sup>th</sup> when he estimated the number of birds at about 200.

A big roost  
of Red-wings  
at Brown's Dam  
Road.

I visited the roost this evening shortly after sunset in my canoe. Blackbirds, coming from the eastward in small flocks kept coming as I paddled up the reach opposite Bette's Mill. When I got to the foot of the dam I saw them settling among the water lilies, smart flecks and blue-joint (Caucy grass) that covers the little island and the low-lying strip of marsh behind it on the Barrett meadow. There was a good deal of calling (*ché-choi*) on the part of the young and of singing on that of the adult males but the total amount of noise did not indicate a very large assemblage of birds. Indeed I was quite unprepared for the clouds of them that rose with a sound of wings when that of a gale of wind blowing through pine trees when I rapped the sides of the canoe lightly with the paddle. They went off in three successive flocks each of which I feel sure contained more than 100 birds and flying low across the river settled again in the reeds about the big lagoon. For some time after this small flocks were continually coming, chiefly from the eastward. It was an easy matter to count the number of them with approximate accuracy and I noted 250 in the course of two or three fifteen minute periods. Most of them went directly to the lagoon which I suspect is the main and regular place. Assuming that there were

Concord, Mass.

1906.

July 14  
(No 2)

330 birds in the body which I floated as fast there must have been on Ball's Co. in all. There was certainly no Great Black Bird among them but I think I saw a few bunches of Cow birds. It is always difficult to distinguish them from Red wings during their wing flights except by their notes and on this occasion I heard no calls excepting those of Red wings. The evening birds passed as a rule, at a height of only thirty or forty feet, flying in the usual way, undulating somewhat and making only a light whistling sound with their wings, as they passed over the woods. But very near and then one or more which had approached the coast on an elevation of sea or was understood first shot down to it on a steep incline with a loud whistling noise smothering like that of a humming top.

Springing on down with the evening Blackbirds, but often crossing their line of flight, a flock of thirty or forty Rose Breasted Geese kept flying above over the woods and river going as far to the eastward as the head below Balls Hill and nearly to the Hill in the other direction. When they passed I know not for they were still on wing when I reached the cabin on my return although I was there too dark to see them except against the faint glow of light in the western sky. 7 o'clock tells me they have been returning to the river meadows every evening since the 9th when he thinks there were at least 150 birds in the flock.

I heard two Virginia Rails giving the big notes at intervals. Swamp Sparrows were singing in very numbers at night fall. Forbush has heard higher than formerly of Cow, but he says I have seen a Duck of any kind this year.

Some swallows  
flying to  
west.

Concord, Mass.

1906

July 15

Clear, calm oppressively warm. Light south wind at evening.

Spent the forenoon in the Birds Hill region. In P.M. walked to the farm by way of Benson's Swamp out coming via Bird Hill, Parsons' farms & Davis Hill.

Forbush tells me that he has seen an heron Ponds & Byong nearly every day the past week on the very edge of the river along the foot of Birds Hill. I started three times to day this in the forenoon and one about 7 P.M. On all three occasions they rose from the bushes at the water's edge not far from Bird gate.

As I was crossing the Bowen meadow this morning I heard two Red shouldered Hawks screaming all out continuously on the westernmost knoll of the Stockton Canal. Following up the sound I started what looked like a young or immature bird which flew off screaming. At the same moment I saw a Gray Squirrel moving about under a log within 20 feet of the bush which the Hawk had just left. This bush, a dead & leaning tree, was literally covered with horse manure & the ground beneath it was white with chocky excrement & littered with pellets. About thirty yards off was an almost continuous ring of chock manure encircling an oak about 40 ft. in height & 10 or 12 inches through at the base. In a fork of this oak perhaps 25 ft. above the ground was a nest smaller than a house (indeed smaller larger than a Green Heron's) but made chiefly of sticks & consolidated after the usual pattern of a Hawk's nest. I have never before seen anything like so much excrement under a bird's nest of any kind.



1906

July 15<sup>th</sup>  
(Wed)

As I was strolling through the pine scrub  
Bois Hill just after dawn I heard a Chickadee making  
the low, feeble zee-c-c-c peevish to this season. The bird,  
an adult in strikingly worn & faded plumage, presently  
appeared and I stopped to watch it. It approached by  
short flights and hops until it was within a twig within  
less than two feet of my face. Here balancing itself on  
the slender, drooping spray ~~with~~ remained for a moment or  
more uttering its peevish cry incessantly. At length I  
advanced my hand slowly and my forefinger was  
within an inch of the birds head when it suddenly  
took alarm & dashed off through the woods.

At evening as I was returning to Bois Hill through  
Pine Park I heard Blue Jays screaming near at hand.  
On going to the spot I found that there were no less  
a dozen of them assembled among the branches of a  
decaying pine where they were evidently intending to  
pass the night. Suddenly one of them was seized and  
bounced off through the tree tops by I know not what but  
probably by a Hawk. The unfortunate bird gave one loud  
jag, scream and then a long succession of agonized cries  
jumping gradually further & further. The murderer, whom  
he was, was closely pursued by an entire flock of Jays  
whose combined clamor was almost deafening. The poor  
stuffed in the wooded swamp behind the wood shed  
after some five minutes the jays began returning, one by  
a time. Suddenly they all began screaming again &  
assembling in a large oak. In its top I soon discovered  
a Crow sitting from branch to branch ~~attacked~~ <sup>assaulted</sup> by the  
Jays who dashed at him for safety & pelted him about with  
hills. I had a good view of ~~him~~ <sup>him</sup> ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~last~~ <sup>last</sup> ~~moment~~ <sup>moment</sup>  
in other ~~but~~ <sup>but</sup> ~~or~~ <sup>or</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~caption~~ <sup>caption</sup> of the jay.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906.  
July 16

Although I have been absent from Cambridge during most of the spring and early summer I have abundant evidence to show that no Robins roosted on our place during April, May or June. On several occasions in June I saw our breeding birds (at least the old males) fly off towards the westward just before dark. Mrs. Brewster who was here during the greater part of June assures me that no Robins came to the lilacs at evening during that month nor during July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. As she took the very evening on the back piazza her testimony to this effect is conclusive.

By a curious coincidence the birds returned to the old roost the first evening after my return, that of July 3<sup>rd</sup> when I saw about 15 Robins enter the lilacs about 8 P.M. The next evening they came in much larger numbers and I watched them until they had become settled on their perches and quite silent. On this occasion I counted 52 evening birds. After this they came every evening for a while but in smaller and very variable numbers. I counted no more counts but noted "about" 20 birds on the 9<sup>th</sup> and about 30 on the 13<sup>th</sup> when was the largest number.

On several evenings since then a larger number than ever always on about a foot up to and under the wing of the 13<sup>th</sup>. On that evening on both sides a downy paper to two on the back piazza which was brilliantly lighted. The noise, lights & light seemed to disturb the birds a good deal and once when it was nearly dark they all started off in a body but most of them quietly returned & I think they all spent the night in the lilacs. We have not seen any of them there since but our place has not been closely watched, & it is possible that a few birds come to this roost during

The Robins  
roosted in  
our garden  
bushes up  
& adjacent to  
the lilacs.

1906.  
July 16  
(182)

the following two evenings. To-night not one alighted in the glass but about 7.30 I saw several Goldfinches fly over the house from the garden. Soon after Miss Mrs. Barrett, who was in one of the front chambers, called to me that the Robins were assembling in our lindens. I at once went into my study & during the next few minutes some twenty or more birds came into the trees, chiefly into those on the western side of the glass wall. Judging by the agitation of the foliage & by the calling of the birds there would have been at least thirty or forty Robins assembled when the flight came to an end. I watched the trees until all sound and movement ceased and was satisfied that the Robins had really gone to sleep there. Most of them chose the lower branches that stretch out over the lawn. This is the first time I have ever known Robins to assemble in these lindens to roost but during former years scattered birds have occasionally taken up their abode when something has occurred to disturb them in the glass.

West Garrooth, Mass.

1906

July 26

On July 14<sup>th</sup> Capt Miss Beetha M. Saltmarsh and Miss Helen Farnsworth found five Flicker's eggs lying together in a hollow in the ground not far from West Garrooth. These ladies, who are friends of Will & Abin Stone, are passing the summer in a cranberry house near the shore of a creek opposite Great Island. A straggling settlement of cheap cottages and a small hotel have been recently built here. From this settlement a wide road has been cut within a few years, apparently, through the woods to Hyannis (I believe). ~~The egg~~ It is used only in summer when the hotel and cottages are open and then but seldom. The egg was found about quarter of a mile from the settlement where the road is bordered on both sides by dense woods of young pitch pines. The ladies took two of them on the 14<sup>th</sup> and showed the rest to Will Stone on the 15<sup>th</sup> when the morning after were taken. No bird was seen on either occasion nor could Will Stone detect any tracks of man, beast or bird about the spot where he wanted it. A Flicker's nest with young was often found, however, in a hollow tree trunk not far from the place. Will Stone showed me two of the egg when I reached his home at South Garrooth on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> after he had shown me down over to West Garrooth this morning & calling on the cranberry house got Miss Saltmarsh who pointed us to the spot where the egg had been found. It was a level exposure of dry yellowish sand mixed with gravel and perfectly bare of vegetation over a space of several square rods beyond which were tufts of grass & weeds growing in slightly richer soil. Near

Set of 5  
Flicker's  
egg found  
on the  
ground in  
a sandy  
hollow.

West Gormanston, Mass.

1906

July 26  
(No 2)

The middle of the open space was a saucer-shaped hollow which I found measured  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches across by 3 inches in depth at the deepest place. This was the center of the hollow to which the bottom sloped evenly from every side and at which lay the five eggs when the nest (?) was first found. The great width of the hollow makes it seem improbable that it could have been designed to serve as a nest of a bird no larger than a Flicker but it had every appearance of having been scooped out by some bird or beast. It was almost perfectly round and also symmetrical and the sandy soil was heaped up around the edge in a slight but obvious rim. There were no other hollows of any kind on the sandy flat, which lay between the slightly marked wheel track and the barberry fence. The nest (?) was about five feet from the mouse hole. Will Stone gave me his two eggs and the robin one of those that they had taken. When I blew them the openings (not August 2) I found that they were added and that the contents, although liquid, filled seven eighths of the shell of each. The shells of two of the eggs were discolored by blackish stains but the third egg was not thus disfigured. These conditions lead me to conclude that the eggs may have been laid a month or more ago and perhaps as early as the middle of May. Two theories occur to me (1) that a Flicker having had his nest in a tree or house destroyed just as she was about to begin laying hurriedly scooped a hollow in the sand & deposited her eggs there, soon afterwards departing (2) that some boy took the eggs from a tree and arranged them in a bogus nest which he made by the roadside hoping thereby to deceive some comrade of chance passer by.

1906.

August 18

Clear, calm, hot.

Came to Concord this morning & drove down to Bass Hill reaching there about 11 a.m. In the late afternoon I was in the woods behind the hill a Cat bird, a Black & White Creeper (singing freely & brokenly) and a Redstart. Flocks of Bobolinks were passing very few minutes. Two Kingbirds. A flock of 13 Cedar Birds flying over the swamp.

After supper I paddled up to Stone Dam Boggs. It was calm and warm with a brilliant sunset, the sky flecked with wavy clouds. Red wings were flying about in small parties and going to roost in the beds of flattened wood. Something alarmed them finally when they rose from different places and flew off unisonally. A flock of 14 Barn Swallows passed & expressed some many times. I heard them calling after it was too dark to see them. Neither Towhees nor I has them for some time when they roost. They are less numerous now than they were a week or two ago. Two Swamp Sparrows were in full song & I heard a Maryland Yellow throat give the flight song twice. A Bittern rose from the marsh in silence & flew off flapping almost as rapidly as a Duck. Two Sora Rails were calling near me at intervals. One of them made a peeping sound not unlike a Hyla & then changed to a toc, toc, toc note which I mistook at first for the distant humming of a Bittern. As twilight was passing into night a Night Hawk seemed close past me & a Whippoorwill gave five repetitions of its long note as the last Redstart shone.

Concord, Mass.

1906.

Aug. 19

Clear & intensely hot with light S.W. wind.

A rather large mixed flock, composed chiefly of Waxwings, spent the day on Ball's Hill ranging along its entire length and chiefly frequenting the trees at its base on the banks of the river. They appeared near the cabin about 10 a.m. and descending to the better bushes outside the outer line of aspen bathed by dozens in the shallow water among the stems of these bushes. While thus engaged and a little later when I attracted them close about me by "sweeping" I had good opportunities for counting or closely estimating the numbers of the flock. It contained 4 or 5 Chickadees, 3 or 4 Red-eyed Vireos, 4 or 5 Black & White Creepers, at least three Nashville Warblers, a beautiful ♂ Golden-wing with full black throat and other markings of the autumnal plumage, 4 or 5 Black-throated Green Warblers, 5 Chestnut-sided Warblers, a pair of Black-burnians (both apparently young but in full autumnal plumage) and a ♀ or young ♂ Redstart. None of these birds were seen about the hill yesterday nor could I find a single small bird of any kind elsewhere to-day as I went in the woods which I examined rather carefully on my way to the farm in the afternoon. Mr. Forbush, who has been spending the summer at Ball's Hill, tells me that this is the first flock of Waxwings of any size that he has seen there. I have little doubt that they come from farther north although all of them belonged to species that breed in my woods. Shortly after dark this evening and late into the night I heard Warblers calling in the air overhead but the flight was not a heavy one, apparently.

Concord, Mass.

1906.

Aug. 19  
(No 2)

The Benson family tell me that a small Hawk (probably a Sharp-shinned) appeared in one of the elms that shade their house on the other side (I think on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>) and soon afterwards flew from the tree carrying a nest in its talons. This it dropped not far off and within the nest were three young birds, dying or dead, on the ground. Furbush, who saw them afterwards, tells me that they were young Chipping Sparrows. I think that a pair of Sharp-shins reared their brood this year in the pine woods at the northern extremity of the Green Field & that the young are still lingering near at hand. I found what I took to be the nest last May but did not visit it.

A small  
Hawk  
carries a  
Chippy's nest

Cooper's Hawks were apparently absent from our woods during May & June although I saw them frequently about the farm in April. A week ago to-day (this is on August 12<sup>th</sup>) I was passing the southern end of Green Field when a shrill, squeaking cree-cree cree-cree-cree attracted my attention. I recognized it as one of the cry of a Hawk but of what particular species I was in some doubt until I saw a Cooper's Hawk fly from the woods and plunge down in the sweet grass near the middle of the field. A minute or two later it flew back to the edge of the woods where it alighted on a fence post and above I soon discovered another Hawk of the same kind perched on a neighboring post. Both were evidently young birds. They flapped their wings & squeaked every few minutes. Benson tells me that he has seen three of them together in the field lately.

Young Cooper's  
Hawks.  
Their cries



Concord, Mass.

1906

Aug. 25

Brilliantly clear with light E. wind. Very cool at morning & evening but warm in middle of day.

About 200 Swallows appeared at Ball's Hill this evening shortly after sunset. Judging by their voices all were Barn Swallows. For a time they skimmed back and forth low over the river and its bordering woods but they all kept close together and were evidently not feeding. Instead they behaved not unlike a large flock of Peeps turning & wheeling abruptly as if at a signal given by some accepted leader, when pursuing a direct course, moving very simply. At length they rose in a broad spiral sweep to a height of two or three hundred feet and started off in a southerly direction looking like an immense mass of fluff against the bright light in the western sky. For sometime after they had become lost to sight in the distance I could still hear their voices but these finally became inaudible. Five minutes later a small portion of the flock - certainly not more than fifty birds - returned and swept down to the river where we saw or heard them flying about until it was nearly dark. What became of the remaining birds I cannot say. It certainly looked as if they departed on migration but it may have been a false start like the one I witnessed at Hurdsguy a few years ago. But even if there were no other birds false starts indicate that the real one is made at evening & that the birds migrate by night?

Barn Swallow  
start on  
migrations?  
at evening

Concord, Mass.

1906.

Sept. 5

Brilliantly clear & pleasantly cool with light easterly to westerly wind.

About 8 a.m. a large flock of Chimney Swifts which I think were without doubt migrants from former years appeared over Stearns meadow flying at a considerable height and in every direction evidently hunting for insects. There were just fifty birds in the flock. Soon after I discovered them a breeze easterly wind started and the Swifts drifted before it towards the westward. I did not see them again but at evening a large flock of six passed Ross Hill flying towards the east.

Large flock  
of migrating  
Swifts

A flock of about 125 Swallows appeared over the river opposite the Coburn Hotel after sunset and flew back & forth in a nervous, excited & apparently anxious way until nearly dark. I think they were to have not far off. Judging by their notes the majority were Barn Swallows but I heard the unmistakable flight calls of Barn Swallows many times & those of Tree Swallows more than once.

Mixed flock  
of Swallows

H. W. Henshaw & I had a fine opportunity to watch a ♀ Cape May Warbler this forenoon. We found it in Birch Field about 10 o'clock and had it under observation, usually at close range, for 15 or 20 minutes. It was in low gray birches feeding busily (apparently on the greenish birch *Aphis*) in company with a Black-hall Warbler & a Black & White Creeper. The Cape May was very tame & sluggish paying little or no heed to our near presence & spending minutes at a time on the same branch picking off *Aphides* from the leaves & twigs in a deliberate leisurely way. It was in full fresh autumn plumage. The fine brownish streaking of the breast was conspicuous & we saw the greenish yellow of the wing clearly. I doubt the bird was absolutely identified by us.

Cape May  
Warbler.

1906.

Sept 9

Brilliantly clear and delightfully warm with light,  
dry west wind.

A bird wave of unusual magnitude rolled down  
from the north last night. It is interesting that it  
should have come during the warmest night of a  
warm stormless week and that the birds should have  
all passed on after but a single day of rest. That  
they did this seems to me nearly certain for the  
air was evidently filled with them from shortly  
after dark this evening until about 9:30 P.M. After  
that their chirping became less and less frequent  
and when I went to bed at 11 P.M. it had  
almost wholly ceased. Mr. Fireback who slept in  
the open air tells me that he woke at 2 a.m.  
with moaning & coughing for some time without hearing  
a single call. The bulk of the flight lasted only  
about two hours, or from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

During the day the woods and thickets were  
alive with warblers most of which were Black-jacks.  
Of these there were about 25 on Ball's Hill and  
not less than fifty in Birch Field. In the latter  
place H. W. Hudson & I found among the Black-jacks  
one Orange-crowned Warbler, a Bay-Breast, 3 or 4  
Black-throated Greens, & a Redstart. At Ball's Hill  
I noted a Nashville Warbler, a Connecticut Warbler  
& a Seaside Redstart.

The Bay-Breast seen in Birch Field was  
an adult ♂ in autumn plumage. It showed traces  
of the black head markings and a broad buff  
strip of chestnut along each side.

1906

Sept 9.  
(No 2)

The Orange crowned Warbler was a highly colored one exceptionally yellow beneath. However and I had it under close observation for a minute or two at distances varying from eight to ten yards. It was in low gray birches. Its movements were very active but it did not seem to be one with any especially nervous. Several black-fells were feeding with or very near it. It uttered no sound that I heard.

Orange crowned  
Warbler

The Connecticut Warbler was among dense young white pines on the gentle slope of Balls Hill & this a few yards of our wood shed. I think it climbed up from the ground at my approach but when I first saw it and for ten or twelve minutes afterwards it was among the lower (chiefly dead) branches of the pines. Here it hopped from twig to twig keeping absorbed as much as possible behind the stems of the trees and clusters of their foliage but craving it well to keep out of my view. I stood still for a minute. It was a trim, sleek bird but rather ungraceful of movement hopping rather heavily & clumsily as if used at home among the branches and lifting its tail much after the manner of a Maryland Yellowthroat but more slowly & with less vigor. I saw every detail of its characteristic coloring including the buffy white eye ring, with perfect distinctness. This is the first Connecticut Warbler that I have ever seen on Balls Hill.

Connecticut  
Warbler.

It was apart from all other birds & it was as hard when I was watching it. It was tame & evidently very anxious to walk out from what I was:

1906.  
Sept. 9  
(No 3)

Whippoorwill

A Whippoorwill which has spent the winter in the woods just across the river from Rocky Hill is still there and of late has been singing about as freely and quite as vigorously & well as he did in June. On the evening of September 6<sup>th</sup> he was in full song for fifteen minutes during which he over gave 157 repetitions of his notes without stopping for breath. This evening I counted 48 repetitions of his cry without pause. At day break on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> and at ten down town on the following morning this or another Whippoorwill fluttered several times about a head net which was suspended over a bed in the open air in front of the wood shed on Pine Hill when Mr. Forbush had spent the night. Mr. Forbush thinks the bird was picking off mosquitoes that were bossing about the net. He heard it buzz or click its bill repeatedly and felt the fanning of its wings against his face. He also heard it creak as it struggled with one another thread on the ground near his bed. He comes to the net several times on each occasion and after it had gone usually all the mosquitoes were gone also. He thinks it springs up from the ground to flutter about the net but on each occasion he was lying in such a position that he could not see it distinctly in the dim light.

1906.

Sept. 10.

Brilliantly clear with cool E. wind.

There were only a few Warblers about. Boss's Hill to-day but H. W. Henshaw found swarms of fifty in Birch Field. Most of them were Black-poll Gnat among them he saw an Orange-crowned Warbler and a Black-throated Bluebird. The Orange-crown was very tame and Mr. Henshaw stood within ten or twelve feet of it for about five minutes watching it as it appeared the foliage of a low grey birch.

Another  
Orange-crowned  
Warbler

As H. W. Henshaw and I were out in the evening canoe about 4 o'clock this afternoon we saw three Wood Ducks. They came from Great Meadows and crossed the river near the little cagoon where the Blackbirds congregate, flying rather slowly at a height of about 60 feet and passing us within about 100 yds, finally disappearing beyond the trees that crown the western slope of Boss's Hill. As they were to the eastward of us the sunlight brought out all the details <sup>the</sup> of coloring with great distinctness. Two of the birds were drakes just beginning to assume the full plumage. The third bird was large enough for a male (its size was quite equal to those of the other two) but it was colored like a female. I think that it may have been a young drake and that the other two were probably old drakes passing from the "eclipse" plumage into the nuptial (i.e. full autumn) plumage. It seemed good to see Wood Ducks on Concord River again.

Wood Ducks

1906

Sept. 12

Forenoon cloudy; most of afternoon clear, very warm & pretty all day.  
Wind S.W.

Yesterday was an off day for birds. We saw very few of them anywhere. Evidently the heavy flocks of the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> passed quickly on. Another & rather considerable wave arrived last night. It was composed almost wholly of Black-bills. We saw or heard them nearly everywhere. In the morning they came scattered & extensively restless. We repeatedly saw them rise high in air and fly off over the woods towards the south as if starting on migration. Migrants of other kinds were noted moving south. About 9 a.m. three Chipping Swifts & a House Wren passed over the farm house with a dozen or more Black-bills following after them.

Just before noon as H. W. Henshaw & I were standing in the garden at the rear of the farm house we heard twice, at first rather faintly but the second time loud & clear, and apparently coming from directly overhead, the unmistakable flight call of a Golden Plover - the double, rolling note, falter in tone yet distinctly musical or, at best, very pleasing to the ear, especially of an old specimen. It may be written *crice*. The bird seemed to be flying ~~downward~~ & at a great height but we could not see it. The sky was filled with low-hanging billowy clouds at the time.

In the early afternoon we found about fifty Warblers among the gray birches in Birch Field. All that we identified save two were Black-bills. One of the exceptions was a Chestnut-sided Warbler, the other an Olive Warbler.





1906.

Oct. 4

Brilliantly clear with light S. E. wind. Very warm for October.

As I was passing through the old lane at the farm late this afternoon I came upon a flock of a dozen or more White-throated Sparrows. They were eating Concord grapes in a vine that fastens a large wild cherry tree. I watched them for ten or fifteen minutes and saw them peck into the grapes and dig out and swallow the pulp. A considerable percentage of the grapes (cutting on teeth) had been mutilated or destroyed in whole by these Sparrows.

White-throated  
Sparrows  
eating grapes.

Among the White-throated Sparrows just mentioned was a Scarlet Tanager undoubtedly (or nearly adult) or male showing no red but having many jet black feathers among the wing coverts. He also was eating grapes. I saw him take two from a bunch by fluttering beneath them (or rather by making a fluttering flight upward) and seizing them in his bill. The first one gave him much trouble because of its large size. After separating the pulp from the skin he seemed unable to secure either part & finally dropped both. With the second he was more successful swallowing the entire pulp at a gulp & discarding the skin. His bill dripping with the juice glistened in the sunlight.

Scarlet Tanager  
eating grapes.

(A similarly colored bird (no doubt the same individual) was in the same place on the morning of October 9)

Birds have been very numerous here the past few days. I saw nearly 100 Black-poll Warblers on September 30 and about 50 on October 2.

About 8 a. m. on September 30 Forbush & I heard the flight call of a Golden Plover a dozen times or more at brief intervals, finally dying away in the distance.

Golden  
Plover.

The bird was apparently flying S. W. It passed very near Balls Hill. Forbush is confident he heard the same call again about 2 P. M.

1906

Oct. 7

Brilliantly clear with cold & very strong N.W. wind.

Birds appeared to be comparatively scarce yesterday and I saw still fewer to-day. The flight of Black-birds is evidently nearly over. They have been especially abundant this autumn.

As I was standing in the clover yard at the farm about sunset a White-breasted Nuthatch flew into the clover at the east end of the shed and immediately entered a hole in the under side of a dent board which was used as a sleeping chamber by a Downy Woodpecker early last spring. That the Nuthatch spent the night there on the present occasion I do not doubt.

It entered the hole very quickly as if in the habit of frequenting it.

While on my way back to Ross's Hill I had an interesting experience with a Fox. I was walking rapidly along the wooded road that leads from the brick house to Brown's when I heard an outbreak of loud, shrill squalls very near at hand. They seemed to come from the position on my right but although the ground beyond the wall that bordered the road was perfectly open grassy ground I could see nothing there at first. Indeed the outbreak had been there several before I made out, through the thin screen of bushes that lined the wood the form of a remarkably large & exceedingly gaunt Fox, crouching in the short upland grass near a large bush & seeing the yards from me. The next instant he sprang high into the air & as he descended thrust his sharp nose into a hole in the turf. Just as he did so the Squawking Horns again came to my ears. He then drew back a few feet & thrust his head away from the hole. These manuevers were repeated several times. Finally as he drew his head out

1906.

60.7

(122)

of the hole he shook it violently as a dog does when  
swaying a rat but I could not see that he had any thing in  
his teeth. Immediately after this he walked to the top of the  
boulder and sat down on his haunches then looking off over  
the open country to the south as if observing the wind.  
Then he turned and came trotting away like a wild dog  
towards a low way that opened into the lane or road  
where I was standing. As he came out into the road he  
was within ten yards of me. Although I remained perfectly  
motionless he at once saw or smelt me and turning  
swiftly off up the road, making a succession of long,  
light bounds. Finally he jumped over the stone wall on  
my left & disappeared in the oak woods. His fur was  
of a brownish yellow color & seemingly thin & shaggy. Even  
his brush looked worn & faded. I have never seen so  
large & game a fox. What he was doing in this  
position I do not certainly know. As the light was fading  
(it was now half an hour after sunset) I did not go  
to the place where he was jumping about but I should  
opinion it closely to suspect. He would have had  
either a mouse or a shrew probably in his paw. I doubt  
if he ate it. I could see his nose rather plainly when  
he raised his head upon the final thole & nothing  
showed in his jaws. The preliminary jumps & bounded  
was I took to be played in character. They were  
very like those practiced by our Irish terrier, "Boy," when  
he is chasing a mouse or rat that is cut off from  
its hole & unable to escape.

(Visiting the scene of this incident next morning I found on the  
top of the large boulder where the fox sat down a short-tailed shrew  
(Blarina brevicauda). It was a fully mature specimen in perfect health. It  
bore no external marks of injury but the skull had been crushed & there  
was a little dried blood about the mouth & nostrils.)

1906

Oct. 8

Brilliantly clear with light N.W. wind changing to S.W. in late P.M. Very cool last night but without frost. Therm.  $34^{\circ}$  at the farm at daybreak this morning.

The maple foliage in the swamps and along the borders of the pine woods looked what I take to be its maximum brilliance to-day. It has turned very suddenly & also very late this year.

The country was alive with birds this morning, a heavy flight evidently having arrived during last night. At 8 a.m. we had seen about the cabin several Chickadees, 3 or 4 Golden-Owls, 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 4 or 5 Black-locks, 2 or 3 Yellow-rumps, a Red-eyed Vireo, 3 Hermit Thrushes, a Swainson's Thrush, a Purple Finch, 3 Goldfinches, a Pine Warbler, a Solitary Tanager, 3 or 4 Blue Jays & several Cross-Bills, Titmice & a C. Wren who had not yet left. A Canada Warbler was noted later in the day.

At the farm I saw most of these species & in addition a Sharp-shin, Peewee Birds were numerous everywhere I went. I saw at least a dozen Black-locks during the day. As I was following the road that leads from the house to the school house I started two Doves from the ground among some bushes.

As I was watching two Hermit Thrushes early this morning one of them flew into the open door of our store shed (the "horse shed," so-called). It remained inside this bird trap for fully a minute. Later in the day Mr. Fortson saw a Hermit fly out of this bird trap.

One of the Ruby-crowns seen near the cabin this morning sang almost continuously for fifteen or twenty minutes & nearly if not quite as well as in spring. This happened about 8 o'clock. At the same time a Solitary Tanager & a Pine Warbler were singing near at hand but in rather broken & lost tone.

1906.

Oct. 12

Brilliantly clear with light N.W. wind. Heavy white frost at day break. Middle of day pleasantly warm

There were many small birds to-day, scattered about singly or in small flocks. White-throated Sparrows were perhaps the most numerous of the northern migrants.

Black-jack Woodpeckers are diminishing fast. I saw only about half a dozen. One of them in low odds near Tim Pohl was feeding in company with an House Wren. Saw a Catbird near the cabin and heard a Maryland Yellow-throat at the farm near the pond in our berry pasture.

Stated five Canada Doves this morning among some dead young trees on the borders of a woody field near the road that leads from Bureau's to the school house & saw them near at evening flying into the oak woods at the rear of Bureau's house.

As I was standing on the edge of the birch in front of the cabin, about half an hour after sunset, an Owl which I took to be a Short-eared appeared high in air over Ball's Hill, flying southward. As it passed over the river and the Bowling marsh on the Bedford side it moved on a wavy level plane, alternately flapping and sailing, inclining first to one side & then to the other as if uncertain of its course. After crossing the belt of woods beyond the meadow it made a great circle and then descended rather steeply apparently to the meadow lying to the southwest of the dry wooded ground. This bird was certainly either a Short-eared or a Long-eared Owl. Its erratic flight & the fact that it was evidently attracted by the grassy marshes led me to conclude that it was probably a Short-eared.

Short (?)  
could Oct.  
seen at  
evening.

1906

Oct. 14

Brilliantly clear with light S. wind. Ther. 24° yesterday morning, 28° this morning. On both mornings the entire face of nature was white with hoar frost. The flowers were nearly all killed yesterday and most of the leaf-worms have cast their leaves. At sunrise yesterday I watched them of a tree at Balls Hill falling one after another, carelessly, for half an hour. There was not a breath of wind at the time.

Early yesterday morning as I was looking off over the frost-covered meadows and admiring their silvery sheen the thought occurred to me that it was just the right time to go to hear the first Snow Bunting. A moment later the clear whistled call of one of these birds came to my ear from the blue dome above. I heard the sound several times and growing fainter in the distance towards the south-west.

I heard Red Crossbills yesterday morning in two places and this morning the calls of what must have been a large flock were heard by 7 o'clock & on at Balls Hill.

As I was passing across the river early this forenoon a Sharp-shinned Hawk appeared over Balls Hill soaring in nervous circles high in air. As I watched it five Titlarks made what seemed to be a timid, half-hearted attempt to mob it. They darted about & around it in erratic courses at times passing apparently within a yard or so of it. The little Hawk paid not the slightest attention to them but continued to swing around and around in the blue sky on set wings.

1906  
Oct. 21

Cloudy with strong, cold N. E. wind.

As I was watching a number of juncos  
flitting about among some low bushes by the roadside  
one of them sang a downy trill or note giving the  
first trill in low almost whispering tone and after  
several of the interpolated chirps & melodious liquid  
notes used in early spring. If I am not mistaken  
in my recollection this is the first time I have  
ever heard a junco sing in autumn. It happened  
about three o'clock in the forenoon.

Juncos sing  
in autumn

" 25

Forenoon cloudy with S. E. wind and frequent heavy  
showers; afternoon sunny with light W. wind. Very warm all day.

About half an hour before sunrise this morning Gilbert  
discovered and pointed out to me a large Skunk that  
was busily engaged in feeding in the field across the road.  
From my bed room window with the aid of a good glass  
I watched it for fifteen or twenty minutes. During this  
time it did not cover a larger space than that of a  
small room although it was almost constantly in slow  
motion walking (or rather crawling) back & forth over the smooth,  
grassy surface into which it frequently thrust its nose although  
I did not see it dig nor could I find on subsequent  
inspection of the ground any of the loose pit-like holes so  
often seen when skunks have been at work. I concluded  
therefore that this skunk was probably searching for & picking  
up beetles or grasshopper locusts attempting to dig for them.  
It had much white in its tail and a broad white  
blaze on the forehead but elsewhere it appeared to

1906

Oct. 25

(no 2)

be uniformly black. Both colors made it exceedingly conspicuous out in the broad green field. When, at length, it was disturbed by the distant rattle of a wagon approaching along the road (but still an eighth of a mile away) I was surprised to see it start off at a brisk trot which soon changed to a really fast and very easy gallop (certainly fast enough to put a man to his top speed to keep up with it) which quickly carried it out of sight into the brush swamp beyond the field. I soon first to lost its fine, long, fan-like tail was not once raised above, nor even to, the line of the animal's back nor was it jerked about or up & down perceptibly. On the contrary, both when walking slowly and trotting or galloping rapidly, this skunk seemed to smoothly trail its tail behind it over the ground as if the appendage were securely fastened to its stem and had no other means of support. This fact was the more remarkable because of the fact that the grass was very wet at the time.



1906.

October 29

Clear & cool with strong N. W. wind.

While waiting for the train at the West Bedford Station this morning I noted a flock of six White-winged Crossbills, the first I have seen here since November, 1903. They were on wing, flying over the open fields, and they passed within forty yards of me. I heard one or more of them utter repeatedly both flight calls the peenk note and the dry, woody chirp which so closely resembles that of the Lesser Redpoll. I would believe that similar sounds which I heard only very faintly, yesterday morning, in Passaic park and which I suspected at the time to come from White-winged Crossbills were really made by that species. However that may be there is no question whatever as to the identification of the birds seen to-day.

As I was returning to the farm house this evening from the river I passed through Birch Field. It was past six o'clock and all the lights had faded from the west but in the east a newly full moon shone at intervals through rents in the curtain of dark clouds that newly filled the sky. Earlier in the day they had brought much wind but at this hour only a faint breeze stirred in the tops of the wooded bridges. I had stopped to admire the whiteness of their flanks in the moonlight when a Saw-whet Owl called about a hundred yards off. I imitated its double whistle (hee-hee) & the next moment I distinctly heard its wings flutter in a pitch pine within 30 yards of me. Soon after this the bird called again but I could not see it. Several minutes elapsed and again the whistle sounded but the bird had moved farther off. I held it close after this but I followed the sound on again (since the bird gave four whistles (hee-hee-hee-hee) & over them, but

1906

Oct. 29

(No 2)

usually then over his toes. The note although whistle-like in character and easily imitated by the human whistle, has a frequency deep and also somewhat resonant quality with notes it decidedly impressive when heard under conditions such as those which I have just described. It is very loud at times and really startling in its intensity. One evening the bird followed it (that is the double whistle) by a low chattering sound which I do not remember ever hearing a Saw-whet utter before. It was quite evident that the bird heard on this occasion was moving rather restlessly from place to place. It called about once every two or three minutes and never more than once (I thought) in the same spot. When it moved its position it ordinarily went only thirty or forty yards before alighting again. All this I could tell by the evidence of my ears alone for I did not ever see the bird.

1906.

Oct. 30

Cloudy with light rain in afternoon. Forenoon calm & mild.

As I stepped out of doors about seven o'clock this evening I saw upwards of twenty Robins fly from the island. They rose all together like a flock of Blackbirds and after mounting high into the air made off due south. I watched them until they passed beyond my range of vision but they did not change their course in the slightest. This fact with the height at which they flew and the compact body which they formed led me to conclude that they were actually shooting on migration.

A large migratory flock of Crows appeared at Ball's Hill about 8.30 a.m. coming from the north-east and settling in the meadows opposite the cabin where they fairly blacked the surface of the marshy ground. Here they remained for a few minutes moving actively about apparently in search of a breakfast. I wondered what food could be found in such a place in sufficient abundance to satisfy the needs of such a number. When they left the marsh they alighted in the trees that skirt its southern margin where they carried out vigorously making a great clamor. They were in light columns about twenty minutes. I did not see where they finally went.

1906  
Nov. 26

The past autumn has been remarkable for the large number and variety of irregular bird visitors from further north. The following species have occurred.

Pine Siskin. At Concord, Mass. I noted Siskin's first on October 2. During the remainder of that month they were seen or heard almost daily sometimes in immense flocks. On October 21 I counted ninety or more birds feeding together in the top of a young birch in Bird Field. Most of the birds seen were in or near these birches, which were abundantly luffed with seed cones. Pine Siskins were reported from many other places in S. Massachusetts during October & November. Indeed the flight was evidently widespread & very heavy.

Lesser Redpoll. - A single bird was seen by Bradford Torrey in October at Nahant. A few others have been since reported. I have seen none as yet.

Pine Grosbeak. Under date of Portland, Connecticut, Nov. 3, 1906, Jon H. Sage writes me "Pine Grosbeaks here today. He afterwards told me that a flock of eight birds (all young ones) were met with & one or two of them killed."

Red Crossbill. - Noted by me at Concord, Mass., on October 13, 14, 15 & 22 on or more birds being heard on each of these dates. There were other reports for eastern Mass. but not many of them. Walter Dean saw a single ♂ in red plumage in Fresh Pond, Lynn, Cambridge on Nov. 24. It was with a number of White-wings.

1906

Nov. 26

(cont.)

White-winged Crossbill. On October 29 I saw a flock of six white-winged crossbills flying over the farm fields near the railroad station at West Bedford, Mass.

On November 1 I saw six more (a single bird and five birds together) in Concord. During the first week of November crossbills of this species were noted on many sunny places in eastern Mass. They are still here in numbers I am told. Walter Dean saw about twenty five only yesterday, in Fresh Pond Green.

During the A. O. C. meeting at Washington (I think on November 16) Mr. Fleming of Toronto had a single white-winged crossbill in the Argemone grounds. Some of the members of the Union told me the species had been noted on the upper Massachusetts valley, as well as in West England.

Red-bellied Nuthatch:— A moderate flight at Concord where I noted the first bird on September 4, & where the species was present in small numbers through October. Walter Dean tells me he saw a bird in Fresh Pond Green on November 26.

Snowy Owl. On Nov. 7 I saw in the flock in the shop of Walter D. Hinds at Portland, Me. two snowy owls in the flock that had been killed only a day or two previously near that city, as I was told. One of them was the whitest bird I have ever seen taken in the east. Mr. Fleming of Toronto tells me a week later that a good flight had reached that part of Canada just before he left there to attend the A. O. C. meeting. None of the birds which had been killed were exceptionally white, he said.

1906

Nov. 26  
(No 3)

(Sunday Owl) J. H. Sage writes me from Portland, Maine, under date of November 21, 1906 "A Sunday Owl was shot in this vicinity yesterday and brought to me. It had been seen for nearly a week."

Hawk Owl. When at Portland Me., on Nov. 7 I saw a mounted Hawk Owl which had been taken only a short time before December in Maine. James (son of Hinde's taxidermist) who showed it to me said that he had heard of others & thought there had been a rather extensive flight into Maine.

God-bowls. When in Portland, Me., on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> I saw through a number of God-bowls which had been taken in Maine within the last week or two and mounted at W. D. Hinde's establishment. Most of them were young birds. Writing from Providence R. I. on November 9<sup>th</sup> Angell & Cook say "We are receiving a remarkable number of adult God-bowls 90% of whom have parts of Ruffed Grouse in stomach or crop. Grouse are very plentiful here this season which may account for the presence of so many God-bowls."

Concord, Mass.

1906.

Nov. 27

Cloudy with a fine drizzle of rain. Forenoon calm; a raw N. E. wind in afternoon.

To Concord by 8.34 a. m. train. Drove directly to the farm and spent most of the day in the house, but got into the woods twice. About noon I went down into the Beaver Run where I found a little flock of wintering birds comprising 6 Chickadees, a Brown Creeper, 2 Golden-Creets and two White breasted Nuthatches. Another quite apparently different flock, which I saw later in the afternoon in Peppier Rock woods, contained 4 or 5 Chickadees, 2 Golden-creets and a single White breasted Nuthatch. Still another flock composed wholly of Chickadees frequented the trees about the house during most of the day. Soon after dinner I heard near the house a 7.5 inch calling and saw a flock of 4 Lesser Redpolls flying over the field towards the Beaver Run uttering their flight calls.

During the afternoon walk I started 4 Partridge together in the woods near the Beaver Spring and a single bird from some brook on the hillside just below the old barn. This is a greater number than I often if ever, saw in a day last October & I think that this must have been a decided increase in the numbers of the birds in our woods since I left Concord.

When I reached the farm this morning I found a dozen or more English Sparrows collected in the big forgetful bush in front of the house. These birds have increased very considerably in this neighborhood during the past year probably because of the fact that I began raising chickens last Spring and have now a flock of fifty or more which are full out of corn.

As I was returning from the Riekin place this morn a Short-tailed Shrew attempted to cross the public road about 20 yds in advance of me. On reaching the middle of the road it stopped, & then ran swiftly back into the bushes. Apparently it saw me despite its almost microscopic eyes. I was walking almost as usual at the time

Concord, Mass.

1906

Nov. 27  
(No. 2)

When I visited the farm to-day Mr. Jones told me that Henry Lawrence shot a Long Hawk last Saturday (November 24) and that it fell in our poultry yard. I went to the barns, after dinner and was shown the bird which had been thrown into a wagon in the barn on top of a load of corn fodder. As I had suspected myself from the way it was a Goshawk, a fine female in fully adult plumage. I bought it for fifty cents and brought it home to be mounted by Nelson. Henry Lawrence gave me the following account of the circumstances attending its capture: About noon he heard a great outcry from the poultry which were scattered along the road leading past the house. The next instant he saw that a Long Hawk had seized a fine green rooster which he was vainly attempting to carry off. Lawrence rushed into the house for his gun and returning to the road found the Hawk in the same place standing on the ground, close to a stone wall, watching the rooster who lay on his belly motionless but with his head raised and evidently still alive. As the two birds were only a foot or two apart Lawrence hesitated about firing lest he might injure his rooster. He kept moving nearer under cover of the wall until he was close to the Hawk when he shot at its head but missed. At the report the Hawk rose and Lawrence fired again wounding the bird so badly that it flew only about one hundred yards dropping dead in our poultry yard, as I have told. Lawrence tells me that he shot a Goshawk seven years ago on one of the farms half a mile or so up the road when it was chasing down hens. It was very fearless paying no attention to him as he bravely approached it in an open field. The rooster seized by the bird which he killed last Saturday is not only still alive but apparently fast recovering from its injuries. I visited the spot where the Hawk caught it and found the ground thickly strewn with its feathers. It was a gray & white bird of the Plymouth Rock kind.



Measurements of the Goshawk shot in Concord, Mass. by

Henry Lawrence, November 24, 1906. Taken by Walter Deane, Nov. 23, 1906.

Weight - - - - - 38 1/2 oz.  
Length - - - - - 25 inches  
Wing - - - - - 14 "  
Stretch of wing - - - - - 45 "  
Tarsus and toes - - - - - greenish-yellow  
Iris - - - - - dull yellow.  
Pupil - - - - - blue  
Tail - - - - - 12 inches

1906.  
Nov. 30

Cambridge, Mass.

Partly cloudy with fresh westerly winds. Rather cold.

On reaching the Museum this morning I was shown a living Woodcock which Charles E. Benson our game warden had captured in our clothes yard an hour or two before. This bird, a fine large female in perfect plumage and condition, must have struck against our telegraph wire (which is stretched above the yard at a height of about twenty feet) while attempting to pass over or perhaps to alight in, the garden, during the night or possibly at daybreak. It had scraped itself in the usual manner all the feathers and more of the skin having been scraped off the skull over a space about a quarter of an inch in width by rather more than an inch in length extending somewhat obliquely across the top of the head from just above the left eye to a point above but about half an inch behind the right eye. As in the case of the scalped Woodcock which was brought to me from Gage woods by a boy in April 1900 the injury just described appeared to have affected only the wings for the bird caught by Benson this morning, although unable to fly, ran about very actively later before and after capture and seemed to be in excellent health and spirits. It was placed at first in an old bird cage where it thrashed to and fro ceaselessly for an hour or more thrusting its long bill out between the wires and pressing its breast against them in futile efforts to escape.

Later in the day we transferred it to a strong box provided with slatted sides and filled to a good depth with fresh straw in which was placed a large number of canteen worms. With these parasites it seemed better contented for it soon ceased its restless movements and settled itself in a position of repose which it maintained through the day.

A Woodcock  
in our  
garden.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906.  
Dec. 1


Cloudy & chilly but not frosty. Our city looks over hills nearly as green as they were two months ago. There is no snow and the ground is not frozen to-day.

The Woodcock caught in our clothes yard yesterday is not only alive but apparently in good health and spirits to-day. It is true that he has spent most of the forenoon standing (not crawling) in a corner of his box but his large, liquid eyes are wide open on all times and full of expression. The box is on the floor of my study within four feet of my desk. At this distance I can move in my chair or walk about the box without disturbing the bird but if I approach him much closer he shows some alarm and quickly scuttles to the further side of his prison. Whether or not he has eaten any of the earth worms I have no present means of ascertaining. He has broken the surface of the ground rather hard by looking over it and it shows us signs of "burrows".

This is one of the birds  
characteristic attitudes



" 2

The Woodcock must have been eating some of the worms for he is as "lively as a gig" to-day, walking rapidly about his prison and trying hard to get out. When closely approached he squats  and then springs suddenly upward using his wings for the first time and so vigorously that he strikes the burlap cover of the box (it is about 18 inches above the ground) with much force. I have heard no sound from him so far even when he has raised his wings.

1906.  
Dec. 2  
(No 2)

Cambridge, Mass.

Clear and cold with strong N. W. wind.

After a period of activity this morning (noted on the preceding page of this journal) the Captain Woodcock spent most of the day either standing or squawking in a corner of his box. At sunset, however, he began ranging actively about moving, for the most part, with head well up at a quick firm walk very like that of a quail. He did not seem to be under any restraint or anxiety, nor does he make any attempts to escape from his cage either by thrusting his bill through the slots or by springing upward. At length to my great delight he began boring keeping it up at intervals for about five minutes. Sitting in my arm chair within four feet of the box, which was chiefly if not very strongly lighted from the large window just behind me, I had a splendid opportunity (given the fact that I have ever enjoyed) to watch the boring performance and to note exactly how it was done.

Captain  
Woodcock

Boring for  
worms

Advancing very slowly in a somewhat alternate the bird would plunge his bill into the loose earth from one to three or four times before taking another forward step. The downward thrusts were made surely, vertically and less swiftly and vigorously than I had remembered or supposed. Indeed they were decidedly more energetic and complete than are the movements of a domestic fowl when engaged in poking up corn. Yet despite the comparatively leisurely and almost seemingly almost effortless way in which they were performed the long bill was thrust almost (kept ever quite) to its base in the heavy loam. After making a number

Cambridge, Mass.

1906

Dec. 2  
(No 3)

of freedom and somewhat better than of this kind  
the bird suddenly showed evident excitement and  
after being near rapidly than before for several times  
we quite discussion and also swinging its head from  
side to side which its bill was buried in the ground  
it drew out a long & very active cough soon noticed  
it held for an instant in the terminal third of its  
bill (but not, as I could see clearly, at its tip) and  
then quickly swallowed. Immediately after this it resumed  
its search in nearly or quite the same spot and at  
the third or fourth times captured another worm which  
was about twice like the first. Afterwards it did  
not have any further success although it continued  
being for some time. I did not once see it stamp  
on the ground or listen for the sound of moving  
worms. After being and walking about it left its  
tail closed and carried it a little below the  
line of the back. Since I have had it it has  
made no sounds of any kind. It is fast becoming  
tame and confiding. This afternoon I crawled on  
the floor directly by the side of the box and looked  
in at the bird, moving my face about within a  
foot of it, without causing it any obvious alarm

1906  
Dec. 4

Cambridge, Mass.

The Woodcock is still alive and hearty. I exhibited him at a meeting of the Metzger Club last night when his legs were placed on the table in the middle of the room under a cluster of electric lights. Here with a dozen or more men sitting close about him, some of them within two or three feet, he seemed quite undisturbed and finally, towards the close of the meeting, when one of the members was reading some notes aloud, he began to sing and frequently stretched and swallowed a large worm. I doubt if any society of ornithologists has ever before been entertained in a similar manner. So great was the interest that when the bird left the room everyone crowded about the cage and the proceedings of the meeting were wholly interrupted for a time.

Later this afternoon the Woodcock was very restless for a time seeing about his prison & thrusting his bill through the bars. When Walter Dean appeared him closely he began a low grating noise not unlike that given by a wren. Woodcock when anxious about her young. This he repeated several times. It is the only sound we have heard from him thus far.

1906

Dec. 4

(No 2)

Mr. Thomas H. Batch of Jamaica Plain gave me to-day, a most interesting account of his experience with Red-billed Nuthatches on Cape Cod (at South Orleans, I think it was) last September. During the latter half of this month the birds literally swarmed in the woods and on the sand dunes where he was strolling, dropping about on the ground among the beach grass and in the wetter parts of the woods climbing among the stems of the reeds, or sedges. On several occasions they alighted on his plumed deers which was found in a part of Shawmut woods and when he was looking, well out from shore, they <sup>usually</sup> started his boat and not only ran up the mast and along the boom but even climbed up the stiff, rounded slopes of a canvas sail that was bellied out by a strong wind.

Mr. Batch also told me that there was a very considerable flight of Nuthatches at South Orleans last September, just the largest, in fact, that has been noted there for years. His party killed about a dozen of these birds and many more than this were shot by some other sportsmen of his acquaintance on a portion of the shore which lay beyond his own range. The birds frequented the beaches as is their usual habit.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906

Dec 5

Fate of the Woodcock.

The Woodcock that we have had in the Museum for the past five days died this morning at quarter past ten. At about ten o'clock I went into the big room and looked at the bird for the first time this morning. It was standing bunched up in the middle of the cage. It looked unwell and its eye had lost its natural brilliancy. Soil on its bill showed that it had been probing and the dirt in the cage looked as if it had been tossed about a good deal. After watching the bird for a minute or so, it moved a little, tottering as it did so. Carl then brought some worms and we put them in front of it, but it made no attempt to touch them. Once it suddenly began to throw the earth about by quite vigorous blows with its bill, first to one side, then to the other for about half a dozen times. That was the only sign of any vigor that it showed. It immediately relapsed into its former apathetic state. I took the bird in my hand for a moment thinking it might possibly eat, but without success. I then put it carefully back. It immediately lay down on its side and in a few seconds with barely a motion, beyond a slight quiver and stiffening of the legs was dead. N. Deane.



Concord, Mass.

1906.  
Dec. 5

Cloudless, calm; early morning cold, temperature  
above the freezing point at noon.

Spent the day at Concord superintending the  
cutting of a lot of young white pines to send to Cambridge  
for winter covering. We got them in the opening between  
Ball's & Davis Hills. I paid no very close attention to  
the work but, after the trees had been selected and marked  
for cutting, I wandered widely through the woods traversing  
Davis Swamp and visiting Ball's Hill & Pine Park. We  
went through Birch Field on our way down in the  
morning and returned via the road and the Kitchen floor  
at noon. In the afternoon I did not go far away from  
the house.

The comparatively mild and perfectly calm weather and  
clear sunshine made the conditions unusually favorable for  
the birds and I saw or heard them in considerable numbers  
and variety as the following list will show.

1. Golden-crust Kinglet. - (2) on Pine Ridge, (2) in Pine Park, 1 at Ball's Hill.  
Also heard in Barrett Run & in Birch Field.
2. Chickadee. - (2) at farm house, (3) in Barrett Run, (2) in Pine  
Ridge, (6) (with a Golden-crust) at Ball's Hill.
3. White-breasted Nuthatch. - 1 near the Old Mouse, (2) in the  
large elms at our farm house.
4. Mountain Shrike. - One seen flying over the field in front of  
Mr. Hutchins's house on Park Avenue Hill in late P.M.
5. Beecher Redpoll. - Heard at frequent intervals in forenoon on Pine  
Ridge. - On one occasion the call evidently came  
from the members of a large flock.
6. Snow Bunting. - Nine birds seen flying over the fields between  
Ball's & Rudolph Peterson's as we were driving towards  
the farm about 10 o'clock.

Bowcord, Mass

1906.

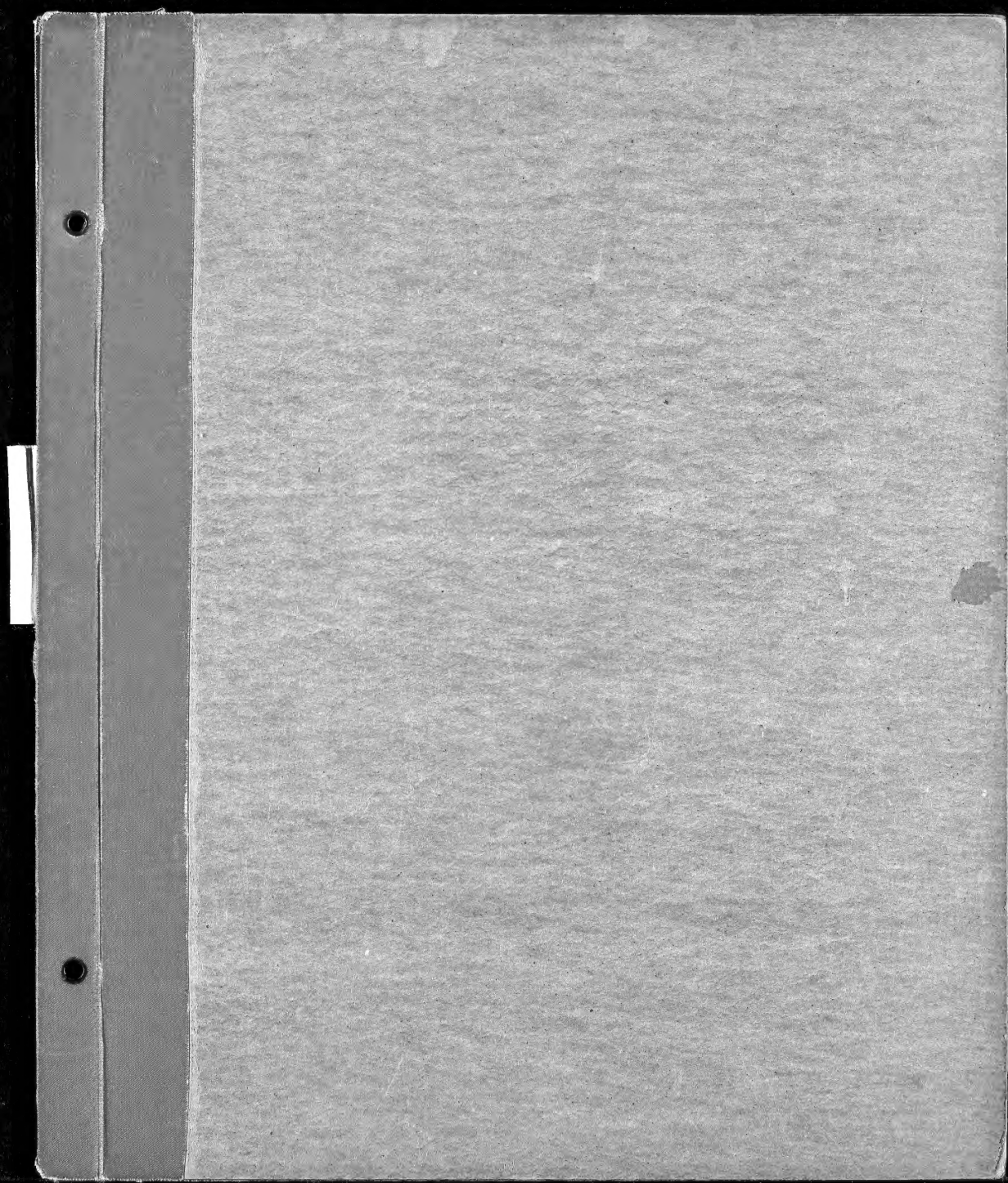
Dec. 5

(hs 2)

7. Junco. - A flock of sixteen started, about noon, in Benson's asparagus bed whence they flew into the feeding kitchen.
8. Tree Sparrow. - One seen by the roadside near Mount Pratt and two found together in bushes at E. end of Ball's Hill.
9. Crow. - But one noted - flying over the orchard at our farm.
10. Blue Jay. - Three in the swamp behind Ball's Hill. They were very noisy, screaming incessantly for several minutes.
11. Downy Woodpecker. - One heard calling near Benson's.
12. Flicker. - Three together in large trees by the roadside near Mount Pratt place.
13. Partridge. - Started one in Birch Field and two at Ball's Hill.

Squirrels, both Red & Gray, were out in great numbers. I saw them almost everywhere, sometimes two or three together but often singly. Their numbers were about equal at the farm but in the Ball's Hill region the Gray's greatly outnumbered the Reds.

Although the light covering of fresh snow (about an inch in depth) was everywhere thickly marked by the foot prints of Squirrels and mice I saw very few rabbit tracks and none at all, I think, except at Ball's Hill. Fox tracks were seen in Birch Field. I looked in vain for deer tracks. Lawrence tells me that a large Deer crossed his field and visited our pond (on the very pasture) late in November. This he knew from the tracks. The animal was not seen.



Jan  
18  
Jan.