

Journal, 1911.

Vol
1
Dec.



This volume is ready for binding. I have
carefully arranged the sequence of the sheets, supplied
place headings for all of them and indexed on
their margins all notes worthy of such treatment.

W. B. Dec. 31, 1911.

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Jan. 1

Cloudy & mild. There is no snow but ponds and rivers are frozen over. The city streets were muddy to-day.

Harold D. Marshall of Newtonville called yesterday afternoon to tell me - among other things - that he had seen, only half an hour before, 110 Robins flying over Fresh Pond towards Arlington Heights. They came, doubtless, from the John C. Gray place where 200 or more were seen to-day by several different persons feeding on buckwheat berries in the hedge bordering Fresh Pond Basin.

Remarked
inflight of
Robins

Sometime this forenoon George C. Deane found a truly remarkable assembly of Robins on the Joseph Astor farm where they were scattered all along the east path from just behind the Hospital to Cambridge Cemetery feeding on the berries of the fruit & buckwheat bushes that line it. In one cluster of bushes he counted 50 birds, in a group of apple trees 200. He believes

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Jan. 1

(No 2.)

that he saw in all not less than 2000 Robins during the time he was walking about over this farm. Not long after leaving it he found about 200 in the Gray place on Fresh Pond Dam. About 150 were seen in one flock this same day in West Roxbury(?) by F. H. Allen. Such a winter assembly heretofore as that noted by Mr. Dean is wholly without precedent in my experience.

Jan. 2

Writing me Jan. 3, 1911, Mr. Samuel C. Palmer of Cambridge says:—"As I was sitting in the laboratory of the Univ. Museum yesterday I heard the chirp of a Robin. I looked to see the bird and saw about 100 flying over towards the Botanical Garden."

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Jan. 3

Under this date Mr. Samuel C. Palmer of
2 Carver St., Cambridge, writes me that last
autumn (that of 1910) "a pair of young Black-crowned
Night Herons came to roost in the trees of the
Norton estate just off Museum St." He adds "I
saw them there between 10/6 [October 6th] to 10/20
[October 20th] & I think they were there
longer."

Tuition
note on
the night
Herons in
Norton's
estate.

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Jan'y 6

I have been wondering if the flock of Robins noted Robins
in our Garden during the past week on the outskirts of Cambridge might not send at least a ripple into our garden before they all left. It happened about 1 P.M. to-day when, as I was about to enter the back door of our house, I heard the flight call of a Robin. The next instant the bird appeared, followed by others of his kind, all coming from the eastward just above the tops of the trees and pattering down into the Garden as soon as they reached it. Within less than a minute I counted fifty of them, probably missing a few more for they were thick & fast at our time. Subsequent counts indicated that there were not less than fifty or more than fifty. They spread about over the entire Garden & jungle, some perching in trees and bushes, others running about on the ground - particularly around the snow. They were very tame. I got within a

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.
July 6
(No. 2)

four yards of hawthorn or more that were eating berries Robins in
in a hawthorn tree. Nearly all (at least 90%) of them the Garden
were chest-colored birds and I saw only a few fine
old red-breasted males elsewhere in the Garden.

It took them only half-an-hour to eat up practically
all the fruit of the hawthorn, the Packhouse apple
and the Corebury apples, after which they departed,
as suddenly as they had appeared, apparently, although
I did not happen to actually see them go.

During most of the time I had them under
observation they were noisy or quite silent but
one of the adult males in the hawthorn sang
repeatedly in subdued tones with very low and
then a single clear, loud note. I cannot remember
ever seeing so many Robins before in the Garden at this
season. Certainly it has not happened within recent years.

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.
Feb. 12

Cloudy & chilly with flurries of snow. The ground is now covered with snow to a depth of about eight inches. It was bare through the most of January.

As I was walking past the Chauncy Smith Sparrow
Hawk place on North Street at 10.30 a.m. I saw an erect
♀ Sparrow Hawk perched on the highest pinnacle of
the dead top of the large white pine just to the right
of the house. A minute or two later this bird descended
by a short spiral flight to a long, horizontal, living
branch in the same tree and alighted within a
few yards of its mate which I had not before
noticed. Both birds remained motionless in croaking
attitudes for the three or four minutes more which I was
able to devote to watching them. The difference in size
between the sexes was very marked in this pair the ♂
appearing no larger than a Robin, the ♀ almost as big as a
Pigeon. Gilbert saw what was probably the same pair, in
the same tree, on January 28, mistaking them for Shrikes.
I wonder what they can find to eat at this season!

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.
Feb. 13

Looking out one of the windows at the rear of our home about eight o'clock this morning I saw three Chickadees in the lilacs. A moment later one of them began flying in a most erratic manner back and forth through the thicket, pursuing courses quite as devious and making turns almost as abrupt as any ♂ Gypsy moth engaged in a search for a mate, winding, now high, now low, through the densest possible mass of interlocking branches and moving very swiftly, yet not once hitting the smallest twig.

This was repeated several times by the same bird at intervals of a minute or less each flight lasting

perhaps half a minute and extending the whole length of the thicket which was traversed, however, in many times. I have seen Chickadees do the same thing before (but not often) and about the same time of year, if I remember right. How can it mean.

Chickadee
indulging in
occasional
erratic flights

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

March 2-7

During this period and I know not for how long a
time before a Red Owl (Scoptes asio), has been spending his days
in the box which I put up for Flickers years ago and in which
they nested the first season but never again. A gray Owl
had possession of it for a time in winter four or five years
ago and Squirrels have occupied it from time to time.

I first noticed this red Owl about 5 P.M. on March 2nd
when his face completely filled the hole as he looked out, the
remainder of him being inside the box. He showed himself
in the same way at the same hour the next evening.

On March 4 he was looking out from 9 to 10 a.m. and from
4.30 to 5.30 P.M.; on the 6th from 9 to 10 a.m. and from
4 to 6 P.M.; on the 6th at 10 a.m. and from 5 to 6 P.M.

on the 7th at 1 P.M. On several of these occasions the hole
shone from a clear sky first in his face. At 1 P.M. on the
7th the light was reflected from fresh fallen snow. Sometimes
he keeps his eyes closed, sometimes open. They are always open when
twilight is falling & then he looks among his logs. If on so
within handy reach of the box he extends one of his feet with the eye

Screech Owl
living in
bird house
in
jungle.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 7.

Brilliantly clear with light, variable winds. Ther 4° - 34°

I came to Concord with Gilbert to-day to spend a month or more fighting gypsy and brown-tail moths. We have taken up our quarters in the old farm house but may change to ten cabins later on. James reports that the thermometers fell to 4° last night but when I reached the house at 3 P.M. it stood at 34° and as there was a bright sun and almost no wind the air seemed pleasantly warm.

At 4 P.M. I started for a walk with "Larry". As I entered the cedars at the foot of the Corn I began to see tracks of Partridges crossing the road very few yards and presently six birds came up in rapid succession on the edge of the run all flying across it towards the south-east. In a belt of brush 200 yds. to the north-west, on the south side of the Corn pasture, Larry started them near. Twenty minutes later I flushed two in the Berry Pasture and shortly afterwards a single bird at the head of the Corn near the barn. Thus I saw no less than twelve different birds in less than an hour and within an area of less than fifty acres.

Twelve
Partridges
flushed

Just before sunset a Ring-necked Pheasant crossed twice very near me in the Berry Pasture. I failed to find him but saw his tracks in several places very plainly marked in fresh, soft snow, mingling with the tracks of the two Ruffed Grouse that I started there near where I heard him. The footprints of the two species were very unlike. Those of the Pheasant were much the larger & his lateral toes pointed well forward (V) while the lateral toes of the Partridge were bent down almost at right angles with the middle toe +. Thus

Pheasant
crossing

Tracks of
Partridge
Pheasant
compared

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 7
(th. 2.)

Stride of the Pheasant was much the length of the
two. The Partridge sometimes makes long strides when
strutted & running but when walking it is very short-gaited.
Some of the tracks I saw to-day had the feet prints
almost touching one another for yards ($\frac{1}{2}$) and always
in straight lines in one exactly in front of another.

The only other birds I noted were four Crows perched
in a paper and two pairs of Chickadees, kindly observed.

The country looks rather uninteresting here. In the
fields about one-half of the surface of the ground
is bare or nearly so. On sunny banks and along
open, traveled roads, the earth is wholly bare. In
the woods the trees lie everywhere to a depth
of four or five inches.

Aspect of
country

David James tells me that Robins have been
about the farm most of the winter. Both in
December and early in January they were
abundant, in long flocks. He saw few later in
the latter month and still fewer in February.
On March 5 he met with a flock of about 25
near the Henry Swift farm, a mile to the north
of here.

Robins
about all
winter

James has seen no Deer, nor any of their
tracks, all winter long.

No Deer.

I saw a Skunk trail in the orchard and a
Fox trail in Pulpit Rock woods. No Rabbit
tracks anywhere.

Skunk Trail

Roward, Mass.

1911.

March 10

Snowing hard all day but most of the snow melting as it struck the ground which was barely wetland by it

Snow
Fallen

During the height of the snow-storm this forenoon four male Bluebirds appeared in a barberry bush in front of our house, remaining there a minute or two. I saw them eat a number of Boobies which they flipped off the stems by reaching up for them with beak.

Bluebirds
eat
Boobies

One bird alighted on the backhead of the house for an instant.

A flock of eight Cedar Birds passed low over our dooryard about 11 A.M. flying north west.

Cedar Birds

Gilbert saw a flock of 13 Snow Buntings this forenoon. They flew close past our hangar towards the southwest coming from the direction of Boobies field that streaks off to the north east of here.

Snow
Buntings

I started two Cottontail Rabbits from this farm in the Berry Pasture this morning. They were lying there less 30 yards apart.

Rabbits

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 12

During a visit made to Balls Hill this forenoon I saw at least a dozen Crows flying about over the meadows or working on the fields of in that still border the open channel of the river. Among them was the bird with the peculiar cau-cau-cau cry which was so constantly in evidence last year from Ball's Hill to Newmarket. It is as strongly accented on the second syllable as one and in this respect is unlike any Crow call I have ever heard from any other bird. Pat tells me that this particular Crow spent the winter here. He heard it not only at Balls Hill but also half way up along the railroad on the direction of Concord. We used to hear it about the Ritchie place & Birch Field last autumn but never anywhere to the south or west of the farm house. It was everywhere and at all times the same peculiar cry.

Crows with
peculiar
Cau-cau
near Balls
Hill from
May 1910
to March
1911.

The pair of John-Bellied Nuthatches are haunting the farm as usual and the male was calling rust-wat-wat several days ago & since. I saw both birds together in the elm in front of our old barn this morning. As I was watching them first the ♂ and then the ♀ flew to the hole in which they reared their brood last year. I thought that hole entered it but could not make sure for it is in the upper side of a big horizontal beam and hence invisible from the ground. Their Nuthatch camp rather widely over the place. I met with them yesterday in Prescott's Pines and I have known them to go as far to the northward as Mrs. Harris. They are sure to be in the elms about our house every where, from morning to this season. The ♂ visited some hole that was full of yesterday in the elms for the first time this afternoon.

White-bellied
Nuthatches
nest last
year's nest

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 14

Clear, calm; very mild though day has cold last night.

Bluebirds and Chickadees were singing on every hand in the early morning & our Nuthatch was rust-rust-rust-ing. I saw no hand any Song Sparrows or Fox Sparrows or Blackbirds, all of which should be here. Pat Flannery reported seeing about a dozen Robins scattered about over the fields between here and Concord as he worked down this morning. At 1 P.M.

I saw five in our orchard. I believe all these Robins to be our local birds which have just come up from the South but there is no certainty that such is the case.

One of the men started a Partridge early this morning from the line of Barbary bushes directly in front of the farm house & within twenty yards of my windows. The bird followed the road for some distance when it flew off. There are plenty of berries still clinging to these bushes.

Bluebirds,
Chickadees
& Nuthatch
singing.

Robins
seen &
scattered over
fields.

Partridge
in barbery
bush in
front of
our house.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 15

Forenoon rainy with southerly wind. Afternoon sunny with fresh Warm rain west wind. Warm all day. Snow wholly gone from roads and fields and frost coming out of the ground in many places.

The conditions were right for a heavy flight of early migrants to-day but apparently no such movement took place. I noticed no increase in the numbers of Robins and Bluebirds (both are still but sparingly represented) while I listened in vain for Song Sparrows and Fox Sparrows both of which should now be here. I did hear Blackbirds not long before sunset. They were flying northward and at a considerable distance & only their caa call notes reached my ears. These sounded like the calls of Red-wings but I could not be sure nor did I get my eye on the birds themselves. There were 11 juncos at our bird bed an increase of 4 birds over the number seen yesterday. I think, however, that they are all birds that have been banded here.

General
movements
of birds

First
Blackbirds,
Red-wings,
apparently

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 15
(No 2.)

We are feeding the birds in the usual place viz in the cluster of lilacs just behind the house where we can watch them at close range from the dining room windows. A quantity of millet seed was thrown out on the 8th and a pound of sweet honey in the lilacs on the following day. This tempting feast remained undisturbed by any birds until the 12th when a ♂ White-throated Nuthatch, 2 Chickadees and a ♀ Downy began coming to it. Two Juncos found the seed on the morning of the 14th & 7 appeared that afternoon. At one time this morning there were 4 Chickadees, a pair of Nuthatches, the ♀ Downy and 11 Juncos assembled at one time in and under the lilacs, making a pretty and animated picture of bird life.

I have not seen or heard a Hawk of any kind since I came here on the 7th. Where are the Red-shoulders?

Out
bird house
concord

No Hawks

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 16

The weather turned cold and about four inches of snow fell sometime last night. To-day has been one of the very bitterest March days I have ever known with the thermometer ranging from 6° to 16° and the wind blowing a living gale out of the N.W. driving the snow across the open country in waves so that the fields were stripped nearly bare. Although the sun shone bright from a cloudless sky its rays did not melt nor even soften the snow on southern exposures or on the south side of buildings. Only the Song Sparrows and Fox Sparrows have been able to delay their coming. The migrants already here must have had a hard day of it. I saw nothing of any of them, 2 Chickadees & a pair of Nuthatches came to one bush and 2 juncos to the bird bed. I was in the pine woods all P.M. starting 2 Partridge & having Kinglets & Chickadees there

Went
to
the
fields

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 17

Clear & cold (10° min. 30° max.) but with only moderate wind, chiefly westerly. Snow thawing rapidly.

Despite the improvement in the weather I saw and heard only a very few birds and these all of wintering kinds. I listened in vain for Bluebirds and there were only two juncos at the seed bed. I wonder if the terrific blizzard of yesterday did not kill a good many birds.

The pair of *Neothalpus* came regularly to the seed, oftenest in the early morning. I watched them closely for half an hour this morning. The ♂ was digging out pieces up to the size of a large pea and carrying them away to store them in crevices in the trunks & behind scales of bark

Neothalpus
caching
small
pieces of
seed. The
♂ gives
them to
the ♀ to
carry off.

back. He took them to different trees & in all directions usually going about 100 yards. Whenever the ♀ was with or near him he invariably employed her to carry off and cache the morsels. She took it from him without hesitation and flew, as he did, in various directions, chiefly to apple trees in the orchard. Curiously enough he would not permit her to touch the main store of supply from which he was drawing. Whenever she attempted to do so he attacked her quite viciously and drove her away. ^{the smallest piece that he had part of seed.} Yet the next morning he carried from her

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 19

Most of the day has been cloudy with chill S.E. wind Spring-like
and it is snowing hard this evening but the early morning
was delightful and the most Spring-like one thus far this
year. The sun shone bright and warm quickly melting the
hoar frost that had gathered over night and up to about
ten o'clock there was little or no wind. Bluebirds were
singing far and near in every direction, Chickadees making
the phoebe call, a Nuthatch root-root-rooting near the
house, a Downy Woodpecker (for the first time) in the big elm,
Crows cawing and Blue Jays screaming in the distance,
I started for Ball's Hill about 8.30. Heard my first
Song Sparrows in the brushy ground near Mr. Harris' house.
Came upon six Robins and a junc in his care. Heard a Pheasant
cawing in the meadow to which it
leads. On reaching Holden's Hill heard two Red-shouldered
Hawks screaming wild & shrill & soon saw them, one

First
Bluebirds.

First
Song Sparrow

Robins

Pheasant

Red-shouldered
Hawks

lincolns

Concord, Mass.

1911.
March 19
(Sat.)

soaring high above me, the other (8) perched in a dead pine.

Holden's Hawk

Red-shoulder

Hawks

A moment later they were ordered by a third in the direction of North Hill. Then a Ruffed Grouse drummed

Ruffed Grouse

drumming.

apparently on the east flank of Holden's Hill and a Ten Creeper sang over, full & clear, in the big oaks near me.

Creeper sings

Next I heard the silvery whistle of rumps and looking up saw a pair of Black Ducks circling low over the woods.

Black Ducks

They alighted in the river at the head of the Beaver Dam Rapid near some crosses that were standing about on the banking river. As I was trying to get nearer than they either saw or heard me and flew.

Soon after this I heard the Sparrows chirping & making the twinkling-g-ee sound among some alders by the river, and presently they began singing, one after another in quick succession, thrilling my ears with their sweet, sweet notes. There were just ten birds in the flock.

Tree Sparrows

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 19
(No 3)

On reaching Ball's Hill I heard another Phoebe and Phoebe
saw ten Black Ducks again flying high over the river.
Chickadees were singing and a Golden-crest joined their
singing on Ball's Hill but not in full voice. Between the
two hills I heard a Heavy Woodpecker. Someone
was shooting at muskrats with a rifle, up the
river, the popping coming closer all the time but
not reaching Ball's Hill until after I got nearly
to Benson's where I heard two Doves & saw a
Crow & 3 Chickadees. In Pescott's Pond I heard
a Pine Siskin and presently saw the bird, a solitary Pine Siskin
one or wing darting about among the tree tops.
I also heard Red-bells near here. The coming of Arms Redpolls
& screaming of Blue Jays was heard over and over of my ears
the whole forenoon. I saw Gray Squirrels in several Gray Squirrels
places in maples eating the opening flower buds.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 19
(No 4)

The Red-shouldered Hawks at Halden's this morn
hanging about the old mill in the big chestnut. The ♂ was
perched for several minutes in a dead pine on the
hillside above the chestnut. The ♀ alighted within
a few yards of him for a few moments but kept
for the most part in the air sailing in wide
circles, rather high, screaming almost incessantly.

He answered her every now and then from his
perch, ^{opening his mouth very widely at each note.} I could not detect any difference between

his cries and hers. The two made the whole
country ring with their wild, hoarse music for
to my ears the cry of this Hawk is one of
the most musical sounds of our N. E. woods.

Both birds were in fully adult plumage with
red breast & face, white tail bands. They
did not seem to be much disturbed by my presence.

Pair of
Red-
shouldered
Hawks

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 19
(No 5)

The Nuthatches were at the nest for half an hour White
or more this morning. He & again kept her from Black
alighting on it and again gave to her many Nuthatches
of the pieces he chiseled out of it with his sharp
bill. But on this occasion she ate very one
of them the moment she received them from
him. He did not seem to object to this
although whenever she was not near at hand
he would fly off with the pieces and
cache them in crevices & under bark as he
did on the morning of the 17th. She ♀ is
a very handsome one. Indeed her creases & under
are so nearly or completely black that we
have some difficulty in distinguishing her
from the male, especially when the light
is not good.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 20

About three inches of wet, heavy snow fell last night covering the ground very evenly and loading every twig of tree & shrub so that the woods & thickets presented a beautiful appearance this morning. Bluebirds were singing and Robins calling near the house as I was dressing. Two or three Chickadees and two pairs of Nuthatches visited the tree to get their breakfast while we were eating ours. Not long after this a strange and gruesome tragedy was enacted in the laces within fifteen feet of the window. James, ~~Sister~~ and I witnessed all but its opening act which, unfortunately, escaped our notice. He was in the dining room, consulting about the day's work, when we heard the chick note of the Downy Woodpecker repeated almost incessantly & very rapidly just outside. For a minute or more we paid no attention to it. But something unusual in its quality & its ~~repetition~~ ~~was~~ ~~heard~~ ~~soon~~

Some story

A strange
tragedy
enacted

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 20
(No 2)

led me to look out and this was what I saw: On the snow among the outermost stems of the lilacs on one side of the dense thicket that they form was a ♀ Downy with extended and quivering wings. Above her hopped or rather danced, a handsome ♂ showing the red on his occiput very conspicuously. He kept striking at her head with his bill and occasionally he held on for a few seconds, when the two birds fluttered about together and perhaps rolled one once or twice, closely united. At first I thought it an amatory encounter and I am still almost certain that the ♂ attempted to secure sexual contact with the ♀ once or twice. But if so it could not have been his primary or at least sole object. For he continued to peck her head even when she was lying almost motionless on the snow. For a time she seemed to be trying to escape and for fully two

A male
Downy
Woodpecker
kills a
female.

Concord, Mass.

1911.
March 20
(No 3)

minutes her cries were pitiful & incessant. At length
he left her and flew up into an elm where he clung
for a minute or two making what seemed to me a
very unusual display of the red on his occiput. Then
of a sudden he descended down on the ♀ who had
presumably been covering in the middle of a cluster of
blue stems, on the snow. Dragging her forth from this
slight shelter into an open space he attacked her again,
this time with obvious fury, freely raining a shower
of blows on the back of her head. She seemed too
weak to make any further attempt to escape and her
cries, although continued, were so faint that we could
only just hear them. I now realized for the first
time that he was inspired by the lust of killing
and not by sexual desire. It was very hard to
refrain from rushing out and driving him away

8 Downy
Pills 2

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 20
(No 4)

but I restrained the impulse not being willing to
interrupt a tragedy of such extraordinary, if reproducible,
interest. It would have made no difference anyway
for this final onslaught lasted only a very few
seconds. During its continuance the ♂ Downy seemed
literally beside himself with rage. No Bulletin Board
that I have ever watched has shown, while dealing
with a mouse or sparrow, more tremendous energy.
After finishing the final deal he left the ♀
lying perfectly motionless and flew up again into the
elm. We now went out and picked up the ♀.
She was still living but unable to move. The
back of her head was soaked in blood and
her bare skin showed in places. She died

a little later. I skinned her and preserved her skull which
I have attached to the skin. It is punctured in 10 or 12 places.
The bird was in normal condition physically with healthy looking
ovary the ovules undeveloped. The only injuries were to the skull.

♂ Downy
kills ♀

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 20
(No 5)

There can be little or no doubt that the unfortunate
♀ Downy just referred to is the bird which we have seen
at least once and often several times, dead at the feet
in the cellar on March 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17. No ♂ has
been seen with her until this morning although there was
one drumming in the big elm and afterwards climbing up
a locust tree in front of the house yesterday morning.
What led up to the tragedy above described can only
be conjectured. My guess is that the ♀ came to the
suet for her usual breakfast and while getting it was
attacked by the ♂ who at first may have merely intended
to drive her away. She may have angered him by some
show of resistance. I do not think that either bird could
have been there long before the crisis began for I had been in
the room for fully half an hour before this and had
looked out frequently to watch the Chickadees & Nuthatches

♂ Downy
No 5

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 20
(No 6)

as they flitted about the nest, while Gilbert had been ² Denary
doing the same thing for some time before I came down birds 9.
as he was preparing the table for our breakfast.
I am inclined to think that this ♀ was the bird
which has nested for several years past in the
dead limb of the tree stem that shades the woodshed
on the east end of the house and that this ♂ who
nursed her was not her mate. My reasons for
so thinking are (1) because she has been here so
constantly ever since the 12th and (2) because the
♂ was not seen about the place previous to yesterday.
Of course both surmises may be wrong. During previous
years the breeding pair have always dived on good
terms with ^{each} other and have been accustomed to
feed quite amicably at the nest, as far as I can
remember (but not both on at one time)

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 20
(No 7)

We spent most of the day at Balls Bluff.

While there I saw a pair of Herring Gulls flying down river past the cabin and a pair of Goosanders in the water. The latter birds rose from the surface of the water about 100 yards above the cabin as I came in sight about noon. & flew off up river. An hour later I saw them again, swimming close to shore just above Swan's Knoll. The drake was a fine one, in full plumage. On the second occasion they took flight half a minute after I caught sight of them although I was 200 yards away and almost perfectly screened by intervening trees & branches.

Heard Rusty Blackbirds jingling in Cedar Hill.

Foxglove Crows strutting about on in across river.

Herring Gulls
and
Goosanders

Rusty Blackbirds

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 22

Partly sunny, largely cloudy, Rain at evening. Very warm after 10 a. m. (ther. rising to 58°), although the ground from last night. Light southerly to easterly wind. Snow & ice melting fast, even in woods.

Yesterday was cold with blowing N. W. wind and very little bird or other life in evidence, even in sheltered woods. To-day was very mild and spring-like with superabundant life of various kinds.

At breakfast time I saw collected at one third bird box Fox Sparrow active.

Sparrows, 6 Juncos, 2 Nuthatches, 3 Chickadees, white & Robins, all

hardly seen red-breasted, black-headed nuthatches, were running about on the grassy bank in front of the house. When I started out

a little later bluebirds were working in several directions &

Robins calling in the orchard. A Pheasant roared in the thicket.

At Back Field, about 9 a. m., I saw a large flock of Crow

blackbirds flying over towards the N. E. at a height of perhaps 100 feet, evidently migrating. I counted 50 birds.

Crow
blackbirds
flying over
migrating

Not long after this I heard the spring flight call of a Crow bird active.
Crow-bird given several times, a little later on

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 22
(No 2)

air seemed filled for ten hours of half a minute or more Reefalls
by the source song of Red-wings. I failed to see them
but judged by the sound of their voices that there were
a large number & that they were on wing. Their singing very sweet.

Butterflies were out in numbers about noon and
later. One that I saw was of one kind the large,
ragged-winged, orange-brown species which usually emerges
from its winter quarters about this time. I later found
scores of them fluttering against the inside of the window
in the wood shed trying to get out.

First
Butterflies

Just after dinner one of the men showed me the
fresh track of a very large Deer in North Field.
I think "buck" must have started in this forenoon.
It had come up by the spring & crossed the road
with long bounds leaving beautifully clear foot prints
["dew claws" showing] in snow & mud.

Deer in
North Field.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 23

Clear & cold with strong, fresh north west wind. Ther 22° min.

Despite the high, cold wind that raged about the old farm house all day we saw a really extraordinary number of birds there. Among these were 12 Fox Sparrows 4 juncos & 1 Song Sparrow collected at the dead bed and 13 Robins in a tree in the down yard. The ♂ Downy the ♂ Nuthatch & 3 Chickadees came to the front. The Fox Sparrows sang gloriously at times.

Great
numbers of
birds
Fox Sparrows,
Juncos,
Robins etc.

About 1 P.M. I heard a sudden uproar of Blackbird voices. Hurrying to the nearest window I saw an enormous flock of Crow Blackbirds and Red-wings in the tops of the two tall elms just to the west of the house. They were very evenly distributed throughout both trees looking exactly like leaf, saddle point clinging to almost every small branch and twig. Gilbert & I counted them several times making the total number about 170! About two-thirds were Crow Blackbirds and one-third Red-wings.

Great
mixed flock
of
Crow Blackbirds
&
Red-wings

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 23
(No 2.)

As the wind was blowing half a gale at the time they had obvious difficulty in clinging to their singing posture yet they remained fully exposed to its fury in that the tops for nearly ten minutes during which scarce a single bird shifted its position. The Red-wings sang almost incessantly, their voices coming in successive bursts which drowned the roaring of the wind & sang out in a wild, jubilant chorus. This chorus singing of the Red-wings in early spring always thrills & delights me. The Crow Blackbirds added their hoarse or creaking notes to the general clamor from time to time. I cannot remember seeing so large a mixed flock of Blackbirds before for many years.

While I was in Birch Field this forenoon a flock of 10 Snow Buntings flew over towards the north-west, ^{traveling} together.

Crow Blackbirds
+
Red-wings

Snow
Buntings

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 26

Clear, calm, warm. Ther. rose to 60°

I spent the day in Cambridge but Gilbert was at the farm. He saw great numbers of Tiny Sparrows there, at least 50, he thinks. They were scattered everywhere over the place and a constant procession of them visited the bird box near the house. In it came also three Song Sparrows. He expects a marked increase in the number of finches.

Big flight
Tiny Sparrows

" 27

Returned to Concord this afternoon. The weather mild & rainy. Saw at least a dozen Song Sparrows while driving down from Concord. There must have been a general arrival of them either yesterday or to-day.

See acc. of
Song Sparrows.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 28

Chiefly cloudy. Cool with strong, harsh north-west wind.

Pat called me out at 7 a. m. to see a Phoebe which had just flown into the wood shed, he said. I found (and left) it in the loft of the shed fluttering against the windows. A few minutes later it went out.

First
Phoebe

As I was in the orchard about 10 a. m. I heard a strange bird note repeated half a dozen times or more evidently by a bird passing overhead across the west. It was not unlike the whit of the Least Flycatcher but much louder & stronger. It is not altogether new to me for I remember hearing a precisely similar call several years ago in autumn. On that occasion I think I saw the bird flying high over the river marshes near the Mill. It looked like a Finch of some kind. I wonder if it could be an Evening Grosbeak.

Strange
Call-note
heard

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 28

(No 2)

Nothing has been seen of the ♀ Neotoma at
the farm since the 20th until this morning when
she appeared at the tent in company with her mate
remaining there with him for fifteen or twenty
minutes. As on former occasions this spring he would
not allow her to actually perch on the tent threatening
her whenever she approached it nearer than two or three
feet yet he gave her most of the pieces he dug out of
the camp. She disposed of all that she received from
him by placing them in holes or crevices in the back of
the house two or three feet from the house in which the tent
is now hanging. He cached a number of worms
himself in the same way. Some were put by both
birds in crevices not over three or four feet above or below
the camp itself. Once I saw the male thrust a piece into
a crevice & then almost immediately remove & eat it.

White-breast

Neotoma

Strong

nest

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 29

Clear with light breeze to easterly winds. Deliciously warm though dry but ground had frozen on dunes.

For two or three hours this morning and again in late afternoon the air was filled with the sweet, plaintive bird music peculiar to this season. At times it seemed to come from everywhere, but was most of it contributed then by Fox Sparrows, Song Sparrows & Bluebirds. The Fox Sparrows were everywhere. There must have been 50 or 60 of them in the orchard & garden & there were almost a many Juncos. Yet I did not meet with either species elsewhere.

At Ball's Hill I heard Song Sparrows & Red-wings singing everywhere about the edge of the pine meadows. A Phoebe sang all the forenoon near the Cobble. No birds in the woods.

A ♂ Cow-bird appeared on the dead bird corbe on window this morning & stayed there about ten minutes eating millet seed in company with Fox Sparrows & Juncos.

Plaintive
bird music
of
early spring

Fox Sparrows
Song "
Juncos
Bluebirds

Cow-bird
eating
millet seed

Concord, Mass.

1911.

March 30

Alternating clouds & sunshine. Cool with Easing east wind. First
Spewers.

Fox Sparrows singing gloriously all about the house in the early morning and again just before sunset, one following another in quick succession so that the sound of their rich voices was almost perfectly continuous for minutes at a time. Occasionally one would break in on another but this was not usual. It was a treat to hear them to such advantage as I sat in my arm chair by the fire. It was not necessary to open a window to get the entire song. Many of them sang on the ground, in the intervals of feeding at the seed bed on the front lawn. There were 16 there at once.

Returning from Ball's Hill at 5 P.M. I was surprised First
Wood
Hoop
to hear a number of Wood Hoops in full cry in the pool at the foot of the orchard slope although fully two thirds of it is still encased in thick winter ice

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

April 3

As I was walking down North Street about 10.30 this morning I saw the pair of Sparrows Hawks in the Channey Smith place, the ♀ circling just above the trees, the ♂ perched in the big pine with the dead top that stands close to the house on the south of it, except what was over the stone of the artificial pond, filled many years ago. Just as I came abreast of the house the ♂ bird flew from the end of the branch on which he had been sitting to the trunk of the pine, entering a hole on its south side about 30 feet above the ground. I had noticed this hole before and had wondered if the Sparrows Hawks might not be intending to nest in it. They had just reared a brood of young which was seen just after leaving the nest by W. Deane. It looks perfectly round and in every respect like a Flicker's hole which, no doubt, it was originally. I had it under observation for two or three minutes after the ♂ Hawk went into it but did not see him reappear. I now believe that it must have been occupied as a nesting place by the pair of Sparrows Hawks that I saw last Spring (last of 1910) practicing their love-fights one and around one female.

Sparrows
Hawks
preparing to
nest on
pine in
Smith place.

Bethel, Maine

1911.

April 3-6

I spent April 3, 4 & 5 at the Schenck's home in Bethel, reaching there on the night of the 2nd and leaving to return to Cambridge on the morning of the 6th. There was practically no snow at Portland and only a few inches from there to South Paris beyond which it covered the entire county. At Bethel it was 2 feet deep in the open fields & along streets and from 3 to 4 feet everywhere in the woods no bare ground being visible anywhere save under a few of the dense evergreens which had been serving as windbreaks for months past. Never have I seen the conditions so backward before at this season. The only spring birds I noted were Crows which were numerous everywhere having arrived, I was told, only a day or two before I did. I started about 20 from the mouth of an open drain in Dr. Schenck's field and saw others in his orchard pulling frozen apples to pieces and apparently devouring the pulp. Still others were seen eating

Bethel, Maine.

1911.

April 3-6
(See 2)

Sumner Green was his harbor. During my car ride to Bethel Cross
on the morning of the 6th there was some a number where
Cross was not in sight. Most of them were single birds
engaged in skimming land over the snow-covered fields
and constantly looking for food. I must have seen at least 200.

Perhaps I should class, also, as a Spring bird an adult
Red-shouldered Hawk which appeared on the morning of the
4th soaring over the Selwings' orchard. As I was driving on
the 6th I saw a Pileated Woodpecker flying low over
the farm orchard, undulating slightly, like a Flicker.

Red-shouldered
Hawk.

Pileated
Woodpecker

Three Chickadees, a Downy Woodpecker and a Hairy Woodpecker
came especially to hunt honey in our elms near the house.
A Blue Jay came to it and ate of it on the 3rd.

Chickadee

The woods seemed almost barren of animal life. During a
three mile tramp through them on the 4th I failed to see or
hear a bird of any kind or even a Red Squirrel; but the next
afternoon I heard Chickadees & Golden-cents in the Glen Woods.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

April 9

Snow began falling soon after night-fall last evening. At day-break this morning it covered the ground to a depth of 5 inches and loaded the branches of the trees. It continued to fall fitfully through the forenoon. The afternoon was sunny & rather mild but the ground continued snow-covered except on sheltered banks facing the south. My foreman, James, drove to Concord village in a sleigh this forenoon.

April
snow storm.

Yesterday there were camp activities from birds about. To-day the whole country was flooded with them. I believe that very many which had passed farther south returned during last night as sometimes happens when there is a sudden change to winter conditions at this season. The number at our seed bed increased steadily through the forenoon. At breakfast time there was not more than 40 all told. About noon I counted 74 Fox Sparrows & over 30 Juncos on the ground at once. With these in neighboring trees there must have been over 80 Fox Sparrows and 40 Juncos. There were also at least 5 Robins and 4 or 5 Song Sparrows, a ♂ Starling, and a ♂ Downy, ♂ Nuthatch & 2 Chickadees at the seed. A Saw-whet Sparrow scolded about the edge of the seed bed but seemed afraid to enter it. We put a lot of seed in the open ground around about which for a time was alive with birds. The Robins, Fox Sparrows, Juncos & Song Sparrows entered it freely & all these Sparrows also went in under the seed shed. There was practically continuous singing on the part of Fox Sparrows & Juncos from day-break to evening twilight - a bird after bird of delightful music. The Fox Sparrows sang freely on the ground. They scratched incessantly with it hopped as if they had been eating them. Also they flung their wings incessantly chasing one another & rising bill to bill into the air. The Song Sparrows scratched a little the Juncos not at all. The Robins sought for angle worms & got a few. It was a most animated & interesting scene & I counted 45 all forenoon.

7 loads of
birds

Over 100
birds at
our seed
bed!

Council, Texas.

1911.

April 9
(No 2)

In the afternoon I went to Ball's this via Davis this returning via Hardin's Hill & Harris pasture. The snow was well deep in the woods & half that in open fields. Many of the trees, especially pines, were still deep with it. I saw a band of Fox Sparrows everywhere & Robins in many places.

Met with 8 Hairy Woodpeckers 6 of them along the edge of the river hopping about on the ground within a foot or two of the water. There were 5 Chockos in the Bassett meadow perched on bushes or used stalks over shallow water to which they kept flying down apparently to pick up floating insects.

The afternoon then lay warm here & there there was no wind. The ground along the water was also with Song Sparrows & in it I saw one Swamp Sparrow, a Canada duck-plumaged bird with brownish crown. At Benson's Knoll I noted 16

Redpolls feeding in the top of a grey Birch. A solitary Goldfinch perched on a weed stalk in the meadows around several patches of bright yellow flowers & some black about the head, being already in transition between winter & summer dress. A 6 March Hawk was flying about over Great Meadows and a Red-tailed Hawk dining in the river at the foot of Benson's Knoll. Two Red-wings only were singing in the meadows, but I saw half a dozen Rusty Blackbirds walking about on a grassy stretch on the edge of the water. On the way home I kept starting Fox Sparrows in almost every thicket. Sometimes a dozen or more would be all

at once from the ground with a rather loud whirring sound like a bag of beads. In the Bassett there "honey" perched two Postcards. One of them took in an oak & sat staring at me only 30 yds. off with neck stretched up. Altogether it was a delightfully interesting walk

Went to
Ball's Hill

Hairy
Woodpecker.
Chockos

First
Swamp Sparrow.
Redpolls.
Goldfinch.

March H.
Hawks.

Fox Sparrows

Postcards

Concord, Mass.

1911.

April 17

Reefed Geese have been haunting the beach behind the old Barrett barn and the lane just in front of it ever since I came to Concord a month or more ago.

Reefed
Geese
fighting

Early this morning my friends Mr. & Mrs. William Stone who were staying with me at the farm house saw from their windows a brief fight between two birds on the ground at the east end of our deer yard, close to the wall that separates it from the head of the lane. Mr. Stone called me at once but before I could put on a few clothes & get to a window the fracas had come to an end. He has kindly written out his impressions of it in the following words:—

"About 6 a.m. on April 17th I was hastily summoned by my sleep-eyed wife out of your comfortable bed to see a couple of large birds in the yard engaged in some quite unusual occupation. A glance showed that

Concord, Mass.

1911.
(No 2)

They were not here, certainly, but a pair of fine cock
Partridges either at the beginning or end of a discussion of
opinion. The bird on the right was evidently the aggressor.
The other assumed what seemed an attitude of defiance
with an apparent unwillingness either to continue or begin a
fight. This bird sat mostly upright on his tarsi, bending
slightly forward at an angle like this \angle & was
motionless throughout the whole controversy till the final
disengagement. He sat rigidly still but keenly alert,
keeping watch on the movements of his adversary, who with
head bowed like a fighting cock, pecked at the ground
& made constant quick little arcs of circles back & forth
in front. The position of this bird's body was horizontal
& simulated exactly [that of] the Green yard fowl in a
scrup. Every few moments he made quick, short advances
as if to meet himself against the other but each time

Partridge

Lighting

Concord, Mass.

1911.

April 17
(1903)

through better of his aggressor's ground and continued his ^{Puffed}
tactics weaving back and forth. This apparent advance ^{Stomach}
to spring, however, seemed to cause the captive bird to ^{fighting}
assume a position near the vertex, until as I looked
through the bird glasses he turned his head apparently to
see if all was clear in the rear, and after a few moments
more turned and walked away perhaps 8 or 10 feet when
he was again brought to bay by his aggressor who quickly
ran up to him sneezing as before. On turning a second
time he was permitted to go away, disappearing behind a
stem well up to which the victor made another rapid
charge. Having been made sure that victory was secure he
hunched with tail & head erect (shortly proudly) confidently
back, evidently very well pleased with himself until he too
disappeared behind an opposite wall, ready in doubt to
drive another contest for his prisoners."

(From letter of William Starn to W. A. dated April 20, 1911/)

Concord, Mass.

1911.

April 24

The weather has been cold through the entire month thus far & especially so of late. The temperature falls to 25° or 26° nearly every night & the ground is hard frozen almost every morning. This morning the best snow on Balls Hill was found even up to 9 a.m. Saw where Pat had broken a channel through in his crossing. Vegetation is then or fine weeks late according to the farms & gardens. The maples & elms even in full blossom to-day for the first time. Most of the grass lands are as green & seen as in early March but a trace of green has appeared within the past few days on southern slopes, in one deep gash & in a few spots on the river meadows.

Beardless
swallow.

Spring birds have been coming late & drifting in, a few at a time. There has been no real birds of any of them as yet. Field Sparrows & Junco's still begin. Blue Jays are exceedingly scarce. Ruffed Grouse are very numerous, especially at the Farm.

A Fish Hawk is frequenting the river opposite Balls Hill. Fish Hawk I see him there almost daily circling & hovering. This morning he caught a large fish and bore it off over our town towards the S.W. I could see that it had red pectoral fins. Its breast like a Perch.

Beavers have been seen from sometimes but they have not begun pumping yet. One haunts the brushy edge of the river on the Balls Hill shore. As I walked along the path this morning he kept flitting on ahead of me just as Sparrows & Robin Thrushes do, making very short flights. I saw him there from North Gate to beyond the Cabot's where he sought a final refuge on one island among the maples & standing erect looking exactly like a duck (not a water)

Beavers

Concord, Mass.

1911.

April 25

Clear & warm with cool east wind.

The ♂ Downy Woodpecker who murdered a female presumably
his mate on March 20th last has been frequenting the trees
about the farm here ever since coming regularly several times
each day to feed on suet and drinking frequently every
day morning evidently in the hope of thereby securing
another wife. But no second female has appeared thus far.

Downy
Woodpecker

The ♂, meanwhile, began work on a new nest this morning
in the under side of the dead branch of the elm at the
east end of the wood shed. He worked steadily all the
forenoon and by noon he had carried the hole in so far that
only the hinder half of his body showed as he worked. There
are seven other holes, each one of which has been used by the
pair in former years, in this same branch, always with success
in raising their broods. Each hole has been enlarged the
following autumn to serve for a winter roosting place.

Concord, Mass.

1911,
May 4

Clear with cold N. W. wind. Ther. 25° at sunrise (Birds scarce)

After spending a week in Cambridge I returned to Concord this morning to find the general aspect of the country considerably changed. Apple trees, choke cherry and Crabapple trees are green with young foliage. Shad blow is almost in bloom. Plum trees are white with blossoms. Of birds not seen before this year I noted a Towhee, a King Bird, a Great Flycatcher and from Barn Swallows. Also 1 Martin

Vegetation.

While I was at the Totten place about 6 P.M. a very small, high-colored & sharp-shinned Hawk alighted among dense foliage in a yard from within 30 yards of me and sat there several minutes, evidently watching for prey. At length he crossed an open space with the peculiar undulating, bounding flight often practiced by this species and alighted on the stem of a tree by the road. As he did so a Song Sparrow dove into some bushes within a foot of him. ^{He} ~~He~~ a loud chirping outcry but he seemed not to notice it. Finally he crossed the road & the Home field flying straight

Sharp-shinned
Hawk

Covered, Mass.

1911.

May 4
(182)

and slowly at a height of about forty feet. A dozen or more Robins rose from various parts of the field and seemed to come fairly in sight and made off high in air in various directions with their spread wings but he paid not the least attention to them. During the entire time they had the long a stare of him to be worth pursuing.

Just as I was leaving the Pitkin place a Screech Owl uttered the low song in the direction of Burrows' & apparently in the trees along the road where it dips into the first bottom.

Low song
of
Screech Owl

I heard him a dozen times or more afterwards when I was in our front orchard and he apparently in the same place as at first. His long rolling cry (hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo) sounded very like the familiar throbbing made by automobiles.

It was seldom given much of time then over every few or five minutes. When he began in the dusk was still when the horizon & things brightly.

Concord, Mass.

1911.
May 13

Clear & very warm with fresh west wind

A number of species arrived this morning but no great number of individuals. Apparently it was the nearest approach to a protracted bird wave that we have had this season. Heretofore the birds have been merely drifting in, a very faint at a time with a marked scarcity of all except common resident kinds. Several northern breeding breeds due before this have not as yet appeared at all and of those others I have noted only a very few.

Just as Pat Flannery started out in our dog to cross the river from Boies this on his way down late this afternoon a Spotted Sandpiper alighted on the high stem of the boat and was carried a distance of 15 or 20 feet before taking wing again. Pat caught some of the bird dropped on this morning perch within six feet of him. Just before this he had given out or two thrills with his oars. He called out to me immediately afterwards when I heard the Sandpiper but did not see it.

Bird wave
of
migration

Spotted
Sandpiper
alights on
moving boat

LANCASTER, MASS.

1911.

May 21

Clear and hot (88°) with light southerly breeze.

During a visit which I made with John S. Hooper

Courtskip of
Spotted
Sandpip

this forenoon to the artificial pond where his ducks and

geese are kept in summer we saw three Spotted Sandpipers engaged in courtskip. One which was evidently a female kept, for the most part, in a corner of the other two which were apparently males, "showing off". First one and then the other would make a show, swoosh, rather slow, gliding run after & perhaps pass the female. Just before starting the bird usually (but not invariably) half opened its wings and inflated its plumage over its body to such an extent that it looked as big as an upland Plover. At the same time it threw back its head and propped out its chest which outwardly seemed to get whiter and sometimes to expand into a second white patch as large as a wild rose or larger. Sometimes it presented the appearance just described during the entire run which

Lowell, Mass.

1911.

May 21

(No 2)

was made nearly straight and rarely extended twenty yards
in length) but rather of course the wings were alternately spread
and closed and the chest expanded and contracted, the whole doing
nothing but an unfolding of form and form disappearing to
quickly reappear again. The two male birds seemed to be
displaying their most charms in a spirit of friendly competition,
after the manner of John the & Socrates duels, for they did
not once threaten or threaten in any way. They performed in
silence for the most part although I heard a little feet-rattling
when they were on the ground and occasionally one would
rise on wing and give the fight long as it fluttered &
flashed, along over the nearby flat. The female was chiefly
engaged in feeding and seemed to pay little or no
attention to the males. We thought that the appearance
and disappearance of the very conspicuous white was due to
the alternate raising and falling of the wing of the chest.

Courtskip
of
Spotted
Sandpipers

Concord, Mass.

1911.
May 26

Blandly with cool east wind.

About 8 a. m. I was surprised to find a female Black-brown
Waxtail
bird hopping about in open cultivated
land where we have had our vegetable garden for the last
few years. It is directly in front of the old barn at the
7 cars. The ground was ploughed, mowed & harvested a few
weeks ago. Much of the manure remains unremoved and
the Waxtail seemed especially interested in some of the
larger fragments which she inspected closely, one after another.
From several of them she drew, after long & energetic hopping,
what I think must have been either cow or horse hair
but which were too fine for me to see although I was within a

few yards & used my glass. I could see, however, that she had
a small bunch of long fibres sticking out from her bill
when at length she flew away from the top of the open
knoll towards the woods to the eastward. On reaching
them she rose above the tops of the tallest pines dropping
out of view behind them apparently very near Purple Herk
where I heard a male singing a little later. I estimated
her flight for a total distance of over two 200 yds.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

May 26
(No. 2)

A pair of Blue Jays have nested and reared young on the south side of Ball's Hill within a few yards of one or another of my cabins almost if not quite every year since 1892. This nest this year is in a pine about 30 yards from the well house. One may look directly down on or into it from a foot path just above for it is only about 6 feet above the ground & the hill side here very steeply. Whenever I approach it closely the sitting bird flattens her body and gradually raises her bill until it points nearly straight up. Her note is usually war at hand. I never hear either bird screaming over the nest but on

Blue jays
at
nest near
cabin at
Ball's Hill

(the ♂ I think) habitually indulges in hoarse cries. A few days ago he mimicked the Red-shouldered, the Broad-winged & the Cooper's Hawk and to-day, within an hour of a sunrise, he gave my perfect imitations of the phoe-e-o of the Red-shouldered, the bounding spring cry of the Cooper's and the shrill cl-a-cl-a-cl-a of the Sparrow Hawk. He must have seen me at the

Concord, Mass.

1911.
May 26
(No 3)

Time for I was in plain view of the nest & very near it, working along the path. Strange to say a pair of Robins has succeeded in carrying two eggs in a nest in a pine not more than twenty yards from the Blue Jay's nest. This young took flight this afternoon. This nest had only two eggs when we first noticed it. At about 10:00 the Jays were beginning their nest. 7 or 8 hundred days after this there was frequent activity from the Robins which we saw repeatedly chasing the Jays away from the ^(neighborhood of) nest. Whether or not the Jays seriously attempted to take it I do not know. Perhaps they may have succeeded in getting hold of the eggs for Robins almost always lay across them there.

Nest of
Blue Jays
at
Ball's Hill

Concord, Mass.

1911.

June 15

Clear & cool with rather fresh north-west winds.

To Concord from Cambridge this morning reaching
Ball's Hill about 9 o'clock. A Black & white Cuckoo, a
Chestnut-sided Warbler, a Maryland Yellow-throat, a
Hudson Thrasher & a Red-breasted Grosbeak were singing
and a Veery was calling in the little pine of wood by
the stone boat house on the Bedford shore. As we
crossed the river we heard Red-wings & Swamp Sparrows
in song. On Ball's Hill on our way I heard a
Cuckoo, Solitary Tanager, Maryland Yellow-throat, Song
Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow and Grosbeak; on Blackman
Ridge a Red-eyed Vireo, a Junco, an Oven-bird,
a Chestnut-sided Warbler & a Horned Plover; on Davis
Hill a Red-eye and a Pine Siskin; on Plain Ridge
2 Black-burnian Warblers and an Black-throated
Green Warbler.

Birds
noted in
Ball's Hill
Region

Concord, Mass.

1911.
June 15
(No 2)

North
Andover

Most of the forenoon was devoted to inspecting the different pieces of woodland between the woods on farm with a view to ascertaining the status of moth conditions. They are infinitely better than at this time last year and indeed very encouraging. The woods on the Bedford shore are in fine shape: the large trees were covered of gypsy & brown tail nests & large forest last autumn & spring but an spraying was done. Ball's Hill was thoroughly sprayed by Peck from 5-7. The foliage there is perfect save for damage on the back side where many trees are stripped or nearly so. The woods extending from Benjamin's Knoll back to Pine Point shed show little or no damage; Dorem sprayed them in May. Blakewell Ridge is badly eaten & Holden's Hill almost stripped; nothing was done there. Davis Hill was partially sprayed by Dorem. The forest has been done little or no harm there.

Lowell, Mass.

1911.

June 15
(no 3)

Wheat
Condition

Buck Field is in excellent shape with no signs of any damage; Durum Spring is in hay. The soils about the Spring and in Purple Rock woods were treated at the Farm town and are equally clean. There is the best wheat the patch outland and on the row of the barn are done with perfect safety. Hay, too was Spring. Everywhere in and about the cultivated land at the Farm the trees are in excellent condition. Practically all of the corn heavily Spring and still show lead. The Bay Pasture is in almost perfect condition although with Spring was done there. We cut off all the brown-tail with last March, however. The thorough Spring about the Farm & elsewhere has been a perfect success this year probably because we have used a

strong lead solution (1 to 5). Last year it was a failure in any ordinary place & nowhere wholly successful.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

June 15th
(No 4)

Letter in May "collected" caterpillars prepared by Raif
were first sent by Richardson in their places in our
woods viz. on Holden's Hill, in Birch Island woods
and at the base of the Kelleys place. They were also
collected elsewhere in Concord. Richardson tells me
to-night that they have spread the disease extensively
and that it is fairly raging in some localities
especially along the old Bigelow's road about a mile
south-west of here where the gypsy larvae are
"dying by myriads". He adds that on Tuesday last
(13th) he & Raif visited Holden's Hill and found
large numbers of wilted and dying caterpillars there.
I saw none to-day either there or at Kelleys place.
I did not visit the Birch Island woods.
In many places the gypsy larvae were not
feeding & otherwise inactive but all looked healthy.

Notes
Conditions

Concord, Mass.

1911

June 15
(Ms)

It is perfectly evident now that the extensive
and thorough spraying with a strong solution of arsenic
of lead (1 lb. to 5 gallons of water) which has been done
at the Farm this year has not resulted in any
harm whatever to the bird life. We have any of
the birds which were here before the spraying began
deserted the trees or shrubbery which they had chosen
for their summer haunts. I took a careful census
of them the day before the opening one of our
campaigns against the warblers and counted the
results closely for nearly two weeks afterwards
without missing a single individual bird. On
returning to the place to-day, after an absence of
about two weeks (May 31 - June 15) I find them
practically all in their accustomed stations. Yet the

have effects
of spraying
on the
birds.

foregoing is, as I have said, strictly correct, with the blue jay
and. Don't you see my opinion was precisely the same.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

June 16

Forenoon sunny; afternoon cloudy with two heavy showers.

Moist
conditions
Calden
long.

This forenoon J. C. Melvin took me first to Concord
village, next to Caliche village by way of Ten Hillsbury
School and finally back to Ten Farm by the eastern
road on which we live (Monument Street). The woods
along Ten Assabet, ^{for at least a mile} ~~about~~ its mouth are badly damaged
by winter frosts and all the way thence to Caliche
village they are, for the most part, well-nigh stripped
of foliage as are many orchards, also. On the return
ride by the more easterly road we found similar
conditions almost to Ten Concord here the side
of which the woods showed little or no damage
while the orchard trees exhibited none at all.
Mr. Robbins told me that the situation in Caliche
is far worse than it has ever been before. In one
part of Concord it is better than for other years past.

Concord, Mass

1911.
June 16
(No 2)

Yesterday & to-day the conditions were favorable for
for singing of birds and their music was incessant and
delightful everywhere about our farm buildings & in
the neighboring fields and woodland. Noting only such
birds as were seen or heard within 100 yards of our house

I made the following list: Bluebird pair building second
nest in box front of house.

Robin 3♂; Cat-bird 2♂, 1 seen; Nuthatch, collecting food & looking
at wire big den by road; Yellow Warbler, 2♂ in garden;

Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1♂; Redstart 3♂, from barn along Com;

Green Bird, 2♂; Red-eyed Vireo, 2♂, nest 2 eggs & 1 Condalia in
orchard; Solitary Tanager 1♂ near barn; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1♂,

Scarlet Tanager 1♂ near house; Cedar bird 2; Tree Swallow nest
with young over shed, also in garden (at Kitter's place);

Barn Swallow, pair feeding young in nest in one barn;

Goldfinch 1♂; Purple Finch 1♂, Song Sparrow 1♂ front of
(1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak ♀; 1 Indigo Bunting ♀,
house; Chipping 4 or 5; 2 Wooded Flycatcher, pair feeding

Birds
noted at
our place.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

June 16
(No 3)

young in hollow stub varied to apple tree in orchard (strong bird
densely in down stub last year); Phoebe, 1 with nest
under eave in shed; Wood Pewee 2 in dense vine brush;
Great Pewee 4 birds, 2 nests (one with young bird sitting on other)
in orchard near edge of brush; Bobolink Owls 2 & 3 new
nests (one with calling young) in dense within 25 yards of house
& at its base; Black-bird Cuckoo 1; Yellow-bird Cuckoo 1;

Flicker, 2; Jay 1; Chipping Sparrow (♂) 7 heard in chimney
Herring-gull ♂ sweeping down over ♀ in beaver
at night; Gray Swallow, ♀ in beaver front of house;

Thrippomaw, 1; at night; Pheasant 1; Puffin Gull, 1;
Broad-winged Hawk ♀ hovering over house;
in the run; Night Heron, 1 flying low over house

Wood found in Berry Pasture on evening of the 16th
he saw 38 species besides with others saw 300 yard away
In the Berry Pasture I heard or saw 2 Robins,

2 Cat birds, 4 Chestnut-sided Towhees, 1 Maryland

Yellow-throat, 1 Purple Finch, 2 Song Sparrows, 1
1 Junco, 1 Indigo Bird, 1 Black-bird Cuckoo,
1 Yellow-bird Cuckoo, 1 Flicker, 1 Pheasant 1 Partridge

Ocean voyage.

Montreal to Liverpool

1911.

June 24
to
July 1.

I left Montreal in the White Star liner "Laurentic" on the morning of June 24th and reached Liverpool late in the afternoon of July 1st.

During most of the voyage the weather was clear and cool & we had only two days (29th & 30th) when cloudiness prevented our sunbath. There was no dense fog and the sea was smooth the whole way with moderate following winds, chiefly S.W.

The first day was spent running down the St. Lawrence to Quebec which we reached in the evening (8.30 P.M.). The river thus far was nearly straight & about a mile in average width; its shores were low and flat with a few high hills or low mountains rising in the distance. Most of the bordering lands were under cultivation with scattered houses & farms. Altogether the scenery was tame & uninteresting. Nor were there many birds. In many places along the shores I saw a few Red-winged & Cow Blackbirds, flying over the river a good many Crows, a few Herring Gulls & one Pin Siskin. A Night Hawk was perched over Quebec at evening. Later in the afternoon great numbers of large mosquitoes having dull grass-green bodies came aboard & several of the passengers were bitten by them.

Montreal to
Quebec

Birds

Green
mosquitoes.

Ocean Voyage.

Montreal to Liverpool

1911.

Jan 24
to
July 1
(no 2)

Most of our daylight run on the 25th was from Father Point to Cape Gaspe with the Gaspe Peninsula on our right about 8 miles off and the north shore on the left showing only very dimly in the far distance. Just before sunset we were off Cape Gaspe with Picea Rock and Bonaventure Island faintly visible beyond it. To the north Long Anticosti showing very plainly, especially at its south-eastern extremity where I could see plainly, through my glass, the cliff where the Gannets were nesting in 1881 and where we made our first landing that summer. Comparatively few birds were in sight to-day. Indeed I saw only five or six Gannets and 15 or 20 Herring Gulls. I had expected to see Northern Phalaropes and Herring Gulls but none were noted. A Long Tailed Sparrow a mile or more away to the southward when we were off Cape Gaspe. There was a pretty, but not especially brilliant, sunset. Altogether the day proved less interesting than I had anticipated but it was good to see Anticosti and the Gaspe shores again, after thirty years.

Gulf of
St Lawrence
Old Scars
revisited.
Cape Gaspe,
Picea Rock,
Bonaventure Is.
Anticosti
Birds
Gannets &
Herring Gulls

Ocean voyage.

Montreal to Liverpool.

1911.

June 24
to
July 1
(no 3)

When I came on deck on the morning of the 26th we were passing Cape Ray which showed distinctly in the twilight close and bright at a distance of about ten miles. During the remainder of the day we steamed eastward along the south coast of Newfoundland at distances from the land varying with the sinuosities of the coast line from eight or ten to twenty or many miles passing down fans of the golden frowns of the rocky islands within three miles or less. Twilight was falling when we reached Cape Race and, changing our course to about north-east, started out into the open ocean, heading straight for the western end of Ireland. I had expected to go to the north of Newfoundland through the Straits of Belle Isle but this, we were advised, was impossible because of the fact that they were choked from end to end with heavy fields of floe ice.

The southern part of Newfoundland, as I saw it, is a most barren South Coast of Newfoundland and desolate-looking country, quite treeless and rising inland in great

rounded, rocky, moss or rock covered hills, bordered seaward by
At 10.30 P.M. I saw a huge ice berg about a mile away looking in the darkness like a cumulus ~~some light cloud resting on the water~~
cliffs of ~~mountain heights~~. I saw few human habitations of any kind.

Ice-berg.

Cape Ray
to
Cape Race,
Newfoundland

Ocean voyage.

Montreal to Leamington.

1911.

June 24
 to
 July 1
 (No. 4)

Birds of several kinds were in sight most of the day, most numerous Birds seen
 of South Coast
 of Newfoundland
 between noon and 3 P. M. as we were passing the Long Point Islands of

Miquelon and San Pierre. I saw in all about 30 Kittiwakes and
 50 Murres, a few Ross-bills, several Puffins, a dozen or more
 Gannets, a flock of about a dozen Sooty Shearwaters flapping on the
 water close at hand, a single Great Shearwater and one Petrel.

Kittiwakes,
Murres,
Ross-bills,
Gannets
Sooty & Great
Shearwaters.
Petrel.

A small land bird flitted about our upper deck all day. Several
 of the passengers had good views of it and one of them almost
 caught it. But whenever I was called out to see it it had
 just mysteriously disappeared. At length I had a brief and
 very unsatisfactory view of it as it was flying low over the
 water under the side of the ship. It looked like either a
 Nuthatch or a Tennessee Warbler. The latter species was indicated
 by the descriptions of those who saw it best for they said it
 was green above and cobalt-white beneath. Hedy, I remember,
 showed it to me when aboard our ship at such a close as this

Helminthophila
purpurina?
 comes aboard.

North Atlantic

Ocean voyage

Montreal to Liverpool

1911.

June 27

June 24 to

July 1

(No. 5)

Mr. Wilson, a fellow passenger, saw a fair large in bay very near at hand at 6 a.m. and, a little later, a whole flocking. When I came on deck at 9 a.m. Fulmars were in sight in several directions. I saw them frequently through the entire forenoon, perhaps 50 in all, mostly singly, never more than 2 or 3 together, all but one on wing skimming low over the water with quick, nervous wing beats and short, alternating periods of gliding on set wings. I also saw three Mutton Craggs (probably Oceanites oceanica) one in the forenoon, the others in the afternoon.

About 9.30 a.m. when we were fully 200 miles from Newfoundland (the nearest land) a pair of Puffins, flying towards us at a height of about 60 feet above the water, passed on that so near at hand (perhaps within 50 yards) that I had an excellent view of them.

June 28. This was an essentially birdless day passed almost in mid-ocean. I saw literally nothing save a single Mutton Cragg Chukin which I took to be a Hudson's Petrel. Several of the passengers reported an assembly of 50 to 75 birds of the same or similar kind seen early in the afternoon hovering in a dense cluster about floating food (seen in one place).

Birds noted

200 to 400

miles N.E.

from Cape Race, Newfoundland.

Fulmar Petrels

Oceanites

oceanica?

Arctic Puffins

200 miles from

land.

Birds noted

in mid-ocean.

Oceanites

oceanica?

North Atlantic

Ocean voyage.

Montreal to Liverpool. Mid ocean

1911.

June 24
to
July 1
(No 6)

June 29. Some after breakfast I saw 4 birds about a mile off whistling
low over the ocean. They looked like Gull's Shearwaters. At 3 P.M. I had
a good view of what was certainly a bird of this species. It passed us
within an eighth of a mile in close company with a Fulmar. Their flight
was very similar in character but the Fulmar looked almost pure white
and on occasions the Shearwater showed plain brown above in contrast with
its white underparts.

Deer's
birds.
Puffin major

Fulmar.

A Swallow which I did not see but which was clearly owned by
several of the passengers and described to me as having a black back
and from which underparts came aboard our steamer about noon
when we were still at least 400 miles from the nearest point on
the coast of Ireland. Although we are certain that it had a
white rump I think it must have been a European House
Martin. What could it have been doing at this season
so far from land?

A Swallow
heads are
shot 400
miles from
land.

North Atlantic.

Ocean voyager.

Mounted to Liverpool.

1911.

June 24

July 1.

(No 7)

June 30. When I came on deck at 8.30 a.m. the first birds I

saw were two Murres. Coming from the eastward they flew past me within twenty yards and just as a bird with my head. Just after passing me they spread off and alighted on the water down fifty yards away sitting on its surface very quietly and gracefully as an eel with wide spread tails and feet. Happening to glance sternward a minute or two later I

saw that a ^{half} dozen or more Fulmars were following close over the walk of our steamer, now coming up abreast to her stern, next whaling off to one side to fall far behind and then coming on again in single file with nervous primary wing beats. They increased in numbers through the day until by 5.30 when I saw that there were at least 12 or 15 of them. When I came up again at 7 P.M.,

after dining, I was surprised to find that they had been replaced during the interim by about an equal number of Lesser Black-headed

Gulls. Besides the birds above named I saw during the forenoon a Gannet and 5 Greater Shearwaters. All the while we were approaching the north end of Ireland no land or light was sighted before I went to bed at 1 a.m. when the watch was duly relieved with only darkness

Birds seen
at sea off
west coast of
Ireland.

Murres for
one from land.

Fulmars.

Little Black-
headed Gulls

Gannet.
Puffin major

Irish Sea.

Open voyage.

Mounted to Liverpool.

1911.

June 24

to

July 1.

(no 8)

July 1. When I awoke, not long after sunrise, the wild, musical

Birds seen

in

Irish Sea.

Herring Gulls

clamor of Herring Gulls came to my ears from above the ship.

Swarms of them were following her water when I came on deck at 8.30

to find the northern shores of Ireland and the southern coasts of Scotland

in plain view to the right and left. They kept after us all day

long, in varying numbers, gliding for hundreds of yards at a time on

Sliding for

on the wings

the wings with the strong wind coming striking them nearly a beam.

One was often to be seen perched on a round mast that topped

one of our masts where it would rest for many minutes at a time.

With the Herring Gulls were two or three Brown Black-bills and (I think) Lesser Black-

-backed Gulls,

a very few Mew Gulls. I saw during the day only 2 Gannets & but Mew Gulls,

Gannets.

the same number of Mew Shearwaters. Altogether the bird life of

Mew

Shearwaters.

this portion of the Irish Sea was far less rich than I had anticipated

after my experience with the more southern portion in August (4) 1909.

But no Puffins, Murres, Auks or Cormorants were seen to day

Indeed the birds above named were all that I noticed.

England.

Oxford, England,

1911.

July 5

Cloudless with light westerly breeze & intervals of dead calm. Very warm (max. 83°), Evening calm and rather sultry but not uncomfortably so.

Awaking soon after day break (probably about 2 a.m.) I heard in the garden at the rear of our house, coming in through my open window, a delightful burst of bird music which lasted nearly half an hour. The birds engaged in it were a Robin, a Blackbird, two Song Sparrows and a Wren. Later in the forenoon in the trees that shade the Mall in Christchurch meadows or in the garden at the rear of its boarding college I heard more Song Sparrows, a Blackbird, a Robin, a Stock Dove and, over a grassy field, a Sky Lark. The hour later most of the birds in the beautiful gardens of Madham College were silent but a Chiff Chaff and Green Finch were singing lustily, and a Hedge Sparrow occasionally. For fully two hours at evening (6.30-8.30) there was a continuous and thickly concert of bird voices in the trees & shrubbery bordering on the Chessall just above the "Poles". Here we heard 2 Thrushes, several Wrens & Robins and one Blackbird. During a

British
bird music

England.

Motor ride Oxford to Dorchester.

1911.

July 5
(no 2)

motor ride to Dorchester in mid afternoon dozens of Yellow Hummers
perched on telegraph wires along the road and then before Skyloals
soaring over the grain fields, were in full song. There were also on the Corn
wires a few large Thrushes of a generally plain drab color & looking not Bunting
unlike of House Sparrows, which had a monotonous, unmusical song that
recalled, but was not closely like, that of our Grasshopper Sparrow.
(There, no doubt, as I learned by referring to Collins' book, were Corn Buntings)
A somewhat similar, but more spirited and emphatic song, was
uttered at evening by a bird perched in a hawthorn on the river bank. Cire
Bunting.

Although I had a good view of it I failed to recognize it. It seemed
to be generally drab in color with a black or blackish head and of about
the size and build of a House Sparrow. (Afterwards, identified, by
reference to Collins' Manual, as a Cire Bunting)

It is quite evident that most of the familiar birds here have
nearly or quite ceased singing and that those which have not, with the
exception of Thrushes and Skyloals, are no longer at their best. Thrushes &
Skyloals.

The banks were in apparently full song all the afternoon but I have
the Thrushes only at evening & evening when their musical few seems unaltered.

England.

Orfford, England.

1911.
July 5
(no 3)

As in 1891 I am inclined to place the Blackbird at the head of
 all the British songsters that I have thus far heard; nor am I sure that
 we have his superior or even equal, among those of eastern North America.
 It is true that his song lacks variety as compared with that of the
 Song Sparrow or even of the Robin (of England) but in respect to beauty,
 refinement and perfection of finish it is simply incomparable. His voice
 is a rich contralto, not loud yet carrying well and all depending when
 the bird is in a grove or garden & the air calm. Each utterance consists
 of not more than ten or a dozen notes given rapidly but very smoothly
 and exquisitely modulated, seeming to flow from the bird's throat rather than
 to be the result of conscious effort. After an interval of several seconds
 these notes are repeated, with more or less appreciable variations both in
 form and inflection. The song has at times a dreamy quality, which
 is most delightful. To my mind it combines the rich, flowing quality of
 the song of our Rose-breasted Grosbeak with much of the spirit and variety
 of the song of our Hermit Thrush. It bears no resemblance whatever, either in
 form or expression, to the song of our Robins. The bird seems to show human char-

Song of the
Blackbird

acter in all times and to sing chiefly in the dense foliage of trees or thickets, fluctuating from place to place between
 succession with easy or at least changing its position with frequency, after the manner of our Blue-backed Thrush.
 I saw one sing to-day, however, on a leafy branch in front of my garden and return to fly to another tree
 it sang on every at it passed over a well-kept garden.

England.

Oxford

1911.

July 5
(no 4)

There is much in the song of the Thrush to remind one of that of our Mockingbird and Brown Thrasher but it is less hurried and confused and some of its notes seem to have been borrowed from other birds although they vary almost infinitely with different individuals and widely with the same individual. As with the Thrasher the same note is habitually repeated twice or three in quick succession with every word and thus it may be thus given as many as four or five times. As a rule the bird makes a distinct pause between each set of notes, at least at this season when the interest of human spectators lasts for several seconds. All the notes are clearly enunciated while many of them are given with strong and apparently very carefully regulated distinctness and emphasis. Some sound very like human whistling of a staccato and somewhat intricate character and they may be almost startling in their distinctness and abruptness. The bird's voice is loud, clear and resonant, but almost totally lacking in sentiment or spirituality. Thus while he is an admirably trained and very pleasing musician he fails to thrill one as does the Bluebird or even Robin Redbreast. Nevertheless he is worth going very far to hear. The best singer I have found anywhere

Song of the
Blackbird
Thrasher

England.

Oxford.

1911.

July 5
(125)

This season juncos habitually - if not invariably - when singing on St. Giles' church directly across the street from our boarding house. Sometimes crossing the Iowa cross at one end of the nave, sometimes the ridge of a higher part of the roof. Usually, but not invariably, he begins with two or a dozen notes given deliberately and smoothly much in the manner of our Robin's song and indeed strongly suggesting it. But after this he breaks into the throat-like style of song. I have heard one or two other birds begin in the same way. The St. Giles' bird is evidently an exceptionally fine performer but, like all the others, he is fast losing vigor & expressiveness of utterance and I fear we shall not have him at all many days more. (This last sentence was added on July 9th.)

Song of the
juncos.

England.

Offord.

1911.
July 9

Swifts

Swifts are very numerous in Offord this season. At evening I see them by dozens and even scores carrying about over the hedges in the town or over the main open parts of the Park. The alternate use of their wings is habitual and perfectly obvious. I have made it out dozens of times to my entire satisfaction during the past week. Their flight is much like that of our Chimney Swift but less rapid and more swallow-like with less frequent wing beats. At times, however, they move exactly like our birds & give as distinctly English another characteristic their notes as "screaking". None at hand they certainly suggest such characterization but when heard only faintly they sound very like the light screech of our Cedar Bird. They look larger than our Swifts but the apparent difference in size is not so great as the actual difference. When they are soaring with lit wings the bend of the wing looks different & more pronounced than that of our Swift.

England.

Oxford, England.

1911.
July 9
(No 2)

Next to the song of the Blackbird I like best that of the Robin. Although short and subject to only two or three variations it is highly musical in quality and rarely without in expression. The bird's voice is strong and clear and his notes delightfully liquid while they are poured forth in rapid succession being, in fact, like water from a fountain. This is true, at least, of the best specimens. Some of the inferior ones have rather shrill or even metallic voices.

Song of
the
Robin

The British Wren is another songster of high merit. His song is not unlike that of our Winter Wren but much less brilliant and based in quality although it flows more smoothly and the bird's voice is somewhat fuller and sweeter, if more commonplace. He is still singing freely and well whereas the Robin is fast lapsing into silence.

Song of
the
Wren

England.

1911.

July 1-31

Sailing from Montreal on June 24 I landed in

General
Observations

Liverpool on July 1st and spent the whole of the latter month in England.

When I reached there the country was suffering from drought as had been Severe drought rain had fallen since the preceding April. With the exception of a brief shower on the evening of the 2nd and a thunder shower on the morning of the 26th there was none whatever during my entire stay and the 3rd, 7th and 15th were the only days when the sun was not shining most of the time, often in a perfectly cloudless sky. At mid-day the mercury usually rose to about 80° Fahr., frequently to 84°, occasionally to 86° and even to 88°. There was seldom much haze and on the more brilliant & cloudless days almost no trace of it, even when one looked off over open country for distances of ten or fifteen miles. The wind was commonly from the west or south-west and at most no more than a light steady breeze. The nights were uniformly just cool enough to be perfectly comfortable. While many of the days were too warm to induce one to indulge in vigorous exercise I did not find any of them really oppressive.

England.

1911.

July 1-31

(No 2.)

Nor did I ever have occasion to put on an overcoat while walking or seated out of doors (I did so once or twice while walking) even on moving or coming when the air was commonly delightfully fresh and heavily charged with the fragrance of flowers, of sweet meadow grass or of cedars & juniper foliage. Altogether it seemed to me a really perfect summer weather although the English complained bitterly of what they termed the excessive heat - as did also many of the American tourists.

Unusual
heat.

According to the newspapers it was the driest summer that had been known for over fifty years and the hottest for twenty five years.

As the month wore on the country became more and more drought-stricken until at its close there was scarce a grass field or lawn in all England which was not, for the most part, as bare and brown as our fields look in early spring or very late autumn. Indeed the only lawns which showed much green were those which had been especially watered and there were few in number for the garden hose is comparatively little used in England being ordinarily not required there. The grain fields had

Progress of
drought.

England.

1911.

July 1-31
(No 3)

mostly turned light russet or pale straw color by the middle of the month when harvesting was already in full progress - six or eight weeks before the usual date. Shallow-rooted vegetation of every kind was, of course, exceptionally poor and stunted and there were comparatively few wild flowers but the trees and shrubbery looked as well as usual save when they had been injured by insects - as in Sherwood Forest.

These conditions obtained everywhere I went save on the borders of streams and on the steep slopes of high ridges and low mountains in north Derbyshire when the grass continued pleasingly green in many places.

The effect of this exceptionally severe and protracted drought on bird life such as is characteristic of English fields and meadows was scarcely less marked and general than on the vegetation. It is true that there were plenty of Sky Larks, House Sparrows, Yellow Horrocks & Corn Buntings in and about the fields of ripening grain but on inland meadows & pastures there I saw almost no Lapwings, literally no Gulls and comparatively few Pheasants which even Starlings were much less numerous than usual.

Drought

Effect of
drought on
bird life.

England.

1911.

July 1-31

No 41

When I reached Oxford on July 3rd Thrushes, Wrens and Wood Pigeons Oxford
birds.
were still singing freely in the trees and shrubbery in the city park and gardens
and Sky Larks, Yellow House Martins and Green Swifts in the open fields -
I also heard a number of Blackbirds and a few Robins during the first
few days, especially in early morning and at evening. At the latter hour
I usually went into the park and here, as well as along the banks of the
little river (Cherwell), I was treated to several very delightful bird
concerts in which Thrushes, Blackbirds, Robins, Wrens and Wood Pigeons
took chief part. There was also a black-capped Titmouse which I took to
be the most ^{fit} intense wing bird and uttered notes even abroad freely &
often very freely both on all hours of the day. Wood Pigeons were Wood Pigeons
unusually abundant everywhere this summer. At evening their deep, guttural,
musical evening notes came from far & near throughout the wooded parts of
the Park and were always grateful to my ears. Stock Doves were much Stock Doves
less numerous & I heard only one call, on July 5, in an elm in Christ Church
meadows. It had a deep, hoarse note repeated six or eight times without cessation.

England.

1911.

July 1-31
(No 5)

I saw only a very few Fault Doves about Oxford and there were not Turtle Doves seen but I heard one cooing on the banks of the Thames near Windsor about the middle of the month. The only bird new to me and noted at Oxford was a Cirl Bunting which we saw perched in the top of a hawthorn by the river on the evening of the 5th singing its shrill and varied but not very pleasing notes. On the evening of the 8th a Kingfisher shot past us within 25 yards as we were sitting in a punt near the Flottes.

In the beautiful grounds at the rear of Wadham College where Wadham College grounds. I spent many a pleasant & interesting hour studying my books under the shade of the fine old trees, birds of various kind were more abundant and easily observed than almost anywhere else in Oxford. Robins, Thrushes, Black-birds and Field Wagtails were constantly seen about our ten lawn and in the trees or shrubbery close about it I heard besides the Spurr Wood Pecker, Titmice of several kinds, Golden-crested Kinglets, Wrens and great numbers of Green Finches - the

England.

1911.

July 1-31
(no 6)

lost - housed in full song: on one house, up to the middle
of the month and later. Here on July 15 I heard a Chiff-Chaff
singing freely for the first and last time this season. That

Chiff-Chaff
in song.

I took at the time to be its mate led me to a nest about 5 feet
above the ground among ivy on the face of an old wall but
on referring to "Corbett", later, I found that the Chiff-Chaff builds a
chamber nest on or very close to the ground and that this wall
was agreed with his description of that of the Green White-throat.

Nest of
Green White-
throat.

It had 5 young almost fully grown and fledged while the nest
bird fed repeatedly while I was standing within a few yards of
her and was the only occupied nest of any kind (save that of the
House Martin & of the Swallow & Sand Martin) that I found in
England this year.

Spotted Flycatchers were common throughout the Park, feeding on
fruit parts along the broad walks, and Swallows & Jays to come to it
at evening to skim & wheel over its open central portions in loose flocks

England.

1911.

July 1-31.

(No 7)

During a visit which we made to Cambridge on July 10th

I saw or heard, late in the afternoon, in the beautiful park-like grounds bordering the Cam on both sides, at the rear of the long line of colleges, great numbers of birds. Among these were three young

& very noisy Carrion Crows, perched in the dead top of a large oak just Carrion Crow

a female Thrush, a species new to me in life, which flitted along a Redstart

grass walk about of us, sometimes alighting in the path & hopping over

it much like a Robin, frequently clinging to the limbs of the trees

when its reddish tail & dark greyish forehead showed conspicuously.

At the mouth of a brick drain about a foot square in the face of an

old brick wall about three feet above the surface of the Cam, at the

rear of Kings Chapel, were four young Sand Martins huddling close

together and fed every half minute or so by one or both parents. Although

almost & perhaps fully grown & fledged I doubt if they had as yet taken

to wing, and suspect that they had been hatched within the

drain which was not discharging any liquid matter at the time.

Young
Sand Martin
in brick
drain in
wall.

England

Cambridge

1911.

July 1-31

(No 8)

Before leaving Cambridge on the morning of the 11th

I made a pilgrimage to Magdalen College and the little
 brick-clad house next it where Alfred Newton lived and died.
 The sight of it moved me deeply. Simple & unpretentious yet
 very neat & picturesque, nothing almost under the walls of the
 college with extension and well enclosed college grounds filled
 with shrubbery and trees and alive with birds at its base
 one could not wish in origin a more fitting and congenial
 home for him who occupied it so many years. When I
 saw it this morning it was bathed in brilliant sunshine
 and a light summer breeze wafted among the wing on its
 walls. Blackbirds, Thrushes, Robins and a Chiffchaff were
 singing close about it, Swifts, Swallows, Martins and
 Jackdaws circling over it. Every one with whom I talked
 had known & loved Newton and I was shown a
 fine oil painting of him exactly hung in one of the college halls.

Magdalen
College

Newton's
house &
grounds.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston.

1911.

August 2

Cloudy & stormy by turns with occasional heavy showers.

Irish Sea &

Off South
Coast
of Ireland

Wind about S.W. increasing in force through day until, late in the afternoon, it was blowing what one of our sailors called half-a-gale

A Stormy
Sea

or, as Glossa Allen & I thought, at the rate of 30 miles an hour, (the Captain of the "Arabie" estimated it at about 35 miles an hour) whistling shrilly through the rigging of our steamer ("Arabie", 15,000 tons), heeling her over very decidedly and heeling up a lumpy, white-capped sea. From the crests of "the combers wind-bounded" the wind came and across tore sheets of glistening spray and drove it far over the troubled ocean. Some of the waves broke high enough against the sides of our ship to wet her upper deck - fifty feet or more above the water line.

When I came on deck at 8 a. m. there were only a few birds in sight save ten Gulls following the steamer. Every now & then I might see a Gannet or a Manx's Shearwater or a Murre, flying low over the water, but no great numbers of them were in sight at any time during the next three hours.

Gulls,
Gannets,
Manx
Shearwaters
Murres.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston.

1911.

August 2
(No 2)

On nearing Greenstone, however, we saw them in ever-increasing numbers and its roosting land-locked haunts proved to be alive with Gulls and Murres although there was no Gannets or Shearwaters there.

Birds in
Greenstone
Harbor.

Swarms of Gulls circled about the ship and Murres in pairs & small flocks drifted just within gunshot of us as the fastest on the water. Almost if not quite one half of the Gulls in this harbor were Little Black-backs most of the remaining half being Herring Gulls with a few Black-backs of both kinds. We looked in vain for

Gulls & Murres

Mew Gulls (L. canus) or rather we tried in vain to fully satisfy ourselves that any of the birds we saw belonged to that species. Some looked smaller than Herring Gulls but none quite small enough for L. canus. We had them very near us, in good lights, as they flapped & reposed on wing or floated on the water. I have had similar trouble before this in trying to separate Mew Gulls from Herring Gulls. Yet the difference in size should be appreciable.

Mew Gulls
absent.

As we entered the mouth of the harbor a Skag (P. graecus) passed within 200 yards flying out to sea.

Skag.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston.

1911.

August 2
(No 3)

We left Greenstown about noon and spent most of the afternoon steaming to the westward with the south coast of Ireland on our right and moon or less plainly visible through the mist-laden atmosphere but gradually retreating. All the while we were attended closely by 50 to 100 Herring Gulls, the number varying considerably from time to time. Whenever any food was thrown overboard they descended to and circled about it alighting on or hovering just over, the water, while a few were often engaged in flying to and fro over the crossing wake of the ship. But most of them were for the most part sailing on set wings about on a level with her upper deck or just a little above it, on the windward side, heading as she headed, keeping close pace with her and gliding thus, without apparent effort and perhaps without a single wing beat, for a mile or more at a time. It was a not less wonderful than beautiful sight—that of this cloud of stately, almost snow-white birds, some almost within arms reach and about on a level with our faces, moving calmly on a level plane.

Off South
Coast
of Ireland.

Herring Gulls
following our
ship.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
(No 4)

against a strong wind, at a speed of not less than 15 knots an hour, yet absolutely without visible or indeed suspected, muscular effort of any kind. Nor were they habitually doing their best for every now and then several of them would increase their speed, perhaps very considerably, yet without flapping their wings. They seemed, indeed, to have plenty of it always in reserve and to be able to move at almost any pace they liked, now accelerating, now retarding it yet even without obvious means of so governing it. Allen, who watched them with me for a time, fully agreed with me that there was here no possibility of their making use of previously acquired momentum or of their acquiring enough of it to be of any practical service by the occasional slight downward dips that they made, for these were often infrequent and seldom more than a few inches in depth. He further agreed that there seemed to be really no limits to the distances which they could glide at uniform ^{perhaps} or accelerating speed since we unquestionably saw ~~several~~

Remarkable
flight of
Herring Gulls.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
(no 5)

of them go considerably more than a mile without either flopping Remarkable
or being headway or changing their uniformly maintained elevation above flight of
Herring Gulls.
the ocean. Moreover we both arrived rather quickly on the definite
conclusion that the wind furnished their chief if not only means
of propulsion although for a time we were given out a good bit
conjecture how it could do so. For they were heading within
four points of us (our sailor man agreed to this estimate) or about
as close as a good schooner would lie when close-hauled, yet
they made no appreciable leeway. After Mr. Allen had gone
below there was a change either in the wind or in the course
of our steamer so that for half an hour or more the wind
was almost dead ahead. Yet the Gulls glided on and on
nearly as before although they rose a little higher & dropped
a little fraction astern still, however, keeping up with the
ship without visible effort. They were now heading, I should
say, within one point of the wind yet sailing into it

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
(no 6)

with undiminished speed and ease. As I stood musing at Remarkable
this wonderful performance and noting carefully every detail respecting flight of
Herring Gulls.

The form of head, body and wings of half a dozen or more birds which
were gliding, ghost-like, within two or three yards of the sail

to which I clung as a support against the furious gusts of

wind then suddenly occurred to me an explanation of the Possible
mystery which I cannot help thinking may be a sound one explanation
of it.

and which, I am compelled to find, also affects somewhat

to Dr. Allen. It is simply this: - that whereas the Gull

obtains and maintains a forward movement during ordinary flight,

especially through calm air, by vigorous downward strokes of

the wings, it ^{may} accomplish the same result when progressing

against a heavy wind by holding the wings rigid and allowing

the blasts to strike against the tips or terminal portions of

the flight feathers thus forcing the latter upwards precisely as

they are bent, if by an inverse process, whenever there is a

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
(no 7)

pronounced downward stroke of the wing. Theoretically this seems Remotely
to be quite possible or even probable while several things that flight of
I noticed to-day, without understanding their significance at the Herring Gulls
time, now seem to support such a conclusion rather effectively.

They are as follows:-

1. During the midday hours when the wind was only moderately strong the Gulls seemed able to glide against it on the wings for only comparatively short distances hardly much exceeding 100 or 200 yards. During this period the set of their wings when thus gliding did not strike Mr. Allen or me as very radically different from that characteristic of similarly brief periods of sailing when the birds are moving about our bay & harbor in ordinary weather.
2. As the wind increased in force during the afternoon (there was no appreciable change for a time in its general direction or in the course of the storm) the Gulls correspondingly increased the

Voyage from Seaside to Boston - Off lower coast of Portland.

1911.

August 2
(No 8)

lengths of their gliding flights until the latter seemed, as I have said, to be limited only by their wishes or man copious.

Remarkable
flight of
Herring Gulls.

A corresponding progression and very noticeable if not also significant change took place in the "set" of their wings. This is difficult to describe but essentially it may be said to have consisted (1) in the more general backward trend of the whole wing (2) in the more decided crumpling or bending of the wing at the carpal joint (3) in the much more decided downward trend of the wing quills and especially of the secondaries. The latter were so deflected downwards towards their tips at times as to give the wing a curiously incurved or hollowed aspect posteriorly.

Set of their
wings.

3. When the set wings, thus incurved, were struck by especially fierce gusts of wind one could see quite plainly and unmistakably that the tips of the secondaries were ^{or bent} ~~springing~~ ⁱⁿ ~~upwards~~ by the wind while the forward edge of the wing remained, of course, perfectly rigid. It was precisely this observation which first suggested to my mind the thought that the wind might seem thus to drive the bird against it.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2

No 91

Striking obliquely against the wind 600 feet long & 50 or

Removal of

flight of

Harry Gull

more feet in height* which the side of the storm formed the wind

*The Captain afterwards tells me that the upper deck is 60 feet above the water
The hull of the ship somewhere over 600 feet in length.
must have cushioned back in eddying, swirling waves but if these

assisted or affected the flight of the Gulls the fact was not evident.

Most of the birds were moving along slightly above the upper deck and hence fully exposed to its undisturbed force which was (some 50 yards of men) and many of these were so far over the water as to be

in air currents that could not be modified by the presence of

the ship. Yet one and all those moving well above the water

(i.e. at least 25 feet above it) seemed to progress with equal ease

and speed. But whenever any of them descended to within

eight or ten feet of the crests of the waves they seemed

wholly unable to advance against the wind without frequent

nor did they seem able or at least disposed to glide along our leeboard deck
according to the wind and dead funnel in this way out on water above the level of our upper deck.
and energetic wing beats. These are observed by my many

observations. Another exceedingly interesting exception to certain of the

rules just formulated was approached by two superb Black-backed Gulls *Larus marinus*

Gulls (*L. marinus*) in full breeding plumage. For more than an

unable to glide
far against
wind

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
no 10

hour their birds accompanied the Herring Gulls mingling with Remora-like
and keeping pace with them on a level with our upper deck flight of
flying all the while as Gulls fly on ordinary occasions that is Gulls.
by alternate flapping and sailing, the wings being beaten vigorously
every few yards. Just evidently that my Black-Back was unable
to glide for against the wind on western coast of Ireland that they
would surely have practised it. The two adult Lesser Black-backs Lesser
(L. fusca) were no less skilful as it than the Herring Gulls, Black-backs
one of which could and did do it. Indeed, with the exception glide against
of the two L. marinus, all the Gulls in the flock were frequently
gliding at one time sometimes for hundreds of yards without
a single wing beat on the part of any of them. sound as ever
as Herring Gulls.

While thus engaged at the height of the blow their wings
were, as I have said, not only strongly arched and much increased Relation
but also held much further back than common so that a large position of
portion of the body was shown in advance of where the wing wings & body
in gliding birds

Voyage from Loughshane to Boston. Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
(No 11)

appeared to join it. The neck, too, appeared to be exceptionally elongated giving one the impression that the birds' center of gravity had been brought as far forward as possible. Its head was cocked normally, with the bill pointing rather decidedly downwards.

The plumage of head, neck and body looked unusually compressed and ~~the~~ ^{the} joints thereby narrowed much more than common.

In other and larger flocks the birds seemed to have reduced as far as might be the resistance to the air offered by their heads, necks & bodies; to have advanced as far as they could their centers of gravity; and to be employing the force of the wind to drive them, literally for miles, almost straight against it by merely letting it beat against their long, stiffly-held but flexible and obviously downward bent flight quills - especially secondaries, the longer primaries being held more nearly level. Such flight through constantly opposing air currents constantly varying in force and also at least slightly in direction, would be quite impossible if the bird were unable to constantly

Remembrance
flight of
Herring Gulls.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston. Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
(No. 12)

readjust, evidently and by what may be termed intricate motion, the "set" of its wings and that of certain of their feathers as well, perhaps, as its general equilibrium. Such readjustments were constantly seen by us and easily noted although less marked than on nights less expected. The birds also seemed to use their tails to damp ascent as well as descent but they did not ever open or spread them in any widely. Before sunset they began to leave us one by one and before dark all had disappeared. There were no Gulls of any kind in sight during the following day. Thus they did not follow us quite out of sight of the shores of Ireland where no doubt many of them had nests and young. Practically all of those following the steamer after we came out of Inverness Harbour were fully mature birds still in breeding plumage but in or very near this harbor we saw two or three dark plumaged birds which we thought must have been hatched & reared this summer.

Remarkable
flight of
Herring Gulls.

The Gulls
begin to leave
us before sunset
and are all
gone before
dark.

Voyage from Dunfermline to Boston. Off South Coast of Ireland.

1911.

August 2
(No 13)

With respect to individual skill and proficiency ^{of flight} there seemed to be little if any difference among the hundred or more Herring Gulls which accompanied us on this occasion just described. Indeed on one side of them was evidently a great master in the art of gliding - on six wings into the centre of strong wind. Then, as often happened, all were doing it as well the general effect was more impressive, not to say amazing, than anything of the kind that I have ever before witnessed. Its impressiveness was heightened by the absolute silence of the swarm of great, snowy birds and by the mysterious ease and perfect orderliness with which they swept ceaselessly onward like a decorously marshalled army of bird ghosts. For not one of them ever gave tongue or ~~was~~ interfered in any way with another until the moment arrived when food of some kind was thrown overhead. Whenever that happened they would break out into a shrill chorus of exultant cries and descend or over to the water to flap & jostle one another as they hovered just above it, equally pecking up the floating bread or biscuit.

Remarks
Flight of
Herring Gulls

voyage from Brisford to Boston :

North Atlantic - The Basin stretch between Inland & Grand Banks

1911.

August 3

noon obs. lat. 50.43; lon. 16.55. Weather fair and cool with alternating clouds and sunshine and smooth sea.

No birds were noticed during the forenoon but about 4 P. M. Scarcity of birds
10 or 12 Shearwaters were seen by Dr. Allen. He called on one Puffinus major
to be taken but only two were in sight when I reached the deck.
These looked like Puffinus major to which species Dr. Allen was inclined
to refer all that he had observed. He caught a flying specimen of Mutton
Cory's Chelton
a "Mutton Cory's Chelton" of one or another kind.

" 4

noon obs. lat. 49.05; lon. 26.29. Weather cloudy & cool with a few brief
gleams of sunshine and occasional showers. Moderate W. wind & smooth sea.

Dr. Allen saw about a dozen Greater Shearwaters at 10 a. m. and later Puffinus major
a single "Mutton Cory's Chelton". I saw what he took me was a Mutton
Cory's Chelton
Sun Fish backing on its side at ten fathoms with its shark-like Sun Fish
dorsal fin exposed at times.

" 5

noon obs. lat. 46.57; lon. 35.03. Weather fair with fresh westerly
winds and rough head sea. No birds of any kind seen to-day
even by the Allen who was almost constantly on deck. They saw a
school of Porpoises, however.

No birds of
any kind.
Porpoises

North Atlantic.

Voyage from Swains Point to Boston .. In the Gulf Stream.

1911.
Aug. 6

noon obs. Lat 43.44; Lon. 42.45. Fine weather with almost unbroken
sunshine, light N.W. wind and smooth sea.

Yesterday we were inclined to think that we might be in the Gulf Stream
waters. To-day there was no question of it. The water was rich blue in certain
lights, fragments and occasional large rafts of the orange-brown gulf weed Gulf-weed.
was constantly drifting past and Flying Fish were positively abundant Flying Fish
while Petrels of three or four kinds were frequently in sight. Petrels

(Miss Paradise of West Medford, Mass.)

A young girl, assured me at lunch (saw) from her point of observation
in the bow of the steamer she had seen at least 200 Flying Fish Flying Fish
shortly before. I was there or elsewhere on deck, often in company
with Mr. Allen, during almost the entire afternoon, when I saw
at least 30 Flying Fish some scarce larger than Minnows, others
apparently at least five or six inches in length. As a rule the smaller
ones flew only a few yards or perhaps feet at a time but some of
the larger ones exceeded distances as great as fifty or sixty yards
skimming along very rapidly just above the waves of the bow

North Atlantic.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - In the Gulf Stream.

1911.

Aug. 6
(p. 2)

waves usually at right angles to the course of the wind. More Flying Fish
than ever I was almost certain that I saw them vibrate their wings
rapidly & intermittently & at other times that I heard over the heavy
blue sea, presumably, to such action.

Mostly Cory's Chickens were in sight very frequently and at times
almost constantly, between 3 & 7 P.M. wandering about over the ocean
sometimes coming within 75 or 100 yards of our steamer but never once
following her course so far as we were able to observe. Once I saw
four and several times three, flying in company but at a hole they
remained singly or in pairs. Three wheels crossed our bows when
I was standing there about 2 P.M. looked exactly like Wilson's Petrels
and flew close to the water much after the manner of White-bellied
Swallows. All the others that I saw (certainly at least 50 & I
think near 75 in number) looked a third smaller and their
flight seemed much lighter and more erratic. Some after following
the undulations of the water rather closely for awhile would

Mostly Cory's
Chickens.

Oceanites
oceanica.

Procellaria
fuliginosa.

North Atlantic

Voyage from Linnæus to Boston - Gulf Stream waters

1911.

Aug. 6
(No 31)

board, as it were, straight upward to a height of 8 or 10 feet above the crest of the waves, repeating this action several times in succession and reminding me of the similar but more pronounced and gracefully rhythmic upward and downward sweeps of many Shearwaters. There were times when these small Petrels seemed to me to fly as rapidly, one under one, as I have ever seen the big Bonaparte Swift fly. The longer I watched them the more convinced I became that they could not be Wilson's Petrels and that they must be Stormy Petrels (Pterodroma pelagicus). Dr. Allen, however, was inclined to refer them all to Oceanites oceanicus failing to see that there was anything peculiar in their flight although he admitted that a few of them did look rather too swarthy for that species. I might perhaps have been tempted to agree with him had I not seen, under precisely similar conditions, the then larger and slower flying birds, less than an hour before the birds now began to appear.

Flight of
Pterodroma
pelagicus.

North Atlantic

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Gulf Stream waters.

1911.
Aug. 6
(No 4)

About the middle of the afternoon some birds quite new to me appeared half a mile or more from the ship. I first saw them flying together and shortly afterwards one or two were moving singly. They acted much like Greater Shearwaters but looked only about twice as large as Leach's Petrels. As nearly as I could make out they were wholly white below with a broad white collar about the neck. Their crown backs & wings (above) looked black or blackish. Allen who saw them with me at once referred them & their

Puffinus
affinis.

confidantly to Puffinus auduboni* a species with which he
* Subsequent comparison of skins of this bird with those of P. affinis (in Mus. Comp. Hist.) has satisfied me that the Petrels had referred to belonged without question to the latter species -
is Larus with in the North Atlantic but which I do not

remember to have met with living. These birds seemed to me rather too small for it but they were, as I have said, a long distance away and we did not have a very good view of them for the wind was fresh and the white capped waves running rather high at the time. A single Greater Shearwater was seen by Allen, in the forenoon I believe.

Puffinus
major.

North Atlantic.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Gulf Stream waters

1911.

Aug. 7

From obs. Lat. 42.03; Lon. 51.10. Clear and very warm with moderate east wind and smooth, blue sea.

I went out into the bows at 8 a.m. and remained there about fifteen minutes, seeing a Wilson's Petrel and an Arctic Puffin.
having grayish cheeks and dark-colored bill. Arctic Puffin
The latter looked like a young bird. It came flying just over bows 600 miles
from land
in bright sunlight, a little below the level of our bows deck, within thirty yards of me, and then alighted on the water about seventy yards off where Allen saw it. His identification was the same as mine. He must have been 600 miles from the nearest land. When this bird was seen & about midway between Newfoundland and the Azores, the narrow parts.

At 3 P.M. Allen & I went to the bows and remained there a full hour keeping a keen watch over the ocean to the north and (that to the southward being so abash with clovering light that it tried our eyes too much to look in that direction). During this time we saw 12 or 15 Mother Carey's Chickens or less than one to the mile, the speed of our ship being about 16 knots per hour.

North Atlantic

Trayage from Swinhoeed to Boston. Gulf Stream waters.

1911.

Aug 7
(No 2)

I had no hesitation in referring three of these birds which looked Oceanites
oceanica fairly large, had comparatively long wings, and flew like Swallows,
to Oceanites oceanica. All but one of the others was, I think, Procellaria
pelagica.

Procellaria pelagica. * Allen remained for a time, as he was yesterday,
* On examining a specimen of P. pelagica in Mus. Comp. Zool. on Aug. 12 I fully
convinced myself that this was the species seen by me on Aug. 6 7 & 8
doubted as to these being two kinds but at length when a

pair of the latter ones came circling low over the water within
a few yards of the boat and directly beneath us he gave us and
admitted frankly that they were certainly much smaller than some
of the others with shorter, broader wings and appreciably different
flight which in both thoughts was, at this time, very bat-like.
Other similarly small birds flying faster off mind presently
like those seen yesterday darting about with excessive swiftness
and swooping up & down like many Procellariids.

A single bird (the exception above referred to) seen half a mile away Pelagodroma
marina (?)
& but imperfectly seemed to have white on the underparts & to be
slightly larger than a Laysan Petrel, but the latter may have been confined
to the ship as Dr. Allen thought although I felt nearly sure that some
of it was on the vessel and breast as well as

North Atlantic

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston. Gulf Stream waters

1911.

Aug. 7
(No. 3)

on the voyage & still more certain than the birds was not a Martin Cary's
of any kind. up to 4 P.M.

No Flying Fish were seen to-day and there was only a
very little gulf weed although floating seaweed of a pale, yellowish
cast was rather abundant. What we took to be the "Portuguese
man o' war" was passed near at hand sailing on the surface
of the water and glistening like silver in the sunlight.

During the forenoon Allen, while down in the bows, saw
a small shark near at hand and a whale of moderate
size spouting about half a mile away. Between 5 & 6 P.M.

he saw four Flying Fish and several Martin Cary's Chickens.

About 7 P.M. as I was standing on the upper deck
watching a glorious sunset I saw a jaeger which appeared to
wholly sooty colored and of the smallest size looking, indeed,
scarcely larger than a Portuguese Pigeon - flying at a height of about
90 or 100 feet and very swiftly, with even, vigorous wing beats
and no intervals of sailing, it came from the northward

"Portuguese
Man o' war"

Shark &

Whale seen

Flying Fish
Martin Cary's Chickens

Jaeger

North Atlantic

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston. Gulf Stream waters.

1911.
Aug 7
(no 4)

heading as if to cross the bows of our ship. But on coming
up with them it turned sharply to the right and went off
westward, into the glowing sunset sky, almost exactly in the path
that we were following. Its flight reminded me of that of a
Golden Plover being equally swift & tireless. If I remember
rightly, the jaegers that I saw in mid. Atlantic in Aug. 1909
flew at most the same elevation as this bird but more
irregularly and less decisively. As far as I have observed there
are no other sea birds found far out to sea in this latitude
which fly so high above the water. I think this bird was a Long-tailed.

About 5.30 P.M. I heard shouts & exclamations on the upper deck Big school
of red-bellied
Porpoises
and looking out found the ship in the middle of the largest school
of Porpoises I remember to have ever met with. They were scattered
rather irregularly in small parties over an estimated square mile of
ocean. Some of the passengers estimated the total number as between
100 and 200. I did not see more than 50 but I saw all the whales
looking out for the porpoises only. Several that I saw almost under
our feet & within thirty yards showed one distinct blackish stripe along
the side with sometimes a fainter parallel one. Their heads were
strongly red tipped. The whole way active & gurgling together. Evidently
their best speed was about equal to ours. (I think) but they did not
long remember.

North Atlantic.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston. Gulf Stream waters

1911.

August 8

From obs. Lat 42.30; Lon 60.30. Weather perfect with clear sky, light S.W. wind and calm sea. Very warm.

All day long our steamer has been joggling on westward through a sea scene ruffled by the light easterly breeze, rich blue in color & plentifully strewn with brownish-yellow gull weed with Flying Fish rising singly or in couples or threes or fours together, many little whales, and Portuguese Man o'war sailing past at more infrequent intervals. The air has been deliciously soft and warm. Altogether the conditions have seemed so nearly like those of the Caribbean Sea, as I remember it in 1894, that I have found it difficult to believe that we were only some 400 miles from and directly to the eastward of, Boston. I have been spending very much of the time in the bow of the ship & Mr. Allen has been with me there at intervals. Something or other of interest was being frequently in sight & the time passed quickly as well as delightfully. I have seen at least 50 Flying Fish, several Portuguese Man o'war & a school of about 15 Porpoises.

Semi-tropical
Conditions.

Flying Fish

Portuguese Man
o'war

Por. Man o'war
Porpoises

North Atlantic.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Great Western boats

1911.

Aug. 8
(Wed)

Flying Fish.

Most of the Flying Fish were directly under the bows and flew off across the wind, sometimes for distances as great as 60 yards, often not farther than 6 or 8 feet. Looking directly down on them we could see with absolute certainty & distinctness that their brilliancy iridescent wings were usually held rigid but occasionally flexed from one position, in motion quite dissimilar, exactly like those of a bird. I was not sure that I made out more rapid & continuous wing motion on this occasion. The obvious flapping usually occurred just as the fish was leaving the water or when, after just touching the crest of a wave, it continued on further with renewed momentum. After some of the wing beats were as closely as I did and others of our fellow passengers also saw and testified to them. That they were at times pronounced and unmistakable is open to no doubt. Most of these fish varied in length from 2 to 6 or 8 inches and were silver white with purple & blue iridescence but I saw one about the size & shape of a big Diphysa that was brownish yellow all over

North Atlantic.

Voyage from Liverpool to Boston - Gulf Stream waters

1911.

August 8
(No 3)

Small dark-colored Petrels with white rumps came in sight every few minutes and on times almost continuously, during the greater part of the day. I must have seen at least 100 in all. Of these I identified 2 positively and a third doubtfully as Storm Petrels. One (the first noted - at 8 a.m.) circled under the bows, directly beneath me, when I made quite sure that it was a P. pelagicus. Another, seen about 3 P.M., by Allen as well as myself was certainly of the same species - Both birds looked somewhat Greener, as well as smaller, than Wilson's Petrel & had a very different & more bat-like & evasive flight. All the other seen were referred without hesitation to O. oceanus. Allen & I especially found their feet extended beyond the tail. Their flight was swifter - like, for the most part, but occasionally rather more like that of a night Hawk than alighted on the water nor did we see any of them pick up any food or even attempt to do so. Indeed they kept on as if wandering aimlessly about.

Mother Carey's
Chullens

Pterodroma
pelagicus
becomes scarce

Oceanites
oceanus
becomes very
abundant.

North Atlantic

Voyage from Buenos Aires to Boston - Geoff Stream waters

1911.

August 8
(no 4)

Early in the afternoon we saw a Greater Shearwater, on first sighting on the water from which it frequently rose rather clumsily to skim off over the ocean. Saw a bird on wing, flying like a Puffin & looking to me very like one, passed us at some distance. While I believe it to have been an Arctic Puffin Arctic Puffin? it was, unfortunately, not certainly identified. Allen, who saw it as well as I, thought it might have been some kind of Shearwater.

Greater Shearwater

Just before breakfast this morning Dr. S. W. Allen had a good view of 2 birds which he thinks were Puffinus Androsium. They crossed our bows about a ship's length ahead with bright daylight streaking fast on their sides. About 7 P.M. I saw ten or a dozen of these same birds flying singly or in pairs low over the water (about 4 or 5 feet above it). Their upper parts including the upper surface of the wings looked iridescent black, their under parts snow white. In size they appeared to be a little smaller than many Shearwaters with much shorter wings. Their flight was

~~Greater Shearwater~~
Puffinus Androsium
again

North Atlantic

1911.
Aug. 8
(No 5)

Voyage from Swampscott to Boston - Gulf Stream waters.

not unlike that of Puffins major but rather lighter, straight & more direct, without obvious traces of the rhythmic up-and-down in which P. major indulges, less often & more readily, than P. amplum.

I saw several of these birds to excellent advantage and within 200 yards or less. They seemed to me rather too small for P. arcticum but if not that I cannot imagine where they could have been.*

Shortly after 7 P.M. when the calm sea was shimmering with opalescent tints reflected from the sunset sky to the westward, I saw flying as close to its surface as they could fly without striking the points of their long, narrow wings, 5- birds which appeared to be unincubated and almost if not quite black & about twice as large as Bonaparte's Petrels. They crossed our bows singly, at intervals of two or three minutes, heading south-east and keeping straight on without the slightest pause or marked change of course until out of sight. Their wings

were moved incessantly with long, deep, vigorous but easy strokes. Allen thinks they may have been Bulwer's Petrels. I have never seen anything at all like them before [Afterwards (on Aug 11) I examined several specimens of Bulwer's Petrel in Mass. Coop. Inst. Without question it was the species I saw on Aug. 8.]

* Puffin
of note on the
of Aug. 6, 1911

Bulweria
Bulweri

North Atlantic

Voyage from Sainsford to Boston. For terminalion.

1911.

noon observation lat. 42.26; long. 69.16.

August 9

A rather warm day, partly cloudy, partly sunny, with light southerly wind and smooth sea threaded here and there with heavy banks of fog.

Just before breakfast I visited the bows of our steamer & saw there

Oceanites
occasional.

9 or 10 Wilson's Petrels in the course of an hour or so. We

looked for them in vain after this we saw any other birds until

mid afternoon when, as we neared Boston Light, two young

Herring Gulls passed us. After anchoring off our light for a couple of hours

Herring Gulls

to wait for the town of our side we entered the new channel at

6 P.M. and reached Inauscutin an hour later, anchoring there for

the night. At least 25 Terns which looked like S. hirundo were

Common
Terns in
Boston Harbor

seen inside the Brewhouse flying about low over the water in

three rather compact flocks containing from six to ten birds each. One

flock was seen well inside the harbor & not far from Inauscutin.

Allen reported seeing two Scoters but they escaped my notice.

Scoters.

The pilot told me that Seals are seldom observed now in or

near the entrance to, the harbor, having been well nigh exterminated

there within the past few years.

Carlisle, Mass.

1911.

August 13

During a visit to the Carlisle Pines, made this afternoon in company with the Melvins, I heard a Red-tailed Hawk. There was no rustling or fluttering whereby, whining cry repeated a dozen times or more near at hand. Apparently the bird was concealed somewhere in the tops of the tall pines but I failed to get a sight of it. Probably it flew from them when for not long after it ceased screaming I heard crows cawing excitedly, as if scolding something, just beyond a wooded ridge, at least a few rods away.

Beebe
Comes

In a path way under these pines I found an Ant Lion's pit with an Ant Lion at the bottom. Although we searched carefully all about we could not discover another.

Ant Lion

On the way back I saw a King Bird pursue, overtake & severely punish a Blue Bird with its bill finally chinking & coming to the ground with it from a height of 40 feet in an open field. When they separated the Blue bird showed little hurt, although with blood.

King Bird
casualty
Bluebird

Glendale, Mass.

1911.

Aug. 26

Calm, warm & sultry, the sun shining feebly through dense haze.

About 30 Cedar-birds spent the greater part of the day within Cedar-birds
catching
sight of our house catching flying insects. During most of the forenoon they flying insects
were clustered in the top of a dead oak whence they kept flying out
in every direction, nearly all of them being often on wing out over.
Through the afternoon they were in leafy ash trees on the roadside near
the Canon where I watched them for some time rather closely. Through
my glass I could see the insects plainly enough. They appeared to
be rather larger than mosquitoes and to have a scapula and more active
flight although they did not move very rapidly. All that I could see
was confined to a space only a few yards square about on a level
with the tree tops and just to leeward of them. Within this space they
did not seem to be very numerous yet their numbers suggested no
apparent diminution from the incessant raids of the Cedar-birds among
them. From this I inferred that they kept coming from a distance about as
fast as they were gobbled up. The birds caught them with admirable

Glendale, Mass.

1911.

Aug. 26
(No. 2)

still and calmly, rarely missing their aim. One after another they Cedar birds
catching
would leave the leafy tree top in quick succession until a dozen or more flying insects
were hovering and darting to & fro in the midst of the loose swarm
perhaps so near together that as many as four or five might have been
At times they looked like so many big butterflies fluttering in a compact body about a
leaved with a single charge of four or five. Standing beneath the tree I
could see through my glass their headless prey followed, overtaken and
snuffed up. Sometimes a single Cedar bird would capture as many
as six or eight insects during a single flight of this kind. The
total number taken in the course of the afternoon must have been
very large for the swarms here appeared to include more than a
dozen or two on any one tree, or to be scattered over an area more
than fifteen or twenty feet square. The birds engaged in their pursuit
and capture with keener energy and great apparent eagerness. Just
evidently they were making good use of an exceptionally favorable
opportunity for I have never before known anything like so many
of them to be similarly employed within so limited an area or for
anything like so long a time. What the insects were I cannot
say. Their flight resembled that of honey bees but they looked too
small for that. They may well have been Diptera or perhaps Coleoptera.

Glendale, Mass.

1911.

Sept 1

Sunny, warm & rather sultry, with light southerly breeze.

On August 30 I saw three Milkweed Butterflies flying southward high in air. To day they were unmistakably migrating in the same direction and in considerable numbers but necessarily singly & so widely separated that I did not ever have two in sight at once. Some passed just over the tops of the taller trees, others at a height of fully 100 yards, the latter looking exceedingly like birds. All went straight down the valley towards the Douse-woods here to light in the distance. Just after sunset I noticed that those which continued coming from the north stopped at the line of tall oak trees bordering on the road and went to roost there on the under side of leaves near the tops of those trees. I saw a dozen or more arrive and settle there in the course of a few minutes. One that I noticed earlier in the day was from a clove field to an elevation of about 200 feet & then started southward mounting upward in a spiral across precisely as a bird might have done. The flight continued all through the day.

Southern
migration of
Milkweed
Butterflies

Glendale, Mass.

1911.

Sept. 1
(no 2)

Just before midnight I heard Woodpeckers in very unusual numbers chipping in the stars. ^{lit} hours overhead. The flight continued unabated for at least half an hour later or as long as I remained awake. Heretofore this season I have heard only a very few birds passing Southwood at night. Among them has been several Wilson's Phoebe giving the night call.

Heavy nocturnal
flight of
Woodpecker

Promptly with the coming of autumn this morning the Blue Jays have begun screaming everywhere throughout the Glendale woods. Before this I have heard them only occasionally & sparingly.

Jays begin
screaming

Sept

The Pickering's Hylas, too, began their continued calling everywhere to-day. I heard them first only two days ago.

Hylas calling

Sept 2

About 8 a. m. I saw a very large Red-tailed Hawk, evidently a ♀, soaring majestically, high in air, over the house. As it drifted off Southwood it was attacked & very persistently harassed for several minutes by a small Hawk which looked like a ♂ Sharp-shinned & which kept darting down on from above. The flight of a Red-tailed Hawk is not often unobscured to me anywhere more

Red-tailed
Hawk

Glendale, Mass.

1911.

Sept. 4

Brilliantly clear with cirrus east and light westerly wind.

From 10 to 11 a. m. two Wood Pewees were almost constantly in song, answering one another, in hawthorn woods at the base of the Studio. Contrary to their usual custom in this season they gave as their characteristic note and with just as much vigor, expression and frequency as they would in May or June. Hitherto during the past two weeks I have heard only two but, rather few a case which one habitually hears in late summer.

Wood Pewee in first song.

Early yesterday morning and this a Red-eyed Vireo was in first song at intervals for half an hour or more in the woods near the house.

Red-eyed Vireo in first song.

On the morning of September 2, about ten o'clock, a Black-throated Blue Warbler sang at least a dozen of times using the ordinary Spring Song but giving it very emphatically and so quickly that it wholly lacked the usual drawling quality

Black-throated Blue Warbler in first song.

Glendale, Mass.

1911.

Sept 4
(No 2)

At 3 P.M. as I was walking from the studio to the house I happened to glance upward when I saw, almost directly over me, at an elevation of fully 200 yards, about 40 Night-hawks soaring in circles on set wings, not independently, but in a dense cluster or mass confined within a space which did not seem to exceed twenty yards in width. Around the confines of this limited area they glided smoothly, evenly and rather swiftly, one following another closely and all describing an almost perfect circle unmarred by obvious deflections from the slightly curving course or by upward turns or downward "dips". Their wings were held straight & flat like those of Song Sparrows, not crossed at the carpal joint as in ordinary flight. As they swung around & around from right to left (for one moved in this direction) they appeared, of course, to be crossing one another's line of flight at the center of the circle as I viewed it, producing a kaleidoscopic effect, although their flight was, as I have said, perfectly ordered & in the same track, or nearly so, thereby the outer rim of the circular space being traversed by any of them. Occasionally a bird would stop its wing once or twice but it usually circled the entire course without

Extraordinary
flight of a
large flock of
Night-hawks

Glendale, Mass.

1911.

Sept 4
(No 3)

doing so and the wing beats were seldom frequent or pronounced enough to be very noticeable or to divert one's mind from the general impression of effortless and exquisitely smooth and graceful soaring which the sight of the swan, in its entirety, produced. All the while the birds were drifting off towards the south coast before a light north-westerly breeze. They were just passing out of sight beyond the house when I entered it - after consulting them for a couple of minutes - to call out some of my friends. Although we all rushed out of its south door not half-a-minute later the Night-hawks had somehow and most mysteriously disappeared during this brief interval. How they could have done so is difficult to understand for we had an unobstructed view of the sky from the horizon to the zenith in the direction in which they were going yet not one of them was again seen. This behavior on this occasion seems so utterly unlike anything that I have ever before witnessed on the part of any numbers of their kind that I could not believe that they were really Night-hawks until, with the aid of my glass, I had identified them beyond possible doubt

Remarkable
flight of
Night-hawks

Glendale, Mass.

1911.

Sept 4.
(see 4)

making out almost every detail of characteristic form and coloring including the white spots on the wings. During the entire time that I had them in view no one of them left the closely-compacted flock or flew for a single yard in the customary manner. Their individual movements were most nearly like those of Sooty Terns although the general effect on my eye and mind of the crowded, revolving, intercrossing members of the entire swarm was exceedingly like that produced by a flock of Hairy Gulls, sailing in company, as they do often do during calm days in late autumn, high in air over the country lying between Charles River & Fresh Pond.

Just why all these Night-hawks should have been indulging in so remarkable a performance at this time & place is difficult to comprehend.

If, as seems most probable, they were migrating it seems strange that they should have chosen to do so in this leisurely way and during the early afternoon of a brilliantly clear day. Perhaps they

were engaged in reconnoitering in quest of distant landmarks but the fact that they were all the while below the crests of the secondary mountains & not apparently trying to rise above them (they seemed to keep to the same elevation which I consider them) would seem to disprove such an inference.

Remarkable
flight of
Night-hawks

Glendon, Mass.

1911.

Sept 5

Brilliantly clear and delightfully cool with fresh westerly wind.

There was no doubt the same large Red-tailed Hawk noted on Sept. 2nd passed low over my head this morning flying heavily and pursued by an irate mob of clamoring crows. On this occasion I had a good view of its under parts which were dingy white with dark mottling, showing it to be an immature bird. It halted almost as big as a Fish Hawk for which, indeed, I at first mistake it despite the fact that it issued directly from dense woods - at the rear of the Studio. Its heavy, labored flight was sufficiently accounted for by the prey it bore in its talons, carrying it ^{up}grasped in both feet, apparently, and held well below the body. This was evidently some mammal of fairly ten times of a half-grown Cottontail Rabbit & I thought either that or a young housecat.

At frequent intervals through the cotton foreman I heard the full & perfectly normal song of a Blue-throated Blue Warbler near as loud as I sat working under the hemlocks at the rear of the Studio. There were periods, indeed, when this bird sang quite as often & freely as one is likely to hear two species in many or from

Red-tailed
Hawk with
prey

Blue-throated
Blue Warbler
in full song
for hours.

Stockbridge, Mass.

1911.
Sept 5
(No 2)

During the afternoon, spent on the golf links at Stockbridge,
I saw Nighthawks passing low down on the links, (4) (3) & (1) going
northward, (10) flying straight southward, all moving in the usual
direction known at a height of fifty or sixty feet. It was cloudy &
calm on the links.

On the banks of the pretty little river that winds through the
meadows near the village D. C. French & I found a number of
birds. Most interesting of these were two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks which
kept close together in a willow and apparently were a mated pair for
the ♀ looked like an old bird and the ♂ was unquestionably fairly recent
having a beautiful rusty breast and black wings & tail although the black
of his head & back was partly concealed by a pronounced wash of
rusty brown as is always the case with birds of his age & sex
in autumn. There were also 3 very Kingfishers, at least two
Water Thrushes and three Phoebe's, a Hood Mew and a number
of Robin & Cedar Birds in the trees bordering the stream.

Nighthawks

A pair of
adult

Rose-breasted
Grosbeaks

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Sept. 8

Cloudy & cool with clear easterly wind. Very cool. Cool night.

In our Garden this morning I found ~~this morning~~, in a
thicket in the jungle, a ♂ Wilson's Black-caps having a nearly full
black cap. It chirped so nearly like a Maryland Yellow-throat that had
I not been so plainly, within a few yards, I should have set it down
quite confidently as a representation of that species. Not long before
sunset I heard again their Yellow-throat-like chirp and soon traced it
to a black-capped Wilson's prothonotary, he distinct from some birds seen earlier
in the day but not accompanied by a ♀ with a plain olive green
crown & bright yellow underparts. The two were at first among
some sun flower plants in the flower garden but they soon flew up
into a gray birch where they joined two Black-bell Prothonotaries & an olive &
Redstart with which they spent the next fifteen or twenty minutes,
actively foraging for food in their usual characteristic manner. It was

Two Wilson's
Black-caps
Prothonotaries in
our Garden.

Black-bell
&
Redstart.

easy to distinguish them from the others by their short, jerky upward
pulls on wing after notes flying or on the under side of the lower
and by the peculiar way in which they lifted & depressed their long bills.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Sept. 20

Clear and very warm with light westerly wind.

I have been here most of the time (but not quite nearly) since September 12th, being at the cabin on Balls Hill.

Small birds of every kind have been there for for the most part of course, scarce but there were lots of them on the

Small birds
very scarce

morning of the 16th when, in the woods at the east end of

Good flight
on 16th

the Hill, I saw a Black-headed Blue Warbler (♂), a pair

of Redstarts (the ♂ adult) a ♀ Wilson's Black-cap and several Wilson's Blackcap

Black-poll's besides other Warblers not definitely identified.

All these must have come from the north during the preceding night for the day before was a generally bird-less one. But

Migration
during early
misty night.

the night just mentioned was cloudy & misty with heavy

rain falling most of the time. The rain began about

3 P. M. on the 15th and was accompanied by fresh

South easterly wind which reaches the air from locally

although the temperature was not low.

Grand, Mass.

1911.
Sept. 20
(No 2)

A second and later flight of northern sand
warblers around last night which was calm, warm and
clear although foggy along this river valley. Most of
these birds were Black-bills. In company with
five or six of them in white pine woods on the
crest of a ridge Smith O. Dexter & I found a
Northern Palm Warbler this afternoon. It behaved
very oddly, keeping 30 or 40 feet above the ground near
the tops of the pines and not once wagging its tail
during the entire time (certainly two minutes) that we had
it under observation. Nevertheless I feel sure that our
identification was correct for we both made out all the
characteristic of color & marking except the yellow under
the throat & that Dexter saw although I did not.
It certainly had no yellow on the under parts except
on the throat, breast & perhaps on abdomen, also.

More
Migrants
arrived

Western
Palm
Warbler

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Sept. 22

Flickers when on wing and about to alight ^{Flight}
in a tree or just after taking flight from it occasionally ^{note of} ~~Flicker.~~
utter a peculiar low rolling call very unlike any
of their other notes. Hearing this near at hand in
the busy pasture this evening when the birds were
still I was struck, for the first time I believe,
by its resemblance to the cough of a horse. It
seemed indeed to have very nearly the same
quality and expression although it was, of course,
very much higher and fainter. The bird was
within a few yards of me when making it.

No one heretofore has seen a Deer for a month Deer.
Of course we have any tracks been seen of course
until to-day when I found those of a medium sized
doe on Ball's Hill and those of a small fawn
in the wood land leading from Beach Field to Riverside

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Sept. 24

Although I have been living on Balls Hill continuously since Sept. 12th I have not seen a single Mink at sea save a sign of one anywhere along the river. About a week ago I heard on two successive nights an hour or two after dark a single heavy splash in the river which nearly has been made by a Mink at sea but which I was more inclined to refer to an Otter. At eleven o'clock to night, just after I had gone to bed, and for half an hour later, some animal which I fully believe to have been an Otter was splashing & plunging in the water at intervals directly in front of the cabin making so much noise as a large dog similarly employed. The night was warm & gentle breeze then - but I listened in vain for the characteristic whistle heard from the Otter here last year. Shear Mr. Allen tells me that he has a note of an Otter killed in this river in Belknap's covey last spring.

Society of
Ornithologists

Oct 12

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Sept. 26

Notes in
shed left.

As usual the shed left at the farm has been
 fragmented all summer by lots of the same interesting
 species which I have found there ever since I bought the
 place fourteen years ago. They are believed to winter in
 Florida. Certainly they appear here earlier here in
 spring and disappear early in autumn. The dates of
 their arrival and departure this year are as follows:-

- May 4. Three in the shed left. (From the April 26 when it was
 first noted by me.)
 " 5 Six in the left all banded together
 " 6 " " " " " "
 " 7 " " " " " "
 " 9 Twelve " " " " "
 June 16 Eighteen " " " , all apparently adult.
 Sept. 13 Eight " " "
 " 23. Three " " "
 " 25 One " " "
 " 26 None could be found anywhere in the left to-day.
 If we can find them yesterday really migrated last night
 he chose a peculiarly unfavorable time for such a journey
 for a heavy thunder storm which began at 5 P.M.
 was followed by almost continuous rain lasting well
 after daylight this morning.

Concord, Mass.

1911.
Oct. 3

Clear & warm with light westerly to southerly winds.

Maple swamps ablaze with reds & hickories splendid with
with old-gold foliage. - Both apparently at their best to-day

Auricularia
colony

Saw three flocks of Black Ducks migrating, all
flying past Ball's Hill towards the S. W. The first
flock passed low down at 8 a. m. & contained 12 birds
The second flock, also flying low, passed at 11.45 a. m.
and comprised about 25 birds. The third flock passed
at 5 P. M. & contained 14 birds which were moving in
v-shaped formation like Geese & almost as high in
air as Geese habitually fly when on migration.
It is long since I have seen so many Black Ducks
here in the course of a single day.

Black
Ducks
migrating

Two Pair-billed Grackles were seen in the
area in company opposite the cabin at 7 a. m. I
saw one or both several times later in the day

Pair-billed
Grackles

Concord, Mass.

1911.

(Oct 3
(Wed))

a little higher up the river. As I was watching one of them just before sunset it took wing rising out of the water against a light breeze without much apparent difficulty & flying about 100 yards before dropping into the river again. It could not be seen at the time & there was nothing visible against the cover it alighted. As I concluded that it must have flown nearly across it was in haste to reach the place where it alighted.

Heard two Screech Owls in the belt of willows & maples on the river bank opposite Peck Island just as twilight was falling. One uttered dozens of times a peculiar drawing, rather hoarse er-ē or ah-ē very cat-like in quality. After awhile it began uttering the usual shrilling wailing cry which the other answered in similar tones occasionally varying to the wailing cry.

Pied-billed
Grebe rises
on wing

Screech
Owls,
one with
peculiar
note.

Cornwall, Mass.

1911.
Oct. 3
(No 3)

As I was paddling down river after sunset
this evening I saw two Deer standing at the edge
of the water in the meadow opposite Birch Island.
At first they did not appear to notice my boat when
I got within 100 yards they began to gaze at me
calmly & soon afterwards looked off, throwing up their
white flags on each bank. but not showing much alarm.
Both were close one large, the other rather small.

On the morning of Sept. 29 I saw what were doubtless
their den two does on Balls Hill, looking down at
me from its crest as I stood near the cabin. When
I stole up through the trees they disappeared. Their foot
tracks were to be seen all along the path leading past
the cabin on the morning of the 23 when, to my
surprise, I found a number of their footprints on
the railroad cutbank ~~within~~ within fifty yards of

Deer.

Concord, Mass.

1911.
Oct. 5
(1904)

the station at West Bedford. On the day before this
I found tracks on the top of Rabbit Hill and in
the farm for the first time this autumn.

When I got home on the 12th Sept. I could not
learn that any one had seen any Deer or tracks
any - for a month or more previously.

During my paddle down river this evening
I saw three Musk-rats, the first that have come
under my notice this autumn. Post Flanagan
says that they are very scarce in the river
as far as he has been able to learn.

Musk-rats
2000

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 13

Brilliantly clear with fresh North-west wind.

As I was returning from Davis's Hill to Ball's Hill about half an hour after sunset this evening an Owl of the size of a Partridge (Bonasa) started from the big black oak that stands on the edge of the swampy hollow filled with button bushes and after circling over me within 15 feet returned to the oak when it perched ^{for a moment} on a large limb about 20 feet above the ground. This was repeated a dozen times or more. Usually the bird came out directly towards me and after circling close around me went back directly into the tree when it always alighted on one of the shorter branches, not more than 20 feet up. Sometimes, however, it flew away from me at first and after crossing an opening beyond the swamp came back over me to the oak while twice it alighted in a leafless maple on the opposite side of the wood from the oak and on the edge of the meadow. Finally it flew out across

Long and
Best seen
in
evening twilight

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct 13

(No 2)

The meadow nearly if not quite to the edge of the birch
when I lost sight of it in the gathering gloom. Although
it seemed nervous and very restless it was not at all
shy but, on the contrary, evidently quite fearless of man
and apparently curious to make out just what kind of
a being I was. Its repeated returns to the oak indicated
that it had a strong preference for this particular tree
perhaps because of its unusual form or because of its position
on the edge of a narrow harvested swamp. Nevertheless
the bird did not ever remain in this tree for more
than a minute or two at a time. It sat rather erect
when perched but in an easy attitude. Frequently it
stretched out its neck & bent its gaze in truly methodical
fashion over it bobbed not only its head, but its body,
also, up & down quite violently then & from time
in rapid succession. During most of the time it

Long-eared
Owl

Careland, Mass.

1911.
Dec. 13
(No 3)

had called round and showed us our traps but when
it crested them for a moment and I saw them outlined
distinctly against the sky above the trees. Although they
looked rather stout for those of a long-eared Owl I
had little or no doubt that the bird was a representation
of that species. Its flight was slow, easy, graceful,
somewhat erratic and, on the whole, not unlike that
of a Night Hawk although at times suggesting that of
a big mouse. Flapping its broad wings a few times it
would glide without further effort for twenty or thirty
yards before beating them again, inclining now to the
right, now to the left and often describing circles
of about 100 yards in circumference. More than once
I thought it might be looking for prey which thus escaped.

Long-eared
Owl.

Twice I heard a low, guttural cry mid way between a grunt
& a dog-like bark which seemed to come from it as
it was on long but which I could not be sure to attribute.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 20

The autumn coloring has been exceptionally fine this year but its glory is now past or nearly so. The maple foliage was about a week or more ago; that of the oaks has faded although most of the leaves still cling to the trees. The barberry's vegetation bordering the river has been cleared & blackened by frost; but the river meadows were attractive here of burnt & brown and the upland fields continue vivid green.

For several years past the numerous dense-foliaged bushy young white pines that I planted in Pine Park about 1897 have furnished a congenial roosting place for birds of several kinds especially Blue Jay, Robin, Sparrows, Chickadees and Parula sps. And coming to this they were abun with Junco's fluttering among the upper branches & calling chup, chup to one another on every hand. They kept coming in singly or in little flocks from neighboring fields and scattered widely over the

Autumn
coloring

Bird roosts
in pine
plantation

Junco's
roosting in
pines.

1911.

Oct 20

(No 2)

Canaan, Kans.

greater part of the population as there I rarely noticed
more than one in any one tree. There were many white-
throated Sparrows roosting in these pines a week or two ago.

White-throat
Sparrows
roosting in
pines

As I was about to leave Pine Park this evening
I heard a Great Blue Heron calling in the distance
towards the north. Its cries grew more and more
distinct until at length I saw the majestic bird
high in air coming directly over me sailing its long
straight sword. It kept on until out of light
passing over the Great Meadows without changing its
course in the least or lowering its flight perceptibly.

Great Blue
Heron
migrating
southward
at evening

At short & very regular intervals it uttered its
hoars, keeping hark giving it at least once every
four or five seconds. Evidently it was migrating &
bound for some better distant place. Most of the
Blue Herons that I have seen at this season pass similarly

Concord, Mass.

1911.
Oct 20
(No 3)

at evening along exactly the same "fly line" as usually
over Pine Point. In August they were never given to
capture cones and to alighting in the meadows to
rest or feed. (This bird was noted at 5.20 P.M.)

About 10 a.m. I saw a solitary Cedar bird
(the only one observed thus far this month), perched
in the top of an elm in Benner's field. It kept
calling tee-ee but no other found or observed it.

A solitary
Cedar bird.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 22

Cloudy and somewhat foggy with fine rain at intervals & little or no wind. Day warm and humid. For the past six days the weather has been continuously cloudy with strong N.E. wind and intermitted rain.

As H. W. Henshaw and I were standing at the edge of the river near Benson's Knot about eleven o'clock this forenoon we heard with perfect distinctness, repeated a dozen times or more the shrill, squeaking flight call of a Golden Plover which, as indicated by the sound, was evidently flying in a great circle over Great Meadows. Some ten minutes later we heard it again perhaps a score of times as we were at the cabin when the bird appeared to first circle over Hadden's Meadows and then to go off out of hearing to the south-west. Over or twice it seemed to be within two hundred yards but the mist was so dense that we failed to get a sight of it. I judged by the quality of its voice that it was a young bird or "Pole Belly"

Golden
Plover

Coveard, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 25

Clear with light southerly wind. The whole country
white with snowfall and shallow frosts skinned over at
sunrise this morning but most of the day was warm.

As H. W. Hubbard & I were crossing the river this
morning we saw a large female Marsh Hawk alight
on a pole which the haymakers had left standing erect
in the meadow opposite Boon's field, its top fully
twelve feet above the ground. The bird closed its
wings and remained perched on the pole for at least
a minute, sitting rather erect. When it took flight
again it began beating the meadow in the usual
characteristic way. This is the only instance
that I recall when I have ever known a
Marsh Hawk to alight at anything other so great
a height above the surface of the ground.

Marsh Hawk
perched on
pole at
Coveard
Mass.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 30

Clear calm & deliciously warm with little or no wind.
Last night cool and country white with hoar frost at sunrise this morn'g.

It must have been twelve or fifteen years ago and rather late in October or early in November that I saw and heard a bird then and still unknown to me, flying high in air over Great Meadows, calling whit, whit very like a House Flycatcher. Since then I have repeatedly seen and heard others of the same kind, invariably in this part of Concord, always on wing, nearly always in late afternoon and, with but one exception, singly. About two weeks ago (I neglected to note the date) I heard this call early one morning at Balls Hill, evidently coming from high in air overhead but I failed to catch sight of its author on that occasion. I heard it again this morning (about 6 o'clock) as I was standing in front of one of our barns. The next instant I saw the bird and to reach greater advantage

I note for the second time that autumn & for an hour this year a Myiarchus has possibly a Wheat ear!

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 30

(No 2.)

than ever before for it passed directly over me slightly Wheat ear?
below the tops of our tallest trees & then S. W. over an open
field. It looked about the size and shape of a Swallow
flitting and flew not under one, in long, deep undulations,
rising and falling rhythmically. During the second or two
that I had it in good view I could see that its tail was
very widely spread & apparently cut off rather grossly at
the end. Just before & after this it seemed to be closed.
I thought it showed a good deal of white but could not
be sure of this nor of the bird's general coloring as it
was against a white-blue sky above with sunlight.
It called whit, whit at short intervals and was interpreted
between these calls a dumb note (pif-it) which sounded
exactly like that of our Tit Lark. It is possible of
course that the latter sound may have been made by
a Tit Lark but it seemed to come directly from the

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct 30

(No 3)

bird I was watching & I could see no other in the air. Mention

The only occasion when I have noted this mysterious bird at any season other than autumn was on March 28, 1911 when I heard the whist call of one which seemed to be flying over the orchard at the Farm, but which I failed to get sight of. Henceforth I have been utterly at a loss to even conjecture what the creature can be but this morning it suddenly occurred to me that the one I had just seen & heard might have been a whist car. It did not strike of it at the moment but several minutes later. What especially suggested the thought was the bird's manner of flight and of leaving out its short square tail. I have repeatedly seen whistles in England but in most instances through car windows & I cannot recall ever hearing their notes. The fact that the birds meet with here have been always observed briefly would support the whist-car theory I think.

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 31

A mild, humid day, for the most part cloudy with fresh S. W. wind and a few light showers.

In the early morning when the sun was striving to shine dimly through thin clouds and there was not a breath of wind I witnessed a rather remarkable and very unmistakable migration of Cross Blackbirds and Robins. Shortly before 8 o'clock as I was standing near our barn I heard a confused melody of Blackbird voices in the distance towards the north-east. I presently saw the birds afar off and very high in air (certainly not less than 1000 feet) coming directly towards me and flying - as is their wont when on migration - with rapid strokes and directness and without trace of the undulating curves which are so characteristic of their ordinary flight. The flock was by far the largest that I have ever beheld. There must have been fully 1000 birds & they literally crowded at least an acre of sky, affording a truly inspiring sight as

Remarkable
diurnal
migration of
Robins &
Cross Blackbirds

Concord, Mass.

1911.

Oct. 31

(No. 2)

They swept directly overhead, heading straight for the South coast and quickly disappearing in the distance over Punkleasant Hill.

I had no more than last sight of them when another flock, containing about 150 birds and following the same course at about the same elevation, followed them. To be followed in turn only a minute or two later by a flock of about 50 Robins which were almost equally high in air & similarly bound for the Southward.

About 8.30 a.m., when at Balls Hill, I saw two more flocks of Robins, one containing 39, the other 23 birds.

The smaller flock following the larger so closely that both were in sight at the same time. All the Robins, unlike the Blackbirds, were moving due south, not South-west.

All, too, were high and air and without question

forming a regular & extended migration. Whenever I see them or two Crow Blackbirds thus engaged, at this season, it nearly if not always happens in the early morning.

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Dec. 10

Sunny but hazy, calm, warm (5-3° at noon). An Indian summer day.

Birds in
Fresh Pond.

Spent most of the forenoon (10.30-12.30) at Fresh Pond. It has been frequented by an exceptional number and variety of water fowl for a month past and it was swarming with them to-day.

We paid them the unusual advantage in the bright sunlight on water wholly untroubled by winds but more or less disturbed by their movements.

The Gulls were by far the most numerous. I have never before seen anything like so many in Fresh Pond at any one time. Floating over a yard or two apart they covered some fifteen or twenty acres of water near the center of the pond, presenting a beautiful appearance and looking, at a distance, like so many lumps of snow in. Mr. Barrett

Herring
Gulls.

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Dec. 10
(1902)

who was with me thought that there were fully
2500 in the water at our time and I agreed with
him. When he attempted to count them roughly
I got something like 2400. Practically all were
Herring Gulls and of these almost if not quite 90%
were adult birds. The only other species which
we were able to make out satisfactorily was the
Green Black-backed Gull of which we had no
less than ten fully adult birds in view at
our time scattered about among the others.

Gulls in
Fresh Pond

Black-backed
Gulls

There was much low calling than one would have
expected from so many a consequence but every minute
or two one or another of the Herring Gulls would
give the wild, ringing clear-clear cry. They were
almost continuously arriving from the direction of
Boston in scattered flocks.

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.
Dec. 10
(No 3)

About the outskirts of the great bed of Geese (but Ducks in
Fresh Ponds
seldom mingling with them) and elsewhere in the pond
were Ducks of several kind, mostly Black Ducks
which, in clustering flocks, were sleeping with their
heads buried in their feathers, looking like so many
blocks of wood. I counted just 100 of them
but there were doubtless at least 15 or 20 more
than that number which I failed to notice.

Most of them kept well out in the pond or did
also two flocks of Goosanders containing respectively
14 and 16 birds of which about one half were
drakes in full nuptial plumage.

There was a solitary Canada Goose in
one of the flocks of Black Ducks and also, for
a time, a drake Bald Pate which later
appeared in "Horn Hook".

Black Ducks

Goosanders

Cambridge, Mass

1911.

Dec. 10
(no 4)

Not far from them, near where the fountain now
is at the head of "Hotel House", were about a dozen
birds which seemed more confident than the rest
and inclined more to feeding. Of these four were
Lesser Scaups (all in the plumage of the ♀ and positively
identified) - which dove every few seconds without
moving far from the down spot. Three Baldpates (a
♀ or juv ♂ and two old drakes) ranged about much
more widely swimming lightly and smoothly with
the tips of their tails habitually pointing downward and
almost touching the water. Very graceful and
attractive birds they were reminding me strongly of
Hooded Ducks as they mounded about over the calm
surface of the can scarce dimpling it although
they moved swiftly and incessantly to and fro.

Ducks in
Fresh Pond

Lesser Scaups

Baldpates

I saw one with what looked like a pair of old peas in its bill

Cambridge, Mass.

1911.

Dec. 10
(no 57)

Keeping sometimes with the Scaups but often apart Golden eyes
by themselves were two Golden-eyes in ♀ plumage.
They, too, dove occasionally. I thought I saw a
bunch of four or six Ducks of this species slightly further
out when I first reached the pond but the two
were all that we could find afterwards.

The great concourse of birds near the middle of the
pond was disturbed in an interesting manner early in
the forenoon by a man by a man who began beating
on the bank fence at the water's edge with his cane.
Almost the first blow he gave caused some of the birds
nearest him to take flight. They were quickly followed
by others and the alarm soon became general. Hardly
practically every bird was on wing even the Canada
Geese and the Mergansers leaving the water with
the rest. It was then a truly impressive sight such

Impression
uprising of
alarmed
water-fowl

Cambridge, Mass.

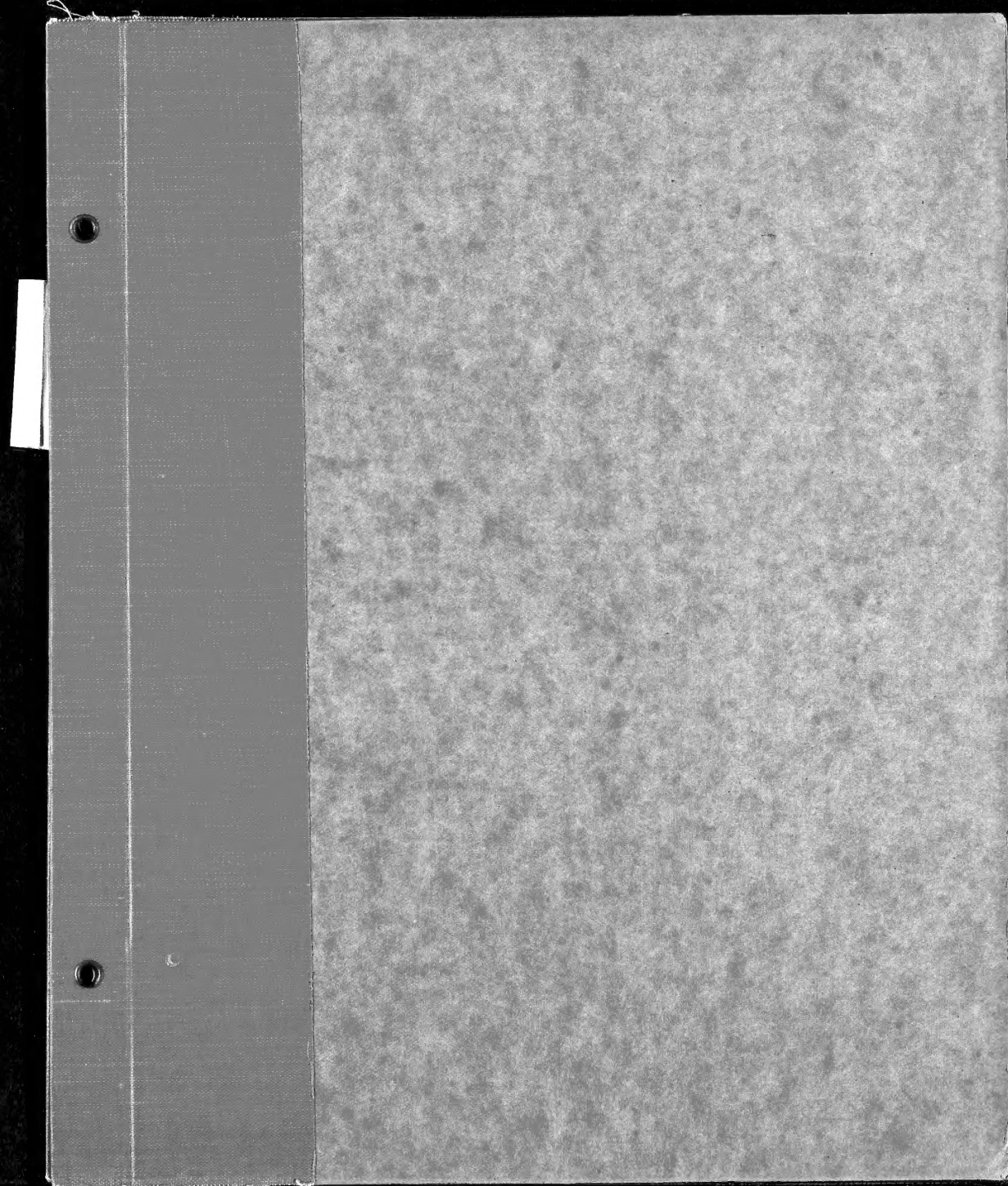
1911.

Dec. 10
(No 6)

as I have never before witnessed anywhere in the neighborhood of Cambridge. The two thousand or more Gulls wheeling and soaring one hundred feet or more in air looked like a vast cloud of gigantic, swishing mass-flocks. Above them Black Ducks in harrow-shaped formations were cutting dark lines across the pale blue sky. Below them Geese and a few odd Black Ducks skimming to and fro close over the water. The commotion lasted in all perhaps ten minutes at the close of which nearly all the birds settled again more than before to the center of the pond and game was restored.

Clouds of
disturbed
water-fowl
circling over
First Pond

Besides the water fowl we saw a Sparrow Hawk flying over Humboldt Pond, a few Sparrows in some bushes near the shore and scattered Crows in various places. Kinglets (R. selys), Chickadees & a Flicker were heard.



11
12
13