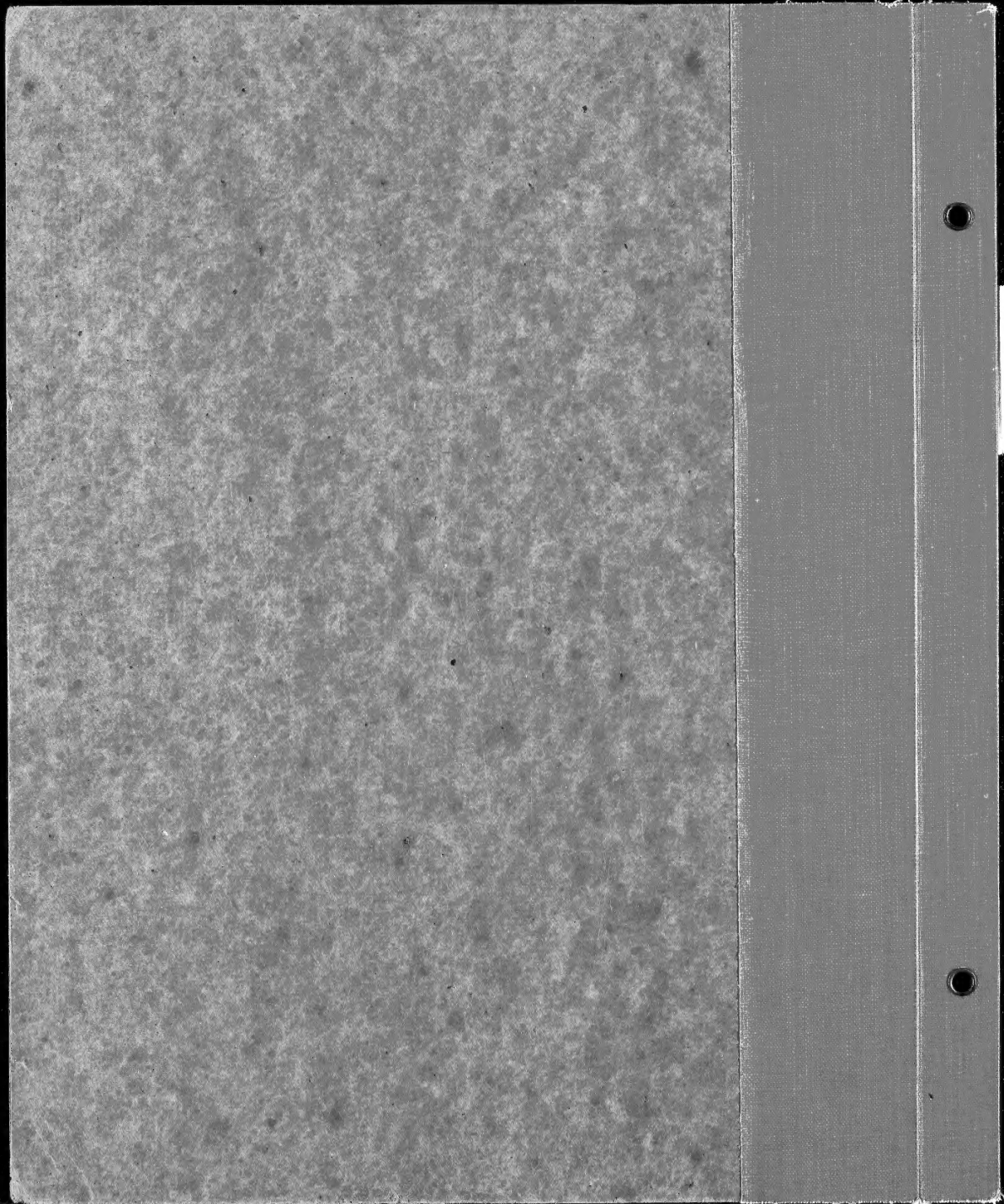


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Bethel, Maine.

1912.

January 3

Clear, cold and absolutely calm. Ther -3° at daybreak + 30 at 1 P.M.

I came to Bethel yesterday to spend two days at the Gehrigs'.

When, about ten o'clock this morning, the Doctor and I started for a walk the thermometer stood at 18° but the air was so dry and still that it did not seem cold or even chilly although we wore no overcoats nor any covering for hands or ears. The fields to the south of the house were buried under about six inches of ice-encrusted snow very dazzling to the eyes when the rays of the low sun struck across it. Even in this exposed place there was not a breath of wind. In the woods, which we entered by the familiar Glen Road trail, the snow lay seven or eight inches deep and was for the most part soft and powdery. The branches of the pines and spruces were loaded with it whenever the wind had failed to penetrate. The openings among the trees were bathed in bright warm sunlight which illuminated even the depths of mossy groves and thickets

Bethel, Maine

1912.

January 3
(No 2)

by beams which straggled through the canopy of foliage above
or by the light reflected from the surface of the snow.

Throughout these windless woods there was to-day perfect
and most impressive silence save when it was broken by
sounds made by birds or Squirrels. There was not infrequently
heard an early warbler more than a few hundred yards at any
one time without hearing Chickadees feeding and Canada Nuthatches
whining in the spruce and balsam or the calls of Redpolls coming
from the air overhead. Over the distant ceiling of White-birch
Crossbills was heard. The chattering, snickering notes of Red
Squirrels came, at times, from two or three directions at once.
Most of the Chickadees were Black-caps but in close
association with seven or eight of them and with several
Nuthatches we found two Parus hudsonicus and a single
bird of the latter kind was met with in company with
a pair of Nuthatches. This solitary "Hudsonian" uttered

Bethel, Maine.

1912.

January 3
(No. 3)

every now and then - once when he was within two yards of me on a bare twig - a succession of low notes some warbling in quality, other rather sharp and staccato. I wonder if this could have been the so-called song which Wright, Allen and others have described. It certainly might have been fairly well expressed by Allen's suggested rendering wissipawiddlee only this was broken up into rather widely disconnected syllables thus: -

wis - ai - pa - wid - dlee, or sometimes wis - wissai - pa - widdlee.

It did not impress me as being especially musical. When I first heard it I mistook it for the loquacious soliloquy in which the Black-capped Chickadee indulges occasionally at every season and which is certainly not a song. This it resembled very closely. Perhaps, after all, it was not the "song" which the other observers just alluded to have reported but at all events it was new to my experience as far as Parus hudsonicus is concerned. The bird observed this morning gave it five or six times in all.

Song (3)
Parus hudsonicus

Bethel, Maine

1912.

January 3
(No 4)

In addition to their calls both birds and squirrels made other and slighter sounds caused by their movements among the branches and distinctly audible at considerable distances in the still air. Of these the light crackling made by the Canada Nuthatch as they pried apart the scales of the balsam cones to get at the seeds was especially frequent and noticeable. I watched them especially at this and saw them hide the seeds—never more than one in the same place—under scales of loose bark or in crevices in maple stems as is their interesting habit—practised also, of course, by the white-bellied Nuthatch, by our Black capped Chickadee and by Blue and Canada Jays.

In woods where a number of poplars had been cut the snow about the prostrate tops of these trees was marked by the foot prints of Throated Grouse which had evidently been feasting on the poplar buds. Rabbit tracks were seen every where but not in unusual profusion.

Bethel, Maine

1912.

January 4

Another brilliantly clear and very delightful winter day somewhat colder than yesterday, equally windless through the entire forenoon but with a chill easterly breeze blowing after 4 P.M.

Downing our snow-shoes not long after breakfast Dr. Selvig and I spent the most of the morning in the Glen woods following the old trails made years ago. Whereas yesterday we kept chiefly to a path leading near to the eastward and cut during the past month to gain access to some woods which the doctor has recently bought and which lie in that direction. As last night was calm and clear with a full moon shining brightly we expected to find that many nocturnal mammals had been abroad but the signs of their recent wanderings were far more numerous and widespread than we had anticipated. There was indeed seen a square yard of snow throughout the woods we traversed which was not marked with the footprints of Rabbits and in many places they had

Bethel, Maine

1912.

January 4
(No 2)

made hard-tracked paths running almost perfectly straight for considerable distances when there were no obstructing bushes or windfalls to divert them. The finely-braided trails of mice were also very numerous. A Fox had, covered almost every part of the woods, trotting ceaselessly. The number of Red Squirrels present here this season evidently far exceeds anything that I have ever ~~heard~~ in previous years. We heard them everywhere to-day and the snow bore the impresses of countless foot-marks. There were more birds, too, than I have ever found before in winter. In addition to the Chickadees, Nuthatches & Redpolls, whose voices greeted us every few minutes, whenever we went, we saw a solitary Blue Jay and heard a Golden-crowned Kinglet and a Pine Grosbeak. I am somewhat at a loss to account for this unusual abundance of Squirrels and of winter birds. The visible food supply fails to explain it for the evergreen trees have comparatively few cones and the gray birches not many seeds although the Caron birches are rather heavily fruited.

Bethel, Maine

1912.
January 4
(no 3)

On reading over what has just been written I perceive that it ~~entirely~~ fails to do full justice to its subject.

For during both forenoons the charm of these Bethel woods was in certain ways greater than I have ever known it to be before. Ordinarily they impress one as somewhat triste or even desolate in midwinter but on the occasions here referred to they seemed bright and cheery as well as exceedingly beautiful.

There was just enough snow both on the trees and under them to bring out to the best advantage the rich orange foliage of the spruces, balsams, pines & hemlocks and the trunks of the birches and maples. The sunlight appeared as clear and strong as in April and the breathless silence, due to entire absence of wind, was most restful as well as impressive. It might perhaps have been oppressive, also, but for the birds whose sweet voices, coming away now and then from far and near, served just sufficiently to relieve its tension and to add a note of gladness to the infinite calm and serenity of the forest depths.

Bethel, Maine

1912.

January 4
(No 3)

What I have thus far written fails, I fear, to do full justice to its subject. For never before in my experience with these northland woods ~~intended~~ ^{than} ~~known~~ ^{to} be so very attractive. There was just enough snow both on the trees and under them to bring out most effectively the rich, dark green of the balsams and spruces, the lighter green of the pines, the olive green of the arbor vites, the white stems of the birches and the grayish trunks of the maples. The sunlight seemed all pervasion and well-nigh as clear and strong as in April. The breathless stillness, due to entire absence of wind, was delightfully restful as well as impressive. It might perhaps have been somewhat oppressive, also, but for the birds whose sweet voices, coming every now and then from far and near, served just sufficiently to relieve its tension on the senses and to add a grateful note of gladness to the infinite calm and serenity of the forest depths.

Bozocord, Mass.

1912.

March 30

Brilliantly clear with light northerly wind. Cool.

Gilbert and I moved to Concord to-day, he coming up in the early morning, I at 2.08 P.M.

The river is about at its normal April level the meadows being about 3 feet under water, the roadway around the south side of Ball's Hill perhaps a foot above the flood. The snow & ice are wholly gone save in deep, fine shaded hollows. The roads are settled & dry, the fields stony & mossed with much frost yet to come out. Very little green grass except on the sunniest slopes where the winds do not strike.

Red-wings and Song Sparrows singing fast were along the river at sunset. Caught a glimpse of a flying Johnstons & heard his wings. Gray Heron feeding in his

cause hunting musk rats. Heard no shots. Saw a Muskrat which he failed to see. It was swimming near shore in the Barrett Meadows. No King or Hylow.

Phoebe in full song at Ball's Hill. Fox bays from across the river

Concord, Mass.

1912.

March 31.

Clear with strong S. W. wind. Every morning and, thin ice on shallow ponds, fields snow white with hoar frost. Warm at noon and thaws afternoon and evening.

At sunrise heard Song Sparrows, Red-wings, one Phoebe and a Pheasant, in song.

As we were at breakfast a White-bellied Swallow flew just across our view. Half an hour later I saw 2 Swallows alight on a box in Benson's pasture. A Bluebird attacked and drove them off.

Our Phoebe was joined by his mate to-day. I saw the pair enter the shed together at 9 a.m. At 2 P.M. saw 3 Phoebes together behind Bole's Hill. Two were singing. Heard a fourth Phoebe singing at the Farm.

An immense flock of Cross Blackbirds passed over the orchard at the Farm high in air at 5 P.M. during N.E. and westerly migration. There must have been at least 100 in all. They were string out in a long file (300 yds in length) with clusters here & there. As is their usual habit when on migration they all moved on a level plane, with steady, ceaseless wing beats, not once resorting to the undulating flight with intermittent flapping which we first see after they settle down to ground. I should estimate the height as at least they were flying at about 100 yards.

Started six Partridge. Two of them were flushed from the backwater patch behind our barn at 4 P.M. They rose in the open 20 yards from any branch. Farms had just a covey of 8 Ring-neck Pheasants there only half an hour before.

Bowcord, Mass.

1912.

March 31

(No 2)

Saw only a few Field Sparrows & Juncos. Am told they were very abundant in Concord during the snow storm of Jan 24th. The bulk of the flight was probably passing here then and for a day or two later.

Only a few Robins seem to have come as yet.

I heard one then to-day. One was in the clouds at Bowcord singing dimly as I passed about 6 P.M. I could hear him all the way down to the shed at Pine Park. Also I heard at the same time a Hyla & two Wood Thrushes. There were a few others peeping or calling rather dimly at the time.

Thinking Bowcord's Combing I saw four Black Ducks in the water on the meadows. Watched them for five minutes. They were in pairs about 30 yards apart. When I showed myself fully they flew on over, although 3 or 4 yards off, & was followed by a third pair that was from flooded bushes. Two of the females quacked most loudly.

Concord, Mass.

1912
April 1

Forenoon brilliantly clear with light north wind.
Clouds gathering & chill easterly wind rising, in afternoon.

First Kingfisher and Marsh Wren, latter flying
over river opposite Ball's Hill.

Two flocks of Golden-eyes, one of eight, the
other of five, were flying back and forth past the
hill at intervals through the day, occasionally
alighting well out in the flooded meadows about
opposite Dolini's Hill. I found the flock of eight
there early in the forenoon and sailed up to within
about 300 yards of them. There was 4 old ducks &
4 females. The ducks looked brown white at a distance,
they and the drakes intermingled in varying order as
they swam about, occasionally diving for food. When
the land failed & I took to paddling the birds seemed
to notice me for the first time & at once flew. Thereupon
I saw either flock in the air I heard the musical
sound of their wings, sometimes almost half a mile away.

Two flocks
of
Marsh Wrens

Concord, Mass.

1912.

April 3

When I awoke this morning soon after day break it was sunny thick and fast and the ground was white yet a Phoebe was singing loud and joyously near the cabin. I heard no other birds at that hour but later in the morning the 7^o Sparrows began and flooded the air with their delightful music during the remainder of the day. At breakfast time as usual then, at supper time there were fifteen - feeding on seed thrown out for them.

There were three Phoebes together at one hour only in the afternoon. Two were incessantly queering and singing and chasing the third, a silent bird as dumb as a female.

Had a chat with Gray Alden as he was passing in his hunting canoe. He says Woodrats are very scarce. He has shot 23 this spring, getting two ones day

Concord, Mass.

1912.
April 4

Brilliantly clear with high N. W. wind. Ther. 20° and ground hard frozen at day break. Very cool all day.

First Fish Hawk. He appeared flying low over the Fish Hawk river at 6.30 P. M., just as we were sitting down to supper. Heading straight for my back porch rising above the flooded meadows on the Bedford shore he alighted on it for an instant, no more than closing his great wings before spreading them again. Then he came towards us low over the water until, at a distance of scarce two yards, he whirled directly in front of our window and made off up river. His near approach to a great flock of 7 or 8 Sparrows feeding in the hole in front of the cabin, sent them scurrying off in every direction. One flew against the window in its flight and was so stunned that it sat for many minutes in our little laundry basket, palpitating visibly.

Concord, Mass.

1912.
April 4
(No 2)

The Fox Sparrows continue to increase about the cabin attracted by the hedges, tops and middle end on them and for them and by the shelter which the hill affords from the icy northerly winds. We counted 17 this morning and 34 about sunset this evening, all feeding together in the path and on the banking in front of the cabin, with a few Juncos. They sang at frequent intervals all through the day in the fields on the hillside, sometimes singly, sometimes two or three at once, giving us a delightful serenade. Of the Juncos joined in with their simple trills interspersed with the low liquid notes seldom heard at seasons other than this.

Apparently there were no Phoebe about the hill to day but I heard one singing in Pine Park. The Swallows seem to have wholly disappeared.

Fox
Sparrows
Juncos

Phoebe

Swallow

Concord, Mass.

1912.
April 6

Without question the winter has passed two years ago pasturing Massachusetts wild fowl after Jan. 1 is resulting in a very considerable increase of water birds in Concord River. During the past week I have seen more Ducks since Batts this town I have noted them for years. This evening I saw a flock of 18 Golden eye birds and alights close to another flock of 6 which were already in the water near the middle of Great Meadow. George Holden reports shooting 15 Mallard Ducks in Bedford Swamp on the 4th. South O. Dexter tells me that some Concord boys who camped for a few days at Fairbanks Bay about a week ago have assured him that it was frequented by "hundreds of Ducks of several different kinds" during their stay. No doubt their statement was more or less in the nature of exaggeration but probably there were truly very many birds.

Massachusetts
Council
of Ducks
in Concord
River

Lowell, Mass.

1912.

April 15

Morning cloudy and foggy; afternoon sunny but heavy. Dead calm all day. Air moist and warm.

This has been a great bird day. From early morning to late evening the still air has been almost crackling with the delightful noise of Robins, Red-wings, Song Sparrows, Phoebe etc. From about ten o'clock came the song of a Fox Sparrow, a Meadow Lark, two Field Sps., a Grass Finch & the coming of a Dove. Hylas he fell on branches some & Garden Lark talking at 9 P.M.

At 2 P.M. Gilbert & I were standing in front of the cabin when we heard the call of a Killdeer Plover in the distance towards the north-east. Repeated every second or two it came nearer & nearer until at length the bird appeared over the eastern end of the hill. Just after passing it he turned slightly and headed nearly eastward over the middle of Great Meadow, keeping straight on until he disappeared in the distance. He was flying about 100 yards above the flooded meadows & river & he kept calling as long

Killdeer
Plover

1912.
April 15
(1912)

as he was within hearing and after he had passed beyond our sight. He flew straight & swift, and looked not unlike a Dove. The nearest he came to us was about 150 yards. He gave only the usual klee-dee (or klee-kee I should render it) call.

An immense flock of Blackbirds settled in the top of the big dead oak across the river & remained there about an hour. I counted 150.

Most of them appeared to be Red-wings but there were at least a few Green Blackbirds in the flock for I heard their husky notes mingling with the wild, clear music of the Red-wings who were indulging incessantly in the delightful chorus singing peculiar to their species.

Big flock
of
Red-wings
Green B.
intermingled

Concord, Mass.

1912.

April 16

Sunny and oppressively warm with fresh southerly winds.

Procession of heavy thunder showers. 5-9 P. M.

At 2 P. M. I saw two Great Blue Herons flying over the farm towards the north-east at an elevation of fully a mile, one following closely in the wake of the other highly at minimum height.

For the most part they flapped their wings steadily and consistently but twice I saw one of them sail for the distance of a few rods on set wings. I cannot remember ever before seeing Herons of any kind flying at so great a height.

As I was passing through Birch Field at 6.20 P. M. I heard the distant hoop of a Goose given twice. A moment later the flock of 36 Canada Geese appeared so very high in air that they looked no larger than Bluebirds. Heading due north over Green Field they were soon out of sight nor did I again hear their call. They were flying in the usual V formation. They must have been at least a mile above the earth. Rarely have I witnessed anything of the kind so impressive

Great Blue
Herons
migrating
at minimum
height.

Canada
Geese
migrating
at great
height

Concord, Mass.

1912.

May 5

Forenoon sunny but heavy with light S. W. wind. Afternoon cloudy. Feeding

As Mr. & Mrs. William Stone and I were paddling up

Roberts,
of
the Belton

river about 10 a.m. we saw a small, dull-colored Belton, evidently a female, sneaking along the margin of the water at "Hunt's Pond" (a small marsh bordered Lagoon extending back from the river). At first the bird seemed to be trying to elude our observation but soon she ceased to show any fear of us and gave all her attention to a systematic quest for food. Paddling slowly or merely drifting in the current when the light wind served we kept within thirty yards of her for fully half an hour using our glasses freely. During this time she covered a distance of fifty or seventy yards waddling very slowly along the grassy shore in a crouching attitude with head and neck drawn in. Four times she stopped, extended her neck to its full length about on a level with her breast with bill pointing somewhat downwards, remained fixed & stationary in this attitude for several seconds and then

1912
May 5
(No 2)

thrust her bill down into the shallow water with a quick, decided movement, yet not much softer than that of a hungry fowl picking up a kernel of corn. On each occasion she brought up some small object which obviously was neither a fish nor a frog and which we thought must be the cause of down water insect, perhaps a dragon fly or a caddis worm. Stroking it over or twice and holding it in her bill only a second or two she swallowed it easily and with much apparent gratification as if it were a peculiarly palatable morsel. Then she would resume her slow, measured stalk around the edge of the lagoon.

Bittern
feeding on
small frog

At length a male Bittern appeared on wing, alighted near her and jumped this. Soon after this she appeared from behind a mass of dead grass & other rubbish bearing in the tip of her bill a Horn Pout about five inches in length. Just how or where she captured it we failed, unfortunately, to observe but we had a rare opportunity of seeing exactly how she

1912.

May 5
(No 3)

she finally dealt with it. After carrying it a distance of perhaps twenty yards over water or very boggy ground she came to a stretch of firm dry turf and stopped there. Placing it on the ground she started downed at it with her bill dozens of times not exactly or even vigorously but in a curiously cool and deliberate way, making only one or two thrusts each minute and pausing after them as if to watch the effect. Probably this was done for the purpose of killing the Poit but as far as we could see it did not even show any signs of life. After a few minutes spent in this way the Bittern began to lift the fish well above the ground and to shake it violently always holding it by the head. We now saw that its whole throat was bloody and somewhat lacerated. After one or two shakes the Bittern would stab it again & again as it lay on the ground, always, however, deliberately and in what

Bittern
dealing
with small
Horned Poit

1912

May 5
(no 4)

Secured a rather nervous, fisher way. This, with many
Brief periods of inaction on the part of the bird, continued
for fully twenty minutes. All the while we in our own
causes, with open glass looked steadily, kept the bird
under constant observation. Mr. Stom was within ten yards
of her; Mrs. Stom and I within twenty yards. At length
the Bittern straightened up & holding in Point in his bill
by the head attempted to swallow it. Failing to do so
she shook and flapped it some more and then tried
again. This was repeated about five times before the final
gulp was made and the fish disappeared down the bird's
throat, swelling it very conspicuously for an instant.

The general behavior and motions of the Bittern while
dealing with the Point before eating it reminded me forcibly
of those of a Crow pecking at a piece of meat. We all
thought it strange that she spent so much time in this way
and concluded that she must have done it chiefly for the sake
of removing the resistance of the head of the Point by loosening

Bittern &
Horned Point

1912

May 5
(No 5)

a freely, and perhaps also breaking down of the bony structure in order to make it possible to swallow although the first attack seemed, as I have said, to be for the purpose of killing the fish. Altogether the performance was entirely unlike what I should have expected of a Bittern. For I had always supposed that such fish as these birds capture would be swallowed almost instantly. Perhaps this is the case with many of them. But a Plover's head is so broad and long that it may explain just the preliminary traction or twisting after the Bittern had thus disposed of her prey she stood still and seemed indisposed to further exertion of any kind so we had had off and left her to digest her hearty meal.

Bittern
Horn Point

Barnes, Mass.

1912.
May 10

As I was strolling through some berry patches on the farm and near the pond about 2 P.M. I heard a shrill hoarse like zee-ing which at once suggested that of a Rattle Snake & indeed was almost exactly like and frequently stalling in its shrill, incisive quality. A second time I caught sight of the tail of a Black Snake vibrating rapidly among dry leaves & wood stems at the edge of a thicket of bushes within two yards of me. Presently I made out the entire snake, a good-sized one perhaps 4' in length. His body was stretched out, his head towards me. In his jaws he held the head of a full grown Deer mouse still alive & kicking convulsively with all four legs. After I had stood still for a half minute the Snake stopped vibrating his tail and proceeded to swallow the Mouse. At each successive gulp it stopped further & further in and at the end of the fifth or sixth was lost to sight, the total time it took the Snake to accomplish this being less than a minute. Soon after this the Snake yawned twice &

Black Snake
&
Deer Mouse

1912

May 60

(No 2)

then darted out his forked tongue. When I moved he resumed his tail motion & "rattling". At my second step forward he raised his head a foot or more above the ground and began gliding smoothly straight towards me. When I stepped back he stopped and with head still elevated fixed me with his glittering, beseeching eyes. Altogether his behavior was so impressively threatening that I was rather glad to learn him as I did not care to kill him and felt reasonably sure that I should have had to do so in self defense had I provoked him further. I wonder how he compares with Mouse. He could not have had it long when I first saw him. He then had only his head in his mouth and was holding it "bottom side" up with its white under parts showing & its pinkish feet moving convulsively & frantically. My first intention was, of course, to kill him & insert the mouse-

Concord, Mass.

1912.

May 17

Chiefly sunny, partly cloudy with occasional light showers. Warm with strong south west to west winds. Heavy north-easterly storm yesterday followed by calm, warm, rainy & intensely dark night.

Heavy flight
of migrants
arriving during
dark, rainy
night.

Despite the rain and darkness last night immense numbers of migrants arrived before daybreak and flooded the Concord country this morning. I found them swarming about Boss's Hill & the Farm and S. O. Dexter had the same experience in and near the village of Concord. As the early morning hours were calm & warm with the sun shining clearly through thin mist the birds scattered rather widely and sang freely, as is their usual custom at this season under such conditions. However there were not anywhere very many of them assembled in our cluster of trees on the hill; however the flight was evidently a very general and considerable one indeed quite the heaviest that

has occurred thus far this month. Species noted for first time were Swainson's Thrush, Allen's Thrush, Prothonotary Warbler, Blackpoll W., Black-throated Blue Warbler, Lincoln's Finch, Wood Pewee, Hummingbird, Olive-backed Thrasher.

Concord, Mass.

1912.

May 17
(No 2)

It is my custom when sleeping in the cabin to open a little window by the side of my bed when I first awake to enjoy the early morning singing without the trouble of rising at an inconvenient hour. When I did so at 5:30 this morning my ears were at once greeted by an unfamiliar song very loud and incisive and evidently coming from near at hand. Scarcely more than half awake I listened to it for ten minutes or more without getting any clue as to the identity of its author. It seemed most like the song of a Swamp Sparrow but was louder and the notes were fewer and less run together. At length I arose, dressed hurriedly and then looked out towards the river through the partly opened door of the cabin. Almost at once a flash of bright yellow caught my eye. The next instant a 3 Prothonotary Warbler hopped out on a leafless branch over the path directly in front of the cabin & sang and sang incessantly within ten yards of me. Shortly after this he flew

Prothonotary
Warbler
or
Russet-tail

1912.

May 17
(No 3)

Restonbury
Pond

to a bird stub and close, inspected several crannies and trees
discarded dark spots that looked like holes, as if he were in search
of a nesting place. Gilbert came out and disturbed him a little
later when he flew up the hillside and flitted about in the tops
of some oaks singing a few times. He followed me out him
on the crest of the hill. Fifteen minutes after this I heard his
loud song coming from the flooded thicket of maples, willows
& button bushes across the river opposite Buck Gate. I went down
in a canoe after breakfast (about 7.30) and found him
still in loud song and flitting about among the bushes. Presumably
a Wilson's Black Cap attacked and chased him about when he
flew to the line of large maples a little further up the river.
Then I saw him creeping about and clinging to thin twigs
just above the water. Dexter & I looked for him there &
elsewhere along the river but in vain from 1 to 2 P.M.
I tried again just before sunset but without avail.

1912.

May 17
(No 4)

This Prothonotary had, as I have said, a peculiar song with little or nothing of the Song Sparrow quality, ordinarily, as obvious in the song of this species. Until I saw him I did not so much as suspect his identity. Besides the song I heard several times a chirp, sharp & persistent, very like that of a Water Thrush. He was a handsome bird but was in badly high plumage the yellow of his head and breast being less rich and brighter than in most males at this season. He seemed restless and also shy. Indeed I did not ever get very near him except when I first jumped out on him from my cabin door and then, of course, I was so well concealed that he failed to notice me. Not since 1886 have I seen a Prothonotary in Massachusetts although I have especially looked for this species along this river at the season of migration.

Prothonotary
Hatch
on
Barns Nest

1912.

May 17
(has)

While in the canoe this morning waiting on Peabody, Pied-billed Grebes(?)
I heard what I took at first to be a Green Heron. The
sound seemed then to come from the flooded woods, but
when I paddled around this it came obviously from far
up Great Meadow. Although I paddled towards it until
I could go no farther it was still in the distance
apparently was "Shen Oak Island." It was sounded
very much like our gulls, like the ordinary, prolonged
note of the Pied-billed Grebe (that cook-cook-cook in
note) evidently two birds were making it, one evidently
answering the other often on intervals. I finally let them
down (still with a slight breeze of doubt) as Grebes.
Their voices were so loud that Salton heard them a mile
away on the cabin. The terminal notes I could just hear.
Saw two Great Sandpipers & one Pintail Gull up
up the meadow.

1912.

May 17
(1912)

About six o'clock this morning I found a pair of
Rose-breasted Grosbeaks beginning their work in the fork of
a young branch on the east end of Bald's Hill. They flitted
about together making almost incessantly a soft, low,
agitated, tender calling to one another. The ♀ kept trying
to break off dead twigs from branches. When after many
fruitless attempts she got one she flew with it to the fork.
The ♂ vigorously presented her and settling down in the
fork received from her the twig and set it in place
among the first others (less than half a dozen) which
had been brought when my observations began. The ♀
immediately gave up the twig when the ♂ reached his
bill towards her for it. I heard the ♂ sing only
a few times during the entire morning. The low
soft low call uttered by both sexes might be
written tu-e

Rose-breasted
Grosbeaks
as work
on nest
The ♂ presents
the twigs,
the ♀ gets
them for
him.

Barnstable, Mass.

1912.

May 21

Forenoon clear & warm with little or no wind, birds singing freely up to about noon. Afternoon cool with strong east wind. Heavy thunder storm at evening & some light rain about 12. 10. Birds night very cool; almost frosty.

Second heavy flight of warblers for ten months here to-day, mostly Oven birds, Redstarts, and Black-poll. A Bay-brown in Ball's H. I. and a White-crowned Sparrow at Town the latter in a blossoming apple tree busily feeding the blossoms with his pink bill - a fine, large, downy bird in front of me. Three Cedar birds also among apple blossoms & also several Warblers Black-poll (3 ♂♂ 2 ♀♀), a Magnolia W., House W. and a Maryland Yellow-throat, all in the orchard about the flower garden at the base of our house.

Heavy flight of warblers
with Bay-brown
White-crowned Sparrow
& Cedarbirds

In the house, fluttering at the window of the east chamber, I found a Chiming Swift. When I released it outside it flew straight off southward until lost to sight in distance.

Chiming Swift in chamber of flower house.

Concord, Mass.

1912.
May 21
(Sat)

Shortly before noon to day I was standing under some pines
at the north-east end of the Swamp at the base of Balls Hill
watching some Woodpeckers flitting about in the Swamp. Among
them was the Bay. Wood already mentioned, I heard some
other quite noticeable for several minutes with my glass fixed
to my eyes and had just taken a down for an instant when
a few Partridge flushed from the edge of the Swamp about
30 feet from where I stood rising heavily with a noisy fluttering
and making repeatedly, as they flew slowly off, the whining sound
given by another birds of this species when disturbed with their
noisy, hatched broods. Advancing a few steps I saw almost
immediately the nest which contained 11 unincubated eggs. It

Partridge
nest, 11 eggs

the Partridge
whines as
they fly
and with
egg.

was near the foot of a ~~single~~ pine large white fern in the very
middle of a tangle of tall briar. Never before have I known
a Partridge robin except when ~~she~~ had young. A Goshawk has been
described for weeks past about 200 yds. from this nest on the steep
slope of Balls Hill. There was a nest but gone on the Balls Hill side
of the Swamp & two others within 30 yds. of each other in 1910.

Concord, Mass.

1912

April 1-
July 1

Turdus fuscescens. - In normal numbers. Two ♂♂ singing in the Swamp behind Ball's Hill, one in Davis Hill Swamp, two in Pine Point Swamp, two opposite the cabins near Stone Boat house, one near Birch-Field just below Bassett Spring. There was one in the trees at the Farm on May 23 & 25 & 31st, and another in the Berry Pasture on the 25th. I heard the first very song this year on May 16th just ten days after the arrival of the first bird.

Turdus a. bicoloratus. At 1 P.M. on May 21 I heard a Gray-headed Thrush sing several times on the south slope of Ball's Hill. It was in nearly full voice. The next day I sang in the same place a typical small bicoloratus which I think must have been the same bird. No other Gray-headed noted by me this spring.

Turdus swainsoni. - Several noted between May 17 & 28. One was singing freely at 9 A.M. on the 23rd in place there was our farm house.

Turdus fallax. - Very scarce this spring owing, no doubt, to heavy loss in the South East woods. The only birds certainly a northward migrant was one seen on April 20 at Ball's Hill. In Birch-Field one was seen by Gilbert on May 2 and two on the 11th. On June 1, 5 & 21 I heard a male or female sing in oak woods on the western edge of Birch-Field.

Merula migratoria. - Robins, also, were very scarce. At the Farm we had only two breeding pairs. There was a pair nesting at Ball's Hill & two pairs in Parker's orchard, N. Bedford. Not over 10% of usual number migration in one night. No chorus singing heard this year.

Concord, Mass.

1912
April to
July 1

Sialia Sialis. - Judging by conditions here the Blackbirds must have suffered as heavy loss in the South East winter as they did in the winter of 1894-5. The only banding pair I know of in our neighborhood raised 3 or 4 young in a box in Burdick's pasture, besides those I saw on July 8 on John's near Great Meadow & an old bird with one young on June 23 near Red Bridge. Scattered birds were heard calling in the air on other occasions, in other places. Taylor saw only one bird during a walk in May from Concord to Boylston. For the first time in my experience there were no nests at all found in the Peabody place.

Galeoscoptes carolinensis. - In usual numbers. One pair nesting behind house at Farm, another in Billy Patten's, a third near Mrs. Hallow's house, a fourth in flooded thicket opposite Boss's Hill.

Concord, Mass.

1912

April 1 to
July 1.

Harporhynchus rufus. Exceedingly scarce after the migration passed. During its continuance (May 1-14) I heard or saw a few birds at Bossé Hill. Afterwards I located but one which sang freely from May 12 to June 25 in Mr. How's pasture at the base of Walden's Hill.

Sitta carolinensis. - On March 31st and again on April 17 I saw a pair of Nuthatches in the elms that shade our farm house. On April 28 I noted a ♂ at Burdick's yard on June 23 heard the call of a bird at Dr. Swanson's place. Quite evidently there was no nest at or very near our farm this year. Why they should have ceased to breed there after continuous residence for many seasons I cannot imagine.

Certhia americana. No couples noted this spring or in August in Concord or elsewhere for that matter. I fear they must have suffered severely in the South last winter with the Bluebirds, Robins etc.

Concord, Mass.

1912.

April 1 to
July 1.

Troglodytes aedon. On May 1 I found a thrush alone singing at the Farm and saw it enter a box on a pole in the garden at the rear of our house. After this it was seen or heard there daily. On May 23 I saw a pair together on a box on a pole in the little vineyard in front of our house. At the time I supposed the ♂ to be the same as the only first noted on the 3rd but on the 25th I found that there were two pairs, each building in one of these boxes and keeping very strictly to a limited area about it. During May the ♂ in front of the house was seldom heard but the one in the garden sang freely at all hours. From June 24 to 30 both sang incessantly from early morning to just sunset, flashing the blue with their delightful, joyous music. Often one of them would sing 14 or 15 times a minute, keeping it up for half an hour or more. This second song period was decidedly more pronounced than the first with both birds. I think its beginning must have been

1912.

April to
July!

(*Thryothorus aedon*) contemporaneous with the laying of a second clutch of eggs just on June 24 the ♀ in front of this house decided her abode for when I opened her box during, as if she had gone in it. About this same date her mate began haunting our road shed and behaving very oddly there. During the following week he spent most of his time in it swinging on the roof and wood join and uttering every note & cry of the latter. Within the shed a Phoebe had hatched her brood and taken it away just before this. The Wren now took, and for three days held, possession of her nest within which he erected a bedding down of dead twigs. Finally the Phoebe returned and threw out all the twigs which then were replaced as soon as the Phoebe was gone. This has gone on continuously now for three days (June 26-29). The ♂ Phoebe haunts & sings near the shed only in the early morning. The ♂ Wren is there all day. I have seen the ♀ Wren of this pair only on one or two occasions.

Then takes possession of Phoebe's nest in shed & fills it with sticks

Concord, Mass.

1912.

April 1 to

July 1

Listothorus palustris or Stellaris. None observed by me. Nor has Dexter
been able to find any except at Wayland and there he noted but
one bird, a ♂ proletus singing near the Bridge Lake in June.
Anthus ludovicianus. On May 5 I saw four Titmice flying
over the river near Hunt's Pond. They uttered the usual
flight call (tip-it, tip-it).

Helminthophila chrysoptera. - Golden wings have ceased to
breed anywhere at or near the Farm. Nor did I note
any this year during migration. Two were seen between
Hampstead and Hudson Pond by W. Taylor, later in May.
On that same day he saw six in the same locality.

Helminthophila lunata - a few typical ♂, singing.
Neither this bird nor the Golden wings could be found
anywhere although the place was repeatedly visited.

H. rubicapilla. After migration was over I noted specimens only

twice - once from Beeston I heard a ♂ singing near Bylons Pond and
on June 29 while on my (one only) on both Perry Pasture at 7 A.M.

Concord, Mass.

1912.

April to
July 1

Dendroica aestiva. For the first time in years no Yellowthroats nested in the garden at the Farm. I heard a ♂ singing in Loomis' garden on June 3 and one when the road crosses Regler's Brook near Peterson's on the 26th. The species was breeding rather near normally than usual along the river, however. Two ♂♂ sang in the fringe of trees opposite Paul's Island, one across the river from Burrows' Knoll, several between Hunt's Pond & F. Carter Pond.

Dendroica pennsylvanica. Chestnut-sided Warblers have been diminishing hereabouts in numbers for several years. In the Ball's Hill region a ♂ singing in the swamp behind the hill is the only one I know of that has remained through June. At the Farm two ♂♂ have sung in the Big Pasture & a third on the hillside west of our house. These four (in all) are the only ones that have been under my observation during the breeding season.

Concord, Mass.

1912

April to
July 1.

Dendroica blackburniana. - On June 3 I heard four ♂♂ singing, one near Purple Rock, one in Prescott farms, one on Davis Hill, one on Pine Ridge. On the 29 I heard two near Purple Rock. Thus at least five must have remained in my woods area, if not through, the breeding season.

Sylvania canadensis. Noted only once during breeding season - on June 24 when I heard one singing in swamp behind Ball's Hill.

Streptopelia virens. A pair of Redstarts bred in the birch maples near the cabin at Ball's Hill, the only ones I have ever seen for several years. I heard the ♂ singing as late as May 31.

On June 21 the ♀ was chirping incessantly because of the near presence of a pair of Jays. At the farm we had at least two pairs & I think three, in the grove behind the barn & in the open orchard in front of it.

Vireo solitarius. Through May & June I heard birds singing on Ball's Hill, Pine Ridge, Davis Hill, in Prescott farms & in Purple Rock woods. In locality last named there were usually 2 ♂♂ in full song, often within a few rods of one another.

Concord, Mass.

1912.

April 1 to
July 1.

Vireo flavifrons. One bird at the Farm arrived May 17 & sang then in the big elms as usual up to June 5th although there was heavy singing on the 3rd. After the 5th however, the birds appeared there only occasionally. There was certainly no band record there this year. In all I noted not more than 3 or 4 V. flavifrons this season.

Ampelis cedrorum. A few Cedar Birds were still found in Concord as I saw or heard them occasionally through June at the Farm & along the river.

Progne subis. Heard twice near Balls Hill - on May 5 & June 1. I believe that there has been a fair-sized breeding colony in the boxes on the Hill since & that Mr. Parker has established a new colony of 20 or 40 pairs on his place on Rockbrook Hill.

Hirundo lunifrons. Heavy flight of migrants feeding over river on Balls Hill April 23 & 29. Only a few remained to breed. We had one wood pair in our barnyard barn. Brood of young on branch over river June 30.

Tachycineta bicolor. Three breeding pairs at Farm, one in Bowden's pasture, one in meadow E. of Balls Hill. Heavy old-bird flight of migrants hunting here April 23 & 29 & very many on 19, 25, 28 & 30.

Concord, Mass.

1912.

April 1 to

July 1.

Coturnicops rupicola. - Fair sized breeding colony in bank on Baptist Street near
Catholic Cemetery, smaller one in bank near Town Center (Worshipers Bank /
near on Dakers' Hill or near Peterson. Very few seen along river after migration.

Spirillum pusilla. Very scarce this season. Must have suffered heavily from
cold winter in South. I doubt if any bred on our land although I heard
one singing in or near our berry pasture May 3-25. One heard in Horns
Pasture & another at base of Everett's Woods, Highland Road, on June 3.

Melospiza melodia. Completely scarce during migration & later. Must
have suffered in South. Not over 20% of normal number arrived to land.
At the Farm had none near home & only 2 were song in Berry Pasture

Pipilo erythrophthalmus. - This species also unusually scarce. Only one
bird noted during breeding season. He song in Berry Pasture through June.

Hylocichla lutaria. Less numerous than usual. One pair at Farm, one
at Bois Hill. Better bird nest in back E. end of hill but failed to

Parus cyaneus. Three ♂♂ singing through June at Farm, one
near home, one in Berry Pasture, one in Birch Field.

Glenade, Mass.

1912

June 9

Clear & cool with brisk N. W. wind. Ther 62° at noon.

As I am working under the benches at the rear of the studio I hear the same Black-throated Blue Warbler who was here two or three years ago. At least he has the same peculiar song, this I should render ti-ti-ti-ti leese (or leese)

These notes are given quickly and only the final leese has any suggestion (and this but slight) of the usual dragging, heavy quality. Indeed the song as a whole is bright, lively and rather musical. Nevertheless it is somewhat suggestive of that of the Yellow Hummer of England, especially the terminal note which might well be rendered "chee".

The song just described ceased a few minutes ago and was immediately succeeded by the normal song of Catherston coming from the same place and, I feel almost sure, from the same bird. This has been expected a description or more

Now the ti-ti-ti-ti, chee is resumed & given knowingly again.*

Dendroica
Catherston
with peculiar
song.

* After this I heard clearly, up to June 16, the ti-ti-ti-ti leese song but never once again the normal song.

Glenade, Mass.

1912
June 9
(No 2)

There was little singing last evening or early this morning but now, at noon, as I am sitting under the benches a perfect medley of bird voices comes sweetly to my ears from every direction. Near at hand are two Red-eyes, an Oven bird, the Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers, a Tanager, a Black-chinned Noddy and a Humming bird (chasing). Further off, in the pasture woods, are Magnolia Warblers & an Indigo bird. The Wood Thrush are silent and I heard only a few notes from one last evening. The Robins sang well at evening & morning but there was only a few of them here this year; None I hear a Capped Gnatcatcher in the far distance and a Redstart and a Black & White Creeper.

1912.

June 16

Gloucester, Mass

There are rather more Robins here than in most places
that I visited this year but not so many as usual. The
greatest number seen at any one time when on the lawn was
four & I doubt if more than two pairs are nesting
about the "Fishes" place. One remarkably handsome old
male has been singing almost incessantly for ten days or
more. I have been ever a little surprised to find that he
often sings while on the ground. This morning I watched
him do it for ten or fifteen minutes, as he was on the ad-
vanced lawn close to the house. He would give from one to
three bars of the normal song and then make a short
run before continuing his lay. Sometimes he would
upbeat on both wings during one of these brief intervals
of silence. Except that it thus interrupted the song does
not differ in any respect from that which he gives when
in the trees. He is an exceptionally fine singer with strong, power-

Robin seen

Robin sings
on ground.

Conchester, Mass.

1912.
July 6

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

I went to Conchester by an afternoon train to-day to spend Sunday with John E. Hooper. He had just come down from our rooms, about 7 P.M., fully dressed for dinner when he called my attention to an animal moving on the lawn below the house about 200 yards away. Through an opera glass we could see that it was a Squirrel about the size of a three quarters grown young Gray one apparently wholly black.

Black
Squirrel

Hooper got out a small gauge (.44) double barreled gun and two shells - which, unfortunately, were loaded with dust shot - and we started down the slope he leading with the gun and running most of the way. As we neared the Squirrel we saw that it was beyond question as black all over as any Crow. When we were within fifty yards it ran up the trunk of a young elm. Advancing to within twenty yards Hooper fired and killed the Squirrel off the trunk but on striking the

Launceston, Mass.

1912.

July 6
(No 2)

ground it started out over for a nearby Douglas fir and disappeared under some drooping branches, moving rather slowly as if badly wounded. Failing to find it beneath the fir we supposed that it must have gone up it and Thayer without a moment's hesitation started to follow it. At my suggestion, however, he first removed his dress suit and began the climb stripped to his shirt & drawers. The tree was densely branched and about 40 ft. in height. He went nearly to the top but could discover no trace of the Squirrel which must have kept on over the ground to one or another of the numerous cypresses at the base of the one just mentioned. When at length Mr. Thayer descended he presented a ludicrous sight for his collar was reduced to pulp, his glossy shirt front scattered with filth, his drawers torn to shreds. His only concern,

Black
Squirrel.

however, seemed to be in respect to the loss of the Squirrel.

I wonder if other merry men of his age, weight and constitution who, under such conditions, would have been similarly inspired by pure devil's arden & witicism to undertake such exertion for such a trifle.

Cambridge, Mass.

1912

July 20

Clear & cool with light S. W. wind.

Visited the Charles River marshes this forenoon (9.30-11.30) in company with Walter Deane. We entered them behind the Stillman Infirmary and left them at the south east corner of Cambridge Cemetery. They are in an interesting stage of transition from salt (or brackish) marshes to fresh water meadows and park lands. A large area between Swin's Hill and the creek near it, as well as beyond this creek, has been filled with earth from the subway left in heaps as it was dumped from the carts. Elsewhere the surface of the marsh has not as yet been modified in any way by man. Its vegetation has changed a good deal, although less than might have been expected. Practically all the salt marsh grasses, sedges and other plants still present but many of them are less numerous than formerly and becoming more or less prostrate. Much of the "black grass" is dead

1912

July 20

(1912)

on dying and there is comparatively little Solidago serotina left. Hosts of plants and kinds of various kinds have evidently established themselves there since the dam was built and salt water there and. Among them I noticed purple frax wood in bloom, cat tail flags, Sagittaria and gray birches, the last named numerous in flower and fruit on top of in height. The numerous, straight, narrow artificial ditches still present and contain shallow water issuing into mosquito larvae although schools of small fish passed about their mouths. Dragon flies of several kinds were flying over them. In the river we saw Potamogeton of two different species, one introduced from Europe. The weasels were everywhere so they that we walked over them without getting so much as the holes of our shoes. The water which for the most part obviously freshed by the recent drought.

1912.

July 20
(the 3)

The number and variety of the birds seen during this week improved was not a little. Here is a full list of them

1. Yellow Warbler. Two in apple tree near Castle's farm
2. Savanna Sparrow. ♂ in full song; ♀ seen him chirping answers!
3. Song Sparrow. 3 ♂♂ singing on edge of marsh.
4. House Sparrow. About a dozen along edge of marsh
5. Meadow Lark. Two or three in marsh, one in full song.
6. Red wing Blackbird. 7 birds of two ♀♀ & young in marsh.
7. Cowbird Blackbird. 7 birds of about thirty.
8. Flicker. Two on ground in marsh
9. Crow. Five or six in Cemetery oaks.
10. Kingbird. Family party of four, edge of marsh.
11. Chipping Swift. About a dozen over marsh.
12. Kingfisher. One flying over marsh.
13. Sparrow Hawk. Family party of four or five in oaks edge of marsh & flying overhead. He saw one carrying what

Cambridge, Mass.

1912

July 20
(1914)

appeared to be a long stalk of green grass or weed & another which was certainly a foul bird with dry legs, in its talons. These circumstances were soon dropped after the bird alighted. We thought they were loaded up with grasshoppers - literally swooping all over the wood.

14. Ring-necked Pheasant. One heard to cross there, apparently near the Cook's figgy - with as reputation & flamboyance as of yore.
15. Spotted Sandpiper. At least a dozen scattered along the banks of the river.
16. Merganser Duck. A flock of 11 swimming in the river. We got within 100 yards of them. All looked freshly grown. Another saw a flock of similar size down the river yesterday.

Lowell, Mass.

1912.

July 20

The river is flowing just now through a wild-flower garden of exquisite beauty, extending on both sides from Hall's Hill all the way to Cobble Bridge and beyond and made up of broad belts of white water lilies backed by narrower ones of purple-flowered juncos, with button buds covered with creamy white blossom forming the background. I sailed almost to the bridge in a canoe this afternoon and was thrilled by the wonderful display of color. There were flocks of Red-wings and Bobolinks wheeling in flocks over the marshes and clustering about the beds of wild rice but I saw few other birds except Swallows, ^{most} of which were Non Swallows. The only birds heard singing were Red-wings, Song Sparrows and Swamp Sparrows.

The Veeries were wholly silent even after sunset. The two young Veeries in the nest by the path near the cabin which hatched a week ago to-morrow are half grown & partly feathered.

Cambridge, Mass.

1912

July 3

Three young Screech Owls, perched in a row on a branch of the
catalpa overspreading the garden walk by the house, were seen
and seen (in the garden) this morning.
They spent the day there in the dense shade of the big leaves.
An old bird, presumably the mother, joined them about 1 P.M.,
was gone at 3 P.M. and back again at 6 P.M. She looked
very old. I could not see her well at all. I heard
the young in the garden last night and saw them flying
about in the twilight there this evening. It seems probable
that they were hatched in the box in the jungle in which
a Flicker nested years ago and which Screech Owls have
since occupied in winter. They may, however, have come from
a greater distance for they are strong of wing now although
still in first plumage. Percy saw two young Owls on
old oak in the jungle last summer which I saw in
England. They were those deadly through fairy, he says.

Young
Screech Owls
in
Garden.

Cambridge, Mass.

1912.

July 4

There were four young Screech Owls with their mother in the catalpa this morning. They all spent the day there.

Family of
Screech Owl
in
Garden.

" 5

Further Owl again in catalpa but all four young in lilacs where, within two yards of the garden path and scarce five feet above the ground, they sat close together through the day and were viewed at close range by all the members of our family and more than a dozen of our neighbors.

" 6

Old Owl in catalpa, 4 young heterogeneously grouped on the edge of lilacs opposite her on edge of garden path.

" 7

Old Owl in catalpa all day, 4 young in garden above her. Together on top rail of trellis.

" 8

Entire Owl family reunited in catalpa at 9.30 a.m. but two young were missing from the group by noon. At 2 P.M. I was

hurrying towards the Museum when one of the young flew up

from the edge of the little pond & back into the catalpa, chased by House Sparrows & Meadow Larks. The cement coping of the pond was wet when the Owl had been & I think the bird was bathing there. A blowing hat was blowing from above along the trellis.

Rambridge, Mass.

1912.

July 9

Saw the entire Owl family together in the Catalpa at 8 a.m. Family of
five birds in
Garden.
One Two hours later the old bird alone remained here, all
his young having removed during the interim (all of the
morning was clear & cool) the other four on edge of the
catalpa where they spent the remainder of the day.

" 10

Old Owl in Catalpa all day together in catalpa.
at evening (7:40) they were scattered all over the garden
flocking to & fro in twilight but so many in the
shadows. The white places here & there with them. I expected
I would see one or two on the ground. They
alighted well up in the trees.

" 11

Old Owl in Catalpa all day, 4 young in upper above eye
to 10 a.m. One gone from there and not to be seen elsewhere,
later in the day.

" 12

Old Owl in Catalpa, 3 young in arbor, ~~through~~ through ~~fenestration~~.
at 5 P.M. they had left their stations & could not be found elsewhere.

Cambridge, Mass.

1912

July 13

Old bird in catalpa and 3 young together in vicinity of March Oaks
a large black bush that overhangs the grape arbor. This all day. Garden.

" 14

Four young spent day in grape arbor, mother seldom there.

" 15

Four young in arbor through forenoon and then in grape arbor. Mother not seen until late in afternoon.

" 16

Old bird in catalpa all day, and 1 P.M. I may have stepped on one of the young that was sitting on the ground in the middle of a broad, shaded, garden path, where the man bear down. I only saw a black fly. He stopped with a report of a report in his bill and one and then flew up the walk into the grape arbor. Seven two minutes before the young had gone along the walk without seeing a fly of the kind. A few minutes later he found the other three young in the cherry tree by the tool house where they have ever been seen before.

" 17

Old bird in catalpa through day. Four young in arbor at 8 A.M. but gone from there & not to be discerned elsewhere, after 1 P.M. At evening I saw one flying over the garden.

1112.
July 18

Family of
Common Orob
S. Garden

One of the young birds found today in the
catalpa; the other three and their parents were in
the very top of the cherry tree case of great value in
my collection. I had a good view of the old bird
and saw that it is a bit out of shape and I feel
that perhaps, in coloring being dark red like the second.
Henry C. I saw has three Colby but less on it of the
young of one of being and one goes to the end back into
the top. He found the young in a catalpa tree in the
air, over the street. It is not yet the first but a nest.

" 19 Found one of the top of cherry where the were seen yesterday;
found bird back on the back of the catalpa.

" 20 Found one on top bird of order at 7 a. m., at 7 a. m.
afternoon right in air over a tree. Mother in catalpa all the way.

" 22 Old bird with 3 young in top cherry tree. Found in garden.

" 23 "

Cambridge, 1912.

1912.

July 24

One young bird in top of cherry tree, has nest built in
crotch on edge of branch.

Family of
Scratch Owls
in
the Garden.

" 25

Three young birds in top of cherry tree, all are seen
flew by Perry road & returned to the nest. They have
this day weeks to begin their work. At 10.15 AM
after a hot and sunny day.

" 26

Three young in grass at 7.30 A.M.; in top of cherry
tree or garden; scattered about on grass patches in back-
yard, apparently waiting for prey, at 6.45 P.M.

" 27

All four young perched close together in paper bush at 10.15
A.M. They now show well-developed "ears" but
are still in downy plumage. One looks strongly rufous, the others
grey. The old bird was seen then to-day.

" 28

Two young birds in cat-alopex, a bird in top of cherry, all
flew, with the old one, yesterday.

1912.

July 30

The old bird was in top of cherry tree and two of her young were in grape arbor, all day. We had the exhibition by sight at once, about 7.45 P.M., in the back close when they fled to and fro with interesting results and we saw, anything from back to front very close, some of the interesting the usual beneath absolutely, apparently in search of prey.

" 31

Old bird in top of cherry all day; her young a stamp of offspring as old of grape, the other two were in top.

Aug. 1

The old bird in top of cherry tree and of grape arbor, I saw her down in cherry near tool house. At 7 P.M. I could find only one bird - a young one. Late in the afternoon Gilbert started on from the tool house, inside which it was perched as a rule north.

" 2

Three young birds spent day in top of easternmost cherry tree - a new station. We failed to find the other two birds.

" 3

Three young in same cherry tree today.

1912

Cambridge, Mass.

August 5

Only the old Owl seen to day. in cage of today been

Family of
Tame Owl
in 3 or 4 m.

" 6

Three Owls spent day in cherry trees over a cabin.

The old red bird in one, two young in the other.

" 7

Three young Owls, widely scattered, in a cage in the 1st fl.

The third appeared about noon, in bright sunlight, on the
concrete rim of the little pond in garden of house. when it
sat erect and alert with eyes wide open, gazing in our
way and then, frequently bobbing its head up & down. When
we peered out at it through a window of the museum
it noticed us at once and gazed at us fixedly for
minutes with its face towards us over its back. Soon
after this a Robin dived down at it when it flew up
into the catalpa to be assailed there presently by an Oriole
two Red-eyes & a Yellow Warbler, all excited & vociferous.
It probably visited the pond with the intention of

Taking a bath. I see Owl feathers often in the water. Perhaps the
gold fish seem as an attraction but I have never seen taken & yet

Cambridge, Mass.

1912

August 8

The Oats are showing an increasing tendency to desert and perhaps are beginning to desert our grounds. We could find but three to day. An old bird in the cherry in W^h, one young in the blue, another in the figs.

Family of
Seven Oats
in "Garden"

" 9 Three young, one in cherry, two together in blue [✓] spurs in figs - a new station here.

" 10 Percy & I looked long and carefully for the Oats but found only one, a young bird perched in the cherry in W^h where two boys descended and walked here, within feet of nestling.

" 12 Three young together in the board paper bird when they flew the day. We failed to find the old one but heard her calling. The normal roosting cry at 7.30 P.M.

" 13 Three young, Oats again in board canvas back. no other seen here.

" 14 One young spurt long together in blue [✓] spurs in figs. The adult red bird was on her favorite perch in the cherry in

Cambridge, Mass.

1912

August 15

seen in a three young birds together in the leaning log in back of
between 8 & 9 a.m. but only one at 2 P.M. It did not see to be the Garden

Family of
Scrub Birds

" 16

one young bird in the back, another on the porch of the house,
the red mother in between left & right side.

" 17

Three young Sparrows in leaning log. The mother was in
the woods during the day, but at night, her note is heard in the
garden. There are several other birds in the garden, but the
young called by night a sound no, like that of ruffing, when
alone. Sometimes it came rather frequently from different parts
of the garden, especially as twilight was passing into dark.
Towards the end of the month it was much less often and
gradually changed in character so as to begin to resemble the
wailing of adult birds. Since August came in the young have
maintained almost constant silence but it was probably one of
them whom I heard two or three nights ago giving a very

frantic, throat dry, having a rising inflection and suggesting the
sound of a cat although not like that when I heard this very same cry in
the garden one year after the other same bird.

Cambridge, Mass.

1912.
Aug. 19

Two young Owls in best bush, their red nest in top of
cherry marked by 2 Owls & 5 or 6 Cross Blackbirds at 1 P.M.
At 7 P.M. I heard her cooing in the jungle.

Scarlet Owls
in
Garden

" 20 Only one Owl found to-day - a young bird on a high bush
in a catotape tree in the jungle.

" 21 Three Owls, all young ones as thought, spent day perched high in
a cherry tree. They were marked early in the forenoon by numerous
note & excited birds among which a Blue Jay, a Robin, a young ♀
Scarlet Tanager, 3 young Orioles, many House Sparrows and at least
15 Cross Blackbirds, all these raising their voices in united
and well-nigh deafening clamor which disturbed me not a
bit as I sat writing in the morning.

" 22 Old Owl in cherry tree by tool house; one young in another
cherry tree; one flying about Garden in evening twilight.

" 23 Old Owl in cherry tree by tool house, 2 young in best
bush. Saw an Owl fly across Sparks Street at 7 P.M.

Cambridge, Mass.

1912

Aug. 24

Old Owl again in cherry tree by tree house. Two young in bush. As I was looking out latter about 8 a.m. They were subdued by a whole flock of Orioles of which I counted 12 & heard still others feeding.

Scream Owls
in
Garden.

Aug. 25

Mother Owl in cherry tree by tree house. One young in leaning bush scolded by Orioles & Jays. No others seen.

" 26

Mother Owl again in same cherry tree. One young in leaning bush, another in blue spruce (in jungle), both with almost perfect winter plumage which will contrastly & glow.

" 27

Old Owl in cherry tree by tree house, 3 young together in leaning bush.

" 28

" " " " " " " " 3 young in cherry east of arbor.

" 29

" " " " " " " " 2 young in bush one arbor, 1 in cherry E. of it.

" 30

Two young Owls in cherry E. of arbor, that I took to be mother feeding at 7 P.M.

" 31

The old bird & 2 young seen in Garden.

Sept. 23

Pale red bird, very large, in lilies. Seen by M. B.

" 24

" " " " " " " " " " " " " "

" 25

" " " " " " " " " " " " " "

" 26

" " " " " " " " " " " " " "

Concord, Mass.

1912.

Sept. 19

Night cloudy, calm and oppressively warm following a hot and humid day. Although I had seen very few birds about they were migrating in some numbers between 10 and 11 P.M. when I heard the calls of Woodpeckers or Thrushes among first migrants as I sat reading in the cabin with door & windows open. One of the Thrush calls repeated several times within my hearing was evidently that of either a Gray-cheked or a Chickadee Thrush being, indeed, essentially the call we hear by Gray in form on Mt. Washington but yet was quite the same & probably representing the night cry of the species. As compared with the day call it was shriller & more strident. The other Thrush calls heard seemed to be those of Wilson's Thrush or at least indistinguishable from them. I noted two Wilson's Thrushes at the Farm on the afternoon of the 17th during one distinctly rainy day.

Night calls
of
migrating
Thrushes

Concord, Mass.

1912.
Sept. 19
(No. 2)

Just after I had gone to bed (at 11 P.M.) something began making a variety of low chattering murmuring & twittering sounds just outside my bedroom windows.

Mythimna
noctuid
Sounds
heard at
Bath's Hill

These were repeated at short intervals for half an hour or more. They seemed to come from beneath the window which is only about 8 ft. above the ground of the steeply-sloping, wooded hill side. Some of the chucks were clearly like those of the Hairy Thrush but fainter. Every now & then I heard a light rattling of dry leaves which I thought was made by the author of the low notes & which was no more than the movements of a mouse might have caused.

What the creature was I have no idea. I

thought at the time especially of a Silver Wren because

of the fact that this is one of the most sedentary of night songsters when it is looking for insects & grubs. But the sounds were rather bird-like as a whole & may have been uttered by a bird. I do not recall any being done before

Concord, Mass.

1912.
Sept. 30

Noisy Rats have been frequenting the old cabin at Baldi Hill of late entering it by a hole which they have knozed in the logs at the right hand corner by the fire place where there is a wood pile. A half-grown one rushed in through this opening as I was at breakfast this morning. Following it closely was an animal thicker its skin which I took at first to be a Red Squirrel for it had a wide, bushy, black-tipped tail and was bright rusty red above and pure white beneath. It turned out, however, to be a large Weasel belonging no doubt to our large New England species (Putorius) which I had never seen living before. It looked as big as a medium sized Mink and acted not unlike one galloping to & fro over the wood pile with its nose carried low like a hound seeking scent. Presently it

Weasel
+
Rat
in
Cabin.

1912

Sept 30
(no 2)

routed out the Rat from among the wood and followed
it up a rough-barked locust post that supports the roof
of the cabin. Both animals ascended this spirally winding
around & around it at such speed that my eye could
scarcely follow them. Just before reaching the top of the
post the Rat was overtaken by the Weasel who
seized him about the middle of the back and bit
him but not, it would seem, very severely for he
merely squeaked & being himself kept on & went out
through the hole with the Weasel in hot pursuit.
Less than a minute later either he or a precisely
similar-looking Rat came back through the hole
and disappeared in the wood pile. Shortly after
this the Weasel also returned by the same route
& began a systematic & leisurely search for the
rat. After exploring the wood pile thoroughly, ascending

Weasel
hunting
Rat in
cabin.

in and out among the sticks with easy grace and showing himself at a dozen different places along its face he ascended to a shelf just under the roof and nosed along this for half its length. Then turning back he reared up on his hind legs to inspect the ceiling which is of pine logs rather widely spaced with a board roof above them. The next instant he sprang up between two of the logs with eager haste ~~rather~~ and almost immediately dislodged the Bat who fell headlong to the wood pile and racing across it jumped to a lower shelf, alighting on a pile of magazines there. Before he could gather himself for another spring the Woodrat leaped across and again seized him by the middle of the back again releasing him after a single bite which failed, as had

the first, to disable him for he never escaped through the hole squealing loudly as before. The Weasel went out after him & did not return. We sought it outside & saw it peeping out at us from a hole in the ground near the cabin. I approached it within 5 ft. when it continued to gaze at me showing only its face which looked very broad. Its eyes had now a rather placid, gentle expression but when it was hunting for the Rat in the cabin they fairly blazed appearing emerald green in some lights, in others flashing white like diamonds and positively seeming to emit rather than reflect, light.

^{We may credit}
If the accounts we read in books of Weasels seizing their prey by the throat & never letting go their hold until they bite into the jugular vein and suckled the blood of the hapless victim then this particular Weasel must have been a good bungler at his murderous trade for he had two perfectly fair chances to slay the Rat yet apparently did

it no more harm than an angry Squirrel
nipping at another might have done. While the
Rat was evidently badly frightened he ^{at last} came
back ~~in~~ into the cabin within a minute after
being bitten & driven out or else another Rat
exactly like him took his place. While searching
for him the second time the Wrasse ran not
only along the high shelf but also out along
a pole and a folded sail & over a gun case
which I was sitting at table only two yards away.
Gibbert saw him do this but did not see him
actually tackle the Rat. As I have said he
looked as big as a half grown mouse &
quite as bulky being very unlike in shape
to the little, slender little common Wrasse.

I saw him last in the hole & then left him, having
to ~~take~~ a train across the river

Concord, Mass.

1912.

Oct. 4

As Gilbert & I were at supper this evening we were startled by a tremendous splashing in the water in front of the cabin. As he truly said "a cow landing in the river could scarcely have made more noise". The sound was repeated several times, finally coming, it seemed, from the boat pier. I thought, at once, of an Otter and presently became fully assured that it was one when it began making a series of low, bird-like whistles with very noise and then a louder, blacets cry, short & shrill yet not exactly a whistle although nearer that than anything else. After listening to these vocal & other sounds for several minutes I stole quietly out with an electric torch and threw its strong light on the canal but by that time the creature had returned to the river where I heard it splash once more beyond reach of my light. Evening dark, calm & warm.

Otter in
river front
of cabin

Concord, Mass.

1912

October 6

During my shooting & collecting days I occasionally
saw several Flying Squirrels in Concord. About 1869 D.C. Finch
& I saw one in the woods at Fanchon's Bay "flying" from
the trunk to the trunk canopy in the afternoon of a clear
warm summer or early autumn day. Another that I
remember was flushed from a hole in a dead tree on
the Estabrook land in May or June of 1866 or 1867.
Since I bought Ball's Hill & all the other land near it
and ever since I have been constantly expecting to find
Flying Squirrels in these woods but my first evidence
of their presence there was obtained this morning when
I picked up the freshly severed tail & some pieces of skin
of one in a foot path at the west end of Ball's Hill.
Something had evidently killed & eaten the Squirrel last
night. Its tail strikes me as large enough to be that
of a specimen of the large northern form.

Flying
Squirrel
at
Ball's Hill

Concord, Mass.

1912.

Oct. 17

Clear and unseasonably warm with fresh S. W. wind.

At 3 P.M. Gilbert went to Ball's Hill, from the Farm, in the automobile. On reaching the Cabin he was surprised to see almost opposite it, swimming in the river over towards the further shore, a flock of 9 Canada Geese. When he passed them within 100 yds. in his noisy - puffing Cadillac car they merely raised their heads and did not fly. Returning to the Farm he told me what he had seen. I started at once for Ball's Hill on foot with H. W. Henshaw taking my 20 g. gun & some shells loaded with buck shot - the only heavy charges I could find. When we reached the Cabin the Geese were some 200 yds. below it on the other side of the river feeding in a hole close to the low bushes that fringe the shore. Under cover of these they might probably have been stalked with ease but as I could not cross over without attracting their attention and as I feared to shrink from wetting my necessarial feet in the marsh I

9 Canada
Geese in
river opposite
Ball's Hill.

Cowesud, Mass.

1912.

Oct. 17
(No. 2.)

decided to try drifting down on the birds before the
wind in a cedar canoe. They did not seem to notice me when
I first floated out in it but I had gone only a few rods
when they stretched up their necks and drew off from shore.
A moment later they all rose, led by a Gander of unusual
size, and mounting straight upward eight or ten feet alighted
many Black Ducks. Going first down wind over the river for
about 100 yds. they turned in over the marsh and came off
low down to the South ward, banking lowly. Only a few
minutes later—as I found after wards—they alighted in
Fairhaven Bay after having been that at times on wing by a girl
in a canoe. They remained about the Bay during the remainder
of the afternoon. In the evening twilight Samuel that of
Cowesud got within easy range of them in his canoe
and shot one, "a very large & heavy bird", I have been told.

Canada
Geese
in
river at
Balls Hill
Fairhaven
Bay

Bowcord, Mass.

1912.
October
September
(No 3)

Many of the local sportsmen think that the Pheasants
have already driven out the Geese from certain of the
Bowcord woods. The number of breeding Geese in the
woods about one farm & at Ball's Hill has diminished very
susceptibly within the past two or three years but their courses
continue to be well stocked in winter by birds which come
to them before the middle of November from somewhere else.
Thus on November 17 of the present year I started at
about 11 within a few minutes walk of our home although
they had been almost absent from the same places during the
whole of September & October.

Nearly all the Pheasants that I have seen this autumn
have been cocks in full plumage, and sometimes I have
noted as many as three of them together. If the hens are
equally numerous they must be near retiring & clean.

On October 23 I flushed a hen Pheasant with her brood
of 7 or 8 half-grown young in a field on the Thicket floor.
This was literally the only flock of Pheasants that I have seen this autumn.

Things needed
Pheasants.

Covered, Mass.

1912

September

October

(No 2)

directly in front of it or on the stone wall almost under my
chamber window they seldom permitted a man who had once
attracted their attention to approach nearer than one hundred yards
when they would charge him by either flying or running away
swiftly into the nearest cover. They seemed indeed to be
not less alert & wary than Black Ducks & to have equally
keen senses of sight & hearing. Three weeks I saw them
daily & sometimes hourly, I rarely got a fair shot at one
unless, perchance, by stumbling on down bird that was
shellacking in long grass or dense bushes & even in such places it
was unusual to have such an opportunity. Most of them spent
the midday hours in thickets bordering or intersecting the fields.
In windy or rainy weather they resorted freely to dense
woods where among tall, rounded ferns or oaks they might
be seen or heard for hours from any open ground. & when
I was infrequently flushed them with or near Ruffed Grouse.

Ring-necked

Pheasant.

Concord, Mass.

1912.

September
October.

Pheasants have multiplied exceedingly at Concord during King-mead
Pheasants.

the past two or three years. About our place they were, for the first time, decidedly more numerous than Ruffed Grouse this autumn.

In the Ball's Hill region their favorite haunts were the river meadows and bordering fields where they fed by day and roosted by night in tall grass. Often I would see them at sunset flying out into the very middle of the meadows & alighting there in rank grass or sedge. At evening & in the early morning they were very noisy & one might hear their calling notes coming from every side far & near. At the ^{times} when they were equally numerous & vociferous, they fed chiefly in Lawrence's & Howe's lands grass fields and in a large patch of standing sweet corn directly in front of our house. Once an old cock was seen eating grain with one chicken in the poultry yard. Although they come fairly close about the house & sometimes alighted in the driveway

Cambridge, Mass.

1912.

Nov. 7

Cloudy & oppressively warm with strong S. W. wind & heavy rain in afternoon.

A Tanager
(P. erythronotus?)
visits our
Garden

Just before going in to dinner (at 1 P.M.) I was surprised to see a ♀ Tanager bathing at the brink of the little pond in our Garden. Gilbert & I watched her for several minutes, standing within 15 ft. of her in the doorway of the Museum. She was dull yellow beneath and brownish olive above showing no trace of greenish on the back but having the rump strongly tinged with saffron yellow and the tail almost as red-dish as that of a Hermit Thrush. The wings were almost perfectly concolor with the back and without obvious blackish even at the tips of the primaries. Altogether the general coloring of this bird was so unlike that of a ♀ Scarlet Tanager and so nearly like that of a ♀ Summer Redbird that I took her at first to belong to the latter species. In respect to general size and to the size and shape of her bill, however, she seemed to more nearly agree with P. erythronotus to which I finally referred her - rather doubtfully. After finishing her bath she flitted down to me in a haphazard way by the pond, fluttering & quivering her wings & shaking her tail. At length she flew off in the direction of Hubbard Park.

1912.
Nov. 9

Cambridge, Mass.

Clear & cool with light westerly wind.

A ♀ Tanager, similar in coloring to the one seen on the 7th and without doubt the same individual bird, appeared again in one Garden this afternoon. I saw it three several times and visited it continuously from 2 to 2.30 P.M. During this period it three visited the grape arbor getting & eating on each occasion a leaf Isabella or Catawba grape. Twice it flitted through the shrubbery about the pond in front of the Museum. For the most part, however, it frequented the big white willows and tall canoe bushes at the head of the garden alighting in their tops or upper branches, 40 to 60 feet above the ground, and from these elevated perches launching out every now & then on wing in pursuit of flying insects which it captured with all the skill and ease of a true Flycatcher. It was so restless, shy and suspicious that I did not once succeed in approaching it closely but in the clear sunlight, with the aid of a good

Tanager
(*P. rubra?*)
again seen
in
one Garden.

Cambridge, Mass.

Tanager,
P. rubra (3)
in
our Garden

1912.

Nov. 9

(No 2.)

open glass, I was able to make out its coloring very much more satisfactorily than on the 7th. As on that occasion I was

impressed by the absence of greenish on the upper parts, by the saffron yellow tinge of the wings and by the strongly reddish tone.

In addition I now noticed for the first time that the wings were crossed by two inconspicuous bands of yellowish green, that the secondary had light colored spots on their tips and that the bill was light brownish in color. The bird's movements seemed decidedly more spirited and active than those of a Scarlet Tanager, its postures more pronounced & grotesque. At frequent intervals it abruptly but slowly raised and depressed its tail in the manner of a Hermit Thrush. The longer I watched it the more convinced I became that despite its small size it must be a Sumner Tanager. Unfortunately it remained

to-day, as on the 7th, perfectly silent. Finally I decided to shoot it but was unable to find any suitable cartridges for the collecting pistol & when I returned to the Garden the Tanager had disappeared.

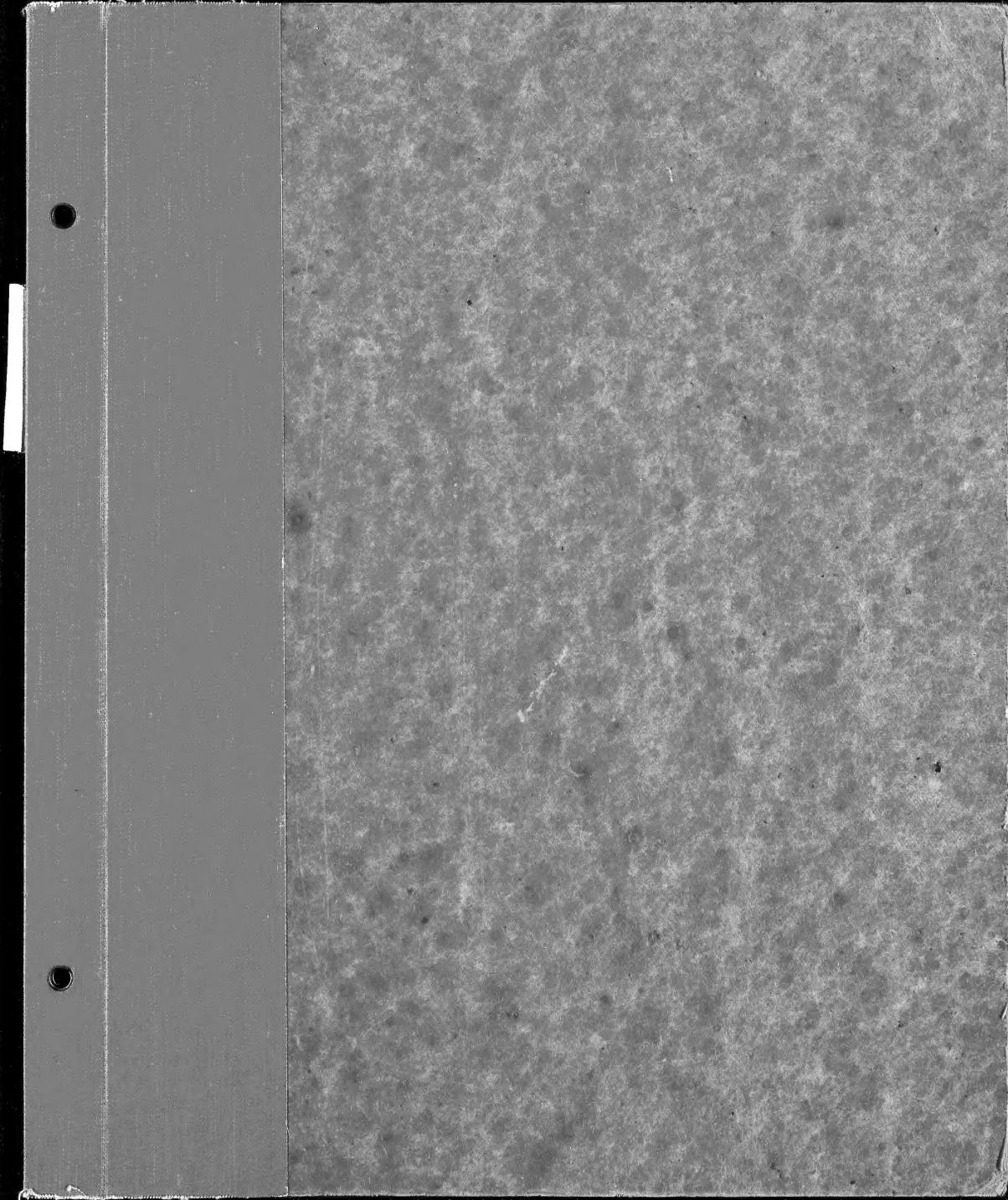
Concord, Mass.

1912
Nov. 24

Deer

For the first time since their return to this part of Massachusetts there has just been an open season of one week on Deer in Middlesex County. It ended yesterday when I was told by my foreman Zephaniah Prosser that ten or eleven Deer had been killed in Corchish but none, so far as he could learn, in Concord. Apparently they have been almost if not quite as numerous about one place as during previous years. As twilight was falling on the evening of September 29th I saw a rooth buck with long spreading horns standing in the middle of the field just across the road from our farm house. On October 8th five does were seen together in the orchard in front of our barn. On October 18th Henry W. Hunsdon & I saw one buck & one small doe together, first at the

foot of lawn, afterwards in the run just beyond where they stood motionless for minutes gazing at us intently with their heads facing us & greedily over their backs, their bodies facing the other way. On the evening of November 17th Zeph. Collier was out to see a big doe in our flower garden. He had seen her a few minutes before walking 15 ft. of the wood shed. Deer tracks were noticed everywhere about Balls Hill & I saw 2 does there on October 23.



21
1
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