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The Journal of The Maine Ornithological Society.

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF MAINE ORNITHOLOGY.

"Bird protection, bird study, the spread of the knowledge thus gained, these are our objects."

VOL. II. BANGOR, MAINE, JANUARY, 1900. No. 1

The Maine Ornithological Society.

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CAPT. H. L. SPINNEY, Seguin, - Vice-President
A. H. NORTON, Westbrook, - - Sec'y—Treas.
J. MERTON SWAIN, Portland, - - - - Editor
PROF. A. L. LANE, Waterville, - - - - Councilor
O. W. KNIGHT, Bangor, - - - - Councilor

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Editorial.

One year has rolled by and our little Journal, with this issue, enters the field, on its second year's work. That it has been a success, as well as a welcome visitor to the homes of all our members and readers, no one will dispute. Its success in the future, fellow-members, depends upon each and every one of us. Let us, each one, feel our responsibility,

and work together, and build up our society to that standard, which shall rank well with similar societies in our sister States, and that we may publish a Journal that will be hailed with joy throughout our broad land. Let us make it a Journal that bird-students and bird-lovers will feel the need of, and thus acquire a wide circulation. Our annual meeting was a very pleasant and profitable one. The one thing lacking, was the presence of some of our prominent officers, members and workers. Circumstances may, sometimes, prevent our attending the annual meeting, but let us so far as is possible, lay our plans carefully, and make it a point to be there promptly, ready to do our part of the work, even if but a small part. That we may help make the meeting a success and impress on the minds of the visitors, that we are a society deeply in earnest, working for a good cause, as well as an interesting one, and that we fulfil what we promise to the public, when we invite them into our meetings. The members are earnestly requested to contribute notes and items of news, and original articles, that we may fill out our twelve pages and that our "hopper" may be full, and that each number may be of special interest and full of good things, and thus cause a desire on the part of the readers, to have our Journal enlarged and made better in the future.

The family chosen for study the coming year, is a very interesting one, and well represented in our State. We ought to do good work among the Warblers, and have a large amount of interesting notes on them, at our annual meeting.

We have received the second edition of "Our Birds, Their Nests and Eggs," by H. P. White of Farmington, Maine. It is revised and enlarged, but not exactly, brought up to date. It is also illustrated, but not particularly artistic, and reminds the editor very much of the first volume, which is somewhat misleading and amusing.

Just before going to press, the news comes of the death of Dr. Elliott Cones, of Washington, D. C. He has long been recognized as one of our leading authorities on Birds. He will be missed by a large circle of scientists, and especially by those, who were so unfortunate as to displease the Dr. and receive a vigorous shower of sarcasm upon their heads, from his ever-ready vocabulary of stinging words. He was very abrupt, and often carried his bitter feelings rather too far, and trampled upon people's feelings rough-shod.

The Dr. was a firm believer in ghosts and it remains to be seen if he was as positive or correct in his belief in spirits, as he was in matters pertaining to Ornithology.

He promised some of his intimate friends before his death, to appear to them after his demise, if he was able to do so, as he firmly believed he should be. Now they are waiting with no little interest, to see if he will keep his agreement.

Xema sabini. Sabine's Gull.

An immature female was shot at Brothers' Islands, near Portland, Sept. 22nd, 1899, by some fishermen. It was mounted by John H. Lord, the taxidermist, and is now in his possession. While in Portland recently, I had the pleasure of examining the specimen.

O. W. KNIGHT.

Nov. 1899.

Summer record of *Otocoris* for Maine.

While driving from Andover, Maine, to Norway, on the morning of August 12, 1899, when about a mile from Andover village, I espied in the road a pair of Larks (*Otocoris*), but before I could train my glass upon them, they took wing, circled around the carriage, and disappeared from view, uttering occasionally their familiar notes. That they were Horned Larks is unquestionable, and it seems little less certain that they were *Otocoris alpestris praticola*, which has been found breeding in New Hampshire, and has been anticipated as a breeder in Maine.

This record is given with the hope that it may be an index to some one who has an opportunity to work in this or some region bordering the highlands of Oxford, Piscataquis, or Aroostook counties.

ARTHUR H. NORTON.

Westbrook, Me., Jan. 10, 1900.

A young-of-the-year Loggerhead Shrike was seen near Westbrook, Dec. 25th, '99.

The Annual Meeting at Brunswick.

The fourth annual meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society was held at Brunswick, in the Searles Science Building of Bowdoin College, on Dec. 26th and 27th. The session opened with an informal meeting, open to the public, on Tuesday evening. Owing to the absence of Prof. Powers, Prof. Lee was asked to preside over the meeting. In the place of the illustrated lecture, which had to be omitted, as neither Mr. Knight or Prof. Powers were able to be there, the following papers were read by their authors: "A Day with some of the Shore Birds of Sagadahoc County," by Capt. H. L. Spinney of Seguin, Id., followed by, "The American Bittern in Captivity," by J. Merton Swain of Woodfords. Prof. Lee then gave a very interesting talk illustrated by a series of Stereoptican views, from negatives taken in California of some of the birds there. At the conclusion of these, the meeting was adjourned until ten o'clock the following morning.

Forenoon Session, Dec. 27th, 1899: In the absence of all higher executive officers, Prof. A. L. Lane of Waterville, the Senior Councilor, called a meeting of the members for a business session, at 10:30. In the absence of our Secretary, L. W. Robbins of Gardiner, Austin P. Larabee was appointed Secretary pro tem.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. On motion of Mr. A. H. Norton, the following committee was appointed to audit the accounts of the society: J. M. Swain, E. E. Johnson, Capt. Spinney. The following committees were also appointed: Committee on Resolutions, Prof. L. A. Lee,

A. H. Norton, A. P. Larabee; Committee to draw up list of officers for the ensuing year: Prof. L. A. Lee, Capt. H. L. Spinney, J. M. Swain; Committee on plan of study for the coming year: J. M. Swain, E. E. Johnson, Mrs. A. H. Norton. On motion of Mr. Norton, it was voted to appoint an Auditor to look over all accounts with the Society. Mr. J. M. Swain was appointed Auditor for the ensuing year.

The committee on nominations then made the following report: For President, Prof. W. L. Powers of Gardiner; Vice President, Capt. H. L. Spinney, Seguin; Sec. and Treas., A. H. Norton, Westbrook; Editor, J. Merton Swain, Portland; Councilors, A. L. Lane, Waterville, O. W. Knight, Bangor.

This report was accepted and adopted. On motion of Prof. L. A. Lee, it was voted to leave it in the hands of the Executive Committee to arrange for the publication of our *Journal* for the coming year.

The meeting was then thrown open to the public and the following papers were read: *Birds in the Bible*, by A. L. Lane, of Waterville; *Black and White Warbler*, by Guy H. Briggs, of Livermore, read by Prof. Lee; *Some Birds of Sunshine and vicinity (Penobscot Bay)*, by O. W. Knight of Bangor, read by Prof. Lee. The meeting then adjourned to 2.30 P. M.

Afternoon Session.

Meeting called to order by Prof. A. L. Lane. Prof. Lee read a report from O. W. Knight in account with the *Journal*. The Auditing Committee then reported. The books were not balanced and as the Treasurer was not present, they recommended putting the books in the hands of the Executive Committee

for further investigation and settlement. Prof. Lee, Chairman of the Committee on Anatomy, reported some progress had been made during the past year, but no report was ready as yet. By his request the same committee was re-appointed to continue the work the coming year. The Committee on resolutions made the following report:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society are due and are hereby tendered to the Faculty of Bowdoin College, for the use of the Searles Biological Laboratory and especially to Professors Lee and Little, who made the meeting pleasant and successful, and to the Maine Central Railroad for reduced rates.

Signed, A. H. Norton, L. A. Lee, A. P. Larrabee.

This report was accepted and adopted.

The committee on work for the ensuing year, reported: Recommending the family of Warblers as a special study, and requesting that every member prepare notes and bring them, or send them to our next annual meeting, with whatever specimens or photos they may have bearing on this subject of study.

Signed, J. M. Swain, Mrs. A. H. Norton, E. E. Johnson.

This report was accepted and adopted.

The matter of holding a summer meeting was then discussed favorably, and voted to be placed in the hands of the Executive Committee for action.

The name of Howard J. Noble of Lewiston, was proposed and he was elected as an active member. Prof. Lee spoke in favor of holding our next annual meeting in Lewiston. After discussion as to when the next Annual be held, Prof. Lane recommended holding it near the time of the meeting of the Maine Pedigological Society.

The meeting was then opened to the public and the following papers read:

On the Perfected Plumage of the King Eider Duck, written by A. H. Norton, read by Mrs. A. H. Norton of Westbrook; a contribution to the Life History of Leach's Petrel, by Arthur H. Norton. The reports of the families studied the past year were then taken up, viz.: The Anatidae, Hirundinidae and Turdidae. A paper was read: Notes on the Geese, Ducks, Swans, Swallows and Thrushes, by J. Merton Swain of Portland. Notes on Birds in Region of Lake Umbagog, by A. P. Larrabee, of Gardiner. A Phoebe's Summer, by C. H. Morrell, of Pittsfield, read by Prof. Lee. Notes on subject of Study for the past year, by E. E. Johnson, of Lewiston.

It was then voted, that the papers read be placed in the hands of the editor for publication in the Journal.

The meeting then was adjourned sine-die.

Austin P. Larrabee, Sec. Pro-tem.

Some Birds of Sunshine and Vicinity.

ORA W. KNIGHT.

(Concluded.)

Leach's Petrel. *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* (Vieill). The "Cary Chickens" breed only on the outer and most inaccessible islands. Seal Island is the great headquarters of this species, and for a mild estimate I should say that between two thousand and five thousand pair nested there annually. On Little Spoon there are perhaps five hundred pair of breeding birds. On Green Is-

lands perhaps eight hundred pair, and on Little Duck perhaps fifteen hundred pair nest annually, but from the mere nature of their habits anything like an accurate estimate of their number is impossible.

Sometimes during the day, but far oftener in the evening, these birds may be seen lightly skimming over the surface of the water, or half walking and half hopping along between water and air, and engaged in feeding on the small surface swimming crustaceans, or hovering to the leeward of some floating carcass, seemingly engaged in skimming up the grease that floats from it, although perhaps in reality they may be eating small particles of the decomposing flesh.

From their habit of walking on the water their name of Petrel, meaning Little Peter, is derived. They are tireless on the wing or in the water and the greater part of their lives is spent on the fishing banks far from land.

About the first of June they repair to the islands where they and their progenitors have nested for years past. Here they either reconstruct burrows used the previous year or dig new ones. As I have always found two birds in such burrows as were occupied, but which contained no eggs, it would seem reasonable to infer that both birds assist in constructing the nest. The hole is usually from one and one-half to three feet long, and somewhat circuitous, gradually descending and then slightly ascending and enlarging into a chamber lined with dry grass, weed leaves and rootlets, or more rarely fine sea algae. All the nests found on the Green Islands were lined with fine black algae, and this is the only colony which I have observed thus

lining their nests. The chamber is six to eight inches in diameter.

About June 20th on opening the burrows only one bird will be found in each, engaged in incubating a single white egg which is wreathed or lightly dotted about the larger end with reddish. An occasional egg is laid as early as June 10th, and fresh eggs may be found as late as July 5th. At this latter date I have examined or seen examined at least four hundred nests in hopes of finding some young hatched, but all contained eggs some of which were nearly fresh and others far advanced in incubation, so far in fact that they must have hatched in a day or so.

From the evidence at hand we may safely assert that it takes Petrel eggs at least three weeks and more probably a month to hatch. It is rather an open question as to the length of time required for the young to become full fledged. I do know that fishermen whose reliability I have no reason to doubt have told me that they have found half fledged young in the burrows as late as the middle of September. Some fishermen have asserted that the young remained in the nests until spring before becoming fledged, and possibly this story (which is of course a mistake pure and simple) may have originated from their finding one or two frozen young in the burrows in early spring.*

The set is always one in number, white in color and often spotless, but usually wreathed about the larger end with lavender, lilac, or reddish brown. Selected specimens measure 1.39 x .89, 1.27 x .94, 1.24 x .90.

When walking about over the islands

* If other observers have ever heard the same statement made I wish they would write me the particulars.

we may often hear the incubating birds underneath uttering their cry "Got-any-terbacker" or sometimes it sounds more like "Go-to-Gehenna," which latter is probably more appropriately descriptive of the feelings of the birds.

On reaching in and grasping them, they either make no resistance or give a few feeble and harmless pecks, and on being hauled out into the light they spit forth a teaspoonful of a clear, musky-smelling oil which usually is so directed as to hit one's clothing and perfume it for months to come.

On being released they stumble helplessly at hap-hazard over the ground, running into every possible obstacle, but if tossed into the air they head out to sea to return no more till night. At night the birds stumble out of their nests, uttering their cries, and, after flopping blindly over the land and bumping into every weed and spear of grass in the vicinity, they finally manage to rise into the air and sail out over the water with perfect ease and grace. The birds which have been out at sea feeding all day are now returning and the air is fairly swarming with them.

The first time I ever visited Seal Island I secured a few of the incubating birds, and dissection showed all to be males, but since then I have found by taking other specimens that both sexes were represented among the incubating birds.

While these birds are not numerous off the coast in winter and a few careful observers have failed to find them, yet I have been told by many fishermen that they have found Cary Chickens outside every month in the year, and there is no reason for doubting their statements. This species has no enemies to speak of

and is not persecuted by man, so their colonies are holding their own or increasing.

Double-crested Cormorant. *Phalacrocorax dilophus* (Swain). Although *P. carbo* and *P. dilophus* are common fall, winter and spring, all of the former and nearly all of the latter species depart for the north at the approach of the breeding season. The only Shag rookery known to me along the entire Maine coast is a very small colony of the Double-crested species which breeds on Black Horse Ledge.

On July 3rd, 1893, as I approached this ledge about fourteen Shags flew from it. On landing and climbing up the sides of this almost perpendicular wall of rock, I found seven nests on narrow shelves near the top of the ledge. The nests were loosely constructed affairs of sticks and a little seaweed, being very flat, and only four contained eggs. Three of them contained three eggs each and the other contained two, the incubation being slight. The nests were all within a radius of ten feet.

On July 2nd, 1895, there was about an equal number of birds breeding there. Two nests contained complete sets of three eggs, and one nest a single egg. June 23rd, 1896, we found a number of Shags on the ledge, but only two nests were to be found. One of these was incomplete and the other showed the imprint of three eggs, and as we afterwards learned that other collectors had been there, the eggs were undoubtedly taken by them. The late breeding date is rather unexplicable, but I learned from fishermen and other collectors who have visited this colony that they never have eggs until the last of June or the

first of July. The vicinity of the nests was redolent with ptomainic odors, which emanated from the bodies of numerous sculpins, flounders, herring, pollock, and other fish which the birds had captured at various dates.

Shags are very good fishers, expert divers and live exclusively on the fruits of their labors. A lone bird may often be observed perched on some ledge or buoy vigilantly watching the water until it spies a fish and plunges headlong to capture it, in which effort it is usually successful.

Owing to the attentions of collectors it is somewhat doubtful if this species continues to breed many more years along the Maine coast, as the only breeding colony I have knowledge of is on the point of extermination. A party who visited there in June, 1899, observed a few birds but did not find any nests.

The birds are rather shy and can rarely be seduced within gunshot, rising as soon as nearly within range and, after flying into the wind until well under way, turning and hastily taking their departure, neck outstretched and wings quickly flapping.

The eggs are of a bluish-white ground color, but this is almost completely covered with a white, flaky, uneven, chalky coating which entirely conceals the ground color. The normal set in this colony seems to consist of three eggs.

Red-breasted Merganser. *Merganser serrator* (Linn.). The time is not far distant when we can no longer call the Shelldrake a resident species, for the number of birds breeding here grows fewer and fewer as the years go by. In fall, winter and spring they still are common.

Among their former breeding grounds

are Green, Ship, Barge and Trumpet Islands, and Mason's, Saddleback and Halibut Ledges. In 1896 some seven or eight pairs of these birds nested on Ship, Barge and Trumpet Islands, and for years preceeding and succeeding single pairs have nested on the other islands named. In 1899, a party who were studying the birds of this vicinity, failed to find this species nesting anywhere in the vicinity of Sunshine, so its extinction as a breeding bird cannot be far distant.

The eggs are deposited about the 20th of June, and as nearly as I can ascertain, the period of incubation is about four weeks. The average set is nine or ten eggs, which are of a buffy-drab color, but sets of six to twelve are often found. The nest is composed of dry grass, very loosely interwoven, and will not hold together when lifted. Very little or no down is used to line it. As a rule it is placed at the foot of a clump of grass or cow-parnsnip a short distance from the shore of some island, and its location is usually betrayed by a narrow, well-beaten path leading to it from the shore. The birds seemingly always light on the shore and approach the nest by the same path, so a person well acquainted with this habit can easily discover their nests.

Five average sized eggs measure, 2.54 x 1.75, 2.67 x 1.76, 2.54 x 1.77, 2.54 x 1.80, 2.58 x 1.83. These were found in a nest on Trumpet Island, June 23rd, 1897, and were fresh.

The food of this species consists largely of herring, pollock, smelt, and other small fish which are swallowed entire, while mussels and other small mollusks are sometimes eaten. I have found four herring, averaging six inches

in length, packed tightly in the stomach of a Shelldrake killed in mid-winter, so it is easy to see why they are sometimes called Fish Ducks. The name Shelldrake is derived from their feeding on mollusks and other shellfish.

American Eider. *Somateria dresseri* Sharpe. As a breeding bird the Sea-duck will soon be one of the "has beens," although flocks are still common in fall, winter and spring. Their breeding grounds here are all known to the fishermen and it is a very rare thing for a pair of them to successfully hatch their litter of eggs.

They are very particular in their choice of a breeding place and will return to the same island year after year. They are social and nest in small colonies whenever possible. Green and Lower Mark Islands, and Spirit and Saddleback Ledges are the only localities where they breed on this part of the coast. These are the outer and most unfrequented islands of this vicinity.

Nest building begins about the second week of June and full sets of eggs may be found by June 15th or 20th. The nest is usually placed at the foot of a clump of cow-parship or tussock of grass, but I have observed nests placed on the bare rock in plain sight. As a rule they are made exclusively of down, plucked from the breast of the female, and the amount of down is daily added to as the incubation advances. Occasionally a nest of the Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*, is lined with down and appropriated by the Duck, but in such cases I am inclined to believe that the bird has been robbed of its first set, and not having sufficient down to serve alone

is obliged to resort to this expedient of eking out what it has.

Three to six greenish-drab colored eggs are deposited, but four seems to be the normal sized set. Five eggs found on Green Island, June 20th, 1896, measure, 2.99 x 2.07, 3.04 x 2.06, 3.05 x 2.01, 3.11 x 2.04 and 3.09 x 2.08.

The female alone performs the task of incubation, and if flushed from her nest flies quickly away uttering a short "kuk, kuk, kuk." The cry of the male bird is a brusque "a-o-wah-a-o-wah." The eggs take about a month to hatch.

Three or four pair used to breed on Spirit Ledge, two pair on Saddleback Ledge, two pair on Green Island, and a single pair on Lower Mark Island. Ten pair of birds is the largest number I have ever known to breed in this vicinity.

Mussels and other mollusks constitute the chief food of the Eiders and being excellent divers they can easily seek this food at the bottom of the ocean shallows.

Notes on the Ducks, Swallows and Thrushes.

EVERETT E. JOHNSON.

THE DUCK FAMILY.

The members of this family are said by old gunners to be more numerous at Sabatis Pond this fall than before for years.

AMERICAN MERGANSER.

This species is a common migrant and a few are found in the open places in the river all winter. April 19, I shot a male, which is now in my collection, on the Sabatis River below Sabatis. April 22, I saw about fifteen in Sabatis Pond.

* The alleged *Larus argentatus smithsonianus* of the A. O. U. List.

This was the last seen in the Spring. October 22, I saw a young female that was shot at Lake Auburn and November 5 they were common.

BLACK DUCK.

Common migrant and a few remain to breed. Have seen this species at the head of Sabatis Pond several times in summer. July 2, 1886, I saw a family of young beside a stream that empties into the Sabatis River. They hurried off through the alder bushes and hid. The female flew around overhead quacking and calling them and after a while they would answer, but I could not find them. April 19, this year, I saw two in the Sabatis River and April 22 they were common at Sabatis Pond. There were large flocks seen at Sabatis Pond this fall and a number shot.

WOOD DUCK.

Fairly common summer resident. Have seen them in summer at the head of Sabatis Pond. October 22, a male was shot at Lake Auburn.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE.

Common migrant. Two were seen at Sabatis Pond April 22 and October 30; two were shot there.

BUFFLE-HEAD.

Common migrant. October 22 a female was shot at Lake Auburn. Oct. 31, three were seen at Sabatis Pond.

AMERICAN SCOTER.

Fairly common migrant. A flock of about one hundred were seen at Lake Auburn October 15 and a male secured. October 31, I saw about twenty at Sabatis Pond.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.

Fairly common migrant. October 31, I saw a flock of seven at Sabatis Pond.

RUDDY DUCK.

Fairly common migrant. A few small flocks were seen at the head of Sabatis Pond in the falls of 1898-99, by W. F. Burbank and several specimens secured, one of which is now in my collection.

THE SWALLOW FAMILY.

PURPLE MARTIN.

Common summer resident in the martin houses about the city. I have the following dates of their arrival:—1893, April 29; 1894, April 27; 1895, May 9; 1897, May 9; 1898, May 7; 1899, April 30. Six were seen, common May 6. Last seen August 10, 1899; 1898, August 18 and 1897, August 21.

CLIFF SWALLOW.

Common summer resident. This species build under the eaves of buildings in the country but I have seen none in the city. The earliest date I have seen them is May 1, 1894. When first seen this year, May 27, there were about ten pairs building. June 26, 1890, I found twelve nests at Lewiston Junction. The nests were built of mud, retort-shaped, lined with straw, situated against a beam *inside* a barn and about fifteen feet high. Some were built on the underside of beams with the nest against the hay, that serving as the back of the nest. There were eggs or young in most of these. The season was a very wet, rainy one, which accounts for the change from eaves outside, where they usually built, to the inside. A set of five eggs measure, .78 x .54, .77 x .54, .76 x .53, .76 x .53, .74 x .53 in.

BARN SWALLOW.

Very common summer resident. I have the following dates of their arrival. 1893, April 30; 1894, April 23; 1895,

May 5; 1896, April 24; 1897, April 25; 1898, April 23; 1899, April 29, one seen. Next seen April 30 and became common May 6. Last seen September 7; 1897, September 2; 1898, September 8. The earliest date of nesting I have is May 28, 1893, nest containing five fresh eggs. The nest was composed of mud and straws lined with hens' feathers and a few horsehairs, built against a rafter in the top of an old barn. The eggs measure .78 x .56, .77 x .54, .76 x .56, .76 x .54, .74 x .55 in. The latest date I have found fresh eggs is June 24, 1890, two nests of four eggs each.

TREE SWALLOW.

Fairly common summer resident. I have the following dates of the arrival of this species. 1882, May 3; 1893, April 27; 1894, March 19; 1895, April 18; 1896, May 3; 1897, April 19; 1898, May 7; 1899, April 22, twelve were seen. Next seen April 23 and became common April 27. Last seen Sept. 7. The earliest date I have found fresh eggs is May 30, 1893, four eggs, and the latest June 6, 1891 at Lisbon Centre, six eggs. The nest was situated in a hole, about seven feet high, in an old apple tree, composed of straws, lined with hens' feathers. The eggs measure .78 x .53, .76 x .54, .76 x .54, .75 x .54, .75 x .53, .74 x .53 in. Another set of four measures .72 x .52, .70 x .52, .69 x .52, .69 x .52 in.

BANK SWALLOW.

Abundant summer resident. This species breeds by hundreds in a bank on an island in the Androsoggin river near Lisbon Centre. This year I did not see them till May 27, but they were building

at that time. May 29, 1889, is the earliest date I have found sets and June 24, 1890, the latest. From four to seven eggs are the number laid in a set here, but five is the usual number and I have only found one set of seven. The nests are situated at the end of a hole in a sand bank from two to four feet deep, and composed of sticks, grass roots and pine needles, sometimes with a few hens' feathers for a lining. A set of five eggs collected May 30, 1889, measure .69 x .52, .69 x .51, .68 x .51, .67 x .51, .65 x .51 in. A set of seven partly incubated eggs collected June 1, 1881, measure .74 x .51, .70 x .51, .69 x .49, .69 x .49, .69 x .49, .68 x .49, .67 x .51 in. A third set taken May 30, 1890 contains four eggs sparsely spotted with dark brown. They measure .74 x .49, .74 x .47, .74 x .46, .74 x .46 in. I have seen a number of eggs with spots on them, but they will wash off with water.

THE THRUSH FAMILY.

WILSON'S THRUSH.

Common summer resident. First seen this year May 7, when five birds were seen and it was common from that time. Saw a pair building May 30, and June 7 there were three eggs in the nest, which was composed of leaves, straws, twigs and fine roots, lined with dry leaves, situated on the ground at the foot of a small tree in a small piece of woods. June 18, I found another nest composed of coarse weed-stalks, leaves and strips of bark, lined with fine roots and pine needles, situated one foot up in an alder bush. Nest in bushes near railroad and contained three eggs. This species seemed to be very common this summer. It was last seen Oct. 1st.

OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH.

Rare migrant. Very rare summer resident. One taken May 30, 1899 near Lewiston.

HERMIT THRUSH.

Common migrant and a few pair usually stop to breed. But this year I did not see any from April 27th till October 8. First seen April 19, two birds. Next seen April 22 and common April 23. Last seen October 15.

AMERICAN ROBIN.

Abundant summer resident. First seen April 1st, one. Next seen April 7 and became common April 8. Heard the first singing April 14th. Saw birds building May 14 and May 24 found the first nest with eggs, three in number. June 1st found the first nest with young and June 2nd saw the last set of eggs, four in number. Were common till October 22 with a stray one till November 24, and December 5 at Buckfield, I saw one sitting on the top of a tree singing in a low tone.

BLUEBIRD.

Common summer resident. First seen April 9, three birds. Next seen April 16th and became common April 22nd. May 13 I saw a pair building. Last seen Sept. 9th. I did not see as many this year as last.

The White-wing Crossbill.

CAPT. H. L. SPINNEY.

The first time I saw this bird in its native element, was the winter of 1887. In January of that year I noticed them in flocks of from six to a dozen individuals, rarely more, feeding in the tops of spruce trees. The same winter a few Red-Crossbills were seen, but not associating with the former.

With the exception of perhaps a dozen Red Crossbills, I have not seen any since, until this fall when they appeared in numbers. August 27th, a number were observed feeding on the tops of some fir trees which are scattered over the island.

From the date mentioned they appeared nearly every day in small flocks, gradually increasing in numbers and flocks until November 3rd, when every day favorable for migration, they were passing over the island continually in flocks of from fifty to one hundred individuals, thousands passing in a day.

They all approached the island from a southeasterly direction, going toward the west and northwest. A flock seldom stopped at the island, and then only to alight a few moments on the top of a fir tree, acting as if they were sacrificing valuable time, which they might spend to better advantage in some more favorable locality. November 10, was noticeable on account of a severe snow squall which lasted for nearly an hour. As it commenced to get thick, the crossbills made their appearance in large flocks, disappearing in the storm

Robins were seen near Portland, Dec. 21st. A Song Sparrow came into our yard, at Woodfords, Jan. 13th, and has been seen several times since. Perhaps this is the same bird that came to the yard at times last winter.

J. M. S.

in the direction of the mainland, only to return a few moments later and alight on the trees.

Soon there were two hundred or more on the few trees which I was able to see. All the time they remained they were very restless, often leaving the trees to make a few gyrations in air, returning to some other tree, rarely the one they had left. These maneuvers they continued until it stopped snowing, when with seemingly joyous notes, they at once continued their flight toward the west.

After November 20th, the number of flocks decreased daily until at the present time, December 7th, only a scattering flock is to be seen. This species seems to be very plenty on the mainland in this vicinity this winter.

A Few Winter Notes.

Our winter birds are rather more common than they were a year ago, but do not seem very abundant. Pine Siskins and Redpolls have been fairly common since early in November, flocks of the latter species being seen about the village nearly every day.

A Northern Shrike was seen November 6th, the only one observed up to the present time.

On November 30th a little time was spent in the woods and a flock of eight or ten white-winged Cross-bills was seen, and one was secured with difficulty, as the birds were very restless. This is the first occurrence of this species in this locality, of which I have record.

An Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker was seen the same day.

The mild weather during the latter part of November and early in December, was probably responsible for the occurrence of a Robin on Dec. 1st, and a Song Sparrow on Dec. 19th; both species much later than I have ever known them to stop before.

Pine Grosbeaks have not yet made their appearance here, and Snowflakes have been absent, the first flock, of about twenty-five birds, being seen this morning.

C. H. MORRELL.

Pittsfield, Jan. 7, 1900.

On the occurrence of *Larus Delewarensis* Ord.

In the list of the "Birds of Maine," Page 19, Mr. Knight remarks, that the Ring-billed Gull (*Larus Delewarensis*) is not reported a common migrant, but probably is more common than the reports would indicate. Mr. John Lord, the taxidermist here, informs me, he has had over one hundred Ring-bills, brought to him this fall. This would throw some light upon the above statement.—Ed.

The Pine Grosbeaks were first seen near Woodfords, Jan. 14th. Quite a flock came into the apple and tulip trees in our yard, picking over the seeds on the tulip. Have made frequent visits since. There was a Pine Siskin in their company today. The first and only one seen here so far, Jan. 31st.

J. M. S.

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The Journal of The Maine Ornithological Society.

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF MAINE ORNITHOLOGY.

"Bird protection, bird study, the spread of the knowledge thus gained, these are our objects."

VOL. II. BANGOR, MAINE. MARCH, 1900. No. 2

The Maine Ornithological Society.

PROF. W. L. POWERS, Gardiner, - President
CAPT. H. L. SPINNEY, Seguin, - Vice-President
A. H. NORTON, Westbrook, - - Sec'y—Treas.
J. MERTON SWAIN, Portland, - - - - Editor
PROF. A. L. LANE, Waterville, - - - Councilor
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Editorial.

The latter part of February we had a very pleasant visit from Mr. Knight, he being in Portland and vicinity on business some over a week.

During his stay here we had, in company with John Lord, the taxidermist, Mr. Hinds and Mr. Walter Hinds, who has recently been in New Mexico in search of bird life, the pleasure of a

visit to the home of Mr. Walter Rich, the printer and engraver on Exchange Street, and while there were shown his mounted birds, mostly shore and game birds. But the best of all was his collection of drawings, of many of our New England game, shore and beach birds, including many of the Ducks, Grouse, Plover and Sandpipers.

They are very fine and well worth seeing, and a credit to an artist of no small ability. The birds and their surroundings are very natural and life-like, and show a great deal of study on the part of Mr. Rich. They are, by far, the best drawings of birds, we ever had the pleasure of examining. They will compare favorably with the best bird pictures that have been published by our best artists in this country. It is to be hoped that many of Mr. Rich's drawings may be published in the future, that the public may have the benefit of such good work as Mr. Rich is capable of doing.

The editor has a new sub-species on his list of birds that takes considerable of his time and study at present. It is "Parus woodfordsi," and has been with us since November. Sometimes our little "Nid" goes by the name of "Chic-a-dee" and at other times she is "Pewee" (Sayornis Phœbe Portlandæ).

Soon the Warblers will wend their way northward, and lend their presence to the returning leaves and foliage among our trees and thickets. Let each member be on the alert for the arrivals and book all the notes on this family for comparison and publication that is possible. As only through the united efforts of each member can we get together a large amount of material on this interesting family, and by such an effort, we ought to be able to publish some very interesting and valuable notes. Let each member feel, he has a part to do in the study for the coming season, and have some report, no matter how small. It will add greatly to the interest of the study of a family.

Notes on the Geese, Ducks, Swans, Swallows and Thrushes for 1899.

[A Paper before The Ornithological Society of Maine]

J. MERTON SWAIN.

Having had very little time to devote to the study of the families of birds outlined by our committee this year, my notes are very few; also by reason of not being able to get out of the city to the locality necessary to find these birds. The only place I was able to go to was a patch of woods about one-half mile square—the Baxter woods—near my home in Woodfords. There I found a large list of migrant species, and later quite a number of birds nested there, such as Sharp-Shinned Hawk, Crow, Flicker, Alder Flycatcher, Chickadee, and several of the commoner Warblers. And this within the city limits, and only a few rods from the railway where many

trains go snorting noisily by, and the electricies passing on each of the other sides. I did not see the Hermit Thrush there until April 29th. I heard its song occasionally of an eve as I strolled to this patch of woods during the spring-time. But I was treated to several soul-stirring concerts during my vacation at Farmington the last of May and the first of June. But it was a very noticeable fact, as well as a lamentable one, that not more than half the number of Hermits were breeding in the old haunts about my former home. In patches of woods where I had always found one or two nests each year as far back as my memory could recall there would be but one pair, and in others the familiar sound could not be heard and no trace of them could be found, except the old decayed nests of former years.

I remember one particularly favored locality, a large patch of maple growth on a steep side hill where my father had his sugar camp, where several pairs of Thrushes bred. This year but one pair were nesting there. On June 12th I visited this growth after the maiden-hair ferns that grow so abundantly there, and located the nest with three young about one-third grown. The nest was on the ground among the ferns beside a small hemlock bush, well concealed by the overhanging boughs.

The young tipped up their heads and opened their mouths as I approached the nest; the old ones flitting nervously about, calling to each other as they stood on some stump or stone near by. That eve I wandered through the orchard and down to the old stone wall at the brow of the hill overlooking this growth, and listened for the old-time evening concert. But a deep sense of

sadness and lonesomeness came over me as I sat on the very same stone I had so often occupied for a seat to listen to this twilight song, and through the stillness of the twilight hour my thoughts turned back on the past, and many memories came rushing through my mind and I realized many changes had taken place both in the listener, and also in the number of singers that used to participate. Now only one pair could be heard where six or seven years ago several singers could be heard. Their twilight song is a beautiful one, full of sadness, and once heard not likely to be forgotten, yet difficult to describe. Often I have heard three singers located in different parts of the woods, and one would roll out its song in a moderate tone of voice and would be answered shortly by a second bird not far away, with a similar song on a very low pitch, and a third singer would reply from another direction with the same song, sharp and shrill on a higher pitch than the first song. Thus they would keep up their calling and answering each other's song as though trying to see which could pitch the song on the highest or lowest key.

This Thrush is often called the Swamp Robin, but in my experience the Wilson's or Veery would be more properly called by that name.

I have found the Hermit nesting in the cool shady woods on the side hill, always associating its nests with the maiden-hair and other varieties of the smaller ferns that grow on the side hills in the maple shade or beech wood, while I found the Wilson's in the deep woods or swampy bushes that are lower down and lie along the banks of the streams

and rivers. As has been noted, the Hermit is becoming scarce while the Wilson's is more common in the last few years. Ten years ago around my home in Franklin county I could locate ten or twelve pairs of Hermits nesting within two miles of home, and only three or four of the Wilson's. Now this is nearly the reverse, though I have not been able to account for the increase of the one, or the decrease of the other. There is one thought suggests itself, that perhaps the decrease in the Hermits is because of its nesting as it does in a more open site than the Wilson's, and having more natural enemies, such as Crows, skunks, foxes, etc. (I have often known of nests and eggs of the Hermit that have been destroyed by some such animal.)

The Hermit, with its large, wondering eyes, is a most interesting bird in the autumn, as it scratches noisily among the fallen leaves. Edward A. Samuels mentions the Hermit with words that exactly coincide with my own thoughts of this bird. I will quote them here, as they have run in my mind since I was but a small youth. "In the fall they are silent and shy; their note is but a faint chirp, uttered in a listless, melancholy tone; and their whole appearance is in keeping with the great change which has come over the face of Nature. In fact, the Hermit Thrush is always associated in my mind with the falling leaves, the rattling of acorns, and the whirring of the ruffed grouse through the birches and alders of the swampy glens."

The other Thrushes were but little observed except the Robin and Bluebird. There was one pair of Robins nested in the high branches of the tulip tree

beside the house. Doubtless the same pair that nested in the apple tree in the same yard the year before. We watched this pair with much interest from the time they gave evidence of building to the time they with their young joined others in the early autumn. As much time as possible was spent in watching them choosing a nesting site, feeding about the garden, and also eluding a neighbor's cat that often came into the yard and tried to catch them as they hopped along the ground, searching for the earth and cut-worms. (Let me say that a neighborly cat came in search of my Robins once too many times, and lost her noble life by a small rifle ball that dropped gently from a window, and made but a slight noise, yet had the desired effect.) These birds feed largely on the earth worms and cut-worms that were very plenty in our garden. They would hop along a few steps and stop and listen for a moment, sometimes with their heads twisted to one side in a listening attitude, then suddenly they would dart forward and make a sudden thrust into the ground with their beak, and swallow an earth worm quickly. Often they fed on the cut-worms that I would turn out while working in the garden, and the quantity that they would pick up was really surprising. They would hop about, not seeming to mind my presence, and gather the worms with surprising rapidity, occasionally changing the hop with both feet to a run for a short distance, their feet flying very fast, much like the manner of the Grass Finch as it runs along the roads in August. The good done in our garden by this one pair of birds we estimated to be very great. The agriculturalist and fruit grower

would do well to study their best friends and helpers before they shoot them for taking a few cherries and small fruit, for they have well earned all the fruit they take.

I did not see the Bluebird in the Baxter woods until April 29th. I saw them in small flocks in my early morning walks in May, also in the fall as I rode out into the country on my wheel. One little characteristic I have often noticed: it is that when alighting on a twig or a fence, or wherever it alights, as it settles on its perch it throws up one of its wings nervously with one or two flutters as though to catch its balance. It is a small characteristic, but will help one to know the bird when it alights too far away to identify it by its form or color.

Of the Swallows, the Barn, Cliff, White bellied, and Bank Swallows, also the Purple Martin were observed. The Barn Swallow was first seen April 29th. It used to be a very abundant bird in Farmington six or seven years ago. There were six or seven barns that I was familiar with the number of Swallows breeding therein. This year on my vacation one of the first observations I made was the scarcity of the Barn Swallows that used to skim over the fields and pastures feeding on the insect life that they catch so skillfully and devour while on the wing. Very few were seen during my stay there, and the fields and meadows seemed very incomplete without the quantities of Swallows darting here and there. On visiting the barns above mentioned, in one where last year there were four occupied nests, only one was occupied. I have known the history of this barn since it was built and a little odd to say, this one nest occupied was the

first nest that was built the summer the barn was built, and has been occupied every year since. Some years ago five nests were occupied in this barn, and that year a fatal accident occurred to one of the Swallows. I discovered one nest with two eggs was deserted, and on looking into the cause of it I discovered the dead bird on the floor below, and drew the conclusion that the bird on entering the door on the ground floor, flew upward through the large square in the upper floor used for the horse fork to pass up through to the track under the ridge pole, and in her upward swoop had hit the fork or rope that was suspended above, and hung through the square, and fell to the floor dead.

Another large barn where the Swallows have nested longer than I can remember, always having eight or ten nests each year, only four were occupied this year. On the same barn, outside under the eaves ever since I can remember, and for years before, there had been twelve or fifteen nests in a row, of the Cliff Swallow, and this year but two nests were occupied. Some of them have fallen down, others remaining untenanted. (No other opportunity was available to observe the Cliff Swallow.)

Another barn that always had one Barn Swallow occupant had none. Still another had lost more than half its Swallow occupants, and one other which had usually had five nests had none this year. This barn, however, was not occupied, and perhaps not being occupied by cattle or horses, a scarcity of flies and other usual insects about the place may have had some influence, yet before it spread a broad expanse of lowland and meadow, fairly teeming with the small white millers that the Swallows so often

skim along and catch, and I could not account for this great change unless it was a scarcity of the food usually obtained. This change so far as I am aware is sectional, as Mr. Morrill, Mr. Knight, and Mr. Norton have written me the Swallows were very abundant in their respective localities. In Cumberland county I have seen as many Swallows as in the past four years, though no opportunity has been afforded to observe their nesting here.

I observed the Bank Swallows nesting in the bank of a large sand pit on the electric road between Portland and Westbrook, also in usual numbers along the Sandy River in Franklin County in June. I was not able to make much study of these Swallows, however.

The Tree Swallows, (or at least I took them to be the Tree Swallow) were seen in large numbers along the rocky coast of Cape Elizabeth near the Portland Head light early in the spring. The only chance to study them was at Farmington. About twelve years ago I erected a bird house for the Martins that were seen around the house, and a very interesting chapter was recorded on the quarrels of the Martin, Tree Swallow and Bluebird, the Martins being the victors until two years ago. Since then the Swallows have driven the Martins out. The Swallows arrive first and get their nest partly completed before the Martins arrive. Then follows a week or two with a lively contest, the Swallows guarding their unfinished nests with touching vigilance. The last two years the Swallows have held the house and continued to breed; but previously after a hard-fought battle the Martins forced an entrance and threw out the feathers, etc., of the Swal-

lows, and made their nest and reared their young unmolested, the Swallows taking a hole in an apple tree for a nesting site and rearing their young.

The martin houses I have been familiar with have not their old numbers breeding in them. One I have watched for the past fifteen years used to have eight or nine pairs of Martins breeding therein, but this year had only four pairs nesting there. So far as I know they have few natural enemies. I cannot explain this decrease in numbers.

Of the Geese, Ducks and Swans, very little has been seen of this family. There is a sportsman over on Cape Elizabeth that wing-tipped several Canada Geese, and captured them alive, and cropped their wings and keeps them in a large enclosure near Great Pond, together with several pairs of Mallard Ducks, both of which he uses as decoys to shoot over. The Geese do not, I believe, nest in the enclosure, but the Ducks have nests hidden here and there among the weeds and bushes along the banks of a brook that runs through his enclosure. It reminds me of a hunter's paradise in some wild, unexplored region where the Geese and Ducks have not learned to fear the presence of man. These Geese and Ducks, though not wild, are very interesting, as they show very much of their natural habits.

I had a good opportunity to watch the Swans in Evergreen Cemetery, and from the superintendent of the grounds, and from the patrolman or keeper on that beat I learned quite a little of much interest to me. As the Swans are on our list for study, and no notes on the wild birds are obtainable in these parts, I will

give a few notes from my note-book. They have five adult birds and one cygnet at present. Several years ago the superintendent ordered a pair of birds from the superintendent of a park in Philadelphia, Pa., and he replied that he would send him a pair that were on their way from Holland. They were not taken from their crate in Philadelphia, but re-shipped at once to Maine. The price was \$50 per bird. In all the public parks in New England, New York, Baltimore, Washington and some other places where they have Swans, none of them breed. The superintendent said the reason of this is that the birds when they arrive in this country are operated upon to prevent them from breeding. It is interesting to know that these are the only breeding Swans in the above named places. This pair hatched young each year for several years, but none of them came to maturity. When the female would take the young on her back and carry them to the upper ponds (she will only allow them to stay on her back for a few days, then they must swim for themselves), each day in the forenoon, the first thing the keeper would notice wrong a cygnet would be floating on the water with its neck or back broken. The next day another would die as mysteriously, and so on till all were gone. Superintendent Floyd then told Mr. Stevens, the keeper, they must if possible learn what it was that killed the cygnets. So when the young came up to the upper ponds the next year, the policeman watched them very closely, concealing himself behind the shrubs and trees near the ponds; but they began to die, and he could not watch them closely enough to detect by what agent they were killed. The last one remained, and

he kept his eyes on it, and as they were swimming about playfully, suddenly the male bird, who was always so ferocious, and put up such a protest if a stranger ventured too near the young, swam up to the cygnet, and looking in every direction to see if anyone was in sight, and not seeing the keeper, he struck the little one with his wing and broke his neck, and sailed away as unconcerned as could be. At last to their great surprise, they had found out the secret. It was the old male that killed the young. The next year they shut up the male in the house and they raised two young Swans. The next year they raised one, and this year but one, and all they have raised seem to be male birds. It seems very strange that the male should destroy its offspring, but if the young are as they suppose, all male birds, it would seem that he kills them out of jealousy. This would be in accord with facts observed among some other animals. This is the only reason I could suggest. It is interesting the way they build their nests. In spring when they are let out into the ponds the male begins to gather sticks and starts a nest in the water's edge beside the bank of one of the lower ponds. But the female, not accepting that site, he begins another on the land beside the water's edge. Sometimes he has to start two or three before she accepts it as a proper place to breed. When he starts one that meets her approval she then helps finish it and the eggs are laid—generally from four to seven. This year only four eggs were laid, and but one hatched. The nest was placed on the bank among the thick alders and weeds that line the bank of the lower pond, about four feet from the water's edge. The nest was about four feet across, and built up about eight

or nine inches high, of coarse alder twigs, some of them two or three feet long, and some $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, lined with finer dead twigs. Through the kindness of the keeper I obtained a photo of the nest, and from the superintendent I got one of the eggs for my collection.

Portland, Me., Nov. 10, 1899.

Lincoln's Sparrow at Seguin Island, Me.

CAPT. H. L. SPINNEY.

My attention was first called to Lincoln's Sparrow by Mr. Arthur H. Norton of Westbrook, Maine, who at the time was visiting me. On the 11th of September, 1898, at 3 A. M., I noticed a few birds on and around the light. Wishing Mr. Norton to see this phenomena of bird migration I called him, he being in bed where every honest ornithologist should have been at that time in the morning.

There were fifteen or twenty birds, mostly Sparrows, struggling to get through the glass to the light.

After watching and following them around on the inside of the lantern for some time, we went outside to see how they would act.

Climbing up on the walk which encircles the lantern, we were in a position to force our familiarity upon our feathered visitors, who resented it by trying the harder to force the quarter inch glass of the lantern.

We had caught a number of the birds, again liberating them to see how they would act, when my attention was

attracted from my experiments by an exclamation from Mr. Norton.

On inquiring the cause of such a gush of enthusiasm, he informed me he had caught a Lincoln's Sparrow. After examining it, I told him I was quite sure I had seen a number of them, but supposed them to be a common sparrow, as up to this time I had not known enough about the bird to give it my attention.

This specimen I mounted for my collection and to identify other specimens by, should I be fortunate enough to secure them. The night of September 24th, I was absent from the island, but had requested Mr. Stetson, (one of the keepers) to watch for Lincoln's Sparrows, he having the aforementioned specimen for comparison.

The night mentioned was accompanied with a large flight of birds, and among them quite a number of Lincoln's Sparrows, this being proved by a specimen which Mr. Stetson caught for me, the skin of which I now have. It again came to my notice October 6th, 1899, one being killed by flying against the glass of the light-house. Again on the 10th, I noticed one among a large number of birds which were on the glass. The last time I noticed it, was on the 13th at 3 A. M. There were some two hundred birds on the glass, mostly White-throated Sparrows, Slate-colored Juncos, a few Song and Savanna Sparrows, and among them two of Lincoln's Sparrows.

No doubt there have been others which I have not seen during the time these dates include, as I am on duty only a certain part of each night.

It seems to me from these observations that it may be proved to be a common fall migrant at this island.

Black-throated Blue Warbler.

CAPT. H. L. SPINNEY.

Up to Oct. 15th, 1899, I had seen only four of the Black-throated Blue Warbler, and those since living on this island.

On the date mentioned, at 4 A. M., the night having been dark, with no stars to be seen, and calm, I was watching some two hundred birds, which were sitting on the walk around the light, or struggling against the glass, when my attention was attracted to three of these warblers, which were struggling with the throng to gain admittance.

While watching these warblers, one of them suddenly flew from where it had been resting, and struck against the glass, settling down, until it alighted on the back of a White-throated Sparrow, which was quietly enjoying a rest, on the walk which came on a level with the sash of the lantern. The Sparrow remained perfectly submissive to the familiarity. The Warbler remaining on its back for some moments, as if a free ride was a common occurrence.

After this, its occurrence was noted a number of times, up to the last of the month. While on the island, they seemed to prefer feeding around a pile of edgings, which were used for kindling wood, or on the track, which was built of spruce timber, on which we haul our coal from the shore. At any time, I did not see them on the flora of the island.

John Lord reports having had two Iceland Gulls brought into his rooms among other Gulls, and also one Glaucous Gull during the past fall and winter.

J. M. S.

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No. 3

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Editorial.

The readers of our "Journal" will be pleased to learn of the Summer School of Ornithology, held at East Parsonsfield, during July and August. Classes will be personally conducted by Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Norton of Westbrook. These names are a guarantee of the great pleasure and profit to be obtained by the fortunate ones, who may be able

to attend this school. Mr. and Mrs. Norton are both very thorough, enthusiastic students of the birds, and we envy those who may be so fortunate as to spend their time so profitably in their classes.

It will also be a pleasure to the members, to attend the summer meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society and the Maine Botanical Society, both held at East Parsonsfield, Maple Crest Hotel for headquarters, on July 3rd to 6th included. A very pleasant time is anticipated.

We had the pleasure of a visit with Brother Morrell at Pittsfield, early in June. The birds received nearly every moment of our time, and very pleasant hours were spent with the birds about the Lake. We located a nest of Swainson's Thrush. This was the second nest Mr. Morrell ever observed in his locality. We also found that long-looked-for nest of *Dendroica virens*. Nests of Northern Parula Warbler were also observed, and many other varieties that were especially interesting to me.

The "Condor" reaches us, full of bright, breezy matter relating to Cal. Ornithology. It fills a place left vacant by Taylor's *Nidologist*. The "Cooper Club" is one of the liveliest, wide-awake societies for the study of

birds in any of our States, and their bulletin will be a source of delight to all who are interested in the birds. We wish our Cal. brethren great success as a society and in their official organ.

Birds in the Bible.

PROF. A. L. LANE.

Read before the Maine Ornithological Society at Brunswick, Dec. 27, 1899.

Any writings deserve to be ranked as true literature which are so saturated with truth, life, beauty, that they appeal not to one people or age but to many ages and peoples and that they take hold of the heart of the entire race with an unchanging vitality of grasp. Human life, its experiences, its hopes, fears, joys, sorrows, loves, hates, histories, destinies, must form the chief elements of such literature; but human life is so moulded and colored by its surroundings that these cannot be neglected, and therefore nature in its ever-changing moods and manifestations must enter freely into those works that appeal to universal interest. Nature touches us in ways without number. In endless variety of forms, unceasingly, by day and by night, by sunshine and shadow, by star and planet, by sea or land, by plant life or animal life, nature enters into the world's experiences and interests, and therefore must form a large part of the world's literature.

As birds are found everywhere where men can live they must enter freely into the books of all literatures, and especially into such writings as are in clos-

est touch with natural objects and movements. Our Bible is such a book; out-of-doors, breezy, intensely human and natural, as well as divine, it touches all the keys of feeling and action and draws its subjects and illustrations from the widest and most varied sources. Birds are in it, of course.

The eagle is mentioned in more than a score of passages and for a great variety of purposes. Its strong wings are used to describe the power by which the Israelites were brought out of Egypt, and ultimately from slavery into nationality; "I bear you on eagles' wings," is the beautiful statement of the way in which the divine interposition led them forth and bore them on to safety. The eagle's care for its young and the way in which it teaches them to fly, by breaking up the nest and catching the young upon its wings, is very graphically described in another place as an illustration of God's care for his people. "As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings; so the Lord alone did lead them." I remember reading a description of such a scene as this as witnessed by a traveler in the great canon of the Colorado, where the eagle's nest was nearly a mile above the stream below, high up on the rocky side of the ravine, and where the young birds were allowed to fall for a long distance before being overtaken and borne up on the wings of the mother bird. Moses may well have witnessed the occurrence which he so graphically describes many times during his forty years experience of life in the open air, as a keeper of flocks and herds. The eagle is swift as well as strong. A nation was to come against

Israel from afar "as swift as the eagle flieth." "Our persecutions are swifter than the eagles of the heaven," explained the prophet Jeremiah. "As the eagle that swoopeth on the prey," is the way in which Job describes the swift flight of the years. Anyone who has seen the swift downward rush of a bird of prey, may well understand the force and beauty of this figure.

In the same book of Job there is a very accurate picture of the nesting habits of the eagle and of its method of watching for its prey from a distance. "Doth the eagle mount up at thy command and make her nest on high? She dwelleth and abideth on the rock, upon the erag of the rock, and the strong place. From thence she seeketh her prey, and her eyes behold afar off." How could far-sighted, sharp-eyed watchfulness be more vividly pictured!

"They shall mount up on wings as eagles," is the strong language in which the clear-visioned Isaiah describes the experience of those who renew their strength by a life of service and of faith. We have all known men, unhappily too rare, whose lives have approached, in beauty and in power, the upward, soaring flight of the eagle. Very interesting passages may also be found in our Scriptures in regard to our largest crows, the ravens. These figure in the strange story of Elijah, as God's messengers to bring food to the hungry prophet. Fleeing from the wrath of King Ahab and the still fiercer anger of his wife, Jezebel, he took refuge in a rocky ravine near the brook Cherith, a small stream whose waters did not fail during the first few months of the threatened drouth, and here in the very home of the ravens, he became their guest:

"And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening: and he drank of the brook."

The Wady Kelt, the supposed scene of Elijah's strange experience of being fed by the ravens, is thus described by Dr. Thomson. "It is a narrow, profound gorge, overhung by tremendous cliffs, absolutely impassible, in whose numerous recesses and dark caverns, the prophet could have been most effectually concealed. I have passed up and down the south side of it by night, and looked into its fearful chasm with awe: it then appears simply bottomless. On another occasion the appearance of a pair of ravens, black and glossy, sailing leisurely down the chasm, brought vividly to mind the circumstances of the biblical incident, and I was quite ready to recognize them as lineal descendants of the birds that were commanded by the Lord to feed the prophet." It has indeed been claimed by some writers that the Hebrew word for ravens in this passage may be taken as the name of a tribe of Arabs; but the same word certainly means ravens elsewhere, as for example, in the case of the raven sent forth from the ark, and in a story so strongly marked by admitted miracles one miracle more, even less wonderful than the others, need not give us any additional difficulty. The story is too strange and beautiful not to be true. Shakespeare makes Lavinia in Titus Andronicus use these words:

"Some say that ravens foster forlorn children,
The whilst their own birds famish in their nests."

It would be interesting to know if this saying has any relation to the biblical story. Within a few days I have heard on most excellent authority a story of a

cat bereaved by the drowning of its lone kitten, adopting a family of chickens and bringing to them bits of bread and meat from its own supply and then watching them lovingly while they ate these gifts.

After reading the story of Elijah, we do not wonder at the kindly mention of the ravens made elsewhere in the Bible. Thus in the book of Job we read: "Who provideth for the raven his food, when his young ones cry unto God, and wander for lack of meat?" In one of the last of the psalms we find this question answered; "He giveth to the beast his food and to the young ravens which cry." Is it not an exceedingly beautiful thought that the call of the young bird in distress is a cry unto God? Who can be insensible to the profound truth in these words, "The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfieth the desire of every living thing?" It certainly gives dignity to our study of the birds to regard them as sharers with us in the care of the same Creator. The teachings of the earlier Scriptures receive increased emphasis from the words of the great Teacher, "Consider the ravens; for they neither sow nor reap, which neither have storehouse nor barn, and God feedeth them." Compare this conception with the idea given us in Poe's *Raven* and no one can doubt which is the higher and the finer.

But our smaller and more familiar birds such as the Sparrows and the Swallows are by no means unnoticed in the literature of which we are speaking. The eighty-fourth Psalm is the song of the Sparrow and the Swallow and shows clearly that these birds had the same

familiar and home-loving character then as now, that they had the same habit of nesting around dwellings and other buildings, "Yea, the Sparrow hath found her an house, and the Swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of Hosts, my King, and my God." How beautifully in the New Testament these birds are made to teach us the lesson of trust and contentment. "Are not two Sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father." "Behold the birds of the air, for they sow not, neither do they reap, yet your Heavenly Father feedeth them." The prayer that Shakespeare puts into the mouth of one of his characters in "As You Like It," as he generously offers to give up to his master the five hundred crowns which he had saved for the comfort of his old age, shows that Shakespeare at least understood this lesson, "Take that: and He that doth the ravens feed, Yea, providently caters to the Sparrow. Be comfort to my age! Here is the gold."

Birds come in flocks so often, in family groups or in pairs at least, that a solitary bird may well be taken as a symbol of desolation. "I am like a pelican of the wilderness, I am like an owl of the desert; I watch and am as a sparrow alone upon the housetop." Here the very fact so plainly recognized that the Sparrows are such social birds and are usually seen in flocks, makes the statement of isolation all the more emphatic. It is like the sad cry of a bird for its mate.

The passing of the winter and the return of the birds are beautifully described in the Song of Solomon. "For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over

and gone: the flowers appear on the earth: the time of the singing of birds is come and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land." * * * "O my dove, thou art in the clefts of the rock, in the covert of the steep place."

Another reference to the migration of birds is found in the prophecy of Jeremiah. "Yea, the Stork in the heavens knoweth his appointed times, and the Turtle, and the Crane, and the Swallow observe the time of their coming." So good an authority as Van Lemep in his "Bible Lands," declares that in these migrations the smaller birds of Palestine, such as the Sparrows and the Finches, are borne on the backs of the larger, as the Cranes and the Storks, across the Mediterranean, or a part of it, into Africa; and that these large birds fly low and call the smaller to take passage with them when they leave, but on their return fly high and permit the smaller birds to leave them at their pleasure.

The departure of the birds to the warmer countries seems to be referred to in this passage from the book of Job. "Doth the Hawk soar by thy wisdom and stretch out her wings toward the South? The first part of this question plainly implies that there is a mystery in flight beyond our ready knowledge, a fact that the Duke of Argyle fully admits in his discussion of the flight of birds in his "Reign of Law." This picture of the Hawk stretching out her wings toward the South might almost or quite, perhaps, be compared with Browning's beautiful picture:

"What did I say?—that a small bird sings
 All day long, save when a brown pair
 Of Hawks from the wood float with wide wings
 Strained to a bell: 'gainst noon-day glare,
 You count the streaks and rings."

The helplessness of storm-driven migratory birds and the ease with which they are taken after a long flight across the sea, as well as the vast multitudes in which the flocks may appear, are clearly stated in the book of Numbers: "A wind brought Quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, about a day's journey on the other side, and the people rose up all that day, and all the night, and all the next day, and gathered the quails." Perhaps the accounts we have read of the havoc wrought among the flocks of wild Pigeons in the earlier days of this country would come the nearest to this biblical narrative; but it is well known that the Quails migrate in great numbers, and there are accounts of their being taken in nets by the thousands in a day, and of sixty thousands being netted on the little island of Capri, near Naples, in a single season.

The unrest of the Turtle-dove in captivity and the eager swiftness with which it flies back to its early home among the rocky cliffs when set free, was made use of by King David, weary with the cares of royalty and the faithlessness of those whom he desired to be able to trust, in the touching cry of his heart for the scenes of his boyhood; "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! Then would I fly away and be at rest. Lo, then would I wander far off, I would lodge in the wilderness, I would haste me to a shelter from the stormy wind and tempest."

The swiftness with which rumor brings to a ruler anything uttered against him,—so many hoping to secure favor by telling it, is well compared to the speed of a bird's flight: "Curse not the king, no, not in thy thought, for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which

bath wings shall tell the matter." The picture of the sower going forth from a village to the remote fields to sow the grain, and of the birds following his steps to gather up the seed that may fall upon the narrow paths which bordered or crossed the fields, is intensely oriental and out-of-doorsy. How often even in our New England life have some of us seen the Robin following closely after the plow in the furrow to gather up for its food or for its young the grubs and the worms that might be uncovered. According to Dr. Wm. H. Thomson in "The Land and the Book," it is not the smaller birds, but the larger ones that are the greatest thieves of the seed sown. His statement is substantially as follows. A tangled jungle of cane and bushes near the banks of the Jordan is a roosting-place of the Crows and Rooks from which they go forth at early dawn like the columns of an endless army. They are the plague of the farmer. They devour so much of the freshly-sown seed that he has to make a large allowance for their depredations. It is useless to try to frighten them away. They fly up at the report of a gun, wheel round and round for a few minutes, cawing noisily, and then settle down again to their work of robbery as if nothing had happened. They fly to great distances in these foraging excursions, scattering in smaller groups for the day's pillaging, and at evening they gather again to their resting-place, where they discuss the adventures of the day in clamorous chatterings, silenced at length for the night's rest.

"Birds have" haunts, lodging-places, resting-places, not "nests," as in our version, presents a picture of some sequestered grove or tree-clump, some

sheltered hillside or brookside, where birds may gather and rest undisturbed. The bird haunts where great numbers gather to spend the night for weeks at a time, as the Swallows do every fall in the willows on an island in the Messalonskee at Waterville, come much nearer to the true thought than the word nests comes. More of our birds have the habit of gathering for shelter in flocks or in groups than might at first be thought. Crows, Jays, Swallows, Robins, Blue-birds, Thistle-finches, Sparrows, Juncoes, Snowflakes, and many others do this to a greater or less extent. It is also true that birds gather in certain favorable places for nesting and breeding. We all know how populous some old-fashioned chimney may be with the many families of Chimney-Swifts taxing its generously-proportioned hospitality; how compactly placed the mud-houses of the Eave Swallows often are under the protection of the projecting eaves of some barn or shed belonging to a kind-hearted farmer; how completely honey-combed with the tunnels of the Sand Martin are the walls of some favorably located sand-bank.—a bank that receives many deposits and makes large dividends, unless there is some cruel run upon the bank by an army of small boys; how snugly the Sea-birds cover every spot and fill every crevice and nook of some rocky, almost inaccessible island; how fully occupied are the trees of some protected heronry, either by the nests of the Great Blue Heron or of the Black-Crowned night Heron, as in the heronry in Brown's woods at Falmouth Foreside. After listening for some weeks to the peculiar cries of these last-named Herons, frequently by day, sometimes by night, I do not wonder

that "squawks" is the familiar name by which they are commonly known. All honor to the man who keeps far away from such a place, the death-dealing sportsman. In this connection it may be interesting to quote the Mosaic law forbidding the taking of nesting birds: "If a bird's nest chance to be before thee in the way, in any tree or on the ground, with young ones or eggs, and the dam sitting upon the young; thou shalt in any wise let the dam go, but the young thou mayest take unto thyself: that it may be well with thee and that thou mayest prolong thy days." I am not sure that I quite agree with the interpretation which Dr. Thomson puts upon this passage: "Notice now the comprehensive specifications of this precept by which you are forbidden to molest these nests. You must in no wise take the dam, and you do not want either the eggs or the young, so all must be left." Doubtless that would be the usual result of obeying this direction, though in some cases the young might be taken; certainly that cruel crime of killing the old bird and allowing the young to perish of hunger and exposure in the nest, would never be committed if this law were obeyed. Additional weight is given to the command by the sanction under which it is enforced, "That it may be well with thee and that thou mayest prolong thy days." The life even of a bird is sacred, and one who takes it cruelly deserves misfortune and shortness of days. I am glad that "bird protection" has a prominent place in the purposes of our society. When the psalmist exclaims in triumph, "Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken, and we are escaped;" he shows that his

sympathies are with the bird in such a case as well as with his associates who have shared with him in some great deliverance.

It was a part of the simple life of the Jews and of their direct contact with common things that cock-crowing should be used to designate a certain period of the day. It was a part of the same simplicity that Jesus gave to Peter the token, "The cock shall not crow till thou hast thrice denied me." Even in the open court of the high priest's palace, it was the hearing of the appointed signal,— "Immediately the cock crew,"—that recalled Peter to himself and to his loyalty to his Master. How remote from our modern and northern civilization is such a scene as this, but how true to the open-air life which prevails in oriental lands.

The care of the mother bird hovering her young under her wings is used repeatedly to set forth God's care for his people. Thus David cries out, "My soul taketh refuge in thee, Yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I take refuge." In the ninety-first psalm the same figure appears, "He shall cover thee with his pinions, and under his wings shalt thou take refuge." But most touchingly the figure comes in, in the lament over Jerusalem in view of its subsequent destruction: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often would I have gathered thy children together even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings and ye would not." As wings signify swiftness, strength, protection, may not this be the meaning of the wings which are ascribed to angels, and even of the wings of the cherubim which overshadowed the mercy seat in the Most Holy Place of the temple?

A List of the Birds observed from April to October, during different years, from 1852 to 1899 in the region of Islesboro, Waldo County, and the Fox Islands, Knox County, Maine, compiled by Reginald Heber Howe, Jr., from his, and the Notes of Dr. Charles W. Townsend of Boston.

From August 4 to 9, 1894,* and from July 5 to 30, 1899 I spent at Dark Harbor, Islesboro, on the southern end of Long Island, Waldo County, Maine, and from August 1 to 15, 1899 at Vinal Haven, Knox County, Maine. During these periods I spent much of my time studying the land-birds of the regions, and occasionally those of Penobscot Bay. I had, much to my advantage, a basis on which to work, for Dr. Charles W. Townsend of Boston had left in the possession of Mr. Jeffrey R. Brackett, a summer resident of Dark Harbor, lists of the birds observed by him during visits at Mr. Brackett's house on the following dates:—September 1 to 11, 1882, April 3 to 9, and September 4 to 24, 1883, September 19 to October 2, 1884, and September 12 to 24, 1885. To Dr. Townsend for his lists and annotations, and kind assistance I am much indebted.

(Explanatory: All annotations enclosed in quotation marks are Dr. Townsend's; his observations were all made at, or near Islesboro.)

1. *Colymbus auratus*: Horned Grebe, "Several seen and one shot, '84."
2. *Gavia immer*: Loon, "Common, '82, '83, '84, '85." One Fox Is., Aug. '99.
3. *Cephus grylle*: Black Guillemot, "One seen '82, common '83. One seen Aug. 11 and 13, '99, Islesboro.
4. *Larus argentatus*: American Herring Gull, "Common '82, '83, '84, '85." Common '94, '99, Islesboro, '99, Fox Is.
5. *Larus philadelphia*: Bonaparte's Gull, "Common, flock of fifty seen, two shot, Sept. '83." Aug. 10, 11, 15, '99 common Islesboro.
6. *Sterna hirundo*: Common Tern, "Abundant '82, common '85." Common '99, Islesboro, Fox Is.
7. *Sterna paradisaea*: Arctic Tern, Aug. 5, 11, '99, common, Fox Is.
8. *Sterna dougalli*: Roseate Tern, Aug. 6, 12, '99, a few seen, Fox Is. Identification not absolute.
9. *Merganser serrator*: Red-breasted Merganser, "Common '82, Apr. '83, Sept. '83, breeds." Aug. 1, '99, three Fox Is.
10. *Anas obscura*: Black Duck, "Few seen, Apr. '83, several '84."
11. *Harelda hiemalis*: Old Squaw, "Several large flocks, Apr. '83."
12. *Branta canadensis*: Canada Goose, "Two flocks Apr. 7, 8, '83."
13. *Ardea herodias*: Great Blue Heron, "Common '82, '83, '84, '85." '94, '99, Common Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
14. *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*: Black-crowned Night Heron, "One or two seen '82, common '84, '85," Uncommon '94, '99, Islesboro.
15. *Tringa bairdii*: Baird' Sandpiper, "One shot on Warren Is. on Sept. 20, '85 sex?"

* See "On the Bird's Highway," Small & Maynard, 1899, Boston, Chap. XI, p. 107.

16. *Ereunetes pusillus*: Semi-palmated Sandpiper. "Abundant '82, common '83, one '84, few '85." Aug. 1-13, '99, common Fox Is.
17. *Calidris arenaria*: Sanderling. "One seen Sept. '83."
18. *Totanus melanoleucus*: Greater Yellow-legs. "Few '82, six or eight Sept. '83, common '85."
19. *Actitis macularia*: Spotted Sandpiper. "Common '82, '83, '84, '85." Common '94, '99, Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
20. *Squatarola squatarola*: Black-bellied Plover. "Two shot on Spruce Is. '85."
21. *Aegialitis semipalmata*: Semi-palmated Plover. "Abundant '82, common Sept. '83, '85." A few Aug. 6, 7, '99, Fox Is.
22. *Arenaria interpres*: Turnstone. "Fifteen or twenty '82, dozen '85."
23. *Circus hudsonius*: Marsh Hawk. "One seen Sept. '83, Several '85." One Aug. 3, '99, Fox Is.
24. *Accipiter velox*: Sharp Shinned Hawk. "One shot Sept. '83, several '84, '85."
25. *Falco sparverius*: American Sparrow Hawk. "Several seen, one shot Sept. '83." One seen '94.
26. *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*: American Osprey. "Several '82, one seen every day after Apr. 7, '83, common Sept. '83, several '84, '85." Common '94, '99, Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
27. *Coccyzus americanus*: Yellow-billed Cuckoo? One seen at Islesboro by Miss F. Griffith, July '99. I have no reason to doubt identification.
28. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*: Black-billed Cuckoo. "One seen '85." Common '99 Islesboro. One bird sang almost every evening between nine to ten throughout July.
29. *Ceryle alcyon*: King fisher. "Common '82, few Sept. '83, common '84, '85." Uncommon '99 Islesboro, Fox Is.
30. *Dryobates villosus*: Hairy Woodpecker. "One Apr. '83, several '84."
31. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*: Downy Woodpecker. "Abundant Apr. '83, Sept. '83, '84, common '85." Common '99, Islesboro, Fox Is.
32. *Sphyrapicus varius*: Yellow-bellied Woodpecker. "Several seen '84."
33. *Colaptes auratus*: Flicker. "Common '82, Apr. and Sept. '83, '84, abundant '85." Uncommon '94, '99, Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
34. *Chordeiles virginianus*: Night-hawk, A few Aug. 10-15, '99, Fox Is.
35. *Chaetura pelagica*: Chimney Swift. "Abundant Apr. and Sept. '83." Uncommon '94, '99, Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
36. *Trochilus colubris*: Ruby-throated Humming-bird. "Two seen '82, common Sept. '83, one see '85."
37. *Tyrannus tyrannus*: King-bird. "Rather common '82." Abundant '94, '99, Islesboro, '99, Fox Is.
38. *Nuttallornis borealis*: Olive-sided Flycatcher, Not uncommon, July 24-30, '99 Islesboro, Aug. 2, '99 Fox Is.

39. *Empidonax flaviventris*: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. "One seen either of this species or of *E. t. aliorum* '83." Not uncommon July '99, Islesboro.
40. *Empidonax minimus*: Least Flycatcher, One Aug. 1, '99, Fox Is.
41. *Cyanocitta cristata*: Blue Jay, "Few heard, '82, common Sept. '83, several '84, common '85."
42. *Corvus americanus*: American Crow, "Abundant '82, Apr. and Sept. '83, '84, '85." Common '94, '99, Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
43. *Scolecophagus carolinus*: Rusty Blackbird, "Three seen Sept. '83."
44. *Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*: Bronzed Grackle, "One taken in July '99, Islesboro, shown me by Mr. George Dyer.
45. *Carpodacus purpureus*: Purple Finch, "Few seen Sept. '83." July 8, '99, a few Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
46. *Loxia curvirostra minor*: American Cross-bill, Abundant '99 Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
47. *Loxia leucoptera*: White-winged Cross-bill, One seen July 29, '99 Islesboro.
48. *Astragalinus tristis*: American Goldfinch, "Abundant '82, Apr. and Sept. '83, '84, '85." Common '99 Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
49. *Plectrophenax nivalis*: Snow-flake, "Five or six Apr. '83."
50. *Poocetes gramineus*: Vesper Sparrow, "Common '82, one seen Apr. '83, several '84, common '85." One Aug. 6, '99 Fox Is.
51. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*: Savanna Sparrow, Common '99 Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
52. *Zonotrichia albicollis*: White-throated Sparrow, "Common '82, abundant Apr. and Sept. '83, common '84, '85." Common '94, '99 Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
53. *Spizella socialis*: Chipping Sparrow, "Abundant '82, Sept. '83, '84, '85." Common '94, '99 Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
54. *Spizella pusilla*: Field Sparrow, Aug. '94 one seen Islesboro.
55. *Junco hiemalis*: Slate Colored Junco, "Abundant '82, Apr. and Sept. '83, '84, '85." Common '94, '99 Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
56. *Melospiza melodia*: Song Sparrow, "Abundant '82, Apr. and Sept. '83, '84, '85." Common '94, '99 Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
57. *Passerella iliaca*: Fox Sparrow, "Several Apr. '83, singing." A few '94 Islesboro.
58. *Spiza americana*: Dickcissel, "A young male shot on Sept. '84 on Job's Is." (See Auk, Vol. II, No. 1, Jan. p 106, '85 and "Birds of Maine" by O. W. Knight p 104.)
59. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*: Cliff Swallow, Abundant breeds '99 Islesboro. The species has undoubtedly come into this region of late years. For the nests are found on the new, not old barns, and Dr. Townsend saw nothing of them in the '80's.
60. *Hirundo erythrogastra*: Barn Swallow, "Common Sept. '83." Common '94, '99 Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
61. *Tachycineta bicolor*: Tree Swallow, "Few '82, after Apr. 9, '83." Common '99 Fox Is.

62. *Ampelis cedrorum*: Cedar Wax wing, Common '99 Islesboro, Fox Is.
63. *Vireo olivaceus*: Red-eyed Vireo, "Common '82, Sept. '83, several '84, common '85." Common '94, '99 Islesboro.
64. *Vireo philadelphia*: Philadelphia Vireo, "One obtained, young female, Sept. 13, '83 Job's Is."
65. *Vireo flavifrons*: Yellow-throated Vireo. One July 10, '99 Islesboro.
66. *Minotilta varia*: Black and White Warbler, "Common '82, Sept. '83." Uncommon '99 Islesboro.
67. *Helminthophila rubricapilla*: Nashville Warbler, "Common '82, a few Sept. '83." Uncommon '99 Islesboro.
68. *Compsothlypis americana usnea*: Northern Parula Warbler, "Several seen Sept. '83." Not uncommon '99 Islesboro.
69. *Dendroica aestiva*: Yellow Warbler, "Two seen '82." Common '99 Islesboro, Fox Is.
70. *Dendroica caerulescens*: Black-throated Blue Warbler, "Two shot Sept. '83."
71. *Dendroica coronata*: Myrtle Warbler, "Abundant '82, Sept. '83, after Oct. 1, common '84, common '85." Common '94 Islesboro.
72. *Dendroica maculosa*: Magnolia Warbler, "Few seen '82, abundant Sept. '83, one seen '84." Uncommon '99 Islesboro.
73. *Dendroica castanea*: Bay-breasted Warbler, "One Sept. '83."
74. *Dendroica striata*: Black-poll Warbler, "One seen '82, several '84." Common '94 Islesboro.
75. *Dendroica virens*: Black-throated Green Warbler, "Abundant Sept. '83, common '84, '85." Abundant '94, '99 Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
76. *Siurus aurocapillus*: Oven-bird, "Few seen Sept. '83."
77. *Siurus noveboracensis*: Water-Thrush, "Three seen '82, several '85."
78. *Geothlypis trichas*: Maryland Yellow-throat, "Common '82, Sept. '83, few '84, common '85." Common '99 Islesboro, Fox Is.
79. *Setophaga ruticilla*: American Redstart, "Common '82, abundant Sept. '83." Common '94, '99 Islesboro.
80. *Anorthura hiemalis*: Winter Wren, "One seen, one shot Sept. '83, two seen '85."
81. *Sitta carolinensis*: White-breasted Nuthatch, "Several seen '84."
82. *Sitta canadensis*: Red-breasted Nuthatch. "Common Sept. '83, '84, '85." Common '99 Islesboro, Fox Is.
83. *Parus atricapillus*: Chickadee, "Abundant '82, Apr. and Sept. '83, '84, '85." Abundant '94, '99 Islesboro, '99 Fox Is.
84. *Regulus satrapa*: Golden-crowned Kinglet, "Abundant '82, Apr. and Sept. '83, '84, '85." Not uncommon '94, '99 Islesboro.
85. *Regulus calendula*: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, "Rather common Sept. '83."
86. *Hylocichla ustulatus swainsonii*: Olive-backed Thrush, "One seen '82." Not uncommon '99 Islesboro.

87. *Hycloichla guttata pallasii*: Hermit Thrush, "Common '83, one or or two '85." Not uncommon '99 Islesboro.

88. *Merula migratoria*: American Robin, "Abundant '82, Apr. and Sept. '83, common '84." Common '94, '99 Islesboro. '99 Fox Is.

I saw at Islesboro a stuffed Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) and Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) also a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), a Barred Owl (*Syrnium nebulosum*) and two Kittiwakes (*Larus tridactyla*), which were shot on or near the island during the past few years.

Notes on Birds in Androscoggin Co.

BY E. E. JOHNSON.

No. 1. Holboell's Grebe.

A male specimen was taken on Lake Auburn, Oct. 8, 1899, which I now have mounted.

No. 84. Green Heron.

This species is also a rare summer resident. C. D. Farrar has an egg that was taken from a nest in a fir tree beside Sabatis River at Lisbon in 1872, and in 1873 another nest with young was found near the same place. Two birds were seen at the Androscoggin River near Lewiston in June, 1899, by W. F. Burbank.

No. 85. Black-crowned Night Heron.

This should be changed in the list to not common migrant. I gave it as a summer resident in this county, by mistake.

No. 105. Pectoral Sandpiper.

Fairly common fall migrant at the head of Sabatis Pond. Have seen four specimens that was taken there in the fall of 1898.

No. 108. Least Sandpiper.

I reported this bird as a common migrant, but am inclined to think now that all I have seen belonged to the following species (Semipalmated Sandpiper) instead.

No. 111. Semipalmated Sandpiper.

Sept. 7, 1899, my brother and I shot five of this species at Sabatis Pond, three of which, two males and one female, I had mounted. I saw about fifty birds I should say, in small flocks which I think were of this species, but could not be positive. Sept. 28, three more were taken from a flock of five near the same place.

No. 192. Olive-sided Flycatcher.

W. F. Burbank has a specimen taken May 7, 1897 and another May 20, 1898, both in this vicinity.

No. 202. American Crow.

A few are seen in this vicinity nearly every winter.

No. 216. Purple Finch.

A few remain here some winters.

No. 218. White-winged Crossbill.

A female was taken Sept. 30, 1899, by W. F. Burbank and Oct. 31, they were common and have been very common in the vicinity of Lewiston ever since.

No. 223. American Goldfinch.

This species is found here sometimes in winter. Saw some here Jan. 6, 1900.

No. 224. Pine Siskin.

Nov. 30, 1899, I saw two hundred or more and they have been common since.

No. 260. Cedar Waxwing.

Rare here in winter.

KNOX COUNTY.

O. G. Douglass of Lewiston, has a specimen taken in Dec. 1899 at Seal Island on the coast of Knox County.

The Journal of The Maine Ornithological Society.

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF MAINE ORNITHOLOGY.

"Bird protection, bird study, the spread of the knowledge thus gained, these are our objects."

VOL. II. BANGOR, MAINE. OCTOBER, 1900. No. 4

The Maine Ornithological Society.

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Editorial.

Having been in Waterville every Monday during the summer, I had the pleasure of watching the Swallows circling about and going to their roost, in a large tract of willows on an island, just below the bridge in the Kennebec River.

My attention was called to this roost and strange manœuvres of the Swallows

by Mr. Bates, early in August. Mrs. Bates has described this interesting phenomena, in the Auk, a few years ago.

Thousands of Martins and Barn Swallows, and I think a few Cliff Swallows and Swifts, were seen circling about the willows, going to roost, about dusk. The noise made by this countless number of Swallows can not easily be described. In my notes on the Swallows for '99, in the July number of the Journal, I remarked on the scarcity of the Swallows about Farmington. Now I have learned where the Swallows were. They must have been congregated in Waterville, perhaps holding a special Swallow congress.

The Terns along the Maine Coast seem to have fared well under the protection given them by the committee of the A. O. U., as they have been unusually plenty this summer and fall. Capt. Spinney writes me, he saw more Tern in one day in August, than he had seen altogether in the past three or four years.

Capt. Spinney writes me, he has a female Marbled Godwit, taken at Popham Beach, Sept. 13th, after a search of eighteen years for it. He has also the Hudsonian, taken at the same place. He states that the latter is not rare there.

Mr. Norton's prediction in the January number, that the Prairie Horned Larks would be found breeding in the state, has proven true, and his anticipation, as well as that of other members, has been realized, as the Editor had the pleasure of taking three specimens, one adult female and two young, at Pishons Ferry, July 17th. For further particulars see October number of the Auk.

The Gallinule taken at Winter Harbor, Mt. Desert, Nov. 7, '99, proves to be the Purple variety.

The summer meeting proved a success for those who were able to be in attendance, and a very pleasant time was had, by the few there. A committee for the protection of our shore birds was appointed, to co-operate with the protection committee of the A. O. U. Those appointed were J. M. Swain of Portland, Ora W. Knight of Bangor, and Prof. L. A. Lee of Brunswick, also a committee to appear before the committees of the Maine Legislature, relative to a bill protecting all shore birds. It is hoped all spring shooting will be prohibited also. This committee consists of Adj. Gen. J. T. Richards of Augusta, Jed Frye Fanning of Portland.

It is to be hoped that a large attendance may be had at our next annual meeting at Lewiston. Notice of time and place of meeting will be sent out later. Let every member make a special effort to be present, and make it our most successful meeting.

ERRATA.

In Mr. Johnson's notes, in the July No., page 32, the Knox Co. record of the Cedar Waxwing, should have read Hancock Co. Mandts Guillemot, a specimen shot on Seal Island, and identified by C. D. Farrar of Lewiston, and is the first record of its occurrence in the state.

In the Jan. No. the note on the young Loggerhead Shrike should have read Northern Shrike.

A Day with Some of the Shore Birds of Sagadahoc County.

—————
CAPT. H. L. SPINNEY.
—————

Read before the Maine Ornithological Society at Brunswick, Dec. 26, 1899.

—————

If we would observe the habits of some of our shore birds we should select some day between the middle of August and the first days of September.

The feeding grounds of these species are beaches and sand flats of bays and rivers along our coast, which are exposed at low tide, and salt marshes by which they are more or less bounded.

When the rising tide covers these resorts the birds repair to high tide limit on beaches or small barren islets along the coast, returning to feed when the receding tide again exposes their feeding grounds. As low tide exposes many acres of such ground, the time to observe some of them to advantage, is when the tide first commences to recede.

They are then hungry and eager to commence feeding, and are not as suspicious as after their hunger is partially appeased and they have a larger area of flats to feed on.

To have the area as restricted as possible, we will select one of the small beaches which intersect the rock bound shore of some bay, as the rise from the flats to high tide limit is quite abrupt, causing the surface of the beach to be exposed very slowly by the receding tide, thus, causing the birds to remain much longer than if a larger area was at their disposal.

Also, because when the full extent of their feeding grounds are exposed some

parts are more favorable for the food on which they feed, thus compelling the observer to inspect a large territory for the same results as under the conditions before mentioned.

As we lie on the rocks or grass ground which borders the locality, listlessly watching the hazy clouds move across the blue field above. A dreamy stillness pervades the scene, broken only by the softly rippling water on the beach, the hum of a bee, or the stridulating of a locust. Suddenly the stillness is broken by the soft piping of birds, causing us to arouse from our dreamy reflections in time to see a dozen or more small birds with rapid, struggling flight, abruptly but gracefully alight on the beach, stand motionless a moment and then commence searching for the minute marine forms on which they feed. We at once recognize them to be the Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Eremetens pusillus*). They run hither and thither, each one seemingly trying to find the most in the least time.

As the tide recedes small stones, overgrown with algæ with which the beach and flats are strewn, appear.

These are at once closely inspected, sometimes by so many individuals that the stone is hidden from view. Even when so closely associated, I have never seen them manifest a greedy or quarrelsome manner towards each other.

If these birds have not been made shy by the persecutions of sportsmen, we may approach quite near to them. I have walked within perhaps ten yards of them, when they would stop their search for food and seem to inquisitively watch me with an occasional bob of their heads, and again commence searching for food, as if I were of no consequence.

If we attempt to come nearer they start off rapidly, looking as if they ran sideways. Should we force ourselves too much upon their company they repeat these manoeuvres, stopping every few yards to see if we are coming too near, when if we do not pause, they take wing, alighting a short distance away, repeating these movements until our familiarity causes them to seek some other feeding ground.

While watching these birds our attention is again attracted by a shriller call than the first, and a number of larger birds alight with the ones we are watching. These are the Ring-neck or Semipalmated Plover (*Aegialitis semipalmata*) a much more suspicious species than the former. Now should we attempt to approach them as we did the Sandpipers they at once stop searching for food, stand motionless a moment, then bob their heads a few times, run rapidly a few yards and abruptly stop, repeating these manoeuvres as often as we approach nearer than they care to have us. If we stop walking they again commence searching for food, but instead of not noticing us, as did the Sandpipers, they increase the distance between themselves and us as quickly as possible. Instead of searching the stones as did the former, they confine themselves to the sand, each one feeding by itself. Nor do they confine themselves to the minute forms as do the Sandpipers, as I have seen them extract quite a large marine worm from the sand, pulling and swallowing until the last end disappeared, it seemingly taking all the strength they possessed to accomplish the feat.

During the time we have watched these birds the tide has been receding and the higher parts of the flats are be-

coming exposed. The birds have steadily arrived in small flocks until the flats exposed are populated with hungry birds running here and there, reminding us of a colony of ants.

Now if we try to approach too near them, they stop, repeat the manœuvres already mentioned, and before we are within a fair gun-shot distance, with a few short notes of alarm, take wing, the Sandpipers following, uttering their call notes as they fly, again alighting some distance away, to repeat the same movements when we approach too near them.

Another call reminds us a new species has arrived. On they come, their wings stroke slower and slower, when with motionless wings and a gliding movement they alight on the flats at the edge of the receding tide and at once commence pursuing the minnows with which the water abounds.

These are the Greater Yellowlegs (*Totanus melanoleucus*).

With extended necks they run here and there according to the movements of their prey, their long yellow legs showing to the best advantage. When we are discovered some of them stop, make a few bows interspersed with a dash after some object which attracts their attention. Sometimes after their hunger is satisfied, they will stand motionless a long time with head hunched down upon their breast, which gives them a dejected appearance.

These birds are taken from blinds built on the shores and marshes by using dummy decoys and imitating their call as they fly to and from their feeding grounds. Sometimes they are very solicitous, returning to their dead companions until the entire flock is killed.

The tide now rapidly recedes, leaving

all the bottom of the bay exposed to low tide limit, excepting a few small channel ways which drain the marshes at the head of the bay, emptying into low tide waters perhaps a mile away.

The sun high in the zenith, its fierce rays beating down upon the corrugated sand, causes the water in the wrinkles to dance and glitter before our eyes, while from the higher parts a faint vapor arises, causing a mirage effect on the scene.

Scattered over the surface are to be seen hundreds of the small birds mentioned, some searching for food, others standing motionless, while others plume their feathers. Along the channel ways may be seen a few Yellowlegs, while at parts where the sand is softer a few Dowitchers (*Macrorhamphus griseus*) are to be seen probing the sand with their long bills.

These birds are usually very unsuspecting, allowing us to approach very near them, when they stop probing the sand and stupidly gaze at us, their long bills and short necks giving them a very odd appearance.

I have known eighteen of these birds picked up from one discharge of a gun, those which escaped alighting again but a short distance away, allowing the sportsman to repeat his depredations until every individual was killed.

We now cross the bay our feet in some parts leaving but a faint impression, while at others we sink to our ankles in silt. Crossing a neck of land, studded here and there with junipers, bayberry bushes and the dwarf spruce trees peculiar to the coast, we reach a long beach which fronts the ocean. Here the restlessness of old ocean is manifested by the waves which advance and recede,

expending their untiring energy upon the beach.

Here we again meet with the small birds mentioned, but in less numbers. We now turn our attention to a flock of small birds which are flying along the beach just over the line of surf, in close but irregular flight, now in over the beach, to again quickly wheel out over the surf, their pure white under parts gleaming like alabaster, contrasted the next moment by the silvery sheen of their darker backs, repeating these manœuvres an indefinite number of times, as if dissatisfied with the feeding grounds. They at last alight on the beach at the edge of the surf. These are the Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*) known to the sportsmen as Surf Snipe and Whiting. The last name because of their appearance, already mentioned, when on the wing.

As a wave recedes they follow its wet path to the waters edge, eagerly searching for the small crustaceans known as sand fleas, which on the advance of a wave are able to at once disappear in the sand, to again as it recedes, reappear at the surface and jumping about on the sand become an easy prey for the birds. As a wave advances the birds retreat before it with the same sideways movement as before mentioned, forming a compact column, to again follow it as it recedes back to its source.

This habit of coming together so closely when forced back by a wave is taken advantage of by the sportsmen. And I have heard of their picking up fifty of these birds from a single discharge of their gun.

As we approach near to them they do not stop to watch us as did the Sanderlings, but run along with a sideways

movement, watching us over their shoulders, exerting themselves to their uttermost speed to widen the distance between us and themselves. If we advance too rapidly they take wing again, alighting a short distance ahead, repeating these movements until our persistence causes them to leave for other feeding grounds, or they again alight a long distance in our rear.

As we walk along the beach flock after flock of these birds may be seen, some seeking new feeding grounds while others are searching for food as described, all restless and active.

We have now reached a long point of rocks which, rising out of the sand, extends a short distance into the sea. At high tide all but the extreme end is submerged, this remaining a few feet above high tide limit. A few small rocks appear from out the sand along its edge, and motionless among them we notice one or two small birds.

These remind us of the Ringneck Plover excepting their much lighter color blends with the bleached sands of the beach, whereas that of the former blends with the darker sands of the bays, their favorite feeding grounds.

We also listen to their mellow piping cries, recognizing them to be the Piping Plover (*Ægialitis meloda*). They remain motionless a few moments suspiciously watching us, then running rapidly away for a few yards, repeat the former movement.

They are very shy, taking wing when a long distance away.

I have seen but few of this species, and they were invariably around such grounds as described, or on the beach above high tide limit.

Now advancing out toward the point

of rocks first mentioned, we notice a number of larger birds. One or two are standing like sentinels on the highest pinnacle of the point, while others suspiciously watch us from the inequalities of the rocks, some with only their heads exposed.

By their large heads and short bills we recognize them to be the Black-bellied Plover (*Charadrius squatarola*) known to sportsmen as Beetle-heads. At this time of year one is seldom seen in its adult plumage of light mottled back and head, and black under parts, which would at once identify it to the most careless observer. But now all look alike in their brownish grey coat.

When within perhaps one hundred yards of them, first one and then another of those which have watched us from among the rocks manifest their uneasiness by mounting the small pinnacles of rock to watch us more closely as we approach. Suddenly they take alarm, and with loud, plaintive whistles take wing in a rapid straggling manner, to again alight a long distance away on some other point, or on the beach near high tide limit.

Under the same environments we may see another flock of birds, smaller than the former, but acting much the same. These are feeding on the slope of the point near the edge of the surf. Their heads are much smaller than the former, and while watching us are stretched forward while those of the former were held erect.

I have often found them feeding on such points as described, but more often they are to be found on the small rocky islets some distance from the shore.

We know these birds to be the Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) from their

habits, as we watch them, of turning over small stones with their bills for food which may be under them.

As they take wing we at once see by the strikingly variegated colors of the adults why the appellation of Calico-Back has been given them by the sportsmen.

The tide has now commenced to rise and we turn our attention to a different feeding ground.

Returning across the beach we continue our walk in behind the sand dunes. Here a large expanse of marsh appears to view, intersected here and there with small creeks which serve to drain the water which inundates the marsh each day according to the variation of the tides. The ground is covered with a rank growth of grass peculiar to this kind of soil, dotted here and there with small shallow ponds interspersed with spots of barren soil affording feeding grounds for the different species which frequent such places.

The sun is now far down in the west, while the shadows from surrounding hills lend their softening influence to the scene. On the surface of a small pond, its margin dotted here and there with small tufts of grass are to be seen the reflections of a large number of small birds standing motionless upon small knolls of turf which rise above the wetter ground. So closely do their colors blend with the surroundings that we would not have seen them were it not for their reflections.

Approaching close to them, some raise their heads from the hunched position in which they have been standing gazing stupidly at us. As we advance a few steps nearer, one or more take a few quick steps and pause, while others peck

at some object in an indifferent way as if it were not worth the exertion it cost. These birds are the Least Sandpiper (*Tringa minutilla*) or Peep as they are called by the sportsmen.

We again advance when with a soft twittering peep they take wing to again alight but a few yards away.

We again walk along toward the higher part of the marsh, the rank brittle grass snapping under our feet, when from out the grass a few yards away without warning, start a number of birds uttering their feeble calls as they fly. They alight in the short grass some distance away.

We now carefully approach the spot where they disappeared and pause closely inspecting the grass. So closely do their colors blend with the grass and so motionless do they remain that for some moments we think we must have been mistaken in the spot. When we are about to advance, one of the birds slightly moves its head and in front of us a few yards away we discover them watching us so motionless that were it not for their eyes we should almost think we were mistaken.

These are the Pectoral Sandpipers (*Tringa maculata*) or Grass Snipe as they are known to sportsmen.

Although there may be acres of marsh only one particular part will be frequented by these birds, and if they are around they will invariably be found at these places. If we pause for some time they commence searching for food, when if we again approach them they take wing as before mentioned.

Again we hear the sharp note of the Yellow-leg, and this time we recognize the Summer Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*) a number of them standing

along the sandy bottom of a creek, acting the same as did their larger relatives of the bay.

The sun lighting the tops of the trees, we again turn towards the beach. As we pass out among the sand dunes a larger bird than yet observed attracts our attention. It is standing on a sand hill, its long neck and curved bill outlined against the receding light. This is a Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus*) which has come in from some small islet to vary its marine diet with a few grasshoppers before retiring to its roosting place for the night. The air is now filled with the cries of different species leaving their feeding grounds, and hastening back to the different islets on which they pass the night.

As we again come out on the beach we see one of our small friends of the day, deprived of a leg by some sportsman, hopping along on its remaining foot, still struggling for existence without even the assistance of a pension.

The evening is now upon us, the faint glimmering of stars is seen, while a quietness pervades the scene, broken only by the cry of some belated bird seeking its companions of the night, or the melancholy chorus of frogs in some distant meadow.

Wearily we wend our way homeward, the dull thud of our feet resounding on the quiet air. We reach home at last, tired and hungry, but with a feeling only those can have who have spent a day among these environments.

These observations apply to twenty years ago. Now, should we pass a day under the conditions named, the flats and beaches which then were populated with thousands of the smaller species, would now afford but a few hundred and

of some species not any. Of the larger birds mentioned we should be fortunate to find them represented by a single individual. Few but those who have lived amid these scenes can realize how fast the birds are passing from our coasts.

Where once our shores and waters teemed with different species, few remain to remind us of the thousands which annually visited our coasts. And now man demands the Gulls. All who have visited our coast are acquainted with these beautiful birds. A few seasons of slaughter like the one now nearly passed, and only a few will remain to lend their presence to the storms which spend their fury on our coast.

Black and White Warbler.

(MNIOTILTA VARIA)

*Read before the Maine Ornithological Society
at Brunswick, Dec. 27, 1899.*

I have long thought that I would write my experience with this handsome and interesting little Warbler and creeper combined, for it is a true creeper in every sense of the word, flitting from tree trunk to tree trunk, and running up and down in his search for food.

My observations do not extend outside the limits of my native town, Livermore. I have long watched this bird and wondered where its nest might be, for I have been a lover of the birds for many years. O for one look at the nest and eggs or young of *Mniotilta varia*, and my happiness would be complete, and that time came at last, and well do I remember that day—June 9th, 1897—that day will go down in history with

me. It was a warm and sunny day. Bright and early I was strolling through woods and across meadows, note book in hand. The land was alive with bird life from the Broad Winged Hawk, circling high above my head, to the little Chickadee at my feet. Has not our Maker made all things beautiful? None but the true lover of birds can realize the great beauty of this world.

But I am writing of dainty Black and White Warblers. I had walked several miles and at last came to a small pond. I obtained a boat and paddled around near the shore and observed many nests of Catbirds, Kingbirds and other species and at last leaving the boat, struck out for a large woods not far from the west shore of the pond. Coming to a large stone wall at the edge of the woods where the tornado of July 3rd, 1892, had uprooted many trees and felled them across the wall. I climbed on to the body of a large rock maple, and walked down to the large heap of roots and dirt torn from the ground. As I leaped to the ground a small bird flew almost into my face. From where she came I could not tell, but that she had a nest near I was certain. I dared not move for fear of stepping on the nest, but stood and looked in every direction. What was that bunch of leaves in that small opening in the dirt near the foot of the maple roots, on the south side, about one foot from the ground, and what was that small bird flitting from tree to tree over my head? I took one step and was looking at the nest and five tiny eggs and mother-bird. My heart was filled with joy, for I was gazing upon my first nest of the Black and White Warbler. In a moment I was on my knees beside the nest, note book and pencil in hand,

and this is the data that I wrote: name, Black and White Warbler; locality, Livermore, Maine; date, June 9, 1897; incubation, well advanced; No. of eggs, five; identity, female flushed from nest. Nest built on the east side of woods, at foot of uprooted tree, open to the south, roofed over with the dirt and roots of the tree and deeply imbedded in it. Nest composed of dead leaves and fine strips of bark and a few dead grasses, lined with a few hairs and hairlike roots. A large, bulky nest for so small a bird.

The eggs, five in number, color white speckled and spotted with chestnut and hazel, in the form of a wreath around the large end, so thick as to cover the surface of the egg. The rest of the egg thinly spotted. The above describes four of the eggs. The fifth was much smaller and was thickly sprinkled over its entire surface with fine chestnut and hazel dots. As Davie says, in his valuable work, "Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds," fourth edition: "This Warblers' eggs have an individuality of their own which enables one to distinguish them from the eggs of any other Warbler," and I think this is correct.

After I had examined the nest and

eggs, I turned my attention to the bird, which was flying around near. Stepping behind a small bush, I kept quiet and in a few moments the bird returned to the nest. I then crept up to the nest and examined the bird to my satisfaction and then departed.

I did not have time to return to the nest again. Without doubt the eggs hatched in a few days. On May 25th, 1899, I found my second nest of the Black and White Warbler. It was in the deep woods, built in a decayed hemlock stump, fifteen inches from the ground, composed of nearly the same material as the first. It contained four fresh eggs.

Next season I mean to give my spare time to the study of this interesting family of birds,—the Warblers.

Fellow naturalists, I should be pleased to receive notes from all who are interested in the advancement of the study of true Ornithology and Oology. Let us unite in this great cause and study and protect our feathered friends as we would our own lives. For were it not for the birds where would the sunshine and joy of this world be?

GUY H. BRIGGS,

Livermore, Maine.

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