

QL684  
.M2J6  
\*

Sp 82:06(74.1)  
c6

FOR THE PEOPLE  
FOR EDUCATION  
FOR SCIENCE

LIBRARY  
OF  
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM  
OF  
NATURAL HISTORY

Bound at  
A. M. N. H.





Vol. IX  
No. 1

25 cents a copy  
\$1.00 a year

March, 1907

The Journal  
of the *5982'06(7-1)*  
Maine Ornithological Society



Editor, W. H. BROWNSON, Portland

Associate Editor, FRANK T. NOBLE, Augusta

Published by the Society at 97 1-2 Exchange Street, Portland, Maine

# JOURNAL

OF THE

## Maine Ornithological Society.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MAINE ORNITHOLOGISTS.

Issued every quarter on the first of March, June, September and December of each year.

Publication Office: 97 1-2 Exchange St., Portland, Maine.

Editor, W. H. BROWNSON,  
Portland.

Associate Editor, FRANK T. NOBLE,  
Augusta.

Price, \$1.00 per annum. Single Copies, 25 Cents.

Address W. H. Brownson, City Building, Portland, Me.

The Maine Ornithological Society comprises in its membership the leading ornithologists and bird students of Maine. The membership is constantly increasing and the interest in the society was never greater than now. If you are interested in birds and wish to know more about them you should by all means send in your name for membership in this society. The dues are one dollar a year, and payment of this sum entitles each person elected to membership to the JOURNAL free of charge. Application for membership should be made to the Secretary, Mr. J. Merton Swain, Skowhegan, Maine. Mr. Swain is also the treasurer and the annual dues should be paid to him. All persons, both young and old, are eligible to membership. It is not necessary for one to be versed in bird lore in order to insure his election to this society. The larger the membership the more can be done in the way of improving the JOURNAL and increasing its size. Send in your name without further delay. The society will be glad to welcome you to its meetings, which are held once a year in different cities. The officers of the society are as follows:

*President*, PROF. LESLIE A. LEE, Brunswick.

*Vice President*, Dr. H. H. BROCK, Portland.

*Secretary and Treasurer*, J. MERTON SWAIN, Skowhegan.

*Councillors*, CAPT. H. L. SPINNEY, Seguin; ORA W. KNIGHT, Bangor.

*Editor*, W. H. BROWNSON, Portland.

*Associate Editor*, FRANK T. NOBLE, Augusta.





MOUNTED JERFALCON

CAPTURED AT PORTLAND, MAINE, DEC. 11, 1891. SEE DESCRIPTION BY ARTHUR H. NUTTALL ON PAGE 16.

2512 16 76

# The Journal

of the

# Maine Ornithological Society

Published by the Society on the first of March, June, September and December

Vol. IX

MARCH, 1907  
*in December*

No. 1

## Proceedings of the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society.

The eleventh annual meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society convened at Portland, Nov. 30th to Dec. 1st, 1906. A business meeting was called in the lecture room of the Portland Society of Natural History, Elm street, with President Leslie A. Lee in the chair, Friday, at 2.15 P. M. The following officers and members were present :

OFFICERS:—Prof. Leslie A. Lee, President; J. Merton Swain, Secretary and Treasurer; W. H. Brownson, Editor.

MEMBERS:—Arthur H. Norton, Portland; Mrs. A. H. Norton, Portland; Miss Etta Parker, Portland; Miss Elizabeth Russell, Portland; Mrs. Fred P. Abbott, Saco; Mrs. A. E. Marks, East Orland, and Fred M. David, Damariscotta.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:—Sherman E. Phillips, Canterbury, N. H.; Fred B. Spaulding, Lancaster, N. H., and Thomas J. Emery, of the Harvard Law School, Cambridge.

The following committees were appointed by the President :

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:—Fred M. David, A. H. Norton, and Mrs. A. E. Marks.

AUDITING COMMITTEE:—W. H. Brownson and A. H. Norton.

RESOLUTIONS:—J. M. Swain and Miss Etta Parker.

The name of Miss Helen S. Lewis, 267 Vaughan St., Portland, was presented for membership. The ballot was cast and Miss Lewis declared elected.

President Lee then read a letter from Prof. Wm. L. Powers, of Gardiner, relative to a communication from Hon. L. T. Carleton in regard to the discontinuation of the JOURNAL and publishing our proceedings in his magazine. The matter was discussed at some length and was tabled to come up at the Saturday session.

Mr. Swain's report as Secretary and Treasurer was then called for, which was read and referred to the auditing committee.

Mr. Brownson then gave his report as editor on the JOURNAL. He stated that the financial condition of the JOURNAL was not flattering, and suggested that the subscription price be raised to \$1.00. On motion of Mr. Norton, it was voted to accept Mr. Brownson's report and refer it to the auditing committee; also voted to raise the price of subscription and associate membership to \$1.00 per annum.

As no other business was presented, President Lee passed on to the scientific session.

Mr. Brownson was called to report the Christmas bird census taken last year ('05). His report was very interesting to all present, and he asked as many members as possibly could to make another census, beginning Dec. 23d, at daybreak, and continuing till Jan. 1st, at sundown.

Mr. Arthur H. Norton was then called and gave a most interesting paper, "Habits of Birds," which was listened to with great interest.

Mr. J. Merton Swain then read a paper, "A Day among the Terns," which was followed by remarks and questions by the following members: Messrs. Norton, Brownson, Spaulding, David and Prof. Lee.

The next article on the program was a symposium on birds, which was opened by President Lee. His talk on his observations was extremely interesting and held the closest attention. He spoke of a trip he made Aug. 20th from Northeast Carry to Norcross, and

of finding a Winter Wren's nest of green moss, with at least three young. The nest was placed beneath a large boulder that rested on a smaller one, with a small space, cave like, beneath. The boulder was perhaps twelve feet high. The nest was placed on a small shelf, in a similar position to that of a Barn Swallow's nest on a rafter. He crossed Amajejus Lake and Pemadumcook Lake on a small power boat. They came up to twelve or fifteen Mergansers, and the boat chased them, but they dived and swam and kept out of their way for a distance of about two miles. He saw a large number of Kingfishers on this trip. The natives called them "Lazybirds." On inquiry as to why they were called Lazybirds, they informed Prof. Lee that it was because they would perch on a stub over the water and go to sleep and fall off their perch into the water, and much to the amusement of the professor his informant looked up and saw a Kingfisher about to dive from a stub, so, in proof of this statement, he excitedly exclaimed, "See there! There goes one now!" as the Kingfisher dropped from his perch into the water? During his trip to northern Maine, he climbed Mt. Katahdin. Near the top he saw one Sparrow and one Hawk, but could not get near enough to tell to which species they belonged.

Mr. Spaulding gave a very interesting talk on Bicknell's Thrush and the Warblers that he had observed near his home in New Hampshire. He was followed by Messrs. David and Phillips with remarks of interest.

Mr. T. J. Emery mentioned a tent that was erected near Portland, and a pair of Robins had built a nest therein and reared their young. Also at the same place a pair of Phœbes reared two broods in an ice house where ice was kept and taken each day. Mr. Emery then proceeded to tell the members of a plan he had to index the back numbers of the JOURNAL, and that an index should be prepared to be published in the near future. He moved that Mr. Brownson be instructed to attend to the index and to call on others for assistance in the work. The motion was carried, and Mr. Brownson was asked to take the matter in charge.

The meeting was then adjourned to 9.00 A. M. Saturday.

The evening session, to which the public were invited, was called in the lecture room at 8.00 P. M. The lecture room was well filled. President Lee presided, and first called on Mr. Norton, who showed a series of bird pictures and gave a very interesting talk on "The Birds about Portland." Mr. Norton was listened to with the closest attention.

Mr. Louis E. Legge then showed a few pictures he had taken during the past season.

Mr. Brownson was next on the program and showed and described a series of pictures, and gave a most interesting talk on the birds he had met during the season just past.

Prof. and Mrs. Knight, of Bangor, had come to attend the meeting, but owing to the sudden illness of Prof. Knight he was unable to be present, but sent his large series of slides to the rooms, and in the absence of the author Mr. J. Merton Swain was requested to show and describe Prof. Knight's slides, which came next on the program. The series and paper were entitled "The Birds of the Penobscot Valley." Prof. Lee attended the lantern and showed the slides, as the various speakers described them.

The meeting was a success, and those who came in seemed well pleased.

Before the members were called to order Saturday forenoon, a photographer was present to take the group picture of the members present, at the request of Mr. Brownson, for the purpose of sending, at the request of Mr. Frank M. Chapman, to illustrate a paper on "The Maine Ornithological Society," to be published in *Bird-Lore*.

The Saturday forenoon session was called at 9.15, President Lee in the chair.

Mr. Norton, chairman of the auditing committee, was called and reported they found the books of the Secretary, Treasurer and editor correct. The report was accepted.

Mr. Fred M. David, chairman of the nominating committee, then announced that they were ready to report. They recommended the re-election of the old board of officers for 1907. After some

protest on the part of the President, the Secretary was asked to cast the vote for the society, which he did, and President Lee declared the following officers elected for 1907: President, Prof. Leslie A. Lee, Brunswick; Vice-President, Dr. H. H. Brock, Portland; Secretary and Treasurer, J. Merton Swain, Skowhegan; Editor, W. H. Brownson, Portland; Associate Editor, Frank T. Noble, Augusta; Councillor, Capt. Herbert L. Spinney, Seguin; Councillor, Prof. Ora W. Knight, Bangor.

Mr. J. Merton Swain, chairman of the committee on resolutions, then made the following report:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Maine Ornithological Society be extended to the M. C. R. R. and the B. & M. R. R. for reduced fares, and to the Portland Society of Natural History for free use of its rooms for holding this meeting. This report was accepted and adopted, and the secretary was instructed to spread it upon the records, and to send a notice to those herein mentioned.

The matter relative to Mr. Carleton's suggestion was then taken up, and the society voted to refer the matter to the next meeting.

SCIENTIFIC MEETING.—Mr. Arthur H. Norton was called and gave a most interesting paper and talk entitled, "Talk on Young Birds." He exhibited the Eider Duck, male, female and young, young of Grouse, Herring Gull, Common Tern, Laughing Gull and a series of Song Sparrows.

Mr. Hiram Ellis then took the floor and gave a very interesting talk, "Remarks on the Cedar-bird."

Mr. W. H. Brownson gave a very interesting talk on the following subjects: "The Connecticut Warbler in Maine," "Notes on Albinism and Melanism." He showed specimens of the Black Duck and English Sparrow to illustrate his remarks.

Prof. Lee followed with some most interesting remarks along this same line, and was succeeded by Mr. Arthur H. Norton.

On motion of Mr. Brownson, it was voted to adjourn *sine die*.

J. MERTON SWAIN,  
*Secretary.*

## Contributions to the Life History of the Yellow Warbler

Subgenus *Dendroica* (Gray).

(Taken from the Birds of Maine by permission of the author.

ORA W. KNIGHT).

*Dendroica aestiva* (Gmel.). Yellow Warbler; Summer Yellow-bird; Summer Warbler; Golden Warbler; Blue-eyed Yellow Warbler; Spy-about.

Plumage of adult male: Above bright greenish yellow, becoming stronger on the crown; below golden lemon-yellow, brightly streaked with pale chestnut on the throat, breast and sides; wings edged with and inner veins of tail feathers bright yellow; tail fuscous. Plumage of adult female: Slightly paler than that of male; streaks on the throat, breast and sides few and not so bright; wings slightly more fuscous. Immature plumage: No streaks on breast, throat or sides in juvenal plumage, becoming rather sparingly streaked in first winter plumage; dull lemon-yellow below. Wing, 2.30 to 2.60; culmen, 0.41; tarsus, 0.73.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.—The breeding range includes North America in general, exclusive of Florida, Georgia, the north Pacific coast (inhabited by local race) and southwestern United States (local race there); including local subspecies and varieties, the species breeds northward to 70 degrees latitude; winter range, Central America, United States of Colombia, Peru, and Mexico.

COUNTY RECORDS.—Androscoggin; common summer resident (Johnson). Aroostook; summer resident (Knight). Cumberland; common summer resident (Mead). Franklin; common summer resident (Swain). Hancock; common summer resident (Knight). Kennebec; abundant summer resident (Gardiner Branch). Knox; summer (Rackliff). Oxford; abundant at Norway (Verrill, L. B. N. P. E. I. 3, p. 136 et seq.). Penobscot; very common summer resident (Knight). Piscataquis; rare summer resident (Homer). Sagadahoc; common summer resident (Spinney). Somerset;

summer resident (Morrell). Waldo; common summer resident (Knight). Washington; abundant summer resident (Boardman). York; quite common summer resident (Adams).

The species in question is perhaps one of our commonest summer birds, being very generally distributed and common throughout the State, though always lacking in the deep evergreen forest portions. Neither is it characteristic of any particular faunal area, being found nearly throughout temperate North America. In southern Maine the date of arrival in the spring is somewhere about May 11th, sometimes even as early as May 5th, while in the northern part of the State it may not arrive until May 18th. The fall departure begins in late July, and by the last of August the majority have departed, though exceptionally the species has remained near Bangor until September 10th. It is in full song very soon after its arrival and the cheery "we-che, che, che, cheery we," or sometimes "weeche, weeche, weeche, we-we," may be heard frequently in the low shrubbery of garden and orchard. Another song is "sweet, sweet, sweet, sweeter, sweeter." This song always brings to my memory the alder fringed brooks where I coaxed the gamey trout from his eddying pool, and it is only a question of time until the trout fever arises to such a pitch as to require appropriate treatment. These little Warblers prefer to frequent gardens and orchards in settled localities, returning season after season to the same place, while they also may be commonly found among the alders of brook and river sides. The male sings every minute or so during the day in early summer and diligently assists the female in nest building, both by actual construction work and well-timed song of encouragement. Alders, bushy thickets, shrubbery in gardens, orchard trees, and thickets along banks of streams and rivers are selected as nesting sites. The nest is a very compactly built and well-cupped structure, composed of fine soft grasses and rootlets, soft hempen fibers, cottony down from the willow catkins, pieces of thread, twine, cloth, shreds of paper, and similar soft material, lined with willow down and a few feathers. A typical nest from which the foregoing description is made measures two and a quarter inches in height outside, depth of

inside cavity one inch, diameter at bottom outside two and a half inches, diameter of cavity across top one and a half inches. This particular nest was situated in a small bunch of alders thirty-three inches from the ground in a bushy meadow along the Stillwater River at Orono. The eggs are of a greenish-white ground color, very heavily wreathed with cinnamon brown, black and lilac about the larger end, and measure  $0.66 \times 0.52$ ,  $0.67 \times 0.51$ ,  $0.67 \times 0.51$ ,  $0.68 \times 0.51$ . Other eggs seen sometimes have a bluish-white ground color, and the markings are sometimes more inclined to umber brown. Generally the eggs are wreathed about the larger end rather heavily, but sometimes the eggs are only slightly or not at all wreathed, and while nearly always a few small spots are loosely scattered over the surface, sometimes the whole surface is quite evenly dotted. Nest building, in which both parents assist, requires a period varying from a week to ten days, and fresh eggs may be found from June 1st to even as late as early July. It seems quite likely that these late sets may result from the birds having been robbed or otherwise disturbed in their first efforts. Sometimes a Cowbird deposits its egg in a Yellow Warbler's nest, in which case they often build a new nest on top of the old one, thus effectually stifling the intruding egg, or desert the site entirely. Rarely when their own eggs are incubated they will accept the egg of the intruder. Four or five eggs are usually laid, an egg generally being deposited each day; though rarely, sometimes a day is passed without laying. In some instances the bird begins to incubate as soon as the first egg is laid, while in other cases incubation has not seemed to be commenced in earnest until a day or two after the last egg was laid. In cases under observation the incubation period has seemed to range from twelve to fifteen days from the time of laying of the first egg to the hatching of the first young, in cases where the birds seemed to have actually begun incubating as soon as an egg was laid. Owing to lack of time to observe them closely, the exact cause of variation cannot be given, but it seems quite possible that difference in persistence in incubating may account for the discrepancy. The young birds are naked when hatched, but within two days are covered with mouse-gray down. The first pin feathers appear at the end of about six days, and in a period varying from fifteen to twenty days they are ready to leave the nest. The food of the parents consists of small soft larvæ of lepidoptera, such as canker worms, tortricids and similar larvæ which they also feed their young in considerable amount, in addition to which small beetles and bugs of almost any

sort are eagerly eaten. They catch quite a bit of their prey on the wing, and I have seen them thus take quantities of adult currant saw-flies, while they also eat large numbers of the larvæ of the currant saw-fly. The male bird sometimes assists in the work of incubation and very rarely indeed even sings while on the nest. He frequently visits and feeds the female while she is incubating, and, in fact, seems a very model and affectionate husband.

## The Occurrence of two Small Hawks in Winter near Portland, Me.

By ARTHUR H. NORTON, Portland.

For some years past I have been made aware of the occasional occurrence in winter of small Hawks in this vicinity. Particular instances now recalled were in 1892, during the incursion of Pine Grosbeaks, when a small Hawk was seen Dec. 19th by my brother, Mr. Ralph Norton, to swoop upon a cage containing two of the Grosbeaks. Again in 1905 a Sharp-shinned Hawk was reported to be wintering in the western part of Portland, and on February 5, 1905, it was identified by Mr. Wm. H. Brownson,<sup>1</sup> who saw it alive and free. Still again on December 30, 1905, I saw at the eastern shore of Portland what I feel sure was a Pigeon Hawk, flying by toward the city.

Both of these species have come to hand this winter in a more satisfactory way. On December 1, 1906, Mr. Ralph Norton shot a male *Falco columbarius* at Westbrook, Me. Its bodily condition was excellent. Its skin is now in my collection. On February 22, 1907, J. A. Coolbroth shot a female of the same species in Scarborough. It is in adult plumage, and is preserved in Mr. Coolbroth's collection. On January 31, 1907, an individual of *Accipiter velox* flew into the grain mill at Westbrook (probably after English Sparrows) and was taken alive. I saw it on Feb. 3rd, after it had died, still in *rigor mortis*, its bright eye hardly faded.

<sup>1</sup> *Portland Daily Advertiser*, February 11, 1905; also JOURNAL Maine Ornithological Society, Vol. VII, p. 21.

## Christmas Bird Census.

Reports of Winter Birds by Members of the Maine Ornithological Society  
During the Week, December 23 to January 1, Inclusive.

During Christmas week in 1905 many members of the Maine Ornithological Society reported their observations of the winter birds of Maine. The Christmas bird census that year was so successful, and of so much permanent value, that it was deemed wise to repeat it this year. Accordingly, members were requested to keep an accurate account of all the birds seen, and the approximate number of each species from the morning of December 23, 1906, until the evening of January 1, 1907. While not so many sent reports this year as last, yet the record shows much diligence and a general effort to make this feature of the Society's work successful. For the most part, the species recorded are those of common occurrence in Maine during the winter months, but here and there a rare specimen is recorded. Pine Grosbeaks seem to be plentiful everywhere; the Lapland Longspur is reported from the Cape Elizabeth coast; Myrtle Warblers are more common than usual this winter at Cape Elizabeth. Captain Spinney sends the only report of Cormorants along the coast, this bird having been fairly plentiful around Seguin. Redpolls are reported fairly plentiful up the State, and one observer reports seeing a Goshawk. This species of Hawk has been quite plentiful in Maine all through the late fall and winter.

The reports sent by different members for the Christmas week, 1906, are as follows:

PROF. LESLIE A. LEE, Brunswick.

List of birds observed in Brunswick and vicinity by L. A. Lee.

Dec. 24th. Cloudy, with sharp northwest wind. Temperature, 23 degrees. 23 Pine Grosbeaks seen in the village, mostly feeding on the seeds of withered crab apples remaining on the trees. In the woods southwest of the village, 4 Chickadees, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 2 American Goldfinches.

Dec. 25th. Cloudy, with high northwest wind and drifting snow. Temperature, 26 degrees. 11 Pine Grosbeaks and 1 Red-breasted

Nuthatch seen on trees in the village. 3 Crows reported one mile west of the village.

Dec. 26th. Cloudy, with southwest wind and snow. Temperature, 20 degrees. 1 Pine Grosbeak on the crab apple tree, and 8 Pine Grosbeaks on elm trees in the village.

Dec. 28th. Cloudy. Temperature, 34 degrees. On walk of three miles across the plains saw 13 Chickadees, 1 small dark bird not identified, 1 Pine Grosbeak and 2 Tree Sparrows.

Dec. 29th. Clear. Temperature, 19 degrees. 11 Pine Grosbeaks flew across the street; 1 Downy Woodpecker and 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch seen on trees in the village. In the woods southwest of the village were seen one large Hawk or Owl (not identified), 5 American Goldfinches, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 11 Crossbills (white-winged so far as identified), 5 Chickadees.

W. H. BROWNSON, Portland.

Observations in Portland, South Portland, Cape Elizabeth and Scarborough, Dec. 23, 1906, to Jan. 1, 1907:

Barred Owl, 1; Acadian Owl, 1; Pine Grosbeak, 12; Lapland Longspur, 4; Snow Bunting, 15; Horned Lark, 10; Herring Gull, 400; White-winged and Surf Scoter, 200; Old Squaw, 50; Crow, 60; Horned Grebe, 2; Loon, 2; Dovekie, 2; Black Guillemot, 3; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Goldfinch, 7; Myrtle Warbler, 20; White-winged and American Crossbill, 30; Northern Shrike, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Chickadee, 25; Song Sparrow, 1; Junco, 1; Blue Jay, 1; Flicker (reported), 1. 29 species, 855 individuals.

DANA W. SWEET, Avon.

I saw the following named species of birds during Christmas week:

Dec. 23rd, 1 Ruffed Grouse, 1 Pine Grosbeak, 14 Redpolls, 3 Golden-crowned Kinglets. Dec. 24th, 11 Redpolls. Dec. 26th, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Blue Jay, 5 Redpolls, 5 Chickadees, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets. Dec. 27th, 1 Hairy Woodpecker, 1 Blue

Jay, 15 Pine Grosbeaks, 3 Redpolls, 5 Chickadees. Dec. 28th, 4 Redpolls, 2 Chickadees. Dec. 29th, 1 Blue Jay, 3 Redpolls. Dec. 30th, 1 Ruffed Grouse, 1 Hairy Woodpecker, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Blue Jay, 5 Redpolls, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 15 Chickadees, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets. Dec. 31st, 3 Redpolls, 5 Chickadees. Jan. 1st, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Blue Jay, 12 Redpolls, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 5 Chickadees. Jan. 2nd, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Blue Jay, 1 Pine Grosbeak, 1 American Crossbill, 17 Redpolls, 6 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 16 Chickadees, 1 Golden-crowned Kinglet. Number of birds, 179; different species, 11.

Jan. 4th, I saw a Brown Creeper, the first one seen since spring.

HERBERT L. SPINNEY, Seguin.

I here submit to you my list of birds seen between Dec. 23rd and 31st.

Dec. 23rd. Wind from east-northeast to northwest fresh with snow squalls. 1 Herring Gull seen. Dec. 24th. Wind northeast, fresh, cloudy and cold. 1 Cormorant (*P. carbo*) seen. Dec. 25th. Wind fresh, with heavy snow squalls. 1 Cormorant seen (*P. carbo*). Dec. 26th. Wind west-northwest to southwest, with snow squalls. 1 Herring Gull, 2 Cormorants (*P. carbo*), 2 White-winged Crossbills, 3 Dovekies. Dec. 27th. Wind southwest, moderate to fresh, warmer. 2 Cormorants (*P. carbo*), 3 Dovekies. Dec. 28th. Wind northeast, moderate, warm and cloudy. 25 Cormorants (*P. carbo*), 5 Black Guillemots, 50 Herring Gulls, 5 Kittiwake Gulls, 4 Dovekies, 4 Crows. Dec. 29th. 1 Cormorant (*P. carbo*). Dec. 30th. 2 White-winged Crossbills. Dec. 31st. Fresh breeze, with rain. 2 Herring Gulls and 1 Black-backed Gull.

The Cormorants are here now, and once in a while a Dovekie and Black Guillemot, but other sea fowl are very scarce. I have seen but 1 Dusky Duck, and 1 Red-breasted Merganser around the island this winter.

F. M. DAVID, Damariscotta.

Sunday, Dec. 23rd. Stormy. Monday, Dec. 24th. 4 Snow-buntings, 10 Juncos, 1 Grouse, 1 Chickadee. Tuesday, Dec. 25th.

Stormy. Wednesday, Dec. 26th. 2 Chickadees, 1 Blue Jay, 2 Herring Gulls. Thursday, Dec. 27th. 7 Crows, 1 Junco, 1 Blue Jay, 1 Robin, 5 Whistlers. Friday, Dec. 28th. 3 Crows, 1 Grosbeak, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch. Saturday, Dec. 29th. 2 Herring Gulls, 3 Crows, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Grosbeak, 1 Grouse. Sunday, Dec. 30th. 5 Whistlers, 3 Crows, 2 Chickadees.

I did not see any English Sparrows for the week, yet early in the season they were very thick around here. They have no doubt become citizens and migrate like true Americans. One solitary old Eagle yet passes up and down the river nearly every day.

J. MERTON SWAIN, Farmington.

Dec. 23rd, saw 3 Pine Grosbeaks and 4 Chickadees in trees near my home in Skowhegan.

Dec. 24th, about town all day ; saw 7 Chickadees and 2 Pine Grosbeaks.

Dec. 25th, snowed hard nearly all day ; saw three Chickadees about town.

Dec. 26th, very rough and windy ; snow drifted badly. Left Skowhegan via electrics for Madison at 6 A. M. ; took a pair of horses to drive to Farmington, but the roads were so badly drifted we turned back ; took train in afternoon to Lewiston ; saw 5 Pine Grosbeaks, 2 Canada Ruffed Grouse near Madison, 1 Goshawk near Leeds Junction.

Dec. 27th, took train from Lewiston for Farmington ; saw 3 Crows near Lewiston. Between North Jay and Farmington I saw 1 Canada Ruffed Grouse, 16 Redpolls, 4 Pine Grosbeaks. From Farmington we went via train to Phillips ; saw 6 American Goldfinches near Strong.

Dec. 28th, went from Phillips to Farmington and took forenoon train to Wilton and drove to North Jay, Jay, Chisholm's and Livermore Falls ; saw 9 Pine Grosbeaks, and a large flock of Redpolls or Siskins, I did not get near enough to tell which.

Dec. 29th, took train to Winthrop, then via electrics to Augusta ; saw 4 Chickadees and 3 Pine Grosbeaks. Took afternoon train to

Waterville and Skowhegan; saw 7 Crows above Augusta on the Kennebec river.

Dec. 30th, was not able to get out of town, so only saw 3 Pine Grosbeaks and 2 Chickadees.

The week was, as a whole, rather unfavorable for bird observation. Then, too, it was an extremely busy one with me, having a year's business to close up, thus affording no time at all to devote to observations, except the birds I saw in the hurried business trips I made into Franklin county.

SARA C. EASTMAN, Portland.

The inclement weather prevented me from carrying out all the plans I had formed for Christmas week, but I will report such observations as I was able to make.

Dec. 23rd, a small flock of Pine Grosbeaks; Dec. 24th, 1 Acadian Owl; Dec. 28th, 52 Herring Gulls, a flock of Chickadees, 4 Red-breasted Nuthatches, and 1 Brown Creeper.

SHERMAN E. PHILLIPS, Canterbury, N. H.

I had some thoughts about the bird census before receiving your card, but was afraid it would be useless, as I am so far from Maine.

Dec. 23rd. Snowing. Saw 2 Pine Grosbeaks. They were feeding on seeds of weeds. Dec. 25th, 8.45 to 10.45. Cloudy and windy. Grouse, 1; Chickadees, 15; Downy Woodpecker, 1. Dec. 28th. Cloudy. 5 Blue Jays. Dec. 29th. Red-breasted Nuthatches, 4; English Sparrows, 12; Grouse, 1. All were seen in Canterbury.

A Robin has been wintering at the Center up to Dec. 16th. A Blue Jay was seen chasing it that day. Since then the Robin has not been seen. I was there about dark the same day and heard the Robin, although I did not see it.

MRS. SARAH RIDEOUT ABBOTT, Saco.

Observations in Saco, Ocean Park and Old Orchard:

Dec. 28th. Fair and mild. Blue Jay, 3; Downy Woodpecker,

1; Old Squaw, 23; Horned Grebe, 18; Loon, 2; Herring Gull, 109; Black-backed Gull, 7; Crow, 52; Shrike, 1; Tree Sparrow, 13; Snow Bunting, 3; Horned Lark, 17; Pine Grosbeak, 9; Chickadee, 25.

Dec. 29th. Fair and mild. Blue Jay, 5; Pine Grosbeak, 15; Tree Sparrow, 11; Myrtle Warbler, 7; Snow Bunting, 17; Horned Lark, 13; Chickadee, 19; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 8; Robin, 2; Partridge, 1; Crow, 83; Gull, 104; Ducks, 28.

Dec. 30th. Mild and overcast. Crow, 92; Herring Gull, 193; Black-backed Gull, 11; White-winged Scoter, 38; Loon, 1; Old Squaw, 51; Tree Sparrow, 5; Shore Lark, 13; Junco, 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Chickadee, 18; Pine Grosbeak, 17; Myrtle Warbler, 3; Redpoll, 5; Goldfinch, 21; Blue Jay, 5; Shrike, 1.

Dec. 31st. Heavy rainstorm. Chickadee, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 5; Crow, 28; Gull, 107; Ducks, 17; Tree Sparrow, 8; Pine Grosbeak, 5.

MRS. ERNEST E. BREWER, Portland.

Birds seen at No. 1 Rackleff St., Woodfords, from Dec. 23, 1906, to Jan. 1, 1907:

Dec. 23rd, flocks of Red Crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks and Chickadees. Dec. 24th, Chickadees. Dec. 25th (stormy), no birds seen. Dec. 26th (fair), no birds seen. Dec. 27th, Chickadees, Pine Grosbeaks, Downy Woodpecker. Dec. 28th, Chickadees, Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged Crossbills. Dec. 29th, Chickadees, White-winged Crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks, Junco, Northern Shrike. Dec. 30th, Downy Woodpeckers, Pine Grosbeaks. Dec. 31st, Crows, Grosbeaks, Downy Woodpecker, Chickadees. Jan. 1st, Owl, Chickadees, Pine Grosbeaks, Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, White-winged Crossbills.

Later in the week, and nearly every day since, a Brown Creeper and a Pine Siskin have been with the flocks of Chickadees and three Downy Woodpeckers. The Nuthatch, since its arrival, nearly lives in our trees from daylight till dark. The Shrike comes daily.

The list seen during the ten days: White-winged Crossbills,

Red Crossbills, Chickadees, Downy Woodpecker (male and female), Crows, Pine Grosbeaks (male and female), Pigeons, Juncos, English Sparrows, Northern Shrike, Owl (large brown, think it was a Barred Owl), White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Pine Siskin.

LOUIS E. LEGGE, Portland.

CAPE ELIZABETH, Dec. 23, 1906.

Myrtle Warbler, 5; Northern Shrike, 1; American and White-winged Crossbill, 30 (estimated); Dovekie, 2; Black Guillemot, 3; Horned Grebe, 1; Old Squaw, 10; Chickadee, 5; Crow, 1; American Goldfinch, 7; Herring Gull, 20.

MRS. CHAS. G. ATKINS, East Orland.

I beg to submit the following list of birds observed in this vicinity during Christmas week, Dec. 23-29, 1906.

Sunday, Dec. 23rd. Pine Grosbeak, 2; Blue Jay, 1; Chickadee, 4; Redpoll, 20; large birds supposed to be Owls, 2. Monday, Dec. 24th. Blue Jay, 1. Tuesday, Dec. 25th. Snowed all day; saw no birds. Wednesday, Dec. 26th. Blue Jay, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 1. Thursday, Dec. 27th. Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Chickadee, 3. Friday, Dec. 28th. Grosbeak, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Chickadee, 3; Redpoll, 30; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1. Saturday, Dec. 29. No birds.

Several Goshawks were seen in this vicinity during December, and one was captured in the act of catching a chicken. As they are rarely seen here in winter, I thought it worth mentioning.

EVERETT E. JOHNSON, Hebron.

I did not get time to go out to hunt up the birds for the Christmas week bird census, but kept my eyes open about my work. Was hauling out cord wood on my own place most of the time and saw the following birds:

Dec. 24th, 4 Chickadees. Dec. 25th, 2 Chickadees. Dec. 26th, 4 Chickadees, 1 Blue Jay. Dec. 27th, saw 1 Crow fly over. Dec. 28th, 2 Chickadees, 1 Blue Jay. Dec. 30th, 3 Chickadees. Jan. 2, saw 9 Pine Grosbeaks feeding on frozen apples.

## MRS. ELIZABETH H. MARKS.

December found us still at our camp in the woods at Orland, Maine, where there are few birds in winter.

Dec. 23rd. Snow storm. Drove through the woods three hours. Saw 2 Chickadees, also 2 birds flew across the road some distance ahead, thought to be small Owls.

Dec. 24th. Cloudy, northeast wind. Started early in the afternoon and drove seven miles. Saw only 5 Chickadees, and one flock of 20 Redpolls.

Dec. 25th. Went out two hours in the forenoon. Saw 4 Chickadees and 1 Downy Woodpecker.

Dec. 26th. Drove six miles. Saw 1 Junco, 4 Chickadees, one flock of 20 Redpolls and another flock estimated at 50.

Dec. 27th. Did not have time to go out for the day. Saw 1 Downy Woodpecker and 1 Brown Creeper.

Dec. 28th. Drove all the afternoon. Saw 2 Downy Woodpeckers, 1 Blue Jay, 8 Pine Grosbeaks, 1 Junco, 12 Chickadees, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets and three flocks of Redpolls, estimated 40 in all.

Dec. 29th. 2 Downy Woodpeckers, 1 Ruffed Grouse, budding at twilight.

In addition to the above were the birds which fed daily at the door: 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 Blue Jays and about 30 Chickadees.

## Recent Occurrences of the Lapland Longspur at Scarborough, Me.

By ARTHUR H. NORTON, Portland.

While at Pine Point, Scarborough, Me., on March 10, 1906, I saw four Longspurs. None were taken. Several were reported by Mr. Wm. H. Brownson, March 11, 1906.<sup>1</sup> While at the same place on December 28, 1906, with Mr. Wm. H. Brownson, we detected the

<sup>1</sup> JOUR. Me. Orn. Soc., Vol. VIII, p. 85.

presence of the bird on the sandy beach of the point. From a flock of four, two were secured. They were so restless that we could not be absolutely sure that there were more than this number, yet it is my belief that there were. This was my only visit to the place that fall, after it was late enough for the birds.

In this JOURNAL several notes on the occurrence of the Longspur at this place have appeared,<sup>1</sup> enough to show that it has been a frequent visitor for the past five years.

It is of much interest in this connection to learn that Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown conducted nearly uninterrupted field work there during the late seventies and early eighties, with the result of finding it but once. Thus it seems certain that it could not have been so frequent at this place.

The past fifteen years has witnessed remarkable changes in this point of sand, and these changes may or may not be responsible for the seeming increased occurrence of the bird.

## Recent Capture of a Jerfalcon at Portland, Me., and Review of Local Records of the Group.

By ARTHUR H. NORTON, Portland.

The specimen of *Falco rusticolus gyrfalco*, represented in Plate I, was killed at North Deering, now a part of Portland, on December 11, 1906. It swooped into the hen yard of Mrs. John Smith on Allen Avenue, killing a large, pugnacious rooster, which it speedily began to devour. The outcry of the poultry attracted attention, which caused the bird to leap to flight, thrusting its head through the wire yard, where it was dispatched with a cudgel by Cyrus Thurlow. It was mounted and is still in the possession of Mrs. Smith.

This account of desperate strength calls to mind that given by Mr. H. A. Purdie,<sup>2</sup> of the specimen with such a remarkable history

<sup>1</sup> JOUR. Me. Orn. Soc., Vol. VI, p. 44, Oct. 31, 1901, five; Vol. VII, p. 79, Nov. 5, 1905, four.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. IV, p. 188.

now in the museum of Brown University, which was caught in the arms of a man as it emerged from beneath a barn where it had pursued a fowl.

The present specimen is considerably darker than the one just mentioned. It was examined by Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown and the writer, both referring it to *gyrfalco* independently of the other. A photographic print of it was also pronounced *gyrfalco* by Dr. Robert Ridgway.

With the presentation of the foregoing record a review of the local specimens seems timely.

At the request of Mr. Nathan C. Brown, I have lately examined the specimen recorded somewhat tentatively by him in April, 1882. As a very small edition of the paper containing his original record was issued, I quote from it: "Although I was able to make but a hasty examination of the specimen before it was taken from the city, I should refer it with little hesitation to the *islandicus* [now *rusticolus*] variety as above."<sup>1</sup>

While in the minds of those who have ever seen the specimen there has been no doubt, the lapse of time and subsequent interpretations<sup>2</sup> of the statement quoted made a critical re-examination seem desirable. Prof. J. Y. Stanton, in whose collection it still is, gave every opportunity to examine it carefully, and with him I am convinced that Mr. Brown's identification was correct, and that the specimen is decidedly *Falco rusticolus*. It may be recalled that it was taken on Cape Elizabeth, Me., October 13, 1877.

Prof. Stanton called my attention to the fact that the Black Jerfalcon in the collection of Mr. Edw. P. Carman<sup>3</sup> was taken on the coast near Portland. On tracing the matter, Mr. Carman has given me the following data: "The Jerfalcon, or Labrador Duck Hawk, I shot in the fall at Spurwink, in the woods across the river from Spurwink House, a place known as Mitchell's."<sup>4</sup> He has since added the following: "The Hawk was in a very tall tree and

<sup>1</sup> Brown, Proc. Portland Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. II, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Brewster, Minot's Land and Game Birds of New Eng., 2nd Ed., p. 479.

<sup>3</sup> Knight, Bull. Univ. of Me., No. 3, p. 64.

<sup>4</sup> Carman, Epist., Jan. 21, 1907.

seemed very stupid, and when I opened it the stomach and throat were full of feathers and flesh. I should have said the Hawk had dined upon Wild Pigeon."<sup>1</sup> As Mr. Carman was away from home, he was unable to furnish the date of the capture.

Hence our local fauna must contain *Falco rusticolus*, *F. r. gyrfalco* and *F. r. obsoletus*. It remains to be said that the specimen of *Falco islandus* in the museum of Bates College, once referred to as a local specimen,<sup>2</sup> was so referred through a misunderstanding, Prof. Stanton assuring me that it was purchased out of the State, and its origin is uncertain.

<sup>1</sup> Carman, Epist., Feb. 14, 1907.

<sup>2</sup> Norton, JOUR. Me. Orn. Soc., Vol. III, p. 6.

# The Journal

of the

## Maine Ornithological Society

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study and Protection of Birds

---

---

Vol. IX

Published March 1, 1907

No. 1

---

---

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$1.00 a year; 25 cents a copy

---

---

The manuscript for Ora W. Knight's new book on "The Birds of Maine" is practically ready and will be sent to the printer during the present month. The volume will be of intense interest to all bird students in the State, and can hardly fail to be very much in demand.

The reports from members on their observations of winter birds during Christmas week seem to be fully up to last year's records. The thanks of the Society are due to all who have contributed so freely to this department, which has come to be one of the most interesting and valuable in the JOURNAL.

The spring migration is close at hand and it is earnestly desired that all members send to the JOURNAL early reports of their observations during April and the first half of May. Items of interest to appear in the June number should be received by the editor not later than May 20th.

In an early number of *Bird-Lore* a sketch of the Maine Ornithological Society, written by Mr. J. Merton Swain, will appear, accompanied by an excellent group photograph of members who were present at the last annual meeting in Portland. In a later issue of the JOURNAL, this history of the Society will be reproduced from *Bird-Lore*.

"Cassinia," an annual devoted to the Ornithology of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, has been received from the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. It contains a sketch of William Bartram, "A Study of the Solitary Vireo," "Summer Birds of Western Pike County, Pennsylvania," "The Concordville Robin and Grackle Roost," and other articles of permanent value.

During a recent visit to Chicago, the editor of the JOURNAL spent a very pleasant morning in the Field Columbian Museum, in company with Mr. Ruthven Deane. This Museum is destined to be one of the leading institutions of the kind in the world. It is now accommodated in the old art building of the World's Fair at Chicago, but the late Marshall Field left \$4,000,000 for a new building which is soon to be erected, and another \$4,000,000 to maintain it. The collection of birds and mammals is especially large and interesting.

## Bird Notes.

Notes and observations upon bird life within our State are earnestly desired from all our readers for publication in this column, and should be sent to the Associate Editor, Frank T. Noble, Augusta, Maine.

We note with much satisfaction the increasing frequency with which the members of our society report to this JOURNAL their ornithological observations. This is an important part of our duties, one to another, and should be shared in by all interested in bird life. The JOURNAL'S columns are always open to contributors of items of general interest relating to Maine birds, and we trust our members will, through this medium, disseminate such knowledge as they personally possess.

A CAPTIVE SHRIKE.—One week ago a Shrike pursued a Sparrow through an open window of our office and into the room. The instant the bird was inside it seemed to realize where it was, for it turned and flew around my head and towards a closed window, where it fluttered against the pane. I was sitting at my desk near this window, and I jumped from my chair and grabbed it with both hands, but not before it had given me an ugly pick on the finger and with force enough to bring the blood. I held the Shrike until I procured a box which had a piece of netting for the cover and into same I placed it, where I had a fine chance to examine it closely. I could not help but notice its ugly bill and claws, and also how solid and thick it was through the chest. The bird seemed to be in fine plumage.

I carried the cage home, where my wife and two boys saw the bird, to their delight, and after supper I took the cage to the door and let it go, when it flew across the yard towards the Promenade.

At different times last winter, I noticed a pair of these same birds on the grounds of the house at the corner of Mountfort and Fore streets, which is a great retreat for Sparrows during the cold season. The boys in the office have seen, a number of times lately, a white Sparrow in about this same locality.

E. R. WILEY.

Portland, Jan. 3d.

EFFECT OF SUDDEN COLD ON THE WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW (*Iridoprocne bicolor*).—I am indebted to Mr. Edward Read, of Cambridge, Mass., for the following information: During a fishing trip at Grand Lake, Washington County, Me., in the last week of May, 1906, the weather turned suddenly cold, the thermometer registering below the freezing point for several days. During this time Mr. Read states that the Swallows could be picked up on the beach and paths leading to the lake, in a thoroughly benumbed condition. Late one afternoon every inch of space on a wire screen covering an open window in the second story of a cabin, used as the cook house, was literally covered with Swallows, huddled together like a swarm of bees. While they had the benefit of such warmth as emanated from the window, they were still sufficiently chilled as to allow one of the guides to scoop many of them into a landing net. They were then brought into the building, where they were kept warm, and liberated the following morning.

Several years ago, while shooting on the Kankakee River in Indiana, the temperature suddenly fell one night and ice formed on the marshes before morning. The White-bellied Swallows had arrived in considerable numbers during the week, and that morning I found them sitting on the lower branches of dead trees, in some cases ten or a dozen closely packed together. They were so benumbed with the cold that when I tapped the branch, only a few feet over my boat, with my paddle, not one took flight. During the next few hours the rays of the sun evidently revived them, for when I again passed the location most of them had flown.

RUTHVEN DEANE.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 15.

TWO RARE BIRDS.—I have lately received a young Little Blue Heron in the white young plumage, shot at Machias; also a Woodcock, with pure white tail and mottled all over with white.

MANLY HARDY.

Brewer, Jan. 15.

CHICKADEES ON HIS FINGER.—I had quite a pleasurable experience with some Chickadees lately. While taking a walk along a road near a strip of woodland looking for birds, I saw about a dozen of these birds flying about. I stretched out my hand and snapped my thumb and finger at them, when, to my great surprise, one of the birds flew from a tree and lit on my middle finger, looked at me a few seconds, then flew away. I repeated the action several times again, when a second bird came and lit on the same finger. Several of the birds attempted to alight on my head. I was much pleased with the confidence displayed by the birds. I could easily have caught the first bird, by placing my forefinger over his feet as he sat on my middle finger. It seems to me this is quite an unusual event among birds and well worth reporting.

H. W. JEWELL.

Farmington, Jan. 16.

AN INCREASED INTEREST IN ORNITHOLOGY IN PORTLAND.—It is very pleasing to note the great deal of interest that is being manifested in bird life about Portland. Not only is this interest keen with the adults, but it also shows itself very marked in our school children. I think this is due, to some extent, to the public meetings held at the rooms of the Natural History Society through the winter months, and to the work of its individual members. Prof. Lee's lantern slides add much that was needed with our bird talks. The slides are instructive and interesting, and there can be no doubt that this method of showing the birds as we find them in their homes and haunts is more entertaining generally than a lecture would be without them. It seems to me that it would be very profitable for the Audubon Societies of the State to own a set of good lantern slides that might be sent from place to place to illustrate the lectures given. The slides are very popular and are bound to bring good results. In my opinion, a great deal of the interest now shown in bird life can be traced directly to Mr. Wm. H. Brownson. Mr. Brownson has worked hard in spreading bird knowledge, giving a great deal of his spare time to addressing school-teachers, pupils,

clubs and societies. In this way he has created an interest in birds that in no better way could be brought about. Mr. Brownson's bird articles, appearing in the *Portland Daily Advertiser* at intervals during the summer and winter, have proven of great interest to bird lovers. These articles are not only interesting but instructive, and are looked forward to by a large number of readers with much pleasure.

LOUIS E. LEGGE.

Portland, Feb. 5.

ALBINISM IN THE ENGLISH SPARROW.—During the spring and summer of 1906 I had a treat watching an English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), which was a partial albino. The bird was a female; her head was almost white, with some white spots on the neck and wings. She had a nest behind the G. A. R. sign on one of the brick blocks here, near the post office, and just across the street from Keyes Square, where I live. I noticed her in the spring, summer and up into the fall, when all at once she was seen no more. The boys were shooting the sparrows with air guns, and perhaps they killed her. I shall keep looking for her, and if I don't see her again, if she hatched her eggs, there may be a bird having the same peculiarity.

An amusing incident connected with this Sparrow is worth telling. A blacksmith, whose shop is just across the street from where the Sparrow lived, was asked if he had noticed the Sparrow with the white head. He replied he had seen the bird with the egg-shell on its head, he having thought that the shell had stayed on the bird's head since it was hatched.

H. W. JEWELL.

Farmington, Jan. 16.

HUDSONIAN CHICKADEE AT CAPE ELIZABETH.—On Jan. 13, 1907, the Hudsonian Chickadee was discovered with a flock of Black Caps. My attention was first called by a strange note which I did not recognize; I investigated and caught a glimpse of a bird, but not sufficient to recognize same. I followed the flock through a

pine grove, going knee deep in the snow at every step, and I got a second glimpse and distinctly saw the brown head of my strange bird, but lost it again, the whole flock disappearing. On my way homeward I came across the flock again and immediately saw the Hudsonian within a few feet of me; I kept my glasses on it as long as I wanted, and leisurely watched it fly from tree to tree, feeding as it went. Mr. W. H. Brownson was with me on this morning and I much regret that we were separated at each time I saw this bird. That afternoon I invited Mr. Arthur H. Norton to accompany me for the purpose of again locating the bird (and, if possible, to secure the specimen), but failed to find it.

LOUIS E. LEGGE.

Portland, Feb. 1.

THE TENNESSEE WARBLER.—Looking over a copy of your paper for the first time, and noting more or less items of the Warblers in Maine, I thought perhaps a few lines relative to a Tennessee Warbler might be acceptable. We spend as much of each summer in Maine as is possible, and in June last, while at Machiasport, were driving along a road bordering close to a salt water marsh at the upper end of Machias Bay. A strange song, very clear and very sweet, at once attracted my attention, and a short search from the roadside revealed the little singer, a Tennessee Warbler, sitting in a small hackmatack tree, about eight feet from the ground, and at frequent intervals lifting up his head and swelling out his throat in song. He was very tame and allowed of quite close approach, as he fed and sang alternately. In his movement he was very leisurely and allowed me to watch him carefully for ten or fifteen minutes. It was very thick shrubbery, intermixed with hackmatacks and firs, and he at last flew up a short distance away to continue his singing, as we left him. Never having the good fortune to see this little Warbler in Maine before, I thought myself very fortunate in the opportunity, as I believe he is considered very rare.

FRANK A. BROWN.

Beverly, Mass., Dec. 4, 1906.

NOTES FROM DOVER.—My opportunities for bird observation have been limited this winter, but we have enjoyed the Pine Grosbeaks, which have been very abundant about our streets for the last month, and, in fact, since about Dec. 12th. I see them mainly in small flocks of from three to seven or eight, but one morning sixteen individuals, all females or young, were seen feeding in a single large maple at the corner of Pleasant and Court Sts. I have observed very few males.

We had at least two Snowy Owls about town for a few days, and one of them attracted a crowd of observers one afternoon as it perched on the weather-vane of the Congregational Church spire, but on the following day it lost its life as a reward for its confidence in its old enemy, man. What a pity that the average young man can see nothing in our larger birds but a target for his gun, and esteem a stuffed specimen of more esthetic value than the living, active bird, fulfilling its natural mission in life.

A few Goshawks, Barred and Horned Owls have come in to our local taxidermist, and a few flocks of Snow Buntings have been seen, but no Larks as yet. We usually have a small flock in our vicinity all winter, as they breed only a few miles out, but the severity of the season, coupled with the heavy snowfall in this part of the State, may have affected their food supply.

SANFORD RITCHIE.

Dover, Me., Feb. 1.

MYRTLE WARBLERS AT CAPE ELIZABETH.—For the fourth winter Myrtle Warblers have been observed around Delano Park and Pond Cove at Cape Elizabeth. During the three winters before this, not more than six or eight of these birds have been observed to winter in that locality. During the past winter, however, at least twenty have stayed there. I have no doubt that the number has been somewhat lessened toward the latter part of the winter by the depredation of the Northern Shrikes which have been observed in that vicinity. It seems to me that four successive winters, during which Myrtle Warblers have been observed at the Cape during the months of December, January and February, form a basis on which it may be asserted that the Myrtle Warbler is a permanent resident in southern Maine.

W. H. BROWNSON.

Portland, Feb. 15, 1907.

PORTLAND BIRD NOTES.—Robins have not been uncommon in the towns around Portland during the past winter. At least five of these birds have wintered at Cape Elizabeth, and there are reports of others in different localities. These winter Robins are distinguished by unusually bright plumage, especially as regards the red and white of the under parts.

A Flicker has been living in the vicinity of the Western Promenade, in Portland, all winter. One man reports seeing two of these birds.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch, which was so plentiful during the fall in this section, has not been unusually abundant during the winter, about the same number being seen as in other seasons.

At Pine Point there has been the usual flock of Snow Buntings and Horned Larks. With them at least four Lapland Longspurs were observed by Mr. Norton and myself during Christmas week.

Crossbills have been plentiful all winter, having been seen on nearly every excursion I have made into the country. The White-winged Crossbill largely predominated, although there were a few Red Crossbills.

In back cove, beyond Tukey's bridge, entirely within the city limits, there has been a large flock of sea birds during the winter, especially while the weather has been coldest. These are Red-legged Black Ducks, American Golden-eye, and Buffleheads. They were associated with the Herring Gulls and have been in evidence almost every day when the tide served right for their purpose. A Bald Eagle was seen on the ice in this same locality one day in February.

Several Dovekies and Black Guillemots were observed near Pond Cove, on the Cape Elizabeth coast, during Christmas week. These birds are always to be seen around the outer islands, but not so commonly from the Cape shore.

December 9th, at the Cape, I saw a Fox Sparrow feeding on weeds which remained above the snow. This is the latest record that I have of this species.

W. H. BROWNSON.

Portland, Feb. 15, 1907.





(Standing) Hiram Ellis Fred B. Spaulding W. H. Brownson, Editor Sherman E. Phillips  
 Mrs. A. E. Marks Thos. J. Emery Miss Etta Parker Mrs. A. H. Norton Miss E. W. Russell F. M. David  
 (Front row) J. Menton Swain, Sec'y.-Treas. Leslie A. Lee, Pres. Arthur H. Norton

# The Journal

of the

## Maine Ornithological Society

Published by the Society on the first of March, June, September and December

---

---

Vol. IX

JUNE, 1907

No. 2

---

---

### History of the Maine Ornithological Society.

By J. MERTON SWAIN.

The association known as "The United Ornithologists of Maine" was founded by Stephen J. Adams, of Cornish, Maine, Jan. 1, 1893. It was conducted for two years as a correspondence society without officers. During this period an attempt was made at organization, and a constitution was drafted, but owing to the unsatisfactory results of the correspondence method and to certain contentions that arose, the idea was abandoned.

Increased interest, however, in the subject of ornithology in the autumn of 1894 warranted a second trial. Another constitution was drafted Jan. 1, 1895, and a permanent organization was effected by the election of :

*President*, Stephen J. Adams, Cornish, Maine.

*Vice-President*, Charles B. Wilson, Waterville, Maine.

*Secretary*, William L. Powers, Gardiner, Maine.

*Treasurer*, Ralph Rockwood, Waterville, Maine.

The charter members were indeed few, as will be seen by the following list :

Stephen J. Adams, Cornish, Maine.

William L. Powers, Gardiner, Maine.

A. P. Larrabee, Gardiner, Maine.

Ralph Rockwood, Waterville, Maine.

Charles B. Wilson, Waterville, Maine.

Maurice Royal, Gardiner, Maine.

It was the plan of the founders to publish a list of all birds that breed in the State, map their faunal areas, and add a list of migrants.

At the close of 1895 the ranks contained thirty-five members, yet no active work had been done.

Early in 1896 new officers were elected and the work of the society began to take a definite shape. The following were chosen officers for 1896 :

*President*, James Carroll Mead, North Bridgton, Maine.

*Vice-President*, Everett E. Johnson, Lewiston, Maine.

*Secretary and Treasurer*, Ora W. Knight, Bangor, Maine.

President Mead at once entered upon a campaign of reform by appointing Mr. Adams, Mr. Lane and Mr. Powers a committee to revise the constitution. Negotiations were entered into with the leading papers of the State for space in which to publish the transactions, and the *Maine Sportsman*, a monthly published in Bangor, was decided upon as the most suitable organ.

In the March number of that year was a page devoted to our interests, edited by Ora W. Knight, of Bangor, and each succeeding issue contained a like amount of information, valuable to the student of ornithology.

In the April number of 1895, the committee on new constitution reported their final draft, and in the May number, President Mead was able to report its unanimous adoption by the society.

On Dec. 28-29, 1896, the society held its first annual meeting in the High School building at Gardiner. The following officers were elected for 1897 :

*President*, A. H. Norton, Westbrook, Maine.

*Vice-President*, Ora W. Knight, Bangor, Maine.

*Secretary and Treasurer*, William L. Powers, Gardiner, Maine.

*Councilor*, A. L. Lane, Waterville, Maine.

*Councilor*, James Carroll Mead, North Bridgton, Maine.

Five new members were elected at this meeting. Previous to this meeting, none of the members, outside of the Gardiner branch, had ever met.

In the spring of 1897 the hopes and ambitions of the members of the society were realized in the publication of "The Birds of Maine," under the able editorship of Ora W. Knight, of Bangor, the list having been prepared under the auspices of the society. Such was the demand for this careful and concise work that the supply was soon exhausted.

One of the best and most enthusiastic meetings the society ever held was its second annual meeting, held in the rooms of the Portland Society of Natural History, in Portland, Dec. 31, 1897, and Jan. 1, 1898. All the officers were present and a goodly number of members. Twenty-nine new members were elected and several valuable scientific papers were read, among them one of especial interest, "How I Became an Ornithologist," by Hon. George A. Boardman, of Calais, the pioneer naturalist of the St. Croix Valley. These papers were placed in the hands of Editor Mead, for publication in the official organ, *The Maine Sportsman*. Messrs. Lane, Hitchings and Knight were appointed a committee to consider a new and appropriate name for the society and to report at the next meeting. The society, too, voted to make a special study of a family of birds, by each member, and make reports at each annual meeting.

At the third annual meeting, held in Waterville, it was voted to change the name of the society to "The Maine Ornithological Society." A proposition made by Mr. Knight to publish the proceedings of the society separately was accepted, and Clarence H. Morrell, of Pittsfield, was elected editor, with Mr. Knight as publisher. It was voted to call the new publication, "THE JOURNAL of the Maine Ornithological Society." To Mr. Powers belongs the honor of suggesting the name of the society, and to James Carroll Mead, for the name adopted for "THE JOURNAL."

The first number of the JOURNAL appeared as a quarterly, in January, 1899, and the three following numbers, with an average of ten pages, were well filled with material of much interest to students of Maine birds. Owing to Mr. Morrell's ill health, he declined to serve as editor of Vol. II, and at the fourth annual meeting, held in Brunswick, Mr. J. Merton Swain, of Portland, was elected to suc-

ceed Mr. Morrell as editor. At the completion of Vol. II, Mr. Swain assumed the publication of the JOURNAL, too. Slowly, but surely, it was enlarged and put on a better paying basis by increasing the advertising and enlarging the subscription list. Mr. Swain was re-elected for five consecutive years. At the close of Vol. VI, owing to pressure of business, and the conviction that for that reason he could not do justice to the JOURNAL, and to the fact that he was chosen by Mr. Knight to serve on the committee to assist in writing "The Revised List of the Birds of Maine," Mr. Swain resigned the office of editor and was elected secretary and treasurer. Mr. W. H. Brownson, of Portland, was then elected editor by the society, and under his management the JOURNAL has continued to improve and increase in value and popularity. Still greater improvements are in contemplation as fast as a larger list of members and subscribers can be added. Many papers of interest, relative to Maine birds, have been published from time to time. In Vol. V, No. 4, began a series of papers, "Notes on the Finches Found in Maine," by Arthur H. Norton, and concluded in Vol. VI, No. 3. In Vol. VI, No. 2, began a series of papers, "Contributions to the Life Histories of the Warblers Found in Maine," written by Mr. O. W. Knight and Mr. Swain, and these are still being published in the current volume. For several years the members have been making spring and fall migration reports. The results have been tabulated by Mr. Dana W. Sweet, and published from time to time in the JOURNAL.

The society at once became prominent in the work of protecting the breeding colonies of sea birds when the wave of sentiment swept the whole country to stop the wanton destruction of birds for plumage to adorn millinery. It at once responded to the call to assist from the "A. O. U." committee on protection, and the "Audubon Society" committee, and much valuable assistance was rendered along this line. The adoption of the A. O. U. uniform bird law by our State Legislature was effected solely through the efforts of our society.

## Contributions to the Life History of the American Redstart.

*Genus setophaga* (Swainson).

(Taken from the "Birds of Maine" by permission of the author, Ora W. Knight).

687. *Setophaga ruticilla* (Linn.). American Redstart.

Plumage of adult male: Above, shining black, rather slightly browner on wings and tail; basal half of wing feathers and basal portion of all but the inner tail feathers, salmon; throat and breast, black; sides of breast and flank, deep reddish salmon; belly, white, tinged with salmon. Plumage of adult female: Back, ashy; head, grayish; basal portions of wing and tail feathers, dull yellow in female instead of salmon; sides of breast and flanks, yellow; otherwise, white below. Immature plumage: In general very similar to the female, rather browner above, the yellow underparts lighter yellow or merely yellow tinged, and the basal portions of the wing and tail feathers paler yellow; the immature males assume patches of black above and on the throat and breast with their first nuptial plumage, and the second year, as a rule, become indistinguishable from adult males. Wing, 2.50; tail, 2.32. Bill with bristles at base.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.—North America, breeding from North Carolina and Arkansas to Labrador and Fort Simpson, and in Utah, Idaho, eastern Washington and British Columbia; wintering in the West Indies, eastern Mexico, Yucatan, Guatemala and Ecuador.

COUNTY RECORDS.—Androscoggin, common summer resident (Johnson). Aroostook, common (Batchelder, B. N. O. C. 7, p. 110); common in the Woolastook Valley (Knight). Cumberland, common summer resident (Mead). Franklin, common summer resident (Swain). Hancock, common summer resident (Knight). Kennebec, abundant summer resident (Sanborn). Knox, summer (Rackliff). Oxford, common (Nash). Penobscot, very common summer resident (Knight). Piscataquis, common summer resident (Homer). Sagadahoc, common summer resident

(Spinney). Somerset, common summer resident (Morrell). Waldo, common in 1894 and 1899 at Hlesboro (Howe, J. M. O. S. 1900, p. 31); common summer resident (Knight). Washington, very abundant summer resident (Boardman).

Mr. Brown found the species near Portland as early as May 10th, and from that date to the twenty-second it arrived in spring, and remained until September or even to October 9th. At Bangor it arrives about May 15th and the last stragglers are gone by September 28th. They frequent the rather open, hard woods, thickets, roadside deciduous trees, clumps of tall shrubbery, the bushy and tree-lined banks of streams and ponds, and, in general, rather open, deciduous growth. They prefer to keep fairly well up in the trees, as a rule, peering around in the foliage and about the limbs, eating various larvæ of moths, butterflies, eggs of various insects, beetles, lice, and catching on the wing flies, mosquitoes, gnats, perlids, caddis flies, winged ants and similar insects. As they pass through the foliage in short flights, they have a peculiar habit of expanding their tails so as to show the yellow or salmon-colored basal portions, also often drooping their wings.

The male sings frequently, and I would render the commoner type of song as "chee, che, che, pa-pa." In "Warbler Songs," p. 36, it is variously rendered as follows: "che, che, che, che-pa"; "wee-see, wee-see-we," while Mr. Chapman is quoted as giving it the utterance of "ching ching chee, ser-wee, scr-wee, swee, swee-e-e-e." The female occasionally sings portions of these notes. As alarm notes I have heard them utter a "c-h-e-a-p" in a plaintive tone, but more often it is a "chip" or a "chick."

The nests are placed quite variously, sometimes thirty to forty feet from the ground in the crotch of a maple or elm, occasionally in some other hard wood tree at a good elevation, but more frequently the nests are placed lower down, at heights varying from six to eighteen feet, in second-growth maple, birch and beech thickets, or in willow, poplar and elm saplings along the bank of a river or stream and in a thicket. A nest found in the fork of a maple sapling, eight feet from the ground, near the shore of the Stillwater

River, on a small wooded island, contained five eggs on June 2nd, 1896. Three other nests, containing four and five eggs, were found in similar situations on the same island, which was not over two acres in extent. These nests were all at heights of six to eight feet, in forks around which small, bushy shoots had sprung up, and near the shores of the island. The one first mentioned is composed of fine, silken vegetable fibers, willow cotton, and fine threadlike bark, mixed with numerous spiders' cocoons, held together with spider's web, and lined with fine grass and a few feathers. This nest is three inches in depth outside, by one and a half inside; the outside diameter is three, and the inside diameter, one and a half inches. The eggs measure  $0.69 \times 0.51$ ,  $0.66 \times 0.49$ ,  $0.66 \times 0.50$ ,  $0.67 \times 0.50$ ,  $0.66 \times 0.50$ . In general, the nests are always well cupped and firmly and compactly built, having a very distinctive appearance, as a rule. Four or five eggs seems to be the usual number laid. The ground color varies from white to greenish or grayish white, speckled and spotted with cinnamon and olive brown and lilac gray. Some eggs are spotted quite evenly all over, but all have a tendency to be most heavily marked toward the larger ends, the marks being arranged in a circle about the crowns of the eggs. Usually the spots are fine, so that the eggs are not wreathed by a confluence of the spots, but I have seen eggs as heavily wreathed as those of the Yellow Warbler.

In general it takes a week or ten days to build the nest, and the female attends to this as well as the task of incubation. I am not aware that the male feeds her while on the nest, though he is generally singing not far distant. It seems often the case that where the male bird is brighter colored and more apt to attract attention he does not venture near the nest, as a rule, but when harm threatens, the cries and calls of his mate speedily bring him to take his share of the trouble. I have seen a male Redstart feed the young after they had left the nest and very rarely indeed carry food to them when they were nearly ready to leave. The incubation period is sometimes only twelve days, though I have known it to take fourteen for the eggs to hatch. The young leave the nest in fourteen days, as a rule. Only one brood is reared in a season with us. The female carries away the excreta of the young in her bill and drops these at some distance from the nest.

## Migration Reports, 1906.

Reports for 1906 were made by: Arthur H. Norton, W. H. Brownson, George P. Jackson and Sara C. Eastman, Portland, Cumberland County; Sarah R. Abbott, Saco, York County; Augusta D. Robinson, Bowdoinham, Sagadahoc County; Mabel P. Ridley, Castine, Hancock County; Everett E. Johnson, Hebron, Oxford County; D. W. Sweet, Avon, Franklin County.

	PORTLAND.	SACO, NEWTON, M. CASTINE, HEBRON, AVON.
Fied-billed Grebe,	Sept. 1	May 19
Horned Grebe,	Feb. 19	Apr. 30
Northern Loon,	Dec. 28	June 28
Gannet,	Oct. 9	Mch. 7
Dovekie,	Dec. 30	May 22
Pomarine Jaeger,	Aug. 30	Jan. 6
Black-backed Gull,	" 4	Aug. 2
American Herring Gull,		May 7
Bonaparte's Gull,		Apr. 27
Common Tern,		Mch. 1
American Merganser,	Apr. 20	Nov. 17
Red-breasted Merganser,	Feb. 19	" 20
Black Duck,	" 12	Apr. 9
American Golden-eye Duck,	Apr. 8	Mch. 4
Bufflehead Duck,	Feb. 7	May 21
Longtail Duck,	Dec. 28	Apr. 14
American Eider Duck,	Aug. 30	Apr. 27
American Scoter,		" 9
White-winged Scoter,	Oct. 14	" 8
Surf Scoter,	" 14	" 14
Canada Goose,	Feb. 28	Apr. 9
Hutchins' Canada Goose,	Oct. 13	Apr. 27
American Bittern,	Apr. 12	July 7
Blue Heron,	May 17	" 1
Green Heron,	Apr. 18	June 7
	" 27	" 3
		May 26
		" 21
		" 13
		Apr. 27
		Aug. 11
		Oct. 31
		" 26
		Aug. 11
		" 16
		" 29

Black-crowned Night Heron,	Apr. 18	July 7	June 1
Yellow-crowned Night Heron,	" 13		
Sora,	Sept. 12		
Red Phalarope,	Oct. 16		
American Woodcock,	Apr. 4	May 28	
Wilson's Snipe,	" 22		
Dowitcher,	Aug. 4	Apr. 12	Apr. 29
Pectoral Sandpiper,	Aug. 5		
White-rumped Sandpiper,	Sept. 5		
Least Sandpiper,	Nov. 18		
Red-backed Sandpiper,	May 13		
Semi-palmated Sandpiper,	Aug. 9	Aug. 2	" 5
Sanderling,	" 30	Nov. 17	
Greater Yellowlegs,	" 4	July 31	
Lesser Yellowlegs,	May 10	Oct. 13	" 5
Solitary Sandpiper,	{ May 10		May 19
Bartramian Sandpiper,			" 13
Spotted Sandpiper,	Apr. 26	May 8	" 13
Hudsonian Curlew,	Aug. 29	Oct. 3	Aug. 11
Black-bellied Plover,	Sept. 10	May 12	Apr. 29
Golden Plover,	Aug. 12	May 6	" 29
Piping Plover,			
Semi-palmated Plover,	Aug. 17		
Ruddy Turnstone,	" 12		
Marsh Hawk,	" 9		
Sharp-shinned Hawk,	Apr. 8	Apr. 9	" 23
Cooper's Hawk,	" 27	Apr. 2	" 4
American Goshawk,	Oct. 22	Apr. 9	" 23
Red-tailed Hawk,	May 9		
Red-shouldered Hawk,	Apr. 1	Apr. 21	Apr. 14
Broad-winged Hawk,	" 27	May 20	" 28
Bald Eagle,	" 17	June 3	May 3
Gyrfalcon,	Dec. 11		
Sparrow Hawk,	Mch. 26	" 27	" 30
Pigeon Hawk,	Dec. 1	Apr. 25	Apr. 18
Fish Hawk,	Apr. 5	" 20	" 25
Gray Owl,		Sept. 22	Dec. 30

Saw-whet Owl,	May 13	Feb. 18	Dec. 24	Jan. 18	May 26	May 12	May 26	Mch. 2
Snowy Owl,	Apr. 17	June 4	July 1	May 11	May 26	May 12	May 26	July 1
Black-billed Cuckoo,		Apr. 14	June 20	Apr. 26			" 20	Apr. 16
Belted Kingfisher,								Feb. 1
American Three-toed Woodpecker,	May 13	" 17	" 13	June 2	Apr. 17	Apr. 19	Apr. 25	Apr. 16
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker,	Apr. 14	" 1	Apr. 17	Apr. 21	Apr. 17	Apr. 19	" 19	" 20
Golden-winged Woodpecker,	" 30	May 6	" 30	June 1	May 5	May 2	May 2	May 2
Whip-poor-will,	May 18	May 6	May 24	May 26	" 8	May 30	" 29	" 22
Nighthawk,	" 13							
Swift,		" 13	June 2	June 2	" 1	" 13	" 7	" 5
Chimney Swift,	" 20	" 20	May 18	May 18	" 7	" 20	" 24	" 26
Ruby-throated Hummingbird,	" 4	" 6	" 20	" 20	" 12	" 14	" 9	" 13
Kingbird,					" 16			" 18
Crested Flycatcher,	June 2	Apr. 9	June 29	June 29	" 1	Apr. 14	" 9	Apr. 9
Phoebe,	Apr. 4	Apr. 9	Apr. 14	Apr. 26	" 1	Apr. 14	" 19	Apr. 9
Olive-sided Flycatcher,	May 20	May 20	June 2	June 2	" 15	May 26	" 19	May 19
Wood Pewee,	" 30		May 30	" 29				" 30
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher,	" 21	" 21	June 2	" 1	" 13	" 14	" 13	" 13
Alder Flycatcher,	" 6	" 6	May 26	May 26	" 14	" 14	" 13	" 13
Least Flycatcher,	Dec. 28		Nov. 17	Nov. 17	Mch. 8			
Horned Lark,	Mch. 11		" 17	" 17				
Prairie Horned Lark,								
Northern Raven,								
American Crow,								
Bobolink,	May 5	" 5	May 12	May 19	May 6	May 14	May 15	May 13
Cowbird,	Apr. 18	Apr. 27	Apr. 18	Apr. 23	Jan. 1	Jan. 1	Jan. 26	Feb. 24
Red-winged Blackbird,	" 8	" 8	" 12	Apr. 7	Apr. 23	May 14	May 15	May 13
Meadowlark,	" 6	" 9	June 19	June 19	Apr. 5	Apr. 14	Apr. 18	Apr. 14
Oriole,	May 14			Mch. 31			Oct. 30	July 6
Baltimore Oriole,		May 15	May 21	June 3	May 19		May 13	May 16
Rusty Blackbird,		Apr. 1	Apr. 4	Apr. 7	Apr. 28		Oct. 15	Apr. 17
Bronzed Grackle,		" 8	" 14	" 7	" 24	Apr. 4	Oct. 15	Oct. 2
Fine Grosbeak,	Nov. 11	Nov. 11	Mch. 10	Dec. 23	" 2	Apr. 19	Apr. 17	Apr. 15
Purple Finch,	Feb. 25			Apr. 6	" 2	Feb. 24	Nov. 28	Sept. 20
American Crossbill,				Nov. 4			Mch. 8	Feb. 1
White-winged Crossbill,	Nov. 3			" 4		" 24		Jan. 1
Redpoll,	" 3						Nov. 24	Oct. 31



Nashville Warbler,	May 6	May 6	May 5	May 26	May 7	May 13	May 18
Tennessee Warbler,	" 6	" 6	" 13	" 13	" 13	" 14	" 18
Northern Parula Warbler,	" 6	" 6	" 15	" 20	" 12	" 16	" 14
Yellow Warbler,	" 6	" 6	" 13	" 18	" 13	" 17	" 13
Black-throated Blue Warbler,	Apr. 29	Apr. 29	Apr. 29	June 3	" 1	" 1	" 14
Myrtle Warbler,	May 6	" 6	May 11	May 14	Apr. 27	" 1	" 1
Magnolia Warbler,	" 8	" 13	" 8	May 27	May 14	" 16	" 14
Chestnut-sided Warbler,	" 20	" 20	June 30	" 20	" 21	" 16	" 16
Bay-breasted Warbler,	" 25	" 10	" 25	Sept. 29	" 14	" 16	" 23
Black-poll Warbler,	" 6	" 6	" 6	" 20	" 14	" 30	" 15
Blackburnian Warbler,	" 5	" 5	" 5	May 19	" 13	" 16	" 13
Black-throated Green Warbler,	Apr. 16	Apr. 16	Apr. 18	" 12	" 6	" 16	" 6
Pine Warbler,	" 14	" 18	" 20	Apr. 26	Apr. 16	Apr. 23	July 2
Yellow Palm Warbler,	May 6	May 6	May 6	May 11	May 13	May 13	May 13
Ovenbird,	" 8	" 10	" 10	May 19	May 13	May 13	" 13
Water Thrush,	Sept. 17						
Connecticut Warbler,							
Mourning Warbler,	" 6	" 6	" 6	" 16	" 7	June 1	June 1
Northern Yellowthroat,	" 11	May 15	" 11	" 20	" 12	May 16	May 16
Wilson Warbler,	" 18	" 18	" 18	" 26	" 12	" 18	" 20
Canadian Warbler,	" 6	" 6	" 13	" 20	" 17	" 18	" 18
Redstart,					" 11	" 16	" 14
American Pipit,					" 4	" 4	" 10
Mockingbird,						Sept. 20	Sept. 20
Catbird,	Apr. 22		" 15	" 18	" 27	" 24	May 13
Brown Thrasher,	May 10	" 4	" 14	" 19	" 14	" 13	" 13
Winter Wren,				June 3		Oct. 30	Apr. 22
Brown Creeper,	Apr. 15	Apr. 18	Apr. 28	Apr. 13	Apr. 11	Apr. 14	Feb. 1
Hudsonian Chickadee,	" 16	" 16	Apr. 17	" 26	May 9	" 21	June 22
Ruby-crowned Kinglet,	May 17	May 14	May 17	May 18	Apr. 20	Apr. 20	Apr. 20
Veery,					May 22	May 17	Sept. 29
Bicknell's Thrush,	" 11	" 25	" 19	" 19	May 22	June 17	June 22
Olive-backed Thrush,	Apr. 17	Apr. 13	Apr. 21	" 9	Apr. 17	Apr. 18	Apr. 14
Hermit Thrush,	" 4	" 4	" 2	Mch. 15	Mch. 31	" 1	" 4
Kobin,	Mch. 26	" 1	" 3	" 6	Apr. 4	" 7	" 3
Bluebird,							

## Winning the Heart of a Red-eyed Vireo.

By PROF. WM. T. FOSTER, Bowdoin College.

For parts of three summers I have watched the birds at "Crowlands," in Chocorua, New Hampshire. This was the summer home of Frank Bolles, the author of many nature books. In the old orchard, on the shore of Lake Chocorua, and at the foot of the mountain, he had used every means of attracting birds. There were nests in almost every tree. It was to him, and to those who succeeded him in that secluded spot, a great joy to try to win the hearts of the birds.

One summer a Red-eyed Vireo built her nest in a great, old apple tree near my window. I decided to win the confidence of this little bird, the shyest of all in the orchard. I had made up my mind that the ordinary method of approaching birds, under cover of a green or brown gauze, would not do. The approach of such a clumsy object, as a person is sure to be under such a cover, will frighten any bird less timid and inquisitive than a Chickadee. Certainly, such objects are not familiar in the woodlands.

My first approach to the nest, where the mother bird sat, was under cover of a birch tree about seven feet high, which I carried in my hands. At the ends of the branches next to the nest were tempting worms and ants. The familiar tree did not frighten the bird, and she devoured the feast. Each day, before I approached, I cut off about a foot of the tree and some of the foliage. At the end of a week, the vireo and her mate were accepting good things from the end of a twig about a foot long. At the end of ten days she was eating from my hand, while the male bird was perched on a branch six inches away. From that time on, they apparently had no fear, and it was fun to help the mother bird to teach the fledglings to fly. Though I have never seen this method of winning the hearts of birds described in any of the journals, it is the most successful method I have tried.

## Bird Notes from East Winthrop, Me.

By A. L. LANE.

The eastern part of the town of Winthrop, bordering on Lake Cobbosseecontee, has such a variety of conditions, lake, woods, orchards, and meadows, that it presents to a lover of bird life unusual opportunities for observation.

In the late fall the White-bellied Nuthatch was seen very frequently on the large, white maples which border our front lawn, until at least mid-winter, but it has not been noticed since. The Hairy Woodpecker was also a winter resident. The Juncos have been abundant and very neighborly. The Chickadees used to come to a shelf on a maple in the dooryard, to get their share of the food placed on it for a pair of red squirrels, which have been fed as half-tamed pets through the winter.

The Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*), "the Fox-colored Sparrow," as Prof. Hamlin gave it in his list of the birds of Kennebec County, was one of the earlier birds to be noted. A single pair were first seen near the maple in the side yard, busily scratching for the crumbs which fell from the squirrel's table. Later a group of five or six came to the same place and gave us excellent opportunities to hear their "beautiful song," which proved them to be among "the most accomplished vocalists of their tribe." That these Sparrows soon disappeared from the neighborhood confirms the statement that they must be considered as migrants through our country. About the same time came the Bluebirds in goodly numbers, and on the first week in April, during a snow storm, in a group under the same tree in the dooryard, fourteen Robins were counted. The sweet, soft, plaintive note of the Bluebird, "the herald of spring," is always welcome as marking the transition period from winter to spring.

Blackbirds of several varieties have been very abundant and jubilant in song in this locality, until now they seem to be breaking from groups into pairs, preparatory to home-making. A large apple tree with branches as full of Blackbirds as they will be later of

fruit, or a tall pine tree with Blackbirds equalling in number its cones, and all these birds apparently singing at once, makes a concert to which it is well worth while to listen.

The Red-winged Blackbirds, "Firewings" I have heard them called here, have been abundant. The Crow Blackbirds are also numerous, but the Cow Blackbirds do not seem quite so large in number, although quite common. The parasitical habit of this bird in laying its egg in the nest of some other bird, usually a smaller bird, is well known. I have twice seen instances in Waterville of some small bird like the Maryland Yellow-throat, feeding and caring for the young of the Cow Blackbird, the young being much larger than its tiny foster-mother.

The Bobolink is just now one of the most prominent birds of this locality, and his rollicking song is one of the happiest and most inspiring that anyone can well imagine. Throw open the windows and let in the glad music, or better yet, go out into open fields and hear it more clearly and see if it doesn't bring cheer and gladness, like sunshine after rain or like good news from a far country! What a name the Skunk Blackbird is for such a singer! And yet we can see that his coloring, the mixture of black and white and yellowish white, makes the name very appropriate. How often the gladness of his song may cover anxiety of heart as he sings to call away attention from his mate sitting on the eggs or young in the nest, her color closely mimicking the dry stubble in which the nest is placed.

The Orioles have returned again, the male gaily dressed in the red and black of Lord Baltimore, while his mate wears duller colors for safety, as is the custom in bird families, the male wearing bright colors, while his mate wears duller colors, often imitating her surroundings on the nest. The sharp call of the Oriole is just now at its best, and hammock-like nests, still hanging from the spreading limbs of the elms, mark the location of their last year's summer homes. The shores of our lake abound in summer cottages, many of them equipped with all the modern conveniences, and launches, row boats, canoes, hammocks, fishing rods and lines are coming into use with the sea-

son, but no summer visitor has a more cosy and happy home than these beautiful birds, so gay in dress and in song. How wisely they select the best limbs, strong and remote from danger, on which to hang their hammock-like nests, and with what unerring skill they fashion their wind-rocked cradles!

A pair of White-throated Sparrows were seen one day about the middle of May, on the stone wall near our century-old school building.

Meadowlarks have also been seen, but they do not seem to be very numerous in this locality. Song Sparrows, however, are common, and their happy song has been often heard.

One day I was greatly pleased to hear the familiar call of the Gulls, and for several days a pair of them were often seen flying over the lake. Since they have been protected by law they have become common up the Kennebec, as far at least as Waterville. It is pleasant to see these beautiful birds so far inland, whose presence adds interest to a summer by the sea.

Other attractive summer visitors are found in our various Swallows, the Barn Swallow, the White-bellied Swallow, the Eave Swallow, the Sand Martin, and the Chimney Swift. I do not know whether the Sand Martin is found here or not. It often builds its nests in tunnels in the sandy banks of the Kennebec.

I startled a Ruffed Grouse from its position close by the roadside within two or three minutes' walk of our East Winthrop meeting-house. Its nest, with eggs in it, was only a short distance away, as a friend who has seen it assures me. I remember very pleasantly how in a bit of woods in Winslow, on a second visit to a nest of the Ruffed Grouse, I stood quietly for some time close by the nest, watching the bird upon it, and then came quietly away without the bird stirring from the nest or being apparently in the least disturbed by my presence. To quote from memory a few words I once heard spoken by Rev. A. S. Ladd, "The birds sit on every tree and sing their sweetest songs for the farmer who plows his furrow on without thought of disturbing them, but they fly swiftly away from the sportsman who comes seeking for them with dog and gun."

Birds will respond to friendship and kindly treatment and they repay with large interest and confidence the kindly sympathy we extend to them. They add a rare charm to life, which can be appreciated only by one who learns to know and to love them.

They are busy workers destroying an almost incalculable number of hurtful worms, grubs and fully-grown insects, and, if they do steal a cherry or a strawberry now and then, they more than repay the loss by the incalculable service they render.

We may well regard as clear gain whatever charm they add to this world by their presence in it, whatever pleasure is thus added to our lives, as we cherish for them the growing interest of better acquaintance and fuller friendship.

East Winthrop, Me., May 20th, 1907.

## Articles Contributing Data Bearing upon the Canadian Fauna in the Vicinity of Portland, Me.

That several birds of northern breeding range bred at Cape Elizabeth and Scarborough, Me., under favorable conditions, is a fact first pointed out by Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown in 1879.<sup>1</sup> In this paper Mr. Brown mentioned the Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers, the Junco and White-throated Sparrow, indicating their relative abundance.

In 1882<sup>2</sup>, he added (List of Birds of Portland and Vicinity) the Golden-crowned Kinglet, Solitary Vireo, and Olive-sided Flycatcher<sup>2</sup> to the breeding list, and mentioned the probable breeding of the Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Attention was called in 1897<sup>3</sup> to the extension of the spruce woods fully to Cape Elizabeth, from more eastern sections of Maine.

<sup>1</sup>Brown, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. IV, pp. 106, 107.

<sup>2</sup>Brown, Proc. Portland Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. II, pp. 5, 7, 10, 18.

<sup>3</sup>Norton, Proc. Portland Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. II, p. 100.

Mr. Wm. H. Brownson, in 1904, upon the evidence of a pair observed breeding at Cape Elizabeth the previous summer, recorded the Red-breasted Nuthatch as "Resident,"<sup>1</sup> and the writer recorded the breeding of the Junco, and the probable breeding of the Red Crossbill at Littlejohn's Island.<sup>2</sup>

During 1905,<sup>3</sup> Mr. Brownson recorded, from information furnished by Mr. Ruthven Deane, the breeding of the Yellow-rumped Warbler at Scarborough, and in 1906,<sup>4</sup> Mr. Deane recorded the breeding of the Olive-sided Flycatcher in the same town.

In 1907,<sup>5</sup> Mr. F. S. Collins, in considering the distribution of the Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus crista-galli*), called attention to "the Hermit Thrush and some other White Mountain birds which breed at sea level as far to the southwest as Casco Bay."

Two general papers, while contributing no data, bear upon the subject. One of these papers, by Mr. Ora W. Knight, is the first to formally ascribe the region to the Canadian fauna,<sup>6</sup> and the other, Mr. Ralph Hoffman, is the first to present a map<sup>7</sup> illustrating the same idea.

While the earlier special papers bearing upon the subject furnished the basis for these generalizations, the several later ones furnish additional data and show the frequency of the observations.

At this time little is to be added to the subject. Peaks and Long Islands may be mentioned as characteristic of the spruce woods. Here the Golden-crowned Kinglet, by its activity and numbers, the White-throated Sparrow and Olive-sided Flycatcher, by their penetrating notes, are conspicuous.

The Red Crossbill, though not yet found breeding, is too nearly a resident of the region to be believed to do otherwise.

<sup>1</sup>Brownson, Portland Daily Advertiser, Jan. 2, 1904.

<sup>2</sup>Norton, JOUR. Me. Orn. Soc., Vol. VI, pp. 3, 54.

<sup>3</sup>Brownson, JOUR. Me. Orn. Soc., Vol. VII, p. 19.

<sup>4</sup>Deane, JOUR. Me. Orn. Soc., Vol. VIII, p. 76.

<sup>5</sup>Collins, Rhodora, Vol. IX, p. 26.

<sup>6</sup>Knight, Bull. No. 3, Univ. of Me., p. 150.

<sup>7</sup>Hoffman, Guide to Birds of New England, p. 15.

# The Journal

of the

## Maine Ornithological Society

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study and Protection of Birds

Vol. IX

Published June 1, 1907

No. 2

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$1.00 a year; 25 cents a copy

### OFFICERS OF THE MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Pres., PROF. LESLIE A. LEE, Brunswick

W. H. BROWNSON, Portland

Vice-Pres., DR. H. H. BROCK, Portland

Editor

Sec.-Treas., J. MERTON SWAIN, Skowhegan

FRANK T. NOBLE, Augusta

Councillors, CAPT. H. L. SPINNEY, Seguin

Associate Editor

ORA W. KNIGHT, Bangor

The Journal has received a copy of the "Warblers of North America" by Frank M. Chapman. This is an octavo volume of 306 pages, illustrated with the beautiful Warbler plates which have been appearing in Mr. Chapman's magazine, *Bird-Lore*, for the past two or three years. These Warbler portraits are far and away the best that have ever been produced, showing the exact location of the different markings and a close approach to the real color in every case. This is the most exhaustive work that is devoted to the Warbler family alone. Mr. Chapman has planned a definite program for each species and has carried it out for every member of the family with unvarying accuracy. The characteristics of each genus are outlined and then follow the description and life history of the various species. First, there is a full description of the plumage of male, female and young at different seasons of the year. Then paragraphs are devoted to general distribution, summer range, winter range, spring migration, fall migration, the bird and its habits, song, nesting site, eggs, and nesting date. All these particulars are adhered to, without exception, for every bird. There is no author who begins with so definite a plan, and who carries it out with so much systematic accuracy. Mr. Chapman has made use of his own large experience and has also drawn from all the best authorities extant. So the whole together gives for each Warbler all the most accurate data now at hand. Every student who expects to know what there is to know about the Warbler family must of necessity have this book constantly at his right hand. The thanks of ornithologists are due to Mr. Chapman for this most valuable contribution to bird literature. The book is for sale in Portland, by Loring, Short & Harmon, and may also be obtained of any book-seller in Maine.

The editor desires to thank the members who have contributed notes to the present number of the JOURNAL. In the future it is hoped that there will be a more general response, however, to the request for reports of observations in different sections of the State. Every item of interest should be sent along promptly to the JOURNAL. The more notes we have the better we can represent the current news about birds throughout Maine. During the spring and fall migrations almost every member doubtless has something worth while to communicate. It is hoped that for the September number there will be a general response to the request for contributions.

The most of our subscribers have paid for the JOURNAL for the present year, and our thanks are due to them for their promptness. Those who have not already sent their cash should do so at once, as money is needed to pay for printing the JOURNAL. Several subscribers are in arrears for two years or more and have not responded to bills sent to them. It is hoped that all such may see their way clear to pay the subscriptions which they owe and continue the JOURNAL on a cash basis.

Popular interest in birds continues to increase in Portland, and throughout the State. More people are making a systematic study of ornithology than before. A striking example of how much birds are appreciated was given in April during a severe snow storm, following a large flight of Juncos, Fox Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, Robins, Bluebirds and others. The food supply in the fields was suddenly closed and the birds in desperation flocked around the dwelling houses in the suburbs. Hundreds of people threw out generous quantities of food until the snow melted and the birds were able to return to their usual feeding ground.

The unusually backward season this spring interfered to a considerable extent with the spring migration of birds. In southern Maine, and elsewhere, there is a noticeable scarcity of the usual species which are here by the first of June. Farther to the north it seems the season has been milder and the birds are reported in about their usual abundance. It is hoped that many members will take particular notice of the presence or absence of the ordinary species during the summer and report their observations to the JOURNAL for the September issue.

In the present number of the JOURNAL, are several notes relative to the Mockingbird in Maine. There seems very little doubt that this bird is beginning to find its way as a straggler into the State during the spring migrations, and there is some evidence of its breeding here. The instances of its occurrence in this State have been more frequent of late and it seems quite certain that these cannot be referred, as formerly, to the category of escaped cage birds. It is doubtless true that there are fifty times as many observers now as there were ten years ago. Hence the probability of stray individuals of different species being reported is much larger than before.

## Bird Notes.

Notes and observations upon bird life within our State are earnestly desired from all our readers for publication in this column, and should be sent to the Editor, W. H. Brownson, City Building, Portland, Maine.

We note with much satisfaction the increasing frequency with which the members of our society report to this JOURNAL their ornithological observations. This is an important part of our duties, one to another, and should be shared in by all interested in bird life. The JOURNAL'S columns are always open to contributors of items of general interest relating to Maine birds, and we trust our members will, through this medium, disseminate such knowledge as they personally possess.

JUNCOS QUARRELSOME.—Having read notes of some authors in regard to the peaceful relations of the Juncos to each other, I had a very good chance this spring to note that they were given to quarreling among themselves over their food. During the first half of the month of April there was an unusually heavy fall of snow, which I scraped away from a large place and threw out bread crumbs and grass seed every day. I noticed that they were very quarrelsome with one another, one bird especially driving all of the other birds away as fast as they came to eat their share of the crumbs and seeds.

H. W. JEWELL.

Farmington, May 20, 1907.

AN ALBINO JUNCO.—At Kennebunk Beach, April 9th, I observed in a large flock of Juncos a partial albino. The bird was somewhat dark on the crown and had two irregular dark patches on the back. The tail was only slightly lighter on the middle feathers than is usual, but I think more of the outer tail feathers were white. All the rest of the bird was pure white.

On April 10th, at Brunswick, I observed another albino Junco with a large flock, feeding around the house on the grain thrown out to them. This was only a slight albino, although its generally lighter cast was noticeable at quite a distance. The throat and

breast were nearly as light as the belly, and the sides of the head and body were mottled with white.

April 12th, at the same place in Brunswick, a Fox Sparrow with a white head was noticed by two other observers. A few days after, I saw the bird myself and shot it. The whole head of this bird was generally a dirty white, which ended quite abruptly all around (at the beginning of nape, at the back and at the upper edge of the breast underneath). On each side of the crown, beginning with eye and extending back, were two dark lines. One of the auriculas was somewhat marked with the usual brown, while the other was unmarked. Otherwise the white was symmetrically distributed.

A Song Sparrow and a Junco, each without a tail, and each of which flew about, apparently without any difficulty, have also been lately observed here.

HERBERT STORRS BRIGHAM, JR.

Bowdoin College, April 25, 1907.

PORTLAND BIRD NOTES:—On account of a succession of cold days in May, the spring migration of birds was considerably delayed this year. The earliest birds came along at about the usual time. Early in April there were thousands of Fox Sparrows, Juncos and various Sparrows passing through southern Maine. On April 8th there was a heavy snow storm, and on April 9th and 10th, these migrants were hard pressed for food. In the suburbs of Portland several hundred people threw out great quantities of food to the birds which were driven in from the fields around dwelling-houses. In this way there was very little mortality among the April birds in this vicinity. In other parts of the State many of them perished for lack of food. In Portland the interest in birds has reached such a height that practically the whole population, especially in the outlying districts, took a personal interest in helping to relieve the famine. Tree Swallows were here April 14th, when the weather was still very cold. Frequently they were seen feeding among the bayberry bushes which abound along the coast. On April 26th,

there was a considerable flight of Sparrows, including Song Sparrows, Savanna Sparrows, Field Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows and others. Two days later the White-throated Sparrows were observed. May 18th, and the following days, White-crowned Sparrows were abundant. The first Barn Swallow was observed April 29th, and it was fully two weeks before any more were seen. Several Pigeon Hawks were near the Cape woods May 2nd. Upland Plovers were reported at Gorham May 5th. May 10th, the Black-throated Green Warbler was seen fully ten days late and May 13th a little flock of Warblers was noted, which included the Parula, Black-throated Blue, Nashville, Black and White and others. May 14th, there was quite a movement of birds, and the Kingbird, Ovenbird, Baltimore Oriole, Bobolink, Chimney Swift and Brown Thrasher were among the arrivals. On the 15th, the Northern Yellow-throat put in an appearance. On the 16th, came a small flight of Scarlet Tanagers. On the 17th, Yellow Warblers and Blackburnian Warblers were reported. On the 18th, the Water Thrush, Redstart, Alder Flycatcher, Wilson's Warbler, Catbird and Wilson's Thrush came for the first time. On the morning of the 19th, while walking through the Cape woods, I came across a small flock of Whip-poor-wills which had evidently arrived during the night and were resting in the early morning. On the same day the Magnolia Warbler, Olive-backed Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Chewink were among the arrivals.

On the 19th, a Mockingbird was seen in South Portland and was under observation all day. Last year there was a Mockingbird in the same locality which remained there nearly a week. This year's bird was different from last year's, being smaller and browner in plumage. It has been the custom to declare that every Mockingbird seen in Maine is probably an escaped cage bird. From the fact, however, that a Mockingbird was seen last year at the height of the migration season, and this year at the same time, I am led to believe that these birds were really stragglers who had strayed north with migrating flocks.

W. H. BROWNSON.

Portland, May 13.

ALBINO SPARROW:—Wednesday afternoon, I saw an English Sparrow which was pure white on the head, wing coverts and rump. The other feathers were streaked with white. This bird was feeding with a flock of other English Sparrows on Church street. About half an hour after I saw it the first time, I again saw it on School street.

EMMA S. DAY.

Gardiner, May 28.

SOME NOTES FROM GARDINER.—The Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*, Linn.) is without doubt an occasional summer resident in the State of Maine. Some twenty or twenty-three years ago a pair nested and reared their young in the town of Leeds. This fact is certified to by four individuals who had lived for some time in Louisiana, where these birds were very plentiful. One of these four people had lived in Louisiana twenty years, and Mockingbirds were as well known to him as Robins are to us. Mr. L. W. Robbins, of Randolph, Me., believes that a pair nested near his house last summer. He heard one singing nearly every morning for a month, and all indications pointed to nest building, although the nest could not be located. The singing ceased all at once and it was feared the bird was shot. One thing, however, is certain, and that is that Homer Dill, of Gardiner, Me., took a specimen near his home on the morning of December 14th, 1906. The skin is now in my possession, and has been examined by Mr. Norton, curator of the Portland Society of Natural History.

On the evening of Dec. 17th, 1906, George Otis Turner, of Farmingdale, Me., hearing considerable commotion on his piazza about 7 o'clock, went out to investigate, and found his cat in the act of killing a Purple Gallinule. Mr. Turner rescued the bird before the cat had time to injure its plumage in any way, although not till after life was extinct. It is now in my collection for verification of this record.

At the time of the great storm, April 9, 1907, about fifteen inches of snow fell here in Gardiner. Fox Sparrows, Juncos, Tree

Sparrows, Song Sparrows and Robins were very abundant here at that time, and many would have died had not several families scattered wheat, corn and bread crumbs for their use. Never before in the history of our city have so many people been interested in the protection of bird life. It will be no exaggeration to state that 100 families kept watch and ward over their feathered friends during this inclement period. With my snowshoes, I tramped down a space about 50 feet long by 6 or 7 wide, and scattered cracked corn, oats, and hungarian seed over the area, leaving a large pile of seed just back of our kitchen window. The further end of this space just reached to the corner of a neighbor's garden where there were apple trees. At the time of scattering the seed, there were many birds in the trees, but they flew away when I came near. But 20 minutes after I came into the house, there were by actual count, 120 birds helping themselves to the scattered seed. This place was kept well littered with seed until the snow had all melted away, and the birds had betaken themselves to other foraging grounds. There was not one minute in the day during the time the snow lasted that some birds, often 200, would not be seen eating. It was indeed a cheerful sight.

My attention was first directed to a rare bird through Mr. Richards, who saw it several times eating the seed which he had scattered for the Juncos and Sparrows. From Mr. Richards' description, I was unable to identify the bird, and he was unable to find anything in the Coues' Key to which it was referable. I spent several hours puzzling over Mr. Richards' description, which was very accurate, for he saw the bird many times and made a drawing of it. I watched for it on my grain patch at home, and was at last rewarded by its appearance. When I saw it, I was glad that I had not attempted to name it before, and twenty minutes' study were needed to come to the conclusion that the living bird within ten feet of me was a partial albino Slate-colored Junco. This identification was made positive by the outer white tail feathers, its white bill, black feet and legs, and by its keeping with other Juncos.

Miss Audrey Hunt, of Gardiner, recently broke an egg for cook-

ing purposes, and was surprised to find, safely enclosed within the white, an intestinal worm three inches long. The worm was alive and is now preserved in formalin for identification. Mr. Henry Bates, of Gardiner, also found one alive in the white of another egg, but unfortunately he did not take pains to preserve it for future reference.

The worm found by Miss Hunt is a "round worm," belonging to the branch "*Nemathelminthes*," according to the classification of Parker & Haswell.

WM. L. POWERS,

Gardiner, May 28.

RANGELEY NOTES.—The Northern Raven recorded in my migration list was caught in a trap near a lumber camp in the woods. Queer noises had been heard about the carcass of a dead horse. The trap was set and was visited in the morning of May 15th, and again at noon, when the bird was found caught in it. It was shot and taken to the camp, where it was identified by some Swedes who were familiar with this species.

During the winter Redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks were fairly common in this locality. I saw two male Pine Grosbeaks Oct. 31st.

Birds came in large numbers March 29th and 30th, Juncos being the commonest species.

April 9th, when the great bird wave reached Boston, snow was eight inches deep in the morning. It continued to snow until noon April 10th, when it was two feet deep.

May 8th, I saw two Tree Sparrows singing.

When the rock maples are in bloom I look for a big bird wave, with large numbers of Warblers, which like to feed among the maple blossoms. This usually occurs about May 8th, but this year the maples were not in blossom until May 18th, ten days later than usual.

A year ago this spring I visited Sweet's pond in New Vineyard and found eight species of water birds, including American Mer-

gansers in quite large numbers, a flock of Herring Gulls and several Loons.

This spring I made three trips there, at what I believe to be the most favorable times. A Spotted Sandpiper was the only water bird I saw.

During May, Purple Finches have been present in great abundance.

D. W. SWEET.

Avon, May 15, 1907.

DAMARISCOTTA NOTES.—The flight of Fox Sparrows was large and took place at a time when we had a severe snow storm. I found three that were unable to stand the weather. I fed them and at one time had over sixty in front of my store. Bobolinks are thicker this year than I ever saw them before around here. Great Northern Divers are nesting quite plentifully in the surrounding ponds, also three pairs of Wood Ducks and two pairs of Blacks. Solitary Sandpipers are with us, as usual, but no increase in numbers. Martins about the same as last year. Hawks increasing in number.

F. M. DAVID.

Damariscotta, May 20, 1907.

NOTES FROM NEWRY.—There are not nearly as many birds here this year, owing to the snow storm. One lumberman told me that he was at an island in the middle of a pond and the Swallows were near the chimney of the house on the roof to get warm. The next morning he picked up twenty dead ones. He said they tried to get something to eat on the pond, but could not. Many Juncos were found dead. There are only two pairs near our cabin, while last year fully twenty pairs were there. There are not as many Song Sparrows, but the Warblers are all right, as they come later.

I once told you of a Robin building on the tongue of a cart; the farmer, wanting to use the cart, took the nest and placed it on a beam in the shed. The Robin went to it and hatched the eggs. I

saw that myself. Now this year a Robin built on the same tongue and had laid two eggs when the farmer had to use the cart, so instead of placing the nest on a beam, he nailed two pieces of wood on a rafter, then a flat piece of wood on the bottom, with another flat piece for a back, placing the nest in it. The bird went to it and laid two more eggs. Then the farmer had to put the body of another cart in the shed and did it about dusk; the Robin flew off the nest and did not return to it for a week. In the meanwhile she built another nest low down on a beam in the shed, but laid no eggs in it; then she returned to the old nest where there were four eggs and laid four more, making eight in all in one nest. I went there to see it, drove the Robin off, looked in and saw eight eggs. Now we will see how many will hatch; if all eight do, the farmer will have to help feed them.

PERCIVAL B. ROLFE.

North Newry, June 5.





WOOD DUCK.

FRONTISPIECE OF "FEATHERED GAME OF THE NORTHEAST," BY WALTER H. RICH, OF PORTLAND, MAINE, SOON TO BE ISSUED FROM THE PRESS OF THOMAS Y. CROWELL & CO., NEW YORK.

# The Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society

Published by the Society on the first of March, June, September and December

---

---

Vol. IX

SEPTEMBER, 1907

No. 3

---

---

## Visit to a Colony of Laughing Gulls.

By W. H. BROWNSON.

As one proceeds along the Maine coast, easterly from Portland, the colonies of Sea Birds grow more numerous and more populous until the Canadian line is reached, up to which point many of the outer islands are fairly alive with almost countless Gulls, Terns, Sea Pigeons, Petrels and other broad-winged ocean dwellers. Northward the colonies are even larger and birds in great variety are found in immense numbers. In the vicinity of Portland, Bluff island furnishes the only breeding place of importance, where there is a colony of about two thousand Common Terns. The Herring Gulls, so frequently seen along the westerly shores in winter, and in smaller flocks during the summer, breed no farther west than Matinicus. The Gulls which stay in and around Portland harbor in summer are doubtless barren birds, since there are no nests nearer than No Man's Land, an islet within two miles of Matinicus harbor. On one island, only, on the Maine coast, there is a colony of Laughing Gulls, a smaller and more elegant species than the big Herring Gulls, with which almost everybody is familiar. This island is Western Egg Rock, near New Harbor, a small fishing hamlet and summer resort in the town of Bristol. To visit this colony, and to observe the other birds which breed in the locality, were the objects which Mr. Arthur H. Norton and I had in view when we left Portland on the steamer Mineola, Friday morning, August

16th. Mr. Norton on this trip finished the inspection of all the principal Sea Bird colonies on the Maine coast, a work which he has had in hand this summer, under the direction of Mr. William Dutcher, President of the National Audubon Society, whose efforts to preserve and protect our birds have for some years been far-reaching and signally successful.

It was a glorious morning, with a light southerly breeze, when we steamed out past Junk of Pork and Outer Green island. On these rocks many Herring Gulls were resting and over them hovered scores of Terns, probably visitors from Bluff island, a dozen miles away from home, in search of fish. A pair of Loons, farther in-shore, gazed at us with mild curiosity, as we passed. Porpoises rolled lazily on the surface of the water, which was filled with millions of small jelly-fish, both red and white. A great sunfish came near us and stuck his shark-like fin above the surface of the water, as he moved, with no effort at haste, out of our way. By and by a Petrel pattered along the crest of the waves, an ocean wanderer, breeding in southern seas and making northern waters simply a summer resort. Perched on the top of a spar buoy was a Double-crested Cormorant, called "Shag" by fishermen. This is a large brown bird which breeds far north and which is just now passing the shores of Maine on a southern migration. It is a curious bird, built, as it seems, for the purpose of catching fish with ease and celerity. It swims under water with great rapidity and thus it is able to capture almost any finny prey which comes within its range of vision. Considerable flocks of these birds linger for a time among the outer islands of this coast during August.

At New Harbor we secured the services of Lincoln Parsons and his sturdy fishing boat, fitted with both sail and motor. Mr. Parsons entered into the spirit of our quest as if it were his own, and we found his knowledge of the sea and his craft of invaluable service. As we drew near Western Egg Rock we saw that the ledges on the southern end were white with Gulls. Pretty soon a great flock of Herring Gulls, disturbed by our landing, took alarm and flew off eastward. They left behind a bunch of smaller Gulls, which

directly rose into the air and hovered over us all the time we were there. These were the Laughing Gulls which we had come to see, and they were of special interest to us, since nowhere else in this State can they be found. The Laughing Gull is about two-thirds as large as the Herring Gull, but in the air he does not appear to be much smaller, on account of the wide spread of his wings. He is distinguished readily by his black head and the larger patches of black on the under side of his wings, his outer quill-feathers being sable. The cries of these small Gulls are shrill and musical and often they sound like cackling laughter, ha, ha, ha, several times repeated. It is a pleasing chorus, differing in this respect from the shrieking of the Herring Gulls and the tearing and ripping uproar of the Terns. The Gulls came down quite near us and from their behavior it is evident that they have not been disturbed on their breeding ground, a fact in which we all rejoice. While the birds were in the air, wheeling back and forth, we could count them pretty accurately, with the result that we made the number to be about fifty.

The Laughing Gulls formerly bred on other islands, farther eastward, but gradually they have withdrawn from every place but this, hence the care which is now taken to protect them and guard them from disturbance. The conditions here are evidently to their liking, otherwise they would not return year after year. The outer edges of the island are formed of great blocks of coarse granite, while the high ground is covered with a dense mass of vegetation, the beach grass growing rankly and a tangle of bindweed, beach pea, Scotch lovage and dodder making the place hard for a man to cross. Here the Black-polls (so-called by reason of their dark heads), build their rude nests on hummocks and rear their young beneath the vines, securely sheltered from the mid-summer sun. There are pathways in the grass where they pass and repass to and from the rocks, some of these being well trodden roads. We saw one or two addled eggs and hidden securely from sight there were a few young birds, their wing feathers not yet grown. One of these was found after a persistent search, and even then it would have escaped

observation if it had not been alarmed by the near approach of Mr. Norton. Then the camera was set up and the little Gull was photographed, in a nest, by the side of an egg. It posed to perfection and it is to be hoped that the negative will do it justice. On this island it appears that a few Sea Pigeons, more properly called Black Guillemots, are nesting, while the burrows of Leach's Petrel are plentiful.

We now weighed anchor and proceeded to Eastern Egg Rock, where we landed a little later. On this island there are no Laughing Gulls, but the place is occupied by a great colony of Terns, probably a thousand or more in all. These are both Common Terns and Arctic Terns, the two species differing so slightly that it takes a practiced eye to distinguish, without error, the slightly smaller body and longer tail of the Arctic Tern. Boys have evidently visited this colony, for we found several piles of a dozen or twenty eggs on the rocks, where they had apparently been collected for the amusement of the thing. The birds, young and old, flew about over our heads while we staid, but their breeding was so far advanced that there were no fresh eggs or young birds to worry the soaring flock, so they made comparatively little protest at our presence. Here we saw a dozen or so of the handsome little Sea Pigeons, jet black, except for a white wing patch. We found no nests, but the adult birds were constantly coming to the island with fish in their mouths, to feed their young, which were hidden away in the crevices among the boulders. The swift flight of the Sea Pigeons, a few inches from the surface of the water, was graceful in the extreme, while the birds made a pretty figure as they alighted in the water near their nests. They are expert divers and fishers.

On the Eastern Egg Rock there is an abundance of nests of Leach's Petrel, burrowed deep under rotten logs or surface rocks. These Petrels are sooty-black Birds, no larger than Robins, marked conspicuously by a white patch at the roots of the tail. They lay white eggs in the deep holes which they dig, and during the time of incubation the males and females alternate on the nest. Food is sought far out at sea and after twilight has fallen the air is filled

with the birds, returning to the nests, their flight then being bat-like and noiseless, but their musical twitterings are plainly to be heard. On this Egg Rock we saw frequent signs of disaster to the Petrels, many dead birds, partly decayed, being picked up. What has caused this slaughter is not known; perhaps the Crows which frequent the island are the murderers, since often in the daytime the Petrels, being birds of sluggish motion, might easily fall a prey to their enemies. Here the Spotted Sandpiper has been breeding, apparently, in small numbers, and among the luxuriant vegetation we flushed many Savanna Sparrows, which here, as in most of the islands of this coast, find a congenial summer home. A few Song Sparrows were observed, but the Savannas far out-numbered them.

Before we landed on the Eastern Egg Rock we observed, on the boulders of the cove where our dory must enter, a great collection of Ruddy Turnstones and "Peeps" (both Semi-palmated Sandpiper and Least Sandpiper.) We expected to see them depart as we approached, but they were not in the least afraid of us. They looked with some interest at us as we made a landing, and one after another of the birds climbed up the rock from the farther side to get a better view of us. We went as near as ten feet of them and still they did not fly, though they declined any more intimate acquaintance. Apparently they had never heard a gun, as they were evidently all young birds. A few days later, perhaps, their confidence in man will be rudely shaken, when they make the tragical acquaintance of a double-barrelled fowling piece or the murderous "pump" gun. The Turnstones were particularly interesting, looking fully as large as the Terns, which sat on the rocks all around them. In the immature plumage which they wore they differ considerably in appearance from the adults. The little "Peeps" were entirely careless, standing in a thoughtful pose until we could almost touch them. Off in the water there was a good-sized flock of "Coots," more exactly the Patch-head, or Surf Scoter. One or two White-winged Scoters were also seen flying. These birds breed considerably farther north, and are now returning on their migrating journey. It will not be long before great bands of all three species of Scoters

or "Coots" will furnish sport for many gunners in Casco bay. Yet they are not very good eating, and probably not half these birds shot ever reach the table. They fly so swiftly that it is not easy to kill them, hence the expert marksman finds them a target much to his liking.

The last island we visited was Shark Rock, three or four miles farther eastward. The afternoon was drawing to a close and we had a wet run in a freshening breeze. At Shark Rock we found it out of the question to land, both because the sea was rough and because the sun was low in the western sky. A colony of Terns was living here, for we saw them in considerable numbers over the high cliffs and roosting among the grass-grown slopes. We could not stop for further investigation, so Skipper Parsons set his sail and soon we were scooting through the water before the wind, at a rate which made the gasoline motor of no use at all. Returning to Portland the next day on the Mineola, we encountered a southerly gale, which kicked up a great sea and forced some of us to part with our dinners in a hurried fashion, often to the discomfort of those near us, as well as to ourselves. But we were repaid for our bits of suffering by being accompanied for several miles by a little flock of Petrels (probably Wilson's), which skimmed the frothy waves with a perfection of easy motion.

## Two Thousand Common Terns in Bluff Island Colony.

By W. H. BROWNSON.

The great colony of Common Terns on Bluff Island, a few miles off Old Orchard, is much larger than it was last year at this time. It was estimated then that there were upwards of a thousand birds living there; now it is certain that the colony numbers at least two thousand, including both old and young. It was early in the morning when Mr. Arthur H. Norton and I arrived at the island, in a motor boat from Portland. As soon as we drew near

the place where we intended to anchor, the Terns took the alarm and rose into the air in a screeching, protesting mass, as thick as mosquitoes over a steaming swamp on a warm evening. From every part of the island they came and hung over our heads, turning and wheeling like swallows, whose flight they imitate very closely. They can remain on the wing almost indefinitely, and during the hour or more that we staid on the island, the air was constantly filled with their hostile cries directly over us. They finally grew somewhat accustomed to our presence, and I imagined that they displayed less concern during the latter part of our visit. If that was so it was because they grew tired of trying to drive us away, rather than that they showed any less fierceness at our unwelcome intrusion.

August 9th was the day we were there. At that date the breeding was in every degree of progress. Many young birds were on the wing in company with the old ones. Others were so nearly full-grown that they were almost able to fly. Still more were half-grown and were not ready to begin the use of their wings. These could run with much facility over the rocks in their desperate efforts to escape from us. Many nests, loosely constructed of seaweed gathered in little bunches just sufficient to hold the eggs in place, contained young birds not long out of the shell. Other nests had in them eggs that were doubtless well advanced in their incubation, while some eggs looked as if they were fresh-laid. Here and there a dead young bird was seen among the rocks, where it had perished from the intense heat of the sun or a fall from the low cliffs. It seemed to me that the parent Tern knew when I was near its offspring, for often the same bird would dart down at me with a vicious swoop, repeating the operation several times, until I had passed along a rod or two. In the same way, I noticed a young bird swimming near the shore, and saw an old bird fly down to it time after time, so that I had little doubt that this was the mother of the youngster. It was not an easy thing to do to keep the same bird in view among the thousand others which did not differ from it in the smallest particular, so far as the eye could discern, but by con-

centrating one's attention it could be ascertained that it was one individual that was darting or swooping down to defend its young or give it special care in case of need.

The little birds in the nests displayed no fear when they were touched by the hand. For the most part they seemed to suffer in the hot sun, and often their mouths were wide open as they lay panting and waiting for the parent to arrive. As soon as the young Tern was able to leave the nest he appeared to be paralyzed with apprehension when we approached. If he had no time to conceal himself he would run away from us over the pebbles, often tumbling headlong in his haste to get to some cover, screeching lustily after the manner of the old birds. If the little fellow saw us coming he would endeavor to hide from us, and the way he did this was highly amusing. If he could cover his head from view he imagined he was safe. Time and again I saw a young bird with his beak tucked away under a stone, and the rest of his body in sight. There he would remain motionless and allow us to approach near enough to stroke him. Once I removed a loose flat stone which covered the head of a hiding bird and still he would not stir. When I put my hand on him and he knew that he was surely discovered he made off at the top of his speed, using both feet and wings in his effort to escape, while he shrieked in mortal terror.

The young birds which were almost ready to fly scrambled into the water when I came too near. They swim expertly, sitting high in the water, with their tails held perked up over their backs. Sometimes I would see one which was a hundred yards or more from the shore, but for the most part they were afraid to venture out more than a few feet. Here they were watched with great solicitude by their parents, who seemed frantic at seeing their young thus exposed to danger. At such times the whole colony joined in a great uproar, and the air was literally rent with the chorus of "Te-a-arr, te-a-arr, te-a-arr," sounding not unlike the violent tearing of some tough cloth, or the ripping of an obstinate seam. The half-grown birds tucked themselves away as securely as they might by creeping into crevices between the ledges, or

secreting themselves in the bushes which fringe the rocks. Now all these little birds must be fed and I watched the way the old birds provided a food supply, which was at all times bountiful and obtained without undue effort. The Terns live principally on fish, which they catch by diving from the air headfirst into the water. Sand eels are secured from the pools along the sand flats at low water, and these form the favorite fish which are hunted by the birds.

Out in deep water the Terns sight the schools of small fish near the surface with unerring dexterity. Here may be seen half a dozen of the Terns skimming through the air fifteen or twenty feet from the waves, hovering a moment on beating wings and then dropping headforemost, with a splash, and capturing the fish in their powerful beaks. Sometimes when the supply is abundant the old birds will eat fish after fish and then, when their own hunger is satisfied, they will start for home, each bearing a fish in his bill to feed the young. The old bird thrusts the fish down the throat of the weakling near the nest and leaves it to be digested in the course of time. Often the little birds are seen vainly trying to swallow fish which are fully as big as their own slender necks, but it is evident that the problem of digestion presents no very serious difficulties, for the percentage of young birds which perish is apparently very small. Every immature bird we saw was vigorous in the extreme and they were all fat and well cared for, while hundreds of newly-grown birds were seen in the air, flying with all the buoyancy of adults.

After the Terns had become somewhat accustomed to our presence, their attention was diverted by the arrival of a new intruder. A big seal swam up inside the ledges within a few feet from the nesting ground of the birds, and the way the colony went for him was laughable. They dived at him, yelled at him, surrounded him with such a din that he must have been confused, told him in their peculiar dialect to be gone, and gave him no peace until he slid back into deep water and hid his head under the waves. They could have had no idea that he would do them any harm, but he was out of place there and they did not want him. The Tern

colony will here remain, making the nesting island their headquarters until it is time for them to take their autumn flight to a warmer winter home. These birds spend the cold months on the shores of the southern states, there pursuing their diving and fishing under the most favorable circumstances until the return of spring.

On Bluff island there are still other breeding birds, for the Spotted Sandpiper nests there in numbers not large. These birds, both young and old, were in evidence on the occasion of our visit, standing and bobbing their tails on the weed-covered ledges, flitting away on curving wing right on the surface of the water and almost touching it as they passed from ledge to ledge. Song Sparrows have been here raising their families from early spring until now, when the old and young birds are abundant. Savanna Sparrows, too, breed here, in numbers fully as large as the Song Sparrows. The two distinct species look pretty nearly alike at a casual glance, but the Savannas have a yellowish tone to the brown of their feathers, and the "cut of their jibs" differs not a little. This is a Sparrow species loving the seaward islands along the Maine coast, as well as Canadian fields farther north. In the fall the Savannas flock through this section in large companies, though they never attract much notice except from bird students, to whom they are always interesting. They are found most plentifully in the marshes in this vicinity during the latter part of August and all through September.

### Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society will be held in Portland, at the rooms of the Portland Society of Natural History, on Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving day. Ample arrangements will be made for places where visiting members may procure accommodation during the two days of the meetings. It is earnestly hoped that there will be a large attendance, as special efforts will be made to have a program of more than usual interest.

## Inland Water Birds.

By DANA W. SWEET, Phillips, Me.

Probably most bird observers, who live away from the seacoast, take a special interest in the few species of water birds that are found inland. I have eagerly sought every scrap of information concerning them that I could get, and I am going to relate some of my experiences, hoping they may be of assistance to some one who, like, myself, is not favorably located for the observation of water birds.

The Grebe is a bird that is very easily overlooked. Carefully scrutinize the surface of a pond and, if one is there, it will look like the end of a small stick protruding above the water. When seen nearby, it suggests a tiny Duck with a long slim neck. The remarkably long time that it can remain under water is a good aid in identifying it.

I have seen but one Red-throated Loon. This one was in a cove of a pond. I at first mistook it for a Duck, it being very much smaller than the common Loon. It was black all over except a whitish strip along each side of the neck. I watched it for nearly an hour during which time it entertained me with all sorts of antics. At first it was some little distance from the shore and looked exactly like one of the many blackened stumps that protruded above the water. Looking through my glass I saw that it was whirling round and round. Its head was tucked under one wing, and with one eye cocked up it was sweeping all points of the compass. After it had satisfied itself that my intentions were honorable, it came nearer the shore and displayed its ability at diving. It seemed to be feeding on the roots of either pickerel weed or water-lily. I was anxious to see the color of the under parts, and after a long wait I was rewarded for my patience. While facing me it lifted itself upright, and, slowly outstretching and closing its wings, sank back into the water. This was evidently intended for a yawn. Its belly was white suffused with black, it being whitest in the middle and gradually shading off to clear black.

From what I had read about the Black-crowned Night Heron, I had supposed that in order to find one it would be necessary to make a nocturnal visit to a favorable place and listen for a squawk, but from August 2nd to September 10, 1904, I several times saw a pair flying overhead and uttering their squawky notes, sometimes in clear, sunny days, but more often in cloudy weather. A visitor from the seashore called my attention to the "Gulls", and another summer visitor from Boston was glad to have an opportunity to see a pair of "Eagles". A look through my glass changed a long tail into a pair of legs sticking out behind, and the white under parts with the long neck, and the shape of the head and bill made the identification satisfactory.

The Woodcock is said to be partial to ground that has been burned over, at any rate, the first one I saw was in such a place. The Woodcock, like the Whip-poor-will, should be looked for on moonlight evenings or just as it is growing dark. As it flies the noise of its wings makes a continuous trill, suggesting the song of the Junco, and its call-note is a *speet* like the note of the Nighthawk on a small scale.

October 24, 1905, I visited a small shallow pond just before noon. It was a dry time and the water had receded from the shore line, perhaps a hundred feet or more, leaving a large area of mud, in which was imbedded logs, stumps, and other debris. A large flock of Black Ducks flew up, and as I made my way out toward the water I heard a peculiarly sweet note, and pursuing my way I discovered two Killdeers. There were also two Wilson Snipes, the oddest looking birds I ever expect to see. I was in great luck, for all three species were new to me. The Snipes occasionally uttered a note that sounded like a sneeze. The Killdeers continually uttered their sweet notes as they ran rapidly over the mud. This species is very easily identified. There are two bands across the breast; the rump and upper tail-coverts are rufous-brown, which seems to be the most conspicuous and satisfactory mark of identity, for I failed to get a front view of the breast.

The Solitary Sandpiper is found on the muddy shores of ponds,

especially in the coves, also in small frog ponds, whenever found, whether in pastures, fields or woods.

It was in a pond of water, about twenty-five feet across, in an upland pasture and at the edge of the woods that I found a Lesser Yellowlegs. It had evidently been fired at sometime, for each time I tried to look at it through my glass, it would fly up and circle about, uttering loud cries. When I put the glass in my pocket the bird seemed quite fearless and I could get quite close to it. It finally lighted within a few feet of a Solitary Sandpiper, giving me a fine opportunity to compare the two species. They seemed exactly alike except that the Yellowlegs was slightly larger and had bright yellow legs, and as it flew the white upper tail-coverts were conspicuous.

The Greater Yellowlegs, also, has very loud voluminous metallic notes, and seems to be very much like the Lesser Yellowlegs except in size. While making my way along the shore of a pond, one flew by me. I followed it up in a boat, and found it perched on a boulder in a cove. By using much care I approached quite near it. It was so much larger than the Lesser Yellowlegs that there was no doubt as to its identity.

The Bartramian Sandpiper should be looked for in the same kind of places where the Field Sparrow is found. It is very shy. When flying it has very much the appearance of a Nighthawk. Its strange, weird song, like the howling of the wind, is heard at a considerable distance and will assist one in finding it.

## Migration Reports, 1906.

Below are given migration reports for 1906, made by: D. W. Sweet, Avon, Franklin County; Everett E. Johnson, Hebron, Oxford County; Sara C. Eastman, Portland, Cumberland County.

	AVON.	HEBRON.	PORTLAND.
Loon,	Oct. 18		
American Herring Gull,	May 5		
American Merganser,	Aug. 29		
Black Duck,	Nov. 5		Nov. 17
Bufflehead Duck,	Oct. 31		
American Bittern,	Sept. 4		
Blue Heron,	Oct. 18	Oct. 4	Aug. 2
Solitary Sandpiper,	{ May 30	May 24	
	{ Sept. 29	Oct. 20	
Spotted Sandpiper,	Sept. 4	Aug. 23	Sept. 15
Marsh Hawk,	Aug. 11	Oct. 7	
Sharp-shinned Hawk,	Oct 16		Nov. 4
Red-shouldered Hawk,		Oct. 2	
Sparrow Hawk,		Sept. 15	
Fish Hawk,	Oct. 5	Oct. 2	
Black-billed Cuckoo,	July 14	July 19	July 14
Belted Kingfisher,	Oct. 2	July 30	Oct. 13
American Three-toed Woodpecker,	Feb. 1		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker,	Oct. 20	Oct. 11	
Flicker,	Oct. 13	Oct. 10	Oct. 6
Whip-poor-will,	Sept. 17	Sept. 11	
Nighthawk,	Sept. 12	Aug. 30	
Chimney Swift,	Sept. 4	Sept. 7	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird,	Aug. 29	Aug. 21	Sept. 23
Kingbird,	Sept. 1	Aug. 27	
Phoebe,	Oct. 4	Oct. 14	
Olive-sided Flycatcher,	July 15		
Pewee,	Sept. 9		
Horned Lark,			Nov. 17
Prairie Horned Lark,		Apr. 11	Nov. 17
Bobolink,	Aug. 15	Aug. 23	
Cowbird,	Sept. 22		
Red-winged Blackbird,		Oct. 4	July 1
Meadowlark,	July 6		
Baltimore Oriole,	Aug. 28	Aug. 1	
Rusty Blackbird,	{ May 5		
	{ Oct. 2	Oct. 15	
Bronzed Grackle,	Oct. 2	Sept. 29	
Purple Finch,	Sept. 25	Sept. 21	Oct. 12
American Goldfinch,	Oct. 27	Sept. 18	
Pine Siskin,	Oct. 2		
Snow Bunting,	Apr. 3	Mch. 21	
Vesper Sparrow,	Oct. 17	Oct. 28	
Savanna Sparrow,	Sept. 29		
White-crowned Sparrow,	Oct. 18		
White-throated Sparrow,	Oct. 31	Oct. 15	Oct. 26
Tree Sparrow,	{ May 2	Apr. 9	
	{ Nov. 24		
Chipping Sparrow,	Nov. 2	Oct. 30	Sept. 16
Slate-colored Junco,	{ Nov. 23	May 8	
		Dec. 8	Nov. 4

Song Sparrow,	Oct.	31	Oct.	31	Oct.	23
Swamp Sparrow,	Oct.	11				
Fox Sparrow,	Oct.	31	Nov.	4	Oct.	28
Chewink,					Oct.	12
Rose-breasted Grosbeak,	Sept.	1	July	2		
Indigo Bunting,	Sept.	12				
Scarlet Tanager,	July	29				
Cliff Swallow,	Aug.	22				
Barn Swallow,	Sept.	4	Sept.	12	Sept.	6
Tree Swallow,	Aug.	29			July	19
Cedar Waxwing,			Oct.	2	Sept.	8
Northern Shrike,	Mch.	17				
Loggerhead Shrike,	Aug.	27				
Red-eyed Vireo,	Oct.	2				
Philadelphia Vireo,	May	30				
Warbling Vireo,	Aug.	22				
Blue-headed Vireo,	Sept.	23				
Nashville Warbler,	Aug.	29				
Tennessee Warbler,	June	2				
Yellow Warbler,	Aug.	22	Sept.	2		
Black-throated Blue Warbler,	Sept.	9				
Myrtle Warbler,	Oct.	31	Oct.	21	Oct.	13
Bay-breasted Warbler,	May	23				
Black-poll Warbler,	June	5				
Black-throated Green Warbler,	Aug.	29				
Yellow Palm Warbler,			Apr.	30		
Pine Warbler,	July	2				
Waterthrush,	Aug.	11				
Mourning Warbler,	July	6				
Northern Yellowthroat,	Oct.	11	Aug.	30	Sept.	14
Wilson Warbler,	May	31				
Canadian Warbler,	Aug.	22				
Redstart,			Aug.	31		
American Pipit,	{ May	18				
	{ Oct.	30				
Catbird,	Oct.	4			July	1
Brown Thrasher,			Sept.	9	Oct.	14
Winter Wren,	Oct.	11				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet,	{ May	23	Apr.	26		
	{ Oct.	17				
Veery			Sept.	4	July	5
Bicknell's Thrush,	Sept.	20				
Olive-backed Thrush,	Sept.	24				
Hermit Thrush,	Oct.	27	Oct.	21	Oct.	23
Robin,	Nov.	24	Oct.	30	Oct.	28
Bluebird,	Oct.	30	Oct.	29	Oct.	13

**The Journal**  
of the  
**Maine Ornithological Society**

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study and Protection of Birds

Vol. IX

Published September 1, 1907

No. 3

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$1.00 a year; 25 cents a copy

**OFFICERS OF THE MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Pres., PROF. LESLIE A. LEE, Brunswick  
Vice-Pres. DR. H. H. BROCK, Portland  
Sec.-Treas., J. MERTON SWAIN, Farmington  
Councillors, CAPT. H. L. SPINNEY, Seguin  
ORA W. KNIGHT, Bangor

W. H. BROWNSON, Portland  
Editor  
FRANK T. NOBLE, Augusta  
Associate Editor

**In the Haunts of Swainson's Warbler.**

Dr. M. T. Cleckley, of Augusta, Georgia, has issued a neatly printed pamphlet, "In the Haunts of the Swainson's Warbler," with notes on migration, food, song, description of bird, its nest and eggs, etc., illustrated by photos of nests and eggs. An advertisement of the pamphlet appears in the advertising columns of the JOURNAL. Dr. Cleckley discovered a collection of nests of these rare Warblers on May 30, 1903, in a swamp near his home at Augusta, Georgia, and later he pursued his investigations in a neighboring swamp in South Carolina. The Doctor is an enthusiastic egg collector, and in the course of five seasons he has secured seventy-three eggs, most of which, he remarks, are the pride of his Oological Collection. It is judged that the Doctor has sets of these rare eggs for sale or exchange, and any readers of the JOURNAL who are interested should correspond with him. Most of the nests that he discovered were built in cane brakes, but a few were found in vines and bushes, all situated in the depth of wet and almost impassable swamps.

### **Feathered Game of the Northeast.**

The JOURNAL presents as a frontispiece a colored engraving of the Wood Duck, a sample illustration from "Feathered Game of the Northeast," by Walter H. Rich, of Portland, one of the most successful and scientific sportsmen in Maine, who unites excellent literary ability and accurate artistic capacity. The drawing of this Wood Duck, it seems to the JOURNAL, compares favorably with similar productions from the pencils of the best bird artists in the country, and it is something of a coincidence that the same bird has been portrayed recently in a number of well known publications. Mr. Rich's new book will be issued immediately from the press of Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., New York. The author, a keen sportsman of wide experience, here describes the game birds of our upper Eastern coast, both by word and picture, giving their habitat, seasons, best methods of hunting, and other valuable information. The book is filled with first-hand knowledge, enlivened by hunting episodes and native humor. It also contains a timely plea for moderation in seeking game. The fine series of full-page illustrations is an especially valuable feature, and will be welcomed by sportsmen everywhere. These drawings were all made by Mr. Rich himself with much attention to accurate detail, making them valuable as a means of identification of the different species of well known game birds. It is predicted that there will be a large and constantly increasing sale of this admirable and exhaustive book.

### **Useful Birds and Their Protection.**

The JOURNAL has received from the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, at the request of the author, a copy of "Useful Birds and Their Protection" by Edward Howe Forbush, the State Ornithologist. The volume has 437 pages, and is illustrated by the author, C. Allan Lyford, Chester A. Reed, and others. It is handsomely printed on heavy paper. The edition of this book was 5,000 copies, and the expense of printing it was \$3,000. It has been liberally distributed to Public Libraries, High schools and indi-

viduals especially interested in economic ornithology. The object of printing this volume was to put within reach of farmers and others a means of becoming further acquainted with the useful birds and the insect pests which they destroy in immense numbers. It treats in succession of the utility of birds in nature, the value of birds to man, the utility of birds in woodlands, birds as destroyers of hairy caterpillars and plant lice, the economic service of birds in the orchard, the utility of birds in field and garden, checks upon the increase of useful birds, and the protection of birds. Beginning with chapter five, the birds are described in regular order, and full directions for identification are given. The life histories are very full regarding the food habits of the different species. These pages contain a vast amount of interesting information written in a peculiarly entertaining style. Mr. Forbush, in all his works, is plain, straightforward, and practical. He never errs in his scientific conclusions. There are no loose statements in his pages. There is a wealth of illustrations in the book, largely half-tone plates. It is the most valuable contribution to economic ornithology that has appeared in late years. The Massachusetts State Board is to be congratulated upon this handsome volume. The only pity is that the edition is not larger, so that it might reach thousands of readers throughout the country.

### **Birds of Labrador.**

The JOURNAL has received the proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, Vol. XXXIII, No. 7, pages 277-428, "Birds of Labrador," by Charles W. Townsend, M. D., and Glover M. Allen. This is an extensive and reliable list of the birds which occur in Labrador, during the year, with full particulars of breeding as well as spring and fall migrations. It is of especial interest to Maine bird students, because practically all the migrants here mentioned pass to and fro in due course along the coast of Maine. Many birds, also, which breed in Labrador occur in Maine as migrants. The authors claim to have settled the status of the Horned Lark in Labrador, clearing up some erroneous ideas, which

they say have prevailed owing to the lack of definite information and extreme paucity of specimens. They also made detailed observations on the interesting flight song of the American Pipit and the Horned Lark. Their visit to Labrador was made in July, 1906, and their itinerary was extensive and comprehensive. There are chapters on Topography, Faunal Areas, Migration, Ornithological History, Bird and Egg Destruction. Then follows the annotated list which has been prepared with much care and with satisfactory fullness. The report includes the summary of two hundred and thirteen authenticated species and subspecies, two extinct species, and forty-four doubtful and erroneous species, making a total of two hundred and fifty-nine. The authors are to be highly commended for their work in preparing this excellent list and giving so full an account of the birds of this region.

Mr. Walter H. Rich, whose book entitled "Feathered Game of the Northeast," will shortly be issued from the press of Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., of New York, is a resident of Portland and an active member of the Maine Ornithological Society. Whatever success the book may command will be scored to the credit of this society, as one more notable achievement towards increasing the general sum of knowledge of our feathered friends. Mr. Rich has long been well known to the local members of the society as an enthusiastic student of birds, and a sportsman whose prowess in field and woods is acknowledged to be eminent. He is especially familiar with game birds and their habits, being well fitted to write about them both entertainingly and reliably. In addition to that, he is an artist of rare ability and his drawings of birds are among the best in the country. It is with pleasure, therefore, that the JOURNAL calls attention to the forthcoming book and commends it to the consideration of our readers. A brief advance notice appears elsewhere in this number.

The editor desires to make due apology to the members for the prominence of his own articles in this number of the JOURNAL.

Each year it happens that the issue coming directly after midsummer has a dearth of suitable material from those whose contributions are usually sent in at other times of the year. It is necessary to fill these columns to the usual limit; hence, if the members will not contribute, they must not complain if the editor does his best to supply from his own pen what is lacking from other sources.

In order to obtain notes for the JOURNAL, it is usually necessary for the editor to make personal solicitation from the members. There are, however, some notable exceptions, where valuable notes are submitted without the asking. These are highly appreciated always. It is hoped that the members in the future will send in more notes and thus help to make the quarterly numbers of more general interest.

During the summer Mr. Arthur H. Norton has made a personal inspection of all the principal colonies of sea birds on the Maine coast, being employed for this service by Mr. William Dutcher, of New York, President of the National Audubon Society, whose work in obtaining protection for birds all over the country is of the highest value. Mr. Norton is now engaged in preparing an extended report of his observations, and the main portion of it, at least, will soon appear in Bird Lore, the organ of the National Audubon Society. It will be read with interest by all who have at heart the welfare of our sea birds. It goes without saying that it will be both reliable and exhaustive.

Dr. Townsend's note, in this issue, recording the discovery of bones of the Great Auk at Northeast Harbor, Mt. Desert island, will attract the attention of Maine bird students, as a unique and valuable find. The identification of the bones seems to have been made so carefully that it is beyond question. The thanks of the JOURNAL are due to Dr. Townsend for this interesting contribution.

The membership of the Maine Ornithological Society ought to be doubled during the coming year. If each member would obtain

one new name the desired result would easily be attained. At present the finances of the society are meager and it is a great effort to get money enough together to pay for printing the JOURNAL. When interest in birds all over the State is so great as it is at present, this condition ought not to exist. Will not the members make a special effort in this direction before the next annual meeting, which is to be held in Portland, on the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving Day? All interested, whether members or not, will be welcome at all the sessions of the society at that time.

The most of our subscribers have paid for the JOURNAL for the present year, and our thanks are due to them for their promptness. Those who have not already sent their cash should do so at once, as money is needed to pay for printing the JOURNAL. Several subscribers are in arrears for two years or more and have not responded to bills sent to them. It is hoped that all such may see their way clear to pay the subscriptions which they owe and continue the JOURNAL on a cash basis.

The contribution to the JOURNAL, printed in the June number, entitled "Articles Contributing Data Bearing upon the Canadian Fauna in the Vicinity of Portland, Me.," should have been credited to Mr. Arthur H. Norton, of Portland. His name was accidentally omitted from the head of the article.

The members of the Maine Ornithological Society desire to extend to the President, Prof. Leslie A. Lee, their heartfelt sympathy on account of the recent loss of his son, who was drowned by the upsetting of his boat near Seguin. The circumstances of the accident were especially painful, and the subsequent quest for the body by the bereaved father, made all who knew him mourn, because so severe an affliction had fallen upon one who, they knew, must feel it with exceptional keenness.

## Bird Notes.

Notes and observations upon bird life within our State are earnestly desired from all our readers for publication in this column, and should be sent to the Editor, W. H. Brownson, City Building, Portland, Maine.

We note with much satisfaction the increasing frequency with which the members of our society report to this JOURNAL their ornithological observations. This is an important part of our duties, one to another, and should be shared in by all interested in bird life. The JOURNAL'S columns are always open to contributors of items of general interest relating to Maine birds, and we trust our members will, through this medium, disseminate such knowledge as they personally possess.

WASHINGTON COUNTY NOTES.—*Scarlet Tanager*.—This is of rare occurrence in this vicinity none having been observed since 1898; during the migration season this spring quite a number were observed here and attracted much attention.

*American Pipit*.—The appearance of the Pipit on June 1st was of much interest as this is an unusual date for it to be seen here. It remained for several days and I made several trips to observe its habits, always finding it not over one hundred yards from the place where it was first seen; it is very rare in this county at any season.

*Cowbird*.—This bird is recorded as being a common summer resident in most parts of the State, but rare in this section. This spring was the first time I have observed them in this section of the county. There were several reports of them during the month of May, and I made records of personal observation several times during that month, but they did not remain.

*Rose-breasted Grosbeak*.—Another rare visitor to this county was the Rose-breasted Grosbeak on May 19th, when I made record of the first one I have seen here. It was a male in splendid plumage and remained about here for several days.

*Redpoll*.—These very interesting birds, although of rare occurrence here, were very abundant last spring. Several flocks were about town during the month of May, and were composed of the

Hoary and Common, about one-fourth of the number being the Hoary. They remained about the low wet places and devoted most of their time to feeding, seeming to have ravenous appetites.

*Piping Plover.*—August 1st I had the good fortune to secure a fine specimen of this species, and it is the only one I have seen since I have been observing the birds. Careful observers report this bird as very rare. This specimen was shot on the sand beach near this village. The taxidermist, who does about all the work of that kind, and, who is a careful bird student, said that this was the first of this species he had seen.

*Pomarine Jaeger.*—July 14th I had the good fortune to secure one of these interesting birds. It was a male bird in fine plumage and was shot on the beach in this town, which makes it doubly interesting as they are rarely seen except at sea.

*Bluebird.*—Last year there was quite a scarcity of Bluebirds in this section and it seemed as if their number was diminishing, but I have just returned from a trip through the eastern and northern parts of this county, and was pleased to find them more numerous than they have been for several years, every township having a good sized colony.

*Whooping Swan.*—It may be of interest to some of our readers to know that the Whooping Swan referred to in a previous number of the JOURNAL, as being the only one of the species captured in the United States, and at that time being in my collection, has been sold to the John Lewis Childs museum, Floral Park, N. Y., which contains the largest collection of North American birds in the world.

CLARENCE H. CLARK.

Lubec, Me., Aug. 12, 1907.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW (*Melospiza lincolni*) AT PORTLAND.—Mr. Arthur H. Norton contributes to the *Auk* for July, 1907, the following note: On June 1, 1907, Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown brought, and donated to the Society of Natural History, a perfectly fresh specimen of Lincoln's Sparrow. It was found dead by Mr. Brown on Congress street, the principal thoroughfare of Portland. It was

prepared as a skin by the writer, when it was found to have a skull fracture, a little to the left of the median line, extending the length of the brain case, indicating the nature of its death. It is a female, showing some traces of moult, and having one ovarian ovum about as large as a No. 12 shot. The previous local records seem to have been but three, one being a spring record, May 12, 1900 (JOURN. ME. ORN. SOC., VI, p. 55). The other two were Sept. 20, 1896, (*Bull.* 3, Univ. of Maine), and Sept. 25, 1897 (JOURN. ME. ORN. SOC., VI, p. 55). The present specimen considerably extends the known period of Migration.

FEEDING OF THE CHIPPING SPARROW.—On the afternoon of Sunday, July 7th, while sitting on the piazza at Belmont Lodge, Oxford, Maine, I was much interested in watching the feeding of a Chipping Sparrow that had a nest, with young, in a willow near by. It occurred to me to time the birds in their visits, with the following results. For the space of over half an hour a bird visited the nest with food every three minutes. The exact times were 5.53, 5.56, 5.59, 6.03, 6.06, 6.09, 6.13, 6.16, 6.20, 6.22, 6.26, 6.29. The last time both of the parent birds were at the nest together. The afternoon was very cloudy, at times with a heavy fog or rain, the wind from the southeast, and light. The bird usually remained about a half minute on the nest.

EDWARD B. CHAMBERLAIN.

Cumberland Centre, Me., July 1907.

A NEW STATION FOR THE SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN IN MAINE.—The writer is happy to be able to record the fact, that June 15th, he saw fully a hundred Short-billed Marsh Wrens scattered throughout Half Moon Meadows, Glenburn. For fully two miles along the meadows they were very abundant and the males were all in full song. This is the second recorded station for this species in Maine, the first one being in Bangor.

ORA W. KNIGHT.

Bangor, June 15, 1907.

PHALAROPES NEAR CAMPOBELLO ISLAND, NEW BRUNSWICK.—On July 25, 1907, I was one of the passengers on the steamer Calvin Austin, bound from Portland to Eastport and other points on the Bay of Fundy. The day dawned with a light south breeze, drizzling rain and light fog. Eastport was approached by way of Grand Maun channel and Head Harbor passage. Frequently, while running Grand Maun channel, flocks of twenty-five and upwards of small birds were seen circling low over the water, in a westerly direction. These we were unable to identify to our complete satisfaction, though believing them to be Phalaropes. After leaving East Quoddy Head, a half mile astern, flocks of scores, then hundreds, finally thousands and thousands of undoubted Phalaropes first appeared circling about, then began rising before us, until a solid mass extended from near our starboard (north) bow, as far as we could discern them in the gray light, and thus they surged onward until India Island was approached, when they swept away to the northward, passing or circling to the astern of that island. The explanation of this gathering, which Mr. C. H. Clark, of Lubec, informed me was not unusual, is, that the birds find their feeding ground in the eddy formed by the meeting currents from Cabscook Bay, St. Croix River and Passamaquoddy Bay, between Deer Island, with its approaches, and Campobello Island.

ARTHUR H. NORTON.

Portland, Me., August 27, 1907.

A CORMORANT NEAR PORTLAND, MAINE, IN SUMMER.—On June 28, 1907, while with several other gentlemen at the Hussey, a sunken ledge three and a half nautical miles east-northeast of Portland Head Light, a Cormorant flew by from the southwest, going toward Jewell's Island; this was about five o'clock P. M. It was a male and I believe that it was a *carbo*. I am not aware that either of the Shags have been observed in this section before in midsummer.

ARTHUR H. NORTON.

Portland, August 27, 1907.

BONES OF THE GREAT AUK (*Plautus impennis*), AT MOUNT DESERT ISLAND.—In August, 1882, at Manchester's Point, Northeast Harbor, Mount Desert Island, Maine, I obtained a number of bones of birds from the extensive shell heap which lines the shore at this place. Among these bones were some that I believed might belong to the Great Auk and I referred them all to Mr. J. D. Sornborger for identification. He kindly wrote me under date of April 10, 1906, as follows: "I return herewith the left coracoid and right ulna from Mount Desert. You will see, by comparing them with the specimens from Funk Island, which I enclose, that they are positively bones of the Great Auk." The shell heap at Manchester's Point, in 1882, was covered with loam and turf to a depth of several inches, and had evidently been overgrown by forest trees of considerable size, the stumps of some of which still remained. I found no glass beads or other evidence of contact with Europeans among the shells, but only stone and bone implements and bits of rude pottery, data which may be of help in determining the age of the Auk bones.

CHAS. W. TOWNSEND, M. D.

76 Marlborough St., Boston, Mass.,

August 27, 1907.

NOTES FROM AVON.—On May 25th, a neighbor found a Hummingbird in his barnyard, where it had perished the preceding night. For several nights, at this time, the thermometer had registered freezing or below. I did not see a live Hummingbird until July 9th. I have not seen a Loon or a Red-tailed Hawk this year. I have seen only one Mourning Warbler. The American Merganser and Spotted Sandpiper seem to be much decreased in numbers. On March 21, 1903, I saw, in a large flock of Juncos, two Albinos, marked alike and probably from the same brood. The throat was pure white, and the white extended up the side of the head; there was also a white line above the eye. These markings with the band across the breast gave the birds a peculiarly odd appearance.

DANA W. SWEET.

Phillips, Me., Aug. 10, 1907.

BRUNSWICK NOTES.—Most incidents which I notice about birds and animals, in their wild state, have frequent parallels, but it has been the good fortune of Mrs. Sawyer and myself to notice two incidents this spring, which are regarded by our neighbors as a little out of the ordinary. About two weeks ago Mrs. Sawyer heard a sound very nearly like the Robin, some short distance from our residence; upon scanning the oak tree from which the sound arose she discovered a bird in every way answering the description of the Butcher Bird. For a few seconds he would imitate the Robin very well, then there would appear a break, or slip in his imitation which gave him away. This is the first Butcher Bird which I have heard of in this part of Brunswick, but we did see several in Harpswell last year, and I understand they are quite frequent in that town.

Now my second incident.

On Wednesday evening of June 19th, I was startled while at work in some repairs in my cottage in Harpswell, by the shrill cries of a Robin in a fair sized spruce some seventy-five feet from the building. I looked in the direction of the bird and fancied I saw a red squirrel combating the bird. After a short and spirited contest the Robin flew away to an adjoining tree in much concern, apparently, for her own safety. I had then reached the tree, and the sight which met my eyes indeed startled me, for there, some twelve feet from the ground, with his head within six or eight inches of the Robin's nest was a large spotted adder, evidently on business bent. I hastily returned to the building secured a boat oar and with one clip brought Mister snake from his contemplated feast, on young robins, to hasty end. The reptile measured three feet and one inch in length, had a diamond shaped spot next the head, of a steel gray, and the rest of his back covered with dark brown and leaden colored spots, while the under part of his body was of quite bright colored squares of dark brown and steel of different sizes.

On my way home to Brunswick, the next day, I told the incident to Mr. Walter Totman, of Harpswell, a man of veracity, and he told of an incident which happened several years ago at Gun Point, some two miles below my cottages. A Mr. Snow was at-

tracted by a great uproar among the Eaves Swallows; an examination disclosed the startling fact that a large adder was under the eaves of the barn busily engaged in devouring the swallows' eggs. I remember reading, when a small boy, something about a Robin trying to attract attention to a snake which was about to reach her young, and the show of gratitude which the bird exhibited when the snake had been killed, but I think that was a black reptile, and I really never believed it half true. I cannot say that this Robin showed any particular appreciation of what I had done for her, but she seemed much in doubt about returning to the nest for an hour or so after the incident. In my own mind however, I felt the day well spent if I had accomplished nothing more material than saving the nest and contents. In it I discovered one little Robin and three unhatched eggs. After dark I returned to the nest with my lantern and Mrs. Robin was at peace with her family.

CLARENCE E. SAWYER.

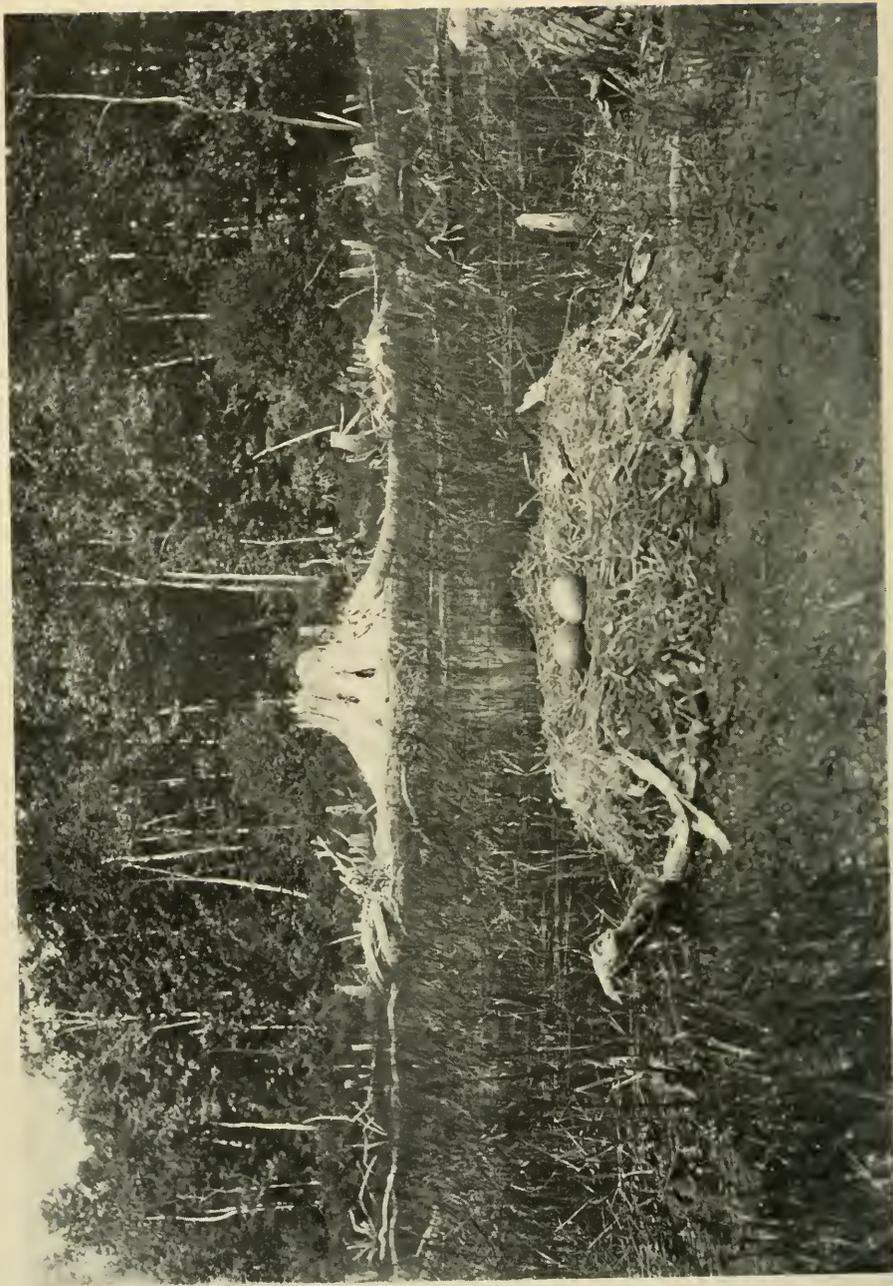
Brunswick, June 28, 1907.

PHALAROPE AT SEBAGO LAKE.—Mr. Everett Smith, of Portland, informs me that on August 23d, while making a trip on the Sebago Lake steamer, he saw a Phalarope in the water near the boat. The bird was flushed twice or three times, and flew a short distance ahead, alighting again in the water. The species could not be ascertained, but it was probably either the Red Phalarope or the Northern Phalarope. The presence of this bird of the sea on an inland lake is interesting, though this is not the first time it has been reported. Sept. 26, 1904, Mr. A. H. Norton took a Red Phalarope at Westbrook, six miles inland, where it was swimming in the Presumpscot river. (A. H. Norton in JOURN. ME. ORN. Soc. Vol. VII, page 47.)

W. H. BROWNSON.

Portland, Aug. 31, 1907.





AN UNUSUAL LOON'S NEST AT SEBAGO LAKE.  
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY DR. WM. C. KENDALL.

# The Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society

Published by the Society on the first of March, June, September and December

---

---

Vol. IX

DECEMBER, 1907

No. 4

---

---

## Observations on the Nesting and Feeding Habits of the Loon.

By DR. WM. C. KENDALL.

[Scientific Assistant, U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.]

The Loon's nest shown in the half-tone engraving on the opposite page was found early in July, this season, in Camp Cove, on the east side of the lower end of Raymond Cape, Sebago Lake. The location and amount of material used in the construction of the nest seemed to me to be somewhat remarkable, as they were different from those of any Loons' nests that I had ever seen.

Ordinarily, according to my observations, the Loon chooses for a nesting site some small island or hummock somewhat remote from the mainland. Here it is comparatively safe from predaceous animals, and is protected from observation by a stump, bush or aquatic vegetation, with the only exposed opening on the water side, affording the bird an outlook and egress at the approach of danger. One curious feature of this nest is that there is rather more material used in its construction than is usual, consisting of small sticks and water plants. The majority of nests that I have seen were shallow hollows lined with a small amount of material, such as pieces of bark, small twigs and pieces of water plants. They were situated on the ground sufficiently above water level to allow of a moderate rise of water. At times a sudden, considerable rise of water will flood the

nest. But usually about the breeding time the water is subsiding and the nest is moved waterward or there is a change of locality entirely.

The present nest was built on a low, sand and mud shore, with little protection from observation save from the similarity of the color of the nest and eggs to the surroundings, and at the time the nest was found it was approachable from the shoreward side, although the location indicated that probably at the time the nest was built there was more water around it, being on a low island as it were. Notwithstanding its exposed situation, however, I am glad to say that the eggs were safely hatched.

Another thing about this nest that attracted attention was the fact that it was somewhat later in the season, in this locality, than I have usually found Loons' nests with fresh eggs, as these evidently were, judging from the time that it took them to hatch.

I said that I was glad that the eggs were safely hatched. I am glad, for the Loon is one of my favorite birds, notwithstanding the slanderous accusations that have been directed toward it.

For many years the bird was considered legitimate prey to every gun that could succeed in stopping its career. But fortunately every gun could not do much harm, thanks to the deftness of the bird in dodging the leaden missiles by diving and rapid swimming.

The Loon has always been regarded as a destroyer of game-fish and for that reason was not included in the list of those protected by law. It certainly is almost, if not quite, exclusively a fish-eater, and probably, in small, inland ponds, where trout are small, devours a good many. But in Sebago Lake and other large lakes my observations lead me to believe that it does little or no harm. In most large lakes salmon and trout are mostly too large for the Loon to trouble and it restricts its diet to the smaller surface-swimming and shore fishes, such as smelts, chubs, etc. In Sebago Lake these are so numerous that it can do no harm in that direction.

## The Wood Duck<sup>1</sup> and its Danger.

By ARTHUR H. NORTON.

Those readers of the JOURNAL who may be unfamiliar with this bird are referred to the frontispiece of the last JOURNAL, taken from Mr. Rich's book on "The Feathered Game of the Northeast."

For some time it has been apparent to observing students of birds that the Wood Duck was decreasing to a serious extent.

The scene so vividly described in "Uncle 'Lisha's Outing," in which the bungling hunters, from the fox-trails of the mountains, approached the gaudy flocks, engaged in their mid-day toilets, and tumbled them mercilessly from the logs, is a most graphic treatise upon their destruction. Less picturesque is the startling statement, made in Dawson's "Birds of Ohio,"<sup>2</sup> that formerly "Wood Ducks were killed by *wagon loads every spring*."

Confiding, gregarious, breeding in the domain of that ambitious hunter and barbarian, the country boy, dozens of fearless young birds were potted in late summer. Those that escaped death during the fall and winter returned mated in the spring to breed, so ardent in these that the devoted pairs followed closely the receding ice line; skirting the very borders of streams and small ponds for arrow-head<sup>3</sup> bulbs and other food, still so fearless that they were an easy prey in the days of spring shooting, that most destructive method of game extermination.

In addition to this extensive killing, like all of its family, this Duck has been forced out of its strongholds by the progress of deforestation and stream destruction. Numbers that once were secure in the fastness of the wild lands have been gradually placed upon the danger line of the advancing frontier. Thus, lacking the caution and wild wit of the Black Duck, the northern wilderness home of some of their relatives, they have suffered more keenly than most of their allies.

In 1901, special attention was called to the danger threatening this bird<sup>4</sup> and the Woodcock by Dr. A. K. Fisher, and, according to this author, in several sections sportsmen had realized the danger

and secured shorter open seasons for this bird<sup>7</sup> than for other Ducks. Dr. Fisher's warning was naturally followed with results, but these were less apparent than they would have been, since the general anti-spring Duck laws were received with general favor by well-meaning sportsmen during the same period. Yet the special scarcity of Wood Duck has been so general and evident, that it became apparent that still more restrictive measures should be taken in its behalf.

During the present year, Mr. Wm. Dutcher<sup>8</sup> has collected a large amount of new data, bearing upon the present status of the bird "throughout the continent," and the result of his investigation shows clearly that the alleged danger is a real one, demanding special protection for the preservation of this beautiful species.

Two New England states, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, have enacted laws making a perpetual close time for the bird for a term of years. Such an effort failed to pass the Maine legislature at its session in 1907. Yet the situation in Maine is unmistakable. In 1897, Mr. Ora W. Knight<sup>7</sup> published the statement, of this species, "It is now less common than of former years."

In 1905, in a very optimistic article on "Ducks in Maine," Mr. Frank T. Noble,<sup>8</sup> who is an ardent and active sportsman, said, "I fear these birds are nearing extinction, as during the past two years I have failed to observe a single specimen."

Mr. Walter H. Rich, a sportsman whose experience has been gained by personal efforts in the field, and whose generalizations are facilitated by his standing with the "Brotherhood of Sportsmen," in his recently published book on the game birds, says:<sup>9</sup>

"They bred in numbers in the lake region of Maine, and were surely second in point of numbers . . . only to the Black Duck. I say *were*, for they have become greatly reduced in numbers within the last few years. They have become so scarce that it seems that shooting them should be prohibited for a term of years, if we would prevent their total extinction. Let us act before it is too late, and so prevent this irreparable loss."

Yet certain sections of Maine still afford primitive conditions

suitable to their needs and secluded enough for their safety while breeding. When these successful broods make their appearance on the wing, the numbers of the species appear, in these localities, very considerable, and the opening of the shooting season is celebrated by making good bags of the birds. Yet in other sections of Maine, sections through which the migrants should pass, and formerly within their breeding area, they are so rare that the occurrence of one or two birds is noteworthy.

It was the sportsmen of such a section, whose location made the truth of the case evident to them, who petitioned the legislature for a perpetual close time, and it was sportsmen from the breeding section, who are shooting the newly raised broods, who could not see the need of such protection, because good numbers appear at the close of the breeding season in their streams. To the latter, it has not been convincingly shown that in reality they are, on their opening days, cutting down the newly raised broods, sapping the life of what should be our breeding stock.

It is well known to those familiar with the literature that the decade before the last Labrador Duck was killed that species appeared to be quite common on the New England coast.

Be it said to their credit, and for the encouragement of others, that the gentlemen who urged the petition before the legislative committee, for the perpetual protection of this Duck, true to their convictions, have agreed to spare it on their shooting trips.

It should be made the duty of each member of this society, in behalf of its motto, and the Maine Audubon society, to inform themselves of the conditions in their vicinities, and stand ready for action that will make the next attempt at protection successful.

<sup>1</sup>*Aix sponsa*.

<sup>2</sup>*Eide* Dutcher, Bird Lore, Vol. IX, p. 189.

<sup>3</sup>*Sagittaria*.

<sup>4</sup>Year book, U. S. Dept. Agr., 1901, p. 447; also separately printed.

<sup>5</sup>Massachusetts, four counties in Maryland, one county in New York. Fisher, p. 456.

<sup>6</sup>Bird Lore, Vol. IX, pp. 189-192.

<sup>7</sup>Bull. Univ. of Me., No. 3, p. 30.

<sup>8</sup>JOUR. Me. Orn. Soc., Vol. VII, p. 13.

<sup>9</sup>Feathered Game of the Northeast, p. 319.

## Scarcity of the Ruffed Grouse.

By WALTER H. RICH.

The sportsmen of northern New England are facing an unfortunate condition in the scarcity of the bird which, in this section, at least, furnishes the principal cause of gun fever and is the largest factor in our game supply. This bird becomes of most importance to us, because he alone of all our game birds is a permanent resident in our borders. For other game birds—Woodcock, Snipe, Plover or Ducks—we are at the mercy of fate and the flights. If we happen to make our hunting trips when the birds are moving we may reckon on some sport, but our good Ruffed Grouse is our very own and always with us. For this reason the failure of the supply in this instance comes closer home to us than would a like misfortune in the case of any other of our feathered game.

In my remembrance there has not been a season when so few Ruffed Grouse have been taken in this vicinity as have been brought to bag this year, and I believe the same scarcity prevails over the entire state. We have been buoying our spirits up with the hope that the birds would "wander out from the thick woods" into their accustomed haunts during the latter half of the season, but thus far they seem to have been so deep in the thick woods that they haven't found their way out as yet.

Massachusetts and Connecticut are more fortunate than are we, in that they may replenish a depleted stock of Bob Whites with birds from other localities, but just now it is not feasible for us to procure by a mere outlay of money some hundreds of dozens of Grouse to turn loose in our covers after a hard winter or a poor breeding season has reduced our native stock.

As a matter of comparison, I would state that a sportsman of my acquaintance, who last year hunted over a range of country some sixty miles from Portland, when, in a week's trip alone, he took each day his lawful limit of "Partridges," and seemed to see no lessening of their numbers on the last day of his stay, sent this year two of his friends into the same territory, where in four days the pair shot fifty-five birds, of which only five were "Partridges."

For myself, I have killed this year less than one-third as many Grouse as last season, and have seen about one-fifth as many. I note a considerable reduction in last year's (1906) crop over that of the year before—when it seemed as though the highest point was reached—and a much greater falling off in this year's supply over that of the year before.

For this state of affairs various reasons have been advanced, among others a hard winter, and an epidemic of some sort, but I beg to offer the following facts as worthy of attention in considering this matter.

On examination of the records of the Weather Bureau at Portland, Me., I find these statistics:

For April, 1905, a daily average temperature of one degree below normal; snow, none; rain, 1.43 inches, a very small amount. This means usual amount of heat and no cold storms, with plenty of sunshine.

For May, 1905, a daily average temperature of one and one-half degrees below normal; no snow; a rainfall of 2.58 inches in a month whose normal rainfall is 3.60 inches, about two-thirds of the average. Both Grouse and local Woodcock were in good numbers the following fall, the Grouse especially abundant here.

Rainfall for June, 1905, slightly less than normal, 3.08 inches; probably no loss of chicks from this cause.

For April, 1906, we find that twenty and one-half inches of snow fell, of which fifteen inches fell upon the tenth of the month. This came at about the height of the Woodcock nesting and may account for the shortage of Long Bills last season. The daily average of temperature for the month was two degrees below normal; rainfall, 3.53 inches, thus just less than normal.

For May, 1906, temperature was normal, with rainfall slightly above normal, but of this 3.5 inches fell on the 27th, 28th and 29th, when nesting was mainly over, leaving a comparatively warm and dry period from April 15th to May 26th, the main nesting period of the Ruffed Grouse.

Rainfall for June, 1906, was nearly twice normal, and may have been harmful to young chicks, Grouse or Woodcocks.

Because of the partial failure of the Woodcock crop, much more attention was given by sportsmen to the Grouse. This helped to thin out the breeding supply. While most of the birds wintered well, it is fair to suppose that some were mistaken for foxes or rabbits by gunners during the winter months (I have known gunners to have strangely defective eyesight at this time of year), and so they suffered some loss of numbers from this cause.

Now let us see what our stock of breeding birds had to face in the spring of this glorious year, 1907.

The month of April (delightful season) gave us seventeen and one-half inches of snow, and so could spare us but two and three-quarters inches of melted snow and rain in addition. To these blessings she added four degrees of cold to each day, or a total of one hundred and twenty degrees more cold for the month than a normal April gives us.

'Lovely May,' 1907, niggardly in rainfall, gave us half the normal amount of drizzle, but made all equal by unloading one hundred and fifty-five degrees more of cold than a well-regulated May should have done, a daily average of five degrees of added cold. This may have meant many degrees of falling temperature within a few hours, and with or because of this sudden drop, misfortune to the Grouse nesting during its three or four weeks' duration. Whether from this or another cause, Grouse broods were rare in my territory.

Rainfall for June, 1907, slightly above normal.

The Woodcocks seem to have done well. The fact that their period of incubation is much shorter than that of their neighbors, the Grouse, materially reduces the chances against their hatching their eggs. Also, if we are to believe the authorities, Woodcocks' eggs are less affected by climatic changes.

Under such unfavorable conditions as these in the nesting time, there seems to me to be no need of enlisting an epidemic to aid in accomplishing this foul deed.

## An Extract from Mr. George A. Boardman's Journal.

During a recent visit to Bangor, the editor had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of Mr. Samuel L. Boardman, the accomplished editor of the *Bangor Commercial*. Mr. Boardman is well known to every member of this society, from the fact that he wrote the excellent memoirs of the late George A. Boardman, of Calais, the book being entitled "The Naturalist of the St. Croix." Mr. Boardman and the eminent ornithologist of Calais were kinsmen of different branches of the Thomas Boardman who came to Cambridge, New England, in 1634, and was steward of Harvard College. They were not very closely related, although they kept up visiting and correspondence for many years. Mr. Boardman, in writing of the life and labors of his distinguished relative, put a great deal of love and hard work into the book, and it is a most creditable piece of biography. Mr. Boardman possesses more or less material written by George A. Boardman, and he has prepared for the current number of the JOURNAL the following extract from the journal of the ornithologist, which has never before appeared in print. It will be read with great interest, since it gives in a peculiarly graphic way an idea of the observations of Mr. Boardman from year to year during the period between 1854 and 1900.

*(From Journal of George A. Boardman, of Calais.)*

1854.

April 13. First Robin.

1855.

April 10. First Robin.

" 26. First Martin.

" 26. First Swift.

May 2. First Swallow.

1856.

April 8. First Robin.

" 19. First Swallow.

1857.

June 4. Shot Yellowbirds.

1858.

April 1. Saw Blackbirds and Robins.

" 22. First Swallow.

1859.

March 12. Saw Wild Geese.

April 22. First Swallow.

May 6. First Martins.

1860.

April 11. First Robins.

" 20. First Swallows.

May 25. First Bobolink.

1861.

April 9. First Robin.

1862.

Jan. 24. Saw Robin.

April 14. First Robin.

" 18. First Swallow.

" 19. Saw Martin and Fish Hawk.

May 19. Snowbird's nest and 4 eggs.

" 20. Got 6 Duck's eggs and 8 Snowbird's eggs. Kendrick  
Lake.

" 21. Got Duck's nest. Shot Swallows.

" 24. Got Duck's nest.

" 28. Got Warbler's nest.

June 18. Gull's eggs. Huntley Brook.

July 14. Got 2 Warbler's nests.

" 16. Skinned Phalarope and Sea Parrot.

Aug. 14. Shot 2 Ducks.

" 22. Four Heron eggs.

Sept. 8. Shot 2 Gulls.

" 9. Shot 2 Gulls.

" 10. Shot 2 Gulls.

" 23. Shot 3 Partridges.

- Oct. 1. Went to meeting of Natural History Society.  
 " 16. Shot 6 Partridges.  
 " 18. Shot 10 Partridges.  
 " 29. Shot Yellowbird and Sandpiper.
- Nov. 8. Shot Grosbeak and Goldcrest.  
 " 14. Shot and skinned White Owl.  
 " 17. Shot and skinned White Owl.  
 " 18. Shot Banded Woodpecker.
- Dec. 16. Skinned White Owl and Sea Dove.
- 1863.
- Jan. 24. Got 6 Woodpeckers. Leavitt.
- Feb. 3. Saw Loupcervier.  
 " 18. Skinned Purple Sandpiper.  
 " 28. Box birds from Chaney. Skinned Duck, Hawk and Auks.
- March 6. Spent afternoon at house and library, Fredericton.  
 " 26. Skinned Eagle.
- April 7. Skinned birds.  
 " 8. Marked bird skins.  
 " 13. Got Cormorants, Old Squaw, Harlequin and Ruby-crowned Wren.  
 " 14. Skinned Harlequin, Wren and Fox Sparrow.  
 " 16. Sent box Gidney, Cormorant, Loon egg and Harlequin.  
 " 17. Skinned Harlequins.  
 " 17. Saw Swallows.  
 " 28. Shot Wren.  
 " 29. Saw Fish Hawk.
- May 1. Saw Barn Swallow.  
 " 6. Saw Crow Blackbird.  
 " 9. Got Broad-winged Hawk.  
 " 20. Got Chipbird eggs.  
 " 21. Got Partridge eggs.  
 " 25. Got Partridge eggs.  
 " 26. Got Redtail egg, Partridge, Thrush, etc.

- May 27. Got Whistler's egg, 2 Snowbird nests and 6 eggs of  
     Yellowhammer.  
 " 29. Got 4 Sandpipers and 3 Duck's eggs; got King Eider.  
 " 30. Got Sparrow Hawk, 5 eggs.  
 June 5. Got Redwing eggs.  
 " 24. Got Goshawk.  
 " 27. Got Petrel's eggs.  
 July 8. Shot Sharp-shinned Hawk.  
 " 23. Shot 3 Ducks.  
 " 25. Shot 2 Ducks.  
 Aug. 1. Shot Duck and Heron.  
 " 18. Shot Blue-winged Teal and 3 young; 1 Black Duck.  
 " 29. Shot 8 Partridges and Pigeon.  
 Sept. 9. Shot Plovers.  
 " 14. Bird building—16 x 26 x 10 ft.  
 " 25. Shot 2 Partridges.  
 " 26. Mounted Hawk and skinned birds.  
 " 28. Mounted Sharp-shin.  
 Oct. 3. Shot Snipe.  
 " 7. Shot 6 Partridges.  
 1864.  
 March 19. Saw Wild Geese.  
 April 22. Saw Swallows.  
 May 7. Saw first Martins.  
 1866.  
 April 30. Saw Martins.  
 June. 2. Saw first Cherry Birds.  
 1868.  
 April 28. First Martins.  
 " 28. First Swallows.  
 1872.  
 May 8. Saw first Martins.  
 1873.  
 May 31. Saw first Cherry Birds.

1876.

- Sept. 15. Saw flock Plovers.  
 Oct. 16. Great flight of Snipe.

1878.

- Dec. 8. Saw flock Wild Geese.

1879.

- April 22. Saw snake on snow.

1880.

- April 6. First Robin.  
 " 29. First Martin.

1885.

- April 3. Wild Geese flying.  
 " 10. Saw Song Sparrows.  
 " 11. Saw Blue Snowbirds.  
 " 12. Saw first Robins.  
 " 19. Swallows and Blackbirds.  
 " 27. Saw first Snipe.  
 May 11. Saw Woodcock.

1886.

- March 19. Saw two Robins.  
 " 31. Saw Purple Finch.  
 April 6. Saw Song Sparrow.  
 " 8. Saw Blackbirds and Grackle.  
 " 18. Saw first Swallow, white belly.

1887.

- April 9. First Robin.  
 " 10. First Song Sparrow.  
 " 11. Saw first Juncos.  
 " 21. Swallows have come.  
 " 24. First Purple Finch.  
 May 3. First Martins.  
 " 5. First Yellow Warbler.

1891.

- Aug. 31. Saw Martins.  
 Sept. 2. Saw lots Martins.  
 " 9. Saw lots Martins.

1892.

May 20. Saw Hummingbirds on snow (Minneapolis).

1893.

May 1. Saw first Swallows.

1894.

April 30. Martins come.

1895.

April 21. Saw first Swallows and Sparrows.

May 6. Martins come.

1896.

May 14. Saw first Martins.

Sept. 7. Saw Hummingbird.

1898.

May 7. Saw first Swallows.

“ 16. Saw first Martins.

“ 18. Saw first Hummingbird.

Aug. 22. Great flight Night Hawks.

1899.

April 17. First Robin.

May 6. First Martins.

1900.

April 30. Saw first Swallow and Martins.

Sept. 1. Chimney Swallows left.

### Birds of Maine.

The Maine bird book is now in press, and will be sent to subscribers in all probability not later than April 15, 1908, which will be in ample time for the spring migration.

This is the only work ever published which is devoted exclusively to our Maine birds, giving their distribution in Maine as well as elsewhere, showing their relative abundance in each county, giving full descriptions of each species in the different plumages and sexes, and containing very complete and interesting accounts of

their home life, including descriptions of their nests and eggs, songs, habits, food and many other details of their daily life.

This will be the standard work of reference in all our Maine libraries, schools and homes. It is thoroughly accurate, yet written in a manner to attract and interest the beginner and the laity as well as the scientific bird student.

Up to January 15, 1908, subscriptions, accompanied by the cash, will be received at the rate of \$2.00 for each copy ordered. After this date the book will be \$3.00 to all who have failed to take advantage of the reduced rate offered. All copies will be bound in a handsome and durable binding. Subscriptions received only by

ORA W. KNIGHT.

No. 84 Forest Avenue, BANGOR, MAINE.

## List of Members of Maine Ornithological Society, December 1, 1907.

Following is a list of Honorary, Corresponding and Active Members of the Maine Ornithological Society, December 1, 1907:

### Honorary Members.

- BREWSTER, WM., Cambridge, Mass.  
 BROWN, NATHAN CLIFFORD, Portland, Me.  
 DUTCHER, WM., New York.  
 HARDY, MANLY, Brewer, Me.  
 MERRILL, HARRY, Bangor, Me.  
 PALMER, DR. T. S., Washington, D. C.  
 STANTON, PROF. J. Y., Lewiston, Me.  
 SMITH, EVERETT, Portland, Me.

### Corresponding Members.

- LARRABEE, PROF. AUSTIN P., Palo Alto, Cal.  
 EMERY, THOMAS J., Cambridge, Mass., 1907  
 KENDALL, DR. WM. C., Washington, D. C., 1902  
 HATCH, LEMONT P., Washington, D. C., 1907

MERRILL, ARTHUR, Wilkinsonville, Mass.,	1895
METCALF, WILLARD L., Lyme, Conn.,	1907
CHAMBERS, W. LEE, Santa Monica, Cal.,	1907
CLEAVES, HOWARD H., Staten Island, N. Y.,	1907
DURFEE, OWEN, Fall River, Mass.,	1904
PHILLIPS, SHERMAN E., Rochester, N. H.,	1903
SPALDING, FRED B., Lancaster, N. H.,	1906
DUTCHER, WM., New York, N. Y.,	1902

**Active Members.**

ABBOTT, MRS. FRED P., Saco,	1906
ATKINS, MRS. CHAS. G., East Orland,	1906
BARRETT, FRANKLIN R., Portland,	1905
BATES, MRS. A. F. C., Waterville,	1905
BERRY, HENRY E., Damariscotta,	1905
BERRY, MISS FLORA B., Portland,	1906
BROWNSON, W. H., Portland,	1902
BROWN, MISS BERTHA L., Bangor,	1905
BESSEY, DR. M. W., Waterville,	1899
BEDE, MISS ABBIE S., North Berwick,	1906
BATES, SAMUEL L., Portland,	1906
BLAIR, MRS. LOUIS, Jackman,	1906
BLACK, DR. H. H., Portland,	1902
CUSHMAN, GEO. E., Portland,	1903
CLARK, D. CROMMETT, Waterville,	1906
CLARK, CLARENCE H., Lubec,	1904
COREY, EBEN F., Boston,	1905
CARLETON, HON. L. T., Augusta,	1900
DAVID, FRED M., Damariscotta,	1906
DAVIS, MRS. G. H., Portland,	1906
DUNTON, NELLIE F., Bath,	1907
DINGLEY, MRS. FRED, Gardiner,	1906
DAVIS, MRS. GILMAN, Portland,	1906
DUFFETT, MISS CHARLOTTE, Portland,	1905
DAVEIS, MISS MABEL, Portland,	1904

ELLIS, HIRAM, Portland,	1904
EASTMAN, MISS SARA C., Portland,	1905
ECKSTORM, MRS. FANNY HARDY, Brewer,	1905
FOX, DANIEL W., Portland,	1906
FULLER, MISS CARRIE, Rockport,	1906
FOSTER, MRS. BERTHA, Burnham,	1905
FOBES, HAROLD B., Portland,	1906
FISKE, MISS MARY M., Bath,	1906
FANNING, JED. F., Portland,	1896
FOSTER, PROF. WM. T., Brunswick,	1906
GILMORE, MRS. A. F., Keen's Mills,	1905
GODDARD, HON. A. M., Augusta,	1904
GRIGGS, MISS ELIZABETH M., Westbrook,	1898
HERSEY, DANFORTH S., Portland,	1907
HARDY, MANLY, Brewer,	1904
HODGDON, MISS MYRTLE H., Augusta,	1901
HILL, DR. W. SCOTT, Augusta,	1906
HITCHINGS, PROF. E. F., Waterville,	1906
HULBERT, PROF. H. W., Portland,	1905
HAMMOND, M. F., Portland,	1906
HOOPER, MRS. FRED N., Woodfords,	1902
INGRAHAM, MISS ANNIE B., Rockport,	1906
JACKSON, GEORGE P., Portland,	1907
JOHNSON, EVERETT E., Hebron,	1905
JORDAN, FRITZ H., Portland,	1902
JORDAN, MISS NELLIE B., Alfred,	1902
JEWELL, HERBERT W., Farmington,	1907
KNIGHT, PROF. ORA W., Bangor,	1895
KEYES, PRESCOTT, Bangor,	1905
LEE, PROF. LESLIE A., Brunswick,	1896
LEE, W. A., Stratton,	1907
LEGGE, LOUIS E., Portland,	1905
LERMOND, NORMAN W., Thomaston,	1907
LEWIS, MISS HELEN S., Portland,	1907
LIBBY, GEO. D., Gardiner,	1896

MORIN, JOS. C., Fort Kent,	1902
MARKS, MRS. A. E., Yarmouth,	1906
MORRILL, MISS ETHEL B., Pittsfield,	1893
MEAD, JAMES CARROLL, North Bridgton,	F.
MOULTON, DAVID E., Portland,	1905
NICHOLS, JOHN M., Portland,	1907
NORTON, ARTHUR H., Portland,	1896
NORTON, MRS. A. H., Portland,	1899
NOBLE, FRANK T., Augusta,	1901
PARKER, MISS ETTA, Portland,	1906
POWERS, WILLIAM L., Gardiner,	F.
PAGE, HARRY B., Farmington,	1906
PEABODY, LUCY G., Machias,	1906
PERRY, ROBERT D., Brunswick,	1907
PEIRCE, A. F., Lewiston,	1907
PAYSON, HENRY S., Portland,	1906
PAUL, DR. C. A., Solon,	1905
ROGERS, GEO. L., Gardiner,	1903
RICHARDS, FRANK M., Farmington,	1896
RITCHIE, SANFORD, Dover,	1906
RUSSELL, MISS ELIZABETH W., Portland,	1906
REYNOLDS, ARTHUR T., Gardiner,	1906
RICHARDSON, A. F., Castine,	1906
RIDLEY, MISS MABEL P., Castine,	1902
RUSSELL, MISS MARION M., Wilton,	1907
RICH, WALTER H., Portland,	1904
RUSSELL, PROF. W. E., Gorham,	1904
ROLFE, PERCIVAL B., Portland,	1906
SMITH, FRANK A., Gardiner,	1906
SOULE, MISS MARION, Gardiner,	1906
STEVENS, MISS C. M., Portland,	1906
SWAIN, J. MERTON, Farmington,	1895
SEWALL, MRS. ARTHUR, Bath,	1904
SPINNEY, CAPT. H. L., Seguin,	1896
SWEET, DANA W., Phillips,	1902

SAWYER, CLARENCE E., Brunswick,	1901
SNOW, MISS MARY, Brooklyn,	1898
TUFTS, LERRY M., Farmington,	1905
TALBOT, SAMUEL, Portland, .	1905
WALKER, W. G., Castine,	1906
WHIPPLE, WM. H., Portland,	1906
WEEKS, MRS. GERTRUDE, Portland,	1906
WENTWORTH, MRS. E. P., Portland,	1899
WILLIAMS, L. C., Athens,	1903

### Feathered Game of the Northeast.

Mr. Walter H. Rich's new book, "Feathered Game of the Northeast," an advance notice of which appeared in the September JOURNAL, has now been on the market for over two months. It is meeting with a ready sale locally, where the author is well known, and there is also a considerable demand for it from all the eastern states, while an order of goodly proportions has been received from England. The criticisms of the book from the highest professional sources have been kind and encouraging. The book is of peculiar interest to young sportsmen who are desirous of becoming better acquainted with the habits of game birds, and it is also valuable for the general bird student. The descriptions and life histories of the various birds of which it treats are interesting and accurate. A characteristic extract, telling about the nesting habits of the Wood Duck, is herewith quoted:

"Perhaps if you have lived in 'the back country' of New England, in the months of April and May, you have had the good fortune to see the Wood Ducks come and search the forest for suitable places for their homes. It may be that, closely hidden, silent, motionless, and scarcely breathing lest you disturb the beautiful visitors, you have watched the birds flit from tree to tree along the watercourse; have seen them peep into the hollows of the dead stubs to see if the interiors were dry, cosy and suitable to hold the treasures which their fond hopes promise them. Anxious and

eager, they squeeze their lithe bodies through each narrow opening and inspect the inner chambers with all the care of a newly-made bride on her first 'house-hunting' expedition, and when at last one finds a spot which seems fitting, how quickly it is communicated to the other. At once the two set to work to furnish the snug little home, enlarging the entrance and smoothing down interior angles and corners. Soon all is prepared to receive the eggs, and anon the full number is ready for the hatching. This plucky little knight, ordinarily the gentlest of creatures, is now brimful of fight if he is disturbed in his home by any other of his kind, and there is a good prospect for trouble if the intruder does not leave at once. When the ducklings have arrived and gained a little strength the parent bird takes them in her beak and carries them to the nearest pond, unless, as is often the case, the nest overhangs the water, when she saves herself this trouble by simply pushing them overboard. Then she shows them how to get a living. There are often a dozen in a family, so that it is fortunate that they have only to reach out and take what they want to eat, otherwise the mother might have a hard time of it in providing for her numerous progeny, for the male bird usually deserts his mate at this time, leaving to her all the family cares. The drake spends the summer moulting season away from home with other recreant husbands, and is hardly to be recognized as the same gaudy bird of the spring.'

### The Ornithological Magazines.

THE AUK.—The *Auk* for October, 1907, contains a graphic account of the great destruction of Lapland Longspurs during a storm in southwestern Minnesota and northwestern Iowa in March, 1904, by Dr. Thomas S. Roberts; observations on Some Birds Procured near Charlestown, S. C., by Arthur T. Wayne; on Hybrids between the Mallard (*Anas boschas*) and Certain other Ducks, by Henry B. Bigelow; The Birds of Custer and Dawson Counties, Montana, by E. S. Cameron; Summer Birds of Southwestern Sas-

katchewan, by A. C. Bent; Notes from Extreme Southern Illinois, by John P. Ferry, with the usual number of general notes and observations on recent ornithological literature.

THE CONDOR.—The *Condor* for September–October, 1907, contains Two Studies in Blue (with six photos by H. T. Bohlman), by William L. Finley; Some Experiences of a Collector in Alaska, by Joseph Dixon; Catalogue of Birds Collected by W. W. Brown, Jr., in Middle Lower California, by John E. Thayer and Outram Bangs; Some Colorado Notes on the Rocky Mountain Screech Owl (with five photos), by Robert B. Rockwell; A Collecting Trip in Korea, by Malcolm P. Anderson; The Gambel Partridge in California, by M. French Gilman; Nesting of the Bi-colored Blackbird (with one photo), by H. F. Duprey; Notes on the Pallid Wren-tit, by Wright M. Pierce; Some Birds of Southwest Colorado, by M. French Gilman; The Rufous-crowned Sparrow in San Diego County (with one photo), by Nelson K. Carpenter; The Condor Fifty Years Ago, by C. S. Sharp, together with notes from field and study, editorials, communications and reviews.

BIRD-LORE.—The issue of *Bird-Lore* for September–October, 1907, is fully up to its previous standard of fine typography and elegant illustrations. The articles on the Thrushes are continued, with handsomely colored portraits of several different species. There is also an admirably colored plate of the Purple Finch accompanying an article on this bird by Mabel Osgood Wright. The Audubon Society furnishes reports of new bird reservations in the Gulf of Mexico, report of exploration of seabird colonies on the coast of Louisiana west of the Mississippi. General articles are: Bird Protection in Italy as it Impresses the Italian, by Frances H. Herrick; the House Wren, by Fred L. Holtz; A Study of a House Wren, by Elizabeth Freeman TenEyck; An Attempt to Establish a Purple Martin Colony, by William C. Horton; and Notes on the Starling in America.

THE WILSON BULLETIN.—The *Wilson Bulletin* for September, 1907, contains The First Birdskin of Elliott Cones, by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt; the Birds of Point Pelee, by P. A. Taverner and B. H. Swales; Alexander Wilson in Bird Census Work, by Frank L. Burns; Aspects of the Spring Migration of 1907, by Lynds Jones;

Birds from a Car Window Again, by Lynds Jones, with editorials and field notes.

BULLETIN NO. 2 OF THE VERMONT BIRD CLUB.—The annual *Bulletin* of the Vermont Bird Club, issued July, 1907, gives a comprehensive account of the ornithological work in that state during the past year. There are general articles on Birds of Windham and Bennington Counties, by Mrs. Elizabeth B. Davenport; Problems of the Vermont Bird Club, by Carleton D. Howe; Nesting of the Winter Wren, by G. H. Ross; Our Thrushes and Their Songs, by Miss Isabel Paddock; Notes from a Bird Table, by Miss Marion Dole; A Warbler Guest, by Emily L. and Susan E. Clark; Some Bird Acquaintances, by Emma E. Drew; Report of the New England Federation, by Miss Delia I. Griffin.

PORTLAND BIRDS.—During November and December, 1906, there was an unusual number of Red-breasted Nuthatches in the woods around Portland. This year the bird is no more plentiful than usual. September 22nd, three individuals of the American Pipit were observed near Grand Beach. The same day a Jæger, probably Pomarine, was seen chasing Gulls near Pine Point. On the same day also, on a sand bar in the same locality, a flock of about two thousand Terns had gathered to rest during their migration journey. Myrtle Warblers are common all through the latter days of November. A small number of these birds have wintered at Cape Elizabeth for the past four years, and the same section of country will be carefully watched the coming winter. Great flocks of Red-breasted Mergansers have been in the bay at Pine Point at different times this fall. The gunners report an abundance of game birds along the shores and marshes. November 17th, among the Snow Buntings and Horned Larks at Pine Point, several birds were seen which were doubtless Lapland Longspurs, though they were not fully identified, since they were seen only on the wing. This locality will be searched later for the purpose of making sure of the presence of this bird. November 17th, a Greater Scaup Duck was seen to fly from the bay to a fresh water pond half a mile from the shore. Twice it tried to alight, but was prevented by thick ice; later, in disgust, it returned to the salt water.

PORTLAND, Nov. 22, 1907.

W. H. BROWNSON.

ERRATA.—Vol. IX, THE JOURNAL, page 81, sixteenth line, for India read Indian; seventeenth line, for astern read eastward; twenty-first line, for Cabscook read Cobscook.

# The Journal

of the

## Maine Ornithological Society

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study and Protection of Birds

Vol. IX

Published December 1, 1907

No. 4

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$1.00 a year; 25 cents a copy

### OFFICERS OF THE MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Pres., PROF. LESLIE A. LEE, Brunswick  
 Vice-Pres., DR. H. H. BROCK, Portland  
 Sec.-Treas., J. MERTON SWAIN, Farmington  
 Councillors, CAPT. H. L. SPINNEY, Seguin  
 ORA W. KNIGHT, Bangor

W. H. BROWNSON, Portland  
 Editor  
 FRANK T. NOBLE, Augusta  
 Associate Editor

The ninth volume of the JOURNAL, which ends with this number, contains more than a hundred pages filled with contributions by the members of the Maine Ornithological Society. The migration reports have been printed in full up to date, furnishing a record of permanent value. The number of observers who sent migration reports is worthy of note, showing unusual interest in this branch of bird study. The list of members printed in this issue shows that the society has increased in numbers during the past year. The list of subscribers has also grown in like degree. Quite a number of members and subscribers are in arrears. It is especially desirable that all dues and subscriptions be paid promptly, in order to enable the society to meet the expense of printing the JOURNAL. The thanks of the editor are due to the members who have responded so readily and efficiently to requests for articles of general interest. During the year several new contributors have furnished excellent material. An effort has been made to secure from the members timely notes of their observations. This department, it is realized, is one of the chief attractions of the JOURNAL. All members, and others, are again urged to contribute to this department in each issue of the JOURNAL. So far, by persistent effort, the society has been able to meet all outstanding bills from year to year, though the printer often has to wait nine or ten months for the closing of his account. The membership of the society ought to be doubled and this could be accomplished if each member would procure and send in one new name. Will not everybody help to put the society on a secure financial basis?

The JOURNAL is called upon to announce the death of Miss Ella L. Libby, of Portland, for some years a member of the Maine

Ornithological Society, and an enthusiastic amateur student of birds. She was a lady of high attainments and she strove hard to excel in everything she undertook. For a year she struggled bravely against a disease which slowly but surely preyed upon her strength, but scarcely a word of complaint was ever heard from her. The society loses an earnest friend, who was ever ready to give her aid when it was most needed.

The death of Herbert Mains, the well known guide, of North Windham, from a gunshot wound, accidentally inflicted by a sportsman, whom he was guiding, brought sorrow to many members of this society, who had frequently accompanied him on bird excursions on and around Little Sebago Lake. Mr. Mains knew most of the birds from long observation, though for the most part he was not informed as to their correct names. He took a deep interest in bird students and was never tired of tramping far and wide in their company. He was a gentleman in the best sense of the word and his memory will long be held dear by all who knew him.

The Christmas bird census, begun in 1905 and repeated in 1906, has proved so successful, and the reports were of so much permanent value, that it will be taken again this year in much the same manner as before. Begin on the morning of December 22d and continue until the evening of December 31st. Keep as accurate account as possible of the number of every species you see and send the reports to W. H. Brownson, City Building, Portland, during the first week of January. It is desirable that the report be sent, even if the list of birds seen is not large. In connection with the report add all items of interest noted during the ten days of the Christmas census.

Thanks are due to Dr. W. C. Kendall, of Washington, and Mr. Samuel L. Boardman, of Bangor, for contributions in this issue of the JOURNAL. Mr. Norton furnishes an excellent article on the Wood Duck, and an extract from Mr. Walter H. Rich's book, "Feathered Game of the Northeast," relating to the same bird, is here printed. Mr. Rich furnishes a timely article on the present scarcity of Ruffed Grouse in Maine. Mr. Knight announces that his book on "The Birds of Maine" will be issued early during the coming year. It is sure that there will be at once a lively demand for it, both in Maine and other states.

The weather this fall has been so mild that winter birds have not yet commenced to come south in large numbers. Last year at this time Pine Grosbeaks and Redpolls were fairly plentiful in southern Maine; this year none have so far been reported. Shore birds have been more numerous this fall than for several years past. A Florida Gallinule was taken near Pine Point October 16th. A Golden Plover was shot in the same locality November 15th. A Winter Wren was observed hiding in the beach grass on the sand flats at Pine Point, November 17th.

## Bird Notes.

Notes and observations upon bird life within our State are earnestly desired from all our readers for publication in this column, and should be sent to the Editor, W. H. Brownson, City Building, Portland, Maine.

We note with much satisfaction the increasing frequency with which the members of our society report to this JOURNAL their ornithological observations. This is an important part of our duties, one to another, and should be shared in by all interested in bird life. The JOURNAL'S columns are always open to contributors of items of general interest relating to Maine birds, and we trust our members will, through this medium, disseminate such knowledge as they personally possess.

NESTING OF THE LONG-EARED OWL IN KNOX COUNTY.—On May 14, 1905, while strolling along a woods road in "Utopia Park," Warren, Knox County, Maine, in company with a boy, on ornithological purpose bent, I caught sight of an old Crow's nest about twenty feet from the ground in a fir tree that stood near the road. I had noticed the same nest, and climbed the tree to inspect it the previous spring, to no purpose, however, for it was then an old, deserted nest. And I was passing it by this time with only a casual glance of contempt, when I caught sight of a stray, fluffy feather lodged on the outside. "Ha, ha! guess that nest contains a Hawk or an Owl," said I to the boy, adding: "don't you want to climb the tree and see?" The boy stripped off his jacket and threw down his hat and was soon half way up to the nest, when a head appeared above the rim, a head with two long ears, standing straight up, looking, for all the world, like a rabbit. I gave an exclamation and the boy dropped to the ground as if shot. He didn't wish to face the unknown! Who can blame him? By this time I had "diagnosed" the subject and pronounced it a Long-eared Owl. As this was my "first" Owl's nest my joy was great, and I was up the tree in no time. Mrs. *Asio wilsonianus* peeked over the rim of the nest and eyed me with misgivings, getting more and more alarmed as I approached nearer and nearer, until, "the first law of nature" prov-

ing too strong to be resisted, she flew from the nest, alighting in a tree close-by. From the tree she flew to the ground, where, uttering piercing cries, and dragging her wings on the ground, as if broken, she circled around and around, acting for all the world like the Ruffed Grouse. Finding that I was not to be moved by these tactics she arose from the ground and dashed at the tree, circling two or three times about my head and finally flew away. I found four fresh-laid eggs resting on a few feathers.

NORMAN W. LERMOND.

THOMASTON, Sept. 27, 1907.

FROM THE FAR WEST.—The following letter to the editor is of general interest: "The birds of Wyoming send greeting to the JOURNAL of the Maine Ornithological Society and hope to be represented at our next annual meeting."

O. W. KNIGHT.

ENCAMPMENT CITY, WYO., October 17, 1907.

NOTES FROM FRANKLIN COUNTY.—Oct. 5th, I saw a pair of Pectoral Sandpipers. They were in the grass not far from a frog pond. Many of the summer residents, especially the Warblers, seem to have left for the South much earlier than usual. I have seen no winter birds up to date.

DANA SWEET.

AVON, Nov. 1, 1907.

ROBIN AGAINST LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE.—On Aug. 6th, 1899, between the villages of Bethel and West Bethel, Maine, we came upon a little company of Shrikes by the roadside. They were as pugnacious as usual under such circumstances. I was therefore considerably surprised to see a brightly plumaged Robin dash at one of the Shrikes and put it entirely to flight.

ARTHUR H. NORTON.

PORTLAND, Nov. 15, 1907.

VARIABLE NUMBERS OF SANDPIPERS ON THE MAINE COAST IN 1904 AND 1907.—During the latter half of July and first part of August, 1904, observations covering about five weeks were made on the coast of Maine, from Little Machias Bay to Portland. The

great scarcity of Sandpipers was most noticeable, very few being seen in those places best suited to their needs. At Moose-a-bec Reach a few hundred had gathered and at Cone and Crumple islands smaller companies were seen during the several days of observation. At other points only much smaller numbers were seen. The present season, on a much more hasty trip, with a single day of observation, at the points named, thousands were observed. At Cone and Nash islands alone thousands entertained us by their gyrations over the wave-dashed beaches. Large flocks, numbering close to a thousand each, were at Egg and Freeman's Rocks, and upwards of a thousand were at Ballast island, just east of the entrance to Moose-a-bec Reach. At various points, farther west, normal numbers were seen.

ARTHUR H. NORTON.

PORTLAND, Nov. 15, 1907.

THE KITTIWAKE AND PURPLE SANDPIPER AGAIN IN MAINE IN SUMMER.—Mr. Arthur H. Norton contributes to "*The Auk*" for October, 1907, the following note: "In '*The Auk*' for July, 1907 (Vol. XXIV, p. 337), the capture of a Kittiwake in 1903, on the coast of Maine in summer was recorded. On July 14, 1907, while at Jordan's Rock, a submerged ledge one mile southeast by east of Portland head light, a Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) flew over my boat within easy range. The small size of the bird, white head, and short black legs and feet were distinctly and critically observed as it passed over. It flew toward Trundy's Reef until it disappeared. In the JOURNAL of the Maine Ornithological Society (Vol. VI., p. 16), the capture of a specimen of the Purple Sandpiper (*Arquatella maritima*) at Metinic, Me., on August 11, 1902, was recorded. On August 6, 1907, while on Metinic Green Island, I saw another specimen of this bird. It stood on a large rock (behind which the greater part of my body must have been concealed from it), within three yards of me. I observed it critically, then tried to catch it; it flew readily, but showed the flight feathers to be faded and worn, and nearly ready to be moulted. Its tameness was in part due, I believe, to the drenching rain that was falling."

ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.—I want to suggest that a society be organized for Maine, on a similar plan to the "American Society for the Advancement of Science," to include all branches of natural history, and to be divided into sections and chapters, thus:

## THE MAINE SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

- Div. 1. Ornithology.  
 Div. 2. Botany.  
     (a) Moss and Lichen chapters.  
     (b) Fern chapter, etc.  
 Div. 3. Entomology.  
 Div. 4. Zoology.  
     (a) Mollusca,    )  
     (b) Radiata,    ) etc.  
     (c) Crustacea,   )  
     (d) Mammalia,   )  
     (e) Reptilia,    ) etc.  
 Div. 5. Ethnology.

Each division to elect its own officers and conduct its own affairs, publish its own journal, or it might be thought best for the society to publish a journal with departments and editors for each division. It seems to me that the cause of science would receive a new impetus in the old Pine Tree State by a union of all naturalists in a society such as I have very briefly outlined.

Will not your society take the initiative and issue a call for a meeting to be held in Portland the third day after Thanksgiving, or following the meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society? Possibly the Portland society will unite with you in issuing this call. It might be well to have the call signed by naturalists throughout the state, thus giving the movement all the prestige possible, from the start.

I am much pleased with the JOURNAL and have read every word in the three numbers received. Your two articles in the September number are particularly interesting. How I enjoyed the trip, in company with Mr. Arthur Norton, to Bradbury, Matinicus, and Metinic islands! I shall not soon forget that colony of big Blue Herons on Bradbury, and Herring Gulls on No Man's Land. No need of a fog-horn at Matinicus harbor. The boom of their many voices was a welcome sound to our straining ears as we groped about in the dense fog, hunting for Matinicus.

WARREN, Sept. 26, 1907.

NORMAN W. LERMOND

LEAST BITTERN AT LUBEC.—I have been confined to the house some time by illness and have not been able to gather much, but on November 13th a Least Bittern was brought in to me, that had been captured on the beach at Lubec Narrows. I did not think much about it at the time, but have since noticed in Knight's bulletin that it is reported as "rare."

C. H. CLARK.

LUBEC, Nov. 19, 1907.







AMNH LIBRARY



100127126