

*Piranga  
ludoviciana*

Br 47-1 (16)

v. 17

**YALE NATIONAL BANK**

New Haven, Conn. Dec. 16 1892

Dear Mr. Brewster

I made the best capture yesterday morning on the outskirts of the city here, that I ever yet obtained. If I am correct in my identification it is a Louisiana Tanager, its in the female dress but on examination it prove to be ♂ though probably young. Has two bars on wings upper one yellowish lower white.

It is smaller than the Scarlet Tanager and measure as follows  
 L.  $6\frac{1}{4}$  Ext.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  W.  $3\frac{3}{4}$  Tail  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , Tarsus toe & nail  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bill orange below darker above, nearly brown legs bluish. I have never seen a Louisiana Tanager but think this must be one from the wing bars etc but the sex puzzles me as I thought sure it would prove ♀. Can it be any other kind of Tanager

Respectfully Yours  
 H. W. Flint

Maine (Bangor)

*Piranga ludoviciana*

1889

Oct. 1

"The Western Tanager was taken in the lower part of Bangor a mile from the City about Oct. 1. I saw the boy who had it to day. He began working for Crosby Oct. 5 and gave him the bird in the flesh. It was then so far gone as to be unfit to mount [it was thrown away]. Crosby compared it with a skin of the ♂ Western Tanager & says the identification was perfect. I saw this western skin & can testify that it was typical" (M. Hardy let Dec. 11 - 1889)

Piranga ludoviciana.

Bangor, Maine.

1889.

"Mr. Hardy informs me that you are loth to believe that

Dec. 3.

a Western Tanager was taken here in Bangor. But I can assure you that such was the case as I fully identified it. It was a female but so badly decomposed that I could not skin it."

Letter from S.L. Crosby, Bangor, Maine, Dec. 3, 1889

La Conn

*Piranga ludoviciana*

♂ juv No 351 Collection of H. W. Flint  
[New Haven, Conn.] Dec. 15 - 1892. L.  $6\frac{1}{4}$ , Ex.  $9\frac{1}{2}$ ,  
Wing  $3\frac{3}{4}$  - T.  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . Tarsus, toe & nail  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . Bill light  
orange below, dark above, legs bluish

Specimen sent to me for exam. Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>  
It is certainly *P. ludoviciana* but differs considerably  
from any of my specimens the yellow of the  
head & under parts being congested (seen on  
the crissum) overlaid & overy observed by a  
heavy wash of olive. The bill is also peculiar  
the lower mandible being dull orange in the  
dried specimen. Wing bands & markings normal. The  
specimen looks like a young ♀.

Louisiana Tanager taken at New  
Haven, Conn.

Since I wrote to you I have made one  
of the best captures that I ever obtained,—  
a Louisiana Tanager, Jun ♂, on Dec. 15.  
It was unmistakably a wild bird, unusu-  
ally active and noisy. It was shot on the  
outskirts of the city here. It is rather  
smaller than the Scarlet Tanager, meas-  
uring as follows:

Length,  $6\frac{1}{4}$  in., extent  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in., wing  
 $3\frac{3}{4}$  in. tail  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in., tarsas and toe and nail  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Bill is orange color below, dark above;  
leg bluish. Two well marked bands  
across wings, upper one pale yellow,  
lower yellowish white. I exhibited the  
bird to several friends, while still in the  
flesh, as positive proof of its actual occur-  
rence here. This adds a new bird to this  
state, and I think the only other New  
England record is the specimen taken at  
Lynn, Mass., January 20, 1878.

W. H. Flint.

New Haven, Conn.

O. & O. Vol. 17, Dec. 1892 p. 187

#### General Notes

Capture of the Louisiana Tanager at New Haven, Connecticut.—I made  
one of the most noteworthy captures here on the morning of Dec. 15, 1892,  
that I have ever taken, viz., a Louisiana Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*), a  
male in immature plumage. I believe the only other New England  
record is the one taken at Lynn, Mass., Jan. 20, 1878. My bird was  
exhibited to several persons while still in the flesh as proof of its actual  
occurrence here. It is not an escaped caged bird, as the feet and plumage  
clearly indicate.—H. W. FLINT, *New Haven, Conn. Auk* X, Jan, 1893. p. 86.

Hudson  
Highlands.

[52.2.] *Piranga ludoviciana* (Wils.). LOUISIANA TANAGER.— On December 21, 1881, while standing on a high point beside the Hudson, at Fort Montgomery, New York, I noticed a bird flying strongly from the north. It alighted in a tree top near me, and appeared animated and shy; thinking it was about to fly away, I shot it at once, and it proved to be a young male Louisiana Tanager, in good plumage, and fairly well nourished. Measurements (No. 2244, E. A. M.): length, 7.45; alar expanse,

11.35; wing, 3.62; tail, 3.00; culmen, .65; bill from nostril, .48; gape, .75; tarsus, .82; middle toe and claw, .80; middle toe without claw, .58; middle claw, .25 inch. Iris hazel. Bill with maxilla dusky brown, yellowish on edges, mandible yellow. Tarsi and toes bluish lead color. This bird was in the plumage of the female, but careful dissection proved that it was a young male. Mearns, *Auk*, VII. Jan. 1890, p. 55-56

*erythronelab*

Piranga erythromelas.

May Dedham 9<sup>13</sup> - Frammingham 10<sup>(Purdie)</sup> - 12<sup>17</sup> - 17<sup>18</sup> - 29<sup>15</sup> - 1889. 10<sup>11</sup> - 11<sup>15</sup> - 15<sup>18</sup> - 18<sup>20</sup> - 19<sup>25</sup> - 29<sup>28</sup> - 30<sup>31</sup> - 31<sup>31</sup> 1890.  
June 3<sup>2</sup> - 1889. 1<sup>1</sup> - 10<sup>2</sup> - 13<sup>1</sup> - 21<sup>1</sup> - 22<sup>1</sup> 1890. 2<sup>1</sup> - 3<sup>1</sup> - 4<sup>2</sup> - 10<sup>5</sup> - 12<sup>3</sup> - 25<sup>5</sup> Concord, 6<sup>6</sup> 1899.

May 23<sup>2</sup> - 24<sup>1</sup> - 25<sup>1</sup> - 26<sup>2</sup> - 28<sup>3</sup> 1891. 12<sup>1</sup> - 18<sup>1</sup> - 20<sup>2</sup> - 21<sup>2</sup> - 28<sup>2</sup> - 30<sup>2</sup> - 31<sup>2</sup> Concord 1892  
 12<sup>2</sup> - 13<sup>2</sup> - 14<sup>2</sup> - 15<sup>3</sup> - 16<sup>1</sup> - 17<sup>2</sup> - 18<sup>4</sup> - 19<sup>3</sup> - 20<sup>2</sup> - 21<sup>3</sup> - 22<sup>2</sup> - 23<sup>3</sup> - 24<sup>2</sup> - 25<sup>2</sup> - 26<sup>2</sup> - 29<sup>3</sup> - 30<sup>3</sup> Concord, 1899.  
1892 12<sup>1</sup> - 18<sup>1</sup> - 20<sup>2</sup> - 28<sup>2</sup> - 30<sup>2</sup> - 31<sup>2</sup> Concord, 1892.

May  
June 1<sup>1</sup> - 3<sup>1</sup> - 4<sup>1</sup> - 6<sup>1</sup> - 9<sup>2</sup> - 12<sup>1</sup> - 15<sup>1</sup> - 17<sup>1</sup> - 18<sup>1</sup> - 19<sup>1</sup> - 20<sup>1</sup> - 21<sup>1</sup> - 22<sup>1</sup> - Concord. 1892.  
July 4<sup>1</sup> - 7<sup>1</sup> - 16<sup>1</sup> - 17<sup>1</sup> - 18<sup>1</sup> - 20<sup>3</sup> - 21<sup>1</sup> - 30<sup>1</sup> - Concord. 1892.  
August 2<sup>4</sup> Concord, 1892  
September 24<sup>1</sup> (Ball's Hill) Concord 1892  
October

1893  
May 16<sup>1</sup> (very fine bird) [17<sup>4</sup> 18<sup>8</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> - 22<sup>1</sup> - (B.H.) 23<sup>1</sup> - (B.H.) 29<sup>1</sup> - 30<sup>2</sup> Concord. 1893.  
June 26<sup>1</sup> Concord 1893.

July 2<sup>1</sup> - 4<sup>1</sup> - 6<sup>1</sup> - 13<sup>1</sup> - 14<sup>1</sup> - 18<sup>1</sup> - 19<sup>2</sup> - 24<sup>1</sup> - 27<sup>1</sup> - 30<sup>2</sup> - Concord. 1893.  
August 10<sup>1</sup> (Ball's Hill) 20<sup>1</sup> (ad. worn out) unmixed nuptial pl. Davis pine. Concord. 1893.  
September 4<sup>1</sup> (Green bird with Cakes on back wings + tail) (Holden's Hill) 9<sup>1</sup> (ad. ♀ + young) (Ball's Hill) - 10<sup>1</sup> (calling chip chirp) (Holden's Hill). Concord. 1893.  
October

1894  
May 8<sup>1</sup> (Ball's Hill) 9<sup>2</sup> (do) 10<sup>1</sup> (do) 12<sup>1</sup> - 13<sup>2</sup> - 14<sup>2</sup> - 20<sup>1</sup> - 26<sup>1</sup> - 27<sup>3</sup> - 28<sup>2</sup> - 29<sup>2</sup> - 30<sup>2</sup> - 31<sup>2</sup> Concord 1894  
June 7<sup>1</sup> (Ball's Hill) 1894  
July 20<sup>1</sup> (Ball's Hill) 1894  
Aug. 12<sup>1</sup> (Ball's Hill) 1894

1895  
1895. May 9<sup>6</sup> - 11<sup>1</sup> - 12<sup>1</sup> - 14<sup>1</sup> - 23<sup>1</sup> 1895  
1898 .. 13<sup>1</sup> (Ball's Hill) 18<sup>6</sup> - 19<sup>2</sup> - 20<sup>2</sup> - 21<sup>2</sup> - 22<sup>2</sup> - 23<sup>2</sup> - 24<sup>2</sup> - 25<sup>2</sup> - 29<sup>2</sup> - 30<sup>2</sup> - 31<sup>2</sup> Concord 1898.  
1898. June 1<sup>3</sup> - 2<sup>2</sup> - 5<sup>5</sup> - 7<sup>2</sup> - 9<sup>2</sup> - 10<sup>1</sup> - 11<sup>1</sup> - 12<sup>1</sup> - 21<sup>2</sup> - 22<sup>2</sup> - 23<sup>2</sup> - 24<sup>2</sup> - 25<sup>2</sup> - 29<sup>2</sup> Concord 1898  
1898. October 1<sup>1</sup> in the 26<sup>1</sup> 1898.

P. erythromelas

*Piranga erythromelas.*

Concord, Mass.  
May. 16. 1893.

A remarkably deep colored *Scrub* *Go* *age* was seen on this stretch of road flitting from tree to tree as we drove slowly up the hill. It is the first I have noted this year. Had the *Yucis* arrived in any numbers I should surely have seen a *lined* *sign* *in* *the* *cherry* *and* *woods* *in* *the* *con* *on* *the* *trough* *which* *we* *found* *the* *first* *of* *the* *year*.

*Piranga*  
*erythromelas*



GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY.

44 BROAD ST. NEW YORK.

620 ATLANTIC AVE. BOSTON.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT

RAILWAY SUPPLY

BOSTON.

June 10 '95.

My dear Mr Brewster.

Yours of the 11th inst. rec'd.  
1st. I am sorry there is no  
chance for Smith.

2nd. You will please find  
enclosed a copy of my very  
short notes on the subject of  
the Prothonotary Warbler.

You possibly made your  
mistake, on account of my  
telling you I watched him on  
two days, which you will see  
by my notes, I did before  
starting him.

3rd. I don't know whether I  
saw a Male Tanager feeding his  
mate in nest. I believe he was,  
and will give you the evidence.

There had been a pair of Tanagers on my  
place all through May. On May 25<sup>th</sup>  
in the a.m. I first knew what I thought  
to be a Purple Finch twittering on a  
maple, close to my front door. On missing  
it I found it to be a female Tanager  
apparently coquetting with her mate, and  
uttering a note that I could not tell  
from the Finch's twitter. She was  
popping about her mate, at present  
the 7 or 8 feet distance: with wings  
cracked, one feather ruffled, and  
frequently popping up her bill with  
a chirrup of twitter, to receive as I  
thought some ornithological imbuement  
from the other; having her  
singing & chirruping, apparently  
indifferent, as he had returned  
to be, all through the performance.

I did not actually see the above  
"imbuement" as they got behind some  
leaves just then.

May 26<sup>th</sup> 1 p.m. and again at  
1:30 p.m. and later in the after-

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BOSTON.

noon I saw the performance  
repeated. But did not see the  
male mount the female, nor  
was I able to see their beak  
to beak.

Later in the day I saw the  
female sitting alone on a set  
of 4 eggs, in a nest in an  
apple tree, about 100 yds  
from the maple above spoken  
of.

May 27. 5 a.m. 7 a.m. & 7.40 a.m.  
was directed to the same  
performance, under my window.  
But failed to see the chirrup  
in either case. These performances  
lasted from 1 to 3 or 4 minutes each,  
when she would fly directly

back to the nest.

As far as I can see she is  
in there 2 days, she never  
left the nest, except to go  
about, and she has laid  
the full set. My supposition  
about the "incubation" would not  
perhaps hold water.

On the afternoon of the 27<sup>th</sup>  
I was forced to take the nest, as  
I was afraid of some small boys,  
and the nest was in a most con-  
spicuous position. Incubation had  
nearly just begun.

They have built again, and  
where on our place, but I  
have seen but one nest  
that winter. I have seen very  
many nests, but think I could  
have heard them, had they  
performed again. How do you  
diagnose this case?

Dr. J. H. H. H.

*Peranga erythronelas*

1889 Mass.

May 29 Watertown. A fine dark-scarlet ♂ in full song this morning On the  
 on the Coolidge farm. I first heard him in the Coolidge  
 oak belt west of the Catholic Cemetery but he shortly afterwards farm  
 flew to French's Hill where he was still singing when I  
 passed on to the westward. I have never known a Tanager  
 to breed in this locality although a pair nested near the  
 Arsenal in 1869. I noticed this morning that the song Song  
 seemed to cost the bird much effort. His throat swelled and  
 quivered, his wings moved slightly with a tremulous motion,  
 and his tail twitched considerably at each loud note.

1891

— Martha's Vineyard.— Mr. Howard Norris tells me that he has Breeds on  
 a set of eggs which he took on the island and that he Martha's Vineyard  
 has seen five or six male birds during the past few years.

May 26 Cambridge — Yesterday at sunset I heard a Tanager in the  
 singing as I was walking in my garden. He seemed heart of  
 to be in the row of sidewalk maples on Appleton St. Cambridge  
 This evening he was singing at the same house in  
 the same place. I do not remember to have ever heard  
 one before within ear-shot of my place. (The bird  
 just mentioned was probably a migrant for he  
 has not been noted since — May 28).

1898

June 26 Concord. Within the past few days I have seen Tanagers feeding  
 greedily on green caterpillars. [Journ.].

July 2-4 Glendale (in a near), Berkshire Co. Very common. [Journ.].

Piranga erythromelas.

Concord, Mass.

1893.           The Scarlet Tanagers (at Ball's Hill this morning) were  
Sept. 9.       an old female accompanied by her two young which, although in  
full autumn plumage, followed their mother about closely and  
begged continually for food uttering a monotonous hue, very  
like the call of a young Purple Finch, and a low, wheezy sound  
which was so nearly like that made by some young Red-eyed  
Vireos that I had just been watching that I could detect no  
difference. When approached by their mother the young Tana-  
gers would squat down on their perches and quiver their half-  
opened wings. I did not see her feed them.

1899.           Two Tanagers were singing in Concord village, one in  
May 22.       tree on the common, the other in the hillside burying ground.

Cambridge, Mass.                           Adult male, first record for the  
Garden.

1899.           A Tanager appeared early in the afternoon on the top of  
June 6.       a white maple where it sang a dozen times or more before fly-  
ing off. It is the <sup>first</sup> adult male that has ever visited our place  
within my recollection although I heard one singing years ago  
in the distance in the direction of the Kennedy's oaks on  
Highland Street. I saw a female or juv. male in the garden,  
Oct. 1, 1890.

Birds of Upper St. John.  
Batchelder.

40. *Pyrrangra rubra* (Linn.) Vieill. SCARLET Tanager.—Not rare in the hard woods at Grand Falls. The people there call them "war-birds." We did not see them at Fort Fairfield, though we have reason to think that they occur. At Houlton Mr. McLeod says they are "rare. They arrive May 29. I have not found the nest, but have a young one taken here. They remain all summer."

Bull. N. O. C., 7, April, 1882, p. 111

Birds of Southern New Brunswick.  
M. Chamberlain.

6. *Pyrrangra rubra*. SCARLET Tanager.—I saw an adult male of this species sitting on a fence in the suburbs of St. John on June 20, 1879, and have examined two specimens taken near Hampton during the summer of 1880.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, April, 1882, p. 104

Occasionally birds have been met with in this vicinity that have evidently been driven off their usual haunts. For instance, some twenty years ago considerable numbers of Scarlet Tanagers were found here about the 10th of May. Some were dead, and all were in an emaciated condition. None have been seen here since.

Pictou Co. Nova Scotia.

James M. Kimball.

Auk 2. Jan. 1885. p. 43.

*Scarlet Tanager* (*Piranga erythromelas*) at Ottawa, Canada.—This handsome bird is becoming decidedly more abundant here than formerly. This was plainly noticeable the last spring. There were about ten around a house at Blueberry Point, a few miles from here, early in May; and at Bushwood, at the city limits — a place where a few were seen every spring, if nowhere else — their unusual abundance was noted by the most casual observer. I was told that one poor specimen of the human kind had about ten of these beauties in a trap cage. They even invaded the tree-lined streets of our city. On May 26 I noticed a female in a large willow tree next to my house, and on the 29th a fine male put a streak of color into the scene. This specimen condescended so low as to drink out of a common mudpuddle on the street, together with the English Sparrows, who, for once, stood back, awestruck and wondering as it seemed, at this great beauty. Farmers also from many points to the north, east, and west of here asked me about these birds, some saying they had seen them this spring for the first time.— G. E. HERRIG, Ottawa, Canada.

Auk, XLIV, p. 190, p. 103.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,  
by James H. Fleming.

Part II. Land Birds.

Auk, XLIV, Jan. 1907, p. 81-82.

223. *Piranga erythromelas*. SCARLET Tanager.—Regular migrant, sometimes common, May 12 to 30, and September 15 to October 13. In May, 1888, a very large number of these birds appeared in the city and attracted much attention.

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

42. *Pyranga rubra*, (Scarlet Tanager). This species is included on the authentic statement of Mr. J. L. Colcord of Augusta, who saw one Sept. 2, 1885, while at his duties as engineer of construction of the F. & M. R. R. It may be considered common to this latitude, but I failed to detect it.

O. & O. XI. Oct. 1886. p. 146

The Marshopper Sparrow in Maine, and Other Notes.

A Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*) was seen here May 22, 1900.  
It is the only one seen in many years.

L. H. Morrell, Pittsfield, Mass.

Auk, XIX, July 1902, p. 290.

Shelburne, N. H.

Pyranga rubra

1884.

July

A rather common species here frequenting hard wood forests (beech sugar & red maple etc.) along the sides of the lower mountains & hills. The males sang rather freely up to the 16<sup>th</sup> after which none were heard. On the 17<sup>th</sup> we met with an adult ♀ accompanied by a young bird which was sitting motionless on one of the higher branches of a large white pine on the edge of a pasture. The young uttered incessantly a querulous cry exactly like that of a young Purple Finch. It was mouthing

Mt. Washington, N. H.

Sept. 13. 1884. One in green plumage, very tame and apparently much exhausted at the Half-way House (E. B. Prentiss)

Piranga erythromelas

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N. H.  
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '83. W. Faxon

37. *Piranga erythromelas*. SCARLET TANAGER.—Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.150



and passing into the fall dress the  
two plumages being about equally  
represented. The molting was in  
very good breeding plumage (both  
specimens preserved in my coll.)

Mt. Washington, N.H.

Sept. 13. 1884. One in green plumage, very tame  
and apparently much exhausted  
at the Half-way House (E. B. Preble)

*Piranga erythromelas*

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N.H.  
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '83. W. Faxon

37. *Piranga erythromelas*. SCARLET TANAGER.—Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.150

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N. H. June 11-21 '86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

44. *Piranga erythromelas*. SCARLET TANAGER.—Not very common.

*Auk*, V. April, 1888. p. 152

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N. H.  
July 12-Sept. 4, 1888. F. H. Allen

*Piranga erythromelas*.—Common.

*Auk*, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 77

Birds of Hillsboro Co. N. H. June 27, '92  
Arthur M. Farmer, Amoskeag, N. H.

Scarlet Tanager, two pairs observed. The males sang near our camp every morning just before sunrise and every evening just after sunset. I have never in this locality heard the male utter a series of notes while the sun was shining as I have the Tanagers in Iowa.

*O. & O* Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 136

Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N. H.  
July 21-Aug. 11, 1888. F. H. Allen

*Piranga erythromelas*.—One heard.

*Auk*, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 78

Breezy Point, Warren, N. H.

*Piranga erythromelas*

1894.

heard.

June 15<sup>th</sup> Faxon

Breezy Point, Warren, N. H.

*Piranga erythromelas*

1895.

May

50<sup>th</sup> Faxon

Piranga erythromelas.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.            Only one noted - a male in full song for an hour or more  
July 5        within hearing of the house on Ben Mere farm. (Several were  
to  
Aug.15.       observed at Jaffrey by W.Deane).

*Notes on Birds about Brandon, Vt.*

The Scarlet Tanagers (*Pyrranga rubra*) first made their appearance about here in the summer of 1875, when a single pair nested. Since then they have gradually increased until probably twenty pairs nested the past season.

*F. H. Knowlton.*

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Jan, 1882, p. 64

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

48. *Piranga erythromelas*. SCARLET TANAGER. — I heard the notes of the Tanager a number of times in the woods at the base of the mountain.

by Arthur H. Howell.

Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 343.

14. *Pyrauga rubra* - <sup>10. nest 3 eggs. July 1</sup> E. Mass. 1885.  
 Princeton & Rutland, Mass. Aug. 2-1885  
 13. *Pyrauga rubra* - One to <sup>10</sup> *tinamus* <sup>10</sup> *leubli*  
 Princeton & N. Rutland, Mass. June, 18-1886.  
 16. *Pyrauga rubra* - One to <sup>10</sup> *tinamus* <sup>10</sup> *leubli*  
 Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.

Mass. (near Concord).

1887

May 9 <sup>2 3/4</sup> - 11 <sup>1 hour</sup> - 12 <sup>2</sup> - 13 <sup>4</sup> - 16 <sup>6</sup> - 21 <sup>10</sup> - 23 <sup>4</sup> - 26 <sup>2 3/4</sup>  
 June 2 <sup>1/2</sup> - 4 <sup>3/4</sup> - 6 <sup>4</sup> - 7 <sup>2</sup> - 13 <sup>2 3/4</sup> - 17 <sup>6 3/4</sup>  
 July 8 <sup>1/2</sup> - 9 <sup>4</sup> - 10 <sup>3/4</sup> - 15 <sup>3 3/4</sup> - 23 <sup>1/2</sup> - 31 <sup>1/2</sup>  
 Aug. 1 <sup>1/2</sup> - 9 <sup>2</sup> - 10 <sup>4</sup>

*Pyrauga rubra* \* = singing  
 Mass (Concord)

*Pyrauga rubra*

MAY 21 1887

A pair copulating. The male danced about his mate trailing his wings, his tail raised and spread, his crest erect, uttering meanwhile a continuous soft call precisely like that of *Passer domesticus* under similar circumstances.

Mass (Winchendon)

1887

June 25 <sup>13</sup>

*Pyrauga rubra*

1888

Scarlet Tanager

S. W. Denton.

May 9. Willie heard one today  
 " 10 I heard one this a.m.  
 " 11 " shot a ♂ + ♀  
 " 12 " Saw a ♂ He was very tame allowing me to approach within a few feet.  
 May 14. One heard  
 " 26 Saw a ♂ + ♀ feeding in rough pine woods.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

*Piranga rubra*

Ashby and Mt Watatic --- Several males were heard singing in spruces and oak woods on the sides of the mountain at elevations ranging from about 1000 feet to its base. One or two others were also heard in mixed woods a mile or two away from the mountain. As nearly as we could ascertain, they are by no means common or generally distributed throughout the region at large. None were heard at West Townsend, or on our drive from Ashby to P<sup>r</sup>itchburg.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.  
F. W. Andros.

*Piranga erythromelas* Vieill., Scarlet Tanager. Summer resident, common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 140

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season  
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

48. *Piranga erythromelas*.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

*Piranga rubra*

Ashby and Mt Watatic --- Several males were heard singing in spruces and oak woods on the sides of the mountain at elevations ranging from about 1000 feet to its base. One or two others were also heard in mixed woods a mile or two away from the mountain. As nearly as we could ascertain, they are by no means common or generally distributed throughout the region at large. None were heard at West Townsend, or on our drive from Ashby to Pitchburg.

*Piranga erythromelas*

(note see also in autumn)

"A. H. Cross reported a  
Scarlet Tanager taken at  
Brookton, Mass., on  
November 11, 1892"

(Orn. & Accl. Vol 18 No 1, Jan.  
1893 p. 8)

nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

48. *Piranga erythromelas*.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire  
Co., Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Faxon

45. *Piranga erythromelas*. SCARLET Tanager. — Rather common.  
Known in Berkshire as the 'English Robin.'

**Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 45**

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire  
Co. Mass. June 28-July 16. W. Faxon

40. *Piranga erythromelas*. SCARLET Tanager. — Rather common.  
Seen on Graylock at an altitude of over 3000 feet.

**Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 101**

#### Brief Notes.

During the cold rain storm of the past week a great many of the Warblers, mostly the Red-start, have been found in barns and sheds and a number have flown into the houses and acted as if they were cold. A number of Scarlet Tanagers have been found dead.

J. W. Jackson.

Belchertown, Mass.

**O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 96**

R. H. Carr reported a Scarlet Tanager taken at Brockton, Mass., on November 11, 1892.

**O. & O. Vol. 18, Jan. 1893 p. 8**

1901. *Piranga erythromelas*

June 6 Saw a water hole and heard two other water holes singing in explosion were composed entirely of explosion took, however, water holes where they were to be established for the season and where we found a *Geothlypis trichas* later on the nest. Sharp-shinned Hawks also found separately in these woods.

Launceston, Mass.



Piranga erythromelas.

Glendale, Berkshire Co., Mass.

Singing September 10th

1899.

One in nearly full song close to the house at about sun-

Sept. 1-15. rise on the 10th and the chip-churr call heard on the 7th  
and 12th.

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Princa erythrogastra.

June 4<sup>th</sup> Fairfield  
" 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> nest 4<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> Saybrook  
" 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> Andover

Common about Saybrook and Andover  
and numerous in & near Bolton Hole  
where 9 males were heard singing on the 24<sup>th</sup>  
at Saybrook, on June 8, I found a nest  
built in a small red cedar against the  
main stem about 8 ft above the ground  
& 2 ft below the top of the tree the position  
of the nest & its appearance from below being  
precisely that of a Purple Finch's for which,  
indeed, I at first mistook it. The tree stood  
in open pasture, only a few rods out however,  
from a bordering belt of tall chestnuts in  
which the 5<sup>th</sup> Paragon was very common. Mr. Clark  
considered this the typical nesting site,  
although he also occasionally finds nests  
in the woods on horizontal branches of  
oaks or chestnuts.

2m. n. n. n.

Birds observed in Naval Hospital  
Grounds, Brooklyn. G. H. Coues

31. *Pyranga rubra*. SCARLET Tanager. — An occasional visitor.

**Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 32**

Birds of the Adirondack Region.  
C. H. Merriam.

53. *Pyranga rubra* (Linn.) Vieillot. SCARLET Tanager. — Common  
summer resident, breeding in the hard timber.

**Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct., 1881, p. 229**

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886.  
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

May 10, *Piranga erythromelas*, (608). Scarlet  
Tanager.

**O. & O. XI, Aug. 1886, p. 125**

Birds Toga Co, N. Y. Alden Loring.

161. Scarlet Tanager. Has been quite rare  
up to the year of 1888, when I found them to  
be quite common in the woods. Although I  
have searched many times for their nest I have  
not been able to find one. The song of this  
bird is much like that of the Robin, only not  
as loud. Perched on the top of a tall tree, the  
male will sing for some time, and then dart off  
on its useful mission of destroying insects.

**O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 82**

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the  
Northern Adirondacks [Axtón], New York [1901].  
May 25 to 30.

Scarlet Tanager. Not common.

B. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.

**Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 299.**

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

42. *Pyrranga rubra*.

*Occasional plumage*: male. Wings and tail black; entire plumage of body rich orange, with a greenish tinge on flanks and anal region. From a specimen in my cabinet, collected by Mr. C. J. Maynard, at Waltham, Mass., May 27, 1869. This remarkable specimen I for a long time considered unique, but I have recently examined another in the possession of Mr. Arthur Smith, of Brookline, which is its precise counterpart, and Mr. Ridgway tells me he has seen still others. This plumage is not to be confounded with the ordinary immature one of this bird, where the scarlet is simply of a lighter shade or mixed with patches of yellowish-green. It is a pronounced uniform coloring, and apparently a completed plumage. Unquestionably it is abnormal, but hardly to be placed in a category with albinism, and probably it is not very unfrequent. Adult males of *P. rubra* change to the greenish autumnal plumage of the female and young, a fact not generally known. They may in that stage be distinguished by the blacker coloring of the wings and tail. I have never seen the young males in autumn with red feathers appearing in the plumage, as spoken of by writers; probably such specimens may be referred to adult birds taken in August or September, with the moult only partially effected; many of such examples I have now before me, all unquestionably adults. The scarlet bands on the wing-coverts of some specimens are to be regarded as individual adornments, independent of age. Many comparatively immature specimens possess them, while in some of the finest birds they are wanting.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1878, p. 62-63.

Albinistic Plumages. R. Deane.

8. *Pyrranga rubra*. SCARLET Tanager. — Mr. F. T. Jencks, of Providence, R. I., has kindly sent me a specimen with the outer primary of one wing white, shot at Cranston, R. I., May, 1878. In a recent letter from Mr. F. A. Lucas of Rochester, N. Y., he mentions having seen a Tanager of this species with five of the tail-feathers white.

Bull. N. O. C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 27

*Pyrranga erythronotos*  
a hybrid between this  
species and *P. rubra*  
announced at the 209<sup>th</sup>  
meeting of the Biological  
Soc. of Washington  
(held March 25, 1893)  
by L. M. Mc. Cormick.  
(See card)

An Abnormal Scarlet Tanager.—A remarkable albino female Scarlet Tanager was procured at Germantown, May 8, 1888, and is now in my collection. The wings and tail are composed of pure white and ordinary blackish feathers in about equal proportions, while the wing-coverts consist of white, olive and canary-yellow feathers. All the rest of the plumage above and below is bright canary yellow, with one or two olivaceous feathers in the middle of the back. The legs and bill are very light pink. The bird was in company with several normal birds of the same species.—  
WITMER STONE, *Germantown, Pa.* *Auk*, V, July, 1888. p. 322.

Plumage of some birds from upper  
So. Carolina - Leveret M. Loomis.

*Piranga erythromelas*. — There is a marking on the under surface of the wing in the female and in the male in green livery which seems to have escaped general notice, but which renders both distinguishable at a glance from the female or young male of *P. rubra*. It extends from the carpal joint to the exposed shaft of the outer primary, and is about an inch in length and an eighth of an inch in width and olive brown in color. It corresponds to a similar black marking in the adult spring male. In all examples of *P. rubra* I have examined the region of the under wing-coverts is uniform yellow in the female and red in the adult male. *Auk* X, April, 1893. p.154.

Some Abnormal Color Markings.  
*Piranga erythromelas* Vieill.  
*Auk* XIV, July, 1897, p. 277.

Three adult male Scarlet Tanagers in the collection of Dr. A. K. Fisher have conspicuous wing markings strongly suggestive of those normally present in the western *Piranga ludoviciana*. In two of these birds (No. 4017, Washington, D. C., May 18, 1890, and another taken at Sing Sing, N. Y., on May 22, 1880) the greater coverts are almost wholly bright scarlet. In the other (No. 919, Sing Sing, N. Y., May 16, 1881) the greater coverts are gamboge yellow narrowly edged with black. The yellow is brighter than that occupying the same position in *P. ludoviciana* but the bar formed by it is not so broad as that of the western bird.  
S. S. Miller, jr.

Mass. (Concord)

*Pyranga rubra* ✓

1886. Song.

June 28 Heard two singing to-day, one of them rather steadily. There is a distinct but very slight interval between the notes especially the first three or four. It seems to cost the bird an effort to get them out. He stutters as it were or rather hesitates in his speech.

The Tanager like the Red-eyed Vireo loves to sing during the hottest noontide hours. Neither of these birds is ever heard after sunset and neither sing much in the early morning.

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

*Pyranga rubra*. SCARLET TANAGER.

With this brilliant bird, singing is continuous from the season of blossoms into mid-summer. After this time it is less constant and when August is well advanced is not longer heard. But during the last month of song the regularity of singing varies in different years. A record of each day when the song is heard will in some years be scarcely interrupted until the second week of August; in others it will show but a disconnected series of dates after mid-July. After early August singing is always uncertain, although straggling songs may extend the date of final cessation beyond the middle of the month. Conclusive songs occur at any time in the month up to the 20th. After the breeding season an abbreviation of the song, with some loss of emphasis, is noticeable, which usually has become more marked at the time of discontinuance.

Contrary to what is true of the Robin and some other birds, cool, wet weather seems to discourage singing with this species, and often on those sultry summer mornings which betoken the hottest days its song in full richness may be heard, though most of the other birds be silenced.

In October, toward the end of its stay, its only note is a single sharp *chip*, which, though an insignificant sound, when once known cannot be mistaken for the note of any other bird. Its ordinary call-note is likewise very distinctive. It is not often used after the close of summer, although I have heard it late in September. Speaking of this well known *chip-chir*, Mr. Fred. T. Jencks, of Providence, R. I., has called my attention to what is undoubtedly a clear instance of geographical variation in utterance. Mr. Jencks writes that he has observed that in "Illinois and Indiana it has three notes, *chip-chir-ree*."

Changing from its spring and summer scarlet to autumn green, this bird goes curiously counter to the order of color change from spring to fall, which nature has adopted on so large a scale for our landscapes. The Scarlet Tanager undergoes its change in August, and early in the month may be found with its red plumage variously invaded by the conquering yellowish and green. I have found the male in externally perfect fall dress by mid-September; but feather growth continues into October, when the bird becomes excessively fat.

Bird Songs. SCARLET TANAGER. *Simon Pease Cheney*

This Tanager, the Baltimore Oriole's rival in beauty, is the less active, the less vigorous charmer of the two, and has less vocal power; but it would be difficult to imagine a more pleasing and delicate exhibition of a bird to both eye and ear than that presented by this singer in scarlet and black, as he stands on the limb of some tall tree in the early sun, shining, and singing, high above the earth, his brief, plaintive, morning song. The Tanager's is an unobtrusive song, while the percussive, ringing tones of the Oriole compel attention. In the spring of 1888 a beautiful singer greeted me one summer morning from the top of a tall oak near the house. He paid frequent visits to the same tree-top during the entire season, and sang the same song, beginning and ending with the same tones:



Still, like other birds, he had his variations:



These were all June songs, the last two being sung late in the afternoon.

Though the singer's home was in the near woods, we did not discover the nest of his mate. There came a time of silence, and an absence of flaming plumage, and finally a family of Tanagers—undoubtedly ours—male and female and three unfinished young Tanagers of a neutral, olive tint, were about our grounds in the last days of August, evidently preparing to leave for their home in the tropics. The husband and father had doffed both his 'singing-robe' and his garment of scarlet, and wore in silence a traveling-dress of mixed pea-green and willow-yellow. More desirous than ever to avoid notice, there was about him a most captivating air of quietness and modesty.

AUK, VIII, Jan., 1891, p. 36-37.

Nesting habits.

Lincoln, Mass.  
June 19, 1878

I found a nest near Sandy Pond in a small hickory, on a horizontal branch, some thirty feet above the ground. Female sitting on three eggs. I shook the tree and she glided quietly off. While I was climbing the tree and taking the eggs she remained perfectly silent. After I had returned to the ground the ♂ appeared and joining her, fed her repeatedly with insects she the while half opening his wings and vibrating them tremulously. After a silent and apparently apathetic inspection of the twig where the nest had rested the pair moved off leisurely through the woods the ♂

tal limb of tall savin tree. Collected by "J. M. W." (Mr. C. L. Rawson). Four eggs, fresh. Light greenish blue, thickly spotted and speckled, especially at the larger ends, with purplish gray and chestnut: .87 x .62; .88 x .62; .87 x .62; .87 x .64.

Set IV. June 14, 1887. Black Hawk County, Iowa. Nest on horizontal branch of tree. Three eggs, fresh. Light greenish blue, speckled with purplish gray and chestnut. The markings are heavier at the larger ends: .81 x .64; .84 x .64; .86 x .64.

Set V. June 17, 1875. Norwich, Conn. Nest on end of oak limb, on edge of wood. Collected by "J. M. W." (Mr. C. L. Rawson). Three eggs, fresh. Light greenish blue, speckled and spotted with purplish gray and chestnut: .89 x .68; .89 x .67; .88 x .68.

Set VI. May 23, 1887. Black Hawk County, Iowa. Nest on a side limb of an oak tree, fifteen feet from the ground. Four eggs, fresh. Light greenish blue, speckled and spotted with purplish gray and chestnut. The markings form indistinct wreaths around the larger ends: .80 x .63; .82 x .63; .83 x .63; .83 x .63.

Set VII. June 15, 1883. Nazareth, Penn. Nest on horizontal limb of an oak tree. Three eggs, fresh. Light greenish blue, spotted with purplish gray and chestnut. The markings are heavier at the larger ends: .91 x .66; .98 x .66; .91 x .65. This set contains a Cowbird's egg.

Set VIII. June 17, 1885. Nazareth, Penn. Nest on an oak tree, saddled on a lower branch. Four eggs, fresh. Light greenish blue, spotted and speckled with purplish gray and chestnut. On two of the eggs the markings form indistinct wreaths, but on the other two they are scattered over the whole surface: .89 x .64; .91 x .65; .89 x .66; .83 x .64.

Set IX. June 7, 1885. Black Hawk County, Iowa. Nest on horizontal branch of oak tree, fifteen feet from the ground. Four eggs, fresh. Light greenish blue, heavily spotted with purplish gray and chestnut. The

overhanging carriage road, in the heart of the city. A most beautifully marked set. Light greenish blue, spotted with chestnut and purplish gray. The markings form wreaths around the larger ends: .90 x .63; .90 x .64; .91 x .64.

Set XIX. June 20, 1887. Nazareth, Penn. Nest on linden tree, about thirty feet up. Composed of fine sticks, heavy stems of grass, lined with grass. Two eggs, and two of the Cowbird, incubation slight. Light greenish blue, thickly speckled and spotted with purplish gray and chestnut: .93 x .68; .91 x .68.

Set XX. June 15, 1888. Nazareth, Penn. Nest in apple tree about twelve feet up. Made of sticks, lined with grass. Four eggs, fresh, and one of the Cowbird. Light greenish blue, heavily speckled and spotted, especially at the larger ends, with chestnut and purplish gray: .85 x .61; .84 x .63; .84 x .64; .88 x .63.

Set XXI. June 11, 1887. Nazareth, Penn. Nest on hickory, about twenty-five feet up. Composed of fine sticks, weeds and wild cotton. Three eggs, fresh, and one of the Cowbird's. Light greenish blue, thickly speckled and spotted, more heavily at the larger ends, with purplish gray and chestnut: .93 x .65; .90 x .64; .89 x .68.

Set XXII. June 11, 1888. Nazareth, Penn. Nest on apple tree about nine feet up. Made of weeds and straw. Four eggs, and two of the Cowbird, incubation far advanced. Light greenish blue, clouded at the larger ends with purplish gray, and over this there are wreaths of chestnut. The whole effect is beautiful and very odd: .95 x .67; .96 x .66; .97 x .67; .89 x .67. J. P. N.



at intervals feeding his mate in the manner just described.

### A Series of Eggs of the Scarlet Tanager.

The eggs of the Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*) are usually three or four in number, although two are sometimes all that are laid.

Set I. June 18, 1888. Nazareth, Penn. Nest in white oak tree, about twenty-five feet up. Composed of sticks and weeds. Two eggs, incubation advanced. Light greenish blue, spotted, much more heavily at the larger ends, with purplish gray and chestnut: .97 x .67; .95 x .66. This set contains a Cowbird's egg.

Set II. June 12, 1886. Montgomery County, Penn. Nest in an ironwood tree, over a road, twenty feet from ground. Made of twigs and root fibres. Two eggs, incubation commenced. Light greenish blue, thickly speckled and spotted with purplish brown and chestnut: .88 x .65; .88 x .64.

Set III. June 14, 1888. Preston, Conn. Small flimsy nest on tip end of long horizontal limb of tall savin tree. Collected by "J. M. W." (Mr. C. L. Rawson). Four eggs, fresh. Light greenish blue, thickly spotted and speckled, especially at the larger ends, with purplish gray and chestnut: .87 x .62; .88 x .62; .87 x .62; .87 x .64.

Set IV. June 14, 1887. Black Hawk County, Iowa. Nest on horizontal branch of tree. Three eggs, fresh. Light greenish blue, speckled with purplish gray and chestnut. The markings are heavier at the larger ends: .81 x .64; .84 x .64; .86 x .64.

Set V. June 17, 1875. Norwich, Conn. Nest on end of oak limb, on edge of wood. Collected by "J. M. W." (Mr. C. L. Rawson). Three eggs, fresh. Light greenish blue, speckled and spotted with purplish gray and chestnut: .89 x .68; .89 x .67; .88 x .68.

Set VI. May 23, 1887. Black Hawk County, Iowa. Nest on a side limb of an oak tree, fifteen feet from the ground. Four eggs, fresh. Light greenish blue, speckled and spotted with purplish gray and chestnut. The markings form indistinct wreaths around the larger ends: .80 x .63; .82 x .63; .83 x .63; .83 x .63.

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Set VIII. June 17, 1885. Nazareth, Penn. Nest on an oak tree, saddled on a lower branch. Four eggs, fresh. Light greenish blue, spotted and speckled with purplish gray and chestnut. On two of the eggs the markings form indistinct wreaths, but on the other two they are scattered over the whole surface: .89 x .64; .91 x .65; .89 x .66; .83 x .64.

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Rawson). Nest in savin tree in open woods. Slight, but well constructed. Four eggs, fresh. Light greenish blue, speckled and spotted with purplish gray and chestnut: .85 x .64; .83 x .64; .81 x .65; .83 x .64.

Set XVII. June 12, 1886. Chester County, Penn. Nest on limb of beech tree, twenty feet from the ground. Made of twigs, etc. Four eggs, incubation advanced. Light greenish blue, speckled and spotted, more heavily at the larger ends, with purplish gray and chestnut: .94 x .67; .96 x .67; .92 x .64; .96 x .67.

Set XVIII. May 31, 1885. Norwich, Conn. Collected by "J. M. W." (Mr. C. L. Rawson). Nest on tip end of long limb of apple tree overhanging carriage road, in the heart of the city. A most beautifully marked set. Light greenish blue, spotted with chestnut and purplish gray. The markings form wreaths around the larger ends: .90 x .63; .90 x .64; .91 x .64.

Set XIX. June 20, 1887. Nazareth, Penn. Nest on linden tree, about thirty feet up. Composed of fine sticks, heavy stems of grass, lined with grass. Two eggs, and two of the Cowbird, incubation slight. Light greenish blue, thickly speckled and spotted with purplish gray and chestnut: .93 x .68; .91 x .68.

Set XX. June 15, 1888. Nazareth, Penn. Nest in apple tree about twelve feet up. Made of sticks, lined with grass. Four eggs, fresh, and one of the Cowbird. Light greenish blue, heavily speckled and spotted, especially at the larger ends, with chestnut and purplish gray: .85 x .61; .84 x .63; .84 x .64; .88 x .63.

Set XXI. June 11, 1887. Nazareth, Penn. Nest on hickory, about twenty-five feet up. Composed of fine sticks, weeds and wild cotton. Three eggs, fresh, and one of the Cowbird's. Light greenish blue, thickly speckled and spotted, more heavily at the larger ends, with purplish gray and chestnut: .93 x .65; .90 x .64; .89 x .68.

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J. P. N.

**Peculiar Traits of Some Scarlet Tanagers.**—Scarlet Tanagers (*Piranga erythromelas*) are not common in this vicinity (Ridgewood, N. J.); for many years I saw only two or three during spring migrations. Within the last few years a few pairs have bred in this locality, generally on the outskirts of woods; so I was surprised to see a pair nesting in a Norway spruce, on a branch only about ten feet from the corner of my house, and about the same distance from the ground. In all my ornithological experience I never knew a pair of birds to live and nest so near my house with such secretiveness.

One of my family first saw the birds from an upper window that looked down on the nest. The nest building appeared to be all done by the female. The male bird was seen usually in the morning, apparently inspecting the work or noting its progress, but was seldom seen during the rest of the day. Both birds when approaching their nest alighted near the top of this high tree and descended through the branches to the nest, which was flat, very evenly built, like a cup of basket work, beautifully woven of material resembling the color of the bark of the couda see the nest and no mother appeared. I thought some harm must have happened to her, but next morning she was at home. My business did not allow me to watch them much during the day; one afternoon the bright male Tanager put in an appearance in the upper part of the tree, but seeing me he made off without coming near the nest.

Soon the downy backs of the nestlings showed above the rim of the basket house, when the hen seldom brooded them unless it was wet weather. These youngsters were perfectly quiet, never clamoring for food, like so many other nestlings. Before they were big enough to project conspicuously above their flat nest they left it and went higher up the tree. This was on the 3d of July. Their color being greenish, it was very hard to distinguish them in the upper branches where they were secreted and fed by the parents.

A few days before leaving the nest a violent tempest passed over the vicinity; trees were thrown down and scattered over the ground in all directions; many nests of different birds were tossed or knocked out of the trees by wind or hailstones. I thought it impossible for my Tanagers to escape harm, but they were all right after the storm, which showed how the faithful mother must have covered them. The young birds and mother remained about for several weeks, but the male was absent, if his scarlet was still worn.

I took down the deserted nest. It was composed of long fine brown rootlets, fine thin stems of running blackberry, with a little grass and string evenly woven; it was thinly lined with a fine yellowish brown, thread-like fibre, as fine as horsehair. The whole structure can be seen through yet it is strong.

Had I expressed an opinion on the habits of the Scarlet Tanager from that year's observation I should have said the male bird was very shy,

60. *Increase of Some Species in Certain Localities.* By Fred J. Davis. *Ibid.*, V, p. 5. July, 1879.—Scarlet Tanager, Crow Blackbird, Great-crested Flycatcher, Green Heron, and Pine Grosbeak referred to; locality (apparently) Central New York. **Oologist**

277. *Scarlet Tanager.* [By Dr. H. A. Atkins.] *Ibid.*, VI, p. 13.—**O. and O.** Dates of arrival of *Piranga rubra* at Locke, Ingham Co., Mich., for 25 years.

606. *Habits of the Scarlet Tanager.* By E. E. Fish. *Ibid.*, No. 5. pp. 118-119. **Bull. Buf. Nat. Field Club, 1878**

317. *Remarkable Flight of Birds.* By M. Chamberlain. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 53.—Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Birds, and Green Herons, at Westport, Nova Scotia, "driven in by a gale."

317. *Remarkable Flight of Birds.* By M. Chamberlain. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 53.—Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Birds, and Green Herons, at Westport, Nova Scotia, "driven in by a gale."

*For note on Scarlet Tanager see migration  
note on Rose-breasted Grosbeak.*

*G. H. Ragsdale, Fairville, looks for Texas.*

*Q. & O. IX. May. 1884. p. 62.*

tree. Taken with the greenish color of the female, it was a remarkable instance of color illusion; every time I wanted to see the nest, knowing the branch it was on, I had to run my eye along the branch till it met the nest before I could see it; the shallow nest and the greenish female were remarkably inconspicuous. Only the female took part in the duties of incubation. She would remain on the nest even when one passed closely, but if anyone stopped to look at her, she would glide off the nest through the tree in the opposite direction, so quietly as to almost make one doubtful of her presence. The birds became quite accustomed to seeing one of my family sitting at the window close by. I did not go very near the nest for fear of disturbing the birds.

When the young were hatched another peculiarity was noticed, these birds differing much from most birds in the manner of feeding their young. I watched several evenings for an hour or more at a distance from the tree, but could clearly see the nest with my field glass. Still I did not once see the female feed her young. Most birds feed their young often just before sunset, and I think the female Tanager must have known she was watched, for one evening I watched as long as I could see the nest and no mother appeared. I thought some harm must have happened to her, but next morning she was at home. My business did not allow me to watch them much during the day; one afternoon the bright male Tanager put in an appearance in the upper part of the tree, but seeing me he made off without coming near the nest.

Soon the downy backs of the nestlings showed above the rim of the basket house, when the hen seldom brooded them unless it was wet weather. These youngsters were perfectly quiet, never clamoring for food, like so many other nestlings. Before they were big enough to project conspicuously above their flat nest they left it and went higher up the tree. This was on the 3d of July. Their color being greenish, it was very hard to distinguish them in the upper branches where they were secreted and fed by the parents.

A few days before leaving the nest a violent tempest passed over the vicinity; trees were thrown down and scattered over the ground in all directions; many nests of different birds were tossed or knocked out of the trees by wind or hailstones. I thought it impossible for my Tanagers to escape harm, but they were all right after the storm, which showed how the faithful mother must have covered them. The young birds and mother remained about for several weeks, but the male was absent, if his scarlet was still worn.

I took down the deserted nest. It was composed of long fine brown rootlets, fine thin stems of running blackberry, with a little grass and string evenly woven; it was thinly lined with a fine yellowish brown, thread-like fibre, as fine as horsehair. The whole structure can be seen through yet it is strong.

Had I expressed an opinion on the habits of the Scarlet Tanager from that year's observation I should have said the male bird was very shy,

60. *Increase of Some Species in Certain Localities.* By Fred J. Davis. *Ibid.*, V, p. 5, July, 1879.—Scarlet Tanager, Crow Blackbird, Great-crested Flycatcher, Green Heron, and Pine Grosbeak referred to; locality (apparently) Central New York. **Oologist**

277. *Scarlet Tanager.* [By Dr. H. A. Atkins.] *Ibid.*, VI, p. 13.—  
O. and O. Dates of arrival of *Pyrranga rubra* at Locke, Ingham Co., Mich., for 25 years.

606. *Habits of the Scarlet Tanager.* By E. E. Fish. *Ibid.*, No. 5.  
pp. 118-119. **Bull. Buf. Nat. Field Club, 1893**

317. *Remarkable Flight of Birds.* By M. Chamberlain. *Ibid.*, VI,  
O. and O. p. 53.—Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Birds, and Green Herons, at Westport, Nova Scotia, "driven in by a gale."

317. *Remarkable Flight of Birds.* By M. Chamberlain. *Ibid.*, VI,  
O. and O. p. 53.—Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Birds, and Green Herons, at Westport, Nova Scotia, "driven in by a gale."

*For note on Scarlet Tanager see migration  
note on Rose-breasted Grosbeak.*

*G. H. Raymond, Gainesville, Leake Co. Texas.*

*O. & O. 12. May. 1884. p. 62.*

giving as a reason that his conspicuous dress was a target for his enemies; which is the usual way we try to make other people think we know something. So I will now describe the following year's events, which was 1895. A female Scarlet Tanager came and built exactly on the same spot where the previous year's nest was; hence I infer it was the same female. But what of her gay lord, was he the same male? If so he must have undergone a great change of character, for he showed himself about the tree frequently and sang on the next tree very often during the day. But the most remarkable thing of all was, he spied a nest of Chippy Sparrows (*Spizella socialis*) with young ones. To my surprise he kept going to the nest and fed the baby Chippys, much to the disgust of their parents, who kept hovering around with food in their mouths which the little things could not take, after being fed so often by their gorgeous foster father. This was continued for a number of days. When his own precious young burst their shells and required attention he then left the Chippys to their rightful parents, which were now outgrowing their narrow domicile, being duly cared for. Mr. Tanager now paid as faithful attention to his own family, feeding them very frequently and singing his sweet song between feeding and collecting food. Seldom was he away, near sunset, longer than ten or fifteen minutes. So I am at a loss to account for the shyness shown the previous year, unless this was a second husband of the same female Tanager; and then the extraordinary fact of his feeding other birds' young ones is one of the exceptions that make the study of birds a pleasant recreation. — HENRY HALES, *Ridgewood, N. Y.*

60. *Increase of Some Species in Certain Localities.* By Fred J. Davis. *Ibid.*, V, p. 5, July, 1879.—Scarlet Tanager, Crow Blackbird, Great-crested Flycatcher, Green Heron, and Pine Grosbeak referred to; locality (apparently) Central New York. **Oologist**

277. *Scarlet Tanager.* [By Dr. H. A. Atkins.] *Ibid.*, VI, p. 13.—  
 O. and O. Dates of arrival of *Pyrranga rubra* at Locke, Ingham Co., Mich., for 25 years.

606. *Habits of the Scarlet Tanager.* By E. E. F[ish]. *Ibid.*, No. 5.  
 pp. 118-119. **Bull. Buf. Nat. Field Club, 1883**

317. *Remarkable Flight of Birds.* By M. Chamberlain. *Ibid.*, VI,  
 p. 53.—Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Birds, and Green Herons, at Westport,  
 Nova Scotia, "driven in by a gale."

O. and O. 317. *Remarkable Flight of Birds.* By M. Chamberlain. *Ibid.*, VI,  
 p. 53.—Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Birds, and Green Herons, at Westport,  
 Nova Scotia, "driven in by a gale."

*For note on Scarlet Tanager see migration  
 note on Rose-breasted Grosbeak.*

*G. H. Ragsdale, Fairville, looks for Texas.*

*O. & O. 12. May. 1884. p. 62.*

rubra

THE SUMMER Tanager, (*Pyrrhula aestiva*) IN NEW BRUNSWICK.— While staying at Grand Manan, N. B., in June, last year, I saw in the possession of Mr. J. F. C. Moses a Summer Tanager which had been taken there a few weeks before. It was shot at North Head, Grand Manan, about the 12th or 14th of May, 1881, by a boy who brought it in the flesh to Mr. Moses, by whom it was mounted. The bird — which was undoubtedly a male, though dissection had been neglected — was in full plumage, and showed no signs of previous captivity. Indeed in that thinly settled region the capture of an escaped cage bird would be an unlikely event. The specimen is now in the collection of Mr. George A. Boardman.

This adds another case to the list of southern birds that have occasionally found their way to the neighborhood of the Bay of Fundy. The causes of their coming still remain hidden, and more light is needed before the facts can be satisfactorily explained.—CHARLES F. BATCHELDER, *Cambridge, Mass.* *Bull. N. O. C.* 7, Oct, 1882, p. 249.

### *Summer Redbird in Canada.*

On the mountain above the water work's reservoir is a clump of mixed bush near which lives an old man who knows the birds thoroughly. He has often told me of a season long ago when a number of red birds bred there which had not the black wings and tail of the Scarlet Tanager. I have looked at this bush with interest ever since, and on May 20, this year, as I was scrutinizing a group of Tanagers leisurely sunning themselves among the topmost branches of a tall elm, I noticed one different in plumage from the others. In bringing it down I was greatly pleased to find a fine female of the Summer Redbird (*Pyrrhula aestiva*), this being the first record of the species for Canada, so far as I am aware.

I think I have also seen the Connecticut Warbler but without actual measurement it is difficult to distinguish between it and the Mourning Warbler.—THOMAS MCLWRAITH, *Hamilton, Ontario.*

*Auk*, I, Oct., 1884, p. 390.

Ornithological Trip to St. Bruno, P. Q.  
May 25, 1885. E. D. Wintle, Montreal.

Summer Tanager. Saw one for a few seconds, when it disappeared most mysteriously, and I did not see it again.

*O. & O.* XI, May, 1886, p. 75

*Birds of Toronto, Canada,*  
*by James N. Fleming*  
*Part II. Land Birds.*

*Auk*, xxiv, Jan. 1907, p. 82.

224. *Piranga rubra*. SUMMER Tanager.—“One specimen taken at Searboro Heights, near Toronto, by Mr. Herring, in May 1890.”<sup>1</sup> This specimen is now in the museum of the Geological Survey at Ottawa.

<sup>1</sup> Macoun, Catalogue of Canadian Birds, 537.

### *Canada.*

The Third Specimen of the Summer Tanager for Canada.— On May 7, while Messrs. J. S. Wallace and B. H. Swales were searching the end of Point Pelee for migrants, Mr. Wallace found a female summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) sitting quietly on a tangle of grape vines growing over some low trees. The bird was immediately shot and is now in the collection of Mr. P. A. Taverner, Detroit. Two other specimens have occurred in Ontario,—one seen near Hamilton in May, 1885 (McIlwraith, *Birds of Ontario*, p. 335), the other taken near Toronto in May, 1890, and now in the National Collection of the Geological Survey of Canada.

From the same locality I received in mid April a male Mockingbird which had been taken by Mr. Albert Gardiner. This is the second specimen of

this species that has come from Point Pelee within three years.—W. E. SAUNDERS, *London, Ontario.*

*Auk* 26, July 1909, p. 308-09.

Newtonville Dec 13-97

Dear Mr Brewster

The "green bird" which appears to be a free of some kind, & not as is stated, a Shearwater is owned by Chas. Prescott South St near W. Melrose Boston, Provision Dealer. Mr Frank G. Sillitoe told me of this bird.

I have just seen a Summer Tanager which was killed by Mr Perkins in Watertown last June about the 1<sup>st</sup>. It is a young ♂ probably 2 years old. It belongs to John Cullen, Watertown

His address is  
37 Beacon St Waltham  
Yours as ever  
C. Maynard

1887 Piranga rubra (virens)  
Calver, Mass

"Three years ago this  
I saw a Summer Red bird that was shot in Calver Mass and brought in to Woburn to mount. The man was called for it and Woburn gave it to his brother"

(Outram Bays in letter (filed) of June 4-1890. The name of locality is illegible but it looks like the above transcript. It is doubtless some place near Woburn, W. B.

Watertown Mass

Jan 30, 1897

Mr Brewster

Cambridge,

S. Mass

Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter would say I do not care to sell the bird referred to.

Very truly yours  
John Cullen.

Box 475

1887 *Piranga rubra* (vms)  
Cater, Mass

"Three years ago this  
I saw a Sumner Red bird  
that was shot in Cater Mass  
and brought in to Woodburn  
to mount. The man who  
collected for it and Woodburn  
gave it to his brother"

(Outram Bongs in letter  
dated June 4, 1890. The name of  
locality is illegible but it  
looks like the above transcript  
It is doubtless some place  
near Northam, N. B.

Watertown Mass

Jan. 30, 1897

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Dear Sir:

In answer to your  
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Very truly yours,  
John Cullen.

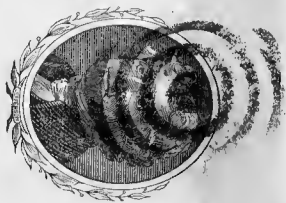
Box 475

United States of America

POSTAL CARD - ONE CENT



THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.



Mr Wm Brewster

Cambridge

Spencer B. Smith (P)

Mass



*Piranga rubra* in Massachusetts. — On May 12, 1901, while walking in Newton, I heard the call of the Summer Tanager and on going in pursuit soon came up with the bird. It was not in red plumage, but from a certain streaky, splashy, unsettled appearance, the orange-red being very bright in spots, I took it for an immature male. This, however, is a matter of very inexpert opinion. As to the identity of the bird as *Piranga rubra*, there could be no doubt. I had it under my glass (an eight-power Zeiss) for some time at short range, under the most favorable conditions; and while thus under observation it uttered again and again its very peculiar and thoroughly characteristic polysyllabic signal, with which I am fairly familiar from having heard it often at the South. According to Messrs Howe and Allen's 'Birds of Massachusetts' this may count as the sixth Massachusetts record. — BRADFORD TORREY, *Wellesley Hills, Mass.* *Auk*, XVIII, July, 1901, p. 273.

Some Birds of Rare or Accidental Occurrence in New England. H. A. Purdie

6. *Piranga æstiva*. SUMMER REDBIRD. — Mr. Jencks informs me that a male was shot a few years since on Ten-Mile River, six or eight miles northeast of Providence. It has appeared before, but is sufficiently rare here to merit notice.

*Bull. N. O. C.* 2, Jan., 1877, p. 21

*Some Unusual Records for Massachusetts.*

*Piranga rubra rubra* (Linne). SUMMER TANAGER. — A male taken at Deer Island, Boston harbor, Mass., April 11, 1916. The plumage and general condition of this specimen led us to believe that this bird had not been in captivity. It was taken on the window-ledge of a pumping station.

*Arch. xxx 114 July 1916. p. 328.*

*Piranga rubra*, Rhode Island.  
BUREAU OF NATURAL HISTORY. ESTABLISHED 1876 TELEPHONE CONNECTION

J. W. CRITCHLEY

SUCCESSOR TO SOUTHWICK & CRITCHLEY.

DEALER IN

Mammal and Bird Skins, Fancy Shells, Fur Rugs,

NATURALISTS' SUPPLIES AND PUBLICATIONS.

Animals and Birds Mounted to Order either from Fresh Specimens  
or Dry Skins.

354 WESTMINSTER STREET.

Providence, R. I., May 8, 1901

SUCCESSORS

W. A. Angell.

H. A. Cash.

Mr. William Brewster,

Dear Sir,

We can have  
case for Black book.  
made of oak or ash.  
with glass for eleven (11)  
dollars. This would  
make the price of the  
group in case complete  
twenty six (26) dollars all  
carefully packed for shipment.  
Since you were here  
we have had a second  
Summer Tanager sent in.  
The first was taken at  
Block Island April seventh.

BUREAU OF NATURAL HISTORY.

ESTABLISHED 1876

TELEPHONE CONNECTION

J. W. CRITCHLEY

SUCCESSORS  
SUCCESSOR TO SOUTHWICK & CRITCHLEY.

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Animals and Birds Mounted to Order either from Fresh Specimens  
or Dry Skins.

354 WESTMINSTER STREET.

Providence, R. I., .....  
SUCCESSORS

190

W. A. Angell.

H. A. Cash.

by Capt Sisson of the  
Life Saving Station.  
The second was taken  
at Seacomet. April twenty-  
seventh. by a fisherman.  
Both birds were shot on  
the beaches near salt  
water, hopping on the sand.  
Yours respectfully  
Angell & Cash.

Account (fin)

Seaconnet, R.I.  
Boston Soc. Nat. History.

*Piranga rubra*. SUMMER Tanager.— A male, said to have been shot at Seaconnet, R. I., on April 27, 1901, was purchased of Messrs. Angell and Cash. There seems to be no reason to discredit the record.— GLOVER M. ALLEN, Cambridge, Mass.

Ark 25, Apr-1908, p. 2367

General Notes.

The Summer Tanager in Connecticut.—An adult male *Piranga rubra* was taken here April 28, 1893. The weather was quite cold at the time. Although in rather poor flesh, the bird shows no signs of ever having been caged.—JNO. H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*

Aug X, July, 1893 p. 303.

Article XII, July, 1895, p. 306.  
Summer Redbird at Saybrook, Conn.—I have recently added another unexpected acquisition to my list of things new in a fine male specimen of the Summer Redbird (*Piranga rubra*) which I secured here in Old Saybrook on the 27th of April last (1895). It seemed to be perfectly contented, as if ignorant that it had wandered off, and whistled as cheerily in the cold rain storm then prevailing as if it was still under sunny skies. This is the first of its species that I have ever seen here.—J. N. CLARK, *Saybrook, Conn.*

Capture of the Summer Red Bird on Long Island.—On May 16, 1883, my cousin, a boy of about fourteen, brought me a couple of birds which he had shot in this place. I found them to be very much mutilated and hardly fit to be mounted, but I took the skin of one, as it was new to me, and laid it away. On examining Audubon's 'North American Birds' lately, I saw that the skin I had was that of the male Summer Red Bird. I believe that the other bird, which I threw away at the time, it being too much mutilated to do anything with, was a female of the same species. It was only a few days ago that I learned that this bird is quite rare in this section, and so communicate the particulars. The skin was also identified by Dr. A. K. Fisher. The boy who shot the two birds above mentioned told me at the time that he had seen others of the same kind, but could not shoot them.—W. F. HENDRICKSON, *Long Island, N. Y.*

*Auk*, I, July, 1884. p. 290-291

#### Long Island Bird Notes. Wm. Dutcher

21. *Piranga rubra*. SUMMER TANAGER.—While at Sag Harbor recently I found among some mounted birds in the shop of Lucas & Buck, an adult specimen of this species which was shot some time in May, 1885, near the village of Bridghampton. Mr. Ivan C. Byram, of Sag Harbor, wrote me that on April 7, 1886, a friend shot a strange bird. It was unfortunately eaten by a cat, which did not know its value as a specimen. From the description given of the bird I have no doubt but that it was correctly identified by Mr. Byram as a Summer Tanager. Mr. Albert Lott, of Merrick, Queens Co., sent one to me for identification. He wrote that it was shot by a neighbor, May 14, 1886. At the time it was killed it was near his hives catching the bees. It did not eat any portion of them except the head. It had been about the place for three or four days.

*Auk*, 3, Oct., 1886. p. 442.

#### Bird Notes from Long Island, N. Y. William Dutcher.

21. *Piranga rubra*. SUMMER TANAGER.—Mr. Giraud does not include this species among the Long Island birds, nor does Mr. George N. Lawrence include it in his catalogue.¶

The former says, when speaking of the Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*): "This species is the only one of the Genus that is found in this vicinity.\*\* The latter states, "I have seen it in the Magnolia Swamps of the New Jersey coast near Atlantic City, but never met with it any further north." Since my previous records\* I have had two additional specimens reported to me by Mr. John C. Knoess, who writes: "I have a beautiful specimen, killed last April (1886) at Manor, Suffolk Co., and another at Promised Land, also in Suffolk Co. They are the first I ever saw on the Island." Can it be that this species is extending its range northward?

*Auk*, V, April, 1888. p. 131-132.

¶ Catalogue of Birds observed on New York, Long, and Staten Islands, and the adjacent parts of New Jersey. Ann. N. Y. Lyc. Nat. Hist., VIII, p. 286, April, 1886.

\*\* Birds of Long Island, p. 136.

\* *Auk*, Vol. III, 1886, p. 442.

[52.1.] *Piranga rubra* (Linn.). SUMMER TANAGER.—I took a female in perfect plumage, at Highland Falls, New York, May 12, 1883. Measurements (No. 2583, E. A. M.): length, 7.00; alar expanse, 11.40; wing, 3.60; tail, 2.80; culmen, .60; gape, .77; tarsus, .74; middle toe and claw, .75; claw alone, .22 ineh. Irides hazel. Bill greenish olive. Legs and feet bluish gray; claws brownish. Mearns, *Auk*, VII, Jan. 1890. p. 55.

Notes concerning certain Birds of Long Island.  
by William C. Braislin M.D.

*Piranga rubra*. The Summer Tanager has been taken on Long Island, as recorded in 'The Auk', during the past seventeen years as follows:— At Sag Harbor, Apr. 7; at Bridgehampton, May 1; at Merrick, May 14; (Dutcher, Auk, III, 1886, p. 442); at Manor in April; at Promised Land in April (Dutcher, Auk, V, 1888, p. 18), and at Long Island City, May 15, (Hendrickson, Auk, I, 1884, p. 290). I here record an additional specimen, which was picked up on the beach at Ditch Plain, April 8, 1901. Capt. Scott of the Montauk Point Light secured it from the finder and sent it to me. The stomach was empty except for a little discolored sand. It is remarkable that of the seven specimens, five were from stations at the eastern end of the Island, where migration is normally a week later for land-bird migrants than the western end. The eastern extremity, however, stretches well to sea and is more advantageously situated as a haven for birds driven out over the ocean by storms and seeking land.

The occurrence of this bird on Long Island, instead of a normal extension of the vernal migratory movement, seems to be more the result of weather conditions. They are isolated survivors of coast storms.

On sending the specimen above recorded, Capt. Scott writes me: "It was found on the shore at Ditch Plain on the 8th inst., chilled with cold, after this last south storm."

The early dates on which the birds have been recorded lead one more readily to conceive that a cause other than a normal migratory movement is responsible for their presence. Of the seven instances, four were recorded in April; two as early as the 7th and 8th respectively. In Chapman's 'Birds of Eastern North America' (1895), p. 317, we find that the Summer Tanager arrives in Florida early in April, and that at Washington, D. C., the first recorded date of arrival is April 28. In 'The Auk', Vol. XVII, 1900, p. 297 (Allison) it is stated that the first recorded date at which this bird has been seen by the writer in spring at New Orleans, La., is April 2. The specimens of the Summer Tanager which have reached Long Island early in April are birds which must have been driven off the coast at points far to the south of the point of arrival; not impossibly while crossing the Gulf, between the West Indian Islands and the Mainland.

Auk, XIX, April., 1902, p. 147-148.

*Piranga rubra*— Another Long Island, N. Y., Record.— It will be of interest in connection with the record of this species made by Dr. Braislin (*antea*, p. 147), to note another.

My correspondent, Mr. Selah B. Strong of Setauket, L. I., wrote to me April 11, 1901, as follows: "This morning I saw a, to me, new bird. It was about three quarters the size of a robin. Head, and nearly his entire body, between cardinal and scarlet with a shade of grayish brown on wings." I at once sent Mr. Strong a specimen of the Summer Tanager for comparison and he wrote that there was no doubt of the identity of the bird.

On April 22 Mr. Strong wrote as follows: "The Tanager is becoming very tame and I see him constantly; during yesterday's storm he was swinging on the vines on the front of the house, and when I went out of the door he flew from under the steps; again he was on the ground in front of my study window and did not mind our watching him. At present he is flitting among the trees in the orchard."

A subsequent letter from Mr. Strong stated that although the bird remained over ten days on his premises it finally disappeared.— WILLIAM DUTCHER, *New York City*. Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 291.

*Piranga rubra*

Rare Birds for Eastern Long Island, New York.— Two Summer Tanagers (*Piranga erythromelas*) were seen, and one taken on the 9th of April, 1902. The specimen taken was somewhat emaciated, but the plumage was in fine condition. The early date seems to carry out the theory of Dr. Braislin, "that these birds were driven off shore far to the south by storms."

W. W. Worthington, Shelter Island Heights,  
Auk, XIX, Oct., 1902, pp. 402-3, N.Y.



**A Hybrid Tanager.**—While in Omaha last fall for a few hours I called on Mr. Leonard Skow who called my attention to a Tanager in his collection that did not fit the keys. On my return to Washington I arranged to have the bird sent on for examination, and Mr. Ridgway pronounces it an unmistakable case of hybridism between *Piranga rubra* and *P. erythromelas*—the first known instance of this phenomenon in the genus.

The bird is a male. Its bill is rather thicker than in *P. erythromelas*, but not so long as in *P. rubra*, with the median notch of the upper mandible well developed. The wings are rusty black, the primaries are edged with red on the outer web, while the secondaries and coverts are washed with brick red, giving the whole wing the appearance of having been brushed over with a water color of reddish yellow. The tail is marked in the same manner, but with more of the appearance of having been dipped in the red stain, as the whole web of each feather is tinged more deeply on the outer than on the inner web and at the base than at the tip. The body has the scarlet color of *P. erythromelas*, with no trace of the vermilion of *P. rubra*, though there is a little of the bronze of immaturity on the nape of the neck and on the belly. In a series of about thirty

specimens of *P. erythromelas* there is no trace of the reddish wash on the black—though several show red feathers among the black coverts. The characters of *P. erythromelas* are the stronger on the whole, as might be expected, as it seems the hardier bird of the two.

Measurements show that it is intermediate in size between the two species. I give a few (in inches), with those of Ridgway's 'Manual' for comparison.

	Wing	Tail	Culmen
Hybrid	3.90	2.85	.60
<i>P. rubra</i>	3.55-3.95 (3.69)	2.80-3.15 (2.99)	.82-.90 (.86)
<i>P. erythromelas</i>	3.55-3.90	2.80-3.25	.55-.60

The specimen is now in the collection of the U. S. National Museum  
—L. M. McCORMICK, *Washington, D. C.*

*Auk* X, July, 1893 p. 302-303.

**Plumage of some birds from upper  
So. Carolina** - Leverett M. Loomis.

**Piranga rubra.**—The following description is of a female, with ovary of a breeding bird, taken June 2, 1879. Prevailing color above brownish gray, with touches of olive-yellowish; under surface cream-color, washed with Naples yellow, with a patch of chrome yellow on breast. Three males and a female of subspecies *cooperi* in the American Museum resemble this specimen in their faded appearance.

*Auk* X, April, 1893. p.154.

**First Plumage of the Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*).**—Underparts whitish-buff, heavily streaked on breast with dusky; throat and abdomen with lighter and more linear streaks of the same. Under tail-coverts reddish-buff with dark streaks. Head and upper parts dark brownish buff thickly spotted and streaked with dusky. Wings showing traces of dull red and green on primaries and secondaries. The first and second wing-coverts tipped and edged with buff, forming two distinct wing-bars.

The bird (No. 2084, ♂, Coll. C. W. Beckham), from which the above description is taken, was shot at Bardstown, Kentucky, on June 21, and was attended by both parents.

The call-note of the young Tanager is very different from any note of the adult birds. It is very full and sonorous and faintly suggestive of the Bluebird's ordinary whistle.—CHARLES WICKLIFF BECKHAM, *Bardstown, Ky.*

*Auk*, 3, Oct., 1886. p. 487.

A Female *Piranga rubra* Assuming the Plumage of the Male. On the 27th of May of the present year my son Percy W. Shufeldt collected at Takoma Park, in Montgomery County, Maryland, a female Summer Tanager having a plumage so unusual that a record of it would seem worthy of presentation. The species is by no means uncommon in the locality where it was taken, and the specimen is apparently an adult, of several years of age. In coloration her plumage about corresponds with that of a young male of this species during the first summer, or an adult female with the following differences;—the plumage of the upper parts is thickly interspersed with the dark red feathers which characterize the male, and the plumage of the entire under parts is thickly beset with bright vermilion-tinted feathers. Many of the secondaries of the wings are also bright red, as is also the outer tail-feather of the left side. I personally examined the sex of this specimen on dissection, and found her ovary to

contain ova varying in size from a No. 10 shot to that of a small pea. The skin of this bird is at present in my son's collection.—Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

Auk, 8, July, 1891. p. 315-316

Auk, XIV, Oct., 1897, pp. 406-7.

Notes on the Moulting and certain Plumage Phases of *Piranga rubra*.—In 'The Auk' for July, 1891 (pp. 315, 316) I described an instance wherein the Summer Tanager (*P. rubra*), a female, had assumed the plumage of the male. That specimen was collected by my son, Percy Shufeldt, and has since been added to the collections of the U. S. National Museum. Since that date the same collector has added to his private series, thirteen more specimens of this species, and as some of these exhibit certain notable conditions of the moulting and plumage, it is my intention here to pass a few remarks upon the more interesting of these. Twelve of the skins are from male birds, while the thirteenth is from an adult female, taken in August, 1895, and exhibits the autumnal plumage nearly completed. All these individuals were collected either in the northeastern part of the District of Columbia, or in the adjacent parts of southern Maryland. Of the seven red males in the series taken at random from April 18, 1896, to July 15, only one of them shows the full and completed plumage, and that the one shot on the first-mentioned date. All of the others present more or less green in the wings and tail, and one with a greenish patch on the throat. A specimen, an old male, shot on the 15th of July, 1896, has both the plumage of the entire body and tail red, while the secondaries and primaries of the wings are in the process of the moulting,—the new feathers likewise coming in red,—the same applying to the wing-coverts. This tends to prove, in so far at least as this particular specimen is concerned, that in the male of this species in the autumnal moulting they reassume the red plumage. Another specimen, which I take to be a young male of the first spring, and shot on May 14, 1897, has the body plumage red, with red and green wings, but the tail exactly half red and half green,—the green feathers on the left half of the tail being half a centimeter shorter than the red ones. All these feathers are new, with the exception of one of the green ones, and it is found next to the outermost one of that side. Now the first plumage taken on by both sexes of this species after leaving the nest is the olive-green plumage corresponding to that of the normal adult females, and in that plumage the birds of the year migrate south in the autumn. So that the aforesaid specimen shot on May 14, possibly met with an accident, losing all the feathers of the left side of the tail with the exception of the one mentioned, and these being replaced came in green. This seems to be the only explanation to account for the state of affairs seen in this individual.

In another specimen of this series, a young male of the first autumn in the full green plumage, shows a broadish transverse red bar across the green and perfected feathers of the tail.

Perhaps the most interesting specimen in the collection is that of a female (adult) which in the spring had, in part, the red plumage of the male, and when collected on the 2d of August, 1897, was in full moulting,—the red feathers of the entire plumage being replaced by the green ones of the adult female bird with normal coloration. This particular example then, would tend to show that when the females of this species assume in the spring the red plumage of the males, that in the autumnal moulting they pass back again to the plumage of the normally-colored females,—whereas the old males reassume the red plumage.—R. W. SHUFELDT, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

Pyrauga aestiva

1884  
April 16

Charleston, South Carolina.

Saw two males. One sang repeatedly.

April 18. Abundant; saw first ♀

" 25. The song of this Tanager is similar to that of Pyrauga rubra but the notes are fuller, bolder, & in certain ways more like those of the Robin. This song is much shorter than that of P. rubra.

The note is chuck-l, chuck-l. ut.

The bird is an infrequent singer even at the height of the breeding season but his chuck-l note is almost continually heard in the thin woods.

Charleston, S. C.

Pyrauga aestiva

1885

May 15

In full song in the woods to-day. Heard several at noon when most other birds were silent. The song resembles that of P. rubra but the tone is fuller, rounder and perhaps richer. In fact many of the notes resemble the Robin's. The bird usually sings high up in some tall pine. It is not usually a persistent singer. Its notes can be heard at a great distance.

Birds of Chester Co., S. C. L. M. Loomis. - Asterisk marks those breeding

\*48. *Pyrranga aestiva*. SUMMER REDBIRD: "REDBIRD."— Summer; abundant. Although a woodland bird, the Summer Tanager is by no means strictly confined to the timber, but, on the contrary, is found in the groves and shade-trees of the town, and around the planters' houses in the open country, and is everywhere an incessant songster. During spring the woods are filled, at all hours of the day, with the fervid melody of this tireless vocalist.[\*]

[\* A nest of the Summer Redbird, containing three eggs (its usual complement), has been sent to me by Mr. Loomis, with its female parent. It was found on a public thoroughfare, in the edge of a grove, and built in a small black-jack oak, near the extremity of an inclining limb, five feet from the trunk and eight and one half above the ground. It is saddled on the limb, partially resting on the smaller branchlets, and is nearly homogeneous in structure, being a beautifully interwoven fabric of stems of grasses, the larger ones making the external framework, the finer ones enclosing the deep cup-like cavity, which is wider below than at the rim. The height of the nest is about 2 inches; the depth of the cavity, being 1.90, shows how thin is the floor. The external diameter of the cavity at the rim is 2.80, and half an inch below, 3 inches; that of the whole nest varies from 5 to 5.75 inches. The eggs measure .89 X .71; .92 X .70; .90 X .66. Their ground-color is a light shade of emerald green, marked with various shades of brown, more or less tinged with lilac, purple, and slate. These are well scattered over the egg, though larger and more numerous about the larger end. — T. M. B.]

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Oct., 1879, p. 213

Nesting of the Summer Tanager at Raleigh, N. C.

The Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) is by no means uncommon at Raleigh during the summer months, inhabiting both mixed woods and pines, being perhaps more common in the latter.

About the middle of May the Tanager looks out for a nest site, usually selecting one of the long lower limbs of an oak or pine, and on this limb, toward the end away from the trunk, the nest is placed. Sometimes, however, the Tanager prefers to place her nest in the very top of a small pine sapling instead of towards the end of a long limb. In both cases a comparatively open place in the woods seems to be preferred to a more retired one, the nest being often in a tree close to a road or over a foot path.

The height of the nest varies from six to thirty feet, usually about fifteen.

The nest is composed of weed stems externally, and is lined with fine, yellow cured grass stems; the lining forming a strong contrast in color to the bulk of the nest. The nest is rather flat and shallow, but firm and compact, and the form of the sitting bird shows very prominently when on the nest. The eggs are three or four in this locality, the date for fresh sets being June 1st and later, and, as is usually the case, when one nest is taken the bird builds a fresh nest and lays another set.

Raleigh, N. C.  
C. S. Brinley.

O. & O. 15. Nov. 1890. p. 164

No. Eggs in Set. C. S. Brinley

Summer Tanager. Set three to four, my observations fail to determine anything further so far.

O. & O. 15. Oct. 1890. p. 146

No. Eggs in Set. C. S. Brinley

Summer Tanager. Standard set most probably three in this locality.

O. & O. XVI. Jan. 1891. p. 9

General Notes.

Behavior of a Summer Tanager.—I send the following item which my friend, Rev. Boniface Verheyen, of St. Benedict's College, Atchison, Kansas, communicated to me a short time ago.

" . . . I want to tell you about the peculiar conduct of a Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) which a number of the professors witnessed daily for several weeks. It was during the last week of May that the bird first began to attract attention. He would be seen to fly from window to window on the north side of the west wing of the College, or perch on the sill, facing inward, as if peering through the window. Every few moments he would make an attack on the pane with his bill, as if he were trying to get at something or force his way through. When driven from one window he would fly to another. His attacks were at times quite vicious: he would fly from a neighboring tree directly for the window and strike the pane with a whack. Time and again he attracted my attention in my room, though the door was shut. Several times I took my stand directly in front of the closed window within a few feet of him and watched him closely at his seeming mad effort to peck holes through the pane. He did not seem to care much whether I stood there or not. I opened one of the windows on several occasions to see if he would come in, but he did

household."

So far my correspondent. I might add that during my sojourn at the college, a Summer Tanager was a constant visitor to the grove on the College Campus, and nested there for a number of years

Here is another little item in connection with bird lore that may be of interest. On one of my visits to the college, three years ago, I was informed that a certain bird had often been seen in the students' chapel. As the chapel is skirted on two sides by trees, and the windows are usually open during the summer, it is not a rare occurrence to find a stray bird fluttering about on the inside. But here was said to be a case of a frequent visitor to the sacred enclosure—a bird with a religious turn of mind, so to speak. I examined into the matter, and, sure enough, there was my bird, a female Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). She was not flying about, but stood on the floor, on which she had laid an egg, and to all appearances was standing guard over it. I secured the egg, which is now preserved in the college museum.—*PIRMINE M. KOUMLY, Seneca, Aug. 1, Oct. 1893 p 367-68. Kansas.*

**Piranga rubra and Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis Preoccupied?—**

The change of *Dendroica caerulea* to *Dendroica rara* (Ridgway, Auk, Jan., 1897, XIV, 97), which was promptly accepted by the A. O. U. Committee, involves an interpretation of Canon XXXIII of the A. O. U. Code of Nomenclature to which little if any attention seems to have been called. It appears advisable at the present time to raise this question, inasmuch as it affects the validity of some other current names; and this the more as in regard to it there seems to be neither unanimity of opinion nor uniformity of practice. Briefly stated, it is this: in considering the tenability of specific names, so far as preoccupation is concerned, shall any account be taken of homonyms which are mere combinations, *i. e.*, not original descriptions? To illustrate: *Motacilla caerulea* of Linnæus, 1766, was called *Sylvia caerulea* by Latham in 1790,—evidently a simple transfer of Linnæus's species to another genus. Now, does this *Sylvia caerulea* of Latham, 1790, preclude the use of *Sylvia caerulea* Wilson, 1810, for another and widely different species, the former being now a *Poliop-tila*, the latter a *Dendroica*? Canon XXXIII is apparently quite explicit upon this point, its text being as follows: "... a specific or subspecific name is to be changed when it has been applied to some other species of the same genus, or used previously in combination with the same generic name." The phrase, "or used previously in combination with the same generic name," seems to leave no doubt of its meaning; and a strictly literal interpretation of this clause will treat alike all combinations, whether or not they happen to be those of original descriptions.

Such being the case, there are two names in our North American List which must be changed. The first of these, *Piranga rubra*, for the Summer Tanager, is untenable because *Piranga rubra* was previously used by Vieillot, as well as by many succeeding authors, for the species now known as *Piranga erythromelas*. The rejection of *Piranga rubra* for the Summer Tanager permits its employment for the Scarlet Tanager; the former then becoming *Piranga aestiva*. This is rather a fortunate circumstance, for these two birds will thus bear the names so long in use before the publication of the first edition of the A. O. U. Check-List.

The specific term of *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis* (*Fringilla frontalis* Say, Long's Exped. to Rocky Mts., 1824, II, 40) must give way on account of *Fringilla frontalis* Vieillot (Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. 1817, XII, 181), which is a synonym of *Sporopipes frontalis* (Daudin). The next available name seems to be *Carpodacus obscurus* McCall (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., June, 1851, 220), and the United States form of the House Finch will consequently become *Carpodacus mexicanus obscurus*. — HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

*Auk*, XVI, April, 1899, pp. 185-6

**Piranga rubra not Preoccupied.** — Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., has kindly pointed out an error of statement in regard to the names of Tanagers published by the present writer in the last number of 'The Auk.' The remark is there made that Vieillot used the combination *Piranga rubra* for the Scarlet Tanager, thus precluding its subsequent employment for the Summer Tanager. As a matter of fact, however, Vieillot's *Piranga rubra* (Ois. Am. Sept., I, 1807, p. iv, pl. I, fig. 12) is not the Scarlet, but the Summer Tanager, as examination of his references and figure clearly demonstrates. This mistake arose from taking Professor Baird's identification of Vieillot's *Piranga rubra*, — P. R. R. Rep., IX, 1858, p. 300, where he cites it as a synonym of the bird now known as *Piranga erythromelas*, in which course he has been followed by some other authors. Further comment is unnecessary; and the two birds in question remain in undisputed possession of their present names. — HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

*Auk*, XVI, July, 1899, pp. 278-281.

*Tachycineta*  
*bicolor*

Yachycineta bicolor.

1889

April 1<sup>6</sup> 2<sup>5</sup> 3<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 6<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 11<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>2</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> 16<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 27<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>2</sup> 1889. 1<sup>2</sup> 2<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 6<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 11<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>2</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> 16<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 27<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>2</sup> 1890. 1<sup>2</sup> 2<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 6<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 11<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>2</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> 16<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 27<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>2</sup> 1891.

May 3<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 6<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 11<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>2</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> 16<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 27<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>2</sup> 1889. 1<sup>2</sup> 2<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 6<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 11<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>2</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> 16<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 27<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>2</sup> 1890.

June 7<sup>2</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 11<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>2</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> 16<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 27<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>2</sup> 1889. 1<sup>2</sup> 2<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 6<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 11<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>2</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> 16<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 27<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>2</sup> 1890.

July 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 27<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>2</sup> 1889. 1<sup>2</sup> 2<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 6<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 11<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>2</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> 16<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 27<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>2</sup> 1890.

August 1<sup>2</sup> 2<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 6<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 11<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>2</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> 16<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 27<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>2</sup> 1889.

Sept. 21<sup>2</sup> (last seen) 1889. 18<sup>2</sup> (at 4 P.M.) 1890. 2<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> Concord. 1893.

Oct. 15<sup>2</sup> (C. E. Fayon) 1889. 5<sup>2</sup> (at 7 A.M.) 1890. 3<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 1891. 7<sup>2</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 1894.

" 17<sup>2</sup> (A.W. Townsend) 1878

April 3<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 6<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 11<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>2</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>2</sup> Concord 1892.

" 1<sup>2</sup> 2<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 27<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>2</sup> Concord 1893.

" 16<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 1894.

May 1<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 11<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 31<sup>2</sup> 1891.

1<sup>2</sup> 2<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 6<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 11<sup>2</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> 16<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>2</sup> Concord 1892.

1<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 11<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>2</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> 16<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 27<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>2</sup> Concord 1893.

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June 28<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> 1890. 1<sup>2</sup> 2<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>2</sup> 1891.

1<sup>2</sup> 2<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 16<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> Concord. 1892.

2<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 11<sup>2</sup> 1894.

26<sup>2</sup> 27<sup>2</sup> 1893.

July 1<sup>2</sup> 2<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>2</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 31<sup>2</sup> Concord 1892.

3<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>2</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup> Concord 1893.

23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 1894.

Aug 1<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>2</sup> Concord 1892.

2<sup>2</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup> Concord 1893.

3<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 11<sup>2</sup> 1894.



Tachycineta bicolor.

Concord, Mass.

1878. Up river an immense migration of Hirundo bicolor was

Oct.16. passing southward. I shot five specimens.

*Clivicola riparia* *Tachycineta bicolor*

1890 Mass.

May 15 Concord. - A pair at their nest in a Woodpecker's (*P. pubescens*) hole in the orchard at the Manse. The ♀ flew from the hole and alighted on the dead twig of an apple tree when the ♂ joined her and performed the act of copulation three times in quick succession uttering incessantly during the periods of contact a rapid, continuous clicking sound & flapping his wings to maintain his position. This was at 4.45 P.M.

On the river meadows, the day being dark & lowering with steady light rain, we saw about ten of these Swallows. Three times between 12 M. & 1 P.M. I heard a bird utter the day break song consisting, however, the usual interrogatory teker the song being merely a down or more repetitions of a high sharp monotonous tekerps given in a hard woody tone and very different from the ordinary soft, liquid day call. While uttering these notes the bird flew about irregularly at a considerable height (200 to 300 ft.)

"Day-break" song  
at midday

June 6 Cambridge. A pair feeding young in the signal globe at Port Pond where a brood was reared last year. A Sparrow Hawk, <sup>which</sup> came skimming past as we were watching them was promptly attacked by both birds who followed him for several hundred yards, getting above him and diving down, pecking him on the back of the head. He dodged & twisted and seemed rather seriously annoyed.

Nest in signal  
Swallows attack  
Sparrow Hawk

July 24 The first well-marked flight southward over our garden this evening, about sunset, eight or ten birds passing in quick succession. Doubtless they were merely going to the Charles River marshes to roost as noted last year.

First migratory  
or flocking  
movement.

37

*Tachycineta bicolor*

1889 Mass

June 12 Cambridge. A pair feeding young in the nest near Port Pond. Nest with young

Nest in a signal globe at a switch on the Fitchburg R.R. in switch  
This globe is one of a pair which are raised or lowered by means rigid  
of a chain. They are usually kept at a height of about 50 ft.  
In shape they are elliptical in form rather larger than a large  
Junco. The birds entered through a hole in one side of the  
bottom about as large as a man's fist. To-day they were  
carrying in food at intervals of two or three minutes. They  
regularly entered the hole by flying straight for a point about  
2 ft. below it and at the last moment shutting their wings  
and turning up sharply without checking their speed  
in any other way. Thus literally shooting into the opening  
without first alighting on its edge. Every other visit or so  
one of them would emerge with an excrement sack of  
the young held in its bill. This was always carried at  
least 100 yds from the nest the bird flying very slowly, &  
quivering its wings in a peculiar manner and holding  
its head inclined downward. Its appearance indicated that  
it regarded its burden with repulsion and exercised great  
care to keep it as far away from its person as possible  
and after dropping it its light bounding flight seemed  
to express relief. This pair of Swallows is the only one I  
have found breeding in Cambridge this year. I found  
an English Sparrow's nest in a similar place at Concord.

" 22 Concord. Both last evening and this morning we saw large  
numbers of these Swallows flying over the river or  
perched on dead trees or telegraph wires. The greater number  
were young in broods with their parents who fed them both feeding young  
sitting and in the air. The latter feat was accomplished on wing  
as follows. The young and old bird flew upward facing up

(Continued)

*Tachycineta bicolor*

1889 Mass. } one another and gradually coming together. As their  
June 21 Concord } bills met that of the young opened to receive the morsal held out by its parent when latter instantly wheeled and turning their tails to one another sailed off in different directions. The young bird uttered a low, soft twittering as it rose to meet its parent. The whole evolution was accomplished with wonderful ease and grace.

An old bird sitting with its young on the dead top of a maple left its perch as one boat approached within 30 yds. or less and with wings set ~~sailed~~ parent with young diving past down at us with a few feet uttering a peculiar chattering or rather extruders grating sound. They often dive at a dog or cat in this way. I am unable to determine how they make this sound. At times I have thought it was done by rapidly clicking the bill but it has a peculiar grating quality which, it is difficult to believe, can be produced in this way.

The song twitter of this Swallow is very like the clamor of an adult ♂ English Sparrow that it is curious to observe the difference in effect, the effect of the Swallow's song being decidedly pleasing while that of the Sparrow is emphatically the reverse. The difference seems to be in the tone or quality the Swallow's notes being soft or liquid, those of the Sparrow hard & penetrating. Resemblance of certain notes to those of English Sparrow

July 18 Cambridge. For half an hour or more this evening, about sunset, these Swallows were passing Southward over my garden continuously, not in flocks, nor singly, but in little parties, doubtless family parties - of from 2 or 3 to 5 or 6. They flew at a moderate height - perhaps 50 ft. - and were feeding as they passed leisurely on. I saw about 50 in all. This is the first migratory flight that I have seen.

Beginning of migration

Tachycineta bicolor.

1889 Mass.

Aug. 8

Cambridge. - During a drive this morning, between the hours of 8.30 & 9.30, the day clear & cool, I saw an extraordinary number of these Swallows. On Mt. Auburn St. near the Cambridge Hospital there were at least five hundred sitting in long rows on the telegraph wires while fully as many more were flying over the Charles River marshes <sup>farther</sup> as far as the eye could reach the air was filled with them crossing each others flight in many lines. Probably two hundred were gathered in the top of an isolated oak covered with dense foliage, from which they poured out, very few minutes, in a solid stream as if struck by a sudden panic almost immediately afterwards beginning to return a few at a time until, in a short time, all would be perched again. Those on the telegraph wires did not seem to be subject to such alarms merely craning their necks down to get a better view of us as we drove past. They sat close together, nearly touching one another in fact, the majority turning their broad white breasts towards the street. In several places they formed unbroken lines of 100 or more feet in length. The <sup>blue backed</sup> adults were conspicuous among the drab-backed young. A small number of Bank Swallows and two or three Barn Swallows were mixed in the general throng. Altogether there must have been 1500 birds in sight at once.

Enormous gathering near salt marshes

Perched in leafy tree

Panic on telegraph wires

Inland, in Belmont and on Ball's Vine Avenue in Cambridge I saw several similar but much smaller gatherings, the largest of not over 100 birds each, all perched on telegraph wires. Within the past few days I have observed but few Swallows flying over my place at sunset.

*Tachycineta bicolor*

1889 Mass.

Aug 9

Cambridge. Straggling flights of swallows over my garden late this afternoon. Following their course I found they were all going to Charles River where as far as the eye could reach from the stone wharf, both up and down, they were skimming close over the water almost as thickly as gnats when I arrived. Their numbers increased steadily from 6 up to 7.40 when it would have been almost impossible to fire a gun at random over the river without bringing down one or more. From 7.40 to 7.45 they decreased rapidly and by 7.50 not one could be seen. The last ~~that~~ lingered flew off up river.

vast gathering  
at evening  
over Charles R.

but I failed to trace more than a very few of these. When the gathering was thinning the fastest it seemed as if they melted ~~into~~ out of sight for there was no flight in any particular direction the many dance over the water continuing as before. It was an extraordinary spectacle for at one time I must have had more than a thousand birds in sight at once and that over less than 500 yds of water. How far above & below my line of vision they extended I do not know. The grass & sedge along the river is uncut & very tall but I am very sure none went into it to roost within sight of where I stood. The evening was cloudy threatening rain which came about 10 P.M.

No swallows were flying over the marshes at any time, all kept to the pathway of the river.

The great bulk of this gathering were T. bicolor but there were many C. riparia & a very few H. horreorum. No P. lunifrons or Progne. The T. bicolor were very silent but occasionally one would utter a low liquid tseet as it skimmed past. The H. horreorum were noisier & I heard several twitter long & loud. The C. riparia also chattered a good deal. Still there was surprisingly little noise considering the vast number of birds assembled.

Silence

1890. Mass

*Jachymeta bicolor*

Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> Cambridge.

Migration

"On the afternoon of the 5th (Oct.) while walking on the Fitchburg R.R. between Waverly and Clematis Brook I saw a few (8-10) White-bellied Swallows sailing high up in the air. This was at 3.20 o'clock. In a short time they collected together in a compact flock, mounting the while to a prodigious height, the number increasing to upwards of 40 birds. Their intricate movements during their upward flight produced an almost kaleidoscopic effect. They then moved rapidly off to the S. by E. at such a height that they could only be discerned by the aid of the opera-glasses and the favoring white clouds which were floating through the sky. As they moved off, the course of the flock as a whole was direct, but apparently the flight of each individual was not in a bee-line. It appeared to me that the wind, which was then blowing light from the N. W. was an important agent in impelling them toward the South. Shortly after the departure of these, others to the number of 40 or 50 came upon the scene apparently from the north -feeding in the space lately occupied by their predecessors. I did not see these depart but on my way back through "Lover's Lane". (1/2 S. of the R.R. I saw probably these same birds about overhead. They gradually disappeared from view without my getting any clue to their course and a few were dispersedly seen up to 4.30 o'clock."

*M. Fayon in Letter*  
*Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> - 1890*

*Tachycineta bicolor*

'891 Mass.

April 25

Wayland.— The great Sudbury Meadows covered with these swallows to-day during a cold, sleety storm with violent N. wind and, at times, flurries of snow and hail. The birds flying most of the time only a few feet above the water (the entire meadow was submerged) crossing and recrossing each others' paths <sup>meaning</sup> and a net-work of wavy lines. They were not in flocks nor yet singly but spread very evenly over an expanse two or three miles in length by half a mile in breadth, perhaps tending to congregate under the lee of woods and high banks sheltered from the bitter wind. Wherever clusters of grass or low bushes rose above the water they also assembled in greater numbers than usual and hovering <sup>with expanded tails and fluttering wings</sup> about the upright stems, picked insects, probably benumbed by the cold, from the grass blades and stems of the bushes. While thus engaged they frequently appeared to alight a moment but on watching them closely I became convinced that this was mere rattle, the case the wings invariably supporting them and the feet being kept tucked up under the plumage. They were singularly silent it being rare to hear even a single low chirp from the swarms about us but whenever they passed within a few yards of us the rustling of their wings not resulting from their friction on the air but evidently from the rubbing together of the feathers. The sound was very like that of the rustle of a silk dress. We saw at least 600 White-bellies alone and there were many Barn and a few Barn & Cliff Swallows also. The White-bellies were doubtless largely migrants. It is many years since I have seen so many together in Spring.

Immense  
numbers of  
migrants  
assembled  
over flooded  
meadows in  
snow storm

" 26

Repassing over the same meadows we saw less than a dozen White-bellies. A good many small flocks flying over upland fields & scrub oaks, however. Weather clear & cold with N. W. wind.



*Tachycineta bicolor.*

Concord, Mass.  
April, 7. 1893.

He then went to Holden's where flying about the barn twittering joyously was a White-bellied Swallow which, I am inclined to believe, had only just arrived, as there were none at the Buttricks' this morning. Probably this bird had passed rapidly northwards with the evening & now of course, warm S.W. wind

White-bellied Swallow

Concord, Mass.  
April, 20 1893.  
April

There were at least five White-bellied Swallows on the river to-day, three in our lot, two in another. We saw them several times flying about over the water. They seemed to follow the river from Davis's Hill to Carleton Bridge & to return over the fields. When did they arrive? I saw only one yesterday.

White-bellied Swallows

Concord, Mass.  
April, 4. 1893.  
April

A little before sunset a flock of nine White-bellied Swallows passed over Great Meadow flying well together and very steadily, as if migrating, in a N. E. direction. Later I saw a single bird floating & circling & evidently feeding.

White-bellied Swallows

Concord, Mass.  
April, 9. 1893.

Noted a flock of five Tree Swallows and one single bird flying in company with two male Red-wings and keeping close with them. I do not remember to have noticed this habit in flying before.

Tree Swallow

Tachycineta bicolor.

Concord, Mass.

1896. To Ball's Hill at 9 A.M. The warm wave of yesterday has
- Apr.14. had a most marked effect on the birds. I saw not less than 300 White-bellied Swallows. In fact they covered the whole of the Great Meadows as well as the meadows below Ball's Hill flying close over the water in swarms wherever the wooded points gave shelter from the east wind and scattered about numerously enough over the more exposed portions of the meadow.
- Apr.15. I had hoped to find the White-bellied Swallows on the meadows but during the passage to Ball's Hill I saw in all less than half-a-dozen and only a straggler or two during the remainder of the day. The immense numbers feeding on the meadows yesterday forenoon must have continued their migration at about 4 P.M. when I saw upwards of fifty pass over Bensen's pasture heading due north but flying in their usual leisurely, desultory manner feeding by the way. At the time I suspected they were leaving us and a little later when I paddled up to Concord I did not see a single individual. I wish I knew when this great flock arrived. Probably they came in early yesterday morning.

Tachycineta bicolor.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898. Two perching on the roof of the barn at Ben Mere farm

July 5 July 22nd. The species doubtless breeds in the stubs about  
to

Aug.15. Long Pond (E.Jaffrey) for a dozen or more were seen there

July 5th.

*Tachycineta bicolor*

Penobscot Bay, Maine, 1886.

Deer Island

- June 24 Little Spoon Island (1 m. S.E. Isle au Haut). A pair flying about and alighting on some dead Spruces & Balsams in which they were no doubt nesting. (This island is one of the outermost of those in this vicinity.)
- " 27 Heron Island. A pair nesting in abandoned hole of Hairy (B) Woodpecker in large yellow Birch stub in the heart of the Herring Gull rookery. (Two if not three pairs seen on this island July 9.)
- July 3 Spoon Island. Two flying about over the land. There are a few dead stumps here but probably the birds came across the channel from Little Spoon Island only about 1/4 of a mile distant.
- " 9 Marshall Island. One flying over a salt water cove.
- " 15 Sedgwick. } Several seen in both towns, one bird feeding young in a  
" 16 Brooksville. } box on a pole near a house, another with young on wing

June 16-22. Matineus Islands - Common - vide H. K. Job.

Birds of Upper St. John.  
Batchelder.

32. *Tachycineta bicolor* (Vieill.) Caban. WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW. — At Grand Falls it was common in suitable localities. None were seen about the town. It was abundant at Fort Fairfield.

Bull. N. O. O., 7, April, 1882, p. 110

Birds within Ten Miles of Point  
de Monts, Can., Comeau & Merriam

24. *Iridoprocne bicolor*. WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW. — Common; breeds plentifully. First seen May 12, 1882.

Bull. N. O. O., 7, Oct, 1882, p. 235

Birds from Fort Churchill, Hudson's  
Bay, W. Eagle Clark.

AUK, VII, Oct,  
1890, p. 322

*Tachycineta bicolor*. — An adult male.

Last Dates Migratory Birds observed by  
E. D. Wintle, Fall 1885, Montreal, Can.

Aug. 15. White-bellied Swallow.

O. & O. XI. Mar. 1886, p. 44

Ornithological Trip to St. Bruno, P. Q.  
May 25, 1885. E. D. Wintle, Montreal.

White-bellied Swallow, plentiful.

O. & O. XI. May. 1886, p. 75

Summer Birds of Bras D'Or Region  
Cape Breton Id., N. S. J. Dwight, Jr.

43. *Tachycineta bicolor*.

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887, p. 16

An Ornithologist's Summer in Labrador  
M. Abbott Frazar.

*Tachycineta bicolor*, Tree Sparrow. This, the old White-bellied Swallow, of recent though vulgar literature, arrived on the coast May the 22nd, when I saw two. Later in July, several passed the house one day at Cape Whittle; these were the last I saw.

O. & O. XII, Mar. 1887, p. 34

Breeding Dates of Birds in Kings  
County, N. S. Watson L. Bishop.

White-bellied Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*).  
May 27, 29, fresh.

O. & O. XIII. Mar. 1888 p. 45

Summer Bds. Restigouche Valley, N. B.  
July, '88. J. Brittain and P. Cox, Jr.

Tachycineta bicolor. TREE SWALLOW.—Rare; only in vicinity of settlements.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p.118

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.  
A. H. Alberger.

614. White-bellied Swallow. Common in the village.

O, & O, XV, June, 1890, p. 88

Notes from the Magdalen Islands.  
Tachycineta bicolor. June, 1900.

H. K. Job, Kent, Conn.

Auk. XVII, April, 1901, p. 200.

Dwight, Summer Birds of  
Prince Edward Island.

Tachycineta bicolor. WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW.—Fairly abundant, nesting in old Woodpecker holes in clearings, crevices about barns, and the hollow ends of the rails composing the zigzag fences so common on the island. The sudden disappearance of a Swallow as it alighted on a fence was almost startling until I learned that in some deep hollow, decayed out of the heart of an unsplit rail, was a cosy nest of grass and feathers. It was impossible to dislodge the birds that were sometimes out of arm's reach, but several nests examined the last week in June contained young. I have never found this species nesting in such a location before.

Auk X, Jan, 1893, p. 12

49  
Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region,  
Nipissing District, Ontario.

by Frederick C. Hubel, Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 59

49. Iridoprocne bicolor. TREE SWALLOW.—Regularly met with about the various lakes.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,  
by James A. Fleming,  
Part II, Land Birds.  
Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 82

228. Iridoprocne bicolor. TREE SWALLOW.—Regular summer resident, common April 8 to September 13; earliest record March 31, 1897; latest fall record October 20, 1906 (H. H. Mitchell); breeds (June 7, 1890).

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

40. *Tachycineta bicolor*, (White-bellied Swallow).  
A common summer resident. Observed in the forest regions, where many would be seen skimming over the surface of the lakes. They breed about Eustis, in the hollow stumps of the clearings.

O. & O. XI. Oct. 1886. p. 146

Summer Residents on South West Coast of Maine. T. H. Montgomery, Jr.

614. Tree Swallow. The most abundant bird at Boothbay during the first two weeks of July, but at the end of the month all except two or three pairs had left.

O. and O. 15. Nov. 1890. p. 162

Breezy Point Warren, N.H.

1895.

W. Faxon.

4<sup>e</sup>

- Tachycineta bicolor*. <sup>frank.</sup> Aug. 20 Rye Beach, N. H. 1867.
- Tachycineta bicolor*. - <sup>H. F.</sup> Aug. 13, <sup>T. P.</sup> 15 Rye Beach, N. H. 1868.
- Tachycineta bicolor*. - <sup>a.</sup> July 28; <sup>a.</sup> Aug 7, <sup>a.</sup> 23; <sup>frank.</sup> Sept. 2 Rye Beach, N. H. 1871.
- Tachycineta bicolor*. - <sup>Albino</sup> July 31 Rye Beach, N. H. 1872.
- Rye Beach, N. H. July 23-24 1885.
113. *Tachycineta bicolor*. - Common "Blackbird"  
Wolfeboro, N. H. June. 17-1887.
- Tachycineta bicolor*, <sup>two</sup>

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N. H. June 11-21 '86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87, W. Faxon

48. *Tachycineta bicolor*. WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW.—Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.152

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N. H.  
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '86. W. Faxon

41. *Tachycineta bicolor*. WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW. — Not common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.150



WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW, (*Tachycineta bi-*  
*color*). Rare Summer resident. Arrives the last  
of April. Breeds, nesting in holes in trees.

*C. C. Tracy, Taftsville, Vt.*

O. & O. X. May. 1885. p. 71

Hirundo bicolor

Amherst, Mass  
Oct. 16, 1848

I witnessed a wonderful flight of Swallows this afternoon a few miles above Fairhaven Bay. They were migrative of and kept a direction nearly due South. Entering the open meadows at a point where they stretched for about a mile in a westerly direction they left them at the southern end of their wing span. They flew uninterruptedly for an hour or more with a long line in sight at one time. They usually spread over the meadows in their habitual

Hirundo bicolor

Spring arrival -

Revere Beach, Mass  
April 7, 1883

April 7. Two seen by Spelucan at Revere Beach  
" 9. Five or six at Ipswich, Mass. W. B.

Hirundo bicolor et horreorum.

migration.

Cambridge,  
Aug

For the past ten days Swallows have fairly swarmed about Cambridge, especially on or near the Charles River Marshes. I have seen them daily, moving slowly southward over ~~the~~ place; sometimes (especially about sunset) hovering for flies over a pear orchard, where a flock would frequently stay for an hour or more; scattered singly over the Brighton Marshes; but especially collecting in rows of hundreds on the telegraph wires. Near the Brighton

Hirundo bicolor

I intruded a wonderful flight of Swallows this afternoon a few miles above Fairhaven Bay. They were migrating and kept a direction nearly due South. Entering the open meadows at a point where they skirted for about a mile in a southerly southerly direction they left there at the southern end of their wing-way. They flew uninterruptedly for an hour or more until a fog came in sight at one time. They usually spread over the meadows in their habitual

Hirundo bicolor

arrival -

April 7. Two seen by Spelucan at River Beak  
" 9. Five or six at Ipswich, Mass. W. P.

Hirundo bicolor et horreorum.

Fall. migration.

Cambridge, Mass.  
August 12<sup>th</sup> 1883

For the past ten days Swallows have fairly swarmed about Cambridge, especially on or near the Charles River Marshes. I have seen them daily, moving slowly southward over our place; sometimes (especially about sunset) hovering for flies over a pear orchard, where a flock would frequently stay for an hour or more; scattered singly over the Brighton Marshes; but especially collecting in rows or hundreds on the telegraph wires. Near the Brighton

Abutting bay, closing the banks as they pulled out on the Piles, but several times I noticed Compact flocks passing over high in the air. Once or twice some of them uttered the familiar "Whitening Spring Song" but generally they were absolutely silent. Hundreds pulled up. A shot fire and found them quite fat; and all had white tipped mandibles.

*Arreos bicolor*

Spring arrival -

April 7. Two seen by Spelmann at River Beach  
 " 9. Five or six at Spruce, Mass. W. B.

River Beach, Mass  
April 7, 1883

Abertox is a favorite roosting point when I have several times seen a line at least 50 yds. in length on a single wire. At this place I saw them, on one recent occasion, perching with bright sparrows, the two being indiscriminately mixed. Most of these swallows are White-bellies but there are many Barn Swallows, a few Bank Swallows, and an occasional Purple Martin. I do not remember to have seen them so numerous in former years but then I have not often passed August in Cambridge.

It is curious that there is a double migration of White-bellies. The bulk go now, but there is always a good flight in October.

1888

April 25 A pair seen to-day flying over the woods at the "Warren Run" in Wattham are the only birds of this species that I have met with this spring nearer Cambridge than Concord. Twice on cloudy days lately I have traversed the Fresh Pond marshes without finding a single individual. Chadbourne says two on Apr. 8 at Prospect St. Belmont, however.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

*Tachycineta bicolor*

Two at West Townsend flying over the village. Seen daily at Ashby, but apparently not numerous anywhere in the region. In a pasture on the side of Mt Watatic at an elevation of about 800 feet, I found a nest of this swallow in a natural hole in an old apple tree. The parent birds were wonderfully tame, and apparently wholly unsuspecting of any danger on account of our presence. They would pass in and out of the hole when we were standing within a few feet of it, and when we looked in would perch on twigs a yard or two above us without showing the least uneasiness. The nest contained four or five young about ready to fly. I observed that they were fed by both parents. One of the old birds in passing close by me occasionally flapped its wings alternately like a chimney Swift, but usually the wing strokes were given together.

*Tachycineta bicolor*

1885.

- June 21 Very common along the sea-coast at Cohasset. I saw upwards of thirty to-day skimming along the beach and over a brackish pond. Evidently breeding somewhere near.
- " 23 One flying over our garden at sunset, the only individual noted in Cambridge this season.
- July 1 Three pairs breeding in an old martin box on the French farm, Concord

- E. Mass. 1885. *Chondestes* Club 6  
 62. *Tachycineta bicolor*. - June 21, 23; July 1  
 Pigeon Cove, Mass. July 29-1885  
 6. *Tachycineta bicolor*. - Hundreds migrating.  
 Princeton & Rutland, Mass. Aug. 2-1885  
 12. *Hirundo bicolor*. - Common - not "flashing"  
 Princeton & No. Rutland, Mass. June, 1885  
 18. *Tachycineta bicolor*. - about

*Hirundo bicolor* Mass. - near Cambridge.  
 1886 April 10<sup>x</sup>, 12<sup>x</sup>, 17<sup>x</sup>

Mass. (Concord)

*Tachycineta bicolor* ✓

1886

Flying late in evening.

June 20 This Swallow keeps later hours than almost any other diurnal bird. I saw one this evening hawking over the river when it was too dark to see him except against sky or water and when all the birds had stopped singing for the night.

Mass. (Cambridge)

*Tachycineta bicolor*

1886

Aug 25

Two large flocks (at least 200 birds each) circling high in air over Cambridge at sunset. On the following day I saw another flock of about 50 birds entirely of this species perched on telegraph wires on Mr. Auburn St. This species has been uncommon at Concord for several weeks only a few *Fluyghs* remaining there in the flocks of Barn Swallows.

Mass. (near Concord).

1887

April 7<sup>2</sup> - 12<sup>15</sup>

May 6<sup>6</sup> - 8<sup>4</sup> - 10<sup>6</sup> - 11<sup>2</sup> - 13<sup>6</sup> - 17<sup>6</sup> - 23<sup>4</sup> - 25<sup>4</sup> - 26<sup>4</sup> - 28<sup>20</sup>

June 2<sup>6</sup> - 4<sup>12</sup> - 6<sup>4</sup> - 7<sup>4</sup> - 12<sup>2</sup> - 16<sup>6</sup> - 17<sup>10</sup>

July 2<sup>4</sup> - 9<sup>2</sup> - 31<sup>25</sup>

Aug. 10<sup>2</sup> - 13<sup>2</sup> - 15<sup>50</sup> - 17<sup>2</sup>

*Tachycineta bicolor*.

# young out

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1888

APR 25<sup>2</sup> Waltham.

*Tachycineta bicolor*

1888

White-bellied Swallows S. W. Denton.

May 11. Have seen these birds for fully two weeks past saw one lit on grape vine wire this morning between my house and the barn.

*White-bellied 12<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>* Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.  
1885. Charles H. Andros.

*Sept. 26:* Towards  
night a flock of about twenty White-breasted  
Swallows were noted soaring about overhead.

O. & O. XI, Jan. 1886, p. 2

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.  
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Oct. 5; several W. B. Swallows noted to-day by  
a reliable friend.

O. & O. XI, Jan. 1886, p. 2

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.  
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Oct. 7; two W. B. Swallows were noted to-day  
making their way south. The last seen.

O. & O. XI, Jan. 1886, p. 2

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.  
1885. Charles H. Andros.

One species of bird  
almost universally known, remained with us long  
beyond its allotted date of departure, and was  
then only driven towards warmer climes by a  
cold wave.

The bird to which I have reference is the  
White-breasted Swallow, (*Tachycineta bicolor*),  
which was last seen personally October 7th. Re-  
ports were brought in, however, of their being  
observed fully a week later.

O. & O. XI, Jan. 1886, p. 1

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.  
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Aug. 22; W. B. Swallows *are commencing*  
*to flock.*

O. & O. XI, Jan. 1886, p. 1

*March; 26th, White-bellied Swallow.*  
*Spring arrivals at Dartmouth Mass*  
*H. F. Dexter.*

O. & O. XI, Apr. 1886, p. 52.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.  
F. W. Andros.

*Tachycineta bicolor* (Vieill.), Tree Swallow.  
Summer resident, common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 140



52. *Tachycineta bicolor*.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire  
Co. Mass. June 28-July 13. W. Faxon

43. *Tachycineta bicolor*. WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW. — A few were seen in the village of North Adams, the only ones observed by me in Berkshire County.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 102

#### White-bellied Swallows Occupy a Chimney Before Migrating.

About the first of September last, while standing at my store door just before dark, I saw a large flock of White-bellied Swallows hovering around the chimney of Odd Fellows' hall, which is opposite. While watching them they began to go into the chimney, sometimes a half dozen at once. This continued until all had disappeared in the chimney. There must have been at least one hundred and fifty. A neighbor, coming along at the time, informed me that he had seen them go in the chimney for a week. Is this not a rare occurrence?

Lynn, Mass.

N. Vickary.

~~980, XV, Dec. 1890, p. 184.~~

Gene

#### Stray Notes from Island, Mass.

*Tachycineta bicolor*. — At  
White-bellied Swallow appa  
at an elevation of about sixty

#### LATE FLIGHT OF SWALLOWS.

On the 9th inst., about 4 o'clock P.M., we were surprised, on looking out of a window on West Chester Park, by seeing a large flock of swallows flitting about high in air, apparently in no hurry to reach any particular locality, but feeding quietly along, now to the right or left, and now rising gracefully, as all the *Hirundo* family do, to catch a stray insect, but are gradually drifting to the southward or southwest. The sky was obscured by fleecy clouds, threatening rain, and at such times we have often seen the swallows rise to great heights, as if to meet and welcome the coming rain, which they really seem to keenly enjoy. We should judge these birds to have reached an altitude of from 100 to 300 feet, and the flight continued for a quarter of an hour after first being observed. During that time hundreds of them must have passed a given point.

We could not, for a certainty, determine the species, but their movements indicated *H. horreorum*, while the dark color and square tail would seem to refer them to *H. lunifrons*. We are, however, fully impressed by the opinion that all the swallow family have departed from this region before the end of September.

Would any reader of SHOOTING AND FISHING kindly inform us through its columns if it is not quite unusual for these birds to be seen so late as Oct. 9, in large numbers, so far north as Boston? W. HAPGOOD.

Oct. 12.

Are you satisfied with the gun you are shooting? If not, we will ship to your address a new gun of any make in return for sub cribers. Send for SHOOTING AND FISHING Premium List.

[495]

Shooting & Fishing  
Vol 12, no 25. Oct. 13-1892

52. Tachycineta bicolor.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire  
 Co. Mass. June 28-July 15. W. Faxon

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C&G, N.Y. Dec. 1890, p. 184.

[496]

9	Yates	.....	10
8	Aggar	.....	10
7	Duchy	.....	10
6	Hesse	.....	10
5	Throckmorton	.....	10
4	Hesse	.....	10
3	Throckmorton	.....	10
2	Hesse	.....	10
1	Throckmorton	.....	10
0	Hesse	.....	10
9	Yates	.....	10
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7	Duchy	.....	10
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General Notes.

Stray Notes from vicinity of Muskeget  
 Island, Mass. George H. Mackay.

Tachycineta bicolor.—At Muskeget Island, March 26, 1893, I saw a  
 White-bellied Swallow apparently flying due north on migration; it was  
 at an elevation of about sixty feet.

Auk N. Oct. 1893 p 370.

Dear Mr Brewster;

Thank you for your  
 note received this morning.

I am no ornithologist, and  
 called the birds martens, thinking  
 that they were chimney swifts.  
 Since writing to you I have  
 examined Chapman's new  
 "Handbook", and am confident  
 that the birds are tree swallows.

There may have been ten to  
 twenty thousand of them. They  
 do not always roost in the  
 same part of the swamp. A  
 large number were here night  
 before last, but I think not

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380, XV, Dec. 1890, p. 184.

[496]

9	.....	9	.....
8	.....	8	.....
7	.....	7	.....
6	.....	6	.....
5	.....	5	.....
4	.....	4	.....
3	.....	3	.....
2	.....	2	.....
1	.....	1	.....
0	.....	0	.....
9	.....	9	.....
8	.....	8	.....
7	.....	7	.....
6	.....	6	.....
5	.....	5	.....
4	.....	4	.....
3	.....	3	.....
2	.....	2	.....
1	.....	1	.....
0	.....	0	.....

5th, 15 targets each man, teams of two from any club, ent. \$2.  
4th, 20 targets, rapid firing, entrance \$2.  
Hobart .....

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Auk X, Oct., 1893 p. 370.

so many as a week ago. I have  
noticed two or three times that  
a flock of a hundred or two rise  
and disappear after the others  
have gone to roost.

I wrote to Mr Deane  
about them, and he seems much  
interested in their behaviour.

In former years the birds have  
roosted in the daytime in  
large numbers on the telegraph  
wires in our neighborhood, but  
this year they spend their days  
elsewhere. They go to roost  
shortly after sunset, and rise  
a little before the sun.

Very truly yours

J. R. Webster.

East Milton

Oct. 5, 1893.

Tachycineta bicolor

1895- Falmouth, Mass

July 14<sup>(2)</sup> 15<sup>(2)</sup> 26<sup>(3)</sup> <sup>at 5 P.M.</sup> <sup>at 8 P.M.</sup> 31<sup>(2)</sup> <sup>at 6.30 P.M.</sup> <sup>at 5 P.M.</sup>

1901 Tachycineta bicolor

June 6 Although I have seen no Tree Swallows  
as yet John Thayer tells me that  
they breed commonly about Lancaster  
having their nests both in holes in trees  
along the river banks and in bird boxes  
near houses.

Lancaster, Mass.

Retrochelidon lunifrons X Tachycineta bicolor

Springfield, Mass.

See under

Retrochelidon lunifrons.

The migration South of large numbers of the  
White-bellied Swallows was observed Oct. 18,  
1887, at Diamond Hill, R. I., by S. F. Dexter.

O. & O. XIII, July. 1898 p. 112

*Tachycineta bicolor*

June 6<sup>84</sup> <sup>one seen</sup> 7<sup>1</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>4</sup> 10<sup>3</sup> 11<sup>1</sup> Saybrook  
 " 12<sup>2</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>3</sup> 15<sup>6</sup> 16<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>3</sup> 19<sup>2</sup>  
 " 20<sup>3</sup>  
 " 23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>5</sup> 25<sup>2</sup> - Andover

Generally distributed and about as numerous, apparently, as it now is in E. Mass. At Saybrook seen chiefly about the marshes. Pair nesting at Clarks in box attached to side of barn. A pair at Bolton Notch feeding young in nest in dead stick standing in a barrel for which had been found by downing a beam. Near the Mass. border on the N. E. side we saw four. The Cass. White-throats have been seen. Photos in a folder records of this season.

GENERAL NOTES.

A Swallow Roost near Portland, Conn. — On the opposite side of the Connecticut River from Portland are what are locally known as the 'Little River' meadows. These meadows contain several hundred acres and through them flows Sebethe (Little) River which empties into the Connecticut. Along the banks of this 'little river' and its tributaries, water oats (*Zizania aquatica*) grow in abundance, giving food and shelter to the Rail, Marsh Wrens, and many other birds. These oats are the roosting place of thousands of Swallows, the birds spending the night clinging to the upright reeds, one above another. As a boy it was often my practice to fire a gun after dark in order to start the Swallows up and then witness their tribulation when trying again to find a suitable place for the night. This habit of disturbing the poor birds has not deserted me in later years.

The Swallows commence to congregate in these marshes early in August, and a small number may be found there the last week in October; the bulk, however, are seen from the middle of August until late in September. During the day they leave the meadows and only a few are seen in the vicinity, but at half past four in the afternoon they begin to appear from all directions, the flight ceasing about 6 p. m. My house is situated on high ground some two miles east of the marsh, and the flight of these birds over my premises, and toward this meadow, is so regular (from 4.30 to 6 o'clock) each afternoon, that a watch is hardly necessary to tell the time of day. Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) predominate at this roost, but many Barn Swallows (*Chelidon erythrogaster*) are seen, and a few Cliff and Bank Swallows (*Petrochelidon lunifrons* and *Clivicola riparia*). Occasionally a Martin (*Progne subis*) joins the multitude of other Swallows flying about the marsh. — J. H. SAGE, Portland, Conn.

Auk XII. Jan. 1895 p. 83

WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW, (*Trachycineta bicolor*.) I have noticed for several years that this charming bird prefers *white* feathers for the lining of its nest, and it will almost always manage to find enough to supply its wants. A prettier sight than six white eggs in a neat nest of white feathers can hardly be imagined.

Notes from Jewett City Conn.  
Chas. Edward Prior

O. & O. IX. Aug. 1884. p. 101.

#### General Notes.

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Auk XII. Jan. 1895 p. 83

Birds of the Adirondack Region.  
C. H. Merriam.

51. *Tachycineta bicolor* (Vieillot) Cabanis. WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW.—The commonest Swallow.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 229

Birds Tioga Co, N. Y. Alden Loring.

155. White-bellied Swallow. Common. Breeds. Builds its nest in stone walls and Martin boxes. The eggs are pure white in color and measure 3-4 in. by 17-32 in.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 38

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the Northern Adirondacks [Axtell], New York [1901].  
April 25 to 30 -

Tree Swallow. Tolerably common in flocks.

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 298.

Notes, Shelter Island, N. Y.  
W. W. Worthington.

White-bellied Swallows came the 6th. of April.

O. & O. X, May, 1885, p. 80.

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,  
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

April 28, *Tachycineta bicolor*, (614). Tree Swallow.

O. & O. XI, July, 1886, p. 109

Bds. Obs. at Little and Great Gull Islands, N. Y. Aug. '88 B. H. Dutcher.

18. *Tachycineta bicolor*. TREE SWALLOW.—All that has been said of the preceding species will apply also to this.

Auk, VI, April, 1889, p. 130.

Proc. Linnæan Soc. of N. Y., 38-39

Former abundance of some species on New York Id. (1820-1850) at time of Southward Migration. — Lawrence.

During most of August and September, in the afternoon of each day there would be a continuous flight of the White-bellied Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), accompanied by a few Barn Swallows (*Chelidon erythrogaster*); the number that passed was very great.

Auk, 6, Apr, 1889, p. 201



Proc. Linnæan Soc. of N. Y., 88-89

Mr. Chapman knew of several *Tachycineta bicolor* seen and killed by a gunner near Englewood on December 31, about 1881: The day was warm. He referred to the habit this species has of feeding upon bayberries.

Ann. S. Am. 1889, p. 199.

R. J.

**Birds at Fort Klamath, Oregon.**

**G. A. Mearns.**

17. *Tachycineta bicolor* (Vieillot). WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW. —  
No. 14, ♂ ad., April 28, 1875. An abundant species (Wittich).

**Bull. N. O. C. 4, July, 1879, p. 164**

**Birds of Washington Co. Oregon.**

**A. W. Anthony.**

89. *Tachycineta bicolor*. WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW. — Abundant  
summer resident. Builds in hollow stubs and Woodpecker holes.

**Auk, 3, April, 1886, p. 170**

**Birds of Fort Klamath, Oregon. J. C  
Merrill. Remarks by Wm. Brewster**

*Tachycineta bicolor*.—Arrived April 4 in small flocks, and was common  
by the middle of the month; breeds.

**Auk, V. October, 1888. p. 360**

Tree Swallows by the Million.—Early in September I visited the Long Beach Club at Barnegat, N. J. This club is located on that long, narrow point of land which lies between the ocean and Barnegat Bay. It is about ten miles in length and the club is located two miles from the extreme point. The width of the land here between the bay and ocean is only a few hundred feet. While there I was attracted by an extraordinary flight of Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) which commenced about eight o'clock each morning and lasted several hours, the birds flying always up the beach toward the inlet and never in the opposite direction. Evidently they crossed the channel and returned later in the day along the opposite shore of the bay to their night quarters. My interest in this daily flight was greatly aroused by the enormous numbers of the birds. My stay lasted but a few days, but on the 19th I again visited the club and on the morning of the 20th watched for the birds, hoping to see them again. Not a Swallow was seen until the solid column of the flight appeared, and it was at once apparent that where there were hundreds two weeks previous there were now thousands. The flight was compact like a swarm of bees and at times almost darkened the sky. Most of the time there were two distinct columns, one flying low just over the water, and the other high up in the air. I watched the flight for hours, and the air in both directions seemed alive with them as far as the eye could reach. In attempting to shoot one for identification and mounting, a single discharge of my gun killed ten birds, so compact was the flight. Two of these (evidently adult males) were in magnificent plumage, their backs fairly glistening with the most brilliant steel-blue color. Three or four others showed some color, and the rest (probably young birds) none at all. The next day I again watched the flight in company with my companion

the Hon. Clarence Lexow, of New York. A northeast gale was blowing against which the birds were flying with much difficulty. A heavy rain soon set in and the wind blew furiously, still the flight continued and it was rarely that the chain was broken, even for a few seconds. The appearance of a Sparrow Hawk among them had the effect of causing the birds to rise to a great height, but the flight was in no respect retarded. After watching the birds nearly all of the forenoon we made a careful estimate of the number that had passed and we calculated that it was not to be reckoned by tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands, but by millions.—JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, *Floral Park, N. Y.*

**Auk, XVII, Jan., 1900, pp. 67-68.**

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

44. *Tachycineta bicolor*.

*First plumage*: male. Upper parts uniform dark slate, with a fine silky gloss; feathers of interscapular region faintly edged with pale fawn. Secondaries edged and tipped with pale cinnamon-gray. Under parts soiled white, with a faintly indicated pectoral band of pale ashy-brown. From a specimen in my collection, shot at Cambridge, June 22, 1872.

A good series of summer specimens shows well the transitional stages. The first plumage is worn much longer than in most birds, and the autumnal dress very slowly acquired, the metallic tinted feathers appearing one or two at a time. The remiges are also moulted by the young, as well as by the adult, and both in the autumnal plumage have the last pair of secondaries broadly tipped with pure white. This remarkable feature, so far as the specimens at hand go to show, is entirely characteristic of this plumage.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1878, p. 63.

*First Plumages --- Brewster.*

SUPPLEMENTARY. — *Tachycineta bicolor*. In my remarks upon the development of the plumage of young birds of this species (Vol. III, No. 2, p. 63), I stated that the first plumage was worn "much longer than in most birds." From investigation of material collected during the past season, I find that the change takes place from about the middle to the last of September. Six specimens shot at Concord, Mass., October 16, 1878, have all acquired the full autumnal dress. The young differ from the adults only in having an exceedingly faint brownish-ashy wash on the breast and throat, and also in the shade of the metallic lustre of the back, which is of a greener and less steely cast. Both adults and young possess the conspicuous white tipping on the secondaries.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan. 1879, p. 46.

Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

*I have seen specimens of T. bicolor, in pure white dress.*

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 21

An Albino Tree Swallow.

On Sunday, August 1st, I was passing along the road between Lacon and "Undercliff," and about a mile south of the cliff I saw an albino Tree Swallow. It was with a large flock of the kind and they were along a telegraph wire. As to the identity of the bird there can be no doubt, because I had a splendid opportunity to examine it, the bird being very tame, and I having a pair of opera glasses with me. The bird was a pure white one and presented a lovely sight balanced on its outstretched wings in the full sunlight. The entire party of picnickers watched it for ten or fifteen minutes. Not being a skin collector myself I made no attempt to shoot it, but being fully aware of what a prize is extant, take this method of warning southern collectors to be on the lookout, for should they be fortunate enough to capture it, they would have one of the most beautiful birds I have ever seen. Should any one secure it I should be pleased to have him inform all bird lovers through these columns.—R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

O. & O. XI. Sept. 1886. p. 142.

*Hirundo bicolor*. WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW.

The song of this Swallow is hardly more than a chatter. This is to be heard as late in the year as the bird is with us. Its ordinary notes are less sharp and rapid than those of the Barn Swallow.

*Auk*, I, Oct., 1884. p. 325.

SONG OF THE WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW (*Iridoprocne bicolor*).—I have seen no account of the song of this species, nor, indeed, was I aware of its musical powers until the past summer. May 24, at an elevation of 8000 feet, I found a little colony just beginning house-keeping in a cottonwood grove on an island in the San Antonio River, Colorado. When at rest they uttered a peculiar chirrupy warble, bearing resemblance to a Sparrow's song in some respects, and strikingly like a Robin's in some of the half whistles.

The species breeds as high as 10,000 feet, and, I believe, always in trees.  
— F. M. DREW, *Howardsville, Colorado*. *Bull. N. O. C.* 6, April, 1881, p. 115

Mass. (Concord)

*Tachycineta bicolor* ✓

1886

May 12

A pair have taken possession of one bird house and at least three pairs are preparing to breed in old woodpecker's or natural cavities in the maples along the river on Great Meadows. For a few hours in the morning they remain about their nests perching on the top of tree near the hole, the ♀ often clinging directly at the hole and looking in. In the afternoon they never appear about their nests; but the morning watch lengthens daily and after the eggs are laid they will stay

The Singing of Birds. E.P. Bicknell.

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— F. M. DREW, *Howardsville, Colorado*. *Bull. N.O.C.* 6, April, 1881, p. 115

on or near the nest all day long.  
I frequently see twenty or more  
of these birds in a single day.

Tree Swallows:

See article by Hatch, "Destruction of  
Birds by Cold" --- under Martin.

O. & O. XIV. Aug. 1889, p. 122.

119. *The White Bellied Swallow (Iridoprocne bicolor)*. By S. Lockwood. With a note by E. C[oues]. *Ibid.*, XIV, p. 54, Jan. 1880.—Feeding on bayberries. The *Cotile riparia* observed feeding on bayberries by Mr. Allinson (see No. 115) believed to be an erroneous identification of *I. bicolor*. Amer. Naturalist

154. *Late Stay of Swallows*. By F. C. Browne. *Ibid.*, XV, p. 307.—  
"One or two thousand" White-bellied Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) at  
Clark's Island, Plymouth, Mass., Oct. 13, 1880. For. & Stream

350. *Notes from Shelter Island [N. Y.]* By Moses B. Griffing. *Ibid.*,  
VI, p. 82.—Ten White-bellied Swallows seen Oct. 25 and one Nov. 23,  
1881, etc. O. and O.

524. *Ornithological Notes*. By Ernest D. Wintle. *Ibid.*, III, p. 200.  
—A pair of White-bellied Swallows lay 13 eggs; Catbirds laying spotted  
eggs; "two species of Crow Blackbird in Canada," but the supposed  
occurrence of *Quiscalus major* is doubtless erroneous, as stated by Everett  
Smith (*Ibid.*, III, p. 207). (See below, No. 526.) Can. Sport. & Naturalist

Brief Notes

We recently received a nest of the White-bellied Swallow. It is thickly lined with pure white hen's feathers; together with the four white eggs, the appearance is one of unusual delicacy.

O. & O. XIV, Jul. 1889 p. 11

Auk, XII, April, 1895, pp. 183-4.

Mortality among White-bellied Swallows in Florida.—During the almost unprecedented cold snap which prevailed throughout Florida in the first half of February, an exceedingly large number of White-bellied Swallows succumbed to the severity of the weather. These were either directly killed by the sudden fall in temperature or were overcome by the scarcity of insect food occasioned by the protracted cold. While I have no information as to the condition of affairs in other parts of the State, it seems reasonable to suppose that what was observed in this section obtained elsewhere.

On February 13, while driving along the stage route between Lake Worth and Biscayne Bay, numerous dead birds were noticed. At New River, on the afternoon of the same day, when the cold was not especially severe, although it had been so the previous night, many Swallows while on the wing were seen to fall lifeless into the river. I learn that at Lemon City for several days the boys amused themselves by dropping their hats over benumbed or exhausted Swallows on the docks. On the morning of February 15, seven dead birds were taken from under the seat of a catboat where they had evidently sought shelter during the previous afternoon and had perished in the night. The same day I noticed many dead Swallows in the water and on the shores of Biscayne Bay adjacent to this place. At Cocoanut Grove, about ten miles further south, many birds were killed, over sixty dead Swallows being found one morning on the roof of a piazza. Persons who visited the ocean shore, which is a favorite resort for these birds, reported the beach as thickly bestrewn with dead Swallows. At the house of refuge, located on the coast opposite this place, over one hundred and fifty dead birds were counted one day.

An examination of the alimentary tracts of some of the birds showed an entire absence of food; and to this cause, rather than the direct influence of the cold, I am inclined to attribute the exceedingly great mortality which ensued.—HUGH M. SMITH, *Lemon City, Dade Co., Florida*.

Auk, XV, July, 1898, p. 271

Nesting Instincts of Swallows.—As supplementing Mr. Brewster's record of the premature exhibition of the nest-building and procreative instincts of Swallows (see Auk, XV, April, 1898, p. 194), I may add some observations made on Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*), at Leonia, N. J., during August and September, 1897. The extensive salt marshes in which myriads of these birds roost in July, August, and September, are here crossed by a road over which I passed almost daily and rarely without seeing in the road, one or more flocks of Tree Swallows, varying in size from eight or ten to several hundred birds. Without exception, as far as I observed, and I studied them very closely at short range, these birds were in the immature plumage of birds of the year. By far the larger number seemed to have no special object in alighting in the road, they did not move about as though searching for food, indeed for the most part were practically motionless, but occasionally a pair would copulate, as described by Mr. Brewster, and more often a bird would pick up a bit of dried grass and fly up into the air with it, or sometimes it was carried fifty yards or more and dropped from the air; at others the bird would carry it to the telegraph wires bordering the road and drop it after perching a moment.

Additional evidence of inherited knowledge was apparently given by many Tree Swallows which were often seen hovering about a pile driven in a creek which traversed these meadows. I at first supposed these birds to be feeding on insects which presumably had alighted on the pile, but the number of birds, often a dozen or more were seen about the pile, and the persistency with which they remained there, forced me to conclude that in a wholly unreasoning way they were looking for a nesting site.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

*Clivicola  
riparia*



Colivicola riparia.

1889

April <sup>Col.</sup> 30<sup>4</sup> 1889. <sup>Wayland</sup> 25<sup>5</sup> 26<sup>8</sup> <sup>Ch.</sup> 27<sup>10</sup> 1891  
 May <sup>Col.</sup> 17<sup>10</sup> 29<sup>5</sup> 31<sup>7</sup> 1889. <sup>W.</sup> 2<sup>1</sup> <sup>W.</sup> 15<sup>10</sup> 17<sup>11</sup> 18<sup>14</sup> 19<sup>10</sup> 21<sup>11</sup> 22<sup>4</sup> 25<sup>4</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>5</sup> 31<sup>100</sup> 1890.  
 June <sup>G.</sup> 3<sup>12</sup> 16<sup>15</sup> 20<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>4</sup> 22<sup>4</sup> 1889. <sup>W.</sup> 1<sup>15</sup> 7<sup>11</sup> 10<sup>15</sup> 29<sup>3</sup> (shots) 1890.

July <sup>G.</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 16<sup>30</sup> 1889. <sup>m.v.</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> 1890.  
 Aug <sup>G.</sup> 1<sup>6</sup> 8<sup>1</sup> 8<sup>25</sup> 9<sup>200</sup> 12<sup>25</sup> 13<sup>25</sup> 15<sup>10</sup> 16<sup>20</sup> 17<sup>10</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 28<sup>15</sup> 1889. <sup>G.</sup> 13<sup>6</sup> 14<sup>12</sup> 18<sup>3</sup> 20<sup>10</sup> 21<sup>15</sup> 27<sup>50</sup> 1890.

Sept.

April <sup>Col.</sup> 29<sup>14</sup> 1892 <sup>Col.</sup> 29<sup>1</sup> 1893 <sup>25<sup>am</sup> (70x)</sup> 1894 <sup>Col.</sup> 29<sup>1</sup> 30<sup>14</sup> 1895 <sup>20<sup>land distinctly</sup> Bass Hill, 10a.m.</sup> 21<sup>14</sup> 22<sup>14</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 25<sup>14</sup> 26<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>4</sup> 28<sup>14</sup> 1896  
 " <sup>Ball's Hill</sup> 28<sup>1</sup> 30<sup>1</sup> 1897 <sup>Ball's Hill</sup> 19<sup>3</sup> 1899.

May

May <sup>G.</sup> 4<sup>14</sup> <sup>m.v.</sup> 10<sup>30</sup> <sup>at 10<sup>30</sup> (70x)</sup> 18<sup>50</sup> <sup>at 10<sup>30</sup> (70x)</sup> 21<sup>20</sup> 23<sup>25</sup> 25<sup>10</sup> 31<sup>100</sup> 1891. <sup>at 10<sup>30</sup> (70x)</sup> 2<sup>14</sup> 3<sup>14</sup> 4<sup>14</sup> 11<sup>10</sup> 18<sup>12</sup> 19<sup>20</sup> 20<sup>20</sup> 21<sup>10</sup>  
 3<sup>4</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>6</sup> 11<sup>10</sup> 12<sup>10</sup> 18<sup>6</sup> 17-18<sup>15</sup> 19<sup>10</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>20</sup> 24<sup>100</sup> 25<sup>50</sup> 28<sup>10</sup> 29<sup>6</sup> 30<sup>10</sup> 31<sup>6</sup> Concord 1892.  
 1<sup>10</sup> 12<sup>10</sup> 13<sup>100</sup> 14<sup>10</sup> 15<sup>20</sup> 16<sup>3</sup> 18<sup>100</sup> 19<sup>20</sup> 20<sup>10</sup> 21<sup>8</sup> 22<sup>3</sup> 23<sup>3</sup> 26<sup>8</sup> 27<sup>6</sup> 28<sup>5</sup> 29<sup>15</sup> 30<sup>6</sup> Concord 1893.  
 Concord 4<sup>14</sup> 6<sup>1</sup> 7<sup>2</sup> Concord 12<sup>4</sup> 14<sup>8</sup> 19<sup>8</sup> 20<sup>15</sup> Concord 26<sup>10</sup> 27<sup>10</sup> 28<sup>8</sup> 1894

June

North Andover 1<sup>10</sup> 2<sup>15</sup> 3<sup>5</sup> 1891.  
 1<sup>6</sup> 3<sup>6</sup> 4<sup>3</sup> 5<sup>8</sup> 6<sup>6</sup> 7<sup>4</sup> 8<sup>6</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>6</sup> 21<sup>6</sup> 22<sup>8</sup> 23<sup>6</sup> Concord 1892.  
 Concord 26<sup>8</sup> 27<sup>10</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 1893.  
 Great Id. Hyannis 3<sup>10</sup> 4<sup>12</sup> 5<sup>15</sup> 1894 <sup>Gr. Id. Hyannis</sup> 16<sup>10</sup> 17<sup>8</sup> 26<sup>1</sup> 1895 <sup>Ch.</sup> 22<sup>15</sup> 1897 23<sup>1</sup> 1899.

July

1<sup>40</sup> 2<sup>20</sup> 4<sup>20</sup> 6<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>15</sup> 10<sup>6</sup> 13<sup>6</sup> 14<sup>8</sup> 15<sup>10</sup> 16-17<sup>10</sup> 18<sup>8</sup> 19<sup>10</sup> 21<sup>8</sup> 26<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> 31<sup>1</sup> Concord 1892.  
 3<sup>40</sup> 5<sup>10</sup> 6-7<sup>20</sup> 12<sup>30</sup> 13<sup>15</sup> 14<sup>10</sup> 18<sup>4</sup> 20<sup>6</sup> 23<sup>6</sup> Concord 1893.

August

1<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>4</sup> 26<sup>10</sup> 31<sup>1</sup> Concord 1892  
 8<sup>10</sup> 12<sup>1</sup> 13<sup>10</sup> 14<sup>10</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 20<sup>10</sup> 21<sup>10</sup> 24<sup>10</sup> 26<sup>5</sup> Concord 1893.  
 5<sup>1</sup> 1894  
 8<sup>1</sup> 1895

September

4<sup>2</sup> Concord 1893.

May

Concord 1<sup>14</sup> 2<sup>14</sup> 3<sup>14</sup> 4<sup>14</sup> 6<sup>14</sup> <sup>Ball's Hill</sup> 19<sup>10</sup> 20<sup>10</sup> 23<sup>10</sup> 1895 <sup>Ball's Hill</sup> 3<sup>14</sup> 7<sup>14</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 17<sup>6</sup> 18<sup>14</sup> Concord 1898  
 Concord 2<sup>16</sup> 1898

*C. riparia*

*Clivicola riparia*

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass.

May 30 Watertown. - A small colony breeding in the sand bank near Brutins colony.  
Mt. Auburn. I counted ten holes but several had

been dug out by boys and others apparently had been abandoned by the birds after going in a few inches. The inhabited holes were elliptical ~~the longest axis~~ the horizontal axis being slightly longer than the horizontal one. Thus O. I could count at the most only seven birds in the air at once. They would close in together and skim off over the fields then returning in a compact flock would separate at the last moment two or three entering ~~the~~ many holes, sometimes two going into the same hole. This mode of entering was interesting. The bird would skim swiftly close over the ground to the base of the bank then setting its wings ~~glide~~ ~~down~~ sharply upward and closing its wings at the last moment shoot directly into the hole without apparently clucking its impetus until lost to sight within.

The Bank Swallow's only note is a low chatter rather soft and pleasing as a whole but less musical than the notes of our other Swallows.

Notes.

June 16 Wayland. - On the river from 4 P.M. to dark. Saw no Bank Swallows until after sunset when they began to take the places of the Cave Swallows. As the twilight deepened they increased in numbers until dozens were skimming about over the water and meadows. They continued about us until it was almost too dark for the eye to follow them. Evidently they are the most crepuscular of our Swallows. Their flight is characteristic & easily recognized, - light and bounding as it were.

Crepuscular habits

Flight.

Massachusetts.

*Hirundo riparia*

1892.

July. 14 Concord. I see Bank Swallows in about the same numbers as during the past month but no young birds have appeared yet and there is no indication of flocking on the part of the old.

July. 19. Where do the Bank Swallows take their young? The large colony on Dapin's Hill is dwindling fast yet the number of birds which frequent the river meadows is also decreasing and I have not as yet seen a single young bird. Of course it is possible that no young have been reared in this bank but most of the holes have certainly not been molested by man.

Massachusetts,

L. S. 1892.

1892.

July 1. Concord. Bull's Hill, With the past three days there has been a marked increase in the number of Swallows along the river. I must have seen at least thirty on my way down this afternoon and now over the broad expanse of water opposite the hill there are nearly as many more skimming in wavy lines low over the river & meadows. The majority are Bank Swallows with a good many Barn Swallows and a few White-bellies. There are a dozen or more Swifts with them and a Martin or two. No young Swallows out yet.

Essex Institute Bulletin Vol 29 p. 127.

June 13, 1795. In a sand hill on ye  
great Beach in Ipswich, I observed several  
holes, which entered in an horizontal  
direction. Passing my cane into one of  
them I introduced nearly ye whole length,  
but did not perceive ye end. As I took  
it out a small swallow flew from another  
hole about 4 feet distant, & instantly  
another came out of hole into which I  
had introduced my cane, The wind  
being very high, & their flight quick I  
was unable to observe, with any exactness,  
their colour or size, I think their bellies  
were whitish & their size much less  
than ye barn swallow. This is ye first  
positive evidence I have had of  
Swallows entering those holes.

1. Oct 12. 2. 11 April 5. 1. 12

Dear Mr. Deane

Enclosed are

copies of the report on the

work done during the year

1890-91

and the

Birds of Upper St. John.  
Batchelder.

34 *Cotile riparia* (Linn.) Boie. BANK SWALLOW.—Common.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, April, 1882, p. 110

*Addendum to List of Birds Occurring  
within Ten Miles of Point des Monts, Quebec.  
From Notes of N. A. Comsac.*

176. *Cotile riparia*.—Shot at Godbout, June 8, 1885.

*C. Hart Merriam, Locust Grove, N. Y.*

*Auk*, 2, July, 1886. p. 315.

**Summer Bds. Restigouche Valley, N. B.**  
July, '88. J. Brittain and P. Cox, Jr.

*Clivicola riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.—A small colony at the the mouth  
of the Kedgwick.

*Auk*, VI. April, 1889. p. 118

**Birds of Magdalen Islands.**  
Dr. L. B. Bishop.

47. *Clivicola riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.—Tolerably common, breed-  
ing on Grindstone.

*Auk*, VI. April, 1889. p. 148

**Dwight, Summer Birds of  
Prince Edward Island.**

*Clivicola riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.—I perhaps do this species an in-  
justice when I say that it is outnumbered by the Savanna Sparrow and  
the Junco. I saw colonies of hundreds at several points along the coast,  
and as every bluff is crowned by a layer of sand, and much of the coast  
line is a continuous bluff, the Swallows have unrivalled opportunities  
for nesting places.

*Auk* X, Jan, 1893. p. 12

**Proc. Linnæan Soc. N. Y., 88-89**

Dr. C. Slover Allen instanced the death of many Bank Swallows (*Cliv-  
icola riparia*) after a three days' storm at Grand Menan.

*Auk*, VI. Apr., 1889. p. 197

*Birds of Toronto, Canada,  
by James H. Flaming.  
Part II. Land Birds.  
Auk, X X IV, Jan, 1907. p. 82.*

229. *Riparia riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.—Regular summer resident,  
common April 19 to September 13; earliest record April 4, 1890, latest  
October 9, 1886; breeds (June 2, 1892).

*Cotile iroquois*

1896 Penobscot Bay, Maine.

June 29 Dagger Island. Three or four pairs of birds flying about over the sea among these islands. I saw one enter a hole in a gravelly bank on a small rocky island of this group.

" 30 Trumpet Island. Three or four birds flying about over the island & no doubt nesting there.

July 12 Trumpet Island. Pair feeding young in nest; hole in low gravelly bank of beach ridge just above tide mark.

June 16-22 Matinians Islands, Common (fide H. K. Job)



Former Residents of Southwest  
Coast of Maine. T. H. Montgomery, Jr.

616. Bank Swallow. Shot an adult ♂, and  
saw two others at Bobson's Island.

O. and O., 15, Nov, 1890. p. 162

*Cotile riparia*. - <sup>June</sup> Aug. 20 Rye Beach, N. H. 1867.

*Cotile riparia*. - Aug. 13, 15 Rye Beach, N. H. 1868.

*Cotile riparia*. - <sup>a</sup> July 28; <sup>a</sup> Aug. 7, 23; <sup>June</sup> Sept. 2 Rye Beach, N. H. 1871.

*Cotile riparia*. - July Rye Beach, N. H. 1872.

Rye Beach, N. H. July 23-24 1885.  
14. *Cotile riparia*. - Abundant flocking

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N.H. June 11-21 '86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87, W. Faxon

49. *Clivicola riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.—Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.152

Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem  
N.H. July-August, 1874. J. A. Allen

33. *Clivicola riparia*. Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.154

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

*Clivicola riparia*  
1895.

June 4. Obs. by Deane  
at Franconia  
near village  
near Deane's  
near Franconia

*Clivicola riparia*.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898. Five or six fresh-looking nesting holes in a sandbank  
July 5 near the village but no birds met with. Deane saw a few at  
to Jaffrey.  
Aug. 15.

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt. by Arthur H. Howell.

50. \* *Clivicola riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.— Common.

\* *Fide Mrs. Carrie S. Straw*  
*f Stowe, Vt.* Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 343.

Mass. (Concord)

*Cotile riparia*

1887

Abundance & characteristic flight.

May 31 Bank Swallows are five times as numerous about Concord as in 1886. I notice that their flight differs from that of all the other Swallows. It is lighter, and swifter and more erratic. At each stroke of the wings the body seems to rise slightly giving the flight a bounding, buoyant character. *Petrochelidon* is the slowest and heaviest flier of all the Swallows excepting possibly the Martin.

Mass. (near Concord).

1887

May 9<sup>30</sup> - 13<sup>10</sup> - 17<sup>30</sup> - 23<sup>4</sup> - 25<sup>8</sup> - 26<sup>10</sup> - 28<sup>100</sup>  
 June 2<sup>25</sup> - 4<sup>25</sup> - 6<sup>10</sup> - 7<sup>10</sup> - 12<sup>6</sup> - 16<sup>8</sup> - 17<sup>4</sup>  
 July 7<sup>6</sup> - 9<sup>2</sup> - 15<sup>6</sup> - 25<sup>4</sup> - 31<sup>6</sup>  
 Aug. 13<sup>2</sup> - 17<sup>4</sup>

*Cotile riparia*

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire  
 Oy, Mass. June 17-20, '88. W. Paxon

48. *Clivicola riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.—Common, breeding in the banks of the Housatonic River.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 45

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season  
 nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

53. *Clivicola riparia*.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 339

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.  
 F. W. Andros.

*Clivicola riparia* (Linn.), Bank Swallow.  
 Summer resident, tolerably common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 140

63. *Cotile riparia*. <sup>Mass</sup> June 16 E. Mass. 1885.

Mass. (Concord)

*Cotile riparia* ✓

1886 Roosting in tall grass

June 28 At the mouth of Mill Brook I started about a dozen Bank Swallows from a bed of tall "fox-tail" grass when they were evidently settled for the night it being then nearly dark. Paddling off a few rods they quietly settled again and against the light in the west I could plainly see several of the little forms perched on the tall flower stalks of the grass about a foot below their apices. There were some thirty Red wings roosting there also.

*Clivicola riparia*

1895 - Falmouth, Mass.

July 28<sup>(2)</sup> flying S.  
at sunset.

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Chloris riparia

June 14<sup>th</sup> 1893

Saybrook Ferry

The nesting variety of this species in Connecticut is a curious matter. Mr. Clark said that a large colony have nested for several years past in a sand bank formed by a railroad cutting near Saybrook Ferry. They appeared this spring at the usual time in the usual numbers but soon afterward disappeared entirely. Mr. Clark thinks they were all killed by a long cold rain storm. One two records probably relate to the same bird - seen by Mr. Faxon flying from the marshes across the railroad track towards the sand bank just mentioned. He examined this bank with some care but did not discover a single nest. A single hole might easily have escaped our observation. However, for the bank is about hundred yards in length.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.  
C. H. Merriam.

52. *Cotile riparia* (Linn.) Boie. BANK SWALLOW.—Breeds. Not uncommon in places.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 229

Bds. Obs. at Little and Great Gull Islands, N. Y. Aug. '88 B. H. Dutcher,

19. *Clivicola riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.—Although no birds of this species were seen, Chas. B. Field said that they had bred abundantly on Great Gull earlier in the season,—a statement that was well verified by the large number of holes in the sand banks that overlooked the shores of the island. Mr. Field also said that about as soon as the Swallows had dug out their homes, some folks, who should have been better employed, came over from Connecticut and amused themselves by digging out the holes that the Swallows had made, thus compelling the birds to excavate new ones.

Auk, VI. April, 1889, p. 130.

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

46. *Cotyle riparia*.

*First plumage*: male. Upper parts brown, each feather edged with ferruginous, this edging broadest on the rump and secondaries, narrowest on the crown and nape. Beneath like the adult, but with the pectoral band strongly washed with ferruginous, and the throat thickly spotted with the same color. In my collection, from Rye Beach, N. H., August 24, 1872. Autumnal specimens have the secondaries tipped with white, but not so broadly as in *Tachycineta bicolor*.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1878. p. 64.

Albinos.

BY W. OTTO EMERSON, HAYWARDS, CAL.

One of the most interesting freaks of nature, if we can so call it, is the Albinism in quadruped or bird, in some cases very beautiful. A number of specimens have come under my observation in the Fauna of California bird life, and I will try and give the O. & O. readers full benefit of them.

Bank Swallow (*Clivicola riparia*). This Albinos Swallow was first seen by a friend of mine, flying with a number of others, near their nesting site, the rough face of a high gravelly hill, that had been washed down for years by the process of hydraulicing for gold, near Placerville (known as Hangtown in early days), El Dorado County, 1873. On the third day it was seen, the swallows commenced an attack on their white mate, and did not stop until they had killed it, its white coat standing it as no truce of peace. The gentleman saw it drop after the hard struggle for life, picked it up and brought it into town, as a great curiosity, and so it proved. I had a good chance to examine the swallow, which proved to have been a young bird, well feathered, and of a dull ashy or rusty white color all over.

O+O. XIII. June. 1888. p. 82.

Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds, Ruthven Deane.

I have seen specimens of *C. riparia*, in pure white dress.

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 21



Notes on Maine Birds.

*Cotile riparia*. SAND SWALLOW.—While examining some Sand Swallow's burrows on Cranberry Islands, this summer, three were found containing two nests each, each nest having in it fresh eggs. The finding of two nests with eggs in the same burrow struck me as somewhat remarkable and I thought it was perhaps worthy of notice.—HARRY MERRILL, Bangor, Maine.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 250.

BANK SWALLOW, (*Cotile riparia*). Abundant Summer resident. Arrives from May 5 to 10. Breeds, often in large colonies along the streams, where they make an excavation, two or three feet horizontally into the sandy bank. A few dry grasses and feathers constitute the nest. This species is often seen with the two preceding, but does not, like them, seek the company of man.

A. C. Tracy, Taftsville, Vt.

O. & O. X. May, 1885, p. 71

PECULIAR NESTING-SITE OF THE BANK-SWALLOW. — Dr. Rufus Hammond, of Brookville, Indiana, writes, under date of June 5, 1876: "Two weeks ago I saw a Bank-Swallow building its nest in the east end of a frame paper-mill, about seventy yards from the depot, in which was placed the nest of which I have already informed you [see "American Naturalist," Vol. X, p. 373, June, 1876]. A weather-board had become detached from the building, leaving a small opening, in which I watched for two days a Bank-Swallow building a nest. Soon after the mill caught fire and was burned, of course destroying the nest and its contents. I have no doubt these birds will ultimately change their habits so far as to build their nests in any convenient place, especially in *puddock* holes left open in brick buildings." I should, however, add that Mr. Ridgway ("American Naturalist," Vol. X, p. 493, Aug., 1876) questions whether the birds observed were not the Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*), which nests as Dr. Hammond describes. — ELLIOTT COUES.

Bull. N. O. C. I, Nov, 1876, p. 96.

The Zoologist, October 1887, Vol. 1, no 10, p. 480

SAND MARTINS NESTING IN A STONE WALL.—A short time ago I wrote to you saying I had found Starlings occupying Sand Martins' holes in a quarry. Since then, in July, I was surprised to find a brood of young Sand Martins in a hole in a stone wall. I watched the old birds for some time, as I felt sure there was a nest close by, but did not know where to look for it. Soon one of them flew into a dense mass of ivy on a wall, and shortly reappeared. Pushing aside the ivy, I found the nest. This is a strange case of retaliation on the part of the Martins.—C. M. PRIOR (Bedford).

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

41. *Cotile riparia*, (Bank Swallow.) In the side of the gravel cuts on the Sandy River and Franklin and Megantic narrow gauge railroads I noticed many holes made by this bird. The last named railroad was constructed in 1885, and in August, 1886, when riding over it I noticed the sand banks left by excavation of earth for the track, were punctured with the holes of this species. The Bank Swallow is evidently on the increase in this section.

O. & O. XI. Oct. 1886, p. 146

Birds Toga Co, N. Y. Alden Loring,

157. Bank Swallow. Common. Excavates a hole in a sand bank after the manner of the Kingfisher, and builds its nest at the end of it. Its food consists of insects, of which it destroys great numbers.

O. & O. XV. June, 1890, p. 82

May 23, 1881. I went to a well-known breeding place after a few sets of Bank Swallow's eggs. As I neared the place in a small sailboat, I thought it very curious that I saw no swallows flying about the bluffs as they usually do: but on landing and beginning to dig, I soon saw the reason. The previous two weeks of continual rainy weather had totally exterminated the entire colony. Most of the burrows contained from three to eight, and from one burrow I removed ten dead swallows and two eggs, one of which is a trifle larger than usual, while the other is smaller than a Ruby-throated Humming Bird's.—W. W. Worthington.

O. & O. VII. Jul. 1882, p. 121

Sand Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) Nesting in Sawdust.—In the summer of 1902, while I was in Franconia, N. H., Mrs. Annie Trumbull Slosson pointed out to me a pile of sawdust, on the perpendicular face of which, earlier in the season, she had noticed what seemed to be entrances to Sand Swallow nests. The pile is constantly being shovelled away, and at the time of my visit no holes were visible.

This year (1903) Mrs. Slosson wrote me, under date of June 18, that she had been out to the place (on the Easton road) two days before, and seeing a hole in the vertical (newly dug down) side of the sawdust heap, had taken pains to investigate the matter.

"We sat in the carriage," she wrote, and watched the hole, and soon saw a swallow enter it and, immediately after, another. They came out, flew away, and returned, entering the hole again. Each time they went in little clouds of sawdust puffed out like smoke. I got out of the carriage and went up the mound to the hole. I put my hand and arm in as far as I could, but it was not far enough to reach eggs or young, and I was afraid of the mound's coming down upon me. After I returned to the carriage the birds came back, but were very shy of going into the disturbed hole, making several starts, vibrating their wings, then flying away. But in a few minutes they gained courage and again entered the hole. I think there is not the slightest doubt that it is their home. I could find no other hole, but have little question there were others which had been wrecked by the workmen, who had been digging down that side of the pile."

Some days later she wrote: "On Saturday we drove again by the sawdust heap. There were full twenty holes, and apparently all were occupied; swallows flying in and out all the time, a regular colony, just as you see them in a sand-bank. Poor simple creatures, I fear an earthquake—or dustquake—has even now destroyed their work."

I begged her to make absolutely sure of the species, if she had not already done so, though really there could be no reasonable doubt upon that point, and on June 25 she replied: "Well, the species is all right. I verified things yesterday. We went out to the mill, and I went up the steep, sliding mass to the holes, 'where the swallows dustward fly.' About half a dozen of the holes had disappeared, but there were fourteen left. The birds, came about me, and I easily identified them as Bank Swallows, with white throat and a dark band across the breast."

Whether the breeding of Sand Martins in sawdust heaps has ever been recorded I do not know, but the occurrence seems to me of considerable interest, especially because the Sand Martin is the one member of its family, as seen in eastern North America, that I had supposed never to have altered its manner of life as a result of what we call civilization.—

BRADFORD TORREY, *Wellesley Hills, Mass.*  
*Auk*, XX, Oct., 1903, p. 436-437.

Mortality among Bank Swallows.—Upon reading the article in 'The Auk' for October, 1889, on the 'Mortality among Eave Swallows' by Dr. F. H. Kimball, a similar instance was recalled to my mind of my experience with the Bank Swallows (*Clivicola riparia*) in this locality.

By referring to my note-book I find that June 3, 1888, I made a trip to a place where hundreds of these birds breed every year. I saw no birds about the holes, and at once concluded that they had not bred there that year, but as the holes seemed to have been excavated recently, I examined them, and found dead birds in nearly every hole that I dug into. Some of the birds were quite fresh, while others had the appearance of having been dead a long time. These birds were not in very good condition, but were far from being poor and emaciated. Almost all of the holes contained nests, but very few had eggs in them, and two were the most found in any one nest. As to the cause of their destruction I am wholly perplexed, as the weather at that time was mild, although there was a little more rain than usual.—WILLARD E. TREAT, *East Hartford, Conn.*

**Auk, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 96.**

On May 21st, while examining Bank Swallows' nests in the rain I found twelve Swallows in one hole. Two flew out and I had to pull the others out. I never heard of anything of the kind before. Is it unusual?

*Arthur M. Farmer.*

Amoskeag, N. H.

**O. & O Vol. 17, July, 1892 p. 104**

#### Notes from Danbury, Conn.

A. E. Betts writes that "George Dickerman of this place found a nest of the Barn Swallow on September 3, with five eggs slightly incubated." Unfortunately they were accidentally broken.

**O. & O Vol. 17, Nov. 1892 p. 172**

and a note on change of habits in the Bank Swallow (p. 373), by Dr. Coues: *Amer. Naturalist, Vol. 10, June*

210. *Odd Nesting Places.* By Col. Culver. *Ibid.*, XVIII, No. 16, p. 305, May 18, 1882.—Of *Cotile riparia*, *Coccygus erythrophthalmus*, *Turdus migratorius*, and *Melospiza meloda*. *For. & Stream.*

Mass. (Concord)

*Cotile riparia* ✓

1886 Drinking! or bathing!

June 15 A merry little party of Bank Swallows  
either bathing or drinking in the river. They  
would sweep down in quick succession,  
each striking the water forcibly, making  
a visible as well as distinctly audible splash,  
then rising with a short heavy flutter as if  
to dry its wings. I have never been able  
to make out satisfactorily when this  
performance (common to all Swallows, even  
the Big Martin) is for bathing or  
drinking.

*Clivicola* versus *Riparia*.— In 'The Auk' for July, 1898, pages 271-272, Dr. Coues draws attention to the fact that the generic name *Riparia* Forster (Synop. Cat. Brit. Birds, 1817, 17) has page priority over the current *Clivicola* Forster (*ibid.*, p. 55); at the same time expressing his preference for the adoption of the former. The A. O. U. Committee, however, refused to accept *Riparia* on the ground that *Clivicola* was used by the 'first reviser.' These two names are founded upon the same species and are both unaccompanied by diagnoses, so that there can be no question of their equal pertinency. Canon XVIII of the A. O. U. Code, which treats of generic terms published simultaneously, makes no definite provision for just this kind of a case; but in the preceding canon, with regard to specific names, the following occurs: "Of names of undoubtedly equal pertinency, and founded upon the same condition of sex, age, or season, that is to be preferred which stands first in the book." Therefore, unless we are to have on this point arbitrarily different rules for species and genera, a procedure apparently both unnecessary and undesirable, *Clivicola* must give way to *Riparia*. That the above quoted principle of page priority was intended to apply to genera as well as to species is evidenced by rulings of the Committee; as witness *Guara*, instead of *Leucibis*, which was adopted by the 'first reviser'—a perfectly parallel case.

While recourse to the decision of the 'first reviser' is often attended by more or less uncertainty, arising from the possibility of overlooking some obscure publication, the great advantage in the strict application of the principle of anteriority, as priority of pagination or sequence in the same book may be called, is that it furnishes means for a definite and final decision, thereby contributing to hasten on the millennium of zoölogical nomenclature—stability of names.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.* *Auk*, XVI. July, 1899, p. 281.

21. [*Hibernation of Swallows.*] *Ibid.*, pp. 35, 36.— Communication by Robert R. McLeod covering statements by John F. Goss and A. S. Freeman regarding the discovery of Bank Swallows hibernating in mud and in a hollow tree. *Field & For.* Vol. 8

117. *Swallows* [*Cotile riparia*] *Feeding on Bayberries.* By James Allison. *Ibid.*, XIII, p. 706. Nov. 1879. (See below, No. 117.) *Amer. Naturalist*

Stelq. do. Terry  
skripent's

Birds of Toronto, Canada,  
by James W. Fleming.  
Part II, Land Birds.  
Auk, 24, Jan., 1907, p. 82.

230. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.— Probably a rare summer resident; a male was taken May 16, 1900, and on June 12, 1906, I found a pair building in an old kingfisher's tunnel and took the female.

**A New Hampshire Record for *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*.**— The pair of Rough-winged Swallows mentioned above have often been observed to fly across the Connecticut river into New Hampshire territory at Hanover. According to Mr. G. M. Allen's 'Birds of New Hampshire,' this is the first record of Rough-winged Swallows in the State.— FRANCIS G. BLAKE, Hanover, N. H. *Auk*, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 104



**The Nesting of *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* in Norwich, Vt.**— May 6, 1905, I was walking along the bank of the Connecticut River in Norwich, Vt., when two swallows, perched on a dead limb over the water, attracted my notice. A near view at once made their identification as Rough-winged Swallows certain. On a visit to the same place the following day, I found the swallows still about, and in hopes of obtaining a breeding record I began to search for a nest.

On May 12 I was rewarded by seeing the pair of swallows flying back and forth to a clay bank beside the road. There, about twenty feet up, was a hole into which the birds were carrying grass and leaves for lining material. The tunnel, measuring 20 inches in length, slanted slightly upward, and contained a nest at the further end. The hole was noticeably larger in diameter than those of a colony of Bank Swallows in a bank near by.

My observation of their nesting was interrupted more or less by other work and so is not as complete as I wish. During the last two weeks of May the swallows were busy incubating, both taking turns at sitting on the eggs. In early June the young were hatched and both birds took care of the young. Unfortunately I had to leave before the young birds were able to fly.

April 29, 1906, I found the pair of Rough-winged Swallows again flying back and forth over the river. They returned to the old nest, which they cleaned out and relined, and again used to rear their young. Their return to the old nest leads me to feel quite sure that they have used the nest for a number of years, and I shall look for them again next spring.

That a pair of Rough-winged Swallows have chosen this spot to breed in, seems of unusual interest to me, because in a heavy hemlock woods not more than one hundred yards distant, Winter Wrens, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and a pair of Northern Pileated Woodpeckers breed.—  
FRANCIS G. BLAKE, *Hanover, N. H.*

*Auk*, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 104.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

Mass

1884

*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

Belmont, Mass

May 24. Saw a pair of these Swallows in the Belmont "Wiltour". They were skimming about over a muddy flat when the meadow was burnt over (in the ground) last autumn. Once they alighted for a moment in the road. They were silent & they & I could not get within collecting-pistol range but I saw them distinctly, noted their peculiar heavy flight, brownish breasts & absence of throat collar.

Auk, XII, Oct., 1895, pp. 392

The Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) breeding in North Adams, Berkshire Co., Mass.—Several years ago I noticed a pair of birds that resembled Bank Swallows flying about a limestone cliff in North Adams. The nature of the place led me to suspect these birds were Rough-winged Swallows, but I was unable to pursue the subject further that summer. This year, on the 28th of June, I found two Swallows skimming over the surface of a small sheet of water near the above-mentioned cliff and quickly satisfied myself, with the aid of opera-glasses, that they were Rough-wings. It soon appeared that they were engaged in feeding their young, which were ensconced within a narrow, inaccessible crevice near the summit of the neighboring cliff, about fifty feet from its base. The old birds would pass entirely out of sight within the crevice; the young were invisible. But on the morning of July 2, when I again visited the place, four or five young birds nearly ready to fly were sitting in a row at the mouth of the crevice, while their parents, resting from their labors, basked in the warm morning sun or otherwise disported themselves after the fashion of their tribe. I shot the male, July 2; the young left the nest, July 3.

The Rough-winged Swallow has never before been known to breed in Massachusetts. Indeed, the only previous notice of its occurrence in the State relates to a single specimen killed in Easthampton by W. S. Clark in May, 1851, as recorded by H. L. Clark in 'The Birds of Amherst and Vicinity,' 1887, p. 49. A single specimen was captured in Suffield, Conn., June 6, 1874 (Bull. Nuttall Ornithol. Club, II, 1877, 21) and another in East Hartford, Conn., in June, 1885 (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., I, 1886, 267). It is known to breed in southwestern Connecticut near Bridgeport (B. N. O. C., IV, 1879, 119) and Stamford (Auk, XII, 1895, 86), near the eastern end of Long Island at Shelter Island (Auk, X, 1893, 369), and in the lower part of the Hudson River Valley as far north as West Point, N. Y. (B. N. O. C., III, 1876, 46). The North Adams locality is only about three miles from the southern boundary of Vermont.—WALTER FAXON, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

**The Rough-winged Swallow and Duck Hawk near Springfield, Mass.**  
— *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. A Rough-winged Swallow was captured by William Dearden in Longmeadow, near Springfield, May 17, 1906. There is no previous record of the occurrence of an individual of this species in the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts since 1851.

Robert O. Morris, Springfield, Mass.  
Auk, XXII, July, 1906, p. 341.

**The Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) Breeding near Springfield, Mass.**— In the July number of 'The Auk,' I reported the capture of a Rough-winged Swallow at Longmeadow near Springfield. Afterwards, not far from the place where this one was taken, three more were observed, and a pair of these were found to be breeding. The site of the nest was located in a ravine two hundred feet long, washed out a few years ago from a bluff twenty feet above the flood plain of the Connecticut River. This pair were successful in raising their young. I noticed that they flew low and did not pause in their flight, as do the Barn Swallows; they often came to feed their young through the woods adjacent to a portion of the ravine, flying not more than ten feet from the ground.— ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 463.

**Breeding of the Rough-winged Swallow in Berkshire County, Massachusetts.**— On July 3, 1906, as I was waiting for a train at the railroad station in Glendale, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, I saw a pair of Rough-winged Swallows flying back and forth over the Housatonic River. Skimming just above the surface of the rapidly flowing water they passed and repassed the station very many times, giving me excellent opportunities for making out their characteristic coloring and markings. Once they alighted on a large, flat-topped boulder at the water's edge where they moved about by a succession of short, quick runs, reminding me of Semipalmated Plover feeding on a sand beach. I have never before seen swallows of any kind move so quickly by the aid of their feet alone. After drinking at a pool of rain water which had collected in a hollow in the rock, these birds took wing again and resumed their regular, coursing flights. They frequently passed under a bridge by which the road from the village to the station crosses the river, and twice they turned sharply upwards and disappeared for a moment among its supporting rafters, which were twenty-five or thirty feet above the water. Suspecting that they might have a nest there I went out on the bridge, but I could not well see under it. On a telephone wire stretched across the river near the bridge I found, however, three young Rough-winged Swallows, fully grown and feathered, clamoring loudly for food, which their parents brought to them every few minutes. I had a fine view of these young birds, for they were perched in full sunlight within ten or twelve yards of me. Probably there were one or two others of the brood under the bridge, but of this I could not make sure. Two of those on the wire sat facing me, showing very distinctly the rich, reddish brown or fulvous markings on the throat and upper part of the breast, which are so characteristic of the young of *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. Their plumage was wholly free from down, and their wings and tails appeared to be of full length. They must have been out of the nest for a week or more, but I consider it probable that they were hatched and reared in the immediate neighborhood. Although from the first I had entertained no doubts as to the identity of the old birds, I was glad of the opportunity here afforded for directly comparing them with a number of Bank Swallows which were flying about over the river just above the bridge. Whenever the two species came together it was easy to distinguish them, almost at a glance, for the Rough-wings looked a third larger and very much browner than the Bank Swallows, and they showed no traces of the dark pectoral band so conspicuous in the latter birds.— WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Auk, 24, Apr., 1907, p. 221-222.

The Rough-winged Swallow breeding in Connecticut, and other Notes.— On June 17, 1900, I secured a male Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) which was flying about a little brackish pond by the Thames River, near Gales Ferry. Later, on June 23, I found in a neighboring railroad embankment two nests of this species. Both were dug into the bank about an arm's length and just under the overhanging sods and roots. One of the nests, which I examined carefully, contained five pin-feather covered young. The parents were seen circling nervously about, all four being present, which led me to believe another nest must be in the vicinity, which I failed to discover.

Reginald Heber Howe, jr. Longwood, Mass.

Auk, XVII, Oct., 1900, p. 389.

Some Birds of Rare or Accidental Occurrence in New England. H. A. Purdie

7. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. — A female of this species was shot at Suffield, Conn., by Mr. Shores, June 6, 1874. At last this bird has been taken within our limits. It will be interesting to determine whether it proves to be in future a regular visitant to New England.

Bull. N.O.C. 2, Jan., 1877, p. 21

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW IN CONNECTICUT. — Although not given by Samuels as a bird of New England, and classed as "a rare summer visitant" by C. H. Merriam in his "Birds of Connecticut," the Rough-winged Swallow breeds regularly in this State. It has nested for the past three seasons in the old stone abutments at a road-crossing over the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad, within eight or ten rods of the depot at Green's Farms, twenty-six miles west of New Haven. Half a dozen pairs nested there last season, and perhaps more; but, judging from the number seen, I should say there were fewer than during the season of 1877. I have been unable to account for the fact that more than thirty trains could pass within six or eight feet of their nests each day, and not drive them away or apparently disturb them in the least. — J. A. STANNIS, *Hartford, Conn.* Bull. N.O.C. 4, April, 1879, p. 119.

Connecticut, June, 1893.

*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

June 3<sup>rd</sup> Fairfield, Conn.

On the evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> as Mr. Faxon & I were crossing a hilly pasture about half a mile north of the hotel we saw two Swallows which I at once recognized as Rough-winged. They passed within a few yards of us, flying very swiftly, close to the ground, doubling & turning, once pushing the other. One or both uttered repeatedly a short, raspy note similar to that of the Barn Swallow. We saw only their upper surfaces which looked much browner than those of the Barn Swallow. I considered the identification quite satisfactory, which Faxon (who does not know the Rough-wing) said that he felt sure these birds were not Barn Swallows. *serripennis* is said by some to breed at Green's Farms but we saw none at that place during a visit which was made by us.

At Suffield, Clark showed me a hole in a wall from which he & Mr. Doe had taken a bird in 1891. Mr. Doe claimed it was a Rough-winged Swallow but the hole was an old one & the bird was not there at that time.

General Notes.

Connecticut Notes. - Lewis H. Porter.

During the spring of 1894 the writer took two sets of the eggs of the Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*); one of six eggs on May 26, and one of five on June 9. — LEWIS H. PORTER, *Stamford, Conn.*

Auk XII. Jan. 1895 p. 86

Connecticut Bird Notes.—This spring (1901) Mr. J. B. Canfield of Bridgeport, Conn., reports that three pairs of Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) nested in this vicinity. Judge John N. Clark, of Saybrook, notes another pair in that locality; and while en route on his trip to New Hampshire he noted a pair at White River Junction. Mr. R. Heber Howe, Jr., reports a pair at Gales Ferry. Mr. Calvin Rawson ('J. M. W.') of Norwich, Conn., also reports two pairs of Rough-wings, one nesting under the Laurel Hill bridge, and the other in the new coal pocket.

I wish to record the nesting of three pairs of Rough-winged Swallows, one pair at Millstone Point, a short distance south of New London, first noticed May 12; a pair in Groton, opposite New London, June 10; and a pair still further east in Poquonnoc, also on June 10, about ten miles from the Rhode Island border.

Rough-winged Swallows are evidently extending their breeding range farther and farther eastward, and are more numerous than generally supposed, and the A. O. U. Check-List should include Connecticut as within its breeding range. This is the verdict of Judge John N. Clark of Saybrook, Conn., one of our most careful observers, with long years of experience in ornithological field work.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 43.

James M. Hill, New London, Conn.

*Capture of Rare Birds near West Point, N. Y.*

5. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*, (Audubon) Baird. I have found this Swallow on but one occasion, in May, 1872, when a single pair nested in this neighborhood, in a bank close to a stable, beside a pond. I watched this pair while they constructed their nest, during which time they were often seen to alight close together, on a board-fence from which they descended after the rough materials of which the nest was composed, — hay and feathers. Late in May I captured the female sitting upon four fresh eggs. I had no difficulty in doing this, for the hole was quite large, and not very deep, so that, by baring my arm, I could easily introduce it to the back of the hole. These eggs are pure white, and one of them measures .80 x .53 of an inch.

*Edgar A. Mearns, Highland Falls.*

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Jan., 1878, p. 46.

*Evidences of Carolinian Fauna in Hudson Valley,  
from observations made at Riverdale, N. Y.*

*E. P. Bicknell.*

*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. — This species is a regular summer visitor, arriving about the last week in April, and though not uncommon in the spring, but few remain to breed. By the first week in August, however, the species again appears, apparently on its southern migration, and becomes much more abundant than in the spring. On August 5, last, I noticed numbers of these birds in flocks of from ten to thirty individuals lining the fences along the roadside and outnumbering any of the other species with which they were associating. After September 9 none were observed. The greater abundance of this species in spring and late summer than in the intermediate season would seem to indicate a more northern range, and this, taken in connection with the proximity to the Connecticut State line, and the fact that the course of migration at this point tends towards the northeast, would appear to render their regular occurrence there almost assured.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, July, 1878, p. 130-131.

*Evidences of Carolinian Fauna in Hudson Valley.*

*E. P. Bicknell.*

*At Riverdale, N. Y. Stelgidopteryx serripennis,  
regularly occurs.*

Bull. N. O. C. 3, July, 1878, p. 129.

*Birds Rare or Accidental on Long Island.*

5. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. — I shot one at New Utrecht, April 19, 1878.

*Dr L. Berier, Fort Hamilton*

Bull. N. O. C. 6, April, 1881, p. 126.

Breeding of the Rough-winged Swallow at Shelter Island, New York.— While collecting with Mr. W. W. Worthington of Shelter Island, N. Y., June 3, 1893, I found a nest of the Rough-winged Swallow containing four much incubated eggs. The nest was placed in a bank about forty feet high, on the shore; it looked like an old Bank Swallow's burrow. It was two feet from the top of the bank and twenty-seven inches deep. The chamber the nest was in was twelve inches in diameter, and was completely filled with dried sea grasses on which the eggs were laid.

I shot the female, and as it fell in the water the male came up and tried to help its disabled mate, at the same time uttering a most plaintive cry.—

HARRY B. SARGENT, *New York City.*

*Auk* X. Oct. 1893 p. 369.

*Auk*, XIV, Oct., 1897, p. 408.

Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) in Greene and Ulster Counties, N. Y.— On May 29, 1897, I found a pair of Rough-winged Swallows beginning to build in Palenville, Greene County, June 11. The nest with six eggs was procured. At Quarryville (about five miles south of Palenville, being in the extreme northern part of Ulster County) there is a small colony of these birds breeding regularly every year, in the crevices of the rocks. Here I took a male specimen June 27, 1896, and a nest containing five eggs June 29, 1897. These specimens were identified by Mr. Frank M. Chapman.—S. H. CHUBB, *New York City.*

*Notes on the birds of Madison County, New York,  
with especial reference to Embury's recent list.*

20. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.— Said to be "rarely seen," and three records given. According to Mr. Miller it is a "not uncommon summer resident near Peterboro."

*By William R. Maxon.*

*Auk*, XX, July, 1903, p. 265.



## The Rough-winged Swallow.

BY W. E. SAUNDERS.

For a bird of its comparative abundance there is probably none so little known and studied as the Rough-winged Swallow. In this portion of Ontario it is quite common and is generally found near water; frequently in company with the Bank Swallow. In appearance, flight and general habits it resembles that species very much and the two are often confounded. It may, however, be easily recognized when in the hand by the roughness of the edge of the first primary, or by the breast which is ashy from the chin to the belly, contrasting with the white under parts of the othex, across which is the well-known dark belt. It may generally be recognized on the wing by the same means and assistance may be received from the brighter, more metallic brown of the back, the slightly wider wings and slightly larger size, though until one is tolerably familiar with it the only reliable means of identification while on the wing is the breast coloration. Probably half of the ornithologists in Ontario and the eastern and middle states who are unacquainted with this bird have seen it dozens of times, but have supposed it to be the Bank Swallow.

As above stated the habits of the two are very similar, and they often breed near together, though not more than one or two pairs of Rough-wings will be found with the Banks. The holes of the Rough-wings are always much larger and deeper than those of the other much resembling a short Kingfisher's hole.

The nest is built of straws, generally finer than those in the Bank Swallow's nest; which is accounted for by the fact that the Rough-wings never in my experience use feathers as a lining, while the Bank Swallows always do.

There is about as much difference in the size of the eggs as of the birds, those of the Rough-wings being slightly larger both in length and breadth. In the number of eggs in a set, however, there is a marked difference. The average number of eggs in a set of Bank Swallow is four, seldom three and often five, while five is a small set of Rough-wings and six or seven is the usual number, probably eight are sometimes taken.

I have paid some attention to these birds to try and discern some difference in the voice but have so far been unable to do so though opportunity has been ample. While the nesting habits as described above have been my invariable experience, I am well aware that in other parts of the country habits differ and cavities in rocks and holes in abutments of bridges are the chosen nesting place, and it would be interesting to discover where this bird uses rock, and where sand and if possible why its tastes vary in different localities, and to this end I would be glad to receive information from all parts of the habitat of this species, stating the breeding places, whether in sand or rock and whether in the locality named both places are attainable; the average set taken, the material used in the nest, the approximate length and width of the hole and the reasons which may occur to anyone as to why its habits are as stated. A postal card bearing even on one point only will often be valuable evidence and the result will be furnished to the O. AND O. for publication as soon as practicable.

O. & O. XIII. Feb. 1888 p. 28-29.

## Notes on the Nesting of the Rough-Winged Sparrow.

BY WALTER HOXIE.

I have continued my observations upon the pair of Rough-winged Swallows mentioned in a previous note.

After the first set of three eggs were taken, they laid another set also of three, which I intended they should hatch. But their nest was discovered by a lad who lives near me, and knowing my liking for such things, he brought them to me to-day, nest and all.

I knew it was useless to return them, as he said he got them the day before and could not find me till to-day, so I have blown them, though it was hard work, the young birds being nearly ready to hatch.

Mr. Alfred Cuthbert has taken a number of sets this year of five and six eggs, but "my pair" seem to be less enterprising, and only get as far as threes.

O. & O. XIII. July. 1888 p. 102.

## The Rough-Winged Swallow.

The Rough-winged Swallow is imputed as rare in all places of its occurrence. However, I believe it is of more general occurrence in almost all parts than is thought, it being too frequently overlooked or confounded with its very near relative, the Bank Swallow.

Mr. J. L. Davison does not mention this bird in his "List of Birds of Niagara County, N. Y.," while here in the adjoining county (Orleans) it is a summer resident that may be depended upon, and several sets of its eggs are taken each season. This bird is so like the Bank Swallow in every particular that the only safe means of identification is the bird in the hand. However, it may be identified when flying towards one by an observation of its throat and breast. The throat of the Bank Swallow is white, and it has a black pectoral band, while the Rough-winged species has a black or brownish throat and no such band on the breast. The bird in the hand will reveal the peculiarities from which it takes its name.

Although the sand bank, the home of the Bank Swallow, is generally ascribed as the nesting place of the Rough-winged, in this locality at least, such is not the case as often as otherwise. Here, the favorite nesting place of *Serripennis* seems to be in the crevices of the stone work which forms the side of the Erie Canal or the abutments to its bridges, or in crevices of stone work in the vicinity of any water, and I think that if those who are seeking for this bird will look carefully about such places in their locality they will find it not uncommon there.

The nest is loosely composed of straw (almost entirely), with sometimes the addition of some feathers. The eggs are pure white, and I find that they differ from those of the Bank Swallow in at least two particulars. First, they are not so much pointed and may be a trifle larger; and second, the number of them is generally greater, the complete set generally consisting of seven or eight eggs, which are deposited the last week in May.

The Rough-winged Swallow does not arrive from the South until the first week in May, and departs unnoticed in the fall.

Neil F. Posson.

Medina, N. Y.

O. & O. 15. July. 1890. p. 108-109.

NOTES ON THE ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*HIRUNDO SERRIPENNIS*), IN PENNSYLVANIA.

BY WALTER VAN FLEET.

I have, during two years of rather careful observation, noticed a constant and decided difference in the breeding and other habits of the Rough-winged Swallow, as compared with the Bank Swallow (*H. riparia*). The main points are as follows:

*H. serripennis* is not gregarious while nesting, but during the breeding season appears rather to avoid its kind, as well as the Bank Swallows, and to associate only in pairs. Their nesting holes are not placed near each other in the manner of *H. riparia*, but are scattered along the banks of creeks and rivers at irregular intervals, wherever an especially favorable locality occurs. They very seldom excavate a hole for themselves, but generally take up with any suitable cavity, and alter it to suit their taste. It is quite common to find them breeding in deserted Kingfishers' holes, and in this case placing the nest within a foot or eighteen inches from the entrance. They will also, on finding a decayed root of sufficient size, leading in from their favorite sand banks, remove the soft punky wood, following the winding of the root, until they have arrived at a suitable distance—about two feet—where, after enlarging the cavity, they place their nest. This species is also fond of building in holes in stone bridge piers and other masonry, near water, returning to the same place year after year.

In the few cases which I have observed of their excavating, for themselves, it has been done in a very slovenly manner, and invariably their holes have been much larger than is apparently necessary, and round at the entrance, while on the contrary the holes of the *H. riparia* are very symmetrical ellipses, with the longer axis horizontal, and not larger than is needful to permit free ingress and egress of the birds. I have never yet, in this locality, found a Bank Swallow's hole large enough to admit the hand, without enlarging, while the nest of the Rough-wings can generally be reached without any trouble, except when built in masonry. In this case they will pass through a crevice barely large enough to admit their bodies, providing there is a cavity within large enough to contain the nest.

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## The Rough-Winged Swallow.

[Sea Island Notes.]

BY WALTER HONTE.

Among the Sea Islands, the Rough-winged Swallow finds very convenient breeding places, and is a very regular resident, though his Spring arrival is somewhat of a movable feast, varying as my record shows, between the 21st of March and the 8th of May. If his cousin, the Bank Swallow, ever accompanies him, he certainly does not come to stay, and has never yet introduced himself to me.

As soon as they get home, the Rough-wings begin to inspect their nesting sites. They scratch little hollows in the side of a sand-bluff, and then sit around on convenient sticks and indulge in lively discussion regarding the merits of the locality. This prospecting work lasts but a few days or a week at most, and the real work of excavating the subterranean dwelling soon begins, and seems to be quite a laborious process, occupying three to four weeks. The eggs are four or five in number, oftener less than more, and average a little over three-fourths of an inch in length.

A detailed account of the nesting of a pair I have watched carefully this Spring, will illustrate sufficiently well the above general statement.

On the fourth of April, I found signs of scratching in a sand-bluff near my house, and a pair of Rough-wings were seen near the place. On the ninth, the hole was begun, the excavation being then something less than six inches. Work continued till the 21st, when a few grass roots were seen at the farther end. The measurements at this time were: depth, 18 inches; width, 4 1-2 inches, contracting at the end to 3 1-2 inches; height, 2 5-8 inches. On the eighth of May, a set of these eggs was taken. Incubation begun. The nest was composed of grass roots (Joint grass), and for a subterranean structure was very compactly constructed. The front was well raised, being an inch and five-eighths high, but there was no back to speak of; inside diameter, 2 3-8 inches. The shape was thus very similar to a nest of the Climbing Swift.

As a study of "capacities," I subjoin the measurements of this set and their cubic contents both by weight and by measure.

No. 1. .81 x .51 in.; capacity by weight, 13 inches; by measure, 14 inches; No. 2. .83 x .53 inches; capacity by weight, .17 inches; by measure, 16 inches; No. 3. .80 x .53 inches; capacity by weight, .14 inches; by measure, .14 inches.

O. &amp; O. XIII, June, 1888 p. 91.

The nests of *H. serripennis* are generally much more carelessly built than those of *H. riparia*; they do not seem to go any distance for their materials, but appear to pick up anything suitable which they can find within a few rods of their habitation. The nests of the two species are composed of nearly the same substances, but those of *H. riparia* exhibit a greater variety in the same nests, for, as they build in large colonies, they are obliged to search for materials in different places. On one occasion I remember finding a nest of *H. serripennis* composed entirely of feathers of domestic fowls. It was built in a deserted Kingfisher's hole, in a sand bank, about fifteen rods from a barn-yard, in which fowls were constantly kept. At another time I found three fresh eggs lying on the bare sand; the hole was a mere pocket, barely six inches deep. In this case the female bird was probably under so great a necessity that she did not have time to construct a nest in the usual manner, but had hastily deepened the already formed cavity.

I have quite frequently found fresh eggs in the nests of *H. serripennis*, and those far advanced in incubation; indeed, have found fresh, nearly hatched eggs, and young birds, in the same nest, but I have never noticed anything like this among Bank Swallows, though I have searched carefully.

In general habits the difference is perhaps less marked. The Rough-wings arrive here about the 10th of April, in large numbers, full two weeks before the Bank Swallows, and are found in company with *H. horreorum* and *H. bicolor*, playing around, and chasing insects over the ponds and rivers.

About the first of May the Bank Swallows come; *H. serripennis* then appear to grow scarcer, and to desert the vicinity of ponds and streams where there are no sand banks. During the latter part of June and through July, I have often met pairs of Rough-winged swallows flying steadily in a particular direction, one or another turning out to pursue an occasional insect; but when it was captured returning to its former general course, over meadows, forests and streams until lost to sight. I have thus met pairs at different times, going towards all points of the compass. As they fly quite high at these times I have never succeeded in killing both birds, but think they would prove to be male and female.

About the last of August, both this species, and *H. riparia* begin to migrate southward, associated with the Barn Swallows; when there is no perceptible difference in the habits of either. By the middle of September they have all disappeared.

WATSONTOWN, PA., FEB. 20th, 1876.

Bull. N. O. C. I, April, 1876, p. 9-11.

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O. & O. XIII. June. 1888 p. 9/.

Stelgidopteryx serripennis

Habits.

Washington, D.C.  
May 2, 1883

Abundant along the canal above Georgetown flying in pairs over the water and frequently alighting on the telegraph wires. We also found a few pairs associating with a large colony of Bank Swallows in a large gravel pit. The Bank Swallows were excavating holes in some soft limestone, the Rough-wings preparing to nest in some pocket-shaped cavities in the gravel bank. They were also entering crevices in a rocky ledge. Their notes are similar to those of the Bank Swallow but softer and divided into syllables like

Auk, XII, April, 1895, p. 184.

The Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) and Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) Wintering in South Carolina.—I shot a male Rough-winged Swallow on the morning of December 22, 1894, which had been in the neighborhood for over a month, and which had roosted in a barn since November. I also shot two Tree Swallows on January 4, 1895. The weather was intensely cold between these dates, the thermometer registering as low as 8° above zero. It is not unusual to see hundreds of Tree Swallows on mild days in January and February, but it is certainly surprising to find them braving a temperature of 8° to 10° above zero. The Tree Swallows had their throats stuffed with myrtle berries, which they subsist upon in the fall and winter months.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, Mount Pleasant, S. C.

Amer. Naturalist, Vol. 10, August / Robert Ridgway here states that the Bank Swallows (p. 493) referred to in the June number are the *Cotyle serripennis*, instead of *C. riparia*, as first stated.

great - great - great. The flight of  
the swallow is slow and heavy,  
very like that of *H. bicolor*. Their  
uniform color is beneath is a  
feature always recognizable.  
May 4. During a drive to Falls  
Church in Virginia to-day we  
found their hollows everywhere.  
They are evidently the most  
abundant swallow in this region.  
They hit on the telegraph wire more  
than any other species. Yesterday  
I saw them building in a low  
sand-pit in the woods as well  
as in a wall of solid masonry  
bordering the canal.

Auk, XII, April, 1895, p. 184

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