

americanus

SBV 9741.9 (28)

v. 31

Corvus americanus. * = gobbling call.

1889
 April 11¹⁰ 30⁶ 1889. 2⁵ 3² 1890 2¹² 5¹⁰ 6²⁵ 7^{34c} 8³⁰ 9¹⁰ 10⁶ 11³ 14²⁰ 16² 17²⁵ 19¹⁰ 21³ 24⁴ 25¹⁰ 26¹⁵ 27¹⁰ 1891.
 May 5¹⁵ 10³ 11⁴ 14¹⁰ 17⁶ 29⁹ 30² 1889. 2²⁰ 3¹ 7⁴ 15³ 19⁶ 22² 24² 25² 26³ 29⁵ 30⁸ 31¹⁰ 1890
 June 3^(4mp out) 4^m 7⁵ 8¹ 12⁶ 20¹ 1889. 1¹⁰ 7¹² 10¹⁰ 12² 14⁶ 15² 21² 24⁴ 25² 28² 29⁴ 1890
 July 16⁶ 17⁵ 1889. 6² 2⁴ 3² 18⁴ 19⁵ 20² 31² 1890
 Aug 11⁶ 13⁴ 1889. 3² 22⁵ 29²⁰ 1890
 Nov. 25¹⁰ 26⁶ 30⁶ 1889. 26⁴ 1890 4⁶ 5¹⁰ 6³⁰ 7¹⁵ 8²⁰ 11⁸ 12¹² 24²⁰ 1891
 Dec. 5⁵ 6¹⁰ 11² 12² 13² 1889. 12⁴⁰ 1890 1⁶ 2³⁰ 3²⁰ 7³ 8³ 13¹⁰ 14⁶ 18¹⁰ 20⁸ 27² 28⁸ 29⁶ 1891.
 Jan y 3² 14^(heard) 23¹ 26⁵ 1890 25⁴ 28¹⁰ 29⁴ 1891. 22² 23⁴ 24⁸ 25² 28² 29⁶ 1892.
 Feb. 14⁶ 16¹⁰ 17⁵ 18³ 19³ 21² 23²
 March 5³⁴ 6²¹ 9³ 12⁵ 13⁴ 18⁴ 22¹² 25¹⁵ 28¹⁰ 29²⁰ 30³⁰ 31²⁰ 1891.
 " 6³⁰ 7²⁰ 8⁵

April

May 4¹ 10¹⁰ 8³ 9² 12⁴ 13² 15² 17¹² 18² 29⁴ 23^{18c} 28⁸ 31¹ 1891.

June 1² 2¹ 3³ 1891.

Oct. 3² 7⁶ 8¹⁰ 12¹⁰⁰ 16⁴ 17⁴ 18⁴ 19⁵ 20⁴⁰ 21⁶ 22¹⁰ 23⁶ 24⁸ 25⁴ 26⁶ 28⁴⁰ 29⁶ 30³⁰ 31¹⁰ 1891.

July 9² 10⁵⁰ 12² 13⁵ 22² 24²

Corvus americanus.

1894.

January Cambridge New Mt. Auburn or
1⁴ 3³ 5⁶ 6¹⁰ 8⁽⁵⁰⁾ on Charles R. Marshes.

February 7¹ 8⁴

March

April

May Concord Concord Barn- Concord Cg. Concord
1⁴ 3⁶ 4⁶ 5⁶ 6⁴ 7⁸ 12⁴ 13⁶ 14³ 18⁶ 19² 20⁴ 22¹ 26² 27⁴ 28^{young} 30^{young}

June Great S. Hyannis Cd. Marshes
3² 4³ 5² 7⁶ 9⁶ 10⁴ 11⁴

July Cg. omi Cg. 10¹⁰ 18⁽³⁾ Windsor 19² Milton Cg. 22⁴ 26¹ 30¹ 31¹

August Cd. Cg. omi Mt. Auburn Cd.
5⁸ 8⁽⁴⁾ 11⁽²⁰⁾ 12⁶

September

October 12⁽²⁰⁾ 13¹ 14⁽⁵⁰⁾ 16⁽²⁰⁾ 17⁽²⁵⁾ 18⁽⁷⁵⁾ 19⁽³⁰⁾ 20⁽³⁰⁾ 25⁽²⁰⁰⁾ 26⁽⁵⁰⁰⁾ 27⁽³⁰⁾ 28¹ 29⁽⁹⁾ 30⁽⁶⁾ Concord

November 1² 2⁶ 4⁴ 12⁸ 13⁶ 14⁴ 15⁶ 16³ 17³ 18¹ 19¹ 20³ Concord

December (Fresh P. Lane) C. C. (Chas R.) C. C.
6² 11¹ 19² 30³

1895.

January c. c.
2⁽¹²⁾ 14⁽¹²⁾

February

March B. Wm. Cg. omi C. (Chas R.) B. B. (Rock M.) do. C. to C. Cd. Cd. Cd.
3¹⁵ 10⁸ 12¹ 14⁽³⁰⁾ 17⁶ 20⁽²⁵⁾ 24²⁰ 26²⁰ 27²⁵ 30²⁰ 31¹

April Concord B. Concord C. G. Concord
3⁴ 4⁶ 5⁴⁰ 6³⁰ 7²⁰ 11¹⁵ 14⁴⁰ 15²⁰ 16⁸ 17¹² 18¹⁰ 19²⁰ 21⁵ 27⁴ 28⁴ 29² 30³

May Concord Barnstable Cd. P. N. Hines Provincetown C. Cd.
1⁽⁵⁾ 2⁴ 4⁴ 5⁶ 6⁴ 11⁴ 12⁴ 17⁽²⁾ 19¹ 20¹ 20² 23³ 23⁶

June an. Id. Cg. C. Maple Is. 26^{off} 30^{down}

July Cg. 7¹⁰ 10^{do}

August Cd. 8⁽⁵⁾ 21¹

September

October 6¹² 7¹⁰ 8¹² 9¹² 10⁴ 16⁽⁶⁾ 17⁽¹²⁾ 18¹⁰ 19⁽⁷⁾ 20⁶ 21⁶ 22⁽²⁵⁾ 23⁽⁵⁰⁾ 25⁽²⁰⁾ 26⁽²⁰⁾ 29⁽³⁰⁾ 30⁽²⁴⁾ 31⁽¹⁰⁾ Concord

1¹² 2⁶ 3¹⁵ 4⁸ 6⁽²⁴⁾ 7²⁰ 20⁸ 21²⁰ 22⁶ 23⁶ 24⁶ 25⁸ Concord 28¹

an. C. Chas R. C. 8¹⁵ 9⁽¹²⁾ 29³

* = "goffle"

H = "kloc-kloc-kloc"

Corvus americanus.

1896.

January Co. 12³ 26¹ 28² S.W.
 February a. ch. a. cd. 2³ 14³ 23² 24⁴
 March Wayland Cg. over B. C. cd. 15¹ 22⁵ 23³ 25⁶ 26² 31⁵
 April 1⁴ 2⁴ 3⁶ 4⁴ 5² 6³ 7⁴ 10⁶ 11⁵ 12⁶ 14¹⁰ 15⁶ 16¹⁰ 17⁸ 18⁷ 19⁴ 20⁴ 21 22 23⁶ 25⁴ 26⁸ 27⁸ 28⁶ 29³ Concord 96
 May C. 3⁴
 June
 July
 August
 September
 October 11⁵ 12⁶ 20⁶ 21⁴⁰ 22¹⁰⁰ 23²⁰ 24²⁰ 25¹⁵⁰ 26⁵⁰ 27¹⁰⁰ 28²⁰ 29¹² 30¹⁸⁷ 31¹⁰⁰ Concord
 November Concord Cg. ch. 1¹² 2²⁰ 3¹⁴ 14¹ 18⁴ 19²⁵ 20⁸² 21³⁸ 22¹⁰ 23³⁰ 24² 25² Concord 30⁹ eating beef fat in front tree 15 ft. from museum window
 December Cg. in hand Cg. in hand C. (reservoir) 7¹ 8¹ 20¹

1897.

January Cg. 6³ in one Ad. (Badollet H.) Cg. eating fat in front tree by museum
 birds, 27⁴⁰ 31 C. flying about in "Maple Swamp",
 February Cg. eating fat in den Cg. over 3⁴ 4⁷ 5⁰ 24²
 March Cg. over C. C. Cg. over C.R. C.R. C. Cg. over Ad. B.H. 2⁷ 6⁵ 8² 16⁴ 19⁴⁰ 21¹⁰⁰ 22⁵ 23⁵ 31²⁰
 April 1¹⁵ 2¹² 3²⁰ 4¹² 5¹² 6¹⁰ 7¹⁰ 8¹⁰ 10¹⁰ 11⁸ 12¹⁰ [18² 19²] 21¹ 22⁶ 23⁴ 24¹⁰ 25¹⁰ 26⁶ 27⁴ 28⁶ 29⁸ 30¹² Concord
 May Cg. over 8³
 June
 July
 August Cg. over 19¹ 27⁴
 September
 October 19² 20⁶ 21⁶ 22 23² 24⁴ 27² 28³ 29⁴ 30⁶
 November 2³ 3⁶ 4⁶ 7⁴ 8⁵ 10¹⁰⁰ 11²⁵ 14⁵ 15¹⁴ 17² 18² 19² 20⁶ 21⁶ 23³ Concord C. 26⁹
 December Concord C. C. 9² 10³ 16⁵⁰ 17³ 27³

Corvus americanus.

1898.

January ^{Warming} 9⁹
 February ^{cd} 7² 6³ 8³ 13⁽²¹⁾ ⁽⁵⁰⁾ ^{Rever Beach} ^{B.} ^{H. M. Spahnman} 27⁵
 March ^{C. N. B.} 6¹⁰ 16⁽³⁾ 17¹² 18⁽⁹⁾ 19¹⁵ 20¹² 21⁸ 22⁽¹²⁾ 24⁸ 25⁶⁰ 27⁸ 28¹² 29¹⁵ 30⁸ 31⁴
 April 1⁴ 2⁸ 3⁴ 4² 6⁴ 7⁴ 8⁴ 9⁶ 10⁶ 11⁴ 12² 13⁴ 14⁽²⁾ 16⁽³⁾ 17² 20⁽³⁾ 21² 22² 24⁵ 25⁴ 27⁸ 30²
 May 1² 2⁽¹²⁾ ^{meeting} 4⁽¹²⁾ ^{Bulbo} 5⁴ 6¹⁰ 7¹⁰ 10² 13² 14² 16⁽³⁾ 18⁶ 19³ 20² 21² 22¹⁵ 24⁽³⁾ 29² 30⁴
 June 5³ 8³ 10² 11² 18⁽³⁾ 21, 22, 23⁴ 24⁽⁴⁾
 October ^{Our garden Camb} 14³ 26⁽¹⁾ 27³ 4⁽²⁰⁾ 6¹² 7⁵ 8⁶ 9⁶ 10¹⁰ 11² 22, 23⁶ 24⁸ 25⁽¹⁰⁾ 27⁴ 28⁶ 31⁵⁰⁰ ^{Bull's Hill} ^{arrived from N. S. at 12.15 noon} ^{high 1/2 miles in air circling & descending} ^{Concord.}
 November ^{Our garden Camb} 29¹ 30⁽¹⁾ 1⁽²⁰⁰⁾ 2¹⁰ 3⁶ 4⁽³⁰⁾ 5⁸ 6⁶ 11⁽⁶⁰⁾ ^{flying S.W.} 12, 14⁶ 15⁸ 16⁶ 17-20, 21⁶ 22⁴ 28⁽¹⁰⁾ ^{at 2 P.M.} ^{Concord.}
 December 9⁽³⁾ ^{cd.} ^{seen frequently through the month in our windows, Cambridge.}

1899.

January 3¹ 12^{hd.} 17^{hd.} ^(7 mts) 23^{hd.} 26^{hd.} 29^{hd.} ^{Auburn} ^{Our place, Cambridge.}
 February 2¹ 10¹ 11² 12¹ 16¹ 17¹ 25¹ 27¹ ^{Our place, Cambridge.}
 March 3¹ 4¹ 6⁽³⁾ 12³ 20^{hd.} 21⁽⁹⁾ 22^{hd.} 23¹ 24² 27³ 28²
 April ^{Cy. G.} 1⁽³⁾ 2⁽³⁾ 4⁽⁹⁾ 5¹² 6²⁵ 7²⁵ 8⁵ 9⁶ 10¹⁰ 11⁸ 14¹² 15⁽¹⁴⁾ 18⁶ 19⁶ 23⁴ 24⁴ 25² 26² 27⁴ 29⁶ 30⁶ ^{Concord.} ^{Cy. G.} ¹⁶ ¹³ ^{W.D.}
 May 1⁴ 2⁶ 3⁴ 4⁶ 12⁶ 13⁴ 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 19⁴ 20⁴ 21⁴ 22⁽²⁵⁾ ^{meeting} 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 ^{Bulbo} ^{Concord.} ^{W.D.} ¹⁵ ^{W.D.} ¹⁶ ^{W.D.} ²⁶ ^{W.D.}
 June 2⁽¹⁰⁾ 2⁽²⁾ 3⁽¹⁰⁾ 31^{hd.}
 August ^{Cy. G.} ^{seen}
 October 12^{hd.} 13¹² 14^{hd.} 16^{hd.} 17^{hd.} 18, 20, 21⁽²⁰⁾ 22, 23, 24⁶ 26⁶ 29⁴ ^{Concord.}
 " 10¹ 11³ 14^{hd.} 23^{hd.} 24⁽⁴⁾ 25^{hd.} 27³ 28^{hd.} 29^{hd.} 31^{hd.} ^{Our garden, Cambridge, W. Dean.}
 November 1⁴ 2⁽⁴⁰⁾ 3⁽¹⁰⁰⁾ 4¹² 5⁽²³⁾ 6⁴ 7⁽¹³⁾ 8⁽²⁰⁾ 9^{hd.} 10, 11, 23^{hd.} ^{Concord.}
 " 1³ ^{W.D.} 4³ ^{W.D.} 7³ ^{W.D.} 8³ ^{W.D.} 22⁴ 24³ 25³ 27³ 28³ 29⁴ 30³ ^{Our garden, Cambridge.}
 December 7³ 8² 10² 9² 11² 13⁴ 14² ^{Our garden, Cambridge.} 17⁶ ^{Fresh Pond.}

The Garden, Cambridge, Mass.

Corvus americanus

- 1900 January 15¹ 16¹ 17¹ 18¹ 19¹ 25² February 2² 3² 8¹ 11² 16¹ 20¹ March 3⁴ 4² 5² 6⁴ 7⁴ 8⁴ 10² 11⁶ 12²
 " 13² 14² 15¹⁺² 16¹⁺² 17² 19⁴ 21² 23² 24² 25⁴ 26⁴ 28³ 29¹ 30¹ April 1³ 2² 3² 4⁵ 5⁴ 6¹ 7¹ 8⁹ 9¹⁰
 " 11¹⁰ 13² 18² 23¹ 25¹ 26¹ 27¹ May 2¹ 8¹ 9¹ 10¹ 12¹ 15¹ 17¹ 18¹ 20¹ 21¹ 22³ 25¹ 26² 29¹ 31¹ June 2¹ 5¹ 12² 15¹ July 1¹
 " Aug. 31¹ Sept. 6¹ Oct. 4¹ 18¹ 24¹ 25¹ 27¹ 30¹ Nov. 1¹ 3¹ 9² 22¹ 26¹ 29¹ 30¹ December 2¹
 " 12² 20¹ 21²
- 1901 January 1¹ 5¹ 10¹ 14¹ 15¹ 29³ 30² 31¹ February 1¹ 19² 21¹ 26¹ March 2¹ 7¹
 " 13¹⁰⁺⁴ 15² 19³ 22² 27¹ April 1³ 9¹⁰ 17² 19¹ 20¹ 23¹ 29² May 30¹ June 7¹ 12¹
 " July 1³ 10³ August 3² 6³ 8⁴ 12² 14² 15³ 16¹ 19² 21¹ 23¹ 24² 26³ 28¹ 29¹ 31³ September 4² 5³
 " 7⁴ 9² 10³ 18⁴ 26² 27⁴ 30² November 5¹ December 5¹ 6² 10¹ 13¹ 17¹ 18¹ 20¹ 21¹ 28¹
- 1902 January 8¹ February 18¹ 20¹ 21² 24¹ March 1¹ 4³ 7¹ 10¹ 15¹ 18¹ 20¹ 24² 25¹
 " 28¹ 29¹ April 2² 3² May 7⁴ 10¹ July 7³ 14¹ 15³ 16² 28² August 19¹
 " November 23¹ 27¹ December 3¹ 21¹ 22¹ 24¹ 25² ^{2 in apple tree}
 " 1 flying over.
- 1903 January 14¹ 16¹ 23¹ 27¹ 28¹ February 3² 7² 9¹ 26¹ 27¹ March 2¹ 3¹ 6¹ 12¹ 17¹ 19² 26¹
 " (March) 27⁴ 31² April 1² 6² May July 1³ 2⁴ 3³ 13¹ 14¹ 20² 24³ 29³ August 25¹
 " November 2¹ 4¹ 7¹ 9¹ 13¹ 14¹ 28² December 1¹ ^{chasing a Buteo}
 " 4¹ 5² 15¹ ^{high above}
- 1904 January 11¹ February 4¹ 8¹ 12¹ 13¹ 24¹ March 26² April 2¹ 4¹ 8¹ 12¹
 " May 2¹ June 8¹ July 2¹ 13¹ ^{1 eating cherries} 20¹ 23¹ 30¹ August 4¹ 18¹ 25¹ 30¹
 " September 20¹ 22¹ 24¹ 26¹ December 13¹ 16¹ 19¹ ^{in trees}
 " 21¹ ^{in trees} 22¹ 30¹ ^{apple tree 20'}
- 1905 January 7¹ 9¹ February 16¹ 27¹ March 8¹ ^{1 eating} 10¹ 14¹ 15² 18²
 " (March) 20³ 22¹ 26¹ 27¹ 28¹ 29¹ 30¹ May 6¹
 " July 10³ 13¹ ^{1 eating cherries} 20¹ ^{1 in} 21¹ ^{1 eating} 26¹ 29¹ ^{1 eating in} 31¹
 " August 2¹ ^{1 several} 5¹ ^{1 do.} 17¹ 18¹ December 8¹ 12¹ 13¹ 14¹ 17¹ 18¹
 " (December) 19¹ 20¹ 21¹ 22² ^{2 on 3} 26¹ 27¹ 30¹ 31¹
 " 6 January 13¹ February 7¹ 8¹ 9¹ 19¹ March 2¹ 26¹ 28¹ (Seen or heard by W.B. almost every day through March)
 " (March) 30¹ April 2¹ 3¹ 4¹ 7¹ 9¹ 11¹ 13¹ 16¹ 20¹ 24¹ 25¹ May 4¹
 " (May) 12¹ 17¹ 19¹ ^{1 low down in catalpa tree by museum} 20¹ ^{1 at pond by}
 " ^{1 in apple tree off. museum, low down, clearing up} 22¹ 23¹ 24-31¹ ^{1 at}
 " ^{1 about the place, alighting by the pond} June 1-14¹ ^{16¹ 26¹} July 9¹ 11¹ 12² 16¹
 " August 20¹ 21¹ 27¹ ^{1 flying over} 29¹ 30¹ 31¹ November 10¹ 28¹
 " December 1¹ 9¹ 15¹ 26¹ ^{1 in}

The Garden,
Cambridge, Mass.

Corvus americanus.

- 1907 January 15² February 2¹ 7⁹ 12⁽⁴⁾ 13¹ 20⁽⁵⁾ 22¹ March 19¹
 " March 21⁽⁵⁾ 23⁽³⁾ 26¹ 28⁽⁴⁾ April 11¹ May 20¹ 22¹ June 3²
 " July 1¹ eating cherries 2¹ eating cherries 3¹ 12¹ 15¹ eating cherries 16 22 August 19¹ November 21¹
 " (November) 25¹ December 26⁽²⁾ 30¹
- 1908 March 3¹ in lindens 4^{hd} Mar. 11^{hd} June 20^{hd} 21² in cherry tree 21^{hd} July 1^{hd} 2^{hd} 3¹ 5^{hd}
 " July 7² September 8¹ Sept. 8 carrying in jungle, 6 P.M. October 21⁽⁵⁾ November 7⁽⁸⁾ 10^{hd} 26^{hd}
 " December 11^{hd} 14⁽²⁾ perched in lindens 18⁽²⁾ 25^{hd} 26^{hd} in early morn. 29^{hd}
- 1909 January 2¹ in cherry tree 3⁽⁶⁾ 6^{hd} in early morn. 10⁽⁷⁾ in linden 11^{hd} 12² on 3 11¹ 11¹
 " February 6^{hd} 8^{hd} 8^{hd} at once 11⁽³⁾ 18^{hd} 20^{hd} 22³ March 7^{hd} April 9^{hd} 10⁽²⁾
 " April 29¹ May 25^{hd} 28¹ May 25^{hd} 26⁽²⁾ in cherry tree 30¹ family party old & young in lindens
 " July 13⁽⁴⁾ eating ripe cherries 22¹ 50th in trees 23^{do} 24¹ carrying highly in lindens at 1 P.M. November 9^{hd} 2^{hd} 4¹ in cherry tree 6² 8⁽²⁾ 11⁽²⁾ 3¹
 " (November) 21^{hd} 27⁽²⁾ in jungle
- 1910 January 11¹ in lindens 18¹ 23¹ 28⁽²⁾ February 16¹ 21^{hd} 28¹ carrying loudly in lindens at intervals through day.
 " March 1^{hd} 2^{hd} 4^{hd} 5^{hd} 6¹ on lawn 7^{hd} 8⁽⁸⁾ in linden 9^{hd} 11² 12^{hd} 13^{hd} 14^{hd} 15¹ 19^{hd} 20^{hd} 23²
 " " 24^{hd} 25² 26¹ 27¹ collecting nesting material on our lawn flying back & forth in house of near Hubbard Park. 29^{hd} 30²
 " April 11² 12² 14^{hd} May [6⁽²⁾ in spruce in Hubbard Park] 7²
 " July 1¹ 2¹ 4² eating cherries 5² 8⁽⁷⁾ 13⁶ eating cherries 14⁵ 18⁽⁴⁾ 19^{hd} 20⁽³⁾ eating cherries August 21^{hd} 25^{hd} 26^{hd}
 " November 7¹ 19⁽⁵⁾ 20⁽⁵⁾ 21⁽⁵⁾ December 2^{hd} in early morn. 10¹ 16¹ 17^{hd} 20⁽³⁾ 26¹ 28^{hd} 29² 27^{hd} 28^{hd}
1911. January 5^{hd} 6¹ 9^{hd} 10⁽²⁾ 12⁽²⁾ 28^{hd} February 4^{hd} 5^{do} 10^{do} 11^{do} 12⁽³⁾ 14^{hd} 15³ 16^{hd} 18^{hd} 19^{hd} 20^{hd} 26^{hd} 27^{hd} 28^{hd}
 " March 2^{hd} 3^{do} 4^{do} 6¹ 26^{hd} April 29³ 30^{hd} June 12² in lindens 17^{hd} 18^{hd}
 " August 10¹ on canopy 11^{hd} 16^{hd} 17^{hd} November 27⁽²⁾ December 3² in linden 10^{hd} 13^{hd} 14^{hd} 18¹ 19¹ 23¹ 27¹ 28⁽²⁾ 30¹
1912. January 1¹ 5⁽³⁾ at home 6¹ do 14¹ do 17² 18^{hd} 19^{hd} 20^{hd} 21⁽²⁾ in linden 22^{hd} 23^{hd} 24¹ 25^{hd} 27¹
 " February 5^{hd} 6^{hd} 8^{hd} 10⁽²⁾ 11⁽²⁾ 14^{hd} 15^{hd} 17² 19¹ 25¹ 26^{hd} 27^{hd}
 " March 3¹ 4¹ 5¹ 9⁽²⁾ 10^{hd} 11^{do} 12^{do} 16^{do} 17^{do} 18¹ 19¹ 20¹ 25¹ 26¹ 27³ 30¹
 " August 14¹ 50th in early morn 15¹ do 26^{hd} September 23³ November 6⁽⁴⁾ 10² 23⁽³⁾ 27^{hd}
 " December 5¹ 8¹ 15^{hd} 17¹ 19¹ 20¹ 23³ 27^{hd} 30¹ perched in linden over front gate
1913. January 12¹ 21¹ 24^{hd} in early morn. 27¹ 31³ February 4³ 5^{hd} 8^{hd} 9⁽²⁾ in linden 13⁽³⁾ 14^{hd} 15^{hd} 23¹
 " March 1^{hd} 3¹ 7⁽⁷⁾ 11¹ 12¹ 24² April 1^{hd} May 17¹ in apple tree 25¹ in linden
 " June 8¹ eating spawning Garden food in tree over driveway June 16¹ nest in big linden at east end of house young calling in nest in linden.
 " July 3² 4² 5² 6^{hd} 7^{hd} 8^{hd} 10² 12² 15² 17² 19² 21² 22² 24² 26² 30² October 30⁽⁸⁾
 " November 23^{hd} in early morn 24⁽³⁾ molting in Barred Owl 30¹ December 9^{hd} in early morn 11^{hd} 18¹ 21³ in cherry tree 30^{hd} C. americanus 31^{hd} at dinner 8

Corvus americanus.

Boston Harbor, Mass.

1879. Crows were very numerous upon some of the islands, sit-
Jan. 24. ting upon the points in company with the Gulls or feeding a-
 long the beaches. (Shooting party in a tug).

Corvus americanus

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass.

May 10 Cambridge. - The Crows are now raiding for birds eggs. I saw three in the Maple Swamp this morning flitting from tree to tree peering about and examining all the larger forks carefully. Near where they were searching I found some broken shells of Robin's eggs.

" 14 Waltham. - Four together in tall oaks one calling kloc-kloc-kloc-kloc at frequent intervals, this call all on the same keeg, loud, the tone woody as of striking two blocks together or striking a resonant dead limb with an axe. Another Crow to-day called cuc-cuc-cuc. Unusual call notes

" 29 Watertown. - Two on the Coolidge farm, one carrying food in its bill. I have seen or heard them flying over my garden in Cambridge the past week. They are perhaps even silent this month than at any other season.

June

3 Wellesley Hills. - Took 3 eggs incubated perhaps a week from a nest in the fork of a chestnut. The tree was about 10 inches in diameter, the nest 30 ft. above the ground. I pulled it to pieces and found that it was composed outwardly of dead sticks some of them nearly 1/2 inch in diameter. Next came a layer of rather sandy mud still saturated with water & fully an inch thick in places. This had been moulded into a saucer-shaped depression which was thickly lined with grape vine bark, inner bark of the chestnut a few tufts of cows hair & some curled hair. This cavity measured 2 1/2 inches deep by 6.25 inches diameter. The Crows flew over & around carving but kept ^{gun range} beyond. Mud lining of nest.

" 4 Watertown. - A single old bird in Arsenal woods, very bold flying overhead within range & once jerking one me within 20 yds. followed me anywhere through the woods carving frantically. I could find neither nest nor young. Boldness of bird with young

Corvus americanus.

1889 Mass.

Dec. 11-16 Ashby - Fitchburg - Mt. Graylock - Two specimens seen near Fitchburg Dec. 11 and two at Ashby on the 13th. At the latter place we were told that the Crow does not usually winter but arrives in March when it is considered a harbinger of spring by the farmers. Between Fitchburg and N. Adams we saw a few birds from the cars, not one pair in all. On Mt. Graylock none were seen but Faxon heard one or more cawing on Dec. 16 near the eastern base of the mountain (on the S. Adams slope several hundred feet below the "Bellows Pipe").

At both Ashby & Mt. Graylock Crows are said to catch chickens to such an extent as to be a serious nuisance. Mrs. Baban Wilbur who lives in the highest house in the notch on the N. S. side of Graylock lost every chicken which has been hatched in 1888, at least 25 or 30 in all. They were taken when very small and, she thinks, wholly by Crows as no Hawks were seen near the house that season. Perhaps one Crow did it all for she never saw more than one at a time. He always flew down and pouncing on the chicken carried it off to the woods, she thinks in his bill although she did not notice particularly. Sometimes he came directly into the yard from a distance, sometimes perched first on the fence and looked the ground over before selecting his prey. The old hens attacked him boldly and sometimes succeeded in preventing him from seizing the chicken which he was after.

Corvus americanus

1891 Mass.

March 5 Watertown. Yesterday it snowed all day rather more than a foot of snow falling and as it came damp and afterwards froze for food. it has encrusted everything. This morning I saw about forty Crows sitting along the banks of Charles River just below the Abbot's bridge or floating down stream on cakes of ice. Others were flapping over the water occasionally picking up floating morsels and behaving generally much like Fish Crows. I have seen them here before on several occasions this winter but not in anything like the numbers observed this morning. Still I do not think any birds have come up from the South yet.

" 6 Ambridge & Waltham. A clear rather cold morning the snow still covering everything it having melted very little since it came. Took a long drive and saw a number of Crows but there were only three or four along the river although the conditions there were apparently precisely the same as yesterday. The Crows seemed to be in great straits this morning and wore an anxious expression. Several were in trees close to houses, others on manure heaps in the fields hard at work pecking into the snow. In one place they had removed much of snow and dragged up fragments of smothering manure.

As I was sitting at my desk after returning a Crow suddenly plumped down into the snow within about twelve feet of my window and seized a large piece of bread which he carried up to the branch of a cherry tree in the garden and ate with great deliberation. After finishing this repast he rose above the houses and flew off. I saw one alight in the elm over my driveway yesterday but with these exceptions have not seen a Crow in my place for years although they fly over it almost daily

Corvus americanus

1891 Mass.

March 25 Belmont. Clear with strong, bracing N. W. wind. Crows numerous, nearly all seen being in pairs. At the W. end of Rock Meadow there were five or six pairs sitting in the tops of the oaks or walking along the edge of the flooded meadow at about 9 A. M. Just before sunset as we approached this place from Lexington on our way home we saw a large straggling flock of fully 50 birds (we counted 45) rise and start due north flying low and stringing out in a long band. Still later we saw a smaller flock (about 15) start from the Payson place and go off to the westward. Both flights suggested migration but it is not unlikely that they were on their way to some roost. Certain it is that many of the Crows now about are getting ready to roost. In Lexington we saw them everywhere in pairs scattered about in white pine woods. No undoubted migration has been reported thus far by any of our local observers.

" 29 Wellesley. S. W. Denton saw a pair of Crows collecting building material in a field. One of them filled its bill with something that looked like dry grass and then flew off to the woods.

Building

" 30 Waltham. Saw fully 50 Crows go to roost to-night in a grove of white pines near the Warren run. Fully $\frac{3}{4}$ arrived together in a loose flock. The others straggled in singly. Faxon says they roosted in the same woods last year in April.

Roost

" 31 Watched the pine woods near Warren run this evening but not a Crow alighted there although several passed over. There was nothing visible that could have alarmed them

Corvus americanus.

1891 Mass.

April 2 Ipswich. About the usual number of local birds scattered about in pairs but no indications of any flight.

A Crow which was pecking at something on a sand-bar left the spot with evident reluctance as my boat approached. After flying a short distance it circled back and alighted in the old place. I tried a long shot at it and killed it when I found that the fatal attraction was a small horn-shoe crab a portion of which had been eaten by the bird.

The expression "poor as a Crow" would not apply to this individual for its skin was lined with hard, sweet-like fat which in places was $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in thickness by actual measurement. The stomach contained a mass of the fur, bones, shells and tails of mice packed solidly together just as in the stomach of an Owl. Looney! - Are not some of the pellets which one finds in woods and fields and which are attributed to Hawks or Owls, really ejected by Crows? Excessively fat.
Eating mice

"9 Concord. - The speculation expressed in the last sentence receives some confirmation. On Apr. 6 I found a large nest in a pine. On the ground beneath were three pellets of mouse fur? of mouse fur and others under neighboring trees all quite fresh and one ^{of those} under the nest still wet. These pellets were unusually large and round. They contained no bones whatever but were made up wholly of fur of mice very clean and free from skin, feet, tails etc. in fact nearly pure felt. I supposed that an Owl had ejected them and that the nest belonged to an Owl. The former may be true but the latter certainly is not for to-day a Crow flew from the nest as I approached. Ejects pellets of mouse fur?

Corvus americanus

1891 Mass.

April 17 Belmont. - The movements of Crows possible in this Spring. Our local birds must have eggs now and surely the migrants have gone north long since yet this evening, about sunset, I saw 25 birds (counted) in one flock circling over the Spruce on the Payson place, carrying overfervently, and acting like a migratory band preparing to settle for the night. After much fuss and clamor they started off towards the W. in a straggling flock.

In flocks
late in
April

Fifteen minutes later I was stationed near the pine woods at the head of the Warren runs in Mattamora where I saw Crows go to roost in considerable numbers on the evening of March 30. To-night they were continually passing one it in two & threes, sometimes circling as if about to alight but in the end always keeping on to the southward.

1893

Jan'y 10 Cambridge. - A flock of about 50 feeding on privet berries feeding on covering the thicket as with a black fall. One being privet berries one they rose and circled in a dense body, then split up into small parties most of which flew off over the marshes toward Brighton. Those that remained scattered about alighting in oaks & apple trees. Unusual I got within less than thirty yards of one & over walked directly under the bird as he sat perched on a dead branch. One or more uttered Free-oad at frequent intervals a rolling cry almost exactly like notes like that of a Free Oad. Indeed had it been summer I should not have doubted that this sound was made by a Free Oad although it was a trifle louder & stronger

Corvus americanus

1891 Mass

May 12 Martha's Vineyard. - The Crows on the Vineyard are scarce and unusually wary owing, no doubt, to excessive persecution. Yet they are obliged to place their nests in exposed and easily accessible situations for perches are scarce and the only trees available in most places are deciduous oaks of small size.

Nests in
low, leafless
oaks.

We found two nests to-day in oak woods both in the forks of low trees one nest being scarce 12 ft above the ground & the other not over 15 ft. They were neat-looking structures composed outwardly of dead twigs of nearly uniform size and having that peculiar grayish bark common to all trees that grow near the sea. Beneath each nest was nearly or quite half as many twigs as had been used in its construction and which had evidently been dropped by the birds either accidentally or because they were of the wrong size or length.

There were no pellets beneath either nest and but one chalking (the Crow's excrement is fluid and chalky-white, I can discern no difference in its appearance from the excrement of a large Hawk or Owl).

Foxon climbed to one nest. It had a pair of eggs in the lining and contained four eggs which looked fresh but which we did not test. They were warm but we did not see the bird leave either nest although we saw the nests from a long distance. A Crow came in sight as we were under one of the nests but immediately turned and sailed off without uttering a sound. The oaks are leafless here at this date.

Corvus americanus.

1892. Mass.

Sept. I. Concord.- As ~~we were~~ skirting the eastern base of Holden's Hill Crows
a large, broad-winged bird started from an oak and flew out over mobbing
the meadow. I did not see it at first but C. who did, thought an Owl.
that it was an Owl. The question was quickly settled in the
affirmative by the Crows who the next moment began cawing franti-
cally and collecting from far and near to assail their hated
enemy. Judging by the sound (for we could see nothing through
the dense foliage) the chase led first out over the Great Meadows
and then turned back. Finally it became evident that the Owl
had alighted in one of the trees at the southern base of the
hill. I advanced slowly and with great caution and presently
saw at least thirty Crows in the top of a tall chestnut. Some
were sitting quietly on the branches, others hopped or flitted
excitedly from branch to branch, while still others circled above
the top of the tree occasionally dashing madly down through the
foliage. Their cawing at times was almost deafening while at
others they would relapse into nearly or quite perfect silence.
The clamor usually started abruptly, (probably at some movement
on the part of the Owl) lasted half a minute or more and then
gradually lessened. At its height it formed a perfect roar of
angry sounds which had little of the usual Crow quality remind-
ing me by turns of the hoarse barking of many large dogs or of
the shouting of men. At a distance it was strikingly like the
roaring sound of escaping steam. Although I scanned the trees

Corvus americanus.

1892. Mass.

Sept. 1. Concord.- carefully with my glass I did not see the Owl until Crows at length he flew from among the densest foliage in the very top. mobbing Instantly the Crows followed-every one of them-silently for a an Owl. second or two, then every throat poured forth cries of rage and abuse. Doubtless every expletive known to the Corvine vocabulary was hurled after the big Bubo as he flapped off through the trees. He did not go far this time-only to the crest of the ridge in fact where I left him and his sable tormentors to their own devices.

Sept. 26. Concord.- About 40 Crows were mobbing an Owl, doubtless a Bubo, in the chestnut trees at Holden's Hill.

Oct. 6. Concord.- Wright showed me in some Baldwin apples which had been Crows attacked by Crows he said. Each apple had a hole an inch or pecking more in diameter pecked in the side to the core. In many cases apples. the hole extended through to the other side. The core with its seeds seemed to have been removed in every instance. Wright thought that more than half the apples in one tree had been thus treated. He has seen large number of Crows in the tree for several days lately. He has never known or heard of Crows attacking apples before. These are still green or hard and unripe.

I saw one flock of 29 Crows this morning flying S.W. low down

Corvus americanus.

1892. Mass.

Oct. 6. Concord.- and probably migrating. The number of scattered birds was about as usual.

Oct. 8. Concord.- Holden's meadow was alive with Crows walking about Crows. feeding. I counted fifty. They reminded me of the Rooks in England. Every little while a few would rise and start off southward cawing loudly as if calling on the others to follow but all such attempts failed to start the main host to which these adventurous pioneers invariably returned. One of them however succeeded at length in raising great excitement by discovering an Owl (doubtless the same Bubo which I have seen there before this autumn) in Holden's woods and shouting the news in Crow language to the feeding birds, "An Owl, an Owl, Wake up you sleepy, murderous, yellow-eyed villain, you mule eared knave, come on, friends, and help me drive the thief from his stronghold. Let us pluck out his cat ears and gouge out his big eyes and pummel and peck him to death." All this and much more to the same purpose, if I understood the Crow rightly. He did not call in vain for in a twinkling the sable horde left their repast and came trooping to the woods where they clustered all over the tops of the trees and shouted and cawed and swore as long as I was in hearing.

Oct. 12. Concord.- At about 11 A.M. as we were passing Dakin's Hill an enormous flock of Crows rose from Holden's meadow and circled

Immense
flock of
Crows 19

Corvus americanus.

1892. Mass.

Oct. 12. Concord. - about for several minutes finally returning to the Immense woods and meadow and separating into smaller flocks. I counted flock them roughly (or rather tried to) and made out their number to be of upwards of 200 birds, an unusually "large flock. The movement Crows. just mentioned was doubtless a "false start" for about an hour later the whole body mounted to a height of at least a thousand feet and went off due south. Their order of flight was not loose and straggling as is usually the case during migration but in a compact flock each individual of which had no more horizontal space than was required for the free use of his wings.

There was a good deal of cawing in fact it was incessant-but the combined clamor was less than one would expect from so many birds. It came to my ears with perfect distinctness when the flock had passed beyond my vision although no obstacles intervened and the air was free from haze. When the birds were rising and circling over me I heard the cr-r-r-r and cluck-cluck-cluck-cluck calls frequently (this rendering was noted on the spot).

I do not remember to have seen Crows migrate in this way before. They usually fly in windy weather low down, and in loose, scattered flocks. The size of this flock was also remarkable.

Massachusetts.

Corvus americanus

1892.

- May 23 Lowcock. A crow which daily resorts to Holden's meadow to feed has a voice strikingly like a Raven's. Indeed it reproduces the cruck-cr-r-r-uck of this bird so perfectly that I doubt if any one could detect the difference, if difference there be.
- July 1 I reach Dakin's Hill and hear young crows cawing in feeble, flat tones among the pitch pines.
- Oct. 17 Fully 100 crows were assembled among the pines on Ball's Hill this afternoon but I did not see them start on the way southward although they were all gone a short time afterwards.
- Oct 22 An immense flock of crows passed over the Parker Lot at 8.30 A.M. flying S.W. in a long straggling flock and just above the tree tops. I counted 210 and missed a great many that passed behind some of the trees.

Corvus americanus (W. I.)

Crows migrating

Cambridge
Mass
March 14, 1893

Twenty or thirty Crows were ranged along the edge of a ditch in the salt marsh but I have seen quite as many there before, the past winter. Garson, however, thinks that a number which he observed flying high over Arlington, towards the N., early this morning were migrating

Cambridge, Mass.

1893.

March 17

(9 & 2)

Two Crows, apparently mated birds, were making a great outcry among the hemlocks on the point. They seemed both to have the floor and circled around me, cawing vociferously, as I advanced. I suspect they were sitting on a nesting site in one of these old trees. One of them uttered the klee. klee. klee cry over.

Crows

Cambridge, Mass.

March 18-1893.

At least a dozen Crows were collected in the Hemlock Grove. I started one pair from the same tree when I saw a pair yesterday. The others were, I think, migrants resting between the stages of their journey northward. These birds were so tame as to allow me to walk directly under them as they sat among the upper branches of a great oak but when I leveled my glass at them they flew.

Crows

Concord, Mass.

April 2 1893.

Crows appear to be quite as numerous here as usual despite the hard winter and reports of serious mortality among the birds in winter in the Middle States. I have seen no migrants passing north this past three days.

Crows

Cosmus americanus (no. 2.)

Concord, Mass.
April, 20. 1893.

Apr. 20

When in a tree or standing on the ground & ...
usually, if not always, as ...
the ... by bending forward, stretching out the neck
to its full length, and jerking the head forward and
down with the ... the bill being opened very wide
at the moment the ... I have
not observed anything of this kind when the ...
is given during flight.

Corvus americanus.

Cambridge, Mass.

1893. This thicket (by the old Coolidge lane), when I first
Jan.10. sighted it this morning, was simply black with Crows feasting
on the abundant privet berries. When they saw me and flew
others joined them from the fields beyond where there were
steaming manure heaps and full fifty of the big black birds
whirled and circled over the crest of the hill for a moment,
a fine sight. *** Most of the Crows just mentioned flew off
over the marshes at the first alarm but a few scattered among
the trees and evaded me by short flights. They were sur-
prisingly tame and twice I got within less than thirty yards
of one, once walking directly under the bird as he sat perched
on a dead branch. One or more of them repeated, at frequent
intervals, a rolling cry almost exactly like that of the Tree
Toad. Indeed had it been summer I should not have doubted
that the sound was made by a Tree Toad although it was a lit-
tle louder and stronger.

Corvus americanus.

Concord, Mass.

1893. Yesterday I saw a flock of Crows, which I estimated to
Aug.11. contain about thirty birds, at Ball's Hill. They were there
again to-day and I counted them accurately; there were thirty-
eight. They were feeding on the recently cut meadow most of
the time. When flying they kept well bunched. They acted on
the whole like migrants from the north.

Corvus americanus

1894.

Mass.

July 18

Cambridge. Three Crows hung about our place all day. I heard them cawing very near the house and saw them alight in the lindens. In the afternoon there was a sudden outcry of Robins among the lindens. I was busy with some friends at the time so sent the gardener to find out the cause of the trouble. While he was gone we heard almost incessantly the shrill squeaking of a young Robin and the excited and indignant protests of its parents. We had all come to the conclusion that a cat had caught a young Robin when Michael returned and assured us that a Crow was the marauder. He found it on the lawn directly in front of the house pecking at a young Robin which it took in its bill and carried up into one of the lindens when he ran to the spot. Later in the afternoon he found under these trees and brought to what must have been another member of this brood of Robins. He said that he saw it fall from a considerable height in the tree & strike the ground so forcibly that it was at first completely stunned. It was barely half grown, but ~~thoroughly~~ ^{thoroughly} feathered, and wholly unable to fly. ~~It~~ Of course it may have been dropped & abandoned by the Crow but Michael saw nothing of the latter at the time, and the Robin not only bore no external marks of injury but after it had recovered from its fall it seemed to be in good health & spirits.

A Crow
catches &
kicks off a
young Robin

Aug. 11

At about 10 a.m. I found at least 20 Crows mobbing an immature Buteo lineatus in an oak on the western side of Mt. Auburn. They kept hopping from branch to branch around & about him often approaching within a yard of him and occasionally pecking at him from above all the while making a tremendous clamor. The Hawk acted as if he were a good deal afraid of them crouching & cowering on his perch but over his "beak" & "throat" with half closed bill at a particularly bold crow.

Mobbing a
Buteo lin.

Corvus americanus.

Concord, Mass.

1894. The bulk of the migrating Crows passed south this year
Oct.11 between the 14th and 27th of October during which period I
to
Nov.21. saw some very large flocks at Ball's Hill, their favorite re-
sort while pausing to rest and feed before pushing on their
journey. After the 27th this region was apparently frequented
by only the local birds which will pass the winter there.

Corvus americanus.

Concord, Mass.

Very tame.

1896. On the way down river this morning I saw a large flock
Oct.27. of singularly tame Crows. There were upwards of a hundred of
 them perched in the trees on both banks between Barrett's Bar
 and Hunt's Pond. They scarcely seemed to notice me and I
 paddled past or under scores of them within thirty feet or
 less. Others flying across the river passed directly over me
 within a few yards. Not one, so far as could make out, either
 left its perch or changed its course because of my presence
 but several birds cawed at me derisively. Evidently these
 were northern birds fresh from some region where Crows are
 not much molested by man. Some of them clucked and once I
 heard the "gobble".

Corvus americanus

1896 Mass.

Nov. 30 Cambridge. . . A few days ago I put out a large piece of beef fat for the Chickadees trying it to the branch of a pear tree within about 12 ft. of the window of my study in the museum. This room two crows were seen tearing away at the fat. They flew away carrying just as I stepped out of the door. Being & nesting in the heart of Cambridge

Scient. Robinson tells me that a pair nested last Spring in a tall Norway Spruce in front of his house in Hubbard Park & Oliver A. Gutteridge took a lot of eggs in the Fresh Pond hemlocks. There can be no doubt that they breed very close still in Norton's woods & in the pines on the Bowdell place (Blumwood).

April 9 Cambridge. . . Mr. C. W. Minot of the Gypsy Note Commission tells me that on this date G. W. Mc. Kee, one of the workmen under his charge, found a Crow's nest with four eggs in Mt. Auburn Cemetery. The nest was about 60 ft. up in a red oak & "was composed of small twigs lined with bark of red cedar & a fish line woven in with the bark". This is a very early date. An early nest in Mt. Auburn

.. 14 Concord. . . Saw a Crow turn a back somersault twice while flying over a field. Another Crow was chasing it at the time, in play, apparently. Turns a back somersault.

1897 New Hampshire

March 10 Lancaster. . . "Our first migrant, the Crow, put in an appearance this morning" (F. B. Spaulding, letter March 10, 1897).

1896 Mass.

Oct. 22 Concord. . . Saw a flock of fully a hundred birds feeding on the Great Meadows.

.. 25 Concord. . . A flock of fully 150 appeared over Great Meadows circling & cawing vociferously.

Corvus americanus.

Concord, Mass.

Lake Umbagog, Maine.

1897. During the latter half of the month the Crows in the re-
April. gion about Ball's Hill have been exceedingly loquacious, mak-
ing all the various sounds which I have heard from them in
former years and in addition a peculiar succession of low
whining and mewling cries which are quite new to me. At times
these cries resembled those of young kittens, at others of
children talking and laughing in low tones. I have heard them
very many times and in different places, always when the two
birds were together, once when a pair were engaged in copula-
tion (April 30th) in the top of a low pine on Davis's Hill.
Apparently, therefore, they are love notes. They are often
followed by a succession of husky caws.

Crows ^{Friday} ~~americanus~~
Robbing Robin's nest
Elmwood,
Cambridge.

My dear Mr Brewster

Tell me, if you
can spare the time, advise
me what to do about crows.
Thinking that these birds had
one standard, I made no
objection when they began to build
when they had near built here,
in a pine behind the house.

I noticed soon after, that for the
first time since I can remember,
no hawk birds came near the place.
but I was not sure the crows were
to blame until yesterday.

Then, in the course of an hour
I saw one of them fiddle up there

young ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~the~~ ^{the} nest ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~white~~ ^{white} ~~object~~ ^{object}
in his mind was something which
the frog squawks had stored up
for now - not after a second trip.
I made out that it was some
young animal - the nest was in
an old place, not a robin's nest,
a hole in one of our igloos -
about thirty feet from the ground.

I sent my man with a ladder
to investigate and he reported
the young bird still in the nest.
So I determined to try and save
it - My son sat in the Siagga
with a loaded air gun, and
whenever the crows came back
he, which they did several
times, he frightened them away
- at last he came in to say

that he thought them thoroughly
frightened - then suddenly he
looked out of the window
and saw them circling about
the tree. They had him watching
for him to leave! Just as he
reached the Siagga and got
his gun, he saw the rillain
lying away with the last of
the poor little things -
Now I wish to know whether
it is too late to do anything
or whether I had better try to
save the crows nest des rillain
and the birds that, if possible -
I am so afraid of shooting
at them will alarm the other
birds - Will you tell me what
you think?.

My daughter saw a Thrasher here
 the other day, but so no I have
 not been able to get it. And have
 seen little of the birds -
 One Curlew thing about yesterday
 traps me, that the botius
 made no noise - or saw them
 going to the nest between the
 hills of the corn, carrying
 worms in their mouths, but they
 never made a sound - This
 experience rather indicates the
 gray squirrels of whom I was
 dexter - no had they run as
 safe from to birds as some have
 thought, those botius could not
 have reached their insect at the
 nest being directly in line of the
 squirrel's roads -

Yours always cordially
 Make L. Burnett

More Thrush, I see
 all many new
 birds - though some
 are in so ordinary
 as they are taken
 seen
 I'm cordially
 Make L. Burnett

Cornus americana Tuesday

Elmwood,
 Cambridge.

Dear Brewster
 Thank you very
 much for your letter, I don't
 know how I could have the
 youngest of my birds
 feeding on the wretches, if
 like me, you had watched
 their peculiar proceedings for
 several days. After I wrote
 to you in the last matter,
 so that I could not, but
 but I should have seen
 the wretches for some time
 time without seeing a corn, with
 the legs of some poor victim
 dangling from his hat -

Yesterday we had the capacity to close to the rest with prairie en-
light in the blue which our Camp
my piazza, the white trees
m. late it, and then under
my. my eyes he proceeded to
lean as some birds to it -
This morning they were out
marauding, soon after three,
making the place ring with
their clamor, and entirely
besieging the other birds - but
at ten o'clock my son Francis
having secured some iron,
climbed the tower, and five
crows which might have been
mile near it -

While he was being up, the
parent birds, and two friends
of theirs, for in their ^{company}
seen two birds about ^{together} circled

but, as he reached the top, they
flew off - and in about five minutes
the air was thick with them -
I don't think you need fear their
extermination, for, by a capture
Cunt, made several times, in
law direction of them, collected
in a five minute alarm -
The very instant he tore out the
nest and threw it down, they
dispersed as quickly as they
came, and for half an hour nothing
of any of them since - though
a distant 'caw' shows that
they are in the neighborhood -
My job, wishing to cheer me,
suggested that some of the
return might be English
sparrows, but I don't think
there is much chance of that

- that cavity bird does not often
build in places nor crows would
care to trust themselves -

I don't expect that I let them
- the crows) build - for there have
never been so few birds here, as
this year. I don't as yet see
no signs of them - although I have
heard of them some of the people.

I am glad to say that my
Suberin robin, whose singing
I used to hear two years ago, is
still here - he sings as if he
has been trained by a bird-net.

My vireos were a couple of days
late, and show no signs of
building in my tree as yet, but
it is too early yet to give up
hope - I do think there are four
sparrows this year, they certainly
have not worked as much as
building - I hope to spend the
Summer a Colocoma

Corvus americanus

1896. Penobscot Bay, Maine.

Deer Island. June 20⁵ 21² 22² 23² 26⁴ 27² 28⁴

July 1^{heard} 2^{do.} 3^{do.} 4^{do.} 5^{do.} 6^{do} 7^{do.} 9. 10. [11²⁰ (between Starbuck's neck & head of Island)] 13^{large flock going to roost in dense woods.}

(Starbuck's neck)

- Damphing Island. June 22. Pair of old birds with 4 young on wing.
Saddleback ledge " " One old bird, mobbed badly by Terns.
Grog Island " 23. Pair of old birds with 2 young on wing, 1 piebald.
Sheep " " " Two.
Mark " " " Pair of old birds with 3 young on wing.
Little Spoon " " 24. " " " " " 4 " " "
Black ledge " " 25. Three birds hunting for Gulls' eggs (no terns on this ledge)
Heron Island " " 27. Family of four or five in Gull roosting. Gulls paid no attention whatever to them pecked or flying!
Campbell " July 6. Family of old & young.
Isle au Haut " 8. At least twenty seen - in family parties - very noisy
Marshall Island " 9. Half-a-dozen or so.
Sedgwick " 15 } Less numerous than among the islands but
Brooksville " 16 } far more so than in Massachusetts or
 anywhere I have been in the interior of U. S.

July 6 The young Crows are getting strong on the wing. To-day I saw several families of old & young flying from island to island across channels a mile or more wide.

It is a common enough thing to hear the Crows here imitate the cr-r-r-ruck of the Raven but it is easy to detect the imposture for the Crow's voice is much less strong, deep & rough than that of the Raven. The Crows on these islands although they are offensively bold & defiant in bearing & very noisy. They follow us about & annoy us with their outrageous clatter. Shells of mussels, clams, crabs & sea urchins dropped by the Crows strew the ground throughout the woods & openings & on the bare ledges of all the islands in Penobscot Bay in places so thickly that one can scarce walk without stepping on them. The Crows here regularly break the stranger shells by taking them into the air & dropping them on rocks or ledges.

M. T. Johnson (July 11, 1896) June 16-22. Common (Isle H. K. J.)

Corvus americanus.

Concord, Mass.

1898. As I was returning from the Barrett farm shortly after
Oct. 21. noon I heard Crows cawing and looking up saw a flock of fully
five hundred nearly over Ball's Hill and at fully the eleva-
tion at which Wild Geese ordinarily fly when on migration. The
Crows were coming from the N.E. and were evidently looking
for a place to alight or rather, as I felt assured by their
behavior, were heading towards a place where at least some of
them had often halted to rest and feed in former migrations.
After circling a few times they descended to the fields beyond
Benson's and behind Holden's Hill, where I heard them cawing
every now and then during the remainder of the afternoon. This
is the first migratory flock that I have seen here this au-
tumn.

Nov. 1. The Crows that arrived yesterday from the north were here
through the forenoon - at least two hundred or more of them
were - flying about in detachments cawing noisily.

Cambridge, Mass.

March birds in the Garden.

1899. Seen every few days, flying overhead or perched in the
March. lindens, usually in pairs, never more than three or four to-
gether, very noisy after the middle of the month. I am satis-
fied that these birds are the same individuals which visited
our place in January and February and that they are also the
birds which breed in this neighborhood.

Crow roost at Dover, Mass

WELLESLEY COLLEGE,
WELLESLEY, MASS.

Mar. 10, 1899

Mr. William Brewster,
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Sir:-

You will doubtless be interested to know that a Crow Roost is located near the railroad station in Dover, a little to the north and west. It has been observed, as nearly as I can learn, during February and March at least, for several years, varying in position slightly at different times.

The crows are said to number 2500 or more; they gather or go to roost about 5 p.m. or a little earlier, and leave at daybreak, very many going to the eastward.

Very truly yours,

A. Morse.

Am not
at Don, Man.

Corvus americanus.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899. From one to four birds visited the garden every two or three days through the month alighting either in the apple trees or lindens. They have become so tame during the last two or three years that I am often able to walk or stand directly beneath them when they are perched in the tops or upper branches of the trees.

I also saw a few Crows about Fresh Pond during each of my visits this month and on several occasions they allowed me to drive past them within fifteen or twenty yards.

Corvus americanus.

1898 Mass.

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

July 2-4 Goulds (in or near), Berkshire Co. Common. [Journ.]
N.H.

July 5 Peterborough. Common but less numerous than in Eastern
Aug. 15 Massachusetts. Frequently seen in the roads, apparently feeding on horse manure. [Journ.]

1899 Mass.

April 19 Waltham. - Nest, 4 fresh eggs, found by O. A. Botheby.

Date of nesting

1900

January 21 Spruce. - Numerous on both marshes & sand dunes (C. W. Townsend)

1899. Mass.

April 6 Concord. - One in elm calling cr-ick or cro-ick at short, regular intervals. This note is new to me. It was somewhat like my Raven's crooning call.

Peculiar calls.

" 8 Bird making some sound in summer; also a sound very like that of a watchman's rattle would sound; also the kloc-kloc-kloc cry

May 24 Pat Flannery saw some Red-wings pursuing a Crow who, when hard pressed, dropped something (into the river) which Pat approaching found to be a young Red-wing only a day or two old.

Carries off a young Red-wing

1900

April 5 Cambridge. At 2 P. M. saw a Crow alight in the top of an apple tree in the garden and begin attempting to break off twigs from a dead branch. It would seize a twig in its bill and wrench & twist it with all its strength sometimes, flapping its wings to gain additional leverage. After working some time & obviating the case of the twig it seized a big, full of, rather small cones & flew off with them in the direction of Belmont.

Breaking dead twigs from a tree for nesting material.

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

56. *Corvus americanus* Aud. Crow.—Common.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, July, 1882, p. 149

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

45. *Corvus frugivorus*. Crow.—A common summer resident, sometimes wintering. I have observed that the Crows here find much of their food along the beach at low water.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct., 1882, p. 236

Records from Toronto. E. E. T. Seton.

COMMON CROW. *Corvus americanus*.—Three albinos of this species were observed in the country east of Toronto, about three years ago. One of these was secured and is now in the possession of Mr. C. A. Hirschfelder. It is pure white. No data.

Auk, 2, Oct., 1885, p. 334 - 335.

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

Nov 21, Crow.
Occasionally seen throughout the winter here.
O. & O. XI, Mar. 1886, p. 44

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

Crow, plentiful.

O. & O. XI, May, 1886, p. 73

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

Corvus americanus, American Crow. Not a rare bird along the whole coast, but does not remain to face the winter.

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

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

Crow (*Corvus frugivorus*). May 6, 7, 9, 13, 13,
26.

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

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

Corvus americanus. Crow.—Local.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p.117

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

34. *Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW.—Abundant, breeding on all the islands, and showing little fear of man. A set of four fresh eggs was taken on Grindstone, June 22, within fifteen yards of a barn.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p.147

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

29. *C. americanus*.

Corvus

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

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

488. Crow. Common. Breeds.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p.87

Notes—Birds of Grand Manan,
Chas. H. Andros.

Crow, *Corvus americanus*. We found this species fairly common for so limited an area, and not so confined to secluded districts as the preceding. Like their congeners of Massachusetts they seemed to prefer sharing this life's goods with the farmer from whom they do not hesitate to purloin. Two nests examined on the island of Nantucket were placed within a few yards of each other in low firs, about eight to ten feet up. One of these nests showed signs of previous visitors from the yolks and shells scattered promiscuously on the ground beneath. In composition they showed no variation from those of which I had "barked" forty foot oaks earlier in the season.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p.151

Some Winter Birds of Nova Scotia. By C. H. Morrell.

15. *Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW.—Common all winter.

Auk, XVI, July, 1890, p. 252.

A One-legged Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*).—On May 6 of last year, while out in the woods with a friend, he shot a crow out of a tall, slender spruce tree. When we picked it up, we were astonished to find one foot entirely missing, and it certainly was not a mutilation that had lately occurred, for the end of the stump of the tarsus was completely healed and well worn, as though it had always been in this condition. About an inch of the tarsus was there. It was a male bird, in good plumage and condition; the stomach was filled with food, mostly earth worms. We were afterwards told by a person living near by, that he had observed a crow the previous summer that had a very queer way of hopping about on the fields while feeding. — C. W. G. EIFRIG, *Ottawa, Ont.*

Auk, XXII, July, 1905, p. 312-313.

Notes on the birds of Cape Breton Island
by Charles W. Townsend, M.D.
Auk, XXIII, Apr., 1906, p. 175.

Corvus brachyrhynchos. AMERICAN CROW.—In 1881 Mr. Brewster¹ was impressed with the familiarity of the Crow with man in these regions, owing to the fact that, as no corn is planted, there is no cause for dispute. Along the roads, in farm yards and even in remote places at Cape Breton one may walk within a short distance of crows. At Grand Narrows I was interested in watching a crow on a fence within 20 yards of me pick a chicken bone. He held the bone with his foot during the process but flew off with it in his bill. It is common for crows to alight on buildings, and I once saw four together on the roof of a small outhouse at Ingonish. In eastern Massachusetts such familiarity would be very surprising. ¹ *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.*, Vol. XXI, 1883, p. 364.

Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region.
 Nipissing District, Ontario.
 by Frederick C. Habel. *Auk*, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 57

34. *Corvus brachyrhynchos*. AMERICAN CROW.— Abundant.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
 by James H. Fleming.
 Part II, Land Birds.
Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 78.

179. *Corvus brachyrhynchos*. AMERICAN CROW.— Abundant resident except in winter; they usually disappear in November and reappear early in February, a few only remaining through the winter. Breeds (April 16 to May 24).

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

59. *Corvus frugivorus*, (Common Crow). Nested in the small hardwood forests of the valley of the Carrbossett river. In autumn and late summer they assembled in immense flocks on the cleared fields, often keeping company with a flock of sheep for a whole day. None were observed in the interior of the evergreen forests.

O. & O. XI. Nov. 1886. p. 161

Fall Birds of Northern Maine.
F. H. Carpenter.

American Crow (*Corvus americanus*). A very few seen while in the woods.

O. & O. XII. Nov. 1887 p. 188

Summer Birds Tim Pond Me. by F. H. C.

Common Crow, (*Corvus frugivorus*). This species was "conspicuous by its absence" about the lakes, while in the clearings at Eustis I saw it in flocks.

O. & O. XI. Feb. 1886. p. 25

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

488. American Crow. Common. I obtained one abnormally small ♂, which I took at first to be *C. ossifragus*.

O. & O. IX. Nov. 1890. p. 162

Wintering

Brewer, Maine

"Last year Crows remained all winter; they left early this year and have not yet returned". Mr Hardy letter of March 3, 1887.

Corvus americanus

Corvus americanus. — Not common. Profile House, N. H. Aug. 1865.

Shelburne, N. H. Aug. 8-29-1865. R. D.

Corvus americanus. — ^{very} abundant; mainly confined to the woods.

Corvus americanus. — ^{large flock.} Aug. 24 Rye Beach, N. H. 1866.

Corvus americanus. — Aug. 23 Rye Beach, N. H. 1869.

Rye Beach, N. H. July 23-24 1885

26. *Corvus americanus*. — Common.

Winter Birds of Webster, N. H. by Falco.

Common Crow, (*Corvus frugivorus*).

O. & O. X. Jan. 1885. p. 14

Summer Birds of Presidential Range,
White Mts. A. P. Chadbourne

17. *Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW.—Not seen in 1884, except about the base, where it was common. Two were seen at an altitude of 2650 feet, on July 7, 1886, near which it is not improbable that they breed; but two others seen on the bare rocks at an altitude of 5350 feet had evidently flown up from below.

Auk, 4, April 1887. p. 104

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

24. *Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW.—Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 151

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

16. *Corvus americanus*. Abundant.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.154

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

20. *Corvus americanus*. Crow.—Abundant.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.150

Wint Conway, N.H. - J. Waldo Nash.

Three Crows have kept us company all winter,
but seem more like dark spectres, they have
been so silent, while last winter they were
noisy.

Oand O. XII. July, 1888. p. 105.

Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N.H.
July 21-Aug. 11, 1883. F.H. Allen

Corvus americanus.—Quite common.

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

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N.H.
July 12-Sept. 4, 1883. F.H. Allen

Corvus americanus.—Quite common.

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

Bird Notes, Central N.H. Winter '91-92
J. H. Johnson

Crows have strayed all winter.

O. & O. Vol. 17, May 1892 p. 72

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

! Crow, common.

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

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

2 new american

1894.

June 17th 16th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th
25th 26th 27th

then appeared to be
from the
part of the
the

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

1895.

2 new american

May

29th 30th 31st

June 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st

Winter Birds of Southwestern Vt. 1885:

Crow,
A. J. Johnson. Hyderville. Vt.

O. & O. X. Apr. 1885. p. 63

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

29. *Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW. Common.
by Arthur H. Howell. Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 342.

15. Corvus amer. Nov. 8⁸ - 10²⁰⁰ E. Mass. 1886.

Princeton & No. Rutland, Mass. June, 18-1886.

38. Corvus americanus Common

9. Corvus americanus, Nov. 11¹ - 13²⁰ - 17³⁰ Dec. 31³⁰⁰ E. Mass. 1884.

13. Corvus americanus - Jan. 1⁴ - 3³¹ - Feb. 5²⁰ Apr. 1²⁰⁰ 5¹ 6⁵⁰⁰ 10¹

E. Mass. 1885 Chadbourne

Jan. 1⁷ 3² 31⁴ Feb. 5²⁰ Apr. 1²⁰⁰ 5¹ 6⁵⁰⁰

June 16 - July 17¹⁰⁰ Sept. 30¹⁰ Oct. 2¹ Nov. 28⁵⁰⁰ 30¹⁰

Mass. (Middlesex Co.)

Corvus americanus

1885 Wintering numerously

Dec. 15 Flock of over 200 seen circling over Charles River (Cambridge) by Chadbourne. Winter very mild with no snow so far.

Corvus americanus Mass. - near Cambridge.

1886 Jan

" Feb. 9¹⁰ - 10¹

" March 5²⁰ - 6²⁰ - 28¹⁰ - 29¹

April 9¹ - 19¹

(April 17 nest 5 eggs)

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1887 March 21²⁰

April 6²⁰

Corvus americanus

Mass (Worcester)

1887

June 25¹ - 26²

Corvus americanus

1883

Corvus americanus

Cambridge

May 3 Set of 5 eggs taken by C. R. Bond from a nest in "the top of one of the tallest hemlock trees in Fresh Pond Grov."
seen back C. R. Bond.

Mass. (near Concord).

1887

April 7²⁰ - 12⁵⁵

May 8² - 9¹⁰ - 11⁴ - 21² - 23⁴ - 26⁴

June 2⁴ - 4⁶ - 6¹⁰ - 7¹⁰ - 16¹⁰ - 17¹⁵

July 10⁶

Aug. 1⁴ - 14³⁰

young out

Cornus americana.

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1887

t. migratoria

Oct. 4¹⁰ - 5¹⁰

Nov. 9⁸

Dec. 14³

1888

Feb. 13⁶ March 20⁵⁰ - 22⁵⁰⁺ - 24¹⁰ - 30¹⁰⁰⁰ (24 birds)

Apr. 5¹⁵ - 9¹⁰ - 12²⁰ Apr. 28² - 24² - 25¹⁰

Cornus americana.

Mass. (near Concord).

1888

APR 5¹⁰ - 9¹⁰ - 12¹⁵

Cornus americana.

1888

Cornus americana.

Wellesley, Mass.

May. 5. nest 4 eggs. 6 nest 5 eggs. 9. nest 5 eggs. 11. 4 eggs

S. W. Denton.

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1888

Oct. 23⁶ - 26¹⁰ - 27¹⁰ - 30¹⁵

Nov. 2⁸ - 8²⁰⁰ - 13⁶ - 15⁵⁰

Cornus americana

The Common Crow. See under Black-bird.

Bull. N.O.C. I, Sept, 1876. p. 54.

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

Corvus americanus (Aud.), American Crow.
Resident, common. Breeds.

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

Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.

12th - 18th - 15th - 16th - 18th - 18th

Great Id. Mass. Dec. 1888.

Corvus americanus 14th - 15th - 16th

Falmouth, Mass. 1889 Aug. 4th - 20th
12. *Corvus americanus*

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

28. *Corvus americanus*.

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

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

22. *Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW.—Common.

Auk, VI, Jan., 1889, p. 44

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire
Co. Mass. June 28-July 10. W. Faxon

21. *Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW.—Very common.*

Auk, VI, April, 1889. p. 100

* *Corvus corax* was recorded from Williamstown in 1877 by Professor Sanborn Tenney (Amer. Nat., XI, 243, 1877; cf. Brewster, Auk, I, 10, foot-note, 1884). Tradition points to a cliff on the eastern side of Ragged Mountain in Adams as an old breeding place of the Raven. This cliff is still known in the neighborhood as the 'Raven Rocks.'

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

Corvus americanus

West Townsend, Ashby, Mt. Watatic--- Common and generally distributed.

Corvus americanus

1895. Falmouth, Mass

July 20⁵ 21¹ 25⁵

Stoughton, Mass.

The Case of a Crow and a Ruffed Grouse.— On May 12, 1912, while automobiling through Stoughton, Mass., Mr. Charles A. Coolidge suddenly came upon a Crow flying slowly across the road with a heavy burden. In its efforts to escape, the Crow dropped its booty, which proved to be a dead Ruffed Grouse, still warm as in life.

My examination elicited the following facts: An adult female Ruffed Grouse, weighing one and a quarter pounds; abdomen entirely bare as in incubation; feathers back of right ear and below left eye stained with blood; eyes intact; many feathers on the right side of the neck and some on the left side, including the whole of the neck-tuft on that side, missing. An effusion of blood the size of a silver dollar in the muscles of the right breast, and a few small subcutaneous ones on both breasts; an irregular rent in the skin a quarter of an inch long behind the right ear, and much clotted blood there and around the exterior of the base of skull and neck; a slight tear in the skin below the left eye. The skull was not injured and the brain was intact. There were no signs of gun-shot injury.

The ovary was full of small eggs, none larger than a number six shot. The crop was stuffed with the young leaves and flower buds of the apple, and the stomach was filled with the semi-digested remains of the same. The bird was plump and in good condition, and showed no signs of disease.

The interpretation of these post-mortem findings and of the observed history is a matter for conjecture and the following theories are offered:

(1) That the Crow flying close to the ground in open woods perceived the incubating Grouse, who, trusting to her protective coloration, remained immobile on her nest, and received her death blow behind the right ear.

(2) That the Crow in attempting to steal the chicks of the Grouse was set upon by the irate mother with the disastrous results observed.

(3) That the Crow attacked the Grouse while busily engaged in budding the apple tree, and that the stunned bird fell to the ground where a few more blows finished it.

(4) That the Grouse was killed by a hawk, was abandoned and at once seized by the Crow.

(5) That the Grouse killed itself by flying against some obstacle, and that its dead body was at once taken by the Crow.

The fall of the Grouse to the ground before life was entirely extinct, which might have happened according to theory 3, 4 and 5 would account for the contusion and hemorrhage of the breast. This hemorrhage would not have occurred when the Crow dropped the dead body into the road. It hardly seems probable that a hawk would have abandoned such a rich booty, or that it would not have left marks of its talons. In the case of an obstacle one would expect to find hemorrhage over or under the front of the skull. By exclusion therefore, theory number 3 seems to be the most probable one.

In whatever way the tragedy occurred it is certainly surprising that a Crow should have succeeded in flying with such a heavy burden as a Ruffed Grouse, and on this account alone, if for no other, the case is worth putting on record.— CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M. D., Boston, Mass.

Arch. XXIX. Oct. 1912. p.

An Unusual Observation on the Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) at Lubec, Maine.— I have seen non-raptorial birds of various species attack other birds in self defense, or in defense of their nests and young, but today (December 31, 1913) while on a tour of the local places where birds are to be found in winter, I made an observation new to me, and while actually interesting and thrilling, it was exasperating and disappointing. While walking along a stretch of sandy beach with a companion we suddenly flushed a belated shore bird, without having time to bring our glasses to bear upon it; from the shape of its wing, mode of flight and general coloration we were quite sure that it was a Sanderling. The bird took a course directly ahead of us, and along the water's edge; so we followed hoping to positively identify it.

Three hundred yards in advance of us, sitting on the beach was a flock of about two hundred Crows quietly basking in the sun. As soon as our bird drew near them it swerved out over the water, when one of the Crows rose and flew directly at it.

The smaller bird dodged repeated attacks and was drawing ahead, when another Crow at the farther end of the flock, seeing the escape flew out to intercept it and turned the Sanderling (?) back, giving the first assailant an opportunity to swoop down and deliver a telling blow with its wing. The smaller bird fell, but recovered itself before touching the water. Then to avoid its two assailants it was obliged to fly towards the land and directly over the large flock of Crows, when about twenty of their number rose in a bunch and bore the unfortunate to the beach, all endeavoring to get at it at the same time. As soon as we discovered the little fellow's real danger, we ran and shouted, but they did not heed us until close upon them, when they flew off leaving nothing but a small piece of breast with feathers attached, the body being carried away.

We followed them up from one place of alighting to another hoping to find a wing or some part of the body but without success.— CLARENCE H. CLARK, *Lubec, Maine.* *Auk*. xxxi. Apr. 1914. p. 248, 249.

Crows Destroying Quail.— According to my observation during the last twenty years, crows destroy tremendous numbers of the eggs and nestlings of our useful song birds. In fact, in my opinion, this destruction more than offsets what good they do in destroying injurious insects or vermin. I had never, however, until this past winter heard of Crows destroying Quail (*Colinus virginianus virginianus*), except when young, but a neighbor living near my place at Flowerfield, Suffolk County, Long Island, has reported that late last winter when there was a considerable fall of snow which covered the ground for ten days or two weeks, a flock of thirteen quail which wintered on his premises were all killed by crows. He frequently saw a considerable number of Crows following the bevy of quail, harassing them and tiring them out, and finally killing and eating them.— JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, *Floral Park, N. Y.*

Auk xxxiii. Oct. 1916. p. 435.

Connecticut, June, 1893,

Corvus americanus

June 3^o - 4^o Fairfield
" 5^o 6^o 7^o 8^o 9^o 10^o 11^o } Saybrook
12^o 13^o 14^o 15^o 16^o 17^o }
18^o 19^o 20^o
21^o June Vernon
23^o 24^o 25^o Andover

Crows were nowhere as numerous in Conn. as they are in Mass., probably because of the practically total absence of coniferous woods. There is a bounty on them in Saybrook which may also have had some effect. But few as they are comparatively there are enough to harass the breeding birds on the Lyme & Saybrook marshes almost beyond endurance. They were constantly to be seen on their warbling hunting for nests of Red-wings & Sea-side Finches & fully half the nests that we found of both these species had been riddled as Clark asserted & as seemed highly probable by the crows. They remove the eggs bodily some leaving the shells & usually pull the nest out of its hollow also. Every Crow that crossed the marshes was followed by a escort of enraged Red-wings who pecked at his head most spitefully.

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

50. *Corvus americanus*. CROW. — Seen occasionally.

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

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

86. *Corvus frugivorus*, *Bartram*. COMMON CROW. — Common summer resident, remaining, in spots, during some of the mild winters.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Oct. 1881, p. 231

NOTE FROM CANANDAIGUA, N. Y. We had very deep snow and intense cold weather throughout the month of January, still the Common Crows were more abundant than I have ever known them to be in previous Winters.

John M. Horsey

O. + O. 1X. Mar. 1884. p. 36.

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

During the past winter Crows have been abundant, and I have noticed that when they were seen, passing southward in flocks, we almost invariably had a storm from the direction they were leaving. Can their movements be utilized as a warning of approaching storms?

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

Proc. Linnæan Soc. of N. Y. 88-89

*On the former abundance of certain
Species on New York Id. (1820-1860)
Lawrence.*

On favorable days in October there would be large flights of Crows (*Corvus americanus*) winging their way south to a more congenial climate.

Auk 2, Apr. 1889 p. 202

*Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the
Northern Adirondacks [Axtun], New York [1901].
April 16. Occurring during the whole season.*

Crow. Tolerably common.

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.

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

Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

The Crow: See under *Black-bird*.

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 22

Albinistic Plumages. R. Deane.

Among some interesting specimens, I may mention a young Crow, pure white when taken from the nest.

Bull. N. O. C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 26

ALBINO CROW.—J. M. W. reports seeing an Albino Crow at Norwich, Ct. with brown or drab body and both wings white. O. & O. VII. Dec. 1882. p. 181

A White Crow (*Corvus frugivorus*).—I have to thank M. Dionne for generously granting me permission to announce the addition of an albino Crow to the Museum of Laval University of which he is in charge. The specimen was taken near the city of Quebec.—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, St. John. N. B. Auk, 2, Jan., 1885. p. 107.

(Editors Note)

Another white crow has been taken the past season, near Lexington, Mass.

O. & O. 15. Nov. 1890. p. 176

Brief Notes.

I also heard of an Albino Crow seen at Monson, Mass. C. K. Reed.

O. & O. Vol. 18, May. 1893 p. 78

Brief Notes

W. P. Coates while collecting at Sydney, C. B., Aug. 2, saw a crow with large white spots on each wing, covering most of the primaries.

O. & O. XIV. N v. 1839 p. 176

Notes on Some Birds taken near West Point, N. Y. ... E. A. Mearns.

6. *Corvus americanus*, Audubon. COMMON CROW.—There is a peculiarity of the plumage of the Crow, which I have noticed in a number of specimens shot during the breeding season, in May. All specimens shot at this season do not exhibit this peculiarity, and some show it in a more marked degree than others. These specimens are characterized by the entire absence of the violet gloss on the wings and tail, those parts being of a lustreless, purplish-brown color. Some specimens have the concealed bases of the feathers of a fine, violet-glossed black, and the residue of a rich bronze hue.

My attention was first attracted to this state of plumage by two birds which I shot in the very act of devouring the eggs of the Night Herons, in the herony on Constitution Island, in the Hudson River, on the 23d of May, 1877. These birds were extreme examples. This condition of plumage may not be limited to the breeding season, for I have a specimen shot in winter, which has one of the rectrices of a rich, purplish bronze-color; but I found this plumage prevailing in the greater number of specimens shot during the last week in May.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1878, p. 71.

A Few Bird Notes.

BY HENRY HALES, RIDGEWOOD, N. J.

While visiting a friend at Guilford, Conn., last winter, I called on Capt. O. N. Brooks, the veteran of Faulkner's Island Lighthouse, and an Ornithologist, who showed me a singularly colored Crow that was shot a few miles east of at place

I do think it can be called an albino, as it had not a particle of white, or even black in its plumage; the bill and legs were black. The color of its whole body was a rich drab, with pinkish purplish tinge, lighter on breast, the deepest shades on upper back and shoulders were slightly more slaty. There were two of these crows seen together in company with other crows all through the fall, but could not be approached within gunshot till hard weather set in when one was procured; the other was checked for a long time after, but could not be reached. O. & O. XIII. Apr. 1888 p. 56.

Auk, XV, April, 1898, p. 196.

*Remarkable Ornithological Occurrences
in Nova Scotia.*

AMERICAN CROW (*Corvus americanus*).—An albinistic Crow was killed near Halifax on October 6, 1896. Its general colour was brown, darker on the throat, cheeks and belly; scapulars and feathers of back margined obscurely with whitish; primaries mostly whitish; tertials white; tail-feathers light reddish brown margined with whitish on outer edge; legs, bill and iris, brown.

Harry Piers, Halifax, N.S.

MAR 24 1888

Corvus americanus

1888

Spring Call - Effort made while cawing <

March 24

A Crow cawing makes a decided effort at each utterance. The movement of the head & neck ^{first down then sharply up &} being suggestion of that accompanying purring. I also noticed that the wings are moved necessarily every few seconds the tips being twitched sometimes alternately sometimes both together.

On March 22 I heard the ker-huk-huk-huk call a number of times repeated.

Middlesex Co., Mass.Corvus americanus

1884.

May 21. A Crow perched on the top of a dead tree uttered a rolling croak closely similar to the cry of a tree toad (Hyla versicolor) or the call of Melanerpes erythrocephalus. It also occasionally cried out in softer tones cuck-cuck-cuck-cuck. I have heard both calls before, always in the Spring.

Putnam, Mass.

Mass. (Sprent)

Corvus americanus

1888

Spring call in Nov.

Nov. 15

One of a flock of Crows out on the salt marsh uttered twice the hur, hur-hur-hur note so often heard in early spring. The flock was apparently a migratory band as Crows were flying south all day. The weather was warm still & cloudy with heavy rain falling.

Brief Notes.

I would like to know what is supposed to be the earliest breeding date of the Crow in New England? I took a set of six on April 17th that had been set on four or five days.
A. M. Farmer.

O. & O Vol. 17, July, 1892 p. 110

Finds.

April 12, Crow, 5 eggs.

Carl Fritz-Henning.

Boone, Iowa.

O. & O. Vol. 18, June, 1893 p. 94

LATE NESTING OF THE CROW.—On September 10th, a Crow's nest was found here which contained three fresh eggs. Same nest was used in the spring, possibly by the same birds(?).

S. R. Ingersoll.

Ballston Spa, N.Y.

O. & O. XV. Apr. 1890 p. 56

On May 10 he took his first nest of the season, the domicile of that much maligned and wily bird the Common Crow, *Corvus frugivorus*, and had to climb some forty feet up a spruce tree for it. The structure was composed exteriorly of cedar twigs and lined with moss. It contained five fresh eggs.

St. Johns. N. B. M. Chamberlain
O. & O. VII. ^{April} 1882. p. 112.

COMMON CROW.—April 21, 1882, I took my largest set of seven eggs. Have taken several sets of six. O. & O. VII. Nov. 1882. p. 174

Large set of Eggs

Crow, 6;

A. H. Helme

O. & O. VIII. Oct. 1883. p. 74

Eight Eggs of the Crow in one Nest.

On May 13, 1888, while collecting in a swamp, I flushed a crow from a nest in a small cedar, and on climbing the tree was somewhat surprised to find eight eggs awaiting me. While preparing them for the cabinet, I found them to be in various stages of incubation, and the shells of some very thin. I look upon this set as rather an exception, never having found more than six eggs in a nest before. R.

O. & O. XIV. Apr. 1889 p. 55

The Provident Institution for Savings
in the Town of Boston.
35 Temple Place.

Mr Wm Brewster.

Dear Sir:-

Mr Fay Kendrick
of Bedford Mass showed me yesterday
an oological curiosity in the form of
4 pink prows eggs. The color is
something like *Catcus* wrens. The
identification is positive and he also
has the nest from which they were
procured. They are properly blown
with data, and I think that you may
know of some advanced collectors
who ^{would} like to know this fact, with a
view possibly of purchase or exchange

Yours Truly

Jas R. Mann
(Arlington Heights)

[Sept 10/94]

time and publish something in relation
to them, as I judge them to be a great
curiosity

Yours Truly

Jas R. Mann
36 Temple Place

es
h
red
'
t
ne

282. Common Crow. Common. Some of them stay with us the entire year but the majority migrate. They inhabit the dense woods and build about the first of May. The nest is placed on a horizontal limb, but generally in the crotch of a pine or spruce tree. I have found them as near the ground as fifteen or twenty feet. The eggs are usually four in number; their color is a light green covered with blotches and spots of different shades of brown. They vary greatly in size; a set of four in my collection measure 1 5-8 in. by 1 1-8 in., 1 3-4 in. by 1 1-8 in., 1 3-4 in. by 1 1-8 in., 1 5-8 in. by 1 1-8 in. The food of these birds consists of larvæ, small young birds and eggs. During the winter the pangs of hunger press them to the outskirts of the towns and villages.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 84

Corvus americanus
set of pink eggs.

in '94 and this year.
In both cases they took the nests very carefully and bound them with strings ^{while} in the top of the tree and lowered them to the ground. I really wish that you could make it convenient to see these two sets of eggs at some time and publish something in relation to them, as I judge them to be a great curiosity.

Yours Truly
Geo R. Mann
36 Temple Place

282. Common Crow. Common. Some of them stay with us the entire year but the majority migrate. They inhabit the dense woods and build about the first of May. The nest is placed on a horizontal limb, but generally in the crotch of a pine or spruce tree. I have found them as near the ground as fifteen or twenty feet. The eggs are usually four in number; their color is a light green covered with blotches and spots of different shades of brown. They vary greatly in size; a set of four in my collection measure 1 5-8 in. by 1 1-8 in., 1 3-4 in. by 1 1-8 in., 1 3-4 in. by 1 1-8 in., 1 5-8 in. by 1 1-8 in. The food of these birds consists of larvæ, small young birds and eggs. During the winter the pangs of hunger press them to the outskirts of the towns and villages.

O. & O. XV. July, 1890, p. 84

Corvus americanus
- 6 pink eggs

I saw yesterday ^[Boston July 13, 1896] the second set of pink crows eggs taken at Bedford this past season. Two gentlemen living in a farm house have a collection of eggs. They found 1 set in '94 and this year they got another. In both cases they took the nests very carefully and bound them with strings ^{while} in the top of the tree and lowered them to the ground. I really wish that you could make it convenient to see these two sets of eggs at some time and publish something in relation to them, as I judge them to be a great curiosity.

Yours Truly
Jas R. Mann
36 Temple Place

Bedford

Dec. 5-1894

Mr. S. W. Denton

Dear Sir

Yours
of the third at hand and
will say in reply that I
have got a set of pink
crow's eggs and they are
a very odd looking set
the only way that I can
describe them is to say
that they look like the
Cactus Wren only larger of
course, I have got the nest
with them, in regard to

Mass. (Framingham)

Corvus americanus

1886

Early nesting.

Apr. 4

A Crow's nest with young was found
to-day (I vide F. C. Brown in letter to H. A. P.)

price I have not set a price on them yet Mr. Webster asked me if I would take \$25.00 for the set some time ago and I told him I would not they are some thing a man cant fix a price on very well but I am safe in saying that there are not any other set in the United States like them I would be pleased to show them to you if you are over this way. I dont think I would sell them less then thirty five dollars at

present for I have not advertised or tried to sell them yet but think if I did I would get customers enough for them hoping to hear from you soon I remain Respectfully yours
F. L. Kenrick
Bedford
Box 66. Mass.

Mass. (Framingham /

Corvus americanus

1886

Daily nesting.

Apr. 4

A Crow's nest with young was found to-day (vide F. C. Brown in letter to H. A. P.)

Corvus americanus.

Boston Aug 21st 1896

Mr Wm Brewster. Dear Sir.

Those young men in Bedford secured another set of pink crow Eggs this Spring which they will exchange.

I write you thinking that perhaps you know of some one to whom such rarities are desirable.

Yours Truly
J R Mann.

36 Temple Place
Boston

Waltham

1888

Behavior about nest.

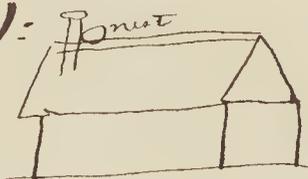
April 25

A pair of Crows betrayed the position of their nest by flying to and around me then back again to the tree while I was crossing a pasture 20 rods away. One or the other would frequently alight just above the nest and both cawed loud and long at frequent intervals. The nest was in the top of a tall slender pitch pine on the edge of an isolated grove crowing a high hill. Beneath it I found a composition metal clamp ~~for~~ such as is used for holding papers. Its glittering surface attracted my eye as I was examining the rather numerous sticks which the Crows had, as usual, dropped

Corvus americanus

(nest on roof of house)

On May 31, 1892
Mr. Geo. H. Mackay found
a Crow's nest, at
Nantuxet Island, built
on the top of a
house against a chimney
thus (sketch traced from
original):



This nest held four
eggs which Mr. Mackay
has just (July 25/93)
given me.

Curious Nest and Eggs of a Crow.

BY FRANK L. BURNS, BERWYN, PA.

On the afternoon of the 29th of May, 1887, while walking through the woods between Berwyn and Devon, and not far from a small sheet of water known as "Devon Lake," five or six crows flew directly over my head, making an incessant clatter. And soon, while approaching a thicket of green briars, saplings, etc., a female crow flew out and up. In a small beech tree, about twelve feet up, and far out on

a slender branch, I espied a frail looking nest, very much like that of a Cuckoo's, only larger. Climbing up, and carefully working my way out, with the aid of several higher limbs, I reached the nest. Three young—just hatched—and two eggs were the contents. The nest was nothing but a platform of twigs, no lining being visible. The eggs were of the usual size, of a light blue color, and spotless; in fact the same shade as those of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Under the tree I found six half-shells, which corresponded with those in the nest in size and color.

I believe this to be the second, possibly the third set of eggs deposited by this bird this season. The former nest, or nests, having probably been disturbed, and the eggs taken by some of our enterprising collectors.

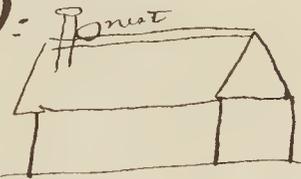
O. & O. XII, Oct. 1887 p. 75-76

while building. Had they not also brought this plastering clump and been trying to hide it in the nest dropped it also? A Tame Crow often secretes such objects.

I looked carefully for experiment under this nest but could find none. I did not climb the tree.

Corvus americanus
(nest on roof of house)

On May 31, 1892
Mr. Geo. H. Mackay found
a Crow's nest, at
Nantuxet Island, built
on the top of a
house against a chimney
thus (sketch traced from
original):



This nest held four
eggs which Mr. Mackay
has just (Feb. 25/93)
given me.

Curious Nest and Eggs of a Crow.

BY FRANK L. BURNS, BERWYN, PA.

On the afternoon of the 29th of May, 1887, while walking through the woods between Berwyn and Devon, and not far from a small sheet of water known as "Devon Lake," five or six crows flew directly over my head, making an incessant clatter. And soon, while approaching a thicket of green briars, saplings, etc., a female crow flew out and up. In a small beech tree, about twelve feet up, and far out on

a slender branch, I espied a frail looking nest, very much like that of a Cuckoo's, only larger. Climbing up, and carefully working my way out, with the aid of several higher limbs, I reached the nest. Three young—just hatched—and two eggs were the contents. The nest was nothing but a platform of twigs, no lining being visible. The eggs were of the usual size, of a light blue color, and spotless; in fact the same shade as those of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Under the tree I found six half-shells, which corresponded with those in the nest in size and color.

I believe this to be the second, possibly the third set of eggs deposited by this bird this season. The former nest, or nests, having probably been disturbed, and the eggs taken by some of our enterprising collectors.

O. & O. XII, Oct. 1887 p. 75-76

Corvus americanus breeding on
Beacon Hill
Yes, the Crow's nest was located
directly behind the Powerset-
Club house.

Sincerely,

March 10, 1905.

Horace W. Wright-

Corvus americanus breeding
on Beacon Hill
Boston
Colorado Springs.
Feb. 26 - 1905.

My dear Mr Wright,

I wish that I might
give you some useful information
with regard to our delightful
pair of Walnut Street Crows. They
are interesting neighbors, but
we never succeeded in growing
intimate with them! Their
home was in the large elm
on the dividing line between
the yard of No 6 Chestnut



THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY

Walter Deane
145 Brattle St.,
Cambridge
Mass.

St. and the ^{stable} barnyard of
Mr Arthur Lyman on Beacon
St. ^{no. 39} I suppose the tree is
still standing & it is possible
that you might be able to
see the nest from Mr Lyman's
barn (entrance through a
small alley on Walnut St.)
though by this time it may
have been destroyed. We
were much amused by the
presence of the crows in the
neighborhood, and by their
hasty "caws", but our own

early flight in the spring prevented
our seeing or studying the young.
& am sorry not to know more about
them.

When you exhaust the birds
of New England, we can offer you
news and delightful words to engage
in Colorado! It is a great "bird" state!

With kind remembrances to

your sisters, very sincerely yours

Margaret F. Meyer -

Corvus americanus breeding on Beacon Hill
82 Myrtle Street, Boston

March 3, 1905--

Dear Mr. Brewster:

I have the enclosed
from Mrs. Hayes to-day--

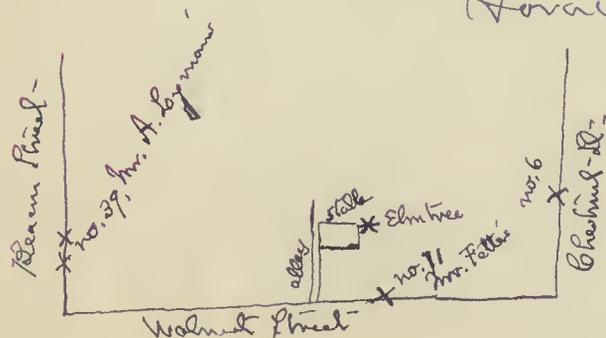
Mrs. Hayes is daughter of the
late Mr. Fette, who lived at no. 11
Walnut Street, having direct outlook
^{in the rear}
upon the Elm-tree mentioned.

I can see no trace of the
nest now, but we have the location
fairly established--

The season was May, 1900--

Very sincerely,

Horace W. Wright--



Ipswich, Mass.

Corvus americanus

1885-

April 1

There were hundreds of Crows to-day along the banks of Ipswich River, about the beaches at its mouth, and over the neighboring marshes. Many were also constantly in flight winging their way northward along the coast or over the sea. Those feeding along the river were surprisingly tame; we crossed within good gun-shot of dozens and several permitted our boat to approach within less than twenty yards. They were feeding both on the mud flats and on large cakes of floating ice. It was most interesting to watch them as they

Point Lepreau, N. B.

Corvus Americanus

1885

Aug. 21

The crows here are nearly as tame as they were in the Gulf in 1881. I find no difficulty in walking up within easy gun-shot of them, and today a family party of six or seven, discovering me seated in an opening, actually began diving down at me, coming within a few feet of my head. Finally they all alighted about me on the tops of some dead stumps, the majority sitting within fifteen yards, and several even nearer. They occupy much of their time here in mobbing the Ravens, making a great clamor over them.

Placed (about) about apparently
not noticing us in the East. When
they were it was often to keep only
a few yards further on before
alighting again. I have never
seen Crows nearly as tame in this
region before. Probably they were all
northern - banded birds.

Point Lepreau, N. B.

Corvus Americanus

1885

Aug. 31

The crows here are nearly as tame as they were in the
Gulf in 1881. I find no difficulty in walking up within
easy gunshot of them, and today a family party of six
or seven, discovering me, seated in an opening, actually
began diving down at me, coming within a few feet of
my head. Finally they all alighted about me on the
tops of some dead stumps, the majority sitting within
fifteen yards, and several even nearer. They occupy
much of their time here in mobbing the Ravens,
making a great clamor over them.

Mass (Ipswich)

Corvus americanus

1885

Nov. 28.

Crows were very numerous at Ipswich to-day. From the town to the mouth of the river they were simply everywhere; on pastures, hillsides, ploughed land, salt marshes, but especially along the edge of the river near its mouth both on the marshes and on sand-bars and beaches. They were very tame and I might easily have shot several sitting. Indeed few took flight before we got within fifty yards.

At sunset, for half an hour or more, the air, in every direction, was filled with

Mass. (Ipswich)

MAR 30 1888

Corvus americanus

1888

Heavy Spring migration

March 30

At Ipswich saw at least 1000 Crows during the day. All were migrating but in the usually desultory manner stopping frequently to feed by the way. The flocks varied in size from 10 to 200 birds each. They flew in scattered order and low down when over the land barely clearing the crests of the sand dunes. When over the sea they rose to a height of two or three hundred feet. They alighted chiefly on the marshes & along the banks of the river & on the

Crows flying northward. Not one
out of hundreds seen was
headed in any other direction.

I suspect that these numerous
and unusually tame Crows at
Spawick come from the maritime
portions of the British Provinces.

much flatter. Short
feet. Their stomach held
berries (by Longbury I think) &
small insects. As usual they
were very tame. They
were also very silent for Crows.

CROWS AND JAYS.—J. M. W., while out in the woods at Norwich, Ct. saw two crows eating a nest of Jays' eggs. Dog eat dog.
O. & O. VII. Dec. 1882. p. 181

Notes from Norwich, Conn.

A tame crow died in this city lately which deserves an obituary of a word for its linguistic power. When called home from a neighbor's yard, it would say "I won't!" When told not to run away, it would answer, "I will!" More distinctly than most Parrots and Cockatoos, I have heard it repeat twelve or thirteen words, though its vocabulary was said to be much larger.

O. & O. X. May. 1885. p. 74 J. M. W.

Then we struck across an opening to the wood on the other side, and soon saw a Crow sitting hard on her nest in a tall chestnut. We rapped on the tree for her to get off but she did not respond, so I shot one barrel of my gun about a foot from the nest; but this did not seem to wake her up. My companion (who by the way was rather near-sighted) declared there was no bird on the nest, so to convince him I shot the other barrel into the nest and this moved her and as she flew my companion dropped her, but as the eggs are so common and the tree a hard one to climb we did not get the eggs.

*Bridgeport, Conn.
Abbott, O. & O. Vol. 17, May
1892. p. 68-69.*

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

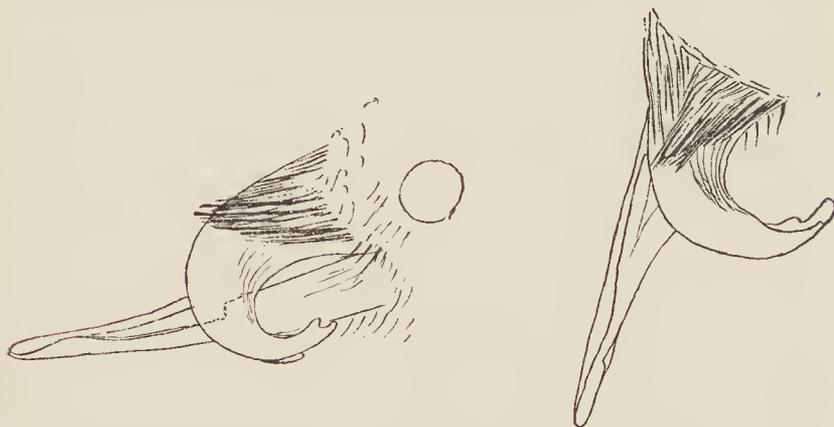
14. *Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW.—Four unlucky Crows some time in the spring before the Terns arrived, decided to take up their residence on Great Gull Island. By what motives they were actuated I do not know. It might have been that they came in search of food, or they might have been seeking solitude. If the first conjecture be true they must have gotten plenty of that that they sought; for the island was well stocked with the eggs and young of the Terns. If the last conjecture be true they were sadly disappointed, for no sooner had the Terns arrived than they fell on the Crows and persecuted them relentlessly until we put an end to their misery. Leave the island they could not, for did one attempt to rise a horde of Terns was at him almost before he had risen above the grass, and screaming, diving, and dashing at the unfortunate bird, would soon drive him back to the earth again, and then, as if not content with that, would continue to worry him long after he had settled down. The Crows were in a sorry plight indeed, for the Terns, not satisfied with worrying their victims at a distance, even went so far as to peck out the poor birds' feathers; and between the exuviae that the Terns had dropped upon them, and the light patches where the feathers had been picked out, the Crows presented a rather mottled appearance. From the upper mandible of one Crow a piece of the sheath and bone, half an inch long and an eighth deep, had been gouged out, undoubtedly by the lower mandible of a Tern. This incessant persecution had rendered the Crows so tame that we could always approach to within twenty-five feet of them before they would fly. And Chas. B. Field told me that on one occasion he caught one in his hand, the bird preferring rather to be caught by the man than to be chased by the Terns.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 129-130.

INTELLIGENCE OF A CROW. — A tame Crow (*Corvus americanus*) in my possession has repeatedly amused me by the novel method he adopts to rid himself of parasites. For this purpose he deliberately takes his stand upon an ant-mound, and permits the ants to crawl over him and carry away the troublesome vermin. The operation seems mutually agreeable to all parties, the ants quickly seizing upon the parasites and bearing them away. I have also noticed the same habit in another tame Crow that I formerly had in my possession. — ABBOTT M. FRAZAR.

Bull. N. O. C. I, Sept. 1876. p. 76.

Another Abnormal Bill.—The character of the malformed bill submitted by Mr. B. S. Bowdish in the last number of 'The Auk' seems a common type in abnormalities of that kind. I have in my possession the head of a Crow (*Corvus americanus*) afflicted with the same kind of malformation. In this case, however, the upper mandible is bent completely down and around so as to point over the bird's shoulder. The lower mandible is not so greatly elongated as in Mr. Bowdish's specimen, however, but the notches he speaks of where the mandibles cross



MALFORMED BILL OF CROW (*Corvus americanus*). Nat. size.

are very deep. There is no sign of injury to account for the peculiar growth.

It raises an interesting conjecture in regard to the winter and early spring food supply of these birds. It was killed early in March near Port Huron, Mich., 1901, and was evidently starving to death when the shot gun put it out of misery. Its plumage, however, was in good shape, not quite as glossy perhaps as some, but it was quite evident that the bird did not suffer from lack of food at the time of its last moult. What food it could have lived upon during the winter is a subject for speculation. It was an impossibility to pick up anything from the ground with such a bill, and whatever its diet was during the winter, it could not be found in the more northern ranges in early spring.—P. A. TAVERNER, Chicago, Ill.

Auk, XXI, Apr., 1904, p. 279.

Editor of O. & O.:

My Dear Sir:—In answer to D. D. Stone's question in the February O. & O. as to why do

Crows when pulling up corn almost invariably take the soft kernel, if they are only after cut-worms, etc., allow me to say that my article in September O. & O., 1888, was written from my own personal observations and experience. Though comparatively a young man, I am quite familiar with the food habits of our New England birds, and especially those of Crows, Hawks and Owls; and of the species under consideration I have collected quite a few, and always made it a rule to examine and note carefully the contents of their stomachs, and of nineteen specimens dissected during the spring of '87 and '88 I have not, in a single instance, found any traces of hard or soft kernels of corn, but on the contrary have almost always found the stomachs full of large white grubs, cut-worms, and other noxious insects which are injurious to the healthy growth of the corn plant. I have, on several occasions in my tramps afield while passing through a planted corn field, noticed the young plants laying around, where the crows had been at work, with the soft kernel still attached to the roots, yet I have observed Crows feeding in the dead of winter on corn which had been carelessly left standing in the field; but as to the above results I was led to believe that insects constitute the principal food of *Corvus* during the spring and summer months. If I am in error, of course I am perfectly willing to be corrected, and do not wish to be understood as taking any decided stand in the matter, and would be pleased to hear from others on the subject, but will say that, despite the desperate efforts of man to destroy these birds by the use of strychnine and gun powder, they seem to hold their own without any serious effect to the various crops; and I am yet to be convinced that Crows are more injurious than beneficial to agriculture, and remain

Respectfully,

Edward Tennant.

Attleboro Falls, Mass., March 17, 1889.

O. & O. Apr. 1889. Vol. XIV. p. 64.
 I have the soft kernel of corn for themselves, but I do know that they take it to their nests as food for their young. We have had more or less corn pulled every year and it is safe to say that the soft kernels are taken from nine hills out of every ten that are pulled. I have often seen crows working on a cornfield, and on going over the field have found scarcely any corn pulled, but have found the soil disturbed about the hill, where, undoubtedly, the crows had picked out a cut worm. I have a method of dealing with crows that I think is better than strychnine or the "shotgun act." It is this: If I have time in the spring I mark all the new crows' nests in close proximity to the field intended for corn. As late as possible, but before the eggs are hatched, I overturn the nests. By so doing the annual crop of crows is not shortened but given a setback. Before the second clutch of eggs is hatched the corn is large enough so that they will not pull it up but will take all the cut worms they can find, just the same. Most respectfully,

D. D. Stone.

O. & O. XIV. May 1889. p. 79.

CROW AND SNAKE.—While riding down through Occum, Conn., on May 26th last, we noticed a crow on a level garden bed killing a snake, which was not less than eighteen inches long. The snake seemed fully conscious of what was going on and tried to get away, but showed fight every time it was seized. It was interesting to see the crow bite him, lift him up and throw him to the ground, keeping one eye on us the while. This went on for some time, the snake getting weaker every bout. The crow evidently not liking the nearness of myself and carriage, seized the snake within a few inches of its head and flew with it into the large trees beyond the Wequonock River where we could not watch its further operations. The snake hung down its full length while being carried over the river. Crows are great scavengers especially while they have young

A Timely Word in Behalf of the Crow, *Corvus americanus*.

BY EDWARD TENNANT.

Early one morning in May last a friend of mine, a well-to-do farmer, called on me and said he wished to know some way to poison Crows. He said that they had bothered him considerably for the past three years and this season he wanted to be rid of them, and asked me if I could give him the desired information. I told him that I could, but did not feel as though I ought to, for the simple reason that crows were more useful birds than most people were aware of, and asked him in regard to the nature and extent of the damage done. He said that three years ago this spring he ploughed up an old piece of land about three acres in extent and planted it with corn, and as soon as the seed was up the Crows began to congregate and

some times there would be a hundred or more on the field scratching and pulling up the corn, and no amount of scare-crows would keep them off, so they bothered him all summer.

The next year they were not so plenty, as a near neighbor had poisoned a good many, but he said he had to plant a good deal of the corn over, though the damage done was trifling he didn't want the trouble of planting it over so many times, and for this reason he wanted to be rid of them.

I explained to him that it was not the corn the crows were after but the various small insects, larvae and coleoptera that invest the corn and potato fields in this section, and in order to get at them the Crows had found that pulling up the corn was the easiest and most effective way, and this piece of land in particular being old was full of the kind above mentioned, and of course the Crows found it out naturally and had worked on this till they had cleaned them all out as he said they had not bothered him any thus far, and after showing him some of the records of the examinations of the stomachs of these birds, he said that he was convinced that after all the Crows were not so destructive as he thought and he went home a wiser if not a better man.

O. & O. XIII, Sept. 1888 p. 135-136

Prehensile Feet of the Crow (*Corvus frugivorus*).—Apropos of what has lately been published regarding the power of the Crow to carry objects in its claws I will give my latest note on the subject.

I was attracted to a bunch of trees by a commotion among a troop of Robins, and discovered some six individuals fiercely attacking a Crow, a second black form being detected skulking some little distance away. Presently Crow number one flew off, followed by the entire mob of excited Red-breasts, when Crow number two made a dash into the trees, and emerged with an unfledged Robin grasped in his dexter claws; the youngster kicking and piping lustily. The cries brought back the guardians, who at once gave chase to the captor, and while they were off in one direction, Crow number one charged the nest from an opposite point, and retired with another of the brood firmly held in his claws.—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.* *Auk*, I, Jan., 1884. p. 92.

Do Crows carry objects in their Claws?—There is a habit assigned to Crows in Eastern Maine, which, if well authenticated, has an interest in the discussion of the question whether they can transport objects in their claws.

Near Eastport, Maine, there is known to me a considerable deposit of the broken tests and half-decomposed soft parts of our common New England sea-urchin (*S. drabachiensis*), far removed above the level of high water. This deposit is formed in the main of fragments of the solid tests of these echinoderms, which are said to have been carried there alive by Crows, which frequent the locality in great numbers. At a loss to account for the appearance of these fragments in this unusual locality, I made inquiries of several persons living in the neighborhood, all of whom declared that the sea-urchin remains were brought by the Crows from the shallow water not far off. One intelligent person, not a naturalist, said he had observed the Crows *transporting them in their claws*. Although I can add nothing to this testimony from personal observation, I am familiar with several other accumulations of these marine animals in localities above high tide, from which I have observed Crows to fly up when startled. I cannot tell whether the Crows at such times were feeding upon the sea-urchins or not, although several of the echinoderms still had their soft parts adhering to the "shells." Our sea-urchin is often left by a retreating tide in the pools where it could be easily seen and taken without difficulty by the Crows. In autumnal and winter gales multitudes are washed up on the beaches to the line of the highest reach of the tides.—J. WALTER FEWKES, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Auk, I, Jan., 1884. p. 92-93.

There have been but 20,092 crows killed in Maine during the past season, at an expense to the state of \$2095.30. The appropriation for the years of 1889 and 1890 is already exhausted. Two hundred and forty-one towns have made returns. Some of the leading towns are Harpswell, 434; Union, 430; Waldoboro, 367; Newport, 329.—(Damariscotta Herald, Feb. 6, 1890. O. & O. XV, Feb. 1890 p. 3/.)

CROWS FISHING. — *A propos* of some notes recently published by Mr. Chamberlain on the fish-eating propensities of the Crows of New Brunswick, Mr. Manly Hardy writes me that he has twice seen Crows fishing in the Penobscot River near Bangor. On one occasion several of them were flying about over the water occasionally dipping down like Swallows, and seizing some floating matter which he thought might be offal from vessels. At another time they were making frequent forays from a boom-pier, to which they returned after each flight. They often struck the water with sufficient force to violently agitate its surface but never actually dove.

Mr. Hardy also speaks of their eating sea-urchins and other shell-fish, a habit which, of course, has been already reported; and he has known them to devour a string of twenty good-sized trout which had been left in a spring under water, well concealed, as he supposed, by the overhanging alders. — WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Bull. N. O. C. 8, Jan, 1888, p. 59.

Dwight, Summer Birds of
Prince Edward Island.

Corvus americanus. AMERICAN CROW.—Nowhere, in the breeding season, have I ever seen Crows so abundant and so tame. They were never out of sight or hearing, and they sit on the fences and 'caw' at you derisively as you ride by. Of course their numbers were augmented by young birds, and early in July they were beginning to flock, as indicated by a gathering of nearly a hundred seen July 4. At Tignish there was a roost in a large patch of woods, whither towards sundown and later Crows were seen converging from all directions. In the woods a terrible noise was kept up until it grew dark. The Crows do not molest the farmer to any great extent, as he raises no corn, but I was told they kill young chickens and pick out the eyes of new-born lambs. They daily congregate for a feast in the fields where the refuse of the many lobster-canning establishments is used as a fertilizer.

Auk X, Jan, 1893. p.10

THE CROW'S FONDNESS FOR CHICKEN.—It is getting so now that the farmer and poultry raiser have more to fear from the ravages of the Crow than from all others of the feathered tribe. He will come down into the door-yard, right under the farmer's nose and fly off with a chick, and the old "scare-crow" of by-gone days has no effect upon his nibship when he is after his favorite morsel. Why is it that, until lately, we have heard nothing of this habit of the Crow? Is it something new of him? I for one have noticed it only for the past two years.—[S. R. Ingersoll, Ballston Spa, N.Y.]

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 96

Winter Notes from Stephentown, N. Y.
Benjamin Hoag.

February 10, while at Pontoosac Lake, near Pittsfield, Mass., on a fishing trip I noticed numbers of Crows sitting on the trees along the shore. Now and then one of them would swoop down near the holes where the lines were set, and pick up something. I soon found it was the dead minnows they were after. A resident of the locality told me that on the day before they stole two fine pickerel from one man.

O. & O. Vol. 18, Jan. 1893 p. 12

Birds and Their Relation to Agriculture,
J. A. Singley, Giddings, Texas.

No. 5. American Crow (*Corvus frugivorus*).
Adult female. Nov. 15, 1887, 10 a. m. Stomach
acorns and *Coleoptera*.

O. & O. XIII, Feb. 1888 p. 24

Birds and Their Relation to Agriculture.
J. A. Singley, Giddings, Texas.

No. 4. American Crow (*Corvus frugivorus*).
Adult male. March 2, 1887, 10 a. m. Shot by
my neighbor in his corn field; newly planted.
Stomach contained two grains of corn, and a
large number of cut worms.

O. & O. XIII, Feb. 1888 p. 24

The Crow (*Corvus frugivorus*) as a Fisherman.—I am courteously permitted by Mr. L. I. Flower of Clifton, N. B., to publish the following note of an interesting incident which came under his observation.

"A few years since, while crossing the Washademock Lake, I noticed a Crow flying close to the surface at a spot where the water is very shoal. Suddenly, when but a short distance from my boat, the Crow thrust his claw down into the water and drew to the surface what I afterward discovered was a fish of about half a pound weight, and then seizing it with his bill, by aid of 'tooth and nail' succeeded in drawing it out of the water and carrying it to an adjacent rock, the fish all the while struggling hard to get free."—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN. *St. John, N. B.*

Auk, I, Oct., 1884. p. 391.

Carnivorous Propensities of the Crow (*Corvus americanus*).—My neighbor, Mr. E. M. Davis, indulges in the luxury of live pets, and amongst them is a Crow, reared by hand from the nest and now perhaps three or four months old. He manifests the usual inquisitive and mischievous habits of the species in confinement, secreting various objects for which he can have no possible use, and worrying on all occasions both the cat and the dog of the premises, by picking at their toes, pulling their tails, etc. He seems to fear nothing but a small rubber hose used for sprinkling purposes, upon the first appearance of which, even before any water was thrown, he manifested the utmost fright, and fled to the house

Crows Eating Herons' Eggs.

About ten pairs of Night Herons (*Nycticorax grisea*), and three pair of Little Blue Herons, (*Ardea coerulea*), have nested for a few years within the corporate limits of the city of New Brunswick, N. J. When I visited this heronry, late in April, '82, I discovered that one nest already contained four eggs, two others each three, several more one and two, while the remainder were as yet empty.

About two weeks later, after climbing up to a number of nests, and passing from the top of one tree to another, where this was practicable, thus examining nearly all, I was surprised to find each empty, though the old birds fluttered overhead or alighted nearby. At the base of many of the trees in which nests were situated lay the eggs with a piece broken out and the meat gone. I suspected two parties of the robbery—either the Red Squirrel, (*Sciurus hudsonicus*), that I saw some distance away, or else a number of Crows that were perched in a neighboring tree cawing lustily. On May 20th I examined the nests a third time, finding them again without eggs, while fresh shells were strewn on the ground. The Herons were now shy and restless, whereas the Crows, for whom I entertained a strong aversion, were more audacious and clamorous than ever. A subsequent and final visit revealed conditions unchanged, the Crows as officious as ever, so that, it being very late in the season, I was satisfied that no young birds were reared last year. I fear the Herons will remove to some other breeding ground the coming Spring, a proceeding which I should very much regret.—A. G. Van Aken, *New Brunswick, N. J.*

O. & O. VIII. June, 1883, p. 46-47.

ver the hose ap-

Quite recently ledged, was captured to keep it away from the first introduction, as a terrier does in the way of all Crows had been seen, the killing of several propensities ANGTON, *Cincinnati*.

67.

Food of Crows in Winter.

Before me lie the contents of the crop of a Common Crow, (*Corvus americanus*), shot while the ground was yet frozen as he returned from feeding grounds down the river to a rookery (?) some two miles above here. The product is largely vegetable showing husks of grains of Indiana corn. Evidences of dainty piscatorial food are found in small amphicelus vertebræ. Evidences of other vertebrate food are found in bones. I am not yet able to classify a fragment of a small humerus or femur. Are the records of the winter food of this bird sufficient to make him a living bill of fare?—Theo. G. Lemmon, *Westport, Mo.*

O. & O. XI. Apr. 1886. p. 57.

The Crow (*Corvus frugivorus*) as a Fisherman. — I am courteously permitted by Mr. L. I. Flower of Clifton, N. B., to publish the following note of an interesting incident which came under his observation.

"A few years since, while crossing the Washademock Lake, I noticed a Crow flying close to the surface at a spot where the water is very shoal. Suddenly, when but a short distance from my boat, the Crow thrust his claw down into the water and drew to the surface what I afterward discovered was a fish of about half a pound weight, and then seizing it with his bill, by aid of 'tooth and nail' succeeded in drawing it out of the water and carrying it to an adjacent rock, the fish all the while struggling hard to get free."—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.*

Auk, I, Oct., 1884. p. 391.

Carnivorous Propensities of the Crow (*Corvus americanus*). — My neighbor, Mr. E. M. Davis, indulges in the luxury of live pets, and amongst them is a Crow, reared by hand from the nest and now perhaps three or four months old. He manifests the usual inquisitive and mischievous habits of the species in confinement, secreting various objects for which he can have no possible use, and worrying on all occasions both the cat and the dog of the premises, by picking at their toes, pulling their tails, etc. He seems to fear nothing but a small rubber hose used for sprinkling purposes, upon the first appearance of which, even before any water was thrown, he manifested the utmost fright, and fled to the house and his master for protection; this he has repeated whenever the hose appears. Query: Is it a case of hereditary fear of snakes? Quite recently a young House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), not fully fledged, was captured and taken into the happy family, pains being taken to keep it away from the cat, but not from the Crow, which, at its first introduction, pounced upon it savagely, seized it by the neck, shook it as a terrier does a rat, and before it could be released the Sparrow had gone the way of all birds; portions of it being eaten by its destroyer. As the Crow had been well fed, on a diet embracing meat, grain, and vegetables, the killing of the Sparrow would seem to have been the outcome of natural propensities rather than the result of the pangs of hunger.—F. W. LANGDON, *Cincinnati, Ohio.*

Auk, 3, Oct., 1886. p. 486.

Every wooded hillside and timbered swamp was ringing with the cry of the Red-shouldered Hawks who are extremely

the Ruby-throat Hummer to the life. rest crosswise on a twig, in the attitude of the males were fighting the female would summed on the ground and in bushes. While interesting from the novel positions assumed of the Downies was especially courtship of the Downies was especially possible pair beats three of a kind. The Downies were also trying to show that a neighboring tree cawing lustily.

On May 20th I examined the nests a third time, finding them again without eggs, while fresh shells were strewn on the ground. The Herons were now shy and restless, whereas the Crows, for whom I entertained a strong aversion, were more audacious and clamorous than ever. A subsequent and final visit revealed conditions unchanged, the Crows as officious as ever, so that, it being very late in the season, I was satisfied that no young birds were reared last year. I fear the Herons will remove to some other breeding ground the coming Spring, a proceeding which I should very much regret.—A. G. Van Aken, *New Brunswick, N. J.*

O. & O. VIII: June, 1883, p. 46-47.

Food of Crows in Winter.

Before me lie the contents of the crop of a Common Crow, (*Corvus americanus*), shot while the ground was yet frozen as he returned from feeding grounds down the river to a rookery (?) some two miles above here. The product is largely vegetable showing husks of grains of Indiana corn. Evidences of dainty piscatorial food are found in small amphicœlus vertebræ. Evidences of other vertebrate food are found in bones. I am not yet able to classify a fragment of a small humerus or femur. Are the records of the winter food of this bird sufficient to make him a living bill of fare?—*Theo. G. Lemmon, Westport, Mo.*

O. & O. XI. Apr. 1886. p. 59.

Familial habits.

Washington, D. C.
March 9, 1884

There was a flock of about a dozen Crows feeding on the gravel drive behind the Smithsonian to-day. They were within twenty yards of the building and people were passing frequently along a neighboring path within gunshot. I have also seen them in similar groups on the lawns in the Smithsonian grounds and with them, on one occasion at least, Fish Crows. The two species associate familiarly here

Corvus americanus.

Feeding habits of the English Sparrow and Crow.

By Sylvester D. Judd.

Auk, XIII, Oct., 1896, pp 285-9.

See under Passer domesticus.

and showing in common
flight to the female hovering
above the male, often
hear the barking call of
~~starlings~~ and the ~~same~~ of
americanus from neighboring
birds in the same flock.

Corvus americanus.

Feeding habits of the English Sparrow and Crow.

By Sylvester D. Judd.

Auk, XIII, Oct., 1896, pp 235-9.

See under Passer domesticus.

AN EPIDEMIC OF ROUP IN THE CANANDAIGUA
CROW ROOST.

BY ELON HOWARD EATON.

Plate II.

ABOUT the middle of December, 1901, a malady broke out among the Crows (*Corvus americanus*) of Ontario County, New York, which, ere spring, had decimated the ranks of the local 'roost.' As soon as winter had fairly begun, reports commenced to come in of Crows which had been "blinded by freezing of their eyes," as the farmers expressed it.

Upon careful examination it was found that the roup had invaded the Ontario flock, and birds were dying daily from its effects. In one field about twenty dead and dying birds were picked up in one day. Nearly every grove or large field within a distance of ten miles from the roosting-grounds displayed one or more dead Crows. Nearly every wandering crow's track in the snow, after circling round and round in an apparently aimless manner, would lead one to a black carcass lying under a tree or against a fence. Usually they sank down with their bills in the snow and their wings very slightly extended, but sometimes they died in a sitting posture with the feathers of the head ruffled up to their fullest extent. Often the birds died in trees, clutching the branches to the last and then falling headlong into the snow or landing on their backs with the wing tips pointing upwards.

All the sick birds were suffering from an acute inflammation of

was badly swollen, and the surrounding skin was partially bare of feathers.

Compliments of

E. H. FORBUSH.

of article on
"The Crows in Mass."
pp. 27-40.

SERIES OF 1896.

See Pa 25

BULLETIN No. 4.

E. H. Forbush.

MASSACHUSETTS
CROP REPORT

FOR THE

MONTH OF AUGUST, 1896.

ISSUED BY

WM. R. SESSIONS,
SECRETARY STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.
1896.

CROWS AS FIGHTERS.—Indian Falls, N. Y.—*Editor American Field*:—In the Spring of 1867, while on my way to my timber to chop some wood, I heard the crows making a great fuss, and thinking perhaps they saw a fox, I hurried to the spot. On reaching the place I saw, as I supposed, a crow lying on the ground. I approached to pick him up and found he had another crow beneath him, and was pecking him with all his might. The bills of both were bloody up to their eyes. The uppermost one had his antagonist foul. The under bird was lying upon his left side, and the one on top had seized his right leg, close to the body, with his left foot, and his other foot was clinched around his opponent's head, with one of his claws fastened in its eye. They must have been fighting for some time, as their beaks were very bloody. They took no notice of me, and I walked up to them and picked them up, and had some difficulty in loosening the grip one had on the other. I took them home, and placed them in a box, but both died in about four weeks. They did not offer to renew the combat after being placed in confinement.

Am. Field XVII no 2 Jan 7, 1882 p. 35 I. B. F.

Mr. Greene's description of the character and habits of the crow is correct. No bigger rascal ever traveled on wings than the crow. He can beat any hawk killing young chickens and turkeys. Well do I remember his tricks in *ante bellum* days. He seemed to know that the slaves were not permitted to own firearms, and he would always go to their poultry yards to feast on young chickens and turkeys. The crow will kill all kinds of fowl, rob birds' nests of both eggs and young, suck eggs, pick up and eat the farmer's corn as soon as it sprouts, and will do more damage to melon patches than would so many hogs.

One day, recently, while visiting my uncle in Robertson County, one of the servants came rushing in the house and exclaimed:

"Mr. Birdo, please run out in de orchard and shoot dat crow; he's killing all our chickens."

I seized my gun and ran out to the place indicated; I could not see a chicken, but heard an unusual stir among the birds in an apple tree. I advanced toward the tree when out sailed the crow. I shot both barrels at him but failed to bring him to ground. The birds in the tree cried piteously, and then I saw what the black rascal had been up to—he found the birds' nest and had devoured every young one in it. I learned from the family that this same crow, with its mate, had killed a great many chickens. Both crows were afterward shot.

The crow has but one redeeming trait—it will boldly attack the largest hawk that flies.

I am glad the AMERICAN FIELD has a natural history department. It is a matter of surprise to me why naturalists do not make a greater effort to obtain information from sportsmen. No one has better opportunities to study natural history than a sportsman, especially if his occupation be that of a farmer. *Am. Field XXVIII* BIRDO.

No. 1, July 2, 1887, p. 7

Am. Field XXIX, No. 2, Feb. 25, 1888, p. 176.
I HAVE killed a number of crows in the last few days; all of them but one was blind in one eye. Some of the old folks here say it is on account of the cold and scarcity of food. Has any reader of the AMERICAN FIELD ever seen the like?

H. E. D.

Reisterstown, Md.

one to ten times as great. Many of them have a diameter of less than one fifty-thousandth of an inch and it is probable that there are multitudes of them so small that the highest powers of the microscope do not render them visible. Two thousand of them could swim side by side through the eye of a needle and one could hold in his single hand fifty millions of millions of them. Of the smaller ones it would take 15,625,000,000,000 to fill one cubic inch.

Now compare these with our mammoth Sequoias. The trunk of one of these trees, to say nothing about its roots and branches, contains at least 200,000,000 cubic inches. It is, therefore, 3,125,000,000,000,000,000 times as large as a single bacterium. This number is, of course, inconceivable. It may be read 3 125 millions of millions of millions. The proportion is about the same as that of an ordinary football to the earth itself.

Again, the duration of the life of many of the bacteria is only an hour. There are 8,760 hours in a year, and in 3,000 years there are 26,280,000 hours. Thus the tree has lived on while more than twenty-six millions of generations of its invisible kindred may have lived and died in the stream at its base. From the bacterium to the sequoia, what a span! Yet the rolling globe on which they live is but a speck in the universe, its diameter too small to be used as a measuring unit for interstellar spaces. As many bacteria could be laid side by side on a linear inch as earths upon the diameter of its orbit around the sun. Compared with the tree, the bacterium is almost infinitesimal; by the side of the earth, the tree is insignificant; in the solar system, the earth is but a small factor; and if the solar system were annihilated, it would be millions of years before its loss would be felt on distant stars. Magnitudes are, therefore, relative, and things are great or small according to the standpoint from which we view them.

Cumberland University.

DESTRUCTION OF CROWS DURING THE RECENT COLD SPELL.

BY DR. ROBERT RIDGWAY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON, D. C.

WHETHER it be the result of disease or exposure, the suffering inflicted on the crows in the vicinity of Washington during the recent severe weather is of great extent, and of such a character as to excite the sympathy of any one familiar with the facts. On the 20th of January my son went rabbit hunting, and on his return told me he had found many dead crows in the pine woods, and others that were totally blind. The following day I accompanied him to the place where he had found them, and was really astonished at the sight presented. Very few crows were seen flying about, but upon entering the thick woods of scrub-pines, which was evidently the roosting-place of large numbers of these birds, they were met with on every hand. Some were lying on the snow, dead and frozen stiff; many more were perched in the trees, at various heights, in all stages of helplessness. The majority of them could fly, and on our near approach would do so; but in a moment it became apparent that they could not see, for the first thing in their line of flight, as, for example, a branch, would stop them, when they would either flutter to the ground or, changing their course, would continue their flight, to be again checked by a branch, or if they happened to miss any obstruction until clear of the woods (which rarely occurred) they continued, slowly feeling their way, over the open fields, often dropping to the snow-covered ground after flying a few hundred yards. Those which did not fly at our approach were too much weakened from starvation to do so. They were easily caught, and in every instance were found to be absolutely blind, except one individual, which had one eye but little affected. In many the eyes were closed and much swollen; in some one or both eyes had burst and frozen, this having possibly been caused by violent contact with the sharp ends of broken twigs. In all cases in which the eyes were not closed or inflamed the pupil was milky white and the iris bluish. Inability to find food on account of their blindness was evidently the immediate cause of starvation; for it was found that the dead birds were, as a rule, very much emaciated, while many of the living ones, particularly those which were most

active, and consequently difficult to capture, were in fairly good condition. It was pitiful to behold their suffering, both from the pangs of hunger as well as from the pain of their wounded eyes. Sometimes the snow beneath the trees was nearly covered by pine needles and small twigs which they had plucked off and tried to eat (they were seen doing this), while several of those which had fallen to the ground were eating snow.

The extent to which this epidemic, or whatever it may be, has affected the crow population of this locality is not easy to estimate. My first impression was that the species was nearly exterminated there, since certainly 95 out of every 100 crows seen during the day were perfectly "stone-blind," and 10 per cent of them dead. That this impression was incorrect was, however, proven by the next day's observation, the locality being visited much later in the day, when large numbers were seen coming in from the surrounding country to roost,—all these "able-bodied" crows having been abroad after food at the time of our previous visit. There seemed to be about as many of these as there were of the disabled ones, so the reduction in their numbers will probably not exceed one-half, and may not be so great.

A third visit, several days later, showed no increase among the afflicted birds. There were, however, as might have been expected, a much larger number of dead ones, while those still living were found more scattered, being encountered nearly everywhere in the open fields, where they had fallen, exhausted, during their flight from the woods.

So far as I was able to discover, after very careful examination of all specimens within reach, during both visits, only the common species, *Corvus americanus*, was affected by the malady. At any rate, neither my companions nor myself could discover a single fish crow (*C. ossifragus*), though the latter was well represented among those which were flying about.

I am at a loss to account for this scourge. Several causes have been suggested, the most plausible of which, it seems to me, is that in returning to their roosting-place one excessively cold evening they were compelled to face a freezing wind, perhaps bearing minute ice-particles, which actually froze their eyes. It may be, however, that a better explanation can be given.

REMARKS ON AMERICAN LICHENOLOGY. — III.

BY W. W. CALKINS, CHICAGO, ILL.

THE explorers for lichens in a locality so favorable as Florida will not fail to notice the abundance of brilliantly colored fungi, and, if interested, will be tempted to collect them. On some of these will perhaps occur parasitic lichens of rarity, as *Colnognonium* and *Opegrapha*. But beneath a bed of *Agaraci*, on the sandy soil of an old plantation, a close search will show another interesting lichen, known as *Heppia despreauxii* Tuck. Its character was long disputed, owing to a close resemblance to an allied genus of lichens, *Solorina*. The small cup shaped apothecia, growing single or in clusters, immersed in a green thallus, have deceived good lichenists. We owe to Dr. Tuckerman the elucidation of this elegant species. Only two were described by him in the "Synopsis." Last winter I had the good fortune to find another in the mountains of Tennessee, which, having been sent in vain around our own country, a puzzle to all, was promptly determined by Dr. Nylander of Paris to be the *Heppia virescens*, *Ach. variety rugosa* Nyl. I may remark that it is astonishing how soon afterwards we all saw the point.

In the old field as well, with a mixed second growth of *Pinus taeda*, *Ilex opaca*, *Ilex Cassine*, *Myrica cerifera*, *Olea americana*, etc., will be found on their foliage numerous small fungi, such as *Sphaeria* and *Cercospora*, many of which have been illustrated by Professor Ellis in his "Exsiccati" from my collections of fungi.

In close contact, lichens and fresh-water algæ and *Hepaticæ* also hold equal sway. But, towering over all, the stately *Magnolia* and the *Gordonia* (red or bull bay), with their glossy evergreen foliage, afford us the tropical lichen, *Strigula complanata* Fee., and, rarer still, *Heterothecium augustini* Tuck., though, indeed, the *Sabal serrulata*, common everywhere, abounds in elegant specimens in

STATEN ISLAND CROWS AND THEIR ROOSTS.

BY WILLIAM T. DAVIS.

ABLE-BODIED Crows do not roost on Staten Island in winter, but fly as night approaches to better protected retreats in New Jersey. In ordinary winters five or six hundred visit the island daily, and generally repair to the South Beach where they find a considerable store of food, in the fish, crabs, and other dead creatures that are cast ashore. As the afternoon wears away, the Crows fly westerly from the beach, and congregate on the salt meadows along Fresh Kill, on the opposite side of the island. If these meadows are covered with snow, they assemble in the trees, or in some upland field, which is more likely to be bare. Here, with additions to their number from other parts of the island, they hold a convention, and gradually, by twos and by threes, and in small flocks, fly either along the Kill out to the Sound, or diagonally across Long Neck to New Jersey, to a roost that lies north or northwest of Staten Island.

Many afternoons have been spent in watching the Crows at Long Neck and elsewhere on the island, and a few specific observations will be offered as evidence here, though a more detailed account is to be found in the Proceedings of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island, for May 12, 1894.

Sunday, December 24, and Christmas day, 1893, were both very mild; there was a warm wind and no snow on the ground. On these occasions several hundred Crows gathered on the salt meadows in the afternoon, near the head of the main branch of

hundred flew over the water to Sandy Hook. The chief departure was about 4 P. M. At fifteen minutes past four they had nearly all gone, but I observed a few belated individuals fly boldly from the Staten Island shore near the light house, without any rest previous to undertaking their long journey. Thus many

ORNITHOLOGIST

—AND—

OÖLOGIST.

\$1.00 per
Annum.

PUBLISHED FOR THE BRISTOL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.
Established, March, 1875.

Single Copy
10 Cents.

VOL. XIII.

BOSTON, MASS., FEBRUARY, 1888.

No. 2.

The Crows' Winter Roost at St. Louis.

BY OTTO WIDMANN.

St. Louis has many sights worth seeing, all more or less known and appreciated, but one of its greatest natural curiosities, the big roost of wintering crows on Arsenal Island, where thousands and perhaps a hundred of thousand crows congregate, is never mentioned.

The Crow is a common summer resident in this part of the country. Every grove has its pair nesting, and around their favorite feeding grounds a dozen crows may be seen together any day during the breeding season. To these places the young resort when able to fly, and parties of thirty or so are nothing unusual in summer, oftener or sooner heard than seen, especially when the presence of a hawk excites their hatred.

In the neighborhood of their winter roost, they are not seen in any unusual numbers before the middle of September. The river front of St. Louis is sixteen miles long. The centre of the city with the courthouse is about half way of this long line. Four miles south of the courthouse, down the river, is the head of an island, called Arsenal Island (formerly Smallpox Island, because during the civil war the smallpox hospital was situated on this island).

At that time the head of the island was opposite the St. Louis Arsenal, and for that reason the name of Arsenal Island was given. At the present day the island begins one mile south of the Arsenal, having been washed off continually at its head until about five years ago, when it was fixed by strong embankments erected by the government. At the same time, in order to force the current to the Missouri side, the island was connected with the Illinois shore by a dam which obstructed the flow of water so much that the old channel east of the island is nearly dry now in summer, and willows be-

gin to grow in many places. The island is therefore steadily growing; it is two miles long, one-fourth mile wide, mostly grown up with willows and cotton woods, from twenty-five years old at its present head, where the flora is already more varied by admixture of shrubs and climbers, to one year old and entirely new growth at its recent additions. The foot of the island is a sandbank, changeable in size according to the stage of water, at the present low water about half a mile long, and reaching to the Illinois shore in the vicinity of the Bessemer Steel Works.

The island is not inhabited except by a single old man, who keeps a few cows in summer and tries to raise a little corn for their feed. He does not molest any of its feathered visitors, but the island is a much frequented shooting ground for boy hunters who make it very unsafe on Sundays.

This island has been chosen by the crows for their winter roost, and during the fifteen years in which I lived in the neighborhood, I have seen them regularly every winter.

The reason why the crows selected this island seems to be the convenient position in regard to food supply coupled with comparative safety from nightly raids.

The food supply is twofold: On the land, the environs of a large city surrounded by gardens and dairies and pastures, etc.

On the water, the rich harvest provided by the dumping places of the city which throws its garbage into the river to carry it off.

The crow is the typical scavenger, and the choice of its winter roost proves it. If it could live on corn and mice, it would spend the winter hawk-fashion, in solitude around some out of the way corn field, or would scatter in small troops broadcast over the country.

It is no mice destroyer. Neither is it a grain eater. I have examined thousands of pellets (the indigestible parts of food thrown up), which are lying under the trees where they

roost and on the sand where they gather. These pellets show that very few mice enter the bill of fare of the Crow. But they also prove that the Crow has no stomach for grain. Large pieces of maize, and entire kernels of oats and wheat are thrown out indigested, and even the acorn, which must often appease their hunger, is found intact in the pellets.

The Crow eats anything and everything, when pressed by hunger, but it prefers animal matter, and it makes no difference whether it is fresh or old. It turns around the old droppings of the cattle to see if there is anything eatable underneath. It devours a rotten apple for a change of diet, and eats the chicken without asking how long it has been dead or with what disease it died.

When they are so lucky as to find the dead body of a horse, they return to it every day until the bones are perfectly clean. I have even heard of the remarkable sight, when the cadaver of a man was seen driving down on an ice field, surrounded and torn to pieces by hords of crows.

The Crow likes our climate, because we have as a rule very little snow. The snow which precedes our cold spells comes with a high wind, and is therefore drifted. Snow which falls heavily later in the season does not stay long. After a fresh snowfall, or during a sudden cold snap, the Crow's resource is the river. For miles and miles along its shores crows abound, watching at the water's edge, visiting the sandbars and hovering over the river, fishing from its surface choice morsels with which they make hastily for a safe place to eat in peace.

The most animated picture is to be had in times when the river is full of floating ice. At such times it is fairly alive with crows all day. Sitting on the edge of floating ice fields, they drift down for miles, watching the agitated waves until they bring to light the eagerly sought for dainty in the shape of a rosy lung or similar succulency. When such an article has been found, it is accompanied for many miles by troops of hungry crows, and the crowning event takes place when the Bald Eagle joins the revelers and gets the lion's share.

In former years, Herring gulls were not uncommon at such feasts, but of late they seem to get quite scarce around here.

In very hard winters, when the river remains solidly frozen for some time, the crows are very much less numerous, but as soon as the snow begins to go they return, and when the ice breaks up they are back in full force.

From the middle of September when they first appear at the roost, until the middle of October, the increase is slow. The last decade of October and the first of November is the time when the bulk of crows arrive at the roost.

Cool, still days, with gloomy skies and misty air, bring them from the North in loose, straggling flights, from different directions, but falling into line north of the city, they pass around its western bounds near Shaw's garden, and thence in a straight line towards the foot of the Island where they arrive in a regular stream, which pours in some days from 1 or 2 p. m., until dark.

On arriving above the river the Crow ceases beating the air, and instead of flapping heavily along as usual, it spreads its wings and floats down majestically towards the Island where it first goes for water and then for a perch in the trees. This perch is often changed before the final selection is made. Cottonwoods and willows twenty to thirty feet high are chosen, and a dozen or more find a place in a single tree.

When the November sun has set, the trees on the lower part of the Island are black with crows, and the noise they make and which they keep up until quite dark is heard for miles around. Before the sun is up in the morning the crows leave the roost, but the noise may be heard long before daybreak, and does not cease until they have left. In open weather in fall, hardly any Crow is seen at the roost all the forenoon. The place looks deserted. The crows have gone, and the first rays of the sun find them scattered over hundreds of square miles. We may go out any direction within twenty miles of St. Louis, but we see crows winging their way to some distant feeding ground, scattering as they proceed, spreading over fields and woods, but enlivening the scenery wherever they appear.

They seem to do most of their feeding in the morning. In the early afternoon they begin to collect into flocks, and large congregations may be seen in many places, passing the time playfully until ready to go home, when flock joins flock, trying to keep track if wind and weather permit. On clear still days, they fly at great heights. A gale throws them far out of their beaten path and they fly as low as possible, seeking shelter from the wind behind woods and buildings, and following as much as possible the lowest depressions of the ground.

They first appear at the roost soon after mid-day, but the majority arrive within an hour before sunset; comparatively few come later.

It is not seldom to see them carry food in

their bill to the roost, and different kinds of nuts and acorns, pieces of meat and even bones may be found on the sandbank.

As long as the weather remains mild the Crow sleeps in these places, but when the sharp North winds strip the trees of their leaves, the trees lose much of their attraction for the crows, and they begin to spend the nights on the sand which girdles the island.

In November, comparatively few crows resort to the sand, but when in December a spell of zero sweeps over the island, most of them remain on the ground, covering the vast sandbar at the foot of the island with innumerable black dots, and as many more again stay on the large ice field which stretches now along the shallow eastern shore like a continuation of the sandbar.

Here they are on the bare ice from 4 p. m. till 7 a. m., fifteen long hours, with temperature near zero, exposed to the fierce wind without any shelter at all. How they can stand it, is more than I know, and although I have found frozen crows and crows with stumped toes as reminiscences of former experiences, I still believe, as a rule, they stand the rigors of our winter quite well. The first sunny mild day, and immediately after the coldest spells, the crow thinks of courting, and shows all signs of an amorous crow whose love is not by our temperatures refrigerated.

This courting is done openly, in broad daylight, socially, gracefully. The crows gather on a sunny hillside or some similarly favorable place, talk to each other in the softest crow language, one by one, flies straight up into the air, soars for a moment, floats gracefully down, cheered by the rest, amidst which it alights to see others do what he did.

As soon as the weather becomes mild and the ground free from snow and ice, the crows begin to disperse. This is generally not before February, and sometimes quite late in that month, but by the middle of March their ranks are thinned out very much, and few are left after the first of April. Generally, their departure is not particularly noticed, it being a continuation of their daily flight, failing to return to the roost in the evening.

But sometimes I have seen two birds flying together in a northerly direction, even in the afternoon, and right against the incoming stream of crows. These I take for absconders, ready to dispense with sociability, the two being enough company by themselves. With the beginning of the breeding season, the history of the common roost ends. We do not now fol-

low them into the sylvan retreats where they raise a big family. Let us hope that all will return to us in the fall, bringing with themselves a great army of jolly young crows. Interesting would it be to learn if other cities on the lower Missouri and Mississippi have similar roosts. Omaha, Kansas City, Cairo, Louisville, Memphis, are probably like favored.

O. & O. XIII, Feb. 1888 p. 17-19.

nemen, are the usual materials for making the nest. The actions of the bird when binding cobwebs in a suitable fork to the foundation are most amusing. The

positions. It gives one a true idea of the bird's motion and characteristics peculiar each to itself. One has a sure thing on identification in the field, collecting nests, leaving no doubts of the species to be settled by the gun.

Some there are who may say, "But you can't get close enough to always do that." Take time, just as you would to hunt or watch the bird in the case of your wanting to know what it is. I have yet to see the nest or bird in the bush that a true collector's wits, of Nature's facts, could not get within five or ten feet of his object long enough to spring a shot on his sensitive plate.

As shy a little bird as the Hummers are, I have had my face within ten inches of the bird on the nest; the same with many Sparrows, Finches, Warblers, and even the timid Flycatchers. I well remember the time I took a grand negative of the Farallone Cormorants on one of my never-to-be-forgotten trips. How I set up my camera within five feet of them. Only four or five birds left the nests; they soon came back after circling several times overhead, and finally settling down on the edges of the nests, others covering the eggs at once, and even picking the weeds from one another's homes to place on their own, — a habit peculiar to the Cormorants. I found while tending the duties of incubation, in another plate of Western Gulls, they would walk around the nest, I suppose to see if it was in trim for "having their picture took," like a country lass.

I use for general work of this character a medium plate, not too quick in its action, for a better success is had in handling the development of it.

Detective cameras can be had now all the way from ten to a hundred dollars or more. I will give a description of mine for the benefit of the O. & O. readers. Cost complete with one double plate-holder, \$37.50 (made to order), and I would not give it for the best hundred dollar outfit in the market. It is made of Spanish cedar, polished, 8½ inches in height, same in depth, 6½ wide, a focus range of 2½ inches (outside of that is always in focus, a distance indicator marked off from 3 to 25 feet; outside of 25 feet is in focus on everything. Two field-finders, one for uprights. The shutter works in the lens, regulated for any desired time by a set of five notches (can be set for time exposure). The sliding cap over the lens when moved for exposure opens the finder at the same time, and on seeing the image on the finder, you know your lens is open ready for the snap of the shutter. Maker of lens, R. D.

on the ground and watch the result; both would commence a walk round. Beginning with a twelve-foot circle they would gradually close in, all the time making a noisy demonstration, and at the finish would attack the despised object.

They in many ways showed marked signs of affection, and I never knew them to quarrel (except over squash bugs). If one found any food he would always make it known to the other. They were always together, and would play like kittens. Each knew his name and when I spoke to them would answer.

I had heard that if their tongues were split they would talk. I could find no one who knew about the matter, so concluded to try the experiment myself. I cut the cord on the under part of the tongue so as to allow them a free swing (not splitting). They did not seem to mind the operation but as soon as performed they both marched about with beaks opened and kept shaking their heads. I never succeeded in getting them to articulate a word but certainly there was a change in their tone. At times when a short distance off, they sounded like a lot of children jabbering and laughing, and from that day their "song" attracted the attention of the neighbors.

I never shall forget the first snow-storm they experienced. They had been roosting in the woodshed. As I opened the door both came to the sill, neither would venture out. First one would put out his foot, touch the snow and quickly withdraw it; then the other would try it, and then they would both scold. They kept this up for some time and I began to think that I should have to throw them out myself. Finally one made the break, quickly followed by the other, and then the fun commenced. They evidently did not like the feeling to their feet but were otherwise delighted.

One would lie down and the other turn him over. They would roll, flutter, squawk and chase each other in high glee. When the snow became deep I again resorted to meal for their feed. And now comes the sad ending. When they first began to walk they would go to the gravel path and pick up small round stones. These they would swallow, and after retaining them for awhile would eject them, and I could see these little piles of stones all over the yard. They were evidently used as digesters, and when discarded were held together by refuse from the stomach. When the ground was covered with snow they were unable to obtain the stones. I neglected to look out for this requirement, and one day in the early

It was a beautiful morning in May when L— and myself started out with the distinct view of making a new acquaintance. We had carefully located our destination several days previous, and judged that it was time for the harvest. A few minutes' walk brought us to the outskirts of the city. At the forks of the roads, in a small pine tree particularly exposed to the view of all who passed, was a

rustic home. Father and mother had evidently let their pride overcome their usual cautious nature. As we approached the spot a dark object silently stole away and up popped two bright-eyed heads which peered down curiously at us with an expression that seemed to say, Well, what are you two chaps up to?

L—, who was the expert, climbed up in a manner that would have done credit to his undeveloped ancestors, and amid protestations that made the welkin ring from above, and excited cautious to point them the right way from below, dropped them in succession into the outstretched hands of the writer. Placing them in a basket we retraced our steps. A temporary home was made by suspending an old basket from a tree about four feet from the ground. Once domiciled our attention was occupied to their entertainment. During the next four weeks we fed them continuously on cooked meal, sawdust, and everything in the line of insect life we could obtain: "in those days we had little idea of the value of entomological collections"; and our many friends who called would occasionally drop in marbles, jackknives and tops into their eternally opened receptacles. Such appetites! It was simply marvelous. They seemed to lead a charmed life, and each experiment produced but one result—a squawk for more. As the days passed their ambition developed from standing tiptoe in the centre of the basket to balancing on the edge, till one day it culminated in a tumble to the ground. They became very much attached to L— and myself. They would actually shriek and croak whenever we appeared, and their demands required as much attention as the running of an ornithological magazine. I assure the reader they received it, never in a wild state could they have been such autocrats. Morning, noon and night it was *scratch gravel* for them. L— retired in disgust from the field and I helplessly became their slave. As their coats assumed a glossy black the primaries of the wings of one became a yellowish-white, and led to his being nicknamed Spot, while the other we called Jack. In manners, dispositions and accomplishments the one was the reflection of the other.

Our first morning exercise would consist of a visit to the garden. I would lift the leaves of the squash vines and pick off the dark three-cornered squash bugs "to me the most detestable form of insect life," and serve them one at a time in turn. To show any partiality meant a row. They would never visit the vines except in my company, nor help them-

selves to these bugs. When I would retire to the house for breakfast they would repair to the flower garden and amuse themselves by picking the flowers, which they would carry and lay in symmetrical rows on the concrete walk. I have sometimes seen three or four dozen blossoms of the dialetra carefully picked and arranged as if done by some child. They never destroyed the flowers and picked but one blossom at a time. It often led me to wonder if they have a similar taste when in their wild state?

We were at first in fear that the numerous cats would make short work of them, but such fears were soon quelled. Woe to Thomas when he crossed the line. The first appearance of pussy was a signal for an onslaught that would do credit to a Turk. Many a time I watched the demonstration with amusement. Pussy would evidently be taken by surprise and seemed inclined to stand his ground; Jack and Spot would start for him, flapping their wings and cawing loudly, and without the least hesitation would pitch in. If pussy hesitated there would be a rough and tumble with claws and beaks; it would be entirely one-sided, pussy offering no resistance and beating a hasty retreat, leaving bunches of fur torn from his back. Another object for attack was the feet of my barefooted companions; they had the advantage and seemed to realize it. I of course would not allow my pets to be hurt and it was simply, get toes under cover. Let me say just here that they can bite right "smart," when they took hold to pull away generally meant that the tip of the bill would bring the meat with it. They never showed any disposition to peck at hands or face and they never in any way pecked at me.

One day I noticed both engaged in picking up small stones which they would carry and drop into a hole that had been dug for a post. Upon examination I found that there was a toad in the bottom, upon which they were dropping the pebbles. Each time a drop was made they would caw in high glee; it was a clear case of amusement. They were experts at playing catch. I would pick grapes and toss to them and they would seldom fail to catch, jumping for them when thrown too high.

On our wash-house were two boxes occupied by Swallows. When they had no other engagements on hand they would perch on these boxes for hours at a time, standing guard to keep the swallows away. Black was a very irritating color to them. It afforded a great deal of amusement to us to throw a black hat

on the ground and watch the result; both would commence a walk round. Beginning with a twelve-foot circle they would gradually close in, all the time making a noisy demonstration, and at the finish would attack the despised object.

They in many ways showed marked signs of affection, and I never knew them to quarrel (except over squash bugs). If one found any food he would always make it known to the other. They were always together, and would play like kittens. Each knew his name and when I spoke to them would answer.

I had heard that if their tongues were split they would talk. I could find no one who knew about the matter, so concluded to try the experiment myself. I cut the cord on the under part of the tongue so as to allow them a free swing (not splitting). They did not seem to mind the operation but as soon as performed they both marched about with beaks opened and kept shaking their heads. I never succeeded in getting them to articulate a word but certainly there was a change in their tone. At times when a short distance off, they sounded like a lot of children jabbering and laughing, and from that day their "song" attracted the attention of the neighbors.

I never shall forget the first snow-storm they experienced. They had been roosting in the woodshed. As I opened the door both came to the sill, neither would venture out. First one would put out his foot, touch the snow and quickly withdraw it; then the other would try it, and then they would both scold. They kept this up for some time and I began to think that I should have to throw them out myself. Finally one made the break, quickly followed by the other, and then the fun commenced. They evidently did not like the feeling to their feet but were otherwise delighted.

One would lie down and the other turn him over. They would roll, flutter, squawk and chase each other in high glee. When the snow became deep I again resorted to meal for their feed. And now comes the sad ending. When they first began to walk they would go to the gravel path and pick up small round stones. These they would swallow, and after retaining them for awhile would eject them, and I could see these little piles of stones all over the yard. They were evidently used as digesters, and when discarded were held together by refuse from the stomach. When the ground was covered with snow they were unable to obtain the stones. I neglected to look out for this requirement, and one day in the early

1777. *The Contradictory Crow*. Editorial. *Ibid.*, June 27, p. 465.—
Notice of investigations by the Department of Agriculture as to the
Crow's beneficial and injurious qualities. **For. & Stream, Vol. 32**

1272. *Crows and Chickens*. By George Green. *Ibid.*, No. 23, June 4,
p. 551.—A Crow captures and flies away with a young chicken.

American Field, XXVII

1750. *Crows and Poison Ivy*. By W. B. Barrows. *Ibid.*, March 14, p.
151.—Scattering the seed. **For. & Stream, Vol. 32**

Young Oologist, 1559. *Interesting Happenings*. By W. G. T[almadge]. *Ibid.*, p. 22. **Amk VII, Jan. 1890, p. 83.**
—Habits of Crow and Spotted Sandpiper.

1208. *What the Crow Eats*. By E. S. Stark. *Ibid.*, No. 11, March
14, p. 248. (See also note under same heading by N. Ferguson.) **American Field, XXIII**

1411. *Missouri River Crow Roosts*. By W. Edgar Taylor. *Ibid.*, No.
12, Dec., 1887, pp. 1123, 1124. **Amer. Naturalist, XXI**

"Crows Seeking Water" (p. 65), by N. B. Webster. **For. & Stream, Vol. 2**

839. *What the Crow Eats*. By R. J. W. *Ibid.*, Oct. 4, p. 321.—Ver-
dict against the Crow. **American Field, XXII**

1211. *What the Crow Eats*. By Frank Felkman. *Ibid.*, No. 16, April
18, p. 367. **American Field, XXIII**

146. *An unlucky Crow*. Editorial, on the authority of George C. Coie.
Ibid., XV, p. 85.—Crow caught by a Goshawk. **For. & Stream**

975. *Washington Crows*. Anon. *Atlantic Monthly*, Vol. LIII, No.
318, April, 1884, pp. 580, 581.—A graphic account of their flight in the
morning from their roosting-place to their feeding grounds, and their
return at night.

1275. *The Senses of Sight and Smell*. By 'Birdo.' *Ibid.*, No. 5, July
30, p. 102.—On the sense of smell in Crows and Buzzards. (See also
Ibid., No. 10, Sept. 3, p. 223, and No. 16, Oct. 15, p. 367.)

American Field, XXVIII

574. *Intelligence of the crow*. By S. Kneeland. *Ibid.*, No. 13, p. 359.
—On Crows carrying stones into the air in their claws and dropping
them upon intruders. **Science, Vol. I**

580. *Intelligence of the crow*. By C. C. Abbott. *Ibid.*, No. 20, p.
576.—Carrying mussels into the air in their beaks and dropping them on
stones. **Science, Vol. I**

Distribution of New England Birds.—
A Reply to Dr. Brewer. H. A. Purdie.

*The Crow (Corvus americanus) classed by Dr. B. as
a summer resident, must on the authority of local
lists, be deemed a constant resident.*

Bull. N.O.C. 2, Jan., 1877, p. 14.

1935. *Reminiscences of the Early Life of a Tame Cr*
43-44. **Hawkeye Orn. & Oologist, Vol. I, No.**

841. *What the Crow Eats*. By F. L. P. *Ibid.*, Nov. 8, p. 440.—
Record of the killing of 'fifteen hundred' in one hunt, at Muldon, Miss.

American Field, XXII

904. *Utility of the Crow*. By C. E. B. *Ibid.*, p. 424. **For. & Stream**

1037. *A Crow [Corvus americanus] Cracking Clams*. By S. Lockwood.
American Naturalist, Vol. XIX, April, 1885, p. 407.—By dropping them
on a fence.

843. *What the Crow Eats*. By Charles Aldrich. *Ibid.*, Nov. 22, p.
488.—In behalf of the Crow, and criticising the wholesale slaughter men-
tioned by 'F. L. P.' (see above, No. 841). **American Field, XXII**

1399. *Crow Roosts and Roosting Crows*. By Samuel W. Rhoads.
Ibid., No. 8, Aug., 1886, pp. 691-701; No. 9, Sept., 1886, pp. 777-787.

Amer. Naturalist, XX

577. *Intelligence of the crow*. By Jos. M. Wade. *Ibid.*, No. 16, p.
458.—Tame Crows and Ravens observed to use their beaks and not their
claws in transporting objects. **Science, Vol. I**

588. *Prehensile feet of the crow*. By S. Kneeland. *Ibid.*, No. 30, pp.
265, 266.—Instances adduced of Crows using their feet, as well as their
bills, in seizing and carrying objects. **Science, Vol. II**

845. *What the Crow Does Eat*. By M. G. Ellzey, M. D. *Ibid.*,
Dec. 13, p. 561.—Strong charges against the utility of the Crow.

American Field, XXII

145. *Crows as Fruit Thieves*.
—Destruction of ripe apples by the
Crow. By R. S. Tarr. *Ibid.*, Aug. 21, p. 63.—As observed
at Gloucester, Mass. **For. & Stream, XXIII**

1913. *A Large Set of Crow's Eggs*. By A. C. Kempton. *Ibid.*, May
15, p. 328. **For. & Stream, Vol. 34**

716. *Crows Eating Herons' Eggs*. By A. G. Van Aken. *Ibid.*, p. 46.
O. & O. Vol. VIII

578. *Intelligence of the crow*. By J. A. Allen. *Ibid.*, No. 18, p. 513.
Science, Vol. I

867. *Crows*. By Violet S. Williams. *Ibid.*, p. 144.—Novel mode of
capture. **For. & Stream, XXII**

1301. *The Crow*. By F. L. Paine. *Ibid.*, No. 1, Jan. 3, p. 9. On its
destructiveness to crops. **American Field, XXIII**

Young Oologist, 1546. *Prehensile Power of the Feet of the C.*
Chamberlain. *Ibid.*, p. 137.

(Place not given)

On May 17, Wallace Homer found a nest of the
American Crow containing eight eggs.

O. & O. 16, July, 1890, p. 112

1273. *Sight and Smell*. By Charles Hallock. *Ibid.*, Vol. XXVIII,
No. 1, July 2, 1887, p. 7.—On the sense of smell in Crows. **American Field,**

The Oologist, 1587. *Crow Roosts of New Jersey*. By E. M. [artin]. *Ibid.*, pp. 94
660. *A Tame Crow*. By J. F. Sprague. *Ibid.*, No. 24, p. 474. **For. & Stream, Vol. XXI**

June. 25 1901

Mr. Wm. Brewster.

Dear Sir:

Replying to yours of the 22nd inst. I would say. I am sorry you are unable to use any Bluewings. In regards to Fish Crow. They were first recorded for Conn. from here some eight years ago. The date I do not remember. In 1896. I took my first set of eggs and that year I took two sets, and every year since I have taken from one to four sets. Their eag. flight eggs, and nest, are all familiar to me and I have been of assistance to a friend who has found them farther West. I am now getting my data ready, so as to write a sketch description of the breeding range, as far as we know of for Conn. I have disposed of but one set, and C. H. Watrous has that. I have been offered 75[¢] apiece for them by many New England collectors, but have so far not parted with but one set. I have all the skins. I need my collection being of birds found here, only. But my eggs are from all over 81

J. B. CANFIELD,
POST OFFICE BOX 860,
BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

I will exchange our set of *Cow* collected *Fresh* *Cow*
for eggs. but will not recp. as I am not
collecting for gain, and have never sold
anything in this line. Hoping you may find
some way of overcoming the difficulty
I am

Yours very truly
J. B. Canfield

I enclose copy from my records of our set taken this year

COLLECTION OF

A. O. U. NO. <u>490</u>			NAME: <u>Fish Crow</u>		
SET MARK <u>2/5 1901</u>					
Date when complete set was taken.			Date when nest and birds first noticed.		Condition of nest:
MONTH.	DAY.	YEAR.	MONTH.	DAY.	<u>Completed</u>
<u>May</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>1901</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>5</u>	Contents: <u>Did not look.</u>
					Date when again noticed.
					MONTH. DAY.
					<u>May 17</u>
					Condition:
					Contents:
					<u>5</u>
					Best Collecting Date.
					MONTH. DAY.
					<u>May 1-15</u>

The preceding Winter was Wet Little snow The Spring Wet & Rainy

Incubation a few weeks In usual form nothing

Locality Milford New Haven Co Conn. Early, usual for late nesting? usual

Identification Positive greeted upon entering? flushed from nest.

No. Eggs in set Five (5) Size 101 x 138 101 x 148 103 x 144 104 x 148 76 x 97

Usual No. 4-5

Special notes on set one egg is a decided runt and was infertile as it had no yolk.

Nest No. Exchanged with Set No. NEST: Typical? Yes!

Height from ground 65 Diameter, inside outside Depth, inside outside

I have mislaid note book containing them

New nest built by the birds? No old nest of last year utilized with repairs

How situated in the extreme top of tree among small branches on main trunk. Tree was 1" in dia when nest was

Kind of tree or bush, etc. Black oak, as straight as a mast

General character of vicinity a hill overlooking Long Island sound.

Material of foundation sticks and twigs of oak and chestnut

Inner Lining of Nest Inner back of chestnut, horse hair and a few feathers

Outer covering Shape of nest hollow? Cup

OBSERVATIONS.

This is the first nest I have ever seen that had feathers in which is unusual.

Date of Exchange Copy Collected by J. B. Coupland No. 616 Duplicate Kept.

Copied by Mr. Coupland from his records.

Fish Crows. *Corvus ossifragus*.

Wareham, Mass.

When Mr. Miller and I were at Martha's Vineyard this summer we saw three fish Crows and I was positive about them, and Miller although he never saw the bird before, was as positive as I. I am very familiar with the bird. They were flying over the big pond at West Tisbury.

Outram Bangs (letter Aug, 7, 1892.)

Auk, XIV, Jan., 1897, p. 100.

*Unusual Visits of Birds in Western Massachusetts
during 1896.*

Corvus ossifragus.—On the 9th of June a Fish Crow was taken in Springfield. This bird has often been reported as having been seen here, but this is the only instance where its presence has been proved by conclusive evidence. *Robert W. Morris, Springfield, Mass.*

The skin is in the Brewster Museum —

"Very rare visitor in summer" to Massachusetts, (E. A. Samuels, Descriptive Catalogue of the Birds of Mass., in Rept. of Sec. Board of Agric. of Mass. for 1863.)

*On the Occurrence of Certain Birds
in New England. . . Wm Brewster.*

Corvus ossifragus, Wils. On the morning of March 16th, 1875, I saw a bird of this species flying swiftly over our place in Cambridge. It was pursued by at least twenty-five or thirty of our common species, (*Corvus Americanus*), and at each renewal of their attacks gave utterance to its peculiar and unmistakable notes. Having thoroughly familiarized myself with its voice and motions in the South, where it is abundant, I feel confident that I could not in this instance have made any mistake. The very fact of its having drawn the angry attention of so many common crows, at a season too when their gregarious habits are given up for more social relations, proves that it was to them an object of novelty and one deemed worthy of suspicion and hatred, I am not aware that any such feeling is maintained when the two species come together in numbers; but however this may be matters little, as our bird habitually treats all suspicious strangers in a like manner, and the collector is not seldom indebted for a rare hawk or owl to the watchful eye and clamorous alarm of this sable sentinel.

Bull. N. O. C. I, April, 1876. p. 19.

Capture of a Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) at Wareham, Massachusetts.—Inasmuch as my record (Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, I, 1876, p. 19) of a Fish Crow seen at Cambridge, March 16, 1875, has been treated with wholesome caution—not to say incredulity—by several recent writers on New England birds, it gives me pleasure to present a second and quite unimpeachable instance of the occurrence of the species in Massachusetts. This time the bird was actually taken;—at Wareham, July 16, 1884, by Mr. E. A. Bangs, in whose collection the specimen is now preserved, and to whom I am indebted for the following account of its capture:

“I was fishing with my brother in Tihonet Pond and, as usual on such occasions, had my gun with me. While crossing the pond we saw two birds sitting on a tree near the mouth of a brook. From their actions I thought at first that they were Pigeons, but on getting nearer made out that they were black and resembled small Crows. We approached them with all possible caution, but they flew before we got within sixty yards. I brought down one, when the other circled over it for a moment, but it escaped before I could reload the gun (a single barrel). The one I killed proved to be a female in full plumage.”—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

Auk, 4, April 1887. p. 162.

Notes from Springfield, Mass.

Corvus ossifragus.—On the tenth of last April a Fish Crow was seen in Forest Park in Springfield. Only on very rare occasions do representatives of this species of bird come up the Connecticut valley as far as this point. While the bird in question was not taken, a very close inspection was had, and the observers were guided to the vicinity of the bird by the easily identified notes that it uttered.

Auk. xxxi. Oct. 1914. p. 544.

Distribution of New England Birds.-
A Reply to Dr. Brewer. H. A. Purdie.

(Records of Birds excluded by Dr. B.
from his Catalogue.)

Corvus ossifragus. FISH CROW.—“Stratford,” Conn., Linsley (l. c.).
“An occasional visitor along the southern coast of the State of Massachusetts.” (J. A. Allen, l. c.) “Very rare visitor in summer” to Massachusetts. (E. A. Samuels, Descriptive Catalogue of the Birds of Mass., in Rept. of Sec. Board of Agriculture of Mass. for 1863.) “A rare summer visitor, chiefly along the more southern portions of the coast” of New England. (Coues, Proc. Ess. Inst., V, 1868.) “Coast of the United States, from New England to Florida.” (Coues, Birds of the Northwest.) And now, as confirmatory of the above, Mr. Brewster gives an instance of his seeing it in Cambridge, March 16, 1875. (See this Bulletin, Vol. I, p. 19.)

Bull. N.O.C. 2, Jan., 1877. p. 13.

The Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) in Connecticut.—I have the pleasure of recording a few notes on the Fish Crow in this State. For several years I have detected birds of the Crow family along the shore, which, from the notes, method of flight, and apparently smaller size almost convinced me they were Fish Crows, but until this season had no opportunity to verify the belief. On the 10th of May I killed a fine specimen in an extensive tract of swampy woods bordering a salt marsh in Stratford, and saw two others at the same time.

Melanerpes carolinus Eating Oranges.—As corroborating Dr. Warren's account in his late report on the birds of Pennsylvania it may be worth years.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

total extermination of the species can be a matter of only a few more and plume hunters, who invariably shoot all that come in their way, the unless steps are taken to protect them from the ravages of the specimen considerable extent.

General Notes

Notes from Connecticut,
E. H. Cames, Bridgeport, Conn.

Fish Crows (*Corvus ossifragus*) were observed in small numbers early in March, having been rare the preceding winter, if present at all. The morning of March 26, which was warm and clear, they were very common in certain districts, compelling attention by their discordant voices and unusual numbers, evidently fresh arrivals for the most part. They were particularly noticeable until midsummer when they gradually became silent and inactive. Even until May 1 flocks of twenty or thirty were occasionally seen; soon after, however, they were reduced to groups of a few unmated or barren individuals, and widely dispersed, breeding birds. Much more suspicious than the common species, they force themselves upon the attention long before the nest is in sight, in most cases in this vicinity. April 29, at Fairfield, one sat by a nest eighty feet from the ground, and confessed ownership of its young in the latter part of May. On May 12 I took a set of four fresh eggs from a nest seventy-five feet above the ground. This had been commenced in April, and its completion delayed at least two weeks. May 16 I took five nearly fresh eggs of the Fish Crow and one of the Robin from a nest near the summit of an isolated white pine tree in a recent clearing of hardwood growth. Tall timber near by seemed to them less attractive. The female being shot, its mate remained sorrowfully calling for several days, when it again mated and probably met with better success, as they could be seen there till July. A set of five eggs was taken at Mt. Vernon, New York, May 15, 1888, from a nest fully sixty-five feet from the ground, in low, wet woods. They were somewhat common there at that time.

Distribution of New England Birds.-
A Reply to Dr. Brewer. H. A. Purdie.

(Records of Birds excluded by Dr. B.
from his Catalogue.)

Corvus ossifragus. FISH CROW.—“Stratford,” Conn., Linsley (l. c.).
“An occasional visitor along the southern coast of the State of Massachusetts.” (J. A. Allen, l. c.) “Very rare visitor in summer” to Massachusetts. (E. A. Samuels, Descriptive Catalogue of the Birds of Mass., in Rept. of Sec. Board of Agriculture of Mass. for 1863.) “A rare summer visitor, chiefly along the more southern portions of the coast” of New England. (Coues, Proc. Ess. Inst., V, 1868.) “Coast of the United States, from New England to Florida.” (Coues, Birds of the Northwest.) And now, as confirmatory of the above, Mr. Brewster gives an instance of his seeing it in Cambridge, March 16, 1875. (See this Bulletin, Vol. I, p. 19.)

Bull. N.O.C. 2, Jan., 1877. p. 13.

The Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) in Connecticut.—I have the pleasure of recording a few notes on the Fish Crow in this State. For several years I have detected birds of the Crow family along the shore, which, from the notes, method of flight, and apparently smaller size almost convinced me they were Fish Crows, but until this season had no opportunity to verify the belief. On the 10th of May I killed a fine specimen in an extensive tract of swampy woods bordering a salt marsh in Stratford, and saw two others at the same time; the latter, being highly excited at the disappearance of the other, circled about some time calling loudly but finally quieted without offering a shot. Many times afterward I saw the birds, and others, seeing no less than four at one time (May 29), all mature birds. The one secured, although a male, showed evidence of having assisted in incubation, but owing to the dense and almost impassable nature of this swamp no nest was found.

In Fairfield, a pair was seen many times, and a nest found before it was entirely finished, but I watched them so persistently that they soon deserted. They must have reared young elsewhere, as subsequently on several occasions previous to the middle of June they exhibited much alarm at my approach, circling about overhead by the hour in a highly vexed and tireless fashion, following me sometimes for half a mile. Although I saw no young I need no better evidence than their actions to convince me that they were breeding.

Linsley in his ‘Catalogue of the Birds of Connecticut’ gave the Fish Crow as occurring at “Stratford,” but added no further remarks. Within one or two years others have been taken here, of which no record has been published. It is not common, but it may be called not a rare bird, and I think has been largely overlooked from its resemblance to *Corvus americanus*. I feel confident the species also winters here, as I have several times seen what certainly appeared to be Fish Crows, feeding on the sand bars at low tide, retiring to the woods at high tide, and never associating with the common species.—EDWIN H. EAMES, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

? Conn.

Auk, VI. Oct., 1889. p. 338.

Much more suspicious than the common species, they force themselves upon the attention long before the nest is in sight, in most cases in this vicinity. April 29, at Fairfield, one sat by a nest eighty feet from the ground, and confessed ownership of its young in the latter part of May. On May 12 I took a set of four fresh eggs from a nest seventy-five feet above the ground. This had been commenced in April, and its completion delayed at least two weeks. May 16 I took five nearly fresh eggs of the Fish Crow and one of the Robin from a nest near the summit of an isolated white pine tree in a recent clearing of hardwood growth. Tall timber near by seemed to them less attractive. The female being shot, its mate remained sorrowfully calling for several days, when it again mated and probably met with better success, as they could be seen there till July. A set of five eggs was taken at Mt. Vernon, New York, May 15, 1888, from a nest fully sixty-five feet from the ground, in low, wet woods. They were somewhat common there at that time.

Auk X, Jan., 1893. p. 89.

Connecticut, June, 1896.

Corvus ossifragus

June 2 (E. Lyme) - 4 1/2 (Fairfield)

As our train was approaching E. Lyme on June 2 and it came nearly to a standstill on the edge of the bay when a Crow alighted on the track within less than 20 yds. of the window at which we were sitting. The bird looked much larger than a Pigeon and its flight was that of C. ossifragus but we did not hear its voice. Curiously enough however Clark has never found the Fish Crow at Saybrook nor did we detect it there. At Fairfield however I heard the unmistakable ca-co of one flying over the hotel on the afternoon of June 6th.

Connecticut Bird Notes.

On May 12, 1901, I was fortunate enough to find a small colony of Fish Crows (Corvus ossifragus) nesting on one of the headlands jutting into Long Island Sound, in the vicinity of New London and within sight of the Watch Hill summer hotel, on the Rhode Island border. On further investigation I found 2 nests containing 5 eggs each; 1 nest containing 4 eggs; 1 nest containing 3 eggs; 1 nest containing 4 young (a day or two old).

On Nov. 10, I noted five individuals of the colony and shall observe if they winter so far east of their usual range. Mr. J. B. Canfield of Bridgeport, speaks of a small colony in his vicinity also.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 93. James H. Hill, New London, Conn.

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

E. P. Richnoll

Corvus ossifragus. FISH CROW.—As will be seen from the following remarks, there is no doubt that a pair of these birds have been in the vicinity during the past season. I first noticed them on February 24, being attracted by their small size, and for several weeks thereafter they were often seen, their peculiarities of note and habit at once distinguishing them from the common Crow.

Their favorite resort seems to be a growth of tall and partially decayed locusts bordering a fresh-water pond, and on two of these trees, standing together somewhat apart from the others, the birds were to be found almost every morning, but, owing to their shyness and the openness of the ground, I was unable to approach within gunshot. In alighting they usually chose the very topmost branches of the trees, and when approached manifested their suspicion by a restless and excited motion of the wings, which appeared to be more pointed than in the more stoutly built *C. americanus*. Their note was an abrupt, expressionless croak, usually delivered singly and at regular intervals. Though other Crows were often seen in the vicinity, this pair kept aloof by themselves, and several times I saw them chased by a clamorous party of their larger relatives. Latterly they have been rarely noticed, and then always singly, thus indicating that they are breeding in the vicinity.

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

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

f. March.

I shot a Fish Crow on the 17th, which was a female, and very tame. It flew by me so close I easily brought her down with a charge of No. 9 shot. Following are the dimensions: Length, 16.84; extent, 33; wing, 11.30; tail, 6.40; bill, (culmen) 1.80; Tarsus, 1.82; longest toe and claw, 2.03 inches.

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

THE FISH CROW (*Corvus ossifragus*, Wils.), ON LONG ISLAND.— On the 17th July, 1873, I shot a fine female of this species near Rockaway, L. I. The bird was flying around, but kept apart from a flock of common Crows in the vicinity. The bird is not mentioned in Giraud's "Birds of Long Island," although Samuels, in "Birds of New England," says, "I understand that it has been taken on Long Island."— C. H. EAGLE.

[These two recent captures of the Fish Crow by Messrs. Eagle and Roosevelt (see above p. 46) confirm the statement made long since by De Kay, that "they are occasionally seen on the shores of Long Island, but are generally confounded with the Common Crow" (New York Zool., Pt. II, 1844, p. 135), which seems to have hitherto been the basis of all references to its occurrence in that locality, and, in connection with Linsley's record of its occurrence at Stratford, Conn. (Am. Journ. Sci. and Arts, Vol. XLIV, 1843, p. 260), of its *presumed* occurrence in Southern New England. Although recently observed by Mr. Brewster in Cambridge, Mass. (see this Bulletin, Vol. I, p. 19), there appears to be as yet no unquestioned record of its capture in New England, where it doubtless occasionally occurs.— J. A. ALLEN.]

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Jan., 1878, p. 47.

THE CAPTURE OF SEVERAL RARE BIRDS NEAR WEST POINT, NEW YORK.— 1. *Corvus ossifragus*, W.

was walking up from the river, in a singular utterance of a Crow that singular house. Its note was a hollow, guttural sound, like the common species (*Corvus americanus*) for several moments, but as I had no other Crow, I passed on, attributing this uncommonly strong emotion, — perhaps I had spoiled, not far from that place

this conclusion as satisfactory, I shot it. It had not the bird itself acted in this manner. It flew before me, and alighted on the side of the highway, where it crossed the highway before climbing the Crow had again taken flight, and in that direction, I knelt behind the wall, and I ventured to look out, I saw the bird. Soon it approached me, but soaring directly overhead, I fired; it fell to the ground and struggling violently all the distance, surprised and delighted to find a friend. This is, I believe, the most northerly friend, Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, in

Edgar A. M.

Bull. N. O. C. 3

Corvus ossifragus ON LONG AND STATEN ISLANDS, N. Y.— The idea holds that the Fish Crow is a rare bird as far north as the latitude of the above-named localities: My correspondents, Messrs. Del. Berier, of Fort Hamilton, Long Island, and H. A. Wheeler, of New Brighton, Staten Island, give me interesting information. Mr. Berier writes: "In looking over Vol. III [Jan., 1878, pp. 46, 47] of Nuttall's Bulletin, I see it was thought worth the while to record the capture of the Fish Crow on Long Island. I do not regard the bird as rare here, and my friend, H. A. Wheeler, Esq., has on several occasions found its nest on Staten Island." Mr. Wheeler writes: "In reply to your queries about the Fish Crow, I would state that it is not a permanent resident, as it comes from the South in March or early in April, and leaves during October or early November. Its nests early, either in the latter part of April (in a forward spring) or during the first fortnight of May. The nests are similar to those of the Common Crow, while the eggs differ mainly in being smaller and slightly more pear-shaped. Most of the nests are found in pine or cedar trees, though I have seen them in the white-oak and the swamp-oak. They breed both near the sea-shore and a few miles back in the country, and as the other Crow is quite numerous the two kinds will often be found quite near each other. They do not seem to associate, though I have seen the two species following up and harassing Owls. In the spring while breeding the Fish Crow will often be found in newly ploughed fields, after grubs, while late in the season I have seen them in old stubble fields feeding on grasshoppers, etc., though most of the time they will be found on the sea-shore, to which they resort in flocks after breeding. During the past five years in which I have collected, I have always found them breeding on Staten Island, and have no reason to doubt that it is a permanent and regular breeding-place. They are not nearly so numerous as the Common Crow, and I seldom find more than half a dozen nests in a season, if as many as that, though I range over about twenty-five square miles more or less thoroughly."— H. A. PURDIE, *Newton, Mass.*

Bull. N. O. C. 5, Oct., 1880, p. 240.

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

f. March.

I shot a Fish Crow on the 17th, which was a female, and very tame. It flew by me so close I easily brought her down with a charge of No. 9 shot. Following are the dimensions: Length, 16.84; extent, 33; wing, 11.30; tail, 6.40; bill, (culmen) 1.80; Tarsus, 1.82; longest toe and claw, 2.03 inches.

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

THE FISH CROW (*Corvus ossifragus*, Wils.), ON LONG ISLAND.— On the 17th July, 1873, I shot a fine female of this species near Rockaway, L. I. The bird was flying around, but kept apart from a flock of common Crows in the vicinity. The bird is not mentioned in Giraud's "Birds of Long Island," although Samuels, in "Birds of New England," says, "I understand that it has been taken on Long Island."— C. H. EAGLE.

[These two recent captures of the Fish Crow by Messrs. Eagle and Roosevelt (see above p. 46) confirm the statement made long since by De Kay, that "they are occasionally seen on the shores of Long Island, but are generally confounded with the Common Crow" (New York Zool., Pt. II, 1844, p. 135), which seems to have hitherto been the basis of all references to its occurrence in that locality, and, in connection with Linsley's record of its occurrence at Stratford, Conn. (Am. Journ. Sci. and Arts, Vol. XLIV, 1843, p. 260), of its presumed occurrence in Southern New England. Although recently observed by Mr. Brewster in Cambridge, Mass. (see this Bulletin, Vol. I, p. 19), there appears to be as yet no unquestioned record of its capture in New England, where it doubtless occasionally occurs.— J. A. ALLEN.]

Bull. N.O.C. 3, Jan., 1878, p. 47.

THE CAPTURE OF SEVERAL RARE BIRDS NEAR WEST POINT, NEW YORK.— 1. *Corvus ossifragus*, Wilson. On the 7th of May, 1877, as I was walking up from the river, my attention was attracted to the very singular utterance of a Crow that sat on an oak-tree in front of Mr. Pell's house. Its note was a hollow, guttural croak, quite unlike the cawing of the common species (*Corvus americanus*). I regarded the bird curiously for several moments, but as I had never before heard the note of the Fish Crow, I passed on, attributing this singular vocal demonstration to some uncommonly strong emotion,— perhaps it was a parent bird whose nest I had spoiled, not far from that place, several days previous. Accepting

this conclusion as satisfactory, I should soon have forgotten the circumstance, had not the bird itself acted in such a manner as to dispel the illusion. It flew before me, and alighted upon a tree far over on the other side of the highway, where it croaked most dismally. When I had reached the highway before climbing over the stone-wall, I noticed that the Crow had again taken flight, and as it was flying somewhat in my direction, I knelt behind the wall, hoping thus to obtain a shot. When I ventured to look out, I saw the bird soaring in [circles not far away. Soon it approached me, but soaring very high in the air. When it got directly overhead, I fired; it fell to the ground, close beside me, reeling and struggling violently all the distance. When I reached it I was both surprised and delighted to find a fine female example of the Fish Crow. This is, I believe, the most northerly record of the capture of this species in the State, though they have been taken on Long Island, where my friend, Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, informed me he took a single specimen.

Edgar A. Mearns, Highland Falls, N. Y.

Bull. N.O.C. 3, Jan., 1878, p. 45-46.

THE PHILADELPHIA VIREO IN EASTERN NEW YORK.— On May 15, 1879, I took, near Troy, N. Y., a male and a female Brotherly-love Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*), in a briery, bushy thicket, where Yellow-breasted Chats commonly breed.— AUSTIN F. PARK, Troy, N. Y.

UNUSUAL NESTING SITE OF THE SNOWBIRD.— In the town of Otis, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, while rummaging on August 10, 1874, through an old barn from which a part of the roof had recently been blown, my attention was attracted by the chirping of a female Junco hyemalis. After watching her I found she had a nest in which were three or four young birds, but a few days old. The nest was placed on the edge of a scaffold under some hay which projected several inches beyond the cavity where the nest was placed. No extra material was used in making the

The birds which possessed the greatest interest for me were the Fish Crows (*Corvus ossifragus*), they were the most abundant of all species occupying the island, and scarcely a coniferous tree but has one of their nests. They build alike on the coast and meadow trees and their hoarse *caw, caw* is continuous while one is in their territory. Though my visit was at too late a day to secure many of their eggs, I managed to take an elongated set of three from a deserted nest, and one incubated set of four which I saved with care.

The trees upon which they build are readily climbed, the nests are generally near the tops and seem to be better made structures than those of our American Crow (*Corvus frugivorus*), being warmly lined with the fur of the wild cattle which until lately were very abundant on this place. The eggs are exact miniatures of the American Crow's, and could be easily identified by their smaller size alone.

The birds become very noisy when their nests are examined, and it is not an uncommon thing for the robber to find the entire community flying boisterously overhead. As the coniferous trees are numerous, and the fish supply inexhaustible, it is not probable that this island will be deserted by them for a long time, even in the face of improvement. The old resident fisherman told me that some of these birds remained all winter, seeking shelter at night in the giant evergreens just in the wake of the sand dunes, where he has seen as many as fifty birds huddled together on one tree in the winter twilight. I found four young in most nests examined May 25, and some nests deserted by the young. The eggs are probably deposited by April 15 to 25, and the oologist who would visit this island at that time could make a rich collection of these eggs.

Seven-mile Beach, N. J. H.A.R.
O+O, XIV. Jan. 1889. p. 2.

NOTES ON THE NORTHERN RANGE OF THE FISH CROW
(*CORVUS OSSIFRAGUS*), WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF ITS
HABITS.

BY LOUIS A. ZEREGA.

IN speaking of the Fish Crow, Dr. T. M. Brewer says* that "Mr. Lawrence is confident that it never occurs farther north than Squan Beach, in New Jersey." That this opinion is incorrect is evident from the following facts. Eight specimens were shot by Mr. E. B. Keeler at his home near Seabright, Monmouth County, New Jersey; these were kindly presented to me by Mr. Keeler, to whom I express my sincere thanks for this as well as many similar favors. Three Fish Crows have been captured by Mr. Robert White along the shore of Sandy Hook Bay, between the Highlands of the Navesink and Sandy Hook. This species has also been found, on several occasions, north of Sandy Hook. Mr. Edgar A. Mearns killed a beautiful female at Highland Falls, N. Y., on the Hudson River, on the 7th of May, 1877, as recorded in this Bulletin (Vol. III, No. I, pp. 45, 46) for January, 1878. In the same issue of the Bulletin (p. 47), Mr. Clarence H. Eagle records the capture of a fine female of this species near Roekaway, Long Island, on the 17th of July, 1873. Mr. Theodore Roosevelt shot a male at Oyster Bay, Long Island, on December, 30, 1874.† This makes the third authentic record of its capture in New York; and Mr. Eugene P. Bicknell noticed a pair that appeared at Riverdale, N. Y., on the Hudson, on Feb. 24, 1878, and remained for some time in that vicinity.‡ In Massachusetts, Mr. William Brewster saw a Fish Crow at Cambridge on the morning of March 16, 1875,§ and J. H. Linsley gave it as occurring at Stratford, Connecticut.||

It is not generally known that the most northern point at which this species occurs in abundance is no farther south than Sandy Hook, and the adjacent parts of the New Jersey coast. I have no

* History of North American Birds, Vol. II, 1874, p. 252.

† See "Notes on some of the Birds of Oyster Bay, Long Island," March, 1879.

‡ See this Bulletin, Vol. III, No. 3, p. 131, July, 1878.

§ See this Bulletin, Vol. I, No. 1, p. 19, April, 1876.

|| Am. Jour. Sci. and Arts, Vol. XLIV, No. 2, p. 260, 1843.

Bay State Ool; 16. Nesting of the Fish Crow. By C. S. Schick. *Ibid.*, p. 24. Auk, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 87.

On a Collection of Eggs from
Georgia. H. B. Bailey,

38. *Corvus ossifragus*. FISH CROW.—Nests in trees near the sea;
eggs four. April 20.

Bull. N. O. C., 3, Jan. 1883, p. 39