

Ectopistes
migratorius

SBx 97.41.9 (A1)

Spine v. 46

Ectopistes migratoria

1890 Mass.

Aug. 23, 24 E. Falmouth. - A bird, apparently young, seen by Gordon Plummer in the street in the village of East Falmouth on each of these dates, doubtless the same individual.

1892.

Oct - Dedham. - A flock of about a dozen seen by James T. Clark in a pasture near the edge of Purgatory Swamp. They were on the ground, apparently feeding but on just what Mr. Clark did not ascertain. Flock of about
12 at Dedham

1893

January Western U.S. - A provision dealer in Harvard Square, Cambridge, had three barrels of Wild Pigeons about the middle of this month. He sold them at \$3.50 per dozen. All were in full plumage but the wings had been cut off, and the tails pulled out as has been the universal practice, during the past eight or ten years, among the western shippers the supposed reason being that the birds when thus treated take less room. This man (Brewer) could only tell me that his Pigeons came "from the West." They were probably from Indian Territory. Brewer says that he has had none before for about seven or eight years. Three barrels
in the
Cambridge
market.

1890 Maine

Sept. Near Bangor. - "A young Passenger Pigeon was taken the last of September near Bangor the first I have known killed in the last ten years" (Marby Hardy, letter Oct. 20, 1890)

Ectopistes migratorius.

1878 Massachusetts.

Aug. 20 Nantucket On the return to town from Hummock Pond shot a Wild Pigeon, a ♂ ad. in superb plumage. (Journ.)

1883

Sept. 4

East Orleans. - One shot by Charles B. Bourn. In his catalogue it is numbered 409 and labeled "♂?". From the query following the next month I infer that it was a young bird but I do not remember to have ever seen the specimen & he has long since parted with it. (I take the note from his field journal Dec. 8, 1902.)

1870

In the Journal (M.S.) of Charles M. Carter, sent me by him for examination in December 1906, I find the following entry under date "Cambridge, Thursday 21st of April, 1870:

Will B[rewster] has been in town [Boston] to-day and bought down 12 eggs which a market-man squeezed out of Wild Pigeons. I brought them out for Will.

As I well remember we used often in those days to obtain eggs of the Wild Pigeon in this way either squeezing them out for ourselves (as I have repeatedly done) from the unplucked birds as they lay in keeps in the front of the stalls or paying the market-man a trifle to have for us such as they found when they were picking over or dressing the birds. The presence of a fully developed egg in the birds was usually easily recognized by the swollen appearance of the abdomen. As a rule the egg could be safely and quickly forced out by pressing the hand firmly on the abdomen and then moving it slowly towards the oses.

Eggs
Obtained
from dead
birds in
Boston
markets.

Ectopistes migratorius.

Saml. N. Rhoads

(Letter from ~~Joseph Walton.~~)

Haddonfield. New Jersey. Nov. 1878

Since my last to you I have had further communication with a gentleman who has interested himself in the subject of the present whereabouts and history of the Wild Pigeon.

One of his correspondents Mr. Caleb S. Cope of West Chester Pa. informed him that he had seen, in company with his son, several large flocks of *Ectopistes migratoria* in Washington Territory.

I immediately wrote him-Mr. Cope- and received on different occasions two letters, the first giving proofs of his correct identification of the species, and the second a description of the locality with dates of observation and notes on the movements and number of the flocks observed. I find Mr. Cope is a shrewd and observant, but rather uneducated lover of nature. I will enclose his first letter and think that you will agree with me that his identification is correct. The remaining facts are these, viz- "There were numerous flocks of from 200 to 300 in a flock (my son George corroborated this statement) and it is my (Mr. Cope's) opinion that whilst passing over in their northern route, these flocks had been attracted from their aerial journey by the boundless pasture fields that opened to their view; as all their movements seemed to indicate that they were but transient visitors". "These observations" Mr. Cope continues, "were made in the Spring-Probably May- of 1877 on the prairies, which were red with the most delicious wild strawberries, in an almost uninhabited region 14 miles east of Puget's Sound in Washington Territory".

I judge that the foregoing is the extent of Mr. Cope's experiences with *E. Migratoria* and, so far as, it goes helps to support

Ectopistes migratorius.

Saml. N. Rhoads

(Letter from ~~Joseph Walton~~ continued.)

the theory that there has been within the last fifteen or twenty years a decided westerly movement of the bulk of those flocks which which formerly confined themselves to regions East of the Rockies.

It may be very possible, that there are immense uninhabited tracts in the far West which have been for some years the scene of an annual migration of these birds, and though chance observers (as Mr. Cope) may have frequently encountered them, it has not attracted attention or not been noticed for lack of sufficient interest or knowledge in the observer. The Wild Pigeon in Washington Territory were evidently migrants and their northern flights would indicate a breeding place far west of any on record.

Ectopistes migratorius.

(Letter from Caleb S. Cope.)

II mo 9th '90.

To Joseph Walton.

Dear Friend

Joseph Walton

Thy letter of the 7th was received on the 8th. We met with 3 or 4 distinct varieties of pigeons in Washington Territory, there was a small pigeon quite numerous near Tecoma and a party colored pigeon in every respect very similar to our own tame pigeon, in the woods. Also the common wild pigeon (*Ectopistes Carolinensis*) (-*V. migratorius*-) which I spoke of as having met with on the prairies; its general features are those of the dove with long tapering tail, the under side of which and outside feather were white. Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway thus mention it. On the high central plains west of Humboldt Mountains Nevada. There is no blue on the outer web of the first tail feather which is white. John K. Townsend a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia who, when a young man in company with Capt. Wrieth (Wyeth) and the eminent botanist Nuttall in 1834-5-6 crossed the Rocky Mts. to the Columbia River collected a number of specimens in Ornithology which for a long time graced the cabinet of that Institution, mentioned the Wild Pigeons as being found in **Washington Territory**. B. H. Warren speaks of it as straggling westward to Nevada and Washington Territory.

The Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciatus*) is thus described by Nuttall, Bluish gray, a white band behind the head, a broad black bar near the middle of the tail which is **short** and even.

Elliott Coues mentions the Band-tail Pigeon as found from the Rocky Mts. to the Pacific, chiefly in woodlands sometimes in flocks

Ectopistes migratorius

(Letter from C. Cope to Joseph Walton continued)

of great extent.

Others who saw these flocks which I alluded to said at once without a moment's hesitation that they were genuine Wild Pigeon—those who were well acquainted with that bird. We can easily see there is quite a distinct appearance in the two varieties, the Wild Pigeon has a long tapering tail the under side of which and outside feather are white. The Band-tail Pigeon has an even tail with a broad, dark bar near the middle but no white .

Before writing this account I asked my son George who was with me, to describe the Pigeons we saw on the plains and his description agrees exactly with mine and with those that I have quoted. I gave no leading questions but simply inquired of him as to his remembrance of the peculiar features of the bird; and he has an excellent memory and has taken great interest in observing the more prominent points, as well as, the most minute details of such things.

Copy.

Palmer, Mich. Dec. 29. 1893.

William Dutcher Esq.

535 Manhattan Ave.

New York City N.Y.

Dear Sir,-

I am sorry I can be of so little assistance to you in securing E. migratorious as I have no specimens in my collection and have been on the look out for some for a long time. They are about extinct here. S. E. White in his notes on the birds of Mackinae Island (Auk X No. 5) speaks of having lately seen them there in flocks and they may possibly be found in the upper Peninsula in the vicinity of the "Soo". I have some men looking out for them and shall be pleased to share with you the benefits of their luck; for such I consider it if one can secure these rare birds now.

I have been collecting some birds and animals for the Albion College Museum of Albion, Michigan and their taxidermist, with whom I am in correspondence, recently wrote me, that one specimen of E. migratorious had been taken there last spring and he had seen one this fall, but did not secure it. This note is authentic as the taxidermist (Rev. L.J. Griffin) is an old bird observer and has lived in Michigan for nearly sixty years and is thoroughly acquainted with E.M. I have written him asking for better dates than "spring" and "fall"; then the note will be of more value.

The most common tree at Albion is the oak and E. migratorious loves acorns, as you know. Since we have no oaks in Palmer and but

Copy.

Palmer, Mich. Dec. 29. 1893.

To William Dutcher Esq.

few in Marquette Co. and can offer no especial attractions to the remnant of this once numerous species, and I fear my specimens will have to be secured at a distance.

Very respectfully

Oscar B. Warren

Ectopistes migratorius.

The following is from a letter to Wm. Dutcher, 525 Manhattan Ave., New York, N.Y., dated Nov. 24, 1897, from E.E. Brewster, Iron Mountain, Michigan, in regard to the Passenger Pigeon:-

"Knowing the interest you take in species extinct and approaching extinction, I think it may interest you to learn that a young Passenger Pigeon was taken in this vicinity (Vulcan, Mich. about 10 miles from here) during the latter part of Sept. '97. It was found near the R.R. track with a wing broken.

I did not see the specimen but old pigeon hunters were satisfied that it was that species. E.E.B."

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

89. *Ectopistes migratorius* (Linn.) Sw. WILD PIGEON.—Breeding at Grand Falls, but not common.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, July, 1882, p. 151

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

75. *Ectopistes migratorius*. WILD PIGEON.—A rather rare and very irregular visitor.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct., 1882, p. 238

Perhaps no bird is more regretfully recalled by our older sportsmen than is the Wild Pigeon. The first inhabitants of this Province found this elegant and savory member of the Columbidae abundant everywhere.

Their spring arrival usually occurred early in the month of May, and the bulk seldom made their autumnal exit until the middle of October. They constructed their simple nests in the branches of lofty trees, especially hemlocks, beneath whose foliage they found a grateful shade from the midday sun, and from which they seldom issued except at early dawn or at evening. In olden times their food was very abundant, and consisted chiefly of strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries, which now-a-days are, unaccountably, found only in very meagre quantities, quite too limited to supply the vast flocks of Pigeons which formerly resorted here. This failure in their provisions appears to me the best reason to give for their withdrawal from this section, and is the same reason given by Audubon for their leaving some more southern localities.

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

Sept. 15, Wild Pigeon.

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

Pictou Co. Nova Scotia. James H. Kinkaid
Aug 2. Jan. 1885. p. 39.

Point Lepreau, N. B.

Ectopistes migratoria.

1885

Aug. 18

Thomas saw two, both apparently females, sitting on a tree by the roadside on the road to Lepreau. They are the first that he has seen here this year, and he, as well as everyone with whom I have talked, both here and at St. John (Carnall & Chamberlain), tell the same story, viz: that the bird has almost wholly disappeared from this region. Ten years ago they were numerous, especially on the barrens when blueberries were ripe. Five years ago the Hange Bros. with Thomas fired into a flock a few miles from here and killed twelve birds with their fow.

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100 fine photo. That was the last flock
that Thomas has seen

The Passenger Pigeon.—Since the year 1871 I had not seen a Wild Pigeon until 1896, when, near the Bay of Quinte, I saw a pair. The following year in the same vicinity, I saw from four to six birds on several occasions and during the next two years I saw about the same number. The past season I had not the opportunity of observation.

In 1898 I wrote in 'The Globe,' the leading daily paper of Canada, asking any one who had seen Wild Pigeons, during recent years, to make it known. This elicited many replies through 'The Globe' and by personal letters.

There was a general agreement as to a total disappearance about 1870, continuing until 1895. A few stated they had seen an occasional bird earlier. The reports were from all parts of Ontario and Manitoba. Mr. D. C. Black, Appin, Ont., writes: "I saw nine in a wheat field near the village of Glencoe, and they are the first I have seen in twenty-five years. They did put me in mind of the olden times. When I was a boy I used to spend a great deal of my time trying to strike them with sticks. They have often taken half a day, crossing over our farm, flying very low, as they seemed to be very tired. . . . To see a few of them is to me as seeing a dear old friend."

I think we may fairly conclude that the Wild Pigeon abruptly became very rare about 1870 (it is probable there was a diminution during the previous decade), and that there has been an increase in their number in recent years.

I am not aware of any satisfactory explanation of the phenomena. It is not improbable, some epidemic disease, spreading more rapidly on account of the immense number of individuals, nearly exterminated the species. In such a case, we might expect to see them again, in large numbers. This would be analogous to what we see in insects, *Danaï's archippus* for instance.

The food supply has certainly become less. In this connection it is interesting to observe, that in the district where I have seen Wild Pigeons recently, there are some white oak trees and though they are mostly second growth, they succeed quite a forest of old oaks. There has, in this locality probably, been a continuous supply of mast. Mr. S. D. Woodruff of St. Catharines, Ont., writes, that he learned from sea captains that immense numbers of pigeons perished in the Gulf of Mexico, being exhausted by contrary winds and dense fogs. He says the experience of several ship masters was having "myriads of the pigeons alight on the vessel and rigging, and having to cast them off into the sea."—G. C. TREMAINE WARD, *Napanee, Ont., Can. Auk, XVIII, April, 1901, pp. 191-2.*

Recent Records of the Wild Pigeon.—Occasionally some old-timer writes to the newspapers announcing the return of the Wild Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*), and in nine cases out of ten the Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), has been the innocent cause. One recent discussion in the Toronto papers was brought to an abrupt and apparently satisfying conclusion by the announcement, copied from a sporting journal, that one of the American consuls in South America had stated that the Wild Pigeon had taken refuge on, I think, the east side of the Andes, anyway that the consul and pigeons were far enough away to satisfy the most inquiring. I have for some time kept a careful record of reported announcements of Wild Pigeons, and among them I have selected the following as reliable:

1896. October 22, Toronto. "Saw eleven Wild Pigeons flying in a southwest course over Well's Hill."—J. Hughes Samuel.
1898. April 14, Winnipegosis, Manitoba. An adult male taken, mounted by Mr. G. E. Atkinson, Winnipeg.
1898. September 14, Detroit, Michigan. Immature bird taken, mounted by Mr. C. Champion, Detroit, by whom it was sent to me.
1900. May 16, Toronto, Ont. Mr. Oliver Spanner saw a flock of about ten flying west over the mouth of the Etibocoke River (ten miles west of Toronto), between 10 and 11 A. M., and about an hour afterwards the same flock returned, flying eastward towards Long Branch. Mr. J. G. Joppling had joined Mr. Spanner and saw the birds return; they were flying low, just over the trees.
1900. July 6, Toronto, Ont. "Saw five at Centre Island going southwest. They passed out over the lake."—J. Hughes Samuel.
1902. May 16, Penctanquishene, Ont. One seen; pair seen two days later, in same locality by Mr. A. L. Young.—J. H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Ont. Auk, XX, Jan., 1903, p. 66.*

965

Observer

Observer 1874 Shooting wild pigeons

E. S. B. 1880 Trapping wild pigeons

FROM

Forest and Stream, N.Y. Vol. XXV, No. 18,

November 26, 1885.

FROM

THE WILD PIGEON.—South Lyon, Mich.—In years back, up to 1874, we saw large flocks of pigeons migrating from north to south in the fall and from south to north in spring, sometimes staying with us a few days and then disappearing on their journey. Since 1874 we have not seen any flocks, and only a very few single birds in a whole year. Why have they stopped their migrating, and where have they gone to, or are they numbered with the past?—YOUNG READER. [There is no mystery about the disappearance of the wild pigeons. Their flocks have been depleted by market pot-hunters and by the trap-shooting game protective societies.]

FROM
Forest and Stream, N. Y. Vol. III, No. 10
Oct. 15, 1874.

For Forest and Stream.

SHOOTING WILD PIGEONS.

ALTHOUGH I have been reading your paper for nearly one year I have seen little in its columns concerning the wild pigeon, its habits and the country which it selects for its habitation during the winter months, and its nesting places in summer.

Although not strictly a game bird, I esteem it one of the most interesting birds in this country as regards its habits, with some few of which I am acquainted, and being very desirous of becoming more familiar with it, I know of no better place to seek for information than in the columns of your valuable paper; I would, therefore, ask any of your correspondents, to whose eye this may come, to add by a future letter to my information.

At this season of the year the Alleghany Mountains are literally alive with them, and from morn to eve nothing in the best localities can be heard but the sharp crack of rifles and the heavier sound of shot guns. Everyone seems to be impressed with the idea that he must make the finest bag of the season, and consequently every one that can procure a gun, no matter of what kind, sallies forth to wage an indiscriminate war upon the poor pigeons that have visited our hills and valleys to feed upon the acorns and wild cherries which are found in the greatest profusion on the top of the Alleghanies in a strip of country called the Glades. These Glades are open spaces devoid of trees in the midst of unbroken forests covered by tall grass and alder bushes; they extend for perhaps fifty miles on top of the mountains, and are from fifteen to twenty miles in breadth. This section of the country seems to be the favorite ground for pigeons in the fall of the year, when they are making their way from the northern frosts to find a more congenial climate in the Southern States.

Hearing of the immense quantities of pigeons in this section of our State, my friend J. and myself determined to take a little trip to see if we could not kill a few of the countless multitudes that were swarming in the mountains. We took the afternoon express on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad from Cumberland, and after a two hours ride arrived at Deer Park, a summer resort, on the line of the Baltimore and Ohio, and no sooner had we stepped upon the platform and cast our eyes about us, than we saw large flocks flying in every direction. We left the station and walked about one hundred and fifty yards in the woods, when I succeeded in bringing down the first pigeon; that shot seemed to open the ball, and we never ceased to load and fire until darkness closed the day. Although late in the evening when we commenced shooting, and the dead birds being difficult to find, on account of the thick jack oaks, our bag contained fifty pigeons.

We stayed all night with an old gentleman named Friend, and the next morning, just as daylight began to wake a sleeping world, we hurriedly dressed, and for fifteen or twenty minutes had delightful sport; as the pigeons left the roost for their feeding grounds we stood in an open field, and as a flock after flock passed over each one contributed to our bag. In half an hour not one pigeon could be seen, and although we hunted diligently all day, some thirty pigeons rewarded us, until four in the evening, when the gorged birds began to seek their roosting place of the previous night. We selected one of the glades, of which I have before spoken, where the grass had been mowed, and the pigeons sweeping over its surface gave us splendid sport, as the most we shot could now be found. But all things must have an end, and so had our hunt here; but on counting our pigeons for the afternoon, found we had bagged ninety-four.

We determined that wearied nature needed repose, and

our old host, Mr. Friend, insisting upon our staying, we took up our quarters for another night with him, and the next morning being Sunday, we started for home. The moral sense of the community was shocked, and nothing that we could do or say seemed to have any effect upon the highly religious people of Cumberland. No express wagon could be found to transport our game to our respective homes, and necessity compelled us to brave the world's censure and carry our own game, which we did, regardless of those envious ones who blamed us for what they were sorry they had not done.

Yours,
OBSERVER.

FROM

Forest and Stream, N.Y. Vol. XIV, No. 22.
July 1, 1880.

TRAPPING WILD PIGEONS.

CORRY, Pa., May 16th.

ON the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad, ninety-five miles from Erie, in the midst of a vast forest, reposes the little village of Kane. Without architectural beauty, and lacking in many of the comforts which are to be found in most modern towns, Kane nevertheless presents to certain classes of people attractions rare and valuable. The village is situated upon the highest point of land on the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad, and the clear, pure air thus insured at all seasons is productive of robust appetites and correspondingly perfect health. This advantage alone is sufficient to draw a large number of Philadelphians to Kane every summer, and with it must be considered the fact before mentioned, that upon every side for miles extends an unbroken forest, with its innumerable charms for the lover of nature. There is yet one inducement to pleasure seekers unmentioned, one which comes with regular irregularity and one whose various phenomena are interesting and wonderful alike to the scientist and to the unpretending student of nature—the immense flock of wild pigeons which nests about once every five years in the vicinity of Kane. There are three such flocks in the United States—one in Michigan, another in Missouri and the third and largest, that with which we have to deal, in Pennsylvania. These flocks drift about from season to season following the crop of nuts and rarely going beyond the boundaries of their own States. The woods in the vicinity of Kane are largely beech, except in the valleys or marshes where hemlock prevails and the immediate cause of the birds' nesting where they have this year was an immense crop of beech nuts last fall.

I could not learn how, but certain it is that in some way the birds learn the location of the richest harvest and are always on hand at the right time to enjoy it. Last fall a few pigeons were observed in the woods near Kane, and the "old settlers," with an air of confident knowledge peculiar to old settlers and editors, said that with the spring would come the flock. The few stray birds remained in the neighborhood all winter, and during March the prophecy was verified by the appearance of countless millions of pigeons.

The birds built their nests over a territory of about twenty square miles, and began hatching April 1st. Their presence in such vast numbers soon drew together a crowd of gunners and others bent on destruction as a means of enjoyment or of gaining a livelihood, and from that day to this a ceaseless slaughter has continued.

We reached Kane at 3:30 P.M. and sought accommodations at the Thompson House, which, however, had not yet opened its doors to summer travel. An inquiry at the Kane House resulted differently, and we registered there. We were up early the next morning, and at 6 o'clock were on our way to the "roost," in an easy riding carriage drawn by a team of spanking grays. Our road lay through dense woods, and was not more than fifteen feet wide. On each side the trees rose a solid wall nearly a hundred feet into the air. The grandeur of that still morning scene, the invigorating air the prospect of a long and pleasant ride, all the surrounding circumstances tending to exhilaration in the highest degree.

However, "it is a long lane that has no turning," and after traversing twenty-one miles, the driver delivered himself of the information that the nesting ground had been attained.

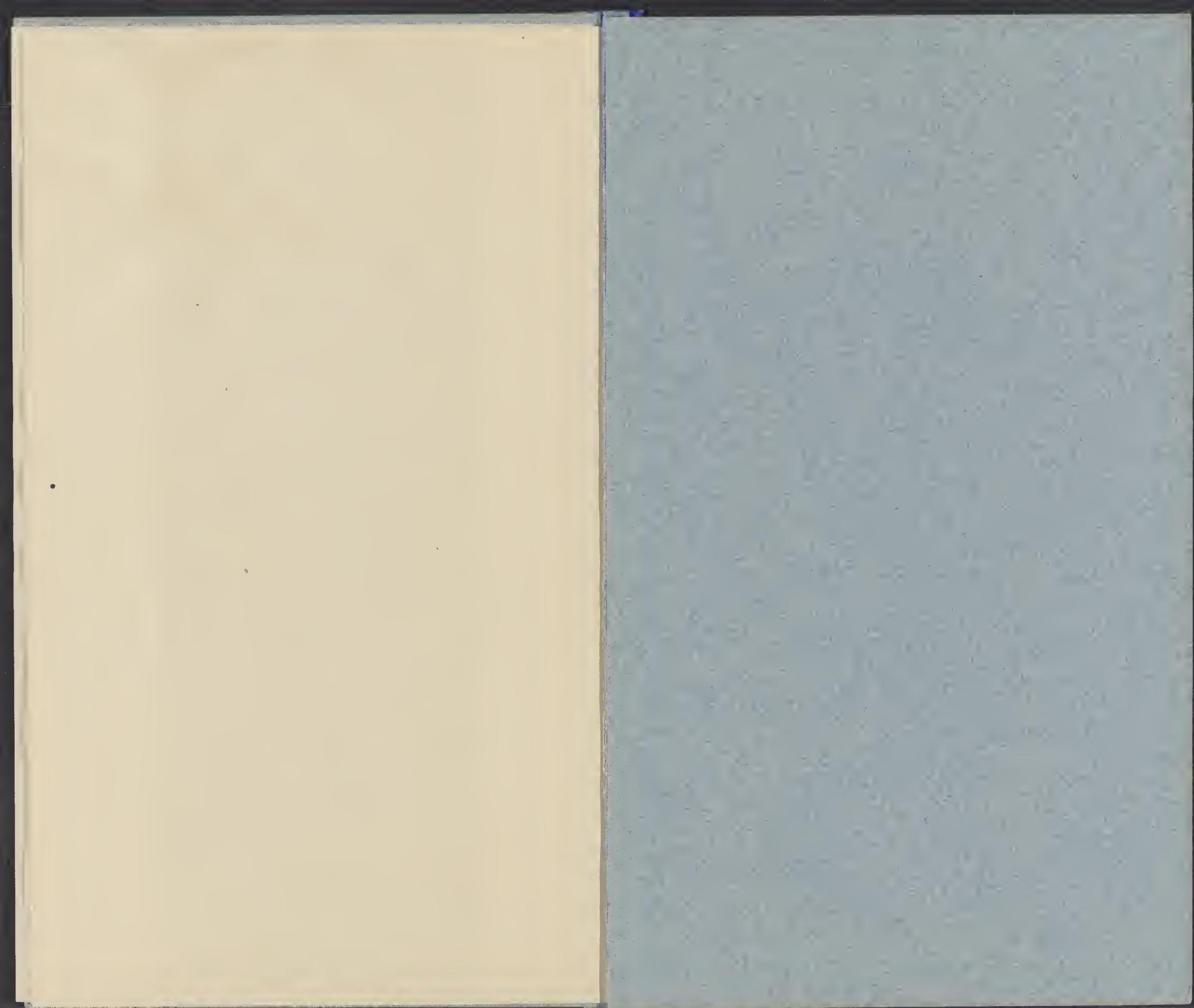
Only a few pigeons were in sight, flying from tree to

tree, but the trees were full of nests. In a few moments a gun was fired in the immediate vicinity, and instantly hundreds of birds became visible. It is unlawful to shoot birds within a mile of the roost, or to trap them anywhere, yet the law is broken in both ways continually and with impunity. The nesting ground is from one and one half to two and one-half miles wide and about twelve miles long, and in this space and vicinity there are several hundred gunners and about eight hundred trappers constantly engaged in slaughtering the helpless birds. One hundred and fifty barrels, each containing 350 dead birds, and as many crates, holding from six to eight dozens of live ones, are shipped every day from the different towns within a day's journey of the roost. Such work as this is not only wicked, but it is in the highest degree foolish. If the trappers and hunters would remain outside of the roost and take the birds in their frequent flights to and from home, they would be a source of revenue all summer. As it is, the natural result of the birds' departing must come, and that in a very short time. Indeed, the trappers admit that the birds are already beginning to leave, and Frank and I were a source of suspicion to these law-breakers, as we had no guns and exhibited no evidences of legitimate business. We had expected this, however, and had brought a pocket full of cheap cigars; a small number of these, judiciously distributed, had the desired effect, and a few only of the many trappers with whom we conversed failed to become talkative under the influence of the weed.

The first requisite in the pursuance of the trapper's art is a stool pigeon. A bird is selected while young and made to perch upon her owner's finger. He is then raised about six feet from the ground, and the finger gradually lowered. Finding his support sinking, the candidate uses his wings and flutters or hovers to the ground. Being again raised, he again hovers to the earth. This training is continued for weeks and sometimes months, and is not discontinued until the habit of hovering becomes a part of the bird's nature. A net about ten by forty feet is procured and one side fastened to stakes in the earth, so that it will flop over—if you will allow such an inelegant expression—like a trap door. Close to the net, and where it will rest when "sprung," is spread buckwheat, or other grain, and salt, for the birds are as fond of salt as a deer of a salt lick. The stool pigeon is then fastened to a movable platform nearby. The net is fastened to bent saplings in such a manner that by pulling a string it will be thrown over the bait. The trappers lie concealed in a "bow-house," a hut built of hemlock boughs, and await results. When a flock appears, the stool pigeon is made to hover, and the birds, thinking he is free like themselves, and in search of edibles, light, and soon find a net between themselves and freedom. The prisoners are placed in a coop until a wagon load has been captured, and are then taken to the nearest express office for shipment. Live birds have been as high as \$2 per dozen, but are now selling at sixty cents to seventy-five cents. The average price during the season of five weeks has been about \$1. The business of trapping is therefore a lucrative one. Two years ago two trappers made \$5,000 in two months, and Irvin Kitelinger and Lyle Dickson have so far this season trapped more than thirteen hundred dozen. A large proportion of the trappers live in Ohio and follow the birds wherever they roost from year to year.

But trappers and gunners are not the only enemies with which the birds find it necessary to contend. Three weeks ago, just before the "squabs," or young birds, could fly, about two hundred Cornplanter Indians left their "reservation" above Warren, and moved, bag and baggage, upon the pigeon roost. They remained a week, and during that time cut down thousands of trees in order to get the squabs. When the marauders departed they left the ground blue with dead birds, having killed twice as many as they knew how to dispose of. The male birds are called "toms," the females, "hens;" and the young, without regard to sex, "squabs." They are very prolific, raising several broods in a year. But two eggs are laid in a nest and the young are generally of opposite sex. Incubation requires about two weeks, and—now here is a point for you, Susan B.—the tom sits on

the nest nearly as much as the hen. The squabs are able to take care of themselves in ten days from birth. They leave the roost for food and return at irregular intervals, but the mature birds have their unvarying periods of flight. The hunters take advantage of this, and, posting themselves on a hill anywhere within five or even ten miles of the nesting, shoot the birds by hundreds as they fly away for food or home to feed their young. The nesting is in Forest County, twenty-one miles southwest of Kane and sixteen miles southeast of Sheffield. To those desiring to reach the ground I would advise going direct to Kane, which, although further from the nesting than Sheffield, would be preferable for several reasons. Good hotel accommodations can be had for \$1.50 per day, and a good livery stable is located in the village. A team and carriage, together with a competent guide, may be procured for \$5 per day. G. S. B.





Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming,
Part II, Land Birds,
Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p.71-72.

117. *Ectopistes migratorius*. PASSENGER PIGEON.— Once a regular summer resident, breeding in the country between Toronto and Lake Simcoe. The disappearance of the great flocks dates back at least forty years, and by 1880 the bird was rare here; the records for 1890 are May 12, adult male; September 20 and October 11, young females; earliest record, April 13, 1891, male; birds were seen on May 16 and July 6, 1900.⁸ These are the last and are reliable; there is no question that the Wild Pigeon is extinct in a wild state in America to-day.

An item in one of the early Toronto papers, dated April 15, 1815, "Immense flights of the Wild Pigeon from west to east on the 27 ulto." is the earliest date of arrival I can find.

Profile House, N. H. Aug. 1865.

Ectopistes migratoria. - Not common

Ectopistes migratoria. - Saw three. Shelburne, N. H. Aug. 8-29-1865. R. D.
Rye Beach, N. H. 1866-1885.

Ectopistes migratoria. - Seen either 1869 or 1870.

Ectopistes migratoria. - ^{1 pair.} Aug. 2 Profile House N. H. July 27-Aug. 7. 1886

Cambridge, Mass.

Ectopistes migratorius

1832-1835.

Dr. Samuel Cabot tells me that while in College here Wild Pigeons occurred in immense numbers both spring and autumn. He remembers one occasion in early spring when the ground was covered with several inches of snow his attention was attracted one morning by ~~the~~ great flocks passing over the College in a westerly direction. Hurrying through a recitation he took his gun and followed them. Upon reaching some gravel pits where they

Middlebury Co., Mass.

Ectopistes migratorius

1885.

Sept. 30.

While collecting in the Warren Run, Wattham with H. W. Henshaw the latter picked up a Wild Pigeon which evidently had been dead only a few hours. Upon skinning it I found that it had been shot through the body. It proved an adult ♀ (the ovaries were very distinctly and coarsely granulated) although from the plumage I had supposed it to be a young bird. It was mouthing about the head and neck. The crop was filled with large seeds.

Cambridge Hospital is now
building he took his stand
on a knoll and in a short
time killed eighteen from shells
parting overhead. There were
some men yelling their
war by who took many
down with one cast.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

Ectopistes migratoria

1885.

Sept. 30.

While collecting in the Warren Run, Waltham
with H. W. Henshaw the latter picked up
a Wild Pigeon which evidently had been dead
only a few hours. Upon skinning it I found
that it had been shot through the body.
It proved an adult ♀ (the ovaries were
very distinctly and coarsely granulated) although
from the plumage I had supposed it to be
a young bird. It was smothering about the
head and neck. The crop was filled with
large seeds.

Mass. (Concord)

Ectopistes migratoria ✓

Occurrence in breeding season.

1886

May 30

To my surprise I saw a Wild Pigeon here to-day. It flew from the oak woods on the south side of Fairhaven Cliffs and crossed the river about 100 yards in advance of our boat, giving me a good view of it. It was positively not a Turtle Dove and equally certainly a Wild Pigeon. I am very sure also that it was a ♀.

Mass. (Winchendon)

1887

June 26 Mr. Bailey showed me a place on a steep hillside timbered heavily with beech, red oak, maple & hickory, where a pair of Wild Pigeons has been seen repeatedly this month. Nests have been found there in former years.

Ectopistes migratoria.

Mass. (Wareham)

Ectopistes migratoria

1888

In Sept.

Sept. -

Mr. Outram Bangs tells me that early in September he flushed a pair of Wild Pigeons from a weed patch on his father's place at Wareham. They rose very near him and he saw distinctly that they were a ♂ & ♀ the former, at least, an adult bird with red breast. They alighted in some pines and when he returned with his gun had disappeared.

Mass. (Worcester Co.)

Ectopistes migratoria

1888

Oct.

Forbush had a young bird band
in in flesh. It was taken somewhere
near Worcester

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

Ectopistes migratorius (Linn.), Passenger
Pigeon. Migrant, rare.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 139

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

8. *Ectopistes migratorius*.* (Not common)

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

Passenger Pigeon. Millis Mass April 6, 1893. Two seen
(Foster H. Brewster)
and shot at but not secured.

Ectopistes migratoria

A pair nested at Plymouth,
Mass. in summer 1889

For & etc. XXXIII No 15 p.
295, Oct 31-189

1888

Dec. 5

A bunch of about 25 hanging in the market. The stall keeper remarked that the Wild Pigeon had now become a rare bird.

Decrease of Birds in Mass. J. A. Allen

The Wild Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratoria*), though by no means yet extirpated from the State, has greatly decreased here in numbers during the present generation, and has not been seen within the present century in nearly so great abundance as in earlier times. Space will allow of reference to but few of the many accounts of its former almost incredible numbers. Morton refers to the presence of "Millions of Turtle doves on the green boughs; which sate pecking of the ripe pleasant grapes, that were supported by the lusty trees";* and Josselyn speaks of "the Pidgeon, of which there are millions of millions. I have seen a flight of Pidgeons in the spring, and at Michaelmas when they return back Southward for four or five miles, that to my thinking had neither beginning nor ending, length nor breadth, and so thick that I could see no Sun, they join Nest to Nest, and Tree to Tree by their Nests many miles together in Pine-Trees. But of late they are much diminished, the English taking them in Nets."† Their abundance on the Vermont border, in 1741, is thus described by Williams: "The surveyor, Richard Hazen, who ran the line which divides Massachusetts from Vermont, in 1741, gave this account of the appearances he met with to the westward of the Connecticut River. 'For three miles together the Pigeons' nests were so thick that five hundred might have been told on the beech trees at one time; and could they have been counted on the hemlocks, as well, I doubt not but five thousand at one turn round.' The remarks of the first settlers of Vermont," continues Williams, "fully confirm this account. The following relation was given me, by one of the earliest settlers of Clarendon [situated about fifty miles north of the Massachusetts line]: 'The number of Pigeons was immense. Twenty-five nests were frequently to be found on one beech tree. The earth was covered with these trees, and with hemlocks thus loaded with the nests of Pigeons. For an hundred acres together, the ground was covered with their dung, to the depth of two inches. Their noise in the evening was extremely troublesome, and so great that the traveller could not get any sleep where their nests were thick. About an hour after sunrise, they rose in such numbers as to darken the air. When the young Pigeons were grown to a considerable bigness, before they could readily fly, it was common for the settlers to cut down the trees, and gather a horse load in a few minutes.' The settlement of the country has since set bounds to this luxuriance of animal life," and these birds have been driven to other districts.‡ The early history of the country shows that down to about the year 1800 this bird was found in similar abundance, at times at least, all along the Atlantic coast from Virginia to Maine, since which time it has greatly decreased throughout this whole region.

* New English Canaan, p. 60.

† Voyages to New England, p. 99.

‡ Natural and Civil History of Vermont, p. 114.

Auk, XV, Oct., 1898, p. 333.
Ectopistes migratorius, *Mimus polyglottos*, and *Sturnella magna neglecta* in Bristol Co., Mass.— In company with a friend and my brother on August 23, 1889, I was shooting on the mud flats around the reservoir at Norton, Mass. In making a detour of a small inlet, I flushed a Passenger Pigeon from among the low blueberry and bayberry bushes among which I was tramping. The bird alighted in a small white birch near at hand, seeming very unsuspecting, and I shot it. On dissection it proved to be a ♀ young-of-year and was in very good plumage. This is the last record I have of this species. The bird is now mounted and in my collection. Bradford Alexander Scudder, Yauwaton, Mass.

Old Records of Mass. & Rhode Id.

September 23, 1878. Two Passenger Pigeons (*Ectopistes migratorius*), in immature plumage, on the outskirts of Siasconset Village.

Auk 28, Jan-1911, p. 119.

West Roxbury, Mass.

Thoreau's Notes on the Passenger Pigeon.— In connection with Mr. A. H. Wright's compilation of 'Some Early Records of the Passenger Pigeon,' printed in 'The Auk' for October, 1910, Thoreau's records of this species as they appear in his 'Notes on New England Birds' (Boston, 1910) may be of interest, though covering a more recent period. These consist of thirty-eight entries in his Journal, occupying ten pages of the book and extending from 1845 through 1860. They probably give a pretty good notion of the abundance of the bird in the neighborhood of Concord, Mass., during that period. Apparently the Pigeons did not breed there very extensively at that time, though under date of Nov. 8, 1859, it is stated that "Coombs [one of the Concord pigeon-catchers] says that quite a little flock of pigeons bred here last summer." They were found from March through September, but most abundantly by far in the latter month. There were several stands in the neighborhood, and catching began about the middle of August. The notes contain nothing to indicate any marked diminution in their numbers between 1845 and 1860, and the last entry — on Sept. 4 of the latter year — records 'flocks of pigeons' seen on the 2d and 3d.— FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

¹ *C. migratorius* was not recognized as a distinct species by Linnæus till 1766.

Auk 25, Jan-1911, p. 111.

Old Notes on the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*).— In an old note book formerly belonging to Mr. Luther Adams of Townsend, Massachusetts, and loaned me by one of his descendants, I have copied verbatim some interesting data contained therein relating to the Passenger Pigeon. Mr. Adams, who was a farmer and horticulturist, availed himself of the opportunity afforded him by netting these birds, and the old nets which he used, with many feathers clinging to them, are still on the premises. As a record of what took place in the movements of these birds from August 26, 1847, to September 11, 1848, in this particular locality, it is particularly interesting, as it gives the data for the spring and summer months of 1848. Townsend, is 48 miles from Boston, the country is springy and hilly, with hard woods (many chestnuts) and pine. The pigeon stand was located on a high knoll, which is now covered with pine trees a quarter of a century old. The number of pigeons taken in 1847 was 5,028; in 1848, 1,926 were taken.

"Pidgeon Bate 1847.

found 9 bushel of Buekwheat
 paid Benj Barret four dollars and
 fifty cents for Buekwheat
 paid Jonas farnell \$2.00 for wheat
 paid Saml Manning \$1.50 for wheat
 paid Edson \$1.00 for work
 paid Randal Cudry \$3.00 for use
 of plae
 paid John Adams \$0.50 for use of
 plae
 paid seventy-five cents for other
 artieles.

*The amount of Pidgeons taken in
 1847.*

	dozen
Aug. 26	caut sixteen dozen . . . 16
Sept. 2	. . . . . 61½
" 4	. . . . . 25½
" 6	. . . . . 58
" 7	. . . . . 42
" 8	. . . . . 52½
" 11	. . . . . 36
" 13	. . . . . 34½
" 16	. . . . . 8
" 17	. . . . . 52½
" 20	. . . . . 4
" 23	. . . . . 10½
" 24	. . . . . 9½
" 27	. . . . . 8½"

"Pidgeon Bate 1848.

Apr 29, found one bushel of wheat
 \$1.50

*The amount of Pidgeons taken in
 1848.*

	dozen
May 1	three dozen & eight. . . . 3.8
" 8	. . . . . 3.1
" 15	. . . . . 3.
" 22	. . . . . 4.
" 29	. . . . . 3.
June 1	. . . . . 3.
" 5	. . . . . 2¼
" 7	. . . . . 5½
" 9	. . . . . 7¼
" 12	. . . . . 2½
" 16	. . . . . 5½
" 19	. . . . . 2¼
" 23	. . . . . 2¾
" 26	. . . . . 3.
July 3	. . . . . 2½
" 6	. . . . . 5.
" 14	. . . . . 2.
" 17	. . . . . 3.
Aug. 21	. . . . . 2.
Sept. 4	. . . . . 8.
" 5	. . . . . 9¼
" 6	. . . . . 55
" 7	. . . . . 6½
" 11	. . . . . 19½"

GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Auk 28. Apr-1911 p. 261-262.

Note on the Passenger Pigeon.— About a year and one half ago, the Cornell University Museum came into the possession of a mounted adult male Passenger Pigeon through the kindness of its collector, Mr. J. L. Howard of Clyde, N. Y., a justice of that city. He is now over 80 years old and had the bird mounted by a local taxidermist, George L. Perkins, who is now dead. According to Mr. Howard's memory the bird was taken in 1909, 11 years after the last certain capture (Sept. 14, 1898) of a Passenger Pigeon in the State. On the bottom of the mount is the legend, "Geo. L. Perkins, July 5, 1898,"— a date in close agreement with Mr. Wilbur's record (Sept. 14, 1898) at Canandaigua, N. Y. The mount might be an old mount from some other bird. Mr. Howard's letter follows:

"My account of the shooting of the Passenger Pigeon must be short as there was but little of it. Upon the John Heit farm about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles s. w. of Clyde and near the Clyde River is, and has been longer than I remember, a small pond nearly round and about 3 rods in diameter. A low hill upon the south reaches to the water's edge forming a sloping beach. Years ago this pond was in a large forest. Now this was always, as long as there were any pigeons, a favorite place for them to come and drink. Six years ago (1909) I think, I took my gun and went to this pond in hopes I might get a Blue Heron, which I very much wanted. There were tracks of herons, plover and other birds in the mud around the shores, so I sat down in some bushes and pulled them up around me so as to partly conceal myself, facing the East where I could see a long distance. Presently I saw, far to the East, a bird coming directly towards me. I took it to be a Pigeon Hawk. It flew off to my right and turned in behind me and the next instant I heard its wings beating for a short span and then I heard to my right and very near the loud and distinct crow of a Wild Pigeon. Well that was a surprise. I had not seen a pigeon in fifteen years or more and now I sat within a few feet of one and he kept on crowing. Well I went to work at those bushes, pulling them apart when suddenly I saw him standing upon the top of a fence post and still crowing.

I picked up the gun and placed it to the shoulder and old hunter and old trapshooter as I was I could not hold the gun still I trembled so. But I took a trap-shooter's chance and got the bird."—S. C. BISHOP and A. H. WRIGHT, *Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.*

Arch. XXXIV. Apr. 1917. p. 208-209.

Connecticut, June. 1893.

Ectopis migratoria?

June 7th (2)

Saybrook

Two birds seen in an extensive tract of grassy prairie covering a wild, rocky hillside appeared to Faxon & me to be Pigeons but Clark thought them Doves. One was flying, the other perched in the top of a chestnut tree got within 40 yards of the latter & viewed it long & carefully through our glasses. It looked very large & up to the moment when it started we were both absolutely certain that it was a ♀ Pigeon. Just when it flew it uttered a whistle which sounded like the note of a dove! We found for the first time.

Clark took a Pigeon nest. The egg on the day he took it was fresh & he has since the bird has since the last in June (during the bird's visit) was that. I've written before known to breed there since I had in mind on seeing this all but sure from what I know of Pigeons nests etc.

Notes on Some Winter Residents of
Hudson Valley. E. A. Mearns.

19. *Ectopistes migratorius*. WILD PIGEON. — Of unusual occurrence in winter; generally in very mild weather, when the ground is bare; observed in the Highlands on several occasions.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 37

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

134. *Ectopistes migratoria* (Linn.) Swainson. PIGEON.—Breeds plentifully some years and not found at all others.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 233

Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.

Ectopistes migratorius. PASSENGER PIGEON.—There is but one specimen in the collection; it is without data. Col. Pike contributes the following interesting note regarding the former abundance of this species and an old time recollection of shooting them within the present city limits of Brooklyn. "Near Second Place (now blocks of brown stone dwellings) there used to be a large, thickly-wooded hill; at that time (1840) this was out of town, and there were very few houses between the City Hall and it. Sportsmen used to gather at this place to shoot Wild Pigeons. In crossing Long Island the Pigeons used to take this wooded hill in their flight, to rest before they crossed at the Narrows below. I have seen thousands there, and have killed a great many at that place. They have been gradually growing less since, and for the last fifteen years I have not seen a single individual on Long Island. Just fifteen years ago I was collecting at Flatlands and I shot one, the last I ever met; I am sorry I killed it. They are gradually becoming extinct evcrywhere, and in a few years they will be entirely wiped out."

Auk X. July, 1893 p 274.

Auk, XIV, Jan., 1897, p. 88.

The Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) in Lewis County, N. Y.—In the Boonville (N. Y.) 'Herald' of May 27, 1896, appeared an item to the effect that Mr. Henry Felshaw had recently seen "a large flock of Wild Pigeons, perhaps 300 in number, flying westward." On writing to Mr. Felshaw he replied that there was no possibility of his having been mistaken, as he had shot, trapped and netted thousands of these birds, in former years, and the flock in question was seen when not more than fifteen rods distant. The flock, as said, numbered about 300, and was seen at about 5.30 A. M. on May 22, the locality being Constableville, Lewis County, N. Y. He further states, "I mounted, last spring (in April, I think) a cock Pigeon that was shot somewhere near North Western." — W. S. JOHNSON, Boonville, N. Y.

On the Former Abundance of Certain Species
(1820-50) on New York Id. during Southward
Migrations - - Lawrence.

About the first of September, when there was a strong northwest wind, Passenger Pigeons (*Ectopistes migratorius*) were sure to appear in great

numbers, flying more abundantly in the morning, though there were occasional flocks all day. From our place north to Fort Washington Point, three miles distant, the view was unobstructed, and for the entire distance it was almost an unbroken forest. We could see the flocks make their appearance over the Point, consisting of from twenty-five to over a hundred Pigeons, and come sweeping down over the tree tops seemingly at a speed of about 75 miles an hour, and consequently they soon reached the position where we were awaiting them. The flocks followed each other in quick succession, and as they dashed by before a strong northwester—sometimes quite close to the ground—they did not offer an easy mark for even an expert gunner. I never succeeded in killing more than four with one shot, from a passing flock.

On the south side of Manhattanville Valley the ground is elevated, much the same as it is on the north side. Here is one of the old country seats on the Hudson River, known as 'Claremont,' and this place was fixed upon as the most eligible sight for General Grant's Tomb. The original fine dwelling house is still in good condition. During one of these great flights of Pigeons, the house was occupied by some gentleman, whose name I cannot recall, but I remember that from the top of the house, in one morning, a hundred or more were shot by him. These flights continued as long as I lived at Manhattanville, and Pigeons were quite abundant, I was informed, for some years after, but at the present time a single one would be a rarity. Even into October there would be a flight when the wind was favorable, but in the earlier flights they were the most abundant.

Arch. Soc. N. Y., 1889, p. 202

Former Abundance of the Wild Pigeon in Central and Eastern New York

—During the early years of my boyhood Wild Pigeons abounded in great numbers in central New York. One case in particular I well remember in the spring of, I think, 1835. The southeastern part of the township of New Hartford, Oneida Co., N. Y., became for several days their feeding grounds. This region abounded in beech forests, upon the nuts of which trees they delighted to feed. For several days, beginning with the early dawn and extending to near the middle of the forenoon, the flight of these birds was almost incessant, and in the afternoon and evening their return was equally as phenomenal; their roost was reported as being in the town of Norwich, Chenango Co., a distance of about fifty miles. The flocks were so large and numerous that they appeared almost more like clouds, and during the most active part of the time many flocks would be in sight from any one point of observation. Their flight was also very low, probably owing to the close proximity of their feeding grounds, and caused the noise from their passage over our heads to be very perceptible, resembling the rushing sound of a heavy wind. Many of the smaller flocks would fly so low, that it induced the workmen from a neighboring machine-shop to try to kill them by striking among them with long poles; this failed, however, for some time, as the flocks simply parted and allowed the pole to pass through without hitting any of the birds. After a time my father suggested that they strike in the direction of the flight, when, the birds being unable to see the pole, many of them were destroyed in this manner. I well remember my brother and myself standing in the garden, watching them as they passed over our heads, and throwing our caps at them, which would pass through the parting ranks without hitting a bird, the gap being closed again almost instantly, and not seeming to check their rapid passage in the least.

Many of the people in the vicinity employed nets to catch them. Going into the woods where they alighted in the quest of food, a spot of ground was prepared, the net set so as to be thrown over the spot by the rebound of a young sapling placed so as to be strongly bent under tension which when relieved would instantly carry the net over the prepared area. A living Pigeon, having been caught and a cord fastened to it, was allowed to fly into the air on the approach of a flock, when, on being drawn back to the ground, its cry would attract them, and they would follow and settle on the prepared ground where food had been scattered. Then the net was thrown across, and large numbers entrapped. A farmer, Mr. Oxford, whose farm was within their feeding ground and whose newly sown fields they were injuring, obtained my father's net in the morning, and by night, with the aid of his two sons, had a pile of dead pigeons which would have made more than one wagon load. The Indians from a distance came and camped in the vicinity, procured vast numbers of them, salted and packed them in barrels, and carried them away in quantities.

At a still later period, in the early sixties, on the mornings of two or three consecutive days, large numbers of Wild Pigeons passed up the Hudson Valley crossing over the City of Albany. One of these mornings the flocks were uncommonly large. Three in particular which passed northward in quick succession, so that all were in sight at the same time, were so large and dense that the shadow cast on the ground as they passed was like the shadow of a passing cloud, being easily perceptible. The Hudson Valley at this point from the level of the plateau on the west to Cantonment Hill on the east, must be two and a half miles or more in width. Standing on the crest of the hill to the south of the city, the east and west extremities of each of these three flocks were invisible, although they were at a great height; the ends dwindled away in the distance, appearing only as a faint shadow. I noticed a few days after in the newspapers a statement that there was an unusually large 'pigeon roost' near Fort Edward, N. Y. — R. P. WHITFIELD, New York City.

Nesting of the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) in New York.— On May 17-19, 1878 I was camped on the west bank of Moose River, Herkimer County, N. Y., near the confluence of the South Branch. The heavy spruce and hemlock had been recently cut out but the hardwoods and much of the smaller growth of conifers remained.

We occupied an abandoned woodchoppers' camp, a quarter mile back from the river and probably two miles from the old road leading from Moose River Tannery to Old Forge. On the 17th several Wild Pigeons were seen frequenting a clump of spruces, averaging perhaps 60 feet high. As now recalled there were probably eight or ten birds seen and in passing from our camp to the river we saw them several times in the same vicinity and finally a few nests were noticed in these spruces. If I remember correctly there were two nests in one tree and two others seen in different trees. On the 17th we thought none of them contained eggs although we did not climb to examine. On the 18th a single egg was taken, perfectly fresh, and we thought it had been deposited that morning, the bird being seen to leave the nest. The nest was on a horizontal limb of the spruce about 30 feet from the ground and 8 to 10 feet out from main trunk, a frail loosely constructed collection of small twigs saddled on the limb and kept together by the small branches of the growing tree.

While this is rather ancient history it may be of interest now that the species appears to be extinct and details of its nesting are not abundant.

— C. J. PENNOCK, *Kennett Square, Pa.*

Arch. XXIX. Oct. 1912. p. 238-39.

Auk, XIII, Oct., 1896, p. 341.

The Wild Pigeon at Englewood, N. J.—Mr. C. Irving Wood permits me to record his capture of a Wild Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) at Englewood, N. J., June 23, 1896. The bird was alone. It has been mounted by Mr. J. Ullrich, a local taxidermist, in whose possession I saw it. It is a young female molting from the first into mature plumage.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Auk, XIII, Oct., 1896, p. 341.

Recent Record of the Passenger Pigeon in Southern Wisconsin.—On September 8, 1896, I was fortunate enough to be presented with a beautiful immature male Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) which was killed that afternoon by a local hunter. It was a single bird and was shot from a dead tree near Delavan Lake; the crop was well filled with acorns and grasshoppers. This is the first record of the capture of the Wild Pigeon here in many years, and I consider myself extremely lucky in obtaining so fine a specimen.—N. HOLLISTER, *Delavan, Wis.*

Additional Records of the Passenger Pigeon in Illinois and Indiana.

—The occurrence of the Wild Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) in this section of the country, and in fact throughout the west generally, is becoming rarer every year and such observations and data as come to our notice should be of sufficient interest to record.

I have, in the past few months, made inquiry of a great many sportsmen who are constantly in the field and in widely distributed localities, regarding any observations on the Wild Pigeon, and but few of them have seen a specimen in the past eight or ten years. N. W. Judy & Co. of St. Louis, Mo., dealers in poultry and the largest receivers of game in that section, wrote me as follows: "We have had no Wild Pigeons for two seasons; the last we received were from Siloam Springs, Arkansas. We have lost all track of them and our netters are lying idle."

I have made frequent inquiry among the principal game dealers in Chicago and cannot learn of a single specimen that has been received in our markets in several years. I am indebted to the following gentlemen for notes and observations regarding this species, which cover a period of eight years. I have various other records of the occurrence of the Pigeon in Illinois and Indiana but do not consider them sufficiently authentic to record, as to the casual observer this species and the Carolina Dove are often confounded.

A fine male Pigeon was killed by my brother, Mr. Chas. E. Deane, April 18, 1877, while shooting Snipe on the meadows near English Lake, Ind. The bird was alone and flew directly over him. I have the specimen now in my collection.

In September, 1888, while Teal shooting on Yellow River, Stark Co., Ind., I saw a Pigeon fly up the river and alight a short distance off. I secured the bird which proved to be a young female.

On Sept. 17, 1887, Mr. John F. Hazen and his daughter Grace, of Cincinnati, Ohio, while boating on the Kankakee River, near English Lake, Ind., observed a small flock of Pigeons feeding in a little oak grove bordering the river. They reported the birds as quite tame and succeeded in shooting eight specimens.

Mr. Frank M. Woodruff, Assistant Curator, Chicago Academy of Sciences, informs me that on Dec. 10, 1890, he received four Passenger Pigeons in the flesh, from Waukegan, Ill., at which locality they were said to have been shot. Three of the birds were males and one was a female. One pair he disposed of, the other two I have recently seen in his collection. In the fall of 1891 Mr. Woodruff also shot a pair at Lake Forest, Ill., which he mounted and placed in the collection of the Cook County Normal School, Englewood, Ill.

In the spring of 1893, Mr. C. B. Brown, of Chicago, Ill., collected a nest of the Wild Pigeon containing two eggs at English Lake, Ind., and secured both parent birds. Mr. Brown describes the nest as being placed on the horizontal branch of a burr oak about ten feet from the trunk and from forty to fifty feet above the ground. He did not preserve the birds but the eggs are still in his collection. The locality where this nest was found was a short distance from where the Hazens found their birds six years before.

Mr. John F. Ferry informs me that three Pigeons were seen near the Desplains River in Lake Co., Ill., in September, 1893. One of these was shot by Mr. F. C. Farwell.

In an article which appeared in the Chicago 'Tribune,' Nov. 25, 1894, entitled 'Last of his Race,' Mr. E. B. Clark gives his experience in observing a fine male Wild Pigeon in Lincoln Park, Chicago, Ill., in April, 1893. I quote from the article: "He was perched on the limb of a soft maple and was facing the rising sun. I have never seen in any cabinet a more perfect specimen. The tree upon which he was resting was at the southeast corner of the park. There were no trees between him and the lake to break from his breast the fullness of the glory of the rising sun. The Pigeon allowed me to approach within twenty yards of his resting place and I watched him through a powerful glass that permitted as minute an examination as if he were in my hand. I was more than astonished to find here close to the pavements of a great city the representative of a race which always loved the wild woods and which I thought had passed away from Illinois forever."

Mr. R. W. Stafford of Chicago, Ill., who has shot hundreds of Pigeons in former years within the present city limits of Chicago, informs me that in the latter part of September, 1894, while shooting at Marengo, Ill., he saw a flock of six flying swiftly over and apparently alight in a small grove some distance off.

The above records will show that while in this section of country large flocks of Passenger Pigeons are a thing of the past, yet they are still occasionally observed in small detachments or single birds. — RUTHVEN DEANE, Chicago, Ill.

Auk, XII, Oct., 1895, p. 389.

The Passenger Pigeon in the Upper Mississippi Valley.—While collecting with Mr. Wallace Craig, Sept. 3, 1891, I shot a male Wild Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) in an oak grove in Chicago, near 75th Street, between Stony Island Avenue and Lake Michigan. It was feeding and flew up at our approach, alighting perhaps ten feet from the ground, where I shot it. It was not at all wild, and was a bird of the year. We saw two others in the same grove, but did not secure them.

April 8, 1894, Mr. Edw. J. Gekler saw a flock of about fifteen Wild Pigeons flying while in a woods near Liverpool, Indiana.

Mr. Kaempher, a taxidermist of this city, had a fine male Passenger Pigeon mounted on one of his shelves which was brought in on March 14, 1894. The gentleman who brought it said he shot it near Liverpool, Indiana, and saw quite a number of them at the time.

Mr. W. C. Stryker, of Berrien County, Mich., now a student in the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, told me that on May 27, 1894, he found a flock of perhaps twenty Wild Pigeons in a clover field on his farm near some burr oaks into which they flew when he frightened them. They remained on his place for some time and were not molested. His farm is but three or four miles from the Indiana line. He is very familiar with the Passenger Pigeon, having shot many several years ago when they were abundant.—JAMES O. DUNN, *Chicago, Ill.*

Auk, XIII, Jan., 1896, p. 81.

Additional Records of the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) in Wisconsin and Illinois.—I am indebted to my friend, Mr. John L. Stockton, of Highland Park, Ill., for information regarding the occurrence of this Pigeon in Wisconsin. While trout fishing on the Little Oconto River in the Reservation of the Menominee Indians Mr. Stockton saw, early in June, 1895, a flock of some ten Pigeons for several consecutive days near his camp. They were first seen while alighting near the bank of the river, where they had evidently come to drink. I am very glad to say that they were not molested.

Mr. John F. Ferry of Lake Forest, Ill., has kindly notified me of the capture of a young female which was killed in that town on August 7, 1895. The bird was brought to him by a boy who had shot it with a rifle ball, and although in a mutilated condition he preserved it for his collection.

I have recently received a letter from Dr. H. V. Ogden, Milwaukee, Wis., informing me of the capture of a young female Pigeon which was shot by Dr. Ernest Copeland on the 1st of October, 1895. These gentlemen were camping at the time in the northeast corner of Delta County, Mich. (Northern Peninsula), in the large hardwood forest that runs through that part of the State. They saw no other of the species.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Auk, XIV, July, 1897, pp. 316-7.

Additional Records of the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*).—Most of the notes on the Passenger Pigeon recorded in the past year

have referred to single birds or pairs. It is with much pleasure that I can now call attention to a flock of some fifty, observed in southern Missouri. I am not only greatly indebted to Mr. Chas. U. Holden, Jr., for this interesting information, but for the present of a beautiful pair which he sent me in the flesh, he having shot them as they flew rapidly overhead. Mr. Holden was, at the time, hunting Quail in Altie, Oregon Co., Missouri. The residents of this hamlet had not seen any Pigeons there before in some years.

Simon Pokagon, Chief of the remaining Pottawattamie tribe, and probably the best posted man on the Wild Pigeon in Michigan, writes me under date of Oct. 16, 1896: "I am creditably informed that there was a small nesting of Pigeons last spring not far from the headwaters of the Au Sable River in Michigan." Mr. Chase S. Osborn, State Game and Fish Warden of Michigan, under date, Sault Ste. Marie, March 2, 1897, writes: "Passenger Pigeons are now very rare indeed in Michigan, but some have been seen in the eastern parts of Chippewa County, in the Upper Peninsula, every year. As many as a dozen or more were seen in this section in one flock last year, and I have reason to believe that they breed here in a small way. One came into this city last summer and attracted a great deal of attention by flying and circling through the air with the tame Pigeons. I have a bill in the legislature of Michigan closing the season for killing Wild Pigeons for ten years."—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Auk, XV, April, 1898, pp. 184-5.

The Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) in Wisconsin and Nebraska.—Our records of this species during the past few years have referred, in most instances, to very small flocks and generally to pairs or individuals. In 'The Auk' for July, 1897, I recorded a flock of some fifty Pigeons from southern Missouri, but such a number has been very unusual. It is now very gratifying to be able to record still larger numbers and I am indebted to Mr. A. Fugleberg of Oshkosh, Wis., for the following letter of information, under date of Sept. 1, 1897: "I live on the west shore of Lake Winnebago, Wis. About six o'clock on the morning of August 14, 1897, I saw a flock of Wild Pigeons flying over the bay from Fisherman's Point to Stony Beach, and I assure you it reminded me of old times, from 1855 to 1880, when Pigeons were plentiful every day. So I dropped my work and stood watching them. This flock was followed by six more flocks, each containing about thirty-five to eighty Pigeons, except the last which only contained seven. All these flocks passed over within half an hour. One flock of some fifty birds flew within gun shot of me, the others all the way from one hundred to three hundred yards from where I stood." Mr. Fugleberg is an old hunter and has had much experience with the Wild Pigeon. In a later letter dated Sept. 4, 1897, he writes: "On Sept. 2, 1897, I was hunting Prairie Chickens near Lake Butte des Morts, Wis., where I met a friend who told me that a few days previous he had seen a flock of some twenty-five Wild Pigeons and that they were the first he had seen for years."—This would appear as though these birds were instinctively working back to their old haunts, as the Winnebago region was once a favorite locality. We hope that Wisconsin will follow Michigan in making a close season on Wild

Pigeons for ten years, and thus give them a chance to multiply and perhaps regain, in a measure, their former abundance.

In 'Forest and Stream,' of Sept. 25, 1897, is a short notice of 'Wild Pigeons in Nebraska,' by 'W. F. R.' Through the kindness of the editor he placed me in correspondence with the observer, W. F. Rightmire, to whom I am indebted for the following details given in his letter of Nov. 5, 1897: "I was driving along the highway north of Cook, Johnson County, Nebraska, on August 17, 1897. I came to the timber skirting the head stream of the Nemaha River, a tract of some forty acres of woodland lying along the course of the stream, upon both banks of the same, and there feeding on the ground or perched upon the trees were the Passenger Pigeons I wrote the note about. The flock contained seventy-five to one hundred birds. I did not frighten them, but as I drove along the road the feeding birds flew up and joined the others, and as soon as I had passed by they returned to the ground and continued feeding. While I revisited the same locality, I failed to find the Pigeons. I am a native of Tompkins County, N. Y., and have often killed Wild Pigeons in their flights while a boy on the farm, helped to net them, and have hunted them in Pennsylvania, so that I readily knew the birds in question the moment I saw them." I will here take occasion to state that in my record of the Missouri flock (Auk, July, 1897, p. 316) the date on which they were seen (December 17, 1896) was, through error, omitted.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Albinism and Melanism in North
American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

Among the *Columbidae*, *E. migratorius* is noted *in albinis tui*
plumage. Bull. N.O.C. 1, April, 1876, p. 22

Ectopistes migratoria

Forest & Stream Vol. XL III

1894. No. 2 (July 14) pp.

28, 29; No. 3 (July 21)

p. 50.

An original and very
important and interesting
historical article by
an ex-pigeon netter

Netting Wild Pigeons

BREEDING OF THE WILD PIGEON IN CONFINEMENT.—Of late years the Wild Pigeon has been trapped and kept in confinement for use in trap-shooting to a considerable extent, but instances of these captives having bred and raised their young is, I believe, quite unusual.

The following "clipping" from the Hartford, Conn., "Courant" of August 5, 1880, on this subject, credited to the New Haven "Palladium," which has kindly been sent me by Mr. J. A. Stannis, may be worthy of note:

"Sherman Potter, the veteran pigeon shooter of Fair Haven, has a pair of wild pigeons which he has trained in the capacity of stool pigeons and flights. This season, to the surprise of Potter and everyone else, they hatched one young one, which has grown to full size, and recently hatched another which is now two-thirds grown. This is an unusual occurrence for wild pigeons to raise their young in captivity. Potter is delighted, and is about to enter into the business of raising these birds on a grand scale, as they find a ready market at \$5 apiece in Fair Haven, to be used as stool pigeons and flights."—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Jan., 1881, p. 60.

Ectopistes migratoria

"Squab" covered with yellow
hairs in collection Boston Soc.
Nat. Hist (skin in tin can).

Yours a note on Passenger Pigeon
at Quinsigamond Lake see Nottum
Phalarope. by Ralph H. Holman

Cl. & C. XIV. Oct. 1889. p. 160.

Chicago Evening Journal
Saturday, Jan'y 25, 1890 p. 5

THE PIGEONS VANISHING.

They Are Going the Way of Other American Game.—Reckless Netting of the Birds—A Singular Anomaly.

It is not so many years since that flights of wild pigeons occurred during the Autumn over the Eastern and Middle States. The younger generation of sportsmen, however, has probably never seen a living specimen of that bird, its acquaintance with it being confined entirely to the plucked specimens on the stands of dealers in the market. Mr. William Brewster, who has made a thorough and exhaustive study of the causes of the disappearance of the wild pigeon from its former haunts, has established the fact that its flight in a vast body is now entirely confined to the great uninhabited wilds of British North America. Mr. Brewster, in the course of his investigations, followed the route of the flight which occurred in the southern peninsular of Michigan in the Spring of 1888. The main body of birds disappeared across the Straits of Mackinac, much to the distress of the netters, who were making preparations for an old-time harvest. At Cadillac Mr. Brewster learned from Mr. S. S. Stevens, an experienced observer, that in 1888, near there, the pigeons appeared in a considerable number; but that not more than a few hundred were seen in one body. In speaking of the great nesting of 1876-77, Mr. Stevens said that it began near Petosky and extended to Crooked Lake for twenty-eight miles, averaging three or four miles wide. The birds arrived in two separate bodies, one directly from the South by land, the other following the east coast of Wisconsin and crossing at Manitou Island. The latter body came in from the lake at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. It was a compact mass of pigeons at least five miles long by one mile wide. In the nesting season of 1881 Mr. Stevens estimates that 500 men were engaged in netting pigeons, and that they secured on the average 20,000 birds each during the season.

What has contributed more than anything else to the annihilation of the wild pigeon is the reckless netting of that bird. Mr. John Mortimer Murphy, in describing the taking of pigeons in nets, speaks of them as seines which are so rigged that upon being sprung they fall upon the birds, which at the moment may be upon the ground. There are two methods by which the pigeons are decoyed; the one by baiting, whereby a single pigeon attracted by the food scattered about calls a great number of his fellows, upon whom when collected in sufficient number the net is sprung. It is not an uncommon thing to trap from 200 to 300 pigeons at every cast, and as the casts are numerous, the number taken throughout the day, is very large. Another method consists in trapping the pigeons as they fly over the net. This requires the use of decoy birds, whose eyes are sewn up, and a light weight attached to the legs to prevent them from flying away. These are thrown into the air when a flock is passing by to attract its attention, while trained decoys—that is, pigeons trained to act as if alighting—are worked industriously at the same time. If these bring down the flight the net is sprung and fastened at the four corners. The

captives are taken out and disposed of according to the purposes of the netters. Some are kept alive in coops while others are killed and packed immediately for market. From 500 to 1,000 men were sometimes engaged at one time in netting, and each averaged 1,000 birds a day. This account applies to a period when flights of pigeons were large and numerous all throughout the Middle and Western States. As stated above, the last occasion when nets were profitably employed was at the great nesting in 1876-77, in the Northwest.

It is a singular anomaly that while throughout our vast, sparsely populated territory, wild animal and bird life is greatly diminishing, England, with its dense population, offers the spectacle of its phenomenal increase and prosperity. This is attributed to the abandonment, in the latter country, of lands for agricultural purposes and their use almost entirely for grazing cattle and sheep. Mr. Anderson Graham, in the last number of *Murray's Magazine*, an English periodical, contributes an article entitled, "Rooks and Farmers, in which he says that the increase of wild life in England is not confined to sections like Northumberland; but is found in every agricultural district, even those in the neighborhood of large towns. The sole exception to this notable increase is in the case of magpies, hawks and ravens, which are only kept down by the persistent efforts of the gamekeepers. Squirrels, which a few years since were scarcely ever seen in England, have now become so abundant that they are vigorously killed on account of the great injury they are doing to the fir trees. Nearly every one of those in the Fenton Hill Wood, in a tract some mile and a half long, will have to be cut, and all the young plantations at Ewart Wilderness are destroyed.

"Outing" (New York) Nov. 1894

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like the British Dragoon Guards; they are armed with Winchester repeating carbines and army revolvers, and are mounted on Western-bred broncos. Their work is to police the Northwest Territories, about seven hundred miles from east to west, and five hundred from the International boundary northward. Their work has been most thoroughly done, both as regards keeping the Indian tribes quiet and preserving law and order among the settlers and in the towns.

In the ranks of the Northwestern Militia of Canada are many old soldiers, and it is not an uncommon sight to see breasts decorated with numerous medals showing that the wearers have participated in several campaigns. There are many serving in the ordinary

and permanent corps of the active militia who have fought under the golden lions in every clime where the power of Britain is felt; who saw the black waves roll on the square at Ulundi; who followed the Ashantee and Abyssinian kings to their capitals; who were with Wolseley in his dash up the historic Nile, and with Grahame when he stemmed the torrent of Arab fanaticism at Tamai and El Teb; who followed Roberts when he drove the fierce Afghans before him, and those who saw the dash on the lines of Tel El Kebir. These men bring with them the steadiness of veterans and that spirit of invincible courage which has made the march of a British regiment the path of victory or to death. The lion's cub will learn quickly from his sire.

PIGEONS AND PIGEON-NETTING.

BY LIEUT. WENDELL L. SIMPSON.

PRIOR to 1876 the pigeons visited Southern Michigan in great numbers every spring. As the snow began to melt in the open fields and the blue smoke of the maple-sugar camps began to curl above the woods, a flock of pigeons would be seen now and then—advance scouts of the immense army soon to follow. Then would come a few warm sunny days with clear, cold nights—days ever welcome to the sugar-makers, though they quicken the camps into bustling life, add many hours to the day's labor, and necessitate boiling all night to keep pace with the increased flow of sap. The white mantle of the long, cold winter was rapidly withdrawn from green wheat-fields and brown woodlands, leaving only the hem of the whilom garment along the shady sides of walls and fences.

Just at daybreak one fine morning the man who had been tending the pans during the night and keeping up the fires, roused the sleepers with the announcement that "Spring has come sure enough, for the pigeons are here."

All hands were out in a moment, and while some prepared breakfast others made the shot-guns talk, for enough birds must be bagged before breakfast to supply a pot-pie for dinner.

The pigeons had burst upon the country with the suddenness of a tornado; and from this time on for several weeks there seemed to be no limit to their numbers. Thousands of pigeons! Acres of pigeons! Miles of pigeons! From early morning until dark there were pigeons constantly in sight, passing to and from the feeding grounds, the numbers so increasing at times as to form continuous broad streams of life high over the fields and reaching from wood to wood.

Approaching the birds as they were feeding in the woods, the eye could not reach the limits of the mass in any direction. One heard a dull roar, like distant thunder, and upon nearer approach discovered that it was caused by the rapid vibrations of many wings as the birds rose continuously from the ground already gleaned to pass over to the other side of the feeding multitude.

After feeding for an hour or two the pigeons often collected in the tree-tops preparatory to taking flight, and the crash of a limb down through the undergrowth not infrequently announced that the burden of birds had been too great.

The observing sportsman, lured to the shooting by the abundance of the game, soon learned that all birds taken in the morning and the late evening were

ends of the ropes to the one ascending, and then grasp him under the arms to help him up the ship ladder. Above on deck, at the end of the ladder, stand two more sailors as ladder men, who are ready to take the visiting officer's coat or render any other service. If a commander comes on board a ship he is received by six ladder men, an admiral by eight. When the ruler of a country arrives he is received by only four ladder men, not sailors however, but officers in full uniform. The higher officers coming on board are further honored with the roll of the drum, whistles, and the presenting of arms. For a commander there is simply the presenting of muskets, for the beginning of which the boatswain's mate of the guard gives two shrill whistles and two more at its conclusion. In honor of admirals, besides presenting arms and the whistles, there is the rolling of drums, which for a rear admiral is repeated twice, for a vice-admiral three times, and for a commanding admiral four times. The first roll must occur simultaneously with the first whistle of the boatswain's mate, the second with the second whistle.

Marine etiquette requires, moreover, that officers come on the ship over the starboard side. Only persons of higher rank are allowed to pass over the starboard side especially of ships lying in harbor; sailors, merchants and other visitors have to go to the ladder on the larboard side. The starboard side is especially honored on board, and the aft deck is a sacred room. Marine etiquette requires that the officers belonging to the ship, even the commander, on entering the aft deck pay homage to this room by laying the hand on the cap. Under no circumstances may the crew venture into this room, except on duty, unless by command. As soon as they have reached the upper deck they must show it honor by their bearing and parade step. To the land-lubber this obeisance to a certain room may appear somewhat ridiculous, but there is a grain of common sense in this old custom. Whoever enters the aft deck knows that he is under the ban of the strongest ship discipline. If

the crew is ordered to the aft deck, a certain conscious start goes through its men, for they know that something weighty is to be dealt with, and it is unheard of in the annals of seafaring nations for the crew of a warship to mutiny while on the aft deck.

Even the boats of warships which pass by a warship in harbor must proceed according to a certain etiquette. The international directions say that if by day, boats pass a warship on which there is a higher officer, they must pay him the honor of having the crew rest on their oars for a moment, that is to stop rowing, and with oars raised out of the water to sit perfectly still while the officer or boat's commander salutes and finally dips the boat flag. The same honor is shown by the guard on the warship to a higher officer passing by as if he came aboard. If a rowboat meets an admiral, it makes a halt, the crew rise from the benches and at the command, "Oars up!" they hold the oars perpendicularly, in much the same manner as the infantry present their muskets. Steamboats show honor by stopping, bringing to and dipping their flags; sailboats by letting down the sail half or wholly as well as lowering the flag.

At evening the sailors at all the posts on the forecastle of the ship, that is at the prow and the manropes, call out to a passing ship, "Boat ahoy!" The answers that are given are in every case determined by regulations. If the boat is not coming aboard it calls, "Pass!" and there is a certain answer to tell whether an officer is on board; if there is no officer in the boat and it is to come aboard; if the ruler of a country or a prince is in the boat; if it is an admiral or a commodore approaching; and if the commander of the ship in question is in the boat, the steersman calls the name of the ship, such as "Leipsic," "Bismarck," and so forth.

This bare sketch of the outlines of international marine etiquette will enable the reader to see that its ceremonials require much attention, much work, much wasting of powder, and consequently much expense.

THE WILD PIGEON OF NORTH AMERICA.

BY CHIEF POKAGON.*

THE migratory or wild pigeon of North America was known by our race as o-me-me-wog. Why the European race did not accept that name was, no doubt, because the bird so much resembled the domesticated pigeon; they naturally called it a wild pigeon, as they called us wild men.

This remarkable bird differs from the dove or domesticated pigeon, which was imported into this country, in the grace of its long neck, its slender bill and legs, and its narrow wings. Its length is 16½ inches. Its tail is eight inches long, having twelve feathers, white on the under side. The two center feathers are longest, while five arranged on either side diminish gradually each one half inch in length, giving to the tail when spread an almost conical appearance. Its back and upper part of the wings and head are a darkish blue, with a silken velvety appearance. Its neck is resplendent in gold and green with royal purple intermixed. Its breast is reddish brown, fading toward the belly into white. Its tail is tipped with

*Simon Pokagon, of Michigan, is a full-blooded Indian, the last Pottawattamie chief of the Pokagon band. He is author of the "Red Man's Greeting," and has been called by the press the "Redskin poet, bard, and Longfellow of his race." His father, chief before him, sold the site of Chicago and the surrounding country to the United States in 1833 for three cents an acre. He was the first red man to visit President Lincoln after his inauguration. In a letter written home at the time he said: "I have met Lincoln, the great chief; he is very tall, has a sad face, but he is a good man, I saw it in his eyes and felt it in his hand-shaking. He will help us get payment for Chicago land." Soon after \$39,000 was paid. In 1874 he visited President Grant. He said of him: "I expected he would put on military importance, but he treated me kindly, gave me a cigar, and we smoked the pipe of peace together." In 1893 he procured judgment against the United States for over \$100,000 still due on the sale of Chicago land by his father. He was honored on Chicago Day at the World's Fair by first ringing the new Bell of Liberty and speaking in behalf of his race to the greatest crowd ever assembled on earth. After his speech "Glory Hallelujah" was sung before the bell for the first time on the Fair grounds.



CHIEF SIMON POKAGON.

white, intermixed with bluish black. The female is one inch shorter than the male, and her color less vivid.

It was proverbial with our fathers that if the Great Spirit in His wisdom could have created a more elegant bird in plumage, form, and movement, He never did.

When a young man I have stood for hours admiring the movements of these birds. I have seen them fly in unbroken lines from the horizon, one line succeeding another from morning until night, moving their unbroken columns like an army of trained soldiers pushing to the front, while detached bodies of these birds appeared in different parts of the heavens, pressing forward in haste like raw recruits preparing for battle. At other times I have seen them move in one unbroken column for hours across the sky, like some great river, ever varying in hue; and as the mighty stream, sweeping on at sixty miles an hour,

reached some deep valley, it would pour its living mass headlong down hundreds of feet, sounding as though a whirlwind was abroad in the land. I have stood by the grandest waterfall of America and regarded the descending torrents in wonder and astonishment, yet never have my astonishment, wonder, and admiration been so stirred as when I have witnessed these birds drop from their course like meteors from heaven.

While feeding, they always have guards on duty, to give alarm of danger. It is made by the watch bird as it takes its flight, beating its wings together in quick succession, sounding like the rolling beat of a snare drum. Quick as thought each bird repeats the alarm with a thundering sound,

as the flock struggles to rise, leading a stranger to think a young cyclone is then being born.

I have visited many of the roosting places of these birds, where the ground under the great forest trees for thousands of acres was covered with branches torn from the parent trees, some from eight to ten inches in diameter. At such a time so much confusion of sound is caused by the breaking of limbs and the continual fluttering and chattering that a gun fired a few feet distant cannot be heard, while to converse so as to be understood is almost impossible.

About the middle of May, 1850, while in the fur trade, I was camping on the head waters of the Manistee River in Michigan. One morning on leaving my wigwam I was startled by hearing a gurgling, rumbling sound, as though an army of horses laden with sleigh bells was advancing through the deep forests toward me. As I listened more intently I concluded that instead of the tramping of horses it was distant thunder; and yet the morning was clear, calm, and beautiful. Nearer and nearer came the strange commingling sounds of sleigh-bells, mixed with the rumbling of an approaching storm. While I gazed in wonder and astonishment, I beheld moving toward me in an unbroken front millions of pigeons, the first I had seen that season. They passed like a cloud through the branches of the high trees, through the underbrush and over the ground, apparently overturning every leaf. Statuelike I stood, half concealed by cedar boughs. They fluttered all about me, lighting on my head and shoulders; gently I caught two in my hands and carefully concealed them under my blanket.

I now began to realize they were mating, preparatory to nesting. It was an event which I had long hoped to witness; so I sat down and carefully watched their movements, amid the greatest tumult. I tried to understand their strange language, and why they all chatted in concert. In the course of the day the great on-moving mass passed by me, but the trees were still filled with them

sitting in pairs in convenient crotches of the limbs, now and then gently fluttering their half spread wings and uttering to their mates those strange bell-like wooing notes which I had mistaken for the ringing of bells in the distance.

On the third day after, this chattering ceased and all were busy carrying sticks with which they were building nests in the same crotches of the limbs they had occupied in pairs the day before. On the morning of the fourth day their nests were finished and eggs laid. The hen birds occupied the nests in the morning, while the male birds went out into the surrounding country to feed, returning about ten o'clock, taking the nests, while the hens went out to feed, returning about three o'clock. Again changing nests, the male birds went out the second time to feed, returning at sundown. The same routine was pursued each day until the young ones were hatched and nearly half grown, at which time all the parent birds left the brooding grounds about daylight. On the morning of the eleventh day after the eggs were laid I found the nesting grounds strewn with egg shells, convincing me that the young were hatched. In thirteen days more the parent birds left their young to shift for themselves, flying to the east about sixty miles, when they again nested. The female lays but one egg during the same nesting.

Both sexes secrete in their crops milk or curd with which they feed their young, until they are nearly ready to fly, when they stuff them with mast and such other raw material as they themselves eat, until their crops exceed their bodies in size, giving to them an appearance of two birds with one head. Within two days after the stuffing they become a mass of fat, "a squab." At this period the parent bird drives them from the nests to take care of themselves, while they fly off within a day or two, sometimes hundreds of miles, and again nest.

It has been well established that these birds look after and take care of all orphan squabs whose parents have been killed or are missing. These birds are long lived, having been known to live twenty-five years caged.

Auk, XIII, July, 1896, pp. 234-237.
SOME NOTES ON THE PASSENGER PIGEON (*ECTO-
PISTES MIGRATORIUS*) IN CONFINEMENT.

BY RUTHVEN DEANE.

IN THE 'American Field' of December 5, 1895, I noticed a short note, stating that Mr. David Whittaker of Milwaukee, Wis., had in a spacious enclosure, a flock of fifty genuine Wild Pigeons. Being much interested of late in this bird, I at once wrote to Mr. Whittaker, asking for such information in detail regarding his birds as he could give me, but owing to absence from the city, he did not reply. Still being anxious to learn something further regarding this interesting subject, I recently wrote to a correspondent in Milwaukee, asking him to investigate the matter. In due time I received his reply, stating that he had seen the Pigeons, but that the flock consisted of fifteen instead of fifty birds, and inviting me to join him, and spend a few hours of rare pleasure.

On March 1, 1896, I visited Milwaukee, and made a careful inspection of this beautiful flock. I am greatly indebted to Mr. Whittaker, through whose courtesy, we saw and heard so much of

poies are used for roosting, and two shelves, about one foot wide and partitioned off, though not enclosed, are where the nests are built and the young are raised. It was several years before Mr. Whittaker successfully raised the young, but by patient experimenting with various kinds of food, he has been rewarded. The destruction of the nest and egg, at times by the female, more often by others of the flock, and the killing of the young birds, after they leave the nest, by the old males, explains in part the slow increase in the flock. When the Pigeons show signs of nesting, small twigs are thrown on to the bottom of the enclosure, and on the day of our visit, I was so fortunate as to watch the operations of nest building. There were three pairs actively engaged. The females remained on the shelf, and at a given signal which they only uttered for this purpose, the males would select a twig or straw, and in one instance a feather and fly up to the nest, drop it and return to the ground, while the females placed the building material in position and then called for more. In all of Mr. Whittaker's experience with this flock he has never known of more than one egg being deposited. Audubon in his

51. *Among the Pigeons.* By Prof. H. B. Roney *Ibid.*, X, pp. 345-347.— On the habits, methods of capture, and nesting of the Wild Pigeon, with a highly interesting account of the "Michigan nesting of 1878." The nesting area, situated near Pelosky, covered "something like 100,000 acres of land," and included "not less than 150,000 acres within its limits," being in length about forty miles by three to ten in width. The number of dead birds sent by rail was estimated at 12,500 daily, or 1,500,000 for the summer, besides 80,352 live birds; an equal number were sent by water. We have, says the writer, adding the thousands of dead and wounded ones not secured, and the myriads of squabs left dead in the nest, "at the lowest possible estimate, a grand total of 1,000,000,000 Pigeons sacrificed to Mammon during the nesting of 1878." The article concludes with observations on the Michigan Pigeon law, and suggestions as to what the law should be, and a notice of the efforts made to check the shameful slaughter.

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THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE WILD PIGEON
(*ECTOPISTES MIGRATORIUS*) AS A BIRD
OF THE UNITED STATES, WITH SOME
NOTES ON ITS HABITS.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

IN THE SPRING of 1888 my friend Captain Bendire wrote me that he had received news from a correspondent in central Michigan to the effect that Wild Pigeons had arrived there in large numbers and were preparing to nest. Acting on this information, I started at once, in company with Mr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., to visit the expected 'nesting' and learn as much as possible about the habits of the breeding birds, as well as to secure specimens of their skins and eggs.

On reaching Cadillac, Michigan, May 8, we found that large flocks of Pigeons had passed there late in April, while there were reports of similar flights from almost every county in the southern part of the State. Although most of the birds had passed on before our arrival, the professional Pigeon netters, confident that they would finally breed somewhere in the southern peninsula, were busily engaged getting their nets and other apparatus in order for an extensive campaign against the poor birds.

We were assured that as soon as the breeding colony became established, the fact would be known all over the State, and there would be no difficulty in ascertaining its precise location. Accordingly we waited at Cadillac about two weeks during which

For a note on Wild Pigeons
see Blue Jay under Albinos

C. & O. VII. May. 1882. p. 115.

1224. [*Wild Pigeons in California*]. *Ibid.*, No. 24, Dec. 12, p. 562.—
Reported to be abundant near Watsonville, Cal. *American Field*, XXIV

90. *Nesting Pigeons*. By M. *Ibid.*, XIV, pp. 231, 232.—On the
nesting and netting of Wild Pigeons at Shelby, Mich. "This roost
was thirty miles long, varying in width from one to five miles." *For. & Stream*

1248. [*Wild Pigeons*]. *Ibid.*, No. 18, Oct. 30, p. 415.—"Only two
droves are known to exist in the United States today, one in Pennsylvania
and one in Indian Territory." *American Field*, XXVI

537. *The Passenger Pigeon*. By W. H. Rintoul. *Ibid.*, III, pp. 242,
243.—Nesting of the species in great numbers near Altona, N. Y., in 1867
and 1868. *Orn. Sport, & Naturalist*

1145. [*Destruction of Pigeons in Pennsylvania*]. Editorial. *Ibid.*,
No. 16, May 13, p. 802.—"Thousands and tens of thousands" killed on
their nesting grounds. *For. & Stream*, Vol. XXVI

1643. *Doves*. By E. S. Starr. *Ibid.*, pp. 698-703. — Contains some
account of a nesting of *Ectopistes migratorius*. *January Mag*, XXXVII

1820. *Wild Pigeon in Massachusetts*. *For. & Stream*, Vol. 38

—A pair said to have nested in Plymouth, Mass., in 1889. *For. & Stream*, Vol. 38

1709. *Jay, Pigeon, Camera*. By Ebenezer. *Forest and Stream*, Vol. 30.
June 28, p. 462. *Ectopistes migratorius*.

533. *The Wild or Passenger Pigeon*. *Ectopistes migratorius*. By
J. M. LeMoine. *Ibid.*, III, p. 231.—Notes on its abundance prior to 1850,
about Quebec and Montreal. *Orn. Sport, & Naturalist*

1803. *Wild Pigeons*. By Geo. A. Boardman. *Ibid.*—Near Calais,
Maine. *For. & Stream*, Vol. 29

1849. *A Wild Pigeon Flight*. By Keouk. *For. & Stream*, Vol. 33, Jan 2, p. 467.

1813. *The Wild Pigeon*. Editorial. *Ibid.*, Oct. 24, p. 261.—Notes
the occurrence of "many" in Prince George's County, Md. *For. & Stream*, Vol. 33

1811. *Wild Pigeon in Massachusetts*. By C. E. I. *Ibid.*, Oct. 17,
p. 243. *For. & Stream*, Vol. 33

Ectopistes migratorius

"What became of The Wild Pigeon"

Forest & Stream, LX, Mar. 14, 1903,

p. 205-206.

Sullivan Cook.

Zenaidura
macroura

Zenaidura macroura.

1889

- April ^{cd.} 11 ^{pair} 1889. ^{cl.} 27 ² 1891. 5 ¹ 1891. 17 ² 1891. 19 ² 1891. 20 ² 1891. Concord 1892
- May ^{cd.} 5 ⁵ 1889. 17 ¹ 1889. 2 ² 1891. 5 ² 1891. 7 ² 1891. 10 ¹ 1891. 12 ² 1891. 13 ² 1891. 14 ² 1891. 17 ¹ 1891. 18 ¹ 1891. 19 ³ 1891. 23 ³ 1891. 24 ¹ 1891. 28 ¹ 1891. 30 ³ 1891. 31 ³ 1891. Concord 1892
- June ^{my} 16 ² (1*) 1889. 10 ³ 1890. 1 ¹ 1891. 3 ¹ 1891. 4 ² 1891. 6 ² 1891. 7 ¹ 1891. 13 ² 1891. 15 ¹ 1891. 22 ¹ 1891. Concord 1892
- July 1 ² 1891. 2 ² 1891. 4 ¹ 1891. 9 ² 1891. 12 ¹ 1891. 14 ³ 1891. 15 ³ 1891. 16 ² 1891. 19 ¹ 1891. 21 ² 1891. 26 ¹ 1891. 27 ¹ 1891. 29 ¹ 1891. Concord 1892
- August 1 ¹ 1891. 4 ¹ 1891. 13 ¹ 1891. 14 ¹ 1891. 15 ¹ 1891. 20 ³ 1891. 21 ¹ 1891. 24 ² 1891. 26 ¹ 1891. 28 ¹ 1891. 30 ¹ 1891. 31 ² 1891. Concord 1892
- September 1 ² 1891. 3 ¹ 1891. 4 ¹ 1891. 5 ¹ 1891. 6 ¹ 1891. 7 ¹ 1891. 8 ¹ 1891. 9 ² 1891. 11 ¹ 1891. 13 ¹ 1891. 18 ¹ 1891. 24 ² 1891. Concord 1892
- October
- November 9 ² 1891. 11 (Dakin's H.) Concord.
- December 24 ¹ 1890, Concord - One shot near source of Elm Brook by John H. Sturdy, Jr.

Z. macroura

1893

- March ^{cd.} 31 ² 1893
- April 1 ¹ 1893. 2 ² 1893. 3 ¹ 1893. 4 ¹ 1893. 9 ² 1893. 10 ¹ 1893. 21 ¹ 1893. 24 ¹ 1893. 26 ¹ 1893. 28 ¹ 1893. 29 ² 1893. Concord.
- May 9 ² 1893. 19 ³ 1893. 2 ¹ 1893. 29 ¹ 1893. Concord.
- June 28 ² 1893. (Great Fields)
- July 4 ² 1893. 5 ² 1893. 13 ¹ 1893. Concord.
- August 25 ² 1893. 26 ¹ 1893. 31 ¹ 1893. Concord.
- September 6 ¹ 1893. Concord.

1894.

- May ^{Ball's H. Concord} 3 ¹ 1894. 6 ² 1894. 19 ¹ 1894. 20 ² 1894. 21 ¹ 1894. ^{Ball's H. Concord} 26 ¹ 1894. 27 ¹ 1894. 28 ¹ 1894.
- June ^{Marcham} 10 ¹ 1894.
- July
- August ^{cd. (Great H.)} 12 ¹ 1894.
- September ^{cd. (Mason's field)}
- October 26 ² 1894.
- November 20 ¹ 1894. (Mason's field).

1895

- April ^{Concord} 29 ¹ 1895. (Ball's H.)
- May ^{Concord} 3 ¹ 1895. ^{cd. Ball's H.} 5 ² 1895. 12 ¹ 1895.
- Aug ^{cd. Mason's field}

Zenaidura macroura.

Concord, Mass.

1887. Crossing a large field beyond Lee Davis's hill, I was a-
Aug.13. bout entering the wood path that leads from it at the north-
 ern end when I heard a Carolina Dove utter a single low coo
 just ahead. I looked closely for him but in vain. Finally
 he flew from a pitch pine and following down the path alighted
 again almost immediately cooing again, this time giving the
 full succession of notes. What an impressive sound it is!
 quite the most thrilling that I know of when heard in some
 lonely spot such as this was. I listened for many minutes as
 the deep, solemn tones rose and died away on the still air a-
 gain and again. Finally the bird ceased calling and I walked
 cautiously forward when a pair of Doves suddenly shot away
 through the tress. I looked for their nest in the pitch pines
 whence they flew but found nothing.

Zenaidura macroura

1890 Mass.

June 10 Sudbury. - A single bird flying through the woods and three feeding together in a field just down to oats allowing us to drive past within 25 yds. but flying when we stopped. All four birds within a mile or two of the Wayside Inn in a country where extensive woods of white pines prevail.

Distribution

1891

April 27 Concord. - At 4.23 a.m. (just 23 minutes before sunrise and a little more than half an hour after it began to be light) a Carolina Dove began cooing in young white pine woods near Ball's Hill. It was soon answered by another. The two cooed at intervals for about 15 minutes after which neither was heard although I spent the entire forenoon in the neighborhood and the weather was clear, still and very warm.

Begin cooing
before sunrise

1894

July 2 New Hampshire. While returning from the White Mts. to-day over the Boston Concord & Montreal R.R. I saw a pair of Carolina Doves about midway between Manchester and Nashua and another pair a mile or two south of Nashua. Both pairs were started by our train from sandy fields between the railroad and the Merrimack River. One pair were feeding in company with a dozen or more Domestic Pigeons which flew off towards some houses while the Carolina Doves went directly into the woods. The country where these birds were seen is very like that about Ball's Hill, Concord. The fields are large, level & sandy and they are bordered in many places by white or pitch pine woods.

Distribution

1896 Mass.

Jan'y 9 Frammingham. - Purdie tells me that T. C. Brown has written him that a Dove was shot & another seen at about his place. This winter is cold with a good deal of snow. Ther. -10° on Jan. 6th.

Wintering

Massachusetts.

Zenaidura macroura. (No. 1)

1892.

- April. 17. Concord. A Carolina Dove cooing at short intervals in the pines by the glacial hollow, another answering from the Davis hill pines. The coo of the first was regularly thus whick, coo ---- coo, coo, coo, sometimes there were but two coos after the long pause. The tone was exceedingly pure resonant and solemn but not in the least mournful to my ears.
- May. 12 I started a pair of Carolina Doves from the river's bank at the foot of Davis's hill. They flew up the slope a little way & alighted on the ground when the male cooed once.
- May. 19. I saw three Doves. Two, a pair, are now to be found in a certain young white pine at any hour of the day. I have started them from it a dozen times at least in the last two days. There is no nest but I suppose they are preparing to build one there.
- May. 23 The Carolina Doves were in their favorite pine near the pond behind the hill. I started them at least three or four times from their tree yet there are still no signs of a nest.
- May. 25. My Doves appear to have left my land but I heard one cooing on Davis's hill last night.
- July 1 Now a Carolina Dove begins cooing in the pines above my cabin; erick, coo; ho, ho, ho with always a marked pause after the second note. The voice is singularly impressive and solemn.

Massachusetts.

Zenaidura macroura, (no. 2.)

1892.

and low and sweet thrilling my senses like the note of some rare cathedral bell. I would go farther to listen to the cooing of one of these Doves than for any other sound which can be heard in New England.

July 2. Monday Walked across my land to see Davis' Hill on its south slope among the scattering young growths of oaks in the sandy opening while the Partridges dust in the autumn. I flushed a Carolina Dove directly under foot. In fact I nearly stepped on it. It went out from under a bunch of leaves. At first I supposed it was an old bird with a nest on the ground but on approaching it within a few yards, as it sat perched on a low branch of an oak looking at me with eager curiosity, I saw distinctly that it was a young bird barely able to fly well. The light edges of the feathers of the body + wings gave the plumage a pretty scaled or squamate appearance.

July 4. At 3. P. M. I walked to Davis' Hill. As I was passing under a rough, scraggy pitch pine which stands by the path just beyond my brook and at the southern base of the hill. A Carolina Dove started from a branch directly over my head and fluttered wisily and clumsily off through the trees. Looking up I at once saw the nest which was of the usual slight construction and placed on a horizontal branch among radiating dead

Massachusetts,

Zenaidura macroura (no. 3.)

1892.

twigs about 15 ft. from ^{the} main trunk and 10 ft. above the ground. I had to climb the tree to see into the nest which contained two eggs that looked slightly incubated. There can be little doubt I think that this is a second laying by the parents of the young bird which I saw yesterday for the latter was in the same piece of woods, in fact not 40 yds. from this nest, and there has been but one pair of old Doves on this part of my land this season. A ♂ cooed a few times near my cabin to-day.

July 9 Visiting the Carolina Dove's nest in the pine by the brook at Davis's Hill I found the bird on and approached within a few yards of her but did not frighten her off. She sat absolutely motionless with tail closed and raised, head held high and neck strongly arched thus  Her large dark eye was fixed on me and did not once wink while I was looking at her through my glass (two or three minutes)

July 19 Visited the Dove's nest at 5:30 P.M. Female on when startled she fluttered downward in a half circle as usual but alighted on a branch a few feet above the ground and did not repeat the wounded bird performance. After sitting quietly for a moment she rose and flew off through the trees. Young of apparently equal size & about as large as Blue birds, their shoulders and wings covered with sprouting feathers of a bluish-ashy color but no trace of any real feathers elsewhere. the back being still

Massachusetts,

Zenaidura macroura. (no. 4.)

1892.

clothed with the yellowish down which was also sparsely scattered over the head and neck. Eyes open today. These young sit perfectly motionless.

Oct. 23 Amherst He [George Holden] also tells me that a few weeks ago he started a flock of fully 25-
Carolina Doves from a sandy field in Lincoln.

July 14. Concord.- The chief object of my visit to Ball's Hill to-day Dove's was to see how the Carolina' Dove's nest was progressing. When nest. I reached it at about 4 P. M. the female was sitting her head turned in a direction just opposite to that on my last visit and lowered so that the throat rested on the rim of the nest, the crown being about on a level with the back. This made her very much less conspicuous than on the former occasion. The change of attitude was due perhaps to the presence of some Jays which were uttering various low choking and gasping sounds in the trees overhead and whose keen eyes the Dove may well have wished to elude. I stopped directly under the nest, my head not more than four feet below it. For a moment the Dove did not so much as wink; then she suddenly started and fluttering clumsily and noisily through some dense foliage hitting against dead twigs and plunging through bunches of leaves, descended in a half circle to the ground where, in the middle of a little opening within 15 yards of where I was standing, she rolled over and over and spun around and around beating her wings like a Partridge in its death flurry and making a precisely similar sound. A Thrasher, attracted by the commotion darted through the undergrowth and alighting within six inches of the Dove regarded her with evident wonder and concern and a Flicker came into a tree overhead and peeped curiously down through the leaves uttering a low worr-r-r-ropo of inquiry or sympathy. After grovelling thus for a minute or more the Dove

1892. Mass.

Zenaidura macroura.

July 14. Concord.- started off along the ground alternately fluttering Dove's (NO. 2) and walking. I did not follow her and she did not return while nest. I was near the nest. As an imitation of the behaviour of a badly-wounded or rather dying bird I have never seen anything equal to the performance just described. It was not accompanied by any vocal sounds whatever. Perhaps the most interesting thing connected with it was the fact that the nest about which all this fuss was made was in a tree and the eggs still unhatched. When I looked at them a few minutes later I noticed for the first time that one was fully a third larger than the other. The "runt" egg looked transparent and infertile but the larger egg was dark colored and evidently near hatching. After descending to the ground I drove away the Jays and left the place.

July 15. Concord.- Visiting the Carolina Dove's nest at 6 P. M. I found the female sitting facing N. as on my first visit (July) with her head raised. This confirms my conclusion that the crouching or flattened attitude which she presented yesterday was due to the presence of Jays in the tree above her. There were no Jays near the place this evening.

The Dove started from her nest just as I stopped under it and fluttered downward through the branches much as she did yesterday but on this occasion she did not repeat the wounded bird performance but on reaching the ground merely alighted and stood erect and motionless looking at me. When I moved forward

1892. Mass.

Zenaida macroura.

July 15. Concord.- she rose and flew out of sight among the trees. Can Dove's (NO. 2) it be that as her wiles failed to deceive me away from the nest yesterday she judged it useless to repeat them to-day or is she getting to trust me since she finds that I do not molest either her or her eggs? I must investigate this further. Climbing to the nest this evening I found in the place of the larger egg a young bird. The skin of its body was of a light yellowish or dull flesh color that of the head darker. It seemed to be covered sparsely with short hair-like down but of this I could not make sure for the light was poor at the time. It was of about the size of a plucked Kinglet ().

As this nest contained its complement of two eggs when I first found it July 4th and the parent was sitting it appears that the period of incubation is at least eleven days. I think it equals this time for the larger egg looked somewhat incubated on the 4th.

July 16. Concord.-At 3 P. M. I visited the Dove's nest again. The female was on, facing N. her head raised decidedly above the line of the back but not so high as on the 9th. I stood nearly the nest for three minutes (by my watch). During this time the Dove did not wink once while I was forced to open and close my eyes just thirty-six times. At length I stretched my hand slowly up towards the nest and the bird started off. She flew in her usual manner fluttering noisily through the foliage and

1892. Mass.

Zenaidura macroura.

July 16. Concord.-descending in a half circle but when within about Dove's (NO. 2) four feet of the ground she alighted abruptly on the branch of nest. an oak where she sat looking at me quietly for a moment and then taking wing again, disappeared among the trees. My theory that having tried the wounded bird performance and found it futile or unnecessary, she has now abandoned it, gathers probability.

I was mistaken in supposing the "runt" egg to be infertile for it was hatched. The young bird is at least a third smaller than the one which hatched first. I was also mistaken in regard to the color of the skin of the young. The light was good to-day and having my glass with me (I cannot get nearer than within 15 feet of the nest) I saw distinctly that ~~in~~^{in both} young the skin of the entire body and head is of a dark purplish brown. This shows conspicuously on the head which is nearly or quite naked but elsewhere is partially concealed by a rather dense coat of hair-like down of a pale straw color. The younger bird had the down still wet and plastered to the skin in places. The egg shells had been removed from the nest and I could not find them under it.

July 21. The Carolina Dove was on her nest when I visited it at 3 P. M. to-day although the young are now so large (fully over half grown) that the parent bird had great difficulty in covering them and appeared to be standing rather than sitting on the

1892. Mass.

Zenaida macroura.

July 21. Concord.- nest. They (the young) were to-day feathered over Dove's
(NO.2) the back as well as wings the only visible down being on the nest.
head. As on former occasions they sat crouched on the nest
facing in opposite directions and keeping perfectly motionless.
The parent acted as usual taking a short downward curving
flight from the nest, alighting on a bush, then rising and dis-
appearing. I sat down under a pine about 20 yards from the
nest and waited half-an-hour. At the end of the first ten
minutes the parent returned but seeing me flew away without
alighting and did not again come back. While I was watching
the nest a Sharp-shinned Hawk passed on a level with and scarce
ten feet from it, gliding swiftly and silently on set wings. It
must have either seen me or failed to discover the young birds.
To what fearful dangers are not these helpless little creatures
exposed. No wonder they cower motionless on their rude plat-
form of interlaced twigs.

July 26. The young Carolina Doves had grown marvellously since my
last visit. The larger of the two (there was a marked differ-
ence in size) was indeed nearly fully grown and feathered with
a tail at least two inches in length. The other bird still had
the head bare of feathers and tufted with yellowish down. They
were sitting side by side to-day both facing the same way. The
mother for the first time was not at the nest (she could not
very well have covered so large young) but I started both her

1892. Mass.

Zenaida macroura.

July 26. Concord.- and the male parent from adjacent trees near at hand. Dove's

(NO.2) Concealing myself as well as I could under a spreading pine nest.

I watched the nest for over an hour hoping to see the young fed but the mother bird appeared only once and then apparently discovered me for after perching for a moment on a dead pine she flew away and did not again return. The young still sit perfectly motionless. During the whole time that I was watching them to-day neither moved in the least as far as I could detect

July 29. The Dove's nest was empty at 3 P. M. to-day. There were only a few stray feathers in the nest but the interstices between the sticks were filled, the bottom of the nest paved, and the ground beneath over a space of five or six square yards thickly sprinkled with dried dung in the form of pellets which closely resembled those of the Domestic Pigeon. I found one of the egg shells- or at least the shells of a Dove's egg- under an oak about 50 yards from the nest whither I concluded it had been taken by the parent when the young were hatched.

My last visit to this nest was at about 5 o'clock on the afternoon of July 27th. The young were then sitting crouched in their usual motionless fashion on the platform of sticks, which they almost completely covered for one bird was fully grown and feathered and the other nearly so, the difference in size between the two being much less than it was a week ago. As there were no signs to-day of anything wrong having occurred at or near the nest I infer the young left it in peace and

1892. Mass.

Zenaida macroura.

July 29. Concord.- safety either some time yesterday or this morning. I Dove's (NO. 2.) did not see either of the parent birds on the 27th and to-day nest.

I could find only one Dove on my entire premises, an old male which I saw flying into the woods on Davis's Hill where, probably the young were in hiding.

I found this nest July 4th when it contained the complement of two eggs. These (at a distance of 15 feet) looked slightly incubated. One was nearly a third larger than the other. The larger egg hatched on the 15th, the smaller on the following day. It follows that the period of incubation with this species is at least 11 days and that the young remain in the nest only 13 or 14 days.

Zenaidura macroura.

1892. Mass.

Aug. I. Concord.- A Carolina Dove was cooing in the pines on Davis's Hill at 5.30 P.M. I have not heard one before for more than two weeks (July 14). This bird was in really good voice and cooed at short intervals as long as I was in hearing. Carolina Dove.

" 24 Concord *See flying over the Great Meadow in a close bunch with Plum* *Flocking*
the first flock I have seen this season.

Aug. 26. Concord.- On Bensen's knoll, as I was walking past the smaller hollow following the cart path, I started a Carolina Dove from a small red cedar. She fluttered off slowly and clumsily like a very young bird. On looking in the cedar I found a nest built chiefly of dry straw and containing two eggs evidently far advanced in incubation.

Aug. 30 Concord.- Visited the Dove's nest at 4.15 P.M. Female parent sitting. I looked at her through my glass for a minute or more standing in plain sight on the opposite side of the hollow about 30 yards off. After perhaps three minutes she flew while we were both perfectly still although we had been talking a little. She went directly off through the trees without pausing or fluttering, her flight being swift and decided, the wings whistling as in ordinary occasions. Both eggs had hatched since my last visit. The young were apparently not over one day old and both were of the same size. Their eyes were tight closed, and their bodies and heads covered with straw colored hairy down.

Zenaidura macroura.

1892. Mass.

Sept. I. Concord. - Visiting the Dove's nest on Bensen's knoll at 3P.M.

(NO.2) I found the mother bird sitting. She flew quietly off when I was thirty yards or more from the tree. The young birds have doubled in size since I saw them last but their eyes are not yet opened and their general appearance has in no way changed. Like the young in the nest by the brook south of Davis's Hill they sit perfectly motionless.

Sept.3. The Dove was sitting on her nest in the red cedar as I passed
(NO.2) the place early in the forenoon but I did not disturb her.

Sept 4 Young bird in immature plumage in mixed flock of Robins, Sparrows etc. in the morning

Young bird in mixed flock.

Sept.5. After lunch I heard voices on Bensen's knoll and on investigating found eight or ten of my Concord neighbors preparing to lunch under a pine with their horse tied near by and a nervous Irish setter galloping about. Not thirty yards away and in plain sight of this merry and very noisy party the Carolina Dove was sitting quietly on her nest in the cedar.

Sept.6. The Dove was on her nest in the cedar at 5 P.M. and permitted us to walk just along the cart path without flying.

Sept.9 I watched the Dove's nest in the cedar for more than an hour
(NO.4) (3-4 P.M.) lying concealed among some pines about forty yards off but neither of the old birds came near it. A Red-shouldered Hawk (a young male very like the one seen on the river this morn.

Concord.

Zenaidura macroura.

1892. Mass.

Sept.9. ing) skimmed past it within fifteen yards, flying only a yard or
(NO.4) two above the ground and, following the opening, came within ten feet of my ambush. He appeared to be hunting but must have overlooked the Dove's nest. A Marsh Hawk also scaled directly over the tree without apparently discovering the nest. It will be remembered I saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk brush past the other nest on Davis's Hill in July.

The young Doves to-day were about the size of Robins and fully feathered except on the heads which were still covered with the yellowish down. I found the shells of one of the eggs on open ground about 60 yards from the nest. The excrement of the young is not removed by the parent but is voided directly into the nest. The nest on Davis's Hill was matted with excrement after the young left.

(NO.5)

(NO.6) I have seen Carolina Doves frequently of late in a field next the river at Hunt's Pond where the grass has been lately cut. Two came together to this field as I was passing it this evening and alighted after reconnoitering the ground by flying over and around it in circles.

Sept.II. The young Doves were both sitting quietly on the nest which they covered almost completely. Their heads to-day were covered with feathers, only a little down remaining on the cheeks. Their tails were about two inches in length and their wings appeared

Zenaidura macroura.

1892. Mass.

Sept. II. Concord. - fully feathered. No signs of the old birds although I watched for sometime.

Sept. 13. Visiting the Dove's nest in the cedar at 4.15 P.M. I found the two young still in or rather on it for the nest has long been trampled into a shapeless platform of twigs.. Both birds were standing erect on their legs (heretofore they have always crouched or squatted on their bellies) with heads and necks stretched up. Their erect attitudes and alert, wary expression, together with the fact that, as I approached, I could see that all the down had disappeared from their heads and that their plumage appeared to be perfected, prepared me in a measure for what followed although it was still a surprise. When I was within two or three yards of the tree one bird started and gathering headway by a few vigorous strokes of the wings, which produced a clapping noise similar to that made by domestic Pigeons, it darted off with all the apparent ease and swiftness of an old bird and was soon lost to sight behind a pine around which it curved sharply. The other young bird immediately followed taking exactly the same course. Beyond the pine behind which I lost them, was open ground for thirty or forty yards and on the further side of this pitch pine woods in which they doubtless found concealment. The total distance flown was fully 100 yards. Both birds were still rising when I saw them last. There was not the least hesitation or feebleness in their flight. When it is considered that this must

Zenaida macroura.

1892. Mass.

Sept. 13. Concord. - have been the first time that they had ever used their wings (I have never known any young bird return to its nest after once fairly leaving it) and that their parents (I did not see either of the old birds) were not present to guide and encourage them it is indeed remarkable that they should have launched into the air with such entire apparent confidence and should have flown so swiftly and so far. What I expected was to see them flutter clumsily for a few yards and then come to the ground or strike into the branches of the nearest tree. The sharp, decided turn around the pine was especially impressive. Their wings produced more of the whistling sound made by old birds; after the preliminary flapping there was only a fluttering like that of a young Grouse.

The nest was very foul indeed; in fact the entire top of the platform was a sticky mass of excrement.

Zenaidura macroura. (W. I.)

Concord, Mass.

1893.

March 31
(No 5)

As I was returning from Davis's Hill at about 5 P. M. a Carolina Dove began cooing near Bensen's knoll. Paddling close in shore I presently saw the bird sitting in a crouching position in a large maple on a stout branch near the trunk, about midway between the ground and the top of the tree. I put my glass on it and watched it closely, but could not detect anything unusual at the instant when it was cooing. Another Dove in the distance towards Bensen's answered my bird a few times.

Carolina
Doves

Concord, Mass.

1893

April 2
(No 5)

Carolina Doves were cooing at intervals during the entire day despite the rain and blustering wind. I heard one at 11 A. M. when even the Song Sparrows were silent. There were two answering each other on the Bedford shore soon after sunrise. Thus far I have seen no pairs. He started a single bird this afternoon among the pines on Bensen's Hill. The voice of this Dove when heard at a distance is strikingly bell-like. Hoffmann remarked this fact when one was cooing this morning on the opposite side of the river.

Carolina
Doves

Concord, Mass.

1893.

April 4
(No 3)

While I was standing on Bensen's knoll this afternoon five Carolina Doves, flying in company but each bird at least a dozen feet from its nearest companion, passed overhead at the height of

Carolina
Doves

Zenaidura macroura. (No. 2.)

about 100 ft. They came from the N. W. ^{of the woods}.
I should have suspected them to be migrating.
The pines cut off my view of them after they
passed but a moment later a Dove began coming
in the ~~same~~ ^{other} direction in which they went.

Concord, Mass.
April, 24, 1893.

The Doves have certainly deserted my woods, doubtless
because of the presence of the Cooper's Hawks which
have probably killed some of them & frightened away
the others. I heard one cooing in the afternoon
in pines on Prescott's land and saw another flying
high across the river at dusk.

Cooper's
Hawks

Cambridge to Concord

1893
May 9
no 3

In north & south (near 34th St. where we called
to see the dogs) we saw four Carolina Doves in the
fields far from any woods. The first was the noted
bird which rose from the road and alighted
on the fence. The next was a white bird which
crossed the road flying very lightly. The fourth bird
was walking along the edge of a rain water pool in
ploughed land.

Carolina
Doves
in Cambridge

Zenaidura macroura.

Ball's Hill, Concord, Mass.

1897. On the 21st I was following the wood road which leads
Apr. 23. through these pines (Bensen's pine knoll) when I started a
Dove from a very large and bushy white pine which stands in
the opening south west of the Glacial Hollow. A dove reared
a pair of young in a nest in a large cedar near this pine
four or five years ago, and something in the manner with which
this bird started led me to suspect that she flew from her
nest but I could not see anything that looked it. To-day I
flushed her again from the same tree and looking more care-
fully discovered the nest placed on a stout branch directly
against the main trunk about 15 ft. above the ground. I did
not examine the nest. Soon after the bird left it a Dove,
perhaps the same individual, began cooing in a peculiar manner
in the woods just above the Glacial Hollow. I heard a Dove
cooing near this nest on April 4th.

(During the remainder of April I frequently visited this
nest and always found the bird sitting. The last visit was
on May 1st. She sat high and held her head and neck well up.
She would usually fly if I stopped within twenty yards and
put my glass on her. I did not examine the nest.)

Zenaidura macroura.

Ball's Hill, Concord, Mass.

1897. I paid a last visit to the Dove's nest and was relieved
May 1. to find that she was all right and still sitting quietly. My
uneasiness on her account was due chiefly to the fact that a
pair of Cooper's Hawks appeared yesterday when I started both
birds together from one of the pines on Davis's Hill and la-
ter saw the male fly over Ball's Hill and skim low over the
meadows to the Bedford shore.

Cambridge, Mass.

1897. As I left Concord May 1 and did not return during the
Dec. 29. season I have no knowledge as to whether the Dove reared her
young.

Zenaidura macroura.

Concord, Mass.

Nest and eggs.

1898. As Bartlett and I were entering Prescott's pines following the old wood road a Carolina Dove started from a dense white pine and flew slowly off pretending to be partially disabled. We suspected a nest at once and soon discovered it on a stout horizontal branch three or four feet out from the tree and about eight feet from the ground. Strange to say I have neither seen nor heard a Dove in these woods before this spring although one cooed there last year. The nest held two eggs which looked dark as if slightly incubated.

1899.

Scarcity in Concord, Mass.

June.

This has been the first year since I settled at Ball's Hill when I have failed to hear the solemn voice of the Carolina Dove, in one or another part of the neighboring woods. Gilbert saw a pair on the 15th of April, and a single bird two days later flying past the cabin, but my only personal observation during the entire season was confined to glimpses of a bird near Carlisle bridge on May 31st. On June 24th Mr. Dudley Pickman told me that a pair of Doves had been frequently seen during the past week in the woods on his estate in Bedford about a mile below the bridge just mentioned.

I attribute the disappearance of these attractive birds from the Ball's Hill region where they bred so numerously a

Zenaidura macroura.

Concord, Mass.

Scarcity in Concord, Mass.

1899. few years ago to the presence there during the last two or
June. three seasons of one or more pairs of Cooper's Hawks. I doubt
(2). if these Hawks often succeed in catching them but they cer-
 tainly frighten them away from the immediate neighborhood of
 every piece of woods where they settle for the summer.

Birds of Southern New Brunswick.
M. Chamberlain.

11. *Zenaidura carolinensis*. MOURNING DOVE.—This bird has been but rarely met with here; one taken at Hampton in June, 1880, one at Rothesay on September 30, 1881, and one at Milkish on October 17, 1881, are the only specimens I have heard of.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, April, 1882, p. 105

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

76. *Zenaidura carolinensis*. CAROLINA DOVE.—Of this southern species Mr. Comeau has killed two at Godbout; the first, a male, he shot October 10, 1881, and the second, a female, June 6, 1882.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct, 1882, p. 238

New Brunswick notes.

A Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), a very rare bird here, was taken near Fredericton, Oct. 14, 1899.—WILLIE H. MOORE, *Scotch Lake, York Co., N. B.* Auk, XVII, April, 1900, p. 177.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming,
Part II, Land Birds,
Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 72.

118. *Zenaidura macroura*. MOURNING DOVE.—Regular summer resident, never very common, May 16 to July 24; my data are insufficient but the dates of arrival and departure are probably April and October; nest June 3, 1899.

Zenaidura carolinensis

In Maine

Bangor, Maine -
Nov. 13, 1882

Mandy Hardy writes under date of Nov. 14, 1882. "A Carolina Dove was shot in Bangor yesterday"

Maine (near Bangor)

Zenaidura carolinensis

1885.

September - "Several Carolina Doves were shot near here in September last." (M. Hardy in letter of Dec. 11th.)

Zenaidura macroura

Barre, Maine

"Several Carolina Doves have
been taken here in past
years"

(M. Hardy letter Oct. 17, 1892.)

Method of Recording Bird Music, with a Correction.— In my articles on the expressions of emotion in the Mourning Dove and the Passenger Pigeon ('The Auk,' October, 1911), in the musical notations I used sharps and flats in some cases to indicate a degree of sharpness or flatness less than a semitone. In the Mourning Dove record No. 1, the second note is only a trifle sharp; and the Passenger Pigeon records Nos. 4, 5, 7, and 8 each contain a downward run in which the intervals between successive notes are less than a semitone. I ought to have explained this in the original paper.

To measure the *tempo* of a bird song, the best instrument is a stop-watch. While the bird is singing, count the beats of its song, "Naught, one, two, three, . . ." Start the stop-watch with "Naught" and stop it with "ten." This gives a very accurate result. If the beats be rapid, count twenty instead of ten. In absence of a stop-watch, I think the best one can do is to count the beats for five seconds, or some other definite number of seconds, by an ordinary watch; but this is far less accurate.— WALLACE CRAIG, Orono, Maine.

~~Aug 3, 1911~~ 5-91.

White Mts. N. H.

Zenaidura macroura

1886

Occurrence in autumn.

Oct. 3-9

Mr. H. A. Purdie saw one several times during the first week in Oct. at the Ravin House (about six miles from Gorham). It frequented a grain thubble there.

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

Mourning Dove, one individual seen.

O. S. O. Vol: 17; Sept. 1892 p: 138

Zenaidura macroura

Belmont Mass.
April 1881

Mr. A. M. Spelman shot a fine adult ♂
Little Dove in Belmont this evening. It
was found among thick ferns and was
alone. Being killed at short range it
was literally riddled with shot and
could not be skinned. I saw the remains
however. Although not uncommon at
Concord Mass. this bird is very rare
within ten miles of Cambridge.

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

9. *Zenaidura macroura*. * Not common.

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

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

3. *Zenaidura macroura*. MOURNING DOVE.—Rather common.

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

Zenaidura carolinensis

In Lexington.

Lexington, Mass.
June 18, 1883

While off with Puddin to-day I saw a Kettle Dove in Lexington at the further end of the road through "the Willows". I had entered the lane on the left just beyond the bridge over the brook when the bird rose within ten yards of me from a marshy spot. It flew about 100 yards to a line of oaks when it apparently alighted. It looked like a ♀. Its wings whistled and the usual rumour as it rose.

E. Mass. 1885. ^{1 Concord}
83 Zenaidura carolinensis. July 2

Zenaidura carolinensis Mass. - near Cambridge.
1886 April 12th

Mass. (Middlesex Co.)

Zenaidura carolinensis

1886

Arrival.

April 12

While driving from Cambridge to Concord to-day I flushed a pair of Carolina Doves from a ploughed field in Briston about a mile east of Briston centre and very near the swamp where Frazer found a nest of Bubo virginianus years ago.

At Concord Mr. Nealy told me that he saw three of these Doves near that town yesterday

Mass. (near Concord)

Zenaidura macroura

1887

May 23

Saw no less than seven Doves below Ball's Hill, three pairs & a single ♀. They were mostly flying and alighting in the grass near the river. One pair sitting in an oak the ♂ cooing at intervals, the ♀ oscillating the head & neck in the manner of all Doves. I walked to within 20 yds. of the tree before they took wing. The ♂, besides the usual three (or four including the first aspirated note) coos uttered a single very low coo at regular intervals.

Mass. (Reading & Wilmington)

Zenaidura macroura

1887

Aug. 4

Saw one fly across the road in Reading. Mr. E. B. Caruss of that town who was with me assured me that the species is a common summer resident, especially in Wilmington. On his father's place there a pair of Doves bred four years in succession in a pine just behind the barn regularly rearing two broods each season. Mr. E. has bagged as many as twenty of these Doves in a day. They collect in large flocks in the early autumn & frequent buckwheat fields. They nest in white pines.

Mass. (near Cambridge).

Spring of 1887

1887

April 9. Chadbourne saw one to-day in Belmont just east of the Fitchburg R.R. station. It started from the railroad embankment and flew to an orchard. He tells me that he saw another in Belmont several years ago. Spelman has seen two in Belmont

Zenaidura macroura

Mass (near Cambridge)

In April 1887

1887

April 9. One seen on the embankment of the Fitchburg R.R. just below (east of) Belmont by U. P. Chadbourne. It was shy & did not allow him to get within gunshot.

Zenaidura carolinensis.

Mass. (near Concord). 1887

1887

April 7²

May 17^{♂-♀} - 22^{1 pair} - 23⁷

June 2¹ - 4¹ - 6^{just eggs} - 7^{*} - 12² - 21²

Aug. 9¹ - 13^{1 pair}

✓ a pair shot ^{on the river.} * cooing
Zenaidura carolinensis

Mass. (near Concord).

1888

APR 9³ - 12¹

* = cooing

Zenaidura carolinensis

Mass. (Melrose Highlands)

Zenaidura carolinensis

1889

April 17 "Yesterday I found a pair of Carolina Doves, the first I have seen for ten years" (Bradford Young letter Apr. 18, 1888)

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

Zenaidura macroura (Linn.), Mourning Dove.
Summer resident, tolerably common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 139

Auk, XIV, Apr., 1897, pp. 228-9.

Sundry Notes.

Zenaidura macroura. MOURNING DOVE.—Two seen and shot one, the male, the stomach of which was forwarded to Mr. S. D. Judd, Washington, for identification of its contents, the result of which has been kindly sent me by Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Chief of the Biological Survey, from whose letter I quote: "The bulk of the contents is grass seed (over two hundred seeds of one kind, *Panicum*, and a dozen of another, *Paspalum*). There was also a blackberry seed, a ragweed seed, and four quartz pebbles."

Geo. H. Mackay, Nantucket, Mass.

Zenaidura macroura

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOÖLOGY,

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Mar. 31, 1899

Dear Brewster:

The *Zenaidura* records you

asked for are

- ✓ Sept. 26, 1890 Mill St., Waverley
- ✓ Apr. 18, 1897 Mystic Pond, Arlington
- ✓ Nov. 15, 1898 below Poppon Park, Belmont

One bird in each case.

Yours sincerely
Walter Faxon

Barnstable, Mass.
Col. Boston Soc. Nat. History,

Zenaidura macroura. MOURNING DOVE.—A specimen was taken at Barnstable, Mass., on December 6, 1903.

Auk 25, Apr-1908, p. 234.

COMMON DOVE.—C. A. Thompson, Melrose, Conn., shot a common dove that was feeding with the fowls, Feb, 20, 1882. About the same time a specimen was brought to our office dead. An M. D. had picked it up in a snow drift while driving his rounds. B. & O. VII. Dec. 1882. p. 781. The cold was severe.

and I also secured on the 16th of January a Dove, (Zenaidura carolinensis.) I have seen the C. Dove taken here in winter once before.

J. N. Clark, Saybrook, Conn.
B. & O. VIII. Oct. 1883. p. 80

Saybrook, Conn.

Zenaidura macroura

One shot Jan'y 16, 1883 by J. N. Clark

(B. & O. Vol 8 no 10, p. 80)

Connecticut, June. 1893.

Zenaidura carolinensis

June 7th 9th

" 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th

" 24th Bolton notch

Saybrook
Bolton Notch

With the exception of a few birds seen in Bolton Notch this species was met with only at Saybrook, where it was abundant along the W. bank of the Connecticut for at least two miles above the Ferry in large hard woods fields and on pasture. Woods crowned with chestnut & red cedar. Besides the numerous birds observed in this range of fields & pasture on met only five specimens, two from Bolton Notch, the main of Bolton River below Saybrook & one bird seen in Sprout Pond island on the 17th. Clark considers it an uncommon bird of both years although he used to find it abundant everywhere. He does not collect along the line above the Ferry.

Swallow breeding in Connecticut,
[Thames River, 1900]

A pair of Mourning Doves (Zenaidura macroura) feeding along the beach at Gales Ferry. — R., Longwood, Mass.

B. & O. VII. Oct., 1900, p. 389.

54 23

7

1 *

900.

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

Again of *Z. carolinensis*, given by Dr. B. as a summer resident,
presumably of all New England, we read in the "History
of North Am. Birds" (Vol. III, p. 384): "It is found in the southern
part of Maine as far to the eastward as Calais, but was not collected by Mr.
Verrill at Norway, and is not known to occur in the northern part of that
State." I said it was not "rare," meaning of course in Southern New
England, and by looking up the matter, such will be found to be the case.

Bull. N. O. C. 2, Jan., 1877. p. 15.

Notes on Some Winter Residents of
Hudson Valley. E. A. Mearns.

20. *Zenaidura carolinensis*. CAROLINA DOVE. —The following record is from my journal: "January 12, 1878. A Carolina Dove flew down from a ledge above the Garrison's Tunnel, and alighted upon the railroad, close beside me, where it hopped about, looking askance at me, finally hopping on to the rail, where it sat ogling me till a train came along, when it flew on to the ledge. The flagman at the station told me that they were occasionally present throughout the milder winters, feeding on the grain that drops from the cars.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 37

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

135. *Zenaidura carolinensis* (Linn.) Bonaparte. MOURNING DOVE.
—Dr. Albert K. Fisher writes me that he has seen this species, and its eggs, taken in Warren County near the south end of Lake George.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 233

Is it not unusual to see ^{Carolina Dove.} *this bird* here in mid-Winter?

H. H. H. Sheller Island, N. Y.

O. & O. IX, Feb. 1884, p. 24

Oneida Co. N. Y. — Egbert Bagge.

The next is not as good, but I give it for what it is worth. One day in June, while wading in Oneida Lake, my gun being on shore, a pair of Common Doves (*Zenaidura carolinensis*), passed between me and the timber, and lit in a large pine. I watched them for a moment, and then started for my gun. Before I could come in range, however, they were off like the wind, and although I visited the locality every day for two weeks, I saw no more of them. They were certainly either Common Doves or Wild Pigeons (*Ectopistes migratoria*), and I am quite confident they were the former. (The latter would be quite as much out of place on Oneida Lake in June).

Oneida Co. N. Y. April, 1888. p. 58

Birds Tioga Co, N. Y. Alden Loring.

460. Mourning Dove. Not rare. Breeds.
O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 86

Oneida County, New York,
William L. Ralph & Egbert Bagge

Zenaidura macroura. —We find the species rather common on the pine barrens at the east end of Oneida Lake, undoubtedly breeding, though we have failed to find a nest. A female killed April 13, 1889, contained a fully formed egg. A single bird was also observed at Utica, May 7, 1889. This species was given in the List on the strength of a single specimen taken in Herkimer Co., and its occurrence in such numbers as we have found it, was a great surprise. Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 231.

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

Mourning Doves noted up to date. One has stayed around the grist mill the past two weeks, feeding on the grain thrown out to it by the miller.

O. & O. Vol. 18, Jan. 1893 p. 11

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

5. *Zenaidura macroura*. MOURNING DOVE.—“Rare. One bird seen April 28, 1896.” This statement is to be accounted for only upon the score of oversight. The bird is common all the way from the lowlands of Oneida Lake south along the Stockbridge Valley to Munnsville and to Eaton where I have repeatedly observed small flocks in the buckwheat fields. Out of more than 25 nests found the majority were in apple trees but occasionally in a pine, a white cedar, or upon a fallen log.

By William R. Mayon. *Auk*, XX, July, 1903, p. 263-4.

Correspondence

Editor of O. & O.:

On February 22d there was brought to me an albino Mourning Dove. The specimen was in good feather and condition, being quite plump and fat. The feathers are not pure white, but are a bluish white. The specimen was associated with a flock of a hundred or more Doves, but was exceedingly wary. I skinned the specimen and stuffed it. Upon dissection I found it to be a female with well developed ovaries. When dissecting any birds of abnormal plumage I generally look for tape-worms, but none were in it. I have always contended that abnormal plumage was caused by the tape-worm, but in this case I cannot substantiate my theory. Are albino Mourning Doves a rarity? W. F. Peacock.

[This is the first that has come to our notice.—Ed.]

O. & O. Vol. 17, May 1892 p. 80

Young Oologist. 1540. *Dove vs. Robin*. By George P. Elliott. *Ibid.*, No. 8, Dec., 1884, *Auk*, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 82.
p. 113.

Pickens Co. 5. *Zenaidura macroura*. MOURNING DOVE. 'DOVE.'—Only tolerably common, and noted principally in the cultivated valleys. S. Carolina. Loomis. *Auk*, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 36.

Young Oologist. 1532. *Dove vs. Robin*. By H. E. Deats. *Ibid.*, p. 83.—Mourning Dove laying in a deserted Robin's nest. *Auk*, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 82.

Large Sets of Eggs of the Mourning Dove.*

BY PHILLO W. SMITH, JR., GREENVILLE, ILL.

It has been my good fortune to find several large sets of the Mourning Dove, (*Zenaidura carolinensis*.) My first set of three eggs was taken in 1883; the second in 1884, and four sets of three eggs each in 1885. I will only describe those taken in 1885. The first set was taken April 19; the second April 29; the third June 15, and the fourth June 20. Two of the sets were taken from old Robin's nests, the other two from Dove nests of the usual construction and material. The birds were flushed from their nests in every instance. In sets Nos. 2 and 3, one of the eggs was considerably smaller than the others of the set. In the other two sets there was no more than the usual variation in size and shape, and on blowing the eggs they all appeared fertile with the exception of one egg in set No. 4, (the smaller egg.) In collecting I also came across a Brown Thrasher's nest containing one egg of the Thrush and two of the Dove's. Also a Robin's nest with one of the Robin's and one of the Dove's. In both instances the Dove was flushed from the nest. Being unable to visit the locality again I did not have the pleasure of watching the old Dove feeding and caring for her foster children, (provided the Robin and Brown Thrasher eggs were hatched.) The question that arises in my mind is whether the Robin and Brown Thrasher had deserted their nest, or whether the Doves appropriated the nests while their owners were absent. In the case of the large sets of Dove's eggs, did the same bird lay all three eggs, or did Dove No. 2 take possession while No. 1 was absent? I should like to hear from others on this subject.

*From Oölogical Department.

Note on the Crop Contents of a Nestling Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*).—The crop contents of a nestling of this species taken at Boxford, Mass., on August 12, 1905, were sent to Prof. Beal at Washington, and the following interesting report was returned:

“Contents of crop and stomach of nestling *Zenaidura macroura* from Boxford, Mass.

70 seeds of buckwheat (*Fagopyrum fagopyrum*), 40 %.

3 seeds of smartweed (*Polygonum aviculare*), 1.5 %.

171 achenes of ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), 12 %.

17 seeds of blue curls (*Trichostema dichotomum*), 2 %.

17 seeds of a violet (*Viola* sp.) 1.25 %.

89 seeds of Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), 3 %.

836 seeds of green and yellow Foxtail (*Chætochloa viridis* and *C. glauca*), 35 %.

1 seed of *Paspalum* sp. 0.25 %.

Several fragments of seeds which may be the remains of ‘pigeon milk,’ 2 %.

Bits of a milliped, 1 %.

1 snail and fragments of another, 1 %.

Bits of egg shell, probably from nest, 1 %.

Animal matter, 3 %.

Vegetable matter, 97 %.

Gravel was 10 % of the entire contents.—*W. L. McAtee*, Dec. 2, 1905.”

It would seem, therefore, that ‘pigeon’s milk’ does not constitute the entire food of the young during their whole stay in the nest.

As a help in estimating the age of the bird, it may be stated that on July 16, 1905, the nest, containing one egg, was found at Boxford, by Mr. F. H. Allen.

The nest was in a white pine, 19 feet from the ground, in a crotch close to the main trunk. On July 22, Mr. Allen and I found two eggs in the nest. On August 12, one of the adults was seen sitting on the nest, and it did not move until Mr. Allen had climbed within four feet of the nest. Then there was a sudden avalanche of birds, showing much white in the tails. The old bird struck the ground within 15 yards of the tree and disappeared in the bushes in the usual wounded-bird style. One of the young birds lost itself in the bushes near at hand, while the other remained motionless on the open ground within ten yards of the tree. Here it could be discerned with great difficulty owing to its coloration. I easily caught the bird, and was interested to find its crop, covered mostly with bare skin, bulging with solid contents whose analysis has been given above.

The measurements of the dried skin are: length, 7.10 inches; wing, 4.10 inches; tail, 2.15 inches.—*CHARLES W. TOWNSEND*, M. D., *Boston, Mass.*

Auk, XXIII, July, 1906 p. 336-337.

Maplehurst Farm,
Lancaster, Mass., June 5, 1905

Dear Mr. Deane

Enclosed is the notice of the Pelican I spoke to you about.

(I found a mourning Dove's nest on the ground, June 3. This is the second set I have on the ground.)

I was terribly disappointed that Mr. Brewster couldn't come.

Sincerely

John E. Raper

Turtles
Turtles

HARRY MERRILL,
INVESTMENT SECURITIES,
COLUMBI BUILDING, ROOM 108,
BANGOR, MAINE.

Aug 13th 1902

William Brewster Esq
Cambridge Mass

Dear Sir. — A Dove which I am unable
to identify as North American — was brought to
me in the flesh on July 2 — It had
been killed by flying against Electric wires
— but was alive when picked up by the
person of whom I obtained it. As it
was not in good condition for mounting, I
made a skin of it.

If you are at home at
present — may I send the skin to you
for examination and identification — I
should appreciate your courtesy and trouble
in so doing — and possibly the matter would
be of some interest to you

Respectfully Yours

Harry Merrill

*Meleagris
gallinapavo*

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming.
Part II. Land Birds. Hypothetical List.
Auk, x x 18, Jan. 1907, p. 87.

21. *Meleagris gallopavo fera*. WILD TURKEY.—Dr. Brodie says that many years ago (between 1840 and 1850), a well known and reliable hunter saw a flock on the west side of Yonge Street in the township of Whitechurch; none were taken, but the man's statement was generally believed at the time. Wild Turkeys certainly came as far east as Hamilton, and Mr. C. W. Nash was informed by an old resident of Dundas (a few miles west of Hamilton) that they were found at one time on a farm, now just outside the town limits.

EVIDENCE OF THE FORMER EXISTENCE OF THE WILD TURKEY AT MOUNT DESERT ISLAND, MAINE.—Last summer (August 14, 1880), while searching in an old Indian shell-heap on the east side of Mount Desert Island, Maine, I found a portion of the tarsus of a Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). This is interesting as showing the former range of this bird, which is now extinct in New England.

In Jeffries Wyman's account of the Indian shell-heaps of New England, he does not mention finding the bones of the Wild Turkey farther north than Eagle Hill in Ipswich, Massachusetts.—C. W. TOWNSEND, *Boston, Mass.*

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Jan., 1881, p. 60.

Nomenclature of North American Birds, Elliott Coues.

379a. *Meleagris gallopavo americana* (Bartr.) Coues. This would appear to be the correct name for our Wild Turkey, and I have it so in the check list. It is true that Bartram called it *occidentalis* on an earlier page of the work in which he named it *americana*; but such name is geographically false as applied to the Eastern Turkey in distinction from the Western one. I bring up this case, however, chiefly to call attention to a hitherto neglected synonym of the bird. For Barton, in 1805, clearly distinguished two species of Turkey, calling the Eastern Wild Turkey *Meleagris palawa* (*Med. and Phys. Journ.*, II, 1805, p. 163).

Bull. N. O. C. 5, April, 1880, p. 100

The Wild Turkey in Massachusetts.—When a pupil of the Public Latin School in Boston in 1837-38, I spent a portion of my summer vacations in Northampton. I distinctly remember conversing with some of the town's people at those times in regard to the existence of a flock of Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) which had frequently been seen in the neighborhood of Mount Holyoke. I was much interested in the circumstance, which even then was deemed very unusual.

These birds had the range of a large tract of wild mountainous country, in some parts almost inaccessible and impassable, lying at the base of and comprising Mount Holyoke, and to the southwest also including Mount Tom and its surroundings. An incident occurring at this period serves to show the character of this district. A stranger ascended Mount Holyoke to enjoy the view from its summit. In descending he missed the path, and becoming bewildered, wandered away into the forests at the base. Here he passed two or three days before he succeeded in extricating himself in a famished condition, and having upon his person only a small portion of the holiday attire in which he ascended the mountain.

I am unable to state the exact period at which this flock became exterminated, but should say that it must have been in 1840, or thereabouts.

My friend, Mr. J. A. Allen, has kindly given me the following references on this subject, which I have looked up.

Hitchcock in his 'Geological Report of Massachusetts,' 1833, says, "Wild Turkeys are frequently met with on Mount Holyoke." In the same volume, Dr. Ebenezer Emmons, in his list of the birds, says, "The Wild Turkeys have now become scarce and nearly extinct."

In a communication to the 'Bulletin' of the Nuttall Ornithological Club (Vol. I, 1876), Mr. J. A. Allen says, "According to John Josselyn the Wild Turkeys began early to decline." This author, writing in 1672 ('New England's Rarities') says, "I have also seen three score broods of young Turkeys on the side of a marsh sunning of themselves in a morning betimes, but this was thirty years since, the English and the Indians have now destroyed the breed so that it is very rare to meet with a wild Turkey in the Woods, but some of the English bring up great stores of the wild kind which remain about their Houses as tame as ours in New England."

Thompson, in his 'History of Vermont,' says, under date of 1842, "A few of the Wild Turkeys continue still to visit and breed upon the mountains in the southern part of the state." * *Q. J. S. Vol. XXXIII.*

In a communication to the 'Proceedings' of the Essex Institute, under date of May 2, 1864, Mr. Allen says, "The Wild Turkey is now probably extinct in this State. Within a few years it has been said to occur wild on Mts. Tom and Holyoke, but I can find no authentic instances of its recent capture in this State. It is well known that the domestic turkey will sometimes take to the woods, assuming the habits of the wild bird. Hence these reports may well be received with considerable caution."

In Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway's 'Land Birds,' Vol. III, 1874, we find the following: "It has probably become an extinct species in New England, though within a few years, individuals have been shot in Montague, Mass., and in other towns in Franklin County."

We must consider, then, that the fate of this noble bird, not only in Massachusetts but in New England, has been decided for many years, and the same fate awaits it in all the other States, where it still lingers, unless means are early adopted to prevent its complete annihilation.—D. D. SLADE, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

Auk, V. April 1888. p. 204-205.

Decrease of Birds in Mass. J. A. Allen

The Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo* var. *occidentalis*), though once a common inhabitant of New England from the more southerly parts of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, southward, long since ceased to exist here in a wild state. Its former abundance in Massachusetts is well attested. I will give here, however, only a single reference indicative of the former great number of these birds in the eastern part of the State. Thomas Morton, who resided here "many years" prior to 1637, says: "Turkies there are, which divers times in great flocks have sallied by our doores; and then a gunne (being commonly in a redinesse,) salutes them with such a courtesie, as makes them take a turne in the Cooke roome.

They daunce by the doore so well . . . I had a Salvage who hath taken out his boy in a morning, and they have brought home their loades about noone. I have asked them what number they found in the woods, who have answered Neent Metawna, which is a thousand that day; the plenty of them is such in those parts. They are easily killed at rooste, because the one being killed, the other sit fast neverthesse, and this is no bad commodity." * According to John Josselyn, they began early to decline. This author, writing in 1672, says: "I have also seen three score broods of young Turkies on the side of a Marsh, sunning of themselves in a morning betimes, but this was thirty years since, the English and the Indians having now destroyed the breed, so that 't is very rare to meet with a wild Turkie in the Woods; but some of the English bring up great store of the wild kind, which remain about their Houses as tame as ours in England." † This would seem to indicate that the Wild Turkey was often domesticated in Massachusetts, and renders it probable that our domestic stock was by no means wholly derived; as is commonly supposed, from Mexico. Besides Josselyn's statement of their domestication in New England, I have met with other statements to the same effect, and can cite numerous instances of its domestication in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Virginia early in the seventeenth century. ‡

* New English Canaan, pp. 69, 70.

† New Englands Rarities, p. 9.

‡ On the domesticability of the Wild Turkey of the United States, see *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl.*, Vol. II, pp. 343-352.

Bull. N. O. C. I, Sept, 1876, p. 55-56.

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

77. *Meleagris gallopavo americana*. WILD TURKEY.—Nest in thick
places in the woods, carefully concealed; eggs twelve to fifteen. April 18.

Bull. N. O. C. 8, Jan, 1883, p. 41

WILD TURKEY HUNTING. Vol. 17 No. 12

Oct 20, 1881 p. 229

OF the numerous articles under this head, appearing at intervals in the *FOREST AND STREAM*, one published, a short time ago, over the *nom de plume* of "Splasher," accurately detailed the method of successful turkey hunting, so far at least as the South is concerned. It was interesting to all who are fond of the pursuit of this noble bird; and as I arrogate to myself the title of an adept in the art, I will venture a few suggestions and incidents of my sporting adventures when wild turkey hunting, which will probably interest "Splasher," *et id omne genus*.

In the part of the South in which I reside the flocks are few and far between, seldom containing more than twenty individuals; but within the last few years there has been a manifest increase, partly owing to salutary game laws, and partly to the growing up of old field pines in the worn-out fields. These pine forests are favorite resorts of the turkey, and afford them, at all seasons of the year, more secure roosting and hiding places than forests of oak and other deciduous trees. The rapidity of growth of the old field pine here is something wonderful, and has undoubtedly been of great advantage to many parts of the country. Districts are frequently seen densely covered with this growth, the trees in many instances averaging a foot or eighteen inches in diameter at the stump, which forty years ago were in cultivation.

When flushed in open fields or oak woods, in the hunting season, the turkeys go straight to the pines, and have a way of settling themselves in the lofty tree tops, so as to be perfectly screened from observation. In this part of the country the open season extends from October 15th to the 1st of February, and after November the birds become exceedingly wary, and it requires all the arts of an experienced huntsman to bag them where they have been hunted. But one turkey, in the latter part of November and in December, is worth more than two or three in October, and to kill them, as a rule, requires ten times the practice and skill requisite when they are young. It is considered as decidedly unsportsmanlike to "bait" or trap turkeys, and no one but "cuffee" or a white pot-hunter ever does anything of the kind. Turkey hunting here requires such skill, patience and knowledge of the habits of the bird that few sportsmen indulge in it; but this sport possesses such attractions that, when once initiated into the mysteries thereof, it discovers a fascination unequalled by any other sport to be had in the old Southern States. It is gratifying, too, to those sportsmen who, like the writer, dwell in a sparsely settled region, where the negro has a numerical superiority of two to one over the whites, to perceive that Sambo seldom develops any taste for this sport. He is expert at hare and squirrel hunting, and it is his especial prerogative to hunt "de 'possum and de 'coon;" but partridge and turkey hunting are not in his line. Hence about all the harm he does to turkeys is his propensity to build a log cabin in the pines, and squat in the midst of the old turkey ranges, which has the effect of driving the game from their accustomed haunts.

A flock of turkeys will frequently have a range, the termini of which may be ten or more miles apart, and consequently they are hunted most frequently on horseback. A well-trained dog is a *sine qua non* of the sport. In October, when the turkeys are young, they are easily killed; but later on, when they have become fully matured and have been hunted, is the time when skill, patience and caution are required. The best method of hunting and calling turkeys may be most satisfactorily described by relating a little of my experience, and I have hunted them in company with some of the most skillful and successful sportsmen in the South, and have killed within the last ten years not less than an average of ten a season.

The call which is superior to all others, when in experienced hands, is the larger bone of the second joint of a turkey's wing. This bone is first trimmed at each end, and then cleaned of all particles of flesh and marrow. One end is then inserted into a tube of cedar or elder, about as long and but little larger than a man's middle finger. The other end, to make the call, is placed between the lips and the air drawn in.

About the first of December your correspondent and a companion started at early dawn on a turkey hunt. After proceeding a few miles from home we entered upon an old and extensive turkey range, and for several hours rode through oak woods and dense pine forests, over rugged hills and through swamps. Our dog, a well-trained Irish setter, knew as well as we did what we were after, and he paid no attention to smaller game, but all the while ranged in our front and to the right and left, frequently a half-mile away. It was mid-day before we saw any fresh signs of turkeys. Soon after eating our lunch, however, we saw tracks, evidently made very recently. Carefully noting the direction

in which the flock had gone, we pushed forward, cautiously scanning every opening and listening for the bark of our dog, which had disappeared in our front. At length we heard him bark, and soon saw above the tree tops several turkeys flying in different directions. The dog continued to bark, and we saw at intervals several other turkeys flying off. All this showed that the flock was a good one, and that the dog had performed his duty well and had scattered the flock so that they could not get together without yelping. Securely fastening our horses in a low dell, we cautiously advanced on foot, and were met by the dog, who instinctively retraced his steps to the spot where he had flushed the flock. We then proceeded to hunt around, within a radius of a quarter of a mile, to see that the flock were well scattered. After proceeding a short distance a fine young gobbler flew out of a tree over our heads, and, both firing, we brought him down. We saw and heard several others fly, but beyond the range of our guns. We then called in our dog, and, selecting proper places, built our blinds. The location and construction of a blind requires as much skill and experience, as well as knowledge of the habits of the game, as any other part of turkey hunting. Both depend so much upon the nature and features of the ground that it is almost impossible to lay down any general rule. Other things being equal, the location must be near the spot where the flock was scattered, and the blind must be as like nature as possible. An inexperienced hunter may place his blind near the spot where the flock was scattered but in such a position that he will not see a turkey, while an old hunter would place the blind fifty yards away and be eminently successful.

We made our blinds of small cedars which were abundant, selecting such as were not over three feet in height, sticking them in the ground in a circle about five feet in diameter, so as to resemble some natural elumps near by, and on a slight elevation. Mine was near the spot where the dog first flushed the flock, and my companion's some quarter of a mile away, in the direction we supposed most of the turkeys had gone. Having completed my blind, in which the dog had already curled up, I crept in and remained perfectly quiet for an hour. I then, with my yelp, gave three loud and distinct calls. For fully half an hour I waited, intently listening, only to be occasionally startled by some of the sylvan sounds with which woodsmen are familiar, but nothing fell upon my ear denoting the presence or approach of the game. I then gave another call—three notes as before—but in a low tone. The bone had scarcely been taken from my lips, when a slight sound caused me to turn my head cautiously, and there, within twenty steps of my blind, was a turkey, standing as straight as an arrow. Quickly throwing my gun to my shoulder I shot it through the head and neck. Restraining my dog I waited again for fully thirty or forty minutes, and then gave another low call. This time I received an answer from two directions. Knowing that both turkeys would come with unerring instinct to the place whence they had heard my call, I kept perfectly still. Again and again they yelped, each time nearer, those on one side nearer than those on the other, and soon two came up together, and as they were passing the blind I shot one, but was unable to get a shot at the other as it flew off. Fully another hour elapsed before I ventured another call, but in the interval I heard two shots from my friend in quick succession. I again yelped, and after listening for some time I heard a low *cluck*, the note frequently made by an old gobbler. He came up to a spot about one hundred yards from my blind, and stood for some time perfectly erect, with every feather of his beautiful plumage in place, and with a beard fully ten inches long. There I remained crouched and immovable, with one hand on the dog and the other on the gun for a long time, and there he stood, occasionally walking off a few paces and then coming back. As the sun was getting low and I saw he would come no nearer, I made a similar *cluck* to his own. He immediately started toward me in a run, and I thought I had him, but he suddenly stopped about seventy-five yards away as if he had discovered something wrong. I was in a state of breathless excitement, afraid to move hand or foot. I was debating whether I should fire and risk killing him with a chance shot when, as if struck by a sudden thought, he crouched down, and stealthily crept away. I watched and waited sometime longer, but at length greatly enraged, and thinking he had taken alarm at something about the blind, I drew a little breath and stretched out in the blind, making some little stir. As I did so I was startled by the well-known *put!* behind me; and, glancing around, I saw that he had come up behind the blind, and when within ten steps had seen me without my discovering him. I sprang up with the gun to my shoulder, but as I did so he ran behind a tree, and kept the tree between himself and me, until beyond gunshot, when I heard him fly. Gathering up the dead game I then repaired to our horses, where I was soon joined by my companion who had also secured two.

Much has been said in regard to the number of notes to be made in calling. With any but young turkeys you should never make more than three notes at a time, and at intervals

of from thirty minutes to an hour. Old gobblers are more successfully brought within range by a *cluck* than any other note, except in the spring, when they will come to the yelp of the hen. The *cluck* is never made by the hen, but only by the gobblers, two or more of whom generally go together. It is a note that cannot be made by the hunter, except after careful observation and practice.

It has been said that calls may be made as tame turkeys make their calls; but this does not accord with my experience or observation, and you must only imitate the wild turkey's call with certain restrictions. I am not speaking as to young turkeys, which are easily deceived, but of old and wary birds, the bagging of which does credit to the sportsman. With the latter the hunter must never undertake to give as many calls or notes even as the wild turkey frequently makes. If he does he will get no turkey for his pains, unless he has stumbled upon an inexperienced flock. One evening in the month of December a friend and I scattered a flock of eight or ten turkeys. It being late, we did not succeed in getting one to answer. So by light the next morning we were again in our blinds, which were some distance apart. By agreement I was to do all the yelping, the blinds being so situated that some of the flock would pass my friend in coming to my call. My first call was answered by the old hen, who came within seventy-five yards of my blind, in plain view, and commenced yelping loudly and frequently. She would sometimes make a dozen or more notes at a time that might have been heard a mile. Others answered, and I heard my friend shoot once or twice. The report of the gun would startle her at first, but it was too distant to frighten her away. I then understood the situation, that my friend's blind was directly between her and the rest of the flock, and she was between him and me, thus none of her flock could reach her. She started off several times, but I succeeded finally in bringing her within a few feet of my blind and killed her. Her beard, the longest I ever saw on a hen, was at least eight inches in length. Had any one attempted to make half the number of calls or notes in a call that this old hen did, they would have frightened off all the turkeys. Something artificial in the notes would certainly have caused alarm. In my early days as a turkey hunter I frequently lost fair opportunities of bagging old turkeys by yelping too frequently and making too many notes at a call, and have always succeeded best when observing the cautions I have indicated. M.

Northside, Va.

Auk, XVI, Jan., 1899, p. 77.

Note on *Meleagris gallopavo fera*.—In discussing the Turkey question (Auk, XIV, July, 1897, pp. 272-275) I neglected to express a preference for Vieillot's term *fera*, and make the formal combination here given. Also, there occurs on p. 274 the typographical error of *pera* for *fera* in citing the Gal. Ois. II, 1825, p. 10, pl. 201, and I inadvertently used the term *sylvestris* instead of *fera* in citing the Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. IX, 1817, p. 447.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

*Dendragapus
canadensis*

Newfoundland?
Waverly, Mass.

Spruce Partridge. *Dendrocyopus canadensis*

The Cabots discovered Newfoundland in 1493. Within a few years of that date Sebastian Cabot published a map of the country visited, with notes printed in the margin. One of these notes, referring to Newfoundland, says that the Partridges found there are black. Query--isn't this the first notice of the Spruce Partridge.

Query - is the Spruce Partridge found in Newfoundland? W.B.

Walter Faxon (letter January 12, 1891).

Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region,
Nipissing District Ontario
by Frederick C. Hubel. Auk, XXIV, Jan 1907
p. 49

8. *Dendragapus canadensis*. CANADA GROUSE.—Common throughout the timber lands. Many females were observed with their young.

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

77. *Canace canadensis*. SPRUCE GROUSE.—A resident species, but rather rare.

Bull. N. O. O., 7, Oct., 1882, p. 238

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

11. *Dendragapus canadensis*.

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

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

Bonasa canadensis, Canada Grouse. A regular, though not a common resident. Probably if I had been back among the forests I would have found them common.

O. & O. XII, Mar. 1887. p. 33.

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

Canada Grouse (*Canace canadensis*). May 25,
28.

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

A Collecting Trip—Dec. 1887.
John Ewart, Yarker, Ont. Can.

Canada Grouse. Rare, only one specimen shot. Said to have been quite plenty a year or so ago, but a heavy fire went through this district last summer about hatching time. Since then, very few have been seen.

O. & O. XIII, June, 1888 p. 94

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

298. Spruce Grouse. Occasional.

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

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

6. *Canachites canadensis*. CANADA GROUSE.—The 'Spruce Partridge' was called a common bird by residents. I did not see it.

Auk, XVI, July, 1899, p. 257.

Mr. Watson Bishop, of Kentville, Nova Scotia, reports that he still has his domesticated Spruce Grouse (*Dendragopus canadensis*). They are doing well.

He also has with them a Golden Pheasant and three Birch Partridges; also a Dusky Duck. His success in keeping these birds has been truly astonishing.

As for eggs of the Canada Grouse he is now the recognized headquarters for them, and he has "raised" many sets of them from his domesticated birds. Indeed his eggs will be found in all the large collections in the United States. J. P. N.

O. & O. XVI, March, 1891, p. 46

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James W. Fleming.
Part II, Land Birds. Hypothetical List.
Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 87. ² Ibid., I, 1853, 171.

19. *Canachites canadensis canadensis*. CANADIAN SPRUCE GROUSE.—Of this species the late Hon. G. W. Allen says: "I hardly know whether I am correct in enumerating the Spruce Partridge as among the number of birds found in the immediate neighborhood of Toronto. I have never shot one myself, but I have had specimens brought to me, which were said to have been procured not very many miles from here."² On July 29, 1904, Mr. E. F. Handy, C. E., observed a covey of Spruce Partridge on the tracks of the Grand Trunk Railway near Zephyr (about 45 miles northeast of Toronto); on inquiring Mr. Handy was informed that there had always been a few in the swamp lying between Mount Albert and Zephyr. This is no doubt the most southern point in Ontario where this partridge is found. ²Canadian Journal, 1, 1853, 171.

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

Canada Grouse, (*Canace canadensis*). Only one seen, and that secured.

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

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

91. *Canace canadensis*, (Canada Grouse). This Grouse was found commonly in the entire north-western portion of Somerset county. A few were seen at Eustis and Flagstaff, and in nearly all the middle sections of the county they were to be met with, with the exception of the vicinity of Tim Pond, which locality, by some peculiar reason, was very sparingly occupied by certain birds, as my summer bird list of the vicinity of the lake, given in February ORNITHOLOGIST AND OÖLOGIST of the present year, will show.

O. & O. XI. Dec. 1886. p. 178

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

Maine.

90. *Canace canadensis* (Linn.) Bp. SPRUCE PARTRIDGE.—At Houlton "mostly found in the deep fir thickets, or in the swamps of firs and cedars." Not met with at Fort Fairfield and Grand Falls, though of course it occurs there.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, July, 1882, p. 151

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

2. *Dendragapus canadensis*. CANADA GROUSE.—On July 3, 1886, one ran across the carriage road just in front of J. L. Goodale as he was walking up from the base of the mountain. Altitude about 3500 feet. No others seen.

Auk, 4, April 1887. p.103

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

1895.

White mountains N.H.

The Spruce Partridge in the White Mountains.—Late in August, 1908, on descending the Crawford bridle path on Mount Clinton, just below the timber line, I came upon a female Spruce Partridge (*Canachites canadensis canace*) with a single chick about one third the size of its mother. The older bird was very tame. I walked within four feet of her as she stood upon a little knoll of moss, while the chick made its way nervously off into the forest. She was also strikingly tranquil. Once in a while, with a low, guttural note, she would ruffle her plumage for a moment and look at me with mild anxiety. But throughout my stay near her she did not move ten feet from the spot where I first saw her.

On July 18, 1909, about a quarter of a mile below the timber line, I found a female Spruce Partridge lying in the same path. When I had approached within a distance of about twenty feet, she raised herself slightly and four young, looking like average domestic chicks on the day of their hatching, ran out into the path. To my surprise they soon took flight, and with very rapid wing strokes and with dangling legs they quickly disappeared amongst the trees. The mother bird was more agitated than the one I had seen the year before, but showed none of the excitement so familiar in the mother Ruffed Grouse. I repeatedly stroked her back with my umbrella, and she seemed absolutely indifferent to this treatment.

Since the Crawford bridle path is one of the most frequented of the White Mountain trails and is travelled every season by hundreds of tourists many of whom camp and too many of whom are ruthless destroyers of wild life, it is remarkable that the Spruce Partridge retains its racial tameness in this region and, indeed, that it survives near the path at all.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, Portland, Maine.

Auk 26, Oct-1909, 428-29

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

136. *Canace canadensis* (Linn.) Bonaparte. CANADA GROUSE;
SPRUCE PARTRIDGE. — Resident, and tolerably common in certain localities.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 233

Some Birds of Lewis Co, N. Y.
O. Hart Merriam

In the Eastern (Adirondack) district

Tetrao canadensis, is found breeding.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1878. p. 53

The Canada Grouse.

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From the Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History, January, 1888.

THE CANADA GROUSE, *Dendragapus* (Elliot) *canadensis*,
(Linn). SOME REMARKS AS TO ITS SCARCITY,
FEARLESSNESS, ITS HABITAT, AND ITS FEEDING
ON THE TAMARACK, *Larix Americana*, Michx.

Read November 1, 1887.

By WM. HUBBELL FISHER.

The home of the Canada Grouse, familiarly known as the Spruce Partridge, is the forests and swamps of the northern portion of this Continent. The territory it inhabits includes the northern portions of the United States from the coast of Maine as far west as the Rocky Mountains—and in British America as far north as Alaska. In northern New York, one may travel many a long day without meeting with a single specimen. The universal verdict of all the guides and hunters whom I have met is to the effect that it is a very rare bird.

You will doubtless see a hundred specimens of the ruffed grouse before you will meet with a single Canada grouse. Baird states that it inhabits spruce forests and swamps. I was at Dunbar's Hotel, in the Adirondack region, on Stillwater, at the junction of Beaver River and Twitchell Creek, in Lewis County, New York, on the 31st of Aug., 1887. The day was declining when we heard several shots, which were supposed by Dunbar's folks to be a signal to send a boat over after a party coming out from Smith's Lake, or Muncie's. Not long after the party appeared, and among them was a Mr. C. N. Chapman, of Marathon, New York. He had shot a Canada grouse with his revolver. He stated that when first seen the bird was on a limb above him, that he shot and brought it to the ground. He did not tell me that he shot it after it fell to the ground, but from the bullet hole I found in the back of the bird, I am of the opinion that he gave it its death stroke after it had come to the earth. He stated that the bird did not appear to be wild or exhibit fear.

Before leaving Dunbar's, I took a boat and rowed over to where this partridge was shot. The overflow caused by the erection of the State dam on the Beaver River environed two sides of this tract. The locality was damp, gloomy, and wild; gnarled trunks and dead branches on the ground; bare dying trees, some deciduous hardwood trees in leaf, and some evergreens, made up

**Albinism and Melanism in North
American Birds. Ruthven Deane.**

Mr. Robert R. McLeod of Houlton, Me., has generously presented me with a fine specimen of the female Spruce Partridge, which was shot in the vicinity of that town. The tail is pure white, a few primaries and secondaries of each wing are white, while on the upper and lower parts the white feathers are quite evenly interspersed with the black and buff plumage, and present a beautifully marbled appearance.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 29

to terra firma myself, which I reached in a very unceremonious manner. I had not calculated rightly upon the weight of my rope and the result was that when I had got within about thirty feet or more of the ground the rope broke of its own weight. Luckily for me the cliff was of sandstone and the rains and snows of years had washed the sand off so that, instead of striking a rocky flat bottom, I found myself suddenly shot from the high sandy bank (upon which I sat so hard) out nearly at right angles with the cliff, and after performing many unheard of acrobatic performances, I finally dropped softly (?) into a pile of rocks, and knew—nothing. Clear Creek was not far away, and my friend soon brought me to my senses, and I awoke to see my young eagles “lariated” out to stakes, while Jim, my companion, was busy rubbing my wrists and performing all the things known by him to bring a person stunned to their senses. Every bone in my body was sore, but none broken, and after several weeks I was once more on my feet. However, I lost the best of the collecting season that year, and I seldom climb a high tree or ledge that I do not think of two young eagles and a sandstone cliff, in Clear Creek Canyon.

(To be continued.)

Charles F. Morrison.

Nesting of the Canada Grouse in Captivity.

As it is almost impossible to find eggs of the Canada Grouse (*Canace canadensis*) in their native haunts, and being determined to obtain some, I concluded to overcome the difficulty by capturing and domesticating some of these birds. With this idea I built an enclosure about thirty feet square, and of sufficient height to allow me to walk about inside of it. I built this of strips of boards three inches in width, with two-inch spaces between them for the admission of light. Having cut spruce tree-tops, I placed them in different parts of the enclosure, which gave it the appearance of a natural forest, and also served the birds for roosting places. These spruces I renewed from time to time to keep them fresh.

I placed birds in this enclosure as rapidly as I could obtain them, but for a long time they died so fast that I, at any one time, never possessed more than four. I have lost, in this way, twelve or fifteen birds.

These birds are found scattered through the

central ridge of the province running east and west. They are confined to this region for two reasons, first, because in this out of the way district they are more out of the reach of hunters, and second because the nature of the bird renders this lonely region the most suitable abode for them.

I imagine that their absence from the haunts of the Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) is to be accounted for by their extraordinary tameness—a tameness which precludes the possibility of escape from extermination in even moderately populated districts. In fact, they have been exterminated, except in places which are not frequented to any great extent by the sportsman.

The manner of their capture is as follows: One who knows their haunts and is familiar with their habits takes a slim pole, from twelve to fourteen feet in length, to the end of this pole he attaches a snare made of soft twine. Armed with this weapon, he approaches the bird who is probably perched on a spruce limb; slowly and cautiously, step by step, he advances, holding the pole ready; the bird eyes him curiously; nearer and nearer the noose approaches; suddenly, with an almost imperceptible movement, the fatal noose descends over the head of the doomed victim; a slight jerk, and the captive is brought struggling and fluttering to the ground. The noose is then loosened from its neck, and the captive is deposited in a covered basket carried for the purpose.

The operation I have described is a delicate one, and requires good judgment and careful management. It is not every one who starts out with a pole and noose who brings back his bird, for the least awkwardness or abrupt movement, or a little mismanagement, and the bird is gone. And, in this case, as he cleaves the air with rapid pinion, distance fails to lend enchantment to the view.

These rapidly recurring deaths taught me that if I was going to succeed it was necessary for me to ascertain, by a careful examination, what conditions were necessary to the health of the birds, what was their proper food, etc. I began to examine and study the contents of the crops of birds sent to me to be mounted. In this way, and by introducing different varieties of food, I learned what was most suitable for them, and so completely was I successful that for the last ten months I have not lost a single bird. In fact, they are in better condition than the wild ones, having now (Aug. 4) almost completed their new suits, while

MANLY HARDY,

DEALER IN AND SHIPPER OF

RAW FURS AND SKINS.

Brewer, Me., 189

Maine

Canada

Some interesting I think of something
which may interest you. On our trip
this fall we crossed a great deal
of low Spruce swamp land, on the
many long portages we made, and
saw quite a number of the fast
disappearing King, Canada Goose
Mr. Mann has lived most of his life
in a country where they are as plenty
as in any part of the State, and when
they were plentiful, had unusual
opportunities to observe them. He told
me he once found two nests on an
open dry hill in a swamp. The nests
were within a few feet of each other
one contained 3 and another 5 eggs.
He corroborates what my father used
to tell me of their drumming. He
says they fly from a limb to the
ground and drum with their wings

coming down, and also down the
same when flying fast. - He says
that they are as at other times perfectly
fearless, but even seem to like to have
observed as they will repeat the performance
for a long time while one is looking on
He says the noise is a not very loud
humming sound, and made entirely
by the whirring of the wings in the air
not at all like the Canada Goose, which
I think all our hunters agree is made
by direct contact of wing with the
body. - By the way I shot a Chimney Swift
fall from the top of a large granite boulder
at least 4 feet high. - I have heard of their
drumming on rocks, but I never actually
saw one before, and it was where he could
easily have found any. - My man said
that several times he had when snaring
Spruce Grouse by dropping a log from
a forked stick over their heads, as the
custom is. he had seen them thrust their
heads through themselves. - I am ready to
believe Spruce Grouse & Caribou capable
of any stupidity which any one credits them
with.

In 4 vols. (all in 27-1871)

Canace canadensis
(notes by Watson Bishop)

Kentville July 20/89

William Brewster Esq.

My Dear Sir,

I have ^{been} absent from home for a few days and on my return find your favour of the 5th inst with enclosed P.O. order for 75^{cts.} for photo. of Canada Grouse which I shall mail with this. I am sorry I could not have sent them sooner. The dark mark across the ground in the pictures is a shadow of a stick that is in the frame of the pen and could not be removed.

I had stereoscopic views taken as it shows the position of the feathers better than a single photo. you can

2
not see them well without a
a proper glass to put them
in. I have never seen the
male bird make any attempt
at drumming like the Ruffed
Grouse although I placed a suite-
-able log in the pen for his
convenience, but in the nesting
season he seems to be fond of
flying from the highest perch
he can find to the ground &
back up again many times
every day and seems to make
all the sound he can with his
wings while so doing but it
is nothing to be compared to
the sound of the Ruffed Grouse
in drumming. He might be
able to make more sound if
he had a higher perch to fly
upon, I think if he drums
at all it must be in flying
up & down from a high limb.

All the sounds I have ever heard him make
is a low course sound which indicates anger
and can only be heard a few feet and when the
is strutting it seems to be his object to do every-
thing he can to attract attention, so at certain times
he will stretch himself up and suddenly give his
tail a flit-out to a complete half circle and make a
sharp chirp but not loud, can only be heard a yard or
two, while strutting he also likes to thump on any hard
with his bill to attract attention, I have had him
fly up on my shoulder and peck at my collar,

The females have more variety of vocal than
the male, many of which remind me of domestic
fowls. They make one sound however that is much
louder than the male, this is when they are quar-
reling, it is a harsh grating sound and can be heard
several rods. If you should be down this way in

April or May it will pay you
to call in and see them,

Will you kindly tell me
what is a fair Cash value for
a set of three eggs of the Canada
Jay, also 1/3 Hairy Woodpecker
and a set of 6 eggs of the Red
bellied Nuthatch, a man wants
to buy them but I dont know what
to charge for them,

Hoping to hear from you soon
I am

very truly yours
Watson Bishop

P.S. What do you think
of the pictures,

We made eight attempts
before we got any to suit
W. B.

How many eggs does
the Canada Jay lay. W. B.

Sept

Winnipeg Sept. 1888

Kentville, Nov. 16th/90

Wm Brewster Esq.

Dear Sir,

Your favour of 7th inst. came to hand in due time, but have been unusually busy this fall and therefore have delayed reply till now. The way I found the nest and obtained facts concerning it is as follows,

May 20th/90 I rec'd. a letter from a Miss Sweet who lives 17 miles south of Kentville on the Chester road, saying that she had found a nest of the Spruce partridge. I wrote her to carefully pack an egg and send it to me that I might be sure it was a Spruce partridge. She wrote me again that it was needless to send an egg as she knew it was a Spruce partridge.

May 25th I went to see it. The girl told me she had not seen the old bird since she had first wrote me about it and was afraid she was killed, which proved to be the fact.

On being conducted to the spot I wrote the following, May 25th/90 Data of Spruce partridge ^{nest}

The nest is on the ground under a small pine tree about 6 inches in diameter. Lower limbs of this pine are dead, leaving the trunk and ground beneath well exposed. Two little Spruces

are standing about three feet from the
pine, and these too are scrubby and without
lower limbs, leaving the nest in plain
view at 2 or 3 rods distance.

The ground under the pine is thickly
covered with dry pine needles and of these
the nest is chiefly composed. The nest is
situated about half way between the
pine and the little spruces,

The ground here is dry and rocky (Granite)
but swampy land with alders and birches
with a scattering of soft wood bushes is near.

The shrubery about the nest is scattering
and is a small grove of birches, pines spruces
& firs. A public highway is within five rods
of the nest and the nearest dwelling house
is scarcely a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile distant.

Nest measures. Depth $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Diameter
inside $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches Outside diameter $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
and contains five eggs.

I secured the nest (carefully taken up and
placed in a round basket) and the eggs
and have them at present

yours very truly

P.S. shall be pleased to

have your photo. when convenient

W. L. Bishop



The Canadian Grouse in Captivity.

BY J. P. N.

Mr. Watson L. Bishop, of Kentville, Nova Scotia, has kept several Canadian Grouse (*Canace canadensis*), in captivity for some time, and has had some beautiful photographs of them taken. These exhibit the male bird in the act of strutting before the female, and are probably the first pictures ever taken which show this curious performance.

O. & O. XIII. July. 1888 p. 106 (2) The Canada Grouse
 (*Dendragapus canadensis*). Some Remarks as to its Scarcity, Habits, etc.
 (Ibid., pp. 205, 206.) *Four, seen for, but shot Jan. 1886*
 1919. *Canada Grouse in Captivity*. By Watson L. Bishop. *Ibid.*,
 May 29, p. 367. *For. & Stream. Vol. 34*

Labradorius

Conochilus c. lobatulus

Bamp. Proc. N. S. Z. Soc. 1, 1899 p. 47

This form is very like a
small Conochilus. The differences
between the Conochilus and Conochilus
clearly are marked & constant
when the specimens of the two
forms are compared but
as specimens of Conochilus or
Conochilus forms are quite
grouped above & very as
largely white below as spring
forms of Conochilus, I have
been in antennae specimens
of the latter.

Sale Creek, July, 1901.