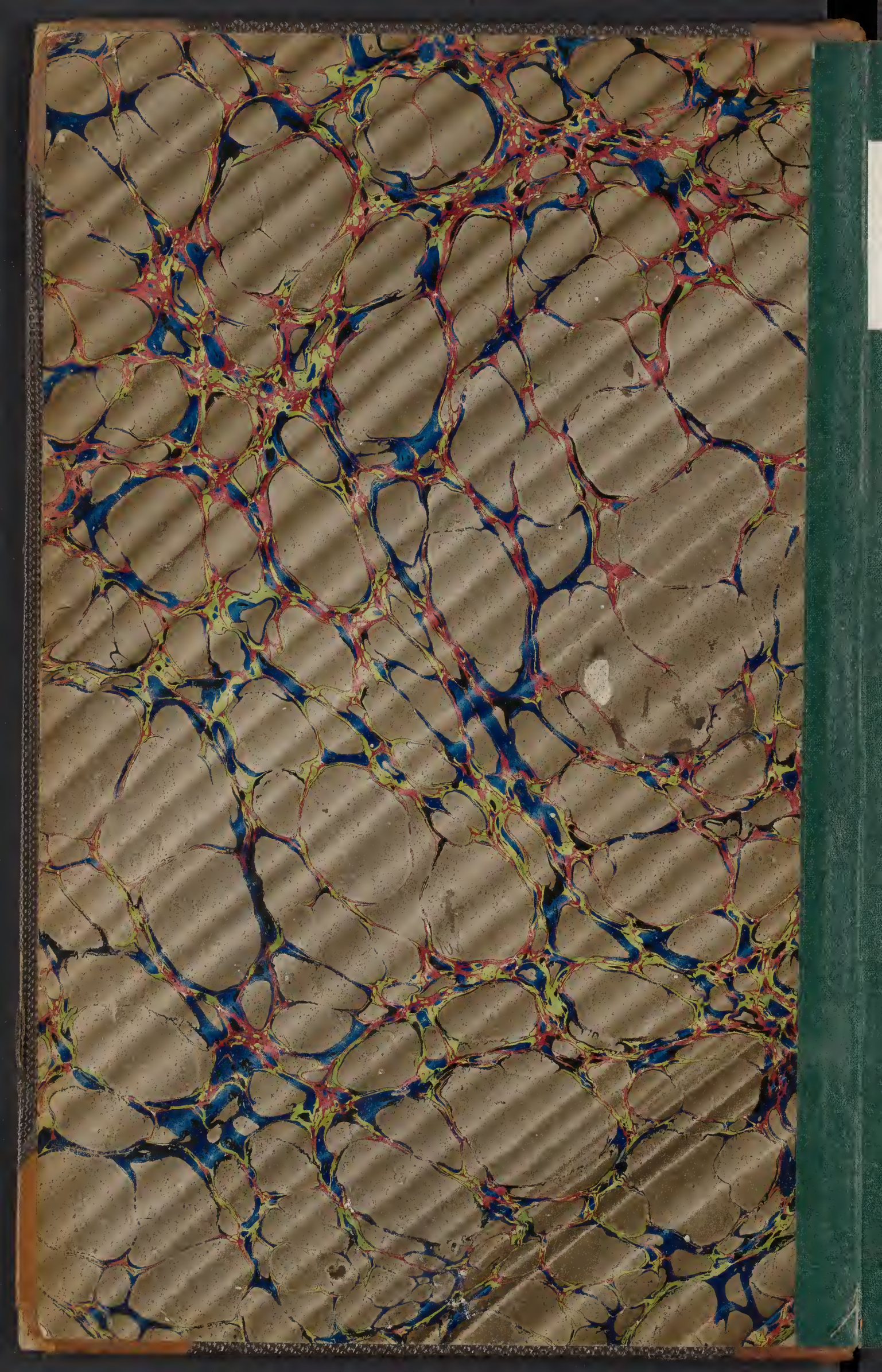

All notes whether checked or not, copied into "N.E.Birds, Systematic Notes, W.Brewster, Vols.1, 11, 111, 1865-1882." Some of the notes are somewhat abbreviated or changed in form.

Walter Deane. June 11, 1898.

Ornithological Notes on New England Birds

William Brewster

Mar. 27th 1868

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W Y

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W Y

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W Y

B.

C.

Creeper – American Brown. 39.
Crow – Common. 53.
Cuckoo – Yellow Billed. 191.
Coot – Common. 231
Crossbill – Common. 239.
Crossbill – White-winged. 225.

Chatterer – Bohemian 114

D.

E.

Eagle — Bald. 59

E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W Y

F.

Finch - Purple. 41.
Finch - Gold. 81. 90. 345
Finch - Grass. 83
Flycatcher - Least. 135
Flycatcher - Tyrant. 189.
Flycatcher - Wilson's Black Cap. 219.
Flycatcher - Canada. 221.
Flycatcher - Great Crested. 229.
Flycatcher - Olive Sided. 217
Finch - Pine 307.
[illegible] - [illegible] 152.
Finch - Sharp-tailed 312.
" Lincolns 180

G

H.

I.

I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W Y

10

J.

Jay – Blue. 335.
Canada 108

K

Kingfisher -- Belted. 41.

L.

Lark – Meadow. 47.
Lark – Tit. 51.
Loon – 251.
Lark – Shore. 343.

M.

Martin — Purple. 149
Merganser — Hooded. 287.
Merganser — Buff-breasted. 337.

N.

Nuthatch – White-breasted. 241.
Nuthatch – Red bellied 192.

O.

Oriole – Baltimore. 143.
Oriole – Orchard. 233.
Owl – Mottled. 341.
Owl – Barred. 52
" Short-eared 288
" Great-horned 136.
" Long eared. 230

P

Quail - American. 71.

R.

Rail – Virginian. 109
Rail – Carolina. 157.
Robin – Ground. 169.
Redpoll – Lesser. 329.
Meadow-lark – American 350.

S.

Sparrow — Tree. 31.
Sparrow — Song. 37.
Swallow — White Bellied. 55.
Snipe — Wilson's. 65-66-64-68-234-236-24
Sparrow — Fox Colored. 67
Sparrow — Chipping. 99.
Sparrow — Savannah. 101
Sparrow — Swamp. 103
Sparrow — Field. 113
Swallow — Barn. 115.
Swallow — Cliff. 119
Sparrow — White Throated. 121.
Sandpiper — Bartram's. 127
Swallow — Bank. 129.
Sandpiper — Spotted 133.
Swallow — Chimney. 147
Snipe — Red Breasted. 245.
Sandpiper — Pectoral. 247.
Sandpiper — Solitary. 253
Sandpiper — Least. 255
Sandpiper — Semipalmated 257.
Sandpiper — Sanderling. 259
Sandpiper — Ash Colored. 275
Shrike — Great Northern. 339

Sandpiper — Stilt. 267.
" — Bonaparte's 281.
Sparrow — White crowned 186
Sandpiper Purple 354

T

V.

Vireo — White Eyed. 143.
Vireo Yellow Throated. 177.
Vireo — Solitary. 181.
Vireo — Warbling. 187.
Vireo — Red Eyed. 201

W.

W
Y

Hermit Thrush
Turdus Pallasii

1869
Oct. 18 Saw quite a number of them to day.
" 26th Saw numbers of ~~them~~.
Nov. 1st Still abundant.
" 10th Sees several.
" 22 Shot two, [one in Pine Swamp, Belmont, the other in Waltham]
Dec 10 Took one to day (in Waltham). The snow has been lying on the ground to the depth of a foot for over a week, and the weather lately intensely cold.

1870
April 16th Saw several.
" 9th Seen to day at Newtonville (C. J. M.)
Sept. 28 Took off.
Oct. 1 A general arrival.
" 21 Saw immense numbers of them during the day: in fact every little thicket seemed full of them.

1871
April 21 A general arrival: probably stragglers arrived much earlier.
" 29 Extremely abundant everywhere.
Nov. 3 Still abundant.

1868 Golden Crested Wren.
Regulus Satrapa

Mar. 1 Heard one.
" 5 Saw several.
" 10 Heard one.
April 10 Saw one but they are getting rare.
" 12 Heard one.
" 27 Shot a male & saw several more.
" 28 Heard several.
Aug 1 Saw several in the Franconia Notch, N. H.

1869
Feb. 17 They have remained with us throughout the winter; saw several to day.
April 10 Saw one to day; probably the last of the winter
Oct. 1 Saw several.
1870
Jan. 4th Saw several.
" 28 Saw three or four.
Mar. 21st Heard several.
April 8th Heard several males singing this morning; the notes though few and simple are very sweet, and much indeed like those of Helminthrophaga Ruficapilla.
" 22nd The males were abundant everywhere this morning and nearly all in full song.
July & Aug. Franconia Notch. Common; most partial to the low, stunted, growth of spruce & fir, on the mountain sides
Sept. 19 Saw several.
1871.
Sept. 15 Several were seen.

Migratory Thrush.

Turdus Migratorius

1870

Mar. 23rd Saw them passing Northward all day, flying in small, close flocks. Only a few scattered birds passed the winter with us.

" 24th They frequent the asparagus beds and cedar thickets in large flocks but they do not seem to scatter through the fields, and are all probably bound farther North

" 31st They are beginning to disperse through the fields and orchards, or rather, what perhaps is more likely, our birds are arriving and taking possession, once more of their accustomed haunts and the Northern birds are leaving

April 1st Heard the first male sing this morning.

" 2nd Singing everywhere: not nearly all our birds, however have come as yet.

" 8th Have all or nearly all, arrived and settled down for the season.

July & Aug. Toxicoscia nitchi: quite frequent, nest & young J. 30

Nov. 7 Still abundant.

Dec. 31 Took on so much inaciated that it was hardly able to fly: its crop contained a few barberries and Smilax berries

1871

Mar. 6 The first, a single male in the open fields

" 10 Three or four.

" 11 Abundant everywhere this morning, in the orchards and fields and apparently already paired.

" 13 Several males were heard singing this morning. F.S.P.

June 30 They are now sitting on their second broods and the males sing at all hours of the day, but they have already begun to resort to the swamps at evening in considerable numbers

Oct. 30 Saw several flocks migrating G.

Dec. 13 Saw in B. scattering cedars in Belmont.

" 25 Heard one flying over our place in C.

1872

Jan. 12 Saw three in Belmont in cedar grove with one A. cedrorum

Vol. II-126

1868 Migratory Thrush — Turdus Migratorius

Mar. 7 Heard one

" 15 They have scattered through the fields, and this evening several of them were sitting on the tops of our Linden trees, answering each other but I have not heard them sing as yet.

" 17 Heard the first old male singing.

" 21 The ground yesterday was bare & the grass green but nearly two feet of snow fell to day, so that the Robins suffered a good deal from the cold & the want of food.

" 24 There are very few of them around.

" 27 The males were singing on all sides this evening and I think that numbers of them arrived to day.

" 31 They have all arrived.

April 11 About nine inches of snow fell to day; by noon the ground was bare in the meadows and thither the Robins collected in large flocks; I think that in some places I must have seen as many as fifty at once all actively engaged in searching for food.

May 9 The Robins are nearly all sitting on their eggs; shot an albino female to day, of a light gray color, it was accompanied by several others of the usual color.

July 4 Saw numbers this evening in flocks of six or seven passing over to their roosting places in the swamps.

" 5 Heard one singing this evening; he would utter a few notes, then stop and in a few minutes begin again as though too much oppressed by the heat to make a more vigorous effort.

" 14 The weather is now cooler and the Robins may be heard singing at almost any time of the day.

" 31 Saw several in the Franconia Notch, N. H.

Aug. 9 Saw a very white albino in Arlington.

Sept. 27 The numbers of the Robins are fast diminishing now but they are still numerous. They pass over every evening to their roosting places in the swamps in large scattered bodies, and as they approach their destination they dive downward with partly closed wings, and after darting through the bushes

which skirt the swamp, they alight among the thickest foliage of the swamp maples: here they remain until the dawn when they return again to the fields and gardens.

Oct. 31 Saw a flock of several hundreds in Lexington: they kept much closer together than they usually do, and whose flying looked more like blackbirds than Robins.

Dec. 28 Came upon a flock of about thirty in Watertown. With the exception of the occasional utterance of one or other of their call notes they were silent.

1869

Feb. 24 Saw one this morning.

" 27 Shot one this morning.

Mar. 8 Saw about a dozen.

" 22 Saw several.

" 25 While watching an old male to day just as the sun was setting, he suddenly began to sing, first in a low pensive strain, then full and clear until the woods around seemed filled with his melody, then uttering a low note he plunged headlong from the top of the oak upon which he had been setting and disappeared in the thick underbrush.

[illegible] heard them [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] They affected the [illegible] [illegible] their notes at [illegible] [illegible] with the [illegible] song of the Hermit Thrush.

Oct. 25 Saw several immense flocks, apparently composed of flight birds.

Nov. 10th Saw several flocks.

Dec. 3rd Saw one.

" 15 Heard one plainly.

1870

Feb. 20th Saw one to day.

Mar. 18th Two were seen to day.

" 22nd Saw a large flock flying Northward.

(Note Page 26)

1868 Snow Bunting Plectrophanes Nivalis.

Mar. 7 Saw five flying.
Oct. 27 Heard several this morning.
" 31 Saw a large flock in Lexington.

1869

Jan. 2nd Saw a flock of about fifty flying.
" 14 Saw a small flock.
" 30 Heard several at Concord.
Feb. 22 Saw as many as a dozen flocks during a mornings excursion.
Mar. 12 Found large numbers of them on Charles river marsh. Large flocks were continually coming and going. On the ground they ran about nimbly, appearing and disappearing among the piles of sea-weed and drift-wood like so many sandpipers.
" 21 Saw a single bird.
Nov. 1st Heard one
" 9 Saw a small flock.
" 22nd Saw several.
Dec. 8 Saw a flock.
" 29 Saw a small flock of half-a-dozen or so.

1870

Mar. 18th Saw one to day: They have not been nearly so abundant as usual this winter.
Saw a flock of about twenty this afternoon

Nov. 3 Saw a single bird: saw them at intervals singly, until the first snow in the latter part of Dec. when they suddenly appeared in large flocks, lightening when the snow had drifted away: they are with us now more than cold weather, or in warm damp weather.

1871.

Jan. 2nd Saw several flocks

1871

Jan. 4 Saw numbers at Chelsea beach: fed on the wet beach, also on the heaped up masses of ice at high water mark: then perched on the roof of a deserted house where they remained for some time.

Jan. 7 Saw the last: next day very mild and snow almost entirely disappeared; and up to to-day (16th) have not seen a bird. 20th saw flying over high.

" 27 Have just had a heavy snow storm: saw several large flocks

" 30 Heavy snow storm yesterday covering everything up. In immense flocks of these birds suddenly appeared. One flock of a thousand or more in a large weed grown field; feeding greedily and quite tame: when flew at me in undulations to the tops of some neighboring oaks, settling on every branch & twig: when they flush the noise of their wings hitting against the branches was like the crashing fall of a heavy tree. Circling over the field when about to light, just as they gave the last turn the whole flock by some given signal would utter this harsh lark like chatter so perfectly simultaneously, that it was quite deafening; The being broken birds always said a short distance to some little hillock, and then standing in an upright attitude kept up a constant fipping; when caught they bit with all their strength of their bills which however was not great.

Feb. 11 Saw two single birds; the last about two inches of snow just fallen

Oct. 30 Saw two small flocks.

1872

Mar. 29 Have been quite scarce this winter; single bird the last on ground at Grantville (H. W. H.).

1868 Tree Sparrow

Spizella Monticola

Mar. 7 Saw a small flock.

" 22 Saw several small flocks.

× " 25 Heard several males sing.

" 28 Heard numbers of males singing.

Oct. 23 Saw several to day for the first time this autumn.

" 31 They are becoming quite numerous.

1869

Jan. 9 Saw several small companies of them, but they do not seem to be as abundant this winter as usual.

" 19 Saw numbers of them to day.

Mar. 20 Saw several.

× " 24 Heard a number of males sing.

" 26 Heard one to day probably the first

Nov. & Dec Plentiful as usual.

1870 Jan. 11th Saw a large flock.

" 17 Took an albino to day. Heard several males sing very finely.

Mar. 10th They seem to be much scarcer now than they were in Jan. and Feb. Saw about a dozen to day.

" 19th Saw a flock of about twenty.

" 23rd Saw several small flocks.

April 2nd Have seen none for the past week and I think it probable that our birds have left us, while those wintering further South have not as yet arrived.

× " 7th Heard several males singing this morning.

" 10 Still continue scarce. ~~Nov. 17 – Jan. 30~~

Nov. & Dec Saw them occasionally.

1871

Jan. & Feb. Not nearly so abundant as usual but still frequent.

× Mar. 29 Abundant everywhere in large flocks; males sing at all times of the day.

× April 1 More abundant than I ever saw them before males sing at all times of the day.

1871

April 12 Still very abundant.

" 24 Heard a male singing at Concord the last.

Oct. 25 Saw in a flock of this species one individual nearly white.

" 28 Heard several old males in full song.

1868 Snow Bird

Junco Hyemalis.

Mar. 8 Saw three hopping about the roots of some evergreens.

" 17 Saw several large flocks, the males all singing.

" 22 Saw several flocks.

May 8 Saw one to day: they are very scarce now however.

Aug 6 Saw numbers on the summit of Cannon Mt. one of the highest of the Franconia range.

Sept. 19 Saw several in this vicinity.

Dec. 19 Saw several to day.

~~Feb~~

1869.

Feb. 27 Saw numbers of them. They have been comparatively scarce this winter.

April 23 They have been very numerous this spring but have now entirely disappeared.

May 8 To my great surprise saw a female to day

Nov. 2nd They are now extremely plentiful, much more so than common.

1870

Jan. 9th Saw several.

" 20th Saw a very large flock.

" 28 Saw a flock of half-a-dozen or so.

" 30th Saw numbers.

Mar. 23rd Saw a small flock that has, during the whole winter, frequented a certain little sheltered grove of fir trees: none of those that have wintered South have reached us as yet.

April 7th Beginning to arrive from the South in small companies: males all in full song.

July & Aug. In Franconia notch, very common.

1870

Sept. 12 & 10 York Kennebec Me. One of the most common birds in the clearings.

Sept. Oct & Nov. Cambridge. Saw the first Sept. 12th

Sept. 12 continued abundant till Dec. when their numbers began to diminish. Saw them at intervals through the latter month.

1871

Jan. 10 Saw several. It this season always confined to the evergreen thickets. Jan. 27th Jan. 30, Feb. 20 Mar. 4. several

Mar. 4 A flock of a dozen or more, the males in full song: do not think however that the migration has started as yet.

Mar. 21 Now very numerous in large flocks composed of both sexes, the males in full song.

" 29 Exceedingly abundant everywhere, in flocks of sometimes hundreds made up partly of E. hiemalis and P. iliaca, the males of all three species frequently singing in concert.

April 7 Have been extremely numerous but are now rapidly leaving us.

" 25 Saw a female in Cambridge, probably the last.

Sept. 23 Saw them.

1872

Apr. 2 today Resident locally through the winter. Large arrival of Spring

1868

Cedar Bird

Ampelis Cedrorum

Mar. 8 Saw a flock of nine.

" 14 Shot two. One possessed the wax spots, the wings of the other were plain. They were alone and kept together. When one was shot, the survivor showed considerable sorrow for the loss of its companion.

July 11 They now frequent the shores of Fresh Pond perching on the overhanging branches of trees, and on the ice houses. They collect there in such numbers that on a cloudy day, frequently as many as thirty may be seen in the air at once darting about after insect, while numbers are perched on the trees around. With their characteristic greediness they glut themselves with insects so that their crops are filled almost to bursting.

Aug 2 Saw numbers of them among the Franconia Hills.

Sept. 24 They are very constant visitors to a large wild cherry tree on our place which is at present covered with fruit.

1869

Feb. 21st A small flock was seen to day. (R. Deane)

" 24 Saw a flock of about fifty near an asparagus bed, on the berries of which they subsist principally at this season.

Mar. 1st Saw several flocks.

" 8 Saw a large flock.

" 19 They are still in flocks.

[illegible]

1870

Mar. 2nd Heard a flock to day. They usually arrive much earlier.

" 22nd Saw upwards of a hundred during the day. They were all in flocks and seemed to be everywhere.

Mar. 22nd Saw numbers of large flocks during the day; They come in numbers to a red cedar tree, which grows near the house, and feed greedily upon the berries.

" 24th Saw several very large flocks.

April 7th Still with us in large flocks.

" 23rd Still abundant in large flocks.

July to Aug. 13. Frequenia notch, very abundant; perching on the tops of the "stubs", and making sallies out after insects.

Sept. 2nd Forest Hunnebe. No. Apparently all had departed for the Southward as we did not observe it anywhere.

" 17 Cambridge. Saw a large flock. Sept. 28

Oct. 1 Up to this time have continued abundant: saw several flocks to day.

1871.

Jan. 18th Flock of three at Belmont, feeding on cedar berries; all very high plumaged birds and in good condition: a remarkably early arrival.

" 20th Flock of a dozen or more at Watertown. Jan. 25th flock of twelve. Jan. 27th two flocks.

" 30th Are now very abundant, for the most part in flocks of a dozen or fifteen: very fond of basking in the sun sitting in the tops of the tallest deciduous trees. Feed entirely on cedar berries, quite ignoring the asparagus beds which a month later will be their constant resort. The whole crop and neck of one bird killed was so filled with berries that the neck was stretched nearly half as long as the body.

Feb. 6th Have commenced feeding on the asparagus berries but still seem to prefer the cedar. Out of twenty one specimens two had the tail ~~worn~~ tipped, eighteen the wing, while three wanted those appendages entirely.

Feb. 11 Have now almost deserted the cedars for the aspar. beds. heard several to day while flying give utterance repeatedly to a loud mellow twitter almost precisely like that of Hirundo Bicolor: this I have heard before but on one occasion — when pursuing a bobolink — Vide page 164 — bird.

1868 Song Sparrow: Melospiza Melodia.

Mar. 9 Heard one sing for the first time.

" 12 They were singing on every brush pile and in almost every sheltered valley.

" 14 Witnessed a fight between two males of this species: After chasing each other for some time they closed, and fell to the ground together: they struggled violently together for some time, and at length lay nearly motionless, apparently tired out, but each still retaining his hold: after resting for nearly a minute they renewed their struggles until at last they rolled together into a small pool of water, which effectually separated them.

" 15 Nearly if not all of them have arrived.

" 21 They are much troubled to find food to day as we had a heavy fall of snow last night.

Aug 7 Saw numbers, both adults & young in Franconia N.H.

1869

Jan 24 Heard one of these birds to day and I have observed them several times before, this winter.

Feb 22 At daybreak this morning the old males were singing on all sides. They are the first that I have heard.

Mar. 14 Although the birds are still common, I have not heard any singing since.

" 16 Heard an old male singing.

" 24 Heard them singing everywhere, and numbers must have arrived since yesterday.

Nov. 23 Still quite numerous.

" 25 Saw several.

Dec 7th Saw one

" 21 Saw two and took one.

1870

Jan. 9th Saw two.

1870

Jan. 11th Saw one to day.

" 17th Saw one.

" 28 Heard a male apparently practicing for the coming spring, as some of his notes were rather confused and broken.

Mar. 2nd Heard and saw a male. His singing was so very imperfect that he must have been a young bird.

" 10th Saw and heard one, probably the same, as that seen on the 2nd.

" 23rd Singing everywhere this morning: the borders of the roads, the fence corners, and the briary thickets generally, seemed absolutely alive with them. Thousands must have arrived within the last few days.

April 8th They seem to have all arrived, and settled down for the season.

July & Aug. Franconia notch. Not frequent.

Sept. 2 to 10th Forks of Kennebec. Me. Quite frequent.

Sept. 12 to Oct. Cambridge. Abundant as usual.

Nov. to Jan. Cambridge, saw two Dec. 31st.

1871

Jan. 4 Chelsea beach; and a short distance back from the sea shore.

" 16 Two at Belmont. Saw 20th and;

" 30 Heard one. Feb. 16th two were shot (J. P. A.) Feb. 22nd

Mar. 3 The first of the migration have arrived; heard a few singing. Mar. 5 a general arrival; males singing everywhere.

" 6 Very abundant; rarely sing after 10 A. M.

1872

Mar. 27 Were seen at frequent intervals through the winter. To day the first spring migrants arrived; saw big or seven; heard Song family.

" 29 Gen. arrival at Brattleb.; flock of 30 seen, H. Hunnard.

1868 American Brown Creeper.
Mar. 10 Heard one. Certhia Americana
" 14 Saw one and heard it sing several times. The song was intermediate between the call note of the Pit Lark and the common spring song of the Black & White Creeper. I heard a Brown Creeper several years ago, sing after a somewhat similar manner.
Aug. 1 Heard one in the Franconia Notch N. H.
Oct. 24 Saw one in this vicinity to day for the first time this Autumn.

1869
Feb. 7 Saw one to day.
Mar. 14 Heard one sing this morning very finely. The song was loud and clear, very much like that of the Tree Sparrow, but rather shorter.
" 8 Shot one to day.
" 14 Heard one singing very finely this morning. Its notes were very full and clear, and not unlike those of the male Tree Sparrow.
[illegible]
Oct. 1st Saw several to day.
Nov. & Dec. Plentiful

1870
Jan. 9th Saw several.
" 26th Saw three or four.
" 28 Saw one.
" 30 Saw three.
Mar. 10th Saw one.
April 10th Still with us.
July & Aug. Franconia Notch. Abundant. Aug. 1st took the young just out of the nest.
Sept. 19 Saw three. Oct. Nov. Dec. Abundant.
1871
Jan. Feb. Saw them at intervals. Mar. 6
Mar. 6 Heard a male sing

1871

April 27 Saw one probably the last, in Cambridge.

" 29 One was shot in Belmont the last of the season.

Sept. 21 The first (by R. Deane)

18

1868 Purple Finch.
Carpodacus Purpureus

Mar. 11 Heard a male sing most splendidly.
" 23 They are singing on all sides in spite of the snow which is over a foot deep.
" 27 The males have begun to sing while floating in the air
July 14 The males are now silent.
Sept. 25 They have been common all along. Saw several to day.
Dec. 19 Saw several in the plain plumage of the females.
" 26 Saw several to day.

1869
April 14 Heard an adult male singing for the first time
Sept. 26. Found it quite common at [illegible] they are at this season [illegible] [illegible] plumage [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible]
Nov. 14 Saw a large flock

1870
Mar. 19th Heard a male singing most splendidly from the top of a cedar tree.
" 31st Heard several males singing.
April 2nd During the first two hours of daylight the males are singing on all sides, floating in the air with outstretched and quivering wings, or perched on some commanding tree top.
" 7th Abundant everywhere.
Sept. 2 to 10. Forks Kennebec. saw several.

1871
Jan 11 Single male taken in Watertown (T. F. Atkinson)
Mar. 19 Several males seen and heard at Concord. Mass (L. F.)
" 23 Heard a male sing at Concord.

1872
Apr. 4 Gen. arriv. & in full song. Cambridge.

1868

Blue Bird.

Sialia Sialis

Mar. 11 Two males (the first at Cambridge) were seen here to day (By R. Deane)

" 13 Saw one myself to day.

" 14 Saw the first pair, of which the female entered several of my boxes. Saw about forty during the

" day: they were mostly males.

" 21 Heavy fall of snow: many of the Blue Birds perished.

" 22 They are reduced to great extremities: they have collected around the sources of small brooks and places where the snow has blown off and I watched a number of them feeding on the berries of the Red Cedar and poising themselves in the manner of the Cedar Bird.

" 24 They are very scarce.

April 7 About six inches of snow fell to day: consequently the Blue Birds together with the Robins, Grackles, Song Sparrows and other spring birds, are in great distress.

Sept. 26 They are as common as usual this ~~autumn~~. Heard two old males singing spendidly to day.

1869

Feb. 24 Saw the first one of the season to day, a beautiful male.

Mar. 3 Saw Blue Bird no 2, to day

" 14 Found a pair this morning, inspecting my boxes and olive jars; the female is the first that I have seen.

" 19 One was heard singing to day, but they are by no means common as yet.

" 20 Saw a flock of six or seven.

" 24 They are getting very abundant.

Nov. 15 Saw the last one to day.

1870

Feb. 14th Seen at Washington D. C. to day (D. C. French)

Mar. 24th Saw a pair in Watertown. They are remarkably late this year, as I never knew the three Blackbirds to arrive sooner before.

" 25th Saw a pair.

April 2nd Very abundant everywhere.
" 5th Begin to build in one of my boxes this morning.

1871

Mar. 1 Saw flock of fourteen or fifteen in Belmont: they were so restless, that I found it impossible to count them accurately, but there were certainly over a dozen of both sexes, the males however in ascendency over the females. Perfectly silent they flew from fence to fence and from orchard to orchard in a impatient, restless mood, frequently lighting on the ground for a moment, and then mounting, in a general South Westerly direction.
Mar. 2 Saw a flock of five the males in full song
" 3 " " " " fifteen.
" 4 A pair entered several of my boxes; a general arrival.
" 6 Are now abundant everywhere in the fields and orchards either single males, or in pairs.
Nov. 10 Saw two the last.

1872

Mar. 22 Flock of four on S. exposed hillside in Belmont; silent and all ♂.
" 25 Several seen at different points

1868

Red Winged Blackbird.

Agelaius Phoeniceus

Mar. 12 Saw the first, this morning: there were only three or four of them, all males, but as the sun began to rise they commenced their usual song: they were perched on some low bushes in a large swamp.

" 25 They are still here in spite o' the deep snow.

July 7 The young are now collected into flocks with their parents, but a few males may still be heard singing.

" 25 They pass over every evening in a Northerly direction in company with the Grackles.

Aug. 9 There are still a few remaining in their favourite swamps.

Sept. 27 A large flock of these, and Rusty Blackbirds roost in a large bushy swamp in this vicinity coming in from the Westward just at dusk and departing in the same direction early in the morning.

1869

Mar. 14 Several were seen at Concord Mass. this morning.

" 24 Saw a flock of about twenty migrating Northward.

" 25 The low bushy swamps were full of them, all males, singing from the top of almost every tree and bush.

Sept. 3 Saw a flock of nearly a thousand, going to roost in the reeds, on the edge of Charles river, above Watertown.

1870

Mar. 23rd Saw upwards of fifty during the day. They did not seem to be in nearly so large flocks as is usual on their first arrival, for on no occasion did I see more than ten together.

" 31st Saw a large flock.

April 7th Abundant everywhere; no females as yet.

Red-winged Blackbird

Agelaius phoeniceus.

1871

Mar. 6 Found upon three males perched on the topmost branches of some tall oaks on the edge of a small pond: all in full song and very shy.

Mar. 8 A general arrival.

May 5 Are now for the most part scattered through the meadows and bushy marshes although a few flocks still frequent the uplands. The females did not appear this season till about the middle of April. Both sexes are now so tame as to be shot without any trouble, which earlier in the season it was extremely difficult to procure specimens.

1872

Mar. 25 Thirty or more ♂ in full song with them one or two *D. ursicolor*, Blackbirds.

" 30 Gen. arriv. at Concord. ♂ scattered over the meadows.

1868 . Meadow Lark
Sturnella Magna

Mar. 14 Saw the first one to day: they have been absent during the most severe part of the winter.
Sept. 26 Saw numbers.

1869
Mar. 25 Saw one to day.

Dec. 9 Saw three.
" 20th Saw a flock of about a dozen.

1870
Jan. 27 Saw a flock of five, which as is usually the case at this season, were very shy.
Mar. 2nd Saw a flock of five: they were exceedingly shy; and the males sang frequently.
" 10th Saw one to day. When I first noticed him he was sitting on the ground within a few feet of a Shrike (C. Borealis) and during a long chase that I had after the latter bird kept him close company, invariably lighting within a short distance of his strange friend, either upon the ground or a commanding tree top.
April 2nd They are getting quite numerous.
" 7th They have probably all arrived, and appear to be mating chasing one another about the fields and singing vigorously.
Nov. 25 Saw several, the last of the season.
1871
Feb. 22 Seven were seen by T. P. Hinson: he also saw them in the same place about the 19th and was informed by a reliable person living in the vicinity, that the flock had been resident there through the winter: this I had already surmised as I have observed them in the same locality for several former winters

1871

Feb. 28 Saw two.

Mar. 6 Their numbers are fast increasing.

1871

Nov. 23 Saw a flock in Belmont which always writes the

Dec. 29 On Belmont flock seen

1872

1868

Rusty Blackbird.

Scolecophagus Ferrugineus

Mar. 14 Saw the first, five or six in number: they arrived from the South in company with a few Red Wings and immediately pitched onto a large swamp.

April 29 Saw a large flock and shot three, all males: they have been thicker this Spring than I ever saw them before: they are never seen now as in the Autumn in the bushy swamps but they frequent the low Maple swamps.

May 6 They have been very numerous this Spring but they are getting scarce: saw three to day.

" 8 Saw one.

" 9 Saw numbers of them during the day & shot several

Sept: 12 Saw the first to day.

" 26 Saw a flock of about forty or fifty.

Oct. 7 Saw large numbers of them.

" 27 Saw large flocks this afternoon.

Nov. 7 Saw a flock of thousands of these, and Brown Blackbirds. They lit on the ground in a pasture, and after remaining a few moments, they started off in a Southerly direction, and in their flight passed through the tops of the trees, coming within about one hundred yards of the place where I was standing. The roaring produced by their wings & by their united cries was positively deafening, and resembled the sound of a gale of wind, blowing through a dense grove of tall pine trees. Although while on the wing they flew almost touching one another, yet they must have covered in their flight nearly an acre of ground.

1869.

Mar. 26 Saw five flying.

" 27 Saw numbers of them in or about the edges of low swampy wood, their favourite haunts in Spring: the males were all singing.

Oct. 8 Saw vast flocks going to roost just at sunset in the bushes lining the banks of Concord river above the town. They kept pouring in from all directions, until there could not have been many short of a thousand. Sometimes they would all take fright at some imaginary danger, and after circling around for a few minutes in a dense cloud, ~~would~~ pitch headlong again into the tangled thickets.

Nov. 13th Saw one to day, the last of the season.

1870

Mar. 23rd Saw upwards of a dozen during the day. Many doubtless arrived yesterday.

" 25 Heard a flock.

April 7th Saw several immense flocks. have seen no females, as yet, however.

" 9th Saw numbers of both sexes

† Sept. 26 & 10 Tops Pemkbie. Saw them occasionall in twos & threes.

" 19 Saw one. Have not been nearly so abundant this Autumn owing probably to the over drought. Saw the last Nov. 25th, a single bird.

1871

Mar. 4 Two males were seen in a swamp near Concord (G. Dan

" 13 Saw several large flocks for the first time.

April 26 Still abundant on Concord river, though in this locality they are getting scarce.

May 2 Saw one.

" 6 Saw a large flock of both sexes, the last.

Sept. 29 General arrival

1872

Mar. 30 Gen. arriv. at Concord.

1868 Pit Lark.
Anthus Ludovicianus

Mar. 14 Saw two flocks, both flying in a northerly direction.
April 4 Saw five flying over.
May 6 Saw one flying.
Sept. 12 Several were seen to day (R. D.)
" 28 Saw one myself to day.
Oct. 7 Saw several to day.
" 26 Saw several.
Dec. 22 Saw three flying.

Identification doubtful species at this time confounded with Eremophila alpestris

1869
Jan. 6(?) Saw five.
Oct. 8 Saw a large flock at Concord, Mass.
1870
Sept. 21 Made their appearance in large flocks on the salt marshes.
Oct. 24 A flock of forty or more at Belmont on open face of ploughed hillside: rather shy and very active and restless.
1871
Sept. 21 Appeared to day in large flocks on the neighborhood of Fresh Pond.
Oct. 3 Found them at Concord Mass, in flocks of hundreds. In one immense ploughed field as many as a thousand were collected, feeding on a species of Diptera that every where swarmed on the sandy soil. Although they all rose in the air at the report of a gun they soon returned to the ground again & I found it impossible to drive them entirely away.

Barred Owl

Syrnium Nebulosum

1869

Nov. 15 Took one to day in a grove of young cedars on a hillside. It was not at all shy and permitted a very near approach.

1870

Sept 8 Visits Kennebec Me. Saw a dead one & was told that it is abundant there.

Nov. 12th Took a ♀ in a grove of yellow pines: shot a branch out of the verytree in which it was sitting without disturbing it. Upon being brought down with a broken wing defended itself fiercely, snapping its bill loudly.

Dec. — One was shot in a pine swamp: it was rather shy. A few days since saw two of these birds just set up in a taxidermists shop in Boston: have now no doubt but that in winter it is the commonest Owl in the State and that but very few are resident.

1871

Jan. 21st One came into Boston to day, perching on the eaves of buildings, and finally killed by an office stool thrown at him as he sat on ~~the top of~~ of the New Exchange.

1868 Common Crow.
Corvus Americanus

Mar. 14 Saw a good many flocks flying North: a few remained around throughout the winter.
" 18 Saw at least two hundred in different flocks, all flying North.
Sept. 26 Saw a flock of about thirty.
Oct. 30th 1869 The day was very windy and cold, and multitudes of Crows passed Southward, flying in large scattered companies low over the earth.
Nov. 2nd Still flying Southward in large flocks
" 15 Saw a flock of upwards of a thousand, migrating. One flock of a hundred or more, lit in a ploughed field, walking quickly about, searching eagerly for food, and occasionally fighting noisily for some choice morsel.
Dec. 6 Saw them occasionally all through the month.

1870
Jan. 13th Saw several.
Mar. 23rd Saw large numbers in loose scattered flocks flying in a Northerly direction. A few passed the winter with us as usual.
" 31st Saw them all day flying Northward.
July & Aug. Tanagrina notch. quite frequent.
Oct. 25 Saw large flocks migrating Southward.
Dec. 31 Have seen them occasionally up to this date.
Jan. & Feb 1871 Saw them at intervals but are rather scarce this winter.
Mar. 3 I think that the migration has commenced as I saw several large flocks flying N.
Oct. 25 Saw a large flock migrating S.

1872
Apr. 3 The height of the migration is passing.
" 12 Still migrating.

868 White Bellied Swallow.

Tirando Bicolor

Mar. 18 Saw the first one of the season: he was flying in a Northerly direction & quite low down.

April 2 Saw the first to day since Mar. 18th. They were flying around my boxes and quarreling with the Blue Birds.

" 6 Snow fell yesterday to the depth of several inches and banished the Swallows for a time.

" 8 They were around again this morning.

" 11 Another deep snow: saw several swallows.

" 14 They were flying around my boxes this morning six or seven at a time.

" 13 They were seen to day by one of my friends, (R.T.) flying in large flocks over the surface of Fresh Pond.

" 25 They are very numerous this spring: we had quite a snow storm to day the snow falling to the depth of several inches and during all the morning the surface of Fresh pond was covered by a vast host of these birds; they flew close to the water every now and then dipping in: there must have been several thousands of them.

" 26 Saw several hundreds on Fresh pond to day; in fact there are some there all the time now.

May 10 They are all now engaged in building.

July 10 The young have all flown.

Aug. 8 They are still abundant in the neighborhood of the meadows & other low places.

1869

April 2 Saw as many as half a dozen at one, circling around my boxes.

" 15 Saw upward of a thousand, on Fresh pond.

Sept. 24 Saw several passing Southward.

1870

April 8th Two appeared about my boxes this morning.

" 10 Abundant everywhere

July 28 Iron notch. Up to the edge of the woods.

Sept. 6th Forks Kennebec. Novice pond saw two or three

flying about over the surface of the water.

1871

Mar. 19 The first this morning, a single male flying about and lighting on, my Martin boxes.

April 1 Saw a single bird in our yard this morning the first since Mar. 19: the intervening weather has been very cold and boisterous.

" 3 Saw three or four small flocks flying over the flooded meadows near Fresh pond.

" 6 Saw upwards of a hundred on Fresh pond.

April 29 Still frequent the pond in cloudy weather.

Sept. 28 Saw the last, a flock of thirty or more, on their way South.

1872

Apr. 5 One around my boxes.

" 6 Three. " " "

1868

Crows Blackbird.

Quiscalus ~~versicolor~~ purpureus Linnæus.

Mar. 18 The first one was seen to day.

" 19 Saw a flock of about thirty.

" 23 Saw a flock of about twenty; snow about eighteen inches deep.

July 15 Every evening for the past week or two I have seen them passing Northward in companies of a dozen or so. This evening I saw several flocks composed of as many as forty or fifty individuals following one in the wake of another toward the North. This second migration if so it may be called I have often noticed in former years. They will probably return in immense flocks by about the 7th of November, as they did last year.

" 26 Saw a large flock passing over towards the North.

Sept. 15 Saw a single bird.

Oct. 27 Saw large flocks of them.

Nov. 7 Saw immense numbers of these birds [illegible] with Rusty Blackbirds (See page 49)

1869

Mar. 14 Saw one this morning. It came swooping down from the very clouds, uttering its familiar call note, and had evidently just arrived.

" 28 Saw upwards of a dozen to day, several of them females.

Sept. 1 Noticed them all the afternoon passing over in large flocks toward the South, as is their strange custom at this season.

Nov. 15th Saw one to day, the last of the season.

1870

Mar 22 Saw one just at sunset, pitch down into a grove of pines, that is a favourite breeding place of theirs in summer, and after uttering a few loud notes, settle himself for the night.

" 23rd Saw several of both sexes.

1870

Mar. 25th I saw three or four.

April 3rd They are now probably as abundant as they will be, but, in this locality at least, their numbers fall far short of what they were in former years.

" 10 The flocks seem to be breaking up and the birds now go in pairs.

1871

Mar. 6 Saw three

" 9 A few are seen every day but they are by no means numerous as yet.

" 13 Are now abundant everywhere.

April 21 Have separated into pairs and are much less shy now than they were earlier in the season.

June 30 The young are now all flying. Happening to be returning through the swamps just at dusk, I observed them in small flocks continually arriving and pitching down into maple thickets. Here they undoubtedly come every night to roost, at this season.

July 18 Just at dusk observed them in flocks of hundreds constantly arriving and pitching down into a large maple swamp near Spy Pond: this accounts for the supposed Autumn migration noted above, as they come in from the settled region to the South where they feed during the day in the mowing fields.

Oct. 9 Saw three flying over Fresh Pond towards the South.

" 11 A large flock of this species mixed with Scat. pensylvanicus was seen in the swamps (B. Dean)

Oct. 14 Saw several flying S. the last.

1872

Mar. 25 Three in large flock of A. phoeniceus.

1868

Bald Eagle

Haliaetus Leucocephalus

Mar. 18 Saw several probably the young of this bird, as they appeared when flying perfectly black.

1869

Feb. 22nd Saw an adult bird of this species with the white head & tail, in Cambridge.

" 24th Saw an adult on Fresh pond, probably the same seen on the 22nd. He pursued a Gull (Larus Argentatus) almost over me, but upon being fired at, relinquished the chase and turning aside, was quickly out of sight. His flight was very rapid, and was performed by quick, repeated flaps of the wings, with scarcely any intervals of sailing, and his white head & tail were very conspicuous.

Dec. 21st Saw a gray fish adult at Concord Mass.

Duck hawk

Falco peregrinus

1861

Jan. 4 Saw a bird at Chelsea beach that I referred to this species: its flight was rather slow, with alternate flappings & sailings: it followed a Sandpiper for a short distance but soon gave up the pursuit.

1868

Herring Gull.

Larus Agentatus

Mar. 19 Saw one flying over Fresh pond which has now broken up.

April 18 Saw about twenty on Fresh pond.

Oct. 24 Saw one on Fresh pond to day for the first time this Autumn.

Nov. 15 The Gulls come up to Fresh pond regularly now every morning, and will continue to do so probably until the water is closed by ice. They arrive usually just as the sun is rising, and remain all day unless they are driven out, swimming about in the middle of the pond if it is calm, but if the wind blows hard they pass most of the day on wing. They are very shy and no sooner do they perceive a boat putting off from the shore, than they rise in wide circlings, frequently until they are beyond the reach of vision, and disappear.

Dec. 8 Shot a young bird of this species on the pond, as he was sweeping along close to the shore.

1869

April They have been very abundant on the pond all the spring. [illegible] to day.

Dec. Common as usual on Fresh pond, during this month.

1870

Jan. 23 Saw upwards of one hundred sitting in a close body upon the ice at Fresh pond.

March 10 They have been abundant through the winter and still continue so

April 7th Still abundant.

" 11 Saw several

July 11th Flock of five hundred all in mature, been there through the season

Oct. & Dec. Come up to Fresh pond from the sea every morning.

(Slide next page)

1871

Jan. 4 Chelsea beach - Saw several acres floating on the sea a few hundred yards off.

Feb. 6 The ice having been removed from a small portion of Fresh pond principally in one of the coves the Gull found it out directly and flew up to it from the bay every morning.

Mar. 10 Still frequent Fresh pond in large flocks. Saw several to day sail against an exceedingly strong wind for several hundred yard without a single flap of the wing and very swiftly.

April 7 Saw several on Fresh pond.

" 27 One was seen on Fresh pond. (H. Russell)

" 29 Three were seen on Fresh pond (H. Russell)

Nov. 9 Went down in the harbor among the shipping for Gulls when we found them comparatively unsuspicious after shooting down one several others came swooping down to the vessel till we had killed four. This however was the only occasion before or since when I have known this occur.

1868

Cow Blackbird.

Molothrus Pecoris

Mar. 19 Heard the first one.

July 25 They are still around in small companies of four or five.

Aug. 8 Saw a young bird to day following a Chipping Sparrow that had evidently been its foster mother. The Sparrow kept trying to drive off its troublesome offspring but the latter pertinaciously followed & refused to be discarded.

1869

Mar. 24 [illegible] all males.

1870

April 7th Saw a flock of five, flying

" 11 Abundant everywhere.

1871

April 4 Saw three or four

1872

Mar. 30 Ó at Concord.

1868 Wilson's Snipe. (Continued from Page 66)

Gallinago Wilsonii

Oct. 10 with dangling legs, they drop again into the grass like so many Rails.

" 15 We have had quite a rain-storm: this afternoon I found the meadows full of Snipe & killed quite a number of them.

" 16 Shot a number of them this morning.

" 23 Started one from the middle of the road in Cambridge Port: it was probably benumbed by the cold, as it suffered me to get within a few feet of it, before it would rise.

" 26 While lying in a shooting booth this morning waiting for the coming light, I heard large numbers of these birds flying about over their favourite marshes.

Nov. 23 Several were seen to day on the Arlington meadows.

1869

" 11 Shot one to day.

" 17 Heard one just at dusk, high up in air making that weird, humming sound, peculiar to the species.

" 21 I listened for some time this evening, to a number of males, which were humming over a large meadow and heard one, which after finishing his downward swoop, descended the rest of the way to the ground with a shrill kee-kee-kee kee. I have on several occasions this spring listened to a male, which continued his wild flight for nearly an hour, without the slightest intermission. They seem to prefer fine moonlight nights for their concerts, and so far as I can ascertain continue them through the hours of darkness, for I have heard them as late as 10 P.M.

Sept & Oct. We had literally no Snipe at all this Autumn on our meadows: at Concord it was the same, and is quite a unheard of thing there, as their fall grounds are perfection for Snipe, and usually furnish the very finest shooting. They must have avoided the state altogether this season.

(Vide Page 68)

Gallinago Wilsonii

Mar. 17 I was informed that two were seen to day. It may be so, as the meadows are free from snow but still the frost is not all out of the ground.

April 4 Saw the first one to day.

" 8 About six inches of snow on the ground but the Snipe are still around as I saw one to day.

" 11 Saw two.

" 14 Flushed one several times and twice although there was a strong wind blowing, it rose, and flew for several hundred yards directly against wind.

" 17 Saw six, and shot four, all males: upon hearing a song unknown to me, I followed up the sound and soon came within sight of a Wilsons Snipe which was standing perfectly motionless on a small hump or tussuck. I watched it for nearly fifteen minutes and during that time it sang perhaps six times. While ~~sattering~~ this strange song (which resembled the syllables; kue - kue - kue - kue - kue - kue - kue - kue, commencing slowly and deliberately and gradually increasing until the notes were blended together) ~~it~~ remained perfectly motionless, standing in an upright position. I then walked up to it and it squatted close. It rose at the distance of about fifteen yards from me and after flying a short distance in the ordinary manner it extended its wings and while floating in the air it began its strange song again but just as it was finishing I shot it: it proved to be a male. I also wounded another Snipe which fell into a small pond, sitting bouyantly on the water like a small duck: upon sending my dog in, it fluttered up and flew to the opposite shore where it submitted to be taken without making any further effort to escape.

" 22 Shot one and saw another.

" 27 Saw one flying but they have nearly all gone.

" 28 Several were shot.

" 30 Shot eight: the day was stormy they lay very close

1868

May 4 Shot three.

" 5 Saw one.

" 8 Saw one but as the day was windy and cold he rose very wild.

Aug. 17 Shot one apparently an old bird, in a small fresh water meadow at Rye Beach only about a hundred yards from the open sea. It had probably bred there, as I was informed by several persons that the same bird and its mate, had been been seen there several time in July, and that they then acted as though they had a brood somewhere in the vicinity

Sept. 5 Saw three in this neighborhood.

" 19 As the first, faint light of dawn, was beginning to appear, the Snipe began to fly in large numbers, over this watery retreat. They could be heard in all directions, and their notes sounded unusually harsh, and short, from the stillness of the surrounding atmosphere. The last few nights have been quite sharp for the season, & consequently, multitudes of these birds have been set in motion. Owing to the excess of water this year the birds are quite poor.

Sept. 24 The day was rainy & the birds very wild. At the first reports of our guns, all the Snipe in the vicinity rose, and kept joining one another, until finally a "wisp" of twelve was collected together, accompanied by a Pectoral Sandpiper. They must have kept on the wing for over an hour, now pitching down over the meadow, & skimming along close to the tussocks, now rising high in air and sweeping around in large circles, or perhaps flying out of sight only to return again after an absence of a few moments.

Oct. 10 Shot five. The weather was warm & the day still, & consequently they lay very close. On one occasion I saw six or seven started by a dog rise, & after flying a few yards (See page 64 th)

1868 Fox Colored Sparrow.

Mar. 22 Saw about thirty for the first time this year.
" 23 Heard an old male singing. The song of this bird varies in different individuals but as a general thing it comes nearer to the spring song of the Rose Breasted Grosbeak than any thing else.
" 26 Heard several males singing just at sunset. It reminds one of a morning in the early part of summer, to hear their full, rich notes.
" 28 The males would be heard on all sides pouring forth their clear songs.
Oct. 31 Saw several to day for the first time.

1869
Mar. 26 Saw a single bird to day.
April 4 " two four or five.
" 10 Saw upwards of two hundred during the day, in fact the whole country seemed to be alive with them. The males were all in full song.
" [illegible] They have entirely disappeared.
Oct. 18 Saw one to day.
" 26 Saw numbers of them.
Nov. 1 Still abundant.
" 23 Saw quite a number of them, the last of the season.

1870
April 9th Saw upwards of a dozen and heard the males sing repeatedly.
" 22nd Saw one. They have been quite scarce this year.
Oct. 22 Saw three for the first time.
Nov. 2 Still abundant.
" 21 Twoat Watertown

1871
Mar. 3 Saw them in Belmont: with the exception of an occasional chirp, they were quite silent.
" 13 Saw one.
" 29 Abundant everywhere in small companies with J. mortícola and J. hyemalis April 12 are getting scarce (Ode Mar 228)

Wilson's Snipe
Gallinago Wilsonii

1870

April 9th Saw two and took one of them, but was unable to find the survivor: soon after sunset it began to "drum" overhead, and continued it as long as I remained in the vicinity.

" 13th Started upwards of a dozen in the course of the day

" 21st Saw about a dozen and took three.

" 25th Saw four.

" 26th Saw upwards of a dozen.

Sept. 8 Parling pond Me. just at dusk heard the harsh scaipe of one of these birds flying over the small piece of reclaimed meadow on the edge of the pond

Sept & Oct. All the Snipe meadows being completely dried up by the excessive drought, the birds were driven to the beds of ditches and streams and the shores of ponds, for food. What few I shot, were much emaciated

1871

Mar. 20 Shot the first of the season a : it had probably just arrived as it was apparently much exhausted and very thin. A most careful search of the most likely meadows revealed no traces of others

April 6 Three were seen on the Belmont meadows.

" 13 Started eight on the Belmont meadows and shot five

" 14 Started five in the Fresh pond marshes.

" 15 Flushed only two birds in a hard days tramp in the Belmont meadows.

" 17 Started five on the Fresh pond marshes

" 18 Put up about sixteen in all on Deadham marshes.

" 19 Found only one bird on the Fresh pond marshes

" 20 Saw eleven in all on the Concord marshes. The day was dark and cloudy with an East wind and rain falling afterwards and the birds consequently very wild flying about in flocks like so many ducks

" 22nd Saw upwards of thirty or forty on the Concord meadows and with Mr. Martin bagged twenty three.

" 24 Started about thirty birds at Concord.

(Vide page 234)

1868 Golden Winged Woodpecker.

Colaptes Auratus

Mar. 22 Saw two.

" 28 Heard several males singing and I think that numbers have arrived within the last two or three days.

July 4 A pair of these birds has taken up its residence in our yard & they must have a nest in the stump of some neighboring apple tree as the male sings at all times of the day in spite of the heat.

Aug. 2 Saw one among the Franconia Mts.

1869

Mar. 9 Saw four for the first time.

[illegible] Heard it [illegible] exploding at Mt. [illegible] Washington N. H.

1870

Jan. 4 Saw as many as half-a-dozen during the day.

" 17 Took one to day.

" 28 Took a male.

Mar. 2nd Saw five during the day.

" 4th Heard one.

" 19th Saw one this morning.

" 23rd Saw numbers and heard a male sing for the first time.

April 2nd. The males are singing everywhere.

" 7th Probably all have come.

" 9 Shot a female in the act of singing.

" 16th Saw a male excavating his hole in a rotten tree trunk.

June 27 Nest with two eggs, excavated in the side of an ice house at Hyannis, Cape Cod, a common position they prefer this bird we were told.

July 25 to Aug. 13. Franconia notch N. H. rather frequent.

Sept. 2 to 6th Forks of Kennebec. Me. Quite abundant.

Sept. to Dec. 1 Not observed as usual.

Dec. 1 to 31 Saw them occasionally.

1871

Jan. 3rd Several frequent for the most part, the orchards, at this season: Jan. 12th 18th 20th (four together); Feb. 28. one.

Mar. 14 Heard a male sing.

" 16 Saw one this afternoon enter a natural hole in an old apple tree and disappear from view apparently settling himself for the night.

1868 American Quail.

Ortyx Virginianus

Mar. 22 Saw a flock of six running about a bunch of weeds & brush near the side of the road. They have probably suffered severely during the winter.

April 3 Flushed a covey of about six from a piece of low swampy woods.

" 22 One was heard to day singing "Bob White".

" 27 Started a covey of eight and although we marked them down we could not afterwards find one.

July 1 They probably were not diminished as much as was supposed, by the heavy snows of last winter, for the "Bob White" of the male can now be heard in all directions.

Nov. 24 Found a bevy of about a dozen birds. At the first rise they all went off in a close body, but where they lit they scattered a lay so close that it would have been impossible to have found them without the aid of a dog.

" 25 Found the same bevy again to day

1869

Nov. 15th Noticed to day for the first time, the wonderful ventriloquious power of this bird. Having flushed a bevy, I waited until they had run together again, and guided by their whistling, crept up within about twenty yards. Their loud cries still continued, seeming to come from a small clump of bushes directly in front of me, when suddenly they sounded more distant, although still loud as ever. In a few moments I judged from the sound, that they were several hundred yards off, and increasing the distance rapidly, but hardly had I started to follow them up, the whole bevy rose together only a few yards ahead.

1870

(Vide next page)

1870

April 16th. Still in flocks: started a bevy of seven to day

1871 A

April 26 A bevy of a dozen was started in Belmont P. Ky.

May 16 Heard the "Bob White" of the woods for the first time

1868 Marsh Hawk.

Circus Hudsonicus

Mar. 26 Saw one as white as a Gull, and having the tips of his wings black.

Aug. 29 Saw one at Rye Beach.

Oct. 31 Saw one in the white plumage to day.

1869

Mar. 14 One was seen at Concord Mass.

Feb 8 Saw several at Concord Mass.

1870

Mar. 23rd. Saw a pair beating about over an open meadow, and followed by several Crows, which however they did not seem to regard with much concern.

Aug. 27 Rye beach. One came up at the report of my gun and tried to carry off a dead Teal which the other barrel stopped him.

1871

Mar. 1 Saw a very fine specimen in the white plumage flying over an open stretch of upland. The Blue birds also appeared to day.

Mar. 23 Very abundant on Concord river: noticed two this morning performing very singular evolutions: rising to the height of perhaps fifty or a hundred feet they would suddenly drop down with nearly closed wings, then when within a few feet of the earth gliding up in a graceful curve, give utterance to a harsh rolling kic-kic kic kic kic kic kic. This was repeated dozens of times over nearly the same place, the bird occasionally perching for a few moments as if to rest, then commencing again. Also heard one of them give utterance at times to a shrill screech, resembling the scream of B. lineatus.

1872

Apr. 3 Abdnt. at Concord.

1868 Dusky Duck.

Mar. 27 Saw for the first time this year.

June 19 Started a female from her nest in Warren Mass. It was built in a tussock, on the edge of a small pool, in a large open meadow.

Aug. 15 Saw three at Rye Beach to day; they hovered a moment over some wooden decoys, and then as if discovering the cheat passed on. I am told that they bred every year in the vicinity.

1869

April Saw numbers of them at Concord Mass. They fed on the grass flooded meadows in company with the Wood Ducks, and were as wild, [illegible]

1871

Mar. 16 Saw two

" 23 Concord Mass. Found them very abundant on the river in flocks composed of paired and single single birds. On windy weather they deserted the river for the more sheltered ponds where I had excellent opportunities of observing their habits having them frequently within ten yards of me. Here unconscious of danger they throw off all their usual watchfulness and stiffness of carriage, some with heads immersed and feet kicking in air, searching the bottom for food, others chasing each other about with flapping wings and loud quacking, while those already paired keeping a little aloof from the rest, sailed along side by side uttering a sort of low whistling quack frequently heard from our domestic Mallard. When the flock took wing the mated birds flew in pairs, twenty or thirty feet apart, but all keeping the same general direction.

April 5 Saw five at Concord.

Sept. 15 Five were seen on Fresh pond.

Oct. 8 Two large flocks on Fresh pond.

1872

Apr. 3 Two at Concord.

" 7 Hundreds at Concord. J. C. Melvin.

76
1872
Apr. 4 Large migration today.

1868 Common Pewee

Mar. 28 Heard two males singing: only about half the ground is bare.
Aug 8 Saw one to day.
Sept. 25 Saw one to day.
" 29 Saw one this afternoon.
Oct. 7 Saw one to day.

1869
April 3 Saw one to day.
Oct. 18 Saw one to day.

1870
April 9th Heard and saw a male
Mar. 25th Seen at Newtonville Mass. (G. J. M.)
Oct. 17 The last of the season.
1871
Mar. 19 One was seen at Concord Mass. (D. C. French)
April 6 Saw several.
1872
Apr. 5 One by J. Sprague, Glentville.
" 9 Two at Concord.

1869 to the ground, and starting again, whistled off with wonderful quickness.

1870

Mar. 26th One was seen to day, I think at West Newton.

April 7th Saw one taken to day; upon dissection it proved to be a female, which contained eggs so fully developed, that they would probably have been deposited in a day or two.

Sept. 12 Started several ~~and~~ a dense, moist covert of swamp maples.

Oct. 25 Concord Mass. Started thirteen flight birds, mostly among birches

Nov. 13 Two were seen.

1871

Mar. 25 One seen in Belmont (C. Carter); have undoubtedly been two some time.

May 22 Saw one that undoubtedly had young as it acted very strangely, making a guttural mewing sound and flying only a few yards at a time

June 17 Started a brood of four young birds on a high hill covered with a tall growth of poplar trees; there was a heavy rain last night which may probably account for this; though apparently of full size this flight was very slow and feeble.

Sept. 20th 21st & 22nd The weather was very sharp for Sept. and started along quite a flight of thin birds They took to the alder swamps and runs though a few were found in low lying birches. As many as thirteen were started in one day at Concord: all were remarkably large old birds and were just recovering from the moult. Owing to the drought, they have been very scarce through the summer.

Oct. 19 & 20 The heaviest flight of birds passed through the state. The weather was very cold, the ~~the~~ falling to 28°.

1868 American Woodcock
Scolopax Minor.

Mar. 28 Saw one in a piece of low woods where the ground was bare in spots.

April 11 Flushed and shot four (two males, & two females) in a low, swampy covert. One of them got out of range and lit in an open field, on the surface of the snow. Dimensions of a male which was if anything larger than either of the two females. From tip of bill to end of tail, 11¼ inches. From tip of bill to end of middle claw, 12½. From tip to tip of wing, 18.

May 25 Found a female with three young which were apparently about a week old: she lay on the ground perfectly motionless, until I got my hand within a few inches of her, when she rose with hanging legs, like a Rail, and after flying a short distance, tumbled over as if in her death agony.

July 11 Shot three, two old birds and the third a young one, well grown and active on the wing. The old birds weighed respectively seven, and eight & one half ounces. They rose at the distance of about ten paces and rarely flew more than twenty yards at a time, proceeding for the most part in a direct line but where the covert was very thick, dodging about the tops of the bushes.

" 20 Watched one to day for some time: the moment that he saw me he erected his tail and ran with great willingness for twenty yards or more & then squatted.

" 25 They have not changed their ~~feeding~~ grounds as yet.

Sept. 11 Shot one to day. It rose from the summit of a long, dry ridge where the ground was shaded by tall pines.

" 29 Found one in a rather dry, maple swamp.

Oct. 8 Found several, evidently flight birds, on a hillside among birch trees.

1865 Shot one in a small clump of barberry bushes.
Nov. 7 Saw one on a hillside among birch trees & evergreens.
" 14 One was shot and several more seen, the last of the season. The flight birds "coming on" just before the fall of the leaf were very abundant, and lasted several weeks, although but few birds were raised in this part of the country on account of the late, spring snows.

1864
Oct. 2 Got a fine male to day, the first of the season. [illegible] to find another [illegible] on the mountain [illegible] by [illegible] Hopper, that I had [illegible] that season, when he [illegible] the side of a [illegible].

Oct. 8 Flushed three to day in low-lying birches. As we have had several touches of frosty weather lately it is probable that the flight has commenced.
" 18 Shot one, flushing it on a high hill top among a scanty growth of birches.
" 25th Started seven to day and took five of them. Although we beat the hillsides carefully, we found all our birds in the low lying birch covert and in the wet runs. They were all undoubtedly flight birds. They lay very close, permitting an approach to within a few feet, as as a general thing whistled less loudly than summer birds.
Nov. 8 Got up six and took five of them. Three we found on the hillsides in dry birch covert, two in the wet runs, and the sixth in a swampy maple grove.
" 9 Took three, one on a hill-side, one in the "runs", and the third among low-lying birches.
" 13 Started two from a birch hill-side
" 15 Started two, the last of the season, from a birch hill-side. One of them rose only a few feet in front of the dog, and after trying vainly to get through the thick branches, dropped backwards

(See page 7a)

1868

American Gold Finch.
Chrysomitris Tristis

Mar. 28 Saw one to day. They are not quite so numerous now as they were during the winter.

" 29 Heard a male singing.

April 26 The males have at last got their summer plumage and are singing on all sides.

Aug. 9 The males that have been for the most part silent during the past two months are now singing vigorously again.

Nov. 14 Saw a small flock of these & Redpolls.

1869

Feb. 27 They have been rather scarce this winter. Saw a small flock to day.

Mar. 28 Saw a large flock the males all singing, although they have not as yet changed their plumage.

Sept. 10 The young are all flying.

Nov. 23 Saw several large flocks; they have been quite plenty all through the Autumn.

Dec. 24 Saw a small flock of half a-dozen.

1870

Jan. 13th Saw two.

" 31 Saw several in company with a large flock of Tree Sparrows.

April 2nd Have not seen any for over two months

" 8th Saw a small flock: one of the males was singing finely.

" 9 Took several of both sexes: they were all changing to the spring plumage: males singing everywhere.

Aug. 11th Tomocomo notch. Heard one in the notch: a straggler probably from below

Sept. 2-9 Forks Kennebec. Me. Rather unfrequent

Sept & Oct. Have them noted down as late as Oct. 5th Think I saw them at intervals through that month and the next but not certain; not recorded again till Dec 24th

(See page 48)

[illegible] commencing at [illegible] P.M.
[illegible] P.M. They frequented the depths of the forest and in common with most of the other Woodpeckers of that region, had the feathers of the tail deeply stained with the sap of the spruce trees.

1870
July & Aug. Francoonia notch. Rather scarce
Sept. Oct. Nov. & Dec. Rather more scarce than usual.
1871

1868 Grass Finch

April 3 Heard and saw a male singing.
Oct. 20 Heard several males singing.
Oct. 8 Saw several to day.

1869
[illegible] heard a few to day.

1870
April 17th Several were seen.
" 8 Seen at Newtonville Mass. (C. J. M.)
Oct. 24 Saw two.
1871
April 6 Saw two, both males in full song. Many others were also seen (R. Deane)
1872
Apr. 3 Single bird; Wellesley by Hurlbut.

[illegible]

[illegible] Found them [illegible] these young at [illegible] N.H. They kept [illegible] in the tops of the highest [illegible] trees [illegible] to reach the other members of that [illegible] their young [illegible] well fledged July 20th.

July & Aug — Franconia Notch. Quite abundant: males silent and feeding young in resting plumage. Aug 11. Kept almost exclusively in the tops of the beech trees.

Sept. 3 — Forks Kennebec. Saw numbers.

1871

May — Detected a fine male in the top of a tall Elm in Cambridge: my attention was first attracted to it by its song which was quite loud and striking & like that of Myiodioctes Canadensis

1868

Green Winged Teal
Nettion Carolinensis

April 4 Started two from a small brook.

Sept. 12 Shot a young male. He was swimming near the margin of a small pond, and he looked much larger, than he, in reality was.

" 18 Shot one that came down to my live decoy.

Oct. 10 Saw one to day. He lit in a small ditch but rose before I could get within range.

" 19 Shot one this afternoon.

" 24 Shot three this morning; an adult male & female & a young bird. The pond was entirely closed with ice, except a small channel in which they were swimming.

Nov. 4 Toled two in almost within gunshot, when they became alarmed at something & would come no nearer.

" 6 Shot one of two that have lived on Sherman's pond, Waltham for the past two or three weeks. They sit rather higher on the water than the Blue Wings, and rise from the water with more ease & rapidity. Their flight is very swift and elegant & they, like most other Ducks, always circle about a place before alighting. Their notes are varied: the most common is a very singular twanging sound, resembling the syllable "hainh": I have also heard it utter a loud cry just before taking wing, precisely similar to that produced by a domestic hen upon being suddenly seized.

" 7 The surviving comrade of the deal shot yesterday was not in the pond this morning.

1869

April 11 Saw a pair on Fresh pond. Upon trying to approach them in a boat they rose out of range and left the pond.

1870

Sept. 12 One was shot on Fresh pond.

Oct. 4 The last was shot on " ". Unusually abdnd. this year

1871
Sept. 6 An immature bird was shot among a flock of tame ducks on Fresh Pond and I was informed by their owner, that it had lived among them for ten days, even walking up a steep bank to the house where they were fed.

1868

Night Heron

Nycticorax Gardeni

April 4 Saw one in a Pine swamp.

" 6 Saw a flock of about fifteen all in full plumage.

" 8 Saw a large flock: six inches of snow on the ground.

" 9 Saw a number of them.

July 14 They may be seen every evening now, just at dusk, passing over in small flocks, to the salt marshes where they feed during the night.

Sept. 26 Heard one, but the greater part of them have left us. They pass the day in inactivity roosting in the thick foliage of the maples and standing most of the time on one leg, with the other drawn up under their feathers. Their sight is very nearly as quick as their hearing, and it is useless to try to approach one without good cover. I have noticed that they seem to see more plainly in the day, than in the dark, as in the daytime they will very rarely pass over you, but in the evening they will frequently come within half gunshot, although you may be in open sight. They may be very easily deceived by imitating their loud, hoarse cries.

Nov. 3 Saw the last one of the season this evening.

1869

April 15 Saw one passing over in the dusk of the evening.

" 17 Saw several dark in sunning the sun.

1870

April 9th Saw one passing overhead shortly after sunset.

" 22nd Saw a flock of about thirty and took one.

Sept & Oct. Very rare and left early on account of the severe drought.

1871.

April 12 Saw a single bird. Upon being started from a grove of pines, it lighted in an old Oak tree in an open field.

Sept 29 Still quite abundant.

Nov. 17 Saw a single bird near Fish p. the last

1868

Great Blue Heron.

Ardea Herodias

April 9 Saw three in a Pine swamp in company with a large flock of Night Herons.
Sept. 30 Saw one flying in a Southerly direction.
Oct. 10 Saw one.
" 17 Saw one at Concord.

1870
April 22nd One was seen in Lexington (C. J. M.)
Aug. 13 to 31 Rye beach. Saw them nearly every day.
Sept. 2 to 10 York's Kennebec. very abundant on all the ponds and streams but as everywhere else exceedingly shy.

1871
April 26 Two were seen at Concord by C. Easton.
Nov. 16 Shot an immature bird.

1872
Apr. 9 One at Concord
" 10 " " Belmont

American Goldfinch
Chrysomitris tristis

1877

Jan. 10 See them quite frequently; a few mixed in with almost every flock of A. linaria; also occasionally in total companies of siskins.

" " 27 Two among yellow pines & very silent. Feb. 6 one.

April 20 About in small flocks, the males changing plumage.

May 2 The males have all attained the perfect summer plumage.

July 11 Although probably now breeding they frequently collect into large flocks; to day I saw as many as thirty or forty of both sexes feeding together on the seeds of some meadow grass; when startled they would rise altogether and after performing several evolutions in a close body pitch down again, acting precisely as in Autumn and Winter.

1868 Belted Kingfisher.

Cyrus Hefer

April 9 Saw one hovering over a flooded meadow.
Aug. 5 Saw one on a small trout stream high up among the Franconia Mts.
Sept. 26 Saw several.
Oct. 24 Saw the last one of the season to day on Fresh pond.

1869
Apr. 16 [illegible] on the Fresh pond.
[illegible] found [illegible] at the foot [illegible] Mt. [illegible] Boston [illegible] Mt.
Sept. 5th Saw one of these birds, on the rocky cliffs bordering the sea at Newport R. I.
Oct. 22nd Took one on Fresh pond this morning.

1870
April 21st Saw one.
July & Aug. in Franconia notch. Quite frequent on both the lakes and on the mountain streams.
1871
April 7 Saw the first.
1872
Apr. 11 One on F. pond & one in Belmont, on Rockmeadow.

Scaup Duck
Fuligula Affinis

1869

Oct. 18 A flock of four came into Fresh pond this morning, three of which were shot. They came in readily to a live Mallard decoy, but were rather shy of a boat.

" 27 Two came into Fresh pond this morning and were shot.

Nov. 1 Took one of two that came into "the pond" this morning. I sculled down within long range without much difficulty, but after shooting one, the other would not leave the pond, although it became exceedingly shy. They swam rather low in the water, frequently lying over on one side, and plumming themselves. The only note that I heard from either of them was a low, hoarse croak. They rose with rather more ease than the generality of sea-ducks, and when fairly on wing, advanced with great swiftness. While flying the markings on the wings showed with great distinctness.

1870

Oct. 29 An adult male was killed on Fresh pond.

1871

Nov. 2 Shot two on Fresh p. Both typical affinis

Dec. 5 R. Deane started one from the ~~ground~~ in a hemlock grove about twenty yds. from "the pond."

Sparrow Hawk

Tinnunculus Sparverius

1868

April 11 Found the remains of a fox colored Sparrow Hawk and soon afterward came across a Sparrow Hawk which was probably the murderer.

" 15 R. Deane shot a female: stomach contents, small snakes, grasshoppers, and other insects but no birds. The feathers on the top of its head were glued together by tar, which it had probably got, by trying to catch an insect stuck to a tarred apple tree.

1869

April 1. Saw one to day

1870

Sept. 2 to 10 Forks Kennebec quite abundant.

1871

April 15 Saw a beautiful male in a field where I always see one or more every season. He was very shy perching on the tops of some tall elm trees.

1872

Apr. 5 Eat Grantville, Hancock.

1868

Wood Duck (Brought from Page 95)

Aix Sponsa

Oct. 10 A flock of about a dozen, evidently flight birds & not those raised in this vicinity, came into the pond this morning. They were decoyed in readily by the tame decoys but only one of them was secured.

1869

April 5 Saw two to-day.

" 6 Saw one to-day.

" 8 Found this bird very abundant on Concord river, and saw upwards of fifty during the day. The river has overflowed its banks, and spread over a vast expanse of meadow land, thus affording to the ducks a fine chance of obtaining food. During the night they resort to the plowed fields in great numbers, leaving the soft ground covered with their footprints, and during the day employ their time in feeding on the cranberries in the meadows, with which here, I found the crops of many of them filled.

" 9. 7 Found them very abundant on Concord river and took quite a number of them. By this time the drakes had attained to the full splendor of their magnificent plumage, and no immature birds could be found. I had a fine chance of watching their habits and noticed especially their persistency in remaining concealed when they thought that they could not be seen. On such occasions they would frequently allow our boat to pass within a few feet of them, without moving, and sometimes we found it impossible to start a flock from a small bed of rushes or low bushes, into which we had just seen them swim.

1870 Sept. 16/10. Looks Remarkable: they were unknown here

Oct. 2 Saw two on Sherman's pond.

" 21 Shot three on Smith's pond: two which were

(Vol. page 102)

1868

Wood Duck

(Aix sponsa)

April 13. A female was shot to day from a flock of seven.

" 18 Shot a fine male this morning: he lit in a small ~~Maple~~ swamp where the water was about two feet deep. He sailed over the water very gracefully uttering every now and then a loud note resembling (Wilson) ock. The Wood Ducks kept by the proprietor of the Fresh Pond House have stood the winter well, although kept in an exposed pen made of slats: they are now quite tame. The contents of the Wood Duck's stomach were, a quantity of pure, white, sand, and a hazel nut.

" 27 Saw two on a small overflowed meadow: on creeping after them they walked into ~~the~~ clump of trees on the edge of the water where I shot a female, approaching her without the slightest cover.

May 2 A male was shot: but as its tail was worn down almost to a stub & the plumage very imperfect I ~~greatly~~ suspect that it had recently escaped from confinement.

" 5 A female was shot to day.

July 25 Shot a young male: his body was for the most part covered with feathers, but his wings ~~had~~ only pin feathers and as he was of course unable to fly he must have been ~~raised~~ in that vicinity. His crop was distended by the seeds of various water grasses.

Sept. 19 They have been very abundant here this Autumn as several broods have been raised in the vicinity. For some time they have been in the habit of leaving their favourite swamp in small flocks, just as the day was dawning, and again a short time before sunset, and after flying a mile or more in a Southerly direction as is to spy out the way, they ~~return~~ return, and pitch again into their favourite retreat: this consists of a number of broad ditches overgrown with bushes,

and communicating with each other in several places. Here they pass most of their time and here they may be found at almost any time in the day although they sometimes visit the larger ponds under cover of the darkness. While watching some Teal to day, in Pout Pond I noticed a movement in the bushes and out sailed a splendid male Wood Duck, closely followed by another drake & two females. They immediately joined the little Teal, which with legs in air, and heads under water were carefully searching the bottom, and the whole group closing together, commenced swimming along the margin of the pond. The Wood Ducks then landed, and after dressing their feathers in the manner of the domestic duck, and shaking their tails sideways they launched off again, and in a few minutes approached the place of my concealment, when getting the two males together I fired killing them both. The females did not leave the water at the report, so I was enabled to get one of them with the other barrel. The males showed to great advantage on the water, particularly when the sun shone on them, through an opening in the bushes, and when in company with the Teal, a continual twittering was heard from the flock, almost exactly similar to that produced by a company of Tree Sparrows. The flocks when flying over the swamp, emit frequently a loud "o' clark", "o' clark" very much like the cry of the Guinea Hen, and on one occasion upon starting a flock suddenly they flew off, "honking" like geese. Upon a sunny day the males can readily be distinguished from the female, while on the wing.

Sept. 22 A flock of four came in to a live decoy on Fresh Pond just as the day was breaking.

" 26 Saw them flying; the greater part of them has either left us or been exterminated.

See Page 94.

1868

Fish Hawk

Pandion Cardinensis

April 13 One was seen on Fresh pond.

" 14 Saw one in full plumage hovering over the pond.

Sept. 14 Shot two on Fresh pond, both young birds. They were not at all shy of a person on land but would not permit a boat to approach them. They poised themselves over the water exactly in the manner of the Kingfisher, at the hight of about thirty feet and when they dove, they frequently completely buried themselves, and seemed to experience great difficulty in raising themselves again from the water.

Oct. 14 Saw the last one on Fresh pond to day.

1869

Mar. 31 Saw one flying

Sept. 11 Saw one on Fresh pond.

1870

April 21st Saw one, the first of the season.

Sept. 25 & 10 Mosquito pond Me. Very abundant and much more shy than I ever saw them before.

1871

April 3 Two were seen on Fresh pond.

May 15 One was seen on Fresh pond by F. P. H. Simson.

1872

Apr. 4 One.

1868

Chipping Sparrow

Spizella Socialis

April 17 Heard several males singing to day.

May 6 Shot a male that was paired: it had a white tail feather; the female was of the ordinary color.

July 5 They have just laid the eggs of their second litter, and the males are all singing again. At this season you may frequently hear the males singing in the darkest nights as late as 10 P.M.

Aug. 9 A few of the males are still singing.

Sept. 27 Still abundant.

1869

April 17 Saw several to day.

[illegible]

woods,

[illegible]

Sept. 28 They are now everywhere abundant, frequenting the beds of seed bearing weeds, in large flocks, and rising suddenly at the least alarm to the tops of the neighboring orchard trees.

Dec. 31st Saw one to day in Watertown. Although we have had a good deal of snow and cold weather the ground is now completely bare and the weather remarkably warm.

1870

April 19th Heard several males singing.

July 28 Franconia notch. Saw them as far up as the clearing continued: never in the forest as at Gorham last year.

Nov. 2 Several at Waterford.

1871

1871
April 8 A male in full song.
" 10 A general arrival

1868

Savannah Sparrow.

Passerculus Sandwichensis

April 17 Saw several and heard a male singing in a low meadow.
July 14 The young are all out, and the old birds must have
6 " laid a second time as the males are singing everywhere.
Sept. 25 Saw several.

1869
April 16 Heard and saw several.
Breeding Found it common, breeding at the foot of Mt. Washington in a small clearing.

1870
April 9th Saw and heard upwards of a dozen males during the day.
Oct. 21 Saw as nearly as a dozen on a piece of waste upland overgrown with rank weeds.
1871
April 12 A general arrival; saw and heard numbers.
1872
Apr. 3 One at Concord, another at Grantville, H. W. Henshaw.

Wood Duck (from p. 94)

only wounded made out into the pond pursued by my retriever but after a dive or two disappeared, having probably reached the opposite shore and concealed themselves, for though I lost it carefully without success, both the dog. My friend J. Melvin of Concord has also found several wounded bird this Autumn dive and cling to roots &c. on the bottom long after life was extinct

1871

April 29 Number, were seen at Concord by J. C. Melvin.

1872

Apr. 3 About 12 both sexes at Concord.

1860 Swamp Sparrow.

Melospiza palustris

April 17 Saw one to day

" 18 The males were scattered through all the swamps and were singing vigorously.

May 5 Shot a bird to day that may be of this species: upon first hearing it I supposed that the song proceeded from some warbler unknown to me, & accordingly I immediately began a search for it. At length after a great deal of trouble I caught sight of it ~~immediately~~ just as it was finishing its song: to make sure I watched it a few moments longer, when rising to the top of a low bush it began again its singular song, and it had scarcely finished when I shot it: its song, if so it may be called, resembled the syllable schee, repeated four or five times and gradually rising, and was entirely different from the loud, echoing, tri-r-r-r-r-r-r of the male Swamp Sparrow. On dissection it proved to be a female.

July 7 Heard several males singing.

" 25 Heard numbers of males singing.

Sept. 27 The swamps are literally alive with them. Heard and old male singing this evening.

Oct. 16 Heard several old males singing to day.

1864

April 7 [illegible] Concord Mass.

Nov. 2nd Still abundant.

" 19 Saw two.

1870

April 12th Heard a number of males singing.

July 28 Franconia Notch. Heard and saw several in a small swamp just outside the Notch near the edge of the forest.

Sept. 2 & 10 Moose pond Me. saw them in bay, numbers on the shores of this lonely lake

1871
April 7 Saw and heard several males.
1872
Apr. 12 Fem. arriv. O. W.

1868

Yellow Rump Warbler.

Dendroica Coronata

April 17 Saw four or five, all males.

" 18 They were quite abundant this morning, and at sunrise the males, mounting to the topmost branches of the forest trees, began to sing on all sides: the song is between that of a Pine Creeping, and Prairie Warbler being poured forth almost as vigorously as the former and ascending like the latter. ~~Saw a vast number of them~~

" 25 Saw a vast number of them to day. It snowed fast all this morning, and the snow covered the ground so that they were probably driven to the shores of the ponds in order to procure food: the shore of Fresh pond was covered by immense flocks of them for the distance of half-a-mile or more. They hopped nimbly along near the waters edge and sometimes when several came together they would fight vigorously for several moments when the weaker would be forced to retire. They all seemed to be proceeding in the same direction. There were probably several thousands of them collected together, nearly all males; in fact I did not see more than six or seven females in the whole multitude.

May 3 Saw several.

" 6 Saw large numbers of them.

June 1 Numbers were seen at Portland, Maine.

July 30 Saw an old male accompanied by his young, in the Franconia Notch N. H.

Oct. 9 Saw several this morning.

Nov. 7 Saw the last one of the season to day. They have been unusually scarce this Autumn.

1869

April 17 [illegible]

" 25 This [illegible] L. Coronatum was both plentiful and abundant [illegible]

[illegible]

Oct. 1st They suddenly appeared to day in large flocks.

and so numerous were they that it was impossible to go in any direction without seeing hundreds of them.

1870

April 7th Saw a male to day

" 21st Saw numbers the males singing

May 3rd Still numerous.

Sept. 19 A general arrival.

Oct. 22 About the height of the migration: the whole country seems now almost alive with them, and in shooting specimens they are a perfect nuisance

1871

April 13 Saw two, the first

" 21 Are now quite abundant, the males in full song

May 1 Have nearly all gone.

" 2 Saw upwards of fifty in the Fresh Pond swamp.

" 14 Saw two, the last of the season.

Sept. 19 A general arrival; saw them everywhere.

Oct. 13 They have been tolerably abundant for the last week and now absolutely swarm.

Nov. 3 Still very numerous

1868 Canada Goose

Bernicla canadensis

April 17 Saw about fifteen flying in a Northerly direction.

Oct. 7 Five Geese came over the pond this evening and circled around several times but they finally left.

" 8 Saw fifteen flying over the pond.

" 23 A large flock was startled from Fresh pond this morning where they had passed the night.

1869

April 2 [illegible] passing to the Northward.

Oct. 28 A flock of five lit on Fresh pond this morning, in a snow storm.

Nov. 1st Saw a large flock migrating.

1870

April 1st A large flock was seen passing to the Northward.

" 7th Saw three large flocks on their way Northward, and have seen several others within the last few days.

" 22nd Saw a large flock on Fresh pond.

Autumn Did not see or hear a single flock, a most unusual circumstance.

1871

Mar. 22 Flocks have been seen at intervals for the last two or three weeks.

April 21 Saw a flock of twenty one flying Northward.

Oct. 14 A large flock was seen flying S.

Nov. 10 Three large flock seen passing S. just before a snow storm.

Nov. 30 Five were seen setting on Fresh pond the greater part of the day.

1870

Canada jay

Perisoreus Canadensis

Sept 3 Forks Kennebec Me. Met this bird for the first time: very tame coming up within a few feet and eyeing me curiously, flight performed by long glides and perfectly noiseless: flight much above the underbrush hopping down on the ground or on to the old logs & stumps. Notes a wild, shrill, Hawk-like scream, and a chatter or recognition much like that of C. cristata.

1868

Virginian Rail

Rallus Virginianus

April 18 Shot a female which walked fearlessly out of a small briar patch.

" 25 Heard one singing this morning as it was just beginning to get light. (Mistake; it was the Common Rail)

" 29 Heard a bird in a large swamp, making a variety of singular sounds; at times it made a noise harsh and chattering than it sang almost exactly like a male Spotted Sandpiper in Spring only in a much ~~louder~~ key: I shot it and it proved to be a female Virginian Rail. I also heard a number of others producing similar sounds. ~~Shot three this morning~~

May 2 Shot three this morning, two males & a female: two of them I shot on the ground, but as I was determined to flush the third, I had to pursue it for some distance through the bushes in which, under cover of the meadow tussocks, it ran like a mouse. The song of this bird if so it may be called resembles the syllables ke-ke-ke ke ke ke ke ke ke; beginning slowly and being run together at the end, and the whole is delivered in a snarling tone not unlike the scolding chatter of a young House Wren. As far as I have been able to ascertain by shooting the birds, this singular ~~Bird~~ is produced only by the males.

May 22 Watched a female for some time; she permitted me to approach within a few feet of her before she stirred & then to my great surprise she rose without the slightest difficulty, and with legs drawn up flew for some distance with nearly the swiftness of a Snipe or Yellow-legs.

July " Heard again to day the love song of the male.

" 18 Saw a Rail of this species, which was started by a dog fly for some distance with legs drawn up, zig-zagging through the bushes almost exactly like a Snipe & with great swiftness.

Sept. 25 Shot one to day & heard an old male singing.

Oct. 16 Saw one to day.

1869

Heard several of these birds near Fresh Pond, and they have of course been here for some time.

1870

May 3rd Heard numbers.

1871.

April 19. A general arrival. Heard about a dozen males all of which probably arrived last night as there were none in the meadows on the 17th.

May 17 Saw a female caught by a dog: for a long time she refused to take wing and finally when hard pressed dove under the surface ~~of the water~~ of a large brook, (which she had repeatedly crossed by swimming) and remained under nearly a minute,

Yellow Redpoll Warbler

Dendroica Palmarum.

1868

April 16 Saw a number this morning and heard several males singing: their song seems to be a compound of the songs of the Prairie and Pine Creeping Warblers and can scarcely be distinguished from that of the Yellow Rump Warbler.

" 25 Saw a large number of them to day (see Y. Rump. W.)

May 3 Saw several.

May 7 Saw one but they are getting very scarce.

69

April [illegible] One was seen to day (R. Deane)

" 16 Saw one myself to day.

1870

April 11th Seen to day at Newtonville, Mass. (C. J. M.)

" 21st Saw them everywhere to day.

Autumn Did not see a single specimen

1871

April 7 Saw a flock of six or seven all in full song.

" 12 Are now very abundant every where, the males all in full song.

" 22 Still abundant.

May 2 Saw as many as a dozen in a large flock of Dendroica

" 7 Saw three for not the last.

Oct. 15 One in immature plumage was shot (by F. P. Atkinson)

" 22 Saw several and took one in nearly the usual Spring plumage.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] two dead [illegible] of [illegible] fourth day at [illegible] at [illegible] [illegible] were within [illegible] distance of one another [illegible] looked to the [illegible] [illegible] foot of fir tree against the trunk [illegible] dead [illegible].

1868

Field Sparrow

Spizella pusilla

April 18 Saw a number and heard several males singing.

" 23 Shot a pair: the male had a pure white tail feather in his tail while the female was of the ordinary color: they had a nest containing four fresh eggs, built in a low spreading juniper.

1869

April 16 Heard a male singing.

Nov. 12th Saw several.

1870

April 26th Saw a male.

1871

April 15 Several males were seen and heard in Belmont by F. P. Atkinson.

Bohemian Chatterer
Ampelis Garrulus

1069
Oct. 1st Pursued one of these birds for some time this morning but it was so very shy that I found it impossible to get within shot. In all its motions it much resembled the common Wax-wing but its cry was quite different.
[I now consider the identification of this bird very doubtful W.B. 1884]

1868

Barn Swallow

Hirundo Hororum

April 19 Two were seen to day

" 22 Heard one to day.

" 25 Saw a number on Fresh pond to day in company with a vast host of White Bellies.

July 14 The young may be seen everywhere sitting in rows on fences and the dead branches of trees: they can readily be distinguished from their parents, as they want the long tail feathers of the latter.

Aug. 8 They are still abundant.

" 15 They have been passing steadily Southward all day. At Rye Beach this afternoon taking it into my head to count the Swallows (all four species, but principally these and the White Bellies) that passed along the beach in thirty minutes, the result was one thousand, or thirty two thousand for the whole day.

Sept. 5 Saw several in this vicinity.

" 8 Saw several.

Oct. 7 I thought that the Swallows had all left us, but to day, to my surprise I noticed a Barn Swallow skimming about the edge of a large swamp. In a few minutes he passed nearly over me & I noticed that several of his wing feathers were shattered and one or two wanting, which circumstance was probably due, his presence at so late a period.

1869

April 19 [illegible] general.

[illegible]

Sept. 2[illegible] [illegible] large numbers at Shumans pond, Waltham

1870

April 22nd Saw the first to day.

" 29th Saw numbers.

July 28 Saw none. As far as edge of forest.

1871

April 12 A general arrival; saw hundreds on Fresh pond.

July 14 The young have all flown and frequent for the most part the marshes and low grounds. Saw them going to roost this evening in large numbers on the sloping side of a low sand bank, where they lie close together directly on the ground

1868 Pine Creeping Warbler
Dendroica vigorsii

April 24 Heard a male singing to day.
June 1 They are comparatively scarce this year.

1869
April 15 Heard a male singing
[illegible] (?)
Oct. 2nd Took an adult male.
Nov. 25 Took one.

1870
April 14th Seen to day at Newtonville Mass. (G.J.M.)
" 26th Found them everywhere abundant to day.
Oct. 14 Took two males, the last.
1871
April 6 A male shot in Belmont by R. Deane.
" 9 A general arrival: saw several males.

1868 Cliff Swallow.

April 25 Saw a pair to day.
July 17 Saw a flock of several hundreds near Fresh Pond.
They utter at this season, only a single harsh note.

1869
April 26 [illegible]

1870
April 30th Saw several.
July 28 Franconia notch. As far as forest

1871
April 24 A general arrival; saw numbers at Concord.

White Throated Sparrow.

Zonotrichia albicollis

April 25 Heard several males singing this morning.
Aug. 7 Heard several males singing in the Franconia Notch.
Oct. 10 Saw one to day for the first time this Autumn

1864
April 14 Heard a male singing.
May 2 They are now rather abundant.
[illegible]
Nov. 1st They have been unusually abundant this Autumn, and are still around in large numbers.
Nov. 6th Still abundant.
" 20th Saw a number of them
" 23 Saw several
Dec. 11th Saw a male, and heard him sing as in Spring. The ground has been covered deeply with snow for several weeks past, and the weather intensely cold.

1870
April 25 Heard a male singing.
" 29th Heard several males.
May 3rd Very abundant.
July 1 Aug. Franconia Notch. Very abundant.
Sept 16 Saw one.
Nov. 10 Saw the last, a male.
1871
April 18 Saw the first a male (J. P. Atkinson)
" 26 Very abundant.
May 1 Saw only one in a long collecting tramp.
" 19 Apparently a second migration, as I saw several dozens in the course of a short walk.
" 25 Saw one, the last.
Oct. 2 Saw several but they arrived much earlier
" 14 They are now extremely abundant.

Black-bellied Plover.

Squatarolla Helvetica

1870

Sept. 24 I saw large flocks at Long Island in Boston harbor: the flight is continued unusually late this year. Took one at Rye beach Aug. 20. They fed both on the sea beach, and the upland pastures near the coast.

1871

May 24 The markets for the last few weeks have been filled with these birds: and told by the poulterers that S. Virginicus never occurs in spring.

1868 Ruby Crowned Wren.

Regulus Calendula

April 19 A bird probably of this species was seen to day.
" 25 Saw a male and heard him sing several times: the song is very powerful for so small a bird: it has also a scolding chatter not unlike that of the House Wren.
" 27 Saw one.
May 9 Saw several to day.
Oct. 8

1869
April 4 Heard a male singing at Concord Mass.
" 24 Saw as many as a dozen during the day.
Oct. 26 Took with a number to day.
Nov. 10th Took one the last of the season.

1870
April 16th Heard the beautiful song of the male this morning.
" 26 They were exceedingly abundant everywhere this morning, the males (which seemed to be in great ascendity over the other sex) all in full song.

1871.
April 12 A general arrival: saw and heard numbers of males.
" 27 Still abundant.
" 29 Heard a male.
May 11 Saw a female, the last.
Oct. 13 Saw about a dozen: I think however they arrived earlier

1872
Apr. 12 Two R. Dean.

1868 Sharp Shinned Hawk.
Accipiter fuscus

April 28. Saw one sitting on a post, & got quite near to it.

1869
April 18 Saw several during the day.
Sept. 2nd Saw a bird of this species cattle, and hill, & striped squirrel

1870
April 21st Saw one to day.
" 26th Saw one.
Aug. 3 Franconia notch: took a young male.
Sept. Oct & Nov. Cambridge: saw them occasionally.

1871
Jan. 7th Saw one. Saw one probably the same, Dec. 30th.
May 1 Have seen them at intervals through the spring. Saw to day in a short walk no less than five, starting them from a small grove of cedars
May 11 Still seem to be migrating as I see numbers every day.

Sparrows migrations

1872

Feb. 12 Spr. in Belmont near F. pond.
Mar. 4 Large flock at Watertown on the asper. beds.
" 25 Gen. arrival of Southern birds.
Apr. 6 Commenced singing on Cambr. this evening.

Bartram's Sandpiper
Tringa Bartramia

1868

April 30 Saw one: it flew in a singular manner, now quivering its wings like a Spotted Sandpiper, & now sailing about for some time like a small hawk: it lit in several small meadows & also on a piece of plowed ground but it was too shy for me to get a shot at it.

May 1 Shot a female probably the one seen yesterday.

Aug. 17 Saw them quite frequently at Rye Beach until Sept 1st. They flew over at an elevation of several hundred yards, and I rarely saw more than six together. I frequently heard their mellow call notes, issuing from the clouds on moonlight nights as late as 11 P.M.

1869

April 20 Heard one whistle pass at dusk.

Aug 24 to 30th. They were quite common at Rye Beach sometimes although seldom lighting on the marsh. On clear moonlight nights the mellow call notes of the passing flocks could be heard at almost any hour.

1870

May 6th Found one of these birds this morning in an apple orchard: it was quite shy but appeared perfectly at home among the trees, making its way through the branches without the slightest difficulty.

1871

April 26 Saw one in a pasture at Concord. It was very shy and active but I finally succeeded in shooting it: it proved on dissection, a female, with the ovaries so much developed that the first egg would probably have been deposited within a week or ten days.

1868 · Bank Swallow

April 30 Saw one
May 2 They are now quite numerous.
Aug. 6 Saw several.
Sept. 5 Saw the last to day.

1869
April [illegible] Saw one to day
[illegible]
Sept. 1st Saw numbers migrating southward.
1870
July 28 Franconia notch. As far up the valley as the foun
1871
April 22 Saw numbers at Concord Mass.

Bay-breasted Warbler

D. castanea

1870

June Upton We. found extremely abundant and breeding by R. Beard

Sept. 13. Took one in the Autumnal plumage: it was mixed in with a number of D. striata which it so precisely resembled in motions and general appearance that I took it for that bird

" 22 Saw another specimen taken to day: it was in the same piece of woods as the last but kept quite aloof from the small companies of D. striata that filled the tree tops.

" 26 Took still another in a low dark maple swamp.

~~" 30~~

1871

Sept. 30 H. Henshaw took one in immature plum

1868 Black & White Creeping Warbler.
Mniotilta Varia

May 1 Saw a male in a pine swamp.
" 16 They are all paired
July 13 Heard a male singing.
Aug. 8 Heard one singing.

1870
April 26 Took a male.
May 3rd Saw several.
Sept. 17 The last.
1871
April 21 Saw a male.
May 1 Are now quite numerous

Goshawk

1870 Astur atricapillus

Sept. 26 & 10 Forks Kennebec. Me. A very common bird here; saw many in jr. & ad. plumage: very shy.

1868

Spotted Sandpiper.

Tringoides Macularius.

May 1 Saw one but they have probably been here for some time.

July 13 They are continually around the pebbly shores of Fresh pond in companies of two or three, all old birds.

Aug. 8 They may now be found in small companies on the salt marshes, but a few still frequent the shores of Fresh pond.

" 5 Saw one on a small trout stream among the Franconia Mts.

Sept. 26 Saw one on Fresh pond, but they are getting scarce.

Oct. 13 Saw one shot on Fresh pond, the last of the season.

1869

April 24 Saw one

[illegible] 1 Saw one at Hammond pond in Waltham which upon being flushed by a hawk (red-shouldered) flew from the wing beneath the surface of the water and the hawk returned to his perch. The pond was perfectly smooth and the sandpiper must have remained under at least two minutes. Upon returning to the surface it remained for a few seconds sitting on the water, and then with [illegible] paddled up and made for the shore.

[illegible] Saw [illegible] one more, feeding, at the pond by Mr. [illegible] and discovered a brood of young [illegible] weeks old on the shore of a mill pond in that vicinity.

1870

May 3rd Saw one

April 28 Seen at Newton (E. J. W.)

July 28 Franconia notch. As far as edge of clearing; never in either of the lakes in the Notch this

1871

April 26 Saw one on the river at Concord.
May 2 A general arrival: saw several.
Oct. 14 One was seen on Fresh pond.

1868

Least Flycatcher.

May 1 One was seen.

" 22 They are now building. Saw a male mount up to the air and sing this evening, for the first time this year. They ~~mount~~ rise into the air uttering a succession of 'twits' and when they have reached an elevation of from fifty to one hundred feet, they begin to mingle in other notes, particularly the 'chelat', 'helat', so common in the breeding season: the whole occupies only a short time, & when it is finished, the bird darts down with the swiftness of thought & is silent for the night.

Aug. 9 Heard a male sing to-day.

[illegible]

Aug 7 Heard several males singing.

[illegible] (E. Trad.)

1870

April 28th Saw a male this afternoon.

1871

April 26 Heard a male at Concord.

May 2 A general arrival: saw them on fence rails.

Great horned Owl
Bubo Virginianus

1870
Sept. 6 Rogie pond, Me. While in camp heard them all night long; frequently from the trees directly behind us would come the deep, sonorous hoot to be immediately answered from the opposite shore, then the cry of a Loon from the foot of the lake softened by distance and the sighing night wind to an indescribably melancholy cadence. The Owls kept up this hooting almost without intermission through the night, from sunset to sunrise: they were with us however and we found it impossible to get even a sight at them. This notes were a hoarse, hollow, hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo, hoo, varied occasionally by dropping the final two syllables and interspersed by the guides as, cook for two, do, do. We were assured by all the most experienced hunters and trappers that they never venture down near a camp fire, as described by Audubon and Wilson, although the "Great gray Owl" (probably S. cinerelum) often does so.

Nov. 1 One on Belmont. It was very shy, quite as much so as a Hawk, flying the moment it caught sight of me: lit for the most part among the thickest branches of some Pine or other evergreen and when it left its perch always made much noise and flapping: its flight was rather slow and clumsy with constant flapping of the wings: it however sailed a short distance before alighting, was followed everywhere by an immense mob of Crows to which however it did not appear to pay the slightest regard. Saw it again and in the same place Nov. 7.

1868 Yellow Warbler

May 2 Heard a male singing in a large swamp.
" 3 There are a few males scattered through the orchards but the bulk of them is yet to come.
July 14 They are now feeding their full grown young. The male may still be heard, particularly at morning and evening, singing in a feeble, nonchalant manner.
Aug. 9 Still numerous.

1870
May 3rd Heard two males.
" 6th Heard a male.
" 8th All the birds that I have seen so far were in the low swamps and willow hedges. not one has appeared as yet about the garden and orchards
" 13 A general arrival to day.
Sept. 26 Saw two that in a dense swampy thicket near Fresh pond.

1871
May 1 Was quite certain that I heard the song of the males but it was so distant and faint that I could not be positive
" 5 Heard a male
" 6 A general arrival.

1868

Rice Bunting.

Dolichonyx Oryzivorus

May 2 At sunrise a male rose to the tops of the bushes in a thick swamp, and commenced jingling forth his delightful melody. Saw several more males; they probably pitched in there, being wearied by this long journey from the South as I never saw any there at any other season.

July 8 They are now in flocks, both sexes uttering this 'clink', 'clink', but occasionally one of the males will burst forth into song.

Aug. 8 Saw a small flock.

Sept. 16 They have all left us.

1870

May 13 Heard and saw several

1871

May 12 Heard several males. ("a general arrival" J.P.A.)

" 16 Saw the first female.

July 11 They are collecting into large flocks, and their clear metalic call note may be heard everywhere.

Sept. 19 Saw the last of the season flying over in company with two L. Strata

Oct 14 An immature bird was shot by J.S. Atkinson near Fresh Pond: it was extremely fat.

Black bellied Plover

1870 *Squatarolla helvetica*

Aug. 19 & 31. Rye beach, Saw them nearly every day; rarely came over the marshes but affected the sea beach; very hard to approach but easily deceived by imitating their whistle

1868

Yellow Shank Tatler.
Gambetta Flavipes

May 3 Saw three on the borders of a fresh water pond, and watched them for some time: they were quite tame and walked fearlessly about, every now and then stopping and jerking their heads backwards, and occasionally walking into the water so deep that they almost had to swim. Upon being started they flew only about fifty yards and then alighted again.

Aug 15 Shot one at Rye Beach to day. They were quite common there until Sept. when the Tell Tales began to take their place. They were deceived very easily by the wooden decoys, which, together with an imitation of their peculiar whistle, was almost sure to bring them down. In coming in to the stools, they generally sailed with their long pointed wings bent downward, but in their ordinary flight they propelled themselves by rapid and uniform beats. When shot at on the ground and only wounded, they would pretend to be hurt, tilting their bodies, and loudly reiterating their notes, but if they fell in the water they would quickly paddle their way to the shore where they would hide so closely that it was very difficult to find them.

Sept. 15 Saw one to day near Fresh pond.

869

Aug 20-28 Found the flight for the most part gone by at Rye beach, N.H. although small flocks were still flying occasionally.

1870

Aug. 19 to 31 Rye Beach. Large flocks passed over the marshes every day: mostly gone by at latter date. Flew in greatest abundance against a strong South wind: on still pleasant days only a few stragglers would be seen.

1871

May 6th 7th 8th. Large flights passed over East river marshes

1868

White Eyed Vireo.

Vireo Noveboracensis

May 4 Heard a male singing.
July 10 Heard several males singing vigorously.
Sept. 19 Saw a young male this morning: his attempts to sing were quite ludicrous.

1870
May 17 Heard a male.
1871

1868

Cat Bird

Mimus Carolinensis

May 4 Heard a male singing early this morning.
July 10 Heard a male singing.
Aug. 7 Saw numbers near Plymouth, N. H.
Sept. 19 Saw numbers to day.
" 25 Saw numbers.

1869

May 1 [illegible] seen to day (3 birds)
Oct. 6th Saw several at Concord Mass.

1871

May 11 Saw one. (Became abundant a few days after.)

1868 Chimney Swallow.

Chaetura pelasgica

May 4 Saw one flying over Fresh pond in company with several other species.

Aug. 8 Saw numbers of them.

Sept. 8 Saw several.

1869

April 24 Saw three or four on Fresh pond.

[illegible]

Sept. 10 Saw several passing Southward.

1870

May 3rd Heard one.

" 6th Very abundant everywhere.

1871

April 26 Saw the first at Concord.

May 6 Saw three in Cambridge

" 11 Quite abundant.

1868

Purple Martin

Progne Purpurea

May 4 Saw one flying in a Northerly direction and very high.

June 26 Several have been seen in this vicinity this spring to day a male took possession of one of my boxes but the White Bellied Swallows all turned out, and drove him off.

Sept. 11 Saw several.

1869

Aug. 31st Just at sunset while watching for Buckeyes at a small, wood encircled pond, I noticed these birds in small flocks, lighting in the tops of the swamp maples which lined the opposite shore.

1871

April 14 Four were seen at Concord (D. C. French)

1868 Gadwall Duck.

May 4 Saw one in a large swamp. 1?

1868

Blue Winged Teal

Querquedula Discors

May 4 Saw a handsome male flying over a fresh water swamp.

June 8 Shot a magnificent male to day. He was sitting perfectly motionless on a small pond and no doubt had his nest concealed somewhere in the rushy margin although I was unable to find it. While alive, his colors, particularly the white crescent before the eye, were very conspicuous.

Sept. 19 These beautiful little ducks have been very abundant here this Autumn & I have shot large numbers of them. They frequent for the most part small fresh water ponds or even ditches and are rarely seen on the larger bodies of water. They swim very close together and when unsuspicious of danger frequently immerse the head and neck in the manner of the Mallard. At times you see them swimming slowly along, jerking the head forward at each motion of the feet like the Coot. They rise at a single spring from the water, and when fairly started, advance at a good rate of speed. They alight almost exactly like a Snipe, and never fail to circle several times around the place on wing, as if to assure themselves of safety. Frequently they quack like a duck, and at other times they emit a harsh "calac" but their most common note is a soft whispering twitter. Saw the first at Rye Beach, Aug. 26th.

Oct. 10 Shot one to day but they are getting very scarce.

" 24 The last one of the season was shot to day on Fresh pond.

1869

Aug. 25 Saw the first flock of about a dozen, at Rye beach N. H. this morning. Till my departure (Aug. 28th) they were on the "Tel pond" every morning.

1870.

Aug. 23 Rye beach. saw three

" 27 " " flock of twenty six. quite tame and easily approached. When part were shot the remainder would not leave the pond until more than half were secured. If wing broken they made off the shore where they lied very closely.

1871

Oct. 4 Ipswich, on Concord river.

1868 Maryland Ground Warbler
Geothlypis Trichas

May 4 Heard several males singing.
July 7 They have probably laid a second time as the males are all singing again.
" 25 The males still sing occasionally.
Aug. 8 Saw one to day.
Sept. 27 Heard several.

1869
May 8 Saw a male
[illegible]
Oct. 2nd Took one

1870
Sept. 2 to 10 More found. We. Abundant.
Oct. 24 Saw an adult male.

1871
May 2 Heard several males.

1.

Hyperborean Phalerope

1870

Phalaropus ~~hyperboreus~~ Wilsoni

Aug. 24 Rye beach. Saw one on the "Eel" pond: kept near the shore in the shallow water where it waded and swam alternately: very tame.

1868

Carolina Rail

Rallus Carolinus

May 5 I have for some time supposed that the song of this bird (ka ee – ka ee – repeated almost without intermission during the hours of darkness) was produced by the Virginian Rail. This morning however I discovered my mistake, for I caught a male in the very act of singing: upon flushing it, it flew only a short distance and almost immediatily commenced singing again.

April 25 First heard one singing this morning.

May 7 Heard a male singing and upon walking up to it it rose and after flying a few feet settled down again: it then crossed a large ditch swimming gracefully like a small duck: after a while I succeeded in flushing it again and shot it. Upon first hearing it, I was greatly deceived as to its distance from me, supposing it to be at least a half a-mile off, when in reality it was only about one hundred yards. Heard at least a dozen males singing in the large swamp this evening as the weather was moist and cloudy.

July 7 Again to day, I heard, probably for the last time this year, the ka ee – ka ee – of this strange bird.

Sept. 7 To day I shot a number of these birds: it was raining fast most of the time, and the Rails rose with an ease and celerity, that astonished me. They started with a single spring rapidly doubling, and after flying perhaps a quarter of a mile, they would pitch headlong into the grass. At other times they flew in a more direct manner, with the legs drawn up behind, and the neck extended, and looking in fact not unlike small ducks. The Virginia Rails also, acted in a similar manner.

" 12 Watched one of these birds for some time. He crossed & recrossed a small island only a few feet square, walking in a slow and pompous manner, jerking his tail rapidly, and like a pigeon, keeping his head in continual motion.

Oct. 7 Saw one to day.
" 11 Saw one.

1864
May 5 Heard several of these birds on the marshes at Ipswich
I suppose this is their first arrival.

1870
May 2nd Heard numbers of them just at dusk. They have very possibly been here for some time.
~~1871~~ Oct. 21. Shot an adult male so encased in fat as scarcely to be able to fly.
1871.
April 6 (?) One was heard in the marshes by R. Deane & E. Cartlidge
" 19 Heard a male
Oct. 16 Sing were seen, the last (R. Deane)

1868 Chestnut Sided Warbler.

Dendroica Pennsylvanica

May 5 Heard several males singing.

July 9 Heard a male singing to day.

1870

Sept. 16 Took one in the peculiar Autumn plumage.

1871

May 15 A male in Cambridge. Several others seen by F. H. H.

Long tailed Duck.

Harelda glacialis

1870
Nov. 5 Two came into Fresh pond this morning in company with eight of E. rubida: they were quite tame on lighting by the side of a Duck just killed and drawn to my boat, which I scuffled up to the other without any difficulty.

1871.
Oct. 24 A flock of seven adult birds came into Fresh p. but did not light.

1868 Black Throated Green Warbler.

May 5. Saw several males.
Aug. 5 Saw a male in the Franconia valley N. H.

1869
April 30 Heard a male singing.
[illegible]
Nov. 21st Saw one of the birds to day in a clump of Norway pines.

1870
May 17 Probably arrived much sooner: saw numbers
July & Aug. in Franconia notch. Death frequent in the spruce forest.
Oct. 1 Saw at Waltham.
Oct. 13 The last of the season.

1871
April 30 A general arrival: saw and heard several males in Medford.

1868

Nashville Warbler.

Helminthophaga Ruficapilla

May 5 Shot a male in a grove of Spruce Pines.
" 16 Heard numbers of males singing in Spruce Pine & Cedar trees.

1870
May 4th Seen to day at Belmont Mass. (E.J.N.)
" 6th Two more were seen to day.
Sept. 13 Last one of the season.
1871

Cedar bird

Ampelis cedrorum

1871

April 2 Saw a small flock

May 7 Saw a dozen or more feeding on Hawthorn berries

" 25 Made this appearance in large flocks

Nov. 10 Three were seen by R. Dean.

1872

Jan. 12 One in cedar grove in Belmont with three G. migratorius

Feb. 12 Three in Watertown

" 18 Abdnt. everywhere

Water Thrush.

1868

May 5. Saw one to day.

Aug. 7 Heard two males singing in the Franconia Notch.

[illegible]

Sept. 2nd Saw one at Sherman's pond, Waltham.

1870

May 15 Saw the first to day.

" 17 Very abundant

Aug. 16th Saw six or seven in our garden, all the more strange, in that the season has been remarkably dry and hot.

Sept. 26 Saw the last to day; have been unusually abundant this Autumn, the more remarkable as the season has been very dry.

1871

May 16 The first in Belmont. (T. P. Atkinson)

" 17 Found them quite abundant.

" 21 Still abundant; several frequent our gardens

" 25 Saw two

Sept. 23 Two the last of the season (H. Hunshaw) No date of arrival noted.)

1868

Tawny Thrush

Turdus Fuscescens

April 18 Saw several to day. (Undoubtedly T. pallasi W.B. 1870)

May 7 They are quite abundant now but although I have been in their haunts many times both befor sunrise & after sunset, I have not heard them sing as yet.

May 9 Heard a male sing just as it was getting light.

July 10 The males are singing everywhere and at all times, even in the hottest part of the day. It is a singular trait in this birds character, that his song is seldom heard for a month or more after his first arrival, but in the hottest part of summer, when the young are full grown, he sings at all times of the day.

1870

May 18 Two at Newton

Sept 12 The last.

1871

May.

Sept 18 Took the last

Oct. 14 One was taken near Fresh pond by J. F. Atkinson

1868 Towhee Bunting

Pipilio Erythrophthalmus

May 5. Saw a pair

" 16 A female was shot while in the act of building.

1869

April 30 Saw a male and female which were without young.

Oct. 5th Saw several at Concord (Mass.

" 18 Saw one to day at Waltham.

1870

May 2nd Saw several males

April 28 One at Newton (C. J. N.)

~~Sept. 15~~ Saw the last.

1871

April 24 A male at Concord.

" 29 Abundant everywhere.

1868 House Wren

Troglodytes Aedon

May 5 Heard and saw many males.

July 14 The second brood is nearly hatched and the males are singing vigorously.

Aug. 9 The males are still singing.

Sept. 19 × Heard a male singing for the last time this year.

" 27 Saw one to day.

1869

April 28 [illegible] seen to day in Cambridge [illegible]

1870

May 2nd A male was singing near the house this morning.

Sept. 22 Is the last bird of the season.

1871

April 25 One in Cambridge was seen by J. P. Atkinson

" 29 A general arrival: saw and heard several.

1868

Green Heron

Butorides Virescens

May 5 Three were seen in a Pine Swamp.

June 23 Found two nests to day, both containing young apparently about a week old. The female of one nest walked slowly off of her young, and then took flight in silence, but the old bird of the second was more courageous, and lighting fearlessly in a small tree almost directly above my head, walked gracefully through the branches, uttering at short intervals a succession of notes, resembling the syllable "keow" repeated four or five times, and the whole in fact so much resembled the song of the Yellow Billed Cuckoo, that I at first mistook it for that bird. The male was much more shy, keeping out of gun shot and uttering a hoarse "hough" very much like the hooting of the Barred Owl. The young when taken out of the nest walked with all the grace & elegance of their parents they were of a light green color partially covered with white down.

July 11 Heard one to day. They pass over every evening to the salt marshes, ~~marshes~~ flying very swiftly with the neck lengthened out like a duck's. They always proceed singly, in this differing from the Night Herons which are almost always seen in small flocks.

Oct. 16 Saw the last one of the season to day.

1871

May 2 Saw one

" 6 Saw five all in the perfect spring plumage.

1868 **Blue Yellow Backed Warbler**
Parula Americana

May 6 Saw a male.
" 24 They have not been nearly so common this year as they were last. Watched a female to day for some time: She hopped nimbly through the twigs every now and then darting down swiftly through the branches and alighting again with a peculiar jerk: ~~[illegible]~~ now and then she would sally out after a flying insect, snapping her bill loudly.
" 25 Shot a female & saw several others.

[illegible]
" 1[illegible] [illegible]
" 1[illegible] [illegible] numbers of them.

1870
May 15 Saw and heard several males.
Oct. 6 Last of the season.
1871
April 30 Saw a male in our garden.
May 11 Then were seen
" 15 Seen only one in the course of a long tramp.
" 19 Very abundant

1868 Yellow Throated Vireo.

Vireo flavifrons

May 9 I saw two males to day.

July 13 The delightful song of the male may still be heard from the leafy arches of our forest tree.

Aug. 9 Heard a male singing to day.

Sept. 6 Heard an old male singing.

1869

Aug 5 Heard several males singing.

1870

May 13 Saw several males.

1871

May 1 A male shot in Brookline Mass. F. B. Atkinson

" 15 Birds abundant: heard several males.

1871

Rough-legged Hawk
Archibuteo lagopus

Nov. 8 × Saw one of the A. Sancti-Johannis type flying over the meadows near Fish Pond. Its flight was peculiar with exceedingly quick nervous flaps of the wing with short intervals of sailing.

1868 Golden Crowned Thrush.

Siurus Aurocapillus

May 9 Heard at least half a dozen males singing to day.

1869

[illegible]

1870

May 6th One taken to day at Belmont (C.J.K.)

Sept. 19 Saw the last to day on a dense maple swamp.

1871

May 16 Heard a male: they probably arrived long ago.

" 17 Found them very abundant everywhere.

Lincoln's Finch

Melospiza Lincolnii

1870

Sep. 1. 12 Carr. Saw one taken near Fresh pond in an open meadow among low bushes by H. Hunt

Oct. 8 Watertown. Took a male in fine plumage. Was attracted to it, by its sharp angry chip or rather chuck, which was very similar to that of Junco hyemalis. It was perched on a small locust tree near an orchard, in a high open locality, was quite tame and in general appearance hardly to be distinguished from M. melodia through much smaller and with a rather conspicuous crest: both this and the other were apparently alone.

1868 Solitary Vireo

Vireo Solitarius

May 4 Heard several males singing and shot one also saw a female.

June 29 A pair has bred in Chatham for several years; I watched the pair for some time to day. The female followed her mate through the thick tops of the hemlocks, chattering at intervals exactly like a Yellow Throated Vireo: the male while with the female uttered a sound almost exactly like the creaking of a wheelbarrow but occasionally he would break out into his loud tweit, tewa, tweteu.

" 17 Heard a male of this species singing in an elm tree which shaded the public square of Andover Mass.

1869

May 1st Heard a male singing.

[illegible]

1870

April 26th Saw a male

Aug In Franconia notch: saw only two during my stay: a remarkable contrast with Gilham W. & H.

Sept. 28 Last to day.

1871

April 22 Heard a male at Concord.

Sept. 23 Seen by H. Hunkins

1868 Wood Thrush.

Turdus Mustelinus

May 1 shot a male.

1870

May 18 Two at Newton

1871

Red shouldered Hawk

Buteo lineatus

1871
Feb. 6th Came upon one sitting on an open water fall a few yards from the road where teams of all description were constantly passing. I drove by several times without his taking the slightest notice of them stopped directly in front of him and sat for several minutes looking at him, when finally he took flight and lit again a short distance off.

1860 Rose Breasted Grosbeak
Guiraca Ludoviciana

May 9 Shot a young male.

1869
May 6 Heard 2 birds singing
[illegible] Saw several at the [illegible] of the Watching Box
they were all in the [illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible], I [illegible]
[illegible] by Mr. Hilty of Hollidaysburg.
the birds in question [illegible] rare in this

1870
May 13th Saw a male
1871
May 15 Saw a male in Watertown.
" 16 Heard several males.

White crowned Sparrow
Zonotrichia leucophrys.

1867
May 18 Shot a male: it was singing very finely perched on a brush pile in a Maple swamp.

1871
May 19 Shot a fine male: it was hopping about on the ground in company with two Z. albicollis and was quite silent: though badly wounded it managed to crawl into a pile of stones and escape.

Oct. 2 A male in immature plum. taken by R. Dow.
" 7 Shot a ♂ & ♀ in our garden. They were both in the immature plumage, and were in company with a large flock of Z. albicollis

1869

Warbling Vireo.

Vireo Gilvus

May 10 Heard one singing in the top of a high Linden tree.
July 14 The males are still singing.
Aug. 9 Heard a male singing.
Sept. 13 Heard an old male singing to day.

1870
May 13th Heard several males.
1871
May 9 Heard a male
" 11 Quite abundant.

1870
June Concord Mass. quite common breeding.

1868 Tyrant Flycatcher.
Tyrannus Carolinensis

May 10. Saw one to day.
" 6 They were seen at Concord Mass. to day.
Aug. 9 They are still numerous.

[illegible]

[illegible] to day.
[illegible] at [illegible] of these birds at [illegible]
× [illegible] at the foot of [illegible]

Sept. 3 Saw several to day.

1870
April 21 Seen at W. Newton (C. C. N.)
July 28 Franconia Notch. Saw them up to the edge
1871 of the woods.
1871
May 6 Saw two males which until I had shot and
dissected, I took to be a pair, as they kept each
other close company, lighting side by side, and following
one another in all their flights.

1869

Yellow Billed Cuckoo

Coccyzus americanus.

May 7 Heard one to day.

" 23 Something must have happened to the Cuckoos as I have seen only two so far, and the orchards & woods should now be full of them.

1870

May 20 Heard a male. Very scarce this year.

Sept. 26 Saw one shot.

1871

Red-bellied nuthatch
Sitta Canadensis

1870.
June 29 Nashagat island. Shot a female that had ev[illegible] that season
July 25 to Aug. 13 Quite abundant at Tamarisc
notch; were rather silent and left
company with all the small birds
indifferently; young in nesting plumage
nothing unusual; were not confined to any
particular species of tree but seemed to prefer the bea[illegible]
Aug. 15 Saw one adult male in Cambridge
running about the trunk of an elm tree

Aug 19 to Very abundant at Rye beach N.H. were
Aug. 30 most partial to the groves of yellow pines
roving about in companies of six or seven
but occasionally came into the orchard,
and even ventured on to the houses and
outbuildings, hopping about the eaves.
Sept 2 to 9 Rather scarce at the Forks of the Kennebec,
Maine; frequented the spruce forest in
company with Warblers &c.
Sept. Oct. to Nov. 12. Unusually abundant in this vicinity. Kept
almost exclusively in the Yellow pine groves, sometimes in com-
panies of six or seven, but more frequently singly or with the
roving flocks of P. atricapillus. Then they so much resembled
in general color and motions as to be hardly distinguishable
except when high up among the tree tops, like them hanging head
downwards from the extremities of the branches or pine cones,
and barely running about the large branches and tree trunks
in the manner of P. Carolinensis. Their notes which at the
season I very rarely heard were very shrill and feeble. On
one occasion I found one of these birds a long distance from
any trees, in an open field hopping about an old rail fence.
1871
Jan. 12 Found one in a Yellow pine grove in company with
a number of Creepers & Titmice.

468 Baltimore Oriole

Icterus Baltimore

May 11 A male was seen to day.
" 13 Saw several males.
" 15 Saw a female
July 14 The song of the males is now seldom heard, they and their young, being too busy I suppose, in opening pea pods, eating cherries and committing depredations generally.
Aug. 9 They have not left us yet, for I heard the full, rich notes of a male to day.

1869

May 11 Saw at least a dozen males during the day. The cherry trees are in full bloom which always seems to be a signal for the appearance of this bird.
" 12 They seem to have all arrived as the grounds and orchards are full of them. For the first [illegible] day.

1870

May 6th One seen at Cambridge Mass. (J. A. Allen)
" 7th Two more were seen to day.
" 13 A general arrival.

1871

May 9 A general arrival; saw and heard numbers of males. The vegetation is decidedly ahead of the birds this year, as the cherry blossoms are beginning to fall.
" 12 Saw the first female.

Yellow-bellied Woodpecker.
Sphyrapicus varius

1870
Sept. 2 do "Jo: hs "Kennebec saw them nearly every day.
" 28 One in pine swamp near Fish pond.
1871

1869

Prairie Warbler.
Dendroica Discolor

May 14 Saw a male and watched him for some time. He would light about the middle of a Cedar tree and slowly ascend to the top, hopping from twig to twig, occasionally stopping and uttering his song; chee, che che che che che beginning slowly and quickly increasing in rapidity and shrillness; when the bird is near a peculiar quivering on the ear is produced by the song.

" 16 Saw about a dozen males in an old pasture overgrown with cedar trees & barberry bushes: they spent most of this time in the cedar trees but ~~sometimes~~ often descended to the low bushes, and occasionally to the ground itself. Sometimes they would chase each other through the tops of the trees, chucking meanwhile almost exactly like the Field Sparrow. They seemed to be all males.

June 27. Heard several males singing.

1870

May 17 Found them unusually abundant.

Sept. 22 Took a single specimen among barberry bushes.

1871

May 17 A general arrival, now numbers of males in. Betw.

American Woodcock
Philohela minor

1871
Nov. 3 Started five at Concord Mass. among the birches
" 10 Flushed single bird, a very small male, in Waltham on a birch hillside: sportsmen say that the tail end of the flight is always composed of small birds. Saw no spring signs that I am convinced that there must have been quite a flight in the last few days
Dec. 13 Shot the last a very small male bird, which we started in a small shutted swamp a short time after daybreak: it had evidently dropped in from the North as there was only one patch of whitewash, on the ground where it had been sitting and upon dissection we found its stomach entirely empty: it was however in good flesh though not fat, and whistled loudly as it rose. The country has been frozen up here for weeks and the mercury for days in succession has fallen to 0°.

1868 American Bittern.

Botaurus lentiginosus

May 14 Heard one in a large meadow.

" 16 Shot a male. It was standing erect in a meadow and every few minutes it would stretch out its neck and drawing in its head suddenly, would throw it out again with a jerk at the same time uttering its peculiar 'pump-ple-unk': this it would repeat several times and then stand erect as before. Upon being approached it crouched in the long grass.

Oct 7 Shot one to day, the last of the season.

1869

April 11 Heard one in Waltham

May 21 Shot a male on the [illegible]

Oct. 5 Shot one at Concord Mass.

1870

June 27 Heard the "stake driving" of a Bittern across the widest part of the bay a distance of at least a mile & a half. (Hyannis Mass.)

Sept. 2 to 10 Took Kennebec very common on all the ponds and streams. Very tame and when frightened at out of range frequently would not move from among long grass usually squatted at our approach. Found them very good eating.

Nov. 3 Took the last. Wing broken only, it defended itself with the utmost fierceness, ruffling up its feathers, opening wide its mouth, and uttering cries or rather roars, so loud that they could be heard for nearly half a mile. When placed near the edge of a large pond it walked slowly along the shore a short distance, then wading into the water struck out boldly, tossing over the waves, and swimming in a most Heronlike manner: it proceeded several hundred yards in this way but finally returned to the shore again.

1871

April 12 Started out on Rock meadow, Belmont.

" 22 Saw them at Concord

Oct. 4 Saw last on Concord river

1868 Ruby Throated Humming bird.

Trochilus Colubris.

May 15 Saw several: noticed a male pursuing a Chipping Sparrow: the latter soon got enough of it and lit in a pear tree but the Humming bird still continued the assault expanding the feathers of its throat and darting about the head of the other: the Sparrow took it all very coolly apparently regarding its small opponent with extreme contempt. The cherry trees are in full bloom which, I have always noticed, is the signal for the reappearance of this bird and indeed all that I saw to day were in or about the cherry trees.

July 10 Saw one to day, poised in front of a flower.

Aug. 8 Saw a young bird of this species.

1869

[illegible]

July & Aug Found them very common at Gorham N. H. They affected the most sombre depths of the mountain forest, and were equally abundant along the edges of the clearing, where they found food in the numerous species of wild flowers.

1870

May 14 Saw a male.

Sept. 19 The last

1871

May 18 Saw two: are unusually late this year as the cherry blossoms are all down.

1872

May 18 Saw several

Sept. 17th Saw the last.

Olive-sided Flycatcher
Contopus borealis

1869

[illegible] Found it very [illegible] for the [illegible] [illegible] at the foot of Mt. Washington. At the time of my arrival (Aug 20th) the young were already fully fledged and separated from the parents. They frequented the edges of the primeval forest, but seemed to prefer [illegible] in an area of dead timber, and was [illegible] destroyed by fire. [illegible] might be found almost [illegible] of the day [illegible] but the [illegible] were fixed in one place, [illegible] time [illegible] their bills might be heard [illegible] half a mile in the [illegible] morning [illegible] just at sunset perched on some commanding dead branch [illegible] out every few moments after some passing insect like a true flycatcher. I also frequently [illegible] them [illegible] against the birch trees where they [illegible] snapping up the [illegible] insects as they came in clouds around their heads. Their flight resembled that of [illegible] being performed in undulation. Their notes were peculiar; a sort of low, snarling [illegible] which once heard, could never be mistaken for the note of any other bird.

Oct. 2 Took one of these birds in Watertown in a grove of yellow pines.

" 22 Took one in a small clump of willows

1870

April 22nd Saw two and took a ♀.

July 28th Franconia Notch: have never detected it in the notch but saw one to day in the open country about 15 miles down the valley.

Sept. 28th Cambridge. One in pine woods. (Vide page 194)

1868

Red Eyed Vireo.

Vireo Olivaceous.

May 16 Saw and heard a number of males.
July 14 The males are still singing vigorously.
Aug. 7 Heard several males singing in the Franconia Notch.

[illegible]
[illegible]

1870
July & Aug. Franconia notch. Very abundant.
Nov. 2d Took the last of the season in Watertown

1871
May 21st Heard a male in our garden.

[illegible]

1870
May 20 Iron one.
1871
May 21 Board in small pin per garden.

1868 Scarlet Tanager.

Pyranga Rubra

May 16 Heard several males singing.

Aug. 5 Saw a male

1870

May 20 Saw a male.

Sept. 26 Saw the last of the season; saw them frequently since the 1st of this month in the dark shaded thickets near Fresh Pond where with many other birds they came to feed on the berries of the nightshade.

1871

Hudson's Bay Titmouse

Parus Hudsonicus

1870
Oct. 27. Concord Mass. Took a single specimen the first for the state. It was accompanied by one or two R. Satrapa only, although only in a neighboring piece of woodland I met with a large company of P. atricapillus there it precisely resembled in general notions and in the only note I heard, a low fee de de utterd in a drawling, pensive tone; it was however at once distinguishable from them, by the absence of the black cap which forms so striking a feature in the plumage of that bird. The locality was the edge of a piece of second growth Oak & Pine, thirty in extent.

1868 ~~Dewfield's~~ [Maryland] Ground Warbler
[Geothlypis trichas Linn.]

May 16 Shot a fine male. I found it in an old lane on a rocky hillside in Lexington. I was first attracted by hearing its ~~twit~~ which differed considerably from the chuck of the Maryland Yellowthroat. Upon following up the sound I soon perceived it hopping nimbly through the bushes; it soon passed on to another clump jerking its tail as it flew and lighting on a low bush I shot it.

" 25 Shot another male to day. I found it in a low swamp where it hopped among the roots of the trees almost like a mouse. It was very unsuspicious & permitted a near approach.

" 26 Saw one building to day in a ground juniper: it was ~~collecting~~ the barks of the red cedar and as far as I could see, was a male, for it had the black dash under the eye.

1868 Night Hawk.
Chordeiles Virginianus

May 22 Heard two.
" 28 They are now quite plentiful. Saw several males diving down and making the humming noise common to them in the breeding season.
Aug. 7 Saw one near Plymouth N. H.
Sept. 19 Saw one this evening.
" 26 Saw several.
Oct. 5 Saw one.

1869

[illegible] heard [illegible] several.
Aug. 31st Saw numerous small flocks passing South-ward just at dusk.

1870
May 13 Saw at Newton (C. J. N.)
1871
May 22 Heard several at Concord.
" 26 Saw numbers flying about just at dusk.

1870
May 21 Heard a quail
Oct. 1 Cows and have been quite abundant in the swamps around Fish pond. Took several so very fat that the grease oozed from the shot holes and spread over the white plumage.
1871

1868 Black Poll Warbler.

May 23 [illegible] numbers in there during the day and shot three, one of which was a female.

[illegible]

[illegible] it not [illegible]

Sept. 11 Saw numbers in the Autumnal plumage, and took several.

" 24 Saw numbers and took several.

Oct. 1st They seem to have all passed by.

Nov. 6th Saw one to day.

1870

May 17th Saw a male.

" 21 General arrival.

June 12 Saw one to day in Cambridge.

Sept. 12 Found them abundant; now seen as soon & think as the 8th by H. H. Cushman.

Oct. 12 Their numbers are beginning sensibly to decrease.

1871

May 17 The first of the season, a fine male.

" 20 A general arrival.

" 26 The height of the migration: took sev. ♀ in Autumn. plu.

" 28 Heard only one to day.

Sept. 5 Heard several times this evening the faint lisping note of this bird passing over, the advance guard of the migration.

" 13 Saw two and shot one in the swamp.

" 16 Is now getting abundant.

1866

Cape May Warbler.

Dendroica Tigrina

May 23 One was seen to day in a thick growth of young pines interspersed with a few deciduous trees; it was observed to pursue several insects on the wing.

1869

May 1st As I write, a beautiful male of this species, is hopping nimbly through the branches of a cherry tree within a few feet of the window, and were it not Sunday it might fare hard with the little fellow. In motions he resembles most of the Dendroicae, now launching out after a passing insect, and returning with a quick flirt of his full-spread tail, now descending almost to the ground, and, alighting against the trunk of the tree, ascending again by quick sidelong hops, searching carefully, the bark, for any concealed insect, and anon pausing an instant to repeat his simple song (a rather feeble sehe, sehe sehe sehe, rising quickly and ending abruptly, in fact more like the song of the Redstart than any thing else). Occasionally like the Baltimore Oriole, he passes from blossom to blossom, bending forward stiffly, and sucking the honey from each, and this habit I never noticed in any Warbler before. Since I wrote the last he has commenced to sing much louder and bolder, and his song now comes pretty near that of Mniotilta Varia. I have repeatedly driven him away from this particular tree but he still persistently returns, although dozens of the same species are within a short distance. He remained all that day & the next in the same tree.

1870

May 21 Saw a male.

1871

May 25 An adult female was taken in Cambridge to day by R. Deane: it was in company with a male D. maculosa in a thick spruce tree near a garden.

Black Throated Blue Warbler.
Dendroica Caerulescens

May 25 A male was seen.
June 1 A male was seen at Portland Me.

[illegible]

Oct. 5th Seen one at Concord Mass.

1870

May 16 Concord: two males taken (H. H. Bentham
July & Aug. Franconia notch. Very abundant: young just able to fly Aug. 1st males singing as late as early 20th. The young and adult males always went in little companies by themselves, the females keeping in small separate groups: never did I find them together except on one or two occasions when they were mixed in with several hundreds of Warblers & Sparrows that formed one of those great companies roaming the wood at that season and locality.
Sept. 19 Took a male; Sept. 28 a female; Oct. 12 a male.
Oct. 13 The last of the season; a male.

1871

May 15 A male singing in Watertown.
" 17 Took a female.
" 19 Saw two males.
" 22 Took the last a female.
Sept. 29 Took a male in a pine swamp.

1868 Indigo Finch

May 23 Saw a male.
July 20 × Heard a male singing loudly & vigorously.
Aug. 7 × Heard several males singing near Plymouth N. H.

1869
[illegible]

1870
May 21 General arrival.
July 28 In Franconia notch: saw them all the way up the valley to the edge of the woods.
Sept. 22 The last

1871.
May 21 Heard a male in Cambridge Port.
" 22 Abundant very now
Sept. 29 Took a young ♀ the last.

Leach's Petrel

Procellaria Leachii

1871

Oct. 8 Shot a female on Fresh Pond, probably the first ever taken there. It came in just as the day was breaking and after flying low over the surface for a few moments lighted and immediately began plumping itself and sipping the water. I scuttled up to it without any difficulty and shot it on the water.

1868

Olive Sided Flycatcher.

Contopus Borealis

May 23 Saw a male to day: he was very shy and perched only on the tops of some very tall, dead, sycamores, calling out every few seconds phe-bea! this, heard above the rushing of a brook over which he was sitting, sounded very sweet & plaintive. When near him a short pt could be heard before each call.

June 16 Found two nests to day: the first was built on the extremity of an apple tree branch; the other on the horizontal limb of a spruce pine. The females of both nests left them long before I got under them, and sitting on some dead branch near uttered in a complaining tone, notes resembling the syllables 'pill, pill, pill, and occasionally varying it to the pu, pu, pu, described by Nuttall. The males were very quarrelsome chasing the Grackles, Robins, &c. from the vicinity ~~of the nest~~, and once I saw the female leave the nest, and chase a Crow for nearly half a mile. Sometimes ~~then~~ the mated birds would seem to fall out with each other, and would fight fiercely for several minutes. The females were rather shy, but the male of one nest, showed great spirit, darting down around my head and snapping his bill fiercely.

June 17 [illegible]

June 15 [illegible]

July [illegible] Found it one of the commonest birds of the fall of 1861 in Washington, Jefferson & Allegh. Their favorite haunts seemed to be along the margins of the mountain streams, from the summits of the trees overhanging which, they are constantly [illegible] in pursuit of insects. Occasionally a female would be [illegible] pursuing, one another, and [illegible] twitter and then with a [illegible] flight suddenly [illegible]

1871

1868

Wilson's Black cap Flycatcher.
Myiodioctes Pusillus

May 25 Shot a male & saw about a dozen others. They were exceedingly active, hopping nimbly through the branches and every now and then pursuing a flying insect. Their song was low and feble, and somewhat resembled that of the Yellow Crowned Warblers.

" 31 Saw several at Concord Mass: they were in company with several Black Poll Warblers nimbly pursuing their insect prey through the blossoming apple trees.

1870

May 17 Saw a male.

" 20 Took three males. Their song was very like that of Seiurus Noveboracensis, though perhaps rather feebler.

1871

May 18 Saw one; three were seen in the swamp by H. Hun.

" 25 Took the last a female.

1868 Whip-Poor-Will.

May 28 I saw a pair on a rocky hillside, among a second growth of oaks; they were comparatively shy rising ~~etc.~~ about thirty or forty yards, and mounting immediately to the tops of the trees; while flying, the male was quite conspicuous on account of his white tail feathers.

July 28 Heard a male singing at Plymouth N. H.

1871

April 30 Heard the beautiful song of the male in a garden in Cambridge this morning.

1868

Mourning Warbler.

[illegible] Philadelphia

June 1 A male was shot to-day near Portland, Maine. It was found in a clump of evergreens growing on an elevated cliff near the sea.

[illegible] I saw it quite frequently at Newburyport. It on one occasion came across a road, followed [illegible] for a hundred [illegible]. They [illegible] the [illegible] in the [illegible], and the song of the male closely resembled that of the G. Trichas.

1868 Black & Yellow Warbler.

Dendroica Maculosa

May 31st They were seen building at Portland, Me. Last year they were quite numerous here but this season I have seen none.

Aug. 1 Saw a male feeding a young bird in the Franconia Valley.

[illegible]

1870

May 20 Several males.

July & Aug. Franconia notch; quite common; took the young in this first plumage

Oct. 1 Saw one.

1871

May 17 Saw a fine male

" 19 Saw a male.

" 25 A male was seen. (B. Deane)

Sept. 21 Took one in the immature plumage

" 30 Five were taken in the pine woods, in company with D. striata, and all in immature plum

1868

Canada Flycatcher.

Myiodioctes Canadensis

May 30 Numbers were seen at Portland, Me.

Aug. 1 Saw a male accompanied by numerous females & young, in the Franconia Notch N. H.

1870

May 20 Shot a male.

1871

May 19 A general arrival: saw several males.

" 21 Saw one.

" 27 A male in full song in our garden.

Fox-colored Sparrow

Passerella iliaca

1871

April 13 Saw the last, a single bird to day.

Oct. 1 Saw a single bird

Nov. 3 They are now quite abundant.

1872

April 2 Single bird in flock of Junco hyemalis

" 22 Have now probably all gone. Saw only three or four the whole time about Cambridge & heard only one singing. A few were seen at Plaistow by H. W. Henshaw.

1868 Great Crested Flycatcher.
Myiarchus Crinitus

June 1 A pair was seen at Portland Me. & the female shot.

1870

June 9 Concord Mass. Took a pair; the female was on the point of laying her first egg: male quite tame, and silent: female very shy and noisy keeping out of sight among the thick foliage of the scrub oaks where I found the pair, and reiterating in an angry tone with much resemblance that of Turdus Swainsonii.

Sept. 22 Took a young bird in very ragged and in perfect plumage near Fresh Pond in an apple orchard: it was in company with a number of P. sialis, perfectly silent and so very shy that it was a long time before I could get within range.

Long-eared Owl
Otus Wilsonianus.

1870

Sept. 5 Fishing pond, Ne. saw one that had been killed in the vicinity.

" 20 Found a pair in a small swamp near Fish pond: were quite tame permitting an approach to within a few yards, then flying a short distance would alight on some low branch: when sitting their motions were like those of S. nebulosus quickly turning their heads at every sudden sound, then closing their eyes and apparently dozing. The peculiar color and arrangement of the feathers of the face, causes them to present which also a most imp-like appearance.

1871

Nov. 30 Shot one near Fish p. and have now no doubt of their wintering

1868

Common American Coot.

Fulica Americana.

June 3 Saw one on a small pool near Fresh Pond: it swam silently out of the bushes, and then remained motionless on the water, watching me; and once it rose on the water & flapped its wings like a duck.

Sept. 19 Saw the first one this morning. While standing on the margin of a small, narrow, pond, I heard a cackling sound similar to that produced by the common domestic hen, but much harsher, and in a few moments the Coot, hearing an answering note from the upper end of the pond, rose with a heavy whirring sound, and joined its comrade.

" 25 Shot one on Fresh pond.

" 31 Saw one light, just at daybreak, almost in the centre of Fresh pond, & swimming out to it, I shot it.

Oct. 8 Saw one on Fresh pond.

" 13 Shot one on 'the pond'. Became in readily to my tame decoy.

" 16 Shot two on Fresh pond this morning: they were swimming quite near the shore, and only one was killed at the first shot; the survivor however after flying off some distance returned and alighted near its companion when I secured it with the other barrel. Being only wing broken I determined if possible to secure it alive, and after chasing it about for some time I managed at last to catch it. It swam quite fast, & when hard pressed, it would dive, and swim under the boat at the distance of about eighteen inches below the surface, on such occasions making use only of its feet in swimming. When captured it bit and scratched furiously, but when let loose in the boat, it became quite calm, & began picking up small pieces of clay & other substances.

" 27 Shot the last one of the season to day. It was running through the bushes on the edge of a small pond.

1869

Oct. 5 Took a fine male of this species at Concord Mass.

1869

Oct. 14 Took a pair of immature birds, on Fresh pond

" 15 Took three on Fresh pond this morning. They were quite shy of my boat rising out of range, but going on shore, I walked up to them without any difficulty.

1870

Sept. 13 One taken on Fresh pond.

Nov. 9 One came into Fresh pond this morning and after being chased about all day was finally shot. This bird acted in an most strange and unique manner for a Coot. In the first place contrary to their usual custom, it lit near the centre of the pond, where several of us chased it about for hours sometimes flying, then diving, with all the ease of a sea Duck and submerging several hundred yards under water it escaped all the pursuing boats, with ease: frequently we lost sight of it altogether for ten minutes or more, then it would appear a short distance off lessing lightly over the waves. Finally late in the afternoon, it took a long flight & settled on a high bank near the waters edge then ran across an intervening strip of land to a small pool where it was shot. It proved a very old, high plumaged bird. Earlier in the season these birds were quite frequent on "the pond", coming in singly or in pairs at daybreak, lighting near the shore, and unless shot, remaining through the day, in company with the tame Ducks feeding near the out the margin of the water. They were usually quite tame and easily approached and shot.

1871

Oct. 6 Two the first were shot on Fresh pond, Oct. 7 & 8 specimens were also killed, after that no more were seen.

1868

Orchard Oriole

Icterus Spurius

June 19 Saw a male & several females at Springfield Vt. The male kept in the top of a large elm on the skirts of the city, & sang almost exactly like the common Purple Finch.

July 20 Saw an old male accompanied by a female & several young in Belmont, Mass. They in company with a few Baltimores were hopping about in search of food in a newly-mown field.

Wilson's Snipe (contin. fr. page 68)

Gallinago Wilsonii

1871

April 26 Beat the Concord meadows carefully and started only one bird

May 1 Four were found on the Fresh Pond marshes and three of them shot by Mr. F. Nisbit. These were the last of the season. The flight has been in this section of the country, unusually large this year, commencing early and lasting long. We found our best sport at Concord, although we tried Dedham and other noted localities. The Concord meadows are very large, extending for miles on both sides of the river and offering every attraction for the birds. At this season they were covered by a short growth of green grass, and being almost perfectly unbroken by mounds or tussocks, the birds were invariably very wild, rising out of range, until driven back into the elms or broken ground on the edge of the meadow where they frequently lay like stones. Several singular tricks of this bird were observed. On one occasion we started one that pitched near the edge of a broad ditch entered the water, swam across and walked into a thick birch cover on the other side; upon sending in the dog it would fly a few yards with dangling legs, then drop to the ground and run over the leaves like a Sandpiper without in the least attempting concealment. When we finally did succeed in driving it out it took a long flight across the river and pitched into another thicket of birch and scrub oak; here putting it up again it soared directly up like a Woodcock and was shot as it was tipping a high birch tree.

On another occasion, while walking up along the side of the river where the banks are high and dry, we came late in the afternoon, to a small promontory of perhaps a few rods square, stretching out into the river, with a surface broken into mounds and with hillocks. While nearly opposite this, two birds started from the edge of the water, and flying

1868

Short Billed Marsh Wren.

Cistothorus Stellaris

May 25 Heard several males singing to day. They spring to the top of a reed and with tail erect pour forth their strange song: this is varied; sometimes, chip, chip, chipper chipper chip, but more commonly however chip, chip tr. tr. tr. tr. ending precisely like the song of the male Swamp Sparrow.

June 27 Watched a male for some time, which was amusing himself by building a nest on "his own hook".

1870

May 11 Heard a male

" 24 " several

Sept. 19 Took the last

1871

May 11 Heard a male on Rock meadows, Belmont.

Wilson's Snipe (Con. from p. 234)

hit upon it. Upon going to the spot we flushed eight the first rise, and four or five more the second. Of these we killed three or four and marked the remainder down in the next meadow: following these we found that the meadow was absolutely alive with birds and we had good sport till dark. Monday two days after this, we visited Concord again and went immediately to the little promontory where we had such luck before, but neither here nor in the meadow above could we start a feather. We then went down to Great meadows where we had fair sport through the day. Returning in the afternoon it occurred to us to try our old ground once more and scarcely had we entered it when six birds jumped up and in a few moments four more: following these into the meadow above, what was our surprise to find that also full of birds, starting in a few rises twenty five or thirty; all these we marked down across the river and in going back to cross the bridge happening to pass the promontory again we got some six or eight fresh birds. The next day we visited C. again and beat this ground again the first thing in the morning without success, but an accident compelling us to take the noon train home, we were unable to visit it in the afternoon, when however I do not doubt we should have found it stocked as before. All these days were warm, sunny and perfectly clear. Now whence came these extraordinary numbers of birds? we could not have driven them up from the meadows below as we secured nearly all that we saw there, and none of the survivors flew in that direction. Neither could they have been driven in by other sportsmen, as there was no shooting on any of the river meadows on either day, and there are no other Snipe grounds for miles. Another remarkable fact was that in neither

see p. 242

1868 Long Billed Marsh Wren.
Cistothorus Palustris

July 15 I saw several of these little fellows to day for the first time. In habits they are precisely similar to the Short Billed species; they have the same lively, saucy, air; the same irregular, jerking flight; the same scolding chatter when the nest is approached but their songs differ widely, the love notes of this bird being much more harsh & rolling than those of his short billed cousin. The nests of which I found several (all however false ones erected by the male probably to lead the intruder away from the true nest) could be seen at the distance of several rods as all the reeds adjoining the nest were so drawn over and around it, that they only rendered it the more conspicuous. The male scolded furiously wherever I approached any of the empty nests; the true nest I could not find.

" 25 Found a number of nests that appeared to be fresh and as the meadow in which they were built was small I immediately set about searching for the nest which should contain the eggs or young of the cunning little fellow, as the case might be. After a most careful search I discovered the genuine nest, containing five young newly hatched, and an egg. This nest was built among the thickest & tallest meadow grass, and was placed so much lower than the others, that I found it only by accident.

Sept. 19 I heard several young males attempting to sing.
" 25 Saw several.

1870
May 24 Saw several.
Oct. 21 The last of the season; had much trouble in shooting

it as it would rise directly under my feet and fly but a few yards at a time. Frequently my dog would "stand" on it, and when ordered to "Fetch it", almost catch it in his mouth as it skulked among the stems of the tall, rank weeds.

1871

1868

Common Crossbill

Curvirostra Americana

Aug. 6 Saw large flocks of these birds among the Franconia Mts. They were flying about in all directions just above the tops of the forest trees, but nowhere did I see any perched.

Oct. 7 Saw several in this vicinity.

" 10 Saw several.

Nov. 6 Saw several in company with a few of the White-winged species.

" 7 Saw one this morning.

" 13 Saw a small flock of these birds in Waltham, about half of them males and the remainder females, hopping about on the ground in a stubble field, like so many Sparrows.

Dec. 12 Shot a handsome male and saw several more.

" 26 Saw several.

1869

Jan. 31 Saw a large flock.

Feb. 24 Shot a fine male & saw several others.

" 27 Saw several.

Mar. 18 Saw one to day.

" 28 Heard one this morning.

April 19 Saw a small flock.

[illegible] 17 [illegible] male

" 21 Heard several.

[illegible] 1 [illegible]

" 3 Heard a flock.

1870

July 25 Saw a flock of four in Cambridge

" 28 to Aug 13. Very numerous among the Franconia Mts. In company with C. leucoptera were continually flying about and lighting on the spruce trees high up on the mountain sides.

Oct 22 to Dec. 31. Very abundant in vicinity of

Cambridge. The first two or three weeks very restless, always flying about and never apparently lighting anywhere. Last in Oct. took to the groves of yellow pine: very tame and silent feeding greedily on the seeds of the cones and soldiers shrieking at the report of a gun fired directly under them: at times while feeding kept up a musical, chattering with each other, like Spys would do under similar circumstances: only other sound, a loud, clear, call note. Males and females about equal in number. Seldom though occasionally seen accompanied by C. linaria. Rarely observed in flocks of over twenty: noticed also that the same flocks were found in same place day after day but if all killed, no others would take their place. I was sure on one occasion (Dec. 27) saw a pair feeding on the ground in company with A. linaria: very evidently mated as I thought great distress when the ♂ was shot, and would not leave the spot.

Jan. 12 A flock of twenty or more. Jan 27, two males.
Feb. 2. Feb. 22 two on Yellow pines at Concord. Mass.
May 1 Saw a small flock in Watertown.

1868 Broad-winged Hawk.
Butler Pennsylvania.

Aug. 5 Saw several among the Franconia Mts. They were remarkably tame & unsuspecting, allowing an approach to within twenty yards distance and in one instance a bird of this species followed me for some time alighting directly over my head and uttering his shrill he, he, he, he.

1870
Sept. 1 to 9 Very abundant at Forks of Kennebec Maine. Remarkably tame and shot without any difficulty. When startled from the ground where they often sat would fly up and light out of "shot."

1871
Sept. 6 One was shot near Fish Pond by Mr. Deane.

Wilson's Snipe (Con. fr. p. 236)

place did we find either borings or mutings of the birds; this showed conclusively that they were not in the habit of feeding there, otherwise these signs would not be wanting, and both meadow and promontory were ill adapted to furnishing food for such a bird as a Snipe being both of the same character, dry and covered with hillocks.

Oct. 16 Four were shot to day on the Fresh Pond marshes, two were heard passing over on evening in the latter part of Aug. by R. Deane but through Sept. the weather was so dry that only a few stragglers were observed. A flight commencing to day lasted till about the 30 Oct. One day Mr. J. Nabit with his brother, killed eleven birds on our marshes. While on a visit at Centreville Cape Cod I was assured by several old and reliable sportsmen that this bird winters there regularly in considerable numbers, living in springy places on the edge of the salt marshes

1872

Apr. 6 One was Gracilis, R. Deane.

" 7 One by Nabit

" 9 Seen at Concord.

" 13 Four by Nabit

" 16 Snow and rain storm & quite a mig. of Snipe. 14 seen by R. Deane.

1868 Semipalmated Plover.

Aegialitis semipalmatus

Aug 14 Saw a large flock of them at Rye Beach to day. There they were abundant till the 1st of Sept. when I left. They associated with the Peeps and Sandlings, and were found in equal numbers both on the sea beach and on the marshes. Their motions were exactly similar to those of our Common Robin: advancing by short runs they always stood erect, and pausing an instant, they would bend forward quickly, and pick up something, and then advance as before.

1869
Sept. 2nd Saw a large flock of these birds at Shumway's pond, Waltham.

1870
Sept 24 Saw four at Long Island, Boston harbor.
~~May 25~~
May 25 Heard several on Charles river

Red Breasted Snipe

Macrorhamphus Griseus

1868

Aug. 15 Shot six to day. They flew in small flocks, and I called them in with the greatest ease, by employing the whistle of the Yellow Legs.

1870

July 11 Saw several flocks at Sprinck; they gunners then said that there had been a small flight for several days.

Aug 13 to 31 Rye beach: the flight had entirely passed by did not see a single bird.

1871

Pectoral Sandpiper.
Maculata

1868

Aug. 15 Saw numbers to day at Rye Beach. Their flight was rapid and their call notes harsh and low. I found them generally either single or in pairs although they were sometimes found in company with the Yellow Legs. Upon being approached while on the ground they would frequently squat flat like the English Snipe but they were quite shy. I never saw any of them on the beach. By the 1st of Sept. they had become quite numerous.

1869

Aug. 21-28 During this time I found it sparingly at Rye Beach N. H. although the great flight undoubtedly passes much later.

1870

Aug. 13 to 31 Rye beach saw them every day. Single or in twos and threes, sometimes in company with H. minutilla but more commonly separate: affected the marshes never feeding on the sand beach.

1871

1868 Yell Tale Godwit

Aug. 16 Saw the first one to day at Rye Beach. By September they became much more numerous keeping company with the Common Yellow Legs but they were much more shy than that bird coming up to the decoys with less readiness and being whistled in with more difficulty. They ~~were~~ called Winter Yellow Legs by the gunners as they saw that they remain in that vicinity until very late in the Autumn.

Sept. 15 Shot one to day near Frete Pond.

Oct. 10 Saw two to day.

1869

Aug. 24-28 They occurred sparingly during all this time at Rye beach N. H.

1870

Mar. 30th A flock of six was seen to day in a fresh water meadow at Netomiile Mass. (C. J. M.)

Aug. 13 to 31 Rye beach common as usual.

Oct. 21 Saw the last of the season on Frete pond.

1871

April 29 One was seen at Concord

May 6th, 7th, 8th. Large flights passed ~~over~~ but very few were seen and numbers were killed by the gunners. At this season they differ in plumage from Autumn in being more marbled above and with larger and more numerous spots on the under parts.

Great Northern Diver.

1868

Aug. 16 Saw several at Rye to day but as late as the 1st of September they had not begun to fly regularly.

Oct. 3 One was seen on Fresh pond this morning.

1864

16 Saw one this afternoon on Fresh pond. We had a heavy rain storm yesterday which we believe, was counted for his presence there.

1870

Sept 2 to 10 Forks Kennebec. common on all the neighboring lakes; we heard them at all hours of the night and but seldom in the day-time.

Nov. 23 One came into Fresh pond this morning and after plunging and washing himself for an hour or more, flew out.

1871

1868 Solitary Sandpiper.

Aug. 17 Shot one to day and found them very abundant on the open marshes of Rye during my whole stay. They were almost invariably found in pairs and their call notes were precisely similar to those of the Spotted Sandpiper.

Sept. 21 Saw one flying.

1869

[illegible]

Aug. 1870

Aug. 2 Franconia notch. While fishing on Profile lake saw one of these birds, standing on an old log, remain perfectly motionless for three hours, and apparently asleep: early in the afternoon

it had swooped down to the lake, with fixed wings, from a vast height, and after exhausted evidently, at once assumed the above position.

Sept. 26 to 30 Saw Kennebec, saw single birds occasionally.

1871

May 15 Saw ~~[illegible]~~.

Oct. 4 Shot in small pond in the wood at Concord, the last.

1868 Least Sandpiper

Actodromas minutilla

July 16 Saw three to day for the first time this summer.

" 17 Shot fifteen to day on a salt marsh. Their flight is very swift and irregular and their call note a soft mellow tweet.

Aug. 19 They are very abundant at Rye Beach but nevertheless there are certainly three Semipalmated Sandpipers to one of the present species.

1870

July 11 Saw several large flocks of either this or (E. semipalmatus, at Ipswich Mass.

Aug. 13 to 31 Rye beach. quite common going in flocks of a dozen or more in company with E. pusillus.

Sept 21 Saw a large flock on Charles river.

1871

May 13 A flock of thirty or more was seen H. Russ.

" 19 Found large numbers on the Charles river marshes; they kept for the most part alone, though I saw one flock of a dozen or more lay quite close in the long grass like so many Snipe.

" 28 Still abundant.

Ereunetes pusillus

Aug. 17 Shot the first at Rye Beach to day. They were very common there, indeed much more so than the Least Sandpiper. They were found in equal abundance on the sea beach and on the marshes. In their habits they were almost precisely similar to the Least Sandpiper but their notes differed widely, being harsh and low. They were quite quarrelsome chasing each other along the water's edge and uttering a twittering chatter, different from the common call note.

1870

1871

Loon Auk
Mergulus alle

Nov. 15 The whole country along the East coast was to day alive with these birds. A heavy gale from the East prevailed all day with driving sheets of rain, and the highest tide that had occurred for ten or twelve years. Driven by the fury of the elements they sought refuge in the fresh water ponds & rivers of the interior, and many fell exhausted in the fields & meadows. In Fresh pond they were killed by dozens, coming in usually in twos & threes, rarely in flocks of thirty or forty. They were very tame though sometimes restless; several were killed with the oars & some taken alive & carried into the boats. They floated very lightly on the water, frequently rising on end to flap their wings, were continually diving their feathers frequently turning nearly over on their backs in so doing, when shot, instantly killed they invariably rolled completely over & floated with the white breast up. When first at a marsh they usually rose on wing and removed to the other end of the pond; when one was shot in company with one or two others they usually dove rising within a few yards of the place, but a large flock which first lighted usually left the pond. This power of diving so far as we observed was very limited as they neither remained under very long, nor proceeded far beneath the surface. Their flight was slow and rather labored bearing a strong resemblance as several noticed, to that of the Woodcock. They rose from the water with but little difficulty. On Charles River in Cambridge, they swarmed & many were killed, on Mystic pond, Arlington, hundreds were seen, on Punkapog pond, Canton, they were shot in numbers and were even found swimming in a puddle in a farmers barnyard, they were taken up the Merrimac river as far as Lawrence, on Connecticut lake & in fact on nearly every pond & river within twenty miles of the coast. On Concord river at Concord, they occurred in large flocks very much exhausted and

see Page 22

1868 Sandling Sandpiper.

Aug. 18 Saw the first one at Rye to day and they were quite numerous during all the time that I was there. They were found invariably on the sea beach never visiting the marshes.

1871

N. alle (from p. 258)

some were seen alive as late as the 19th while many were picked up dead. On Irish Pond several specimens shot the 16th, 17th were found filled with small shiners that they had eaten. Only one out of twenty seven that I examined had any fat on its flesh, which many were quite emaciated.

1868

Turnstone

Strepsilas interpres

Aug. 19 Shot a very handsome male at Rye Beach to day from a large flock that came up to my Yellow Leg decoys but this is the first time that I ever heard of their visiting the marshes. They frequented for the most part pebbly beaches where in company with the Peeps they searched for their food. Their flight was very rapid and direct and on the wing their varied colors were very conspicuous. Upon the ground they moved almost exactly like the Peeps with which they kept company. The only note that I ever heard them utter was a rolling whistle.

1871

1868

Piping Plover.

Aegialitis Melodus

Aug. 19 Saw two on the beach to day. They kept company with the Peeps and Ring Necks, and their habits were so precisely similar to those of the latter bird, that they can be distinguished from them only by their color, but unlike them however, I never saw the Piping Plover on a salt marsh. (Rye Beach)

1870

July 1 Muskiget island. Common breeding.

" 11 Ipswich Mass. Very common breeding on the sand hills

1871

Bonaparte's Gull.

1868

Aug. 19 Every day I noticed them passing steadily over the sea in a Southerly direction at a distance of about a mile from the shore. In stormy weather however they passed closer in and frequently lit on the beach. Their flight was very even and regular, and they seldom paused or turned aside. (Rye Beach)

1870

July 11th Saw a small flock at Ipswich: quite shy.

1871

1868

Tell Himself for
Tiaopalanu Himantopus

Aug. 20 Was present at the shooting of this bird. He was walking along the margin of a fresh water pond at Rye Beach, and in movements and general appearance while alive he bore so great a resemblence to the common Yellow Legs that I mistook him for that bird.

1869

Aug. 24 Took a female of this species at Rye Beach N. H. It waded about in the shallow water, walking in a slow & dignified manner like Tringa Fuscicollis. When flying also, its long legs made it resemble that bird, and its cry was quite similar.

1870

July Ipswich Mass. several were shot.

1868

Golden Plover

Charadrius Virginicus

Aug. 22 Saw two at Rye Beach flying Southward. By the 1st of Sept. they became more numerous but still they were not abundant. They frequently flew over the salt marshes and one that was shot while I was there was running along the mud in company with a large flock of Yellow Legs.

1868

Surf. Duck.

Pelionetta Perspillata

Aug. 23 Saw either a female or a young bird at Hampton N. H. on its way Southward.

Oct. 13 A young bird of this species came into Fresh pond this morning & was shot. We have not had even an Easterly wind for some time, but last night was quite cold.

1870

Oct. 17 Shot one on Fresh pond; sculled on to it with ease, as it sat with its head buried in its feathers and apparently asleep; this was nearly an hour after daybreak.

1868 Great Marbled Godwit

Limosa Fedoa (?)

Aug. 27 Saw one shot at Rye Beach: its flight was slow and heavy, and on the wing it looked not unlike a Green Heron.

1868 Ash Colored Sandpiper.

Tringa Canutus

Aug. 27 Shot three flying: they came up to the decoys readily, sailing when they got over them not unlike Yellow Legs. Their call note was something like "Pill, pill willet".

1868

Common Tern.

Sterna Hirundo

Aug. 29 Saw one at Rye Beach. I saw numbers afterward flying Southward in company with the Bonaparte's Gulls but on stormy days they frequently passed over the marshes.

Sept. 11 Saw one on Spy pond. It kept circling about over the water and after catching a fish, it invariably carried it a few yards before swallowing it.

" 14 One was shot on Fresh pond.

1870

June 29 to July 2 Found them breeding on the island of Nashagat in vast numbers in company with S. Hirundo and S. Paradisea. The nests were placed on the ground, or the eggs laid on the piles of sea weed cast up by the tides. The birds were continually in sight in multitudes, hovering over and descending on to their eggs, beating about close to the ground like Swallows or out over the water darting down like arrows, on their prey. They and many they universally took there is few hundred yards before us, and hovering overhead just out of range kept up a continual screech that was almost deafening. If occasionally, one less careful than the rest, was brought to the ground by a shot, the others immediately ceased their noise and for an instant there was an almost perfect silence, as from all sides with nearly closed wings they came gliding down to a common centre, the fallen bird, then poising themselves on flapping wings a few feet above it, they ~~hovered~~ hung about clamor with redoubled energy; if another shot was fired and another bird killed they became the most daring and enraged, but if the bird was

missed or slightly wounded only, they immediately dispersed or sailed off with it, as the case might be. Against the Owls (see page 288) they had a perpetual feud, following them wherever they went, and continually harassing them. Their cries were a short hoyt, ~~and~~ harsh, peevish ti-ar'k-r, and when pursuing one another a rolling ti, ti, ti, tee, tee. They seemed to live together in almost perfect amity seldom quarreling with one another. They frequently sat on the bare sand bars for hours in large companies and on such occasions were exceedingly shy. Always neat and careful of their plumage they invariably kept their tails elevated when walking over the wet sands, and we always found the plumage, even of the setting birds, scrupulously clean and free from stain. This bird so closely resembles S. maccorna in notes, motions and general appearance that we found it impossible to distinguish them ~~when~~ alive, unless by the color of the bill, at a very near: the latter bird were however much less in numbers, and lived in a separate colony in a different part of the island. It was quite impossible to estimate the number of birds breeding here but there were certainly many thousand pairs. We found but few eggs far advanced and not a single young bird; the eggers however informed us that late in the season they always succeeded in raising a goodly number of young.

1868

Killdeer Plover.

Aegialitis Vociferus

Aug. 31 Saw one flying over a fresh water marsh at Rye Beach. Its long tail and pointed wings made it look more like a pigeon than a plover. Its call note was a shrill "de de de de".

Roseate Tern

Sterna paradisea

1870

July 1. Muskegat Island. Not nearly so common as S. hirundo, i. t still abundant breeding. Flight much slower and more direct than that of bird, and easily distinguished at any distance by its long graceful tail and ~~short~~, harsh note. Mingled freely with S. hirundo and bred among them.

1868 Sandpiper

Aug. 31 Shot one to-day from a flock of Sandlings and Least Sandpipers. It had all the motions of the common Peep, but its note was a shrill twet and when flying the white on the rump was very conspicuous. (Rye Beach)

1870
Aug. 26 Took one at Rye beach: it is apparently a rare species there.

1868

Black Tern

Hydrochelidon ~~fissipes~~ surinamensis

Sept. 1 Saw one shot on a fresh water pond at Rye Beach. (It was probably Hydrochel. plumbea W.B. 1871)

Arctic Tern

Sterna macroura

1870

July 1 Nuskigat island. Common, breeding on a bare sand bar in a colony separate from S. hirundo & S. paradisea. Habits precisely like those of S. hirundo for which see page 277.

Least Bittern

Ardetta Exilis

Aug. 11 Shot one to day in Arlington. It flew like a Green Heron with the neck extended and the legs stretched out behind, and lighting in the top of a bunch of bulrushes clinging to their tall stems. While on the wing its varied colors made it very conspicuous.

286

1871

Ruddy Duck
Erismatura rubida

Oct. 21 A single bird was taken on Fish pond. Saw them in the market from the W. part of the State as early as Oct 1

" 23 Six were shot on Fish p. the last. have been unusually scarce this fall.

1868 Hooded Merganser.
Lophodytes Cucullatus

Aug. 11 Shot a young female to day in Arlington that must have been raised in the vicinity. It was flying up a small stream and on approaching the bridge on which I was standing it rose considerably: at the shot it fell broken winged into the stream and almost immediately dived but soon reappeared when I killed it with another shot.

1869
Nov. 11th Sculled on to one on Fresh pond this morning and shot it
" 27 Saw one on Fresh pond.

1870
Nov. 11 Took the first of the season this morning: saw them frequently till Nov. 29. They came into the pond in small flocks or in twos and threes, fished in shallow water diving with great ease: were rather suspicious of anybody on shore but I approached them in my boat without much trouble: never attempted to escape by diving when wounded but left the water at once, rising with some little difficulty, but when fairly on wing proceeded with extraordinary rapidity: much more restless than most wild fowl seldom feeding long in one place even when undisturbed: flesh so strong and rank as to be almost inedible.

1871
Oct. 17 One taken on Fresh pond.
Nov. 27 Saw a flock of about thirty flying over the pond.

Short-eared Owl

Brachyotus Cassini

1870
July 1st Nushagat island. Found a number of these Owls on the island: they were all probably one family as the four specimens that we took (and these were all we saw) were two young of the year, and two old birds bleached ~~out~~ to a remarkably light color. These birds seemed to prefer no particular part of the island, but ranged all over it sitting during the hottest and brightest portions of the day in some clump of bayberry bushes or bed of hard grass, and coming forth in search of food early in the afternoon, particularly if the weather was cloudy or rainy, and continuing their wandering ~~briefly~~ through the night. We found in their stomachs remains of the Arctic "Brewer" and of the Terns: the latter however appeared to form their favorite food and on several occasions we caught them in the act of feeding on those birds: this they did in a most peculiar and dainty way, eating only the flesh from the breast, and leaving the head, wings, tail, and legs entire and attached to the nearly picked skeleton: in the space of an acre or two we found as many as two hundred of these remains. Wherever they went they were always followed by a mob of several hundred Jaegers: the Owl seemed to regard with the utmost indifference, hovering with quickly flapping wings at the height of two or three feet, then dropping with the quickness of lightning on the unfortunate prey, with the screaming Jaegers circling about him or dashing down within a few inches of his head: we frequently heard this uproar of the enraged and frightened birds long after it was too dark to see either Owl or Jaeger. Whenever we happened on them in the middle of the day, they almost invariably rose out of range and with hanging legs and clumsy flight removed a few hundred yards and settled again. On one occasion, I was baffled for a long time by one that whenever I approached him, rose ~~high~~ in the air, then coming directly over head sailed about in circles with easy flight far out of range and keeping up a continual, hee, hee, hee, hee, hee; in a harsh and shrill tone. If I left the place he immediately alighted again but let me hide myself ever so carefully he would not come down so long as I was in the vicinity. We shot

(Vol. page 296)

1868 Passenger Pigeon
Ectopistes Migratorius

Sept. 9 Saw a flock of about forty flying over in a Southerly direction.

1870
July 1st Muskegat island. Started a young female among the long beach grass.
" 6 Young female feeding on the currant bushes in our garden; very tame.
Sept. 2 to 10. Tyngsborough. Quite abundant; usually found in the vicinity of the grain stubbles where they fed in large flocks; when startled rose at once to the tops of the dead "stubs" in the edges of the fields; not at all shy allowing an approach in open sight. Extremely graceful in all their attitudes. Flight variable, at times slow and labored as when flying from one tree to another, but when passing over the open in a direct course, inconceivably swift and beautiful. Frequently sit in large flocks in the very tops of the Beech trees where it was next to impossible to find them among the dense foliage; always got under way with difficulty on such occasions making much noise and confusion. About this time an immense flight passed through Mass. when in many places they were killed by thousands.
Sept 2 At Cambridge they flew over in large flocks for three or four days roosting by night in the pine woods.

1871
Oct. 21 A female shot by W. D. Scott in the asparagus bed on the Coolidge farm beyond Mt. Auburn in East Watertown. #170 of Scott's M.S. catalogue. The skin of this bird is probably now in the Prescott College (Mr. [illegible]) collection. I enter this note partly from memory but chiefly from the above numbered M.S. catalogue which is in my possession. March 21, 1888.

1868

Autumnal Warblers.

Dendroica Striata

Sept. 12 Saw the first to day.

Oct. 11 They are now getting scarce, and it is about time that they should be, as for the past month they have literally overrun the county. They migrated for the most part by night, and on clear nights especially, they passed over continually during the hours of darkness, one company rapidly succeeding another. In the day-time every piece of woods was alive with them: they might be seen also in the fields, hopping on the ground in company with the Blue Birds, or clinging to the rails of the fences.

1868

Pied-billed Grebe

Se

Podilymbus Podiceps

Sept. 14 Two were shot on Fresh pond, this morning. saw one there myself in the afternoon.

" 15 Watched two on the Glacialis for nearly an hour & finally secured both at a shot. They were an adult & a young female, the latter of which must have been raised on the pond, as its wings were covered, only with pin feathers.

" 26 Saw one on Fresh pond.

Oct 1 Saw several on the pond to day, the last of the season. Observations of the season. This bird is

x exceedingly difficult to get a shot at: if pursued in a boat they dive once or twice, at each rise showing only the head & a portion of the neck above the surface, and then no matter how smooth the surface of the water is, you will see no more of them for five or ten minutes, when you will discover them perhaps half a-mile off, swimming along unconcernedly with the whole upper half of the body exposed. It is very seldom that you can force them from the water: when they do fly however, they rise with considerable difficulty, but when fairly under way, they proceed with considerable speed, stretching out the neck to its full length, and continually turning the head from side to side. When under no apprehension of danger, they float lightly on the water, showing much more of the body above the surface, than many of our Ducks.

1869

Oct. 11th During the last week I have found them very

x abundant on Concord river. The stomach of one opened a few days since contained in addition to the usual hairy pellet a bream nearly five inches in length.

Nov. 12 One of these birds has taken up his abode in

x a certain cove of Fresh pond, where he has lived for nearly a month. So cunning that the greatest

caution is of no avail in approaching him, no sooner does he see anything suspicious, than he dives immediately, and rises far out in the pond.

1870
Aug. 23 Rye beach. Took one.

1871
Sept. 15 Three were seen on Fresh pond and one secured.
Oct. 30 Have been rather abundant this season; took the last at Concord to day; it had been hovering in a certain part of the river for the last month and had become very fat.

1868 Turtle Dove

Zenaidura Carolinensis.

Sept. 18 Saw one flying over a low, bushy, meadow.

" 19 Saw one this morning, probably the same bird, in the same place.

Short eared Owl

1870

Brachyotus Cassinii

(Continued from page 288)

several by marking the places where they lit, then running up to them at full speed, when they became confused & squatted till he was within a few feet of them: the Terns on such occasions were of much assistance, hovering directly over the Owl and distracting his attention as well as serving an excellent guide to the places where they concealed.

1868 Pigeon Hawk.
Hypotriorchis Columbarius

Sept. 29 Saw one to day.

1869

Oct. They have been unusually abundant this Autumn. Took one to day at Concord Mass. It was sitting on a post in an open meadow and seemed to be remarkably tame and unsuspicious.

1870

Jan. 7th Saw a small hawk to day which I took to be this.

1868

Black Duck.

Anas Obscura

Aug. 15 Saw four at Rye Beach N. H. The gunners there say that they breed in several fresh water meadows in the vicinity.

Sept. 30 Saw three this morning. They came directly over me, although I was sitting in a boat without the slightest cover, answering the quacking of my live decoy, with almost precisely similar notes.

Oct. 2 Shot a female of this species, & saw numbers of others.

" 3 A flock of seven came nearly in to my decoy, swimming with great speed, but when they had approached to within about one hundred yards, suspecting something, they would come no nearer.

" 5 Saw one on Fresh pond.

" 9 The morning was quite frosty, & I saw numbers of them: the greater part of them however, has already passed by.

" 29 Saw one this morning but they are getting scarce.

Dec. 3 The last one of the season was shot to day on Fresh pond. It was among a flock of tame ducks & unlike most of its species, was either so tame or so stupid as to permit an approach to within a few yards.

1870

April 7th Saw several flocks flying over in a Northerly direction

July 11 One at Ipswich, Mass.

Aug. 5th Franconia notch. Saw one on Profile lake

" 13 to 31 Rye beach, came into the Eel pond nearly every morning: the larger flocks however rarely lit.

Sept. 2 to 10 Folks Kennebec. Nearly every pond of any size had its flock or two composed of birds reared in the vicinity: all well on the wing and as shy as elsewhere.

Nov. 19 Saw the last.
1871

Note page 75—

1868

Ruddy Duck.

(continued from page 302)

When feeding, if two are together, one of them remains above the surface a few moments after the other has disappeared, in order to make sure that all is right and then, lowering his head, he disappears with the quickness of thought. Upon shooting one that had just come up from one of these dives I have frequently found his bill full of a species of fresh water shrimp, about an inch & a-half long, and of a bright scarlet color. They very seldom take to diving when pursued in a boat, unless they are wounded, although when a flock is scattered, or a single bird is pursued for some time they will try diving, and in a short time they become very expert at it, showing only a small portion of the head above the surface at a time.

1869

Oct. 9th Five were shot on Fresh pond this morning.

" 14 Saw a flock of about a dozen on Fresh pond.

" 19 Took two on Fresh pond this morning.

1870

Oct. 4 A single bird taken on Fresh pond; East. storm yesterday

Nov. 15 Shot the last to day. Have been rather scarce on the pond this Autumn: very few were seen in Oct. although we had much frosty weather, but Nov. 2, 3, 4 and 5th there were shot respectively each morning eight, 7, one & eight. The weather was not so cold as some that we have had and there was no apparent cause for this flight. They seemed much tamer than usual this Autumn and not a single bird that lit on the pond escaped. On one occasion I heard one utter a noise like the creaking of a rusty hinge. In diving they made use of their wings as well as feet, as I saved by watching a wounded bird. Bleed much more freely than any other bird, when wounded.

Dec. 28 Saw several dipped in Boston market said to have been shot on Cape Cod a few days since. Vide p. 286

1868

Ruddy Duck.

Erismatura Rubida

Sept. 30 Just as the day was breaking a flock of at least thirty of these birds came into Fresh pond, and after circling around it several times, they lit in the middle. As several other boats put off after them, I was obliged to pull on to them without the slightest caution, in order to get the first shot. After discharging both barrells at them, as only two or three birds flew, supposing that the remainder must be all wounded, I pulled into the midst of them, but I soon discovered my mistake, as they began to scatter in all directions, but many of them would allow me to get within ten feet ~~of them~~ before they would leave the water. We killed the greater part of this flock before the survivors would leave the pond. I noticed only one old bird in the whole number.

Oct. 1 Shot several out of a large flock that came into the pond.

" 13 Two young birds were shot on the pond this morning: the last few nights have been quite cool, which probably started them along.

" 14 Two were shot on the pond this morning.

" 19 Shot a number from a flock of about twenty that came into Fresh pond this morning. They were very shy but as they would not leave the pond we secured a good number of them.

" 23 Saw numbers on Fresh pond, but they were so shy that it was impossible to get within shot of them.

" 26 Saw three on Fresh pond.

" 28 Chased a flock of five about the pond all the afternoon. They were however so shy that I was able to secure only two of them, although they could not be forced to leave the pond.

27 Shot one on Fresh pond this morning just as it was getting light. I was attracted to him by his loud harsh notes which were entirely different from the "quack" of the Black Duck or the notes of any other species with which I am acquainted.

Oct. 30 One was shot on Fresh pond.

Nov. 7 Shot one this morning on Sherman's pond in Waltham. The pair to which this bird belonged have lived on this pond nearly all the Autumn. For an hour or two in the morning they fed over the shoal, diving where the water was about six feet deep, but during the latter part of the day they remained in the middle of the pond, sitting close together, and not varying their situation a rod for hours.

" 6 Saw two on Smith's pond, in Arlington.

" 19 Shot an adult male to day, the last of the season.

Dec. 4 Saw to day, on Fresh pond, swimming in an opening in the ice a small Duck, which as far as I could make out through my glass, was a young bird of this species.

Observations of the season. The Ruddy Ducks have been very abundant on Fresh pond this Autumn but quite scarce on Spy & Smith's ponds, where they usually shoot large numbers of them. In the first part of the season they are very tame and unsuspicious, but those that came later were much more shy. When a flock comes into the pond, if they are fired at from a distance and missed, they generally leave at once, but if one or more are killed the survivors remain in the pond, until only two or three are left. They rise with great difficulty owing to the small size of their wings, but when fairly under way they proceed with wonderful rapidity, skimming along close to the surface of the water and seldom circling about before alighting as some other ducks are wont to do, although when very shy I have occasionally seen them circle about high in the air for some time, and afterwards descend to the water again. When they strike the water they close their wings & the weight of their heavy bodies causes them to shoot over the surface for the space of several yards. They sit rather low on the water and swim with extreme rapidity, indeed it is very hard to catch up with them unless you have a light boat. (See Page 300)

1865

Velvet Duck.

Melanetta Velvetina

Oct. 1 Three of these birds came into Fresh Pond in company with a large flock of Ruddy Ducks, & one of them was shot.

1869

Oct. 11th A young bird of this species was caught to day in a cornfield at Concord, so exhausted that it was utterly unable to fly. We had a severe storm last night, which was undoubtedly the occasion of its being found in such a place.

1870

Oct. 23 One was taken on Fresh Pond.

1871

Oct. 13 Took two immature birds on Fresh Pond; they have been shot on the pond several times before this [illegible]

1868

American Scoter

Oidemia Americana

Oct. 3 An old male came into the pond this morning: at first upon being pursued by a boat he would take to flight, and flying low over the surface of the water would alight again at some distance, but at length receiving a wound in the wing, he took to diving and soon became as bad as any Grebe, swimming long distances under water, and showing only a portion of his head above the surface. He was killed the next day.

1868

Pine Finch

Chrysomitris Pinus

Oct. 9 Saw the first one to day.
" 26 Saw several flying. They are exceedingly numerous this Autumn.

1869

Jan. 14 Saw several this morning.
Mar. 24 Heard one this morning.
" 31 Saw a flock, consisting of about twenty in [illegible]
May 4 Saw a small flock.
" [illegible] Saw a small flock
[illegible]
July [illegible] Found them very common in [illegible] at the foot of Mt. Washington. By the first August all the females taken had unmistakable evidences of having already laid their eggs, and the males were in full song. Here for the first time I occasionally heard the male sing a little like the common Red finch, although it was by far the most frequently, the pattern of the song distinguished from it here, late in spring. They fed at this season almost entirely on the seeds of the birches, and were very fond of washing themselves in the clear mountain streams.

1870

July & Aug. Franconia notch. Saw them occasionally; not quarly so abundant as at Gorham last year.
Aug. 26 Rye Beach. Saw several.
Sept. 26 to Oct. Forks Kennebec. Quite frequent.
" 19 General arrival. Unusually abundant throughout the Autumn till Nov. 1st when they began to get scarce. Saw a small flock, the last Nov. 12. Fed for the most part on the seeds of the various weeds, flying in flocks of a dozen or more, but Oct. 17th found them in immense flocks feeding on the willow trees; upon dissection found their crops filled with a species of minute

bark lower: they were now very tame and unsuspicious allowing an approach to within a few feet as they hung head downwards, like so many Titmice, searching carefully every twig & bud for their minute prey, and often not thudding in the heart the report of a gun fired directly under them: in this way they fed for nearly a week when suddenly they disappeared the Willows entirely and returned to their seeds & Birch cones.

1871

April 16 Heard a male singing like Chrysomitris tristis.

May 19 See them nearly every day.

May 28 Have seen none since May 19th.

1868

Florida Gallinule
Gallinula Galeata

Sept. 2 A young male was shot to day (by K. Deane) in a small pool near Fresh pond.

Oct 9 Shot one & wounded another badly: they were swimming along a ditch & when sitting on the water looked not unlike Teal: they rose with dangling legs, flying ~~out~~ like the Common Rail, but rather swifter, & flew only a short distance. The bird shot was a female.

1868

Mottled Owl.

Scops Asio

Oct. 10 Shot a gray Owl of this species: it proved on dissection to be a female.

1869

Nov. 10th Found one to day asleep in a Woodpeckers hole.

1870

April 24 Found a nest in an old Woodpeckers hole; eggs four well advanced; female sitting; male in another hole about two hundred yards off.

June 23 Female sitting in small apple tree with four young ~~well~~ able to fly; young sat together in a row touching each other; male in the next tree; female and young red; male gray. Common throughout the Subdivision: affects for the most part the evergreen groves: notes, the usual wailing hoot, and a long loud rattle very seldom heard.

1871

Feb. 5 Found numerous signs of one of these Owls in and about an old Woodpeckers hole but the bird was not not there.

1870

Aug. 13 to 31 Rye beach, quite common; judged from dissection of several specimens that they were sitting on their eggs.

Oct. 5 Six were shot and many more seen on Charles river marshes by H. Henshaw. Contrary to their habits in Summer they are found exclusively at this season in the beds of tall sedge that grows on the margin of the creeks and ditches. Here they find such a perfect refuge, that it is at times almost impossible to flush them. The best time to take them is when the tide overflows their retreat and they are forced to sit exposed to view on the tops of the floating reeds: on such occasions they scarcely move at the report of a gun and as many may be procured as desired

1871

June

Oct. 7 About two hundred were seen on the Charles river marshes by H. Henshaw: a heavy Easterly storm prevailed, at the time, probably driving them in.

" 9 Saw about fifty on the Charles river marshes. They kept pertinaciously to the beds of tall sedge rising about ten yards ahead and when driven to the extreme end doubling back instead of taking the open marsh. They were on this occasion quite shy, having probably been frightened by other collectors, as they usually keep very close. Heard from them only two notes, one a very harsh low, querulous one, the other a true Passerine chippy like that of M. melodia & the others.

1868

Buffle-headed Duck.
Bucephala Albeola

Oct. 20 Shot a young male on Fresh pond.
" 24 Saw several on Fresh pond.

1869
Oct. 21st Five were shot on Fresh pond this morning. They were quite tame, permitting a very near approach.

1870
Nov. 3 Took the only one that I saw during the Autumn.

187

Least Tern

Sterna frenata

1870

July 1st I saw a pair at Muskegat flying by the island does not breed there.

" 11 Small colony breeding at Ipswich four nests among the sand hills in the space of two or three acres; eggs laid in a slight hollow in the bare sand, all the eggs fresh but in one nest a young bird just hatched and a fresh egg; the greatest number of eggs in the nest three; birds rather shy, hovering round over the breeding ground, keeping up a great noise, all females, flight extremely graceful, & often performed with a great diversity of notes, a harsh croaking indescribable sound and the cries of the common Tern, on the wing look no larger than the white bellied swallow. When one was brought down by a shot the others showed but little concern never hovering over it like the larger species

1868

Ruffed Grouse.

Bonasa Umbellus.

Oct. 24 Saw a bird come into Fresh pond this afternoon, that I took to be a Ruddy Duck. It made the circuit of the pond (about a mile-and-a-half), flying at the height of about twenty feet above the water, and then pitched into a grove growing near the edge of the pond. Thinking such an action singular for a duck, I followed it up and to my surprise, it turned out to be a Ruffed Grouse.

1869

[illegible] at Cambridge [illegible] throughout the year [illegible] the [illegible] month of [illegible] the [illegible] I did not find [illegible] Chickadees also were [illegible] without doubt.

1870

July & Aug. Franconia notch, said to be abundant; heard a male drumming July 30th.

1871

June 17 Found two broods of young birds. Although about the size of Bluebirds, they rose quite easily uttering a chirping note and flying a hundred yards or more and lighting usually in a tree or bush. The mother was very bold, coming up within a few yards and uttering a sound precisely like the whining of a dog, and also a series of chucks in rapid succession.

Dec. 5 Saw one in the market from Me. with the first five primaries from white thus white throughout the rest of the bird was picked.

1868 Canvas-backed Duck

Athya Vallisneria

Oct. 24 A flock of eight Ducks came into the pond this morning, two of which at least, must have been males of this species. The flock was fired into, and two of them "stopped", but both however escaped by their dexterity in diving. I then got within excellent shot of another of the flock, a beautiful male, whose chestnut head & neck, white back, & black tail, were all set forth clearly, in the sunlight, as he floated bouyantly on the dark water, but owing to an accident, I was prevented from firing at him until he had taken the alarm, and got out of range.

1868

Golden Eyed Duck.

Bucephala Americana

Oct. 27. Started a small flock from Fresh pond this morning before it was light enough to see to shoot. The first faint rays of dawn were beginning to light up the Eastern sky, and the pond smooth as a mirror, was lying bathed in the silvery light of the moon: the mingled rush and flutter of the flock, as it left the water before my boat, was distinctly audible, and in a few moments the shrill whistle of their wings began to sound full and clear on the still morning air, as they got fairly on wing and swept about the place in wide circles, growing each moment fainter and fainter, until it was lost in the distance. The effect was indescribeably fine: the moonlight paling before the coming dawn, and that faint, yet clear murmur stealing through the still air.

" 29 Saw a flock of six on "the Lake" but they rose before I could get within shot.

1870

Nov. 8 Shot one on Fresh pond: it was quite shy and restless flying and lighting several times before I sculled within range.

1868

Pine Grosbeak.

Pinicola Canadensis.

Oct. 31 Shot two young birds of this species. We have had the early autumn unusually cold this year and consequently large numbers of the northern birds have been driven Southward.

Nov. 14 Saw several.

" 24 Saw several.

Dec. 5 Shot three old males this morning in splendid plumage: they in company with two young birds were feeding upon the berries of a red cedar tree, and were very tame & unsuspicious.

" 12 Saw a flock of about twenty.

" 17 Saw a small flock.

" 26 Saw a flock of about a dozen.

1869

Jan. 2nd Heard some to day.

" 3 Saw four or five.

" 5 Saw several hopping about on the surface of the snow among some tall rank weeds, on the seeds of which they were feeding like so many sparrows.

Feb. 22 Saw three young birds of this species this morning.

Mar. 1 Saw one to day.

" 17 One was heard in Watertown.

Oct. 26th Heard several. No more seen through winter.

1870

Oct. 24th One at Belmont among cedars. Oct. 30th one; Nov. 1st one; Nov. 14 four; Nov. 24 one.

1871

Jan. 12 Flock of eight or ten at Belmont among cedars.

" 18 Flock of seven or eight among cedars very tame, feed on cedar berries breaking them to pieces before eating, flight rather slow and heavy: light much on the topmost twigs of deciduous trees, always fly in the report of a gun and show little solicitude for assembled companions. [illegible]

1868

Hairy Woodpecker.

Picus villosus

Nov. 6 Shot a young female.

" 13 Saw this morning what must have been the "Picus canadensis" of Audubon, but as I unfortunately had no gun with me I was unable to secure it. Its motions were very like those of the Hairy Woodpecker but its loud, harsh, "kr kr kr kr kra-a-a" repeated every few moments was entirely different from any note that I have ever heard produced by that bird. While I was watching it, a Shrike suddenly made a plunge at it, imagining probably that he had found a prize, but if so he was badly mistaken, for the Woodpecker threw around his head, rise and to receive the would be murderer on his sharp bill, when the latter thinking better of it withdrew in disgust. This bird was very much larger than the Hairy Woodpecker inasmuch as at first sight I took it for a Golden winged Woodpecker.

Dec. 27 Saw one of these birds to day.

1869

Mar. 9 Saw one to day.

[illegible] Found it moderately common in the [illegible] forests at the foot of Mt. Washington N. H.

1870

Jan. 20th Took a female of this species which had the tail so deeply stained that I judge it to be a Northern bird.

July & Aug. by Tamonia notch. Saw only one (Aug. 11)

1868

White-winged Crossbill.

Curvirostra Leucoptera

Nov. 6 Saw several males and females accompanied by a few Common Crossbills.

" 25 Shot a pair of handsome males & saw numbers of large flocks. They were very restless, continually flying about, and I found it very hard to get a shot at them. Some of their notes resembled those of the Red Crossbills, but one was precisely similar to the call note of the male Goldfinch.

" 28 Shot a female to day.

Jan 1869

Jan. 15 Saw a large flock of these and the Common Crossbill.

" 16 Saw a single bird of this species to day.

1870

July 28–Aug 13. Very common in the vicinity of the Profile House, Franconia notch (see page 259)

Sept. 22 to Dec. 31st. Quite abundant in this vicinity; very restless, occasionally lighting in pitch pines and cedars in company with C. Tri. much more active however than that birds and apparently always on wing; very silent when alighted and quite tame and unsuspicious. When any of the flock are killed or wounded shows much more solicitude than the other. Notes, a crackling, guttural, twitter, when flying and a clear, resounding, metallic lisp, call totally different from that of L. Americana.

1871

Jan. 2 Are getting more abundant; feed much on the ground hopping about on the moss: first detected the loud call note in the female. June 3rd 4th (at Chelsea beach). 7th

1871

Jan. 10th Large flock in company with A. linaria; lit on an old dead oak, clinging to the bark like so many parrots, hopping sideways up & down.

" 21 Flock of twelve, all females, feeding on the buds of a small elm tree. Jan. 28th same flock. Feb. 3 again the same flock and in the same place. Feb. 11th. Feb. 22 (Concord). Feb. 28th eight, Mar. 6th four.

March 21 A small flock.

April 29 Came across a flock of five two of them males in good plumage and the other females: one of the former was singing in a twittering disconnected sort of way, something like a young Song sparrow. Have not seen or heard of one before for over than a month.

Red-tailed Hawk.

Buteo Borealis

1868

Nov. 6 While riding got almost directly under one of these birds.

" 7 Shot a very fine female from my wagon: she was sitting on a tall tree by the roadside and did not appear to take the slightest notice of me. Upon dissection I found her stomach distended with the remains of mice but no birds.

" 16 Shot a male from my wagon: he was much smaller than the female shot on the seventh, and of a lighter color generally.

1871

Feb. 6 Saw one sitting on the topmost swaying twig of a small Sapsucker tree.

Henslow's Bunting

1871 *Coturniculus Henslowi*

(Continued from page 342) by an apple orchard. Near the centre of the field however was a slight hollow filled with a growth of rather rankish grass although there is much water there at any season, and here I also found the birds. The male on being pursued took to the apple trees where he sat lengthways on the branch in a crouching position and here I shot him (June 23rd.) but was unable to discover either the female or the nest after a most careful search.

1868

Lesser Redpoll
Aegiothus Linaria

Oct. 31st Saw several large flocks in this morning.
Nov. 17 Shot one this morning from a flock of about a dozen.
Dec. 1 Saw several this morning.

1869
Jan. 9 Shot an adult male this morning and saw several more.
Feb. 17 Saw a large flock to day.
" 22 Saw several small flocks.
Mar. 20 Saw a flock of about thirty.

1869-70.
Sept to May. Neither seen nor heard of any in this State.

1870

Oct. 26th to Dec. 31st Saw several large flocks soon became very abundant feeding on the birches in flocks of thirty or more occasionally accompanied by a few of C. pinus; very restless most of the time: about one full plumaged male in a dozen birds

1871
Jan. 2nd Saw large flocks now accompanied by Ch. tristis, feed on the tall weeds, hopping about on the surface of the snow. Saw 4th (Chelsea beach).

Jan. 7 Have suddenly taken to the apple trees in all the orchards in large flocks feeding greedily on a species of bark louse, very small, of a bright green color. very tame and comparatively quiet, remaining for half an hour or more in the same tree, when the flock flies off to another tree.

1871 Jan. Shrikes always remain: are much more abundant that a week ago: notes: a guttural call note, usually when flying, and the tsweee of C. tristis uttered in almost precisely the same tone: the males also frequently sing, both when perched and in the wing, a short simple, but very sweet, strain, uttered as it were in one breath, and rapidly rising to the highest note when it is broken off. Jan. 10th, 11th, 12th, 17th, 18th flock of one hundred or more.

Jan. 27 Heavy fall of snow yesterday: saw only a few single birds in a long tramp.

" 30 Another heavy snow storm: saw a flock of fifty or more feeding both on the various weedy Chenopodiums and on the apple trees. Feb. 6th a small flock.

Feb. 13 A small flock. Feb. 22, twenty or so at Concord. Feb. 28

Mar. 4 Saw a flock of twenty or more, the males all singing in concert. Mar. 6, several, Mar. 13 – Mar. 15

April 1 Saw a small flock probably the last.

1868

Great Black-backed Gull.

Larus Marinus

Nov. 19 × Saw three on Fresh pond to day in company with the Herring Gulls.

1870

Dec. 26 × Saw a pair of adult birds harassing a Halieus dispactatus, diving down on him by turns from above.

1871

Golden-winged Warbler
Helminth. chrysoptera

1871
May 18th Took three birds of this species all males. Two were shot from dry hillsides among young oaks; the third from a thick birch swamp. One in immature plumage had the black throat entirely wanting; all were singing.

1871
May Seen at Newton by H. A. Purdie.
" 22 Saw five between Dracut and Concord, four of which (one of them a female) were shot; found one in company with a small flock of D. striata, in an apple orchard, the others all in birch thickets; like most of this genus they were quite restless, taking long flights, and the males singularly silent for this season.

1868 Winter Wren.

Nov. 28 Saw one in a old wood pile. He hopped about very nimbly, and vanished and reappeared again more like a mouse than a bird. The only note that I heard him utter was a short, petulant, chirp.

Dec. 4 Shot a male at Fresh pond. He was hopping among the bushes growing near the edge of the water, now disappearing behind a rock or a fallen log, now hopping out on some projection and jerking up his tail displaying all the time great activity & sprightliness.

1869

Jan. 9 Shot one this morning: he was hopping nimbly about over the surface of the snow under the concealment of some tall rank weeds.

[illegible]

Oct. 6th Saw one at Concord, Mass.

Nov. 10 Saw one to day at Waltham.

" 13th Saw three today.

" 23 Saw one to day.

1870

Jan. 4th Saw one to day.

July & Aug. Extremely abundant at Franconia notch. The woods everywhere are full of them: sometimes solitary, sometimes families of young barely able to fly, they are hopping about all the old logs and fallen tree tops: frequently

they followed the chipping troops of Warblers that filled the woods: the females sang as July 29: Notes of the young; a shrill, plaintive, exactly like "cheeke-cee!" and more commonly an impatient rattling "tick tick tick!"

Oct. 13 One in Lexington.

1871
Jan. 3rd Saw one in Waltham: it hopped in and out through the blind underpinning of a barn: ground covered with snow.
Sept. 18 One was shot in the swamps near Fairhaven by R. Dean.
" 23 Four or five seen (H. Hunshaw)

1868

Blue Jay.
Cyanura Cristata

Nov. 28 Saw several to day, but they do not seem to be as abundant as usual this winter.

1869

Jan. 23 Saw one to day but they are rather scarce this winter.
" 30 Heard several at Concord.
Feb. 27 Saw several.
[illegible]

1870

Jan 7th Saw several to day.
" 28 Saw a flock of a dozen or more.

July 26 to Aug. 13. Rather numerous at Franconia notch.

Sept 2 & 9. Forks Kennebec. Me. Extremely abundant for first time saw them continually passing Southward in companies of fifty or more and flying high, frequented mostly the edges of the spring and wood growth birch.

Sept. to Nov. Cambridge: common as usual.
Nov. & Dec. Resident but rather scarce

1871

Jan 2nd 12th 18th Feb. 13 Feb 22 numbers

1868

Buff-breasted Merganser
Mergus Americana

Dec. 8 Saw an adult male and a female or young, on Fresh pond. They remained on the water only for a short time, & then after flying around the pond a few times with wonderful rapidity, they went out.

1869
April 5. Saw several in fine plumage, on Concord river.

1870

Sept 6th Forks of Kennebec Me. Flushed a family of eiders on Moxie pond the young barely able to fly: were told they breed there every year; very shy: rose with difficulty, dived well; notes nearly like those of the Mallard.

1871
Mar. 23 Abundant on Concord river: shot several by covering a boat with pine boughs, when we paddled out to them without the slightest difficulty: took one that had just swallowed two pickerel off of which must have weighed at least ¼ of a pound: found the gizzard completely filled with fish bones

1868 Great Northern Shrike.

Collyrio Borealis

Dec. 12 They have been comparatively abundant this winter. Saw one to day.

1869

Nov. 14th Saw a very white one to day.

" 23rd Saw three during the day. One that we shot was in the act of catching a Golden crested Kinglet, which it pursued for some distance, dashing through the thick cedar branches with surprising speed and recklessness. Near the stand-point of another we found a dead Snow Bird firmly pressed in between the twigs of an apple tree branch. All three birds were very fat.

" 24 Saw one.

Dec. 3rd Saw two.

" 25 Saw one of these birds to day, which although I judged by its white plumage to be an old bird, was very tame, allowing me to get directly under it.

" 31 Took one to day, the same bird and in the same place as that seen on the 25th.

1870

Jan. 3rd Saw one

" 6 Saw a bird of this species in the same place precisely as the one seen Jan. 3rd. It must be a young bird as its plumage is remarkably dark.

" 13th Saw a remarkably white specimen, but he was so shy that I found it impossible to get within range.

Feb. 6th Saw one make a sudden dash into a large flock of Tree Sparrows.

Mar. 10th Took a male. He was extremely shy and very restless, continually flying down to the ground and then on to the next tree. His stomach contained nothing but insects.

1870

Mar. 31st Took a male of this species. He was perched on the topmost bough of an oak, and singing vigorously. His notes were few but very sweet and his song altogether reminded me of the Robins.

Dec. 26 Crow was seen

" 31st Took a specimen in rather poor plumage: it was being chased about by a Blue jay, before which it gave way with but little resistance

1871

Jan. 11 Shot apparently lighted on topmost twig of elm tree: body when sitting inclined above 45 deg.

" 12 Crow at Belmont: very shy; flight very graceful & swift: lighted always on the topmost twig. Feb. 24.

Mar. 7 Shot a female in very brown plumage: it kept flying from post to post of a rail fence, frequently lighting on the ground: its gizzard was filled entirely with Coleoptera.

" 24 Saw one at Concord Mass: extremely shy & restless.

Oct. 25 Saw a ♂ at Concord: it was perched on the topmost twig of a tall Oak tree & singing beautifully. Shot this bird in precisely the same place Oct. 5.

1868 White-breasted Nuthatch
Sitta Carolinensis

Dec. 14 Saw several to day. They have been unusually abundant so far this winter.

1869

Jan. 9 Shot one to day and saw at least a dozen others.

Mar. 8 Saw one.

1871

Henslow's Bunting

Coturniculus henslowii

1871

May 22 Took three of these birds, one in Lincoln & the other two in Concord. In the former place I saw a single male 1870 and at Concord a pair May 25th 1867. In both localities the meadow in which we found this species was of rather a peculiar character: dry under foot, the surface was broken and irregular with numerous little hillocks covered with cranberry vines and at our last visit June 17th with a thick rank growth of the indigo plant.

The first bird was shot on high land in the Concord meadow, we were first attracted by the song of the male, a single sl-ip, uttered at intervals of a minute or more. This note is uttered by the bird either when perched on some tall weed or when concealed among the meadow grass, and usually ceases upon the approach of any person. When pursued they keep the ground until almost trodden on, running like mice through the grass: the flight is performed in a most peculiar manner and is very variable: sometimes it is very like that of Am. candacutus but rather more undulating; at others it is a succession of highly exaggerated sweeps, the bird rising and falling eight or ten feet in each, flying but a short distance than dropping suddenly among the grass.

June 11 Took a pair on the Concord meadow, the female of which showed unmistakable signs of incubation: the male seemed very anxious about the safety of the nest, which was evidently somewhere in the vicinity, perching on some rank weeds and keeping up a constant chirping.

" 21 Found a pair breeding (evidently) on Deacon Coolidge's farm in Cambridge. The locality singularly enough was a mowing field of tall hard grass, on high dry land and bordered on one side

See page 3283

1868

Shore Lark.

Eremophila Cornuta.

Dec. 17 Three were shot to day on a barren, gravelly track near Charles river.

Feb. 24 Shot a young bird of this species. The flock, consisting of six or seven individuals, after performing various evolutions, swept along close to the ground with great rapidity, and alighted in a ploughed field where they ran nimbly over the rough frozen ground.

1869

Mar. 25 Shot one out of a flock that was sweeping low down, over the fields.

April 6 Saw a flock of about thirty.

" 11 Saw about forty.

[illegible]

Oct. 28 Saw a flock of at least fifty.

Nov. 22 Saw a flock.

Dec. 7 Saw a small flock.

1871

Jan. 27th Saw a flock of five the first this winter.

Oct. 30 Saw them flying at Concord: their note is almost precisely similar to that of Anthus ludovicianus but a trifle more prolonged and plaintive.

1872

Apr. 3 Large flock flying over ploughed fields at Concord.

1868 American Goldfinch.
Chrysomitris Tristis
Dec. 19 Saw a large flock and shot one.

Laughing Gull

Chroicocephalus atricilla

1870 July 1st. Nashaquitt island, (off Cape Cod).

Found about twenty fine pairs breeding. nests placed for the most part among the tall rank beach grass that grew on one end of the island: some however were found in the stunted ivy, among the Terns; all were quite neatly constructed of dry grass, arranged in circular form, the number of eggs varied from one to three.

The birds were all adults in full plumage: when a nest was approached, the parent birds would come over head sailing about in perfect silence, at a respectfull distance but when within twenty yards or so, of the eggs, they would burst out into their shrill laughter, which was at once taken up by others, all over the island; this was a perfect guide to the vicinage of the nest, as it was never uttered untill we were close upon it. their flight was extremely graceful and beautiful, performed usually at a great elevation where they would sail round and round in pairs, and at all times they reminded me of eagles more than gulls. Always very shy, and wary, it was extremely difficult to get a shot at them, but if one was killed, usually the mate, and sometimes many others, would hover round; they were easily brought down by a slight wound. their usual call note, was a loud ha-ha. but their shrill maniac laugh was something most unique and startling, resembling no bird-note that I ever heard, upon. We never saw them fishing near the island, but they frequently sat for hours on the sand-bars in company with the Terns; these latter however seemed to be at enmity with them, always chasing them while flying.

1869 Canadian Nuth
Nucifraga Caryocatactes

April 21 Shot a fine male. Crop contained the remains of a woodcock, and the gravel in the tree where the fair ones sitting, [illegible] with the feathery tones, and [illegible] of the Grouse.

1870
July & Aug. Franconia notch. Abundant; roamed the woods in families of five or six flying from one "stub" to another, often lighting two or three close together on a branch. were very noisy keeping up a continual scrambling, which I took to be a call for food by the young, although the latter were so well grown and strong on the wing that I could not distinguish them from the adults.

Sept. 2 two Forks Kennebec Me. saw several but they were by no means numerous.

1872
Apl. 3 Several ~~migrating~~ at Concord

343

1871
May

Olive backed thrush
Turdus Swainsonii Aliciae

Sept. 26 Saw the first to day; Sept. 28 H. Hutchin found the swamps filled with them and took some, including both types; I also saw one in our garden; for the next four or five days the swamps were absolutely alive with them, then they disappeared almost as suddenly as they came.

1869

Nov 4th Saw one to day in Waltham.

1870

May 2nd Saw two, apparently a pair.

Sept 28 Last seen.

1871

May 1 Heard a male

" 2 Three males were seen (F. P. Atkinson)

1870
May 15 Some in male.
July & Aug. Franconia notch. Not frequent.
Sept. 27 Saw several.
1871
May 14 A general arrival: saw and heard several males.

Oct. 2nd Took a female in Hubbardston, Mass.

1870

May 18 Took the "T. Aliciae" variety of this bird.
" 30th Took the last one (a T. Swainsonii) at Hudson, Mass. Have been quite abundant this season, frequenting the dark damp woods & swamps, occasionally come into the gardens. All but the one last mentioned, typical Aliciae seem much shyer than the Swainsonii variety and are very hard to get a shot at.

~~Sept 9th~~

July 28th to Aug. 13. Franconia Notch. Very abundant; examined a dozen or more, all proved unmistakable Swainsonii. All times very tame and unsuspicious; found everywhere in the woods; kept much on the ground; the only note that I detected beyond a doubt from this bird was a low 'y'eow', much like that of T. fuscescens but in a tone higher key.

Sept. 9 First seen; continued quite frequent in the dark woods till Sept. 29 when I saw the last. Both varieties occupied

(See page 348)

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

1870
June
1871

Oath taken at Large Umbagog Me. by R.D.

1870
July 28 to Aug 13 Franconia notch. N. H. Quite adult females feeding their brood of young just out of the nest; frequented principally the dark, rocky ravines up on the mountain sides, where a stunted growth of sugar maples had sprung up; females very solicitous for the safety of their young and bold at such times; otherwise exceedingly shy.

The so called song, peeze, is only a whistle, uttered by both sexes; quite loud, mournful but very monotonous; repeated incessantly by the female when the young are in danger. By Aug 5th young fully fledged; hardly distinguishable from parent, and scattered about everywhere; found one backward brood on Aug. 3rd just out of the nest. They precisely resemble E. trim. in general notions but are perhaps a little more active, and unlike that bird always perch among the foliage never as far as I noticed choosing a dead limb or other exposed station.

1871

354

1871

Purple Sandpiper
Tringa maritima

Oct. Secured a fine specimen in the market, that
× was taken on Newburyport marshes.

Oct. 30 One was taken (by H. W. Henshaw) this
× morning on Whittemore Point, Cambridge.

1810

Connecticut warbler
Oporornis agilis

Sept 8 to 29th. First specimen taken near Fresh pond by H. Henshow on Sept 8th. On succeeding day he took seven, and on the 10th three: all of these were taken in a low lying maple grove of small extent, with a dense undergrowth of ~~Tradex~~ bushes, ~~Laurels~~, Alders &c: here they continued abundant untill the 26th, when their numbers began sensibly to deminish. On the 27th we saw two, 28th three and Sept 29th I took the last one of the season.

At times in the early part of the season this place seemed absolutely full of them; some days we took as many as thirteen, and always on such occasions they would be as abundant as ever ~~on~~ the next morning.

In the neighboring swamps, (and some there are every way similar) a few ~~were~~ always to be found, but this was evidently the great rendezvous. they seemed at all times very lethargic and inactive, keeping much on the ground, where they moved about in a deliberate manner in search of their insect food. I also frequently observed them endeavoring to swallow worms and grubs of such size as to cause them much trouble. Their gait was a firm quick walk, not unlike that of S. aurocapillus. When startled by any thing, they would fly a few yards, and alight on some low branch, there sitting perfectly silent and motionless in a watchful listening attitude that always reminded me of T. Swainsonii under similar circumstances. Whether within three yards, or twenty, now you must shoot, or loose the opportunity altogether, as upon the slightest further movement either forwards, or backwards they would plunge at once into the deepest recesses of the swamp, where it is useless to look for them. I know of no bird so easily brought down by a shot, but if only slightly disabled, they conceal themselves with the utmost expedition, and frequently crawl down into holes, several feet under ground. sometimes as many as six were found within the space of a square rod, each however acting quite independently of the others. On dark

rainy days their habits were entirely changed, at such times they seemed to be migrating, keeping much among the higher branches of the trees, passing from one, to another, and even taking long flights across the open, to the Willow rows on the neighboring road side. The only note I ever heard was a sharp petulant, and almost angry "chip". this was rarely heard, except early in the morning or when much excited by any thing. upon one occasion a pair of them, joined in a mob of Swamp Sparrows, and other small birds, on an Owl, uttering their loud shrill notes. They were at all times readily distinguishable from G. trichas, which they otherwise closely resemble, by their uniformly slow and deliberate movements, and especially by their wanting the upward jerking motion of the tail, so common to that bird. their flight was very rapid, and on the wing they were hardly to be distinguished from S. noveboracensis. They were invariably so extremely fat, as to render the task of skinning a extremely difficult one, some birds had not only the body, but even the head, neck, and wings incased in thick layers of that substance, many such when alive being scarcely able to fly. Out of upwards of sixty specimens, I found only six adult Males.

1870

Sept. 7 Beat this favorite swamp to day for the first time and started three, one of which I shot.

Sept. 12 Saw three, 13th one, 14th one

" 16 Shot seven two of them adult ♂, and saw several more.

" 18 Six were shot, and several more seen, two or three of them in the adjoining swamps. One of them second was a fine adult ♂.