

## General Notes.

THE TUFTED TITMOUSE ON STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.—I shot a specimen of this species (*Lophophanes bicolor*) on the 24th of August, 1881, in a thick wood, a few miles south of Port Richmond, a small town on the north shore of Staten Island, N. Y.—DANIEL E. MORAN, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

NESTING OF THE WHITE-BELLIED WREN (*Thryothorus bewicki leucogaster*).—This Wren is abundant in Northern Arizona, where I saw it and heard it singing most constantly, during the month of June, while traveling from Fort Whipple to view the Grand Cañon of the Colorado. The birds were particularly numerous in the vicinity of cañons and arroyos, and in the patches of red cedar and piñon pine that stretch away from mountain-sides to the valley ground of the Colorado Plateau. At a water-hole about midway on my journey, it so happened that my tent was pitched beneath a cedar where, as I was soon satisfied by their vehement scolding, a pair of the Wrens were protesting against such intrusion upon their privacy. In a little while, however, finding themselves unmolested they quieted down, resumed their song at intervals, and were soon after busily engaged in bringing insects to their family. Having explored a deserted Woodpecker's hole, only to find it empty, I at length saw one of the birds disappear in the hollow end of a blasted horizontal bough about eight feet from the ground. The entrance was too narrow to admit my arm, but by breaking away some of the rotten wood I at length got a glimpse of the nest, and could just put a finger over the edge of it far enough to feel the little birds. I should have despoiled the household had there been eggs; but as it was I refrained, and for a day or two was much interested in watching the happy, devoted pair, bubbling over with joyous music as they assiduously cared for their little family, now coming and going undisturbed by the group of men who shared the luxury of this fragrant cedar shade. This was June 7; returning a week afterward, the pretty spot was a "banquet hall deserted"; so that I did not hesitate to break into the bough and remove the nest. It contained two dead young ones, upon which a troop of ugly carrion-beetles were rioting and feasting. The nest was quite unlike what a House Wren's would have been under the same circumstances, having none of the trash with which these queer birds would have surrounded it; it rested upon the horizontal floor of the cavity, upon a bed of wood-mould and cedar-berries, about a foot from the ragged entrance of the hollow. It was a neat structure, about 4 inches across outside, by half as much in internal diameter, cupped to a depth of an inch and a half. Outside was a wall of small cedar twigs interlaced, and next came a layer of finely frayed inner bark strips from the same tree; but the bulk of the nest consisted of matted

rabbit-fur stuck full of feathers, among which those of the Carolina Dove were conspicuous. These latter birds are extremely abundant all over Arizona and in the dry season they are often at such straits for water as to congregate in immense flocks at the water-holes, few and far between, which alone render it possible to traverse some parts of the unblest Territory. On the morning of which I write, reveille was sounded by the clapping and whistling of a thousand eager wings, now venturing near, then frightened from the coveted water where men and animals were crowding. In other times, the Dove brought tidings of dry land; in Arizona now, where everything goes by contraries, river-sites are many, but the sight of a Dove is a surer sign of water.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

AN ERRONEOUS RECORD OF THE ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Helminthophaga celata*) IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.—In Vol. III, pp. 96, 97 of this Bulletin, Mr. John Murdoch recorded the capture of an Orange-crowned Warbler at the Isles of Shoals, New Hampshire, by the Messrs. Bangs of Boston. I have lately had an opportunity of examining this specimen and find it to be a Tennessee Warbler (*Helminthophaga peregrina*), in the ordinary autumnal plumage. It is but just to the Messrs. Bangs to state that they are not to be held responsible for this blunder, the bird having been submitted by them to an ornithologist of some standing, one in whose determination they placed perfect confidence. Nor can Mr. Murdoch (who I believe took all his facts at second hand) be blamed for accepting the same supposed good authority.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

ON THE GENERIC NAME *Helminthophaga*.—The change of a generic name, especially one long established, is in any case unfortunate, and in the present instance seems particularly so; yet the plain rules of zoölogical nomenclature leave no alternative. The generic name *Helminthophaga*, proposed in 1850 by Cabanis for a well-known group of American Warblers, was used in a sub-generic sense about forty-seven years previously, by Bechstein, who, in 1803 (*Taschenbuch*, p. 548), included under this name the Nightingale and Redbreast of Europe (*Luscinia philomela* and *Erithacus rubecula*); in consequence of which (no other name having, apparently, been proposed for the group in question) it becomes necessary to rename the genus so long called *Helminthophaga*. In proposing a new name, which I am very reluctant to do, I have selected the term *Helminthophila*, on account of its similarity to the one so long in use. It is proper to state here that my attention was called to this point by Dr. L. Stejneger, the eminent Norwegian ornithologist.

Leaving out *H. lawrencei* and *H. leucobronchialis*, which Mr. Brewster has pretty clearly proven to be hybrids of *H. pinus* and *H. chrysoptera*, the known species of this genus are as follows:—

1. *Helminthophila bachmani* (Aud.).
2. *Helminthophila chrysoptera* (Linn.).
3. *Helminthophila pinus* (Linn.).

4. *Helminthophila ruficapilla* (Wils.).
5. *Helminthophila virginiae* (Baird).
6. *Helminthophila celata* (Say).
7. *Helminthophila peregrina* (Wils.).
8. *Helminthophila luciae* (Cooper).—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

*Dendroica palmarum* AGAIN IN MASSACHUSETTS.—The first capture of *Dendroica palmarum* in Massachusetts was that of a single bird taken by Mr. Arthur Smith at Brookline, about the middle of October, 1878. (See note by Mr. Ruthven Deane, Bull. Nutt. Club, Vol. IV, page 60.) I have the pleasure of announcing the capture of two additional specimens. The first was taken at Cambridge, September 13, 1880, and was shot on an apple tree while in company with several other Warblers. The second was shot at Belmont, September 7, 1881, from the top of a yellow pine. The marked difference in the intensity of the yellow of the breast and under tail-coverts first attracted my attention to this bird. Never having met with *D. palmarum hypochrysea* in the autumn, I thought both birds to be of this variety until quite recently, when my friend Mr. William Brewster identified them for me and found them to be genuine *D. palmarum*.—HENRY M. SPELMAN, *Cambridge, Mass.*

*Ampelis cedrorum* AS A SAP-SUCKER.—The Cedar, or Cherry-Bird seems never to be very abundant in this section of the State; but early in the spring, when the birds first arrived from the south, I saw quite a large number of them, and observed what was to me a new habit. They resorted to the maple trees for the purpose of gathering the sap flowing from wounds made by the ice in the bark of the smaller branches. The birds would grasp a branch or twig with their claws, and partially swing themselves under it and drink the sap where it hung in drops. For a week or more these birds were so plentiful and so intent upon their sap-gathering that one was almost certain to find a flock wherever there was a group of maples. I took considerable pains to ascertain if this habit was shared by any other bird, but did not observe a single instance. In the Eastern States I have often seen squirrels drinking sap from the branches in this way, but never before saw it done by a bird.—F. E. L. BEAL, *Ames, Iowa.*

CAPTURE OF *Plectrophanes lapponicus* IN CHESTER, SOUTH CAROLINA.—Mr. Leverett M. Loomis writes me that on January 1, 1881, he shot a single individual of this species from a small flock of Shore Larks, which were feeding upon offal in a barn-yard. There appears to be no previous record of the occurrence of this species in South Carolina.—J. A. ALLEN, *Cambridge, Mass.*

OCCURRENCE OF *Coturniculus lecontei* IN CHESTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA.—Near the town of Chester, S. C., on the dividing ridge between the Broad and Catawba Rivers, there is an "old-field" of some

two hundred acres that has been lying out, until recently, for a number of years. Here and there are patches of newly-sown grain, but the greater portion is now in broom-sedge and weedy stubble and corn land. Near the middle there is a small "wet-weather branch," which empties into a large creek a mile distant. November 11, 1881, in this locality, in the weedy stubble, my first specimen of Le Conte's Bunting was secured. Nov. 16, a second was taken in the broom-sedge near the same spot. Nov. 17, a third was shot, and several others were seen. Dec. 3, three more were captured; two in the broom-sedge, and the remaining one in the swamp grass bordering the "branch." Dec. 10, my last visit to the field, six additional specimens were taken, and as many more were seen. I am not aware that the species has hitherto been reported as occurring so far east as South Carolina.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *Chester, S. C.*

THE SHARP-TAILED FINCH IN KANSAS.—Col. N. S. Goss, of Neosho Falls, Kansas, wrote me under date of Oct. 17, 1881, that he had killed what he thought was a male Nelson's Sharp-tailed Finch. Two days later he shot another, which he kindly sent me. The bird proved to be, as Mr. Goss supposed, *Anmodramus caudacutus nelsoni*. The birds were killed "at the edge of a slough, on the low bottom lands of the Neosho River, about two miles from Neosho Falls." This discovery is of special interest as indicating that the Sharp-tailed Finch, formerly supposed to be strictly maritime in its distribution, may be found locally over a wide range in the interior.—J. A. ALLEN, *Cambridge, Mass.*

NOTE ON *Mitrephanes*, A NEW GENERIC NAME.—The name *Mitrephorus* of Sclater, P. Z. S., 1859, p. 44, is preoccupied in Coleoptera by *Mitrephorus*, Schönh., 1837, emended *Mitrophorus*, Burm., 1844. It may therefore be changed to *Mitrephanes*; type *Mitrephanes phæocercus* (Scl.); including *Mitrephanes aurantiiventris* (Lawr.), if not also *Mitrephanes fulvifrons* (Grd.), and its var. *pallescens* (Coues).—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

NESTING OF *Empidonax minimus* AND *Helmintherus vermivorus* IN PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW JERSEY.—Although instances of the breeding of the Least Flycatcher within the limits of Pennsylvania and New Jersey have been affirmed by Turnbull and one or two other authorities, a precise record cannot perhaps be found that will prove it to breed as far south as Philadelphia. Having found a nest and clutch of eggs belonging to this species, June 1, 1881, and satisfactorily identified the parent birds by shooting them, it is thought that this notice may prove of interest as perhaps removing doubts as to the accuracy of Turnbull's statement. *E. minimus* escaped the notice of the writer till the spring of 1880, when two pairs were noticed in June in the suburbs of Philadelphia, but any nests which may have existed escaped my observation. The present year (1881) I first noticed them in Delaware County, Pa., two pairs taking up their abode in an orchard surrounding the house. Here the above men-

tioned nest was found, placed on a drooping branch of an apple tree fifteen feet above the ground. The species was seen and heard singing about six miles west of Camden, New Jersey, in June, and again in July at the same place; is it not just therefore to suppose this pair had a nest near the spot?

Worm-eating Warblers were noticed in full song in the vicinity of Maple, Delaware County, Pa., as early as the last week in April, and whilst on a collecting trip in May I procured three males and a female in southern Chester County, and on dissecting the latter I was surprised to find in her oviduct a partly shelled egg. On the 16th of June, 1881, a ramble in the woods resulted in finding a brood of young of this species scarcely able to fly; one of them is now in my collection and another just missed the same claim to immortality. The old birds were exceedingly solicitous but so wary that three shots failed to procure either of them.

Near Camden, New Jersey, I procured a female Worm-eating Warbler in the latter part of July, 1880; its actions and the time of year caused me to infer it had young near by. — SAMUEL N. RHOADES, *Haddonfield, N. J.*

CUCKOOS LAYING IN THE NESTS OF OTHER BIRDS. — As far as my knowledge extends, there are only four instances known, in which the eggs of *Coccygus americanus* have been found in other bird's nests, namely, the two given by Nuttall, in nests of Catbird and one by Langdon in Robin's, and that mentioned by Ridgway in *Coccygus erythrophthalmus*. I was not a little astonished to find last Saturday, June 4, 1881, an egg of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo in a Catbird's nest, and near by another one in the nest of a Black-billed Cuckoo. The Catbird's nest contained only one egg of its rightful owner; another Catbird's egg was found broken on the ground. The Cuckoo's egg was fresh, but the Catbird's egg was incubated. The nest of the Black-billed Cuckoo contained besides the parasitic egg, which was fresh, two eggs, both incubated, but one much more than the other, the embryo being fully developed. The parent bird (*Coccygus erythrophthalmus*) was sitting, but left when the tree was ascended and stationed itself on a near tree to watch our movements.

The circumstances attending the discovery of these two eggs make me think that such cases of parasitic Cuckoo's eggs might not be so very exceptional and still evade the watchful eye of the collecting oölogist or of the observing ornithologist. I went out to look for nests of *Empidonax acadicus*. I took my nephew, a lad of fifteen, with me to assist in taking down nests from trees. In passing a thicket by the wayside, he looked in and immediately called out, "a big nest, blue eggs." Judging from the surroundings, I replied without taking the trouble to look at the thing, "a Catbird's nest; let it alone." We passed on and after a little while a Catbird crossed our way. He saw the bird and I told him that this was the Catbird whose nest he had just found. He wondered that a bird of this size lays such large eggs. Inquiring how large the egg was, he showed the size with thumb and index. I smiled and said it was not ex-

actly that big, but he insisted, and I concluded to walk back and look at the eggs, when the discovery was made. Who cares to look into each of the dozen of Catbird's nests we find in the course of a season? We are satisfied to know that this is the nest of the Robin, the Wood-thrush, the Catbird; but we do not think of taking the trouble to look every time at their eggs or young.

Still more likely to elude discovery would the strange egg be in the other Cookoo's nest. In this neighborhood at least are the Cuckoo's nests generally amidst such a terribly entangled mass of wild vine that we do not care to go up for mere pleasure. I do not know how regular egg-collectors go to work; other ornithologists may operate differently. My case may be no measure. I give it only to draw attention to the matter, and I have made up my mind to despise no more Catbirds's nests in future.—  
O. WIDMAN, *St. Louis, Mo.*

[Mr. Widman has overlooked a note which appeared in an early number of this Bulletin (Vol. II, p. 110), where three instances of the laying of our Cuckoos in other bird's nests are given. Years ago when I used to take many Cuckoo's nests each season in the apple orchards about Cambridge it was no uncommon thing to find an egg of the Black-billed species in a clutch of the Yellow-bills, and on more than one occasion, but less often, the situation would be reversed. An instance of the latter kind came under my notice in 1878, when at Belmont, Mass., I found a nest of the Black-billed Cuckoo which contained, besides two eggs of the rightful proprietor, a single one of the Yellow-bill. Speaking from memory, and without consulting my notes on the subject, I should say that at least ten per cent of the Cuckoo's nests that I have found contained eggs of both species. But in no case have I ever seen the eggs of either kind in the nests of other birds.—WILLIAM BREWSTER.]

*Melanerpes erythrocephalus* ABOUT BOSTON. — Massachusetts, at least the extreme eastern part, has shared in the flight of Red-headed Woodpeckers that has been reported as visiting Southern Connecticut last fall.\* During the latter part of September, through October and into November, the oak groves in the suburbs of Boston were tenanted by numbers of these truly handsome birds. I should judge that about one-third were in full plumage, and their conspicuous dress attracting attention many were shot. Twelve years ago the individual occurrence of this species among us was thought worthy of record. Of late years, during the months above named, it has become a more frequent though irregular visitor, but never in such numbers as have recently shown themselves. In spring or summer it is rarely seen, yet an instance of its nesting in Brookline is given me by Mr. H. K. Job, who early in June, 1878, found five eggs in the hole of an apple tree. According to Dr. C. Hart Merriam, this Woodpecker is a common resident of Lewis County, N. Y.† May not our visitors have come from that direction?—H. A. PURDIE, *Newton, Mass.*

\* Ornithologist and Oölogist, Vol. VI, pp. 78, 79.

† This Bulletin, Vol. III, p. 123.

THE BARN OWL IN MAINE: A RETRACTION.—In the Bulletin for January, 1877, p. 28, I added the Barn Owl (*Aluco flammeus americanus*) to the catalogue of Maine birds, basing the record upon a specimen, which I had examined, in the possession of a taxidermist then of Portland. I very much regret to say that I now believe the account given me of this bird's capture within our state limits to have been false. Several other statements in relation to ornithology have since been made me by the same man, of a character so improbable and with such contradictory details that they can only be regarded as wilfully and utterly untrue. Their author has recently left the city under circumstances which dispel any doubts which may previously have existed as to the reliability of his word. I cannot longer be responsible for a statement emanating from such a source, and wish to formally withdraw the name of the Barn Owl from the list of birds known to occur in Maine.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

THE SNOWY OWL AT FORT WALLA WALLA, W. T.—On November 10, 1881, one of my men shot here a female of this species (*Nyctea scandiaca*), which I have made into a fine skin. I reported the capture of one on December 1, 1880 (see this Bulletin, Vol. VI, p. 128), and these two are the only records known to me for the Pacific coast. The occurrence of this species here seems to be much rarer than in the Eastern States.—CHARLES BENDIRE, *Fort Walla Walla, W. T.*

CAPTURE OF THE GOLDEN EAGLE IN CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.—A Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaëtus canadensis*) was shot in Rookdale Township this (Crawford) County on December 10, under the following circumstances. A farmer, by the name of Hull, early one morning saw the bird fly from a carcass in his field to the woods some distance off. He conceived the idea that it would return to the carrion and at once made a blind of the rails of a fence near by. The following morning he repaired to the blind long before daylight with gun in hand, and, although he was well concealed and waited patiently until nearly noon, no bird put in an appearance. Nothing daunted, however, he repeated the watching on the second morning, and about eight o'clock was rewarded by the return of the bird, which he shot. The eagle was purchased by Mr. Roe Reisinger of our city and is now mounted. It is the first recorded specimen, I believe, of this species taken in this county. The sex I could not ascertain, as the entire contents of the bird's body were drawn by Mr. Hull before bringing it to town, but from the following dimensions I should judge it to be a young female: Extent, 83 inches; wing, 24.50 inches; tail, 15 inches. Tail about two-thirds white. The black terminal zone was about four inches deep on outer quills and about one and one-half inches deep on the centre ones. The general color of the bird is brown, with wings almost deep black. The hood extends well down on the nape and is of a light tawny brown, approaching the golden hue probably as much as any of them do. The tarsus is well covered with feathers to the toes. On the whole it is a very clean and perfect specimen.—GEORGE B. SENNETT, *Meadville, Pa.*

THE SWALLOW-TAILED KITE IN DAKOTA. — On November 14, 1881, when a short distance west of Jamestown, Dakota Territory, I saw several Swallow-tailed Kites (*Elanoides forficatus*) flying around apparently in search of food. The day was clear and the Kites were much separated; one even was seen alone skimming along an alkali lake, showing every indication of searching for food. On November 17, farther to the west, about midway between Jamestown and Bismark, near the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad, I saw some fifty more of these beautiful birds, but this time in a flock, and each movement being common with them all it was a glorious sight. The weather had changed from that of the 14th, and was now cloudy with a brisk wind from the northwest, accompanied at times by a slight shower of rain, but this change they seemed to enjoy. So easily did they ride the storm, so beautiful were their evolutions, so much at home did they appear in mid-air, that when they had passed out of sight I was pained, for in this northern latitude such a sight is of very rare occurrence.—D. H. TALBOT, *Sioux City, Ia.*

A REMARKABLE SPECIMEN OF THE PINNATED GROUSE (*Cupidonia cupido*). — While overhauling some Grouse in the Boston markets a few years since I came across a specimen which exhibits the following peculiarities of plumage:

Adult ♂ (No. 2691, author's collection, Boston Markets, February 27, 1873—said to have come from Iowa). Ground-color above warm, brownish-cinnamon. Shorter neck-tufts or pinnate coverts, bright reddish-brown. Breast, reddish-chestnut, becoming almost clear chestnut anteriorly. A band or collar of broad, stiff feathers extends continuously around the neck in front and across the lower portion of the jugulum about in a line with the neck-tufts. These feathers although less stiff than the longest ones in the neck-tufts, are nevertheless quite as much so as the shorter ones. They make a conspicuous ruff which is mainly black mixed with a good deal of reddish-chestnut. The latter color on the shorter and overlapping feathers occurs in the form of narrow central stripes, which in some cases are nearly orange in tint; on the longer ones as a more or less broad, lateral marginning.

I offer the above description solely for the purpose of calling attention to this remarkable specimen for I am entirely at a loss to account for its peculiarities. Several who have seen it have suggested that it may be a hybrid between the Prairie Hen and the Ruffed Grouse, but this hypothesis seems hardly a probable one, inasmuch as none of the combined characters which would be expected in such an offspring are here presented. The ruff does indeed remotely suggest that of *Bonasa*, but otherwise the bird shows all the well-marked structural characters of *Cupidonia*. To simply say that it is abnormal will hardly satisfy the numerous investigators of this pushing age of inquiry.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

WILSON'S PLOVER (*Egialites wilsonius*) IN NEW ENGLAND.—Mr. W. A. Stearns sends me a letter from Mr. Arthur S. Fiske, dated Gurnet, Conn., Aug. 22, 1877. "This morning I shot a bird of this species on



the beach at the south of the hotel. It was alone, though there were several flocks of other Plovers near at hand. In note and actions it closely resembled the Piping Plover, but was larger and lighter colored. Capt. Hall called it the 'Pale Ring-neck,' and said he had seen it at the Gurnet before." The description given by Mr. Fiske (length 7.75 inches; bill fully 1 inch, black," etc.) leaves no doubt that the bird was Wilson's Plover.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

CAPTURE OF BAIRD'S SANDPIPER ON LONG ISLAND.—On September 22, 1880, I shot a specimen of *Tringa bairdi* on Montauk, Long Island. The bird was in a flock of "Peeps" (*Ereunetes pusillus*), feeding on the beach of Great Pond, a brackish lake often in communication with the Sound. It so closely resembled the "Peeps" that I only noticed it on account of its larger size. The skin I preserved, though badly cut by the shot.—DANIEL E. MORAN, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

[This is apparently the first known occurrence of this species on the Atlantic Coast south of New England.—EDD.]

AN ADDITION TO THE MAINE FAUNA.—On October 8, 1881, I received from Mr. Alpheus G. Rogers, of Portland, an immature specimen of *Rallus elegans*, the King Rail, which he shot on Scarborough Marsh, on the morning of that day. This species is new to the State of Maine, and has occurred in New England only about half a dozen times.

Its previous New England record is as follows: (1) Stratford, Conn., breeding, Linsley, *Am. Jour. Sci. and Arts*, Vol. XLIV, No. 2, p. 267. (2) Portland, Conn., one specimen; (3) Saybrook, Conn., one specimen, Merriam, *Rev. Birds Conn.*, p. 115. (4) Nahant, Mass., one specimen, Purdie, this Bulletin, Vol. II, p. 22. (5) Sudbury Meadows, Mass., one specimen, Purdie, this Bulletin, Vol. III, p. 146.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

CAPTURE OF *Larus leucopterus* NEAR BOSTON.—In November last Mr. Charles I. Goodale showed me an immature specimen of *Larus leucopterus* in the flesh, which he stated was shot near Boston. The bird is now in my collection.—CHARLES B. CORY, *Boston, Mass.*

THE GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*) FROM A NEW LOCALITY.—Mr. Howard Saunders, in his excellent synopsis of the *Larinae* (P. Z. S., 1878, pp. 155-212), p. 180, in defining the known range of this species, says that there is "no record from the American side of the Pacific," but that he had "examined undoubted specimens from Japan," this being considered "a very great extension of its previously known range." During the present year the National Museum has received specimens of this species, in alcohol, from Herald Island, in the Arctic Ocean, northwest of Behring's Straits, and from Port Clarence on the American side of the Straits, the former collected by Captain C. M. Hooper, of the U. S. Revenue Cutter "Corwin," the latter by Dr. T. H. Bean, of the National Museum.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

THE SNAKE-BIRD IN KANSAS.—Prof. F. H. SNOW, of the University of Kansas, writes as follows: "I have the pleasure of informing you of the capture of a specimen of the Snake-bird, *Plotus ankinga*, in the Solomon Valley in Western Kansas. It was taken in August of this year by C. W. Smith, Esq., of Stockton, and the skin is now in my possession."—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

CAPTURE OF THE SEA DOVE 150 MILES FROM THE SEA:—On November 8th, 1881, a Sea Dove (*Alle nigricans*), was shot in the Hudson River, at Lansingburg, by Alfred Benjamin of that village. The bird was mounted by William Gibson of the same place, and is in his collection.—AUSTIN F. PARK, *Troy, N. Y.*

ADDITIONS TO THE CATALOGUE OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.—The following list includes all the species that have been added to the North American fauna since the publication of the "Nomenclature of North American Birds." The numbers given these additional species indicate their position in the list; and I would suggest that any author publishing a species new to our fauna do the same, so that collectors and others may know its number.

440.\* *Buteo fuliginosus* *Scl.* LITTLE BLACK HAWK.

440.\*\* *Buteo brachyurus* *Vieill.* SHORT-TAILED HAWK; WHITE-FRONTED HAWK.

708.\* *Puffinus borealis* *Cory.* NORTHERN SHEARWATER.

717.\* *Cestrelata gularis* (*Peale*) *Brewster.* PEALE'S PETREL.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

NOTES ON SOME BIRDS OF THE BELT MOUNTAINS, MONTANA TERRITORY.—The following observations were made in the southern range of the Belt Mountains, latitude about 46° 30', some miles to the west and south of the head-waters of the Musselshell, from which the land, intersected by frequent smaller streams, gradually rises to the foot of the low mountains, which are mostly forest-clad and of some 6,000 feet elevation. The streams have little or no timber save in the mountains or among the foothills where scattering firs appear; but willows grow in dense thickets along the bank, striving apparently by numbers to make up for any lack in size.

The notes extend from June 22 to July 3, 1880, three days excepted, when the writer was absent. All the birds were found within an area of a square mile, perhaps less, but the locality was unusually favorable, including several patches of burnt timber, a large open tract stretching up the mountain side to almost the summit, and two streams flowing in rather open cañons with clumps of willows on either bank.

Several interesting birds which were sought for unsuccessfully at this time I have since found in the Belt Range, viz. *Cinclus mexicanus*, *Cyanocitta stelleri* (*macrolopha*?) and *Tetrao canadensis franklini*. Skins of most of the species mentioned were preserved.

1. *Turdus migratorius propinquus*. — Common. A bird nesting June 25.
2. *Turdus fuscescens*. — Found only in the cañons. Common.
3. *Sialia arctica*. — Nesting in deserted Woodpecker's holes.
4. *Regulus calendula*. — Everywhere among the firs.
5. *Parus montanus*. — Common. It never whistles more than two successive notes, at least I have never heard it.
6. *Sitta carolinensis aculeata*. — One pair found breeding in the knot-hole of a large fir. Young hatched on or shortly before the 25 June.
7. *Neocorys spraguei*. — A pair breeding on a high, grass-covered knoll just outside the timber. The male was often observed flying high overhead, constantly shifting his position, but keeping at about the same elevation while uttering his song—a rather monotonous carol, unless one is sufficiently near to hear the wonderful resonance of the blended notes.
8. *Dendroeca auduboni*. — Common.
9. *Pyranga ludoviciana*. — Rather common. A female observed nest-building June 26, the male meantime singing in a neighboring tree-top. July 3 the nest was apparently completed but without eggs. It was built in a fir some thirty feet from the ground and about midway on a small horizontal limb where several twigs projected out on either side.
10. *Cotyle riparia*. — Swallows apparently of this species were seen flying high overhead. Their homes were found lower down on the streams.
11. *Vireo gilvus swainsoni*. — A common bird in the cañons.
12. *Carpodacus purpureus*. — Two individuals observed.
13. *Chrysomitris pinus*. — A flock of these restless little creatures appeared almost daily, uttering their querulous notes.
14. *Poecetes gramineus confinis*. — Common on the grassy slopes.
15. *Melospiza fasciata fallax*. — Occasional among the willows of the streams.
16. *Junco oregonus*. — Apparently this form was not uncommon.
17. *Spizella socialis*. — Abundant in the patches of dead timber.
18. *Cyanospiza amœna*. — Not uncommon but confined to the willows etc. along the streams.
19. *Sturnella magna neglecta*. — Breeding on the grassy hillsides.
20. *Picicorvus columbianus*. — Occasional. Much commoner lower down among the scattered firs of the *coulées*.
21. *Perisoreus canadensis capitalis*. — A single bird shot July 2. It was almost full-grown, but in the "fluffy" plumage peculiar to young birds.
22. *Contopus borealis*. — One bird seen.
23. *Contopus virens richardsoni*. — Common.
24. *Chordiles virginianus henryi*. — In dead timber, common.
25. *Picus villosus*. — Young of perhaps a week old were found on the 25th of June.
26. *Picoides arcticus*. — Rather common.
27. *Picoides americanus dorsalis*. — Two or three specimens noted.

28. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.— One bird observed.
29. *Colaptes mexicanus*.— Common. The young of this species doubtless hatching on June 28, as an old bird was seen carrying out and dropping, a hundred or two yards from the nest, the fragment of an egg shell at that time.
30. *Buteo borealis*.— Hawks apparently of this species occasionally observed.
31. *Bonasa umbellus umbelloides*.— Not common. Is mostly found in the cotton-wood timber of the valleys.
32. *Tetrao obscurus richardsoni*.— Not as common here as in some other localities of the Belt Mountains. They prefer rough and rocky ledges with only a moderate growth of fir to denser forests. Occasionally one finds them outside of the mountains, but only among the scattered clumps of fir growing on the high bluffs of some of the streams. Their "tooting" is a low, muffled sort of cooing, uttered without vigor, or any visible effort on the bird's part, which may be squatting on some rock at the time.
33. *Tringoides macularius*.— Found on the streams.— R. S. WILLIAMS, *Benton, W. T.*

REMARKS ON SOME WESTERN VERMONT BIRDS.— The Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, Sw.), is a strangely erratic species. Mr. C. S. Paine has taken but a single specimen in the eastern part of the State, and five years ago it was a very rare species about here (Brandon). Now they are nearly as abundant as the common Golden-wings. At Orwell, only ten miles to the west, they outnumber the Golden-wings, and appear to be on the increase. Dr. C. H. Merriam mentions (Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club, Vol. III, No. 3, p. 124) their remaining in Northern New York during some of the severest winters known. I have never observed them in this vicinity later than the 2d of October, except in one instance (January 7, 1879), when I took a single specimen. At Rutland, sixteen miles south of Brandon, Mr. Jenness Richardson informs me that they are a resident species, being as abundant in winter as in summer. They were particularly abundant about here during August and September, 1879, being attracted, no doubt, by the great abundance of black cherries (*Prunus serotina*), which they appear to relish greatly. I have frequently observed this species to employ the same nest for several successive seasons.

The Pileated Woodpecker (*Hylotomus pileatus*, Bd.), is by no means as rare as might be expected in so thickly populated a section. Not a year passes but that from one to five specimens are taken. I have notes of at least fifteen specimens, taken during the last four or five years, all of which occurred from the month of September to May, inclusive; the last record being the capture of two young females, September 28, 1881. Of the remaining *Picidæ*, *Sphyrapicus varius* is a rather rare summer visitant; *Picoides arcticus*, a very rare winter visitant: while *Picus pubescens* and *P. villosus* are resident species, the former being by far the most abundant.

During the winter of 1880-81, no less than seven specimens of the little Acadian Owl (*Nyctale acadica*) were taken, all within a few days' time. Two specimens of the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) were also taken at the same time. During the fall of 1879, a fine specimen of the American Raven (*Corvus corax carnivorus*) remained in this immediate vicinity for nearly a month, but successfully eluded capture. A single specimen of the Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) was taken in December, 1874.

Although the recorded instances of the breeding of the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) in New England are rather numerous, the following notes may not be entirely devoid of interest. One rainy day last season (June 5, 1880) as I was seated on the porch of a neighbor's house, my attention was attracted by a Shrike flying past several times. I watched the bird and saw it fly to the top of an old apple tree. The tree was not more than *two rods* from the house, and was densely overrun with a large grape vine. I climbed the tree, and, about twenty feet from the ground, found the nest, and, much to my disappointment, found no eggs, but four nearly fledged young. The old birds were very tame, and flew about within a few feet of my head.

This season I visited the locality May 16, and was fortunate enough to find a nest and four fresh eggs. The nest was in an apple tree, perhaps three rods from the nest of last year; was composed of coarse sticks and weeds, very deeply hollowed, and lined with wool and twine. I took both parent birds with the nest, thus rendering the identification positive.

A few days after this (May 23, 1881) some boys told me they had found a "Cat Bird's" nest in an apple tree, about a mile from the vicinity of the other nests. They had climbed the tree, and said "the old bird flew at them, and snapped her bill *hard!*" I knew this to be a Shrike, and, when I visited the place, had the pleasure of securing another nest, containing six eggs, with the female parent. The nest was much like the other, but was perhaps deeper, and lined entirely with feathers.

The Great Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis*) is a rather rare species, being most frequently observed in spring.

The Scarlet Tanagers (*Pyrranga rubra*) first made their appearance about here in the summer of 1875, when a single pair nested. Since then they have gradually increased until probably twenty pairs nested the past season. Strange as it may seem, I have never taken the common Titlark (*Authus ludovicianus*) during the spring migrations, although they are usually abundant in the fall.—F. H. KNOWLTON, *Brandon, Vt.*

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ERRATUM.—In Vol. VI, p. 199, lines 9 and 10, for "centimeters" read millimeters.