

are aware that an Owl has any commercial value, although every one shoots the despised bird at sight. Thus for every one preserved a dozen were probably thrown away. As instancing this, I quote the following from a short note in 'Forest and Stream',\* signed Ned Norton, and dated at Colebrooke, N. H., Dec. 1:—"Hawk Owls came three weeks ago in greater numbers than ever seen before. Farmers' sons have been killing them all over the country."

The account of this species in 'New England Bird Life' (Part II, p. 96) would lead one to infer that while "a rare and irregular winter visitor to Massachusetts," it is of regular and rather common occurrence throughout Northern New England. This is certainly a mistake, as every collector who has any practical knowledge of our fauna knows. Indeed the bird is ordinarily one of the very rarest of our Owls—so rare, in fact, that during an experience of some twenty years previous to 1884 I had never seen either a living or freshly-killed specimen.

In respect to the remarkable migration just described, it may be well to add that all the specimens which I have examined belong to the American form, *Surnia funerea* (L.) Rich. & Sw.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

**The Turkey Buzzard in Central New York.**—I have lately examined all that remains of a *Cathartes aura* which was killed in Oneida County, N. Y., in May, 1879. When first seen he was in company with three others in a small grove in Westmoreland Township, and was shot by Mr. Lavello J. Groves, of that town, who had him mounted and preserved. This is certainly the first record for the County and, I think, for this part of the State.—EGBERT BAGG, JR., Utica, N. Y.

**Recent Occurrence of the Black Vulture in Ohio.**—A Black Vulture (*Catharista atrata*), in company with some Crows, flew into the Zoölogical Garden on the afternoon of Dec. 4, 1884. Spying one of the same species in one of the outer aviaries, it deserted its companions and alighted on the wire netting covering the aviary. From thence it flew on to the lower limb of a large tree just opposite, and becoming frightened at the attempts of the keepers to capture it, circled to a great height and slowly sailed off in an easterly direction.—FRANK J. THOMPSON, Zoölogical Garden, Cincinnati, O.

**A New Bird for Illinois.**—In a letter from Mr. Ridgway, dated Oct. 25, 1884, he says: "Among the lot of birds you sent us last week was a specimen of *Buteo borealis krideri* (orig. No. 575), a very typical specimen, from Halfday, Illinois, July 25, 1876. This specimen is particularly acceptable since the race was previously unrepresented in our collection. It also adds one bird to the fauna of Illinois!" Referring to my Record I find that No. 575 was one of two large Hawks (the other a *Buteo borealis*) brought into camp by one of our party while on a collecting trip along

\* Vol. XXIII, No. 19, Dec. 4, 1884, p. 368.