

The Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*) in Massachusetts.— In the month of December, 1884, I found, in the barn of Mr. Geo. A. Tapley, in the town of Revere, Mass., the dried skin of a bird which Mr. Tapley thought was that of a 'strange Whip-poor-will.' The bird was intact, and at first sight one would suppose it to be a stuffed instead of a dried specimen. Attracted by the large size of the bird, the yellow coloration of the plumage, and other signs, I thought I had discovered a species new to this State; namely, the Chuck-will's-widow, or Southern Whip-poor-will. On presenting the specimen to Mr. Allen, of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, my opinion was confirmed. Mrs. Tapley says the bird was caught in October by a cat. I need not say that I am greatly pleased with having been the means of adding a new species to the list of Massachusetts birds. That the specimen was weak enough to be caught by a cat seems to indicate that it may have been *blown* to our State by a gale.— FLETCHER OSGOOD, *Chelsea, Mass.*

The Hawk Owl in Eastern Massachusetts.— Mr. Brewster's interesting article on *Surnia funerea* in the last number of 'The Auk' (Jan., 1885, p. 108) reminds me that I have in my notebook a record of an example which I have neglected to make public. This, perhaps, should be done, as it antedates, so far as I can learn, all previous records, when the year is certainly given, for Massachusetts.

The Hawk Owl is mentioned in Mr. Peabody's 'Report' of 1839, but merely in a general way—"seldom wanders into New England." It does not appear in Mr. Allen's 'List' of 1864, but is given in his 'List' of 1878, as 'very rare.' Mr. Babcock's specimen, noted in the 'American Naturalist,' 1869, was taken, as Mr. Babcock informs me, in 1862 or 1863.

In January, 1860, a neighbor called with the request that I would come and see a strange Owl he had just shot, and, being merely wing-tipped, had put in a cage with the view of making a pet of him. I found it to be of this species. His wing healed, and he became fairly tame, and on occasional visits I found he bore confinement well, and his good appetite made a constant demand on his keeper. This state of things continued more than a year; but in the spring of 1861, being exposed one night to a sudden fierce and cold storm, which beat into his cage on account of a change of wind, he was found the next morning dead under the perch. He was brought to me according to request, but his plumage, of course already injured by confinement, was in such a deplorable condition, from the soaking and filth at the bottom of the cage, that my courage was not equal to the occasion, and I reluctantly threw him away.— F. C. BROWNE, *Framingham, Mass.*

The Ptarmigan of Anticosti—a Correction.— In a recent paper* on some birds observed in the Gulf of St. Lawrence I followed Verrill † in

* 'Notes on the Birds observed during a Summer Cruise in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.' Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXII, Oct. 3, 1883, pp. 364-412.

† Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. IX, Dec. 1862, p. 138.

referring the Ptarmigan of Anticosti to *Lagopus albus*. My single adult specimen from that Island was a female, which, of course, lacked the black loreal stripe so diagnostic of the male of *L. rupestris*. Upon comparing it with some Rock and Willow Ptarmigan from Newfoundland (the only material available at the time) I found it resembled the latter rather closely in general coloration and in this respect differed very decidedly from the former. Accordingly I concluded that it must be *L. albus*, quite overlooking certain important discrepancies in size and proportions. To tell the truth, the comparison was made very hastily, for, from the fact that the bird had been shot in a dense forest, miles from any open rocky country such as the Rock Ptarmigan is said to inhabit, I had already quite made up my mind regarding it.

A re-examination, however, convinces me that the specimen in question is really *L. rupestris*; indeed, Mr. Ridgway, who has kindly compared it for me with the material in the National Museum, decides that it is indistinguishable from the bird found on the mainland of North America at large.

It has further transpired that the Willow Ptarmigan of Newfoundland is varietally separable from true *albus*, while the Rock Ptarmigan of that island is apparently even specifically distinct from *L. rupestris*. Thus I was misled by material which, to say the least, was far from typical.

Of course it is by no means settled that all the Ptarmigan on Anticosti are *L. rupestris*, but in view of these developments Verrill's record of *albus* there (he saw no specimens) requires confirmation. — WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

A Blue Heron's Meal.—There is a heronry not far from my home, and during the breeding season the great broad-winged birds can be seen day and night flying between their nests and the seaside. I once surprised one ready to start back with its finny burden, and becoming alarmed it disgorged ten good-sized fish before it mounted into the air. Is this not an unusual load for this bird to carry?—FRANCIS BAIN, *North River, P. E. I.*

Wood Ibis (*Tantalus loculator*) in Eastern New York.—Mr. Howard Burhans, of Glasco, Ulster County, N. Y., informs me that he had a fine adult Wood Ibis sent to him for mounting. The bird was shot by the late Howard Tipp, on July 8, 1884, near Glennie Falls, which is west from Glasco, and about one and a half miles from the Hudson. It was discovered in a low swampy meadow, and was so tame that it was easily approached.—A. K. FISHER, M. D., *Sing Sing, N. Y.*

Wilson's Plover in Nova Scotia.—I shot on Brier Island, April 28, 1880, a female *Ochthodromus wilsonius*, and have the same in my collection. The wind was blowing very hard from the southeast, and I think carried the bird off the shore by and beyond her intended destination; at any rate she appeared tired, alighting directly on reaching the shore, resting