

bler taken May 9, 1886, I had no idea that I should ever shoot another in Massachusetts. During the following August, however, I took two more in Concord, one August 17, on the banks of the main river about a mile below the town, the other August 23, on the Assabet, within fifty yards of the spot where the first (May) specimen was obtained. The first of these August birds was a young female, the second an adult male; both had completed the summer moult and perfected the autumnal plumage. I saw and fully identified each on the day before it was shot, Mr. Purdie being with me on one occasion (Aug. 22) as well as examining the freshly-killed specimen next day.

Both birds were restless and rather shy, flitting from place to place, frequently crossing and recrossing the narrow stream. For the most part they kept well up in the trees, seeming to prefer the denser foliaged ones, especially the swamp oaks (*Quercus bicolor*) among the broad, dark leaves of which they concealed themselves so successfully that I had the greatest difficulty in getting even a glimpse at them. They seemed perfectly at home in their strange surroundings, as indeed they might well be, for both the Concord and Assabet Rivers, with their densely-wooded banks and half-submerged thickets of black willows and button bushes, afford plenty of just such places as the Prothonotary delights in at the South and West.

Viewed in the light of this later experience the status of the Prothonotary Warbler as a Massachusetts bird presents an interesting problem. The May specimen, considered apart, might be consistently treated as a chance straggler from the South, especially as it occurred just after a storm which prevailed along our entire eastern coast; but the appearance of two others, one of them a young bird, in the same locality, at the height of the return migration, seems to indicate that during 1886, at least, there has been a regular, if limited, flight into and from New England, and that the species has actually bred either within or to the northward of this region. That such a visitation is of annual recurrence is more doubtful, but it is certainly not impossible, especially when we consider that the Prothonotary is a bird of peculiar habits and tastes, and that the haunts which it loves are, in this region, neither numerous nor often visited by collectors.

—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

An Earlier Occurrence of the Prothonotary Warbler in Massachusetts.

—In the last issue of 'The Auk' my friend Mr. Brewster, announces his taking a *Protonotaria citrea* in Concord, very properly considering it the first for the State, and I am aware that he will in the October number record his capture of two more in the same town, one of which I had the great pleasure of seeing alive as well as afterwards handling in the flesh. Let me note a fourth specimen that I have seen in the possession of Mr. George Dwelley. He assures me that he shot the bird, a male, from the foliage overhanging a creek, it falling into the water. This was in spring, several years ago, but not previous to 1880, in the town of South Abington, Plymouth County.—H. A. PURDIE, *Boston, Mass.*