

Occurrence of *Calcarius ornatus* in Maine.—Early on the morning of August 13, 1886, while sitting in a blind on the Little River marshes, near Pine Point, Me., I noticed a small bird flying restlessly about overhead. From its peculiar flight and notes I took it to be a Titlark. Rather surprised to see one so early in the season, I watched it carefully, and, when it finally alighted not far away, I went after it. My attempt to secure it was unsuccessful, however, owing to my gun missing fire, and it flew off to the other side of the river, where I lost sight of it. Several hours later, while returning by the same place, I saw what was presumably the same bird, flying about from one place to another. Finally I fired at it, as it rose from the grass before me, and had the pleasure of seeing it fall. I must confess that on picking it up I was completely at a loss to know what it was. I did not feel sure regarding it till several months later, when looking over one day, in company with Mr. Chadbourne, the large series of *Calcarius ornatus* in the Agassiz Museum at Cambridge, we discovered one specimen which matched my bird in every particular. Mr. Brewster, to whom I showed it later, identified it as *ornatus* without doubt. The bird is of very small size, and, as far as plumage goes, lacks, with the exception of the tail-markings, every sign of belonging to this species. It is apparently a young male, though the sex could not positively be determined.—JOSEPH L. GOODALE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Object of the Shrike in Impaling its Prey.—I see that in Coues's 'Key to North American Birds' it is said to be still a puzzle to know what the Shrike intends by sticking insects and small animals on thorns. The explanation seems easy enough to me, and I give it for what it is worth. The Shrike, like many other birds and animals of prey, seems inclined to kill as long as there is opportunity, regardless of being able to use. The Shrike, not being fitted in claws or beak for tearing, as Hawks are, I think fixes its prey on thorns for the purpose of giving it a greater purchase in tearing it to pieces. I have been watching them often lately along the line of the railroad where they make use of the barbs on the wire fences for impaling the large grasshoppers they seem mostly to feed on. I often see them catch three or four in succession, but I think they rarely use more than one, and grasshoppers being so plentiful at this season I do not think that Shrikes ever come back to them, though they may do so in winter.—JAMES WHYTE, *Houston, Texas.*

Additional Occurrences of the Connecticut Warbler in Maine.—On seeing Mr. Merrill's note in the July number of 'The Auk' (Vol. III, p. 413) last summer, on the status of the Connecticut Warbler in Maine, I was reminded of a bird which I had taken in September, 1885, at Saco, which I had supposed to be of this species. At the time of reading the note I was away from Cambridge, and, being unwilling to send any communication regarding my bird until I had examined it again, was obliged to wait until October. Before that time, however, I had the pleasure of taking two more specimens at Saco. The first was taken September 8,