

easily be raised, and become perfectly tame. The breeding season is a long one, as I had a very young bird in the downy stage sent me alive on September 17. Its appearance is as follows: Upperparts glossy black, the lower parts sooty, the throat, cheeks, and top of head with silvery white hairs. The base of bill is yellowish, the lower mandible, and part of upper jet black with a white spot, which rises to a point on the tip of upper mandible; this white spot resembles 'white lead.' The wings are also covered with silvery hairs.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Charleston, S. C.*

**Unexpected Occurrence of Certain Shore Birds in Texas in Midsummer and in Breeding Plumage.—**

*Macrorhamphus griseus*. DOWITCHER.—June 11, two adults, ♂ and ♀, in full breeding plumage, and two immature birds in the act of moulting or changing from winter to summer dress.

*Macropalama himantopus*. STILT SANDPIPER.—July 3, one adult female in breeding plumage.

*Tringa canutus*. KNOT.—July 1, ♀; July 3, ♂; July 10, ♀; all adults in full breeding plumage.

*Totanus melanoleucus*. GREATER YELLOW-LEGS.—June 13, ♂; July 3, ♀; both adults in full breeding plumage.

*Charadrius squatarola*. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.—July 1, one adult male in nearly full breeding dress. On May 12, 1882, I took at same place an adult male in full breeding plumage.

All of the above were taken at Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1887, by my collector. *Ægialitis nivosa*, Snowy Plover, breeds there and is not uncommon; large series of adults and young were secured. Five males, six females, and one immature bird changing to breeding plumage, of *Arenaria interpres*, Turnstone, were sent me, and any number could be taken in July. The adults were in as fine dress as if taken in Labrador. This confirms the observations of Dr. J. C. Merrill and myself during the last ten years. No eggs were secured, but that the bird breeds there can hardly admit of a doubt.—GEO. B. SENNETT, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

**The European Kestrel in Massachusetts.**—A female example of the European Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus* Linn.) was shot at Strawberry Hill, near Nantucket, Mass. on Sept. 29, 1887. The bird was killed by a man who was hunting for Plover at the time, and was sold with other birds to Mr. C. I. Goodale, 93 Sudbury St., Boston, where I had the pleasure of examining the specimen in the flesh shortly after it was killed. This is, I believe, the first record of its occurrence in North America. The skin is now in my cabinet.—CHARLES B. CORY, *Boston, Mass.*

**Ulula cinerea in Steuben, Co., New York.**—I am pleased to report the occurrence in this locality of the Great Gray Owl; a female in fine plumage was shot some five or six miles southwest of this village on the 10th of last February by a farmer who claimed it was trying to catch his

chickens. It was so tame he thought he could have easily killed it with a club. The bird was thin, and from the appearance of its digestive organs it had fasted a long time.—A. H. WOOD, *Painted Post, Steuben Co., N. Y.*

**Megascops asio floridanus in Louisiana.**—While in New Orleans, in June, 1886, Mr. Gustave Kohn kindly gave me a number of birds and reptiles from his collection. Among them was a Florida Screech Owl (*Megascops asio floridanus*), several specimens of which he had secured in the vicinity of New Orleans. I believe this bird has not before been recorded from Louisiana.—A. K. FISHER, M. D., *Washington, D. C.*

**Ceophlœus pileatus in Franklin County, Massachusetts.**—During the month of August, 1886, two Pileated Woodpeckers were shot at Ashfield, Franklin Co., Mass.; and on October 7 of the same year a third, which I have, was shot. It is a male, but in not very good plumage, as it was moulting at the time it was shot.—RICHARD NORTON, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Breeding of the Prairie Horned Lark in Eastern New York—A Correction.**—In the Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Vol. VI, p. 177, I noted the capture, in April, 1881, of two young Horned Larks, just able to fly, and two adults, male and female, at Green Island, N. Y., and called them, specifically, "*Eremophila alpestris*"—not knowing their proper race name.

Mr. William Brewster lately saw the mounted skins of these birds and informed me that they are of the variety *Otocoris alpestris praticola*, described and named, in 1884, by Mr. H. W. Henshaw, in 'The Auk,' Vol. I, pp. 254-268.

I have given very little attention to the Horned Larks of this vicinity, but know of specimens of the variety *praticola* taken within five miles of Troy, N. Y., February 22, 1883, and in March and October, 1887. A larger and darker colored variety, probably *alpestris* proper, visits this locality in winter; and I have a specimen of that race captured here about April 25, 1845.—AUSTIN F. PARK, *Troy, N. Y.*

**The Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) on the Coast of Massachusetts.**—Looking over a large series of Horned Larks in my collection I lately found a pair of perfectly typical *O. a. praticola* labelled "Revere Beach, Massachusetts, February 28, 1883." Under this date my journal has the following entry: "I shot these birds [Nos. 7925, 7926] with another, a female similar to No. 7926, near the beach in a field where the ground was partly bare of snow. There were only three of them in all. The testes of the male were of large size but the ovaries of the females not correspondingly developed."

The female "similar to No. 7926" was badly shot, if I remember right, and not suspecting at the time (fully a year, it should be noted, before the appearance of Mr. Henshaw's admirable paper on the genus *Otocoris*) that it was anything more than a small dark specimen of *O. alpestris*, I doubt-