

ories, for a group piece for the American Museum of Natural History. On visiting the locality where in former years I had found the species breeding, my disappointment was very great to find the birds had departed. This locality is Lake Bomaseen, situated about sixteen miles from Rutland, Vermont. My first nest of these birds I found at this place, May 28, 1881. It was built in the cat-tail flags, upon a small, boggy island, quite a distance from the main land. It was slightly elevated above the water, and composed entirely of dry flags, and contained nine fresh eggs. The next season, 1882, I made two trips to the breeding ground, and found one nest, May 28, containing five eggs. This I left, and returned June 5, and found, not far from the first nest, a second one. These were situated on boggy ground connected with the main land. Both nests looked near enough alike to have been made by the same bird. The same kind of material was used as in the nest found in 1881. The first nest contained seven eggs, and the second one eleven. One of the birds was taken.

The next year, 1883, but one nest was found, near the place where two were found the year before. It contained nine eggs, and both of the birds could have been easily taken.

This year, after hunting for two days without result, a gentleman near where I was staying told me he thought a Mr. Johnson, of Hydeville, Vt., had taken the nest this season. When I returned to New York, I found, through Mr. Allen, that such was the case, Mr. Allen having received a letter from him reporting his discovery.

I do not think that more than one pair of birds breed at this lake. It is very probable that others may breed at Fort Cassan and Lambus Point, Lake Champlain.—JENNESS RICHARDSON, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

Under date of Hydeville, Vt., June 6, 1889, Mr. A. J. Johnson wrote me as follows: "I wish to establish the fact of the breeding of the Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) in the State of Vermont, having found a nest containing ten eggs in Lake Bomaseen, Castleton, Vt. It was built in a clump of rushes, and the nest also was made of the same. I saw the bird, but did not shoot it. Two years ago I shot one near the same place and found the nest. There must be several more breeding near this place, for I heard quite a number. I cannot find any record of this species breeding in Vermont in any book I have."

While the occurrence of the Florida Gallinule in Vermont is on record, the above seem to be the first reports of its breeding in that State.—J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

**The Killdeer Plover (*Ægialitis vocifera*) wintering on the New England Coast.**—On the 28th of January, 1889, I discovered seven Killdeer Plovers in a small meadow in Marblehead, where they remained throughout the winter. I visited the place four times in February, and found them always present. My last sight of them was March 1 (six birds), but Mr. Walter Faxon, who had previously seen them on several occasions, found

a single individual as late as March 7. They were doubtless a part of the great flock blown upon the New England coast by the storm of November 25-27, as already more than once mentioned in 'The Auk.' The season was very open and mild (although February averaged rather colder than usual), and the spot was exceptionally favorable. So far as I could judge, the birds suffered no inconvenience from what we may presume to have been a somewhat involuntary sojourn in this latitude.

Mrs. Celia Thaxter assures me that the Killdeers remained at the Isles of Shoals, also, throughout the winter,—“till the very last week in February, growing fewer and fewer and finally disappearing altogether.” Her authorities for the statement are her brother and another resident of the Shoals, one of whom, early in December, shot a bird, parts of which (a wing, etc.) she sent to me for identification.—BRADFORD TORREY, *Melrose Highlands, Mass.*

**The Wild Turkey in the North Carolina Mountains.**—During the month of July, 1888, the writer was one of a small party which went over the country described by Mr. W. A. Jeffries in the April 'Auk.' Our route was about two hundred miles long, and we spent a month on the way, camping and tramping. We started from Sylva, and, if I mistake not, our driver was the same one employed by him; at least he told us of going through that country with two "bird men" in the spring.

Our object was to collect the plants of the region, and we paid little attention to the birds. We went from Sylva to Highlands by way of the High Falls of the Tuckaseege and Cashier's Valley. At the latter place we met a very intelligent gentleman,—the owner of a gold mine in the vicinity. He pointed out to us the spot where he had the day before seen an old Turkey with a large brood of young cross the road. They were not considered uncommon in the valley. From Highlands we went to Franklin and then on to the Nontehala Mountains, climbing Wayoh Bald on our way. Not far from the summit, by the trail, we found several places where the Turkeys had been scratching, evidently only a few hours before. A day or two later, two of the boys went hunting with a native guide. They found no Turkeys though they saw plenty of 'signs'. From our conversations with the people I think that while the Turkeys are not perhaps abundant, they can scarcely be called rare.—L. N. JOHNSON, *Evanson, Illinois.*

**Buteo brachyurus in Florida.**—A fine adult female of this species has been presented to me by Mr. Geo. A. Boardman. The specimen was found by Mr. Boardman in a barrel of millinery skins in a store in Jacksonville, Florida. The barrel contained a number of badly prepared specimens of *Syrnium nebulosum alleni* and *Ajaja ajaja* besides Herons and Waders. The specimen was minus its feet, but was otherwise in good condition. The storekeeper claimed to have received the birds from Charlotte Harbor.—CHAS. B. CORY, *Boston, Mass.*