

Shrikes of Minnesota.—Not exactly knowing the true position held by the Shrikes of Minnesota, I submitted a small series of four to Mr. Ridgway for identification, two from Minneapolis, which were dark colored specimens, and two, which were much lighter, from Lanesboro in the southern part of the State.

The following was the result of the examination. He says: "None of your Shrikes are typical of either *ludovicianus* or *excubitorides*, all being intermediate between the two forms. The specimen I have marked 'A' [one of those from Minneapolis] comes nearest the former, but is not dark enough in the coloration of the upper parts; the others come decidedly nearer *excubitorides* than *ludovicianus*, but are not pale enough to be typical."—GEO. G. CANTWELL, *Lake Mills, Wis.*

Notes on some Minnesota Birds.—It is thought that sufficient interest attaches to the occurrence in Minnesota of the five species of birds mentioned below to justify the publication at this time of the following notes in regard to them. Two of the five—the Burrowing Owl and Henslow's Sparrow—are here reported from the State for the first time, so far as the writer can discover. The published statements in regard to the others have been in such general terms as to give no very definite idea of the real manner of their occurrence.

Colymbus holbœlii. HOLBÆLL'S GREBE.—This bird is found in limited numbers during the summer season in the west-central part of the State. It may, and doubtless does, occur in other portions of the prairie region of the State, but as yet no positive evidence of its presence has been obtained. Birds supposed to be of this species were seen in Elbow Lake, Grant Co., in June, 1879, by Mr. Franklin Benner and the writer, but no positive identification could be then made. Its eggs, taken in the vicinity, were seen at that time in the collection of Mr. Jasper N. Sanford of the town of Elbow Lake. Subsequently, in the fall of 1881, in response to numerous inquiries, Mr. Sanford kindly sent to me the skin of a male of this species together with several eggs taken early in the preceding summer near Elbow Lake. These specimens are now in my collection. This affords satisfactory assurance of the breeding of this Grebe in Minnesota.

Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa. BURROWING OWL.—On July 19, 1881, while passing through the southwestern part of Swift County, which lies in the western part of Minnesota, I came upon a small colony of these Owls living in fox or badger dens in a prairie hillside. There were apparently not more than two pairs of old birds with the young of the year. One of the young birds was shot, and the skin preserved. Many weeks spent in travelling through the prairie portions of the State failed to disclose the presence of this bird in any other locality.

Ammodramus henslowii. HENSLOW'S SPARROW.—A male bird in full song was taken by the writer on June 16, 1880, near Minneapolis, and the species was evidently breeding in the wet marsh where it was shot. In February, 1881, I was shown a specimen by Mr. W. W. Eager which he

had shot June 25, 1880, in Grant County in the west-central part of Minnesota. Mr. Eager regarded the bird as not uncommon in that locality, but Mr. Benner and myself failed to find it during two weeks collecting in the same County in 1879. Dr. Wm. L. Abbott includes this species without comment in a list of birds ('Forest and Stream,' Jan. 15, 1880) taken in July, 1879, at Pembina, N. D., which is in the Red River Valley close to the extreme northwestern corner of Minnesota.

Spizella pusilla. FIELD SPARROW.—Though long familiar with the characteristic song and habits of this bird through an acquaintance formed in the East, I have, in an experience of fifteen years in many parts of the State lying north of the latitude of Minneapolis, been enabled to detect it with certainty in only one locality—northern Ramsey County. Here I obtained the first specimen June 24, 1884. On visiting in June, 1889, the same locality, which is an extensive tract of uncultivated sandy country covered with a scattered growth of 'black' and bur oaks of small size, I found the birds fairly common, and shot six of the many heard and seen. Of these seven specimens, one, the bird taken June 24, 1884, is a large light-colored male which Dr. C. Hart Merriam, who kindly examined the series for me, states is nearer *arenacea* than *pusilla*. While the other six specimens are somewhat lighter in general coloration than are typical eastern *pusilla*, and in three or four instances show conspicuous gray feathers on the crown, still on the whole they are much nearer the eastern form. Dr. Merriam remarks upon the singular fact of the occurrence of these two forms in the same locality. The Field Sparrow is reported from Lanesboro, Fillmore County, in the southeastern part of the State, in the springs of 1884 and 1885 ('Report on Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley in the years 1884 and 1885', p. 202) and in a manuscript list of the birds of that locality, prepared by Dr. Hvoslef and temporarily in the hands of the writer through the courtesy of Dr. Merriam, it is noted as an "abundant summer resident." E. E. Thompson reports it as breeding in western Manitoba ('The Auk,' Vol. III, p. 324). There must be vast areas of intervening country where the species is sparingly distributed or does not occur at all.

Helminthophila pinus. BLUE-WINGED YELLOW WARBLER.—May 17, 1880, I shot a male bird at Minnehaha Falls near Minneapolis. The skin is now in my collection. This Warbler is undoubtedly rare here, and this is probably very near the limit of its northward migration. Dr. Hvoslef speaks of it as a rare migrant at Lanesboro, Fillmore Co., and records its occurrence in August. "Aug. 28, '87, shot 2."—Hvoslef.—THOS. L. ROBERTS, *Minneapolis, Minn.*

Note on Pacific Coast Birds.—I wish to call the attention of all ornithologists, to a circumstance that has never been sufficiently explained and may therefore cause misunderstanding in reference to my statement given in the 'Ornithology of California.' In 'The Auk' for Jan., 1890, I am quoted on p. 24 as saying that the eggs of *Pipilo fuscus mesoleucus* resemble those of *P. fuscus*. The facts are that I never saw the bird