

occur in this plateau region. Perhaps the Sparrow Hawk of the plateau region of Texas, in which Tom Green County is situated, will prove to be distinct from the eastern bird when more carefully studied.—G. H. RAGSDALE, *Gainsville, Texas.*

Great Gray Owl in Worcester County, Mass. — A Great Gray Owl (*Scotiaptex cinerea*) was killed in Princeton, Feb. 28, by E. T. Whitaker, a member of the Worcester Sportsmen's Club. The day was severely cold, the thermometer registering 4° below zero. This is the first record for this species in this County.—GEORGE B. CHURCHILL, *Worcester, Mass.*

Acadian Owl (*Nyctala acadica*) at Washington, D. C. — The Acadian Owl has always been considered of extremely rare occurrence at the Capital; in fact until the present winter but five specimens were known from this locality. The first of these was taken by Mr. Drexler some years ago, which was followed by an occasional capture from time to time. On December 12, 1890, an adult male was taken by Mr. Walter B. Barrows three miles east of the city at Brookland. This served as a stimulus for close search, and on January 4, 1891, reward came in the shape of three females taken by Mr. J. D. Figgins and myself. These were mostly in a dense thicket of pines, less than half an acre in extent, and the peculiarity especially noticeable was the fact that not a single male was to be found, although we searched the woods again and again, as well as neighboring patches of pine. On Feb. 4 or 5, 1891, one flew into the Smithsonian building where it was captured alive, and now serves as one of the attractions of the 'Zoo', making a total of five taken the past winter, or as many as all previous records taken together.

It would appear from this that the species is much more common than ordinarily supposed, but if such be the case it is strange that no more have been taken, as scarcely a week has passed that Mr. Figgins and myself have not spent at least one day in the woods, and always with an eye open for *Nyctala*, but since the record of January 4, not a feather has rewarded our efforts, and it must, I think, still be considered as one of the rarer birds of the district.—EDWIN M. HASBROUCK, *Washington, D. C.*

Occurrence of the Groove-billed Ani at Jupiter Inlet, Florida. — While at Palm Beach, Lake Worth, Fla., my friend, Mr. Franz Kinzel, a resident there, informed me that an example of *Crotophaga sulcirostris* Swains. had been shot during the first week in January last at Jupiter Inlet. Mr. Kinzel examined the bird, and identified it himself with the aid of Ridgway's 'Manual,' in which it is stated that this species has only occurred in the United States in the Valley of the lower Rio Grande in Texas, thence extending southwards to Peru. — A. S. PACKARD, *Brown University, Providence, R. I.*

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) in Arizona. — A specimen of the Groove-billed Ani is now in my possession which was shot about

the middle of May, 1888, at the Batterman Ranch in the foothills of the Huachuca Mountains, ten miles north of the Mexican border in Cochise County, Arizona. The specimen was shot by Mr. O. C. Smith of Tombstone, A. T., from a live oak tree on the ranch, and was in the California Academy of Science, with the Price collection of Arizona Birds, until presented to me by Mr. Smith the past winter. — ORTHO C. POLING, *Arizona*.

The First Plumage of *Otocoris alpestris strigata* Hensh. — ♀ *juv.* (No. 5080, collection of G. S. Miller, Jr., Salem, Marion Co., Oregon; June 29, 1890; Allen Rhodes collector): Plumage of dorsal surface seal brown, the feathers everywhere edged with ochraceous-buff, which color is most conspicuous on the upper tail-coverts, rump, cervix, remiges and wing-coverts; interscapulars, scapulars and some of the tertials and wing-coverts tipped with dirty white; rectrices slightly darker than remiges and general dorsal surface, the outer pair tipped and edged externally with dirty white, the inner pair much suffused with ochraceous-buff; ventral surface pure white; chin and throat slightly marked with dusky; jugulum, sides, and flanks ochraceous-buff, flecked, especially on the jugulum, with obscure brownish; cheeks, lores and forehead mixed brown and whitish. The first plumage of this form resembles more closely the young of *practicola* than it does the corresponding stage of any of the western races. The white edgings of the feathers of the back, so conspicuous in the young of *merrilli*, are here replaced by ochraceous-buff; while the dark ground color above makes it a very different looking bird from the young of any of the other forms found in the western United States. From the first plumage of *practicola* I am able to find no distinguishing character, except that the buff is everywhere brighter than in the brightest *practicola* that I have seen. The young of *practicola* are very variable in the shade of both ground color and markings, and it will be interesting to see whether further material will show as great a range of variability in the young of the present race. — G. S. MILLER, JR., *Cambridge, Mass.*

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) Breeding in Worcester County, Mass. — There have been brought to the rooms of the Natural History Society in this city a nest and five eggs of the European Goldfinch (*C. carduelis*), with the skin of the female. They were taken in Northville, a suburb of this city, July 11, 1890, by Mr. F. S. Wilder. The nest was in an apple tree within seven feet from the ground, and corresponds to the description in Ridgway's 'Manual,' except that it contains no moss. The female is in fair breeding plumage. The male was not seen. — GEO. CHURCHILL, *Worcester, Mass.*

Description of the Nests and Eggs of *Dendroica graciae* and *Contopus pertinax*. — Among my oölogical accessions of the past season were the nests and eggs of two species not described heretofore, viz., *Dendroica graciae*, Grace's Warbler, and *Contopus pertinax*, Coues's Flycatcher, both