

Some Birds Recently Added to the Collection of the New York State Museum. — During the year closing Sept. 30, 1891, the following interesting birds have been added to the New York State Museum's collection.

A pair of Evening Grosbeaks (*Coccothraustes vespertina*). These birds are interesting because they were shot at Wayland, Steuben Co., N. Y., in February, 1890. The locality is an unusual one for the species. The irruption of the species into the State of New York from the westward in 1890 has already been noticed in 'Forest and Stream.'

A pair of Heath Hens (*Tympanuchus cupido*). The female was taken on the Island of Martha's Vineyard, on December 24 or 25, 1890. Her measurements, taken after mounting, are: length, 15 inches; length of wing, 8.50 inches. The male was taken at the same locality on December 22, 1890. His measurements, taken while in the flesh, were reported to me as follows: "Length, 16 inches; expanse, 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; wing, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches." The length of the wing, as given above, means the length of the expanded wing. The length of the wing from the carpal joint to the end of the longest primary is 8.75 inches (measured on the mounted bird). His crop was reported to contain leaves and grasshoppers.

A Turkey Buzzard (*Carthartes aura*), an adult, probably a male, shot in the town of Clarendon, Orleans Co., N. Y., on July 18, 1891, by Mr. A. E. Snyder. Attention is called to this specimen because of the locality in which it was taken. The Turkey Buzzard is said to be of rare occurrence so far north.

Last spring Mr. Frank A. Ward of Rochester told me that he had in his possession a bird, taken near Lake Ontario, which he supposed to be a Harlan's Hawk. He afterwards changed his mind about the name of the bird, as he sent it to me without a name. It proved to be a rather immature specimen of the Black Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus obsoletus*). Mr. Austin F. Park of Troy has since seen the specimen and confirms my opinion that the bird is a Black Gyrfalcon. It is a female, and was shot near Lake Ontario, in Monroe Co., N. Y., in October, 1890. The label sent with the specimen contains the following field-notes. — "Length, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tail, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; spread 51 inches. Cere and feet gray (not so bright a gray as in the Osprey)." This is the only specimen of Black Gyrfalcon that I have ever had an opportunity to examine. Its color is very dark. Dr. F. J. H. Merrill of the New York State Museum, who has seen the specimen exhibited in the U. S. National Museum, assures me that our specimen is several shades darker. — WM. B. MARSHALL, *New York State Museum, Albany, N. Y.*

Winter Birds of Cape May, New Jersey. — In the early part of the present year Mr. S. N. Rhoads and myself spent a few days (January 26-29) at Cape May City, N. J., with the object of investigating the avifauna of the vicinity. The weather at the time of our visit was extremely cold, and of course no migration had begun at this early date, so that we could without question consider all the species found by us as regular

winter residents in that vicinity. Of the list of thirty-four species observed by us the following seem worthy of note.

Otocoris alpestris. — Immense flocks.

Molothrus ater. — A small flock.

Poocætes gramineus. — Flock of a dozen or more.

Ammodramus princeps. — Two shot on the sand-hills, and there were no doubt others, as we failed to make a very careful search for them.

Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna. — Common in flocks.

Spizella pusilla. — Several flocks.

Melospiza georgiana. — Common on the marshes.

Passerella iliaca. — Several seen.

Dendroica coronata. — Tolerably common among the pines.

Cistothorus stellaris. — Several secured on the marshes.

Cistothorus palustris. — Tolerably common in cat-tail swamps.

Parus carolinensis. — This was the only Chickadee to be found; indeed I have never seen any *P. atricapillus* from southern New Jersey.

Among other species may be mentioned *Cathartes aura*, *Colaptes auratus*, *Agelaius phœniceus*, *Sturnella magna*, *Spinus pinus*, *Cardinalis cardinalis*, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*, *Merula migratoria*, *Sialia sialis*, most of which are regular winter residents in the vicinity of Philadelphia. — WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia*.

Notes on a Few Louisiana Birds.—The following observations were made at Calumet Plantation, Parish of St. Mary's, Louisiana, during October, November and December, 1889; July, 1890, to March, 1891; and June to November, 1891; and relate to a narrow strip of territory extending along both banks of Bayou Teche, near the town of Patterson. Other interests have prevented as yet very close attention to the birds. The following notes are offered for what they may be worth, in the hope that they will be followed later by a more complete list of the birds of this very interesting region.

Ægialitis vocifera.—Resident throughout the year, but locally rare in the breeding season. Very abundant in fall and winter, first appearing in any numbers about the last of September. Frequents open fields and margins of waterways, and the characteristic cry is often heard late into the night.

Colinus virginianus.—Very common at all seasons, breeding locally in cane and corn fields.

Zenaidura macroura.—Exceedingly common in fall and winter when pursued as game. Lingers late, and a few breed.

Cathartes aura.—Common.

Catharista atrata.—Common. It is interesting to note that this and the foregoing species seem to alternate, each occupying the field for a time very nearly to the exclusion of the other. The Turkey Buzzard, in spring and early summer, is not very common, and the Carrion Crow is quite rarely seen. As the season advances, the former species soon becomes abundant, while comparatively few of the latter are among them.