

female Ruff near here on May 6, 1892. I was wading a fresh water marsh, not more than a mile from town, after marsh birds in general, and while I was struggling through the mud, water and cat-tails, a Sand-piper passed behind me. It had apparently flushed from a patch of bare mud about twenty yards from where I then was, and I at once set it down as a Lesser Yellowlegs, both from its size and its flight. It uttered no cry. After circling around the further edges of the marsh, it turned and headed, straight as an arrow, to where I crouched, so that when shot it fell in the water within reach of where I stood. I identified it as a Ruff, and, to make sure, it was sent to Mr. Robert Ridgway who promptly confirmed the identity. The bird was in fair condition, somewhat below the average of our spring shore-birds in this respect, but not by any means poor. The ova were somewhat enlarged, the largest being about the size of No. 6 shot.—H. H. BRIMLEY, *Raleigh, North Carolina.*

Correction.—In my article on the Black-bellied Plover, on page 148 of 'The Auk' for April, 1892, speaking of the abundance of these birds in the neighborhood of Tuckernuck Island, Mass., it reads, "a flock of about twenty-five birds, which served as the nucleus, they continued to increase until six to eight hundred had collected, the average number in the spring for fifteen years previous being two to three hundred." It should read, "They continued to increase until about two or three hundred had collected. The average number in the spring for fifteen years previous being about one hundred." On page 143 it reads, "The adult female is rather smaller than the male." It should read, "The adult female is about same size as the male. These errors are entirely my own.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Lagopus lagopus in Maine.—A male Willow Ptarmigan in full winter plumage was shot at Kenduskeag, Maine (a village about eight miles from Bangor), on April 23, 1892. It was brought into this city to be mounted. The man who killed it reported that it showed little or no alarm at his approach, and in fact seemed quite as tame as a domestic fowl. This is, I believe, the first instance of this species being taken in Maine, and will therefore probably be of interest.—HARRY MERRILL, *Bangor, Maine.*

Occurrence of the Black Gyrfalcon in Rhode Island.—I beg to report the occurrence on November 22, 1891, of the Black Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus obsoletus*) on the little island of Conanicut near Newport, Rhode Island. The specimen secured was a female, in splendid black plumage. It was shot while perched on a haystack on Capt. Audley Clarke's farm, not far from Jamestown, which is a seaside town right opposite Newport on Conanicut Island in Narragansett Bay. The person who shot it

reported it had captured a rat and was feeding thereon at the time. Several rat skins were noticed in the neighborhood, from which it may be inferred that the bird had had a considerable meal on rats. The mate, reported to me to have presented the same dark, almost black appearance, was not in sight when the female was killed, but is said to have appeared about the locality repeatedly, after November 22, 1891, up to March 20, 1892. Several local gunners tried to obtain it, but it was too wild and wary to allow any one within shot. He thus seems to have remained for four months in the vicinity, in the apparent hope of once more meeting his female companion, who may have accompanied him from the far shores of Labrador. The weather was clear on the day the bird was shot, but the climatic conditions had been unsettled and stormy for several days previous.

The specimen, which reminds one of an Eagle in miniature and is a noble-looking bird, has been mounted admirably by Messrs Southwick and Critchley of Providence. It was secured for the Museum of the Natural History Society of Newport, where an ornithological collection is now in process of formation.—A. O'D. TAYLOR, *Newport, R. I.*

The Carolina Paroquet (*Conurus carolinensis*) in Missouri.—On a recent visit to Stone County in southern Missouri I was informed by Mr. Thurman S. Powell that two Paroquets were seen by him at the old Linchpin camping ground in that county last fall (1891). He was on horseback at the time and the birds were in the road ahead of him. As he approached, they flew up into an oak tree, but soon flew down to the ground again and began feeding on acorns. He told me that they were green Parrots similar to those he had seen in Georgia during the war, and were the first he had seen in this neighborhood.—C. HART MERRIAM, *Washington, D. C.*

Aphelocoma californica in Washington.—On April 13, 1892, I shot near Vancouver, Clarke County, Washington, two California Jays (*Aphelocoma californica*). They were in a field, near a thick growth of wild rose bushes, on the bank of the Columbia. This is, I believe, the first record of this bird for Washington.—R. H. LAWRENCE, *Portland, Oregon.*

Carduelis elegans in Connecticut.—On May 9, 1892, I took a very full-plumaged male European Goldfinch in an orchard near here. The bird was in full song, and did not bear any evidence of having ever been in captivity, as it was not particularly tame, the plumage was perfect, even to the tips of the tail-feathers, and the legs and feet were those of a wild bird. It seems to me probable that it was a straggler from some of the localities where they have been introduced and have become naturalized, as I have never seen any near here before.—G. E. VERRILL, *New Haven, Conn.*