

The White Gyrfalcon in New England.— Not long since Mr. George A. Boardman wrote me that he had heard of the capture, in eastern Maine, of a very light-colored Gyrfalcon. Upon my expressing a lively interest in the matter he very kindly put me in correspondence with Mr. John Clayton of Lincoln, Maine, who mounted the specimen and from whom I have just purchased it. Although too dark colored to be typical of that form it is, nevertheless, an unmistakable example of *Falco islandus* Brünn. It is a young bird and, judging by the measurements, a male, although the sex was not determined by dissection. It was shot in South Winn (just south of Lincoln) about October 8 (Mr. Clayton received it on the 9th and in such fresh condition that he does not think it could have been dead more than twenty-four hours), 1893, by a young man named Wyman who found it perched on a telegraph pole.

This capture is of considerable importance, for the White Gyrfalcon does not appear to have been before taken in New England if, indeed, it has occurred anywhere within the United States. It has been reported more than once, but in every case, apparently, either on insufficient evidence or mistaken identification. The repeated changes or interchanges of names in the Gyrfalcon group have also led to much confusion. A recent instance of this is the mention by Mr. Chapman (Birds of Vicinity of New York City, 1894, p. 41) under "*F. islandus* Brünn." of the Long Island (New York) specimen originally recorded by Mr. Lawrence (Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, VIII, 1866, p. 280) and since referred to by Mr. Ridgway (Hist. N. Am. Birds, III, 1874, p. 114) and by Mr. Dutcher (Auk, X, 1893, p. 274) as *F. islandicus*.¹ Mr. Chapman now writes me that he has never seen this specimen and "had not the slightest intention of changing its original identification," but that he was misled "into giving *F. islandus* as the equivalent of *F. islandicus*." It may be well, therefore, to improve this and every convenient opportunity to reiterate the fact that, under the arrangement first proposed by Dr. Stejneger (Auk, II, 1885, pp. 187, 188) and afterwards adopted in the A. O. U. Check-List, the bird which, prior to 1885, was so generally called *F. candicans* now stands as *F. islandus*, while that formerly known (among American writers at least) as *F. islandicus* has become *F. rusticolus*.— WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

The American Barn Owl Breeding at Washington, D. C., in Winter.— One or more pairs of American Barn Owls (*Strix pratincola*) have been known to breed for a number of years in one of the towers of the Smithsonian Institution, and eggs of this species taken here in June, 1861, and June 1, 1865, are now in the United States National Museum collection.

¹ Since writing the above I have examined this Long Island bird, which is now in the collection of the Brooklyn Historical Society. It proves to be a perfectly typical example of *Falco rusticolus gryfalco* in nearly mature plumage.

On Dec. 8, 1893, a young bird which had but recently left its nest (a good deal of down still showing through its plumage) was caught by one of the watchmen and turned over to the Ornithological collection, where I saw it while still in the flesh. This specimen was probably hatched some time in October, and I considered this a rather remarkable, late breeding record at the time. On Feb. 27, 1895, another specimen of about the same age was picked up in a bush in the Smithsonian grounds, in which it became entangled, and this was certainly not over two months old and must have been hatched in the latter part of December, 1894, if not early in January, 1895, certainly a most unusual time of the year for this Owl to breed in this latitude.—CHAS. E. BENDIRE, *Washington, D. C.*

The Great Gray and Hawk Owls in St. Lawrence County, N. Y.—While at Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., recently, I examined a local collection of mounted birds and study skins owned by Mr. H. M. Davidson. In it I found three Great Gray Owls (*Scotiaptex cinerea*), all of which had been shot in the county within a period of five years. I also found four American Hawk Owls (*Surnia ulula caparoch*) which had been secured within the past few years in a large swamp in the township of Hammond, which is in the same county.

On the 19th of December, 1894, while at Carthage, which is at the western border of Jefferson County, New York State, I saw a Grackle—species not determined, as the bird flew on my approach. The day was bright and clear, with the temperature but little above 20°. A farmer near me remarked that he “guessed that bird had made a mistake and thought spring had come.”—WILLIAM DUTCHER, *New York City*.

An Albino Ruby-crowned Kinglet.—On February 4 I shot, near this place, a nearly perfect albino Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*). The bird was a female and the only one I have seen here for some time. The body is pure creamy white, with a wash of lemon yellow on the rump; head grayish brown, with numerous flecks of white. The edges of the tail and wing feathers are edged with yellowish white, giving a frosty appearance to the closed wing and tail and hiding largely the otherwise dusky feathers.—A. W. ANTHONY, *San Diego, Cal.*

Clark's Nutcracker.—In my note on Clark's Nutcracker in 'The Auk' for January, 1895 (p. 82), the heading reads 'Clark's Nutcracker in Eastern Missouri.' This is a geographical error and should read *Western Missouri*, as Kansas City is divided by the Missouri-Kansas State line and is situated in the western border of Jackson County.

Mr. Goss, in his 'Birds of Kansas,' speaks of this species as being an accidental visitant to Kansas and mentions only one specimen as secured in that State, and of which a part of the skin was sent to him for identification. This bird was killed August 13, near the south line of Marshall