

July, 1888, under circumstances which led me to believe that the bird bred there. This year I passed the night of June 29-30 on the top of Graylock and was again greeted, both in the evening and in the morning, by the beautiful song of this Thrush,—the song so admirably characterized by Mr. John Burroughs in 'Riverby,' pp. 47, 49. A hasty search for the nest in the midst of a drenching rain on the morning of the 30th proved unavailing; but the anxiety manifested by the bird when I invaded his domain confirmed my belief that this Thrush breeds on Graylock.

On the 27th of last June I was delighted to find a little flock of six or seven Prairie Horned Larks — probably members of one family — feeding in a ploughed field in North Adams, near the edge of Williamstown. One of them was in full song. This is the place where Mr. J. B. Grimes had told me that this bird breeds (see 'Auk,' IX, 1892, 202). The discovery of the nest of the Prairie Horned Lark near Pittsfield, Mass., by Mr. C. H. Buckingham in 1892 was announced in 'The Auk,' XI, 1894, 326.—WALTER FAXON, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

**Notes from Western New York.** — *Plegadis autumnalis*.—A Glossy Ibis was shot at Dunkirk, N. Y., late in April, 1894, by Mr. John W. Ware of that place. Mr. Ware tells me that the bird was wading in shallow water at the time and that he had no difficulty in approaching within gunshot as it was not very shy. The specimen, which I have examined, is in the rich, purplish red plumage of the adult.

*Strix pratincola*.—A male Barn Owl was shot just outside the city limits at Pine Hill on July 18, 1895. I saw it at the taxidermist's a few days later.

*Icteria virens*.—On June 17, 1895, I secured a male Yellow-breasted Chat in a bushy pasture at West Seneca. I first saw the bird two days before, when I spent some time looking for its nest. Also looked for the nest on the above date, but found none. This was the only bird I started. It is the second record for Erie County.—JAMES SAVAGE, *Buffalo, N. Y.*

**Notes on Some Birds of Northeastern Illinois.** — *Pectoral Sandpiper*.—I was somewhat surprised when my friend, Mr. Wallace Craig, brought in a specimen of this species on July 26, 1893, and reported them as common at 'Mud Lake.' This small lake is in the southern part of the city near 83rd Street and Stony Island Avenue. Part of the north shore is free from rushes and very muddy, and seemed to be a favorite feeding ground for Sandpipers. We visited the lake the next day and found this species was abundant and very tame, alighting on the mud-flat within a few feet of us. August 2, we found them in great numbers, easily securing nine, which was as many as we cared for. They would alight on the flat beach while we were wading within twenty feet. August 9, they were not nearly so tame, for pothunters had begun to mow them down.

On June 18, 1894, Mr. Craig observed this species at 'Mud Lake,' and they came within twenty feet of him, while he lay hidden in the grass watching them.

June 18, 1895 Mr. Craig observed them at 'Mud Lake' in some numbers. May 24, 1895, Mr. Craig found a good sized flock of Pectoral Sandpipers at Havana, Ill., on the Illinois River.

**Least Sandpiper.** — Saw a loose flock of about twenty-five Least Sandpipers (*Tringa minutilla*) July 3, 1893, and secured three at 'Mud Lake.' I saw many on July 26, 1893, and on other collecting trips made to 'Mud Lake' during that summer.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper.** — Shot three on July 27, 1893, and saw many others at 'Mud Lake.' August 2, 1893, I saw a great many Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Ereunetes pusillus*) which were very tame alighting within twenty feet of us. June 9, 1894, I found a flock of about fifty birds of this species not far from 'Mud Lake' on a large, soft, muddy tract, which also had many single birds of this species scattered over it. My companion killed five at one shot. Nelson in 'Birds of Northeastern Illinois,' says those he has shot in the summer were barren birds, but this has not been the case with those I have skinned.

**Semipalmated Plover.** — On July 27, 1893, I fired into a flock of Sandpipers and killed a Pectoral Sandpiper and a Semipalmated Plover (*Aegialitis semipalmata*) at 'Mud Lake.' I saw three of this species on August 2, 1893, at 'Mud Lake,' which were very tame.

**Broad-winged and Sharp-shinned Hawks.** — While collecting with Mr. Wallace Craig in the southern part of Chicago (83rd Street and Stony Island Avenue) on April 27, 1892, we observed a flight of Hawks which lasted all day. At one time in an opening of a small woods, called Hog Island, Mr. Craig counted fourteen in sight. Most of them appeared to be medium-sized Hawks, perhaps one fourth of them being small sized ones. Mr. Craig shot one of the latter and found it was a Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*). I shot two of the larger ones and found them to be a male and female Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo latissimus*). The stomach of the female contained two garter snakes, one about eight and one half inches long, and five Coleoptera, while that of the male contained three spiders and two Orthoptera.

There may have been other species of Hawks in the flight, but the Broad-winged and Sharp-shinned were the only ones we were able to identify, and I am positive that nearly, if not quite all, were of these two species.

They were rather tame, several alighting among the trees, but we were unable to secure more as we had no shells loaded with coarse shot. The Hawks were all flying nearly south, or perhaps southwest, which we were unable to account for, as the woods was full of birds migrating northward. The day was warm and pleasant with light thunder showers in the morning. The wind was strong and from the south.

**Turkey Vulture.** — While collecting birds with Mr. Gekler on May 30, 1895, we saw a pair of Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) soaring, about two miles east of Riverdale, Ill., and within the limits of Chicago. Once they came within long gun range and Mr. Gekler fired at them without

success. A farmer informed us that a dead horse was not far off, which had attracted them. Mr. Nelson notes them as a rare visitant in north-eastern Illinois.

**Barn Owl.**—Sept. 25, 1894, Mr. Edward J. Gekler of this city saw some small boys carrying a dead Owl along the street. He purchased it and kindly presented it to me for my collection. Mr. E. W. Nelson in 'Birds of Northeastern Illinois' says it is a very rare visitant and notes the capture of two.

**American Magpie.**—On the morning of Oct. 17, 1892, Mr. Wallace Craig observed a Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonica*) in a small grove not far from the World's Fair. It was rather shy and was followed from tree to tree by some Blue Jays and House Sparrows. It may have been an escaped cage-bird, although Kennicott mentions them as formerly occurring here.

**Harris's Sparrow.**—Oct. 6, 1894, I shot a Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) about one half of a mile east of Riverdale, Ill., on the Illinois Central R. R. It was in a row of small willows with weeds growing in between, and seemed to be with a loose flock of White-crowned Sparrows. It was within the limits of Chicago, perhaps two hundred feet from the city line. I can find no record of its occurrence in north-eastern Illinois.

**Prothonotary Warbler.**—As I was crossing the bridge over the Little Calumet River, May 25, 1895, at Riverdale, Ill., my attention was attracted to some House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) on some piles in the river which were perhaps fifteen feet off, as I had just seen a male Sparrow drive away a small bright-colored bird, which I recognized readily as a Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). It alighted on a nearby post hanging on the side, but soon flew back to the post from which it had been driven and disappeared in a cavity in the post. It appeared in a moment and was set upon by the Sparrow, but this time it turned and put him to flight, chasing him under the bridge where I lost track of them. Nelson in 'Birds of Northeastern Illinois' says it is a rare summer resident.

This species is one of the most abundant summer residents along the Kankakee River at Wilders, Indiana, about sixty-four miles from Chicago.—JAMES O. DUNN, *Chicago, Ill.*