

seen them in the city nearly every day. Their chief food seems to be the seeds of crab-apples, and mountain ash berries.

**Phalacrocorax dilophus.**—This species is not uncommon along the Maine coast, but it is rare in the interior of the State. We have in the Maine State College collection a specimen of the Double-crested Cormorant which was shot at Kingman, Penobscot County, Me., about Nov. 18, 1895, and presented to the college by Rev. J. W. Hatch. — O. W. KNIGHT, *Bangor, Maine.*

**Three Winter Notes from Longwood, Massachusetts.**—I noted a flock of nineteen White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) on the 8th of December, 1895, and again on the 21st, when three specimens were taken, one adult and one immature male and one adult female. This flock remained in the locality of an old dump, among tree trunks and general rubbish,—a protected spot. I have noted this flock since the 8th and 21st on the following dates: December 22 and 25; January 2, only eight being then in the flock; January 19, three of the flock noted in a snow storm; three again on the 25th, and since this latter date they have entirely disappeared from the locality, the weather having not become, however, any more severe.

On the 16th of November I noted in the same locality a Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*) and on the 25th shot, I think, the same bird. This is another record of the wintering of this species near Boston, Mass.

On the 25th of December, 1895, I also noted a male Chewink (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) in company with a flock of White-throats, mentioned above. He flew from a thicket and perched for a moment in the top of a pear tree, called *shewink* several times and disappeared. This is the first record I believe of *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* in Massachusetts during the winter. One was recorded at Portland, Connecticut, in January. Since writing the above I have learned from Mr. Brewster that a female Chewink was sent to him which was shot on January 2, in Bedford, Mass., some ten miles to the northwest of here. — REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

**Bird Notes from Erie County, New York.**—Among the rarer summer birds found near Springville, New York, may be mentioned the American Egret (*Ardea egretta*). A young bird of the year was taken on the Cattaraugus Creek on August 10, 1881, by Mr. Depew of Long Island. The specimen is now in my collection.

The Horned Lark and State-colored Junco have been found to be regular breeders in this vicinity. The Larks lay their eggs about the first week in April and the Juncos build their nests the last of May. In the middle of June, 1895, the writer found the Junco breeding on the mossy slope of a woodland ravine only a few rods from the home of the Chewink, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, and Scarlet Tanager; all these birds at the same time protesting against his invasion of their peaceful realm.

Further on in this favored woodland where the trees were scattered, but the underbrush dense, a pair of Mourning Warblers (*Geothlypis philadelphia*) were feeding their young; not far distant another pair had a nest full of fresh eggs concealed among the blackberry bushes and ferns beside a moss-covered log.

Near Springville the Hooded Warbler (*Sylvania mitrata*) was common. Nest and eggs of this species were taken here and at East Hamburg. The Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, and Black and Yellow Warbler were all found in full-breeding dress and song. The nest and eggs of *Sylvania canadensis* were taken on the 5th of June; also a pair of the old birds and a young bird in full plumage the last of June, 1895.—ELAN HOWARD EATON, *Canaan-digua, N. Y.*

**Virginia Notes.**—My notes of a visit to Southwestern Virginia in the spring of 1895—April 24 to May 9—contain three or four items which may be worthy of record.

**Chondestes grammacus.**—On April 28, at Pulaski, I found a bird of this species feeding in grass-land, where it allowed me to watch it at my pleasure. Dr. Rives reports a single Virginia specimen as having been taken in Washington, and in 'The Auk' for January, 1896, Mr. William Palmer records a second specimen taken in August, 1895.

**Helminthophila chrysoptera.**—Of the species Dr. Rives mentions a single Virginia specimen, taken near Washington by Dr. Fisher. At Pulaski, I saw four or more individuals April 28 to May 1. On my last morning there (May 1), in a hurried visit of a few minutes to the edge of the woods near the hotel, I found two Golden-wings among a bevy of new arrivals of different species. The Warbler migration was still only beginning, and I had then little doubt that a longer stay would show the species to be pretty common. All my birds were males.

**Dendroica cærulea.**—This species marked by Dr. Rives as "accidental or very rare," seemed to be moderately common at Natural Bridge, where it frequented exclusively the tops of hills covered with old deciduous forest. I saw it first on May 4. Two days later a female was seen gathering nest materials, but a long hunt failed to find the nest itself. The males sang with the utmost freedom. On May 6 I found them thus engaged on four hilltops.

It may be worth adding that Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) were seen or heard on four dates at Pulaski and Natural Bridge, and that I found a flock of five birds feeding at Arlington, in the national cemetery, on May 12.—BRADFORD TORREY, *Wellesley Hills, Mass.*

**On Birds reported as rare in Cook County, Ill.**—*Porzana noveboracensis.*—In Ridgway's Birds of Illinois, this species is given as not uncommon, but from the observations of Mr. J. G. Parker and myself the Yellow Rail is a quite common resident of Cook County. I have had no