

from Looney, Craig Co., Va., December 18, 1895, two of which were shipped alive. Mr. J. B. Ruble, who secured the birds, writes the following particulars concerning their capture: "Mr. John Myers, who lives near the top of the mountain here, saw the Eagles feeding on a dead sheep; he set a trap and caught four of them from the one sheep. There are more Eagles in this county than I ever saw before. Mr. John Looney told me that about a week ago he saw thirteen in one flock, and there have been eight or ten in all taken in Craig County this winter." In answer to further inquiry Mr. Ruble writes that he considers that all the Eagles were of the same kind. Gentlemen who have been going down to Craig County for deer, for a number of years past, say that they never heard of any Golden Eagles there before, and Dr. Rives, in his 'Birds of the Virginias,' only gives a few records for this species. The occurrence of the bird in such numbers therefore seems to be well worth recording.—WITMER STONE, *Acad. Nat. Sci., Philadelphia, Pa.*

Nidification of the Dusky Horned Owl.—According to the few records of the eggs of *Bubo virginianus saturatus* in Bendire's 'Life Histories of North American Birds,' it appears that the eggs of this species are very rare and that none have been obtained for many years. Capt. Bendire records a set of two eggs that were taken by Kennicott in Alaska, April 16, 1862, and also another egg taken by H. Connelly in Labrador in 1863.

I therefore have pleasure in recording a set of two eggs that were taken recently. Although I have once or twice received eggs from the North supposed to belong to this species, it was not until last season that I was able to obtain the parent with the eggs. The nest was found by my collector at Sandwich Bay, Labrador, April 17, 1895, and the label says: "The nest was built in a spruce 15 feet from the ground, and made of twigs and coarse grass." The female was shot as she left the nest and is an exceptionally dark specimen. Both eggs with the parent are now in the collection of R. S. Sharples, Esq., of Elgin, Ill.—W. RAINE, *Toronto, Canada.*

Four Winter Records of the Short-eared Owl on the Massachusetts Coast.—I have a female Short-eared Owl (*Asio accipitrinus*) in my collection which was taken at Orleans, near Chatham, Mass., on February 23, 1896, by Mr. Charles J. Paine, Jr.; and I also know of a female (?) taken at Ipswich, Mass., on December 31, 1895, by Mr. Ralph W. Gray; and a male taken at the same locality by Mr. George C. Shattuck on January 1, 1896; also a female taken at the same locality on February 12, 1896, by Mr. W. S. Townsend.

I also know of a number of specimens taken at Middletown, near Newport, R. I., in winter.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

The Roadrunner as a Rat-killer.—This forenoon (May 7, 1896), I came suddenly upon a Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) that had just

finished despatching a woodrat (*Neotoma*). The bird reluctantly withdrew as I came upon the scene, leaving the rat, which I found to be quite dead. A post-mortem disclosed a bad contusion on the side directly over the heart, and another on the spine between the shoulders, while the skull was crushed by a blow behind the ear, although the skin was nowhere broken.—A. W. ANTHONY, *San Diego, Cal.*

The Redheaded Woodpecker in Eastern Massachusetts.—It is so seldom that a Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) is seen in eastern Massachusetts that its occurrence is worthy of note. On Sunday noon, March 8, 1896, while taking a walk through a grove of mixed elm, maple and pine trees in the section of Boston known as Dorchester, I came across a beautiful bird of this species, lazily climbing about on a partially decayed stump and apparently searching for food. The bird was very tame, allowing me to follow it closely as it flew from tree to tree and to approach to within ten or fifteen yards on several occasions. After watching it for some fifteen minutes and thinking from its tameness and from its partiality to a particular stump that it might be wintering in the locality I quietly withdrew. A thorough search of the woods the next morning failed to discover the bird again and I concluded it was probably a temporary visitor.

On May 8, 1896, while walking early in the morning in Dorchester District, my attention was attracted by the loud calling of a Red-headed Woodpecker. After a short search the bird was located in a clump of tall oak trees and was shot. It proved to be a male in full plumage, and was very fat. This is probably the same bird noticed by me on March 8, 1896, as recorded above, as it was shot within one hundred yards of where it was previously observed.

I have seen this species in Massachusetts only once before, the first time being on May 19, 1878.—FOSTER H. BRACKETT, *Boston, Mass.*

Pyrocephalus rubineus mexicanus in Los Angeles County, Cal.—During recent winters numerous duck-hunters in the San Gabriel River bottom have observed a "fiery red" bird among the willow trees. On Dec. 8, 1895, I secured an adult male which, as I expected, proved to be the Vermillion Flycatcher. On Feb. 8, 1896, I again shot a specimen, an adult female in the same locality. Thus it appears that *Pyrocephalus rubineus mexicanus* is a regular winter visitant to the river bottoms in Southern California west of the Sierra Madre Mountains.—HORACE A. GAYLORD, *Pasadena, Cal.*

Intergradation in Song of *Sturnella magna* and *S. m. neglecta* in Missouri.—In Dr. Coues's 'The Birds of the Northwest,' Mr. Tripp notes that he had never observed any intergrading of the songs of *Sturnella magna* and *S. m. neglecta*. Some seven or eight years ago while creeping on some ducks in Audrain County, Mo., I heard a very pecu-