

River west of the main divide of the Rocky Mountains. But another passage in the 'Narrative,' p. 70, gives the desired data to fix the date of discovery and precise locality. Writing of June 15, 1834, Townsend says: "I found here a beautiful new species of Mockingbird, which I shot and prepared"; and gives a footnote referring to the Appendix as above cited for the description. At the date in mention, N. J. Wyett's expedition, accompanied by Townsend and Nuttall, had made the South Pass over the Continental Divide on the 14th, and were about to camp on Big Sandy River, a tributary of Green River, in Wyoming. They were on the already established fur traders' route which went about S. W. from the Pass to the Big Sandy at or near the confluence of the latter with Green River.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

Notes on Birds of Long Island.—*Ardea egretta* and *A. candidissima*.—It is a pleasure to note that both 'White Herons' are still entitled to notice among the present avifauna of Long Island, notwithstanding the continued persecution to which both species throughout the entire limits of their range have been of late years subjected, and the consequent diminution in their numbers.

Their persistent occurrence on Long Island in spite of their decline in numbers is rather remarkable and may be regarded as denoting that Long Island is an attractive feeding ground for this genus of birds. It may also be that there exists an instinct affecting certain individuals leading them to migrate in the autumn in a direction contrary to that of the species as a whole, or, that the genus is simply prone to a wandering, restless disposition. Since Mr. Dutcher's note on the former was published (*Auk*, III, 1, p. 435) nothing, I think, has appeared to show that either of the birds now nest on Long Island, and it seems questionable whether the birds have nested so far north since the prevailing demand for their plumes first began. Late occurrences of the two species are as follows:

During the autumn of 1897 several 'White Herons' were noted about the shores of Jamaica Bay, Queen's County, by several observers, from whom I heard of them. Chas. Ward, a gunner of Rockaway Beach, shot several on or about October 1, one of which was merely wing-tipped. This bird was preserved alive for some time, in which condition I saw it on October 9, it having then been in captivity about a week or ten days. The bird was confined in a boat builder's shop where its unnatural surroundings affected it unfavorably, as it appeared drooping and sick. It proved to be a specimen of the American Egret, *Ardea egretta*.

A flock of Snowy Herons, *Ardea candidissima*, comprising six or seven individuals, was seen on the salt meadows near East Rockaway in mid-August this year (1899). Two of these, which were wing-tipped, are now in the possession of Mr. Daniel DeMott of East Rockaway. They are at present in apparently excellent condition, established in roomy, comfortable quarters, with out-door run and with in-door shelter. Mr. DeMott

recalls having seen 'White Herons' in his locality fifteen years ago, but none since until the present summer. He writes: "The two which I now have would eat from my hand a week or two after their capture. I now have them in a yard enclosed in wire netting with a coop eight feet high attached. I notice they sit in the uppermost part of the coop most of the time during the day unless called out to be fed; but when night comes they will leave the coop and sit in the open yard until morning." The chief food of the Herons is small fish, with which they are kept abundantly supplied. Mr. DeMott has several other wild birds quartered in separate enclosures, including Black-bellied Plovers, Turnstones, and one Golden Plover, all in apparently excellent condition and comprising in all a decidedly interesting natural history exhibit.

Cathartes aura.—The geographical distribution of the Turkey Vulture is one of the most interesting facts connected with its history. Occurring regularly but a short distance south of our limits, and often seen even in the winter but fifty miles south of us (Trenton, N. J.), and being a bird of such well-known powers of flight, it yet so rarely occurs north of its regular haunts that it is as if a well recognized line demarked its limits, beyond which its occurrence is extremely singular. A bird of this species was shot at Rockaway Beach by Mr. R. L. Peavey of Brooklyn, on July 15, 1899, in whose fine collection of mounted birds it now is. Length of specimen, 29 inches; wing, 21 inches.

Accipiter atricapillus.—An immature specimen of the American Goshawk, also in the collection of Mr. R. L. Peavey, was shot by him at Rockaway Beach, Dec. 18, 1898.

Strix pratincola.—The Barn Owl is rare enough on Long Island to justify mention of each instance of its occurrence. The specimen here referred to was taken at Gardiners Island, and thus constitutes one of the more northern records for the species. Mr. E. B. Muchmore of Easthampton is the possessor of the mounted skin of this specimen. Here it was seen by the writer last summer (1899), and in reply to his inquiries concerning it, Mr. Muchmore writes: "It was picked up on Gardiners Island during the very severe weather of last March. It was very thin and had one foot broken. I should not have tried to save the specimen if it had not been a stranger to me." In a subsequent communication in reply to an inquiry regarding the remote possibility of its having drifted ashore and hence involving a suggestion of other than natural causes for its presence here, Mr. Muchmore says that it was found away from the beach and that there were no indications of its having been washed ashore. He writes: "The Barn Owl spoken of was found away from where the water could possibly have washed it ashore; and, furthermore, its condition indicated that it had not been floating in the water."

Syrnium nebulosum.—The Barred Owl is rather rare on Long Island. The present record has to do with its occurrence as a bird of the city, my attention having been attracted to it by a crowd which gathered to observe the unfamiliar sight of a large bird in the heart of the city,

sitting with every appearance of contentment in the bare branches of a tree. The small boys, however, soon began to pelt it with stones, though it was with difficulty that the bird could be made to fly, and even the presence of a policeman had little effect in restraining them.

In spite of much persecution the bird remained in the vicinity for several days more, but the commotion and excitement produced by his presence led to his premature end. Various missiles aimed at the Owl by the crowd during the day became a menace to the windows and heads and led the householders to consider the bird a rather unwelcome visitor. The bird was accordingly shot and afterward fell into my possession. The contents of the stomach, as well as beak and claws, bore testimony to the havoc which he had made the preceding night among the English Sparrows. — WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, M. D., *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Newfoundland Notes. — The following list of birds was observed on a trip up the Humber River in Newfoundland, which lasted from August 10 to September 24, 1899. The list is not intended as in any way a complete one of the birds to be seen at that time on the island, but merely of those which I happened to observe in the course of a fishing and hunting trip, and as such it is offered for what it may be worth.

1. *Gavia imber*. LOON. — Abundant.
2. *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*. AMERICAN HERRING GULL. — Abundant.
3. *Larus marinus*. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL. — Breeds sparingly at Adies Pond; doubtful if I saw any.
4. *Sterna hirundo* (or *paradisæa*). — A Tern, either Common or Arctic, was seen in considerable numbers near the mouth of the river.
5. *Merganser serrator*. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. — Breeds abundantly.
6. *Anas obscura*. BLACK DUCK. — Breeds abundantly.
7. *Anas carolinensis*. GREEN-WINGED TEAL. — Rather uncommon. Several observed.
8. *Aythya affinis*. LESSER SCAUP DUCK. — Sept. 17, one killed at Adies Pond.
9. *Glaucionetta clangula americana*. AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE. — Breeds abundantly.
10. *Erismatura rubida*. RUDDY DUCK. — One seen Sept. 1, at Adies Pond.
11. *Branta canadensis*. CANADA GOOSE. — Breeds commonly.
12. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. AMERICAN BITTERN. — Abundant.
13. *Gallinago delicata*. WILSON'S SNIBE. — One seen August 20.
14. *Totanus flavipes*. YELLOW-LEGS. — Abundant in late August and early September.
15. *Actitis macularia*. SPOTTED SANDPIPER. — Abundant.
16. *Circus hudsonius*. MARSH HAWK. — Rather uncommon.
17. *Accipiter velox*. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. — Common.