

"6. July 12, 1894. Seven eggs; incubation advanced. Nest in tussock of coarse grass, made of dead grass and bull-rush leaves.

"7. August, 10, 1898. Six eggs; small embryos."—H. H. & C. S. Brimley.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

**Breeding of the Little Black Rail (*Porzana jamaicensis*) in New Jersey in 1844 and 1845.**—Soon after the above note was written, by a curious coincidence I came across a definite account of the breeding of this bird in New Jersey. Apart from a bare statement of the fact in Turnbull's 'Birds of East Pennsylvania and New Jersey,' the record seems not to have been published.

The facts are contained in letters written by Chas. C. Ashmead of Philadelphia to Prof. Baird, and for the privilege of publishing them I am indebted to Miss Lucy H. Baird. The extracts relative to the Black Rail are as follows:

July 28, 1844.—"My brother-in-law has just arrived from the seashore. Not long since he found a nest of the Black Rail; it was on a *fresh* water meadow near the seaside, and contained four eggs. He also caught the bird."

Oct. 2, 1844.—"I have the eggs of the Black Rail, also the full-plumaged male bird, in my possession."

Nov. 17, 1845.—"Tom Beesley has found another nest of the Black Rail, making the third he has found. The two first nests he found, one early in June, 1844, with four eggs; one early in June, 1845, with three eggs; and the last one about the middle of August, with but one egg in the nest. He had killed the bird before he found the nest. All three of the nests were found on the same spot of ground,—a fresh marsh on the banks of the Great Egg Harbor River, and not more than one fourth as big as the College Campus [at Carlisle]."

The locality was evidently Beesley's Point, and a brief mention of the spotting on the bird leaves no doubt of its identity. The fact, however, that Mr. Ashmead and his brother were constantly at the Academy at this time, and in daily association with Mr. Cassin, would preclude the possibility of any error in identification. The discovery that this obscure little bird still breeds in this locality is well within the limits of possibility.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

**Occurrence of *Tringa fuscicollis* in Virginia in Autumn.**—During a visit to the Eastern Shore of Virginia in company with Dr. William C. Rives, Sept. 21–28, 1899, a specimen of the White-rumped Sandpiper was secured near Chincoteague, Va., on the sand flats lying inside the beach of Assateague Island on Sept. 24. The bird was shot as it flew past with a flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers, among which it was conspicuous by reason of its larger size. It was the only individual of this species observed on the trip. This species appears in Dr. Rives's 'Birds of the

Virginias' in the hypothetical list. It was definitely recorded from Smith's Island, Northampton County, by Mr. Edw. J. Brown, who secured three specimens between May 14 and 28, 1894.

The present note is, we believe, the first definitely recorded instance of the species for Virginia in autumn. The specimen secured is a female.—WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, M. D., *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

**A Further Note on the Specific Name of *Falco regulus*.**—Since the tentative proposal to change the specific designation of this species (Auk, April, 1899, p. 182), both the references to supposed earlier names have been verified and their status determined. One of these names, *Accipiter merillus* Gerini (Orn. Meth. Dig. 1767, I, 51, pll. xviii, xix) is, under present rules, untenable, for Gerini is clearly not a binomialist, as is disclosed by even a casual examination of his volumes. Since the other name, *Falco aesalon* Tunstall (Orn. Brit., 1771, p. 1), proves to be a nomen nudum, the Merlin apparently must continue to stand as *Falco regulus*.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

**The Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker in Beverly, Mass.**—On January 21, 1899, I observed a pair (male and female) of the Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides americanus*) in the white-pine clumps of Beverly Commons; the female busily chiselling for grubs in a fallen trunk. She seemed wary, but hungry enough to allow of approach within twelve or fifteen feet, and continuous observation for ten minutes. With a good field-glass I could trace the passage of the grub when gulped down her gullet. She chiselled with great rapidity and skill, making the chips fly vigorously. The male meanwhile was perfectly quiet on a neighboring living trunk; so that his presence was unsuspected till the female, finally scared, flew to his tree and disturbed him into motion. Both then bounded off through the air with whirr of wings, the female leading. This record must be pretty far south for this species, especially in such a mild and open winter. Both birds were sleek and plump.—REGINALD C. ROBBINS, *Boston, Mass.*

**The earliest name for the Roadrunner.**—A recent note on the early history of the Roadrunner (Auk, Jan. 1900, 66) by the late Dr. Coues, suggests a point bearing on the proper name for the species. It is more than probable that Lesson's term *californiana* (1829) should be replaced by *longicauda* of Swainson (1824), but this is a matter which cannot at present be satisfactorily determined. On reference to Swainson's 'Classification of Birds,' II, 1837, 325, it will be noted that he quotes "*L. longicauda* Sw. (1824)" under the genus *Leptostoma*. Now, the name *longicauda*, for this Cuckoo does not occur in any accessible work of Swainson's of the year 1824, but it will almost certainly be found in his 'Appendix' to Bullock's Catalogue of his [Bullock's] Mexican Museum, published in that year. This work is so scarce that, apparently, no copy is now accessible to orni-