

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-

thologists. In addition to the Roadrunner it is probable that many of the species now credited to the Phil. Mag. 1827, were first described here.

Swainson's 'Appendix' ought to be as worthy of recognition as A. A. H. Lichtenstein's 'Catalogus Rerum' (1793), or Leach's 'Systematic Catalogue' (1816), or H. Lichtenstein's 'Preis-Verzeichniss' (1830), and should a copy come to light it is to be hoped that, like the works just mentioned, it may be reprinted for the benefit of ornithologists. — CHARLES W. RICHMOND, *Washington, D. C.*

The Red-headed and Other Woodpeckers in Michigan in Winter. — On reading the note in 'The Auk' for January, 1900, page 67, entitled 'The Red-headed Woodpecker near Chicago, Ill.,' by G. S. Mead, of San Francisco, Cal., I wish to say that the presence of the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) during the winter months in Michigan does not depend upon the temperature, but entirely upon the food supply, viz.: the crop of acorns and beechnuts which precedes the winter. If these nuts are plenty, the Red-headed Woodpecker will always be found during the winter months, but in no great abundance. If there are no acorns or beechnuts, this bird will be entirely absent in our Michigan forests. The Red-headed Woodpecker is therefore one of those peculiar birds whose migrations depend upon circumstances, viz.: the abundance of proper food; and this will be found characteristic of some of the rest of the family (Picidæ), namely, the Red-bellied (*Melanerpes carolinus*) and the Golden-winged Woodpecker (*Colaptes auratus*), which are sometimes found with us during the whole year, and sometimes they are absent during the winter months. The only bird of this family which I have *not* observed during the winter months is the Yellow-bellied Woodpecker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), which subsists almost entirely upon the sap and inner bark of trees, preferably the hard maples and the Austrian and Scotch Pines, which are usually found planted in lawns and parks. The Yellow-bellied Woodpecker makes his appearance in Michigan about the first of April when the sap is in full flow, and you will always find him on the park or lawn doing great damage among the Austrian and Scotch pines, in some cases entirely girdling and ruining the trees. This is the only member of this family that should *not* be protected by law. — JAMES B. PURDY, *Plymouth, Wayne Co., Michigan.*

The Flicker Wintering in Montreal. — On January 14, 1900, while walking with a friend along the woods at the foot of Mount Royal, I was surprised to see a Golden-winged Woodpecker (*Colaptes auratus*) fly from a tree within a few feet of us; it alighted on a sumac near by and began to feed on the seeds. We had a good view of it for a short time, until it flew into some low bushes and disappeared.

We saw one near the top of Mount Royal on November 25, 1899, which was, perhaps, the same bird, this being an unusually late date for its occurrence. The winter here has been milder than usual, but I have