

never heard before, even in mild seasons, of *C. auratus* wintering so far north. — J. B. WILLIAMS, *Montreal, Can.*

**Chuck-will's-widow in Kansas.** — Prof. D. E. Lantz kindly informs me that the specimen of the Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*) taken at Wichita, Kan., as recorded by me in a footnote to p. 187 of 'The Auk' for April, 1889, is really the specimen recorded by him on the same page, which was sent to Prof. Dyche for confirmation of the identification, and by the latter forwarded to me. — J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. History, New York City.*

**Otocoris alpestris praticola at Ipswich, Mass.** — On October 26, 1899, at Ipswich, Mass., with Dr. Walter Faxon and Mr. G. M. Allen, I took a male Prairie Horned Lark out of a flock of four birds (two others were also seen later), the other three appearing to be of the same race. The specimen taken seems of especial interest, as its measurements and paleness make it approach very nearly to *arenicola*, — the specimen being almost intermediate as it is. Mr. Harry C. Oberholser and Mr. William Brewster, and all who have examined the bird, are of the opinion, however, that it is perhaps nearest *praticola*, and must be called such. Geographically of course, the bird is *praticola*, for if *arenicola* it is a straggler far out of its usual range. — REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

**The Red Crossbill Unusually Common at Portland, Maine, in Summer.** — During the early summer of 1899, Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) were numerous about the west end of Portland, Maine, — a section of the city in which there is still a good deal of land devoted to gardens and lawns, and which contains a hill-side park with a large grove of pines. I returned to Portland from the south on June 2. The birds were then everywhere in evidence about my neighborhood, but mainly because of their vociferousness. They were quite elusive, and I found it difficult to estimate their numbers except from the noise they made. It was not until July 1 that I saw a large number together. On that morning, I counted twenty-eight in one open flock which flew slowly over me as I stood in the middle of a wide lawn. On the afternoon of that same day I left Portland for the summer. — NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Me.*

**White-winged Crossbills in Rhode Island.** — It may be of interest to Rhode Island ornithologists to record the taking of White-winged Crossbills (*Loxia leucoptera*) at Neutaconkanut Hill, Johnston, R. I., Jan. 14 and 30, and at Pawtuxet on the 1st, 2d and 24th of February. — EDWARD H. ARMSTRONG, *Providence, R. I.*

**White-winged Crossbills and Brünnich's Murres in Central New Hamp-**

shire.—Central New Hampshire has recently been visited by some rare birds for the locality. White-winged Crossbills (*Loxia leucoptera*) have previously been watched for in vain for thirty years by one of our best bird students, but he found them in comparative abundance this year and they have been seen by many other observers. Doubtless there have been stray individuals of this species here before, but their numbers at this time are particularly worthy of note.

A stranger visitation, however, has been a flock of Arctic sea birds. The last of November, 1899, a friend brought me a bird for identification that had been caught alive on land several miles from water, but it lived only a few days in captivity. I found it to be a Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*). Soon I learned that three others had been shot on one of the bays of Lake Winnepesaukee. The finest specimen was mounted, but the other two were used for the purpose of testing Gen. Greeley's statement that their flesh was excellent—the best flavored of any of the Arctic sea fowl. The report of the New Hampshire sportsmen was that roasted Murre tasted about as much like fowl as a smoked herring tastes like fish.

Still another Brünnich's Murre was seen to fly into a brush heap at Franklin Falls, where it was easily captured, uninjured. The captors, supposing they had a young Loon, took the bird to Webster Lake, three or four miles away, and, tying a string to the bird's leg, they hoped to observe some interesting feats in diving. In this they were disappointed, but the bird *swam* so vigorously that the string was broken and the bird's liberty was almost gained when, I am sorry to add, a shot from a gun ended its career.

Several other Brünnich's Murres have been reported and, so far as I can learn, it is the first time they have been taken here.

It has been said that if, by mischance, this bird should alight on land, it cannot always rise on wing to make its way by flight back to water. Is this statement correct?—ELLEN E. WEBSTER, *Franklin Falls, N. H.*

**Ontario Bird Notes.—***Gavia arctica*. BLACK-THROATED LOON.—A female was taken on May 22, 1899, off Mimico (a suburb of Toronto), in Lake Ontario. The bird is in immature plumage, slightly abraded; the only previous record for Toronto is that of a pair sent to the Paris Exhibition of 1867.

*Phalacrocorax carbo*. CORMORANT.—A male was taken in Ashbridge's Bay, Toronto, on November 21, 1896. The bird was evidently starving and in a very bedraggled condition; it was killed with a brick by some boys. The Double-crested Cormorant is a regular migrant but this is the first true Cormorant I have seen from Toronto.

*Histrionicus histrionicus*. HARLEQUIN DUCK.—A female was taken at the Eastern Sandbar, Toronto, on October 20, 1894. The Harlequin Duck can be regarded as only a straggler on Lake Ontario. I have the records of three more specimens taken here in recent years; two immature males and a mature female.