

Description of the Nestling Plumage of *Falco islandus*. — While preparing a report on the various collections of birds received by the American Museum of Natural History through the Peary Expeditions to Greenland, I learned from Mr. J. D. Figgins, taxidermist of the expeditions of 1896-97, that Mr. R. D. Perry, one of the members of the expedition of 1897, secured two specimens of *Falco islandus* from the nest. The plumage of the species at that age having a very important bearing on the question of the relationships of the Greenland Gyrfalcons, I wrote Mr. Perry with the result that he kindly forwarded the birds for examination, and with his permission, I append the following description, which applies equally to both specimens:

Crown and nape as in the adult, white with narrow blackish shaft-streaks increasing in width posteriorly; back white, the apical half of the feather with a guttate or elliptical ovate fuscous mark bordered by white, and sometimes continuing as a narrow line down the shaft of its feather to the base; rump white with narrow fuscous shaft-streaks; quills with broken blackish bars and a sub-apical blackish tip, agreeing in pattern with the quills of the adult bird, but with the white portions, especially of the outer web, slightly suffused with pale ochraceous; wing-coverts as in the adult but with the blackish markings linear rather than transverse; tail, about two thirds grown, pure white without bars or other markings; under parts white, as in the adult, with a few fuscous shaft-streaks; under tail-coverts white, unmarked.

In general appearance these birds are quite as white as fully adult individuals and apparently prove that *Falco islandus* is, as has been claimed, white at all ages, and they thus furnish confirmatory evidence of its specific distinctness.

Moulting specimens of *Falco rusticolus* show that the immature, linear-marked plumage is directly succeeded by the mature barred plumage and it is probable, therefore, that the adult plumage of *F. islandus* is acquired in the same manner. — FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum Natural History, New York City.*

Prairie Horned Larks Nesting in Maine. — In his 'List of the Birds of Maine,' page 82, Mr. Knight says respecting the occurrence of *Otocoris alpestris praticola*: "It is a regular migrant in many parts of the State, and it is not improbable that it may ultimately be found breeding within our State." Its first record of occurrence in the State was made by Mr. James Carroll Meade of North Bridgton (*cf.* Maine Sportsman, April, 1897, p. 6).

The members of the Maine Ornithological Society then naturally looked more carefully to their identifications of *Otocoris*, with the result, as stated by Mr. Knight in his list, as mentioned above.

In the January, 1900, number of the 'Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society,' page 2, Mr. Arthur H. Norton, of Westbrook, mentions seeing two specimens of *Otocoris* in Andover, Oxford Co., Maine, which he

believed undoubtedly were of the Prairie variety, but he was not able to make sure, as they took wing before he could train his glass on them.

After this note our members were on the lookout for a definite record of its nesting in the State. The writer had the pleasure of making this record, for on June 26, while driving from Waterville to Pishon's Ferry, on the east side of the Kennebec River, I heard the unmistakable notes of *Otocoris*. Getting my glass from my traveling case, I alighted from my carriage and went in search of the two birds, which had flown from the road into a field of plowed ground near by. The birds were too wary and could not be approached near enough to decide positively that it was *O. a. praticola*.

Three weeks later, July 17, while driving along the same route, six Horned Larks flew from the road into a cornfield beside the road. Having my glass ready for use, I at once left my team and went in search of them. I flushed them, and farther down the road, I saw several more Larks feeding in the road with the Grass Finches. While examining them with my glass, they flew to a large piece of plowed ground and scattered about. In all there were twelve or fourteen birds, mostly young birds. I then drove to the next house, borrowed a gun and shells loaded with number six shot and went back and shot one adult female and two young. I could not get near enough to get any more adult birds. These proved to be *praticola*, and established a record of their breeding in the State. August 7 (three weeks later), I looked for them at the same place, but was not able to find a bird.

The plowed ground which they frequented was a large patch, that had been plowed in the spring, but being so wet, the owner, Mr. Lowell White, had not planted it, though in July it was dry enough and rather sandy, and well covered in patches with weeds. This field is situated about one half mile from the Kennebec River, in Kennebec County, bordering Somerset County. There are large fields of sandy land, and it is a typical location for *Otocoris alpestris praticola* to nest. — J. MERTON SWAIN, *Portland, Me.*

The European Linnet in Westchester County, N. Y. — Several years ago — in the late autumn or early winter of 1894 — I secured an adult female European Linnet (*Acanthis cannabina*), at Scarborough, N. Y., two miles south of Sing Sing. The bird was shot from the top of a maple tree, in a field about a mile east of the Hudson River. For several days previous to this I had frequently seen and heard in the region a small flock of very peculiar Linnets, which were undoubtedly of the same species, as I several times saw them at short range. There were about five in all, two or three being red-breasted, russet-backed males. They were most often seen alone, but not infrequently associated with flocks of American Goldfinches.

As far as I remember, the female was, when shot, the only Linnet among several Goldfinches, and the other Linnets were not seen thereafter. The bird secured was in bright, unworn plumage, and this fact, combined