

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

with that of the presence of others of the species, makes it unlikely that it was an escaped cage-bird. It was identified by Dr. Allen and Mr. Chapman, and is preserved in my father's collection.

So far as I know, this species has not been introduced into this country, though it is always possible for such birds to fly aboard trans Atlantic liners at sea, and stay with them to the end of the voyage. It is probably by this means that most of the stray European land birds get to America, and *vice versa*.

Dr. Marcus S. Farr, of the New York State Museum, advises me to record this occurrence in 'The Auk,' even at this late date.—GERALD H. THAYER, *Monadnock, N. H.*

**The Rough-winged Swallow breeding in Connecticut, and other Notes.**—On June 17, 1900, I secured a male Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) which was flying about a little brackish pond by the Thames River, near Gales Ferry. Later, on June 23, I found in a neighboring railroad embankment two nests of this species. Both were dug into the bank about an arm's length and just under the overhanging sods and roots. One of the nests, which I examined carefully, contained five pin-feather covered young. The parents were seen circling nervously about, all four being present, which led me to believe another nest must be in the vicinity, which I failed to discover.

I found also two male Hooded Warblers (*Wilsonia mitrata*) on the Gales Ferry side of the river on June 23 and 24, opposite the Montville shore where I found a single bird last June (see Auk, XVI, 1899, p. 360); these two birds were singing among the mountain laurel bushes on the southern hillsides. I also found a single male Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitherus vermivorus*) singing in the same locality on June 23, and secured him on the 24th. A pair of Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) were seen on June 17, feeding along the beach at Gales Ferry.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

**The Proper Name for the Florida Yellow-throat.** In 'The Auk' for July 1, 1900 (p. 225), Mr. William Palmer adopts Audubon's name *roscoe* for the southern form of the Maryland Yellow-throat because, to quote from his paper, "there can be no question as to the Florida bird occurring along the Gulf Coast"; and also, because the type specimen was "taken in a cypress swamp." The first reason is a matter of opinion as yet unconfirmed by specimens and, in the event of its being substantiated, of little value, under the circumstances. The second reason is an excellent one for the rejection of the name *roscoe* for the resident bird.

The Florida Yellow-throat, is, so far as my experience goes, by no means a common bird. In Florida, during the winter, it is doubtless outnumbered by *trichas* by at least fifty to one. I have invariably found it in or near growths of scrub palmetto, whence the local name 'Palmetto Bird.'