

that could have served man better outside of a bird, and it constituted only 5% of the contents of one stomach, or only one-fortieth or one-fiftieth of the food of the two. Otherwise the insects eaten were either neutral or potentially or actually harmful. A great per cent of the whole was in the last class, and some of the species eaten are tremendously injurious to grape culture.

The feeding habits of the birds may, from the present knowledge, be declared practically entirely beneficial. In return it seems not too much to expect that we should without complaint furnish, for a few days in the year, the drink to wash the great numbers of our insect enemies down to their destruction; and to consider these two little fellows as among the worthiest as they are among the prettiest of our warbler friends.—W. F. McATEE, *Washington, D. C.*

**The Raven in Southern New Hampshire, and Other Notes.**—On the afternoon of July 4, 1903, while all the land was dim with fire-cracker smoke, a solitary Raven, coming who-knows-whence and going who-knows-whither, wandered over the rocky ridge of Mount Monadnock, in southwestern New Hampshire. I was sitting outside my camp, midway of the mountain ridge, and several times dimly heard the wanderer's gruff, inarticulate croak, without recognizing it. In Norway or Sardinia, where I have known *Corvus corax* familiarly, this sound would have been instantly intelligible to me; but here, in the Massachusetts hill country of southernmost New Hampshire, unvisited by ravens for many a year, I was slow to grasp its meaning. Two companions were sitting near me, and I credited them with having facetiously uttered the ribald grunts. Nor did these companions at once arouse my interest by exclaiming: "See that crow over there!" I could n't see him without moving, and sat still. But a peculiar and vaguely familiar heavy 'swishing' of wings, coupled with the news that the crow was persistently hovering over our provisions, brought me to my feet to have a look at the bird myself. Stepping around the cabin I beheld, not a crow, but a big, dingy raven, heavy-headed, huge-beaked, and deeply emarginate-winged. He was raspingly beating the air, thirty feet above my outspread provisions and cooking utensils, and scarcely ten paces from where I stood.

Just so I have seen the European Raven flopping about over our vulture-baiting donkey carcass, in the hot fields of Sardinia,—hour-long, day after day. The scene was vividly recalled to me by this strayed carrion-biter of the North American wilderness. He was so strangely unsuspecting that he not only did not veer off when I appeared around the corner, but actually let me walk almost directly under him before he showed symptoms of alarm, and remitted his scrutiny of the victual-strewn ground. Then he started away to the northward along the mountain ridge, flying rather slowly and laboriously, with but little sailing, and presently disappeared behind a rocky knoll, on the northwest side of the mountain.

Later that same afternoon, at Dublin, near Monadnock's northern base, my sister saw some crows persecuting a larger bird, which looked to her somewhat like a hawk, but was entirely black. Probably this was my raven again. Where this raven came from no one can say, but it is certain that he had wandered far, and must wander far again to find country in which he could feel at home.

Strangely enough, he looked like a young bird, in the almost brownish dullness and sheenlessness of his plumage. But it is scarcely possible that he was a bird of the year, considering the date — July 4.

Almost every summer I find Yellow-bellied Flycatchers — one pair at least — breeding in a forest swamp close under the northern base of Monadnock, at an altitude of about 1400 feet. I found them first about six years ago, and my most recent records are 1902 and 1903 (June and July). This year (1904) I have n't looked for them. The morass in which they live extends over fifty or more acres, and is a typical north New England forest bog, wet and cool and mossy; full of sphagnum, pitcher-plants, creeping snowberry (*Chiogenes*), etc. The trees, mainly water-stunted spruces and balsams, are bearded heavily with usnea moss, in which many Northern Parula Warblers build their nests. All the more boreal warblers of the region breed here in unusual abundance, and among them are always one or two pairs of Northern Water-Thrushes.

I believe this is the only positive breeding record for the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher south of the White Mountains, and it is possible that the bird does not summer anywhere in the intervening ninety or a hundred miles. Monadnock is to a noteworthy extent a Canadian or semi-Hudsonian zone 'island.' But there is a narrow ribbon of very similar country straggling northward from it, as is proved by the distribution of certain birds. The Olive-backed Thrush, for instance, which nests commonly in the spruce woods high up on the mountain, occurs also, as a less common summer resident, at its northern base, and at various further points directly northward. The valley-ward extension of this thrush's breeding range here actually overlaps the upward extension of the Wood Thrush, though these species are both rare at their line of meeting, and are probably never to be found actually together, since the Olive-backed sticks to conifers and the Wood Thrush favors deciduous groves.

Birds representing the Hudsonian and birds representing the Carolinian border of the Transition zone breed at almost the same altitude within the limits of a single town (Dublin) at the north side of Monadnock. For the Hudsonian member we have the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (perhaps as fair a case as Bicknell's Thrush, which Massachusetts bird men delight to call Hudsonian), and for the Carolinio-transitional Henslow's Sparrow and the Short-billed Marsh Wren. The sparrow is very rare in Dublin, though common in the lower and more alluvial meadows eight miles to the northeast (Hancock and Bennington). Mr. Hoffmann finds it a rare breeder in the Alstead Hills, about twenty miles northwest of Dublin. There also, both he and I have found the Yellow winged Sparrow breeding.

As for the Short-billed Marsh Wrens, I have for two successive summers (1902 and 1903), found a single pair in a big, marshy brook-meadow on the eastern side of the Dublin ridge (the western slope of the Peterboro valley water-shed). This marsh lies in the upper border of a large extent of fertile meadow-country, very different from the Canadian belt north of Monadnock, which includes the Yellow-bellies' swamp; although the wrens' breeding place is only about two hundred feet lower than the flycatchers'. Bitterns are common in the Marsh Wrens' swamp, and one or two pairs of Black Ducks and thrice as many Wood Ducks still nest along the stream which feeds it. Owing to the deplorable New Hampshire law which permits the shooting of Wood Ducks and Upland Plovers after August 1, our scanty remnants of these two much-decimated species are in yearly danger of annihilation. I speak for the Monadnock region only. The Upland Plover (*Bartramia*) still breeds here and there near Monadnock, both in meadows and in upland pastures, but its numbers have been grievously reduced.

Northern Pileated Woodpeckers are tolerably common on and near Monadnock, and they seem to be increasing rather than falling off. In 1902 my father and I found a Pileated's nest, seventy feet up in a dead yellow birch stump. The three or four young left the nest about June 12.

The summer avifauna of the Monadnock region is really unusually rich for north-central New England. In one early summer season I have found one hundred and six breeding species on the north side of the mountain, all but two or three of them within the limits of the town of Dublin.

The remarkably bitter winter of 1903-'04 was fully heralded in New England by a copious and early influx of northern birds, as everyone remembers. At Monadnock the warning was exceedingly pronounced. On October 6, I found a Hudson Bay Titmouse low down on the north side of the mountain, in a band of Chickadees. The little fellow, who revealed himself to me by his notes, responded vehemently to my 'squeaking,' and flitted about within a few yards of my head, so that I had a perfect chance to inspect him.

Pine Grosbeaks appeared on October 18, and were at once abundant, continuing so throughout the autumn and early winter (I left the region in December). Snow Buntings appeared on the same day, and large flocks of Redpoll Linnets arrived a few weeks later. Siskins and both kinds of Crossbills were also more or less common through the last half of the autumn.

During a long and heavy northeasterly storm, which ended on October 12 or 13, Dublin Pond was visited by at least eight kinds of sea-birds; namely, the three species of Scoters, a Herring Gull, a Phalarope (probably the Northern,—we did not shoot it), the Red-throated Loon, and the Horned and Holbøll's Grebes. Of the Black Scoters there came at least a hundred, mainly in one big flock; of the White-winged about

twenty; of the Surf not more than ten, and of the Red-throated Loons a single pair. The Grebes were in small scattered companies, numbering in all about twenty Horned and twelve or fifteen Holbæll's, all in dingy winter plumage. We shot a few of the Holbæll's, and found them to vary much in size, and in the length and color of the bill, but scarcely at all in plumage. Both kinds of Grebes lingered on the lake for several days, after the other refugees had gone. On one morning near the end of the storm (Oct. 12), all the Ducks and Grebes and the two Divers were together,—in our little mountain pond-hole barely more than a mile long.  
—GERALD H. THAYER, *Monadnock, N. H.*

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

**The International Catalogue of Scientific Literature.**—The first annual issue of the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature, comprising the literature of the year 1901, consists of a volume for each of the seventeen branches of Science into which scientific literature is divided for the purposes of the Catalogue. These branches are indicated by the letters A to R, Zoölogy being branch 'N' of the series. A copy of Volume N<sup>1</sup> having been officially sent to 'The Auk' for review, we have endeavored to give it the careful consideration its great importance demands.

The 'International Catalogue of Scientific Literature' is an outgrowth of the well-known 'Catalogue of Scientific Papers' published by the Royal Society of London, which in twelve large quarto volumes covers the period 1800–1883. A Catalogue covering the period 1884–1900 is now in preparation, to be issued under the same auspices. These volumes give only the titles of papers, but a subject index to the first series, "which will serve as a key to these volumes and also form an independent record, is in an advanced state of preparation."

The possibility of preparing a complete index of current scientific literature, to include subject indexes as well as titles of papers, began to be considered by the Royal Society in the year 1893. As it was apparent that the resources of the Society were inadequate for such an undertak-

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<sup>1</sup> International Catalogue | of | Scientific Literature | First Annual Issue | N | Zoology | — | Published for the International Council | by the | Royal Society of London | London : | Harrison and Sons, 45, St. Martin's Lane | — France: Gauthier-Villars, Paris | Germany: Gustav Fischer, Jena | — | Vol. XVII: 1904 (February) — 8vo, Pt. I, Authors' Catalogue, pp. xvi + 368; Pt. II, Subject Catalogue, pp. 369–1528.