

localities. A specimen of Townsend's Solitaire has been taken as far east as Illinois, December 16, 1875 (Bull. N. O. C., I, 1876, p. 40), the late date suggesting, as does Mr. Weber's bird, some connection between autumn storms and the wafting eastward of purely accidental western visitors like the one now first recorded for New York.—JONATHAN DWIGHT, Jr., M. D., *New York City*.

Two Birds New to the Avifauna of Kansas.—1. GROOVE-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*). A single specimen of this species was captured by a farmer near Emporia, in Lyon County, about November 1, 1904. It is in the collection of the Kansas State Normal School and was reported to me by Prof. L. C. Wooster of that institution. This is, I think, the first instance known of the occurrence of this bird north of the Lower Rio Grande in Texas.

2. RED PHALAROPE (*Crymophilus fulicarius*). A single specimen of this species was shot by Edward E. Brown, assistant secretary of the University of Kansas, on November 5, 1905, at Thacher's Lake, about four miles from Lawrence, in Douglas County. A small flock arose from water about one foot in depth among the weeds, emitting a shrill piping cry. Dr. Coues in his 'Birds of the Northwest,' says: "I introduced this species, although it has not yet been found in the Missouri region, as one which unquestionably occurs at times, and in order to complete an account of the family. It is more particularly a maritime bird. . . . It is mentioned by Mr. Wheaton among the birds of Ohio, and by Mr. Ridgway among those of Illinois."

These two additions raise the number of species and varieties of Kansas birds whose actual capture has been verified by me to 349.—FRANCIS H. SNOW, *University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kans.*

Some More Michigan Records.—PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*). A floating newspaper paragraph called my attention to an alleged case of this bird's breeding in a letter box in the city of Battle Creek this summer. On writing for further particulars, I find the report well confirmed. I received an excellent description of the bird from Mrs. Inez Adams, who had many opportunities for observing the bird through the summer, and who forwarded the nest itself to me later. It agrees perfectly with all descriptions of the nest of this species and is, of course, radically different from the structure built by the Yellow Warbler, which is the only bird that could possibly be mistaken for *P. citrea*. The letter box in question was fastened to a veranda post of the residence of Mrs. C. A. La Pierre, No. 35 Coldwater St., and it was by her kindness that I was furnished with the following particulars, and I can do no better than to quote her words.

"About the 16th of May one of the birds came in at the back door and flew through to the parlor, fluttering there against one of the large win-

dows. I hurriedly opened the front door to give her her liberty; which she seemed in no particular hurry to take advantage of, flying about the room and finally out into the large elm which overhangs our porch. In a few moments she was back again sitting on the porch box, peering inquisitively in at the window where I was at work. I took no notice of the birds until on the 19th, returning from a day's outing in the country, I found my letter box filled with moss and grass. Still, never thinking of a bird building there, I threw it away, supposing it to have been placed there by the children during my absence. A few mornings later our mail carrier, finding the box full, threw it out again upon the porch floor. It was then that I discovered it to be in the form of a nest and replaced it. That same evening, or early next morning, there was one tiny speckled egg laid, for I found it there at six A. M. Each morning, by six o'clock, there would be another egg that had not been there the night before, until there were five, and then she began sitting. We provided a temporary box for the mails, and placed a large fern on a table in front, thus affording what protection we could during the hatching process.

"Next door to us lives a small boy who, with several companions, play and shout from early till late, often running across our lawn and up on our porch. The street is a very busy one and the house stands close to it, so you can imagine what difficulties the little bird had to contend with and with what courage and persistence she managed to make her nest. She was often looked in upon by lamp light, and had bills thrust in the nest before I placed the fern, and was obliged to wait until I removed them, before she could return. They were both so tame that I could often call them to the lower branches of the tree, where they would sit and 'talk back,' but not when others were present.

"They hatched the five eggs and got their young into the tree without anything happening to distress them, and I only wish I could picture their joy, on the morning when the young were able to fly. The male drew me to the door with his loud singing, and I found him perched upon my hammock rope, warbling with a sweetness I had no idea he possessed. He would, occasionally, leave the rope and suspend himself in the air on a level with my head, just outside the door, looking at me all the time. I opened the door, thinking he wanted to come in, as he often had done, but he alighted on the top of the half open screen and continued to sing. I went out, and there was the first of the youngsters on the edge of the box, preparing to make the trip from the nest to the tree. On top of his head was a ball of fuzz like that he had worn previous to getting his feathers, making him look very comical indeed. There was only one wee bird in the nest that night and by the following afternoon all had disappeared as suddenly as they had come and,—listen as I would, I could not even hear a note of the song I had learned to love by association with the bird that sang it.

"They were very cleanly in their habits, making no litter as I expected they would. When the porch was scrubbed with a brush, or even washed

with a hose, they remained undisturbed, and when I sat in the hammock they would change their course of flight from the nest and pass close to my head, and even come into the kitchen wash-day when the room was full of steam."

The above is the interesting account of these birds furnished me by the mistress of the house where they raised their brood. From the light it throws upon the habits of this species when under the influence of unusual environment, I deem it worthy of record. A few rods back of the house flows the Kalamazoo River, bordered by a fringe of willows, and it was doubtless these neighboring conditions that brought the birds to this peculiar nesting site.

AMERICAN HAWK OWL (*Surnia ulula caparoch*). Nov. 19, 1905, a fine-plumaged bird of this species was brought in to Mr. Eppinger to be mounted. With it came the information that it had been killed at Port Huron, St. Clair Co., Mich., and that several more had been taken in that neighborhood. This last statement I have been unable to verify with exact certainty as yet. The bird had not been long dead, as the lice upon it were still lively and crawling about. It was a male and had probably been killed the day before.

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*). Among other recent interesting occurrences was the unusual numbers of this species taken late this fall. During the first week and a half of November Mr. Campion received eight of them from different persons to mount, all from the vicinity of the Point Mouille Marshes. All were immatures but one. This bird does not usually linger here as late as this in such numbers.—P. A. TAVERNER, *Detroit, Mich.*

Some Nebraska Bird Notes.—*Cinclus mexicanus*. DIPPER.—On page 680 of the recently published third volume of his 'Birds of North and Middle America,' Mr. Ridgway cites the reference by Mr. W. W. Cooke (Bird Migr. Miss. Valley, p. 264) to this species as abundant in Otoe County, Nebraska, and in a footnote points out that this record must be an error since the locality in question is bordering on the Missouri in the extreme eastern part of the State, in "the prairie region, a country different as possible from that inhabited by the present species." In this conclusion Mr. Ridgway is entirely correct, and it is perhaps worth while to point out the origin of the error. Mr. Cooke, as he states, obtained this record from Prof. Samuel Aughey's paper on the food habits of Nebraska Birds (Rept. U. S. Ent. Comm., Appendix II, p. 16) where under the name "*Cinclus mexicanus*, Sw.," he says: "Rare in Nebraska. Seen it for the first time in August on the Niobrara, about seven miles from its mouth, in a dense timber. I was near enough to observe it eating locusts. Hon. J. Sterling Morton says that they are abundant in Otoe County." Examining Aughey's paper it will be seen that in juxtaposition to the technical name of the Dipper is the common name "Western Bluebird,"