

members of the Linnæan Society of New York. I am pleased to record that a nest of the American Coot containing eight eggs was discovered by Mr. Wilcox, thus establishing this bird as a nesting species within seven miles of New York City Hall.

In other respects conditions in the marsh-bird colony were found to be much the same this year as those described in the above mentioned article.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *New York City*.

**The Stilt Sandpiper in Massachusetts.**—While looking over the 'General Notes,' in the July issue of 'The Auk' I noticed a reference to the Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*) in Massachusetts. I think the rarity of this species in this State has been greatly exaggerated in this note.

On September 20, 1903, while gunning at Chatham with a friend, a flock of about a dozen Stilt Sandpipers flew over us, and we each secured a pair. Since then both my brother and myself have seen numbers of these birds in the big market in Boston, which were shot along the south shore in the vicinity of Chatham and Monomoy.

Thus it seems to me that the Stilt Sandpiper is not so rare in Massachusetts as Mr. Nash believes and states it to be. I would like to hear from other Massachusetts men in regard to the prevalence of the Stilt Sandpiper in this State.—WINTHROP S. BROOKS, *Milton, Mass.*

**The Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) on Long Island, N. Y.**—Owing to the infrequent occurrence of this species on the Atlantic coast, I wish to record a young male in my collection taken at Rockaway Beach on Sept. 11, 1906.—J. A. WEBER, *New York City*.

**American Goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus*) versus Man and Barred Owl.**—Two incidents, illustrating at once the ferocity and the "lack of judgment," so to say, of the Goshawk, have lately come to the writer's notice. About May 15, 1905, Mr. Ferdinand Lack, a farmer of Germanicus, Renfrew County, Ontario, had occasion to go into an old, little visited pasture on his farm, lying along an extensive piece of woods. Suddenly a large hawk swooped down upon him, flew around his head in most threatening and uncomfortable proximity, at the same time striking at him with wings and claws, as if it wanted to arrest his progress. In this the hawk was successful, the man could not proceed. The next day the farmer wanted to resume his interrupted inspection of the pasture, and thinking that the experience of the day before would probably remain unique, took no weapon of any kind along. But the same thing happened again. He had to turn back again, as he could hardly dodge the vicious onslaughts of the bird. The inspection of the meadow had to remain incompleated again. Once more the farmer sallied forth the following day, but this time in the company of his gun. But even the sight of this did not deter the bird from making his usual assault with the result, of course, that it was speedily put out of commission by a shot from the farmer's gun. He

gave the fine hawk to a friend of the writer, who has taxidermic propensities, when it was identified as the Goshawk. This bird probably had its nest in the woods along the pasture.

A more remarkable instance came to the writer's notice at High Falls, Wright County, Quebec, fifty miles northeast of Ottawa. There, one morning last February, Mr. Hugo Paeseler, a farmer, on going out into the woods adjoining his farm, noticed a space of about ten to fifteen feet square, where the snow had recently been much disturbed, deeply plowed up from some great commotion. That a fierce fight had been going on but a short while before was evident from the liberal quantities of blood sprinkled on the snow and the masses of feathers, single and in whole bunches, lying about and adhering to bushes and trees. On looking around for the principals of the fight, he found about ten feet away in one direction a Goshawk, lying on the snow with wings extended and frozen stiff. About ten feet away from the scene of hostilities, in the opposite direction, he found an owl, more damaged than the hawk, but still warm. It had alighted after the fight on a small spruce and fallen off, as the snow showed, and with its last strength crawled into a small log, lying with its hollow part conveniently near. The farmer took both along home, skinned and "stuffed" — here that term is appropriate — the hawk, and also the head of the owl, which was all he could make use of in her case. When the writer saw them at the farm house, they turned out to be the Barred Owl and the American Goshawk. It must surely have been a battle royal, if one could only have witnessed it. The farmer, quite a shrewd observer, tells me, that the same hawks are there winter and summer, which is, of course, not to be wondered at, the place being right in the Goshawk range. The writer's theory is, that the Goshawk, hungry and ill at ease from the severe cold, while looking for its breakfast, encountered the owl, then peacefully returning from its nightly foraging. In its usual injudiciousness, courage, fierceness, or whatever one may call it, he pounced down upon the owl, which, however, had no desire to be made a meal of, and defended herself so valiantly, that both had no more use for breakfasts.— G. EIFRIG, *Ottawa, Ontario.*

**Unusual Occurrence of the Short-eared Owl in Pennsylvania.**—The Short-eared Owl (*Asio accipitrinus*), is a rather frequent migrant and winter resident in this section, occurring in small flocks wherever there is a sufficient abundance of *Microtus*. Here they remain until about the first of April, when they usually wend their way further north. This year, however, was an exception, at least with one pair which I had the fortune to observe.

The first evidence of mating was noticed on March 28, when they were noted sailing about in the dusk, occasionally giving vent to a peculiar call — *whaq*, with a nasal intonation. They were frequently heard during the first ten days of April but no more were seen until April 19, when in crossing a weedy field I flushed a fine specimen and observed it sailing about for some time.