

dilapidated group of buildings. In the top of one of these buildings I found a set of four eggs placed in a large box which was supported by huge beams. As I approached the box an old Barn Owl jumped out and flew through a broken window. On examining the interior of the box I found that its contents were mostly old bones and feathers, while around the box and below some of the rafters I saw only disgorged hair and bones, indicating that the old owls tear the flesh from the bones to feed their young, while they themselves swallow bones, feathers, and all. The building has probably been abandoned for about fifteen years and I suppose that the owls have been breeding in it ever since. This would account for the great accumulation of bones and feathers. I also found in this box parts of the Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*), and the Marsh Hen (*Rallus crepitans* or *R. c. waynei*). Below the box I saw the skin of a black rat, and found the skull of a sparrow. Of the eggs taken, two were fresh, the third nearly so, while the fourth contained a small embryo.—RHETT CHAMBERLAIN, *Charlestown, S. C.*

**White Pelican in South Carolina.**—On October 26, 1910, a White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) was shot in the Santee swamp by a farmer, from whom it was obtained by Mr. William C. Smith of Charleston, in whose possession it now is. The bird measures approximately sixty-four inches in length as mounted, and the bill thirteen inches. The primaries are black, and the bill, pouch, and feet are yellow. These characters prove conclusively that the bird is not an albino Brown Pelican (*P. occidentalis*), and a record is thus established for a species which has apparently not been taken in South Carolina for nearly a hundred years. Mr. Wayne states<sup>1</sup> that he has never seen the White Pelican on our coast, and quotes Bachman's account as given by Audubon. Dr. Bachman procured two specimens on July 1, 1814, from a flock which he believed had laid eggs on the banks off Bull's Island.

The specimen in Mr. Smith's possession was apparently blown here by a West Indian hurricane which passed up the coast immediately before it was taken.—PAUL M. REA, *The Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.*

**The Evening Grosbeak at Boston, Mass.**—On December 5, 1910, two Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) were seen in Olmsted Park beside Leverett Pond in a birch tree. It was at this precise point in the park that the Orange-crowned Warbler and the Blue-grey Gnatcatcher had been seen two days previous, of which another general note furnishes the record. Neither bird was in the plumage of the adult male. One showed but a bit of yellowish color on the nape of the neck. The other was somewhat more yellowish. Both birds had a black tail tipped with white and the black upper tail-coverts also tipped

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<sup>1</sup> Birds of South Carolina. Contr. Charleston Mus., I, 1910, p. 12.

with white. The bills of both were horn-color. The more yellowish bird, quite probably a young male, gave many clear whistles as he moved about in the birch, or dropped to the ground. The other bird, in the plumage of the female, responded with a slight chattering. The birds were viewed as near as fifteen feet. Both at length flew across the pond, where the young male's whistles could still be heard. These birds were thus in Brookline as well as Boston and crossed the waters on which the rare wild ducks wintered last season (Auk, October, 1910, pp. 390-408). Two other records of a single bird each, seen by other observers, have come to my knowledge, indicating that once more this far northwestern bird has appeared in eastern Massachusetts.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

**Lapland Longspur and other Birds in Delaware.**—December 3, 1910, while tramping a tidal marsh near Delaware City, Del., in company with Dr. Spencer Trotter of Philadelphia, Pa., we flushed three birds we thought at long range to be Titlarks (*Anthus pensilvanicus*). On following them up Dr. Trotter shot one and our surprise was great to find it a fine male Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*), a very rare bird for this section and a first record for Delaware. While the other two birds were seen later they could not be positively identified as of this species.

In 'Cassinia' for 1906, page 63, a total of seven individuals of this species from the Delaware Valley are reported by Mr. R. F. Miller, covering from the first one noted by John Cassin, found in a Philadelphia city market in January, 1849; one on League Island, Philadelphia, about 1864; four shot in New Jersey in 1895 (two of these near Princeton, possibly not strictly Delaware Valley); the other seen at Harrowgate, Philadelphia, November 22, 1904.

Among other birds there were observed at the above noted time and place, several Titlarks (*A. pensilvanicus*), a flock of twenty Horned Larks (*Otocoris alpestris alpestris*), two shot; two Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*); six Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*), and several Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*).—C. J. PENNOCK, *Kennett Square, Chester Co., Pa.*

**The Lark Sparrow in Massachusetts**—On September 25, 1910, a fine Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) was observed at Berlin, Mass. While walking on the Clinton Aqueduct in that vicinity a sparrow flew up from the ground and rested on a low fence beneath us in fine light and situation. This bird remained in a favorable position for several minutes, so that all distinguishing features, even its swollen grayish bill, were easily observed by our party of four. A friend living in this vicinity, who is a bird-lover and good observer, records an individual of this species seen in this locality in the spring. I have noticed this year and last that migrating sparrows are found here in very large numbers and in our walks discovered twenty-six species of land birds in a district of short radius.—J. E. KLOSEMAN, *Dedham, Mass.*