

burden over the brushwood, but did not then in the brief and surprised view, distinctly make out the object carried. A few minutes later a second flight occurred close by, which I plainly observed and noted in its full particulars. After a time I indistinctly remembered having seen years before, an engraving of a like scene, which I later found in Chapman's Farm Encyclopedia. The print is very lifelike, except that the young which I saw was relatively larger than here shown.—C. C. McDERMID, *Battle Creek, Mich.*

A Feeding Habit of the Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres morinella*).—September 7, 1913, at Lincoln Park, Chicago, Ill., I saw about a dozen of these birds busily engaged in feeding about a large flat-topped pile of fertilizer to be used on newly-made land. Most of them were digging in the pile near the edges, a few were perched on the top, while one or two others were turning over sticks in the usual fashion on the barren ground a few feet away. Those on top were alert and not feeding; the others seemed much more oblivious to possible dangers. The feeding birds reminded one very much of chickens, minus the scratching. When they were scared away a few alighted on the beach, but the rest, after circling, came back to the pile. They were unusually numerous compared to the numbers seen in previous years. They were associated with numerous small sandpipers, and two or three small plovers. The pile stood some distance from the beach, so that the birds could not have reached it in running about their usual habitat, and it seems reasonable that this new habit was formed through imitation of the other shore birds, which are not so much restricted to beaches.—EDWIN D. HULL, *Chicago, Ill.*

Willow Ptarmigan in Montana.—I recently mounted three Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus lagopus*) received February 21, 1914, from Mr. L. W. Hill of St. Paul, Minn., who secured them near Midvale, Montana, in the New Glacier Park. As I have never before seen any ptarmigan except the White-tailed species from this region, the occurrence seems worthy of record.—HARRY P. STANFORD, *Kalispell, Mont.*

Choucalcyon versus Sauromarptis.—In my "Revision of the Classification of the Kingfishers" (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXI, 1912, p. 241), I stated that the name *Choucalcyon* Lesson, *Traité D'Orn.*, 1831, 248, "type by subsequent designation (Gray, 1855), *Alcedo gardichard* Quoy and Gaim." would have to replace *Sauromarptis* Cab. & Heine, proposed on grounds of purism.

Dr. Gregory Mathews has kindly called my attention to the fact that Lesson himself in 1837 designated as the type of *Choucalcyon* the bird now known as *Dacelo gigas* (Bodd.). In the *Complément des œuvres de Buffon*, Oiseaux, 1837, p. 355 (a work which was not available when my paper was prepared) Lesson writes: "Le type de ce groupe est le grand alcyon de la Nouvelle-Hollande, que Buffon croyoit provenir de la Nouvelle-Guinée, et qu'il a figuré enl. 663." As Buffon's plate represents *Dacelo gigas*,

Choucalcyon therefore falls as an absolute synonym of *Dacelo* (type by monotypy *D. gigas*).— W. DEW. MILLER, *Amer. Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

The Bobolink breeding in Southeastern Pennsylvania.— The western side of the Delaware in southeastern Pennsylvania is flanked by the "Uplands" which rise from the Coastal Plain along the 100 foot contour. These Uplands reach westward to the Blue Ridge, one hundred miles away — a well-watered, rolling country of low hills and mature valley streams. The land is one of farms — wheat, corn, meadow pasture and grassland. At my home at Cheyney, on the border of Delaware and Chester Counties, a typical rural district, I have often seen and heard the Bobolink for a few days during its northward passage in May. This year (1914) several pairs have remained and are nesting in a wide field of clover just back of my house. I hear the tumultuous song of the birds throughout these early summer days and see the male perched on tree tops, wheeling and hovering over the field and dropping into the grass, all the while voluble and ecstatic as the Bobolink always is at this season. There appear to be several pairs, but I have made an indifferent search for nests and have not as yet found one. The birds, however, have been with us for the past three weeks and every day this gladsome voice is a continual delight.

I have never understood just why the Bobolink did not remain with us when clover and meadow grass were so alluring. They are here this year and I, for one, am glad of this added touch of more northern summers.— SPENCER TROTTER, "*Pennyscroft, Cheyney, Penna.*"

Evening Grosbeaks in Pennsylvania.— In February last a flock of about 400 Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) remained for some days about Lewisburg, Union Co., Pa. Smaller flocks were also observed during periods of deep snow in Lycoming and Bedford Counties and some specimens secured.— B. H. WARREN, *Everhart Museum, Scranton, Pa.*

Nuttall's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli*) wintering in King Co., Wash.— For the last two years, a pair of Nuttall's Sparrows have spent the winter about our garden. Noticing them for the first time, during the late Autumn of 1912, and thinking it an unusual occurrence, I made an entry of it in my note-book. At the end of a week, I was greatly surprised to find them still frequenting the shrubbery, as I had thought them to be merely stopping for a rest, on their journey southward. As the weather was steadily becoming colder, so much so that a light snow fell, I was able to encourage them by feeding. In consequence they became fairly tame, and seemed quite content to remain.

Early, the following spring, I noticed that they were building in an ivy-covered house on the lawn. Two broods of young were raised, the parents becoming exceedingly tame at this time. The entire family remained