

229. *Grouse* [*Cupidonia cupido*] on *Martha's Vineyard*. By S. C. C. *Ibid.*, XIX, No. 18, p. 344, Nov. 30, 1882.

230. *Death of Mr. Willis's Quail*. *Ibid.*, XIX, No. 18, p. 345, Nov. 30, 1882. — Note from Mr. John J. Willis, of Westfield, N. J., announcing the death of his domesticated Quail [*Oxytyx virginiana*] with an autoptical report on the dead birds by the editor [G. B. Grinnell]. (See above, No. 220.) For a further note on the same subject see *Ibid.*, No. 20, p. 384, Dec. 14, 1882.

231. *The Boston Anti-Sparrow Crusade*. *Ibid.*, XIX, No. 18, p. 345. — Reprint of a letter by Wilson Flagg to the Boston "Transcript" of Nov. 18, with an introductory note by Dr. Elliott Coues. The formation of a society for the extermination of *Passer domesticus* urged.

232. *The Pine Siskin*. *Chrysomitris pinus*. By Dr. Elliott Coues. *Ibid.*, XIX, No. 19, p. 364, Dec. 7, 1882. — General history of the species, with cut of Pine Finch and of American Goldfinch.

233. *The New Zealand Bird Nuisance*. By "M.", Wellington, New Zealand. *Ibid.*, XIX, No. 20, p. 384, Dec. 14, 1883. — The principal offender is the English House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) whose rapid increase and ravages are recounted. It is estimated that they annually destroy grain to the value of \$66,600.

234. *Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley*. By W. W. Cooke. *Ibid.*, XIX, No. 20, p. 384, Dec. 14, 1883. — A digest of observations made by Mr. H. A. Kline of Vesta, Neb.

235. *Strange Hawks' Nests*. By T. S. Roberts. *Ibid.*, XIX, No. 26, p. 505, Jan. 25, 1883. — In Central Dakota, composed of buffalo ribs.

General Notes.

PROBABLE BREEDING OF THE WINTER WREN (*Anorthura troglodytes hiemalis*) IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS.—Mr. George O. Welch tells me that a pair of Winter Wrens once passed the breeding season in a hemlock grove near Lynn. He first noticed them about the middle of May, when their actions led him to suspect that they were preparing to breed. During subsequent visits — which extended well into June — he rarely failed to hear the song of the male, and frequently its mate would be seen hopping in and out among some holes under the hemlock roots. He feels sure that they had a nest in one of these holes but all his efforts to discover it proved fruitless. At length, about the 10th of June, he shot both birds, thus definitely settling their identity.

The authenticity of the above facts is open to no doubt. They do not prove, of course, that these Wrens actually nested, but such an inference is, to say the least, highly probable. Assuming it granted, the occur-

rence must still be regarded as exceptional, for the breeding-range of the Winter Wren is sufficiently well known to preclude any serious question of its availability as a "test species" of the Canadian Fauna.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

THE WINTER WREN (*Anorthura troglodytes hiemalis*) IN WESTERN VERMONT.—In the northwestern part of the town of Brandon, lying along the bank of the Otter Creek, is a swamp some three miles in length and from one-half to one and one-half miles in breadth. Formerly this was all heavily timbered, but the timber has been largely removed and at this time but little of the "first-growth" remains; this is near the centre of the swamp. The swamp has an elevation above the sea of probably about 350 feet, and is overflowed by the creek during high water. On June 4 of last year (1882), while botanizing in the heavy "first-growth," my attention was attracted by a pair of Winter Wrens. They constantly darted in and out of a large brush-heap, scolding the while in true Wren fashion, and seemed very desirous that I should leave. A close examination of the brush-heap and vicinity failed to reveal the site of the nest. On July 4 following, I again visited the locality, and about this same brush-heap saw old birds of this species feeding young but a day or two from the nest. This of course set at rest all doubt about their breeding here. I have never seen them in summer before. In the following November I spent two days (24th and 25th) in this swamp and, to my surprise, saw a pair of these Wrens. Snow covered the ground to a depth of two inches or more, and the thermometer was but little above zero. The latest I have noted them before was the first part of October.—F. H. KNOWLTON, *Middlebury, Vt.*

TROGLODYTES AEDON PARKMANI IN KANSAS.—I have the pleasure of recording the first capture of this bird in Kansas. It was shot at Larned, Kansas, April 21, 1881, by Mr. Geo. C. Waterman (No. 3903 ♂), and identified by Mr. Ridgway.—H. K. COALE, *Chicago, Ill.*

CAPTURE OF THE GREAT CAROLINA WREN (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) IN CONNECTICUT, IN MARCH.—A male of this species was shot here March 2, 1883, by Mr. Chas. H. Neff, and is now in his cabinet. It was in good condition—was in song and killed among the rocks on a wooded hillside.

So far as I can learn, the only previously recorded capture of this Wren in Connecticut is the one taken by J. N. Clark at Saybrook, Nov. 25, 1878 (see this Bulletin, Vol. IV, p. 61).—JNO. H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*

A SECOND INSTANCE OF THE WINTERING OF THE PINE WARBLER IN MASSACHUSETTS.—To Mr. Browne's recent record (this Bulletin, Vol. VII, p. 119), of the probable wintering of the Pine Warbler in this state, I can now add a second. On December 30, 1882, Mr. C. J. Maynard showed me a female *Dendroica pinus*, in the flesh, which had been killed

at Duxbury, Mass., by Mr. Chauncey W. Chamberlain, on December 27. It was found in company with Yellow-rumps (*Dendroica coronata*) which, as we now know, winter here regularly and in considerable numbers.—
WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

DEVELOPMENT OF A BROOD OF BLACK-AND-YELLOW WARBLERS (*Dendroica maculosa*).—My co-laborer in this field, Mr. James W. Banks, desires me to record the result of some observations made by him last season, of the rapid growth of young Magnolia Warblers. On June 26, just at dusk, a nest was discovered containing four eggs, which exhibited signs of advanced incubation, and early on the following morning one of the chicks had freed itself from the shell, while the others were on their way out. When the nest was visited on July 1, the four chicks were partially fledged and on the fourth day of the month, or eight days from the time they were hatched, two of the brood had left the nest and the remaining pair were so large they almost filled it and were nearly in full feather. While Mr. Banks stood watching them one of the chicks jumped up on the edge of the nest and fluttered off to a bush near by, and, a couple of hours later on, the nest was empty and the parent and brood were seen in an adjoining hedge.—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, St. John, N. B.

CAPTURE OF ÆGITHUS LINARIA HOLBOELLI IN THE LOWER HUDSON VALLEY.—Mr. Ezra Acker, on Feb. 12, killed a specimen of this large Greenland variety of the Redpoll Linnet, out of a small passing flock. The following day another was captured out of a large mixed flock of common Redpolls, Goldfinches, and Pine Linnets, specimens of each species having been killed at the one discharge of the gun. Mr. Robert Ridgway, who kindly examined the two specimens, considers them typical.—A. K. FISHER, M. D., Sing Sing, N. Y.

INDIVIDUAL VARIATION IN COLOR IN THE EUROPEAN CROSSBILL.—At the time my recent paper on extreme individual variation went to press, I was not aware that the European Crossbill had been shown to assume its red, yellow, and orange plumages with the same irregularity that I pointed out in our own two species. I came across a popular volume of natural history at the hotel here to-day from which I learn that this was done by Mr. Yarrell, many years ago. My author in hand, Rev. J. G. Wood, quotes Yarrell quite freely, but how the age of the birds was ascertained does not appear.

I am of course unable to learn, in this remote region, what may be the views of modern European writers as to this matter. It is sufficiently evident, however, that our own authorities either disagree with Mr. Yarrell or else have overlooked his evidence.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, Boerne, Texas.

THE COW BUNTING WINTERING IN MASSACHUSETTS.—On January 2, 1883, Mr. William Brewster and the writer secured two Cow Buntings (*Molothrus ater*) in Belmont, Massachusetts. Both were males, one being an adult in full plumage, the other a young bird in that mottled dress

usually seen in September specimens. They were feeding in company with Redpolls (*Aegithus linaria*) and Goldfinches (*Chrysomitris tristis*) among some rank weeds in an old field. Their crops were filled with seeds. The ground, at the time, was partially covered with snow and the weather cold. There is, apparently, no previous record of the occurrence of this species in winter, in Massachusetts.—HENRY M. SPELMAN, Cambridge, Mass.

AN UNUSUAL INFLUX OF THE THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS (*Picoides arcticus* AND *P. americanus*) INTO EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS.—I am indebted to Mr. George O. Welch for the following interesting notes. Some time in the summer of 1860 a fire swept through a piece of heavy white pine timber in Lynn, killing most of the trees. In the natural course of events the charred trunks became infested with wood-borers, and during the following winter (1860-61) the place was a favorite resort of various kinds of Woodpeckers. In what manner the news of the feast was advertised in the remote forests of the North is not explained, but certain it is that with the first cold weather both species of *Picoides* appeared on the scene. Of *P. americanus* only three specimens were actually taken, a female by Mr. Welch, and a fine pair by Mr. N. Vickary. *P. arcticus*, however, was actually abundant, and remained through the entire winter. Mr. Welch often saw as many as six or eight during a single visit to these woods, and numerous specimens were killed and preserved. Most of the individuals seen were females, the yellow-crowned males being comparatively rare. Since 1861 only two Three-toed Woodpeckers (both *P. arcticus*) are known to have been taken in Lynn.

There is nothing novel in the fact of these Woodpeckers assembling in numbers in a tract of recently-burned timber; indeed *Picoides arcticus* is rather notorious for this habit. But how the knowledge of such an attraction could have been conveyed so far as it must have been in the present instance is little short of marvellous. We commend the problem to the attention of those ornithologists who refuse to believe that there is anything "mysterious" in the periodical movements of certain migratory birds.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

THE BARN OWL IN CANADA WEST.—Mr. T. McIlwraith, of Hamilton, informs me of the capture of *Aluco flammeus pratincola* in that locality on the 9th of May, 1882. The bird is new to that place, if not to Canada.—ELLIOTT COUES, Washington, D. C.

CAPTURE OF RICHARDSON'S OWL (*Nyctalu tengmalmi richardsoni*) NEAR PROVIDENCE, R. I.—A beautiful male specimen of this species was taken east of this city and brought to us by a milkman, Dec. 18, 1882. As it passed through several hands before reaching us we could not ascertain just where it had been killed, but think it must be accredited to Massachusetts, as it was in all probability taken in Seekonk, where the man lives who brought it to us. As the Massachusetts line runs but two miles east of this city, this is almost beyond doubt a Massachusetts record.—F. T. JENCKS, Providence, R. I.

CAPTURE OF THE GREAT GRAY OWL IN MASSACHUSETTS. — Under date of Feb. 25, 1882, Mr. Robert O. Morris, of Springfield, writes me that "a Great Gray Owl (*Syrnium cinereum*) was captured in Agawam last week, the skin of which has been preserved." A later letter, in reply to a request for further information, states that the capture was made by Mr. E. A. Kellogg, on February 21, and that Mr. Kellogg's attention was attracted to the bird by a number of Crows circling around a pine tree on a branch of which the Owl was sitting. Length of the specimen, 28 inches; extent, 60 inches; tail, 13.

Only two specimens have been recorded as positively known to have been taken in this State in the last forty years, but there are several earlier records.—J. A. ALLEN, *Cambridge, Mass.*

RECENT OCCURRENCE OF THE FLAMMULATED OWL IN COLORADO. — Writing under date of October 25, 1882, Mr. C. E. Aiken sends me the following interesting note: "I have two specimens of *Scops flammeolus* to record from Colorado. One—a young bird in the nestling plumage—was taken about the middle of September in a creek bottom between Colorado City and Manitou. The person who brought it to me discovered it, about dusk, sitting on the dead twig of a plum bush under a group of cottonwoods, and going up to it seized it in his hands. Ascertaining the exact locality, Mr. Nelson and I looked the ground over carefully next evening hoping to find others of the same brood, but we saw none. I regard the occurrence of this specimen as a very interesting one, for it was doubtless bred in the immediate vicinity. The locality is quite different from the one where my own capture was made, which was on a rocky hillside covered with pines, and at an elevation of about 7500 or 8000 feet.

"The second recent specimen was found dead on the ground near the San Louis Lakes and Mosca Pass in the San Louis Valley. This is precisely the same locality where my friend Dr. Walbridge shot one four years ago. The present bird was found by friends who had seen the Doctor's specimen and who sent it to me for identification last week. It was in perfect autumnal plumage, but had been dead so long that I could only make of it an indifferent skin."

It is perhaps necessary to explain that two of the four specimens mentioned above have been already announced in this Bulletin; Mr. Aiken's in Vol. IV (p. 188) by Mr. Deane, and Dr. Walbridge's in Vol. V (pp. 121, 122) by Mr. Ingersoll. In addition to these records there is also one by Mr. Ridgway* of a specimen taken at Boulder by Mrs. Maxwell. Accordingly we now have knowledge of five Colorado examples of this rare little Owl. — WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

CAPTURE OF THE GOLDEN EAGLE AT ALBANY, N. Y. — On the 15th of February of the present year, I secured a fine adult male Golden Eagle, captured in this vicinity a short while previously by a hunter, by whom it was kept in captivity for some time. The Eagle, although not seriously

*"Field and Forest," June, 1877, p. 210. See also this Bulletin, Vol. V, p. 185.

or painfully injured, utterly refused all food until, in a moment of passion, he flew at his captor, who had barely time to strike a blow with a heavy stick which he had with him. Fortunately for the hunter the blow was fatal, and in this condition the late "monarch of the mountain forests" was brought to me. Owing to sickness, I was unable to prepare the Eagle myself, and so sent it to Mr. C. J. Maynard to be mounted for my collection. — G. A. LINTNER, *Albany, N. Y.*

WINTERING OF SORA RAIL AT THE NORTH. — Mr. L. S. Ward of Rochester, N. Y., writes me that he received a female *Porzana carolina* caught in his vicinity on Dec. 12, 1882. The bird was brought to him by a farmer who said that while hunting rabbits with a ferret on his farm, which is watered by a creek where Rails abound in season, this bird was driven from a hole in the ground. "It seemed to be in a partially torpid condition, and was easily caught as it crouched on the ground." This was nearly in the midst of winter, with cold weather and plenty of snow and ice. On skinning the bird it proved to be much emaciated. While I do not wish this paragraph to be held up in evidence that I believe that Rails hibernate in the mud, or even turn into frogs, the circumstances of the case seem quite worthy of record. — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

NESTING HABITS OF THE CANADA GOOSE (*Bernicla canadensis*). — In view of the various statements made in regard to the nesting of the Canada Goose in the Northwest, I will briefly give the results of three seasons' observations on the Upper Missouri, Yellowstone, and Big Horn Rivers in Montana. Just how far down the Missouri River their breeding range extends, I am unable to say, but from the mouth of the Yellowstone, up both rivers, pairs are very often seen as one ascends the streams. These Geese usually arrive in Montana early in March, and many of them are paired at that time; by the first of May the nests contain the full complement of eggs, generally five in number.

Some of the published accounts would lead one to infer that this Goose commonly and habitually nests in trees, but this, in the region I now refer to, is by no means the case. Their favorite nesting sites are on the numerous low sandy islands in these rivers, covered in the higher parts with a growth of young willows. Among these the pair scratch a slight hollow in the sand, around which they place a few sticks and twigs, the eggs being separated from the ground by a layer of gray down furnished by the parents. Occasionally the nests are placed on the banks among high grass or on piles of drift-brush, but this is uncommon, as few nests would escape the ever present coyoté. One nest was made on top of a pile of brush that had collected in the top of a fallen tree that had floated down and lodged near the middle of the river, — a very conspicuous place but quite safe from four-footed enemies. I have also known a pair to nest on a rocky ledge about three hundred yards from the river, and this nest was occupied for several successive years.

When these Geese nest among the branches of a tree, I do not think they ever construct the nest entirely themselves, but take possession of a deserted nest of the Fish Hawk and repair it with twigs and a lining of down. They have been seen to carry small sticks to the nest for this purpose. The nest may also be placed upon the top of a stump or broken trunk of a tree, especially if surrounded by a growth of young sprouts.—J. C. MERRILL, *Fort Custer, Montana Ter.*

LARUS GLAUCESCENS IN THE BAY OF FUNDY.—Mr. George O. Welch of Lynn, Mass., has shown me a Glaucous-winged Gull which was shot by a fisherman in the Bay of Fundy about November 1, 1881. It is an adult in winter plumage with the mantle immaculate, but the head and neck flecked with dusky, as in adult Herring Gulls taken at the same season. The sex, unfortunately, was not ascertained.

This specimen, I believe, is the first that has been taken on the Atlantic coast south of Cumberland Sound, where Mr. Kumlien found the species numerous and breeding during the summer of 1878.* Previous to this discovery *Larus glaucescens* was supposed to be confined to the Pacific Ocean; the inference now is that it may occur almost anywhere along our Atlantic seaboard, as far to the southward, at least, as the Bay of Fundy. There is little doubt that it will be eventually added to the fauna of New England if, indeed, the specimen announced by Mr. Merrill in the following note may not be properly regarded as establishing such a claim.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

AN OCCURRENCE OF LARUS GLAUCESCENS AT GRAND MENAN, N. B.—One of my collectors wrote me from Grand Menan, under date of Jan. 21, 1883, that among a lot of birds he had sent me was a "Jay Gull" which he said was *very rare* in that locality. With much interest I awaited its arrival, and, on examining the specimen referred to, was convinced that it was an example of *Larus glaucescens*, and this conviction has been verified by the kindness of Mr. William Brewster, who has recently examined a specimen which was procured near the same locality. My specimen is a beautiful adult male in full plumage, and was shot south of Grand Menan. Length, 23.75; wing, 17.50.—HARRY MERRILL, *Bangor, Maine.*

THE WHITE-WINGED GULL (*Larus leucopterus*) IN MAINE.—I have lately purchased of Mr. N. Vickary a pair of White-winged Gulls which were sent to him in the flesh from West Sullivan, Maine. One is a young bird in its first autumnal plumage; the other is passing from the immature into the adult dress. They were received by Mr. Vickary sometime in January, 1883.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

* See Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 15, 1879, pp. 98, 99.

WINTER BIRDS IN NEW BRUNSWICK. — Several correspondents have asked me if anything has been observed in this locality that would help to account for an unusually large number of boreal birds having visited more southern points during the season that has just passed, but I have failed to find any reason for such an occurrence; for, so far as I can gather from personal observation, and from correspondents in the northern sections of the Province, the usual species have been seen here and in much the same numbers as in former seasons. The Snow Buntings came along about two weeks earlier than they have been noticed for several years, and of the Pine Grosbeaks observed, a larger proportion perhaps have been in the red phase of plumage. Food of all kinds has been as plenty as usual; indeed, the Raptorial species have had a better chance than usual to capture the small rodents, as the fall of snow has been extremely light. But no increase of these birds has been noticed.—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.*

SOME ALBINOS IN THE MUSEUM OF THE PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY.— Among the numerous albinistic birds in the Academy's collection, some species are represented in which I believe this peculiar whiteness has not yet been noticed. There is a perfect albino Merganser (*Mergus serrator*); a Magpie (Yellow-billed?) in which the dark parts are replaced by coffee-color; two Red-head Ducks (*Fulix ferina americana*) that have the head and neck white; two specimens of the Canada Goose (*Bernicla canadensis*) that have the black of the head and neck replaced by white; and a Black-poll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) in which the entire plumage is suffused with white.

Of those already recorded, we have perfect albino specimens of the Chewink (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) and the Kingbird (*Tyrannus carolinensis*), and a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis*) from Delaware Co., Pa., which is white, with the exception of the tail, which is of the usual red color.

Melanism is exemplified by a handsome specimen of the Meadow Lark (*Sturnella magna*) from New Jersey. The upper plumage is of the normal color, while the whole head, neck, and under parts are perfectly black. There is the faintest possible trace of yellow along the sides, and no white feathers in the tail, which is very dark above and below.—CHAS. H. TOWNSEND, *Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

A LETTER FROM AN OLD-TIME ORNITHOLOGIST.—[The following letter, written about eighteen months before Dr. Kirtland's death, seems of sufficient interest to be worthy of publication.—EDD.]

MR. H. A. PURDIE, SEC'Y N. O. C., CLEVELAND, O., MAY 22, 1876.

DEAR SIR. Yours of the 15th inst. informing me that I was elected a corresponding member of "the Nuttall Ornithological Club of Cambridge," was duly received. It found me at 83 years of age, confined to a sick room, with no very favorable evidences of any improvement of

health, and at the same time so much enfeebled that it is with difficulty that I can command my pen and mind sufficiently to respond to your communication.

Please tender my acknowledgements to your Society for the honor they have conferred on me and accept personally my thanks for your kind attentions. Should sufficient betterment ever permit, it will afford me pleasure to hold further correspondence with you. It is possible I might afford you some facts of interest, bearing on the pursuit of your Association.

Ornithology has engaged my attention through a long life. In the year 1810 I taught a district school, in a log-house, in Poland, Trumbull County, Ohio, and from that period to the present have carefully watched and studied the habits of her birds.

Few persons are aware, at this day, of the numerous and extensive changes which have occurred, not only among her birds but in all of the departments of nature, during her transition from a heavy Forest state to a thickly populated territory, changes as prominent as those which mark the boundaries between the Geological periods in pre-historic times.

Then the Turkey Buzzard, by hundreds, swarmed about the carcasses of all dead animals during summer, and frequently nested in the forests along the Mahoning and Big-Beaver Rivers. It is many years since I have seen a solitary specimen in this section of country.

Then the Swallow-tailed Hawk, in flocks of a dozen or more, might occasionally be observed, reconnoitering over fields of dead and girdled timber and diving down to capture Garter Snakes, then numerous in all of our partially cleared fields. This beautiful bird is no longer within the boundaries of Ohio.

Then many species of Ducks and other water birds bred in great numbers in every part of Northern Ohio, then known as *New Connecticut* or the *Connecticut Reserve*. During the spring and autumn season, every lake, pond, river and creek were crowded with numerous flocks of migrating water birds. Now it is a rare event to meet with even a solitary individual.

Then the Parroquet was very common in the Miami & Sciota valleys, and occasionally were seen in numerous flocks as far north as the shore of Lake Erie. Not a solitary bird of this species has perhaps been seen within the State during the last thirty years.

On the other hand many other species, formerly rare or unknown here—especially smaller kinds, are now abundant.

Within the last week the English Sparrow has for the first time visited my premises, five miles West from Cleveland, in which city it was first introduced five or six years since and has now become there very numerous.

Very respectfully Yours,

J. P. KIRTLAND.

EGGS OF BRITISH BIRDS IN EXCHANGE FOR EGGS OF AMERICAN BIRDS.—[As being possibly of interest to some of our readers, Professor Baird has transmitted the following letter for publication in the Bulletin.—EDD.]

CLAVERING PLACE, NEWCASTLE ON TYNE,
13 DECEMBER, 1882.

DEAR SIR:—

I take the liberty of writing you, believing that you will not be averse to helping Natural History students, in whatever branch. I am a private collector of British Birds' Eggs, and get a large series of clutches through my hands yearly, collected here and in Scotland, Europe, etc. Can you oblige me with the names of a *few* gentlemen in the States who are also *private* collectors, who would be likely to be willing to exchange eggs? Any American list would do as a basis to work upon quite well for me. I should esteem it a *VERY* great favor if you will put me in communication with one or more such gentlemen. I should prefer one who gets a large series of eggs through his hands yearly, if possible, because I should like a pretty large series of eggs of the birds common to America and England, and am in a position to offer a large series of British eggs in exchange. All, of course, prepared in a first class manner, with full particulars as to locality and date of collection. Awaiting your reply,

I am, Yours truly,

To Professor Baird, Esq.

A. W. JOHNSON.