

are aware that an Owl has any commercial value, although every one shoots the despised bird at sight. Thus for every one preserved a dozen were probably thrown away. As instancing this, I quote the following from a short note in 'Forest and Stream',* signed Ned Norton, and dated at Colebrooke, N. H., Dec. 1:—"Hawk Owls came three weeks ago in greater numbers than ever seen before. Farmers' sons have been killing them all over the country."

The account of this species in 'New England Bird Life' (Part II, p. 96) would lead one to infer that while "a rare and irregular winter visitor to Massachusetts," it is of regular and rather common occurrence throughout Northern New England. This is certainly a mistake, as every collector who has any practical knowledge of our fauna knows. Indeed the bird is ordinarily one of the very rarest of our Owls—so rare, in fact, that during an experience of some twenty years previous to 1884 I had never seen either a living or freshly-killed specimen.

In respect to the remarkable migration just described, it may be well to add that all the specimens which I have examined belong to the American form, *Surnia funerea* (L.) Rich. & Sw.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

The Turkey Buzzard in Central New York.—I have lately examined all that remains of a *Cathartes aura* which was killed in Oneida County, N. Y., in May, 1879. When first seen he was in company with three others in a small grove in Westmoreland Township, and was shot by Mr. Lavello J. Groves, of that town, who had him mounted and preserved. This is certainly the first record for the County and, I think, for this part of the State.—EGBERT BAGG, JR., Utica, N. Y.

Recent Occurrence of the Black Vulture in Ohio.—A Black Vulture (*Catharista atrata*), in company with some Crows, flew into the Zoölogical Garden on the afternoon of Dec. 4, 1884. Spying one of the same species in one of the outer aviaries, it deserted its companions and alighted on the wire netting covering the aviary. From thence it flew on to the lower limb of a large tree just opposite, and becoming frightened at the attempts of the keepers to capture it, circled to a great height and slowly sailed off in an easterly direction.—FRANK J. THOMPSON, Zoölogical Garden, Cincinnati, O.

A New Bird for Illinois.—In a letter from Mr. Ridgway, dated Oct. 25, 1884, he says: "Among the lot of birds you sent us last week was a specimen of *Buteo borealis krideri* (orig. No. 575), a very typical specimen, from Halfday, Illinois, July 25, 1876. This specimen is particularly acceptable since the race was previously unrepresented in our collection. It also adds one bird to the fauna of Illinois!" Referring to my Record I find that No. 575 was one of two large Hawks (the other a *Buteo borealis*) brought into camp by one of our party while on a collecting trip along

* Vol. XXIII, No. 19, Dec. 4, 1884, p. 368.

the Des Plaines River, thirty miles northwest of Chicago. It is an adult female, and measured in the flesh 21.75 inches in length and 40 inches in extent. It was captured while perched on a stake in a field not far from the 'big woods.' Another large, light colored Hawk was seen which might have been the male, but it was too wary to allow a near approach.—H. K. COALE, *Chicago, Ill.*

The Great White Egret and the Yellow Rail in Ottawa, Canada.—In the ornithological collection of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada are two mounted specimens which, from the localities of their capture, deserve special notice. The first of these is a fine spring male of *Herodias egretta*, which was shot in the spring of 1883 at Rockliffe, Ont., by Mr. Sidney H. McIntyre, and presented by him to the Survey. In answer to a letter of inquiry Mr. W. H. McIntyre writes: "Two of these birds are all that were ever seen here. They seemed to be a pair, and after this one was shot the other stayed around for a day or two and then left, and we have seen no more like them. I cannot give date of the shooting; it was shot, however, by my son Sidney H. McIntyre within about one half mile of our house at Rockliffe." Rockliffe is on the Ottawa River, about lat. $77^{\circ} 50'$ north, long. $46^{\circ} 08'$ west, making, as far as I am aware, the most northerly record of the Egret.

The other specimen is a spring bird of *Porzana noveboracensis* shot on Loronto marshes in June, 1874, by Mr. Herring, the taxidermist of the Survey. Mr. Herring tells me that although this is the only specimen he has ever actually shot, he is quite certain that he has on several other occasions 'put up' specimens of this Rail in the same locality.—W. L. SCOTT, *Ottawa, Canada.*

The *Ædicnemus dominicensis* in Confinement.—In September, 1883, the Society received two Thick-knees, which were evidently young birds, with their plumage in bad condition. Being informed that they came from South America, they were provisionally called *bistriatus*. It was the latter part of last September (1884) before they were properly identified as *Ædicnemus dominicensis* Cory (Auk, 1884, p. 4). They have become exceedingly tame; are in full plumage, and during the summer nights make the two garden ring with their peculiar shrill notes.—FRANK J. THOMPSON, *Zoölogical Garden, Cincinnati, O.*

The Western Semipalmated Sandpiper on the Coast of Virginia.—As there are but few recorded captures up to this time of *Ereunetes pusillus occidentalis* in the Eastern Province, it is perhaps worth while to mention its occurrence at Virginia Beach, where Mr. Henry Seebohm and the writer met with it on Sept. 6 and 7, 1884. It was in company with *E. pusillus* and several other species of the smaller Waders, all of which appeared to be abundant. Several of the birds (*E. occidentalis*) were shot but only one was preserved, which was seen and identified by Mr. Ridgway. *E. pusillus* was also taken, so there was no chance of confounding the two forms. Virginia Beach, Va., is on the Atlantic coast, twenty miles east of Norfolk.—C. W. BECKHAM, *Washington, D. C.*