

The Common Cormorant off Boston Harbor.—On the 22d of September, 1884, while shooting on the 'Graves,' a dry reef a few miles off the entrance to Boston Harbor, I secured a Common Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). It was the only one seen, the rest of the Cormorants being *P. dilophus*, and at once attracted my companion's notice by its large size and whitish underparts. Inquiries made of local collectors and fishermen failed to elicit any proof of its occurrence at this point, although 'way north' they 'saw them often.'—WM. A. JEFFRIES, *Boston, Mass.*

The Common Cormorant in Massachusetts.—Although several recent authors have characterized *Phalacrocorax carbo* as a common fall or winter visitor to this State, the specimen recorded by Mr. Jeffries in the preceding paragraph is the only authentic Massachusetts one of which I have any present knowledge. Very probably there are a few others scattered about in collections, but it is nearly certain that the bird, so far from being common, is extremely rare here. Along the coast of Maine, however, it winters regularly and in large numbers, especially at some small islands near the mouth of the Penobscot River, whence I have received several specimens through the kindness of Mr. Manly Hardy. This gentleman writes me that *P. dilophus* is not found there in winter, nor have I any record of its wintering in Massachusetts, although it is a common spring and fall migrant here.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Rare Summer Residents in Kansas.—On the 26th of June, 1884, at Fort Wallace, on and about a pond made by damming the Smoky Hill River, I saw four pairs of American Coots (*Fulica americana*), six pairs of Shovellers (*Spatula clypeata*), one pair of Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*), a female Gadwall (*Chauleasmus streperus*), and a small flock of Yellow-headed Blackbirds (*Xanthocephalus icterocephalus*). From the actions of the birds I think their breeding grounds were on the small, bog-like islands, covered by a thick growth of grass and weeds, and also flags in places. The next day near Ellis, on Big Creek, I saw a female Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*).

On July 5 following, near Lawrence, in an old channel of the Kansas River, I saw several pairs of American Coots, one pair of Mallards (*Anas boscas*), and, skimming over and about the water, a Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon lariformis surinamensis*), and, at the edge of the timber bordering the slough, an Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax acadicus*), a Black-and-white Creeper (*Mniotilta varia*), feeding its young, and a pair of Blue Grosbeaks (*Guiraca cærulea*), with three young birds following them in their flights, clamorous for food; and on the 11th of the same month, at Topeka, a male Black-headed Grosbeak (*Zamelodia melanocephala*).

Both of the Grosbeaks mentioned are quite common in the western and middle parts of the State, the Blue breeding as far east as Manhattan. Their occurrence east of that locality is rare. Prior to this I had not observed the Black-headed east of Ellis, but Professor D. E. Lantz writes