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Random Notes on Natural History, II, 1885, Nos. 1-3.

Tidings from Nature, I, No. 6, Feb. 1885.

Transactions of Vassar Brothers Institute, and its Scientific Section, II, 1883-84.

West-American Scientist, I, No. 3, Feb., 1885.

Zeitschrift für die gessammte Ornithologie, I, Heft 4, 1884.

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GENERAL NOTES.

The Wood Thrush in Maine.—On September 6, 1884, I shot a young male Wood Thrush (*Turdus mustelinus*) at Saco, Maine. This is, I believe, the first recorded instance of its capture along the coast north of Massachusetts, and the only one for Maine.—JOSEPH L. GOODALE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Occurrence of the Catbird (*Mimus carolinensis*) on the Farallone Islands, Pacific Ocean.—Our Catbird appears to be not only extending its range, but wandering into very strange places. On the third of September, 1884, the U. S. Lighthouse Steamer 'Manzarrita' landed myself and assistant on one of the Farallone Islands for the purpose of collecting sea lions for the National Museum. We were rowed ashore amid the roar of hundreds of sea lions, and the screams of myriads of birds.

Immediately upon landing I accompanied the Inspector to the lighthouse, which occupies the highest rocks three hundred feet above the sea. Near the tower, surrounded by Murres, Puffins, and Gulls, I saw a bird which of all birds was the least to be expected in such a place—a 'regular' eastern *Catbird*.

I rushed to the landing for my gun and was back on remarkably short order, considering the number of times my unfortunate stomach had paid tribute to Neptune on the passage out from San Francisco, but the bird had disappeared and could not be found. On the following day, however, it was discovered among the rocks near the sea, and its skin is now in the Smithsonian Institution, still surrounded, it is true, by Murres and Puffins, but not noisy ones. The specimen is perhaps not appreciably different from others of the same species with which it has been compared, its small bill being matched in specimens from Key West, and its light colored under parts not being exceptional.

The occurrence of this species on these islands is the more remarkable as it has not yet been recorded from California, being known on the Pacific Coast of the United States only in the region of the Columbia

River. The Farallones (Spanish, meaning pointed rocks in the sea) are disposed in three groups several miles apart, the largest being about a mile long and lying thirty miles west of the Golden Gate. They are well named, for there is neither soil nor vegetation upon them, except the guano of the birds and three species of weeds. In summer the eggs of the birds which swarm there to breed, are gathered by the barrel-full for the San Francisco market.—CHAS. H. TOWNSEND, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

The Yellow-rumped Warbler Wintering in Maine.—On January 1, 1885, I shot two Yellow-rumped Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*) from a flock of six at Pine Point, Maine. On opening the crop of one, I found it filled with the seeds of the pitch pine. I believe this species has never before been taken in the winter season north of Massachusetts.—JOSEPH L. GOODALE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Migration of the Swallows.—I have noticed for several years that before the young Swallows were capable of enduring a prolonged flight, old and young gathered together in one vast assembly and moved gradually southward, making short stages from farm to farm; at last (in 1884, on August 9), with a favorable north wind and a clear sky, they left the Island in a body, only a few stragglers remaining, just enough to remind us that summer was still with us.—FRANCIS BAIN, *North River, P. E. I.*

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Finch (*Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni*) on the Atlantic Coast.—Mr. Arthur T. Wayne sends me a Sharp-tailed Finch which is positively indistinguishable from Illinois specimens, but which was shot on the salt marshes near Charleston, South Carolina, Oct. 8, 1884. That it is really an inland-bred bird scarcely admits of a doubt, nor is its occurrence on this coast altogether surprising in view of the fact that other species which breed only in the interior—*Coturniculus lecontei*, for example—extend their autumnal migrations in a south-easterly direction and winter numerously very near to, if not actually on, the Atlantic seaboard.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Wintering of the Swamp Sparrow in Eastern Massachusetts.—The capture of two Swamp Sparrows (*Melospiza palustris*) in Cambridge, on January 11, 1883, has already been recorded,* but a second instance may be of interest.

On December 29, 1884, a flock of four were seen and one killed in a dense thicket on the Fresh Pond marshes in Cambridge, and on January 31, 1885, near the same place. I saw the remains of another, which had been partly eaten by a Shrike. Since then I have looked for them several times unsuccessfully, but think that the rest had probably been killed by Shrikes.—ARTHUR P. CHADBOURNE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

* Journal Boston Zoölogical Society, Vol. II (1883), p. 32.