

730, ♀ ad., 12th August, 1884; No. 2141, ♀ ad., 14th April, 1885). Mr. Brown has not met with this species about Tucson nor at other points visited by him.

105. *Iache latirostris*. BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD. — During the spring, summer, and early fall of 1884 this was a rather common species in the Catalina Mountains, from an altitude of 3500 to 5000 feet, but in the corresponding season of 1885 the birds were apparently rare. The birds arrive at this point early in April, the 5th of that month being my earliest record, when I took two adult males. They remain throughout the spring and summer, leaving from the middle to the last of September. I took an adult female on June 26, 1884, that contained an unlaidd egg with shell nearly formed, so that there can be little doubt that the birds breed at this point. Besides, I have the young birds in first plumage from July 1st until late in August.

[Young birds of the year, of both sexes, have the upper plumage edged with fulvous, particularly on the head and lower back. The young males have an oblong blue patch on the throat, each feather of which is edged with dark gray, like the rest of the lower plumage, with sometimes a few metallic green feathers on the sides of the breast. In one specimen (No. 703, August 9, 1884) the breast is about half-covered with metallic feathers. —J. A. A.]

BIRD NOTES FROM LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

BY WILLIAM DUTCHER.

1. *Megalestris skua*. SKUA.—Mr. M. F. King, one of the crew of the Life Saving Station at Amagansett, Suffolk Co., sent to me, in the flesh, a specimen of this species. He informed me that he found the bird March 17, 1886, in a large piece of ice which had formed on the meadow back of the beach. He also stated that January 9, the tides were exceedingly high, by reason of a very severe northeast storm and gale of wind. He thought the bird probably died near the shore and was driven by the very violent surf and wind to where it was found. The high tide was followed immediately by very cold weather, which encased this bird in its icy tomb, thus preserving it until found, and permitting a new record for Long Island and the third and most southern one for North America.* Mr. King stated further that

* The previous records may be found in Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, III, 1878, p. 188; Auk, I, 1884, p. 395.

no ice was driven on the beach during the past winter, therefore the bird must have died while on or near the beach. It is probable that it died of starvation, as it was very much emaciated. The sex could not be determined, as the viscera had commenced to decompose.

2. *Sterna fuliginosa*. SOOTY TERN.—To my friend Mr. Charles Earle, of New York City, I am indebted for the privilege of adding still another bird to the Long Island list. The month of September, 1878, was spent by him at Lake Ronkonkoma, which is the geographical centre of the island. A very heavy storm occurred on the 13th of that month, during which he shot the Tern here recorded. He informs me that he saw thirty or more Terns but does not recollect of what species. He has no record of the direction or duration of the storm, but remembers that the Terns "were flying diagonally across the Lake from the southwest, and continued their flight toward the Sound. I should certainly conclude from all the conditions of the storm that the birds were carried from their normal habitat by its force. In my two years' wanderings about Ronkonkoma I never observed any Terns before on the lake, although a local gunner told me he had sometimes observed them, but I should say they were stragglers from the coast." As there was no published description of the phase of plumage presented by this specimen I submitted it to Mr. Robert Ridgway, who writes, under date of Washington, January 19, 1886, as follows: "I have carefully examined the Tern, which is undoubtedly *S. fuliginosa*, and is a young bird apparently in its second year. It is in moult, and a very singular thing is that the new feathers appearing on the breast and other lower parts are darker than the old plumage. From this I infer that another moult would be necessary—probably during the following spring, but possibly not until the next autumn—before the white plumage of the adult would be assumed. It is possible the feathers themselves might eventually fade to white, but I regard this as hardly probable. I send a description, as requested."

"*Sterna fuliginosa*. A young bird in transition plumage (apparently in second year) from Lake Ronkonkoma, Long Island (Sept. 13, 1878, Charles Earle, collector), differs from the young in first plumage as described in 'Water Birds of North America' (Vol. II, pp. 312, 313) as follows: The rather light sooty brown plumage of the lower parts is much mixed or clouded with a darker and less brownish sooty tint, these dark feathers

(belonging to the new dress, just being assumed) having the whole of their underlying portion grayish white, this color showing through wherever the plumage is disarranged. The upper and lateral portions of the head are clouded with blackish (new feathers). The wing-coverts and tertials are entirely destitute of the white terminal bars of the first plumage, the general surface of the wing being dark sooty brown, mixed with new feathers of a decidedly darker color, these prevailing over the anterior portion of the lesser covert region, where contrasting very boldly with the broad and very distinct white border to the fore arm and bend of the wing. The old feathers of the back and scapulars are sooty brown, without white tips (the latter being worn off?); the new feathers, which largely prevail, are dark brownish slate, with a chalky cast in certain lights, bordered terminally with ashy white—these lunulate markings being very different from the much broader, much more distinct, and directly transverse white tips of the first plumage. The lateral rectrices are much more elongated and attenuated than in the first plumage, but less so than in the adult; in color they are much like those of the latter, being white for the basal half or more, passing gradually into grayish dusky toward the end, the tip again grayish, especially on the outer web. Lining of the wing grayish white, becoming nearly pure white on the longer axillars, clouded faintly with light sooty gray toward the anterior and outer border of the wing. Anal region abruptly grayish white; crissum and lower tail-coverts grayish white or pale gray, the feathers with darker tips. Wing, 11.20; tail, outer rectrices, 5.40, middle rectrices, 3.50; culmen, 1.60; gonys, .80; tarsus, .95; middle toe, .80.”

3. **Histrionicus histrionicus.** HARLEQUIN DUCK.—Mr. Knoess informs me that during the time he has been engaged as a taxidermist at Riverhead, he has mounted four specimens of this species. I have secured the following particulars regarding the capture of three of them.

Mr. W. W. Reeves, of Greenport, Suffolk Co., writes: “I shot the Harlequin Duck in January, 1865, on Gull Island, while I was keeper of the light. There were four of them living around the Island sometime before I had a chance to kill one. The bird I secured was a male. I crippled a female at the same time but did not secure her, as the tide was running so swiftly. They were the first of the kind I ever saw, nor have I seen but two since. They are a diving Duck, and like to play around the rocks. I watched them play several times while they were there; they chased each other about as boys do while playing tag.

“I have gunned over forty years, and as far south as Savannah, Ga., and never saw this Duck anywhere except on the island, so I think it a rare bird.”

Mr. Josiah Robbins, of Bayshore, Suffolk Co., writes: “The

Harlequin Duck which I have is a male and was alone when shot. It was killed in the latter part of January, 1883, in the South Bay, opposite Fire Island Inlet. The bay was frozen over at the time, except a few air-holes. It was killed by Capt. Samuel Hulse, who is about fifty-five years of age, and has always followed the bay. He says it is the only one that was ever seen here, to his knowledge."

Mr. George E. Post, of Greenport, writes: "My Harlequin Duck I think is by no means common. They are here only in very cold winters, and even then only a few. The one I have, was shot on the shore of Long Island Sound, near the village of Southold. I think it is a male."

Giraud says of this species: "On the shores of Long Island I have known the young only to occur, although some of our most experienced bay-men say that a number of years since the occurrence of the adult was not unusual."*

It is probable, owing to the marked appearance of this bird, that almost all that are shot in this locality, where it is so rare, are preserved, and we therefore in the above records have approximately its numbers in the waters that surround the island.

4. **Ardea candidissima.** SNOWY HERON.—Although these birds are not uncommon on Long Island in the summer months, I do not recall any published notes of their breeding. Mr. L. S. Foster and the writer visited a very extensive pine and cedar swamp on Great South Beach, off Sayville, Suffolk Co., May 30, 1885, and while there saw three individuals of this species. One was alone, but the others were mated and undoubtedly were preparing to breed. They were watched for some time and were always flying to or from a pine tree in the swamp. All their actions indicated that they were nest building. The one first seen was carrying a long stick in its bill.

5. **Crex crex.** CORN CRAKE.—In the shop of Messrs. Lucas & Buck, of Sag Harbor, I found a mounted specimen of this species, which I purchased. They bought it about August 15, 1885, while in the flesh, from a farmer residing near Amagansett, Suffolk Co. It was, when shot, on an upland or dry meadow, in company with some Meadow Larks (*Sturnella magna*). The sex was not ascertained.

* Birds of Long Island, p. 337.

6. **Crymophilus fulcarius.** RED PHALAROPE.—MR. G. E. Payne, of New York City, while bay-bird shooting at Shinnecock Bay, September 26, 1885, procured a female of this species in full winter plumage. He presented the specimen to me, in the flesh, and gave me the following note of the capture. "My gunner, Charles Lane, first observed the bird, and concluded it to be a stranger. It was quietly feeding, and although we were quite close, it did not appear to notice us. It was alone. It was pronounced a Phalarope, but none of the members of the Lane family, who are all gunners, remember having seen one like it before."

6. **Phalaropus lobatus.** NORTHERN PHALAROPE.—The only note of this species made by the writer since his record* of the unusual flight which took place in May, 1883, is of one which struck Fire Island Light during the night of May 19, 1884. Wind south south-west, fresh. Weather cloudy.

7. **Phalaropus tricolor.** WILSON'S PHALAROPE.—MR. G. W. Howell, of Atlanticville, Suffolk Co., shot an individual of this species about August 15, 1885. The writer had the pleasure of seeing it while being mounted at the taxidermist's.

8. **Macrorhamphus scolopaceus.** LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER.—I think that on Long Island this wader may be called a regular, but not common, late fall migrant. September 26, 1884, Mr. F. M. Chapman informed me that he procured three while at Shinnecock Bay. Capt. Lane, of the same place, wrote me that his sons shot three October 6, 1885, and on the next day two more. Mr. E. A. Jackson wrote me that he saw, at Atlanticville, a Dowitcher on the 5th of October, and another on the 9th. They were undoubtedly *scolopaccus*, as the common form is never found in this locality so late in the season. October 9, 1885, Mr. W. F. Hendrickson shot one at Long Island City.

9. **Limosa fedoa.** MARBLED GODWIT.—The 'Brown Marlin' of the Long Island gunners is at the best a rare bird, and is looked on as a prize at any time. My experience in bay-bird shooting on the South Shore, dating back as it does for twelve years, is a blank regarding this species. Not only have I never shot one, but I have never been so fortunate as to hear one utter its call note. Giraud says, "Arrives on the shores of Long Island in the month of May: it cannot be said to be an abundant

*Auk, Vol. I, 1884, p. 33.

species—still, we observe it visits us regularly every spring and autumn.”* August 12, 1881, one was sent to me from Shinnecock Bay, by Mr. C. E. Perkins, of Hartford, Conn., an enthusiastic sportsman, who spends many weeks every summer on the beaches and bars of that Indian-named bay. In 1883, Mr. Talmadge, another sportsman *habitué* of Shinnecock Bay, informed me that three Marbled Godwits had been shot between September 1 and 8 by the sportsmen and their gunners who were shooting on the bay.

During 1884 I did not record any. During the spring of 1885, none were seen at Shinnecock Bay, my informant being George A. Lane, who, with his brothers, is shooting every day during the season. The summer and autumn of the same year produced four, and possibly five, records as follows: August 25, one was shot by Mr. W. M. Lawrence, a sportsman who was located at Atlanticville, a hamlet near the western end of Shinnecock Bay. August 31, two were seen at the same place by L. E. Howell, a resident gunner. The same day one was seen by Mr. Perkins, some two miles further east. It was in all probability one of the pair seen by Mr. Howell. September 15, Mr. Perkins reports one seen and secured.

11. *Limosa hæmastica*. HUDSONIAN GODWIT.—The ‘Ring-tailed Marlin’ of the gunners is much more often seen than its congener, contrary to the record left by Giraud, who states, “This bird with us is not as plentiful as the former. A few are shot every season on the shores of Long Island.”† September 12, 1882, I recorded five at Shinnecock Bay, and on October 5, four from near Babylon, Suffolk Co. During 1883, September 1 to 8, Mr. Talmadge sent me records of six seen at Shinnecock Bay. During 1884 Mr. Perkins sent me the record of one shot August 8 at the same place. On the 25th of the same month I received the record of one shot at South Oyster Bay, Queens Co., and on the 29th of August Mr. N. T. Lawrence furnished me with the record of two which were seen at Rockaway, Queens Co., one of which was secured. Mr. Talmadge shot two at Shinnecock Bay; the first September 19, the second on the 24th. During the spring of 1885, George A. Lane notes their entire absence in his locality. The first record

* Birds of Long Island, p. 260.

† *Ibid.*, p. 261.

of the fall migration was by Lane, who saw two August 26. Mr. Perkins shot two between September 7 and 12. Subsequently five more were shot on various points and bars on Shinnecock Bay, the latest record being one secured October 9, by Mr. E. A. Jackson, a gunner resident at Atlanticville.

12. **Vanellus vanellus.** LAPWING.—Early in December, 1884, I heard a rumor that a strange bird had been shot on Long Island. After some extended inquiry I traced it to the possession of Mr. C. H. Lott. In reply to a communication on the subject, I received the following: “Merrick, L. I., December 18, 1884. The birds to which you refer (European Lapwings) were seen here in the month of December, a day or two after Christmas of last year, 1883. It was just after the severe northeast snow storm that we had at that time. One was shot and preserved by my son, C. H. Lott, Jr. The mate remained about the place for two or three weeks after and then disappeared. In the meantime it had been shot at several times, but was not captured, so far as I know. It seemed to get very wild after its mate was shot.” Having ascertained from Mr. Lott the name of the taxidermist who mounted the bird, I wrote asking its condition when it was brought to her. Her husband replied as follows: “The bird you have reference to was not a bird that had been caged. It was a wild bird.” January 1, 1886, I visited Mr. Lott at his residence and made a careful examination of the bird. I could find no evidence that it ever was other than a wild bird. Its plumage and legs were clean and in no degree cage-worn or stained. I also visited the taxidermist, who was positive that it had never been caged. From all the circumstances in the case I can but conclude that the record is a good one, and I therefore have decided to make it public, and claim it not only as the first record for this species on Long Island, but also on the continent of North America below the 60th parallel of latitude.

13. **Ægialitis wilsonia.** WILSON'S PLOVER.—Since the record I made in 1879* I have been able to secure only one specimen of this Plover on Long Island. May 16, 1884, Mr. G. A. Lane shot one at Shinnecock Bay, which he sent to me. It was a female and some of the ova were materially increased in size. It was in company with some Turnstones when shot. Nelson Verity, of South Oyster Bay, Queens Co., a professional gun-

* Bull. Natt. Orn. Club, Vol. IV, p. 242.

ner, recognized a description of this species and said that he had shot them at long intervals.

14. **Hæmatopus palliatus.** AMERICAN OYSTER-CATCHER.—As long ago as Giraud's time this bird was considered rare, as he says of it, "With us the Oyster-catcher is a rather scarce bird . . . Its occurrence with us is so seldom that I have not had an opportunity of observing its habits as closely as I should wish."* It is probably now even more rare than it was then. In the early part of June, 1882, I saw a pair of these birds in the shop of a taxidermist on William St., N. Y. He claimed that they had been shot at or near Greenport, Suffolk Co., a few days previous, although the name of the shooter could not be given. The record although somewhat obscure, is probably correct. During an outing on Long Island in April, 1886, I found in the possession of Mr. Squires of Ponquogue, Suffolk Co., a specimen of this species. It was shot on a salt meadow, near the beach, about March 9, 1880.

15. **Cathartes aura.** TURKEY VULTURE.—MR. KNOESS, of Riverhead, informed me that he mounted a specimen of this Vulture, August 15, 1877, for Mr. James A. Johnston, of Brooklyn. Mr. Benj. B. Johnston, in whose possession the bird now is, informs me that his brother shot the bird "one mile from the village of Greenport, Suffolk Co., on the north road."†

16. **Strix pratincola.** AMERICAN BARN OWL.—MR. Giraud‡ does not include this Owl in his list of Long Island birds, and Mr. G. N. Lawrence§ simply says, "Barn Owl, rare." An instance of the breeding of this Owl on Long Island has recently been brought to my notice by Mr. Langdon Gibson, of Flushing, Queens Co., as follows: "May 30, 1883, Mr. C. D. Gibson caught four young Barn Owls in the steeple of the Congregational church in Flushing. On his reaching the staging where the young birds were, one of the parent birds, the only one present, flew out of the broken window and escaped. The young birds crowded up into one corner and made a peculiar

* Birds of Long Island, pp. 222, 223.

† A later Long Island record may be found in *Forest and Stream*, Aug. 19, 1886, p. 64.

‡ Birds of Long Island, 1844.

§ Catalogue of Birds observed on New York, Long, and Staten Islands, and the adjacent parts of New Jersey. *Ann. N. Y. Lyc. Nat. Hist.*, VIII, p. 281, April, 1866.

hissing sound. The floor on which they were was in a filthy condition, covered with pellets, and dead rats and mice in all stages of decomposition. There was also one young muskrat and some moles. The young Owls appeared to be of different ages, no two being of the same size. They were afterwards confined in a cage near my house, which was about a mile from the church. They kept up such a screaming that the old bird found and afterwards visited them every night at dusk. They were kept caged until early winter when they died, apparently without cause."

17. *Nyctala acadica*. SAW-WHET OWL.—Giraud says of this Owl, "With us it is quite rare."* My notes as given below would indicate, on the contrary, that it is common, at least in the winter months. December 6, 1884, Capt. Hubbard, of the Fire Island Life Saving Station, shot one on the beach, which he sent to me. One was sent to me from Merrick, December 31, 1884. Mr. W. F. Hendrickson, of Long Island City, one of my most earnest and reliable observers, writes me regarding this species as follows: "November 15, 1884, saw one with a gunner who had killed it near Train's Meadows, Queens Co. December 27, my brother found one, a female, at Ravenswood, Queens Co., which had been frozen. November 4, a friend shot one at Creedmore, Queens Co., and I saw one in his shop which he was mounting for a customer. It was also killed on the island. March 30, 1885, I found the feathers of one scattered about as though it had been killed and eaten by a cat or Hawk." Mr. Franklin, of Port Washington, Queens Co., informed me that on February 28, 1885, a small Owl had flown or fallen down the chimney flue into his library. He caught it alive and afterward liberated it. From his description of the bird it was undoubtedly this species.

18. *Calcarius lapponicus*. LAPLAND LONGSPUR.—This boreal species, usually so rare, seems to have been in a roving mood during the winter of 1884-85. At Far Rockaway Beach, Queens Co., February 7, 1885, while on a collecting trip with Dr. A. K. Fisher, one was secured by him as it was flushed from the short beach grass where we were looking for Ipswich Sparrows. February 26, 1885, several flocks of from six to ten individuals were found by Mr. W. F. Hendrickson on some filled-in

* Birds of Long Island, p. 23.

roads, running through what was formerly a swamp, in the upper part of Long Island City, Queens Co. They were in company with a few Snowflakes and Horned Larks. Two days later he saw a few scattered Longspurs and one mixed flock of Longspurs, Horned Larks, and a few Snowflakes. This flock, he says, contained about twenty or twenty-five Longspurs. They were very wild and difficult of approach. Four were secured and preserved. All were males and were in good condition. This Arctic wave must have been receding, as no more were seen, although Mr Hendrickson carefully looked for them in the same and other localities many times subsequently. As from a receding wave one often sees a fleck of foam left lightly resting on the beach, so must this bird-wave have left one of its number on the Hempstead Plains (Queens Co.), where it was found and shot by Mr. A. H. Hawley, April 18, 1885.

19. **Ammodramus princeps.** IPSWICH SPARROW.—On Long Island I think this species is a regular winter resident on the barren sand beaches of the South Shore. It can undoubtedly be found from the middle of October till the first of April. Although this bird is a winter resident in numbers, yet some must migrate further south, as Mr. J. Dwight, Jr., found them at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, November 22, 1884 (*Auk*, Vol. II, p. 105). It may be that the 120 miles of coast line of Long Island is their southern winter range, below which, however, a few may straggle. In addition to the Long Island records already published I will add the following, which will extend the time of their residence on the island materially. Charles Carter, of Shinnecock Bay, wrote me October 20, 1884, that he had seen but one *princeps* this fall; that on October 12. There can be no doubt of Mr. Carter's identification of the bird, as he is very familiar with the species, having shot and sent to me a large number of them from time to time. He is a keen and reliable observer, and I am indebted to him for many valuable notes and rare birds. Very early in November he commenced to send me specimens of this species and continued to do so at intervals all winter. February 7, 1885, Dr. A. K. Fisher and myself secured eleven during a walk of two miles on the beach at Rockaway, and saw at least three individuals which we did not get. On the same ground, the 23d of the same month, Mr. L. S. Foster and myself shot thirteen and saw probably as many more. Of these the

genital organs of some of the males were quite sensibly increased in size, and of some received March 19 they were quite markedly so. Some of these last specimens were in the midst of the moult. April 1, I received from Mr. Carter two specimens, the stomachs of which were filled with small black insects. This was the first instance where I had found anything but vegetable matter used for food. All of the stomachs examined before contained, so far as I could determine, seeds. Mr. N. T. Lawrence kindly permits me to record one shot at Far Rockaway Beach, April 3, 1885. He thinks he saw another the same day. Hereafter this species will have to be relegated to the commonplace, and not worthy of special record on Long Island.

20. **Spizella pusilla.** FIELD SPARROW.—Mr. S. B. Strong, of Setauket, Suffolk Co., N. Y., brought me a fine specimen, which he had shot on his farm January 31, 1885. It is worthy of record, as its stay must have been voluntary, there being no evidence on the bird itself to lead me to believe that it had been hurt or disabled in any manner.

21. **Piranga rubra.** SUMMER TANAGER.—While at Sag Harbor recently I found among some mounted birds in the shop of Lucas & Buck, an adult specimen of this species which was shot some time in May, 1885, near the village of Bridghampton. Mr. Ivan C. Byram, of Sag Harbor, wrote me that on April 7, 1886, a friend shot a strange bird. It was unfortunately eaten by a cat, which did not know its value as a specimen. From the description given of the bird I have no doubt but that it was correctly identified by Mr. Byram as a Summer Tanager. Mr. Albert Lott, of Merrick, Queens Co., sent one to me for identification. He wrote that it was shot by a neighbor, May 14, 1886. At the time it was killed it was near his hives catching the bees. It did not eat any portion of them except the head. It had been about the place for three or four days.

22. **Thryothorus ludovicianus.** CAROLINA WREN.—Giraud says of this bird: "Occasionally during the summer months, this large and musical Wren is seen on Long Island."* The later published records for the country lying east and north of Long Island are for the summer months, with the notable exceptions of the record made by Mr. H. A. Purdie†, of Boston,

* Birds of Long Island, p. 75.

† Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. IV, p. 61.

Mass., of one taken at Saybrook, Conn., November 25, 1878, and by Mr. John H. Sage,* of one taken at Portland, Conn., March 2, 1883. The November specimen was undoubtedly a bird that had spent the summer in the locality where it was secured, and the March specimen may possibly have braved the rigors of a New England winter. It undoubtedly did, as I am now able to present a record of one taken in January, thus confirming that supposition, and showing that although they, as a family, prefer the more genial climate of the Southern States, yet an individual of unusual hardiness is sometimes seen. Mr. John D. Hicks, of Old Westbury, L. I., was attracted, January 30, 1885, by a loud call-note, which resembled, "as near as I can produce it, *kach*," and proceeded from a tangled and swampy thicket near his lumber yard at Roslyn, L. I. Proceeding to the place whence the sound issued, he saw the bird on a low willow tree, giving utterance to its peculiar note and accompanying each one with a Wren-like motion. It gave no song whatever, was sprightly, and in good condition, and was busily occupied in looking for food. Not having a gun with him at the time he was unable to secure it, but on the following day (January 31) he found it in a swamp not more than five hundred feet from where it was seen the day before. On both occasions it was in company with a mixed flock of Tree and White-throated Sparrows. The swamp in which it was found is full of springs that very rarely freeze.

23. *Turdus aliciaë bicknelli*. BICKNELL'S THRUSH.—With a number of birds which were sent to me, that had been killed by striking the Great West Bay Light (Shinnecock Bay), Long Island, on the night of October 1, 1881, were four Thrushes, which I labelled *aliciaë*. Quite recently I submitted them to Mr. Bicknell, who pronounced two of them to be undoubted examples of the new variety *bicknelli*. I have therefore the pleasure of adding another bird to the known avi-fauna of Long Island.

24. *Turdus aonalaschkæ pallasii*. HERMIT THRUSH.—A case of the probable breeding of this Thrush on Long Island has come to my notice through the kindness of Mr. Charles Earle, of New York City. On the 23d of September, 1878, near Lake Ronkonkoma, he secured a Thrush of this species in the nest-

* Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. VIII, p. 120.

ing plumage, and on the next or the following day another in the same plumage. Both specimens show conclusively that they are very young birds, each being in the undeveloped feather-stage peculiar to altricial birds just leaving the nest. As both specimens were taken in the same neighborhood, it is presumable that they were nest companions, although one is some days more developed than the other. I have shown them to Mr. J. A. Allen, who informs me that he knows of no instance of such immature birds migrating.

THE AFFINITIES OF CHÆTURA.

BY FREDERIC A. LUCAS.

FOR a long time the Swifts have been debarred from the society of passerine birds and made to associate with those contained in that avian waste basket, termed the order Picariæ. Of late, however, several ornithologists, notably Mr. Sharpe and Dr. Parker, have advanced a plea for their reinstatement in the order Passeres. Latest of these is Dr. Shufeldt who reaches the conclusion* that "the Swifts are essentially modified Swallows, and, as the family Cypselidæ, they belong, in the order Passeres, next to that group."

Notwithstanding the evident care of Dr. Shufeldt's work I must confess myself as unconvinced by the evidence he brings forward and will briefly review the case of *Chætura* as a plea for the continued separation of Swifts and Swallows and the retention of the first named family near the Hummingbirds. I am well aware of the risk I run in opposing my own slight knowledge of the subject to the results of Dr. Shufeldt's more extended studies, and it is with still greater diffidence that I venture to disagree with so distinguished a morphologist as Dr. Parker. Nevertheless, until still more evidence to the contrary is adduced, I will hold fast to Huxley's union of Hummingbirds and Swifts. As for the Caprimulgidæ, there are few, I think, who will object to their

* Contribution to the Comparative Osteology of the Trochilidæ, Caprimulgidæ, and Cypselidæ. Proc. Zool. Soc. London, Dec. 1 1885.