

**More News of Ardea wuerdemanni.**—I have lately received from Mr. R. X. Stuart, of Tampa, Florida, four specimens of *A. wuerdemanni*, which were taken on the small island southwest of Cape Sable, Florida. Mr. Stuart writes me he procured six examples of this rare bird, as well as a fine series of *Ardea occidentalis*, which he found breeding in December, and obtained many eggs. Several sets of eggs of *Haliaëtus leucocephalus* were taken in the same locality.—CHARLES B. CORY, Boston, Mass.

**Ardea egretta in Niagara County, N. Y.**—In April, 1884, I reported to the 'Forest and Stream' the capture of three birds of this species in the adjoining county of Orleans, on Nov. 28, 1883. At that time I little expected that I would ever have an opportunity to mention its occurrence nearer home. But on the 18th of last August two specimens were brought to me, by different persons, for identification, both taken in the town of Newfane, this county, near the village of Olcott, on Lake Ontario. I did not have an opportunity to learn the sex, but took the measurements of one of them: Length,  $36\frac{1}{2}$  inches; wing,  $15\frac{1}{2}$ ; tarsus, 6.—J. L. DAVISON, Lockport, Niagara County, N. Y.

**Further Notes on the Masked Bob-white (*Colinus ridgwayi*).**—Mr. J. C. Cahoon, who is at present collecting in Northern Mexico, has just sent me ten specimens of the Masked Bob-white, taken February 5-8, 1887, in the province of Sonora, about fifty miles south of the United States boundary.

The eight males included in this series show an even greater range of variation than the ten birds of the same sex so carefully described\* by Mr. Allen. Two agree closely with the male figured in Mr. Allen's plate, having similarly solid black foreheads and throats, and plain, rich cinnamon underparts relieved by only a few markings of black or white on the crissum and under tail-coverts. Both show traces of a white superciliary stripe, which in one extends forward to the front border of the eye, in the other to within about a quarter of an inch of the nostril.

The remaining six males have the mask and underparts more or less freely sprinkled with white. Rather curiously, those which have the most white about the head show the least beneath, and those which are largely white beneath have the mask nearly immaculate. In the specimen representing the extreme of the former condition the crown is scarcely darker than in *C. virginianus*, while a white stripe, averaging about one-tenth of an inch in width, extends along the side of the head from the nostrils to the nape, passing just over the eye. The chin, also, is nearly pure white, and the throat everywhere thickly spotted with white, the only unmixed black areas being a small patch just below the eye and a 'cravat' about half an inch wide on the jugulum.

The bird illustrating the other extreme has the central line of the abdo-

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\* Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 7, July, 1886, pp. 273-290, pl. xxiii.

men soiled white and the remainder of the underparts behind or below the jugulum, excepting a small area in the middle of the breast, variegated everywhere with black and white, each feather having a pair of rounded white spots tipping its opposite webs, these spots being usually embraced between the horns of V-shaped, black markings. In this series the shade of the cinnamon of the underparts is in proportion to the amount of white, the cinnamon being palest in the birds having the most white, and deepest in those which have the least. This fact has suggested to me the possibility that the paler, spotted birds may be the young, and those with nearly or perfectly black masks and immaculate underparts the adults; but Mr. Allen's theory that such variations indicate near relationship to, if not actual intergradation with, the white-throated *C. graysoni* is perhaps more probable. I notice, however, that all the specimens examined by Mr. Allen (except my type, taken early in August, and an unusually deep-colored and black-headed bird) were killed in September and February, months when young or immature birds would naturally outnumber the fully mature ones. Mr. Ridgway's "suspicion" that *C. graysoni* and *C. ridgwayi* "may be individual color phases of the same species" seems to me the least likely hypothesis of the three, unless we may assume that the two 'phases' have different habitats; or, at least, that a portion of the region occupied by each phase is not invaded by the other.

Mr. Cahoon found the Masked Bob-white about Bacuachi and at a ranch some eighteen miles north of Cumpas. They were abundant (several large covies were seen and eight specimens shot in one day), haunting patches of weeds in gardens and barren "sand wastes, where they fed on the seeds of a plant called red-root." Their habits are like those of *C. virginianus* and their call-notes precisely similar. When scattered they lie very closely.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

**Capture of a Third Specimen of the Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyrurus*) in Florida.**—Mr. E. H. Forbush, of Worcester, has lately sent me a *Buteo brachyrurus* which was shot by Mr. Charles E. Bailey at the head of Ten-Mile Creek (a tributary of the St. Lucie River), Brevard County, Florida, March 11, 1886. It is an adult female of the white-bellied form. Two specimens (one in the black plumage) have been previously recorded\* from Florida by Mr. Ridgway. The occurrence of this third bird strengthens the suspicion that the species may have become permanently established in that State.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

**A Third New England Specimen of Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*).**—Mr. E. S. Bowler has just sent me a Swainson's Hawk, taken at Gouldsboro', Maine, Sept. 15, 1886, by Mr. E. Gordon. It is a young bird of the melanistic type, but not wholly black. The species is known to have occurred only twice before in New England, both times in Massachusetts—Salem, winter of 1871-72 (Allen, Bull. Essex Inst., X, 1878, 22); Wayland, Sept. 12, 1876 (Brewster, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, III, 1878, 39).—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

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\* Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, VI, 1881, pp. 210, 212.