

GENERAL NOTES.

Merganser americanus breeding in New Mexico.—On and near the head of the Pecos River, New Mexico (latitude $35^{\circ} 45'$, elevation 6800 feet), I saw, July 2, 1885, a female American Merganser, with four little ones not over ten days old. I fail to find any record of the birds' breeding so far south, therefore think the 'find' worthy of mention.—N. S. Goss, *Topeka, Kan.*

The Clapper Rail again in Massachusetts.—I have the pleasure of hereby presenting for record a third example of *Rallus longirostris crepitans* obtained in this State; and at a remarkably late date in the season.

The bird was taken in a small pond-hole in 'Rocky Nook,' Kingston, on Dec. 29, 1885. It was in fair condition, showing no sign of being crippled.

It is now in possession of W. C. Hathaway of Plymouth, to whom I am indebted for above particulars.

The dates and places of the previous authentic records are: May 4, 1875, Boston Harbor (*Purdie*, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1877, p. 22), and October, 1879, Plymouth (*Brewster*, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1881, p. 62).—F. C. BROWNE, *Framingham, Mass.*

Ictinia mississippiensis and Ægialitis nivosa nesting in Southern Central Kansas.—While collecting in this State, I found, May 9, 1887, quite a number of the Mississippi Kites sailing over and into the timber skirting the Medicine River, near Sun City, Barber County, and from their actions knew that they were mating and upon their breeding grounds,—a lucky find worth following up. On the 11th I noticed several of the birds with sticks in their bills (green twigs in leaf), flying aimlessly about as if undecided where to place them, keeping hidden within the trees as much as possible, dropping the sticks when from fright or other cause they raised much above the tree tops. I succeeded, however, in tracing one of the birds to an old nest in the forks of a cottonwood; having thus located the birds, and knowing that it must be some time before they would begin to lay, I left for the salt plains on the Cimarron River, in southwestern Comanche County and in the Indian Territory, where I found the Snowy Plover quite abundant. (See Auk, Vol. III, No. 3, p. 409, in regard to finding the birds nesting in the same vicinity last season.) I returned to the Kites on the 16th, and remained watching the birds until the morning of the 22d, at which time the nests found, seven in number, appeared to be completed, and I saw a pair of the birds in the act of copulation. A business matter called me home, and I hired the man with whom I stopped to climb the trees on the 28th for the eggs, but a hailstorm on the 25th injured the nests badly, and in one case beat the nest out of the tree. On the 31st he collected four sets of two eggs each and one with only one egg—it being a hard tree to climb he decided to take the egg rather than wait to see if the bird would lay more. Not hearing from him

I returned to the ground June 10, and put in the day examining the nests, etc., collecting two more sets of two eggs each. One of the sets was nearly ready to hatch, but with care I was able to save it. The eggs are all white, or rather bluish white, without markings or shell stains. It having rained nearly every day since the commencement of the month, the two last sets collected are somewhat soiled and stained by the wet leaves in the nests. The eggs measured by sets as follows, viz.: 1st, 1.55×1.33 , 1.52×1.36 ; 2nd, 1.76×1.48 , 1.65×1.35 ; 3d, 1.70×1.39 , 1.56×1.35 ; 4th, 1.70×1.37 , 1.68×1.39 ; 5th, 1.75×1.30 ; 6th, 1.54×1.31 , 1.45×1.24 ; 7th, 1.70×1.38 , 1.68×1.43 . The old nests had a few leaves for lining in addition to the leaves attached to the twigs used in repairing the same, but the new ones appeared to be without additional leaves. They were all built either in the forks from the main body, or in the forks of the larger limbs of the cottonwood and elm trees, and were at least from ten to a hundred rods apart, were not bulky, and when old would be taken for the nests of the common Crow. They ranged in height from twenty-five to fifty feet from the ground.—N. S. Goss, *Topeka, Kan.*

The Merlin (*Falco aesalon*) in Greenland.—We have recently received from Dr. C. F. Wiepken, of the Museum of Oldenburg, Germany, a fine specimen of *Falco aesalon* Lath., from Greenland. This makes an additional species for the fauna of North America, I believe.

The record is as follows: "*Falco aesalon* Lath. ♂ juv. Shot at Cape Farewell, Greenland, May 3, 1875." It is *aesalon* without any question—a young of the preceding year. We got it with other specimens from the same locality through Dr. W., and I have no reason whatever to doubt the correctness of the label, as of the hundreds we have received from him I have not as yet detected any discrepancies, and the labels are usually much more minute than the above. Gov. Fencker, who was stationed at Godhavn, Greenland, as Governor when I was there, told me he had occasionally seen a small Hawk between Julianshaab and Gothaab, but had failed to secure a specimen. These were probably *F. aesalon*.—LUDVIG KUMLIEN, *Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wis.*

Notes on *Melanerpes formicivorus bairdi* in New Mexico.—To-day is the 6th of August (1887), and while out collecting at a point some two miles from Fort Wingate, New Mexico, I shot and secured a fine adult male specimen of this Woodpecker, and in unusually good plumage for this time of the year, with few or no pin-feathers present to speak of; a feature wherein it differed from a number of other Picedæ taken on the same occasion. Having collected birds in this locality for the past two and a half years without ever having seen a specimen of this Woodpecker here before; and in view of the fact that our 'Check List' gives its habitat and range as "Pacific Coast Region of the United States, east into Arizona, south into Mexico," I desire to make this record here of its capture in the Territory of New Mexico, and at a point further east than, so far as the writer is aware, it has ever been noted before. At the present writing