

Note on *Ægialitis meloda circumcincta*.—In looking over the back numbers of 'The Auk' which have accumulated on my desk during my late long absence from America, I find a notice* of the occurrence of *Ægialitis meloda circumcincta* on the Atlantic coast, by Mr. J. A. Allen. Amongst other examples of this variety, Mr. Allen writes that he has examined "two skins of typical *circumcincta*" taken by myself in Scarborough, Maine.

It is proper for me to state that I had never made mention of these examples, for the reason that I doubted the validity of the so-called 'inland form.' The evidence of such Maine birds as have fallen into my hands is certainly against it. I cannot remember that I have ever seen more than three specimens, taken on the coast of Maine, in which the neck band was wholly interrupted in front; and while the band, when complete, is not always so broad as in the skins examined by Mr. Allen, it is often so. The two forms distinctly intergrade in Maine. According to Mr. Allen,† they come very near intergradation in New Jersey. One cannot help believing, from the numerous instances, published and unpublished, of the occurrence of *circumcincta* on the Atlantic coast, that the same thing may be true of other localities. All this, of course, is not enough to deprive the belted bird of its name; but it is perhaps enough to render its right to a separate name doubtful.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine*.

The Turkey Buzzard in Massachusetts.—Thursday morning, Sept. 9, 1888, a farmer in West Falmouth, Mass., shot in his barnyard a fine specimen of the Turkey Buzzard (*Cathartes aura*). I happened to be in the town when the bird was shot, and secured it. It is a female in very good plumage. The bird was seen by several persons about the town before it was shot, and from them I learned that it came from the north. It had evidently not eaten much recently.—EDWARD C. MASON, *Arlington, Mass.*

Krider's Hawk (*Buteo borealis kriderii*) on the Coast of Georgia.—Mr. W. W. Worthington has just sent me a perfectly typical specimen of Krider's Hawk, which he took on Sapelo Island, Georgia, February 16, 1888. The bird is a young or, at least, immature male. If I am not mistaken, this subspecies has not been found before in any of the Atlantic States.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

First description of the Egg of *Glaucidium phalænoides*, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl.—On May 2, 1888, my collector took an adult female and one egg of this Owl at Cañon del Caballeros, near Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico. The locality is high and at the base of the more precipitous mountains. The nest was in a hollow tree, and contained but a single fresh egg. The egg is white, shaped like that of a *Megascops*, measures

*Vol. III. p. 482.

†l. c.

1.05 × .90 inches, and is in my collection with the parent bird. It will be observed that in size it is very close to the egg of *M. whitneyi*.—GEO. B. SENNETT, *New York City*.

[A New Generic Name for the Elf Owl.]—*Micropallas*, Strigidarum genus novum = *Micrathene*. Coues, 1866, nec *Micrathena*, Sundevall, Arachn.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

Sphyrapicus ruber Breeding in Coniferous Trees.—In the July number of 'The Auk' (Vol. V, No. 3, p. 234) I stated that I doubted very much that this species ever bred in coniferous trees of any kind. In a letter recently received from Mr. A. H. Anthony, a well-known western ornithologist, he informs me that *S. ruber* was a rather common species in Washington County, Oregon, during 1884 and 1885, and that he found a pair nesting in a big fir stub, fully fifty feet from the ground. He writes me that as he was unable to take the eggs he did not molest the birds, but that there could be no doubt of their identity, as he watched them from the first day's excavating till they began to incubate.—C. E. BENDIRE, *Washington, D. C.*

Occurrence of Traill's Flycatcher near Washington, D. C.—Three specimens of *Empidonax pusillus traillii* taken this spring, are probably the first ever obtained from this locality. Although this Flycatcher is mentioned in every list of the birds of the District of Columbia and vicinity as occurring here, there is no evidence that the authors had ever seen the bird or taken a specimen. One was taken by the writer on May 13, 1888, at Potomac Run, Alexandria County, Virginia, another by Mr. Ridgway at Laurel, Maryland, on May 18, and the third by myself on the 19th, in Virginia, opposite Georgetown, D. C. Several others were subsequently seen and identified.—WILLIAM PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

Early Appearance of Empidonax minimus at Portland, Maine.—The spring of the year 1888 was a bad season for early arrivals at Portland, most of the earlier birds being very much delayed. Yet some did come early, and I think the most remarkable example was the Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*). Previously its earliest recorded arrival was May 5 (N. C. Brown, Proc. Port. Soc. Nat. Hist., 1882, p. 12), but on the morning of May 2, 1888, a chilly day with the thermometer only 36° Fahrenheit, and snow falling steadily, I saw one in a large orchard inside the city limits.—JOHN C. BROWN, *Portland, Maine*.

Second Occurrence of the Prairie Horned Lark in Eastern Massachusetts.—In recording* not long since the capture of three specimens of *Otocoris alpestris praticola* at Revere Beach, Massachusetts, I ventured

*Auk, Vol V, No. 1, Jan., 1888, pp. 111, 112.