

probably have witnessed one unobserved before by ornithologists. On May 18, 1889, near Chelsea, Delaware Co., Pennsylvania, I observed a pair of Wrens diligently engaged in lugging sticks into a large hornets' nest, which was hanging under the cornice of an old farmhouse. Near the top of the nest a cavity had been excavated, evidently by the birds, as the ground underneath was strewn with its fragments. I was unable afterwards to visit that locality, but from inquiry feel confident, they succeeded in rearing their brood unmolested.—J. HARRIS REED, *Chester, Pa.*

Birds near Springfield, Massachusetts.—Throughout the early summer of 1888, near the main highway between Springfield and Westfield, and in the immediate vicinity of three farmhouses, a male Mockingbird remained, singing incessantly. This year at exactly the same spot the bird has again appeared. Although I have never seen the female, still there is very little doubt that there is one there and that they bred there last year and are doing the same this year.

On September 14, 1889, I shot and captured a Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) upon the Connecticut River, four or five miles below Springfield. Its presence so far inland can undoubtedly be accounted for by the very violent northeast storm that had prevailed for the preceding two or three days. The bird sat upon the water and permitted me to approach in a boat within fifteen or twenty yards,—it would then arise and fly perhaps a quarter of a mile, then alight, repeating this action several times, until I finally shot it.

A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) have bred in Agawam, near Springfield, this summer; this fact may not be worthy of mention, but it is quite rare to find them here.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Notes from Minnesota.—During a collecting trip to Madison, Lac Qui Parle County, Minnesota, which occupied the last three weeks in May, 1889, I observed among others the following birds:—

Limosa hæmastica. HUDSONIAN GODWIT.—A dozen or more seen in company with the Marbled Godwit. Two specimens taken.

Tringa fuscicollis. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.—Very abundant, inhabiting muddy sloughs, associated with Pectoral and Red-backed Sandpipers. A large series collected.

Arenaria interpres. TURNSTONE.—A small flock observed, out of which I secured four females and one male; found with Sandpipers.

Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni. NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED FINCH.—A single individual, a female, was shot on the edge of a swamp of wild rice. There were no markings on the breast, and the entire under parts were strongly tinged with buff, in this respect resembling *A. leconteii*.

Rhynchophanes mccownii. MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR.—A male was taken in a large field; it was in company with a large number of Chestnut-collared Longspurs.

I can also record from Minneapolis, *Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis*, a male of which was taken by a young collector on Jan. 3, 1889. It was shot from among a flock of Snow Buntings. I examined the specimen and compared it with one from Colorado collected in April. It was a shade darker than the Colorado bird.—GEO. G. CANTWELL, *Minneapolis, Minn.*

Notes from Wyoming.—While taking field notes on migration of birds during the spring just passed I have been fortunate in finding a few species beyond what appears to be their known eastern or western limit. My record is as follows:—

April 14, *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*, one individual, a male, and also *Agelaius gubernator*, one male bird in flock of *A. phoeniceus*.

May 23, *Dendroica pensylvanica*, one male.

May 25, *Micropalama himantopus*, two birds, possibly a pair.

May 28, *Piranga erythromelas*, one male.

On June 11, a pair of *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis* were found breeding one mile west of Cheyenne. The nest was close up under the eaves of a log house, upon the projecting end of a log. The female, nest, and eggs were brought to me for identification. — FRANK BOND, *Cheyenne, Wyoming.*

NOTES AND NEWS.

EUGEN FERDINAND VON HOMEYER, a distinguished ornithologist, and a Corresponding Member of the A. O. U., died at Stolp, Pomerania, May 31, 1889, in the eightieth year of his age, he having been born at Heerdin, near Auklam, Nov. 11, 1809. His principal works were 'Systematische Uebersicht der Vögel Pommerns,' 1837, and Supplement to the same, 1841; 'Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Vögel Ostsibiriens und des Amurlandes' (J. f. O., 1868-70); and 'Die Wanderungen der Vögel mit Rücksicht auf die Zuge der Säugethiere, Fische und Insecten', 1881. He was also the author of a long list of important special papers, relating mainly to the birds of the Palæarctic Region, of which he possessed a very rich collection. He was for some years president of the Ornithological Society of Berlin.

THE SEVENTH CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held at the American Museum of Natural History, 77th Street and 8th Avenue, New York City, beginning Tuesday, November 12, 1889. Besides the usual routine of business, and action on important proposed amendments to the 'By-Laws' of the Union, many scientific papers will be presented. A large attendance of both Active and Associate Members is expected. As already announced (*Auk*, VI, pp. 82, 208) a new feature