

1870, 137) of a bird seen in Waltham, August, 1867, and a third by Mason (Auk, VI, Jan., 1889, p. 71) of an example shot in West Falmouth, Sept. 9, 1888. Two supposed "Massachusetts instances," referred to by Dr. Coues in New England Bird Life (II, 1883, 137), have been since shown by Mr. Allen (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No 7, 1886, 242 (foot-note), to really relate to Maine instead of Massachusetts.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Harlan's Hawk a Race of the Red-tail, and not a Distinct Species.**—An adult specimen belonging to the Iowa College Museum, Grinnell, Iowa, which Dr. Merriam has kindly submitted to me for examination, is so clearly intermediate between *B. harlani* and *B. borealis* that I have no longer any doubt that the former is simply a peculiar variation of the latter, in which the coloration of the tail is chiefly affected. In this Iowa specimen the plumage is in every respect, except the tail, that of typical *B. borealis*, while the tail has the curious mixed coloration so characteristic of the so-called *B. harlani*. The ground color of the tail is chiefly white, but this is much broken by numerous *longitudinal* mottlings and spots or other markings of dusky in longitudinal series, both webs of the feathers being thus marked. Most of the rectrices have a greater or less amount of rufous suffusion along the edge of the outer web, while the inner web of the middle feather on the right side is almost entirely rufous, though this color is broken by the usual dusky blotches; all the rectrices have a suffusion of rufous near their tips, which are narrowly white, the subterminal dusky bar of typical *B. borealis* being slightly indicated by dusky blotches and rather extensive dark brownish gray shading. In addition to the distinct dusky markings and rufous washes, many of the rectrices are washed with brownish gray on portions of their outer webs, this gray wash being also more or less mottled or blotched with darker. The specimen is probably a female, the measurements being as follows: Wing, 16.75 inches; tail, 9.35; culmen, 1.10; tarsus, 3.20 (unfeathered portion in front, to tips of feathers, 1.16); middle toe, 1.75; the outer toe about .15 longer than the inner.

The technical name of Harlan's Hawk should therefore be changed to *Buteo borealis harlani* (Aud.).—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

**Capture of a Third Specimen of the Barn Owl in Massachusetts.**—Through the kind offices of Mr. J. A. Farley I have just obtained a Barn Owl (*Strix pratincola*) which was taken by Mr. C. T. Wood at South Westport, Massachusetts, Dec. 30, 1888. It is a male in fine plumage and was mounted by Mr. H. P. Babcock of New Bedford. Mr. Wood writes that he shot the bird in a bushy pasture on 'Horse Neck', within a few rods of a salt creek. The specimen is, I believe, only the third that is known to have been taken in Massachusetts.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*