

Shrikes of Minnesota.—Not exactly knowing the true position held by the Shrikes of Minnesota, I submitted a small series of four to Mr. Ridgway for identification, two from Minneapolis, which were dark colored specimens, and two, which were much lighter, from Lanesboro in the southern part of the State.

The following was the result of the examination. He says: "None of your Shrikes are typical of either *ludovicianus* or *excubitorides*, all being intermediate between the two forms. The specimen I have marked 'A' [one of those from Minneapolis] comes nearest the former, but is not dark enough in the coloration of the upper parts; the others come decidedly nearer *excubitorides* than *ludovicianus*, but are not pale enough to be typical."—GEO. G. CANTWELL, *Lake Mills, Wis.*

Notes on some Minnesota Birds.—It is thought that sufficient interest attaches to the occurrence in Minnesota of the five species of birds mentioned below to justify the publication at this time of the following notes in regard to them. Two of the five—the Burrowing Owl and Henslow's Sparrow—are here reported from the State for the first time, so far as the writer can discover. The published statements in regard to the others have been in such general terms as to give no very definite idea of the real manner of their occurrence.

Colymbus holbœlii. HOLBÆLL'S GREBE.—This bird is found in limited numbers during the summer season in the west-central part of the State. It may, and doubtless does, occur in other portions of the prairie region of the State, but as yet no positive evidence of its presence has been obtained. Birds supposed to be of this species were seen in Elbow Lake, Grant Co., in June, 1879, by Mr. Franklin Benner and the writer, but no positive identification could be then made. Its eggs, taken in the vicinity, were seen at that time in the collection of Mr. Jasper N. Sanford of the town of Elbow Lake. Subsequently, in the fall of 1881, in response to numerous inquiries, Mr. Sanford kindly sent to me the skin of a male of this species together with several eggs taken early in the preceding summer near Elbow Lake. These specimens are now in my collection. This affords satisfactory assurance of the breeding of this Grebe in Minnesota.

Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa. BURROWING OWL.—On July 19, 1881, while passing through the southwestern part of Swift County, which lies in the western part of Minnesota, I came upon a small colony of these Owls living in fox or badger dens in a prairie hillside. There were apparently not more than two pairs of old birds with the young of the year. One of the young birds was shot, and the skin preserved. Many weeks spent in travelling through the prairie portions of the State failed to disclose the presence of this bird in any other locality.

Ammodramus henslowii. HENSLAW'S SPARROW.—A male bird in full song was taken by the writer on June 16, 1880, near Minneapolis, and the species was evidently breeding in the wet marsh where it was shot. In February, 1881, I was shown a specimen by Mr. W. W. Eager which he