

The Mockingbird at Springfield, Massachusetts.—For the last three seasons a pair of Mockingbirds have located themselves at the same place in West Springfield. This year the male arrived from the South on the twenty-second day of April, but the female was not seen until about the first of June; they both departed early in August.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Note on *Copsychus adamsi*—Correction.—In my list of birds from Northeastern Borneo I described as new *Copsychus adamsi*. This is apparently the same as *C. niger* Wardlaw Ramsay, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1886, p. 123, from Elopura, Northeastern Borneo, the description of which I somehow overlooked when searching that volume for new forms of *Copsychus*. Mr. Ramsay's specimen seems somewhat larger than mine, and his description is not quite as full as it might have been, but in all probability the birds are the same.

The above correction was made before the copy of 'Nature' of October 30, containing some remarks on my paper by an anonymous correspondent, was received.—D. G. ELLIOT, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

Further Cape Cod Notes.—During August and September, 1890, I made the following interesting captures near Highland Light, North Truro, Mass.

Erismatura rubida.—On August 11 I found four young accompanied by the female parent on a large shallow pond which lies between the towns of Truro and Provincetown. At the approach of my boat the old bird left her young and joined five other adults which were resting upon the water half a mile away; the young ones, however, were too young to fly, and so attempted to escape by swimming and diving to the shelter of a cat-tail island near which they happened to be when surprised. Two of them reached this place of safety, but the others were secured after a troublesome chase. They were very expert divers, remaining beneath the surface for a considerable length of time, and on appearing again exposing the upper part of the head only, and that for but a few seconds. As the water just here happened to be filled with pond weed (*Potamogeton pectinatus* and *P. perfoliatus*) it was not difficult to trace the motions of the birds, when beneath the surface, by the commotion which they made in passing through the thick masses of vegetation. The flock of old birds contained at least two adult males, which were very conspicuous among their dull-colored companions. They were all very shy, so that it was impossible to approach to within less than one hundred yards of them. The adults, as well as the two remaining young, were seen afterwards on several visits to the pond.

The two taken are males. The head and greater part of the body is covered with down, but the remiges, rectrices, and scapulars are beginning to appear, as are also the true feathers along the sides of the body. No.

5056 measures: length 305, extent 254, wing 53; no. 5057: length 324, extent, 279, wing 50 mm.

In the 'American Naturalist' Vol. VII, July, 1874, Mr. Ruthven Deane writes: "On the 10th Sept., 1873, I was greatly surprised at finding two immature specimens of *Erismatura rubida* hanging up with a bunch of Winter and Summer Yellowlegs in a game stall in Quincy Market, Boston. They had been sent from Cape Cod, Mass., the day previous, where they were said to have been shot. They were apparently not more than six weeks old, and as their wings were not fledged enough to fly a rod, they undoubtedly must have been hatched in that locality. . . . I obtained one of the above specimens which is now in my cabinet and I have no doubt that these birds were taken on Cape Cod. I have seen specimens taken as far east as Niagara Falls in May; these were in high breeding plumage, though I did not learn that any nests had ever been found in that locality." This appears to be the only record of the breeding of the Ruddy Duck in Massachusetts, hence the following instances of the presence of adult birds during the breeding season in southern New England may be of interest, as they tend to show that the species may breed here more commonly than is at present supposed. In Mr. William Brewster's collection there is an adult female in worn breeding plumage taken at Rye Beach, N. H., August 22, 1879. This bird may have been a migrant, but taken in connection with the date at which I found young birds still accompanied by their parent on Cape Cod it does not seem likely that it had come from any great distance. Mr. J. M. Southwick of Providence writes me under date of October 25, 1890: "Two Ruddy Ducks at hand this past season. They were males in full plumage, received July 7 and 14 respectively. Each had been killed a few days (say one or two) previous at Seaconnet, R. I. I have another of same quality taken at same place early in July, 1889. In 1887 Dr. H. F. Marshall killed a pair, ♂ in full plumage, ♀ not so perfect. They were together, and he found no more of them. My friend Mr. Newton Dexter, who killed the last arrivals, is out of town, so I cannot substantiate my opinion, but I am quite sure that in 1889 he shot both ♂ and ♀ at about the same season." So many birds being taken in this one locality during the breeding season and in successive years, would seem to indicate that there is something more than mere accident in the occurrence, and as I understand that there is favorable breeding ground for them at Seaconnet, I have little doubt that when proper search is made, nests or young will be found there. Mr. M. Abbott Frazer informs me that he has had recently pass through his hands two adults taken during the breeding season, on the Charles River and at Wakefield, Mass., respectively.

Gallinula galeata.—Among the cat-tails bordering the pond in which the Ruddy Ducks were found this species occurred in large numbers. The pond was formerly a tide-meadow and harbor opening into Massachusetts Bay, or perhaps more properly into Provincetown Harbor, but as there was danger of the Cape wearing through at this point, the Government

about twenty years ago shut off the outlet, thus converting the harbor into a shallow pond which immediately became fresh, and as soon as the cat-tails began to grow at its margins formed a very favorable breeding ground for reed-loving birds. The proportion of cat-tails to water has been steadily increasing, so that of the total nine hundred or more acres of the original pond there must be at present at least two hundred and fifty acres of cat-tails. The open water is seldom more than four feet deep (the average depth is much less), and in the shallower parts is filled with *Potamogeton*.

The Gallinules were found in such numbers that without making any special effort in search of them from five to eight might be seen in the course of a row around the pond close to the edge of the cat-tails. This, for such a shy, retiring bird, is a large number to see in one day in Massachusetts. At almost any point where the fringe of cat-tails was more than a few yards deep, the report of a gun would immediately start the noisy and characteristic outcry of a number of individuals, scarcely any of which, however, would show themselves unless it were by accident at the edge of the cat-tails, or flying across some pool or old tide creek. Although, on account of the lateness of the season at which I visited the pond, no nests were found and the young birds taken were so fully fledged that they might have been migrants, there is but little doubt that the species breeds there. In fact a gunner who has lived for many years on the shore of the pond and who knows the birds well, tells me that the 'dippers' (*Erismatura*) and 'pond hens,' as the present species (together with *Fulica americana* which is abundant during migration) is called, first began to frequent the pond as migrants a year or two after it became fresh, and that a few years after their first appearance a few pairs remained to breed, which they have continued to do in varying but steadily increasing numbers ever since.

Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides.—A young male of this species was killed at High Land on August 22. The bird shows remnants of the first plumage on the occiput, throat, median line of belly, crissum and upper tail-coverts. This is the only one that I have seen on Cape Cod.

Icteria virens.—An adult male was found dead near one of the poles upon which the storm signals are hoisted at the U. S. Signal Station at Highland Light on the morning of September 10. As birds frequently kill themselves by flying against these poles during the night, it is probable that this one was so killed during the night of the 9th or early morning of the 10th. There was a large migration of shore birds past Highland Light on the night of September 9, *Phalaropus lobatus*, *Totanus melanoleucus*, *T. flavipes*, and *Charadrius dominicus* being common, while of *Actitis macularia*, *Calidris arenaria*, and *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* one individual each was seen. Up to midnight, when I left the light, but one land bird, a *Dendroica*, probably *D. striata*, was seen.

Mimus polyglottos.—On September 11 I saw a single bird of this species near Highland Light. The bird was very shy and I was not absolutely sure of my identification until the next day when I saw two more,

one of which I secured. Several others were seen at about the same time and place by Mr. W. M. Small of Highland Light. The specimen taken is in first plumage, though fully grown and evidently old enough to have come from some distance.—G. S. MILLER, JR., *Cambridge Mass.*

Uncommon Birds for Nantucket Island, Massachusetts.—*Ardea egretta*, AMERICAN EGRET.—On September 20, 1890, while shooting at the eastern end of this island, I saw in the distance a large white heron-like bird, which I thought might be *Ardea occidentalis*, but unfortunately I failed to secure it. The following day it was again seen, near the same locality. On September 23, 1890, this bird was shot, and I saw it; it proved to be *Ardea egretta*, and was without any plumes. This is the first record of one being taken on this island.

Mimus polyglottos. MOCKING BIRD.—On November 20, 1890, while driving on the western part of the island, and passing near a large swamp, close to which was an unoccupied farmhouse, I saw a Mocking-bird running along the ridge pole of one of the small buildings. On getting out of my wagon to secure it, the bird flew into the middle of the swamp and perched on the top of a bush in full sight. Although a very difficult matter, owing to the water, I determined to go in after it. I had just started, when the bird flew towards me and alighted on a fence post, from which I shot it. This is the *third* instance of my shooting this bird here, besides seeing another flitting among the houses in the town on August 11, 1889. These birds were all full-grown, and probably migrants, as I have never heard of their breeding on the island. They have never before to my knowledge been noted here.

Crymophilus fulicarius. RED PHALAROPE.—On October 25, 1890, a Red Phalarope (in the gray plumage) was shot near the 'No Bottom Pond,' on the outskirts of the town. Only one was seen. This is the first time to my knowledge that *C. fulicarius* has been taken here. I have in the past taken *P. lobatus* (September 20, 1870) and *P. tricolor* (August 31, 1889) on the island.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

NOTES AND NEWS.

Dr. FERDINAND KRAUSS, of Stuttgart, Germany, an Honorary Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died Sept. 15, 1890, at the age of 78 years. He was director of the Natural History Museum of Stuttgart, and had special charge of the departments of Botany and Zoölogy. His scientific papers cover a wide field, mammals and mollusks especially, as well as birds, coming within the scope of his work.