

Brookline (Nov. 4, 1883) and Lynn, Mass. (July 6, 1878), and at Rye Beach, N. H. (Aug. 7, 1880). In the present instance the habits of the species, as well as the absence of violent storms for some time previous, preclude all idea of the bird's having been swept away from his home and dropped here by some cyclonic gale. In all probability it was simply a case of that restless spirit of wandering that takes possession of most 'non-migratory' species in the autumn, and which is very likely the surviving remnant of a former habit of migration in such species.—C. F. BATCHELDER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Notes from Springfield, Massachusetts.**—November 14, 1891, I captured on the Connecticut River near Springfield an adult male *Aythya collaris*. Occasionally in autumn a small flock of this species will locate their feeding grounds in this vicinity and remain a month or so, but as far as my experience goes they have heretofore been young birds.

During the first half of November, the most common Duck about here was *Dafila acuta*; this was something quite unusual. One day I was one of a party that captured nine specimens, and we could easily have taken more if we had cared to do so. There were a few *Anas obscura* in company with the *Dafila acuta*, instead of the reverse as is usually the case if any of the latter kind are in this locality.

From the 28th day of last August until about the 20th day of September a water bird, which I suppose to have been a Clapper Rail, located itself and remained among the wild oats that grow on the muddy banks of the Connecticut River upon the shore directly opposite the city of Springfield. During calm days the call of the bird, which very much resembles that of the common Guineahen, could be distinctly heard from this side of the river, a distance of more than a quarter of a mile. All my attempts at capture failed, although I approached within a few feet of the bird. I know of but one Clapper Rail having been taken in this vicinity.

While shooting from a blind this fall, a Wood Duck stopped and fluttered over the decoys, and while in that position, like a flash, a Sharpshinned Hawk flew and fastened itself upon the back of the Duck, when both were shot. I relate this incident to show the ferocity and boldness of this little Hawk.

A pair of Mockingbirds, whose presence in West Springfield I have heretofore recorded, passed this their fourth successive season in the same locality in that town.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

---

## NOTES AND NEWS.

AUGUST VON PELZELN, an Honorary Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Oberdöbling, near Vienna, on the 2d of September, 1891, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. Owing to failing health