

On the 10th of November, 1894, a boy brought me a *Somateria spectabilis* that he had shot on the Mississippi. It was a male in brown plumage, but showing a few white and black feathers. The stomach contained nothing but fine quartz gravel.—WM. E. PRÆGER, *Keokuk, Iowa.*

Connecticut Notes.—Through the kindness of Mr. H. Hoyt I am enabled to report the capture here of a male specimen of the Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuliginosa*). The bird was knocked over with an oar, in September, 1879, and brought in to Mr. Hoyt. He preserved the skin and it is now in my collection.

During the summer and fall of 1894 the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) was quite common. I secured ten specimens, all males, during August and September.

Lincoln's Finch (*Melospiza lincolni*) has been observed in Stamford during the past year, and three specimens have been taken—one in the fall and two in the spring.

On Jan. 19, 1894, a farmer brought in a fine female Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*). The bird was shot while eating a pigeon taken from the barnyard.

During the spring of 1894 the writer took two sets of the eggs of the Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*); one of six eggs on May 26, and one of five on June 9.—LEWIS H. PORTER, *Stamford, Conn.*

Bird Notes from Springfield, Massachusetts.—Last year, upon a narrow platform, under the cornice of a building six stories high in the center of the business portion of Springfield, a pair of Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius*) built their nest and the female deposited therein a set of five eggs, which were successfully hatched. The young were then taken and removed to the roof of the building and placed in a box, and were followed there and cared for by the parents until they were fully grown. Any one going on to this roof and near the nest would be assailed by one of the old birds who would dart at the intruder from the spire of a neighboring church, where one of the parents was usually stationed. These facts seem remarkable when it is considered that the incubation and rearing were in the very heart of a busy city of fifty thousand people. Two of the young are still kept here in confinement.

Mr. E. H. Barney is devoting several acres of land near his home in the suburbs of Springfield to the cultivation of numerous kinds of trees and shrubs that long retain their seeds, hoping thereby to attract various kinds of birds, that he and others may study their habits. To this place, early in the autumn, a flock of about fifty Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) came and remained several days. Heretofore these birds have not been observed here, except occasionally singly or, more rarely, in pairs.

One of the greatest enemies to bird life in New England is to be found in the Italians, who during the last ten years have so numerously settled in the cities and larger towns. Throughout the whole year they roam over the country armed with cheap guns, shooting birds of all sizes, from the Kinglet up. Two police officers recently arrested two of these men who were in the outlying part of Springfield engaged in this illegal work. In their possession were found nearly fifty birds, the taking of which was unlawful. Among the kinds they had, I noted the Catbird, Robin, Rusty Grackle, White-throated and Song Sparrows, Olive-backed Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Flicker and Downy Woodpecker.

September 1, a Least Bittern (*Botaurus exilis*) was taken here, and October 16, a Yellow Rail (*Porzana noveboracensis*). I have never known of the presence of the latter bird here before, and there is but one record of the capture of the former in this part of the Connecticut River valley. — ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

North American Bird Notes from Costa Rica.—*Tringa bairdi*.—Two specimens of Baird's Sandpiper were taken and a number of others seen June 8 on the Volcano of Irazú, above Tierra Blanca, at about 1500 meters altitude. The birds seemed to be at home and I have wondered whether it is possible they breed there. The genital organs indicated approaching activity.

Tachycineta thalassina.—While collecting at the mouth of the Matina River (Atlantic coast) in the latter part of March I found the Violet-green Swallow not uncommon in company with *T. albilinea*. Perfect friendship seemed to exist between the two species. *T. albilinea* was breeding commonly but in none of the specimens of *thalassina* secured did the ovaries indicate approaching activity. *T. thalassina* has also been taken on the Pacific side of Costa Rica at Bebedero. There is a single specimen from that locality in the collection of the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica.

I believe this brings the record several hundred miles southward for *T. thalassina*. — GEO. K. CHERRIE, *Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, Ill.*

Notes on the Summer Birds of Central Berkshire County, Mass.—The publication, in 1884, of Mr. W. Brewster's 'Notes on the Summer Birds of Berkshire County, Mass.' (*Auk*, Vol. I, pp. 5-16), established the Canadian character of the avifauna of northern Berkshire. The lists published by Mr. W. Faxon (*Auk*, Vol. VI, pp. 39, 99), present a very full account of the distribution of the birds on Graylock, and give in addition an account of the birds of the southern end of the county. Attention has not yet been called, I believe, to the very general distribution of certain northern birds throughout the central part of Berkshire County, particularly in the eastern half, so that the following notes, made in the summers of 1892 and 1893, may be of interest.