

finished despatching a woodrat (*Neotoma*). The bird reluctantly withdrew as I came upon the scene, leaving the rat, which I found to be quite dead. A post-mortem disclosed a bad contusion on the side directly over the heart, and another on the spine between the shoulders, while the skull was crushed by a blow behind the ear, although the skin was nowhere broken.—A. W. ANTHONY, *San Diego, Cal.*

The Redheaded Woodpecker in Eastern Massachusetts.—It is so seldom that a Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) is seen in eastern Massachusetts that its occurrence is worthy of note. On Sunday noon, March 8, 1896, while taking a walk through a grove of mixed elm, maple and pine trees in the section of Boston known as Dorchester, I came across a beautiful bird of this species, lazily climbing about on a partially decayed stump and apparently searching for food. The bird was very tame, allowing me to follow it closely as it flew from tree to tree and to approach to within ten or fifteen yards on several occasions. After watching it for some fifteen minutes and thinking from its tameness and from its partiality to a particular stump that it might be wintering in the locality I quietly withdrew. A thorough search of the woods the next morning failed to discover the bird again and I concluded it was probably a temporary visitor.

On May 8, 1896, while walking early in the morning in Dorchester District, my attention was attracted by the loud calling of a Red-headed Woodpecker. After a short search the bird was located in a clump of tall oak trees and was shot. It proved to be a male in full plumage, and was very fat. This is probably the same bird noticed by me on March 8, 1896, as recorded above, as it was shot within one hundred yards of where it was previously observed.

I have seen this species in Massachusetts only once before, the first time being on May 19, 1878.—FOSTER H. BRACKETT, *Boston, Mass.*

Pyrocephalus rubineus mexicanus in Los Angeles County, Cal.—During recent winters numerous duck-hunters in the San Gabriel River bottom have observed a "fiery red" bird among the willow trees. On Dec. 8, 1895, I secured an adult male which, as I expected, proved to be the Vermillion Flycatcher. On Feb. 8, 1896, I again shot a specimen, an adult female in the same locality. Thus it appears that *Pyrocephalus rubineus mexicanus* is a regular winter visitant to the river bottoms in Southern California west of the Sierra Madre Mountains.—HORACE A. GAYLORD, *Pasadena, Cal.*

Intergradation in Song of *Sturnella magna* and *S. m. neglecta* in Missouri.—In Dr. Coues's 'The Birds of the Northwest,' Mr. Tripp notes that he had never observed any intergrading of the songs of *Sturnella magna* and *S. m. neglecta*. Some seven or eight years ago while creeping on some ducks in Audrain County, Mo., I heard a very pecu-