

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-

liar lark song, but was unable to investigate the matter. Later I wrote Mr. Vernon Bailey and Mr. B. H. Dutcher, both of whom had been observing the intergradations of plumage and habits in Kansas of these two birds, and I asked of them if they had observed any birds with a blended voice. Neither had; and Mr. Bailey was kind enough to ask other ornithologists at the Smithsonian Institution concerning the matter. None had noticed any intergrading.

But recently (March 9, 1896) I was in the same region of my former duck hunt and heard distinctly a Western Lark's song. It was fairly typical but too highly pitched. A mile away I heard another that was deeply liquid and gurgling—in fact quite typical of *S. m. neglecta*, but only a fourth of a mile away I heard one whose song was that of *S. magna* except that it had near the middle a rather highly pitched gurgle. It did not have, in its many repetitions, any downward ending as the other two birds had. Neither was the entire song so highly pitched as that of the typical *S. magna*—scores of which were singing around it.

To my mind here was a distinct intergradation—perhaps the result of hybridism. The region was in Audrain County, Mo., about fifteen miles southwest of Mexico, Mo., and about one fourth of a mile north of the divide between the water-sheds of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.

I had shot the *S. m. neglecta* once before in this county further eastward.

This is the only region near me where *S. m. neglecta* is found so far as I know, though it comes into Southwest Missouri. I might add that I am well acquainted with the song of *S. m. neglecta*, having heard it in Kansas, Colorado and S. Dakota.—JAMES NEWTON BASKETT, *Mexico, Mo.*

Pinicola enucleator at Worcester, Mass.—A flock of sixteen Pine Grosbeaks, containing a few bright males, was reported in the northern part of this city Jan. 15, 1896. For a little over a month the Grosbeaks were seen in different parts of the city, one or two or a half dozen at a time, feeding upon mountain-ash berries and seeds of maple and Scotch elm. The last seen was on Feb. 21. But few bright males were seen, the largest number being reported on Feb. 19, when a flock of fifteen contained "several brilliant specimens."—HELEN A. BALL, *Worcester, Mass.*

Evening Grosbeak in Southern Wisconsin.—On January 21, 1896, while passing an old, deserted cemetery on the outskirts of Delavan (Wis.), I heard lively chattering among the large 'evergreen' trees within the graveyard and knew at once that it was the note of some bird new to me. On watching closely I soon saw a beautiful male Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) appear on the outside of the tree, and later a couple more and two or three of the plainer clothed females. There