

gether by detached pairs, although in some places where unusually abundant they gather daily for a sociable feed. — WILLIAM L. DAWSON, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

A New Bird for the Virginias.— I have lately received from Mr. Thaddeus Surber, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, a young male specimen of the Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*) which was taken on November 2, 1896, near Caldwell, P. O., on the Greenbrier River, six miles from the above mentioned Springs. This species has not hitherto been reported from either Virginia or West Virginia, although a bird from the Patuxent River, Md., has been recorded by Mr. Hugh M. Smith (Auk, Vol. III, p. 139). — WILLIAM C. RIVES, M. D., *New York City.*

Asarcia spinosa.— In Vol. XXIV of the British Museum Catalogue of Birds, Limicolæ, p. 86, 1896, Dr. Sharpe names a genus *Asarcia*, type *Parra variabilis* Linn., 1766, as distinguished from *Jacana* proper by the reduction of the facial appendages to a comparatively small frontal leaf, which is trifid, somewhat like a fleur-de-lis; the same cutaneous excrescence in the type of *Jacana* being bifid or heart-shaped, and supplemented by a pair of wattles. Assuming the generic sufficiency of this distinction, I may remark that Dr. Sharpe's use of the specific term *variabilis* in this connection is at variance with A. O. U. canons of nomenclature. As shown by Elliot, Auk, July, 1888, p. 298, and as admitted by Sharpe, *l. c.*, *Parra variabilis* Linn., S. N. 1766, p. 260, was based on Edwards's Nat. Hist. I. 1743, p. and pl. 48, as a mere renaming of *Fulica spinosa* Linn. S. N. 1758, p. 152, which had the identical basis of Edwards's pl. 48. Consequently *variabilis* is untenable by our rules, and the species should continue to stand as *Jacana spinosa*, unless we recognize the new generic name; in which probable contingency *Asarcia spinosa* becomes the onym of the bird. — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

The Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) in Lewis County, N. Y.— In the Boonville (N. Y.) 'Herald' of May 27, 1896, appeared an item to the effect that Mr. Henry Felshaw had recently seen "a large flock of Wild Pigeons, perhaps 300 in number, flying westward." On writing to Mr. Felshaw he replied that there was no possibility of his having been mistaken, as he had shot, trapped and netted thousands of these birds, in former years, and the flock in question was seen when not more than fifteen rods distant. The flock, as said, numbered about 300, and was seen at about 5.30 A. M. on May 22, the locality being Constableville, Lewis County, N. Y. He further states, "I mounted, last spring (in April, I think) a cock Pigeon that was shot somewhere near North Western." — W. S. JOHNSON, *Boonville, N. Y.*

Melopelia leucoptera in Osceola County, Florida.— The National Museum has recently received a wing and foot of this species from Prof. W.

B. Hinton, of Kissimmee, Florida, Superintendent of Schools for Osceola County, who, under date of November 16, 1896, gives the following information concerning it.

"Mr. J. R. Graves, proprietor of the 'Lake House,' purchased some Quail a few days ago from a young fellow from the country, and among the Quail was this Dove. Knowing my fondness for birds he gave me the Dove. It was put in a coop (6 X 9 ft.) with some Carolina Doves and some Quail, where it seemed to be contented for two or three days, eating wheat and corn grits with as much relish as would a cooped chicken. But something frightened it from its roost night before last and it killed itself by flying against the woven wire with which the coop is covered. The astonishing thing is the velocity with which the bird flies, even at the moment it springs into the air. The coop mentioned is only four feet tall; yet this Dove struck the wire with such force as almost to strip one of its wings from its body, exposing, also, its windpipe completely."

So far as I am aware, this species has never before been observed so far north in Florida, where, even much farther south, its occurrence seems to be exceedingly rare.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

The California Vulture in Alberta.—On the 10th of September last (1896) I saw between Calgary and the Rocky Mountains two fine specimens of the California Vulture, *Pseudogryphus californianus*. I was not aware that this bird was found east of the Rocky Mountains, or so far north as the point above mentioned.—J. FANNIN, *Provincial Museum, Victoria, B. C.*

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) taken near New Haven, Conn.—I have a fine Golden Eagle, killed in Woodbridge, within five miles of New Haven, about Oct. 1, 1896. I received it in the flesh the next day after it was killed. It was eating a Red-tailed Hawk when killed, and we took portions of the Hawk from its crop. It was a female, in fine plumage.—A. E. VERRILL, *New Haven, Conn.*

Abundance of Owls on the Coast of British Columbia.—Never in the history of my observations, which covers a period of thirty years, has there been such a gathering of Owls on the coast of British Columbia as that which has taken place this fall. The gathering is represented by the following species: Dusky Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus saturatus*), Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*), Kennicott's Screech Owl (*Megascops asio kennicottii*), and the California Pygmy Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma californicum*).

They have literally invaded the land, and the two first mentioned species are playing havoc with chickens, turkeys, quail, in fact anything they can lay their claws on. The extreme cold weather reported in the North is probably the cause of this migration.—J. FANNIN, *Provincial Museum, Victoria, B. C.*