

It gives me pleasure to add this new species to the list of birds of Minnesota. — ALBERT LANO, *Aitkin, Minn.*

The Northern Raven breeding in New England. — During a trip to the outer islands of Penobscot Bay, Maine, I found on June 15, 1897, a brood of three young Ravens (*Corvus corax principalis*), fully fledged and grown, in the possession of two fisherman's boys. They were taken from a nest in a spruce tree on a small uninhabited island about the middle of May, being at that time about ready to fly. One of the old birds was seen hovering at a safe distance. In captivity they each had a wing clipped, and remained at large about the house, though one, wilder than the others, escaped several times to the woods.

One of the boys conducted me to the nest. It was about twenty feet from the ground, two-thirds way up the tree, in a crotch close to the trunk, and was a great accumulation of gnarled, crooked sticks, some of the largest at the bottom being as thick as a man's thumb. Some two feet across on top, its size was about that of the nest of the Red-tailed Hawk. It was deeply hollowed, profusely lined with grass and especially sheep's wool, and emitted a strong, disagreeable odor. On the branches below were caught numerous sticks, which evidently the birds had dropped. A few days later I examined a nest of the Common Crow on a neighboring island from which the young had recently left. It was almost exactly like the Raven's nest, except that smaller sticks were used, wool was entirely absent, and the strong odor was lacking.

I purchased the young, and took them home with me alive. Two of them are still (September 10) in health; the other died August 5 from some bowel trouble. Moulting was first noticed about July 20, when blue-black feathers began to appear in the dull brownish under parts. They are still moulting, the head being the part most affected.

Their habits in captivity are not unlike those of the Common Crow, especially in reference to their hiding of objects. But they manifest more decided carnivorous tastes, preferring flesh to everything else, and tearing up bodies of birds or mammals like veritable hawks. A live young Marsh Hawk incarcerated with them in their roomy cage was next day killed and entirely devoured, save the leg bones and quills. They are very noisy when hungry, and their harsh croaking is audible at a considerable distance. — HERBERT K. JOB, *North Middleboro, Mass.*

The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) on Long Island. — The European Starling seems to have successfully established itself on Long Island. In the summer of 1896 I was informed that this bird was nesting in the tower of the Boys' High School Building at Marcy and Putnam Avenues, Brooklyn. Of the accuracy of this report I was unable at the time to acquaint myself personally. Lately, however, the Starlings may be seen perched on, and flying about this tower at almost any time. It is appar-

ently a place in which they have taken up a permanent abode. Flying from these high perches they look not a little like Martins, and might be mistaken for them at a season when the latter birds are present.

A Starling was killed about a year ago in the immediate outskirts of Brooklyn by a boy who knocked it down with a stone. I am unable to give the date.

I first noted the Starling in the field on October 8, this year, when a flock of a dozen or more was seen perched in a tree by the roadside near the Kensington Station. During this and the next month I saw them in this locality several times. Once or twice one or more birds were seen on the piazza roof of a suburban cottage in apparently *friendly* company with English Sparrows. On October 22, about thirty individuals of this species were seen in this neighborhood. Two specimens were shot, the stomachs of which were sent to Dr. Merriam, chief of the United States Biological Survey.

The bill of fare of the Starling has not been materially changed by its transportation to another continent. It enjoys in England at about the same time of year, about the same food. In the one full stomach examined (the other was nearly empty), ninety-five per cent of the contents was animal matter, mainly insects (multipeds and beetles, larval lampyrids, grasshoppers, crickets, ichneumonid, caterpillar), but also included two small pieces of bone, "probably belonging to some batrachian." The five per cent was merely vegetable rubbish. Dr. Merriam kindly stated that the contents of this stomach, examined by Prof. Beal, agree essentially with those of three stomachs taken in England in October.

The bird will doubtless widen its range on Long Island, though its extension in this direction since its introduction into New York City, in 1890, has not as yet been rapid. — WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, M. D., *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

The Song of the Western Meadow Lark. — In 'The Osprey' of July-August, 1897, Rev. P. B. Peabody must refer to me as the recent writer in the 'The Auk,' in connection with the song of the Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna neglecta*). The twelve examples which were copied by me at Gridley, Cal., and published in the 'The Auk' of January, 1896, had been heard year after year by me, some of them at least a thousand times, and were very carefully copied with the help of pitch pipe and paper, and I should have stated in the most positive manner that I had heard them sung perfectly many times, although I had heard them sung imperfectly oftener than otherwise. In the brief note which accompanied those twelve examples of musical notation in 'The Auk,' I said I had heard more *writable* songs at Gridley than in any and all other places where I had been in California. The truth is that I have never heard these songs outside of the township of Gridley, excepting two of them which I have heard near Stockton, where, as at Gridley, I have spent much time.