

Halifax. I examined the bird before it was skinned. Death had evidently been largely caused by starvation, as the body was very thin. The occurrence of this European bird upon our coast is most remarkable. It is perhaps doubtful if there is another well-authenticated record of the capture of the bird in temperate America, for Mr. Ridgway queries "Long Island" in the list of localities given in his 'Manual.' There cannot be the slightest doubt about the identification of the present specimen.

BLACK VULTURE (*Catharista atrata*).—A Black Vulture was shot at Pugwash, Cumberland County, N. S., on January 12, 1896, and was brought to Halifax where I identified it. Mr. Chamberlain (Nuttall's Ornithology, 1891) states that it has been killed on Grand Manan in the Bay of Fundy. I think it has not been elsewhere met with in the Dominion of Canada. As in the case of the Least Bittern, the Little Blue Heron, the Gallinule, and the Lapwing, it will be observed that the present bird was taken at a very early period of the year.

AMERICAN CROW (*Corvus americanus*).—An albinistic Crow was killed near Halifax on October 6, 1896. Its general colour was brown, darker on the throat, cheeks and belly; scapulars and feathers of back margined obscurely with whitish; primaries mostly whitish; tertials white; tail-feathers light reddish brown margined with whitish on outer edge; legs, bill and iris, brown.

WINTER WREN (*Troglodytes hiemalis*).—My brother and myself found a nest of this species, containing a number of young, at Spryfield, near Halifax, on June 11, 1894. It was simply a cavity in moss, *in situ* upon the face of a rock close to the shore of a small lake. This moss was *constantly saturated with water* which trickled from a bank above and slowly flowed over the stone on which the moss grew. There is not the least doubt as to identification, for one of the parent birds was seen entering and leaving the exit several times. We were close alongside and could distinctly see the bird. In May, 1891, we found a nest of the same species only a couple of feet from the site of the one just mentioned. It precisely resembled the latter in form, construction and materials, as well as in being saturated with moisture. A full description of the nest of 1891, which contained a number of eggs, will be found in the 'Transactions' of the N. S. Institute of Science, VIII, 203. —HARRY PIERS, *Halifax, N. S.*

Occasional Visitants at San Geronimo (Nicasio Township), Marin Co., California.—*Dryobates nuttallii*. NUTTALL'S WOODPECKER.—This bird is a common resident, though never numerous, about thirty miles north of this place, but only one specimen has been seen in this locality. This was a female taken Feb. 14, 1884.

Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis. RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER.—Two specimens taken in 1894 and one in 1897—all three shot in the family orchard adjoining the house.

Melanerpes torquatus. LEWIS'S WOODPECKER. — This is an occasional visitor in the fall or winter. Some years two or three will appear, and other years none at all.

Dendroica nigrescens. BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER. — One taken, a male, Sept. 18, 1897. Had never heard of one in Marin County before, and have seen none since.

Dendroica townsendii. TOWNSEND'S WARBLER. — The bird is of rare occurrence in this neighborhood, but almost every year two or three are taken.

Mimus polyglottos. MOCKINGBIRD. — One specimen, a male, was taken here by Mr. C. A. Allen on Dec. 30, 1894, and is now in our collection. There was no evidence of its having at any time been a caged bird.

Myadestes townsendii. — TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE. — On Feb. 14, 1880, while on top of our chaparral hills with Mr. C. A. Allen five or six of these birds were observed flying among some cedar trees. Three specimens were shot. Since then I have seen no more, although constantly on the lookout for them, until Dec. 20, 1897. Long-continued cold weather had led me to believe that there was a liability of a visit from some of these birds, and on this date I caught sight of one flying across a cañon. I was fortunate enough to locate it on top of a Douglas fir and to make the capture. It proved to be a male. Those shot in 1880 were 2 males and 1 female. — JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *Sau Geronimo, Marin Co., Cal.*

California Bird Notes. — On looking over my records for the past few years I find some items that may be of service in indicating the geographical distribution of the species mentioned.

Synthliboramphus antiquus. ANCIENT MURRELET. — In December, 1895, I obtained three females of this species on Monterey Bay, off Pacific Grove, and in January, 1896, three males and two females in the same locality. In the California Academy of Sciences there is a fine series of these birds from Monterey Bay, taken by Mr. L. M. Loomis in December, 1894, and January, 1895 (Proc. Cal. Acad. Nat. Sci. (2), VI, 1896, pp. 17-19.)

Brachyramphus hypoleucus. XANTUS'S MURRELET. — On Dec. 2, 1895, I obtained a male of this species on Monterey Bay, and on Jan. 17, 1896, a female. Also one, taken on this bay by Mr. L. M. Loomis, is in the California Academy of Sciences. (Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci. (2), V, 1895, p. 211.)

Puffinus tenuirostris. SLENDER-BILLED SHEARWATER. — On Dec. 17, 18, and 19, 1895, large bands of Shearwaters were feeding on Monterey Bay and out of the number that were taken fifteen proved to be of the above species. An immense flock of, presumably, *P. griseus* and *P. tenuirostris* followed a school of sardines close into shore on Dec. 20, contrary to their usual habits, but unfortunately the necessity of returning to my business affairs by the early train the following morning prevented me from taking advantage of this flight. Had I realized at