

tioned there was an almost continuous succession of flocks containing from three or four to as many as one hundred and fifty or two hundred birds in a flock. Their notes, quite unlike those of their red cousins, remind one more of the twittering notes which the Pine Finch utters when feeding. Two or three flocks of Red Crossbills were also noted.

November 21, I again visited the same locality and several hundred 'White-wings' were seen, but very few compared to the numbers seen on the previous day, and all were flying very high. On both days they appeared to be very restless, and when called down would alight in the tops of the cedars. After picking for a moment or two as if in search of food and finding none they would at once resume their journey westward across the harbor. Sixteen specimens were examined and all were in good flesh; their stomachs contained only a little sand and traces of vegetable matter. All of those seen appeared to be adults except one female taken, whose skull indicated immaturity. The red males appeared to be the more numerous.

November 22 again found me in the same locality, but only a single 'White-wing' was seen, this was in company with a flock of Goldfinches. On several occasions from this time on until the 20th of February, when I left Millers Place, single birds or a small flock would be seen, but I think very few spent the winter on the island.

The Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) were also more numerous than usual during the past winter, and I think a few remained and bred on the island. May 6, two small flocks were noticed among the pitch pines south of Millers Place, one flock of six containing five red males and one female. The following day I procured a female in worn plumage, whose ovaries indicated that they had recently been in an active state. — ARTHUR H. HELME, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

The Lark Finch and Baird's Bunting on Long Island, N. Y. — An adult male Lark Finch, *Chondestes grammacus* was taken at Millers Place, Long Island, Nov. 27, 1899. It was first noticed feeding in a clump of rag-weeds in company with a small mixed flock of Song, Fox and Tree Sparrows.

At Montauk Point, L. I., Nov. 13, 1899, I secured a small Sparrow that proves to be *Ammodramus bairdi*. The sex I was unable to determine, as it was too badly injured by shot. Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., who has examined the specimen, writes me that it is "chiefly in juvenal plumage passing to first winter." So far as I am aware this is the first instance of its occurrence that has been reported from the Atlantic coast. — ARTHUR H. HELME, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Bachman's Sparrow in Virginia. — In May, 1897, I took a pair of Bachman's Sparrows (*Peuceea aestivalis bachmanii*) on Blackwater Creek, Campbell County, Va., together with their nest and eggs. This was the

first record of the occurrence of the species so far north, the other record being the specimen recorded from Maryland by Mr. Figgins.

I have recently learned that the species is a common summer resident in Albermarle County, Va., where Mr. Rufus Barringer, of Charlottesville, took several birds and their nests and eggs last summer. It seems now that the species is a fairly common summer resident in the State. No doubt it will be found nesting abundantly in southeastern Virginia if the proper territory is searched. But already its status as a Virginian summer resident is well established, first by my record, and now by Mr. Barringer's 'take.' — JOHN W. DANIEL, JR., *Lynchburg, Va.*

Louisiana and Mississippi Bird Notes. — On March 19, 1898, while on a collecting trip in Jefferson Parish, across the Mississippi from New Orleans, I noticed what seemed to be a dull-looking Finch in the upper branches of a small tree, feeding on the buds. I shot it, and was astonished to find it a young male Louisiana Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*). It was in rather dull, but not worn, plumage, and the adult red was beginning to show on the loreal and mental regions. Besides being so far from its usual course of migration, it was very early, April 2, being the earliest date for the arrival of either of our other Tanagers, *Piranga rubra* putting in its appearance on that date in 1898.

On a collecting trip in Amite County, Miss., my brother, W. B. Allison, and myself, saw several Thrushes on Sept. 18, 1897, that we took for *Hylocichla fuscescens*; two specimens were secured, but, owing to bad condition of the birds, and to lack of time, only one was skinned. Two of the birds were seen the following day.

The specimen in question was recently identified by Dr. Fisher as *Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola*; this greatly extends the range of this subspecies, and the fact that more than one was seen lends additional importance to the record.

Rowing across the bay in front of Bay St. Louis, Miss., on May 11, 1899, I was very much surprised to see a Loon (*Gavia imber*), sitting on the water a few hundred yards distant. I was at first rather loth to believe that this species could be on the Gulf Coast so early in the season; but the bird remained all through the fall, and I frequently watched it, and heard its unmistakable, weird laugh. As nearly as I could tell, it was a young male.

On August 23, of the same year, I saw two Black-bellied Plovers (*Charadrius squatarola*), feeding singly, together, or with Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitis macularia*), at different times of the day. There is nothing remarkable about the fact that the Plovers were there, but the most interesting thing was that both, which finally flew by me within thirty or forty feet, were in *full black-bellied plumage*, showing that, unless by color change and not molt, the black does not pass away in the fall specimens. — ANDREW ALLISON, *New Orleans, La.*