

**Extension of the Breeding Range of the Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) to the Eastern Coast.**— On August 9, 1903, at Ipswich, Mass., Mr. Ralph Hoffmann saw two adults of this species with a fully grown young bird. Two days later, on August 11, Mr. Thomas L. Bradlee shot, at the same place, two young birds, both females, and saw three other individuals. They were near a road in open fields not far from the sea. Again two days later, on August 13, I secured a young male of this species that was alone on the upper edge of Ipswich beach.

The specimens secured by Mr. Bradlee were examined by Dr. J. Dwight, Jr., who stated in a letter to Mr. Bradlee that the birds "were undoubtedly *praticola*" and "were in juvenal plumage, moulting into first winter dress, only two or three primaries and a few rectrices remaining. In this condition this species (or any sparrow) does not and probably can not migrate, so I have no doubt the birds were hatched near where they were found."

My own bird may have been from another brood, as although it was taken four days later, its plumage is more juvenal, being more spotted above, and having 9 juvenal rectrices and 4 juvenal primaries, against 5 rectrices and 3 primaries in Mr. Bradlee's birds. It was taken three miles from the first station.

The Prairie Horned Lark has been seen at Ipswich before in the fall migrations, but this is the first time it has been found there in the breeding season. At last this enterprising bird in its progress eastward has reached the sea. Formerly a bird of the western prairies, it was recorded as breeding near Troy, N. Y., in 1881 (Park, Bull. N. O. C., VI, 1881, p. 177). Its first recorded breeding in New England was at Cornwall, Vt., in June, 1889 (C. H. Parkhill, O. & O., XIV, 1889, p. 87). In 1890 specimens were secured in the breeding season in Williamstown and North Adams, Mass., by Mr. Walter Faxon (Faxon, Auk, IX, 1892, p. 202), and a nest and eggs were found near Pittsfield by Mr. C. H. Buckingham July 10, 1892 (Brewster, Auk, XI, 1894, p. 326).

In 1891 it was observed in June and July at Franconia, N. H. (Faxon, Auk, IX, 1895, p. 202). The foregoing records are from Faxon and Hoffmann on 'The Birds of Berkshire,' 1900, p. 138. They state that the bird is a "rare summer resident at Williamstown, North Adams, Lanesboro, Pittsfield."

In 1899 the bird was found breeding as far east as Hubbardston in Worcester County, Mass., Mr. Frederick Cunningham, Jr., in July of that year "finding a nest with eggs from which the young were safely reared" (Howe & Allen, 'The Birds of Mass.,' 1901, p. 81).—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M. D., *Boston, Mass.*

**Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker and Evening Grosbeak at Wellfleet, Mass.**— In the vicinity of Wellfleet, Cape Cod, December 5, I killed a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*), which is now in Mr. William Brewster's collection, and saw an Evening Grosbeak

(*Hesperiphona vespertina*). The Grosbeak was in the open near one or more buildings. I saw it close enough to be sure of the identification. It was a striking looking bird and could have been nothing else. Assuming it was the same individual all the time, it was very loath to leave the vicinity. I thought it had left, and departed myself, but came back later and found it again. I shot at it several times, but unfortunately did not secure it. The white wing patches were perhaps its most striking feature. It called (whistled) a great deal. — JOHN TREADWELL NICHOLS, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**The Evening Grosbeak in Presque Isle Co., Mich.**—Mr. O. S. Burton of Millersburg, Presque Isle County, Mich., informs me that the Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) has put in an appearance in considerable numbers in his vicinity. These feed on the berries of the mountain ash. It has been a number of years since this species has been reported to me in the Lower Peninsula except an occasional bird.—BRADSHAW H. SWALES, *Detroit, Mich.*

**The Bachman Sparrow (*Peucaea aestivalis backmanii*) in the Vicinity of Cincinnati, Ohio.**—On April 25, 1901, as I strolled about Rose Hill—a lately plotted subdivision of Avondale, Cincinnati, Ohio, and a region favored by the birds from primeval times—I heard a song from a sparrow, very sweet and unlike the songs of familiar resident or migrant sparrows. In the approaching dusk of evening it seemed to resemble a Field Sparrow in size and general coloring, as the bird flitted along from one low point to another, finally dropping into a bramble patch where the dimming light made it useless to follow.

On April 27, 1901, at a place three to four miles from Rose Hill—also a high, lightly wooded pasture, called Groesbeck Hill—a number of sparrows were singing similar songs to that heard on April 21. We were able to approach and examine several from close range as they sat singing most varied strains—never twice alike in opening, general composition, nor close of song, yet each repetition equally attractive. After careful observations with an opera glass, I felt reasonably certain of the Bachman Sparrow, heretofore on the hypothetical list for Ohio. It is one of the dullest and most inconspicuously plumaged of the 'sparrowy' arrayed sparrows.

On May 3, 1901, I visited the vicinity of Rose Hill again and did not fail to hear and see the Bachman in song. The opening notes of their songs are frequently exquisite, indrawn strains, of the quality of the Chickadee's daintiest *phebe* whistle, followed by a lower-pitched trill with perhaps several Goldfinch-like notes introduced. The whole is superior in quality, variations and a certain plaintive cadence to any sparrow song I know.

The birds are quiet and with an almost passive manner. If undisturbed, they perch for a comparatively long interval on the same spot