

and back, the white outer tail-feathers, the drooping of the wings and erectness of the tail at once made his identity clear. He was also engaged in his flittings in catching and eating insects. His companions were Black-poll Warblers and Juncos. From the beech he took flight into a tall sycamore maple and gradually worked down from the top of the tree into the lower branches, where he was seen at very near range and his catching of insects was observed with much interest. The House Sparrows, however, soon began to make trouble for him and at length drove him to a distance, but not before I had spent twenty minutes with this so rare bird in Massachusetts and made good acquaintance with it. I had not observed whether it had a black forehead and black line over the eye, not knowing at the time that these markings differentiate the male from the female, but as the color of the entire upper parts was a conspicuously clear *blue-gray*, and Coues's 'Key' describes the female as "duller and more grayish above," it was not improbably a male. When I made my usual morning visit to the Public Garden the next day, the Gnatcatcher could not be found. In the 'Birds of Massachusetts,' compiled by Messrs. R. H. Howe, Jr., and G. M. Allen, and issued in 1901, but six records of *Poliophtila cærulea* are given, namely: *Chatham*, November 18, 1877; *Falmouth*, December 18, 1877; *Magnolia*, August 27, 1879; *Oster-ville*, September 26, 1879; *Brookline*, September 8, 1887; *Highland Light*, October 9, 1889. In the opinion of Mr. William Brewster it is not improbable that the bird may have drifted north before the southerly storm of October 21.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

**Notes on Several Rare Southeastern Michigan Birds.—*Gavia lumme.*** RED-THROATED LOON.—We recently examined an immature bird of this species in the flesh which was shot November 11, 1904, on the Detroit River, near Point Mouille, by a local gunner and sent in to L. J. Eppinger, the local taxidermist, for mounting. This is the first record for *Gavia lumme* in southeastern Michigan, and there are but two records for the southern peninsula, both very old.

***Oidemia deglandi.*** WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.—A bird of this species, sex not determined, was shot November 11, 1904, on the Detroit River, off Point Mouille, and sent in for mounting to Mr. Eppinger. No prior record for Wayne County is obtainable, although Mr. Swales examined a mounted specimen taken at the North Channel, St. Clair Flats, by Henry Avery during the fall of 1900.

***Oidemia perspicillata.*** SURF SCOTER.—A female Surf Scoter was shot at the St. Clair Flats, St. Clair County, on October 13, 1904, and sent in with other ducks to Mr. Eppinger's, where we examined it. This is the second record for the species in this section, but without doubt both this and *O. deglandi* are occasionally shot by the gunners without the birds falling into any ornithologist's hands.

***Cistothorus stellaris.*** SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN.—On October 2, 1904, Mr. Swales shot a female in Wayne County, six miles north of De-

troit, in a tangled grassy field. In fifteen years' observation, this is the first *stellaris* that has actually been taken here. Mr. Jas. B. Purdy writes that some years ago he met with a pair of this species near Plymouth, where he found it breeding.—B. H. SWALES AND P. A. TAVERNER, *Detroit, Mich.*

**Additional Records for Southeastern Michigan.**—SAVANNA SPARROW. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*.—June 18, 1904, near Pearl Beach, St. Clair Co., on the edge of the St. Clair Flats, I found a colony of these birds breeding. About a dozen birds were seen.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW. *Spizella pallida*.—Took one bird at Port Huron, St. Clair Co., May 2, 1901. The specimen is in the collection of J. H. Fleming of Toronto, Ont.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW. *Melospiza lincolni*.—May 15, 1904, I took a male near Palmer Park, Detroit. It is in the collection of B. H. Swales.

PRAIRIE WARBLER. *Dendroica discolor*.—I took a female at Port Huron, May 20, 1900. It is now in the collection of J. H. Fleming.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER. *Geothlypis agilis*.—May 23, 1900, a female, taken at Port Huron. Now in collection of J. H. Fleming.

I also wish to record a Purple Gallinule (*Lonornis martinica*) taken near Guelph, Wellington Co., Ontario, about 1894. It is an immature bird and is in the possession of Mr. Wm. Holliday of that city.—P. A. TAVERNER, *Detroit, Mich.*

**The Apparent Power of Reasoning in Birds.**—The *apparent* power of reasoning, I say, because we cannot be sure of an animal's mental condition, as Mr. Wheeler points out in 'The Auk' for April, 1904, our mind being no doubt very different from that of the animal. We will have to be converted into the animal and live for a while as such before we can thoroughly understand how it feels and what motive causes it to act in a certain way. It does not do for us to treat the animal's actions as though it were a human being, and yet there are actions on the part of the animal which seem to show some mental faculty closely akin to man's power of reasoning. Whether the animal really has any forethought as to the best method of accomplishing a desired end or not we cannot say, but at times it certainly appears to have.

In the early summer of 1903, a friend and myself procured a nest of young Red-winged Blackbirds and raised the brood. Since then I have made a pet of one of them — a female. The cage sits upon the window-sill and the blackbird takes much interest in the English Sparrows which are attracted to the outer sill by her presence. Her cage has a large perch which reaches the full length of the window. This perch is securely fastened at one end while the other end rests in a notch upon a cross strip of wood. This perch is some twelve inches from the windowpane, and when upon it the blackbird was unable to see the sparrows upon the outer sill. In some way or other she discovered that one end of the perch was free.