

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.

She would cling to the side of the cage and pry under this end with her bill until she had raised the perch up out of the notch where it rested, then, by a series of pushes with her bill, or by having one foot upon the perch and the other upon the side of the cage, she would work it over until it reached diagonally to the corner of the cage. She could now stand upon it and look out at the sparrows. Of course she may have discovered this by accident, but she went about it in such a methodical way that she appeared to be thoroughly aware that in this way she could accomplish her end.

She also displayed another bit of intelligence — if I may call it such. I had caged a male Cardinal with her. There was no assertion of authority on the Cardinal's part — he gave in to her in everything. But with the Cardinal came a new kind of food into the cage. I fed him a mixed seed, a good portion of which was sunflower seeds. Now the blackbird's bill was not strong enough to break the sunflower seed. She watched the Cardinal eat them, and she finally took the following method of procuring them :

The Cardinal would pick up a sunflower seed and start to crack it in his bill. When he had cracked it several times, the blackbird would walk up to him and seize it and she was then able to get at the contents with little trouble.

In obtaining these ends the blackbird seemed to show some instinctive or mental faculty which, if not identical, is apparently very similar to the reasoning powers of man.—CHRISWELL J. HUNT, 1306 N. 53rd St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Guthrie's Geography, 1815 Edition.—Some of the readers of 'The Auk' may be interested to know that a copy of the second volume of the 1815 edition of Guthrie's 'Geography' has recently come to light. This edition had become so rare that in 1894 Mr. S. N. Rhoads issued a reprint of the zoölogical matter contained therein,¹ and which, as was shown by Mr. Rhoads, was prepared by Mr. George Ord expressly for this edition.

The copy above referred to was found amongst a street-corner lot of old books, composed for the most part of school books and modern editions of travel, fiction, etc., and is in fairly good condition, seemingly complete as to text and maps. Since Mr. Rhoads's reprint appeared, the copy therein referred to as having been lost¹ from the library of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences has come to light and proves to be a "separate" only of the zoölogical portion of Volume II. The copy now noticed would appear to be the second known copy of this edition, which is the only edition of the work containing the technical portion of the Zoölogy.—C. J. PENNOCK, 8 Kennett Square, Pa.

¹ See 'The Auk' for January, 1895, and April, 1896.