

under my notice, being very similar to a Sparrow Hawk's egg figured by Bendire (Life Histories of N. A. Birds, Vol. I, Pl. X, fig. 13). In size they average 50×41 mm. and are quite uniform.—CHARLES R. KEYES, *Mt. Vernon, Iowa.*

A Northern Record for the Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) in Wisconsin.—I have recently examined a mounted specimen of this Kite, which was shot at Glidden, Ashland County, Wis., July 26, 1901, by Mr. William Blome of Chicago, and is still in his possession. The few previous records of this species in the State have been confined to the southern portion, while the specimen in question was taken within thirty-five miles of the Lake Superior shore.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Three Michigan Records.—AMERICAN GOSHAWK, *Accipiter atricapillus*.—I recently examined a fine immature female of this species shot by a boy on October 29, 1905, near Orion, Oakland Co., Michigan, which was sent in for mounting to L. J. Eppinger, the Detroit taxidermist. As far as my knowledge extends this is the first bird that has been taken in Oakland County, and the third record for southeastern Michigan, the first being taken near Plymouth, Wayne County, December 24, 1898 (Bull. Mich. Ornith. Club, 1898, 38). However, I have no doubt but that this species ranges through this section of Michigan in late fall and winter to a greater extent than the records demonstrate. Possibly some of the so-called winter records for *A. cooperi* are of this species. Mr. A. B. Covert tells me that an occasional bird finds its way into the taxidermists' hands at Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County.

AMERICAN BARN OWL, *Strix pratincola*.—Records of this species here are rare and irregular. I recently examined a bird taken in Greenfield Township, Wayne County, early in October, 1905. A. B. Covert informs me that he recently mounted a pair of these owls which were brought to him alive at Ann Arbor. The gentleman who brought in the birds stated that they had nested in his yard at Ann Arbor, during the present spring.

SAW WHET OWL, *Cryptoglaux acadica*.—A boy brought in one of these birds which he secured in Detroit on October 24. It is strange that nearly every specimen of this bird that I have examined has been taken by the omnipresent small boy. Personally I have met with but one bird, in December, 1889.—BRADSHAW H. SWALES, *Detroit, Mich.*

Another Large Flight of Snowy Owls.—Unusually large flights of Snowy Owls (*Nyctea nivea*) to and beyond our latitude, used to occur every eight or ten years, but it was only three years ago when great numbers visited Canada and the New England and Middle States. We are now taken quite unawares by another flight, which will possibly exceed in numbers that of the winter of 1902-03, as the migration has started somewhat earlier. I have not had opportunity as yet to canvass any

extensive territory but I find more records for Illinois than in previous years. I have examined twenty-eight specimens so far (Dec. 9) received by two of our Chicago taxidermists, the earliest record being Oct. 31. Some of these specimens came from Cook and Lake Counties, Ill., Ironwood, Mich., and from a few localities in Wisconsin. On Nov. 17 I saw a specimen on the "Skokie" marsh, near Highland Park, Ill. After flying a few hundred yards, it alighted on the top of a large haycock where it remained for an hour. In Maine several have been taken near Bangor, and five were sent in to Portland Nov. 14, all taken on Richmond Island, off Scarborough Beach. Mr. M. Abbott Frazar of Boston, writes me under date of Dec. 2, that his establishment had received about twenty specimens, the earliest date being about Nov. 20. They came from different localities on Cape Cod. Mr. H. S. Hathaway of Providence, R. I., reports five as taken in that State on Nov. 16 and 18. About two thirds of the owls which I have examined were large dark females. Some of the males were in fairly light plumage, but none approached the pure white dress in which they are sometimes found.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

The Downy Woodpecker.—For more than a year past a Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*) has made his home in the backyard of the house where I live. He was induced to stay last winter by a piece of fat meat which was nailed to one of the trees. In the early winter he drilled a hole in a dead cherry limb about six feet from the ground, and I believe used it all winter as a night refuge. During the past summer it was used occasionally by the same bird, though not with any regularity. About sunset he flies into the hole, which is only four inches deep, and sits there with his head out watching the surroundings until dark. The hole is only about twenty feet away from a back porch of the house that is in constant use, and the bird does not seem to be annoyed by his proximity to the persons sitting there.

On my walks through the woods this fall I have noticed a number of newly drilled holes in dead stumps which look as if they had been made by the woodpeckers for winter refuges. This is a habit of the bird which does not seem to have been noted in the natural histories.—R. P. SHARPLES, *West Chester, Pa.*

Breeding of the Prairie Horned Lark in Eastern Massachusetts.—As a supplement to Dr. C. W. Townsend's note on the discovery in August, 1903, of young *Otocoris alpestris praticola* at Ipswich, Mass., where they had undoubtedly been bred (*Auk*, XXI, p. 81, Jan., 1904), it may be worth while to record that on Sept. 4, 1905, I obtained two birds of this subspecies, shot in my presence by a gunner (who mistook them for plover!) out of three which were flitting about a stony beach and a grassy hillside at Ipswich. One of these birds is apparently an adult, but the other is a young bird in juvenal plumage just moulting into the first