

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

winter plumage. They are now in Dr. Townsend's collection. As further evidence of the eastward spread of the breeding range of the Prairie Horned Lark, I may add that on Aug. 16, 1903, I saw a lark, doubtless of this subspecies, with a spotted breast and a yellowish bill, evidently in the juvenal plumage, at Natick, Mass. This bird was seen a few days earlier at the same place by Mr. R. B. Worthington of Dedham, Mass.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

Moult of the Snowflake (*Passerina nivalis*).—Dr. Jonathan Dwight's review¹ of Mr. Frank M. Chapman's article on the 'Changes of Plumage in the Snowflake' is concluded in these words: "The Snowflake is one of the interesting species that undergo but one moult in the year." As this species is believed *not* to have a spring moult — either complete or partial — I will show that there is at least a partial moult. A specimen in my collection, ♂ ad. (Smithsonian No. 100,688), April 1, 1884, Fort Chima, Ungava, collected by Mr. L. M. Turner, and which I received in exchange from Mr. Ridgway, clearly shows moult in a semicircle on the jugulum; the auriculars were also being moulted. This specimen, although taken as early as April 1, has almost attained the adult nuptial plumage.

Another quotation from Mr. Chapman's paper by Dr. Dwight is as follows: "The male has the feathers of the head, nape and rump basally white, while in the female they are basally black',— this difference holding at all seasons of the year." Upon examining the specimens of this species in my collection from New York, Minnesota, Point Barrow, Alaska, and Ungava, I find that the *base* of the feathers of the head, nape and rump are the *same* in both sexes.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

The Redpoll Breeding on the Magdalen Islands.—It may be of some interest to know that a nest of a Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria*) was found on Grosse Isle, Magdalen Islands, this year by Mr. H. H. Hann and the writer of this note, while on a short trip to the Islands in June of this year. It was the day before we left Grosse Isle that the nest was found, and most of our belongings were packed for our homeward journey but nevertheless we decided to spend this last day, June 29, on the hill a little to the east of the settlement. About one third the way up this hill, amid the spruce trees, we discovered a small nest in a spruce about six feet from the ground. It was placed near the trunk of the tree and was a dainty affair, neat and rather compact, composed of coarse grass and a goodly quantity of deer moss lined with feathers, about three and one half inches in diameter, and containing four young birds four or five days old. After we had waited there for some time both parent birds returned to the nest. There was no mistake in the identification of these active little birds, with their

¹'The Auk,' Vol. XIII, April, 1896, pp. 165, 166.