

SOME NOTES ON INDIANA BIRDS.

BY AMOS W. BUTLER.

Nyctea nyctea. SNOWY OWL.—One reported by Louis A. Test, upon authority of J. Keegan, as having been taken near Washington, Daviess County, Indiana, November 5, 1904.

I saw one in Deschler's Cigar Store, Lahr House, LaFayette, which was procured by Geo. M. Timberlake, from a man who shot it about 15 miles south of LaFayette in the winter of 1901-'02. Beasley and Parr, taxidermists, Lebanon, report that they mounted this specimen in November or early December of 1901. Snowy Owls have been more generally distributed over the State the present winter and more individuals have been reported than ever before since records have been kept.

November 25, 1905, while at Hammond, Lake County, Mr. LeGrand T. Meyer told me that two fine specimens of this bird had been taken near that place a few days before. One of these we saw afterwards in the possession of Mr. Schmid, who mounted it and who also had the other one at the same time in his work room. Mr. Meyer has kindly supplied me with the following data of these, and three other birds of the same species taken in that vicinity:

First: A man by the name of Johnson killed one on November 12, 1905, about a mile and a half southeast of Tolleston, Indiana, in the gravel pits.

Second: Fred Burg shot one on the lake front of Lake Michigan near Indiana Harbor, on November 19, 1905, which is now in the possession of Mr. Louis Freeze of Hammond.

Third: Wm. J. Thompson killed one near Wolf Lake Ice Houses in Hammond, on November 25, 1905. This one was on the top of a telegraph pole when killed.

Fourth: One was killed on Wolf Lake near Lake Michigan, in Hammond, by a person unknown to me, which is now in the possession of Louis Mankowski of this city, which was killed November 23, 1905.

Fifth: At the time it was killed, there was another one with it, which the hunter was unable to secure.

The specimens Mr. Schmid had, were numbers one and four, given above.

Beasley and Parr, Lebanon, Indiana, have mounted quite a number of these birds recently. From information kindly supplied by them regarding specimens in their hands I have been able through extended correspondence to collect some interesting facts regarding this dispersion of these owls over Indiana this winter. They have been reported from the following counties: Allen, Benton, Fountain, Hancock, Johnson, Lake, Marion, Miami, Montgomery, Noble, Shelby, Sullivan, Warren.

H. A. Dinius of Fort Wayne reports that two Snowy Owls were observed on the Godfrey Indian Reservation west of that city, December 22, 1905.

One was shot by Clem Woodhams in Bolivar township, Benton County, November 10, 1905. The same gentleman informs me that one was seen north of Otterbein in that county about December 24, 1905.

One of two owls seen was shot nine miles east of Fowler, in Benton County, November 4, 1905, by a corn husker working for Thomas Eastburn. It was wounded and brought alive to Fowler. The second one was taken afterwards. They are reported to be male and female. They were sent by J. F. Warner of Fowler, to be mounted, who reports on January 4, 1906, another one observed some days before at Earl Park.

J. W. Crouch of Fowler has a Snowy Owl that was killed by Nelson Hendricks five miles west of that place about February 12, 1906.

J. R. Opp has a specimen taken four miles west of Otterbein December 21, 1905. Another was shot near there on December 4, 1905.

One shot November 29, 1905, two miles southeast of Mellott, in Fountain County, by John Whalen, just after dusk, after it had killed two old hens. Mounted for Red Men's Hall at Mellott.

One shot one mile northwest of Fortville, Hancock County, by Ottis Shepherd. Reported by David Fair of Fortville.

John Hammer took a Snowy Owl about six miles south of Franklin, Johnson County. It is now owned by S. B. Eccles.

Gus Habich, Indianapolis, received two of these owls recently. Both were killed about December 1, 1905. One was shot by William Stroble, near Shelby, Lake County; the other by Frank Hoffman, below Shelbyville, in Shelby County, Indiana.

One killed by Isom Kelsey, two and one-half miles southwest of Shelbyville, November 30, 1905.

One killed by John Tucker, four miles north of Fairland, Shelby County, about November 16, 1905. Owned by D. H. Tucker.

One owned by Fletcher M. Noe, Indianapolis, he informs me was taken near Southport, Marion County, Indiana, December 20, 1905. He reports that six or seven have been brought in to him the present fall and winter.

One, a male, killed by Frank Clark in Erie Township, Miami County, December 17, 1905. The next day a female was killed in that vicinity by

Rawley Bunnell. The first one was mounted for the First National Bank, of Peru. Reported by Joseph H. Shirk.

One shot three miles northwest of Linden, Montgomery County, by George Ciderdin, November 22, 1905. Owned by J. M. Hose of Linden.

One killed near Darlington, Montgomery County, November 21, 1905, by N. Royer. Reported by S. G. Kersey.

One is reported by Henry A. Link to have been killed near Avilla, Noble County, Indiana, a few days prior to December 14, 1905.

W. S. Blatchley, State Geologist, has a photograph taken the past fall of a bird of this species in the possession of J. W. Sampson, Farmersburg, Sullivan County, Indiana. Mr. Sampson writes that another was killed at Blackhawk, about six miles east of Farmersburg, about the same time.

John Morgan killed one in Warren County, December 21, 1905.

A fine specimen seen in the window of the Starr Piano Co., Richmond, Ind., was killed by Mr. Edgar Moon near Bowersville, Greene County, Ohio, November 8, 1905. Reported by J. E. Perkins.

Ectopistes migratorius. PASSENGER PIGEON; WILD PIGEON.— Joseph F. Honecker reports seeing a Wild Pigeon with young, near Haymond, in Franklin County, the spring of 1905. There is another record of the capture of a specimen in Shelby County.

Dendroica vigorsii. PINE WARBLER.— C. P. Smith, during the summer of 1904, visited the sand-dunes near Michigan City. There among the pine trees he found Pine Warblers. They were fairly common June 19–23. Though the birds were in full song, he did not find the nest. He describes the song as very similar to that of a Chipping Sparrow, in fact, so similar that he was deceived by it at first. The preceding summer (1903) the same observer, while studying the biology of the State Forest Reserve, at Henryville, saw Pine Warblers three or four times among the pine covered 'knobs.' The last of July he found adults feeding young that were practically full grown. They doubtless nested there.

Pelidna alpina pacifica. RED-BACKED SANDPIPER; AMERICAN DUNLIN.— A specimen taken October 11, 1905, from a flock of shore birds at a pond in Marion County, north of Indianapolis, was presented to me by Philip Baker. This is the first fall record for this vicinity.

Ægialitis meloda circumcincta. BELTED PIPING PLOVER.— A fine group of these birds with four eggs, in the collection of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, was taken at Miller's, Indiana, June 13, 1905 (F. M. Woodruff).

Numenius borealis. ESKIMO CURLEW.—There are few recorded specimens of this rare migrant from Indiana. It therefore is of interest to learn from Mr. J. H. Fleming, Toronto, Ont., that he has one marked Chalmers, Ind., male, April 19, 1890 (?).

Phalacrocorax dilophus. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.—Mr. Roman Eichstodt of Michigan City has a specimen taken by him inside the breakwater there, the last of November, 1903. No others of this species were seen.

Sula bassana. GANNET.—A few months ago I was taken to see a bird of this species in the store of Roman Eichstodt, Michigan City, Indiana. It was in immature fall plumage, as determined by the U. S. Biological Survey, to which a photograph was sent. The bird was killed, according to the owner, on Lake Michigan in November, 1904, about two miles from Michigan City. It was said to be unlike anything before seen in that vicinity.

Oceanodroma castro (*Oceanodroma cryptoleucura* Ridgw.). HAWAIIAN PETREL.—A specimen of this rare species, whose distribution seems to be almost world wide, was given to me by Alden M. Hadley, of Monrovia, Indiana. He obtained it from Mr. N. H. Gano, who on June 15, 1902, found it fluttering in a wheelbarrow in his yard at Martinsville, Indiana. He picked up the bird but it soon died. Its stomach was entirely empty and it had evidently died of hunger and exhaustion. The bird was sent to Mr. Hadley, who preserved the skin. It was recognized as a petrel, and the species was kindly determined by Dr. C. W. Richmond of the Smithsonian Institution. Five specimens of this bird, from its collection, were later sent me for examination. The following notes and measurements in inches are given:

Cat. No.	Sex	Locality	Date	Collector	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Tail
132764	♂	Galapagos	Apr. 4, 1891	C. H. Townsend	6.125	3.250	.937	Slightly forked.
189861	♀	Madeira	Sep. 12, 1902		5.750	3.000	.937	Much worn.
189860		Madeira	Oct. 14, 1902		6.500	3.555	.937	Very slightly forked.
115461		Kauwai, H. I.		Knudsen	5.750	3.968	.937	Nearly square.
154436	♀	Wash., D. C.	Aug. 29, 1893	W. Palmer	6.250	3.125	.937	Nearly square.
		Martinsville, Ind.	June 15, 1902	N. H. Gano	6.000	3.500	.937	