

In going over my specimens of Ohio Robins I found a female shot April 20, 1900, at Waverly, Ohio, that agrees in coloration with the description of *Merula migratoria achrustrera* as given in Vol. IV of Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America.' The measurements are somewhat larger than the type measurements, but the bird certainly is much closer related to *achrustrera* than to *migratoria* proper. I do not doubt but what the majority of the southern Ohio Robins belong to the southern variety, as even some of the wintering Robins shot there are not typical *migratoria*.—W. F. HENNINGER, *Tiffin, Ohio*.

**Petiver's 'Gazophylacium.'**—I recently found in an old book shop a unique copy of Petiver's 'Gazophylacium Naturæ et Artis,' consisting of 100 folio copper plates and 1245 figures of "beasts, birds, fishes, reptiles, insects, shells, plants, corals; as also diverse fossills, formed stones of the sea, with their names, places and short descriptions to each," London, 1702–1709.

With these two volumes of plates was originally published a small volume of text giving a short description of the original of each figure. This last volume seems to have become very scarce for in 1742, a Mr. Roger North of Rougham, after waiting upwards of twenty years, found a copy; then, for his amusement, he transcribed all the descriptions onto a sheet opposite each figure in the plates. Not satisfied with this he gathered five other of Petiver's productions, in all 195 folio plates, and 2726 figures, treating them in the same manner, thus producing 258 folio pages of finely written matter.

Aside from being unique the book is of especial interest to Americans as it contains 92 figures of American animals, birds, insects, etc. Perhaps the most interesting and probably the first cut ever published of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Trochilus colubris* Linn.) is found on Plate 3, Fig. 8. It portrays the back view of a rather well shaped skin and the written description reads "*Tomineio Mariana Virescens Guttare flammeo*. The Humming Flame Throat. The Reverend Mr. Hugh Jones sent me this scarce and beautiful bird from Mary-Land."

On Plate 6 is figured the side view of a skin. In a general reference to all the figures on the plate I find: "Here you will see first a mondescript Bird from Mary-Land with a Golden or yellow throat"; then each figure is treated separately and the following occurs, '*Avis Marylandica Guttare Luteo*. The Mary-Land yellow throat. This the Reverend Mr. Hugh Jones sent me from Mary-Land." Doubtless church records somewhere will show who this clergyman was who sent bird skins from the Jamestown Exposition region over two hundred years ago; 1696 to 1698 being the years most often mentioned in acknowledging specimens.

Another figure on Plate 43 represents the American Eared Grebe, opposite which he writes: "*Ardea Exotica Aurita*. This Bird is very remarkable For its two eared Tufts on the Head and Wanting its Back Toe. Mr. Ray's Figure of the *Ardea Cinerea minor* in his Ornithology Tab. 49, pag.

279 some what resembles it. I copied this from A picture in Mr. Clark's Collection of Paintings." Some of our modern bird skimmers might get amusement, if not inspiration, from the methods in vogue over two hundred years ago, for in his "Directions for preserving All Animals, viz; Beasts, Birds, Fishes, Serpents, Insects, Shells, Fossills &c. so as to keep" he says: "Thirdly, as to Fowls, those that are large, if we cannot have their Cases whole, their Heads, Legs and Wings will be acceptable: but smaller birds are easily preserved entire, by Opening their Bodies which is best done by cutting them under the Wing, and take out their entrails, and then Shutt them with Oakham or Tow mixt with pitch or Tar and being thoroughly dried in the sun, wrap them up Close & keep them from moisture." I know nothing of Roger North who so laboriously transcribed these works but if he had a monument of marble it is not better preserved than this one of paper and nut-gall ink.—FRANK S. DAGGETT, *Oak Park, Ill.*

**Supplemental Note to 'A Lapland Longspur Tragedy.'**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. A. D. Brown of Pipestone, Pipestone Co., in replying to the letter of inquiry sent to him said that twice before in his experience in southwestern Minnesota, extending over a period of twenty-five years, there had been similar considerable destructions of Lapland Longspurs occurring in the spring of the year under like climatic conditions. One of these he describes in some detail as he observed it at Pipestone. A sleet had fallen which froze as it fell, covering the earth with a layer of ice on which three inches of soft wet snow fell. That night the migrating Longspurs entered this ice and snow covered area, many of them hungry and weary, and being unable to procure food finally fell from exhaustion and were either killed by injuries received in striking various objects or remained fluttering about on the ground until the sun rapidly melted the snow and ice the next morning, thus uncovering the fallen seed supply, from which they secured sufficient food to restore their strength and permit them to continue on their way. By afternoon all these birds were gone. Mr. Brown thinks this failure of the food supply the correct explanation of the phenomenon, because when the live birds were picked up that night they fed greedily from seeds provided and quickly gained sufficient strength to fly away. Also the stomachs of many dead birds examined were empty although the bodies were fat. During the early winter, when the Longspurs are abundant, the snow is dry and blows off the ridges and fields, and then, too, the weed tops projecting above the snow still contain many seeds, which are later shaken out by the high winds. During the wet snowfalls of early spring, conditions are quite different and the ground-feeding seed-eaters occasionally find their food supply suddenly withdrawn over wide areas. There was no snow at Pipestone at the time of the last destruction and although the Longspurs were present in great numbers none perished at

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<sup>1</sup> Published in this number of 'The Auk', pp. 369-377. This note was received from the author too late to be added as a footnote at the end of the article.—EDD.