

nesting habits in Plymouth Township, mentioning the male as frequently uttering its love notes while wheeling high in the air, and describing the solicitude of the adults for their young. The writer recently wrote him for more accurate data and his reply under date of July 17, 1908, is in part as follows: "I first discovered the Bartramian Sandpiper in the spring of 1873 — a single pair — and whether they bred or not that year I cannot say. I did not see them again for some years but for the past fifteen years they have been a constant breeder at this place. I have two sets of eggs collected here; one set of three taken May 5, 1899, and one set of four taken May 10, 1899. The first set was fresh and the second slightly incubated. They were in the same field within ten rods of each other. Another set was found here but I did not get the particulars. The birds have been with us here all this spring, but are at present hiding in the tall grass and hay fields. Would like to have you see their peculiar actions while nesting and hear them whistle while in mid air."

PINE SISKIN, *Spinus pinus*.— In the same note Mr. Taverner also conveys an erroneous impression of the local status of the Pine Siskin. The writer has observed more than a hundred during the last eighteen years, mainly in the northeastern portion of the county. The bird is less abundant and even more erratic than the Redpoll.— J. CLAIRE WOOD, *Detroit, Michigan*.

Krider's Hawk and the English Sparrow Nesting Together.— During a recent trip to the Dismal River in the Sand Hill region of northwestern Nebraska, I found, some fifteen or sixteen miles away from any habitation, a nest of Krider's Hawk from which I took on May 25 two well incubated eggs. One was beautifully colored while the other was immaculate. In the lower part of the nest, which was constructed of coarse sticks, a pair of English Sparrows were nesting. I did not take either of the hawks, believing it a crime to destroy such a beautiful bird that is now so rare. The male was rarely seen, but the female might easily have been shot when flushed from the nest. She was exceedingly wild and elusive and when flushed did not return to the nest for a considerable time, and then by a round-about course, and with great caution. I had the pair under observation for two days before taking the eggs.— JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, *Floral Park, N. Y.*

Migration of Hawks.— In Mr. Justus von Lengerke's note on 'Migration of Hawks' (Auk, XXV, pp. 315-316), the line of migration is described as toward the Delaware Water Gap and, as my observations covered that portion, I would like to report what I saw in 1904 while living in Shawnee, four miles up the river.

The line of flight for hawks, and also other birds, such as Crows, Black-birds, Nighthawks, etc., was down the west side of the river just below the crest of the hills until reaching a point about two miles above the Gap, when they would invariably rise over a low corner of the hills and pass on

to the southwest by west going north of the Kittatiny Mountain range. No birds were observed to go through the Gap, though I would not say that none do.—BRUCE HORSFALL, *Princeton, N. J.*

Turkey Buzzard (*Cathartes aura*) in Northern Illinois.—On June 28, 1908, I watched one of these buzzards circling over the links of the Exmoor Country Club at Highland Park. It is rarely seen so far north in the State. Mr. Benj. T. Gault recorded three seen in the city of Chicago, April 1, 1896 (Wilson Bull., No. 9, July, 1896), and there is a mounted specimen in the collection of the Academy of Sciences, Chicago, which was taken at Worth, Ill., several years ago.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Pileated Woodpecker near Litchfield, Conn.—To-day (June 20, 1908), while driving near my home in Litchfield, Conn., I had the good fortune to see a fine specimen of the Pileated Woodpecker (*Ceophlaeus pileatus abieticola*). It was on the wing and high up when I first saw him, and beginning to cross, almost at right angles to our course, a deep valley which we were to drive through lengthwise. He was far off when first seen and my attention was attracted by his lazy, even flight and his great size. But his flight soon brought him directly over our road and a little way in front of us. Then I could see the great white markings on his wings. The bird flew on across the valley and with a swoop, which ended with an upward curve, entered the foliage of a large maple, which stood upon the mountain side, making for its trunk. He had alighted too far up the valley side for me to follow up the search, and, indeed, there was no need for this because his markings and manner of flight had made the identification plain. The region is extremely wild and rugged, in the Berkshires.—JOHN HUTCHINS, *Litchfield, Conn.*

Nelson's Finch in the Mountains of Virginia.—Some light may be thrown upon the line of spring migration of *Ammodramus nelsoni* by its occurrence in Montgomery County, Virginia, in May. Dwight, in 'The Auk' for October, 1896, speaks of the breeding of this species in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Dakota, and Manitoba; its occurrence as a fall migrant on the Atlantic Coast from Massachusetts to South Carolina, and adds that spring records are few and far between.

My house on the Campus of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg, Va., is near a low meadow, flooded in winter as an ice pond, and in spring and summer rank with a marsh-like growth of grass and weeds; it affords a hunting ground for my cat, who frequently brings field-mice into the house to eat. On the evening of May 23, 1908, I surprised the cat with a bird which he dropped. I always confiscate his bird-catches for 'Audubonic' reasons, and picked this up thinking it a Yellow-winged Sparrow. To my surprise I saw it was a Sharp-tailed Finch, and on comparing with a series of Nelson's Finches and Sharp-tailed Finches taken