

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 HURCHINS, *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

by me in October in the marshes around Charleston, S. C., I realized that the bird was Nelson's Finch. It was an adult female, very bright and fresh in color; ova about the size of No. 10 shot; and save for the loss of a few back feathers, in excellent condition. The skin is now in my collection (No. 1379). If I had been out collecting, with no special thought for this species, and had seen the bird as it would probably have appeared in the high grass, doubtless I would have passed it by for a Yellow-winged Sparrow. They may therefore occur here every spring on their passage North. I searched the meadow carefully during the next two days, but saw nothing further of the species. It may therefore have been an accidental occurrence, the knowledge of which is due to the ornithological discrimination of my maltese cat.— ELLISON A. SMYTH, JR., *Blacksburg, Va.*

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) in Camden County, Georgia.— On the afternoon of August 11, 1908, I noticed a sparrow sitting on the wire fence of my field, and at first took it to be a Vesper Sparrow that had arrived ahead of time but on closer inspection I saw the difference and shot it. It proved to be a male Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) and is now in my collection.— ISAAC F. ARNOW, *St. Marys, Ga.*

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) in Southwestern Pennsylvania.— On June 22, 1908, at Leetsdale, Pa., I observed a Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) hopping along the public road in company with several Vesper Sparrows. I at first mistook it for one of the latter, but as it flitted to a nearby fence the fan-shaped, white-tipped tail attracted my attention, and I recognized the bird. On the next day I saw another of the birds on the road making active attempts to catch a small butterfly, and I secured the specimen. On June 24 I secured another specimen in a stone quarry along a narrow road through a woods, this being the last bird of the species seen, although I looked carefully for them. Both birds taken were males in rather worn plumage, and the testes in the last specimen were greatly enlarged.

The Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) is very rare in this locality this season, but most all other birds appear to be on the increase.— WM. G. PITCAIRN, *Allegheny, Pa.*

Chondestes grammacus at Ipswich, Mass.— I wish to record that on August 28, 1908, Miss E. D. Boardman and I saw in a newly planted field at Ipswich, a fine Lark Sparrow. The bird was associated with Chipping, Vesper and Song Sparrows. We were attracted at once by the curious face markings, the unstreaked breast with the small black spot, the rounded tail tipped with white, the outer feathers with much white. These details were all carefully noted at a distance of fifteen feet, as the bird was feeding. Having seen them in the West I knew it was a Lark Sparrow, the second record, I believe, for Ipswich.— LIDIAN E. BRIDGE, *West Medford, Mass.*