

now in my collection. This specimen appears to be the only one known to have occurred in Connecticut.—JNO. H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*

**The Acadian Flycatcher in Ontario.**—The discovery of this bird (*Empidonax virescens*) in Ontario has long been expected by bird students and reports have at times been made of its occurrence only to be disproved when investigated. It is therefore perhaps a little strange that it should turn out to be probably a not uncommon resident of certain parts of the western peninsula of Ontario.

About fifty miles southeast of Detroit and only a few miles from Lake Erie there was formerly an immense black ash swamp, portions of which are still in existence, and it was in these, where the mosquitoes were of sufficient quantity to feed a large number of Flycatchers, that I found the Acadians on June 8 and 9 of this year. There was an undergrowth of saplings in the swamps and the birds apparently spent their time near the ground. Their conspicuous note attracted my attention at once and it was quite easy to secure specimens for identification.

I was walking through the country from west to east and as my plans included the covering of about fifteen miles a day, I had not much time for explorations on the side, but after finding these birds in two places about ten miles apart, I am convinced that there must be many other localities in that district where they nest. One of the specimens taken was a female with an egg almost ready for extrusion.—W. E. SAUNDERS, *London, Ont.*

**European Starling Nesting at Princeton, New Jersey.**—A pair of European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) nested in a large willow by the side of a tiny stream where the latter crosses Moore Street in Princeton. The young are now (July 7, 1909) out of the nest. I have not been able to get any further data concerning them but as I believe this to be the first record from this locality the fact is worth noting. My attention was first called to them by the peculiar purring sounds from the youngsters when a parent bird was near; having raised several broods by hand the sound was a familiar one to me. The old birds are very shy.—BRUCE HORSFALL, *Princeton, N. J.*

**The Meadowlark in Maine, and Other Notes.**—The Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) has arrived here and is breeding (June 15, 1909) on this side of the Penobscot. It is one of the group of Alleghanian birds which are steadily pushing their way eastward across what was formerly a forest portion of the State. The advance of these birds is curious and should have been studied much more closely than it has been so far. The important point is the determination of how long one of our north-and-south flowing rivers like the Kennebec and the Penobscot holds a species in check. They seem very reluctant to cross a stream like the Penobscot,

here about a quarter of a mile wide. From five to fifteen years is required before species, well established in Bangor, come over here, just across the river, to breed. There have been Meadowlarks in Bangor for many years. Mr. Ora Knight states in his 'Birds of Maine' that he has known of their breeding in one place there as early as 1894. They have been exceedingly local, and Mr. Knight, in his book, which was published in 1908, speaks of knowing of only a few within a radius of forty miles — I speak from memory, but I think he says, five pairs. I have known of their breeding at the Hersey Farm, back of the city; at the Waterworks, two miles above the center; and this year in Hampden, five miles below the center. Last year my brother and father saw one on the Brewer side of the river, the first I had ever heard of being here. It was not seen again. If it bred at all, it was in a range of meadows so extensive that it was out of hearing from any travelled road.

This spring about the middle of May reports came to me from three quite separate localities of their being seen in Brewer. Also a fourth at Sebouis Lake, which tarried a day on an island and then departed, probably to Nova Scotia or northward. May 14, 15, 16, 17 I heard of Meadowlarks being seen. Just about a week later a small boy told me of finding a nest containing two eggs. He seemed to know the bird and gave a clear description of the nest and eggs. These eggs were taken by something, probably a boy, as no shells were left, and the child told me to-day that he had not seen the larks since. Last Saturday, however, June 12, my son discovered a nest with five eggs. Monday morning I went with him to photograph the nest. While we did not flush the old bird, there could be no doubt about the eggs being Meadowlark's. Both old birds, very shy indeed, were seen in the vicinity but would not come within a quarter of a mile of the nest. When we were a long way off, one of them took a flight of three fourths of a circle and dropped just behind the crest of the hill where the nest was, undoubtedly planning to run up to it stealthily. As we did not disturb the eggs and shall not visit the place again, there is a good chance for the young to hatch. (The nest reported from Hampden had well grown young on Sunday.) These young birds stand a good chance of growing up. Though in a field which will be mowed by machine after the Fourth, the nest is only two rods from the edge of a cow pasture where they would be perfectly safe. We are anxious to see the birds well established here and would regret having their attempt to breed defeated.

May 15, some thirteen miles east of Brewer, I saw a Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). The only other instance I ever heard of in this region was in 1878, when my father killed an immature bird on Machias waters far east of here.

About the same time a young man wrote me to identify for him a bird which he had seen on a fence near the Brewer line, in a thickly settled farming district, miles from any heavy woods. He described it as about the size of a small crow with a tuft of scarlet feathers "which stuck out like a boy's scalp lock that will not lie down." I had no hesitation in calling

it a Pileated Woodpecker, though the locality was extraordinary and the bird is rare, in our near vicinity, even in our densest and oldest woods.—  
FANNIE HARDY ECKSTORM, *Brewer, Maine.*

**Note on the Red Crossbill and the Pine Finch in South Carolina.**— Having passed many winters in the Southern States without seeing either species, I was interested to find both the Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) and the Pine Finch (*Spinus pinus*) common in South Carolina in the winter of 1908-1909. At Camden, Kershaw County, between December 12 and January 4, no bird note was to be heard so often as that of the Pine Finch except the Blue Jay's; and the bird occurred abundantly in and near the town, in parties of from three or four to about a dozen individuals. The Crossbill was not abundant, but I heard it nearly every day. Sometimes I heard it only, as it flew over head; sometimes I saw single individuals, again two or three. On January 1, at half-past seven in the morning, I saw five together at close range.

I went to Aiken, in the southwestern part of the State, on January 5. There I found the Pine Finch common but decidedly less so than it had been at Camden. From this time its numbers gradually diminished, and, when I left for the North, late in February, it had become uncommon. The Crossbill was also less in evidence at Aiken than at Camden. I first saw it at the more southern town on January 8, when I met with two. The largest number seen together was five, at 7.45 A. M., January 16. On January 23 two tarried for a short time in a pine distant but a few feet from my window; and this was the last of the Crossbill at Aiken for the season, so far as I could discover.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

**The Grasshopper Sparrow at Ottawa, Ontario.**— On June 30, while prowling around in one corner of the Experimental Farm here, I heard a here unknown but to me familiar song. Its author allowed me to approach closely and to inspect him carefully with the glass. It was, as I knew immediately upon first hearing his song, a Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum australis*), an old acquaintance of mine in the south. There were two birds there, both singing from the wire fence around a large timothy field. Next day I went there again to secure it, but could find it no more. But there is no mistake possible; I know the bird too well, having taken and prepared many when living in Maryland. This is quite an extension of the range of this species, comparatively unknown in Canada. As stated on authority of W. E. Saunders in Macoun's 'Catalogue,' it is fairly common only in the two southwestern counties of Ontario, is rare at London, and has only twice been taken at Toronto (J. H. Fleming).—G. EIFRIG, *Ottawa, Ont.*

**The Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) in Northern Ontario.**— On