

pen slip on my part for what I intended to state was that "This is the second recorded specimen and the third noted in Wayne County," as there are a number of Michigan records for the Yellow Rail in various parts of the state.—B. H. SWALES, *Grosse Isle, Mich.*

An Albino Semipalmated Sandpiper.—In view of modern inquiry into the significance of abnormal color phases among animals, it may be of interest to record a totally albino specimen of *Ereunetes pusillus*. The specimen, No. 10466, Museums of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, sex undetermined, age apparently adult, was purchased at auction from the estate of the late J. J. Crooke, Esq., of Great Kills, Staten Island, N. Y. Superficially it is entirely white save where the plumage is fat-stained, but the feathers are uniformly dark at their bases. The inscription on the label reads,—“(?) Shot on the shore of Long Is., Oct. 20, '62, out of a flock of sanderlings (*T. arenaria*). Resembles a *T. pusilla* in everything but color.”—ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, *Museum of the Brooklyn Institute*.

Last Record of the Piping Plover (*Egialitis meloda*) in New Jersey.—The statement in Stone's Birds of New Jersey that the last record of this species in New Jersey was a bird, observed by Mr. Wm. L. Baily, August 18, 1897, recalled to my mind the collection of a male in the late "nineties." Examining my collection I found the specimen with a tag attached, stating that it was taken at Ocean City, N. J., August 3, 1899. Apparently, then, this is the last recorded bird collected in the state. It was shot out of a small flock of Least Sandpipers, which had settled on the beach to feed. I remember my surprise at finding it among the other victims of my shot and I believe it was the only bird of this species in the flock.—ROBERT THOMAS MOORE, *Haddonfield, N. J.*

Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse in Wisconsin.—A new record for the state is the capture of a specimen of *Pediæcetes phasianellus columbianus* by Mr. A. J. Schoenebeck in Oconto County.—In his list of the birds of this county dated October 27, 1902, he says "On October 25, 1897, I shot an old male of this species near the Peshtigo Brook."—He also records *Pediæcetes phasianellis campestris* as "Resident: common. I found several nests of this bird on the plains in the northwest part of this county. Begins laying the last part of May."—The above is to correct a misprint in my "Notes on Some Rare or New Birds to Wisconsin on page 275-276, 'The Auk,' Vol. XXVIII, April, 1911.—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Illinois*.

Nesting of the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) in New York.—On May 17-19, 1878 I was camped on the west bank of Moose River, Herkimer County, N. Y., near the confluence of the South Branch. The heavy spruce and hemlock had been recently cut out but the hardwoods and much of the smaller growth of conifers remained.

We occupied an abandoned woodchoppers' camp, a quarter mile back from the river and probably two miles from the old road leading from Moose River Tannery to Old Forge. On the 17th several Wild Pigeons were seen frequenting a clump of spruces, averaging perhaps 60 feet high. As now recalled there were probably eight or ten birds seen and in passing from our camp to the river we saw them several times in the same vicinity and finally a few nests were noticed in these spruces. If I remember correctly there were two nests in one tree and two others seen in different trees. On the 17th we thought none of them contained eggs although we did not climb to examine. On the 18th a single egg was taken, perfectly fresh, and we thought it had been deposited that morning, the bird being seen to leave the nest. The nest was on a horizontal limb of the spruce about 30 feet from the ground and 8 to 10 feet out from main trunk, a frail loosely constructed collection of small twigs saddled on the limb and kept together by the small branches of the growing tree.

While this is rather ancient history it may be of interest now that the species appears to be extinct and details of its nesting are not abundant.—C. J. PENNOCK, *Kennett Square, Pa.*

Mississippi and Swallow-tailed Kites in Knox Co., Ind.—On Sept. 18, 1911, I observed a Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). It was flying at a moderately low altitude over some cleared bottom land near Benn's Creek, Knox Co. I could distinguish the different shades and stripes of color very distinctly. These beautiful Kites have become quite rare. Formerly they were more common and it is claimed that they nested here.

In the year 1890, in August I also observed two Swallow-tailed Kites (*Elanoides forficatus*) in about the same location. One of these birds was afterwards killed, mounted and placed on exhibition at J. M. Freeman's drugstore, at Bicknell. They also nested here in early days, but are becoming quite rare.—E. J. CHANSLER, *Bicknell, Knox Co., Ind.*

Gray Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus rusticolus*) in Minnesota.—On Dec. 11, 1894, a farmer living near Madison, Lac Qui Parle Co., brought to me a magnificent specimen of this rare species, which he shot near his home. It is a female and in perfect plumage. Its stomach contained the remains of the Prairie Hen (*Tympanuchus americanus*). Its weight was 3 lbs. 10 oz. Its measurements are as follows—L. 24, Ex. 50, W. 16, T. 9.15 in.—ALBERT LANO, *Excelsior, Minn.*

Early Occurrence of the Saw-whet Owl.—Believing that I have one of the earliest records of the Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux a. acadica*) for Long Island, I should like to record it.

On October 26, 1911, I was told that a "young owl" was killed on one of the streets of Elmhurst, Long Island. I looked it up and found it was a Saw-whet Owl. I secured it and it is now in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History.—HOWARTH S. BOYLE.