

legs, but on the 25th, two birds, undoubtedly these same two came much nearer and were identified as Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*.) They were very tame, permitting approach within less than one hundred feet, when their marked plumage was very much in evidence. My two sons and myself watched them for probably an hour with our naked eyes and also with the field glasses, drew a diagram of their markings and wrote a description from life. We tried to take photographs but in this we failed and pressing for a nearer view, finally caused the birds to move away. We saw them again the next day but that was the last of them. Twenty-five years' observation on this beach has never shown me one before and I believe them to be very rare here.— EGBERT BAGG, *Utica, N.Y.*

Killdeer Plover at Cambridge, Mass.— On November 15, 1913, during the Harvard-Yale freshman football game, two Killdeer Plover (*Oxyechus vociferus*) alighted on the field while the game was in progress. It was during the third period of the game that the plover, calling shrilly, flew over the crowd. Several of the students whistled in reply. The birds circled around for a moment, and then alighted in the very middle of the field, — not forty yards away from the struggling players. Hardly had the birds folded their wings, when the Harvard stand burst out cheering for their team; this was too much for the plover and calling once or twice, they flew up and away.

This incident is most singular, not only because of the unnatural behavior on the part of the plover, but because Killdeer are extremely rare migrants in the Cambridge region.— G. KINGSLEY NOBLE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) at Martha's Vineyard, Mass.— On July 25, 1913, I watched an immature Turkey Vulture on the west bank of Squibnocket Pond. The bird was evidently very much interested in something below him on the shore. After hovering and circling for a short time, he alighted on the ground behind some bayberry bushes. Upon showing my head above the shrubbery, the vulture swept majestically away; and, followed by a pestering Kingbird, soon disappeared into the blue sky.— G. KINGSLEY NOBLE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Doryfera vs. Hemistephania.— In his *Birds of North and Middle America*, Part V, page 342, Ridgway, following the British Museum Catalogue (Salvin, 1892, p. 38) and the Hand-List (1900), uses *Hemistephania* Reichenbach, 1854, as the generic name of the Lance-billed Hummingbirds, rejecting *Doryfera* Gould, 1847, because of the prior *Doryphora* Illiger, 1809. Inasmuch as the second element of these names, though of the same signification, is from a different language and the rules of American Ornithologists' Union Code do not allow the rejection or emendation of a hybrid name, there seems to be no reason why *Doryfera* should not be employed. *Doryfera* was used by Hartert in the *Tierreich*

(1900, p. 10) and in *Journal für Ornithologie* (1900, p. 358) he defends its use.—W. DEW. MILLER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Phoebe (*Sayornis phæbe*) in Colorado.—Whilst looking through some of my Colorado birds preparatory to sending them to the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) London—I was pleased to find a male example of the above bird taken in Pueblo Co., Colorado on April 5, 1896. So far as I am aware this is the second occurrence of this species in the State.—WILLOUGHBY P. LOWE, *Throwleigh, Okehampton, England.*

The Fox Sparrow in Central Park, New York City, in August.—On the afternoon of August 9, with the temperature at 85°, I was in Central Park looking for early migrating warblers. As I was going along a path bordered by rhododendron shrubbery, I noticed a fair-sized bird hopping along the edge of the path a few yards in front of me, scratching in the dead leaves for food. A long look through binoculars proved it to be a Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca iliaca*) with somewhat worn plumage, although the coloring was very rich. The bird appeared thoroughly miserable and was obviously suffering from the heat. So listless was it, that rather than move away, it permitted a very near approach, finally taking wing with a feeble "cheep." This effort seemed to exhaust what little energy it had left, as I found it sulking at the base of a bush, and it actually permitted me to part the upper branches of the bush and peer down at it with my face not more than five feet away. I stared at it some time before it finally moved off once more, and I followed it about for some ten minutes longer, in no case being far enough away to use binoculars. I cannot say whether it was a 'left over' from the last season or a migrant. The Fox Sparrow does not arrive in Central Park much before October 15 as a rule. The bird was not seen again, though I was in that part of the Park almost every day until the end of August.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *New York City.*

An Abnormal Rose-breasted Grosbeak.—I have a female *Zamelodia ludoviciana* which I took on June 7, 1894, at Sand Lake, Parry Sound District, Ontario, and which closely resembles one described by Mr. Robert Barbour (Auk, 1913, page 435). In my bird the under parts are grayish white, the streaks are few, narrow and confined to the sides; the breast has a rather faint patch of deep chrome yellow which follows in general outline that of the adult male; the back is much lighter than is usual in the normal female, the feathers being edged with gray instead of brown which brings into contrast the dark centers of both the scapular and back feathers, the rump and upper tail coverts are olive gray; the axillars and under wing coverts are normal in color but a few of the latter have rose colored streaks which though very fine are more pronounced than usual. The bird was sexed and I think correctly by the late Mr. Geo. E. Atkinson.—J. H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Ontario.*