

White Gyrfalcon (*Falco islandus*) in Montana.—An adult White Gyrfalcon, the sex of which was unfortunately not determined, was taken by G. B. Daniels, November 18, 1917, on Shonkin Creek, just east of the Town of Shonkin, Montana. The elevation of Shonkin is 3163 feet, and its location about forty miles east of Great Falls.

The specimen was in fine plumage and a very beautiful bird. It was sent to Seattle to a Mr. Oscar Gard, a fur dealer, by a party from whom he purchases furs, for the purpose of having it mounted, and the mounted bird later came into the possession of Mr. J. H. Bowles of Tacoma, who now has it in his collection.

The foregoing note is of interest in view of the fact, that there are but few records of this species having been taken in the United States.—S. F. RATHBUN, 217, 14th Ave., Seattle, Wash.

The Hawk Owl in North Dakota.—The only published intimation of the occurrence of the Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula caparoch*) in North Dakota is a statement that it is found in "Dakota" (Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway, History North American Birds, III, 1874, p. 76). There is, however, in the collection of Mr. H. V. Williams a specimen taken by him at Grafton, North Dakota, on December 10, 1908. This forms, therefore, the first definite record of the species for the State.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, U. S. Biol. Survey, Washington, D. C.

Pileated Woodpecker in Morris County, N. J.—Noting the record of the Pileated Woodpecker in Sussex County, N. J., in the April 'Auk,' I thought that the following might be of interest.

In October, 1913 I had a close view of one of these birds at Newfoundland, Morris County, N. J. While I did not have my field glasses with me at the time, I got close enough to the bird to distinguish it plainly as it was hammering away on a dead chestnut tree.

A farmer at whose house I was staying described a bird to me which was evidently this species and told me that he had seen two or three of them that week.

Although I have spent much time since then in Morris County I have never seen another of these birds.—EDWARD G. KENT, 2595 Boulevard, Jersey City, N. J.

Unusual Habits of Chimney Swift.—About one P. M. August 17, 1919, while collecting insects near the eastern border of a broad brackish meadow, my attention was attracted to Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) frequently flying slowly in from the west and disappearing in the fringe of vines and shrubs that separated me from the extreme east boundary of the marsh. In this heavy growth, from waist to head high, were elderberry bushes (*Sambucus canadensis*) heavily hung with ripe fruit. I selected a bird for special study. It advanced on descending, hovering flight. About four feet above the tangle, near the farther side, it paused and dropped abruptly into a clump of elderberries. Carefully marking the locality,

I worked my passage to a few feet of the spot. The swift was clinging to the cymoid head of the elder eating the fruit. The ease with which the bird took flight from its slender perch, rising directly upward several feet above the cover and dropping rail-like back into it, was interesting and worthy of note.

The cover harbored at the time not less than fifty swifts. Most of them were flushed with more or less difficulty, but some individuals took wing within arm-reach of the observer. No others were noted eating fruit. The day was dark and threatening with strong easterly wind.

One week later the writer had an opportunity for a second study of the region near the same hour, differing, however, in the day being clear and warm. No swifts were observed in the air on my arrival in the vicinity, but beating about in the heavy cover startled several therefrom. No further record could be obtained of their eating fruit. It should be stated that on the east side of this shelter is a row of medium sized willows with low, wide-spreading branches on the west, affording a continuous shadow over the haunts.

It is evident that the birds had established a roosting, or resting place out of the ordinary. It is not satisfactorily settled whether the birds sought the brush to feed on elder-berries or for shelter. The writer is of the opinion that the bird seen eating berries was only an exceptional case where the bird took a berry after alighting within reach of it.

The swift is a very uncommon breeding species in the limits of Orient. Rarely more than three to six pairs nest; while sometimes it does not nest at all. It is, however, regular and fairly common in August. There are no hollow trees at this station for their use, and they have never been seen to enter chimneys in the fall migration here. As the birds observed were practically all migrants, this habit of seeking shelter in deep shrubbery on the marshes should be noted in other localities also.

On the opposite side of the marsh is a great Tree Swallow roost, which is also occupied by grackles, martins, starlings and other species in their turn. Whether the two have any connection is a matter of conjecture.—ROY LATHAM, *Orient, Long Island, N. Y.*

***Empidonax griseus* in Nevada.**—The Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax griseus*) has been detected more or less frequently in Colorado, California, and Oregon, but there seems to be no published statement of its presence in the State of Nevada. There is, however, a very typical adult female in the Biological Survey collection (No. 158,354, U. S. Nat. Mus.) obtained by Mr. Vernon Bailey at Cloverdale, Nye County, Nevada, on May 30, 1898. Still another typical example, an adult female also in the Biological Survey collection (No. 158,350, U. S. Nat. Mus.), was obtained by the same collector at an altitude of 8700 feet on Arc Dome in the Toyabe Mountains in central Nevada, on May 25, 1898. The species will doubtless prove to be of more or less regular occurrence in this State.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *U. S. Biol. Survey, Washington, D. C.*