

This spring I made a special effort to obtain an Olive-backed Thrush, and on May 5, I shot a typical adult male near my home. As soon as I lifted the specimen from the ground I was satisfied that the two birds I had taken in 1901 and 1902 were none other than the Russet-backed Thrush; but to place the identification beyond question I wrote my friend, Mr. J. H. Riley, to send me a specimen of *H. u. ustulata* from the U. S. National Museum collection. Mr. Riley sent me an adult male taken by Mr. Ridgway on June 16, 1899, at Sitka, Alaska, which is identical in coloration with the two South Carolina birds. Here is a case of a Pacific coast bird occurring in South Carolina, in the autumnal as well as in the spring migration and may prove to be a regular migrant.

When I collected with my late friend, Mr. William Brewster, near Charleston in 1884 and 1885 I remember perfectly of his shooting Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked Thrushes and of his explaining the difference between these birds from specimens shot in the woods which he laid side by side. My impression is that all the of the Olive-backs he shot were typical representatives of *swainsoni*.

Since I began to collect birds in 1883 I do not believe I have shot six Olive-backed Thrushes, but of the great numbers I have seen at close range the backs seemed to me to be of the same color as the Gray-cheeked Thrush.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

Remarkable Migration of Robins.—On March 19, 1920, during a rain at midday at Chicago, the wind died out, causing the fog and smoke to settle down bringing total darkness. This condition lasted several minutes when the wind shifted from southwest to north and freshening, brought a heavy fall of wet snow. A large flock of Robins numbering several hundreds was observed on the south side of the city, near the loop, flying northwest. It took fully five minutes for them to pass a given point. A small bunch leaving the main flock would settle on wires, house-tops and vacant lots, apparently to rest before going on. These small flocks were passing for at least half an hour after the main flight had gone on. This is the first time I have seen flocks of Robins, in the daytime, in such unusual numbers.—EDW. E. ARMSTRONG, *2249 Calumet Avenue, Chicago, Ill.*

Some Rare Birds, for Yates Co., N. Y.—**Melospiza lincolni lincolni.** LINCOLN'S SPARROW.—On October 13, 1901, I secured a male of this species, the only one I have ever observed here.

Tringa canutus. KNOT.—This is a rare bird in Western New York, to say nothing of Yates Co. I obtained a specimen for identification on September 11, 1904, while it was associating with a host of other Sandpipers along Lake Keoka. This seems to be the first recorded occurrence of the Knot here since 1874.

Nuttallornis borealis. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER.—It was my pleasure to add this bird which is extremely rare here to my Yates Co. list on

June 7, 1911, when I heard its oft repeated "pip pip pip" always three times with an interval before the next call. I found him perched on the peak of a dead pine along a hemlock clad gully.

Buteo platypterus. BROAD-WINGED HAWK.—The only time I ever observed this hawk hereabouts, was on April 24, 1913, when I not only heard the familiar plaintive cry, but observed the bird clearly as it flew along the willow-fringed shore of Lake Keoka. It is singular that the Broad-wing does not occur here as a breeder for the moist woodland of Potter swamp would be an ideal nesting haunt for it. This is the only noted occurrence during 29 years of active field work.

Olor columbianus. WHISTLING SWAN.—Five of these graceful swans descended into the west branch of Lake Keoka during a snow storm on November 13, 1919, remaining all afternoon and night. So far as I am aware this is the first occurrence of swans hereabouts since November 1, 1905, when five appeared on Lake Keoka near Penn Yan. Of the latter one was reported killed on November 25.

Just previous to November 13, 1919, five swans were reported on Seneca Lake which were probably the same birds, that were seen here.—CLARENCE F. STONE, *Branchport, N. Y.*

Notes from Springfield, Mass. Aluco pratincola. BARN OWL.—About the first of last December a Barn Owl was taken in Forest Park, in Springfield. There are but two other records of the presence of representatives of this species of bird in this part of the Connecticut valley.

Spizella monticola monticola. TREE SPARROW.—In February, 1916, ten Tree Sparrows were taken alive in Longmeadow, a suburb of Springfield, banded, and then liberated. This act was done on premises where, for a long time during the colder months of each year, wild birds had been liberally supplied with food. Three of these banded birds returned and made their home on these premises during each of the two succeeding winters. During the season of 1918 and 1919 the house on this lot was closed, and it was not known whether any of these birds were then present or not. This winter the house was again occupied, and food provided for the birds, and two of these Tree Sparrows appeared there, each wearing the band that was placed on its leg four years ago.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Notes from St. Louis, Mo.—Four Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) were seen on Dardenne Island, Mississippi River, about ten miles above the mouth of Illinois River, March, 1919.

They are the first wild swans seen in this locality in many years—I found only one old fisherman and trapper who could recall seeing swans in this locality before, and he stated they were the first he had seen since the early nineties. I saw these four adults on the Island, March 20, 1919, at 10:42 A. M., and approached within fifty yards of them in a motor boat. They were such a grand sight, I did not attempt to collect a specimen. They were first seen in this locality about March 1, 1919.