

farm near Plymouth, Wayne County, from December 25, 1907, where it was first noticed, throughout the month of January, after which he failed to notice it. I have no other records of this species' occurrence in winter.

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Ceryle alcyon*).

One was reported to me by Jas. B. Purdy on January 6, 1907, near Plymouth, which remained in the vicinity for several days.

EVENING GROSBEAK (*Coccythraustes vespertinus*).

One was taken December 30, 1905, by A. J. Long near Detroit, and came into Champion's shop, where I saw it. I know of no others being seen during the winter of 1905-1906.

TOWHEE (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*).

Jas. B. Purdy saw a female at Plymouth on January 29, 1905. I believe this is the first bird of this species that I can recall that has wintered in Wayne County.

CORRECTION.

Historical articles like those of Mr. Burns in recent numbers of the WILSON BULLETIN are always interesting reading and therefore ever welcome. In historical articles more than anywhere else, perhaps, accuracy in details is to be desired, and yet nowhere else do we more easily fall into unintentional misstatements. In the interests of accuracy, therefore, I beg to correct a few errors in "The Mystery of the Small-headed Flycatcher."*

Mr. Burns states that the unique specimen of Townsend's Bunting was taken by Dr. Ezra Michener. He was, it is true, the subsequent owner of the specimen, but it was secured by J. K. Townsend after whom it was named (cf. Baird, Cassin & Lawrence, Birds of N. A. p. 496.)

Mr. Burns includes the occurrence of the Summer Tanager in southern New Jersey among "conditions well recognized today." The bird has only been reported "seen" in southern

* Wilson Bulletin, June, 1908, pp. 63-99.

New Jersey once or twice in the last fifty years, and there are no records of captures.

Apparently misled by a statement of mine in the *Auk*, 1899, Mr. Burns states that but two of Alexander Wilson's types are extant. A number of others were discovered some years since in Boston and I think the fact has been published, though I do not at this moment recall the place of publication. The fire to which Mr. Burns refers was not at Peale's Museum but was at P. T. Barnum's Museum in New York City where part of Peale's collection was preserved. There is no record, however, of any of Wilson's birds having been secured by Barnum.

The Trumbull referred to by Mr. Burns should be Wm. P. Turnbull, and P. B. Hay should be P. R. Hoy, both printer's errors, no doubt.—Witmer Stone, Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philadelphia.

I very much appreciate Mr. Stone's friendly criticisms. No one can be more desirous of eliminating seeming or real errors in statements than I. Writers attempting biographical or historical subjects are peculiarly dependent upon the observations of others, the acceptance or rejection of much being a matter of personal judgment, and disagreements not infrequent.

I can scarcely plead ignorance to a knowledge of the fact that Townsend shot the bunting bearing his name. My note, perhaps, should read "taken for Dr. Ezra Michener," as less liable to misinterpretation. The bird was killed in his own neighborhood expressly for his cabinet, received almost immediately, and a brief description of the specimen while in the flesh, written by him on the day of the capture. He even states in his diary "We have given it the provisional name of *Euspiza albigula*, or white-throated bunting." (Cf. *Insectivorous Birds of Chester Co., Pa.*, 1863.) I can see no impropriety, however, in accrediting the bird to the person responsible for all of the facts of the case, as well as being the original owner and for a great many years, up to the time he presented it to the Smithsonian Institution, the conservator of this valuable specimen.

The Summer Redbird may be, at the present time, extremely rare, or extinct in the region referred to. Our bird men have given the land birds of the southern interior only a desultory attention. My comment should not be taken as an indorsement of the entire quotation from Wilson. That the conditions existing at the present time in certain parts of New Jersey are more favorable to a richer southern bird life than southeastern Pennsylvania can offer, Mr. Stone testifies in his *Summer Birds of the Pine Barrens of New Jersey*. (Cf. *Auk*, Vol. XI, p. 134.)

From a very reliable source I learn that the Peale collections occupied a commodious building at Ninth and Samson streets in 1838. It was to be known thereafter as the Philadelphia Museum, but it was built and managed by members of the Peale family. The enterprise of the Peales was marvelous and the city owes much to that name; but at last they had overreached themselves, for after a struggle of about six years they were obliged to dispose of a part of this great collection; portions going to Boston, Baltimore, and to Barnum for his Philadelphia and New York museums. An effort was made to continue to exhibit the better portion remaining, in Masonic Hall, which also came to be known as the Academy of Fine Arts and Peale's Museum Theatre, on Chestnut street, between Seventh and Eighth; in August, 1846, by John Sefton, but it was closed in July, 1847. The large collection of Peale portraits was not disposed of until 1854. The Peale or Philadelphia museum building at Ninth and Samson burned down the same year. Barnum's museum, a large five-story building at the southeast corner of Seventh and Chestnut streets, had been reduced to ashes three years before. The loss on collections and fixture was stated to have been \$50,000. (Cf. Scharf and Westcott's *History of Philadelphia*.) Mr. Stone has already stated how Barnum's museum in New York city was destroyed. It is to be hoped that we will have further enlightenment in relation to the Wilson types discovered in Boston.

As Mr. Stone infers, the last are typographical errors; Wm. P. Turnbull being correctly cited in the References.

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