

West Newbury, Mass., Oct. 18, 1915 — 11 P. M. Hear the notes of Killdeer Plover overhead, presumably from several birds migrating.

Newburyport, Mass., May 5, 1916. Two Killdeers walking about on ploughed fields.

June 23, 1916. Probably the same birds seen again in the same field.

Jan. 24, 1916. About a half mile from the above mentioned field heard the notes of a Killdeer and on investigation found four adult birds, running about erratically and uneasily amid the sparse grass of the pasture. They allowed me, however, to approach quite closely and I had an excellent opportunity to observe their coloring. By an odd coincidence, in making my way back to the road, and about 300 yards from where the Killdeer were seen, I flushed three Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*). These last have been sufficiently scarce of late to make their occurrence interesting.

June 28, 1916. In the same locality as above mentioned, saw one Killdeer Plover.— S. W. BAILEY, *Pittsfield, Mass.*

**Note on the Passenger Pigeon.**— About a year and one half ago, the Cornell University Museum came into the possession of a mounted adult male Passenger Pigeon through the kindness of its collector, Mr. J. L. Howard of Clyde, N. Y., a justice of that city. He is now over 80 years old and had the bird mounted by a local taxidermist, George L. Perkins, who is now dead. According to Mr. Howard's memory the bird was taken in 1909, 11 years after the last certain capture (Sept. 14, 1898) of a Passenger Pigeon in the State. On the bottom of the mount is the legend, "Geo. L. Perkins, July 5, 1898," — a date in close agreement with Mr. Wilbur's record (Sept. 14, 1898) at Canandaigua, N. Y. The mount might be an old mount from some other bird. Mr. Howard's letter follows:

"My account of the shooting of the Passenger Pigeon must be short as there was but little of it. Upon the John Heit farm about 2½ miles s. w. of Clyde and near the Clyde River is, and has been longer than I remember, a small pond nearly round and about 3 rods in diameter. A low hill upon the south reaches to the water's edge forming a sloping beach. Years ago this pond was in a large forest. Now this was always, as long as there were any pigeons, a favorite place for them to come and drink. Six years ago (1909) I think, I took my gun and went to this pond in hopes I might get a Blue Heron, which I very much wanted. There were tracks of herons, plover and other birds in the mud around the shores, so I sat down in some bushes and pulled them up around me so as to partly conceal myself, facing the East where I could see a long distance. Presently I saw, far to the East, a bird coming directly towards me. I took it to be a Pigeon Hawk. It flew off to my right and turned in behind me and the next instant I heard its wings beating for a short span and then I heard to my right and very near the loud and distinct crow of a Wild Pigeon. Well that was a surprise. I had not seen a pigeon in fifteen years or more and now I sat within a few feet of one and he kept on crowing. Well I went



to work at those bushes, pulling them apart when suddenly I saw him standing upon the top of a fence post and still crowing.

I picked up the gun and placed it to the shoulder and old hunter and old trapshooter as I was I could not hold the gun still I trembled so. But I took a trap-shooter's chance and got the bird."—S. C. BISHOP and A. H. WRIGHT, *Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.*

**Feeding Habit of the Sparrow Hawk.**—The month of March, 1916, was spent by the writer in the longleaf pine forests of northern Louisiana. In the region of lumbering operations fires were of frequent occurrence. The hawks took full advantage of the action of the fire in driving out insects, small reptiles, and rodents, and, in spite of the great heat and intense black smoke arising from the resinous wood, the birds would not only dash past within a few feet of the flames, but would actually alight on stubs and fallen branches in smoke so thick that they were frequently lost to view. In the vicinity of every fire observed hawks were present and as many as twenty individuals were noted at one time.—A. W. SHORGER, *Madison, Wisc.*

**The Barn Owl (*Aluco pratincola*) in Western New York.**—The writer wishes to record the capture of the Barn Owl in the town of Eden, Erie Co., N. Y. Noting a mounted adult specimen of this species in the taxidermist's shop at Hamburg, he was surprised to learn that the bird was taken on a large produce farm about fifteen miles southwest of Buffalo. Subsequent correspondence with the owner of the farm revealed the fact that it was captured alive in a silo during the month of April, 1916. The bird was first seen in the barn about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, but flew into the silo when attempts were made to catch it. Here it was easily procured by closing a small door.

Rumors of the occurrence of this species in the town of Eden have come to the writer's attention several times within the past ten years. However, Mr. Wm. D. Henry, the owner of the present specimen, states that he never saw a bird of this kind before and is inclined to regard such statements as erroneous.—THOMAS L. BOURNE, *Hamburg, N. Y.*

**An Unrecorded Bird from the Bahamas.**—When compiling my list of Bahama birds (Shattuck, *The Bahama Islands*, 1905, pp. 347-368), I overlooked a specimen of the Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) taken at Nassau, New Providence, April 22, 1864, by Lieutenant Fitzgerald and now in the U. S. National Museum, No. 33171. Mr. Ridgway also failed to record this specimen in Bull. U. S. Nat. Museum No. 50, Part IV, 1907, 689, and as it has not been previously or subsequently recorded from the Islands to my knowledge, I have thought it best to put the specimen upon record.—J. H. RILEY, *Washington, D. C.*

**Blue Jay in Jefferson Co., Colorado.**—I was startled on the morning of Sept. 24, 1916, to hear the calls of Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*)



Bishop, Sherman C. and Wright, Albert Hazen. 1917. "Note on the Passenger Pigeon." *The Auk* 34, 208–209. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4072491>.

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