

this species, he says he should have certainly sent them to me then for examination.

Mr. Brown has also sent to me, since the publication of my paper, the head and neck of an adult male, killed July 19, 1886, in the Barboquivari Mountains. The specimen, when received by Mr. Brown, was too far gone to make a good skin, but being remarkable for its whiteness he saved the head, which is now before me. A broad white superciliary stripe runs from the nostrils on each side of the head to the nape, meeting on the forehead. There is a conspicuous white maxillary patch, and the anterior part of the throat is white, with more or less white mixed with the black over the remainder of the throat. The superciliary stripes are as broad and as well defined as in *C. graysoni*, and on the throat there is nearly as much white as black. The specimen, therefore, very nearly agrees with the form known as *C. graysoni*—much more nearly than any other previously examined, or than with typical *C. ridgwayi*—and goes far toward bridging the slight gap between these two forms. This is particularly interesting, from the fact that this specimen is not only from Arizona, but from the same locality as the others obtained by Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown writes to me that he will soon renew his investigation of the habits of this species, in the hope of securing its nest and eggs. One of his collectors found a nest last year, containing eight eggs, but his collector delayed taking them, in the expectation that more would be laid; but on visiting the nest again he found that the eggs had hatched, and the prize was thus lost.—J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City*.

The Golden Eagle in Eastern Massachusetts.—Two Massachusetts specimens of the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaëtos*) have recently come into my possession. The first, a female, was killed in Paxton (Worcester Co.), Oct. 22, 1883; the second, a male, in Lynnfield, Nov. 23, 1886.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Black Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus obsoletus*) in Eastern Maine.—Mr. F. B. Webster has just sold me a typical example (♀) of this fine Falcon which came to him in the flesh from a gunner at Rockland, Maine. It was received Nov. 26, 1866, and judging from appearances, had been killed about a week or ten days previous to this date.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

A Singularly Marked Specimen of *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*.—A very singularly marked adult male of this species was sometime since kindly sent to me for examination by Mr. C. A. Allen, of Nicasio, California. It was shot in Blue Cañon, California, Oct. 9, 1878, and another like it was said to have been seen in the same locality. This specimen differs from the ordinary adult male of this species in having a large patch of crimson-scarlet on the crown, about half an inch broad, and commencing about .15 of an inch from the base of the culmen; anteriorly, this red patch has a quite regular transverse outline, but posteriorly the red feathers become

scattered so that on that portion the patch is broken and irregular. This red crown-patch is very similar to that adorning the adult male of *Centurus uropygialis*, but is rather larger, extends further forward on the crown, and is more scarlet in color. On the throat, the usual red stripe is extended posteriorly very nearly to the yellow of the abdomen; back of its usual limits, however, the red becomes gradually duller, until it finally changes to a dull brownish hue. This red throat-patch also gradually widens posteriorly to near its extremity, being at the widest part more than half an inch broad. In all other respects the plumage of the bird is quite normal. The interscapulars are largely white centrally, each feather having a conspicuous longitudinal, broad, white stripe, but these white markings are almost entirely concealed when the feathers occupy their natural position; sometimes these white markings are, however, observable in specimens having the red of normal development. The belly is rather pale for Californian examples of this species, which are usually much brighter colored beneath than those from the interior. There is, however, much variation in this respect. The measurements are as follows: wing, 5.50; tail 3.80; culmen, 1.05; tarsus, .85.—R. RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

On an Addition to the Ornithology of South Carolina.—Toward the close of the afternoon of Dec. 9, 1886, a small flock of over a dozen Blackbirds, accompanied by a straggling company of Meadowlarks, was noticed on a barren field in the suburbs of Chester. At the distance, they appeared to be Purple Grackles. Hoping to find an example of *æneus* among them, I went in pursuit, but, as the 'Larks' were inclined to linger behind, I had considerable difficulty in getting within shooting distance. After a time, however, I succeeded in temporarily separating them, driving the Blackbirds into a tree. Three specimens were secured, but of a kind wholly unexpected—not Bronzed, but Brewer's Blackbirds (*Scolecophagus cyanocephalus*). On the following morning two additional examples were captured, making a total of three males and two females. That these birds were waifs and strays, mere accidentals, seems improbable. Their numbers and condition (those taken were very fat), considered in connection with the demonstrated tendency of certain species of the West to extend their migrations to the South Atlantic States, appear to indicate that they were irregular migrants, borne eastward on the cold wave which struck Chester on the night of December 3, covering the ground for a week with snow.

To what extent the list of South Carolinian birds is capable of expansion can only be conjectured. The experiences of the past few years have taught us to expect almost any migratory bird inhabiting the Mississippi Valley. If we are ever to arrive at a 'Complete Catalogue,' if such a thing be attainable, it will only be through persistent use of the gun, and by careful and systematic examination of many specimens of every species having a western sub-specific representative.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *Chester, S. C.*



Ridgway, Robert. 1887. "A Singularly Marked Specimen of *Sphyrapicus Thyroideus*." *The Auk* 4, 75–76. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4067497>.

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