

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria solitaria*) in New Mexico.—A single specimen of the eastern form of the Solitary Sandpiper has been for some time in the collection of the Biological Survey, identified as *Tringa solitaria cinnamomea*. A recent examination of the specimen, however, shows that it is certainly a typical example of the eastern race, *Tringa solitaria solitaria*. It is a male in juvenal plumage, taken at Guadalupita, New Mexico, at an altitude of 6800 feet, on August 7, 1903, by Mr. A. E. Weller, and it now bears the number 193391 in the United States National Museum. It constitutes the only authentic record for New Mexico.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) in Massachusetts.—On September 15, 1917, on the edge of a fresh water pond, at Haverhill, Mass., I saw a rail which I supposed was this species, but I was unable to secure it. Just a month later in the same spot I again saw it, and succeeded in shooting it. The specimen was identified from a photograph, by Mr. E. H. Forbush and Mr. Walter Rich, and by Mr. M. Abbott Frazar, the taxidermist who mounted it.—CHARLES B. MORSS, *Haverhill, Mass.*

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) **Eating Birds**.—The old duck hunters of Ashbridge's Marsh, Toronto, called this species "Snipe Owl." They claimed that its appearance in the fall was coincident with that of the Wilson's Snipe. This was true, at least, in the fall of 1909 when both species arrived at the same time.

Between September 28 and October 16, 1909, I spent several days collecting in a small dry meadow, on the south shore of Ashbridge's Marsh. Short-eared Owls were more numerous than usual and were apparently feeding entirely on small birds. Four stomachs examined contained feathers and bird bones exclusively. In a small tract of dry grassy meadow, roughly estimated at fifty acres, I found feathers of the following species, marking the spot where they had been eaten by the owls; one Hermit Thrush, one Sora, three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, one Slate-colored Junco, one White-crowned Sparrow, and eighteen others, of which there were not enough feathers left to identify the species.

During April and the early part of May of the following spring, the owls were again plentiful, preying on the hosts of migrants, that rested along the sandbar, after crossing Lake Ontario. With one exception all the castings examined contained the bones and feathers of small birds. This meadow was swarming with voles, but only one pellet, of the many examined was composed of the fur and bones of voles.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia*.

Downy Woodpecker in Colorado.—I have a specimen of the Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates p. medianus*) taken on Clear Creek, near Golden, Colo., on February 25, 1917. The bird is a female and as the white spottings on the lesser wing coverts are somewhat restricted, I hesitated there-

fore before classifying it as this variety. I referred it however, to Mr. F. C. Lincoln of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, who advised that although not quite typical, its small size and general characters, unquestionably refer it to *medianus*.—E. RETT, *Denver, Colo.*

The Starling in Montgomery, Alabama.—A few evenings ago I was called to my telephone to identify a bird which had been blown into the yard of a farmhouse eight miles southeast of the city. Not being able to make a decision from the description given me, I suggested that the specimen be sent to my home. This was done the following day, and I immediately identified it as the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), though I had never before seen one. Several others who have seen it, have verified my opinion.

The bird had been blown against the barn of Mrs. Frances Hagan of this county during a rainstorm on the night of January 14 and was found dead the following morning. It is apparently a full grown male. The plumage has a tendency in color toward green rather than purple but the upper neck and back are decidedly of the later color and the tan yellow spots are decidedly lanceolate. I have identified it as a male in winter plumage.

The specimen has been mounted and presented to the Museum of the Alabama State Department of Archives and History.—PETER A. BRANNON, *Montgomery, Ala.*

The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) at Portland, Maine.—Last summer several reports came to hand that the Starling was breeding at Stroudwater, a suburb of Portland. On tracing these reports it was found that they all emanated from one source, Mr. George Parker, a student in the Deering High School, and an earnest student of birds. On July 15, 1917, I visited Mr. Parker at his home in Stroudwater and he took me to a nearby orchard where we quickly found the Starlings in several small groups. Several of the groups flew to a point in the orchard and then across a field to another part of it and we were able to count nineteen, though there were undoubtedly more in the vicinity. Many of these were in brown immature plumage giving support to Mr. Parker's belief that four pairs had bred in the vicinity. His first observation (which he had noted in a diary) was December 27, 1916, of a group of five.

Though this is not the first time that the Starling has appeared in Maine in recent years, it is believed that this record may be of service in fixing the time of the permanent arrival of the bird in Portland.

One specimen from the colony has been preserved in the collection of the Portland Society of Natural History.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Museum of Natural History, Portland, Me.*

Yellow-headed Blackbird at Ipswich, Mass.—At Ipswich, Mass., September 17, 1917, I had under observation for about half an hour, a Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). It was in the plumage of the female.—FRANCIS BEACH WHITE, *Concord, N. H.*



Munro, J A. 1918. "Short-Eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) Eating Birds." *The Auk* 35, 223–224. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4072859>.

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