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FIELD NOTES ON CONNECTICUT BIRDS

by

CLINTON MELLEN JONES

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v. 13, no. 4

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HENRY FREDERICK WICKHAM, Editor

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Jones
Field notes on Connecticut birds

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The following pages contain a selection of observations recorded by the late Reverend Clinton Mellen Jones¹ and refer in great part to his collection, which, by gift of his family, is now in the Museum of the State University of Iowa. The original selection was made by Doctor Dayton Stoner during his connection with this University and, in general, has been quite closely followed. Such modifications as have been made are due to Homer R. Dill, Director of the Museum, and to the Editor.

The choice of material from Mr. Jones' notes, which cover the period from 1873 to 1916, is based primarily on three factors: records which are of interest as showing migration dates; records of the rarer birds; and observations on habits. It has been thought best to follow the chronological sequence of his notes and to make no changes in phraseology or in the names he has used for birds. The designations of neighborhood localities and people are as he has written them and the spelling of certain words is left in the vogue of his times. It is hoped that by leaving these items in their original form, the personality of the author will be preserved to the reader.

¹ Born 1829 : died 1917.

FIELD NOTES ON CONNECTICUT BIRDS

EASTFORD, CONN.

1873

April 4th: Today I found three Saw-whet Owls, a male and two females, all of which I captured. They were in the small sized Hemlocks in the swamp over to the west of my house, about a quarter of a mile away. I tried to catch them by climbing up into the trees, and though they would allow me to get within arm's length of them, the moment I attempted to put my hand on them they would start in an instant and light in another tree. One had a partially eaten mouse in his claw and though I started him twice he carried it with him each time.

1875

April 1. Saw a flock of six Pidgeons,² and afterwards two separately.

1876

January 27. A flock of about 20 Pine Grosbeaks lit in the swamp back of my house and I shot a fine male in the red plumage.

December 23. Mr. Azel Sumner found a Meadow Lark in his barnyard this afternoon. Weather is cold and ground covered with snow. The bird seemed very feeble and as Mr. Sumner approached, it flew up on the wall and then into a tree near by but immediately it tipped over backward and hung by one foot for a little while and then fell to the ground. The children carried it into the house and fed it, when it revived for a little while and seemed quite lively, but died in a short time after. It was a bird of the year and was very much emaciated.

1877

January 12. I saw a shrike this afternoon in pursuit of a Tree Sparrow among the evergreens by Dea. Barrows' house. The chase was an exciting one; the sparrow darting in and out through the trees, at times barely eluding its pursuer. At last the shrike lost sight of him altogether and the sparrow improved the op-

²This is the Passenger Pigeon, now extinct. Other notes on this species occur farther on.

portunity to dart around the house and escaped. The shrike continued the search for some time, creeping through the trees and examining every part, till at length he became discouraged and flew off into an apple tree. I have seldom seen a more fierce and determined spirit shown by any creature than this shrike exhibited. So intent was he in the pursuit that he appeared to take no notice of me, though he was sometimes within eight or ten feet of me.

January 19. Mrs. Jones saw a Meadow Lark today in front of the house.

January 22. I saw a Meadow Lark today near Mr. Smith's, west of the old cemetery, and Mr. Smith told me it had been about there for several days. Dr. Robbins also told me that a day or two ago he saw one in his barn yard. As these localities are all in one neighborhood it was doubtless the same bird seen by all.

1878

February 27. Bluebirds arrived; have seen several.

June 6. I found a nest of the Nashville Warbler. It was on a hillside and near the edge of a swamp on the ground and among bushes with scattering trees. The bird was very shy so that it was a long time before I could get sight of her.

November 9. I saw a flock of Pine Grosbeaks about a mile north of the village. They came from the north east, flying high, but pitched suddenly down and lit in a swamp of bushes and began to search for food. But there were no berries and after trying the willow buds a few minutes, seemed dissatisfied with them and with a few loud chirps they were up and away again toward the south west. They were all brown birds.

1879

February 15. I discovered a Goshawk this afternoon in the hemlock swamp, south of my barn, devouring a rabbit. He had evidently struck the rabbit several times before stopping him, as I tracked him several rods by the fur which I saw scattered in bunches on the snow before I discovered the tragedy and saw the hawk fly up from the carcass and light in a tree. He had torn open the skin along the belly and drawn out the liver and entrails which were lying on the snow near by the body. I set a small steel trap on the body of the rabbit and the next day

found the hawk held securely by the leg; a male in the first plumage.

February 22. Mr. George Olds brought me an Acadian Owl today that was captured in the north part of the town, by Mr. Freman Putnam, by throwing a club at it and knocking it off the limb of a tree on which it sat. A male.

April 18. A heavy north east storm has prevailed all day; saw three Pigeons fly over about four o'clock toward the west.

1880

May 31. I found a nest of Blue-headed Vireos containing four young so large that they filled the nest. The nest was in a Laurel bush and about six feet from the ground and at first I mistook it for the Red-eyed Vireo's nest till I saw the bird. She seemed quite anxious about her young; her notes uttered quite rapidly were low and her whole manner was different from that of the Red-eyed Vireo at such times. She must have commenced building her nest early in May. This is the first time I have ever found the nest of this species.

October 2. A beautiful morning after a frosty night and the birds are in swarms. Chipping Sparrows far exceed all the others; among them one with a white spot on the side of his head. Many Song Sparrows in the garden and along the walls; also Purple Finches, Yellow-birds and Bay-winged Sparrows. Bluebirds abundant; a Downy Woodpecker and several Nuthatches; also a Blue Sparrow has arrived and half a dozen Rusty Grackles. A few warblers are in the trees which I cannot determine. Phoebes numerous. The great army of northern migrants is on the move.

1881

January 21. A flock of Snow Buntings settled for a few minutes in my garden, the first I have observed this winter.

January 22. Heard a Yellow-hammer uttering its familiar note for some time this morning in the woods south of my barn.

April 6. A large flock, perhaps a hundred, Blue Sparrows lit on the terrace in front of my house and remained for sometime, busily engaged in picking up seeds. It was a pretty sight.

August 28. Towards sunset a flight of Night Hawks appeared. There must have been several hundred of them. The air seemed to be full of them, as far as they could be distinguished. They

were whirling in all directions but the general drift of their flight seemed to take a south westerly course and in fifteen or twenty minutes they had nearly all disappeared.

September 4. Saw a Palm Warbler in my garden this morning. Perhaps the avant courier of his tribe on the way from their home in the far north to the sunny lands of the south.

October 13. Saw large numbers of Palm Warblers and Myrtle Warblers. Both species seem to be unusually abundant this fall and they appear to be moving slowly. Song and Chipping Sparrows and Bluebirds were also plenty.

1882

February 7. Saw a Yellow-hammer in the oaks by my barn.

February 15. Much snow on the ground in drifts but much bare ground. Day very mild and springlike. Heard several Robins this morning and saw one in the swamp south of my barn; later I heard a Robin in the woods by the south cove of Crystal Lake. Saw a flock of two or three dozen Cedar Birds. Jays very plenty, especially in the swamp east of the Weeks place. Saw about a dozen in one tree. Crows very plenty. This afternoon I heard a Bluebird overhead but was unable to see him.

March 28. Fox Sparrows arrived; Robins plenty. Saw six Sheldrakes in Crystal Lake. Thomas Case brought a male Wood Duck to be stuffed which he shot in the north part of this town. It was in a small pond in company with a female. In the crop I found a green frog about two inches long. It had been swallowed whole and without mangling.

October 30. A fine warm day. Started soon after breakfast for Crystal Lake. Found a flock of twenty or more Ruddy Ducks and a Red-throated Loon. A Pidgeon suddenly started up in front of us in the road and lit on the wall. Slipping a cartridge into my gun I quickly secured her. Have not seen a Pidgeon before since the 25th of April, 1879.

December 14. Saw a very large flock of Redpolls this afternoon in S. O. Bowen's field south of my house. I think there must have been three or four hundred of them. They were very restless, rising every few moments to circle around and then settling again near the same spot. When in the air they formed a cloud and when they lit on the snow they almost literally covered it, so closely did they keep together, and they presented a very singular appearance as they ran along in close ranks on the snow.

1884

January 23. Pine Grosbeaks are about daily now and come up close to the house. Saw seven this morning before sunrise on the ground at the North West corner of my house feeding on the maple seeds. Saw a dozen or more this afternoon in Woodstock.

March 25. Saw the first White-bellied Swallow this forenoon. Day warm and springlike.

April 20. A Purple Martin male came and took a look at the martin house but did not remain long.

September 11. A couple of Pidgeons flew over early this morning, toward the south west. These birds have been very scarce of late years.

October 9. Took a walk out to Crystal Lake today. Wind strong from the north west. Found a flock of about three dozen Black Scoters in the lake and I spent a long time watching them through a field glass while lying concealed in the grove at this end of the lake. They were all males with possibly one exception. They kept huddled close together in a flock and did not dive nor show any disposition to feed during all the time I observed them. Occasionally they would chase each other in sport but most of the time they remained still or swam about in a sort of aimless way, taking care to keep well off shore. The wind was constantly drifting them towards where I lay concealed but when they got within twenty-five or thirty rods of where I was, they would take wing and fly back into the middle of the lake, and when they lit in the water gather in a compact flock.

November 6. Mr. Harrington brought me a Bufflehead which he shot in the Healy mill pond today, a male in fine plumage.

1886

January 28. This afternoon Mr. Phillips and Mr. Williams of West Woodstock called at my house bringing with them a live Red-necked Grebe which the former caught on the 26th inst. He was on his way to Southbridge and while riding through a swampy piece of ground saw an object a little off in the field, hobbling along on the ground in what seemed to him a strange manner and thinking he would try to catch it started in pursuit. But he found it not so easy a task as he had supposed. For the bird using its wings and feet managed to get over the ground at a pretty rapid rate and he thinks he would not have succeeded had not a

boy happened along who headed him off and drove him back toward Mr. Phillips. Even then the bird in attempting to get by him kept darting from one side to the other so nimbly that it was some time before Mr. Phillips succeeded catching him and then only by driving him into a corner.

February 14. Morning bright and clear; mercury about $+33^{\circ}$. About ten o'clock a pair of Bluebirds arrived and began to examine the bird house.

May 29. I happened to pass by the tree where I took the Barred Owl's eggs on the 7th of April and out of curiosity struck the tree, when out flew a Barred Owl. I concluded to go up and examine the nest and found it to contain two young owls which I should judge to be about a week old, a star-nosed mole, a common mole, and part of a Red Squirrel.

September 21. I captured a Sharp-shinned Hawk this forenoon in the run at the south side of Edward Allen's new sheep pasture. He was amusing himself by teasing some jays and was so much engaged that he did not notice me. I watched him for sometime and felt sure that he was the aggressor. The jays were busily engaged in feeding and he would sit and watch till he could get sight of one and dart at it like an arrow. I do not think he wished to catch the jays, only to tease them. And the jays seemed to have the same opinion for they did not fly away from the place but only dodged his aim and renewed their feeding.

1887

September 27. On Crystal Lake there were two White-winged or Velvet Scoters, females. I started out in a boat but they rose before I got near them, circled around for a short time and then left for parts unknown.

1888

October 23. Found a flock of ten Sheldrakes in Crystal Lake today. Captured a Red Phalarope in the cove at the south west corner of the lake, a young bird. It was feeding in the water which was only an inch or two deep, wading where the water was sufficiently shallow and swimming when he could not touch bottom, appearing to be picking flies from the surface of the water. It was quite tame, allowing me to approach within a short distance and showing no signs of fear. It is a beautiful bird and the first of the kind that I have ever seen.

1889

August 6. Found a Wood Thrush's nest just completed but without any eggs. When I first saw it I supposed as a matter of course it was an old nest but as I attempted to look into it both old birds attacked me furiously and on examination the nest showed evidence of having just been built.

August 27. About two o'clock this afternoon when down this side of the old Allen place, on my way home from North Ashford, a wild Pidgeon started out of a black cherry tree by the roadside. She flew only a short distance and lit in another tree. I tried to get sight of her but did not succeed, owing to the density of the foliage, till she started again and flew off towards Mr. Bennet's. I judged from the plumage that it was either a female or a young male. I had not seen a Pidgeon before since the 11th of September, 1884.

November 19. A couple of White Snow Buntings have been on the church common today. Mrs. Jones saw them about nine o'clock this morning in the road below the old Dorset house and at noon on the common near the church. A while afterward I found them farther down the common near the road and followed them around for sometime. They were quite tame, and would allow a near approach. One was much smaller than the other. The smallest indeed that I ever saw and very brown. The larger one did not show nearly as much white as they usually do in the winter. I cannot understand what brought them here at this season as we have not had any very cold weather yet and no snow.

1890

February 23. Mrs. Jones saw three Evening Grosbeaks this morning, two males and a female in the walk in front of the house and heard a Bluebird this afternoon.

March 14. M. F. Latham saw a pair of Wood Ducks and some Sheldrakes in his upper mill pond today.

April 14. Went out to Crystal Lake this forenoon. Saw several Palm Warblers by the south west cove. Found a Loon in the lake but could not get within reach of him. About noon as I sat watching him, I heard the honk of wild geese and looking up I saw a flock coming from the west. As they reached the lake they set their wings and began to settle rapidly. It was a beautiful sight as they came down, twenty four of them, into the water. They

chose the middle of the lake and remained there so that all I could do was to watch them through my field glass. They seemed weary and for a while sat very quietly on the water. Now one would taste the water, another would rise up and flap his wings, but finally they settled down with their bills under their wings and apparently went to sleep and all was quiet for about half an hour. Then one began to stir and another followed his example till they were all moving about. Some took a bath and it was interesting to watch the performance. They would throw down their heads into the water and turn a half somersault onto their backs, flapping their wings vigorously and raising a shower of spray, and then rolling over sideways would come right side up again. They were very peaceable and when collected close together, as they frequently were, showed no disposition to quarrel. At other times they would spread out in a long line in the water. I watched them till about four o'clock from behind the bushes this side of Bugbee's cove and then came down around the south east cove and went up across the pasture towards the old picnic ground. As soon as they saw me they began to show symptoms of fear and soon one of them gave a loud "honk" which was followed by others. In about a minute it was sounded again, louder than before, and suddenly there was a flapping of wings, and they were in the air heading northward at the start.

April 15. This afternoon Gilbert Burnham brought me two male Evening Grosbeaks which he had just shot in a maple tree by Mr. Johnson's house. He said there were about a dozen in the flock, males and females.

April 16. Mr. Gilbert Burnham shot a female Evening Grosbeak and brought it to me this forenoon. It was in a flock, doubtless the same one that he saw yesterday. He told me that most of the birds were the bright yellow ones, males.

April 19. I shot a female Evening Grosbeak this morning in the apple tree in front of my house. There were five or six of them in all, mostly females. They were very tame and unsuspecting, their motions slow and sedate.

May 22. Took up the nest today containing three eggs and captured the hawk, female. Found her to be the Broad-winged Hawk. Thus I found that the nest contained one egg on the 14th, two on the 17th, and three on the 22nd, though I cannot tell how many days intervened between the laying of each two. I am very

glad to get these eggs as they are the only ones that I have ever secured with the parent bird. They are rare breeders in this section.

November 3. Captured a Great Crested Flycatcher this morning at the south west corner of my lot. I found him in the bushes but could not determine what it was till I picked it up. The moult had only partly taken place, about half the tail feathers were wanting and several long pin feathers were growing out to take their place.

December 31. Mr. Sherman E. Pain of Westford (Ashford) brought me a young Black-throated Loon today that he captured in the following manner. He was coming from Southbridge, Mass., and when about a dozen rods north of the State line, he saw something ahead of him in the road, directly in the wheel track, which he could not quite make out. But when he got nearer he saw that it was some kind of a bird and as it did not attempt to fly he thought he would see if he could catch it. So getting out of his waggon he went along and picked it up, the bird making no effort to escape. The road was covered with ice but there was no snow on the ground. When he reached Mr. Old's store in North Ashford he carried the bird in and put it in the scales to see how much it weighed, (four pounds and nine ounces), the bird during all the time making no attempt to escape. On reaching home he put it in a tub of water in a back room and put some minnows in the water. During the night the bird got out of the water but did not touch any of the fish. Mr. Pain kept the bird two days but could not persuade it to eat anything and then took it out doors to give it its liberty. He tossed it into the air but instead of flying it dropped heavily to the ground. Not knowing what else to do with it he left it in the shed, where the bird finally died. There is some trouble with one of its eyes and I think it has been shot and wounded so that it could not see with it, so that it has been wandering in an uncertain flight for a long distance. It is a rare bird and I am glad to get it as I shall probably never get another. It is a good wind up ornithologically for the year 1890.

1891

August 11. Went with Fred Sumner to Crystal Lake to fish. Toward noon while we were near the south shore in Bugbee's cove, and happened to be both facing that way, we suddenly heard be-

hind us a strange cry and looking back we saw a bird coming toward us which I at first took to be a tern. It came within a gunshot and wheeling about started back toward Mr. Kenyon's pasture. I very soon decided that it must be a Bonaparte's Gull. It flew about in an erratic manner for a short time and then settled on the water. I regretted that I did not have my gun with me and looked at it wishfully for some time expecting every minute to see it fly. But it remained so long that I began to think there was a possibility of getting it. So I rowed ashore and started up to Mr. Jones' house for a gun. When I got back to the boat, somewhat to my surprise I found the bird was still there, well over to Kenyon's shore. So Fred took the oars while I took a seat in the bow of the boat. As we drew somewhat near the bird began to grow uneasy but instead of flying he kept turning in one direction and another, uncertain what to do, till finally I came within reach and fired. It proved to be as I thought, a Bonaparte's Gull, a male of the year, and could not be over eight weeks old.

September 28. Went out to Crystal Lake this forenoon and found a male Surf Duck, or Scoter, but well out from the shore.

1892

April 27. Mr. John W. Jones told me tonight that he saw two White-headed Eagles at one time today out by Crystal Lake. Both had white heads and tails.

December 2. Went to Putnam this morning with Mr. Cushman. When going over the high land in Woodstock, a female Chewink suddenly started up by the roadside and lit in a low bush partially loaded with snow.

1893

April 17. This morning we found a male Martin sitting on the martin house, where he remained for as much as an hour, apparently exhausted and seemingly cold. He had evidently made a long flight and I fear had come too far for his comfort.

May 9. The new arrivals today are Oriole, Tanager and Maryland Yellow throat. Also an Orchard Oriole, the first and only one I have ever seen here.

May 14. Heard a Cuckoo this forenoon in Mr. Reynold's orchard and saw two while on my way to Ashford, also a Yellow Warbler and a Chestnut-sided Warbler; and when I came back there was a couple of Yellow Warblers by the bridge this side of Mr. Spaulding's. I think a pair of Kingfishers are nesting in the bank this

side of Mr. Stewart's. Have heard several Bobolinks, and a couple of Wrens were singing this forenoon out to the south of my house. The different species of birds are becoming plenty now, so that something is in sight most of the time as one travels along the road. I was much interested toward night, while feeding the chickens, in seeing a humming bird come to the beehive in the shed, evidently drawn by the scent of the honey. She flew close up to the building and searched very earnestly to find the honey. Then she lit on the grapevine, but soon returned and renewed the search, flying close to the entrance, and hanging on the wing tried to discover where the sweets were, but finally she gave it up and turning darted like a flash out of sight.

June 13. I started this morning for the Harrington place where I saw the Marsh Hawk last Thursday. Found the meadow a very difficult place to travel through, being full of shaky bogs on which it was difficult to stand, while the numerous little ditches, concealed by the tall grass and bushes, into which I was liable to step at any time, made walking very uncertain. I tramped about for sometime without success. Finally my attention was arrested by the note of a small bird in the bushes. It was an unfamiliar one but I soon began to suspect that its author might be a Marsh Wren. For a long time I was unable to get even a glimpse of it. Occasionally I could see a twig move and finally the bird flew a short distance to another clump of trees. After looking for some time I caught a glimpse of it and fired but missed. In another direction I had heard notes differing from the others but given in such concert as led me to conclude that they were opposite sexes of the same species. After maneuvering and searching a long time I got sight of the bird and fired. Hurrying to the spot I found the bird floating on the water under the bushes and it proved to be a Marsh wren, which I find on examination to be the short billed species; the first I have ever seen. I could hear nothing more of the other one and resumed my search for the hawk's nest. Traversed the meadow back and forth and finally was just giving it up when suddenly up rose the hawk within five feet of me. She flew a short distance and wheeling made a furious dash at me but rose in time to avoid hitting me. This she continued to do for sometime when I brought her down. The nest contained four eggs and I supposed the laying was not completed. But I find on trial that the young were nearly ready to hatch. I believe this is the

smallest laying I have ever found. The nest was on the ground, was of considerable bulk, composed in part of small sticks, but mainly of coarse grass and pretty well hollowed. It was in a little circular opening about thirty inches across among bushes about two feet high.

August 15. Andrew J. Trowbridge sent me today a male Hudsonian Curlew, alive, which was taken yesterday. He was going across the pasture, east of the house where Mr. Bent formerly lived, when he saw the bird standing not far off and thought it strange that it did not fly. So he told a boy who was with him to go and start it up, and then he discovered that the bird had a lame wing so that it could not fly more than three or four rods in a sidelong way, and they caught it. I found four or five sacs nearly or quite a fourth of an inch in diameter, commencing just below the carpal joint and extending along the pinion on the under side. These extended in a line along the pinion and were filled with a watery fluid. Around the carpal joint and for some distance along the forearm there was quite a quantity of the fluid secreted. I could find no indication of any wound having been made. The bird was evidently in much pain and died in two or three hours after I received it.

October 2nd. I started up a Short-billed Marsh Wren this afternoon.

October 9. I found a Red-throated Loon in Crystal Lake this morning.

October 17. At Guilford Point, Conn. Accompanied Mr. Reuben E. Hill, with whom we stopped, when he went to take up his lobster traps off the mouth of East river. After attending to them, we moved in towards the Madison shore where a number of Scoters were feeding and I captured a couple of them. In the afternoon we went about two miles to the west where we landed on a rock and put out decoys. Mr. Hill soon went up the White bay while I remained. Soon some Herring Gulls came along and I shot one of them and afterwards two Scoters. They drifted off with the tide and a couple of young fellows picked up the gull and one of the ducks.

October 18. Went to Sachem's Head this morning and lined off for ducks. Only brought down four birds. The birds were all Surf Ducks and White-winged Scoters. A little flock of some

half dozen Bonaparte's Gulls came along and three of them fell before they could get out of the way.

1894

October 4. A young Whiteheaded Eagle was shot this morning about a mile west of the village and brought to me by Lewis Wiggin. She measured as follows: 36-84-24-14 $\frac{3}{4}$; weight 7 pounds. I cannot determine her age, but feel certain that it is not a bird of this year; should think she might be three or four years old.

October 9. Mrs. Jones and I went to Sachem's Head today in a row boat. Mr. Hill shot a Double-crested Cormorant and Mr. Stevens a Red-throated Loon which they gave to me.

October 19. When I reached home Saturday evening I found on the doorstep a Least Tern which Mr. John Jones left here that day. He called to see me Monday evening and told me that he saw the bird flying about over Crystal Lake towards night on Wednesday, the 10th inst., the day of the heavy south east gale. The next morning he went down to his boat landing and saw the bird sitting on a rock by the shore and shot it. It is in what I consider the young plumage. Doubtless it was caught by the storm and driven inland.

October 25. This afternoon in South Durfield, Mass., I saw an Eagle, doubtless the young of *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. I was about half a mile west of the village and he was nearly overhead, moving in a southerly direction.

November 23. While coming up through Henry Trowbridge's pasture this afternoon, I saw two flocks of geese coming toward me; one contained about twenty birds and the other thirteen. A strong wind was blowing from the southwest, (with strong indications of rain), and they were beating directly against it. I never saw geese laboring harder than they did and their progress was very slow. It was impossible for them to keep in line and sometimes they would be huddled in a bunch, then widely spread out. While I was watching their movements two of them left the larger flock and moved across to join the smaller which was nearly abreast. They had probably all been in one flock but were broken up by the heavy wind.

1895

February 23. I saw a flock of White Snow Buntings fly over the house about noon, going to the west. There were some thirty

or forty of them in a widely scattered flock. The first I have seen for several years.

March 3. I saw a flock of perhaps fifty White Snow Buntings this noon in Ashford. About two inches of snow fell yesterday and only the corn stubs and weed stalks were to be seen.

April 7. Started for Ashford a little before 12 o'clock. In S. O. Bowen's field just south of his lane I started up a Mourning Dove. This makes me hope that they are going to visit us again this year.

May 31. Went out this forenoon to see if I could locate the Canada Warbler's nest. Went to a spot which I fixed upon yesterday and sat down. Had not been there more than two minutes when the male appeared, followed closely by the female. She dropped down to the ground not more than five or six yards from me and of course was out of sight owing to the bushes between us. In a short time she appeared again and started off for more material. I remained in the same place while she went to the nest three times and thought I knew within two or three feet where the nest was, and started to go on beyond, but after going two or three rods I decided to watch her from another standpoint and the first time that she returned I found the nest was not where I had supposed. I found that she would light on the ground, perhaps two yards away and run to the nest. A large Hemlock was growing close by that leaned over at an angle of about 30°. I climbed up into that and from there could look down and see all the ground. Pretty soon she returned again and I saw her go directly into her nest.

June 8. Took up the nest of Canada Warbler, containing five eggs, fresh. A small dead hemlock was standing in a small open space, on flat ground, the surface appearing dry, but so wet beneath that my shoes became quite soaked while taking up the nest. Up against and partly around this tree grew a bunch of green moss about as large as a man's head and up through this some narrow bladed light green grass grew and bent down over it. Into the side of the moss the bird had worked a hole in which she built the nest. The bottom of the nest was on a level with the surface of the ground. A rain which would have flooded the top of the ground must have soaked the nest through and surrounded the eggs. The nest itself was a rather frail affair, composed of fine grass.

July 27. A man who is mowing the old Buss field came to me saying there was a strange bird out there which he thought I might like to get. From his description I felt satisfied it was a Night Hawk. So I went out to see and found it was even so. She was sitting on the ground where they had just mowed the light grass and as I approached her she flew a few feet and settled down again. The man then showed me some egg shells on a bare flat rock on a level with the ground, which were those of the Night Hawk. And on looking more carefully I discovered two young birds, which were evidently but a few days out of the shell. They lay down flat on the rock and were so nearly like it in color that the man did not notice them till I pointed them out to him.

August 1st. Just in this vicinity during the season now passing some species have been very plenty, as the Robin, Song and Chipping sparrows, Tanagers, Orioles, Red-eyed Vireos, Cedar Birds, Goldfinches and Red-winged Blackbirds. Bobolinks have been moderately common. Kingbirds and Least Flycatchers have also been quite plenty. But Blue-yellowbacks, Redstarts, Wood Pewees, and Indigo Birds seem to have become very scarce for a few years past and this year has been no exception. Bay-winged sparrows and Cow Blackbirds have been scarce this year. Field Sparrows in about the usual numbers. Bluebirds seem to have been nearly exterminated by the cold weather last winter.

August 8. Tunis Latham brought me a Little Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*, this morning that he shot yesterday in Phoenixville. It is in the adult plumage with ringed bill and black throat patch.

December 16. Today M. F. Latham gave me a Guillemot which I think must be the Brünnich's Murre. from its having the secondaries tipped with white. He found it December 14 frozen dead in the ice in his upper mill pond. The ice was about six inches thick. On the Saturday before, December 7, Mr. Latham was up there and the pond was then open but he thinks it froze over very soon afterward. Consequently the bird must have been there nearly a week. It sat in the ice in a perfectly natural position, as it would sit in the water, and was evidently frozen in during the night while asleep. The bird seems to be perfectly sound in every way and I cannot imagine what should have led it so far out of its way. During last week we had a severe northeast gale but the bird must have been here before the gale struck us.

December 30. This afternoon I started up a couple of Meadow Larks in S. O. Bowen's field, east of his barn.

December 31. This forenoon I again started up the larks in the same field where I found them yesterday. It is an unusual thing to see these birds here in mid-winter but there is no snow on the ground and no frost in it, while the streams and ponds are all free from ice. December has been an unusually mild month, having much the appearance of spring.

1896

January 25. This morning before breakfast, hearing the note of a Pine Grosbeak, I went out to look for the bird and soon found two of them in the maple tree at the north end of the house. They flew into the oaks, where they remained for a few minutes and then left for parts unknown. This afternoon a flock of nearly a dozen came into the oak nearest to the house and soon flew down into the spruces where they fed for some time on the buds. I examined them carefully and found that they were all in the brown or drab plumage. Not one showed any trace of red. I had begun to give up all hope of seeing any of these birds this winter; it is getting so late in the season.

January 26. While looking out of my study window, I saw a small flock of Pine Grosbeaks coming up through the orchard. This was followed by another and another in quick succession, till the air seemed full of them. There must have been from 75 to 100 in all. A part of them apparently went right along to the west, while a part lit in the oaks and the spruces where they busied themselves feeding on the buds. I noticed one in brilliant red plumage.

January 31. Pine Grosbeaks have been around every day during the week.

February 13. It began to snow early this morning and continued till about noon and finally changed to rain. A flock of thirty or more Pine Grosbeaks were in the orchard in the forenoon.

March 22. I saw a flock of a dozen or fifteen Pine Grosbeaks.

May 4. Heard an Oriole this morning. This forenoon I found an old dried wing of the Ruffed Grouse within three rods of the old chestnut tree in which the Barred Owls nest over in Egypt. I am satisfied that these owls take the grouse whenever they can.

August 26. I found several families of Chickadees and Nuthatches still feeding their young.

September 3. Saw a nest containing four young birds. At first I did not recognize them but on looking more carefully I saw that they were Cedar Birds. They were so large that they more than filled the nest and will doubtless leave it in two or three days.

November 11. Mr. Olds of North Ashford sent me a Goshawk that was shot this morning. It is a male in the young plumage. This is the fourth one of this species that I have received in twelve days.

1897

March 18. Mr. Platt shot a Red Crossbill male today in one of the spruce trees by his house.

June 2. I went out this forenoon to look for warblers but without success. I think they must have all passed by, but when they went I cannot imagine as I looked for them carefully all through May. I have seen but two Palm Warblers and about half a dozen Myrtle Warblers this spring. Neither can I find any Redstarts or Parula Warblers. These two latter species seem to have become about extinct about here, where I used to find them plenty. Indigo Birds are also scarce as compared with a few years ago.

September 15. I took a look this afternoon at the Cedar Bird's nest in Mrs. Gray's orchard. I did not get up into the apple tree but standing on the ground I could see the head of a young bird in the nest and saw another young bird sitting in another tree near by.

October 3. Great numbers of Myrtle Warblers were around my house this morning and again about noon.

November 12. M. F. Latham brought me a Sawwhet Owl that Oliver had shot, also a Golden Crowned Kinglet.

1898

January 24. This afternoon Dr. Low sent me a female Goshawk in the intermediate plumage. This is the eighth one that I have received this season.

February 24. A Bluebird appeared again this morning. The day has been springlike, and the snow drifts have settled considerably. Mr. John Jones tells me that he saw three White Snow Buntings and shot two Purple Finches on the 21st.

April 2. Wm. Smith shot a Long-eared Owl this afternoon as

she flew from her nest, which contained five eggs just on the point of hatching. The nest was in a hemlock tree in Hastings Warren's swamp close by the road leading to Phoenixville.

September 13. Today Mr. J. W. Jones sent me a Ruddy Duck that he shot in Crystal Lake yesterday afternoon.

December 16. Mr. John Patterson of Williamsville, Conn., sent me a Kittiwake Gull, that was found dead at Alexander's Lake. It is an adult male in perfect plumage except that one of the tail feathers is about half grown and I think one other missing. This bird was evidently driven inland by the great gale of November 27th and perished by exhaustion and starvation.

1899

February 26. One of Elisha Sherman's boys left a Mottled Owl here this morning that he found dead. The cold weather and deep snows have made it very difficult for these birds to find food. Dr. Low sent me one alive that he caught in his barn. It was very emaciated and died in a short time. Wm. Harrington brought me one that got into his henhouse and the hens killed it. That was also very thin and the same was true of this last one. If the destruction has been general, I fear there are not many left.

May 11. This afternoon Eber Huntington brought me a Golden-winged Warbler, (*Helminthophaga chrysoptera*), which he had just shot. It is a male in fine plumage.

June 27. I started this morning for Mr. W. H. Lamphear's in Ashford, having heard that a Bittern was nesting near his house. On reaching there I found that the nest was in a small swale not more than 15 rods from his house. The hay-makers when mowing had left a small bunch of standing grass around the nest which protected it and the sitting bird from view. Mr. Horace Gaylord who gave me the information about the nest went with me, also Mr. Lamphear. When we reached the nest, the bird instead of flying off began to hiss and croak and snap her bill furiously, bristling up in a threatening attitude. I reached down to catch her, when she gave a vicious thrust with her bill, striking one of my fingers and immediately rose and flew away. Wishing to get the bird we went to Mr. Lamphear's house and after waiting a suitable time went back again. I took a bushel basket with me to throw over her. She was on the nest and made the same demonstrations as before; but when I turned the basket over her

she was too quick for me and slipped out under the edge of it. Knowing that it was useless to try the experiment again I was obliged to content myself with the nest and eggs. The former is a very slight and rude affair, consisting of only a small quantity of coarse grass, evidently gathered near the nest and arranged without any artistic skill. The eggs were only three in number and all proved to be addled. What surprised me was that a bird so instinctively wild should have chosen a nesting site so near to human habitations, as there was another house but little farther away than Mr. Lamphear's. To the south and not far off began a swamp which extended a long distance away, just the place which one would suppose such a bird would select for nesting. But it all shows that birds have their peculiarities.

July 5. Eber D. Huntington has just shown me a couple of young Sparrow Hawks which he has had alive for a week or two. He found the nest in a cavity in a large chestnut tree in H. Bosworth's pasture and shot one of the old birds. He found only these two young, but the cavity was large and difficult to reach, so that possibly others were left in the nest. This is the first instance I have ever known of these birds nesting in this region. In the same tree and about ten feet higher up was the nest of a Yellow-Winged Woodpecker.

October 21. This afternoon Mrs. Liberty Morse brought a Pileated Woodpecker that was taken yesterday in the north part of this town or in Union. She told me that about two years ago another was taken in the same place. I intend to make further inquiries about them for I had not supposed that they were ever found here.

November 7. Down near the outlet I saw a flight of Chickadees up in the tops of some trees and while watching their movements, I noticed some other small birds feeding in the tops of some tall hemlocks and soon concluded from their motions that they were Pine Linnetts. I succeeded in capturing two of them which proved to be adult birds; there were some ten or twelve in all.

November 8. Went out to Crystal Lake today. Down at the lower end of the lake I found in the hemlocks a large number of Pine Finches feeding in the same trees as yesterday. I should think there were from fifty to seventy-five of them. I captured a number of them but found that nearly all of them were young birds.

November 9. Mr. Chandler, who lives up towards West Woodstock, sent me a Pileated Woodpecker that he shot yesterday somewhere in North Ashford. It is a new thing to have these birds in this part of the country. This is a male bird and apparently an adult.

November 13. While on my way to Phoenixville just after noon, I found a flock of two or three dozen Pine Finches just below the cross roads. They were in the bushes close by the path of the road and the fence; were very tame and allowed me to approach within a rod or so of them.

November 24. This afternoon Maro Lewis' daughter brought me a Common Guillemot which was found on Wednesday, the 22nd, alive in the road but unable to fly, and this evening when I went into the post office, Henry Braman was there with another which he had shot today in the new dam pond. I do not know how to account for this unusual occurrence. We have not had any storm to drive these birds inland.

December 1. About 10:30 I started for Crystal Lake, crossed the mouth of the cove on dry land—the water in the lake is very low—and proceeded along near the shore towards the old Edward Allen boat landing. Had not gone far in Billy Green's lot when I saw some ten or a dozen birds in a couple of Chestnut trees. At first I could not determine what they were, so I walked along carefully till I came near the trees when with the aid of my glass I found they were White-winged Crossbills. They were high up and considerably scattered and at the same time quite restless. With my little collecting gun the prospect did not seem very good for securing any. At length I saw one, a bright red bird, lower down than the other and just then another brown bird lit near him. So I took aim and fired; he did not drop. But while I stood looking up I saw one pitching down at an angle of fifty or sixty degrees to the ground. After a long search among the brush I succeeded in finding it, a female, the one near the male. A shot had struck it just in front of the eye and caused it to "tower". The others disappeared so that I could not get any more.

December 28. This afternoon Eber Huntington brought me a Red Crossbill which he had just shot in one of the spruces by Stephen Case's house. There was a flock of them there and he killed two, but one of them lodged in the tree. This bird is an adult male. Eber tells me that he has seen several flocks of them

in the village and I am in hopes to supply my wants yet this winter.

December 30. This afternoon M. F. Latham brought me a couple of White-winged Crossbills which Oliver had just shot. They are a male and female. There were four together at the time. These birds appear to be of a very erratic disposition, so that there is no knowing when or where to look for them.

1900

January 9. When coming from the post office about 10 o'clock this forenoon, I found a number of Crossbills in one of the spruces by Stephen Case's and so far as I could see they were the White-winged species. Soon after reaching home I took my little collecting gun and went down to the Grove cemetery. Found Tree sparrows and Chickadees in Mrs. Gray's pasture opposite the cemetery. I looked the spruce trees over pretty carefully without seeing any Crossbills and was about giving it up when I happened to see one move in the top of the southernmost tree and a careful search revealed several more. When quietly feeding on the buds it is not easy to distinguish them. I secured several of them; adult males and females and young.

January 11. Clear and cold. Started about the middle of the forenoon for Sherman's pasture. Just back of the hemlocks on top of the cliffs in some tall birches I found a large flock of Pine Finches feeding. I heard their twittering sometime before I found them. The note of a single bird would not produce much of an effect, but a hundred or more voices, joined in concert and at a little distance, produced a very musical sound. Occasionally they would dart away as if by a preconcerted signal and after performing a series of evolutions on the wing would finally return again to the tree from which they started and begin their meal again, standing or hanging in all positions, heads downward as frequently as otherwise.

January 23. This morning Eber Huntington brought up a pair of White-winged Crossbills which he had just shot in the spruces by Mr. King's. He said there were more of them, so I took my little collecting gun and went down, but they had flown. We then went down to the Grove cemetery hoping to find them there, but found only two of the Red species which we secured. When I came up under the oaks I saw a female Pine Grosbeak

on the ground by my wide gate. After dinner Eber brought me two more White-winged Crossbills, females, and he told me that he had seen a Red-bellied Nuthatch.

February 7. M. F. Latham brought me four White-winged Crossbills this afternoon.

February 16. When going down through S. O. Bowen's field this afternoon on my way to the library, I saw eight Pine Grosbeaks.

February 20. E. D. Huntington and M. F. Latham have both told me this evening that they have seen White-winged Crossbills today.

February 22. Went to the Axe Factory this morning to visit the school. On my way home in the afternoon I found about a dozen White-winged Crossbills near Mrs. Stevens' house. They were busily feeding on the ground close by the road and so engaged that they appeared to take no notice of me as I stood watching them and some of them came within three yards of me. There was only one red one among them, the others being either females or young males.

March 5. M. F. Latham told me this afternoon that a few (four or five) White-winged Crossbills were around his house yesterday.

March 14. This morning while at work at the back door, I happened to look up toward the oaks and there sat five or six small birds, and looking around I discovered two or three more in the top of the spruce nearest the barn. Walking carefully nearer I found them to be, as I at first suspected, White-winged Crossbills.

March 24. Eber Huntington told me that there was a large flock of White-winged Crossbills in the spruces by Stephen Case's this morning.

April 9. Eber Huntington tells me that he saw two Crossbills today in the spruce tree by Mr. Curley's and heard several others. The weather must surely be cold enough to satisfy them but it seems strange that they should remain here so late in the season.

May 19. In Mr. Dickinson's little field a Meadow Lark flew up some three or four rods ahead of me and looking where she rose I found a nest containing six eggs. I had no idea that they nest so early, as they are generally found nesting in haying time.

August 4. Today Eber Huntington accompanied by several other men went to Crystal Lake, and succeeded in capturing the

loon which has been there all summer. It proved to be the Red-throated Loon, female.

October 12. Around Crystal Lake I found a few Chewinks and one Brown Thrush. There was a flock of about forty Surf Scoters in the lake, either females or young males. After a long time I succeeded in capturing one, a female. The stomach was filled with seeds.

1901

January 8. While looking for Bluebirds, I discovered some Myrtle Warblers in the trees along the roadside and soon found that there was quite a flock of them; fifteen or twenty I should judge. They were quite restless and kept constantly moving this way down the road till they all disappeared.

April 17. This morning Dr. Lowe brought me a female Golden-eye Duck but I had no time to make inquiries about the place of its capture. This evening Mr. Keack of North Ashford brought a Pied-billed Grebe that he shot last Monday, 15th, in the pond up towards Union.

April 18. After skinning the Grebe, above mentioned, I found it was a female with the ovaries much enlarged; one of them being half an inch in diameter.

April 22. Went to Crystal Lake today and found about twenty geese and a Great Northern Loon in the lake, but they were so far out that it was impossible to get a shot at them. Dr. Lowe brought me a female Surf Duck that he shot this morning in Mr. Hiscock's mill pond and I find that it has some whitish feathers on the nape forming an obscure spot where the white patch occurs in the male.

May 7. Black and White Warblers arrived. Have seen several about the premises; also saw a Black-throated Green Warbler and a Palm Warbler. Captured a Blue-winged Yellow Warbler in the edge of Mr. Keith's swamp close by my fence, the first I have ever seen. Also captured a Traill's Flycatcher in the willows in the south west corner of my lot and a female Ruby Crowned Kinglet in the Baldwin apple tree back of the house. These are all new arrivals.

July 3. I think the thunder storm (or cyclone) yesterday afternoon must have proved very destructive to the young birds, for this morning I found a dead Chipping sparrow, unfledged, in my

garden and this afternoon I saw a dead young oriole in the street under the elm tree by Mr. Whitney's shop, that must also have been hurled out of the nest. Also near my gate a young fledged Downy Woodpecker which had not acquired strength to withstand the storm.

July 27. This afternoon I found a nest of the Nashville Warbler containing three young birds just out of the shell. It was in what was once a pasture but is now grown up to white birches, pines and so forth, from ten to fifteen feet high.

August 21. Went fishing on Crystal Lake today and had good success. While busily engaged with the fish I all at once saw a young Bonaparte's Gull flying by the boat very near the water and not more than ten yards distant.

September 4. Found a Goldfinch's nest this afternoon, in the old Pippin appletree, containing four eggs. Shall watch this with considerable interest to see how the birds come on.

September 25. Saw a Blue Sparrow in my garden this morning, the first I have seen this fall.

1902

January 20. Went to Phoenixville this afternoon and Caro Latham gave me three Snow Buntings that he had just shot out of a small flock. He told me that he saw a flock a day or two ago that he thought must have contained nearly five hundred birds. They were a couple of miles below Phoenixville. He had seen three other flocks this winter, but I have not succeeded in getting sight of one yet. They seem to be more numerous farther down the river than they are here.

March 24. A White-bellied Swallow arrived this forenoon. Just at night a flock of thirty or forty Rusty Grackles flew over, steering due north, evidently bound for home.

May 14. Took a long walk this forenoon over to the Bigelow river and beyond. Found birds rather scarce though there were several new arrivals. Saw several Chestnut-sided Warblers, a Blackburn's Warbler, male, a Blue Yellowback, female, a black and white warbler, a Great Crested Flycatcher, a Tawny Thrush, also several Olive-backed Thrushes. Blue-headed Vireos were quite common, but I failed to find any of the Yellow-throated species.

May 20. Eber Huntington showed me a Prairie Warbler that

he captured this forenoon. It was up above where Dr. Converse lives. It is the first I have ever known to be taken here.

July 25. This afternoon I received a white Bobolink, (albino), from Prof. Koons to be mounted. There is more or less yellowish shade to it and it is in the midst of the moult.

November 12. I have been so busy all the fall in changing my place of residence that I have had no time to devote to ornithology. My home is no longer in Eastford where I have lived for thirty and one half years but in Woodstock, (West Woodstock parish). This evening Dr. Gildersleve of East Woodstock sent me a Hawk Owl but I have not yet learned any particulars about its capture.

WOODSTOCK, CONN.

1903

March 24. This has been a gala day with the wild geese. About noon I heard their honking and in a short time discovered them away to the west of my house; as near as I could estimate there were about 150 of them. They were very high up and moving in a northeasterly direction. Very soon after I heard the honking of another flock, but could not discover the birds. Then within half an hour heard another honking and soon discovered the birds away to the northwest. They too were flying high and in a nearly easterly direction. The flock was about the size of the first. About three o'clock Mrs. Jones heard another flock, a large one, but not equal to the others. We had a heavy rainstorm yesterday and the night before.

October 3. A little before sunset there was a large number of Myrtle Warblers around the house; the trees seemed to be alive with them, especially the large spruce south of the hedge. They were in constant motion, darting through the branches or flying from one tree to another; some running over the roof of the house, others down in the hedge; anywhere, everywhere; all anxious to secure their supper before it should be too late. Just about the time that the sun sank behind the western hills, they all disappeared, going off to the northeast.

October 19. Myrtle Warblers are abundant around the house again this morning, also a few Bluebirds. Weather bright before sunrise but soon became cloudy. I received today a couple of Ruffed Grouse to be mounted. The crop of one of them I found

to be filled almost wholly with oak acorns; the other with what appeared to me to be fox grapes.

November 20. A bright clear sky all day, but the air quite cold. Went out to Dea. Harris' this forenoon and from there went across to J. M. Perrin's. Saw no birds till I reached Mr. Perrin's field a little way north of his barn. There in a lot where corn had been grown, among the weeds and stubble, I started up six or eight Pine Grosbeaks. They appeared to be feeding on the ground. They flew up into an appletree and after I came away they flew down to the ground again. All brown birds. Some half a dozen Goldfinches were in company with them.

November 21. Soon after dinner Mrs. Jones heard the note of a bird and called to me. After looking a while, we discovered him, a Pine Grosbeak, in the very top of the fir tree nearest the house, busily feeding on the buds. He was a male in red plumage.

December 9. I discovered a flock of Pine Grosbeaks. They were in the hemlock hedge, east of the house, and in the spruce trees. They seemed quite active and in a few minutes they started off towards the south. I should think there were from a dozen to eighteen.

December 10. About three o'clock this afternoon I saw the flock of Pine Grosbeaks near Mrs. McIntire's old barn, south of my house. I am beginning to hope that they are going to stay with us this winter.

December 22. A flock of about two dozen Pine Grosbeaks were in the trees around the house for some time during the middle of the day.

1904

January 3. The snow storm raged all night and till past the middle of the forenoon, when the sun began to break through the clouds; but the wind continued high till about the middle of the afternoon when it began to abate. It is a wintry time, very cold. No service at church today and I have seen only two men in the street. Just after breakfast I saw half a dozen Pine Grosbeaks. They were in the larch tree, but were just flying away over toward the hotel. They are hardy creatures.

January 19. The coldest morning yet, -13° . A couple of Pine Grosbeaks around this forenoon.

February 24. A flock of eight or nine Pine Grosbeaks came to

feed in the larch tree, just after noon, where they remained for some time. For several weeks now have been here.

March 1. I saw a couple of Pine Grosbeaks in the larch tree this forenoon.

June 14. A bittern was brought to me to be mounted. On dissecting it after skinning, I found a fish, (a dace, I think), which the bird had swallowed whole and without any mutilation that I could see. The fish measured six inches in length and five inches in girth. How it could get such a body down its throat without being choked I do not know.

October 7. This morning Mrs. Jones and I took a walk for some way out on the road toward Westbrook. All at once we perceived a flight of Bank Swallows crossing the road and moving toward the west. They kept coming and coming till it seemed as if there would be no end to them. After going on some ways and making a turn in the road, we came in sight of them again, flying about and in the road ahead of us was a spot at least ten feet across where they seemed to be as thick as they could stand. Others were alighting and multitudes more were in the field among the grass, besides all that were overhead. As we drew nearer they began to rise and the air was literally alive with them. They reminded me of a swarm of bees, for they looked as thick as bees when swarming and like bees at such a time, they were darting in every conceivable direction. There must have been several thousand of them. Soon they began to move away across the field to the right, many of them lighting in the grass in the field; others continuing their flight till we walked on out of sight. It was the most wonderful flight of birds that I have ever seen.

October 25. When near Kenyon's grove as I was going down the little hill in the cart road, I started up an Olive-backed Thrush and think there was also another nearby but was not positive about its identity.

1905

April 7. A small flock of Chipping Sparrows appeared here this morning. Found a Hermit Thrush this forenoon and four or five Blue Sparrows.

May 10. Took a walk this forenoon down through the White lot and along the Eastford road. Saw the following for the first time this spring: Redstart, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Scarlet

Tanager, two Black and White Warblers. Found Myrtle Warblers still plenty.

May 25. Captured a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher this forenoon in the White lot that has been cut over. Warblers very scarce. Found nothing but Chestnut-sided.

May 26. Captured a female Tennessee Warbler. It was in the Southwest corner of Mrs. McIntire's field or rather in the bushes just beyond the field. It seemed to be in company with a Chestnut-sided Warbler and was quite active in its movements, darting about in pursuit of insects with great rapidity. Its notes or song which it uttered only once while I was looking at it were somewhat sharp and not very musical. This is the first specimen of the species that I have ever recognized.

May 29. A decidedly warm day. Started at 8 o'clock for Crystal Lake. As I was walking along by the shore, an Olive-backed Thrush started up from the ground and lit in a tree, where I shot it. It proves to be a male. I am surprised to find it here so late in the season.

December 28. I received today a Herring Gull from a man in Greenwich, Conn., in the south western corner of the State, on the sound. He sent it to be mounted. The head is somewhat spotted, but otherwise it seems like a mature bird. So I conclude that the gulls are remaining there yet and there seems to be no reason why the northern water birds should not be plenty all along our shores.

December 31. Ornithologically the year now closed has been an uneventful one with me. The only bird that I have obtained at all rare is a Tennessee Warbler.

1906

July 6. Today I could see the Least Flycatcher sitting on her nest in the appletree just beyond the southwest corner of the barn. I think it must be about time for the young to hatch.

July 14. Today I got up in the tree and looked into the Flycatcher's nest and found two young birds, apparently three or four days old.

November 1. Last Monday I received a Saw Whet Owl from a man in Willimantic and he had, of course, come from the north.

November 15. This afternoon I received a Goshawk from Mr. Sheldon of South Woodstock. It is a female in the intermediate

plumage, about midway between the first year and the adult plumage.

November 16. Saw a couple of Chickadees in some birches and when down in the farther open pasture, I saw a Goshawk coming from the west. He came nearly over me, and within gunshot. He was moving with the wind and going with such speed that I do not suppose I could have hit him, if I had had a gun.

December 1. I saw by Mr. Caleb Green's place a bluebird and down this side of Black pond a flock of two or three dozen Pine Finches. They were feeding in some birches by the side of the road. Received another Acadian Owl from Theron S. Clapp. The third specimen received this fall.

December 10. Today I saw about a dozen Pine Grosbeaks just south of the house and flying toward the east.

December 15. I received a letter today from M. F. Latham in Phoenixville and he told me that his boys had caught an Acadian Owl in one of their traps (deadfall) a short time ago. This is the fourth one that I have known of this winter.

December 26. About 11:30 o'clock three Pine Grosbeaks lit down in the driveway near the door step and remained for some time running about appearing to be picking the fine gravel. They were all brown birds and apparently young of the year.

December 29. Down in the village of Eastford, I saw a number of Pine Grosbeaks by the house in which Mrs. Mary Warren lives, and Eber Huntington told me they had been quite plenty in the village this winter, but he had not seen a red male.

1907

January 11. Went up to Jarvis Hall's this forenoon. Saw a flock of eight Pine Grosbeaks feeding on the ground in front of Mrs. Phillip's house. One of them showed some red on his head and neck. This red one and one of the brown ones allowed me to walk within ten feet of them. I saw about as many more just beyond the Baptist Church. Henry Bradford told me that they had been around his premises and up on the hill in the neighborhood of the church all winter. Ground all bare, and the weather mild and almost springlike today.

January 14. This forenoon a small flock of Pine Grosbeaks came around the premises and remained for a little while, feeding mostly on the larch buds.

February 7. Several Pine Grosbeaks were here for a while about noon.

February 10. Between 12:00 and 1:00 o'clock I saw twelve grosbeaks feeding in the larch tree where they continued for some time and then with a sudden start they disappeared.

February 23. This afternoon I saw two grosbeaks on a little bare spot of ground in front of Edward Perrin's house.

February 25. A dozen or more grosbeaks were feeding in the larch tree this morning between 7:00 and 8:00 o'clock.

April 4. Mrs. E. T. Perrin has just told me that the Pine Grosbeaks still remain up in her neighborhood and that she saw two about noon today. I supposed they had all departed sometime ago.

April 10. I forgot to record the receipt of a Goshawk male on the 8th; a bird in nearly adult plumage. On skinning it I found that one of its legs had been broken just above the knee and it had healed again so straight that I never should have noticed it unless I had skinned it. But the bone was very much enlarged at the place of fracture.

April 18. Mrs. Perrin told me today that the Pine Grosbeaks still remain here and that she saw several near her house today.

May 28. I found two or three Yellow-throated Vireos among some small white birches and captured one; also an Olive-backed Thrush which I had not expected to find at this late date. Other birds seen were several Chestnut-sided Warblers, Redstart, Black and White warbler, Maryland Yellow-throat, and several flycatchers which I think are Traill's.

June 28. This afternoon J. W. Jones who lives near Crystal Lake brought me an eagle which he shot and winged down in his pasture near the lake. His attention was arrested by a great commotion made by a flock of crows in a clump of oak trees below the foot of the cow's lane, and as he had had several hens killed by a fox he concluded the fellow was looking for more. So he hastened down there through the bushes, looking very carefully in the underbrush, when suddenly he heard the rush of wings over head, and saw the eagle which had flown from one of the oaks and was going toward the lake. He instantly drew up and fired. The eagle pitched away down into the bushes near the water. Mr. Jones rushed after him and the eagle made for the water and rushed in. Mr. Jones' boat was near by and getting into it he rowed up to the bird and lassoed him with a piece of small rope

and finally succeeded in getting him into the boat. But the eagle fought fiercely notwithstanding his wing was broken and I think Mr. Jones had about all he wanted to do in subduing him. It is an immature male, without any white on his head, and measures: tip of bill to end of tail $32\frac{1}{2}$ inches; spread of wings $75\frac{1}{2}$ inches; length of tail $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches; weight 6 pounds. I was puzzled about his eyes, as they seemed to indicate greater age than his plumage denoted. The iris was of a grayish color, with a faint shade of yellow; a color that it would be difficult to imitate.

August 27. This afternoon I counted over 100 White-bellied Swallows on the telephone wires across the corner of P. Walker's field beyond the well.

September 5. Very soon I discovered a few (5 or 6) Cedar Birds in the top of a dead birch tree some thirty feet high. They would sit there for a short time and then some of them would fly down into the bushes or go farther away; but soon they would come straggling back into that dead tree again. They seemed to take the rain very philosophically; it may be they enjoyed it after the long drought. When the rain held up I went along to the tree where only one was then sitting which I shot. It proved to be a very fine specimen, having the waxen tips to all the secondary wing feathers, and the tail feathers were tipped.

December 11. Mr. Ballard of Putnam sent me a Great Blue Heron today to be mounted.

1908

January 28. Frank Lyon, who works for Mrs. Bundy, brought me a Goshawk (female) that he shot while it was in the act of killing a hen. Although it was standing on the hen he winged the hawk without hurting the hen. It is in the intermediate plumage, having many brown feathers on the wings.

April 14. Willie Arnold brought me a female Wood Duck that had been caught by the foot in a steel trap which had probably been set for muskrats or mink.

December 29. The day has been so pleasant that I felt as if I must go out for a walk; went nearly down to Chamberlain's mill pond. In Willard Davis' further pasture I found a flock of about two dozen Pine Finches busily at work in the tops of some white birch trees that had grown considerably tall. They showed very

little fear and allowed me to walk under the trees in which they were feeding.

1909

January 5. When going to the post office this forenoon I started up a Song Sparrow.

February 4. Mr. Hall has been telling me this evening about seeing a lot more of Robins this forenoon. He was going east on the Putnam road and when in the swamp beyond the blacksmith's shop, he began to see them. They appeared to be stopping in the bushes north of the road, but were constantly moving about and crossing the road toward the south. They would rise to some height when they crossed the road, and while darting about in all directions in the bushes; when they rose to really fly their course was wholly south. He told me that Mr. Smith saw them while on his way to Southbridge and there were several Bluebirds among them. It is an unusual thing to have so many Robins about at this time of the year.

March 13. Just at night a Robin appeared in the top of the ash tree by the gate and remained for some time. These birds have remained in considerable numbers during the entire winter.

March 31. This morning I found three Pine Finches in the larch tree by the garden, and towards noon I again saw two more there.

September 4. About 6:30 tonight I saw four Night Hawks over the house and moving toward the west.

September 7. This morning there was a flock of White-bellied Swallows, which I estimated to contain six or seven hundred birds, on the telephone wires across the road between Mr. Butler's and Mrs. McIntire's houses. It was about 7 o'clock.

December 6. Have just received to be mounted a Snowy Owl from Lyman Fitts of Pomfret, who shot it on the 3rd inst. It is a fine specimen though much mottled. It is a long time since I have known of one being taken here.

1910

January 11. Dea. Harris saw a very large flock of White Snow Buntings today up in his field to the south of his house. It seemed to him there must have been five hundred.

January 12. Dea. Harris saw many Snow Buntings again today

in the same place that he saw them yesterday, but in reduced numbers.

April 4. A Bittern was brought to me today that was shot this morning.

November 19. Mr. Henry Bradford shot a fine adult male Goshawk today. There seems to be something of a flight of these hawks this winter.

November 26. Today I received a Goshawk from Caro P. Latham of Eastford, (Phoenixville). It is an immature bird and in very dark plumage. This is the third specimen of this species that I have received this fall.

December 15. Today Mrs. Witter brought to me a Screech Owl in the red plumage. Some one caught it alive in a building. Mrs. Witter brought it in a small basket and it was alive when she gave it to me, but when I went to take it out an hour or two after I found it dead. I am surprised at the number of owls taken this winter. I have received most of them to be mounted, one Great Horned Owl, one Long-eared Owl, two Barred Owls, three Screech Owls, all in the red plumage, and three Acadian Owls.

1911

January 2. I received a Long-tailed Duck, female, from J. W. Jones of Guilford, Conn. Shot December 29.

January 19. When on my way to Eastford this forenoon I found a large flock of Redpoll Linnets a little way south of the Valley school house. I should think there were 150 to 200 or more of them.

March 3. Saw a Nuthatch in the elms this morning and a flock of Pine Finches came into the larch tree.

March 14. A couple of Song Sparrows appeared in the hedge at the east side of the house. This was between 9:00 and 10:00 o'clock. A little company of Pine Finches was in the larch tree at the same time.

June 24. On May 17 Mr. Oliver H. Latham of Phoenixville shot a Red-headed Woodpecker in his village in Eastford, Conn., which he sent to me. He said there were three of them in the neighborhood that were seen by several persons. This is the first time I have ever known of one of these birds being seen in this region.

July 26. This afternoon Mrs. E. T. Perrin brought me a Gold-

finch, male, that she had just picked up dead near her house. It had struck a telephone wire and broken its neck so completely as to entirely separate the vertebrae. The wires are making havoc with birds. On May 5th of this year a lady in Thompson found a Wilson's Snipe lying dead under a telephone wire by the roadside, along which she was walking. It struck the wire at the base of the upper mandible and the whole scalp back to the base of the skull, where it hung by a very narrow strip of skin. On the 12th of May the same person found a dead Hermit Thrush. This had struck the wire in a glancing way so that the wound was down on the side of the neck at the bend of the wing; and on the 14th of July, Mr. Chamberlain, who lives near Black pond, brought me a Spotted Sandpiper that his wife picked up dead. It had struck the wire at the side of the breast where was quite a large bruise with the feathers torn off. The wires are worse for small birds than shotguns.

September 23. This afternoon Dr. Gildersleve's boys of East Woodstock called here and brought a Goshawk to have mounted, that was shot yesterday in that place. It is a female in the first year's plumage. This is very early for these birds to arrive. I hope no more of them will come.

December 5. I have skinned a Black Duck today; it is a male, and a very fine specimen, but he was a most voracious feeder. I found thirty five white oak acorns in his crop, neck and throat. They reached up to his mouth so that the upper one was in plain view when his mouth was opened.

December 7. Today I have skinned a Sheldrake, female, and in the crop I found 24 perch that ranged from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. It is well they do not spend the summer here; if they did perch would soon become extinct.

1912

June 12. Mr. Hall brought me a Black-billed Cuckoo that he found lying dead on the ground beside a wire netting that he had put up for peas to climb on.

July 8. There was a family of Bobolinks here by the barn this forenoon. I was surprised to find that the young were on the wing for it was quite late in the season when the birds arrived.

November 6. Today I received from Mr. T. S. Clapp of Elliott

(Pomfret) a Sparrow Hawk. I have not seen one before in many years.

1913

February 12. In a letter just received, written yesterday, from Miss Frances H. Butler, Woodstock Hill, is a list of birds that come to her house to get food from a basket and other places which she provides for them. They did not come to any extent till the cold weather and snow came about the first of February. The following is the list: Hairy and Downy Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Wren Creepers, Chickadees, Blue Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and a Yellow-bellied Woodpecker or Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius*. This is the first time I have known this bird being seen in winter.

April 1. Roy Latham of Phoenixville sent me an Evening Grosbeak, male, today. It is the first notice I have had of their being in this section this winter.

June 22. This afternoon Mrs. Jones discovered a wren at work carrying nesting material into the bird house in the fir tree where the White-breasted Swallow had a nest. I really hope she will stick to it, as it would seem like old times to have them around again. It has been many years, so long that I cannot remember, since we have had a pair of them.

1914

January 22. A Pine Grosbeak appeared here today. Mrs. Jones heard his note this morning and this afternoon she saw him in the top of one of the maple trees.

February 18. I received by mail today a Sparrow Hawk from a man in Woodstock, but I cannot account for its being here, but shall try to learn the particulars of its capture.

March 7. The Cox boys, (Theodore and Maxwell) called here today and they told me that a flock of Starlings were there near their house for quite a while in the early part of the winter and stayed there till the snow came, and then disappeared. They said there were at least two hundred of them. They had also seen some half a dozen crossbills, but they could not tell which species they were.

1915

November 3. Today I received a Night Heron from a man in Putnam, who wished to have it mounted.

1916

May 25. A pair of Starlings are nesting in a hole in a rotten limb in the large ash tree and already have quite sizable young.

November 18. I see the capture of a Golden Plover by Clarence Lyon on the 4th of November and brought to me by his mother. He found it in their meadow. It is in the winter plumage and would never suggest the idea of "golden".

November 30. This morning I saw two Pine Grosbeaks out on the East road near John Shepard's. They were in the brown plumage.

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