

**Cryptoglaux tengmalmi richardsoni.** RICHARDSON'S OWL.—One was obtained from Milford, Maine, where it was shot on December 22, 1906.

**Surnia ulula caparoch.** AMERICAN HAWK OWL.—One was taken at Van Buren, Aroostook Co., Maine, on April 16, 1906.

**Piranga rubra.** SUMMER TANAGER.—A male, said to have been shot at Seaconnet, R. I., on April 27, 1901, was purchased of Messrs. Angell and Cash. There seems to be no reason to discredit the record.—GLOVER M. ALLEN, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Notes from West Virginia.—Sphyrapicus varius.**—On July 3 and 4, 1899, I found a number of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in "The Pines," a black spruce region near Pickens, in the western part of Randolph County, West Virginia. The next day, July 5, great numbers of these birds were found among the dead and dying sugar maples on the top of Turkey Bone Mountain, not far from "The Pines." While in the Yew Mountains, in Nicholas County, I took a young male of this species on August 17, 1904.

**Empidonax minimus.**—In many of the higher portions of West Virginia there are extensive glades. These mountain swamps, with their tall cinnamon ferns, cranberries, and other characteristic plants, are found at altitudes varying from 3000 to 4000 feet. There are many such glady regions in Webster County. While collecting a few specimens in one of these Webster County glades, on the 2d day of July, 1907, I took a fine adult male Least Flycatcher. It was in the very heart of a great thicket of glade shrubbery, and had been heard there for several days before it was taken. Judging from the actions of the bird, and the greatly enlarged testes, it may have been nesting there. Others of this species were heard near the same place in the early days of July.

**Otocoris alpestris praticola.**—Among my notes I find the following account of the breeding of this species in Pittsburgh, Pa. "Schenley Park, Apr. 4, 1898. On above date an adult *Otocoris alpestris praticola* was observed feeding its young out near the golf links. The young bird was captured and identified, and then released. Afterwards the parent bird brought food again. Nasal tufts incipient in young bird. Hind claw already very long. Down still on head on either side where tufts of adults are. Queer horned appearance. Young hopped,—did not walk. Plumage in spotted phase. Young bird almost able to fly. Adults wary. Did not pay any attention to squeaking sound made on back of hand. Note of young like the peculiar piping note of adult. Only one young bird observed."

This southern breeding record of the Prairie Horned Lark led me to study the bird rather closely in succeeding years in West Virginia. I have observed this species in many sections of the State. In Kanawha County, at Charleston, a bird of this species was seen as late as June 19, 1902. In Wood County it seems to be resident throughout the year. At Poca Bottoms, in Putnam County, a specimen was taken on October 15, 1902,



by A. Sidney Morgan, and was carefully examined by the writer. Two were observed at Cameron, Marshall County, June 11, 1900 — evidently a pair. I have seen birds of this species in Lewis County in the breeding season. Prof. S. B. Brown, of the West Virginia University, tells me that he has seen this bird a number of times near Morgantown, and on April 2, 1905, Prof. Fred E. Brooks, Associate Entomologist of the West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, took a young bird just from the nest near Morgantown. To all of these records, I may add the following, which is, I believe, the most southern record of the breeding of this species. I give these notes as they came to me in a letter from Prof. Fred E. Brooks, as follows:

"French Creek, W. Va., Apr. 11, 1905. . . . Your note concerning my observation on the Horned Lark at Morgantown came here yesterday, and seems to have stirred me up, for this morning I found a nest with three young birds. Father was scattering some manure on the grass just over the hill from the corn-house, and the chickens, which were gathered about him, were attacked by two old larks. They would alight upon their backs and fight them viciously. He called to me, and after looking a minute I found the nest only a few feet away. The nest is without the slightest protection, and is made almost entirely of grass-blades and straws in a little hollow place in the ground no larger than a pint cup. The young birds will be large enough to leave the nest in five or six days. They have the white spots all over the body which you mention as being characteristic. The young one I caught at Morgantown had the same spots."

Within ten years this species seems to have extended its breeding range far southward into West Virginia.

**Carpodacus purpureus.**— On August 28, 1902, I found the Purple Finch abundant in "The Pines." While sitting by the road-side, a pair of these pretty birds came down to a spring and drank. One of these was a male in full "purple" plumage. These finches were flying everywhere among the black spruce trees and over the adjoining farms.

**Chondestes grammacus.**— About the year 1900, the Lark Sparrow first made its appearance at French Creek, in central West Virginia. Early in June of that year my attention was called to this bird by its splendid song and striking appearance. On June 20, I saw an adult Lark Sparrow with two young just a day or two from the nest. Again on July 1, two young were seen. For three or four years afterward, this species was often seen at French Creek in the breeding season, but I did not succeed in finding a nest, or in seeing the young again. I have additional records of the occurrence of this species in this State as follows:— Blue Knob, Clay County, July 30, 1900; Waverly, Wood County, almost every week in summer seasons, 1903–1906; Lewis County, one heard in song May 2, 1907. This species, like the Prairie Horned Lark, seems to be a recent emigrant into our State.

**Junco hyemalis carolinensis.**— For the past ten years, I have spent a week or more each summer in some part of the mountainous region of this



State. Several trips have been made into the Rich Mountains, near Pickens in Randolph County. In 1904 I was in the Yew Mountains in Webster and Nicholas Counties. In 1906 I spent several days in the Back Alleghenies, in Randolph and Pocahontas Counties. Other short trips have been made into the "Spruce Belt" and other high sections of West Virginia. While in these higher regions I have had good opportunities to study the Carolina Junco and other species found in the Canadian Life Zone. Juncos were very abundant in "The Pines," on top of Rich Mountain, in July, 1899. At this time I found many old nests in the up-turned roots of spruce trees that had blown over in recent storms. In the Yew Mountains, in August, 1904, this subspecies was found in great numbers. Several specimens taken seemed to have all the marks of *carolinensis*, while others were quite typical *hyemalis*. Specimens from the Yew Mountains were slightly smaller in all their measurements, excepting length of tarsus, than specimens from the Back Alleghenies. On August 11 a nest was found in process of construction in an old up-turned root near Hunter's Fork of Cherry River. Six days later, the nest was seen again and contained three eggs. On August 15, somewhat nearer the summit of one of the higher points in the Yew Mountains, another nest was found in the top of a small black spruce about 3½ feet from the ground. The nest was made of moss and lined with rootlets and long hairs. It contained three fresh eggs.

The Carolina Junco is very abundant in the Back Alleghenies where I collected a number of specimens in August, 1906. The birds in this region were much nearer true *carolinensis* than those found in the mountains farther to the west. No nests were found in the Back Alleghenies.

**Vireo solitarius alticola.**—A young female of this subspecies was taken for me on August 15, 1904, in the Yew Mountains at an altitude of 4000 feet. Two birds were seen in a large birch tree uttering a low, scolding note. This seemed much lower and softer than the similar *kree* of the Blue-headed Vireo. On August 7 and 8, 1907, many Solitary Vireos were heard and seen in the Rich Mountains. No specimens were taken, but I am inclined to believe they were *alticola*.

**Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi.**—Every time I have gone into our West Virginia mountains, I have found these birds in abundance. On July 4, 1899, I saw an old male feeding a young bird up in the dark spruce forests above Pickens. As late as August 17, 1906, the young birds were following the old ones, and receiving their food from them, up in the Back Alleghenies. Many of these West Virginia birds which I have seen have no black on the back.

**Dendroica maculosa.**—In 1904, I spent a week in the Yew Mountains (August 10–17), and during our stay there not a single Magnolia Warbler was seen. In the Rich Mountains, however, I have observed this species very often. On July 4, 1899, I saw a young bird following two adults.

So late in the season as August 18, in 1906, while out in the black spruce woods near Cheat Bridge, I saw an adult Magnolia Warbler feeding her



young that had just left the nest. On the same day a young bird of this species was taken for me by Prof. W. E. Rumsey.

On a long mountain ridge that lies between Big Sugar Creek and Little Sugar Creek, at the head-waters of Elk River, I found the Magnolia Warbler to be one of the most abundant species on the 14th of August, 1899.

**Dendroica cerulea.**—Wonderfully abundant in Wood County on the hills just back from the Ohio River. Breeds in the open oak woods on top of the hills.

**Dendroica pensylvanica.**—A nest of the Chestnut-sided Warbler was found in the glades of Webster County on July 2, 1907. It was neatly placed in the top of a clammy azalea, about 8 feet from the ground. The azalea was in full bloom. There were two young birds in the nest. Many other birds were seen, and all were evidently nesting.—EARLE A. BROOKS, *Weston, West Virginia.*

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

**Rothschild's 'Extinct Birds.'**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Rothschild, as is well known, has been for years actively interested in the subject of vanishing birds, and we expected to find in the present expensive work a complete and final account of the species now known to be extinct, but in this we are disappointed. As stated on the title page, this is "an attempt to unite in one volume a short account of those birds which have become extinct in historical times—that is, within the last six or seven hundred years," which means that the author has included in his work the numerous fossil birds of the New Zealand and Mascarene regions. As a matter of fact, the accounts of fossil birds (*i. e.*, those known only from their osseous remains), overbalance those of the recently extinct ones, since some 90 of the former are treated, compared with 76 of the latter, while over 50 pages of the book are perfectly blank.

Of the fossil birds we shall have little to say here. It may be mentioned, however, that colored figures are given of *Megalapteryx huttoni* and *Dinornis ingens*, representing them as they are supposed to have existed in life. If correctly delineated, the *Megalapteryx* must have been a very extra-

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<sup>1</sup> Extinct Birds. | An attempt to unite in one volume a short account of | those Birds which have become extinct in historical | times—that is, within the last six or seven | hundred years. To which are | added a few which still | exist, but are on | the verge of | extinction. | By | The Hon. Walter Rothschild, | Ph. D., F. Z. S. | With 45 coloured Plates, embracing 63 subjects, and | other illustrations. | London. | Hutchinson & Co., Paternoster Row, E. C. | 1907—Small folio, pp. i-xxix + 1-244, 45 colored plates, and 4 plates of outlines.



Brooks, Earl Amos. 1908. "Notes from West Virginia." *The Auk* 25, 235–238.  
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