

The Passenger Pigeon in the Upper Mississippi Valley.—While collecting with Mr. Wallace Craig, Sept. 3, 1891, I shot a male Wild Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) in an oak grove in Chicago, near 75th Street, between Stony Island Avenue and Lake Michigan. It was feeding and flew up at our approach, alighting perhaps ten feet from the ground, where I shot it. It was not at all wild, and was a bird of the year. We saw two others in the same grove, but did not secure them.

April 8, 1894, Mr. Edw. J. Gekler saw a flock of about fifteen Wild Pigeons flying while in a woods near Liverpool, Indiana.

Mr. Kaempher, a taxidermist of this city, had a fine male Passenger Pigeon mounted on one of his shelves which was brought in on March 14, 1894. The gentleman who brought it said he shot it near Liverpool, Indiana, and saw quite a number of them at the time.

Mr. W. C. Stryker, of Berrien County, Mich., now a student in the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, told me that on May 27, 1894, he found a flock of perhaps twenty Wild Pigeons in a clover field on his farm near some burr oaks into which they flew when he frightened them. They remained on his place for some time and were not molested. His farm is but three or four miles from the Indiana line. He is very familiar with the Passenger Pigeon, having shot many several years ago when they were abundant.—JAMES O. DUNN, *Chicago, Ill.*

A Large Brood of Ospreys.—A pair of Ospreys (*Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*) that build on one of the pole nests in Bristol, R. I. (see 'Auk,' Vol. XII, No. 3, p. 300), raised last spring (1895) a brood of seven young. On the 11th of June two of the nestlings, about the size of squabs, were picked up dead under the nest and on the twenty-sixth of the same month another young bird was also found dead at the foot of the pole. In the latter part of July the nest contained four almost fully fledged young. This is the largest brood of Ospreys I have ever heard of being raised in a season, and from all appearances the seven eggs must have been laid in seven or eight days.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Brookline, Mass.*

On the Correct Subspecific Names of the Texan and Mexican Screech Owls.—A recent careful examination of the subject has convinced me that, as Messrs. Sclater and Salvin have several times insisted, *Scops trichopsis* of Wagler is the bird afterward described by Cassin as *Scops mccallii* and subsequently by Lawrence as *S. enano*, and not the form from Arizona and parts of northern and central Mexico, to which the name has recently been applied by American ornithologists. Kaup's detailed description in the Transactions of the Zoölogical Society of London, Vol. IV, 1862, pp. 227-228, taken from Wagler's type, I think settles this question beyond a doubt. *Scops mccallii* CASSIN is therefore a synonym of *S. trichopsis* WAGLER, and No. 373 *b.* of the A. O. U. Check-List becomes MEGASCOPS ASIO TRICHOPSIS (WAGLER). No. 373 *f.*, not being Wagler's bird, must

have another name; and since I have been unable to find one already provided I propose to name it *MEGASCOPS ASIO CINERACEUS*, from its ashy coloring. This is the "*Megascops asio trichopsis*" of my Manual of North American Birds (p. 261), and also the [*Scops asio*] Subsp. ♂ *Scops trichopsis* of SHARPE, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. II, 1875, 119.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

The St. Lucas Flycatcher in California.—During the latter part of June, 1895, a few days were spent in collecting in the pine growth on Cuyamaca Peak, San Diego County. Between the altitudes of 4000 feet and 6000 feet several *Empidonax cineritius* were taken and they were found to be rather common and the only species of the genus met with at that altitude. A few *E. pusillus* were found nesting at the base of the peak at an altitude of 3700 feet. In July *pusillus* was found along the base of San Jacinto Peak, Riverside County, and *E. hammondi* was taken as high as 9500 feet, where it was nesting. It is possible that *E. cineritius* may occur between the ranges of *pusillus* and *hammondi* on San Jacinto, as Flycatchers were seen that resembled that species but no specimens were secured.

The recorded range of the St. Lucas Flycatcher is hereby extended north of the Mexican boundary and the species added to the avifauna of California.—A. W. ANTHONY, *San Diego, Cal.*

Skylarks Nesting on Long Island.—At Flatbush, Long Island, July 28, 1895, after I had for a couple of hours been listening to the strains of the Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) as they were poured from the sky, a resident of the neighborhood kindly guided me to the spot, in a field near by, where, about two weeks previously, he had found a Skylark's nest. The nest contained when he found it, he said, three half-fledged young ones and one egg. When the nest was pointed out to me the egg was still there, but the fledglings had departed.

The land on which we were standing was grassy and slightly 'rolling,' and the nest was situated about midway on the descent of one of the rolls. In the spring preceding, while the ground was soft, a horse and cart had been driven but once across the field, making a deep track, and in one of the horse's foot-prints, about three inches deep, the nest was made. To form and complete the nest, the bird had rounded away the angles of the foot-print and scantily lined it with dried rootlets and coarse grass.—THOMAS PROCTOR, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

The American Crossbill.—The American Crossbill is usually quite common in this vicinity during the winter months, and a few birds remain until quite late in the spring. A flock of about thirty remained on the Maine State College campus from March 4 to June 19, 1895, and at any time they could be found feeding in the pine trees with which the college campus is covered. Birds shot from this flock at intervals showed