

young bird of this species was shot November 17, 1883, and is now in the collection of Mr. Anthony. The person who shot the bird said that many other Gulls were seen, but whether they were of this species is questionable. It was shot on a small lake a few miles from the city.—HORACE G. SMITH, JR., *Denver, Col.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents are requested to write briefly and to the point. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.]

Revival of the Sexual Passion in Birds in Autumn.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AUK:—

Sirs: In 'The Auk' for January (p. 141), Mr. Bradford Torrey speaks of the revival of the sexual passion of birds in autumn. A similar occurrence has been observed here for two or three years past. The early winter (November and December), this year was exceptionally mild in this locality. During this weather the English Sparrows were seen building their nests and the male birds were seen hopping about the females with lowered wings and acting exactly as they do in spring. The birds were very noisy and a great deal of fighting occurred. As soon as cold weather came on all this stopped and the Sparrows found it necessary to spend all their time in securing food.

Respectfully,

CHAS. KEELER.

Milwaukee, Wis., January 29, 1886.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Fish Commission Steamer 'Albatross' sailed from the Washington Navyyard February 15, for a cruise among the Bahamas and other islands in the West Indies. Among the islands which will be visited is Cat Island, or San Salvador, the first land discovered by Columbus. The 'Albatross' is well provided with trained naturalists and collectors, of whom Mr. James E. Benedict, Mr. Thomas Lee, Mr. W. Nye, and Mr. Chas. W. Townsend will pay special attention to the birds, of which they are prepared to make a judiciously limited and selected collection, while in no case will they jeopardize the continued existence of any local species,

however rare or limited in its habitat. The almost unparalleled success of the naturalists of the 'Albatross' last year on the island of Cozumel, where they discovered no less than 19 new birds, argues well for the exploration in which they are now engaged.

THE Ridgway Ornithological Club of Chicago, held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday evening, March 11. After the reading of the new constitution and by-laws, Mr. G. Freaun Morcom exhibited the only known specimen of *Colinus ridgwayi* lately described in 'The Auk.' Mr. H. K. Coale read a paper entitled 'Six Days' Ornithological Research in St. Louis County, Mo., and St. Clair County, Ill.,' illustrated by a series of skins of the birds collected.

THE scientists of Indiana organized, on December 29, 1885, 'The Indiana Academy of Science.' D. S. Jordan, M. D., was chosen president, J. M. Coulter, Ph.D., J. P. D. John, Ph.D., and the Rev. D. R. Moore, vice-presidents, Amos W. Butler, secretary, Prof. O. P. Jenkins, treasurer, and Mr. J. N. Hurty, librarian. Curators were appointed in several departments, Mr. A. W. Butler being elected to that of Ornithology. Mr. Butler presented a paper entitled 'The Past and Present of Indiana Ornithology,' giving an account of the present status of ornithological study in that State.

THE Nuttall Ornithological Club of Cambridge has decided to issue a quarto series of 'Memoirs,' to be published at irregular intervals. They will consist of papers too long for insertion in 'The Auk,' the size of this journal proving inadequate for the reception of the larger ornithological memoirs offered it. The first Memoir of the series, just issued, is by Mr. William Brewster, and treats of the general subject of the migration of birds, giving also a detailed account of the author's valuable observations made at Point Lepreaux, N. B., during the autumnal migration of 1885.

As we go to press we are just in receipt of the concluding numbers of the volume on birds (Vol. IV) of 'The Standard Natural History,' edited by Dr. J. S. Kingsley, and published by S. E. Cassino and Company of Boston. The volume is an imperial octavo of 558 pages, illustrated with 25 full-page plates, and numerous very fine cuts in the text. The authors are Mr. W. B. Barrows, who has furnished the part treating of the Birds of Prey, Mr. Daniel G. Elliot, who has written the part relating to the Hummingbirds, Dr. J. S. Kingsley, who treats of the Parrots, and Dr. L. Stejneger, who is the author of the remainder and the principal part of the work. The work will be noticed at length in a later number of this journal.

THE A. O. U. Committee on Bird Protection continues to show a commendable degree of activity, and already its influence in behalf of the birds is wide-spread and important. It being evident that much of the wholesale slaughter in aid of the milliner's craft is due to thoughtlessness, and the apathy of the public as to the enormous magnitude of this destruction, and the evil consequences that must result from it, the Com-