

midst of a flock of several hundred birds, which chanced to settle right in front of us. They were very tame.

All birds taken previous to Sept. 26 were Northern Phalaropes, and while it is not possible to state that all the Phalaropes seen were of the same species, we can say that no individual was noticed with any specially distinct coloring to attract our attention. A single specimen of Red Phalarope was taken Sept. 26 about one mile off shore. It was swimming about alone, and on dissection proved to have been feeding on land insects, probably blown off by the stiff northwester then in full force.

What I desire to call attention to in this case is that a bird of not regular occurrence suddenly appears in large numbers, and once with us remains for six weeks.

As evidence that nearly all birds seen were included in the original flock, I would say that.—1st, the Phalaropes appeared in a flock, after a stiff although short northeast wind. 2nd, On days when many small bunches were seen, we did not see the large flock. 3rd, Birds startled did not seem to us to make any attempt to resume a flight, but simply flew off and settled down again.

Twelve or fifteen were taken, all being very fat.—W. A. JEFFRIES, *Boston, Mass.*

Golden Eagle at Shelter Island, New York.—A fine specimen of this noble bird was shot at Shelter Island Heights on the 19th of last October, and brought me to be mounted. It was a female, in young of the year plumage, and exhibited the following measurements (in inches), taken before skinning: length 36.25, extent 82.25, wing 24.87, tail 13.75, culmen 1.75, gape 2.70, tarsus 4.25. The craw and stomach contained the remains of a rabbit. The young man who shot it stated that it was in the act of swooping down upon him, being within a few yards, when he fired, and it fell dead at his feet. This is the first instance of the occurrence of this species here that has come to my notice, and it is a rare record for Long Island.—W. W. WORTHINGTON, *Shelter Island Heights, N. Y.*

Falco dominicensis Gmel. versus Falco sparveriioides Vig.—Although the very different looking birds to which the above names, in a restricted sense, respectively belong, usually have been recognized as distinct species, their specific identity was claimed on good evidence as long ago as 1855 by Dr. J. Gundlach, who then stated,* as he has subsequently on various occasions, that he found the two paired together, and undoubtedly holding the relation to one another of light and dark individual phases. Such relationship, however, seemed so improbable, that most authors (the present writer among the number) have overlooked or declined to accept Dr. Gundlach's testimony, or (as in my own case) have

* *Erinn. VIII, Jahresb. Deutsch. Orn.-Gess. p. lxxxiv (Journ. für Orn. 1854, extraheft).*

deferred its acceptance until the proof could be seen. Any doubts which I may have entertained in the matter have been thoroughly dispelled by a series of specimens which Dr. Gundlach has sent to the National Museum. *F. dominicensis* being the older name, *F. sparverioides* therefore becomes a synonym.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

Strix pratincola again near Troy, N. Y.—On December 3, 1890, Mr. Andrew Peters, of West Troy, N. Y., found a live American Barn Owl in an old barn about a mile and a half west of the Hudson River at Troy. He shot at the bird, and it flew out of the barn and away out of sight. Crows soon found the Owl and began to mob it, so that Mr. Peters again saw and shot the bird, and thus captured it. I found that this Owl weighed 19 oz. av., including a two-ounce ball of hair and bones of mice in its stomach; and that the bird was in full flesh, not fat at all, and was a not very old female.—AUSTIN F. PARK, *Troy, N. Y.*

American Barn Owl (Strix pratincola) on Long Island, N. Y.—On the morning of Sept. 10, 1890, while at breakfast, I noticed the noisy outcries of a number of Crows. Going out to investigate, I found them congregated in a large oak tree, a number of which surround my home. Their actions indicated the presence of an enemy, for they would swoop down upon some object, rest a moment, and then fly back. I advanced to a position from which the cause of the rough cries and excited actions of the Crows was visible, immediately recognized the unusual visitor, and in a minute or two, claimed him as my own. The specimen is a light-colored male.—FRANK E. JOHNSON, *Parkville, Long Island, N. Y.*

Coccyzus americanus Breeding at Ottawa.—Last spring (1890) a pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoos built their nest in a crab tree in our garden. The male and young escaped, but the female is now in my collection.—GEO. R. WHITE, *Ottawa, Ontario.*

A new name necessary for Selasphorus floresii Gould.—If the so-called genus *Selasphorus* is to be considered of merely subgeneric rank, as seems to be generally admitted, a new name becomes necessary for this species, a *Trochilus floresii*, from Jamaica, having been described in 1846 by Bourcier, in the 'Revue Zoologique' for that year (1846). It would give me pleasure to name the species thus deprived of a cognomen after Mr. Gould, or some other person to whom we are specially indebted for our knowledge of the *Trochilidae*; but unfortunately the names of such as could be properly used in connection with the present species are already attached to other species, and thus, so uncertain is the status of current genera in this family, might conflict with their use in a new connection. A descriptive name being therefore, under the circumstances, probably the best, I would rechristen it *Trochilus rubromitratus* (or *Selasphorus rubromitratus*), in allusion to its red hood.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*