

The Kingbird in a New Rôle.—The following note is from the pen of my friend, the Rev. Frank W. Ritchie, who has courteously permitted me to publish it.

“On the afternoon of June 15, 1884, I was walking near the bank of the Massawipi River when my attention was drawn to a pair of Crow Blackbirds by their cries of evident distress, and, upon looking to see the cause of the outcry, observed, in a tree near by, a Crow with an almost fully fledged Blackbird dangling from its beak. In a few moments afterwards the Crow started across the river, the parents of its victim in hot pursuit, and when about midway the stream was charged upon by a Kingbird with such vigor that the young Blackbird was released, and half fell, half fluttered in a slanting direction toward the shore, the Kingbird following, and by flying under and against the youngster was evidently endeavoring to assist it in reaching the shore. Some bushes intervened between me and the birds, as they approached the water, and though I rushed down quickly, to observe the end of this interesting scene, by the time I reached the edge of the bank the birds had disappeared. As I could see nothing of the young bird's body floating on the water, I concluded that the Kingbird had succeeded in its generous endeavor.”—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.*

Late Occurrence of the Phœbe (*Sayornis fuscus*) at Brewer, Maine.—On Nov. 23 (1884), when the snow here was six inches deep, and the Penobscot River frozen over above the dam, a Phœbe came into my garden and remained a long time. As it was Sunday I did not shoot him, but there is no doubt as to his identity, for my daughter and I stood within a few feet of him and watched him catch insects over a smoking manure heap.—MANLY HARDY, *Brewer, Maine.*

Hawk Owls in New England.—Although the months of October and November, 1884, do not seem to have been characterized by any special meteorological phenomena, they will be long remembered by ornithologists and collectors throughout Northern New England from the fact that they brought to this region a flight of Hawk Owls altogether unparalleled in any previous year of which we have definite records. This inroad seems to have begun late in October and to have lasted nearly through November. It apparently extended over most of Northern Maine and New Hampshire, but I have no evidence that it reached Massachusetts. Some idea of the abundance of the birds may be had from the fact (for which I am indebted to Mr. Manly Hardy) that a single taxidermist in Bangor, Maine (Mr. Bowler), received no less than twenty-eight freshly-killed specimens in the course of a few weeks. Most of our Boston taxidermists also had from three to six each (all from Northern Maine or New Hampshire), and at Lake Umbagog, Oxford County, Maine, I secured four, shot respectively Oct. 25, Oct. 31, Nov. 15, Nov. 16.

These figures doubtless represent but a small proportion of the total number killed, for in the region over which the birds spread few persons



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