

*Chen hyperborea*.—An immature specimen of this western species was shot at the mouth of Darby Creek, on the Delaware River, Dec. 18, by Mr. Wm. V. Wiltbank.

*Hæmatopus palliatus*.—One specimen shot on Chester Island in the Delaware, May 14.

*Strix pratincola*.—Found breeding at Tinicum by J. Harris Reed. The experience of collectors seems to show that it breeds here regularly.

*Ceophlæus pileatus*.—One shot at Collingdale, Delaware Co., Dec. 12, 1890, by C. A. Voelker.

*Corvus corax sinuatus*.—One shot in Delaware County near the river, Dec. 30; now in the possession of Mr. C. A. Voelker.

*Spiza americana*.—One bird, in immature plumage, obtained from a gunner who shot it with Reed Birds on Maurice River, N. J., Sept. 18; now in the collection of Wm. L. Baily.

*Thryothorus bewicki*.—One shot at Wynnewood, April 12, by Wm. L. Baily.

The club is now engaged in preparing a manuscript reference list of the birds occurring in New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania south of the mountains. They will be glad to hear of any captures of scarce birds within this district and to furnish what information they can in return.

*Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

WITMER STONE.

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

COLONEL N. S. GOSS, one of the original members of the American Ornithologists' Union, died suddenly at Neosho Falls, Kansas, March 10, 1891, at the age of 65 years. Colonel Goss was born in Lancaster, N. H., June 8, 1826, and while still a lad moved with his father to Pewaukee, Wis. His education was such as could be gained at the district school and the local Academy. From childhood he had a deep love for birds, and throughout his life devoted all his leisure to their study, in his later years giving nearly his whole time and energy to ornithological pursuits. In 1857 he moved to Kansas, selecting a home where now stands the city of Neosho Falls, then an unsettled wilderness. He was thus one of the pioneers of the State, and at once took a leading part in the development of its resources. From his enterprise and public spirit he "has been rightly called 'the Father of Neosho Valley.'" In 1860 he was elected and commissioned major, and in 1863 lieutenant-colonel, of the Sixteenth Kansas Militia Cavalry, and saw considerable frontier service, for a time serving as scout for the United States troops stationed at Humboldt, Kans. Later he was register of the land office at Humboldt, resigning to become land attorney for the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railway, and



in 1866 was elected president of the Neosho Valley Railroad. Still later he was also land attorney for the Santa Fé Railroad.

In the prosecution of his ornithological work Colonel Goss has in recent years traveled widely, visiting Labrador, the Northwest Coast, Southern Florida, California, Texas, Mexico, various parts of Central America, and numerous points in the Rocky Mountain region. He formed a remarkably large and fine collection of mounted birds, mounting most of them himself in the field from fresh specimens. This collection he presented a few years ago to the State of Kansas, where, as the 'Goss Ornithological Collection' it forms one of the most complete and valuable collections of local ornithology in the country. His principal ornithological writings relate to the birds of his own State, and besides numerous minor papers comprise a 'Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas,' published in 1883, reissued in a much enlarged form, with numerous additions, in 1886, and his 'History of the Birds of Kansas,' issued but a few days before his death, and noticed at length in the present number of 'The Auk.' Little did we think when penning that review, scarcely a week since, that we should be so soon called upon to chronicle his sad death.

The estimation in which Colonel Goss was held in his own State is indicated by the following transcript from the Topeka 'State Journal' of March 10: "Colonel Goss was one of the most widely known men in Kansas. He came to Kansas in territorial days and was one of the pioneers who made Kansas a great State . . . To those who knew him best, he will be remembered especially for his rare social qualities, his kind-heartedness, his higminedness, and his warm friendship. In every sense he was a man whom to know was to admire, respect and love. His character was without blemish and his integrity unimpeachable. He had not an enemy in the world, and few men ever had more friends." On the receipt of the news of his death at Topeka, both branches of the Legislature then in session, and the Executive Council of State at a special meeting, adopted resolutions setting forth his invaluable services and the irreparable loss his death had brought to the State. He was buried with distinguished honor from the Senate Chamber.

The members of the A. O. U. who have had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Colonel Goss will find an expression of their own regard for him in these testimonials of sincere and well merited tribute to his character. Since the organization of the A. O. U. Colonel Goss has never failed to attend its meetings, often at the cost of much personal inconvenience, aside from the journey of nearly three thousand miles such attendance entailed. At the last meeting when the place of the next Congress was under discussion, in which Colonel Goss took part, he said, in expressing his preference for some other place than the one chosen, "wherever it is held, Colonel Goss will be there if he is alive." This was a characteristic expression of the deep interest Colonel Goss has always manifested in every possible way in the welfare of the Union. At the last Congress he was elected a member of the Council, to fill the vacancy caused by the election of Mr. George N. Lawrence to Honorary member-



ship. His loss from our ranks will be deeply felt. His brother, Captain B. F. Goss, of Pewaukee, Wis., also a well-known ornithologist, and two sisters, survive him, his wife having been long dead.

AMONG new claimants to attention from ornithologists we note 'The Collectors' Monthly,' edited and published by Charles H. Prince, Danielsonville, Conn., a 4-page monthly, "devoted to Ornithology, Oölogy and Natural History," of which four numbers have come to hand. We notice as worthy of mention, a continued paper by W. W. Worthington entitled 'Notes on the Birds of Long Island, with brief Descriptions of the Species.'

'The Ornithologist and Botanist,' edited and published by Joseph E. Blain, at Binghamton, N. Y., is a large 8vo. monthly, of which Vol. I, No. 1, appeared Jan., 1891. It is neatly printed and contains matter of interest to both ornithologists and botanists.

'Nature's Realm,' published by the Harris Publishing Company, New York, is a popular monthly magazine of general natural history, with a share of its liberal space devoted to ornithology.

'The Kansas City Scientist,' formerly 'The Naturalist,' now changed in form, is an octavo 16-page monthly, published under the editorship of R. B. Trouslet, as the organ of the Kansas City Academy of Sciences. The number at hand contains much ornithological matter.

'The Humming Bird, a Monthly Scientific, Artistic, and Industrial Review,' is primarily the advertising medium of the publisher, Adolphe Boucard, of Boucard, Pottier & Co., 'Naturalists and Feather Merchants,' of London, and is published largely in defense of the feather trade and the destruction of birds for millinery purposes, which it openly advocates. It contains, however, occasional papers which may be regarded as ornithological, although strongly imbued with a commercial flavor, as 'Notes on the Genus *Pharomacrus* or Resplendent Trogons,' begun in the first (Jan. 1891) number and continued in the third number, and 'Notes on Rare Species of Humming Birds and Descriptions of Several Supposed New Species in Boucard's Museum,' by A. Boucard. The latter paper contains descriptions of seven 'new species,' and is marked "To be continued." The separations here made seem in most cases to have a very unsatisfactory basis.

The following literal transcript from page 10 of the January number will doubtless be of interest to the readers of 'The Auk': "Actually in Europe only, over 200,000 persons have found hounorable and lucrative occupation in the feather trade, and millions of pounds sterling are spent annually, either in the purchase of bird-skins, or in the payment of persons employed in this trade. I know of many firms who occupy hundreds of men and women in the manufacture of fancy feathers, ornaments and attires of all descriptions, feather hats, and in the mounting of birds. This year, in consequence of the move which took place against the wearing of mounted birds on hats and otherwise, a great



many of these unfortunate people have not found work, and are suffering greatly from it, and when we consider that we have had a winter unequalled before for its severity and length, you can imagine what harm has been done to these interesting people by raising a war cry against the wearing of bird skins, feathers, etc. No doubt it shows how good-hearted are the persons, who, for sympathy for the poor little birds, have agreed in not wearing any of them in future, . . . but as I said before, it is quite a mistake, and I feel much more interested in the well-being of *two hundred thousand of my fellow-creatures*, of whom I know many in particular, and which are deserving the greatest interest for their industry and probity, than for the birds, and I hope that this notice will not have been written in vain." Such a naïve combination of confession and appeal, from a leading wholesale dealer in bird-skins for millinery use, carries its own comment. No doubt the same philanthropic feelings, but evidently not the same frankness, are shared by dealers nearer home, who also have a trade journal, but who deny that improved sentiment in behalf of bird protection has had anything to do with the decline in the bird trade for millinery purposes.

WHILE Dr. Mearns would hereby return thanks to those who have so kindly responded to his call for Sparrow Hawks and Snipe (see Jan. No. of 'The Auk,' p. 123), he finds his investigation of the former cannot be satisfactorily completed on account of lack of material, unless he is further favored with the loan of specimens. The Sparrow Hawks promise interesting results, in case a sufficient number of specimens can be brought together. We trust this reminder will bring the desired additional material.

MR. Frank M. Chapman proposes to study the relationships of the Bronzed, Purple, and Florida Grackles. He will be grateful for the loan of material illustrating this group and especially desires specimens of breeding birds taken on or near the confines of their habitat. Specimens may be sent to Mr. Chapman at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City.



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