

On November 3, 1900, my son took a Purple Sandpiper (*Tringa maritima*) in Ashbridge's Bay. There were three in the flock, and the other two have been since taken.

On September 1, 1900, a Yellow Rail (*Porzana noveboracensis*) was taken at Toronto and brought to me alive. It is thriving, and it is very interesting to hear its different calls.—J. H. AMES, *Toronto, Ontario*.

**Sexual Difference in Size of the Pectoral Sandpiper** (*Tringa maculata*).—In connection with my note in 'The Auk' (Vol. XVI, April, 1899, p. 179), I have lately run across the following reference which seems of interest. From John Murdoch's account of the birds observed at Point Barrow, Alaska (see Lt. P. H. Ray's Report of the Expedition, 1885, p. 111) I quote the following: "There is frequently a great disparity of size between the two sexes. A comparison of the large series we collected shows that the average length of the female is about three quarters of an inch less than that of the male, but that the smallest female was fully an inch and a half shorter than the largest male. The difference in size is so marked that the natives noticed it and insisted that the small females were not Aibwúkia, but Niwiliwilúk (*Ereunetes pusillus*)." Certainly such facts should be in our manuals.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

**Great Gray Owl in Wyoming.**—During the latter part of last month, September, 1900, in company with my brother, the State Engineer, I visited the Alpine Lake region of the western slopes of the lofty Wind River Mountains. On the 26th we were at the hunting lodge of Wm. Wells, one hundred and fifty miles north of the Oregon Short Line railroad. This lodge is known to the post office department as Wells post office, and is the end of the mail route which carries the mail by stage from Opal station three times a week. Among the trophies of the hunt, with which the walls of Mr. Wells's lodge are decorated, I noted a Great Gray Owl (*Scotiaptex cinerea*). The bird was one of the largest of the species, the wing measuring  $19\frac{1}{2}$  ins. and the tail 13 ins.

Inquiry developed the fact that Mr. Wells killed the bird with his snowshoe pole in April, 1899. He stated the snow at the time was between three and four feet deep and as he was returning home on his snowshoes he saw the bird sitting in a low spruce tree not far from the lodge. He approached easily, and knocked the bird from its perch with his snowshoe pole, as stated above. Mr. Wells said further that it was the first and only owl of the kind he had seen during a residence of several years at the lodge.

I make this note because this is the first Great Gray Owl I have met with in Wyoming. Two of the hunters' guides employed by Mr. Wells, told me they had seen this owl in the mountains, but as they had never killed the bird I am inclined to question their identification. However, I think it quite probable the Great Gray Owl may be a rare winter resident



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