

records ceased after this till 1898 when three birds were taken at points widely apart, an adult male at lake Winnepegosis, Man., on April 14, (5) an immature male at Owensboro, Kentucky, on July 27, now in the Smithsonian Institution, and another immature bird taken at Detroit, Michigan on September 14 (5) is in my collection, these are the last records that can be based on specimens. (6)

In 1903, I published a list (5) including sight records one as late as May 1902, this latter is possibly open to doubt, but the ones I gave for 1900 are, I feel confident, correct, as the birds were seen more than once and by different observers. For all practical purposes the close of the nineteenth century saw the final extinction of the passenger pigeon in a wild state and there remained only the small flock, numbering in 1903 not more than a dozen, that had been bred in captivity by Prof. C. O. Whitman of Chicago. These birds the descendants of a single pair, had long before that ceased to breed and it was in an effort to obtain fresh blood for this flock that I started a newspaper enquiry that brought many replies none of which could be substantiated as records of the passenger pigeon and many referred to the mourning dove. I am aware that there has been lately widely spread and persistent rumours of the return of the pigeons, but no rumour has borne investigation, and I feel that Prof. Whitman's small flock now reduced in 1906 to five birds are the last representatives of a species around whose disappearance mystery and fable will always gather.

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(5) Auk, XX, 1903, 66.

(6) There is a mature female in the collection of the Carnegie Institution of Pittsburg Pa. marked "Pennsylvania" August 15th 1898 but without further locality.