

Yellow-billed Cuckoo); *Glauclidium passerinum*, var. *Californicum*, Ridgway (Pigmy Owl); according to Ridgway's List, there are only two species of this genus in North America. The *G. gnoma*, Wagl., is a California bird, and its occurrence in the vicinity of Ottawa is doubtful. *Nauclerus furcatus*, Vigors (the Swallow-tailed Kite). This genus is now changed to *Elaenoides*, and Ridgway gives it in his List as *furcatus*. Vigors should not be quoted as the authority, as it is Linnaeus' type of *Falco furcatus*; and *Porzana Jamaicensis*, Cassin (the Little Black Rail)? With the exception of the Thrush var., the Gnatcatcher and the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, this is the first record of the occurrence of the above birds in this portion of Canada, and it is strange that no determinate remarks appear in the report regarding them. Are these birds preserved, and where are they to be seen? A descriptive paper by J. B. Tyrrell, B. A., on SARCOTIDÆ, or parasites found on Canadian Birds, is accompanied with illustrations. Dr. Cowdry, of Toronto, is at present at work on this class of ectoparasitic forms which he mounts for the microscope. 'Notes on the Ottawa Unionidae,' by F. R. Litchford, is a good contribution to our conchological literature.—*Unio borealis*, A. F. Gray, is illustrated as a new species from the Ottawa River. There are other papers of equal value and interest. In conclusion, the work is in a high degree creditable to the Club, which should be encouraged for their industry and intelligence.—C.

Correspondence.

DEAR SIR,—I send you enclosed three specimens of a peculiar hammer-headed fly, which I see here every year about this time on the side of a house. These pretty little flies have the curious habit of collecting into a dense mass as evening draws on. I have noticed them, night after night, for the last three weeks, in the angle made by two brick walls beneath the porch of a doorway. During the daytime they are very bright and active,

and front round immediately a hand is raised towards them. The easiest time to catch them is at night when they are at rest. I have no copy of Say, but I think I remember seeing it figured towards the end of one of the volumes. I shall be obliged if you will send me the name, and if it is a rarity, I shall be pleased to send you a good series of specimens.

I am, dear sir, your truly,

J. FLETCHER.

Ottawa, Oct. 17th, 1882.

NOTE.—The fly belongs to the Dipterous genus *Sphyracephala*. The North American species are rare. It may be Say's *brevicornis*, but I have no immediate opportunity to compare it with the description. If it is not the latter, you may have a new species. I trust you secured a number of them. The genus is remarkable for its stalked eyes which are placed on stems going out from the sides of the head. Some species are found fossil in Prussian amber.—C.

LIST OF THE BIRDS OF WESTERN ONTARIO.

By J. A. MORDEN and W. E. SAUNDERS.

The following list has been prepared chiefly from observations made at and near Hyde Park, London, Mitchell's Bay, Point Pelee; and Lucknow.

Hyde Park and London, in Middlesex county, are in the centre of a large and fertile agricultural district abounding in woodland birds. Mitchell's Bay at the St. Clair Flats and Point Pelee are also rich in woodland birds, and besides are noted for their water birds; while Lucknow in Bruce county is farther north, and therefore a greater number of the northern forms breed there, while some of the southern are wanting entirely.

To Mr. E. W. Sandys, Chatham, Ont., we are deeply indebted for his valuable assistance, more especially among the water birds, but also for the only records of a few land species.

It is hoped that the publication of this list, will draw from others in Ontario, criticisms and additions to our *fauna*, together with more exact knowledge about many of our rarer species.

The nomenclature adopted is that given by Ridgway, in the Smithsonian Catalogue of 1881.

1. *Hylocichla ustulata*; Wood Thrush. Fre-