To the Editor of Keeping Posted,
The Saturday Evening Post,
Curtis Publishing Company,

Dear Sir:

The letter concerning the passenger pigeon by the Reverend A. S. Rachal, appearing in your columns under date of November 19, brings no cheer to the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey. Reverend Rachal's letter differs only in detail from hundreds of other communications that have come to the Biological Survey during the years since Ectopistes migratorius became extinct. For the passenger pigeon is extinct throughout the earth.

It is most likely that the last living passenger pigeon was the bird referred to by Mr. Kantor, and which died in 1914 in the Cincinnati Zoo. As a mounted specimen it may now be seen at the National Museum in Washington. At that time there may have been a very few birds still at large. If there were any, however, the very substantial rewards offered failed to result in the capture and identification of a single one. Ever since the complete disappearance of this pigeon the Survey has continued to receive letters and communications reporting the discovery of colonies of these birds. I have read many of these letters and have yet to see one that has raised any doubt in my mind as to the author's complete conviction and sincerity. Many were written by persons to whom the passenger pigeon flights had once been familiar spectacles. Some were from men who had hunted and trapped the bird in the old days and one would think that identification by such reporters would be certain and positive. But such has never been the case; in every incident investigated the observer was wrong and the pigeons he saw proved to be mourning doves or some other member of the large family of Columbidae.

For a good many years the Survey sent ornithologists to investigate the more promising of these reports and even continued to do so for a considerable time after the fact of extermination had been completely established. Nothing ever came of these expeditions; and Americans may well accept the truth that Ectopistes migratorius is a vanished species, as extinct as the mastodon.
There is, unfortunately, nothing mysterious concerning the causes that brought about this disappearance. It was a man-made calamity. Mr. Kantor gives a graphic, accurate account of the manner in which the pigeons were slaughtered. There has never been anything like it. With respect to the number of individual animals slain by man and the time man required to complete the slaughter the massacre of the pigeon established a record never equaled in the history of the world.

Had the pigeon trappers confined their killings to mature birds, the species would have survived for a longer time, but the market hunters had little use for mature pigeons; their customers wanted the tender, fat squabs. Thus millions and millions of young birds were killed before they were sufficiently developed to fertilize, lay, and hatch even the first of the single eggs, each of which represented the annual issue of a mated pair of pigeons. It is important to remember that the pigeon was a "one egg bird," for the low rate of production had a tremendous effect in the appallingly swift reduction of the pigeon population. Sometimes it is reported, a nest would contain two eggs, but ornithologists incline to the opinion that in such cases two females had occupied the same home. If the pigeon trappers had deliberately sought the extermination of the species, they could not have devised a means more effective than the destruction of immature, unmated young.

As a sort of auxiliary campaign but one not intentionally directed against the pigeon, the white men were cutting off the forests and year by year reducing the environmental areas where the bird must live if it lived at all. Between the two assaults, the destruction of the birds by gun and snare and the destruction of their habitat, it was not long until the annual rate of loss greatly exceeded the annual rate of reproduction. Whenever that point is reached by any population, human or otherwise, the race is doomed unless by some expedient the rate of loss can be checked and the ratio restored. That might have been done in the case of the passenger pigeon, but it was not. There was a period during which shooting and snaring might have been stopped or restricted and the birds saved. Instead, the killing went on until there came a time when it would have been useless to attempt to halt the massacre because the birds were so badly reduced numerically that the annual losses from natural, unpreventable causes alone exceeded the annual production. There is considerable evidence to indicate that at a point on the road to racial extermination Nature hastens the conclusion by rendering the females of the doomed race infertile and incapable of reproduction. This curse may have been added to the miseries of the pigeon. When that point is reached the progress to extermination is swift indeed.
It is not to be wondered at that the men, the old timers who saw with their own eyes those sky-sweeping flocks vanish to nothing in a few years, and who were without understanding of the natural law and of the violence with which Nature herself turns to the annihilation of a race no longer able to sustain itself, allowed themselves to be convinced that Ectopistes migratorius was not dead but had found another home in South America, or on some unknown island in the sea, or in an unexplored region in the Rocky Mountains or in Mexico.

The fate of the pigeon overtook the heath hen, a game bird at one time amazingly abundant in the northeastern coastal States. That tragedy took longer to enact and for that reason, perhaps, seems less shocking. The heath hen, too, was shot and snared to excess and its cover was destroyed. Toward the end an alarmed public through State conservation agencies made desperate attempts and spared no expense in efforts to save this bird from extermination. The help came too late, for the ride had already set and we learned again that there is a time in the affairs of wild game birds and animals beyond which mankind's most extravagant concern cannot rectify the damage done by years of abuse and neglect. The last heath hen, a cock bird, came to his drumming ground on Martha's Vineyard each spring for several years to send out his summons for a mate that never came. In 1933 he himself failed to appear. We can only hope that the bird completely lacked the power to realize his terrible, lonely plight as the last of his race.

The passenger pigeon and the heath hen are not the only species of native wildlife that we have literally shoved off the earth. There was a Giant Mink in New England; there were the great elk, the Pallas cormorant, the Eskimo curlew, and the Carolina parakeet. All these are gone and many others, among them the trumpeter swan, the upland plover, the whooping crane, the golden plover, and two or three species of ducks, are so close to the edge of oblivion that the least unfriendly or careless touch will send them over. Some of them will in all probability go over anyway.

As for the Ectopistes migratorius, you will never hear the sound of their wings in the highland about Lake Titicaca nor anywhere else this side of the Happy Hunting Grounds.

I am

Very sincerely,

H. P. Sheldon,
Chief
Division of Public Relations.
WILD PIGEONS

By

Col. Henry W. Shoemaker

The “Christmas Rush” of the Wild Pigeons; They Flew Over Harrisburg in December, 1857.

Though it has been claimed that except in extremely mild winters the wild pigeons left their nesting grounds in northern Pennsylvania, early in the autumn, the following from the Harrisburg Telegraph of December 7, 1857, may be of interest to those like Harry McGraw, Harry P. Hayes, Bud Gebhardt, Professor T. S. Davis, Helen Doyle, Charlie Bremmecke, Dr. Earl Dickey, and other Blair countians interested in the vanished birds.

“Thousands of wild pigeons,” says the authoritative Stackpole newspaper on that date, “passed southward during this week. The near approach of winter hurried them along at a rapid rate.”

The same journal confirms the late Oliver D. Schock’s statement of hunting wild pigeons in Capitol Hill. With a dateline of October 23, 1857, under the heading “Wild Pigeons Shot in the Capitol Grounds”: “It seems almost incredible, nevertheless it is a fact, that a number of wild pigeons were shot in the Capitol grounds this week.”

The last wild pigeon killed on Capitol Hill was on the huge English elm that still stands, despite so many street widening and re-landscape projects at the northwest corner of the park, facing what was formerly Nick Toulomme’s tea room, where Gifford Pinchot took so many meals.

The last wild pigeon on the “hill,” Mr. Schock said, was shot long after 1857, about 1870 in fact. The Hanover Herald of October 26, 1872, quoted by historian Charles S. Diller, further describes a pigeon roost in Allegheny County, Maryland, visited by General Henry Kyd Douglas, about that time. It says:

“The pigeons on their arrival from their northern forests gradually settled down in a living mass until the whole six acres of older bushes at their root was completely covered from one to two feet. The pigeons continued flocking in from 4 P. M. until nightfall. With the early dawn, flock after flock rose and flew away in all directions, which they kept up until about 9 A. M. when the place was deserted and not a living bird was seen until midday when they began returning.

“At his wonderful roost, tens of thousands of pigeons have been nightly captured by men and boys with guns, clubs and bags. After night, a person can go up among the birds and scoop them into the mouth of a bag. It is needless to add that in the ten days they have been in the roost many thousands of pigeons have been wantonly shot and allowed to remain on the ground where they died.”

E. S. Starr, a veteran pigeoneer, who followed the migrating millions into many localities has said: “This mighty host came north early in the spring, while yet in New York and Michigan where they settled, there was snow upon the ground. Nothing of grain, seed, or berry kind came amiss with the passenger pigeon as food and yet what was there in these states at this season in sufficient quantity to serve them?

“In 1874, a vast flight of these birds centered in Benzie County, Michigan, for the breeding season, occupying a district about 20 miles long and five miles wide, at least such was the area of devastation caused by its immediate presence. There every branch and twig held a nest, and in every crotch sufficient to stay a few straws or sticks was a parent and egg or young.

“All the verdure disappeared with the coming; and viewed from a distance, instead of a forest there was a dark moving mass, sometimes rising like smoke and again settling down in confusion. The air was continually alive with the flyers in the wild frollic of the mating season.

As the building began to disperse, the pigeons continued to feed and fly, until the eggs were laid that a regular system prevailed. Then the males would take wing together at sunrise, rising from their roosts in a column, then spreading like a cloud through the air. Then an instant’s delay and all were flying easily and steadily in the direction of the chosen feeding grounds.

“Thousands of hens and eggs were esconced in the branches, but not a bird rose above them, and all was still. A few hours later and the advance returned. Then another flight and another, until finally the main body appeared, hovered over the forest for an instant, then each bird dropped to the perch beside its own.

“In a moment the whirr and rush of wings told that the hens had left the nests. There was the same column and cloud with which the males departed, and the same course was taken—no confusion, no delay, no apparent hesitation. At 3 o’clock in the afternoon these returned and the males again took wing to be absent until near sunset. But all that went out did not return. The roost in its season and the breeding place is the choice of the birds and beyond human control; but the feeding ground is where food is to be had, and in the selection of this man takes part.

“If the birds are in the vicinity of a brook or spring, the wasps are in a large nest and the ground above strewn with grain and salt. This the stragglers quickly found and for a few days they were allowed to come and go at will, and as the food was eaten more is served. At each feeding time the guests arrived in greater numbers until finally the vast armies of male and female accept the spot as feeding ground and no amount of slaughter, driving or fighting can keep them from it.

“Then the killing began. Thousands and thousands fell victims, but the numbers in the flight were so great that the loss was not noticed. Later, with the market glutted, man is wearied, beast has eaten to satiety, and the ground is hidden in the mass of debris, and ungathered dead, the cloud that rose and settled above the roost seemed just as dense and the area upon which it rested just as great, but the whirr of the wings has a softer sound. The mass is mainly of young birds.”

This sounds as if a paraphrase of James Still’s great poem, “The Year of the Pigeons,” in the young Kentucky poet’s great book.
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A Night Out With Three-Toes

hind him, and Farmer John in front blocking his path to the creek. In a moment Old-Three-Toes recovered from the shock of seeing his path blocked, for his agile little brain conceived a plan whereas he backed-tracked for about 50 feet, then cut off and paralleled his old track for another 50 feet where he heard the hound getting too close and headed for a rock ledge that was in the direction of his den. Old-Three-Toes hated to climb this ledge as he knew that Farmer John had planted some of his fox traps along its length. And Old-Three-Toes was afraid that he might accidentally stumble into one of the traps like he did many years ago; that’s where he lost two of his toes and came to be known by the hunters who saw his tracks as “three-toed.”

But Old-Three-Toes was desperate. He knew that he had to take that chance rather than take sanctuary in a tall tree where he didn’t have a chance of escaping the accuracy of Farmer John’s thunder stick that he had seen him use so effectively on members of the snake family.

Just the thoughts of that made him climb in a frenzy of haste, leaving a trail of rattling stones behind him, meanwhile keeping his little black nose busy trying to scent the trap before he stepped into it and thinking to himself, if I make the top without getting caught I’ll have easy sailing from there on to my den.

After what seemed an eternity he reached the top of the ledge without hearing the sickening click of steel against flesh. And with a glad heart on reaching the flat he looked up and saw looming against the sky the tops of the red oaks with their wild-grape vines that spelled safety to him. He lost no time in getting to the first tree in this stand of oaks and even less time in scaling the tree and crossing the grape-vines that led to his den, where he entered and turned lying down with his head looking out the entrance. He watched as Farmer John came up to where his dog was barking tree, and tried to spot him with his five-cell flashlight up among the grape-vines that surrounded his den. When Farmer John’s light finally came to rest on the mouth of his den he quickly slid back in where he wasn’t visible. And he heard the Farmer say, let’s go some dog, that son of a gun has beat us to his den again. With that, Old-Three-Toes promptly curled up and went to sleep forgetting that he had ever been out of his den that night.

WILD PIGEONS

“Hounds on the Mountain.” Resuming, pigeoneer Starr says: “Many attempts were made to make the passenger pigeon with the blue rock, curly, horned, and some other of the pigeons, in the hope of combining its endurance and speed with their known intelligence and love of home, but without success, thus demonstrating it to be to my satisfaction not a pigeon, but a dove.

“It has, however, been bred with the mourning or Carolina dove and the young, mated again with the ‘Carolinas’, have proved fertile. The bird was the largest of the family, males measuring close to 17 inches. It bred readily in confinement and although quite hardy, must be sheltered during the winter if kept over for stool pigeon purposes.

“This bird was as national in the colors of its plumage as in the limit of its range for I do not think it left the United States. It was not local except as food attracted, but through the year ranged from the lakes to the gulfs, and to the lakes again. Its head and back were blue, while the throat and breast were red, and its underfeathering white. The markings of the wing covers, flights and tail feathers were black, the two middle feathers of the tail being wholly of that color.

**GENTLEMEN I REALIZE EACH ONE OF YOU HAS A VITAL MESSAGE TO BRING US BUT OUR TIME IS LIMITED AND I’LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LIMIT YOUR MESSAGES TO NO MORE THAN SIX MINUTES?**

**AND THEN SOME BUFFOON ON THE PROGRAM TAKES UP AN HOUR WITH A LOT OF NONSENSE**

**HAVE YOU ANY BRAIN FOODS BESIDES FISH ASKS THE DINNER WELL WE HAVE NOODLE SOUP SAYS THE WAITER**

**GOSH! HOW CAN I GET THIS REPORT ACROSS IN ONLY SIX MINUTES?**

**ANNUAL SPORTSMAN BANQUET**

**R.**

**RECORDS OF BIG GAME ANIMALS**

In response to our request for records of big game animals set forth on page 52 of the December issue we have received the following from Norman Applegate, Bloomsburg, Pa.

Length on outside curve A: 21 inches

Circumference of main beam B: 3% inches

Circumference of burl C: 6 inches

Greatest spread D: 17 inches

Right 5

Number of Points on each horn: Left 4

Exact locality where killed: Bradford Co.

Date killed: December 1, 1941

By whom killed: Norman Applegate


Remarks: Left front horn disfigured, possibly in fight with other buck, who can beat it?

Men, it is said, are better car drivers than women but the ladies are the better at driving men.

When you begin to know that you don’t know anything, then, my son, you begin to know.

Yes, charity should begin at home, but...
Shufeldt, R. W.


p. 487. Stated that his observations on skeletons of birds, mostly Am.,

embrace a MS of about 2000 pp. and over 500 figures.

p. 490. Extensive air sacs, as a good average columbines type, and

from its skeleton one may study the osteological characters generally

meat met in the family.

The brain-case in the skull is comparatively capacious, being rounded

for the most part above and behind, while its basal floor is nearly

horizontal. It projects backwards considerably, being situated largely

posterior to the orbital cavities and the quadrate. In outline the

foramen magnum is cordate, and the condyle small, sessile, and

notched posteriorly. The squamosal ridge is fairly well marked, and in

passes across the median, not very conspicuous supraoccipital promi-

nence. Viewed superiorly, the interorbital area of the skull is markedly

broad, being gently and unifinely convex from the parietal region

to the mandibular base. These surfaces are smooth and show no

natural traces. For the most part, the entire periphery of an orbit is

sharp and unbroken in outline, being continuous behind with the anterior

edge of the down-pointing, sphenoid, sphenotic process. The apex of this

latter is well removed from the apex of the much aborted, stumpy

squamosal process. Either orbit is here a capacious cavity, while

the mental septum between them is quite deficient posteriorly and

above. This vacuity merges with the large common [491] foramen,
giving exit in life to the optic nerves, but not so with the equally

capacious aperture above for the nerves of the first pair. So much

for these interorbital fenestrae. At the upper part of an orbit the groove

for the olfactory nerve is seen to be single, and anteriorly it enters

a very small circumscribed foramen above this pars plane. The
pars plano and the very large lacrymal bone fuse completely together, and to some extent with the frontal bone above them. This creates an unusually broad, entire inter-orbital-malar partition. Upon its outer border the lacrymal is broadly notched; below it meets the zygomatic bar, and in front it is seen to be wedged in between the nasal and frontal; this wedge being another considerable part of its bone. In the cranium of this Passenger pigeons the tympanic cavities are large, very open and exposed, and either one of them facing downwards, forwards, and upwards. The anterior edge of the bone, basi-temporal gives but slight protection to the medial common aperture of the Eustachian tubes. Close to and upon either side of this opening we are to note an aborted barbipterygoid process, and neither of these latter meet the pterygoid bone opposite them.

"The rostrum in this pigeons is thicken, rounded below, and gradually tapers to a sharp point anteriorly; being fixed in the latter locality with the lower margin of the mesethmoid, which here extends forwards considerably beyond the pars plano upon either hand. The Passenger pigeons has no vomer..."
ordinary birds. All these cranial characters just named remind us more or less of the corresponding ones in the skull of the frog.

A pterygoid is a short thickish bone, somewhat twisted upon itself, and presents upon its middle shaft (opposite the corresponding basisphenoid process) an inconspicuous, low and rounded eminence. In other species the summit of this is faceted. The palatines do not appear to articulate with each other in the middle line, but are accurately moulded upon the side of the rounded rostrum, upon which they glide in life, the medial lamina being extended forwards as a pointed process, also in the closest contact with the rostrum. This is the spine that has been by others erroneously termed the cornet among the Pici.

The premaxillary angles of the palatines are very much rounded off, and upon the whole these bones are not freely developed. Anteriorly, the prepalatine part of either one is carried forwards as an exceedingly slender rod, widely separated from the fellow of the opposite side.

This very narrow prepalatine part fuses anteriorly with the under surface of the lengthy maxillo-palatine of the same side, and fails to reach the premaxillary. All figures, so far as I am at present aware, are typically schizognathous. Only the nasal is extremely peculiar ones. For, in addition to being acutely forked, the prenasal process is markedly long and slender, running almost to the apex of the beak, closely moulded upon the underside of the crooked, slender nasal processes of the premaxillary. The delicate 'external process' of a nasal is also rather long, and fuses with the upper edge...
of the maxillary process of the premaxillary of the same side. An lip of the shell, in the middle line, the nasals unite with each other [p. 493], and spread out over the upper surface of the broad abdomen, afforded by the alisphenoid; but they do not cover it entirely, as the supero-lateral margins of this bone are seen upon either side in the nasal slit. The fused premaxillaries present long and slender processes; the nasal apertures (or bony nostrils) being long, capacious clefts between them laterally (see Figs. 1, 3, and 4 Pl. A, p. x) [A Columba livia, after Parker]. They fuse also with the bones which they come in contact, the nasals and the maxillaries. Faint sutures, however, may often be discerned among them, even in fully adult pigeons.

A maxillary is completely absorbed or fused with the peculiar maxillo-palatine process that it gives rise to anteriorly; while its backward-ascending rod, the zygoal a curved downward and is exceedingly slender. A considerable interval divides the maxillo-palatinés from each other in the middle line, and either one of these elements is found to be an elongated, dense, roll, spongy within, perfectly smooth without, and fitting snugly in among the maxillary proper, the palatine, and the nasal process of the premaxillary, with all of which it fuses in the adult bird. Extending backwards and downwards from the maxillary bone, the especially slender zygomatic bar has upon its proximal end a minute peg-like process with which to articulate with the outer side of the quadrato-jugal elements; and their entire lines may be made out even in skulls of adult birds.
"Elbow quadrates have a double mastoidal head; two elongated trochleae upon the condylar process, that are placed lengthwise directly in a transverse line with respect to each other; and finally the orbital process is well developed. Several of these bones at the base of the skull are pneumatic, and their air holes are easily made out in each case. In the quadrates it is situated on its posterior aspect, directly between the mastoidal heads; in the pterygoid it is on the anterior side of the bone, close to the quadrated head; and in the palatine it is on the outer surface of the bone and close to the pterygoid head. Certain parts of the shell in Ectopistes are also pneumatic.

Coming to the mandible, it is seen to be of the V-shaped pattern with the symphysis short and feeble. The anterior portion of the bone is bent downwards and outwards, and the ramus, from the angle thus formed to the symphysis, are shallow and weak, while the posterior half is double the depth and double the thickness transversely. The superior ramal margin of the bone is rounded off as it passes over the angular bend at the middle of the bone; and below this point, on the side of the ramus, we note the ramal sinuosity, being much farther forward than we see it in most birds. In a great many pigeons this sinuosity is closed in, the mandibular ends are thickened, with their turned processes short and blunt, while posteriorly their longer parts are completely and squarely truncated from above, downwards, and forwards.

The hyoid arches are seen to be very slenderly constructed in the Columbidae, and in this Ectopistes forms no exception. Rather lengthy and acute, the glossopysics is seen to be
performed entirely in cartilage, as are indeed the slender and projecting cerato-branchial of the anterior cornua. The two basi-branchials are short, delicate rods of bone, and not fused together, where the anterior ends of the even more slender cerato-branchials articulate. Cephalbranchials are much shorter, but have about the same caliber as the cerato-branchials. They are tipped with cartilage behind, as is also the second basi-branchial. . . .

p. 494. The skull of *Bemaisura macroura* agrees closely with that of *Ectopistes* but has a few points of difference.

p. 496. *Ectopistes* has eighteen vertebrae between skull and pelvic saernum; there are fourteen more fused together in the saerum; nine free ones in the skeleton of the tail, and to all these must be added the rather large, flat, and subtriangular pygostyle.

p. 497. "Regarded as a whole, the pelvis of *Ectopistes* is seen to be broad and comparatively shallow, and although the ilia are in contact with the saerum for their entire lengths, the union is a very feeble one, ordinary maceration being often sufficient to detach the sacra innominata."
Finally the day came when the last wild pigeon of this species on earth died. The bird was an adult female, and it passed away at the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens on the 1st of September, 1914, at 1 p.m., at the age of twenty-nine years. All this history I have given in another connection (The Auk, January 1915) and it is unessential in the present instance. What I desire to set forth here is the important part played by photography in the case of this pigeon - the last of its kind, the very last of its race; for it could only have been through photography that such a perfect record was made of this unique specimen, after its demise.

From the Cincinnati Zoo it landed, duly packed in ice, at the National Museum, where I was selected to take part in preparing the material for its final history. First of all, it was photographed under my supervision at the gallery of that institution. These photographs (8 x 10's), however, were simply of its dead body in the three conventional views: anterior, posterior and lateral. Subsequently, the bird was skinned by Mr. William Palmer, of the Museum, at my residence; and while this operation was in progress, I made another negative at an interesting stage of the work, later making several others of my own subsequent dissections of the body, which was turned over to me for anatomical description. All this has now been published.

Just before the taxidermist commenced to remove the skin in one of my study rooms, I made a 5 x 8 negative of the head of this pigeon, on direct left lateral view. That negative is in my private collection; it is the only one of the kind in existence, and it can never be duplicated,
either direct from this particular specimen, or from any other of the same species. Further, the colored photograph illustrating this article is unique of its kind. It was colored with Japanese tints direct from the specimen and inserted and colored the eye, in order to give the portrait a more lifelike and pleasing appearance.
Rhufeldt, Dr. R. W.

Published Figures and Plates of the Extinct Passenger Pigeon. Scientific Monthly 12, May (1921) 468-481.


Plains's drawings are pleasing and fairly accurate.

There are 14 Passenger Pigeons in Plate 29, opposite p. 32 of "Studer's Popular Ornithology."

Wilcox's folio set Vol. V, Fig. I in Plate 44, opposite p. 102, is the best of any of the editions. (Phil. 1812).

Quain's figures opposite p. 74 in P. Nolte's "Travels in North America." (1772).


was a crude engraving.

Engraving appears in Tommich and Madame Knip.

States that latter pirated her work as a whole.

Charles Trencheus Bonaparte, "Iconography des Oiseaux." (1857-8). Magnificent work but does not figure P. Palaeolus.

H. G. L. Reichenbach, "The Complete Account of the Natural History of the Pigeons and Pigeon-like Birds." [475] It appeared in Dresden, in the German language, as a folio volume, apart from the text, and illustrated with colored plates. It was probably published about 1861, being unbound, and of a much smaller size than the plates. The account of the Wild Pigeon on pp. 81-85 is chiefly from Audubon and others. Plate 154 B the found plates is devoted to Ectopistes migratorius (Fig. 12), of which there are three figures in color resting on the limb of a tree; they are numbered 1374, 1378, and 1379, and all these are but indifferent representations of the species. He aimed to delineate.

...
The middle figure was taken from J. P. Selby's "The Natural History of Pigeons," Edinburgh, 1835, one of Tardieu's "The Naturalists' Library."

The first published figure that S. has located is in Mark Catesby's "The Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and Bahama Islands," 1771. Vol. I, Plate 23 has "The Pigeon of Passage" (Columbus Migratorius).

p. 481. Count de Buffon never published a figure but one is to be found in D'Anville's of the year 1780. The latter is a small quarto with colored plates but no text. It was intended to illustrate, or rather be a complementary work to Buffon, illustrating what the latter had published on birds. D'Anville's colored plate No. 176, of an immature F. Pigeon as "Tourterelle du Canada."


Vol. II contains two plates by the Japanese artist, Hayashi. "Plate 28 (Fig. 14) represents an adult male bird (x 0.6), and has not as little to recommend it. It may be suggested, however, that the limb upon which the specimen is represented as standing, is too vertical for the pose the artist has given the bird."

"The female, to which Plate 29 is devoted, (Fig. 15) is better, and to me, a far more pleasing figure. This is of an adult individual and beautifully tinted (x 0.05)."
Wild pigeons. Many years ago, when the country was new and eye-fields were numerous, wild pigeons came in countless multitudes. It seemed as if they were sent, like the quails of old, to relieve the wants of the people. Early in spring, when they flew high, flocks have been [414] seen so large and long that the two ends were not in sight at the same time. Great numbers were caught by all the early settlers. Sometimes they were salted and kept till winter. Many were taken on the cold morning's ground. Gill, Nathaniel Robbins, Esq., repeatedly caught twenty-five dozen at once. He sold many to Samuel Knott, who kept them alive till winter, and fattened them. Jesse Robbins caught thirty dozen and ten at one haul. He sold them at Thomaston, mostly for eightpence a dozen, which was considered a good price. Some he sold to Samuel Knott, when he was examining the river, before he moved to Thomaston. Mrs. Dunton says her father, David Robbins, caught so many that he was called Pigeon Robbins. She has known him to take thirty dozen before breakfast, twenty dozen after dinner, and twenty dozen more before dark—making sixty dozen in a day.

In order to take pigeons by bating them, the stubble in a rice-field was entirely removed; and a spot ten or twelve feet wide, and fifteen or eighteen feet long, was leveled, and made like an earrow-bed. When there were no leafless small trees near, some were cut, and stuck down as stands for the pigeons to light on. The grain of which these must always be enough on the pigeon-bed, was said...
along in rows. As, in rising from the bed, pigeons always fly in the direction of the stands, the net is set so as to intercept them. A long house was built, into which was extended one end of the rope of the net. The catcher customarily secreted himself in the long house before daylight, so as to be in season. The pigeons came early, and lighted on the stands. Sometimes they would sit an hour before going down to the bed. At first one would go down, then two or three more. Immediately afterward, nearly the whole flock would pour down. The net was then sprung by pulling the rope. Sometimes when the flock was very large, it was necessary, in order to prevent the pigeons from raising the net and escaping, to confine it with stones or attached sticks, [416] placed there for the purpose. The shelters were then broken by nipping the heads between the thumb and finger.

Many were caught by hunters; a wild pigeon was tamed, which was easily done. A bed was made. The hunter was tied down in the middle of it, with string enough to let him act freely. When a flock passed near, wishing to join them, he would flutter, and call them. Although there was no bait, they would thus be decoyed, as they would not sit unless there was bait; the catcher was ready to spring the net upon the flock the moment it struck down where the hunter was.
Simpson, Joseph

The Story of Ohegeh Lake. Columbus, Ohio (1912)

73-76.

p.73. "The famous old 'Pigeon Roost,' our grandfathers'" camps was there [Bloody Run Swamp, KirkERVille]. It was a camp indeed where millions of heavy-winged travelers took refuge for a night. The rook covered a space of more than one hundred acres.

p.74. Thinks that the destruction of the forest, particularly the ashes, was instrumental in the extinction of the pigeons.

p.75. "Near six - The sudden disappearance of the pigeons occurred in the spring of 1868 or 1869. It was in the business of buying and selling them at that time. Afterwards a Cincinnati newspaper had this to say: "The sudden disappearance of the pigeons was occasioned by the whole flock being caught in a terrific storm, and were blown out to sea and there perished. In evidence of which, myriads of dead ones came ashore."

Hebron, O., Dec., 1910.

Yours, Henry Minthorn

p.73. Bloody Run Swamp. "After draining the territory, it became very valuable because of the richness of its soil, occasioned by its being the roosting place of the numerous wild pigeons. The accumulated droppings of the birds for hundreds of years..."
was the cause of its great fertility." swamp was 10 miles long.
Lt. 

Simpson, Wendell E. "Pigeons and pigeon-netting."


"The pigeons had burst upon the country with the suddenness of a tornado; and from this time on for several weeks there seemed to be no limit to their numbers. Thousands of pigeons! Acres of pigeons! Miles of pigeons! From early morning until dark there were pigeons constantly in sight, perching to and from the feeding grounds; the numbers so increasing at times as to form continuous bands, streams of life high over the fields and reaching from wood to wood."

"After feeding for an hour or two the pigeons, often collected in the tree-tops preparatory to taking flight..."

p. 164. "One who has often minded their nesting habits states that about forty minutes was the time taken by a pair to build their simple nest... each nest held a single egg..."

p. 166. For want of salt, I lost nesting in Michigan in the spring of 1878. Disappearance. Writer spent nearly two years in the Indian Territory and on its borders but never heard of the pigeons there."
Smith, Samuel

"The History of the Colony of Nova-Caesarea, or New Jersey."  
(1765). Trenton (1890).

p.11. "Birds. Of these there are great plenty; as the wild turkey, }  
--- wild pigeons, ---. The wild pigeons, at three or four seasons }  
in the year, commonly pay a visit (except in heat time) generally }  
acceptable: They have not been observed of late years so plenty as }  
formerly; they then sometimes to avoid the north-east storms, }  
flour night and day, and thick enough to darken the air, and }  
break trees where they settled, and were more tame and more }  
wanted; all which made them an article of consequence to the }  
early inhabitants; The Indians, before the European settlements, }  
used every year regularly to burn the woods, the better to kill }  
deer; the manner was to surround a swamp, or cripple with }  
fire, then drive the deer out, who not daring over the }  
bounds, were easily killed with bow and arrow; this }  
practice kept the woods clean, so that the pigeons readily }  
got reserve, which then not being devoured by hogs, }  
were plenty almost every where, and induced a return }  
more frequently than now: They breed chiefly to the }  
northward."
Earl J.Southeast (James Carnegie)

p. 26. May 28, 1859. Two Rivers, Minnesota... while waiting at Pine River for the arrival of the carts, I stalked and shot some pigeons that had settled among the higher trees up and down the course of the stream.

"They were exceedingly pretty birds... We often heard their peculiar scream, but, from their wildness, could not succeed in getting many of them."

p. 53. July 2. Fort Qu’Appelle. McKay, however, discovered a few pigeons in a little grove, and shot two or three of them.

p. 171. Aug. 22. Near Pembina River. We also saw a great many pigeons, one of which I shot with my rifle." [West of Edmonston, near Teb值班 R.]
Spurr, Jw. Alexander and Chamberlain, E. Burnham

South Carolina Bird Life. Univ. S. Carolina Press, Columbia
(1449). 290

Localities.

p. 30. "Ectopistes migratorius (Drimarchus), Syst. Nat. ed. 12, 1:
1766, 285 C. Based on Thirteen Carolina's, Colonia migratorius,
The Pigeon of Passage, Catesby, Nat. Hist. Carolina 1: 1781, 23)."

p. 289. Ectopistes, a wanderer, from his home; migratory, migratory, from the Latin.

"Status in S. C.: formerly a very abundant winter resident
throughout the state; casual in summer in the northeastern
region. Reported north to Easte's Head and Chester County;
east to Williamsburg County and Mt. Pleasant; south to
13 miles north of Charleston and Blackville (Barnwell
County); west to Anderson and Walhalla (Oconee County)."

p. 290. The last one killed was in 1904, and last seen in
1907. This pertains to its extinction in U.S.

Uncle Wayne and I once said, "Other records include that
of the late C. W. Pitchford, who told Chamberlain in 1925 that
some fifty to sixty years earlier (c. 1865) a "pigeon roost"
3 to 4 miles from Walhalla (Oconee County) held "clouds"
of Passenger Pigeons. In the early 1890's according to
letter by H. S. Wylie and T. C. Camak in the News and Herald
of Winnsboro in March 1943, hundreds of thousands of
Wild Pigeons passed over Fairfield County in their eastward
flight. S. B. Crayton, of Georgetown, told Chamberlain that
in the fall and winter of 1888, a Negro hunter killed two
Passenger Pigeons and Ga flocks of twelve or fifteen near
Anderssen. In the fall of 1889, Crayton, in company with his father, saw a smaller flock on his plantation at Anderson. Murphy [E.F. Observations on the Bird Life of the Middle Savannah Valley 1890-1937. Contr. Chas. Mus. IX, 1937]. (1937) reports that a Passenger Pigeon was killed at Blackville, Barnwell County, in 1890 by Reuben Wilson; Henry E. Davis reports one killed in Williamsburg County in the autumn of 1895 (American Wild Turkey, 1949, 34).
p. 203. Passenger pigeons. "Many attempts have been made to mate it with the blue-rock and alter f the pigeons, in the hope I combining its endurance and unforseed speed with their known intelligence and love of home, but without success; thus proving it to be not a pigeon, but a dove. At last, however, been bred with the Carolina dove, and the young, mated again with the Carolinas, have proven to be fertile, ..."

"In 1874 the flight of this variety centered in Benzie County, Michigan, for the breeding season, occupying a district about twenty miles long and nine miles wide. At least such was the area of devastation caused by its immediate presence; ... and egg or young ..."

"Previous to the nest building, the air was continually alive with the fliers in their wild frolic of the mating season. As the building began order was established to a degree, but it was not until the eggs were laid that a regular system prevailed. Then the males would take wing together at sunrise, rising from their roosts in a column, then spreading like a cloud through the air. Then an instant's delay and all were flying easily and steadily in the direction of the chosen feeding grounds. Thousands of times and eggs were ensnared in the branches, but not a hint rose above them, and all was still. A few hours later and the advance returned; then another flight and another, until finally the main body..."
appeared, turned over the forest for an instant, then each
bird dropped to the perch beside the nest and mate. In the
dense thicket of nests and birds each seemed to know
its own. In a moment the whir and rush of wings told
that the hens had left the nest. There was the same column
and cloud with which the males departed, and the same course
was taken — no confusion, no delay, no apparent hesitation.
At 3 o'clock in the afternoon these returned and the males
again took wing, to be absent until near sundown."

p. 702. Drawing (black and white) of p.p. on limb and
Mourning dune above it. Hand. Drawn 1886 by
J. Carter Biart
Savages, James Francis

Shaw's General Zoology 10 (1819) 93-96.

p. 93, Passenger Pigeon (Columba migratoria). (No original information)

p. 94, Censae Americanae. Briss. Orn. 1. 100. 12. male

Turtur Carolinensis. ... 1, 118. 21. female

Pigeon de Passage Buff. Aio. 2, 527. male


Passenger Pigeons and Rice, Rod and Gun (Am. Sportsman) 7 (Jan. 29, 1876) 277.

-- The Peter Reid and rice lie: p. 277. -- Nevertheless, pigeons have been taken at various times and places in the North and Western States, their crops filled with the genuine cultivated rice. -- In the latter part of Sept., 1857, a large swarm composed with hawks and thick underbrush, located 30 miles north of this city[1], was visited for over two weeks by myriads of pigeons. They arrived at the roost a short time before dusk and continued to pour in increased numbers until after dark.

-- The crops in the majority of these birds, on their arrival at night, were full or partially filled, with rice and a good sprinkling of rice hulls, the grains were in every state of maceration, from mere pulp to those just swollen by the heat and semitones of the crop.

"Regularly in the early morning they would depart from the roost with empty crops, [Did not know where food was procured.]

It is not unusual for this bird to roost, during the fall season, in localities far removed from places where their food abounds."

"In the fall of 1858, a very extensive roost was located in the eastern part of the State, about fifty miles from here. That season there was no bleach of any kind, either in this State or Pennsylvania, but the beech-forests of Michigan, east of Saginaw Bay, were loaded with nuts. Every morning pigeons were seen passing high in the air to the north-west, and in the evening returning straight to the south-east. I learned afterward, from people who visited the roost, that their crops were invariably filled with acorns and beech-nuts.

I was informed by a woodman who trap and hunts on the Cass River, Michigan, that at that time the woods in Tuscola Co., were alive with pigeons at midday, leaving for the South-east as soon as they had finished feeding. The flight from this roost to the feeding ground in Michigan, and return could easily be performed in one day, allowing ten hours for flight and feeding time; but how make the journey to the rice-fields of the South?"

[* Cleveland, Ohio.]*
and return in eleven twelve hours!

We have no proof that the birds which left the north west of
the city in the morning were the same that returned the follow-
ing evening. This, however, we do know, the birds all left
with empty crops, and birds returned in the evening filled with rice
and rice hulls.

"It is known to all physiologists, and established by experi-
ments on animals that, when active exercise follows immediately the
introduction of food into the crop or gizzard, digestion is retarded
from one to two hours, and in case the exercise be violent, respiration
or digestion is entirely suspended and even death often ensues. I have
often experimented with the wild pigeons while in confinement, and
have found that it requires about seven hours for corn to pass
the crop, wheat, oats and rice pass in four to five hours. This
is when the crop is full; the bird by choice, when possible, remains
in its perch until the process is finished. Now I believe that in
each time birds experimented with had been in rapid flight
during this time their food would have undergone little change.
The forces required to accomplish digestion would have been
utilized instead for the purpose of flight; if this explanation
be satisfactory, we can account for rice remaining her-
culled unchanged in the crop of the pigeons after a rapid
flight of over two miles from the nearest rice fields of
the South.

"The return flight from Michigan to Eastern Ohio, a
distance of over 250 miles, must have occupied at least
four hours of rigorous exercise; notwithstanding the length
of time the acorns and beechnuts brought by the birds were
not swollen or their covering changed in the least."
Stevens, S.N. et al

Travels in New France by J.C. B.,

p. 18. (1752). "During this season [September], the turtle doves are very abundant in Quebec and its surroundings, especially during the month of September when these birds usually fly over for a fortnight, seeking a warmer climate. They are so numerous that they seem to be a heavy cloud, and they often fly so low that it is easy to kill them with guns or even clubs. We killed so many that they sold for twelve cents a dozen. Still some wanted them [19] plucked, as a result of which one game among a dozen unplucked with another dozen plucked. In season, these birds are usually very plump and taste very sweet, even though they are birds of passage. They make a very good soup and can be cooked like pigeons."
Richboy pole 8-9' tall.
Rope 150' or more long, the middle of which is fastened to edge of net 25' or 30' long.
Net must lie flat on ground yet rope must be taut enough to lift the corner of net from ground or side next to spring pole.

Two notched stakes at corners of net. Two short or stakes at sides [ends] of net. Keep net down by being slipped under notches at outside end. Rake is slipped over notches on ends of side sticks and this when taut brings end of sticks against notches.

When pigeons alight, give spring pole a hard jolt and this pulls thee ends of thee props from under thee overhanging of thee stakes and lets thee net fly.
Memories of Old Princeton, Princeton (Blufield) [1925?]

11-12, Mercer Co., W. Va.

p. 11. "This section of the wilderness was called "Pigeon Roost" by reason of the millions of wild pigeons which used this as their "habitat" or roosting place, during the autumn season...

... they lived principally on acorns and dogwood berries... When I was a small child their annual roosting place was in a swamp between Princeton and Augusta, and between the old baseball park and A. M. Sutton's residence. This section, then, was heavily timbered... Their cooing and chattering at night could be heard for miles...

p. 12. "To indicate the immensity and size of these flocks of birds, during the last season that the passenger pigeons nested in Mercer County, my old friend, R. F. Barnes... states that one afternoon while standing on the bank of Rich Creek above Flemington, a flock of pigeons passed going west. He estimated this flock to be one mile in width and it was about forty-five (45) minutes in passing one point, flying with the amazing speed of an arrow, and absolutely obscuring the heavens..."

p. 298. Transferred from St. John’s to Goderich in June 1829.

p. 297. "The passenger-pigeons visit the Canadas in the early spring months, and during August, in immense flocks, bringing with them an agreeable change in the diet of the settler.

Persons unacquainted with the country and the migratory habits of this lovely bird, are apt to doubt the accounts they have heard or read respecting their vast numbers; since my return to England I have repeatedly been questioned upon the subject; in answer to these queries, I can only say that, in some parts of the province, early in the spring and directly after wheat harvest, their number are incredible. Some days they commence flying so soon as it is light in the morning, and continue flock after flock, till sun down. To calculate the exact total of birds passing even on one day, appears to be impossible. I think, the greatest success fly near the shores of the great Canadian lakes, and sometimes so low that they may be easily killed with a horse pistol, or even knocked down with a long pole.

During the first spring in which I resided at Goderich the storekeeper was out of shot, and the pigeons happened to be uncommonly numerous. I had a large fowling-piece with a wide bore; so I tried a charge of fine shingle off the beach at the first flock that came within close range, and had the satisfaction of bagging seven birds at the first shot—indeed it was almost impossible to miss them, they flew in such thick clouds. I have frequently killed in the stubbles, from twenty to thirty at one shot.

Directly after the wheat is cut, the pigeons alight on the stubble in vast flocks. As they are chiefly the young broods, they are very easily approached: the sportsman should creep up behind them, for they are so intent on feeding, that they will seldom notice his approach till he is within fair range of them.

The hindermost ranks are continually rising from the ground, and dropping in front of the others. This is the proper time to fire, just as the hind rank are a couple or three feet from the ground: firing the second barrel as the whole flock takes flight. In the vicinity of the towns, sometimes a regular battle takes place with

* Goderich is near the southerly end of Lake Huron.
all kind of firearms are in requisition, from the Red River musket to the
celebrated Joe Marston.

In July, the pigeons feed a great deal on wild berries, such as raspberries,
huckleberries, honeysuckles, and a variety of other kinds. Many people would
naturally think that such vast flocks of birds would alight on the standing
grain, and destroy the crop; such, however, is not the case. Sometimes,
during the seed time in the spring, they are a little troublesome, but I
have never known them alight on the standing grain.

p.350: "I once accompanied the Doctor on an exploring expedition through the
tract. We encamped close to a breeding-place of these birds, when we were
kept awake all night by the noise they made. Sometimes, too, a cloud would
break with the weight of the birds which had alighted on it, when there would be
such a fluttering and flapping of wings, as made it impossible for us to sleep.

Towards morning, the sound of their departure to their feeding-places
resembled thunder. For nearly two hours, these birds were incessantly seen
as flock after flock left its departure eastward. The ground under the trees
was enriched with their [351] excrement, and strewn with broken branches of trees.

--- When I first resided in the township of Douro, the pigeons used
to be very plentiful at that time; their chief breeding-place being in
the township of Fenelon, in a deep, and eastward from my residence, some
forty or fifty miles. And yet, even after dark, they would be passing
eastward over my clearing: no wind is their wind, and strong or mild.

It is a curious fact that, although thousands passed daily for many
longs in succession, yet not one of them returned by the same route
they went. I have been informed that this breeding-place has been deserted
for several years, owing to the settlements having approached too near to
please the winged possessors.

[X Went to Douro in May 1826,] [Trim of Peterborough being on the
west side of the line. (1847)]

Smith's Map of Canada West places the townships of
Douro and Fenelon in the County of Colborne.
According to this map, the distance from his residence
to Fenelon township (center) would not be over 35 miles.
At present time, Fenelon [Fenelon Falls] is in eastern
Victoria Co., and Douro is in Peterborough Co.

Mainly from Audubon and Wilson.

p.33. "Mr. Geo. H. Hill, of Ashland, Ohio, in one of his contributions, "Recollections of Pioneer Life," to the Cincinnati Commercial, relates the following incident about the Wild Pigeon, the particulars for which were furnished by Mr. William A. Adams, Esq.:

Several species of birds, formerly very numerous in this State, are becoming less abundant. The Wild Pigeon, once seen in countless millions, is not so numerous as during a period of the hundred years.

Mr. Adams, in 1806, witnessed at Marietta, Ohio, a flight of pigeons so remarkable that the school children were dismissed to view the wonderful sight. They were actually so numerous as to obscure the light of the sun like a cloud. This continued for some time: The sand-bar at the foot of the island above Marietta contained about fifty acres of land. Far above the island the birds cleared their flight, and began to descend upon the bar in a dense mass. The descent, at a distance, appeared like an inverted cone, or an enormous water-sport, as an old sailor described it. The birds apparently came down to the bar for water and sand. They crowded the shore, and dipped their beaks into the water, and took to the air again, and continued their flight. The whole town turned out to witness the novel spectacle, and many parsons listened to the sand-bar, and large numbers of the birds were killed with arrows. Their crops were supplied with small gravel and sand. Their roots were equally strange.
They came together from all quarters in such numbers that it was dangerous for man or animal to venture beneath their root. The noise of their wings, their flapping, and the cracking of timber beneath their weight, kept up a constant roar, not unlike the sound of battle at a distance. There is a tract of land in the northwest part of Muskingum county, formerly called ‘Dennison’s Plains,’ rich and rolling, but destitute of timber. There was full proof that the timber on that land had once been a pigeon-roost, and had been broken down and destroyed by the weight of the pigeons. This was confirmed by some Indians who were on the land about 1813. The nestings of these birds were equally strange and curious. The nests were fixed in the top of horizontal limbs, and sometimes from fifty to one hundred were placed therein. Here the young were hatched. When partially grown, their weight would frequently crush the limbs, and vast numbers of squabs would fall down to become the prey of hawks, owls, foxes, men, and boys. The young squabs were fat, and esteemed a luxury for the table.
Subscribers, One of Your

"Pigeon-Shooting Near Boston." The Cabinet of Natural
Published by J. & T. Doughty, Philadelphia.

Boston, August 23d, 1832.

p. 137. "He was accompanied by a sagacious man, who carried
a basket containing four or five wild pigeons, which he
called "shyfles."

"The old man led with him three or four birch
trees, about ten feet long, which had just been cut. Soon,
his rod into conversation with him, and learned he was what is
called a "Pigeon Shorter," and had perhaps entirely by this
employment for nearly forty-five years.

"As the Pigeon season was now coming on, he was
preparing his apparatus, which was as follows:--He selected,
in the first place, a very high spot of ground, perfectly free
in the first place, a very high spot of ground, perfectly free
of trees, wood or underbrush; upon this he built a kind of
small mound or underbrush; upon this he built a kind of
small mound or underbrush. Upon this he built a kind of
small mound or underbrush. Opposite the mound, and
exactly upon your heels, and knees, opposite the mound, and
exactly upon your heels, and knees, a distance of about four feet, was a pole sixty-three
inches in diameter, and about twenty feet long, inclined a little
in diameter, and about twenty feet long, inclined a little
upwards. A little to the rear of the hut, and at each side,
were erected, four or five poles, twelve feet high, the
summits of these were crowned by the flatteners (wild pigeons)
summits of these were crowned by the flatteners (wild pigeons)
summits of these were crowned by the flatteners (wild pigeons)
summits of these were crowned by the flatteners (wild pigeons)
summits of these were crowned by the flatteners (wild pigeons)

The poles of the poles also communicated with the hut by
means of strings. Here the old man would take his stand,
with his pipe and gaudam and provisions for the day, before
sunrise, heathing a sharp lookout all round the horizon.

for the pigeons, which, about the latter end of August, make
their appearance in great numbers. The moment his appointed
light eye had detected a flock, and long before any inexperienced visors had seen a speck in the cloudless sky, he instantly pulled the trigger—up went the flutters—cock went his gun—(an old father's arm,) loaded to the muzzle with powder and shot,—and the old fellow fell to prating, i.e. imitating the cry of a wild pigeon, which experience had taught him to do to perfection: in a few minutes, the whole flock, which, perhaps, being led the other way, would instantly wheel round, attracted by the old man's prating, and the fluttering of the decoys—and, in a vast swoop, would settle upon the whole length of the pole, two or three deep: he would then fire the moment they alighted, and sweep the whole off.

'Tis little boy would rush out, and bag the whole sometimes amounting to twelve dozen, and bag them home—the old fellow then, without moving from his lair, would load again, and prepare for another flock, which sometimes would not appear for hours, and perhaps not again for the whole day.

[The picked pigeons sold for 50 cts. a dozen and the feathers for 12 1/2 cts. lb. Pigeon season lasted about 6 weeks during which he averaged 400 a day]
Sutton, George N. (1928). "The Birds of Pymatuning Swamp and Connestee Lake, Crawford County, Pennsylvania." Ann. Carnegie Mus. 18, Part II (1928), 1-239, p. 117. Passenger Pigeons. Formerly an irregularly abundant transient visitor, although the vague accounts of nesting activities which are somewhat at variance with much published data, do not appear to me as being unquestionably authentic. The impenetrable areas of the great swamp must have been a wonderful refuge for the birds upon occasion, but it is doubtful if they ever occurred actively while feeding or roosting in the cleared woodland, and groves of emerises.

Mr. Langdon, who has spent considerable time in investigating reports of the Passenger Pigeon at Pymatuning whilst as a youth, Mr. William John, who was born near in 1855 and who has resided here continuously for the past seventy years, has given me the following information. He is reliable, and a keen student of wildlife from the viewpoint of the woodsman, while not scientific, he is sincere in every statement.

In the days of Mr. John's early youth, Passenger Pigeons nested in what is now this woodlot and also at Heisler Point by the hundreds. He assisted in raids where large numbers of mature birds and squabs were taken. They nested in colonies, many rough, cross-work nests on one tree. In each nest were laid one or two eggs. When these eggs hatched the squabs reached a little size two more eggs were laid, which were hatched by the heat of the first two squabs. Thus the young were in assorted sizes. Mr. John believes that with such a large flock it was necessary two or more females may have laid in the same nest. The birds suddenly disappeared and he saw none for years until in 1849 when he observed a flock of thirteen. He has never seen any since.

Mr. Melvin kindly furnished the following notes: "The last flocks of Pigeons which nested in Pymatuning occurred forty-five or fifty years ago, a flock of nine or ten birds were seen about 1888 by Mr. William T. Hayes along the southern edge of the Swamp.

"Mr. Hayes described one of the great flights observed when the Pigeons were numerous. The flights generally took place in the early morning..."
or toward evening as the birds moved from or into their usual roosting quarters. Imagine a sheet of birds from one to one and a half miles in width, passing continuously for our an hour in such numbers as to give the appearance and shadow of a cloud between the earth and sky, and some idea of the vast numbers of these birds may be formed. Usually they flew ten or twelve feet from the ground. They rose in waves to pass over fences and trees, but sometimes they flew from thirty to forty feet in the air without the undulating motion. It was often necessary to station men in the fields of late grain to keep the birds from destroying the crops.

Pigeons were killed and stripped away from this vicinity by the thousands in the days of their great flights. Some were caught in nets; others were killed on their roosts at night with gunpowder. There were probably the most efficient means of slaughter. Some cleaned the birds, securing the live actually killed, but allowing many of the wounded to escape, only to die later. Sometimes the birds were picked from their roosting places with the use of lights. Still another means of capture was a long pole firmly planted in the ground with its top extending into the air. When the flights were on, the pole was whipped back and forth among the flying pigeons. Thus a great many were killed, but probably as many more, which were never secured, died as a result of broken wings and legs.

Mr. Kirkpatrick states: "Undoubtedly the bird nested in Pymatuning as well as in other parts of Crawford County, but, so far as I know, there is no record of any such colonies as occurred in Erie, Forest, Warren, Potter, McKean, and Cameron Counties, and in these sections it appears that they were only casual. It evidently nested in this region in large numbers for we find in Bates' History of Crawford County the following statement: "Pigeons in the spring and fall covered the County. Their favorite nesting places being Conneaut and Pymatuning Marshes." According to my observations its occurrence in the Meadville region was very irregular, this seems to have been true throughout much of its range. There were large flights in 1870, 1876, 1878 and 1880, a few small flights were seen in 1888. When they came from and where they were going we could only surmise. Probably they came here for food while coming from or returning to some distant roosting ground."

"I can remember seeing at the Wells-Fargo Express Company in this city large carts filled with live wild pigeons that had been
in the forest or another adjoining county. They had been shipped over [119] the Franklin Branch of the Erie Railroad and transferred to the main line here for shipment eastward. An old citizen remembers that on Easter Day, April 12, 1857, there was a great flight through this locality, which owing to the heavy snowstorm passed so low that men stood on the roofs of houses and knocked them down with poles.”

Mr. Kirkpatrick has written so interestingly of his experiences with these birds in an early issue of the Meadville Times Republican that part of the account is quoted here:

“Even in the '70's, the winter's roving days, pigeons, pigeons were sometimes very plentiful in this locality, just as in the spring than in the fall. While no large compact flocks, or roosting or nesting-grounds were seen, numerous small flocks or detachments thereof would fly constantly, across the French Creek valley, for several hours at a time. I was attending the South Wind School in those days and remember seeing the pigeons flying over past the school-room window, and hearing the loud reports of gunfire on the ridge south of Hide-a-kepper Park. This ridge was a favorite stand for gunners in those days, for here the birds flew quite low. I can imagine what a thrill it was for me to stay in school for I had just come into possession of my first gun, and was interested in the wild-life inhabiting our woods and fields. I remember one flock in particular met with in the late spring. The birds were on the ground, feeding on maple buds that had fallen off the trees. Vegetation was well advanced, so much so that it was almost impossible to see a bird any distance away on the ground unless one searched very closely. In leisurely walking through a piece of that woodland, never thinking of pigeons, a single bird that had been feeding some distance away from the body of the flock rose from the ground and alighted on the lower branch of a tree a short distance ahead of me. This bird I secured, at the report of the gun about three hundred yards from the ground just out of range and flew away, leaving the astonished writer to gaze at them until they were lost to view. In the fall they were often seen in the forests or open woodland, singly or in small parties, perched sentinel-like on the topsmost dead branches of some tall tree, their
trim forms outlined against the sky. I last saw the pigeons in this locality in 1883, when a few small flocks flew over the lower part of the city."

Dr. Samuel P. Bates in his history of Crawford County writes: "In a part of the Swamp is a grove of tamaracks where in the fall of the year vast flocks of wild pigeons from Canada and neighboring [120] breeding places made in their roosting grounds. On the hot summer nights the constant flapping of their wings produced by being crowded from their perches, gave forth a sound not unlike the distinct roar of Niagara. Hunters would enter the swamp in the height of summer, and aiming at a limb, bending down with the weight of birds, would fire, and having struck a light and picked up as many as could be discovered in the tall grass, would pass on for another shot.

George M. Trumpler, "who was at that time the State Game Protector in charge of Crawford County."

Harry C. Nick, Meadville.

Ralph J. Ferris, Erieville."
Sutton, John Darius.


p. 252. The Wild Pigeon. Their visitations to this country occurred in the autumn while the forests were yet standing, therefore they found an abundance of mast of some kind every season. The white oak and hickory were the favorite masts, if all animals could, would be cut as forty years ago. They were harmless, and never interrupted crops, their search being for mast. After the timber would bend beneath its load. After the domestic and wild animals and birds would feast and fatten during the autumn and winter months, the ground would yet be covered.

p. 253. There was a Pigeon roost on the mountain between the Little and Big Birch rivers. How many reasons they occupied that locality, we have no definite knowledge, but the land became very fertile. There was another roost on a branch of Fall Run, in Braxton, now called Pigeon Roost. There was once a very famous roost near Harpers Ferry in Maryland.

"Since writing the above, the author saw two wild pigeons in the hollow between Laurel fork and Camden Hill, in the fall of 1917."
Swarinso, W. and Richardson, John

Fama Boreali-Americana, or the Zoology of the Northern Parts of British America. Part Second, The Birds. London (1831)

p. 363. Columba (Ectopistes) Migratoria. "This celebrated bird arrives in the our countries in the latter end of May, and departs in October. It annually attains the sixty-second degree of latitude in the warmer central districts, but reaches the fifty-eight parallel on the coast of Hudson's Bay in very fine summers only. Mr. Hutchings mentions a flock of these pigeons visiting and staying two days at York Factory in 1775, as a remarkable occurrence. A few hundred of Indians, that frequent the low, flooded tracts at the south end of Lake Winnipeg, subsist principally on the pigeons during a period of the summer when the sturgeon-fishery is unproductive and the Zignia aquaticus has not yet ripened; but, further north, these birds are too few in number to furnish a material article of diet. In Canada, throughout the [364] United States, and round the Gulf of Mexico, the Passenger Pigeon appears at uncertain intervals, and for longer or shorter periods, but often in numbers that are rarely credited by those who have not beheld them.

Quoted Wilson.
Swarson, Eudene Burrin
The use and conservation of Minnesota name, 1866-1966.
North Minn. J. Minnesota, Janesville, Wis., pp. 132-
132. From disappearance of passenger pigeons... There were
many stories of passenger pigeons in Minnesota and the Northwest
before 1859. Henry, Evre, Pike and Ross saw them along
the Mississippi River. Colhoun [J. E. Dairy, 1823, in possession of Mrs.
John Halligan, Jamesboro, Minn.] noted that the birds were
numerous on one of the islands above Lake Pepin... Schoolcraft
saw them at Sandy Lake and Saint Anthony in 1820 and near
Frisco and Otter Lake in 1823. Callin saw pigeons near
Pipestone a year later [1826]. ... On the northern border of the
state, an abundance of pigeons was observed by two Verendrye
[p. 251], Henry [Notes 2, 243], John J. Bigelow [The ichn and
Cause of Indian History, 2 (1858) 271], and Nettles [2:63:163]. In 1849
the dragoons saw "waves of pigeons flying along the Red
River... [Pioneer March 6, 1859]
During the thirty years between 1863 and 1883, large
concentrations [133] of passenger pigeons were recorded for at least
twenty-seven points in the state, while important mating colonies
were recorded in twelve areas. Hunters took large numbers near
farms in the vicinity of the Twin Cities in July, 1854. "Indiscriminate
slaughter" was predicted in the oak openings and high timber. One
sportsman came in town with 200 pigeons stringed across his
cradle, all taken in one day. [Pioneer July 18, 31, 1854]. Immense
flocks flew over St. Paul on April 9 and May 24, 1863. [Pioneer].
... Pigeons were reported "almost immemorial" in September, 1859
[Pioneer Sept. 5, 1859]. ... On June 2, 1864, a great flock of pigeons
flew over St. Paul at dawn... "Countless flocks" were observed
in April 13, May 4, and May 9, 1867 [Pioneer]. ...
May 19, 1863

[...]

The spring of 1863 had been one of unusual fertility. "The spring," they said, "was the best in the island. The prairie was alive with life. The flocks of pigeons were reported in the fall of 1862, but the spring of 1863 was a period of great abundance, and the birds were everywhere."
By May 21, young birds were almost ready to fly. Squabs were still hatched on May 28. [Chaffield Democrat, April 9, 16, 23, May 7, 21, 28, 1869]. While I the persecution by hunters many birds nested in the same area the following year. "It is thought by many that the number of pigeons is two to one greater then last year." His line-factors drove a wagon loaded with birds through the town and cried as they went: "Here's where you get your squabs." [Chaffield Democrat, May 13, 20, June 3, 1869].

Four years elapsed before pigeons arrived much excitement in Chaffield again. In 1869 the birds had appeared by April 3. Thence and were nesting in the woods in May 1, and were expected to nest. No comment followed to indicate whether the birds stayed. [Democrat, April 3, 21, May 1, 1869]. By June 3, 1871 [Democrat], they were reported as quite abundant and nesting in the timber. [p. 182] Birds were flying over in great numbers on April 5, 1873. There were many in the timber on May 10; [Democrat, April 5, May 10, 1873]. No mention was made of pigeons in 1874. In the following year, nest-building activity had been observed in the same area "where they have nested two or three times before." This was the first and last known instance of the use of the site near Chaffield for nesting.

At Alexandria [Douglas Co.]... birds were flying over by April 28, 1869 [Alexandria Post]. They were abundant in September 2, 1871, and September 7, 1872. Some birds had appeared by April 12, 1873... [p. 182] Large flocks were seen at Belle Plaine [Scott Co.]

Chaffield before May 5, 1869. Many birds began building nests in the woods below Mankato in May 1860 [Mankato Record, May 22, 60] near disturbance by Sandars and others caused them to desert the area. Countless thousands were reported in the woods east of Mankato in June 10, 1861 [Independent]. By June 25, 1863,

[Record], many young birds had been killed in the woods below town.
... Near Albert Lea [Freeborn County Standard May 6, 1869]... residents saw great flocks "miles in length" which almost darkened the air in their flight." By 1877 many birds nested fifteen miles from Faribault [Republican May 30] near Hadner. This was probably the same concentration of nests reported near Wannamings [Goodhue Co.] [Roberts, Birds of Minnesota 1:583].

In the extreme northeastern part of the state, pigeons were recorded at three towns, two of which were nesting colonies. In 1864 many birds nested at St. Charles [no reference given]. By April 6, 1871, pigeons were abundant in the neighborhood near Waubasha [Herald, April 6, May 11, 1871]. Many nests had been built by May 12. "People who ought to know" said that they hadn't seen so many in twenty-five years. [p.139]

Chatfield paper printed in 1875 [Chatfield Democrat June 19, 1875] an article credited to the Caledonia Journal describing a pigeon roost at Preston, nine miles long, three miles wide, and "blue with birds." Chatfield, proud of her own pigeons, claims she nesting there that year, did not intend to pass over claims of rival towns lightly.

[p.139] They probably nested near St. Cloud in 1863 for young birds were reported abundant on June 25 [Democrat June 25, 1863]. The woods were "literally alive with them." Great flocks had been seen by April 29, 1865 [Republican], "more than in many years." Flights over Chatfield [Republican] received comment on April 19 and May 17, 1871. ... In the next spring [1862] many birds nested in that locality for the first time, according to one observer. [F.T.S 16:1 July 20, 1882] 490; Wellman Daily Tribune Oct. 9, 1839.

A railroad worker on the Northern Pacific Railroad in the area from Detroit Lakes to the Red River described their abundance in 1871 [no reference]. Birds were plentiful near Detroit Lakes by June 9 and again in September, 1872 [Detroit Lakes Weekly Record June 9, Sept. 7, 1872]. Similar notice was made on
Aug. 13, 1874 [Detroit Free Press Weekly Record Aug. 8, 1874]. Residents of Moorhead were impressed by the size of fish seen during the week preceding June 7, 1873 [Red River Star June 7, 21, 1873]. On June 21 there were many nets at all three miles from the river.


p. 141. Large numbers were seen near Superior for about a week, then they seemed to disappear suddenly by July 13, 1868 [Superior Gazette July 13, 1868]. Many birds flew over Duluth in the week preceding September 11, 1869 [Duluth Minnesotian, Sept. 11, 1869]. No nesting colony was found though birds were present all summer in 1871. No reliable evidence of the penguin's occurrence in that area after 1867 appeared.

From all of these accounts, those which clearly referred to penguins nesting in large colonies were: [p. 142]

1859 Rochester
1860 Mankato
1861 Mankato, Hastings
1862 Mankato, Hastings
1863 Chaffield
1864 Hastings, Chaffield, St. Charles
1865 Chaffield
1866 Rochester, Chaffield
1871 Chaffield, Wabasha
1873 Rochester, Moorhead

1875 Chaffield
1877 Faribault
1882 Pillsbury

p. 143. [Size of nesting]. At Chatfield, in 1863 the territory filled with nests of pigeons was over six miles long and four miles wide. One observer claimed that fifteen hundred nests could be counted from any point within the area. Seventy-three nests were built in one tree [Chatfield Democrat May 2, 9, 1863]. It was asserted that the nesting site near Rochester in 1869 extended seven miles [Post June 12, 1869], in 1873 four miles. The Wabasha Herald [May 11, 16, 1871] claimed that the one located in that town in 1871 was thirty miles long, but an old settler recalled the length as seven miles and width one-half mile in from the river [Hinckley Register May 20; 1871; Roberts, Birds of Minnesota 1: 583].

p. 147. "Since many pigeons were in the neighborhood of Wabasha before April 6 and squabs were hatching on May 16, 1871, this could not have been a second nesting. It could have been if part of Wabasha nesting was broken up by shooting at an early date. Young birds were flying at Hinckley June 19,]."

p. 148-91. A law passed by the state in 1877 protected pigeons during the nesting season in Olmsted and Dodge counties, but the large nesting colony in that year was located in Rice County. ... In 1891, raising or nesting of pigeons was still legal in Minnesota [General Laws of Minnesota for 1877, 278; for 1891, 79].


Scammon: St. Paul Pioneer July 18, 31, 1864

- April 7, May 29, 1865
- Sept. 5, 1869
- April 3, May 4, 7, 1867.

Fletcher's Flights

Nestings Independent June 13, 1861, nest on island, 19, 1862.

Rochester Free Press March 24, 1859 - May 31, 1862

- Migr. North. Sco. does not have.
- April 24, 1869, great flocks,

reported at Monroe and another at Ross Island. Post April 24
and June 12.

Abantsville Express May 21, 1861, gave the nest on 8 miles
from town.

Chatfield Democrat April 25, May 2, June 6, 1863. Nesting

Two miles west near Bear Creek.

Chatfield Democrat, April 4, April 23, nesting 3 miles west.


Chatfield Democrat, June 3, 1866. Nesting.

Chatfield Democrat, June 10, 1873. Nesting with mentioned.

Chatfield Democrat, May 22, 60. Building, first from distance.

Independent June 10, countless thousands. Not found

Record June 25. Many young killed. Not found.


Wabashar Herald April 6, May 11, 1871. Meeting

Chadfield Democrat June 19, 1875. Pigmen nest at Burnts 9x3 miles.

St. Cloud Democrat June 26, 1863. Pigmy nest.

Attacked at Gitchfield in 1852. 17-48,18 (July 20, 1882) 490 44 del.

Wolleton (d) Tribune Oct. 5, 1939.


Wake City Tribune 1860. Millinao Md.

(d) Millinio June 5, 1860 [1] Do not have


Duluth Tribune (not in Minn.), 1870. Large numbers flying
in Aug. 25. - Mil. Evening Minn. Sept. 6, 1870.

Write Duluth Public 11/4/83
The Indians of the southeastern United States. 

The most important game bird was the wild turkey, hunted wherever it could be found. Second in importance was the passenger pigeon, whose roosts were gathering places for Indian hunters at certain seasons. Names scattered throughout the Gulf States bear record to the places where enormous flocks of these birds used to gather. Here is a Pigeon Roost Creek in northern Mississippi, a Pigeon Roost in Clay County, Ky., and the following local names have forms of the same name in the Creek language: Parchelagoo, 2937 Creek in Taylor County, Ala.; Patosiga in Crenshaw County, Ala.; and a creek of the same name, besides another known as Pigeon Creek, in the same part of the State. Very likely Pigeon Creek, Nassau County, Fla., and Little Pigeon Creek, Sevier County, Tenn., were pigeon roosts.
Passenger Pigeons, St. Nicholas. Mag. 1 (Nov. 1873) 15.

"-- the air was full of flying birds, and for hours I watched the immense flock pass over that little prairie village in Minnesota.

"... on the day I speak of, the birds flew very low, and hundreds of them alighted on the trees in passing. They alighted in such numbers that great branches are broken off, and sometimes the pigeons are pressed to death. The fields bordering the river were covered with them; but they only stopped to rest, apparently, or perhaps to pick up a little food, and were again on the wing. As these detachments of the vast army of pigeons rose from the ground, with a great flapping of wings, others alighted; meanwhile the main flock was passing stealthily overhead. The procession seemed endless, for the day wore on, and still the swift-winged birds rustled through the air, and still the coming flocks looked like delicate pencils on the distant sky. -- Instead of roosting in a neighboring forest, as we had hoped, the pigeons flew over into Wisconsin. But every day through the summer, stay flocks foraged among the oak groves about us, and their shadows swept over sunny slopes and fields of waving grain, like fleeting clouds.

"I didn't suppose there were so many pigeons in North America!" exclaimed a young trapper who visited this spot not long ago, and who, in his first surprise at the wonderful scene before him, forgot all about his game. We piece of wood that the pigeons selected in which to rear their young, is three or four miles wide, and ten miles long. Their nests were in every tree; sometimes more than fifty nests could be seen in one tree. -- [two eggs in nest]."
From their nesting place the birds flew all over Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin in quest of food; but they always returned as the sun went down, though the nest was hundreds of miles distant.

"When the young pigeons or squabs are almost ready to fly; comes this exciting time known as robbing the nest. Men arm themselves with long poles, with which they upset the nests; the poor squabs fall to the ground, and are easily caught in large quantities. They can then be kept in cages, fattened, and killed as they are wanted."

[Cited Audubon and may have obtained the idea of two eggs from him.]
Taylor, R.C.


p. 535. Fiega valley at first thought we found ourselves in the midst of a scene which was new to us, and, in fact, a rare occurrence. It was the nesting place, a season or two previously, of the passenger pigeon (Columba migratoria); and here the gathering together of these birds for the purpose of incubation, was exhibited on a scale perfectly astonishing.

For a length of nine miles they had occupied every tree and sapling in the whole breadth of the valley which is from a quarter to a third of a mile wide. Thousands and millions of nests were seen on the beech, birch, and maple trees, every tree of which contained several nests; and I counted as many as three from twenty to fifty nests.

Unlike most periods, they are said never to return to their "nesting places" in a succeeding year; we therefore saw only their deserted nests; yet even these were interesting as evidences of the countless multitudes which had congregated there. During the season, when the young pigeons, or "squabs" were ready to fly, their retirement was visited by multitudes of them, who filled sacks and gobs with them; this requiring no further trouble than shaking off the young trees or occasionally cutting down those of greater size. This year, the pigeons established themselves in the beech woods ten miles to the west. By daybreak in the
morning, they would fly past us, almost with the rapidity of lightning, in flocks of hundreds, in constant succession, in search of food, and would be seen returning during the day. The hunters say, with what accuracy I know not, that these flocks would travel sometimes a hundred miles for a breakfast.

Ibid. 9 (1836) 73. "I have found that I had materially underrated the length of this valley. If pigeons, at least 10 miles occupied and perhaps more... I am informed that the various processes of building the nests, of incubating, and of the flight of the young birds, and the departure of the old ones, are remarkably simultaneous. The young pigeons, or 'squabs,' appear to quit their nests, and essay to fly, nearly all within a day or two of each other.... It was stated, that comparatively a very few young birds were taken even on the third day after the general flight took place. By persons who assisted at this time in collecting a great number of the squabs from this place, I was assured that they rarely found more than one young bird in each nest. Mr. Audubon... affirms that each band generally consists of a male and a female. The relation, given by this delightful ornithologist, of the nesting of the passenger pigeons, I have found to be perfectly correct. I have never been in the vicinity of one of their roosting places."
Tenniesch, C. T.

Histoire naturelle générale des pigeons et des gallinacés. Amsterdam (1813).


347. Buffon, v. 2. p. 527, mentions this bird, which we suppose to be the male, then the author cites "à cet individu le Pigeon de passage de Frisch", and that described by Calotby under the name, which in effect have given both a "figure" sufficiently exact to be the male of our "Colombe Voyageuse".

This bird differs from our pigeons only in color and the length of the tail feathers, says Buffon, differences which do not warrant making it a distinct and separate species.

a little farther on, p. 552 of the same volume, Buffon mentions and gives (853) a figure, pl. 177 of the female of our Colombe Voyageuse, which he designates as a different species called "Fourterelle du Canada", but what is still more inconceivable is that in this article Buffon compares the female of our Colombe with the species of "Fourterelle Vulgaire", so that he seems to consider the male as different from our wild pigeons, or Bizete. Regarding the Fourterelle du Canada he says: "The Fourterelle, like the Pigeon and the Ramier, has undergone variations in the different climates, and occurs on both continents, that which has been described by Prissos under the name of Fourterelle du Canada, and which we have represented, is a little larger and the tail is longer than our Fourterelle of Europe; but these differences..."
are not sufficiently great to make it a distinct and separate species," considers Edwards, pl. 15; bird with the long tail the same as Brisson's Fourchette d'Amérique. (Author's note: the birds are distinctly different).

p. 349. Passenger pigeons lay two white eggs; leur chair est un métro espars.

p. 369. Justin Latham on their great numbers.

p. 350-1. Latham describes the female under the name J. "Canada Turtle" very exactly in Synopsis f. Birds v. 4, p. 668, but states that the tail feathers are equal length. This error he corrects in his index, where he mentions that the tail is one-stripped. Brisson describes the male clearly under the name "Pigeon sauvage d'Amérique," a little further on he speaks of the female under the name "Fourchette du Canada." We recognize perfectly this latter under Brisson's description;
Feaunais, C. J.


p. 346. Colombe Voyaguse

Max. Columbia Virginiana, Lath.
Femina Columbia Canadensis, Lath.

The beautiful species of Pigeon which forms the subject of this article seems to have been poorly known to the naturalists, since none of them gives an exact description of the exterior of this Pigeon, which we would assume to be the result of perfect knowledge of the species. All mention the female Passenger Pigeon as a different article from that of the male, and forming a species distinct from it,...

p. 347. Buffon, vol. II, p. 527, mentions this bird, which we suppose to be the male, since the author cites in regard to it the 'Pigeon de Passage' of Frisch, and that described by Linnaeus under the same name, both of whom have in effect given a sufficiently exact figure of the male of our 'Colombe Voyaguse.' Buffon says, referring to the situation: 'That this Pigeon does not differ from our runaway and wild Pigeons except in color and in the feathers of the tail, which are longer, in which it seems to approach that of the Turtle Dove; but these differences do not appear sufficient to create a species separate and distinct from that of our Pigeon.'

A little further on, at page 552 of the same volume Buffon mentions and gives [p. 348] a figure, plate 177 of the female of our 'Colombe Voyaguse;' which is designated as a different species, since this naturalist speaks of it under the name of 'Tourterelle du Canada'; but what is still more inconceivable is that in this article Buffon compares the female of our Pigeon
with the species of common Turtle Dove, while he appears to consider the male as slightly different from our wild Pigeons, or 'Pigeons.' Here, also, is what the author cited says in the article on his "Tourterelle du Canada":

"The Turtle Dove, like the Pigeon and the 'Ramier,' is divided into varieties in different climates, and is found even on both continents. That which has been described by M. Brisson under the name of 'Tourterelle du Canada,' and which we have represented here, is a little larger, and the tail longer than our European Turtle Dove, but these differences are not sufficiently weighty for us to make a distinct and separate species. It seems to me, that wo can refer here this bird given by Edwards under the name of 'Pigeon with a long tail,' [p. 342] plate 15, and which M. Brisson has called 'Tourterelle d'Amérique' (a). These birds resemble

(a) Buffon errs further on this point; the Pigeon described by Edwards, and figured by him on plate 15, is an entirely different species, which Buffon describes very exactly in another article under the name of 'Tourte'

without appearing to question its double use.

each other greatly; and as they do not differ from the Turtle Dove except in their long tail, we regard them only as varieties produced by the influence of climate.

p. 358. Linnaeus writes on habits. "Linnaeus is wrong in describing the female passenger Pigeon under the name of Canada Turtle, and asserting, in this article, in the Synopsis of Birds, v. 4, p. 658, that this bird (which he otherwise describes very exactly) has the feathers of the tail equal in length. This naturalist corrects this latter error in his index, in which he mentions it in the division of the Pigeons with a tail in the form of a cone."
Brisson describes correctly this male under the name of wild Pigeon of America. The same author speaks a little farther on of the female, under the denomination of the Turtle Dove of Canada. We recognize perfectly the latter in the description of Brisson; but he was wrong in speaking of a female which he believed pertained to the species of this Turtle Dove of Canada. The bird which this naturalist presumes to be of this sex is in effect only an accidental variety of the species, a variety which is still very rare, and of which we are satisfied from the concise description, after having described the male and female.

p. 351. Retold description of the male.

p. 353. " " " " female.

p. 353. "A variety which Brissim, incorrectly gives as the female of his "Tortueau de L'Amérique" has all the feathers of the head, neck [p. 354], breast, and upper part of the back terminated by greyish white."

"We have examined several individuals of this species. Among this number some are found which do not have a tail as long as those of the two individuals of which we have given here the measurements. A male of this species is deposited in the "Muséum de Paris."

"Two of these Pigeons, male and female, are part of my cabinet."
Temminck, C. F.

Histoire naturelle générale des pognes et des gallinacés. Amsterdam (1813).


p. 486. C. migratoria. Canida erumpenda, corpse cineræo;


— Id. in-8vo, V, p. 24. — Frisbe, t. 142.


Passager ou migratoire Pigeon, Phil. Trans. T X I, p. 398.

p. 561.


Pig. Fam. seconda, pl. enl. 48 t. 49. — Id. édit. in-8vo, p. 346.


Habitat in America septentrionali. — 16 pelliculae longa,

rostrum nigrum, ...
Trenor, Edward

Trap shooting in the old days. Country Life (1915) 368-72.
8.369. "... as far back as 1830, a match at wild pigeons
having been shot the year named in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Plunge traps used for doves, usually wild pigeons.

8.370. "The writer remembers an contest at wild pigeons for
an state championship badge, in which out of nearly a hundred
entries only five scored ten straight, and another, this
at twenty birds, where no one killed them all."

8.372. Wild pigeons used when to be had. Pigeon cost 20,
35, and in extreme cases 20 cts. each. "During the wild
pigeon season, April to September, probably half a million
were used and twice, perhaps three times, as many as the
common or domestic variety..."
"Millions of Wild Pigeons. A Road of Unmeasured Extent in the
Indian Territory. The arrival of 8,500 Pigeons in time for the
Emsy Island Tournament. How they were trapped and sent past
to this market." - N.Y. Sun Tues, June 14, 1881.

On Sat. night a car containing 8,500 pigeons arrived at Jersey
City, shipped from Atoka, Ind. Terr. They are part of a shipment of 20,000
sent to W. P. Thomas, Phillipsburg, N.J., contracted to supply to the
N.Y. Sportmen's Association. They are very shy. A slight noise on
the outside of a pen produces a loud whoosh, on the inside, Thomas
makes a business of trapping for field sport and will get four more
carloads from the Ind. Terr., making a total of 40,000 pigeons. "The
business will not be a profitable one this year," he said, "because we have
had to go so far to get them. Before the pigeons have roosted in
Pa. or Mich. But this year, owing to the late and wet spring, they did
not come as far north as usual, and they made a nest in the Potha-
wicktonie reservation of the Ind. Terr., 110 miles away from the nearest
railroad station. I had to transport all my lumber and supplies from
Atoka, and the pigeons had to be handled three times for shipment. At one
time I had fifteen wagons on the road. There are several streams to
be forded, and the Arbuckle Mountains have to be crossed, but most of
the way is pretty level. It took a waggon about three days to make
the trip from the road to Atoka."

The road is the largest I have ever seen. The country there is
strictly open over with what they call post oak timber, from the fact,
I suppose, that tree limbs are just about post size. The acorns
are so abundant that it is a splendid feeding ground for them.
I went into the woods for about ten miles without finding any
signs of an end. Every tree was thick with pigeons, the branches
bending down with their weight. When the hawks have been coming
home from the feeding grounds in the evening I have seen a stream
about a mile broad, flow through the air for two hours
dark enough to hide the sun and make a noise like thunder.

* S. stellata.
"I should judge the moose to be about twenty miles long and fifteen
broad."

There was no shooting, squirming and setting.

"I once saw 167 dogs caught at one east of the nest," said Mr.
Thomas, "but 30 or 40 is an average big catch. -- The pigeons are
caught on water beds as well as feeding grounds. A water bed is
made by filling an excavated with water. Some salt is used.

They fly early in morning, then fly at 8:10 o'clock. In the
afternoon another time flight and broad evening another hen flight.

"The birds stop for gravel or water on their way home from feeding."

Water of Canadian man alkaline and did not draw well.

"We caught the most on gravel beds along the river as they
would settle down for stones to spit in their crops to grind up the acorns."

"Pigeons nest four times a season, laying one egg to a nest.

One result of the inaccessible nature of the locality of this year's
nest is that the increase is larger than ever known before.

The number of squab killed and pigeons nettled is insignificant.

In comparison with the number caught out, these are millions
of them."

[The Petawatonic Reservation lies on the north bank of the Canadian, about 70 miles northwest of Atoka.]

35° N, 97° W.
Thompson, Ernest E.


p. 522. "Ectopistes migratorius. Wild Pigeon. Tolerably common summer resident of wooded regions; countless flocks in Red River Valley late May and early June, 1873; breeding; a few seen in Turtle Mountain (Conner). Dufferin: Arrived May 7, 1874 (Dawson). Winnipeg: Summer resident; tolerably common (Hine). Assiniboia: Rare; breeding; 1885; first seen, two, on April 18; next seen, April 19, seldom seen here (Magner). Oak Point: 1884, arrived June 20 (Smell). Portage la Prairie: Common summer resident; arriving about the first week in May, departing at the end of September; on May 21 first eggs were found (Nash); ...Found a pair breeding on Waterhen River in 1881; about a dozen nests; in early fall saw great numbers in the Swan River region (Magner). Carberry: Tolerably common spring migrant; probably breeding; south slope of Riding Mountain (Thompson). Two Rivers: 1885, on May 14, saw several; they did not alight (Criddle). Shell River: 1885, first seen; five, on June 15; old pairs bred here (Calvert). Qu'Appelle: Occasional; May 10 (Guerney)."

See p. 639. Most of above information taken from MSS.

p. 523. "They breed early, as a female on May 31, 1884, containing an egg properly shellèd"
and ready for extraction.

"They do not in this locality build in colonies, but place their nests singly, usually in small caves, the males at the time the females are incubating keeping in small flocks.

"On the 27th of June, 1886, I shot fourteen of these birds, all males, except each one of them having its crop crammed full of green caterpillars, mostly of one species of geometra.

"Early in July the young appear with the old ones of both sexes. (Nash, C.
W. in MSS.")
"During the spring of 1877, the Society purchased three pairs of trapped birds, which were placed in one of the outer aviaries. Early in March, 1878, I noticed that they were mating, and procuring some twigs. I wound these single platforms and fastened them up in convenient places; at the same time throwing a further supply of building material on the floor. Within twenty-four hours two of the platforms were selected; the male carrying the material whilst the female buried herself in placing it. A single egg was soon laid in each nest and incubation commenced. On March 16 the time was quite a heavy fall of snow; and on the next morning I was unable to see the birds and their nests on account of the accumulation of the snow piled on the platforms around them. Within a couple of days it had all disappeared and for the next four or five nights a self-registering thermometer, hanging in the aviary, registered from 14° to 17°. In spite of these drawbacks, both of the eggs were hatched and the young were reared. They have since continued breeding regularly and now I have twenty birds; having lost one old male and several eggs, from falling through their ill-contrived nests."
Thompson, Samuel

"Reminiscences of a Canadian pioneer for the last fifty years.

Toronto (1884) 75-6.

County of Simcoe.

Township of Simnode, near Lake Simcoe (c. 1832).

A small tea cup full from a punch bowl.

pp. 75-6. Soil full of cherry seeds. The cause of this surprising accumulation of seed was not far to find. A few miles distant was a pigeon-roost. In spring, the birds would come flying round the east shore of Lake Simcoe, skirting the Georgian Bay, in such vast clouds as to darken the sun, and so swiftly that swan-shot failed to bring them down unless shooting them in rear; and, even then, we rarely got them, as the velocity of their flight impelled them far into the bristled before falling. ... devoured all our young peas. I have known twenty-five pigeons killed at a single shot; and have myself got a dozen by firing at random into a maple tree on which they had alighted, but where not one had been visible.

p. 76. "The pigeon-roost itself was a marvel. Men, women, and children went by the hundred, some with guns, but the majority with baskets, to pick up the countess birds that had been disabled by the fall of great branch of tree broken off by the weight of their roosting comrades overhead. ... To these pigeons we were doubtless, indebted for our crop of young cherry trees."
"Thompson, W. W.

"The Pigeon Pearl. Connersport, Pa. [nd]. [circa 1921]

p. 5. "Many observers claim that in 1878 more pigeons crossed the
rafts from Michigan to Canada than came to the state to nest
that there was an increase notwithstanding the great killing.

Squabbing lasted but four days at the most, and the Squabber
owners were looking after their land, so there was a big
increase in Potter County, Pa. this year.

"It has been stated that for a pigeon killed in a squab shed, in
all colonies were many birds not nesting, roosting birds they were
called, consisting of "Bolt" nests. All pigeons claimed that if a mate
was lost a new one from the roosting place took its place. We do
know that we killed a pigeon just after its nest to give
place to its mate. Two days later we were in the same place and
find two new nests instead of the identical nest - a new mate
had appeared. We shot the first bird to see if [what] the pigeons
had told us was true.

[Edward H. Merriam, in Leucting, 1914, states that about 35 years ago
the captain of a steamer running from Ashland to Duluth, Mr.
Mackey, saw countless pigeons were drowned in a fall snow storm]

[Chief Pokagon says the best nesting was in Benzie Co. Which in
1880. Several other writers for the same year, William R. Martin
says the best nesting was in 1881 in Grand Traverse Co. just east of
Benzie Co. McNamee tells me he remembers it. None of these authors
there was a nesting in 1880. Of those was a nesting in 1881 many
writers are wrong. We believe 1880 is correct as to Michigan."]

p. 6. "W. H. Merritt, one of the pioneers of Wolverine, writes us that in
1880 he was acting as woodsman for a railroad surveying party
between Bayfield and Madison, passing through a pigeon nesting in
Chubogian and Onteoco Counties. All the pigeon trappers said there were
at least one-half more birds there than ever before, and 50 as
many as before. I was travelling on a stage of country 72 miles
long, in which there were probably ten nestings. They moved north.

(copied 12-3-38)"
across the Straits. I was at the Straits when they were crossing. There was a Flock of birds in the sky so far you could see both ways. That was the last flight of birds so far as I have been able to learn."

16. "We have never known of pigeons nesting in any but even numbered years, and we have seen but only few reports to the contrary. Trusting to memory for dates we have found many inaccurate. We have been told of several nestings in this section of Pennsylvania in odd numbered years, and in every case it was a mistake. We do know from items written at the time and by ourselves that the pigeons nested in Potter County in 1868, 1870, 1876, 1878, 1880, 1882, 1884 and 1886. Was in all these nestings except 1884 and 1886, was in two nestings[55] prior to 1868 and one nesting in McKean County, the latter of which I am unable to find positively. The Beech trees did not bear nuts every year, so there was a lack of food some years.

"In 1882, we had a good nesting in the West Branch in Potter County, Pa. and the covey was not very large. An estimate made at the time was from 75,000 to 100,000 all told, including dead birds, squabs and about 25,000 live birds shipped for trap shooting. Dead birds brought from 75 to 125 per dozen, many fine squabs were shipped, most of them being taken by residents for home consumption. Live birds brought a higher price. The Anti Nesting Law had been repealed.

"In 1884, there was a heavy flight over Conneaut going East, lasting but one day. In the near Cherry Springs a small flock of about 300 birds nested and were undisturbed. In fact this little nesting was not known to more than half a dozen persons.

"In all the nestings in Potter County there was an increase when the birds left - more birds than came in, in spite of the nesting, shooting and squabbing. It is owing to difficulty
In getting to market and thinly settled sections of the county. "In March, 1886, there was a heavy flight of pigeons. For two or three weeks the woods in the South-Eastern part of the county was full of them. They were in McLean county for a short time and a ten mile nesting was reported on Potato and Marvin creeks, later they returned to Potter County and started nesting on the head of Kettle Creek and the Cross Fork, but before completing their nests, one night they all left going in a North-East towards Canada. It was reported that gunners had much to do with the breaking up of this nesting.

After these birds left there was a new flight from the West lasting two days, going Northeast. This was in April. This was the last of the pigeons in any quantity seen in Potter County.

I do not consider this destruction by man and driving satisfactory. "In Potter County in 1880, the catch was eight, few caught in Michigan. In 1882, birds were nesting in large numbers and there were many hundreds of thousands if not millions, and a very few scattering birds were seen for nearly ten years, but no nesting, no flocks of hundreds after the 1886 flight in Potter County. The last pigeons we saw was five or six birds nesting on the East Fork, about 1895. -- A year later we saw a pair on the Nine Mile when returning from a fishing trip.

"We believe the birds perished from some infectious disease which may have been working among them for some years spreading gradually from one colony to another, and the 1886 colony may have been the last, dying in the wilds Canada. We wrote to Wm. T. Hornaday, Director of the N.Y. Zoological
Park, in regard to the disease theory, and from Mr. S. Chandell, the Curator of Birds, received the following:

"I have heard before of the theory of the birds dying from some communicable disease but yours is the first good evidence I have seen of it. It is quite possible that such a disease may have had its effect but I am inclined to accept the theory of most ornithologists—that the passenger pigeon, being accustomed to breeding in large colonies, which suffered a tremendous loss yearly in young and eggs, was unable to continue when its numbers were reduced by shooting and trapping. It is a curious biological fact that birds and animals, which had breeding habits similar to those of the passenger pigeon, have reached or approached extinction, when their numbers were appreciably reduced. The few remaining members of the colonies seem unable to hold their own. There are instances of a few pairs of passenger pigeons returning to old nesting sites but, though unmolested, in very little gradually disappeared.

"In 1878, Edward T. Martin writes an experience with 20,000 live wild birds in pens 16 feet square, 1000 to a pen. The birds had cleaned their feathers, were eating well and appeared strong and healthy, had eaten their half bushel of corn to the pen. One hour latter all the pigeons in room No. 1 were dead or dying of cancer. In another hour the second and third pens were dying rapidly. Sulphur and alum saved most of the rest. He asks, 'Could such an epidemic have broken out among the wild birds? But if so what became of the dead? There seems to be no sure answer to the question 'What became of the Pigeons,' and at best any reply would be guess work."
In 1814, an article appeared in Hunter-Trader-Trapper relating that an old trapper by the name of McNamee in 1881, passing from Emerson to the upper waters of Saginaw River, Michigan, through a pigeons nesting found the ground for several miles littered with dead pigeons, and realized the flocks were welling their heads and flapping in a sickly manner, continually dropping to the ground where they pitched for a few minutes and lay still, dead. We wrote many letters to Michigan seeking confirmation. 

One of these letters fell into the hands of W.H. Merritt of Wolverine, the man who had furnished the foundation for the story, he receiving it from McNamee and passing it on to Helmut Bay, the writer of the article. Mr. Merritt wrote us and related the suspicion that a camp tender named Crazy Joe had justly found a couple of barrels of rotten beef in a lumber camp and had poisoned the same for killing bear, that the pigeons are crazy for salt and had fed on the poisoned salt beef, thus causing their death. McNamee is living at Emerson; but we have been unable to get a reply to our letter from him. If the dead pigeons numbered up into the millions, or even hundreds of thousands, the poison theory would not account for all of them - we doubt if it would account for 50,000, and we also doubt if they got a good dog of poison they would in any great number get many miles away. 

[End]: Mr. Merritt also doubts the date 1881, it was probably in 1880. The pigeons nested in other parts of the state in 1880, we know of no writer that claims there was a nesting in Michigan after 1880. They nested in Michigan in the even years, the beech trees bearing nuts in the odd numbers of years - every other year and the pigeons getting the nuts the next year. [Does not consider above theory satisfactory].
Frank Howland -- county clerk of Potter County, tells us that in 1880 or 1882, he obtained less than a dozen squabs with the idea of keeping them for nesting purposes -- [insectors and flies with about five dollars each]. He noticed when he obtained the squabs there was a whitish growth at the corners of and in their mouths. We built a net pen and coop with water from the spring running through it, followed the advice of pigmen on taking care of them, but while they seemed to be doing well for a few days, they were never well, and in a very short time all were dead except one. The last one, a female, remained and lived for several months becoming quite tame, but finally died. This seems to have been a very clear case of canker. [Howland says an old hippo told him I seeing wild pigeons with 'mouth disease']

"W. E. Gyman, one of the most prominent business men of Rosette Township, this county, writes us: In 1880, I hunted pigeons with a friend on the Portage. It was during one of the last meetings in McKinley County. We killed about 75 birds. When I brought my birds home, my mother, in preparing them for cooking, found them very poor and not plump as pigeons usually were, lumps in their mouths and throats partially filled with a yellowish-white growth, some so near full that it must have been difficult for them to swallow food. They were unfit for human food and were thrown away. Two years later, in Northern Michigan, I found a few pigeons in pairs only, nesting in swamps and I killed some of them. Our examination found most of them in about the same condition as those previously killed in Pennsylvania very poor and suffering from, I now believe, Canker. I believe that these birds with their young all died. It is that year, 1854, when a very small boys, a large flock
of them came down to his Abbott's barnyard, from a Holmes' meeting; many of them dying there, they were so starved.

"Henry Lyman, father of Milo Lyman, was one of the greatest hunters in Northern Pennsylvania, a geologist of considerable note, and one of the prominent men of Potter County. He died in 1880. He always kept a voluminous diary, and from his diaries Milo has given us much information including the following: [Page 10]. About the middle of April, 1854, the pigeons commenced nesting west of Conesport, snow all gone. Soon after came high winds and for several days around zero weather, with snow several inches deep, breaking up the nesting and thousands of birds freezing to death. By May 20, the surviving birds were nesting again. June 20th, Mr. Henry Lyman visited the nesting and found thousands of birds sick, dying and dead from some disease. At the same time there were nestings in McKean County. In 1870 there were nestings in Potter, McKean and Erie counties, about forty miles in length. They commenced nestings in McKean County, in 1870, middle of April, twenty-sixth of April eggs laid, May 3rd and May 9th additons were made to the nestings by birds from the West. On May 26th, Milo Lyman went to the nestings and found, where on a previous visit birds appeared healthy now were suffering with contagion of disease.

"Mr. Lyman believes that in 1854 there were double the birds that appeared at any time later, and not more than one to one hundred of them in Pennsylvania later as compared with 1830, according to what my grandparent have told me."

"We ourselves have been in nestings many times and always found lots of dead birds, never examined any of them. If we thought about it at all would have said it to the wounded birds dying, and the natural death rate among
as many birds.

Aftir 1878, comparatively few birds were trapped and sent to market, and then after there were no such large nestings as before. The pigeon was a long-lived bird; twenty to thirty years, perhaps more, and had there been no increase from young should not have passed out so suddenly. There was no trapping or killing to speak of after 1880 in the west and in 1882 in Potter County, Pa.

It is a well known fact that some pigeons contracted Canker, why not the wild ones, although their environment would make them much less susceptible to the disease. Moulton tells of a thousand dying in an hour, confined in pens. — Dr. Ashcroft of Corning has written his theory that some germ disease had by contamination of feeding grounds or otherwise wiped out the passenger pigeon, but the Doctor gives no instances of the contagious disease existing in wild pigeons.

acknowledges credit to: French, Marsh, Smithsonian Inst. Report, "also to Vesta Thrum, Van-De-Boe who rendered much valuable aid in hunting up old reports that I would probably have missed."

The following was written some two years ago at the request of John C. French of Roulette, author of the best book on pigeons we have seen, "The Passenger Pigeon in Pennsylvania," for the second edition.

Pigeon Nest

Nests were roughly made, just sticks laid across, no lining of leaves or feathers. Could see of through the nests. Two eggs was the rule, though some nests contained but one. —

Two or three days time for building nests and laying eggs; period of incubation about two weeks; in
Two weeks more the squabs leave the nest and in a week all old and young have left the nesting grounds. About six weeks completes the nesting. Only about three days for getting squabs by cutting timber or jomking them from the nests. Main body[?] of birds left as soon as young were large enough to leave while still in the nests. A few remained to guide the squabs when they were able to leave about one week.

"Old birds did not feed in or near the nesting. This feeding ground was left for the young. Nesting birds fed once each day, cock flight in the morning, hens later. They fed from twenty to sixty miles away. — Not all the birds fed in the same place, in different sections of the nesting they fed in different directions, north, south, east or west.

The birds were no benefit to agriculture as they were not insect feeders.

"Old the birds nest more than once a year, and did they nest every year, there is evidence that some years they nested (the same birds) two or three times, but not often.

We have been unable to find that they nested other than in even numbered years at least in the North. — Personally we never knew of a nesting in an odd numbered year.

1918: "When the beechnuts became sprouted the old birds would scratch up the leaves near the nesting, exposing the nuts and sprouts, preventing the growth, and thus furnishing food for the young birds, before they were able to fly sufficiently well to follow the old birds.

Mentioned that when a small boy the farmhouses and yards of Condersport were suddenly covered with pigeons. A Mr. Pratt explained that the birds were nesting somewhere West of here and were "Warming." He said he encouned was that at a certain age of the young birds the old ones for a few days fed 10 worms, or grassroots, or both. I knew that several years later when the birds were nesting West of Condersport it..."
Pigeon Feeding.

At that time the pigeons were nesting in the Knox County and many birds were scattered through our woods [Connersport]. A little beyond the top of the hill in some large timber principally beech. I heard the "tweet-tweet" of a multitude of birds not yet in sight. In a very short time the birds appeared in plain sight as the bushes were open and the leaves not started. The birds were coming as a body about twenty yards front and to a depth of five or six rods. The air filled with Pigeons to a depth of five or six feet above the ground, seemingly rolling over and over, and feeding on beech nuts, and all the time making the "tweet-tweet" cry that could have been heard a quarter of a mile or more. I think the cry was only made by the pigeons in the air. The front line was as straight as the line of a body of well trained soldiers marching, the rear line of birds continually raising, flying over those in front and dropping down a foot or two in advance of the front line or the ground, while in between the leaves were flying as the birds uncovered the beech nuts and made their afternoon meal.

Feeding Pigeons.

p.13  In 1870 when the large nesting was in northern Pennsylvania, the professional pigeons — were much in evidence scattered all along the nesting section. A number were stopping at the Connersport Hotel, and [in the] evening the old basement was headquarters. — I spent a few evenings watching the care of the birds used in nesting. At night all the birds were fed, watered and exercised. A Pigeon would take a seed from the hop or basket, the birds eyes opened up, place it upon his tongue and with one hand over the bird's shoulders press the beak with thumb and fore finger until its mouth opened with fingers of the other hand put kernels of corn in its mouth.
until the cup was filled, then the peak is plunged into a small cup of water and in less time than it takes to write this, the feeding and watering is over. About the second feeding the bird is ready to do its part fully. Next the boots are put on, hickory strings made into slip-knots over the feet, and the bird transferred to [the] fore finger, the strings drawn taut through the hand and the exercise begins. The hands raised slowly and dropped quickly. As the bird steps, wings are outstretched quickly recovering as the bird steps, and this is repeated a number of times. Every motion is carefully watched and the action of the bird soon determines whether or not it will do for netting purposes. The least wrong motion or misplacement of a wing or feather on recovery condemns the bird as a stroller. A coming flock of birds seem to be eagle-eyed as to the stool bird, paying little or no attention to Redders and Flyers. Not one bird in a dozen will make a real good stool bird.

“...in Michigan professional says the birds fly about one mile per minute; that he had timed them often. In Michigan the land is laid out in sections one mile square; as the head of a flock passed the section line a flint of a handkerchief gave notice to another person on the other side of the section who with match in hand, the time in passing was very accurately taken; a large number of observations fixed the time in passing at one mile per minute.

“...as to birds nesting at once? another professional told that he had seen a male red-tailed immediately after giving of the nest to the female; two days later [p. 14] another male was attacking that nest with the original female. This statement of nesting was generally accepted by those present, pigemers, as true. In all nesting there were large numbers of birds not nesting, roosting near the nesting, and the pigemers claimed that in case of a met
bird being lost another was supplied from those roosting, during
the nesting a large number of the nesting birds were netted
or killed with guns. If they did not retreat what became of the
nests as it is simply impossible for a single bird to hatch and
rear the young? Only a very small number of abandoned nests,
according to my observations, could be found in nesting, &
have seen now and then an old bird feeding in the nesting
returning to the nest as soon as satiety is felt, but their number
amounted amounted to almost nothing in comparison with the
number of mates that had been killed. Would a newly mated
bird have “milk” to feed young?]

[Netting]

Pg. 14, "I am told by one who followed netting for a time
that from 25 to 35 dozun in a day was considered pretty fair
luck, nearly all caught on the morning flight, few on the
return. Birds sold as low as thirty cents per dozen. I have seen
both dry and salt beds — and always there were a dozen
or more dead birds placed as naturally as possible scattered
over the beds, and called bedders. The most I ever saw
caught at one time was 30 dozen, on a salt bed, on the
head of the Kinchen Branch, Potter County, located in small
scattering timber. Pigeons told me had salted it for a
week before using. He used straw, fliers and bedders in the
morning, and dispersed with them during the return flight
when the roosting birds would come down for salt. Some
half a dozen to two dozen the catches would run them. I
have seen three loads of pigeons go out to Williamsville, on the
 Erie railroad, in one morning, 3000 to 4000 pounds in each
load. A wagon box of spiked epees fertilized one garden
in Connersport. Harlow Dinge, with a single barrel gun
killed 13 dozen on one birds in one day in Singman Run
nesting, selling them for one dollar per dozen. Early in the
nesting birds were packed without picked. During one
nesting, late in the season kids were picked in the red court
house by women and children at 5 cents per dozen and the
feathers. Tail, wing feathers and upper part of the neck not
pulled. The feathers were used for pillow and beds, so
was told there that a person could not die in pigeon feathers.
One woman said she knew this was so as her aunt was
dying for a week, and when at her earnest request they moved
her to a goose, feather bed, from a pigeon feather bed, she only
lived an hour.

Netting Outfit

Recently, I was shown by Miss Rose Crane, a Concord post
teacher, some of the outfit used by her father in catching pigeons, nets,
ropes and stock. The nets are made of linen twine, two of them
1 1/2'' mesh, 12 1/2'' by 28''; the third 2'' mesh, 15 1/2'' by 35''. These
nets were made by Mr. Crane and the large one last used by
him in 1882. The stock: A standard one and one-half feet in length,
iron socket, morticed for steel spring, and a stone it was
driven in the ground about one foot, stone in top of standard in
which fitted another standard 17'' long with pulley on top. Steel
spring fastens in mortice, attached to pole in three pieces joined
by ferrules, total length of about 6''; attached stock for bird
ring made from wire, probably the bail of a pair, 6'' in
diameter, coned with netted twine, with two holes through
the netting for the hosts to pass through to fasten the stock bird,
a ring near stock for cord passing over the pulley to rough
house. Mr. Crane was a carpenter and this stock outfit is a little
more elaborate than those in general use. It was made jointed to
pack in bag with nets. Usually the stock rod was in one piece,
the stock a piece of thin board covered with an old wooden stockings,
and instead of passing over a pulley, the cord passed through a little
in the standard or over a notch cut in it. Miss Crane describes the
box or basket for carrying the birds as a skeleton box, oval top
with handle, basket covered with canvas, partitions across middle
with door in each end, stock beds in one end, flints in the other.
The baskets I saw were about the same, some without partitions,
most of them flat tops, and other minor differences. nose buckets were in size about 30 x 15 x 15 inches. For several years Mr. Crane kept a pen of fliers andistraters against the day of the pigeons return, and while they built nests they never reared any young.

"A few years ago Eldred Wood of Connersport, an old hunter and trapper -- published an article claiming that pigeons laid only one egg in the nest; the writer to have been with his experience. My observations were different. I have seen two eggs fall from a nest in the vesting where the birds gathered. The only squab I ever took from trees was where a small bunch of birds, perhaps two hundred, were nesting in the second growth timber; at least a quarter of a mile from their regular resting, and I got 24 squabs from 13 nests.

p. 16. "My first experience in the flight house --, As soon as it was light birds were seen flying, but a long distance away, near half-a-mile Jim said. They had changed their flight from the previous day...[sent up two flyers and marked the flock pigeons]. -- I did not see, but he later told me he saw the motion of the flock as they noticed the flyers. They circled and slowly came in from back of the flight house with a swirl that made me dodge involuntarily. [the right time to spring the net id when the birds are in the air picking off the ground (it's would not be the case on a salt bed) for the birds no more than strike the ground before they discover it is no place for them, and they are off."

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Sanborn, Franklin Benjamin

The first and last journeys of Thoreau. Bibliophile Soc. Boston (1905)

p. 25. May 24, 1861. "The redwing blackbird is the prevailing bird till the Mississippi River; on the river, pigeons, kingfishers, crows, jays, etc. with swallows (the white-bellied)." [Thoreau had at East Dubuque].

p. 29. Pigeons at St. Anthony.

p. 31. Horace Mann saw the p.pigeons in Illinois.

p. 35. "Aviary are full as scarce as with us, filled up by the spermorhophili and most kindly planted by them." This refers to Spermorhophillus tridecimlaticus. gopher = striped squirrel in Wisconsin.

p. 35-6. Description. Dirty grayish-white beneath, above, dirty brown, with red dirty, tan, or clay-colored very light brown lines alternating with broad (three times as broad) dark-brown lines or stripes. The last having an interwoven line or square spot of the same color with the first mentioned, running down the middle; reminding me of the rude pattern of some Indian work, porcupine quills, "gopher work" in baskets and pottery.

p. 46. June 17. Near Stanhope. At nine A.M. we are said to be in the big woods; the woods all alive with pigeons, and they flying direct across our course.

p. 47. June 19. "Speaking of wild pigeons, he says he finds..."
from three to five young in its nests; says, "they are
hence fed on the pea-milers, which are swelling and
sprouting (purple flowers)." New Mexico. Amorpha in
blooms - a dark violet-purple. The pigeons seem shaggy.

p. 50. Says S. Norton describes &. *w. *decemlinata* and
calls it the Swiss squirrel. [Chipmunk].

p. 96. "... June 6, he finds "a wild pigeon's nest in a
young bass tree, ten feet from the ground, four or five
rocks north of Lake Calhoun: Built over a broad fork of the
tree: where a third slender twig divided it, and a fourth
forked on its; To make this clearer, he drew on the page
a slight sketch of the branching bough, and then went
on: "Built of slender hard twigs only, so open that I
could see the eggs from the ground, and also as slight
I could scarcely get to it without upsetting it. The bulk of
the nest was six inches over; the size of the cavity
three-quarters of an inch thick, but irregular. At first
(seeing the bird fly off) I thought it an unfinished
nest.

p. 101. "By the lake. [Harriet] in a scarlet oak, eight feet
up, I found a pigeon's nest like the former one, but more
stable, containing me young bird three inches long, of a dirty
yellowish and leaden color, with silky tufts, and with a great
bill bare at the base and a blackish tip. Another young bird
stopped to the ground flapping as if wounded. Two or
three times, as she went off amid the shrubs,
p. 102. 'I came upon a third, fourth, and fifth nest of pigeons, with young... the fourth not so high up (on a hornbeam) as in the former nests, say seven and a half feet high, and all much more substantially built, but made of the same sized twigs as the first one. The last two nests were placed against the tree-trunk above a low branch or two.'

Vol. 4, p. 58. May 22, 1852. "On my way to Plymouth, looked at Audubon in the state-house. ... The pigeon is more red on the breast and more white than the turtle dove."

Vol. 10, p. 49, Sept. 27, 1857. "Many birds are common to the northern parts of both continents. Even the passenger pigeon has flown across these."

Vol. 11, p. 158, Sept. 3, 1858. "... a small dense flock of wild pigeons dashes by over the side of the hill, from west to east - perhaps from Wetherbee's to Brooks's, for I see the latter's pigeons flake. They make a dark slate-gray impression."


Vol. 10, p. 391, May 26, 1855. "... See a beautiful blue-backed and long-tailed pigeon sitting daintily on a low white pine limb."

Vol. 10, p. 49, Sept. 27, 1857. "Many birds are common to the northern parts of both continents. Even the passenger pigeon has flown across these."

Vol. 11, p. 158. Sept. 3, 1858. "A small dense flock of wild pigeons dashes by over the side of the hill, from west to east - perhaps from Wetherbee's to Brooks's, for I see the latter's pigeons flake. They make a dark slate-gray impression."


Vol. 2, p. 24, 1850. "... The squirrels run before it in blind haste, and three pigeons dashed into the midst of the smoke."

Vol. 3, p. 331, July 21, 1857. "... Some pigeons here are resting in the thickest of the white pines during the heat of the day, migrating, no doubt. They are unwilling to move for none."

Vol. 4, p. 44, May 9, 1852. "... Saw pigeons in the woods with their inquisitive heads and long tails, but few representatives of the great flocks that once broke down our forests."

Vol. 5, p. 415, Sept. 2, 1853. "... Hear the sharp quaint of pigeons at the Thrush alley clearing."

Vol. 7, p. 35, Sept. 12, 1854. "... See a pigeon from Hubbard's cane beyond."

...
How like the breaking of trees, the slight sounds they make! Thus they are concealed. Not only their peeping or quiet is like a sharp crack, but I heard a sound from them like a dull grating or cracking of bough or bough."

p. 334, April 26, 1855. "... see myrtle birds and half a dozen pigeons, The peep of the last is much like the cracking of a tree. They lift their wings at the same moment as they sit, there are said to be many about now. See their warm-colored breasts."

p. 335, April 27, 1855. "Heard a singular sort of screech, somewhat like a hawk, under the cliff, and soon some pigeons flew out of a pine near me."

IV. 6, p. 18, Dec. 15, 1853. "He [Brooks] had ten live pigeons in a cage under his barn. He used them to attract others in the spring. The reflections from their necks were very beautiful. They made me think of shells cast up on a beach. He placed them in a cage on the bed and could hear them quack at the house."

"The turtle doves plagued him, for they were restless and frightened the pigeons."

p. 462, July 18, 1854. "Brooks has put out some of his pigeons, which stay about the stands or peachee to bait others. Wild ones nest in his woods quite often. He begins to catch them the middle of August."

p. 441, Aug. 15, 1854. "Crested from top of Annuramack to top of Strawberry Hill, just a pigeon-bed. "... [p. 445]. "In the meantime we came upon another pigeon-bed, where the pigeons were being baited, a little corn, etc., being spread on the ground, and [as?] at the first, the bower was already erected."

Vol. 7, p. 36, Sept. 12, 1854. "In a white oak beyond Everett’s orchard by the road, I see quite a flock of pigeons; their blue-black droppings and their feathers affect the road. The bare limbs of the oak apparently attracted them, though its acorns are thick on the ground. There are found whole in their crops, they swallow..."
Thoreau, "Journal"

"There are times I should think from its droppings that they had been eating berries, I hear that Witherbee caught ninety-two dozen last week."

Vol. 9, p. 84, Sept. 15, 1856. "See a flock of pigeons stand by. From a start of breast, they take straightly and slenderly to the tail. They have been catching them a while."

Vol. 10, p. 54, Sept. 30, 1857. "Minott said he had seen a couple of pigeons go over at last, as he sat in his shed. At first he thought they were doves, but he soon saw that they were pigeons, they flew so straight and fast."

Vol. 12, p. 184, May 7, 1859. "I frequently see pigeons dashing about in small flocks, or three or four at a time, over the woods here. Pigeon is a peculiarly swift, dashing flight."

p. 324, Sept. 13, 1859. "The great red oak acorns here not fallen. It is a wonder how pigeons can swallow acorns whole, but they do."

p. 328, Sept. 15, 1859. "Dense flocks of pigeons hurry-strewly over the hill. Pass near Brookes's pigeon stand. There was a flock perched on his poles, and they sat so still and in such regular order that, being also the color of the wood, that I thought they were wooden figures at first. They were perched not only in horizontal straight lines one above the other, which the eyes barely required, but at equal distances apart on these perches, which must be their own habit; and it struck me that they make just such a figure seen against the sky as pigeons holes cut in a doves' house do, i.e. a more or less triangular figure thus: ... and possibly the seeing them thus perched might ... have originally suggested this arrangement of the holes."

"Pigeons dart by on every side, - a dry slate color, like weather-stained wood (the weather-stained kind), for color of this aerial traveller, a more subdued and earthy blue than the sky, as its field (or path) is between the sky and the earth, - not black or
known as the earth, but a terreine or slaty blue, suggesting their aerial roots and habits.

Vol. 13, p. 183. Jan. 28, 1860. Minett says that pigeons alight in great flocks on the tops of hemlocks in March, and he thinks they eat the seed. But he also thought for the same season [104] that they ate the white pine seed at the same season, when it is not ripe! They might find a little of the last adhering to the pitch.

Vol. 2, p. 477. Sept 12, 1857. Saw a pigeon place in George Heywood's clearing of the oak dead trees set up for the pigeons to alight on, and the brush house close by to conceal the man. I was rather startled, having seen the thing going on in coal. The pigeons on the trees looked like fabulous birds with their long tails and their printed breasts. I could hardly believe they were alive and not some wooden birds used for decoys, they sat so still; and even when they moved their necks, I thought it was the effect of art, as they were not catching then, I suppose. And scared away a dog or birds who were perched on the trees, and found that they were freshly baited trees, though the net was carried away, perhaps to some other bed. The smooth early bed was covered with rickstirret, wheat or rye, and corn.

Sometimes they not corn, shaved off the ear in its present state with a knife. Where next left the sticks with which they fastened the nets. As I stood there, I heard a rushing sound and, looking up, saw a flock of thirty or forty pigeons dashing toward the trees, who suddenly [50] wheeled on seeing me and circled round and made a new

Vol. 8, 1854. The [Garfield] heard some years ago a large flock

of turkeys go over 'yelling' very loud, flying low and in an irregular dense flock like pigeons.
Thoreau, Henry D.


p. 111. July 21, 1851. "A cuckoo...flying into the pine, spreads out a pigeon, which flies with its handsome tail spread, dashes this side and that between the trees helplessly, like a ship carrying too much sail in midst of a small creek, ... a fluttering flight."

p. 115. May 14, 1857. "Abel Hoarner tells me that he has collected and some white pine seed, and that he has found them in the crop of pigeons. (?)"

p. 115. Sept. 9, 1858. "A [sic, Israel] says that he has caught pigeons which had ripe quine in their crops long before any more ripe were, and that they came from the southeast.

p. 115. Sept. 23, 1858. "Met a gannet from Lynn on the beach [at the north shore of Rockport, Mass.], who had several pigeons which he had killed in the woods by the shore. Said they had been blown off the mainland.

Coombs has a stand near Nut Meadow, and he says that he has just shot fourteen hawks there, which were after the pigeons."

p. 117. Sept. 21, 1859. "Rice says that white oak acorns ground up, shelled and all, make the best bait for them."

p. 117. Sept. 28, 1859. "The white pine seed is very abundant this year, and this must attract more pigeons. Coombs tells me that he finds the seed in their crops. Also
that he found within a day or two a fully formed egg with shell in one."
Our books being largely theological, I naturally turned to Holmes, as my only authority, for enlightenment on the passenger pigeons, at the flights of which I greatly marvelled. The last flight of these birds in our neighborhood, twenty-nine miles east of Pittsburgh, occurred in the spring of 1875. There can be little doubt about the date, as I visited the Centennial Exposition not long after, where I saw mounted pigeons for the first time. The two events are closely connected in my memory. With a single-barreled muzzle-loader borrowed from a neighbor, I killed pigeons in the scattered snags that crowned a hill half a mile from our country home. The elder boys of the neighborhood got more than I did. Some of them with a reloading shot along a dead limb got four or five at a single discharge. The bands had been coming pretty steadily since morning, an occasional low-flying flock of two or three hundred lighting on the oaks, while the greater bands of pigeons flew considerably higher and made no stops as far as we could see. They may have alighted on the wooded tops of higher hills a couple of miles farther north.

Tooking southward along the western slope of the Alleghenians where the view was unobstructed, we could see the birds coming in many long irregular "streaks" - not compact flocks - the most of which passed during the forenoon. The streaks or bands, mostly advancing and on, were broad and dense in some places, narrower and almost broken in others, while the far end in some of them were too distant to be made out clearly. The pigeons may have been coming across the mountains six or seven miles away, which here have a northeast and southwest trend; but this could not be determined. We had heard of a great pigeon roost in Cambria, one of the mountain counties to the eastward, I described these flights sometimes to E. A. Furtney, who sketched them rather successfully in his picture of the passenger pigeons in Chapman's Birds of Eastern North America, but the perspective is not altogether satisfactory or did not then know how to [225] their birds. The pair of mounted passenger
birds now in my possession, the gift of the late Frederick S. Whitman of Brooklyn, came from a nest at Grand Haven, Michigan in 1880.
Turner, O.

"History of the Pioneer Settlement of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase [N.Y.]," Rochester (1851), 359, 373, 375, 385, 409, 537.

Embracing counties of Monroe, Ontario, Livingston, Yates, Steuben, most of Wayne & Allegany, and parts of Orleans, Genesee, and Wyoming.

p. 359. Dansville, N.Y. Pigeons were so abundant, that almost uniformly, nearly sowed fields had to be watched almost constantly.

p. 373. Amon Springs. Seneca name meant "bad smelling water". It was first noticed as a resort of the wild pigeon.

p. 375. Amon Springs. Reminiscences of George Horner. "The most troublesome wild animals in early days -- were -- pigeons paying up in the newly sowed crops." Wayne Co.

p. 375. Statement of Amil Elamoth who settled at Sodus in 1801.

"Wild ducks were abundant in the Bay, and some seasons of the year, pigeons were so plenty, that it was difficult to protect the crops from their depredations. At one period, they had their nests on the lake shore, their nests occupying the trees upon several hundred acres. Some trees would have sixty and seventy nests upon them. The backwoods settlers carried away great loads of the young squabs. Ten or.twenty squabs, an unusual quantity of nestlings, and wild weather, attracted numerous of them to the neighborhood; the weather suddenly changing to severe cold, the young were frozen with those that had been frozen to death."

p. 407. Reminiscences of Peter Sheaffer. "At some seasons the pigeons were very abundant; they could be taken in large numbers, by the use of nets; the breasts were cut out laced, and they made very good eating."

p. 537. Rush, Monroe Co. Reminiscences of Joseph Sibley. "Pigeons would in some seasons come in large flocks, and seriously injure the newly sowed crops. I have known an hundred dozen to be caught in a net in one day. In 1812, they made a nest in a cedar swamp at Ragan's creek. They occupied the trees of seventy five or eighty acres; there were, in some instances, as many as thirty nests on a single tree. The young squabs were brought away by the inhabitants in east loads. When the young were left the nests, they would go off and remain about the neighborhood in flocks by themselves."

* Came to Rush in 1806.
and it was several months before the old and young ones mingled."
Millions of Pigeons, Ulster County [N.Y.]: Wise Old Wilt Sport.

[Spied from Wilb. (A) Sentinel May 7, 1872 [3.]

Poughkeepsie, April 23. The most astonishing scenes are witnessed in the woods and mountains of Ulster County nowadays. Sportsmen are having a tremendous "churn" in the way of pigeons, and hunters are dumbered. From every section comes account of flocks of untold numbers being seen, while the storks feed in the masses at their feeding and sleeping places are marvelous and hard to believe, since not the slightest complaint is heard from neighbors or the neighborhood of Big Indian, Shandaken, and Shandaken. Large birds, while the fledgling is not a sight; and hunters who have visited the place assert that the feathered denizens are millions in numbers. The weight of the masses which congregate upon the trees is sometimes so great that huge limbs break off and fall to the ground, crushing many of the flocks to death. To hunt them it is only necessary to go into the woods and point your gun upward slanting away: each discharge is sure to bring many fluttering victims. The swirling clouds made by them when they go in flocks to settle down at night or take their flight in the morning assembles thunder, while the light of the sun is darkened as if a thick cloud floated between it and the earth. From the murmuring voices and the sound of flying and the rustling of the air come astounding stories of the same subject. Every day the flight of flocks innumerable are recorded, and the sportsmen are having a wild time. The chief rendezvous in that direction is said to be the headwaters of the Rondout, where at least five miles in width by fifteen in length, lie been taken woods, four miles in width by fifteen in length, have been taken possession of by them. It would be vain to estimate the number, but it can safely be said they reach millions. Of course these rumors of flocks attract hunters from a long distance, and the crack of their guns is heard continually. Many make a business of killing the birds for the New York market. Along the line of the Rondout and Oswego Railroad the excitement is intense. Yesterday, from early in the morning until dusk, there was one continual succession of flocks, numbering from one thousand to ten thousand in each flock. They
flew so low that a good marksman could easily bring them down. On the terraces of Cline and Shandaken every other man was at hunting, and the ground was fairly covered with nets, while the whole pigeons and fliers were worked incessantly. Many thousands of pigeons were caught. One man had a wagon-load in three hours, while many a good pigeon hunter managed to get 150 to 200 in one hour. One Sunday the woods were also crowded, and the incessant crack of the hunters' guns sounded like the firing for the Shriners' line. These pigeons are nesting above Big Indian, covering a tract of woods about eighteen miles square. They take a trip out morning and evening. Naturalists say they go to salt water and return every day.

"It is feared that in the excitement of the hunt, sportsmen forget the law of 1871, Section 13:"

Kingston boasts a celebrated pigeon hunter; his name is Henry W. Winnie. His friend says he has a double-barreled gun which brings down 250 at each discharge. A farmer in the neighborhood of the Big Indian rest place had two tons of hay standing out of doors. He didn't watch it closely and the pigeons carried away every spear of it to build nests with. . . . Southern-bound boats and cars are carrying thousands of the birds to your city, and the sport continues." - New York Standard

[Long Island Historical Society, Brooklyn, file complete]

[New York Standard]
...
P. T. Waller. Pigeon shooting in the Alleghenies. P. T. S.
3 (Oct. 8, 1874) 140. Deer Park, Md. Sept. 18, 1874.

"about eight miles from home the pigeons had formed
a nest, as it is called, a place where they came in
immense numbers to feed the night. For our part I
have heard hearing very glowing accounts of the numbers
of birds that were being killed, resolved to spend a night
there. So one fine afternoon, about five o'clock, we started
out, seeking what we might discover. We soon reached the
edge of the wood, but as it was too early for the birds, we
built a fire and ate our supper and laid around
loose, until sunset; then we started out, reaching the
ground as the birds began to settle on the trees and bushes.
Our forests here are composed almost entirely of oaks of
various kinds, the white, red, black, yellow, chestnut,
pin and jack oaks being the principal varieties; the
latter (jack oaks), from the underbrush in most places,
and are the favorites with the pigeons, who crowd so
thickly upon them, that the smaller branches were
broken off. As soon as it was fairly dark we got
to work. We had brought three laborers, with us to
carry lanterns, and they now became of use. All who
had guns advanced together to the front, and kept
moving on until we thought there was a sufficient
quantity of noise. We would then fire in the direction
from whence it came. The men with lights would
then search for the killed and wounded. The first shot
we killed the birds, or at least found that number, for two farmers came with a wagon next morning and found nearly a load of dead and wounded pigeons lying on the ground. Of course I don't mean in this particular spot, but all over the road. About midnight we separated into two parties and went in opposite directions.

"About three o'clock we found we had all the birds one could carry, so we returned to camp and slept until morning dawned upon us in the shade of a fine misty rain. The pigeons were put in ordinary grain sacks, and when they were counted we had seventy birds altogether. This is somewhat barbarous sport, but very exciting. The birds flying all around you, men screaming as they fell into the numerous holes, or run into thorn bushes, and the ever present idea that some one is about to put a load of shot into you makes it quite lively.

The birds are coming in in great numbers, and from the present lookout we shall have good sport this Fall.

Lee Park is on the B&O, 220 miles from Baltimore.

The Passenger Pigeon, Aug. 18 (April, 1901) 191-2.

Since the year 1871 I had not seen a Wild Pigeon until 1896, when, near the Bay of Quinte, I saw a pair. The following year in the same vicinity, I saw four to six birds on several occasions and during the next two years I saw about the same number. Late last season I had the opportunity of observation.

In 1898 I wrote in 'The Globe', the leading daily paper of Canada, asking any one who had seen Wild Pigeons, during recent years, to make it known. This elicited many replies through 'The Globe' and by personal letters.

There was a general agreement as to a total disappearance about 1870, continuing until 1875. A few stated they had seen an occasional bird earlier, the reports were from all parts of Ontario and Manitoba. Mr. D.C. Black, of Apia, Ant., writes: 'I saw mine in a wheat field near the village of Glencoe, and they are the first I have seen in twenty-five years.'

I think we may fairly conclude that the Wild Pigeon abruptly became very rare about 1870 (it is probable there was a diminution during the previous decade), and that there has been an increase in their number in recent years.

P.192. The food supply has certainly become less. In this connection it is interesting to observe that in the district where I have seen Wild Pigeons recently, there are some white oak trees and though they are mostly second growth, they succeed quite a forest of red oaks. There has, in this locality probably, been a continuous supply of mast. Mr. S.P. Woodruff of St. Catherines, Ant., writes, that he learned from sea captains that immense numbers of pigeons gathered in the Gulf of Mexico, being exhausted by contrary winds and dense fogs. He says the experience of several ship masters was leaving 'myriads of the pigeons alight on the vessel and rigging, and having to cast them off into the sea.'
"Wild Pigeons about eight or ten years ago were found in great numbers in Elk, Forest, Warren, McKean, Potter and Cameron counties. In the region about Emporium, Cameron county, and near Kane, McKean county, immense quantities of these birds were killed, packed in barrels, and shipped in car loads, to the New York market." Mr. M. M. Harrabee, of Emporium, who frequently visited the nesting places, states that they often covered an area of several miles.

During the last five or six years only pairs or small flocks were seen in the state. In the fall of 1884, I saw about three hundred pigeons, which was the largest flock I have ever observed in the state.

Mr. D. Greenland, Warren county: "The pigeon has nested within the last ten years three times on Potter Creek, near Smethport, McKean county, but do not think they have been there for three or four years past."

Mr. M. M. Harrabee, Cameron county: "Last year (summer, 1889), I saw a number of single pairs and their nests in Drake, Ross and Pain mount townships in this county."

David J. Lindsey, Luzerne county: "No Wild Pigeons through this section since 1875, at which time they were very plentiful, feeding principally in the mountains."

T. L. Neff, Cumberland county: "In the year 1886 this neighborhood was visited by Wild Pigeons in vast numbers. Had their roost in the early part of April in the Laurel Hill mountains, 9 miles east of M centown, "Formerly in the fall, they would be found feeding upon acorns."

Mr. Otto Bahr, of Hopewell, Sullivan county. Under date Feb. 28, 1889: "The last "pigeon roost" here was in 1869. - They say the nesting ground which was along the Mahopacan creek, Wyoming county, four miles from here, was seven miles long by two or three miles wide. In 1876 they started to build up here again when a snow storm that covered the ground for several inches drove them off. Since then they have had no regular nesting place here."
"We noticed the flight of pigeons in considerable numbers on Wednesday morning. Their course was southward."

[Many gaps]

March 29, '72. "Rigems have failed that there will be spring, and flocks of them have made their appearance in this latitude.

[1871-'74]

Sept. 9, '71 [Stem in Racine Advocate for this date], Columbia County. "The Republican reports pigeons plentiful in the vicinity of Columbia."

Columbus Democrat, May 22, 1876. "Pigeons are desolating the corn fields in some parts of the state. A number of sportsmen are in pursuit, yet the pigeons are so numerous that they do much damage."

Ibid. Sept. 11, 1875. "Pigeons are becoming quite plentiful in this region."

Oct. 2. "The pigeons seem inclined to fly south."

"Wisconsin News. Pigeons are very plentiful throughout the state."

[1875-'76] [1879-81]

Oct. 4, 1882. "Wild geese, pigeons, and other members of the feathered tribe, have been on the wing this week."

[1882-'83]

Columbus Weekly Journal [1861-'63 Nothing].

Republican April 13, '72. "Pigeons, ducks, and wild geese allure the hunters, but do not give them a chance for a shot."

[1871-'72]

Columbus Republican Journal [1855-'57 No. 91].

Wib. (d) Sentinel, April 18, 1877, p. 3. Columbus, "Pigeons are dying and muskets are making their appearance."

Darlington Republican, Sat. March 12, 1871.

On Wednesday last Gregory found one barrel at a flock of pigeons, and accidentally shot Harrakan with the other barrel.

[Darlington Republican, March 23, 1871.]

Eva Fayette Co. Democrat, March 28, 1873. "Catching pigeons in nets seems to be quite profitable in some localities. In that set, one morning this week, Mr. A. Post and two sons, trapped over fifty dozen birds." From 1873.

Darlington Republican, April 6, 1873. "Pigeon shotting and fishing are the sports most indulged in about here at present."

2bid, March 29, '73 "Henry Rizer, of this village, shot 73 pigeons one day last week."

April 12, '73. "Pigeons came earlier this season than usual. For several weeks the woods have swarmed with them, and the destruction among them has been quite large. Many have been caught in nets and shipped to Chicago."

2bid April 19, '73. "The Warren Sentinel says: "One day last week Jonathan Dobler caught eighty dozen pigeons with a single net, and he thinks he has wiped it to the champion catcher of the town."

D. Republican April 16, 1886. "The Darlington Republican says wild pigeons are more numerous this spring than they have been for ten years. The woods are full of them."

2bid, 1888. "The wild geese, ducks and pigeons which made their appearance in this vicinity on Monday [March 19] of last week, as they sit shivering on the south side of some sheltered nosh, --."

Darlington Center Rep. and Observer, March 29, 1888. Thursday
Darlington Democrat April 14, 1876. "Pigeon shooting is now engaging
the attention of sportmen.
April, '81. "Wild pigeons are beginning to make their
appearance."
Sept. 22, '82. "The pigeons are making the woods bare.
Darlington Republican March 10, '76. "Several flocks of wild
pigeons passed over our village on Tuesday last." [March 7].
Cbid. March 8, '78. "Pigeons, have made their appearance
around Darlington."
Cbid. May 24, '78. "Several flocks of wild pigeons have been seen
grazing the upper regions lately."
Cbid. April 9, '80. "Pigeons, ducks and geese are flying quite
plentiful."
Cbid. April 29, '81. "Pigeons have been flying north for several
days."
Cbid. Oct. 13, '82. "The woods surrounding our city are re-
ported to be alive with wild pigeons.
Cbid. April 4, '84. "Sportmen report wild ducks and pigeons in
and around this locality, and, judging from the number of
empty handed hunters we see returning from the hunting
grounds daily, guess they must have fared well."
Cbid. April 16, '86. "Pigeons are more numerous this spring
than they have been for ten years; the woods are full of them."
Cbid. Sept. 16, '87. "Wild pigeons are expected to put in their
appearance shortly."
Sept. 30, '87. "Wild ducks and pigeons have begun their
migratory flights."
Thurs. April 24, '73. "Our regular weekly snow storm came around on Monday and Thursday. The air is very cold yet."

Thurs. Sept. 18, '73. "There is a large yield of hickory, hazel, and butternuts here this season. Some walnuts." — Geneseo Herald.

Thurs. Sept. 7, '77. "Pigeons are appearing quite plenty in the woods."

Thurs. Sept. 10, 1896. "C. E. Halden, while hunting near the inlet last Tuesday [Sept. 8th], shot a genuine wild pigeon, the first killed here in several years. Ned Hollister secured the bird and placed it in his large collection of scientific riches."

Thurs. May 18, 1899. "The genuine wild pigeon has again arrived in our state. An old pigeon hunter, living a few miles north of our city, is positive in his assertions that he saw a flock of not less than 100 birds one day last week. About this same time reports came from Reedsburg, Wis. that a flock, over one mile in length and so thick they darkened the sun, had passed over that city and were flying northward."
De Pere News April 18, 1874. "Pigeons have commenced flying and from early morn till close of day the woods resound with the din of the sportsman’s gun," Sept. 5, 74. "Pigeons and squirrels being numerous."

[1873-’76]

"April 8, ’76. Pigeons, sparrows and quails are upon us. . . ."

"April 10, ’76. Pigeons have commenced to fly."

"April 16, ’76. Sportsmen are enjoying a rich harvest of sharkeys (shells), bagging ducks and pigeons, which have infested these parts by the myriad this week."

"April 7, ’77. "Pigeons by the millions, eh? That’s all right – it makes a nice item and does no harm to the few scared and straying pigeons that are dodging about to escape the shot-guns of the thousand pursuing logs."

"March 16, ’78. "A few straying pigeons being put in an appearance here about try hunters to a bird are after them with their guns."

[1876- Sept. 28, ’78]

"May 10, 1879. Repetition of statement for March 14, ’78."

"Sept. 6. "Pigeons are appearing in considerable numbers in the woods, and our sportsmen are on the qui vive for them, having succeeded in bagging quite a number already."

"April 3, 80. "Pigeons have commenced to fly."

"May 7, 81. "Pigeons are now on the wing."

"Sept. 17, 81. "Pigeons are now on the wing. . . . They are fat and juicy this fall and make a fine pot-pie."

[1879-’82]

"April 8, 82. "Wild pigeons have been flying pretty freely this week."

[1882-83. No 1884] [1885] [1886-’88]

"March 30, ’89. Lawrence, "We . . . feasted our eyes on a few flocks of pigeons as early as two weeks ago."

De Pere Facts April 7, 1891. "Flocks of pigeons and geese are occasionally seen making their way northward."

[1879-’82] all.
Dodgeville Chronicle, April 12, 1872.

"To all appearances spring has come at last. And we did hear that several pigeons had been shot.

April 19, '72. "---, the great flocks of pigeons, all indicate spring, though the snow is not all gone yet."

April 4, '73. Speaks of terrible snow storm on April 1.

"One sure sign of spring is the appearance of different birds; such as ducks, pigeons, robins, etc."

Austin heavy snow on the 8th.

April 11, '73. Son of Samuel Clegg, aged 14, shot by his brother while hunting pigeons, latter flying low, on April 5.

May 30, '73. "Wild pigeons are abundant in the groves, and the "Minerods" say they are easy to shoot."

1871-73 Poor

Dodgeville Sun, Feb. 23, '82. "Bluebirds, robins, and pigeons have been seen this year in this county."

April 4, '84. Reatorona. "Ducks, geese, and pigeons have appeared in large numbers."

March 25, '87. Linden. Mr. Tom Faulk gave us an invitation to dine with him Sunday to help eat some wild pigeon pie. He killed the birds last Saturday [19th] just back of town.

- Linden, Iowa Co.

Dodgeville Chronicle, Oct. 1, 1863. "Our young minister and a friend went Thursday [Sept. 24] bragged 64 pigeons and 2 quail and brought them into the office by noon."

March 18, '65. Pigeons are very plentiful in Iowa County. A friend writing from there says "it takes one man to saw, and two to keep the pigeons off while another man covers the grain."
Chronicl March 8, '74. "What has become of the wild pigeons? They have made an entire failure in their annual visit to this locality. Neither can we learn of their presence in any number at any point in the Northwest."

Chid, Sept. 26, '74. "Wild pigeons have been very plentiful in this vicinity lately, from 'Winrood' put at Surrey (?) shot 80 in two or three hours one day last week."

Chid, April 2, '75. "Wild pigeons have been passing northward in large numbers in the past few days."

Chid, April 13, '77. "Bluebirds, robins, pigeons and other spring birds are with us once more."

Chid, April 27, '77. "A few pigeons are seen occasionally but they are very wild, and hunters rarely get a shot at them."

Dodgeville Star [Sept. 26, '83 - March 12, '86]

Sun, Feb. 23, '82. "Bluebirds, robins, and pigeons have been seen this year in this county."

Chid, April 4, '84. "Beaver. Ducks, geese, and pigeons have appeared in large numbers."

March 25, '87. "Mr. Tom Fiell gave us an invitation to dine with him Sunday to help eat some wild pigeon pie. He killed the birds last Saturday just back of town."

Dodgeville Chronicle, Sept. 24, 1880. "Mr. Geo. Farrell of Ridgeway has just delivered at the depot here 82 dozen live pigeons caught in Ridgeway with traps. - (Anon)."

"A number of young men are doing a good business at pigeon trapping in the neighborhood of Ridgeway, and Mill Creek. The birds are very numerous."
Pigeon hunting. For several days past game and markets have been brought into duty, and the heart of our farmers and shot men has been made glad over numerous sales, and our affable better selves have made the heart of the tenant glad with almost endless repetition of pigeon pie. Young men and boys have caught the mania. Even our professors of the fowls and our old have descended to using a bird by lead instruments. The Bluffs, river, and air being almost daily visited by the assorted rarities. It is not strange that nearly every family has been hit on pigeons of late. Mrs. Farris is the boss shot, as far Saturday afternoon, eleven at one shot. When he is beaten, we shall report. They are shooting this spring apparently where might ever take them on the wind side of our largest Bluffs.

Said, March 28, 1884. "First flock of pigeons in the 23rd. There are not many acorns in this section, and pigeon shooting will be a lucrative past-time in all probabilities." - James Coe, merchant.

Said, April 3, 1885, "The lark, robin, and wild pigeons have put in an appearance since our last writing." - John Smith.

Said, March 18, 1882, in a letter Saturday [11th], Tom Kendall, living about two miles south of the village, killed 30 pigeons."
April 16, 1870. "Pigeons are appearing in this section in large quantities."  

Sept. 16, 1870. "Pigeons are plenty."  

Tues.) April 4, 1871. "Game is gathering in this vicinity. Ducks, pigeons, and geese are abundant, especially the former. Yesterday large flocks of pigeons were continually flying and every sportsman that had time was seen gun in hand ready to commence the slaughter. It is predicted by hunters that game will be very plenty this spring."  

April 11, '71. Mentioned a 4" snow.  

May 2, 1871. "Talk about pigeons and pigeon nests, Durand scoops the state. There are millions of pigeons nesting on Nine Mile Island and in the timber on the bottoms below Plummer's mill. The oldest inhabitant says he has never seen anything equal to the present numbers. Our sportsmen are killing them off by the hundreds. Every shot-gun, musket, fusilng-piece and flunkey-bliss is brought to use. We invite the attention of sportsmen throughout the state, to this opportunity of satisfying any desire they may have to hunt for pigeons."  

May 9, 1871. "Pigeons are plenty, at 50 cents per dozen."  

"We have been out pigeon hunting. We got some, some that were given us."  

"An excursion. The new gentlemanly Worthies Riso, offered our villagers an excursion on their chariot of a beast, the Wandro, this morning, May 10th, at 8 o'clock. The Wandro started for the pigeon roost, carrying on board about a dozen ladies, and about 20 gentlemen, some of them with guns, and some without. When we arrived at Nine Mile Island, the hunters struck out for the pigeons. The hunters numbered 12 - [Names]"
For 44 of an hour there was a continual bang, bang, and at the end of that time the hunter returned to the boat, and on counting, it was found that there were two hundred and fifty pigeons in hand. Besides, the great number that had been killed and not

secured.

The following is part of the score. Varied 36; Calvert, 34; Raymunda, 28; Cannon, 27; Tarrant, 22; Foster, 18; Rieder, 12; Walshe, 12; Hamblin, 24; Wallace, 11; Barton, 9; and so on to the

end of the chapter.

May 16, 1876. "It is shown by our exchange that over 300,000 pigeons have already been shipped over the Wisconsin & St. Paul R.R. These have been shipped packed in barrels."

"We understand that the M.S. York, of Frankfort, killed 78 pigeons at three shots, on Dead Fox Prairie, last week."

[Augusta Herald Burned out].

June 8, 1876. "7,000,000 pigeons to be had on Mine Lake Island."

[1870-73] July 25, 1873. "Our sportmen are not killing pigeons."

[1874-76] July 18, 1874. "Thousands of pigeons were flying over town this time past."

[1875-76] April 9, 1875. "Pigeons have been flying around this section for the past week."

[1874-76] [1875-76] [1876-76] [1877-77] [1878-78] [1879-79] [1880-80] [1881-81] [1882-82] [1883-83] [1884-84] [1885-85] [1886-86] [1887-87] [1888-88] [1889-89] [1890-90]
May. April 27, 1871. "Wednesday morning the air was fairly filled with pigeons passing in large straggling flocks over the town."

April 10, 1873. "A large flock of wild pigeons passed over the city this morning. If they should be as thick as they were three years ago, our staff, our staff, who never leave more than half an hour...

Black River Falls, Banner May 5, '77. State item. "Pigeons are nesting in the vicinity of Eau Claire, and are reported to be more numerous there than ever before known."

April 18, '77. "The country surrounding here is swarmed with pigeons, and sportsmen are having a grand time in shooting them."

April 15, '79. "On Saturday [April 15] of last week, pigeons were very plentiful in this vicinity, and everything in the shade of a fortifying piece in shooting order was shot into repletion, a continuous fire was kept up all day long, on the hill east of town, and several hundred pigeons were killed. Thro' the kindness of our friend, Geo. W. Williams, we were conveyed to the hunting grounds in this vicinity, and brought home something less than an hundred pigeons, as the result of our day's hunt."

[1874-76] April 20, '77. "The pigeons are passing away as lightly as they came."

"Pigeons are more numerous than ever within the memory of the traditional oldest inhabitant. Hunters are continually busy in the timber belt surrounding the city."

[1871-73] April 18, '77. "A huge flock of pigeons passed over our yard to- day, going north. At the spring birds are quite thick."

Eau Claire Free Press (N) [1867-1905]
Pigeon racing is the favorite pastime of sportmen, just now.

Sportmen seemed to be busier than usual this morning paying their compliments to the pigeons, which were more numerous than common.

"Two of the types went pigeon hunting on the Eau Claire this morning early and killed thirty-three of em. May report the birds thicker than ever."

"One of the numerous sportmen, who went out pigeon shooting this morning, had deposited a lot of birds under the buggy seat when hearing something move, he looked down to see what was. He then discovered a live pigeon sitting on a tree, and after hearing no noise, he saw a live pigeon sitting on a tree, and after hearing no noise, he saw a live pigeon sitting on a tree, and after hearing no noise, he saw a live pigeon sitting on a tree, and after hearing no noise, he saw a live pigeon sitting on a tree, and after hearing no noise, he saw a live pigeon sitting on a tree, and after hearing no noise, he saw a live pigeon sitting on a tree, and after hearing no noise, he saw a live pigeon sitting on a tree, and after hearing no noise, he saw a live pigeon sitting on a tree, and after hearing no noise, he saw a live pigeon sitting on a tree, and after hearing no noise, he saw a live pigeon sitting on a tree, and after hearing no noise, he saw a live pigeon sitting on a tree, and after hearing no noise, he saw a live pigeon sitting on a tree, and after hearing no noise, he saw a live pigeon sitting on a tree, and after hearing no noise, he saw a live pigeon sitting on a 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Eau Claire Argus [May 1879-1881] ""

Eau Claire News April 21, '77. "Some of our hunters have been out after pigeons, large flocks of which have arrived from warmer climates."

[1876 - July '78; gap to July '83] [1887-89]

Eau Claire Leader (daily) [1884] Nothing.

"Pigeons are nesting near the Troubled Waters, on the Eau Clair River. - Augusta Eagle May 20, '82.

"Pigeons are nesting in the vicinity of Eau Claire in countless numbers. - Chippewa Journal May 3, 1877.

Milwaukee Daily Wisconsin April 25, 1879. "The Free Press notes for the fact that a son of J. H. Leonard, of Eau Claire, went out hunting one day last week, and killed forty-three pigeons at one shot, and killed only one barrel of his gun."

Eau Claire Free Press Sept. 19, '72. "Sportsmen report the woods well filled with quail, and filled with pigeons..."

[1876] June 15, '76. "(From daily, June 10): Pigeons are still quite numerous in places among the oaks."

[1876] July 21, '76. "Sportsmen can find plenty of game in the woods near the Deere farm in the town of Brunswick."
Two thousand five
pigeons have been provided for a "two days" shooting match
today and tomorrow at Edgerton.

Edgerton Independent [May 76 - Apr 77, Nothing] Continued as
Wisconsin Tobacco Reporter [77-84, Nothing]

... July 13, 1877. On account of
scarcity of pigeons and their great expense, glass balls will
be used for the shoot here July 21.

Abid. April 13, 77. Porter, "pigeoners' best in rain for game
this spring. Quite a number have built theirough houses
and are well prepared."

Abid. Fri. April 20, '77. Porter. "Pigeon catchers are now
matching in dead earnest. A few were seen this week."

Abid. April 27, 77. Hanover. "Pigeons are getting quite
plenty in this vicinity. We saw several flocks Wednesday
morning [25th], they all seemed to be taking a mortally course."

Abid. March 8, '78. Alton. "Pigeons are about the country again."

... 15. Porter. Pigeons are still not sufficiently
plentiful to pay for netting.
Walworth Independent

April 3, 1872. "Pigeons are now quite numerous in this locality."
[complaints of late spring]

"Nov. 18, '72. "The farmers are delayed in their work by the great
snow storm" [sic] fell.

Oct 3, '72. "Hickory nuts said to be scarce.

"1871-8"

26th: May 3, 1867. "Pigeons ... never more plenty..."
Madison State J. May 22, 1875: Our El Paso correspondent says: "The greatest excitement prevails here at the present time on account of the pigeons located about five miles west of this village. Every clump is loaded down with nests, and the caws from those who have been there, that the noise and din made by the pigeons is surprising."

Milwaukee Commercial Times May 14, 1875: "Pigeons at Ellsworth." 2nd June 28, 1875: "Pigeons have returned to Pierce County. The Trimble woods are filled with them." Ellsworth Herald Sept. 4, 1872: "Maiden Rock. Boys are having pest-shortening ducks and pigeons." 2nd April 24, 1873: "El Paso. Pigeons are unusually numerous this spring." Prescott Herald. "Pigeons seem to be more plentiful this spring than has been known for many years. They will probably nest on the island, opposite town, thus making it convenient for our sportmen." 2nd July 16, 1873: "El Paso. Wild fruits will be unusually scarce this fall." 2nd June 17, 1874: "Trenton. Pigeons are being killed in great numbers in this locality. H. T. Curry killed fourteen at or near yesterday [June 5]."

2nd Sept. 16, 1874: "Maiden Rock. Game is rather scarce except ducks, pigeons, and quail." [1872-74]

2nd May 12, 1875: "Pigeons in great numbers are flocking about here and hunters have been busy engaged during the past few days bringing them down!" [late spring].

2nd May 19, 1875: [See above]

2nd June 23, 1875: "Trimble, June 22. The pigeons roost near Beldenville, attracting sportmen from all the surrounding town and even from a distance. Mr. Fleming and Son from near Madison, came on about two weeks ago with fixtures for trapping birds. Trapping for the New York market is their business. They take the pigeons in nets and feed them two or three weeks; then kill, pack in ice and ship to New York.
Ellsworth

where they were 2.50 per dozen."

C. Herald, May 2, 1877. "Pigeons are nesting over at Wilson,
on the West Wisconsin." *Town of Springfield, St. Croix Co.

"The weather for several days has been much like winter."

*bid. May 16, 1877. "Eastville, May 12. The wild pigeons have made
their headquarters at Bay City." [1875-'77]

*bid. March 13, 1878. "Several flocks of pigeons have passed over this
place during the past week." [1878-'80]

occasionally." [1881-'83]

*bid. 1884. "Raspberries plentiful, blackberries few.

\* * *

* Town of Isabelle, on Lake Pepin, Pierce Co.
Elroy Tribune, Jan. 25, 1874 - Jan. 26, 1874 [Nothing].

Elroy Union, Jan. 27, 1874 - Jan. 28, 1874 [Nothing].

Elroy Daily Register, Mar. 10, 1876 - May 10, 1876. Sept. 10, 1874 - Oct. 10, 1874 [Nothing].

April 13, 1876. "Lots of pigeons flying now."

Manton Star, Sept. 21, 1876. "From Elroy. The young and the old boys are having plenty of fun hunting pigeons and squirrels. There are plenty of them."

Elroy Plain Dealer, March 14, 1877. "Carry it Out. The most foolish absurd law we know of being manufactured by the present legislature is one to prevent killing or disturbing wild pigeons while on their nesting grounds. We do not pretend to be veined in constitutional law, yet it seems to us that a legislative body has no right to pass a law that may certainly, close, prevent property. Besides from defending or rather protecting their own property, for an everybody knows that ever lived near a nesting grove of steele birds, while fields are frequently laid waste by them; and yet our legislative wiseacres will not permit the passage thereof to fire a gun in self-defense. We hope that the author of this law will introduce another bill to prohibit farmers from stopping or otherwise destroying their other farm birds, potato bugs, and grasshoppers."

26th, May 30, 1877. "Pigeon hunters have been making their headquarters in Elroy for the past few days."

26th, Thurs., Feb. 16, 1882. "Wild pigeons were seen flying over here last Saturday." [1877-79] [1880-81]

Elroy Tribune, Wed. Feb. 15, 1882. "Pigeons are said to be plenty in this neighborhood."

26th, May 3, 82. "An is reported that pigeons are nesting near Sphinx."

May 10, 82. "Last week C. A. Boyd and H. C. Brown went up into Monroe county to inspect the mammoth pigeon roost and have two or three days shoot shooting the birds. Clarkey says he didn't suppose there were so many pigeons in the United States as they saw there; the air was literally black with them."

[1882-84] [1895-90]


"Pigeons have been seen flying in this vicinity by renewal parties and some claim to have seen robins."

Review [March '70 - Dec. '74]

Wed. May 3, 1871. "Pigeons are reported plenty in different portions of the State. Several birds have been in this region, but find the game rather scarce. Such birds around more plentiful in the Northern part of the State."

[Handwritten note: "April 7, '75. "Large flocks of pigeons have been on the move northward. Some of our shotguns have had fun shooting them as they passed within reach."

[Handwritten note: "April 28, 1875. Union steam. "Pigeons gone." ] [1875-'80]"
Florence Winning Nurse [1882-'83]

2nd: Aug. 21, '86. "Pigeons are quite plentiful in this vicinity and the woods are full of hunters." [1884-'86]

[1887-'88] [1889-'90]

3rd: July 26, '84. "Wild pigeons are beginning to get plenty in this vicinity."
Pigeons. — The air has been literally full of pigeons for the last week. On Sunday last [18th] a person could not look in any direction without seeing a cloud of them, whether he wished to or not. ...
April 6, 1861: "Ducks and pigeons are beginning to make their appearance, in limited numbers — not enough for good sporting."

May 17, 1862: "The sportmen of the city have been quite exercised among the numerous flocks of pigeons that have been flying over the county for two weeks past."

May 6, 1863: "Pigeon shooting is all the rage heretofore, because the pigeons are plenty, and the city folks like to shoot and eat them. It is popular among the farmers because the pigeons are destroying the wheat. Whole fields are entirely desolated and not a kernel left. It takes one man to sow and two to keep the pigeons off while the grain is being covered."

May 4, 1867: "Pigeons furnish a staple article of diet to the city people, and resellers to farmers. To the east of this city they are so numerous that farmers have to cover their grain as fast as they sow it, and then set boys to work to drive off the pigeons; many farmers have lost acres of seed. There is a coast about 16 miles from the city, and farmers have killed thousands nearly every night this week."

March 21, 1868: "Wild duck, geese and pigeons are getting quite plenty."

April 23, 1868: "Sportmen heretofore were mourning the unusual absence of the annual flight of pigeons. For their comfort we are able to state that east of this city, only across Lake Michigan, they were never known to be so plentiful as they are now. Thousands are caught in nets and shipped to Chicago and New York."

April 17, 1869: "Editor received a mess of pigeons from S.B. Amory. "Pigeons have come, and the sportmen rally forth early every morning."
May 15, 1869. "It rained three days of this week, interfering very much with the sale of powder and shot and the disturbance of pigeons..."

"Pigeons have furnished much sport for the sportsmen this week. In Eden they were so thick (the pigeons) that they actually drove the farmers out of the fields and into the homes."

"The county people whose pigeons are being destroyed by the crops will do well to remember that 17.5 Mikes -- has plenty of powder and shot, and several guns for sale." [Reverse English.]

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May 22, 69. "Millions of pigeons are nesting in the eastern part of Fond du Lac County."

"We are under obligation to Reuben Simmons for strings of pigeons left at this office."

"Pigeons are good stock to draw items from. Hundreds of dozens are melted in this county, dressed and shipped north and east."

"In the eastern part of the county there is a large coast, and parties from this city east, (between Saturday and Monday) shot wagon loads of them. After a while we will accept a few dozen "squabs." [Correctly copied]. [May 26]

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May 29, 69. "On Wednesday two were shipped from Oakfield Station, 125 hundred and nineteen hundred of pigeons, there was 35,000 pigeons in the lot."

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Sept. 25, 69. "Pigeons are again scarce, at least where we went to shoot them. The usual shot half of me afield."

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April 16, 70. "Pigeons don't fly in these parts much to the chagrin of the possessors of breechloaders." [1867-70]

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Fountain City Herald [Nov. 52 - March '56] "

Milwaukee Sentinel May 20, 1869 [2]. "Five hundred dozen pigeons were caught in nets near Oakfield Station, Fond du Lac County, in one day recently."
The arrivals of spring birds are frequent in these parts. Ducks, geese, and pigeons being seen almost daily.

Oakfield. Pigeons revealed themselves here on Wednesday, March 25. Not a word in favor of ducks and pigeons this week.

April 8. Oakfield. April 1st. Pigeons are getting a little more plentiful, and hunters of nets are preparing for the fall.

April 22. State News. Pigeons are becoming numerous in the Chequamegon valley.

May 6. Oakfield. Pigeons have been flying plentifully for a few days, but few are caught.

May 13. No pigeon pot-pies in these parts this year, as the pigeons go about in all sides of the country, but come not into it.

May 20. The only good pigeon shooting we have heard of in this country is near Brandon, where sportsmen are leaving a fine time.

May 27. State News. A man from Burnham's Valley has contracted to deliver 100,000 pigeons to a La Crosse dealer.

The pigeon roost in Northwestern Wisconsin is broken up, and the birds have scattered in all directions.

June 3. Pigeons are thick.

State News. Green Bay is overrun with pigeons. The farmers have to watch the wheat fields night and day, and squabs are cheaper than potatoes.

Sept. 2. Pigeons are more plentiful than they were a few weeks ago, still they are not found in quantities sufficient to satisfy the longings of a Hunter's heart.

Sept. 9. Oakfield. Ducks, Squirrels, Rigmans, and other small game are plentiful.

March 30. Pigeons are flying over the State in the southern part in large numbers, but few have been seen here yet.

April 13. Oakfield. Pigeons and ducks are scarce.

March 1. Pigeons were seen flying south over the
southern portion of the state last week, but with the usual weather it will take them two months yet to get as far as Fond du Lac on their northern journey.

Thid. March 29, 73. "Experienced trappers of pigeons throughout the United States, have watched the yearly movements of these migratory birds until they are able to locate, several months ahead, with a considerable degree of certainty, their resting place for any designated season. This year some of the southern portions of Wisconsin is designated and already pigeon men at the east are writing and telegraphing to parties here to keep them posted on pigeon signs. They seem to suspect that the birds will locate their roost either in Rock or Tremont county."

April 12, 73. "Wisconsin. Large numbers of pigeons congregating near Madison.

Sat. April 19, 73. "Many large flocks of pigeons flew over the western part of the county on Monday."

"Oakfield. - Pigeons in small quantities are visiting this part of the county,"

April 26, 73. Wisconsin. "Pigeons are being shipped from Rock county to eastern cities by the barrel."

May 3, 73. "No pigeons here and farmers have given them up for this spring."

The Fond du Lac Reporter says that to the east of that city the pigeons are so numerous that farmers have to cover their grain as fast as they sow it, and then set boys to work to drive them off; many farmers have lost acres of seed. There is a roost about sixteen miles from the city and the farmers have killed thousands nearly every night this week."

Sparta Eagle May 8, 1877. "Sat. May 4, 77."

[1874 - April 24, 75] [June '75 - '77] Nothing.
Fond du Lac Register March 14, '78. "Everybody is seeing unheard-of numbers of robins, pigeons, and wild geese now-a-days."

Feb. 18, '83. Oakfield. "Wild pigeons, robins and meadow larks have been seen in those parts. How is that for Wisconsin?"

Sat. April 7, '83. "A flock of wild pigeons circled about and finally alighted in Taylor's grove on Forest street Wednesday [April 4]. The birds did not stop long."

June 12, '66. "On Saturday last three gentlemen went hunting and returned home with 410 pigeons."


Feb. 29, '65. "Large numbers of pigeons are to be seen passing over the city every day, going in nearly every direction and performing all manner of evolutions 'twixt Heaven and earth."

[1860 - July 26, '65]

March 18, '68. "Pigeons in large flocks have already made their appearance."

Aug. 24, '74. "Wild pigeons wonder about the streets disceretly, offering themselves for '1 per dozen."

May 22, '75. "We notice by some of our exchanges that wild pigeons are very abundant in different localities in the state. The hearers are not black with them, however, yet."

Sept. 14, '75. "The pigeon yield is heard from. There are many of them about the wheat fields and in the woods."

[1873 - '75]

April 14, '77. "Andrew Davis says the pigeons are coming, and what he doesn't know about pigeons pigeons don't know about themselves. He assures us that two (2) flocks of average capacity have been signalled as coming from the north this way. Pigeons must be crazy to leave the north for any part of the foot-stool."

Sept. 8, '77. "Wild pigeons are reported plenty in the woods, and it is thought that they will increase in numbers as the season advances."
Fond du Lac Commonwealth, Sept. 29, '77. The hunting season has not
fully opened yet, still our Minneds report fair luck in their
search after ducks, squirrels, and pigeons."

Bid: March 16, '78. "Harney Durand has already made a camp at
Hudson marsh, and is watching for pigeons and waterfowl, the
former of which are quite plentiful."

"Pigeons have commenced their flight and are reported numerous
on the ledge and in the woods surrounding the city."

Bid: Sept. 17, '81. "Pigeons are not flying very thick yet, but some of
our minneds bagged a goodly number yesterday."

"M.E. Collins, of Bloomfield, one day this week, killed
thirty-six pigeons at two shots."

[1876 - '81]

Bid: Feb. 13, '82. "Empire. Ducks and pigeons are putting in
their appearance from their winter quarters."

[1882 - '84]

"Pigeons have been noticed flying in this section
for two or three days past, and Sportmen are getting curious
to get a shot at them."

Bid: March 4, '82. "Pigeons are again reported throughout the country."

Fond du Lac Journal [Aug. 31, '74 - '76] [77 - '78] [79 - '83, '81]
[March 2, '82 - '83]

"Appeal (Temperance) [1876 - '80]

"Whig [Dec. '77 - Mar. '78]

"People's Champion [Dec. '77 - Sept. July '80]

Mil. (d) Sentinel April 2, 1880, p. "Local.

"Pigeons are making their appearance in large numbers."

Fond du Lac Press 1858. "Pigeons - Our sportmen are having
a glorious time with the pigeons, just at present. Last Monday
morning a delegation of about fifty started from our city upon an
expedition and returned with over a thousand pigeons, as they estimated.
They found them in the vicinity of Waycheedah."

From Mil. (d)

McLevin, June 26, 1858.
Fond du Lac, Commonwealth.

Wed. May 17, 1869. Good Pigeon Shooting—A few mornings ago Col. C. K. Pier and H. M. Hamilton shot and secured three hundred and sixty pigeons. There were six sportmen in the party, all of whom shot over eight hundred pigeons.

Wed. May 26, '69. Oakfield. One hundred and thirteen barrels of Pigeons, averaging about three hundred to the barrel, were shipped from this station of the Chicago and Northwestern Road last week. They were caught in nets and sent to Eastern markets, packed in ice.

April 8, 1871. Pigeons, in large numbers, have already made their appearance in some parts. The flocks without any end neither way succeed each other in rapid succession. They will probably make a "roost" in Oconomowoc.

May 20, 1871. Among the Pigeons.

Embracing on the 10 A.M. train, we found already on board, a party like ourselves, headed for the great Pigeon roost, stretching from Kishbourn City on the Wisconsin River, for scores of miles beyond. At Minnesota Junction, where we change cars and go westward, another party from Wisconsin, fully armed and equipped, joined us, and still again at Princeton City and so on at different stations until, when we reached the Wisconsin at Kishbourn, we numbered twenty-seven strong. Kishbourn City consists at present writing of innumerable flocks of pigeons.

Having made all needed preparations the night previous, we were early called to arms by the cheerful voices of Mr. H. H. before referred to, and ever long, were rolling at a break neck pace through the dark headed for the roost 10 miles beyond. The idea was to get an opportunity to make the immense flocks of pigeons as they left the roost for the fields and feeding places throughout the State.
the indescribable cooing roars produced by countless millions
of pigeons, as crowning from their slumbers, they saluted each other,
and made up their foraging parties for the day, arose from every
side, creating an almost bewildering effect on the senses, as
it was echoed and re-echoed back by the mighty rocks
and ledges of the Wisconsin bank. As the first streakings
of daylight began to break over the eastern horizon, small
starting parties of the monstrous army of birds to follow, every inch
and thread started like night spirits past our heads. Soon the
shimmering line, or perhaps more correctly pigeon runners, who
belong to no regular organization, swept past in small and
irregular bodies. Our guide now told us to get into position
as quick as possible as the large flocks would follow in rapid
succession. We quickly ranged ourselves along the crest of a hill
overlooking a broad valley through which the birds would fly
on their outward passage. It was yet a long way from being
light, and as the various members of our party scrambled
through the thickets and briers, to gain advantageous locations
pointed out by our leader, various expressions fell from their
lips which we feel rejoiced it is not our duty to record.

And now arose a roar, a confluence with which all previous
noises were heard, a sort of lullaby, and which caused more
than one of the expectant and awed party to drop their guns, and
seek shelter behind and beneath the nearest trees. The sound was
condensed terror. Imagine a thousand thrilling machines running
under full headway, accompanied by as many steamboats groaning
off steam, with an equal quota of R.R. trains passing through
covered bridges - imagine these massed into a single flock, and
you partly have a faint conception of the terrific roar following
the monstrous black cloud of pigeons as they formed a perfect
flight in the gray light of morning, a few feet before our
faces. So sudden and unexpected was this shock, that nearly
the entire flock passed before a shot was fired. The unearthly

First continued, and as flock after flock, in almost endless line, succeeded each other, nearly on a level with the muzzle of our guns, the contents of a score of double barrels was poured into their dense midst. Hundreds, yes thousands, dropped into the open fields below. Not infrequently a hunter would discharge his piece, and load and fire the third and fourth time into the same flock. The slaughter was terrible beyond any description. Our guns became so hot by rapid discharges, we were afraid to load them, then, while waiting for them to cool, flying on the damp leaves, we used those of us who had used their pistols, while others their clubs, seldom if ever, failing to bring down some of the passing flock. So the scene was up, the flying host had ceased. It continued scarcely an hour in all. Below the scene was truly pitiable. Not less than 2500 birds covered the ground. Many were only wounded, a wing broken or something of the kind, while others were dead, without killing them. These were quickly caught and their necks broken. From 9 of the party were Chicago men who had come out to purchase or otherwise purchase several thousand birds for their market. We quickly negotiated our interest to them, at the rate of one cent per pigeon, and six hours later, we understand, the birds having been thoroughly fuddled and packed in ice, were loaded on a small freight to Chicago. Bearing the rest of the party, we drove off a few miles further into a high wooded ridge, where the nests were located. Every tree containing from one to four hundred nests. The young pigeons (squakes) were hardly able to fly, and could be caught easily, when once ousted from the nest. Here of course were hundreds, if thousands, of single birds, (probably the females) which could be shot one or two at a time, as fast as the hunter could load and fire. We saw more than a hundred trees that had fallen, by reason of the numerous nests build upon its branches. Many of the young pigeons were dead in their nests,
the mothers probably having been killed, and few young starved. Thousands driven by hunger had managed to crawl on from the nest, and whose dead bodies lay thick upon the ground. Thousands of dead pigeons also were scattered around, having doubtless been wounded away from home, and flown to their spring to die. It is estimated that not less than 100,000 hunters from all portions of the Union have visited the woods during this season. Probably as many as a thousand were there on the same day with us, but scattered along along through the woods twenty or twenty-five miles.

Like wise attracted there were several tribes of Indians. We met numerous squaws, the men and boys armed with bows and arrows, the squaws carrying long poles. When the nest was within reach the squaws punched the young pigeons from its home, and caught it as it fell. When too high to reach, the skillful archer generally at the first shot drove the large-headed arrows plump to the center of the nest, and the young bird, shot first upward, then fell dead. We saw one young Indian shoot three pigeons in this way, with his arrows, killing his bird on each occasion.

The old men and squaws were engaged in picking and drying pigeons. -- A full grown pigeon, when fully dried and smoked is about the size, shape and hardness of an old, last years' butternut. --

June 10, 71. The Prescott Journal says Theo. Miller of Clifton had a seven acre field of corn, with planted scattered up by pigeons, the other morning before breakfast.

"The same paper [a Clover Democrat] says Mr. P. Whipple caught thirty. Three dozen pigeons in his net at once.

The biggest catch on record."

April 20, 72. Pigeons are being netted in vast numbers at Stoughton.
Among the Pigeons

(From Fond du Lac Commonwealth, May 20, 1871)

Embarking on the 10 A. M. train, we found already on board, a party, like ourselves, headed for the great pigeon roost, stretching from Kilbourn City on the Wisconsin River, for scores of miles beyond. At Minnesota Junction, where we change cars and go westward, another party from Milwaukee, fully armed and equipped, joined us, and still again at Portage City, and so on at different stations until, when we reached the Wisconsin at Kilbourn, we numbered twenty-seven strong. Kilbourn City consists at present writing of innumerable coops of pigeons.

Having made all needed preparations the night previous, we were early called to arms by the wholesome voice of Mr. F. H. before referred to, and were long, were rolling at a break neck pace through the dark headed for the roost 10 miles beyond. The idea was to get an opportunity to make the immense flocks of pigeons as they left the roost for the fields and feeding places throughout the State. The indescribable cooing roar produced by uncounted millions of pigeons, as arousing from their slumbers they saluted each other and made up their foraging parties for the day, arose from every side, creating an almost bewildering effect on the senses, as it was echoed and re-echoed back by the mighty rocks and ledges of the Wisconsin bank. As the first streakings of daylight began to break over the eastern horizon, small scouting parties of the monstrous army of birds to follow, every now and then darted like night spirits past our heads. Soon the skirmish line, or perhaps more correctly pigeon bummer, who belong to no regular organization, swept past in small and irregular bodies. Our guide now told us to get into position as quick as possible as the large flocks would follow in rapid succession. We quickly ranged ourselves along the crest of a hill overlooking a cleared valley through which the birds would fly on their outward passage. It was yet a long way from being light, and as the various members of our party scrambled through the thickets and brambles, to gain advantageous locations pointed out by our leader, various expressions fell from their lips which we feel rejoiced it is not our duty to record.

And now arose a roar, compared with which all previous noises ever heard, are but lullabys, and which caused more than one of the expectant and excited party
to drop their guns, and seek shelter behind and beneath
the nearest trees. The sound was condensed terror.
Imagine a thousand threshing machines running under full
headway, accompanied by as many steamboats groaning off
steam, with an equal quota of R. R. trains passing
through covered bridges — imagine these massed into a
single flock, and you possibly have a faint conception
of the terrific roar following the monstrous black cloud
of pigeons as they passed in rapid flight in the grey
light of morning, a few feet before our faces. So
sudden and unexpected was the shock, that nearly the
entire flock passed before a shot was fired. The unearthly
roar continued, and as flock after flock, in almost
endless line, succeeded each other, nearly on a level
with the muzzle of our guns, the contents of a score of
double barrels was poured into their dense midst.
Hundreds, yes thousands, dropped into the open fields
below. Not infrequently a hunter would discharge his
piece and load and fire the third and fourth time into the
same flock. The slaughter was terrible beyond any de-
scription. Our guns became so hot by rapid discharges,
we were afraid to load them. Then while waiting for them
to cool, lying on the damp leaves, we used those of us
who had (them), used their pistols, while others threw
clubs, seldom if ever, failing to bring down some of the
passing flock. Ere the sun was up, the flying host had
ceased. It continued scarcely an hour in all. Below the
scene was truly pittiable. Not less than 2,500 birds
covered the ground. Many were only wounded, a wing broken
or something of the kind, which disabled, without killing
them. These were quickly caught and their necks broken.
Four of the party were Chicago men who had come out to
purchase or otherwise procure several thousand birds for
that market. We quickly negotiated our interest to them,
at the rate of one cent per pigeon, and six hours later,
we understand, the birds having been thoroughly plucked
and packed in ice, were headed on a through freight to
Chicago. Leaving the rest of the party, we drove off a
few miles further into a high wooded ridge, where the
nests were located. Every tree containing from one to
four hundred nests. The young pigeons (squabs) were
hardly able to fly, and could be caught easily, when once
ousted from the nest. Here of course were hundreds of
thousands of single birds. (Probably the females) which
could be shot one or two at a time, as fast as the hunter
could load and fire. We saw more than a hundred trees that
had fallen, by reason of the numbers of nests built upon
(their) its branches. Many of the young pigeons were dead
in their nests, the mothers probably having been killed,
and her young starved.
Thousands driven by hunger had managed to crawl or flop from the nest, and whose dead bodies lay thick upon the ground. Thousands of dead pigeons also were scattered around, having doubtless been wounded away from home, and flown to their young to die. It is estimated that not less than 100,000 hunters from all portions of the Union have visited the roost during this season. Probably as many as a thousand were there on the same day with us but scattered along through the woods twenty or twenty-five miles.

Likewise attracted there were several tribes of Indians. We met numerous squads, the men and boys armed with bows and arrows, the squaws carrying long poles. When the nest was within reach the squaws punched the young pigeons from its home, and caught it as it fell. When too high to reach, the skillful archer generally at the first shot drove the large headed arrow plump to the center of the nest, and the young bird, shot first upward, then fell dead. We saw one young Indian shoot three pigeons on the wing, with his arrow, killing his bird on each occasion. —

The old men and squaws were engaged in picking and drying pigeons. — A full grown pigeon, when fully dried and smoked is about the size, shape and hardness of an old, last years butternut, — "
Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin (1867-1888), N. F., "Temperance Argus."

Jefferson County Herald, March 15, 1878, "The pigeons are flying." [78-79]

Wisconsin State News, June 2, 1882, "Pigeons have established nesting place eight miles north of Milwaukee City." [82-83]

[85-87]

Fort Atkinson, [June-July, 1882 - Sept. 4, 1883], "Pigeons are flying in large numbers." [March 24 - 44]

Palmira Enterprise, June 2, 1875, "Pigeons were plentiful at Green Lake.

Malmouth, Aug. 29, 1877, "A few more seen during the day and they mostly on the wing." Bag 1 pigeon, 14 quails, 1 woodcock.

Sept. 12, 1882, "Pigeons hunting more plentiful than pigeons.


March 13, 1878, "Pigeons, wild ducks, and wild geese are flying northward.

Aug. 28, 1878, "Pigeons seem to be a little behind time this season."

March 5, 1879, "Spring is here - look out for pigeons soon."

April 2, 1884, "Wild geese and pigeons have made their appearance."

[82-84] [85-87] [88-90].
Fort Howard Review, April 5, 1882, "Shooting pigeons is now the pastime of sportmen."

said, March 29, 964, "Pigeons are flying northward."

[1882-84]

said, March 12, 1878, "Sportmen were having a good time shooting at pigeons in the woods in the outskirts of the city on Sunday, but Mayor Richardson, new to the sport, found it a new experience.

said, March 19, 1878, "The woods in the outskirts of the city are thronged with sportmen shooting pigeons."

said, Sept. 16, 1879, "The pigeons flock around the warehous of

Cunningham and Van.

said, March 31, 1880, "Pigeons are flying."

Aug 31, 1881, "Pigeons are appearing."

April 25, 1885, "The pigeons are being slaughtered.

Boy shot in foot hunting pigeons.

April 17, 1886, "Pigeons are flying."

Fort Howard Herald, April 13, 1875, "The song of the sportmen just now is:"

Now I do shoot my rifle clear
At pigeons in the skies,
Then fly me home, and tell my dear,
To make me into pies."

said, Sept. 24, 1875, "Wisconsin News: Pigeons are very plentiful
now throughout the state." [Aug.'74-'77 all.]

Fort Howard Monitor News, March 10, 1876, "Several flocks of pigeons, flying northward through this place, Saturday morning.

March 11, proclaim that warm weather is near at hand."

said, April 13, 1876, "Pigeons in large numbers, commenced flying Sunday [April 9] last, and on the following day the woods in this vicinity, resounded with the report of the sportman's gun.

Commence flocks passed by, and many of the feathered tribe were bagged and brought into the city."

[1876-Jan.'77 all]
Fort Howard Journal, April 3, 1880. Pigeons are passing north in large numbers.

About 250 Green Bay hunters were out April 1st, but "not a pigeon had been seen."

Seymour reports: "Wild pigeons are coming north."

[1879 - April 24 '80 all]
SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN May 15, 1855.

Shelbyan Chronicle, May 19, 1855: "Many numbers of pigeons have been flying backward and forward, for some weeks, over our village, and its vicinity, lighting in avenues upon the newly sown wheat and corn fields, searing the seeds from the earth, before they have become moistened. We heard of one instance where 13 bushels of wheat were taken from the ground while the planters were at dinner. Why don't the young 'keepers shoot at them?"—Sheboygan News.

Sheboygan City Times, May 19, 1855. "Immeasurable quantities of pigeons have been flying for the past few days." [April 18-20] [1860-63]

[May 19, 1855]

For Lake Times, April 25, 1862. "Pigeons are quite numerous in this vicinity. T. R. Daniel and J. Van Buren captured sixty with No. 6 shot, one morning this week."

Sheboygan Daily Journal, June 16, 1865. "Young pigeons and ducks are quite plenty just now."

Sheboygan Evening News, May 19, 1862. "Pigeons were quite numerous in this vicinity. T. R. Daniel and J. Van Buren captured sixty with No. 6 shot, one morning this week."

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 16, 1872. "Young pigeons and ducks are quite plenty just now."

[June 16, 1871-73]

St. Louis, Mo., April 25, 1875. "Wild geese and pigeons are making their appearance." [74-76]

[April 9, 1876] "Pigeons are reported as being numerous in various parts of the State, from Wash. Central, north of Portage, being a big road, which they would come to this vicinity." [1877- April 29, 1871, 20-10].

Sheboygan Evening News, April 29, 1881. "Our birds have about disappeared."

Sheboygan Evening News, May 27, 1858. "Pigeons—Our Shooting is having a fine time shooting these 2000 birds. The understand there is lots of them around in the timber."

Sheboygan Evening News, Sept. 1, 1855. "To our friend Saylor... we are indebted for a fine mess of pigeons."

Sheboygan Daily Journal, May 31, 1887. "Pigeons innumerable have made their appearance in the openings, looking as plentiful as Jersey peaches."—From W.L. Daily Wisconsin May 31, 1887.
April 1, 1871. "Pigeons. – Clouds of pigeons fill the air in this section, and fears are entertained that they may do great damage to spring corn grain. It is said that they are nesting about three or four miles northeast of this place."

April 15, 1871. Mentioned thousands of acres burned over last Sunday in county.

"Quite a movement in this section last Monday."

"Pigeons Nesting. – The pigeons are nesting about three or four miles north of this place. The nesting grounds extends for miles in the town of Stamps Prairie, Monroe, Preston, Big Flats and Tuscola. Blocks containing tens of thousands of the birds are continually flying over, while the woods are literally alive with them. A gentleman informs us that he counted forty nests on one tree, and he don't think it was a very good day for nests, either."

April 29, 1871. "At Emm. – Quite a number of gentlemen from abroad are here on a pigeon hunt. — — —"

May 6, 1871. "Pigeons. – Pigeons ain't scarce about here. One day last week a professional pigeon hunter caught forty-five dozen of the unsuspecting birds."

May 13, 1871. "Repairing. – The pigeon hunters say that the birds are repairing their nests, and the indications are that they will stay in this section until after hatching and raising another brood of young pigeons."

June 3, 1871. "Everyone hereabouts is engaged in a hunt — a pesto bug hunt — and find the game plenty — as plenty as pigeons in Strickland's yard last Wednesday." [Last mention]
April 13, 1872. "The snow has nearly all disappeared, and the robins have made their appearance in great numbers."

[1871-72]

Sat. April 12, '73. Snow his has best deep on a level in Wisconsin. Very heavy snow on 6th. Nothing on pigeons.

May 20, '75. "State News. Tange flocks of pigeons are devasting the cornfields in many parts of the State."

May 23, '75 - '76

April 7, '77. "Pigeon hunters say that the indications are that the birds will depart somewhere in this state this season. They seem to have promptly heard of the passage of Cash's pigeon law."

April 21, '77. "The hunters say that the pigeons will soon make their appearance in large numbers in this section. A few flocks have already come."

April 28, '77. "The pigeons roost out" in Tessa and Richfield now. and some of the boys are having a little fun."

Sat. May 5, '77. "Last Sunday morning the snow here lay six inches deep on the level."

May 12, '77. "Mr. E. P. Crosby of Plainville, is here this week visiting friends, and having a little fun with the pigeons."

March 4, '82. "The woods are full of wild pigeons, but we don't hear of any great slaughter among them."

March 25, '82. "Large flocks of pigeons have been flying over the country for the last two weeks, and a goodly number of amateur sportsmen have been trying their skill in bagging them."

Sat. April 8, '82. "John Hill seems to be the champion pigeon shooter of this village. In a short time one day last week he bagged nearly sixty, and generously distributed them among his friends."

April 15, '82. "Very much ammunition is being expended now, - days in complimentary salutes to flocks of pigeons."

"They say the pigeons roost is about seven or eight miles from here, and to get there through the swamps and marshes one needs the resolution that, 'sink or swim, survive or perish,' he's bound to flamborough that pigeon."
Adams County Press, April 22, 1882. "It is said that the pigeons have commenced building nests in the northeast part of the town of Preston."

June 10, 1882. Easton Elite. Mentions the blacksmith Bill Eddy whose anvil can be heard "except when, like some of his less estate neighbors, he catches the 'pigeon fever.'" M. Dated Easton June 3, 1882.

June 17, 1882. Jackson Settlers. "This town is lined with pigeon hunters."

Jonesville, June 12, 1882.

June 24, 1882. Big Springs Splinters. "The squad fever is over with no great danger of a relapse this season."

April 7, 1883. "Now, gunner, hold your stock gun true at pigeons as they fly!" [Field 1882-83]

April 12, 1884. Plainville Gossip. "Several large flocks of pigeons have flown over of late." [Field 1884-86]

April 19, 1890. "Quite large flocks of pigeons are said to be roosting in the north part of the county." [1887-90] [1891-94]
April 25, 1873. "Pigeon hunting has afforded lively sport for several days past."

Halesville Transcript, Feb. 1867. Nothing [1860 - March 14, 1868] [1866]

Ibid. May 1, 1863. "Pigeons. Our exchanges have noticed the extraordinary number of wood pigeons passing this spring. During the last week, our sky was clouded with huge flocks of them passing in a westerly direction."

Halesville Transcript, May 1866 - 1867. All.


Ibid. Independent Hns., April 26, 1877. "Flocks of pigeons have been flying over during the week."

Ibid. May 3, 1877. "Pigeons have not flown much since the snowstorm."

April 28 began snowing. On the 29th, there were 4". Morning of 30th, temp. 28°. Warmed up and snow melted. Morning of May 1, temp. 30°.

Ibid. May 10, 1877. "Pigeon Roosts. There is reported a large roost of pigeons in the vicinity of the Okhov. Another roost is reported at the upper Chippewa. Parties who have been in the habit of netting these birds, should bear in mind that the legislature passed a law last winter forbidding the hatching of the eggs within three miles of a roost."

Ibid. March 14, 1878. "Flocks of wild pigeons have been seen but they are not very plenty."

Ibid. April 17, 1879. "Pigeons in small numbers have appeared in this vicinity. They are not plenty enough to excite much interest among sportmen."

* Ibid. May 19, 1871. Ettreick, May 17. "The pigeons are more plentiful this spring than for several years past. Though the spinners, is making it warm for them." [1876 - 81]

* Ibid. April 6, 1882. "Wild ducks and pigeons have made their appearance."

* See Trempealeau.

"The pigeon excitement here has somewhat abated; the birds have all left here and are nesting near near Rockblown. The pigeon hunters have all gone down there to make the flocks fly. Wm. Baldwin, of Sparta, cleared one thousand and eight dollars out of this pigeon hunt this spring, and some have made more than that," — M. J. Evens.

[1881-'84]

said, April 2, '85: "A few ducks and pigeons are reported flying..."

[1885. July 10, '87]

Alleuville (Tennessean Co.) Journal. July 13, '71. Preston, July 10. Blue berries... are not gathered in as large quantities as usual, owing to pigeons, which take them in some localities nearly as fast as they ripen."
Brand Rouge. Trikurne, April 11, 1874. "A few flocks of pigeons have been noticed here within the past week."

Aid. April 10, '74. "Millions of pigeons observed this day on Thursday [3rd] morning."

"It is said that the pigeons are nesting at the Bayou, 14 miles below this city. They took up their abode here a few years since."

Aid May 1, '75. "Pigeon trappers have been here away in the hope of learning where their game is nesting. The pigeons are very picky this spring—seeming at a loss to find upon a spot for the purpose of incubation."

Aid. April 3, '80. "Pigeons have been flying northward over the city during the past week."

Aid. April 8, '82. "Pigeons are flying by the millions."
April 7, 1864. "Pigeons are flying and everything betokens the arrival of spring."

March 26, 1874. "Now watch for pigeons."

July 30, 1875. "The pigeons are nesting this year in the vicinity of Colby, where there are said to be countless thousands of them."

April 15, 1875. "Pigeons. Thousands of immense flocks of pigeons were flying northward last Friday [April 9]. They are reported nesting on the 10 mile creek."

April 22, 1875. "Only 10° below zero, April 16th."

March 2, 1876. "Wild pigeons will please put in an appearance."

April 6, 1877. "Welcome Pigeon, we haven't seen a Pigeon yet."

April 13, 1877. "Pigeons don't fly worth a cent."

May 5, 1877. "Nary pigeon as yet." [1878 Nothing]

3, 1879. "Immeasurable pigeons are cutting pigeon wings in the blue aetherial just now." [1879]

April 1, 1880. "Pigeons are flying."

May 18, 1882. "Pigeons are flying over this city in clouds."

April 8, 1882. Stevens Point Journal. "Pigeons are said to be roosting in immense numbers in Wood County."

Marchfield Times [Sept. 1883 - 1889. Nothing!]

The Cuyahoga Republican and Leader April 19, 1879, State items. "Immeasurable pigeons are reported to be in the vast roost of Grand Rapids."

Madison State J. April 21, 1873. The Wood County Reporter states that in all probability there will be another pigeon roost at or near Friendship, Adams county. The pigeons are already flocking there by millions."

Milwaukee Commercial Times May 11, 1875. "The pigeon roost of America is in Wood County."
April 17, 1871, "Messrs. Peter McCamley and
Amos Hashbrowck arose early Friday morning [11th] for a hunt
on seven mile creek. They proceeded after an all day hunt in
capturing one lone pigeon that had been wounded before.

Farmers are complaining bitterly of the damage being done
by the millions of pigeons which have made headquarters
at or near Friendship, and make marauding expeditions
every morning with regularity and certainty of a Sherman
summer," says the Wood County Reporter. Fields of wheat are
being completely spoiled, and all grain saved is as good
as lost to the husbandman. Hundreds of flocks may be seen
every morning flying to the northwest, to feed on the acorns
of the oak forests in the western portion of the county and
returning with the approach of night." - Stearns in Beaver Dam
Argus May 13, 1871; appeared also in Milwaukee Daily Sentinel
May 14, 1871.

The Wood County Reporter says: "A squeak is a pigeon that
has not passed the line of accountability. Squacks are
ready to be good to eat. They are plenty as counterfeit currency
at a circus door." - Milwaukee Daily Sentinel May 17, 1871.
Green Bay Advocate March 23, 1854. Pigeons. For the last few days immense flocks of pigeons have passed over our village. Judging from the frequency and countless numbers in which they appear, there will be any quantity of them in this region this season. From Madison State Journal March 29, 1854.

Green Bay Advocate July 4, 1853. Two Green Bay men went into the woods, about two miles from this place, on Saturday afternoon last, and succeeded in killing seventy-six pigeons. From Mil. (W) Wisconsin July 18, 1853, [3].

Green Bay Advocate Sept. 1, 1853. One of our sportsmen killed twenty-three pigeons, a day or two ago, at two o'clock. From Mil. (W) Wisconsin Sept. 7, 1853, [3].

Green Bay Advocate Sept. 8, 1853. Two hundred— are now having a fine time in shooting pigeons. From Mil. (W) Wisconsin Sept. 14, 1853.

Green Bay Advocate March 23, 1854. For the last few days immense flocks of pigeons have passed over our village. Judging from the frequency and countless numbers in which they appear, there will be any quantity of them in this region this season. From Mil. (W) Wisconsin April 18, 1854, [4].
"Rigorns are flying quite lively."

April 16, 1870. "The ducks are mostly flying northward, and the pigeons are circling around in immense flocks."

Mr. Chilton Purds says: "The wild pigeons have made their appearance in this vicinity."

Sat. Sept. 9, 1871. Mr. Chas. Hartmg was accidentally shot by a companion last Wednesday morning, while hunting pigeons near Cedar Run.

April 13, 72. "The "eternal mildness" hasn't come yet, but Spring has. We know it by all its various signs, by the sweet carols of birds amid the barren tree-tops, and the great flocks of pigeons wheeling overhead in the early morning."

Queen Bay Advocate June 29, 1871. Gaston White was accidentally shot while "out shooting pigeons last Saturday, in the South part of the city."

2d Id. Sept. 7, 1871. Pigeons have made their appearance in considerable numbers, and sportsmen are bringing them in by the dozens.

April 11, 72. "Pigeons have also commenced flying in large numbers." Martins arrived one cott."

Queen Bay Advocate June 29, 1874. "Game. Our pigeons have had fine sport for the last two weeks, in shooting pigeons, large numbers of which have been and are still flying over our city, sufficiently large to be within the reach of the most ambitious shot-gun. Large quantities have been slaughtered, and will probably be for a couple of weeks to come, as they seem to increase in numbers every day." [Of Ashland].

3d Id. May 24, 55. "Pigeons, by the hundreds, thousands and tens of thousands, are now flying over and about our city in all dire
'June 21, '55. Pigeon Shooting. Men, within our recollection, have never seen pigeons as plenty, both in the woods and in our market, as they are at this time. We saw several flocks coming in from the woods on Tuesday morning last, and were informed that the smallest number of pigeons killed by any man was 84. They are nearly all young pigeons, and very fat, and can be bought at half the price per pound that is paid for beef.'

'Sep't. 6, '55. Pigeon Shooting. The lovers of good shooting, in this vicinity, are just now enjoying themselves to their hearts content. Scurdy a day passes but I hear of a "big shot," made by some amateur hunter, a day or two since. Dr. B. Lodgett, presented us with a dozen pigeons, which he informed us was a part of nine he killed by them at one shot. We presume there are others who can tell as large a story, but we shall not credit them, unless we see the pigeons.'

'Apr't. 3, '56. Spring. Within the past few days pigeons, in large flocks, have been seen flying over the city.'

'Apr't. 24, '56. Pigeons, by the thousands, tens of thousands, and hundreds of thousands, are flying over our city, in all directions, and the sportsmen, in Shanghai coats, jackets and small clothes, are snapping away at them.--'

'May 24, '56. "Great Shooting of Pigeons." Notions article no boy attended to shoot pigeons. [1856-56]

'Aug. 28, '56. Squirrel migration -- "scarcity of most all kinds of nuts."'

'June 3, '58. See cento for meeting on the Reseigto river.

'July 29, '57. "Pigeons have been quite numerous in this section this season, but until within a few days not many have been shot, as they have flown beyond our range; now, however, the young ones are flying, and our sportsmen are shooting them by scores."

[1857-59] [No vol. for 1860]

April 18, '61. "Pigeons, too, are flying over in great numbers."

'May 4, '65. "Pigeon Shooting has been the biggest thing, in the hunting line in this vicinity this spring. This time they did not fly via Appleton."

June 11, 1865. On Saturday last office boy killed 9 pigeons. [1861-66]
Green Bay Advocate, June 6, 1867. Pigeons. "For the past week the woods in this vicinity have been thick with pigeons, and the Kot-kotting of the guns all around have excited the skin. Many fine birds have been killed. The sportsmen are having great success, all coming in heavy with game. Elsewhere in the state, they are reported in great plenty. One station, alone, (Shoepier) in the Northwestern, has shipped in one week forty-seven barrels, amounting about twenty-five dozen dressed pigeons each forty-one of which went to New York, three to Boston, two to Chicago, and one to Philadelphia."

Febd. March 19, '68. Since Saturday morning [March 17] numerous flocks of pigeons have flown over the city, and our sportsmen have already begun to keep at them. They have come this season fully three weeks earlier than usual."

Febd. March 25, '68. Pigeons have been flying in this vicinity for upwards of ten days past."  

Febd. April 7, 1870. Pigeons are flying. [1867-70] [above] p17, '72. Pigeons are pattering around upstairs windows."

Febd. April 16, 1874. "The quantities of wild ducks and pigeons which have appeared in our market, show that the sport in that direction has commenced in earnest."

Febd. Sept. 17, '74. Pigeons are quite plenty.

Febd. April 9, '75. (Thurs). "Pigeons - there is now no question about spring being here. Pigeons are flying northward in considerable numbers and in one shot as far north as Menominee last Saturday [April 8]."

Febd. Sept. 2, '75. "Pigeon shooting here is good just now and is being made the most of."

Sept. 30, '75. Bears and pigeons are plenty, Black Creek Journal.

Thurs. April 13, '76. "Also on Sunday [April 9] and Monday morning immense flocks of pigeons were flying over the city, and on Monday morning there was a constant fusillade from shot-guns in the octahedron."

[1873-76]
Green Bay Advocate March 7, 1878. "For the use of our sporting friends we may mention that ducks and pigeons have commenced flying." [1877-78]

[April 1, 1886. "Spring Sign. -- Dainty numerous pigeons have been flying for several days." [1886-87]

[March 30, 1882. "On Wednesday morning March 29, ... immense blocks of pigeons were flying over." [1882-83]

[April 23, 1885. "Pigeons are becoming plenty, but sportmen do not seem to have very good luck in bagging them." [1883-84]


[April 22, 1888. "Quite a number of pigeons have been seen." [1888-89]


Green Bay Gazette Vol. I [March 3, 1866 - 1900]

June 16, 1866. "Our sportsmen are now having considerable enjoyment in the way of shooting pigeons." [1866-69]

July 14, 1866. "As an exciting pigeon shooting on July 7." [1866-69]

April 26, 1867. "Pigeons began flying a week since, but none have yet been offered for sale." [1866-69]

June 1, 1867. "The pigeons are becoming plenty now ..." [1866-69] [1870-73 above]

April 12, 1876. "Pigeons have been flying in great numbers for two days." [1874-76]

April 19, 1876. "Hunting pigeons is the prevailing sport."

The Gazette, Sept. 1, 1877. "Pigeons are coming and rest fees are in order."

Feb. 15, 1878. "At Gray and Cole, I hear have been down to Guam for the past few days slaughtering pigeons." - Fort Howard Review.

March 9, 1878. "Pigeons are flying this week."

Sept. 16. "About one hundred pigeons were dropped Saturday A.M. in the grove near A.F. Atkins' house."

"The woods in the outskirts of the city were thronged with sportmen shooting pigeons Sunday. [March 16]."

March 16, 1878. "Sportmen were having a good time shooting pigeons in the outskirts of the city on Sunday, but Mayor Richardson urged promptly put a stop to the business." - Fort Howard Review.

March 15, 1879. "The boys are preparing to keep the pigeons."

Sept. 6, 1877. "The pigeons flock around the warehouse of Carrell & Van. [1877-79]

April 3, 1880. "Myriads of pigeons flying this week."

"The biggest April fooled fellows were those who went out to shoot pigeons Tuesday [April 8] morning, and we observed a lot of crested-pigeon sportmen returning form the woods next morning with many a bird." -"

Aug. 27, 1881. "Pigeons are appearing."

"Game is not so plentiful as sportmen would like; yet Mr. A.J.E. Holmey went out the other day and bagged seven partridges and eight pigeons in about fifteen minutes."

Sept. 10, 1881. "Birds are scarce." [1880-82]

April 1, 1882. "Shooting pigeons is near the pastime of sportmen.

April 25, 1886. "Pigeons hunting is popular just now. It is a noticeable fact, however, that those who hunt pigeons are more numerous than those who shoot them."

Roy of Fort Howard, shot in foot, while hunting pigeons.

Apr. 17, 1886. "Large flocks of pigeons went north Wednesday [April 14]."

Apr. 24, 1886. "Esquimalt correspondent. "April 19, Picketed fishing and pigeon shooting is the order here now."

[88-87] [88-89] one day entered the rear door of a store on Washington street, flew the whole length of the store and out the front door."
March 5, 1878, "Pigeons were flying this morning."

March 31, 1881, "Hunters have commenced bringing wild ducks and pigeons to market."

March 29, 1882, "Pigeons flew in large flocks this morning."

April 4, 1883, "A flock or two of pigeons flew over the city this morning."

April 2, 1844, "The pigeons are as plentiful as prairie flowers in June."

Ashkicsh Courier Sept. 7, 1853, "Good shooting. One of our sportsmen killed twenty-three pigeons a day or two ago in two shots."

Green Bay Advocate March 23, 1854, "For the last few days immense flocks of pigeons have passed over our village. Judging from the frequency and countless numbers in which they appear there will be any quantity of them in this region this season."

Waukesha Co. Democrat April 5, 1854, "Mil. (A) Sentinel Aug. 2, 1872, "Brown County. Large flocks of pigeons, the result of the season's hatching, are now in movement in this region."
"The pigeon hunters have not yet tired of staying at Hancock. Bird-watching's well kept hotel and well furnished table must be the cause, for there are very few pigeons to be caught."

_Said, May 9, '77._ "Some fellow telegraphed that the pigeons were resting in the swamps of Adams County, and the result has been that a large party of pigeon hunters have arrived, two being from Maine. Unfortunately the pigeons heard of their coming en route, and have vastly increased and less dangerous feeding grounds, much to the disgust of the hunters at Hancock."

_Wautoma Argus_ April 10, '85. "Hancock. Pigeons are numerous."

_Montello Sun._ April 22, '85. "A party of hunters consisting of Postmaster Dow, B. H. Woodell, Z. J. D. Swift and Marion Russell, all of this city [Portage], took a trip to Hancock for a pigeon hunt a few days since. The day was fine, the game plenty, and they came home in fine spirits."

_Plainfield Sun._ Fri. April 10, '85. "Hancock, Tons of pigeons and wild geese now a days. "Alarmed, pigeons are flocking about."

_Said._ April 17, '85. "Hancock, One pigeon hunter has arrived and more coming."

_Said._ April 2, '86. "Hancock. Wm. Sullivan informs us that he saw a large flock of pigeons last Friday [March 26], feeding in the Bluffs between here and Coloma Station. This is good news."

_Said._ April 9, '86. "Hancock. One pigeon hunter is in town this week looking for birds." _Coloma Station._ One flock of pigeons did come the other day, but only a half of them lived to get away."

_Said._ April 16, '86. "Hancock. Pigeons are scarce."

_23._ "Coloma Station. We don't think it is a good year for pigeons anywhere."

[Nov. 23, 1885 —'86]
Plainfield Sun April 22, 1887. "Wild Rose: A company of hunters from town drove off three or four miles the other day to scare the pigeons and other game. Their luck we do not care to state."

[1887-88]

April 29, 1887. "East Oasis, Melvin. Scarke is having splendid luck shooting pigeons."

[1889-92] [1893]

April 25, 1890. Bancroft (delayed from April 18): "Spring robins, bluebirds, pigeons, geese, ducks and in fact it is "Spring."

April 3, 1890. "It is reported that a large nesting place for pigeons is known of at Hancock, on the Wisconsin Central railroad, north of Portage."
Horicon Argus, p. 2, 1856. "The past few days large flocks of pigeons and ducks have been flying north, - - - " [Jan. 17-18] [May 1, 1857. Very late spring. "The ice is fast disappearing from the lake."
[May 2, 1857. "The ice has all left the lake."
[May 22, 1857. "Pigeons are flying over to the Northwest in the morning and back in the evening, by the thousands. As they generally fly low, we think they must be about nesting somewhere in this vicinity."
"Pigeon pies are fashionable now,
[Aug. 21, 1857. "Pigeon and chicken shooting has now fairly commenced."
[Sept. 11, 1857. "Very plenty. - Pigeons are to be found about the wheat fields in any quantity. Sportsmen came in with their game bags full."
[1857-58] [Jan. 1858] [April 2, 1858. "... Duck and Pigeon"
"which are now flying around."
Horicon Gazette [1859-1861]

Mayville Telephone, Mar. 12, 1878. "A large flock of wild pigeons were seen flying over Mayville one day last week." [July 30, 1877-Feb. 13, 1879]

Juneau Democrat, Mar. 15, 1876, Neotsho. "Wild geese, ducks, and pigeons have been seen flying around. - - -"
[April 19, 1876. "Large flocks of pigeons have made their appearance and a large number have been brought to the ground by the army of sportmen in pursuit of them."
[Aug. 29, 1877. "Pigeons have put in an appearance."
[1876-78] [Feb. 23, 1879]

Juneau Telephone [1879-80]
[1881-82]
March 30, 1883, Minnesota Junction, "Post ready for pigeons."
[1881-82]

[1884-86]
Horicon Gazette [June 52 - Sept. 53]
April 22, 1870. "Sunning is good now. Duck, pigeons and
fish are plenty."

March 17, 1871. "Pigeons, Ducks, and Seese are flying northward,
laboring & spring."

May 5, 1871. "Pigeons. Pigeons are cooing down in Monroe and
Jackson counties. in immense numbers. The roost extends
several miles. Great numbers are being killed and sent to
eastern markets. Over nine tons were shipped over the rail
road to Milwaukee in one day."

June 2, 1871. "Pigeon shooting still goes on. We bagged a score a
morning or two ago before breakfast."

Appleton Crescent May 28, 1864. State Item. "Hudson: Millions of pigeons are
in the woods."

Milwaukee (A) Sentinel May 28, 1864. "Pigeons: There are millions of
pigeons in this vicinity now, and sporting characters are having a
gay time gathering them in. Mr. Webb tells us a story of killing
87 at one shot from a double barrelled gun; and if he were not a
man of truth and veracity, we would not believe more than
half of it." Hudson Star

Milwaukee State J. May 18, 1875. "The Hudson Star and Times states that the
pigeons are netting out in the Franklin woods, a few miles
beyond River Falls, Pierce county." "Pigeon Shooting."

Milwaukee State J. May 18, 1875. "The pigeons in Pierce county. In company
with Geo. Martin we went out on a pigeon shooting expedition Friday
and Saturday of last week, visiting the "pigeon sport" near
Beldenville, in Pierce County, about 12 miles above River Falls.
In about 4 hours shooting we bagged a full buggy load of
Hudson

Of pigeons, 174 in number.

We had often heard of "pigeon roots," (which is the place where they congregate to build their nests and raise their young), but had never seen one before. We had often heard that the pigeons where they nested would be in such great numbers, and would build their nests so thickly upon the trees as to break off large limbs.

None is nothing like this out at Baldenville, we should judge, there was an average of a dozen nests to each tree. The root is said to cover an area of not less than 15 to 20 square miles, and as the trees are very thick it will be seen that there must be a great many of the birds. When we left, the nests were generally built, and perhaps a few of them contained eggs.

The birds are in countless numbers. You can hear them for a mile, the noise sounding like a heavy wind roaring through the woods. As they were all red birds, of course they were rather wild, and kept in the tops of the tall trees, just about difficult enough to get to give zest to the sport of shooting them. Many of our readers who wish for a change, in the shooting line, and like ourselves are desirous of laying in their summer's meat, will find it by going out to this pigeon root. - Hudson Star and Times, May 14, 1875.

Milwaukee Daily World, Sept. 4, 1860. "The Hudson Star says that pigeons by the thousand infest the surrounding country again. They hear of 47 being killed at one shot."

Milwaukee Commercial Times, May 31, 1875. "The woods of St. Croix county are full of wild pigeons."

*There are two issues each No. 50 and dated May 14. The issue having the above article has a letter from Baldwin dated May 18. So above date should be May 21.
"Wild geese, ducks, and pigeons abound in great numbers." [May '66 - June '68]

"Ducks, geese, and pigeons are quite plenty."

"Ducks, geese, and pigeons are on the wing." [1875]

"May 14. "We learn that the pigeons are nesting out in the Trimble house, a few miles the other side of River Falls." [82-90]

"May 21, 1875. "Baldwin. May 18, 1875. "On the morning train today, there arrived quite a large number of gentlemen, whoseocation is pigeon trafficking. One of these gentlemen arrived here Friday last and trapped or caught in a net in one day 720 pigeons or 60 dozens, which are packed in ice and then shipped to New York, where it is said they bring $5 per dozen. The gentlemen are from Augusta and Sparta, Wis." [1875-77] [79-81], [82-90]

"Aug. 27, 1875. "Baldwin. Aug. 24th. "Pigeons are making their return call as expected by the pigeon hunters." [1875-77] [79-81], [82-90]

"April 14, 1875. "Wild geese, ducks, and pigeons are flying in great numbers." [1875-77] [79-81]

"April 18, 1877. "Pigeons are flying over the city in large numbers daily." [1875-77] [79-81]

"Hudson Republican [1872-74]

"Hudson Democrat [1872-74] N. S. All.

"Hudson North Star [1875] All. Good."

Milwaukee Sentinel Sept. 18, 1858. "Mr. A. E. Dane, of the town of Union, in this county, on Saturday the 11th inst., killed and brought home sixty-seven pigeons, the result of one shot. Mr. Dane admits that this is a large story, but if it needs corroboration, is ready to prove it by two witnesses."

Janesville Standard (not in library).

Janesville Gazette (d) May 24, 1869. "Some Pigeons. - Mr. Thomas Holzer informs us that over ninety barrels of pigeons have been shipped from the Shepierd station this spring." - As Pigeons Now and Then. - Mr. C. W. Starks has been in his old home in Tiffany for a few days, and has been most fortunate in pigeon hunting with a net. We learn that he has caught 5000 pigeons during his sojourn."
Janesville Gazette  [Good exchanges]  Janeville
March 9, '71  "Wild ducks, geese and pigeons are
flying northward."
March 11, '71  [La Crosse Democrat]  "Wild pigeons are winging
their way northward. Large flocks passed over La Crosse the
afternoon."
March 15, '71  "Large flocks of pigeons are flying today."
March 17, '71  "Maple sugar and pigeons (spring products)
have appeared in this market."
March 20, '71  "Trapping pigeons is a profitable vocation to
many of our farmers."
March 28, '71  "Daniel Shelly and Frank Wood intend starting
next Thursday, for Lake Koshkonong, to spend a week
among the ducks and pigeons."

[Mon.] March 29, '71  [Exchange]  Lafayette County. Mention two
Darlington sportsmen hunting pigeons on Wednesday last, are
being shot by accident.

Waukesha Argus [Watertown] states that Frank Clay while
out pigeon shooting was wounded by companion.

April 6, '71  "Monroe County. The Herald."
April 22, '71  "Pigeons are
plenty in this county, and sportsmen are busy."
April 24, '71  [Green Lake County - Berlin Journal]  "A man
living near there, recently killed 85 pigeons at one shot.
They were at roost at the time. Pigeons are nesting
near Berlin."
April 26, '71  [Exchange]  "The hicks are plenty around
Sparta. The Eagle says: Several professional "pigeon
catchers" from other states are on the ground, with all the
appliances for entraping the unsuspecting birds. Several
bands have already been shipped to eastern markets."
April 29, '71  "The Watertown Democrat is responsible for the
statement that eleven tons of wild pigeons nicely

Berlin's.
In 1871
is Library
packed in barrels, came down from Minnesota over the St. Paul railroad on the 24th, and were transferred to the Northwestern road, at the junction in that city and sent north [?].

May 3, '71. "A pigeon roost exists in Jackson County that extends from Melrose to Big Creek." [Exchange]

May 8. "Pigeons are damaging the growing wheat in Wawasee county." [Exchange] They pull up the plants by the acre.


May 11. "The Grand Rapids Reporter says the pigeons are destroying whole fields of wheat."

May 17. "The Era Home Democrat says that during a few days past, wild pigeons have been flying over that city in such numbers as to frequently darken the sky like a cloud. Their flight has been mostly from the northeast to the southwest, which leads us to believe that their nesting stations have been tampered with to such a degree as to cause them to desert their eggs, young and all."

From 1871

Rock County items appearing in Sheboygan Times:

March 29, '73. "Having acquainted with the migratory movements of pigeons, have located a roost of these birds for the present year in Rock or Green Counties."

April 9, '73. "Pigeons are being shipped from Rock County to eastern cities by the barrel."

May 17, '73. "John Clark of Rock County caught 27 doz. of pigeons in one day and H. W. Church caught 24 doz."

April 26, '67.

"The Janesville Gazette says the Merchants' Union Express company sent off to New York on Friday 500 doz. of pigeons. They were taken in nets on the prairie outside the city." - Sparta Eagle May 1, 1867.
March 2, 1873. A. F. Toller, who has kept a record of the snow fall during the past winter, informs us that this locality has been visited by thirty-five
snow storms, within the time designated, which has given us thirty-seven
inches of snow.

March 7, 8°F snow fell;
26°. "The first robins appeared this morning."
27°. "State Item: Flakes of pigeons are appearing in different localities."
28°. "Numerous flocks of pigeons have been visible today."

The prairie east of the city was covered with wild ducks and geese yesterday.
Wearied from their long flight they settled down upon the melting snow
to take a rest.

April 9. "Sportsmen report plenty of pigeons in the woods."
15°. Several inches of snow fell.

Aug. 29. "Pigeons have appeared in the woods about the city."

Feb. 18, 1873. "Pigeons have arrived. Several flocks of pigeons have been
visible today, flying northward. Virgil Roper, who has lived in Rock county
since 1835, says this is the first time pigeons have appeared at this
ever date during the thirty-eight years of his residence here." [Thorp 38°]

the United States have watched the yearly movements of these migratory
birds until they are able to locate, several months ahead, with a considerable
degree of certainty, their nesting place for any designated season. It was
given some spot in the southern portion of Wisconsin is designated and already
pigeon men at the east are waiting and telegraphing to parties here to
keep them posted on pigeon signs. They seem to suspect that the
birds will locate their roost in Rock or Green county."

March 15. "Flocks of pigeons are numerous today."
22°. "Pigeons and duck hunters are not favored with a large amount
of success."

April 4. "Everyone who owns or can beg, borrow or steal a gun is on
the war path for pigeons today."

Arrival of Pigeons. Pigeons arrived in large numbers last night
and today the woods about town have been filled with these migratory
birds. Sportsmen have been busy and excellent success attends their
efforts. It seems to be the insignia that the pigeons will more readily
meet before nesting.
Janesville Gazette April 5, '73. "Pigeon trappers are reaping an abundant harvest, while gunners are bringing down their portion of the feathered game."

April 7. "Yesterday was Sunday, but didn't prevent several of our farmers from hauling wagon loads of barrelled pigeons to town for shipment."


Johnston. "Every 'hunter' in town is crazy to get a mess of pigeons."

2. Rock. "Pigeon Catchers' are waiting very patiently for the reappearance of the birds so they may begin their slaughter once more."

Clinton. "Our pigeon trappers are having better from success this season."

9. Edgarston. "Pigeon catching and fishing are the fashionable amusements of the place just now."

Rock. "Pigeon catching has been quite brisk and profitable also; during the past few days, a few have sold at 75 cents a dozen, delivered at the depot; others have shipped theirs to Chicago, Boston, and New York markets, which makes Afton quite a lively place after all."

Corkscrew. "We cannot tell where the pigeons intend to make their roosting place, but we do know that flocks of hundreds and thousands are flying over every day lately, mostly in a northeast direction."

April 10. "Most of the pigeons left just before the last storm, but their return is predicted when the weather becomes settled."

16. Rock. "Friday Feb. 19th and April 11th, only nine pigeons alighted from the train at Afton. It appears that some persons have conceived the idea that the birds will return to Rock county."

Milton. "Mr. O. Coon, caught forty dozen pigeons in one day."

18. "Pigeons are flying numerously today."

April 23. Rock. "Mr. James T. Thompson, of Hocheitt, N. H., an experienced pigeon catcher, called the attention of the town of Rock and adjoining towns to the fact that he will pay the highest market price, in cash, for pigeons delivered at the depot in Afton, as this is not the first time that Mr. T. has been at the business in this town, we do not hesitate to say that all parties dealing with him will receive their just dues."

Janesville Gazette April 28, 1873. "D. Brothers has a contract to furnish two thousand dozen live pigeons."

April 29. "Pigeons are flying in the town of Rock."

30. "Rock. Last Saturday [April 26] some of our pigeon catchers left early to try and find the birds. Reports were, that they are in the southeastern part of the state, near the Iowa line."

May 2. "Pigeons have been flying about today. They don't seem to know where they want to go."

Wed. 7. "Rock. One day last week, John Clark caught 27 dozen pigeons. E.J. Clark caught 24 dozen in one day, and a number of others did nearly as well."

7 "Pigeons in flocks were burning about this morning in search of the speculative 'meatists' who furnish them transportation to eastern markets."

14. "Pigeons are flying in large quantities this morning (May 12) but appear more shy than usual, so it is impossible for anyone to catch them."

30. "C.W. Stark, yesterday, captured thirty dozen and three pigeons at one pull of the net. This occurred in La Prairie."

30 June, 1873. "Pigeons are being shipped from Rock county to eastern cities by the barrel."

Richland Center Republican May 1, 1873. "Stout. "Pigeons are being shipped from Rock county to eastern cities by the barrel."

Bever Dam Argus May 4, 1873. "The Janesville Gazette of the 26th says the Merchants Union Express Company sent off to New York that morning, 500 doz. of pigeons. They were taken in nets on the prairie outside the city."

26th May 29, 1873. "The Janesville Gazette says that at a pigeon-shoot there on the 16th, Capt. A. Bogardus, of Elkhart, Illinois, performed the most wonderful feat of pigeon shooting on record, killing 500 birds in 8 hours and 48 minutes, and during the match, scored 75 birds without a miss."
Janesville Gazette, March 4, 1874. "Ducks, pigeons and wild geese were visible most of this past Monday [March 2]."

Ibid. March 11, 1874. "Shopiere. We have got our nets in readiness, steel pigeons in hand, and now we are waiting for the flocks to come down."

Ibid. March 25, 1874. "Roch. Geese and ducks are flying in vast numbers; pigeons, as yet, do not make their appearance."

Ibid. April 13, 1874. "Several large flocks of pigeons flew over the city today."

Ibid. April 15, 1874. "Shopiere. Pigeons came around last week in large flocks. Some sportsmen were at hand shooting them on the spot."

Ibid. April 22, 1874. "Newark. Several flocks of pigeons were seen last week."

April 27, 1874. "Snowstorm."

Ibid. Sept. 1, 1874. "Roch. A few pigeons were seen flying last Sunday [Aug.30] morning, and many old pigeons forgot their religion as far as to go to their neighbors to try to borrow steel pigeons to catch wild."

Ibid. Sept. 15, 1874. "Roch. Pigeons have been quite plenty during the past ten days; hunters ditto." "Wilton. It is estimated by good judges that it takes a dollar's worth of powder and shot besides the cost of time to kill a pigeon in this place."

Sept. 16, 1874. "Peter Cartwright living at Wilton. Mentions his flock."

Under Wilton.

Mar. 10, 1875. "Shopiere. The pigeon brigade have got their steel pigeon filled with aleopin sausages ready to march to the first sound they can hear where the pigeons have gone to roost. They think the stores of their steel pigeon will call them to the state of Missouri one day."

Mar. 16, 1875. "Roch. Pigeons have been seen in large flocks.

1st Robin.

3rd. Plymouth. Numerous flocks of pigeons have lately been seen, and sportsmen are working happily over the prospect of biting the heads of innumerable pigeons."

Arborville. Wild pigeons were flying quite plenty last Saturday [March 27] and Sunday. A few were caught by Mr. WM. Fisher and Mr. Crystalline, they were the first caught this season. The pigeon hunters are all on the toes, dull is merge and excitement."
Janesville Gazette.

Wed. March 31, 1875. "Pigeons were discernible in flocks last evening. They were high flyers."

Tues. April 6, 1875. "Rock. Some of our pigeons did pretty well during the flight last Tuesday [March 30], but seem disappointed [disappointed] with the reality of such flight."

"Milton. Pigeon shooters enjoyed themselves largely last week."

April 7, 1875. "Footville. The chief occupation of the youths of our village at present seems to be pigeon hunting, but we don't think many will retire with a fortune."

April 11, 1875. "Rock. Some half dozen of our professional pigeons started south, last Saturday [April 10] night, to make the night express for Eau Claire where the birds are said to be nesting."

"Shoptire. Our pigeon shooters have devoured all their bologna sausages watching to fill their nets but they claim the birds have left for parts where snakes for their capture are not so numerous."

"Plymouth. Somewhat less than a thousand pigeon hunters have been in our town during the past two weeks, but like the birds they have been hunting, they have gone to unknown parts."

"Our pigeon speculators have not acquired a fortune this season. Some have saved themselves while we hear of one who paid one dollar and twenty cents an ounce, when they were worth only one dollar and fifty cents in New York. Not much money in that."

May 12, 1875. "Rock. We are informed that some of the pigeons who went from our town have followed the birds into northern Iowa."

High. Sept. 7, 1875. "Milton. The pigeon hunters were all in the shoot last Sunday [Sept. 5] instead of attending divine service."

High. Sept. 9, 1875. "Pigeons on the Wing. This morning an early riser might have heard an unusual amount of shooting in the neighborhood, which was a large flock of pigeons migrating towards winter quarters."

May 16, 1876. "Shoptire. Pigeon shoots have not been. We report the birds plenty in Michigan, but the market is so dull it does not pay to shoot any more."

High. March 15, 1876. "Oxfordville. Pigeons are putting in an appearance."

"High. 25. "Snowed."

Sept. 12. "Milton. Pigeon shoots are plenty here the pigeons this fall, although a number of the birds are to be seen."

High. 76.
Janesville Gazette. March 2, '77. "Snow in seven and three quarters in class deep."
March 12, '77 Heavy snow. March 16. 3" Snow fell.
[Thru '77 Nothing]

[Thru '78 Nothing]

Thur. March 13, '78. "Shoofly. The pigeon men have been on the alert lately to capture those that are making their appearance. Some few dozen have been the result of the boss catchers."

Thur. March 28, '78. "There will be a good pigeon shoot of 1,200 wild pigeons at Edgerton on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week."

April 16, '78. "Rock. Jesse Erisman has gone to Michigan to catch pigeons."

[Thru '78]

April 4, '79. "Some of the sportmen say this is the big year for pigeons, they being unusually plenty since last year. Word has been sent from Michigan that the birds are so thick there that the sun hasn't been seen for several days, and that they are winding their way toward the West. Get out your guns."

April 16, '79. "A large grey eagle flew over the city yesterday chased by an immense flock of pigeons, which continued the chase until almost out of sight. Two pigeons flew at the eagle continually by squawks and seemed to be a great annoyance to him."

Wed. May 23, '79. "Fosterville. W. Greenwald shipped from this place last week one hundred dozen live pigeons, which netted him about two dollars per dozen. Our sports have not yet had much luck in making a haul."

"Arfordville. Will Greenwald has caught 125 dozen pigeons this spring, sold for $2.35 per dozen. Can anyone beat that?"

"Union. Pigeon catchers are getting fat. J. S. McMillan has already caught about 60 worth, others have done as well."

[Thru '79] [Thru '80 Nothing]

[Thru '81 Nothing]

Wed. March 22, '82. "Wilton Junction. Mr. Wm. H. J. E. John and P. C. Mason captured about 87 dozen pigeons last week, which netted them about $86 in Chicago."

April 12, '82. "Shoofly. John Wiehl and Nate Brown have gone after those uncertain birds called wild pigeons. We wish them a catch so they will not have to walk home."
Shropshire. Mr. Brown has returned from his pigeon hunt, they say he has come for his team to draw home the spoil.

May 3, 1882. Milton Junction. Nat Kidder has spent the last two weeks at Camp Douglass, in this State, waiting the opportune moment to arrive to slaughter the pigeons that are nesting in that locality in large numbers. A week ago Saturday [April 22] he telegraphed the We Culloch boys to come on, and report says they are meeting with good success.

May 17, 1882. Milton Junction. The We Culloch boys came home on Monday [May 16] from a pigeon hunt near Camp Douglass, they report good luck the first three days but poor success after that.

June 7, 1882. Milton Junction. P. C. Watson, Wm. Squires, C. F. Frame, and Wm. Littlejohn, are all watching the pigeons near Kilburn City. Wm. David Cross and several others returned Saturday [June 3]. The success this far has been small but the prospect seems flattering enough to hold the hunters there still.

June 22, 1882. General of the amateur gun shots of Janesville are scouring the country in search of the pigeons that escaped from the crate, being shipped to Onfordville from the depot Tuesday afternoon.

July 12, 1882. Milton Junction. Nat Kidder is home again from the pigeon camps near Kilburn City, his pockets somewhat fatter in livery, but poorer in flesh.

July 20, 1882. Some 3000 wild pigeons have been secured for a shoot at Janesville July 25 and 26.

Janesville Gazette [1847 - '57 Weekly. Nothing - I've]

1857 - '64. No copies.

Shropshire, Sept. 10, 57 (daily). "Pigeons are very plentiful in our markets, caught in nets.

April 18, 67. "While a little trade is being carried on in some parts of this county in wild pigeons, they are taken with nets packed in ice and shipped by express to New York, where they bring a good price."

1867. Tells of a letter from Shropshire that says about 80 bands of pigeons, caught in nets, were shipped from that place. Some had caught as many as 120 doz...
Janesville Gazette, May 20, 1869. At a pigeon shoot at Janesville on May 15, Captain A. H. Bogardus, of Champaign, Illinois, performed the most wonderful feat of pigeon shooting on record, killing 700 birds in 8 hours and 48 minutes, and during the match killed 75 birds in succession without a miss. - From Madison State J., May 22, 1869.

Janesville Democrat, 1848. "Pigeons. - On Wednesday last, numerous flocks of wild pigeons flew over this village, steering north. This is somewhat singular, and denotes probably, a scarcity of food at the south, or an early spring in this region." - Tom Neil, Weekly Wisconsin (Mad.) Feb. 16, 1848. [See letter in paper under date Feb. 9, '48, upon winter with little snow throughout the month.]

Janesville Gazette, May 21, 1879. Footville. "W. H. Greenwalt shipped from this place last Monday [19th] over 50 dozen live pigeons, these will bring him about two dollars per dozen. Our sports have not yet had much luck in catching them."

Ibid. March 8, '80. Union. "Judging from the number of hogs, horses, set up in the fields in this vicinity, we should think it advisable that pigeons take some other route."

* The shoot was on May 19 & 20. Evidently Bogardus shot the birds elsewhere if the date, 15th, is correct. Paper states that there are over 1000 extra birds on hand.
"Ducks and pigeons were flying quite lively last week, a sure indication that spring is near at hand."

"Pigeons have commenced flying. Several flocks have passed over our village within the past week."

"Ducks and Pigeons are plenty." [1871-73]

Wed. April 3, 1872. "Pigeons. We have noticed a great many flocks of these birds flying over town during the last week, and understand that they are infesting wheat fields in great numbers in some parts."

Wed. May 1, 47. "Pigeons. We have noticed a great many flocks of these birds flying over town during the last week, and understand that they are infesting wheat fields in great numbers in some parts."

June 2, 69. "Millions of pigeons are nesting in the eastern part of Findlay county."

April 20, 70. "Wild pigeons are scarce with us this spring."

Oct. 14, 73. "Pigeons are very plentiful throughout the state."

March 28, 78. "A great many pigeons are reported in this section."

Feb. 16, 82. "One of the wonders of the season, is the presence, in our woods, of wild pigeons."

Sept. 17, 1857. "There are abundance of wild pigeons in this vicinity. They are shot and snared in large numbers..."
Kaukauna—Kaukauna is just now a resort for sportmen.

Pigeons are very plenty and there are parties keen from Illinois, Ohio and Massachusetts trapping them. They are caught by means of steel pigeons, with strings tied to their legs. When a flock flies over, the pigeons rise the length of the string and then settle down, taking the flock with them into the nets. The pigeons are packed in ice and sent to New York, Boston and Philadelphia. [Correspondent].

Kaukauna Sun [June 30, '88-'90]
Times [Nov. 15, '89-'90]
Kenosha Telegraph [June, 17 - May 23, 72]

Thurs., Sept. 7, 1871. "Millions of pigeons were flying south yesterday morning, and the woods near the city were alive with hunters."

William Smith of the town of Somers was shot last Sunday by one or two hunters on his land. The young men were firing at pigeons on his land "and he requested them to stop." Southport American [June 73 - Sept. 44] [Sept. 44 - Sept. 45] [Sept. 46 - Sept. 47]

Kenosha Democrat [51 - 61]

"Courier" [Dec. '80 - '82]

Kenosha Union March 19, 1874. "Deer, ducks, pigeons, blackbirds and many other migratory birds have made their annual visit north."

"And Sept. 3, '74. "Pigeons flew in great abundance last Sunday. Aug. 30 morning and forenoon, toward a warmer climate." [June '72 - June '75]

"And Sept. 2, '75. "Pigeons. Sept. 9. Parties who have been pigeon shooting the last week seem to have met with fair success."

"And Sept. 26, '75. "Pigeons were quite numerous in the woods last week; but many of them are now leaving."

"And April 27, '76. "Pigeon shooting this far has been very poor."

[June '75 - June '77] [June '77 - June '78] [June '78 - '82]

Kenosha Democrat [April 1850 - July '53] [53 - '56] [Sept. '59 - Aug.'61]

Kenosha Telegraph [June '50 - June '53]

"And April 11, '57. Severe wind and snow storm April 8th.

"And March 15, '55. "Large armies of Pigeons, for a day or two past, have been flying north over the city. This is rather an
unusual occurrence when the ground is frozen and covered with several inches of snow, cannot our weather-wise friends draw an inference therefrom." [June '54 - June '56] [June '56 - '59] [June 7, 1860, "Pigeons shooting unresolved yesterday in our streets." [June '59 - June '64] [June '64 - June '66]

[June 67 - Dec. '68]

[March 31, 1870, Somers, Wis. March 26, 1870, "I saw a large flock of about five hundred pigeons alight in Sylvester Bullen's woods; ..."

[Aug. 29, '72, "Pigeons are abundant this season, and hunters are quite numerous."]

[April 5, '73, "Pigeons are flying over the city." [June '72 - May '75].]

[Feb. 17, '82, Randall, "Wild geese and pigeons are occasionally seen."

[July '76 - '83] [84 - '86]

Kenosha News [July '57 - May '60]


Union Grove Enterprise [79 - 85] N.B.
unusual occurrence when the ground is frozen and covered
with several inches of snow; cannot our weather-wise friends
draw an inference therefrom." [June '54 - June '56] [June '56 - '57]

"Bid: June 7, 1860. "Pigeons shooting was in vogue yesterday in
our streets." [June '59 - June '64] [June '64 - June '66]

[June 67 - Dec. '68]

"Bid: March 31, 1870. "Somers, Wis. March 26, 1870. "I saw a
large flock of about five hundred pigeons alight in Sylvester's
Bullene's woods; ..." [69 - May '72]

"Bid: Aug. 19, '72. "Pigeons are abundant this season, and hunters
are quite numerous." [70 - Dec. '73]

"Bid: April 3, '73. "Pigeons were flying over the city." [June '72 - May '75].

Feb. 17, '82. Randall. "Wild geese and pigeons are
occasionally seen." [76 - '85] [84 - '86]

Kenosha Times [July '57 - May '60]

Kenosha Tribune [July '53 - Dec. '54] Continued as Kenosha
Tribune and Telegraph [Jan. - June '55]

Union Steam Enterprise [79 - '85] N.P.
Kewanee Enterprise. April 23, 1862. "Our sportsmen are having fine sport, killing ducks, partridge and pigeons, which they say are quite plenty." [June 5 - April 63] [8 to '75]

Ibid, April 13, '75. "...we learn that large numbers of pigeons are to be found in the woods."

Ibid, Dec. 9, '75. "Landlord Carl has placed the enterprise family under obligation for a fine mess of wild pigeons."

Ibid, April 22, '76. Carlton, April 20. "The pigeons are flying in untold numbers, but they fly so high that the hunters can only have the satisfaction of watching them as they pass."

Ibid, May 6, '76, Red River, May 1. "Farmers are very busy pulling their grain in the ground, and wild pigeons are on the lookout for their share of it." Montpelier, May 1. "The woods and groves are swarmed with pigeons." [1875-77]

Ibid, March 15, '78. "Pigeons in innumerable numbers have been occurring the woods of Kewanee the past week --."


Ibid, April 2, '80. Carlton, March 31. "Pigeons have made their appearance in large numbers." "Myriads of pigeons have been flying north during the past few days. Mr. Weber tells us that the woods are full of them in the vicinity of his farm, south of the village."

Ibid, April 9, '80. Lincoln, April 5. "Pigeons are flocking in the woods in this vicinity." [1878-80] [1881-'83] [1884-'89]

Ibid, Sept. 8, 1869. "... wild pigeons abound in the woods..."

... April 9, 1873. "Pigeons abundant in the woods."

Kewanee Enterprise. Dec. 27, 1929. Alexander Maeco, town of Red River. "In 1858 and 1859 we were fairly overwhelmed with great flights of wild pigeons... and this was their last appearance."
Wisconsin Mirror, Newport, Tues. April 8, 1856. "Sport Ahead. — Pigeons and ducks, sturgeon and pickelike leaves, etc. The pigeons and ducks are very plenty, but are rather shy just now."

[51d. May 6, 1856. Dell Prairie. — This prairie lies north-north-east of our town about two and a half miles; it is some ten miles long and four or five broad; though it has islands of trees and many separate trees scattered over it, the soil is excellent for farming purposes, and is very easy of cultivation. It is mostly divided into farms and fields, some parts of it having been settled and cultivated six or seven years; there is another prairie nearly as large between here and Baraboo, called Webster's Prairie."

[Jan. 1856 - 1859. Latter year has only scattering, Nov.] [1860]

Kilbourn City Council, Wed., April 11, 1877. "Saturday we gave a history to a pigeon hot pie, made by Mrs. Gwadry, right nice pigeons having been presented us by C. W. De Loony."

[1868-1870]

Kilbourn Wisconsin Mirror, Sept. 15, 1870. "The pigeons have come and are flying around, some in the trees and some on the ground."

[1871-73]

As we go to press this morning the sun is shining gloriously, it is spring-like. The pigeons are coming back."

[1871-73] "Pigeons. Mr. E. Crosby, of Plainville, will accept our thanks for a half dozen pigeons."

[1871-73]"
Sept. 12, 1874. "Jordon. Yake. Sept. 3d. 1874. Mrs. Wiene. -- Pigeon hunting does not pay today. The pigeons are scarce and wild. However, having bagged five birds, our breakfast will not be uncomfortable. Also quail and robins have refused to come under fire. --" 

April 2, 1875. [There was 20" snow on ground March 20]. "Pigeons.-- For several days numerous flocks of pigeons have been on the wing in this vicinity. Pigeon prophets predict that they will nest in the woods of Adams Co., this season."

April 10, 1875. "Pigeons are in the wing. They are reported as nesting in the north part of Adams County."

Sept. 17, 1875. "Pigeon. -- Are thanks are due Mr. E. Crosby for a half dozen fine pigeons."

Oct. 1, 1875. "Pigeons are quite numerous in this region."

April 7, 1876. "Pigeons are flying this morning. Hunters are on the war path."

[1876-76]

The Kilbourn Mirror Gazette April 7, 1887. "Davis Corner. It begins to look like spring, the geese and pigeons are flying around."

March 22, 1888. "Big Spring. The thunder shower on Monday [March 19], and the appearance of robins, robins, blue birds, wild geese, and pigeons makes us think spring is surely coming."

"Bob Prairie," April 12, 1888. "Charles Martin and J. Carter are trapping pigeons with little success as far."

April 19, 1888. "Webster's Prairie. Pigeon hunting is quite numerous in this vicinity, but do not seem to have much success."

[1887-88] [1890-91]

March 29, 1890. "Riggsville. The pigeon and wild geese are quite numerous here now."

April 19, 1890. "Webster's Prairie. Mr. Rounds has gone hunting pigeons."

[1892-94]

"The Kilbourn Gazette says that Mr. Cash of that place, recently shipped, in one week, 2,500 dozen pigeons, consigned mostly to New York and Boston markets. He also shipped a thousand live pigeons to a tournament club at Marshalltown, Iowa; and is preparing to send some 25 or 30 thousand for future shipment."

Staurois
Kilbourn
Lynden
De moyne
Waukesha
Erwin
Camp Douglas
Tomah

Yes Greenfield
No Fayette
Sparta
Hersheyville
Bangor
Salem
Winona Junction
Dea Crosse

The name Greenfield station is to be discarded and Tunnell City substituted.

Tomah Journal Aug. 21, 1880.
The matter that is causing great excitement in Kilbourn at present is pigeon-catching. It is proving not only a source of much pleasure, but of great revenue to those engaged in the business. The pigeon roosts are up the east side of the river about four or five miles. Without doubt there are no less than three hundred men on the ground all the time and birds are being taken by the thousands. One man alone caught two hundred and fifty-eight dozen in one day last week, and the daughter of Warren Atkinson caught forty dozen one morning before breakfast. They sell at seventy-five cents and a dollar a dozen to parties here that are shipping them. W. P. Thomas, of Peoria, Ill., is here with thirty men engaged in the business, and both PORTAGE and Kilbourn have been ransacked for barrels and boxes to ship them in. How long the harvest will last is not certain, though all present the number brought in daily is very large, and the profits correspondingly great.

[May 30, 1882]. "The Pigeons at Kilbourn. A Kilbourn City correspondent says the slaughter of pigeons in that vicinity is fabulous. W. H. Cash is here from New Lisbon. He has four men packing birds in barrels at the freight house and 700 dozen were awaiting the night express for eastern markets. Large amounts of the delicious eating are expected from Plainville, the harvest has just begun; and will last to last several days. One man landed in a wagon load of 2,00 dozen— all the fruit of one day's labor with a few hands and a net. — Sparta Herald, May 30, 1882."
New Tribune Argus June 1, 82 (See also May 25). "The pigeon nesting three miles East of Chippewa, Adams county, is the scene of a nesting for sportsmen and pigeon catchers in this section of the county. It is said that the nest on nest is much larger than the one at La Fayette, Monroe county. Shipments are made from Kilbourn City."

Ibid. June 22, 82 "Nearly all of the pigeon catchers residents of this place have returned from the scene of their operations, the nesting north of Kilbourn City, well satisfied with the result of a few weeks labor devoted by them to pigeon catching, which pastime proved to be profitable employment for them. The old birds have within the last week taken flight and the "catch" is now confined to young or young birds in which speculation, but few of the boys took part in. The squab business is left with the Indians and squaws to grow fat on.

Montello Express June 3, 82. "It is reported that pigeons are nesting in the vicinity of White Creek, Adams Co., and the flightmen located there occupy a strip of woods ten miles square."

Portage Register May 27, 82. Kilbourn City [Correspondent]. "About thirty pigeon limiters arrived here Wednesday [May 24], on route for the pigeon grounds north of the city."

Ibid. June 3, 82. Kilbourn City [Corresp.]. "W. P. Thomas, of the firm of Thomas & Co. of Rebecca, Ill., is shipping pigeons from here. He has about thirty men engaged in trapping about here.

Ibid. April 19, 84. Kilbourn City [Corresp.]. "Pigeons in large quantities are to be seen in the vicinity of the town of Newport, a few miles out of the village."

La Crosse Republican and Leader (W) June 10, 82. [Sparta correspondent]. "Messrs. Cleverly and Baldwin, who acquired considerable local fame in this vicinity during the pigeon speculation, and wished to increase it by still greater exploits at Kilbourn, have returned. Steeler, another of their agents, after spending a week's time, and double that amount of patience, they succeeded in netting about thirty dozen, for which they received something near fifteen dollars. The first day pigeons were so numerous that they could be taken almost without an effort. One man alone captured 200 dozen, and others did almost equally as well. The succeeding days, however, the flights haggled the clouds, and refusing to be killed down, passed out of sight. After waiting despondently for their return, several days, the men went back to their fields and left."

[Originally published in the Milwaukee Republican—Sentinel]

But just now there are miles of wild pigeons to share the interest of the visitor. A few miles from or fine farm town, there are thousands of birds nesting. The nesting is about six miles in length and a mile and a half wide. One may walk until weary, over egg shells which cover the hills and valleys, for the hatching is over. Within the nesting territory every tree has from one to a dozen nests, and in each nest is a “squad” – a little yellow pigeon about as big as one’s thumb, and three-fourths mouth. One can drive under the trees without exciting great commotion among the birds, but a clap of the hands startles the old birds from the nests with a noise like Niagara heard at a distance. The birds have a cry like that of a wild goose, though not nearly so loud, and this, with the great flapping of wings is overwhelming at first. The nests are economically made – even Bennett, who says they are made of two sticks and a straw, is aggrandized their simplicity less than one who knows them truly and suspect. These birds have a rule which the post-farms English spanner might adopt with benefit to Milwaukee – one egg to each nest. In the morning the male birds go off on a feed without the society of the other sex, which leads to the opinion that they have a merchant’s opinion among them. They fly 100 miles, or more away and return in three or four hours. Then the female institutes a Susan B. Anthony condition of things – stay put the entire next on the nests and go off for rentals. Professional trappers are here by the dozens – men who make it a business to steal pigeons the country over.
they began work on this lot about the 23d of May, and during the first week they sent 2,491 dozens to New York and Boston. These were killed and packed in barrels—about thirty dozen to the barrel. Since then about a thousand dozen live ones have been shipped by one man, and nearly as many more by another. They go to all the markets of the country, and many of them are bought by the humane relics of the seventh century who call trap-shooting sport. There are nearly 10,000 live birds in the coops in the vicinity waiting for shipment; besides some 10,000 squabs from a nesting at Tunnel City which are being fed here. The squab birds are served with a bushel and a half of shelled corn to every 100 dozen, daily, and ten gallons of water. The nesting has been a bonanza to the farmers, who are making from $50 to $150 a day trapping. I saw an enterprising young woman, who left her cows, drew on a pair of rubber boots, and made a clean $100 in one day in the marsh. Mr. Cushman, of Paries, who is doing most of the buying, has about sixty Winnebago Indians, with their families waiting for the squabs to grow large enough for capture. The Indians punch them out of the nests with long poles, and the squabs are then fed to the proper size for epicures.

*Republican Gazette,* July 12, 1882.

*Republican Gazette,* June 21, 1882. "An account of the pigeons nesting near Kilburn City, reads like a romance. A correspondent writing under date of June 13th, says their nests cover a space over a mile wide and six long. Professional trappers are there who in one week sent nearly 3,000 dozen squabs, the squabs being sold up for the market."
Kilbourn City Mirror,

Saturday, April 22, 1871. [Noting for 15th.]

"The Great Pigeon Shot"

"The pigeons have come
And are flying around
Some on the trees
And some on the ground."

A stranger looked on, he would have thought it about war time, or soon after
an Indian scare or massacre. Young men and old, women
and children, fathers, sons and husbands, and others who
had a gun or wanted to borrow one. Clerks and proprietors
were joining at shot like hail in the March against. The
city rested calm and quiet, but at sunrise the next day all
was battle and confusion; everywhere teams and most of the
livestock teams were engaged, and just forth in the wooded
[about six miles distant] about thirty farmers in all confined
the crowd, including some from Portage and some from Wood
Winston. The roads sounded with the report of fire arms like
a Fourth of July. Unfortunately for the parties, the wind arose
with dark and threatening clouds, and the rain fell at
intervals, during the day which enabled the party to get a
few duckling. At 7 P.M. the teams began to return, most
of them literally loaded down with birds. One team of
six persons, had 272 birds, and others, who had small single
buggies, were obliged to get others of more capacity to assist
them with their burden. The number of birds estimated as
killed was 2000, of which 1500 were brought into town. On
Wednesday night parties armed with shot pigeons.
and nets prepared to slaughter them at wholesale. Thursday they were still flying north all day by the millions. Reports from the travelers and farmers say they fill the woods from a breadth of three miles wide and fifty miles in extent north. Great sport is anticipated for the next two weeks, and parties on the line of the railroads are preparing to enjoy it.

April 29. Thirty-five hundred of pigeons were forwarded by express on Monday night, to Milwaukee, Chicago, and New York, on which the charges were over two hundred dollars.

May 6. Forty dozen live pigeons were forwarded west on Monday night's train for a pigeon shoot at Drake City, Minn.

said. May 13, '71. We are under obligations to Frank Hill for a dozen of fine pigeons. Frank is the pioneer of the pigeon business, knows all the grounds, and has teams ready, with careful drivers, to take hunters or trappers to the pigeon ground. His terms are reasonable.

said. May 13, '71. [Late spring with snow]. "Get your guns ready. The pigeons have come, and are flying around, some in the trees and some on the ground.

said. April 19, '73. "More than seven million pigeons were on the wing this week. They are resting up north a little way. Unfortunate pigeons - happy hunters!"

"On Thursday night, the 16th, we went to bed with the feeling of spring in our heart, a warm sunshine, having melted the six inches of snow that fell on the 8th, but when we arose on the morning of the 11th, it was again snowing. We have passed through the hardest winter in record, and are now enduring the longest spring known. The pigeons are roosting and occasionally flying beyond the bounds of the snow to seek for food."
Sporting Journals (1893)

Amateur Sportman, N.Y.

American Field
Am. Field and Game Warden, Kalamazoo, Mich.

American Naturalist
   ... Sportman

Canadian Sportman, Toronto, Canada.

Dennis Fish and Game Talk, Richmond, Ind.

Forest and Farm, weekly Toronto, Canada

Forest & Stream

Fur, Pin, and Feather, N.Y.

Minnesota Sportman, Minn., Minn.

National Yacht, N.Y.

Rod, Gun, and Kennel, Louisville, Ky.

Shooting and Fishing, Boston, Mass.

Sports Afield, Denver, Col.

Sports and Amusements, Minneapolis.
Sportsman and Torrick, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Texas Field, San Antonio, Texas.

Turf, Field, and Farm, N.Y.

Wild Woods Echo, Kingfield, Me.

Young Sportsman, Albion, N.Y.
Ahmajee Record Aug. 20, 1874, Thursday.

"Pigeons are quite numerous. Most of men and boys are engaged just now in hanging at the fence, squirrel and pigeon."

* Ibid. Sept. 17, '74. "Ducks and pigeons shooting have been the rage this week."

Oct. 14, '75. "Game is said to be unusually abundant in the forests north and west of Ahmajee, especially deer, squirrels, partridge, and pigeons."

* Ibid. March 23, '76. "Several flocks of pigeons were seen flying over towns on Tuesday [March 21]."

* Ibid. April 20, '76. "Pigeons and Ducks -- are plenty and hard to catch."

[1874-'76: Many gores in important places.]

* Ibid. May 1, '84. "Pigeons are said to be quite plentiful in the woods along the river bank, a few miles west of the city, several of the sporting men of the city have bagged numbers of them lately."

* Ibid. May 7, '85. "No wild pigeons have been seen in these parts this spring."

* Ibid. April 15, '86. "Large flocks of wild pigeons were seen flying west this morning."

[1882-'87] [1888-'90] [1891-'93]

* Ibid. April 16, '874. "Large flocks of pigeons are seen daily wending their way northward."

* "Every one who owns a shot-gun is out in the woods trying to get pigeons for dinner."

* Ibid. May 28, '74. "Pigeons are poking around again."

Ahmajee and Vicinity. From the Record. "Several flocks of pigeons are seeking dry land in this region." - Kewaunee Enterprise April 6, '75.

* Ibid. Oct. 13, 1901. Finestville [Door Co.], "Wild pigeons, in quite large flocks, have been seen here this fall. In former times... myriads of these birds used to nest in the woods of this peninsula and during the migrating period they would frequently and effectually cloud the sun in their flight."
Appleton Post April 27, '71.

"We notice that pigeons are making their appearance in
considerable quantities..."

May 11, '71. "Pigeons are plenty in nearly every locality but this..."

Sept. 7. "The market is being well supplied with pigeons...and other kinds."

April 11, '72. "Pigeons and wild duck shooting will soon be in order..."

Aug. 18. "Pigeons are making their appearance..."

April 24, '73. "Wild pigeons are very numerous..."

May 8. "...numerous. But the hunters outnumber them..."

[1871-73]

Appleton Post [Sept. 20, '66 - '68]

April 21, '70. "Pigeons are already making their
appearance..." [1869-70] [1871-'73 above].

March 29, '74. "Ducks and pigeons will soon be numerous..."

April 4, '74. "Wild ducks are getting numerous, and pigeons
are occasionally seen..."

Aug. 27, '74. "Pigeons are quite numerous throughout the county,
just at present. They are waiting for the farmers to saw their winter wheat..."

April 8, '75. "Snow has disappeared. "Flocks of pigeons and geese are
occasionally seen making their way northward..."

Exchange: "Wild pigeons are making a nest in the Kicapa woods
this spring..."

April 15, '75. "Pigeons are on the wing and hunters are on the
main path..."

April 15, '76. "Pigeon hunters find a paradise at Kicapa..."
Appleton Post Sept. 16, '75. "Pigeons shooting has been the favorite amusement among sportsmen thus far the present fall."

Stid. Oct. 14, '75. "Black Creek, Oct. 3. Bears, deer, partridge and pigeons have been very plentiful of late. A sportsman killed thirty of the latter, at a single shot the other day."

Mar. 16, '76. "... and pigeons also have already been seen in this vicinity."

Apr. 20, '76. "Pigeons on the wing."

Nov. 17, '77. "Pigeons are in the air."

Sept. 13, '77. "There is fine pigeon shooting out in the town of Black Creek."

Mar. 21, '78. "Pigeons are on the wing."

Mar. 30, '82. "Pigeons are on the wing."

Apr. 20, '82. "Pigeons are as scarce as is snow in the winter."

[1881-82]

Apr. 11, '83. "Pigeons are winging their way northward at great height and in large numbers to the disgust of sportsmen."

[1883-84] [1885-86] [87-88]

June 6, 1867. "Pigeons are plaging some parts of the northwest parish. Even a few miles north of us there is complaint of their mischief on the grain fields. But there's no trouble with such here. They are rather in plenty, but are doing no damage."

[Appleton Volksfreund 1880-81]

[Menдел's Aurora 1879-88 M.R.

Appleton Post April 18, '72. "Pigeons are making their appearance.""

May 8, '73. "Wild pigeons are numerous."

May 28, '73. "Pigeon hunting is in order."

Mrs. Feb 16, '74. "It is a literal fact that we saw a flock of pigeons flying over Appleton one of those beautiful warm days last week."
April 1, 1871. "Wild pigeons are moving northward."

8. "Pigeon shooting in the northern towns is in order."

May 6, "Doves are dear in green peas. One dore must be killed or else we shall be under the necessity of going out of town for our green peas. Which is the cheapest?"

May 27, 1871. "We hear of no great pigeon hunts in this vicinity, although the pigeons are abundant."

April 6, 1872. "Wild pigeons are making their appearance."

19, 1873. "...abundant."

3d, Sat. Aug. 27, 1853. "Our turnips are having a rare sport among the pigeons and partridges. The woods are full of them." [1853. March 31, 55]

2d, Sept. 23, '54. "Mention pigeons killed on a party hunt."

3d, June 7. '56. "Our gay old woods have been fairly alive with Wild Pigeons for a fortnight past. The crop have had rare sport, almost too much of it for pleasure, judging by the 'back loads', brought into town." [1853-56] 59

2d, Sat. April 28, 1860. "The Pigeons for several days past have been flying over quite thick."

April 25, 1863. "Pigeons have been flying towards the North, via Appleton, the past two weeks." ['60-63], '64-66

June 1, '67. "Pigeons are numerous hereabouts and sportsmen appear to be well aware of it."

Sept. 25, '69, "Last Sunday [Sept. 17] a stranger might have concluded that a gala day shooting match was in progress in Appleton, the wild pigeons flown thick and fast, and shot flown faster."

April 16, '70. "Wild pigeons made their appearance about a month ago; but they are scarce."

April 30, '70. "The pigeons have all flown away."

[1867-70] [71-73 above]
Appleton Crescent March 23, 1874: "Ducks and pigeons will soon be around."

April 10, 1875: "No pigeons seen flying in this 'neck of the woods' this spring."

May 8, 1876: "Wild pigeons in large numbers passed over the city this week."

April 21, 1877: "The boys are looking wistfully for pigeons."

[1877-79]

April 1, 1880: "You can't always tell when the pigeons are going to fly. Thursday morning -- they didn't fly."

[1880-82]

Appleton Crescent Sat. June 12, 1858: "In the Town of Conina, we hear there is a pigeon roost over seven miles long and two or three miles wide. The pigeons have been very abundant in this County, and very expert in extracting newly planted corn."

[1858-59]

May 16, 1868: "The woods in this vicinity are full of wild pigeons."

[1868-69]

Wisc. July 20, 1872: "Pigeons loaf about the wheat fields."

[1872-73]

Aug. 31, 1892: "Pigeons hover around the wheat fields."
Milwaukee Republican and News, April 19, 1882.
Special to Republican. "Arcadia, April 18. Pigeons and ducks are flying plentifully, --".

See also under Trempealeau.
Arca Egy [1887-88]

"Stark March 8, '78. "Wild geese and pigeons in large flocks are quite prevalent hereabouts during the last few days."

Shed March 22, '78. "Wild geese ducks, pigeons - - - - ."

- July 12, '78. "Pigeons are numerous at Manitowoc."

- April 2, '80. "Pigeons are to be seen in considerable quantities in this vicinity, and some of the boys are out after them, but they seem to be flying too high for any effective shooting with common range guns." - Mazomanie.

Shed. April 23, '80. Mazomanie. "The wild pigeons of which many flocks were seen this spring seem to have disappeared without giving our incipient skill to any extent."

Shed. Sept. 24, '80. "Mr. Blodgett, Ridgeway, shipped 32 dozen wild pigeons alive to Milwaukee last Tuesday [Sept. 24]."

Shed. Sept. 24, '80. Helena. "Those pigeons that fly about here so numerously are not bad medicine to take."


[1887 - Nov. '83]
Green Bay Advocate, April 13, 1854. "I hope the Pigeon will live a little while longer. We readily join in the appeal of the Ashland Sentinel to hunters to spare the pigeons a little while longer, so they can rear their young and thus more than double their numbers. Give the pigeons a good chance to multiply as you do the more dainty quail or partridge, and your reward will be finer sport when the new ones begin to fly. Need this following earnest admonition of a true-hearted hunter: 'We would have put in a plea for the pigeons at this time. They are now nesting and in a few days they will have young ones depending on them for food. Then, for every female pigeon killed, two helpless squabbing nestlings starved to death. It is mean sport to shoot a bird too poor to be eaten, and have the satisfaction of reflecting that you have caused the death of two more for want of food. How genuine sportsman will think of these things.' *Not listed in Gregory.

Ashland Press, March 16, 1878. Pigeons and robins. [1878]

Ashland Press, June 22, 1872. First No. [1872-76] [1876-77].

Ashland Press, June 22, 1872. First No. [1872-76] [1876-77].

Ashland. March 16, 1878. Pigeons and robins. [1878]

Ashland Press, June 22, 1872. First No. [1872-76] [1876-77].

Ashland. March 16, 1878. Pigeons and robins. [1878]

Ashland Press, June 22, 1872. First No. [1872-76] [1876-77].

Ashland. March 16, 1878. Pigeons and robins. [1878]

Ashland Press, June 22, 1872. First No. [1872-76] [1876-77].

Ashland Press, June 22, 1872. First No. [1872-76] [1876-77].

Ashland. March 16, 1878. Pigeons and robins. [1878]

Ashland Press, June 22, 1872. First No. [1872-76] [1876-77].

Ashland Press, June 22, 1872. First No. [1872-76] [1876-77].

Ashland. March 16, 1878. Pigeons and robins. [1878]

Ashland Press, June 22, 1872. First No. [1872-76] [1876-77].

Ashland Press, June 22, 1872. First No. [1872-76] [1876-77].

Ashland. March 16, 1878. Pigeons and robins. [1878]

Ashland Press, June 22, 1872. First No. [1872-76] [1876-77].

Ashland. March 16, 1878. Pigeons and robins. [1878]

Ashland Press, June 22, 1872. First No. [1872-76] [1876-77].

Ashland. March 16, 1878. Pigeons and robins. [1878]
Augusta Herald [completed]

[Sept. 23, 1871 - Nov. 8, 1873. Nothing. Library has no earlier volumes.]

"A party in the vicinity of Augusta, Eau Claire county, netted ninety-nine and one-half dozen of pigeons at one time, a few weeks since." - Sheboygan Times July 15, 1871.

New Lisbon Aug. 25, 1882. State Items. The pigeon nesting at Lafayette has been abandoned by the old birds and only squawks are left for catchers to speculate on. It is reported that another body of pigeons are nesting in the vicinity of Augusta, Eau Claire Co.

* Town in Monroe. *

Augusta Eagle Sat. April 10, '75. "Wild pigeons are beginning to make their way in the direction of the north pole."

 Ibid. May 26, '77. "Mr. Charles S. Martin, one day last week, left on the Eagle's table a number of pigeons for which thanks are tendered. He also produced the Express receipts and the bills of sale from the commissioners who were selling the pigeons for him in Chicago and New York, which show that he has shipped off the enormous sum of 353 dozen pigeons this spring, which sold for $675.73, and which netted him after expressage, commissioners' percentage, etc., were paid, $528.53."

[This was done as a sideline, continued to run his farm.]

[July 1874-'75]

Ibid. Sat. April 8, '82. "Pigeons in large numbers have been migrating for a week past. Early Sunday [April 2] morning they were so thick as to darken the early daylight, as if a heavy storm cloud was passing overhead."

[1880-'82] [1883-'88] [1889-'90] [1891-'96]

Midland State J. July 17, '71. "The Augusta Herald reports that pigeon netting has been quite a business in that section for the past few months. One party netted ninety-nine and one-half dozen pigeons at one time, a few days ago. The old birds were dressed and shipped east, and the breasts of the young
Baldwin Bulletin May 20, 1875: 
"Fifty or more pigeons trappers from Sparta and Augusta, this State are in town trapping pigeons."

"Mears, Harry Barron and Frank Basham took a flying trip to the pigeon roost, the other day, and returned with about 500 pigeons."

"Pigeons are nesting all through the big woods from a mile the other side of Mantel to several miles north of Trimbley, a section about seven miles long by one wide. Hunters from all sections are on hand, and large quantities of the birds are being shot and trapped. Our farmers look upon them as next to grasshoppers in the destruction of the wheat crops. Dead pigeons are being shipped to St. Paul, Milwaukee, and Chicago. It is rare for a flock to go out a couple of hours and return with three or four hundred. Sever up your shirt gins and put down eight or ten barrels for winter. They are delicious smoked."

 AUG. 29, 1875. "Pigeonomania." Mentions that 8 men went to Mantel last Saturday [22nd]. No mercy was shown; no cry for quarter was listened to by those ruthless destroyers of life. Kill was their watchword, and kill they did, to the tune of six hundred.

J. "Furial friends"

JULY 10, '75. "Upwards of 14,000 dozons of pigeons have been trapped in this immediate vicinity, thus far, and shipped to the city markets. The trappers are doing a paying business yet."

JULY 24, '75. "Mantel parties are still engaged in netting pigeons."

JULY 15, '75. "The law in regard to snaring, shooting or netting birds in St. Croix County is to be enforced hereafter."
Baldwin Bulletin. Sept. 9, 1875. "The pigeons have commenced to come back, and the pigeon hunters that have waited long for their return are happy. During the past week they have caught 40 doz."

26th: April 13, '77. "The woods are full of pigeons."

"The pigeons left Missouri two days since, and, it is predicted, will alight in this vicinity Sunday or Monday. Several pigeon trappers have arrived in town."

26th: May 4, '77. "The pigeons are nesting in the neighborhood of Eau Claire."

26th: June 22, '77. "Some two months ago a large flight of pigeons - the Missouri nesting - were observed moving their way Eastward. Pigeon trappers could get no information as to their nesting, though their feeding grounds were in this section of Wisconsin and in Minnesota. A news trampist stated their nestings were in Schuetteauquay woods, N.J., over 1,000 miles from their feeding ground. The nesting was 22 miles long by 14 wide." [1874-'77]

Hammond Independent. Aug. 6, '75. "Pigeon hunting has nearly died out in this part, only a few surviving stragglers being left at Baldwin, to show that pigeons were once a staple article of commerce there."

26th: Aug. 13, '75. "Pigeons are expected back after harvest. Several hunters are waiting their advent."

26th: Sept. 3, '75. "Pigeons are in this quarter again."

26th: Sept. 17, '75. "Pigeon hunters are hard at work in the neighborhood of Baldwin, trapping pigeons, which prove to be plentiful." [July '75 - Oct. '77] All.

Baldwin Bulletin. April 13, 1878. "Brown, the pigeon catcher, has succeeded in snaring nine pigeons that far this season." [1878-'82] [1883-'88]

March 8, 1871. "Large flocks of pigeons have been seen passing over the village for the past day or two."

April 26, 1871. Quoted Adams County Press on "The Great Pigeon Roost" and the Kilbourn "Minor" on "The Great Pigeon Shoot."


"On Saturday last a portion of the first unit of the Baraboo Sporting Club, consisting of the following named gentlemen: Louis Vashonett, Ephraim Hewett, James Stott, Capron Pratt and the writer hereof, went up to the pigeon roost to try their luck."---

"Arrived at Kilbourn City about eight o'clock.--"

"Now we are on the road again, going north from Kilbourn, the first belt of timber we come to shows signs of the game, and no sooner have we struck the solid forest than we come upon the deserted nests in great quantities, the birds having been driven back or killed. Every tree is full of the nests—often we counted thirty in a single tree. The ground is covered under the trees with egg shells, and every little ways the hunter comes upon the remains of some pigeons that has been wounded but had still life enough to fall it would be captors. O, its business, I can assure you."

"We are now four or five miles from Kilbourn, on Bell Prairie. Here the traveler can ride for miles without seeing a house or any signs of life. About 10 miles from Kilbourn we struck our tent, where the pigeons were thick as locusts. After a little lunch for it was now about noon, we went for them. What ever induced the pigeons to stop here is more than I can comprehend. All the soil you find is bottomless cluffs of white sand, capable only of producing little scabby oaks and stunted pines, which appear to be better adapted to bearing pigeon nests than foliage."--
"The Pigeon Trade. — The Milwaukee Sentinel says: "Something

May 2, 1871.

of an idea of the "pigeon trade" may be formed when we state that
every train arriving here on the line from Chicago, brings from two
to five hundred barrels of the "dead birds" to market! In addition
great numbers are being brought to the city alive for the sportsmen
to use at their "trap-shots." The birds are captured in great numbers
in the vicinity of Belknap, and, in fact, all along the Milwaukee and
St. Paul Railroad, between Belknap and Sparta. [Ed. Richmond Center]"
Barehoo Bulletin Sept. 16, '81, Badehun Corp. "The woods are full of game now... All those who can spare the time are being away at the pigeons, etc."

"... Sept. 30, '81 [5] Delton Sept. 29. "The woods around here are filled with pigeons, which are being shot in great quantities by the Deltonites. They are in great condition and make very fine eating."


Red. Feb. 24, '82 [5]. Delton, Feb. 22. "We had a lively snow storm from the northwest all day Tuesday [21st], snow and pigeons both flying at the same time."

Red. March 10, "Late Snow," Annual Census.

[Red. 13th, '80 - May 26, '82; All] Changed to Prohibition, and Barehoo Bulletin changed back to Bulletin Aug. 4, '82.

Barehoo Prohibition and Bulletin June 28, '82 [5] Delton. "Pigeon catchers from all parts of the country are coming daily at Killburn City for the purpose of participating in the slaughter of pigeons which are so numerous north of that city. We are informed by some of the oldest settlers whom we have interviewed that they never have seen them so numerous in this section of the county. They are found about 5 miles north of the city covering a strip of land some 8 miles in width, extending miles northwest." - Dec. 22, '82 [All].


Red. May 7, '59. "Pigeons - these pigeons besides being of late visited this neighborhood in vast numbers..."

Red. Sept. 1, '59. "Drought. ... This is the most severe drought in the memory of the "oldest inhabitants," and is causing suffering not only in the vegetable world, but among animals."

[58-59]
Republic


Feb. 26, 61. Frank M. Crandall in jail while out shooting pigeons by accidental discharge of his gun.


April 9, 62. Snow again on 7th & 8th. Drifts 3' deep. [60-63]

[64-66]

April 21, 1869. "Pigeons." Rogersville, April 14th, 1869. To the Editor of the Republic. "...Never within the remembrance of the oldest inhabitant have these gallinaceas visited us in greater numbers than at the present time. One flock, which passed this village today, I estimated to be ten miles in length, and to contain (allowing 3 birds to the square yard) 2,904,000 birds, which is probably far below the actual number. Now if we suppose this one flock to feed for a single day upon wheat alone, and each bird to consume one-half gill, we shall find that it will require 5,671 7/8 bushels, worth at the present market price 5,671.87 1/2; making it rather expensive to entertain such visitors, in a region where "hops have failed." Should they nest in this vicinity (which it is thought they will), the farmers of this section will be up to wage against them. "In the present state of our affairs, notwithstanding the protest of eminent saints, against their destruction."

May 10, 1871. "The Pigeon Trade." The Portage Register says: Few persons have any adequate idea of the extent of the pigeon trade carried on at points on the Tea Crosse road west of line. The country from Kilbourn City to Sparta and as far north as Brand Rapids, has been taken possession of by the pigeons, and converted into one grand roost; from which the birds radiate, traversing the whole State, we guess, in search of food. The abundance of the birds has attracted numerous parties to the R.R. stations in the vicinity of the roost, who buy up and pack in ice the pigeons, and expel them to New York, Boston, Chicago and elsewhere, where they bring a very remunerationable price. S. S. McDuffie, of the American Merchants Union Express, has furnished us with the following statement of shipments by express, since the pigeon season commenced:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barrels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kilbourn</td>
<td>From April 21 to May 3</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenfield</td>
<td>&quot; 12 &quot; April 28</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Lisbon</td>
<td>&quot; 17 &quot; &quot; 29</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sparta</td>
<td>&quot; 19 &quot;</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pomer</td>
<td>&quot; 18 &quot; &quot; 28</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above show shipments of 612 barrels, which would be increased to about 1000, Mr. McDuffie thinks, if the figures were all given up to the present time. Each barrel contains 25 dozens of birds, making 300 birds to the barrel, or a total of 300,000 birds already shipped. The expense charged paid on the 612 barrels amounts to $1,870. The above figures do not include the live birds which have been shipped to various points in considerable quantities, principally for the use of sporting parties, who shoot them from a trap; nor the large numbers secured by hunters.

E.R. May 17, 1871. T. B. Wilmot, of Plover, undersheriff of Portage County, was killed last week by the accidental discharge of a gun, while out shooting pigeons. He was 42 years old and leaves a wife and family.
Baraboo Republic: May 31, 1877. "The pigeons have left for Minnesota. The usual business is about over, only about 400 dozen remaining on hand. Eight hundred dozen were shipped at one at the Chicago market.

"Pigeons. Pigeon season is the order of the day. Everybody is out hunting. Pigeons are so plentiful that the farmers around here kill many of them with relish." (Reedeburg correspondent for the Republic)."

[1870-'72]

Wed., March 19, 1873. "A few robins, blue birds and pigeons, put in their appearance last Sunday [March 16]."

April 22, 1873. "Sportsmen have found lucrative employment in this neighborhood for a few days past, shooting pigeons. We noticed a number of barrels passing through the express office to the Chicago market."

Sept. 9, 1874. "Pigeons are quite plenty in the woods hereabouts, and sportsmen are out in force, though only with guns, as birds are not here in numbers sufficient for trapping."

March 31, 1875. "Names of members of Sauk County Sportsmen's Club just organized.

April 7, 1876. "Myriads of pigeons pass daily in their migratory course to the north."

May 26, 1875. "Sportsmen's club almost for today. "Ten dozen pigeons have been shipped here for the purpose from Reedeburg."

Wed., March 15, 1876. "Robins and bluebirds appeared last week."

April 19, 1876. "Spring season. All sportsmen deriving excitement please come to Bear Creek. There is a pugmo some where near the mouth of this valley, and for the past three weeks, some fifteen of town Rock's best marksmen have been seeking it, and now call for help."

Wed., May 2, 1877. "This snow storm last Saturday and Sunday was preceded by an immense flight of pigeons southward. The birds passed here in safety, notwithstanding the general fusillade by a crowd of sportsmen who had stationed themselves on the hills south of town."

Thhd., March 6, 1878. "Spring season. Wild geese, pigeons, carders, and robins are all in hand."

[1873-'81]

Denton, Ill. Still brought 3000 live pigeons into Kilbourn City East Friday [May 26] and not an extra day for pigeons either. The Mrs. Ryan Farm were filled to overflowing with them. There are three buyers paying 75 cents a dozen.

June 21, '82. "Pigeon Roost. Editor Republic: I have heard lately large stories respecting a "pigeon roost" a few miles from Kilbourn City, but have been in doubt as to its magnitude until an evening or two ago. Mrs. W. F. Bassett, my informant, spent a day there the latter part of last week, and confirmed all that has been said or written regarding it. Thinking that some of your readers may wish to see this novel exhibition, I apologize for this intruding on your columns. Another Friendship road, about six miles from Kilbourn, lives a farmer by the name of Atkinson, who is somewhat interested in the pigeon business. His house being the stopping place for many who go there to capture them, or simply as lookers on at a sight not seen every year in this neighborhood. The roost commences at two place and continues for six miles in length, and from are to two miles in width. The roost is perfectly bewildering, caused by the flapping of wings and shooting and shooting of the hundreds drawn through, some for making money and others for sport. It is a money-making business for those who follow it professionally. To give an instance: When the pigeons began to congregate, preparing to roost, men caught in a single day 600 dozen of the old birds, which he sold for one dollar per dozen. Of course he had to hire help, and ship the birds to market, they being caught alive to be used in help catching still a handsome margin was left in net cash. There are several hundred men and women engaged in the business, the latter especially plumbers, the roosts for squawks, which sold readily in market. Some idea of the magnitude can be gleaned from the fact of so many thousands being captured every day and yet their number not being apparently diminished. It does seem that some law should be enacted by our legislature to put a stop to the wholesale slaughter committed, especially with the young birds who are every day
Baraboo Republican:  "Council out of their nests and killed before being able to fly, or of any account whatever. This is a subject which should be brought to the notice of Mr. Bergh, who could make a profitable visit to this country just now. Those desiring to visit the scene need not be told that the time is short; in a week or ten days it will be a thing of the past."  - J. H.  [Three 1884]

Milwaukee Democrat  April 11, 1885.

Sheboygan Evening City Times  April 21, 55.  "Millions and millions of pigeons have filled the over-headed portion of this part of the world for the past few days. We do not see them stopping here much, and where they are all going is beyond our knowledge. They seem to be moving in a westerly direction."  Baraboo Republic.  [First No. in Sheboygan City Times May 8, 55]

Barnes  Band Co. Democrat  July 24, 56.

Baraboo  Band Co.  Democrat  [March 30, 56]  [86.87-89] [90-92].

Baraboo Republican  March 30, 56.  "Large flocks of pigeons are continuously flying over this place."  [Jan-Oct 5, 56]  [changed to Baraboo Democrat]

Baraboo Independent  March 24, 58.  "... on the 12th [Wild Pigeons, in large flocks], seemed to be making a reconnaissance over the country."  [July 69-68, all]

"A boy named Elmer Hinds was seriously wounded while shooting pigeons near his home at Loganport, Sauk County."  State Item in New Lisbon Argus  Oct 3, 1884.

Baraboo Republic, March 30, 1870. "Wild pigeons are flying about pretty numerably." [70-72]

[76-78]

[This prairie about 16 1/2 miles]

[by between Kilbourn & Baraboo]

[Cadiz, Feb. 10, 1872. "Young grasshoppers in large numbers in the openings on Webster's prairie."

Cited, Feb. 15, 1872. Fairfield. "Pigeons are flying. The first heard of mine reported by E. Calvin on the 7th inst. This is one month earlier than we have ever seen them before."

March 22, 1872, Delton. "Mr. Bell, of Tomah, is back on his annual trip catching pigeons. His correspondents inform him that they are thick in Indian Territory, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, and there he will probably go from here to Ohio. They are now 250 per dozen in market, when caught in the net the hoppers proceed to bite their heads in order to kill them quickly. A catch of 215 or 301 dozen makes lively work for the jaws."

Cited, March 24, 1872. "It is said that pigeons have taken up their abode at this place. [Carmen Bluff, a few miles west of Delton] in great numbers, probably to find shelter in the thick foliage from the cold storms and wind."

[1879-81] [82-84] [85-87] [88-89] [90-91] [92-93] [94-95]
Barrow Shield April 27, 1877, "Pigeon pies are now in order."

But first catch the pigeons,
said May 11, 1877, "Huge flocks of pigeons are seen flying north, generally too high for sportmen," [1876-79] [86-87]

sahd April 10, 85, Chetek April 7, "Pigeons are quite numerous this spring, in this section." [82-'88]

Chetek Alert [Sept 29, '82 - '85] [86- June '88] [June '88-'90]

Barrow Independent [April '88 - May 24, '87] all.
Cumberland Advocate [Aug '90 - '92]

Beautey Sentivel [1877-'79]

sahd Aug 20, 1880, "some of our sportmen went pigeon hunting one day this week and returned with well filled game bags."

sahd Aug 27, '80, "its of pigeons in this section, but they are scarce and it's pretty hard to get within shooting distance."

sahd May 19, 1883, "a number of flocks of pigeons were seen flying northeast Tuesday [161]." [80-82] [83-'85] [86-'91]

Bloomer Workman March 15, '82, "Chetek - It has the appearance of spring. Pigeons have been seen passing over within a few days past."

sahd April 6, '82, "large flocks of pigeons are flying over."

"Sept 28, " "Pigeons and small game are reported plenty."

[May '81 - March '83; all]

April 20, 1872. "Robins, crows and ducks are here."

Bayfield Press [June '77 - Jan. '79] [79 - '81] [82 - '86] [87 - '87] [90]

Washburn Bee [March 14, '85 - Sept. 10, '87. All. N. 81.]
[Dec, '60 -

Bearar Dam

Aug. 15, 1861: "During the last week, pigeons, in almost endless numbers, have been flying over this part of the country, making their way towards their summer quarters."

Aug. 22, 1861: "Game is very abundant just now. Pigeons are coming north, and the lake is covered with ducks and geese."

Aug. 24, 1861: "Pigeons are now the delicacy of the market." [60-63]

Wed., April 5, 1865: "Pigeons and ducks have arrived ....... in large numbers. Sportmen, farmers inform us that they are very wild." [65-66]

May 4, 1861: "Wild pigeons are unusually plenty this year. The wheat fields and woods are filled with immense flocks of them, and in many instances they do great injury by picking up the nearly ripe wheat."

Sat., April 3, 1869: "About a foot of snow on the ground."

Tues., April 1, 1876: "Wild pigeons and ducks have been flying for two or three days back." [78-79]

Tues., March 7, 1878: "Wild pigeons have been flying through the air for a few days past." Juneau. "Pigeons are on the wing." [77-78]

Feb. 16, 1882: "Wild pigeons returned to their latitudes last week, and on Friday [Feb. 18] and Saturday the woods were full of them. On Saturday last Alderman Hopkins and mine host Seifert of the Milwaukee Horses went out after some of them, and Mr. Seifert brought down eight at one shot. Pretty good for the 11th. of February." Lowell. "Pigeons have made their appearance once more." [82-83]

Bearar Dam Citizen, April 14, 1887: "It has been snowing nearly every day for the past week. As we write, it is snowing briskly with 6 inches on the ground, with a good prospect ahead for a heavy snow-storm...."

[March 19 - April 13, 1887] [69-63]

March 36, 1865: "Good Man: - The large flocks of Pigeons that pass over and around us every day is a pretty sure sign that cold weather is about gone. Thousands of Pigeons in a flock may be seen daily, passing north."
Beaner Dam Citizen Thurs. April 27, 65: Blackbirds and wild geese dotting the air.

"Pigeons are flying plentifully, too." [64 - Aug. 16, 66]

May 2, 67: "Game seems to be unusually abundant this spring. Pigeons and ducks are plentiful..."

May 30, 67: "Pigeons. This species of game has not been so numerous hereabouts for years, as it is this spring. One man in Burnett last week caught over 40 dozen of them in a net in one day. The trees bordering the prairie are loaded with them, and in some neighborhoods impatient at the lateness of the season and slow coming up of the wheat and corn crops, they are pulling it up." [Aug. 69 - Aug. 67]

April 17, 73: "More pigeons than you could shake a stick at flew over this city last Monday. [April 14] morning. They were going south, doubtless in search of a place where they could winter their trees." [Aug. 69 - Aug. 73]

May 10, 74: "Pigeons are numerous hereabouts, and many of them are being taken by gunners."

April 1, 75: "Pigeons are moving in large droves..."

Sept. 4, 75: "Pigeons are thick in the woods, and so are the leaves in the trees; sportmen meet with indifferent success."

Sept. 30, 75: "The shrubbery is hayy hunting wild ducks, pigeons and squinolo." [Aug. 73 - 76].

Sept. 20, 77: "Burnett Items. Wild pigeons are numerous in the woods.

March 14, 78: "Wild pigeons are plentiful."

Aug. 22, 78: Letter dated July 21, 78, written by W.F. Ross from Presque Isle, Lake Superior. Mentioning alerting pigeons. "The ground bare is also more open with scattered clumps of tall aspen trees, under me if three or four lazy hunters lay in full length watching or reading when several pigeons lift in the branches over them. The hunter had merely to lie still and fire. Again and again the birds returned to this or neighboring clumps of trees and our leader was supplied with the least possible effort."

Sept. 18, 78: "Burnett. The sportmen are bring down the ducks and pigeons."

Sept. 11, 79: "Burnett. Wild pigeons are dropping."

[77-79]
Beanie Dam, Citizen. Thurs. Feb. 16, 1863. "Within the past week, flocks of pigeons have been seen as well as robins." [90-87]

[1883-85] [86-88]

Beanie Dam Republican [March '54 - March '57, all]

Democrat [April '57 - Dec. '59] [60-61]

Whig [62 - Sept. '63, all]

Beanie Dam Republican, Aug. 3, 1863. "Our villagers are having sore sport just now, in killing pigeons. Messrs. Irwin, Beamer and Higby lately killed in 116, which they had taken one afternoon." — Simms Hill, NW Wisconsin Aug. 10, 1863.
Beloit Journal. Poor paper

Flurys. March 16, 1871 "Pigeons and ducks are flying north in large numbers."

March 23, '71 "Extensive preparations are being made for trapping pigeons in this vicinity." [1871-'73]

Beloit Free Press Sept. 16, 1871 "Pigeons are unusually abundant in this vicinity."

Feb. 22, '73. "Ducks and pigeons have already begun their northward flight."

April 19, '73. "Pigeons in great numbers flying northward yesterday morning."

May 10, '73. "Pigeons plenty — in the air."

April 1, '75. "Pigeons have commenced flying."

April 25, '78. "Pigeons are flying early this week but are not too scarce this spring."
May 11, 1871. (Waukesha County, Waucoma correspondent, May 5.) "The trade that, at present, seems to be doing the most business is that of pigeon catcher. Gentlemen of that "profession" are doing a lively business a short distance from our village and --- in many localities in this and surrounding counties."

March 27, 1873. "Pigeons will soon be plenty."

April 10, 1873. "Henry Bates of Darlington, shot 73 pigeons in one day, week before last."

April 17, '73. "Frank Goodell killed 75 pigeons in two hours near Montello, 39 of which were killed at one shot."

April 24, '73. "A ton of pigeons was lately shipped from Brooklyn station to Chicago and New York."

May 1, '73. "Milwaukee wants a supply of pigeons and other kinds of game. Can't our Berlin Warehousers do something for them?"

May 1, '73. "There is a pigeon roost near Madison. Pigeons have gathered in immense numbers in Rock County."

"The Warren Sentinel says: 'One day last week before last, Jonathan Dobler caught eighty pigeons with a single net.'"

Accident at Dodgeville. 2 boys hunting pigeons.

[Jan. 1871 – June 5, '73]

"Pigeons are nesting near Berlin. "Milwaukee Daily Sentinel, April 21, '71."
Janesville Gazette April 24, 1871. [Green Lake County - Berlin Journal] "Pigeons are nesting near Berlin."

Berlin Journal for 1871 not in library.

Berlin Courant [Aug. 25, 59 - '62] [63-'66]


Berlin Courant April 22, '69. State Vies. "The prairie du chien Courier says --- the woods back on the bluffs are filled with wild pigeons." [1867-'75]

 Ibid. Sat, Sept. 5, '74. "An enterprising wild-pigeon hunter has been bringing cases of live pigeons into town for sale."

 Ibid. April 10, '75. "Wild pigeons have commenced flying over, and there is a probability that they will be plenty this spring."

 [Aug. 29, '74 - Feb. 26, '76]

 Ibid. March 18, '76. Eureka. "Robins made their appearance here on the 10th. Pigeons the same day in large numbers."

 April 13, '76. "Pigeons were plenty in the woods on Sweeney's Hill." Monday [April 10]. "Our A.L. bagged 15 of the critters." . . .

 March 4, '76. Eureka It is. "Wild geese, ducks and pigeons are daily passing over us." - Eureka, March 7. [76-'78]

 [Pine River It is] April 26, '79. "A few pigeons have been seen flying herewithout of late."

 Oct. 18, '79. "Pigeons are plentiful in some parts of the state, but this particular part has become too civilized for them."

 May 4, '81. "Wild pigeons seem to be scarce this yea."

 3, '82. "Pigeon shooting is in progress."

 10. "Pigeon shooting in progress." Auroville It is.

 Wed, May 17, '82. "A party of Berlin sportsmen brought down 1000 pigeons from near Hancock last week."

 The following news item appears in an exchange: A game dealer in Green Bay was engaged to deliver to a Paris milliner 30,000 pigeons alive during the season. Does that mean it's easy? And if so is the dealer James Luff, or Fred Coon or Ed. Hathaway or who?"
Berlin Courant, June 14, 1855. Terrills Corners. Last week seven of our prominent citizens with two teams went to Adams Co. to shoot pigeons. They were absent three days. 21 days work and six days team work, and came back with 15 pigeons. Better stay at home.

Wm. Med. April 2, 1854. "Wild ducks, pigeons and wild geese, were flying last week."

April 9, 1854. "Wild pigeons are putting in an appearance." [79 - 84]

15, 1854. "Wild pigeons are said to be plentiful."

15, 1854, Mr. Morris. "Fine spring weather, with wild geese and pigeons." [86 - June 18, 87]

April 12, 1888, Mr. Morris. "Wild geese are quite numerous, also pigeons."

April 19, 1888, "Ducks, geese, and pigeons are reported for this vicinity."

[1888 all]

Berlin Journal [Sept. 20, 76 - 79] [90 - May 21, 81] [June 4, 81]

Wm. March 3, 1882. "Pigeons were seen in large flocks on March 1st, making their way north."

Wm. Feb. 28, 1882. "Wild pigeons are now migrating north. But they are not known to be numerous in this section as yet."

Wm. Fri. May 5, 1882. "A report from Saturday night that Rest's woods was swarming with pigeons. Those who interviewed the matter returned without any game of that particular kind." [June '82 - '83] [84 - 85]

[86 - 87]

Berlin Courant April 17, 1855. "Never since our recollection have we witnessed a greater height of pigeons than passed this place on Thursday morning last. As far as the eye could reach both east and west, the air was completely filled with them, and continued thus, for almost an hour. Having continued thus plentiful until evening, it was found that farmers will have to watch their fields narrowly, or their time, as there will be nothing for the pigeons to eat after harvest." - Waukesha Daily April 27, 1855. Wm. A. Wisconsin April 19, 1855."
Journal April 1871. "A man living near here, recently killed 96 pigeons at one shot. They were at roost at the time."


"The flocks of pigeons that are hereabouts so numerous, or at certain times of the day to obscure daylight. Parties go out here with wagons and return loaded down with the results of their day's labor. Those who have no guns go with clubs. ... The birds are not very fat: their continued exercise flying, and their comparatively early arrival in the land of wheat, explains the abdomen. When stripped of feathers and prepared for the table, they present a very complicated appearance of skin and bones..." — Davenport.
"Pigeons are also making their appearance in the usual numbers."

Aug. 22, 1872. "Pigeons are becoming quite numerous again. A number of city sports have been making their headquarters here within the last few days, meeting with fair success, judging from the quantities of birds some of them have shipped home."

Black Earth Advertiser April 11, 1872.
Black River Falls  Badger Banne  March 11, 1871.

"Pigeons, robins and blue birds have made their appearance in this region."

2d. Sat. April 8, 1871.

"During each morning the first of the present week thousands of pigeons passed over this place. Sportsmen were out early with their guns, and brought a few to the ground."

Warmer weather we have never experienced in this latitude the first week in April.

2d. April 29th, 1871.

W. Adams of Melrose killed a gray wolf weighing 75 lbs.

These animals are becoming scarce in this region.

2d. April 29, 1871. "From J. B. Jones of Melrose, we learn that the timber land between that place and Big Creek is literally alive with pigeons from three to seven miles in extent in every direction. The pigeons are resting in that region, and will probably remain there for some time. This will be a rare chance for hunters to get all the shooting they want. We speak for half a dozen pigeons in advance."

2d. May 6, 1871. "From one to two hundred barrels of pigeons are taken to the Milwaukee market daily from the vicinity of Riblown City and Tomb". "A great pigeon hunt came off near Riblown City last week, in which thirty persons participated. About 2000 birds were killed". "James Brimmer, aged seventy years, accidentally shot and killed himself while hunting pigeons near Shawano on Monday". "Every morning of late, many flocks of pigeons have"
paved me this place to the northward, and returned in the evening. They are plenty this season.

"Six miles down Black River from this village millions of pigeons have built their nests, and the woods are literally alive with them. The sportsmen are having a good time shooting pigeons. Farmers engaged in saving wheat complain bitterly of the ravages of these pigeons on their wheat fields. People need not go hungry for want of fresh meat so long as the pigeons remain in this vicinity.

Cold and weather even known for first week of May.

May 13, 1871. "From ten to thirty thousand pigeons are daily shipped from Kilburn City to eastern markets."

"Pigeons are plenty in this part of the country, and they are sold in our streets at twenty-five cents per dozen."

"Pigeons are being shipped from this place in small quantities. We saw one barrel full of pigeons at the express office a few days ago, marked for New York City. The charges were only 12."";

"Many farmers in the towns of Melee, Irving, Springfield and Bighorn, in this county, complain that the pigeons pick up wheat nearly as fast as they can sow it, unless the fields are watched from daylight until dark. We have heard of several farmers who have been compelled to sow two or three times, and a few fields have been seriously damaged by the pigeons pulling up the wheat after it had sprouted an inch high."

May 27, 1871. "Sportsmen have become tired of shooting pigeons in this region, and many have quit the game."

July 1, 1871. "It is said that the pigeons are eating up the blueberries in many localities."
July 15, 1871. "Many pigeons have been caught in nets in the vicinity of Augusta this season. A short time ago, nearly one hundred dozen were caught in one hand."

Sept. 9, 1871. "The pigeons have appeared again in the vicinity of Brandon, Fond du Lac County, in large numbers recently."

April 13, 1872. "Spring has come at last, as indicated by the appearance of blue birds, robins, and pigeons."

April 20, 1872. "Large numbers of pigeons are being caught in nets in the vicinity of Stoughton."

Aug. 3, 1872. "Pigeons are reported very plenty at Great Rapids."

Apr. 12, 1873. [Saturday]. "The latter part of last week several flocks of pigeons were seen flying over this part of the country. We are inclined to think the snow storm last Tuesday might obliged them to fly south again."

[Complaints of cold late season].


Dec. 6, 1873. "Geo. M. Bowman, of this village, has killed seventeen deer within the past six or seven weeks, and all of them he shot from two to six miles from town."

May 29th, '75. State Item. "The pigeons just picked up twelve acres of wheat just sown by a Pierce county farmer."
April 14, '77. From Histon, April 10. 4th: "The boys also here lots of sport pigeon hunting, though where they find the pigeons is more than we can tell."

Sat, April 21, '77. "I range flocks of pigeons were flying over this part of the country in various directions the first of this week. -- For several years pigeons have not been very plenty here, and may not be this season unless they should nest in this vicinity." Weds. March 15, '78. "During March 11, the pigeons are seen flying over daily."
Fri. March 14, '79. "Robins, blue birds, pigeons and thunder-showers made their appearance here the first of this week."

John May 16, '82. Shamrock, May 28. "The pigeon roost at Dr. Fagget's has not come to this neighborhood, and as well as the inhabitants of Sparta and vicinity. Some have a few dozen pigeons shot up to fatten before dispersing of them."

Note: Above is sole reference for Black River Falls and correspondent for Alma Center, Burr Oak, Garden Valley, Melrose, Sycamoreville, Shamrock, Hunting, Not Bend, Draying, Taylor, and North Bend, Histon.

Black River Falls, Jackson County, Danner March 28, 1868. "Pigeons have appeared plentifully."

April 28, 68. Ten inches of snow on April 22.
Mid. Sept. 12, '68. "Pigeon hunting is popular herabouts about these times. Large numbers of the birds are being slaughtered."

April 17, '69. "During the latter part of last week the pigeons flew over in numerous quantities. Large number of them were shot at the wing - or otherwise. This week they have not been plenty."

April 9, '70. "Wild pigeons have commenced emigrating to this region. Large flocks can be seen nearly every morning flying over this village."

April 23, '70. "Wild pigeons have been flying over here in flocks. But hunters inform us that they are not plenty on the prairies or in the woods. Not many have been killed."

[1868-70]
"Pigeon shooting has been the sport of many the past week."

"It's fun for the boys, but they don't hurt the pigeons much."

"State Stem: Pigeons are plenty up the Chippewa."

"Feb. 22, '82. Pine Hill, Feb. 16. "Pigeons have made their appearance, which is a good indication that spring is at hand."

"Black River Falls Banner. Feb. 17, '82. "Pigeons, blue-birds and robins are said to have been seen in this region for several days past."

"May 20, '85. "What had everybody for dinner yesterday? Pigeon."

"What had they today? Pigeon."

"What will they have tomorrow? Pigeon."

"The recent cold and cloudy weather is said to be causing the fact that the pigeons and the sun be eaten up."

"Black River Falls, Wisconsin Independent, April 25, 1877. [1876-'88 all] [1876-'78] [1879-'81] [1882-'85] [1886-'88]"
Lancaster Herald, June 20, 1871.

"Items from Boscobel. - Wild Pigeons are plenty in the Wisconsin river bottoms, and afford great pleasure for the many sportmen of Boscobel.

K&H. Turley (1872).

Boscobel Dial April 2, 1875. "Pigeons in large flocks are seen flying quite near the ground, and every boy that can procure a single or double barrelled shot-gun, musket, carbine, or any blackguard thing to kill them with, are playing away at them.

Ruid. Fri. April 23, 1875. "Our sportmen have been going for pigeons in a lively manner during the past two weeks.

Ruid. Oct. 8, 1875. "Wisconsin News. Pigeons are very plentiful throughout the State.

[1874-75]

Ruid. Sept. 15, 1876. "Pigeons, in large quantities, are flying over our city every day. Young boys 'knee-high-to-a-grasshopper' are out hunting at all hours, and in less than a week time will not be a live pigeon in twenty miles of Boscobel.

Ruid. April 13, 1877. "There is as yet, no appearance of wild fowl in this section.

[1876-78]

Ruid. March 14, 1879. "For several days large flocks of wild geese, ducks, have been passing through the air, in a northerly direction.

Ruid. April 11, 1879. "Again the pigeons are winging their journey northward, and the school boys in his days of recreation by frightening them from their nesting places.

Ruid. April 25, 1879. "Speakers are wondering why wild pigeons are so scarce this spring. Their flight this season seems to have been west of the Mississippi, which will undoubtedly account for their scarcity here.

Ruid. Sept. 12, 1879. "Wild pigeons have been flying southward during the past week, and sportive gunners have made considerable havoc among them.

Ruid. Sept. 26, 1879. "The gunners are putting in their time these days killing squirrels and pigeons.

Ruid. May 6, 1881 (Friday). "Large numbers of pigeons have been
(Brookfield) on the wing during the past week." [Late spring].
[1879-81]

"Well. Feb. 17, 1882," Wild pigeons were flying around in this section on
Sunday last [Feb. 12], apparently enjoying the warm weather of February,
[Temp. at 70° second week of Feb.

Feb. 24, 1882. "All indications of spring, such as wild pigeons and wild
geese flying about, - - -

Feb. March 3, 1882. "During this past week the smoke on the bluffs have been
alone with pigeons. One gentleman said he never saw so many pigeons
as he did on Wednesday [March 1]. And yet, some people seem to think that
spring has put in an appearance for good.

Feb. March 31, 1882. "The air seems to be full of migratory birds, including wild
geese, ducks, sand hill cranes, pigeons, etc. The hunter are correspondingly
lucky, although but little game has been brought in.
[1882-84]

Feb. March 30, 1886. "Wild pigeons have made their appearance - a
sure sign that spring is not far off." [1886-87]

Feb. April 12, 1888. "Wild pigeons have been very plenty in this vicinity
the last few days. It is their first visit here for a number of
years and they are said to be new tame." [1888-90] [1891-93]

[1894-Sept 26 95 All]

Montfort Monitor Sept. 3, 1885. "Preston, Wild pigeons have made
their appearance here."
[1882-88]

Cassville Index [1883-93] Nothing.

Potosi Republican [1847-1895] Nothing.
Brandon Times

Wed., March 22, 1871. "Wild pigeons, ducks, robins and the like, that came about here last week to stake out their claims, have left for Dixie with shrieks of despair."

April 19, '71. "Wild pigeons have nested extensively in Adams county some forty miles northwest of Berlin. Look out for squabs in May or June."

April 26, '71. "The pigeons are nesting in Adams County, and flying in large flocks near Berlin. Wm. H. and Charley Locklin are catching them near the latter place, and caught on Monday it one net over 600."

Wed., May 10, '71. "The pigeons still continue to fly over here every day in large numbers, and our farmers have all the shotguns they can use, and ask for Charley Locklin caught about 400 pigeons yesterday. He is netting them just south of the village. Frank Perkins shot 60 yesterday morning in about an hour."

May 17, '71. "The pigeon rush is about over within this section, and but few are now being caught here."

May 31, '71. "The pigeons to be shot at next Saturday are all young ones and will be shot from a 9' trap. Eleven dozen young pigeons have been secured."

June 14, '71. "Tom Wilcox is still near Killburn City catching pigeons, and a week ago had over 1000 in hand alive."

Aug. 30, '71. "The pigeons have made their appearance again in large numbers and our farmers are bagging them by the dozen. They are feeding on the acorns and in the wheat stubble."

April 12, '72. [Note: spring]. "Pigeons have commenced flying."

[1871-73]
Brandon Times  April 20, '67. "Immense numbers of pigeons were to be seen on Tuesday morning. [April 16], flying in a southerly direction." [Many late news mentioned]

\[May 4. Gas fire in thick on May 1.\] "Pigeons.—There are more of these birds around this year than there have been before in several years. It is thought that they are "nesting" in the Sheboygan woods, where, if true, will keep them around here during the entire spring. Already the boys have commenced slaughtering the birds, and the editor has indulged in an old-fashioned "pigeon pot pie." The Ripon Representative states that two sportsmen from that place, shot into a flock that were flying past, with two double-barreled guns, and brought down forty. Pretty good shot."

May 11, '67. "Pigeons are still very plenty, and it is reported that they are roosting in the Sheboygan woods. Our sportsmen are having a good time amongst them, and generally come home with their game bags full."

\[May 23, '67.\] "Pigeons have made us another visit, and are again plenty. Our sportsmen are doing good work among them. One gentleman shot eighty-seven before breakfast. This time they will probably be with us during the summer months, as there is no doubt that they are nesting in the vicinity of Sheboygan."

\[No June 1, No.\]

March 28, '68. "Signs of spring.—As an index for weather prophets, we would say that pigeons first made their appearance here this year on the 23d of this month, and large flocks of ducks also. Since then the pigeons have been flying over in large flocks every day."

April 14, '68. State News. "Pigeons in immense flocks have made their appearance in the western part of the State."

\[Wed., May 5, '67.\] "Pigeons have been quite plenty here during the past week, and our sportsmen are bagging a great many of them."
Brandon Times, Sept. 8, 1869. — Pigeons are the principle article brought in and they are reported plenty.

Sept. 13, 69, "Pigeon hunting still rages."

April 20, '70, "No pigeons harem as yet made their appearance."

Sept. 23, '72, "Hunting pigeons is the fashionable game just now."

March 14, '78, "The season hunter tries to get within shooting distance of a pigeon, and sometimes succeeds."
Medina, State To, Sept. 24, 1870. "The Broedhead Independent reports pigeons and squirrels very plenty in the woods."

[Library does not have Broedhead Independent for 1870].
Burlington Free Press Tues. Feb. 21, 1882, "Flocks of wild geese and pigeons were seen flying north last week."

[May '81-'84] [85-'87]

Burlington Gazette [May 11, 59 - Dec. 60] CLE

Burlington Standard April 17, 1867. "Pigeons are not only flying over our heads in great numbers, but are also making their appearance in our streets." The editor purchased seven "good fat ones" from a boy for 35 cts. [June 64-'68].

[May 9, 1869. "Wild pigeons in large numbers made their appearance in this region last Friday [6th] and Saturday."

[June 10, 69. "Five hundred pigeons were caught in nets near Oakfield Station, and due to the county, in one day recently."

[July 8, 69. Editor states that in his absence someone "stole or let loose two or three dozen wild pigeons we were carefully fattening. Here are a few still left which we will divide with said individual provided he will call when the editor is at home." [69-'72] [73-July 30, '74].

[Sept. 17, '74. "Pigeon-shooting has been rather lively the past few days. Two young men sacked ninety-five the other day."

[Sept. 23, '75. "James Rogers... called upon us one evening, having a string of wild pigeons, which he very kindly presented us. They were indeed a rarity and wholly unexpected. We have not seen any before for several years, not since the old gentleman McLaughlin..."
Burlington need to note them." [Aug.'74 - '75] [July 12, '79] [July '79 - Dec., '82]
The wild pigeons have made their appearance in this vicinity.

Could we but shoot our rifle clear,
At pigeons in the sky,
We'd bid farewell to pork and venison
And live on pigeon pie.

---

Large flocks of wild pigeons can be seen passing over the village every morning.

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All kinds of hunting stories are being told, but Capt. Reynolds solemnly declares that he killed 121 pigeons on Thursday [Sept. 16] with Arthur Connolly's celebrated fouling piece.

The hunters came a string of about 70 - we got a dozen of them - but we were obliged to leave about a bushel of the birds in the woods. We were accompanied by Dr. Da Count who killed about 25.

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Dr. Da Count, on Friday [Sept. 19] of last week, succeeded in killing a white wild pigeon, a very rare occurrence.

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March 11, '76. Wild pigeons and doves have presented their bills in their neighborhood. [1874-'76] [77-'77]

April 22, '82. Pigeons are reported quite plentiful this season in the vicinity of Stevens Point. [1880-'82] [883-'80]
Times Aug. 17, 72. "Our woods are full of pigeons... This kind of game has been very scarce here for years."
Chippewa Falls Herald, May 20, 1871. "Spotters in this section are having a fine time among the pigeons of late, and the captures have been
immense."

June 3, 1871. "Pigeons are plenty, and have been flying very thick the past two weeks. Innumerable numbers have been
"bagged" in this region.

"A Pigeon Rook. - Chippewa county, next to be outdone
by any other place in the State, has a pigeon rook
where millions of 'em are nesting, just about four
miles above Bloomer. Parties who have been up
there describe the scene as very interesting."

[1870 - 1873]

Chippewa Falls Democrat, June 3, 1871. "Pigeons. - Our spotmen are having glorious sport
among the pigeons who are flying about by the millions,
filling their crops with acorns, and playing sad havoc with the
farms where acorns are scarce. In some parts of the County farmers
were compelled to plant two crops."

"Views & Fishing. - Went out the Bloomer road. Spent the
night 4 miles beyond Vanvile. Road now ran through the
'woods,' a vast forest of magnificent hard wood timber, mostly
white oak. - "One especial feature of our trip was the quantity
of pigeons which we encountered. So thick were these birds that the
shot & shooting lost its zest. Strange to say, the damage done by
them to the crops has so far been trifling." - Editor.

Chippewa Falls Herald, June 8, 1871. "Abundance of wild fruits of all kinds.

... that Pigeon Roost. - On one of these days when the
little red hot devils might be seen building miniature bonfires
under the thermometer ball, - - four choice and irreverent spirits,
duly armed, equipped and provisioned, rose with the early sun and
drove off, bent upon unlimited slaughter of the feathered inhabitants
of the Duncan Creek pigeon rook. - - We succeeded in overcoming
The miseries of the road beyond Vanville --. We found ourselves, by noon, in the centre of a fine thickset, a long way from anywhere, --. [Had dinner which] gave us strength for the next two miles of exploration. That portion of our journey which lay between our camp and the birds, will long be remembered -- but -- we were enabled in the course of an hour's painful toil to hear in advance the cheerful voice of "Furlong" crying out "Here they are, boys! Millions of them," and fine enough, there they were and by the millions, too. To those who have never witnessed the nesting place of the wild pigeon, the sight is one well worth witnessing. One is impressed with the idea, that a tremendous hurricane is creating strange havoc among the tree tops now below. The noise of rushing wings, and of their chattering tongues is almost startling, and a perfect fearlessness of men and gunpowder seems to characterize the congregation of pigeons. In every tree dozens of rude nests are visible, over the edges of which an occasional "quack" peeps his inquisitive head. On the ground beneath lies broken of broken shells, and sometimes a youthful, unwinged osion, ruthlessly turned out of houses and home. Looks up jauntily at the intruder, as if to beg protection. The air is fairly darkened where the flocks once became startled, and they circle overhead with a noise that is both appalling and deepening. Bang! Bang! meet the game, and from out the trees, from 50 to 100 feet above, down fall the birds with a "clap!" that would seem in itself sufficient to drive out all the birds in their hundreds; yet, strange to say, it is not unfrequently the case, that when looked for, the game is missing. For two hours six of us kept up a lively fire upon the innocent feathered tribe, until we were fairly loaded down and glad to seek our camp. On the following morning the massacre was repeated, and by noon we counted up over 250 birds that were in possession and upwards of sixty more that fell, which we failed to capture. — Editor.

[69-72] all.

NOTE: Duncan Creek rises about 8 miles north of Bloomer, flow through the latter town and Chippewa Falls where it enters the Chippewa River. It is 12 miles from Bloomer to Chippewa Falls. Vanville is not on present maps.
Chippewa Falls Herald, [1875]

April 9, 1875. "Pigeons are flying over the city in great quantities. We have no recollection of ever seeing them so plenty before."

May 28, 1875. "Riding on the West Wisconsin, the other day, I noticed that several barrels of pigeons, packed in ice, were shipped to New York from Hammond station. There's a pigeon roost near by."

April 27, 1877. "Pigeons are flying very thick, but some way or other, they seem to prefer soaring in the air a little too high for shot guns."

Sept. 14, 1879. "Pigeons are reported to be very plenty in the woods, and our sportsmen are killing quite a number."

Aug. 18, 1878.

Sept. 16, 1881. "Pigeons are reported quite plentiful in the county at present."

April 7, 1882. "Wild pigeons flew over the city last Saturday [April 7] and Sunday in large flocks."

April 21, 1882. "Pigeons have passed over in large quantities this past week, but they fly high."

Aug. 26, 1887. "South Chippewa Falls. There is a move on foot to have a line pigeon shoot, as the fairgrounds, Saturday afternoon next."

May 4, 1889. "Last Sunday evening, April 29th, this section was visited by a regular red fashioned snow storm, about two inches fell."

May 25, 1889. "Three inches of snow fell at Spooner last Friday."
Cliffside Hills Union and Times [Jan. '67 - Jan. '69; end]

Cliffside Hills Times [Dec. 1, 1875 - March 28, '77]

Chid. March 22, '76. "... and pigeons also have already been seen in this vicinity." [April '77 - '79]

Chid. Oct. 6, '81. "Pigeons and ducks are reported scarce." [April '82 - '84]

"April 12, '82. "Wild pigeons are reported plenty." ['80 - '84]

[ '85 - '86] [ '87 - '88] [ '89 - '90]
Rain, mud, pigs, peas, and butter have added materially to our landscape for the past week: 1878-82, '81, June 27, '83; moved to Hayward.

Hayward News [July 13, '83 - Dec. '85], '86, '88, '89-90

Amery echo [June '89 - July '91] All.
Stevens Point Journal, Aug. 8, 1874.

"P.C. Chaflin, Frank Perry, and H.N. Doty, and their families, went up to Colby pigeon shooting, last week. They report having had a fine time, and found pigeons in abundance. Mrs. Doty will accept our thanks for pigeons left at our house.

Wood County Reporter (Chippewa) July 30, 1874. "The pigeons are nesting this year in the vicinity of Colby, where there are said to be countless thousands of them."

Colby Enterprise, April 15, 1876. "Pigeons are flying over town in large flocks, a good indication of Spring.

[March '76 - May '76] All.

Colby Chronicle, April 21, '80. "Have you seen the pigeons yet?"

[Feb. '79 - '80]

[Shel. May 10, '82. "We were at Tonaw, the other day, and while there rested in pigeons of which there are many. Pigeons fly over that village in streams and the citizens shoot them from the village streets."

Warne, Central Wisconsin, July 29, 1874. Colby correspondent. "516,884 pigeons fly over here daily; they have been nesting about 3/4 miles to the east."
Ashland Northwestern: "Pigeons are reported to be plentiful at Coloma on the line of the Michigan Central. A man shot three times into a continuous flock flying overhead and killed four hundred of the migratory fowls. They fly so low at times as to knock against hunters." March Journal April 15, 1882.

Wantona Argus April 14, '82, "There is an extensive pigeon roost just over the line in Adams county across from Coloma, and they congregate there in immense numbers. Large numbers have been killed."

Wantona Argus May 5.

Wantona Argus April 22, '82. Coloma Staion, "Pigeons appear in scattering flocks, and their movements will be watched with interest."

Montello Sun April 8, '82. "There is said to be an immense pigeon roost near Coloma Station, Waukesha county. Portage Nimrods are going up there today to investigate."

Plainfield Sun Fri. April 8, '88. "Coloma Station. Numerous flocks of pigeons have made their appearance during the past few days."

Coloma Staion, April 20, '88 "We are looking for pigeons to nest here this spring."

Grand Rapids Wood County Reporter April 22, 1886, State News, "Wild pigeons are reported very plentiful in the vicinity of Coloma Station. Several years ago the pigeons nested there and many people think by the appearance that they may nest there again this year."
Wild pigeons were once innumerable. Mr. Thomas Bradford, whom aged 84, remembers when they were caught in nets, and brought in cart loads to the city market. He said he had heard his forefathers say they once saw flocks fly over the city so as to obscure the sun for two or three hours, and many were killed from the tops of the houses. They were, therefore, plentiful enough in general to sell at from 6d. to 12d. per dozen.

Vol. I. p. 279. "Wild pigeons used to be innumerable; 20 [280] also black birds, red birds, and especially, as late as the year 1720, an art was practiced, joining 250, for shooting pigeons, doves, or partridges, or other fowl (birds) in the streets of Philadelphia, or the gardens or orchards adjoining any houses within said city! In Penn's islands, westward of Broad Street, used to be excellent pigeon shooting."

Vol. II. p. 82. "Mr. William Morris, who died but a few years since -- at the advanced age of nearly one hundred years -- recollects when there were great quantities of wild turkeys, and a flight of pigeons which lasted two days! Only think of such a spectacle! They flew in such immense flocks, that they obscured the rays of the sun! One night they settled in such numbers at Martin's bottom, that persons who visited them could not hear one another speak; by reason of their singing noise: Their weight on the branches of the trees was great as to break off immense large limbs!"

Vol. II. p. 410. "Wild Pigeons. -- The late aged Thomas Bradford, Esq., told me of hearing his ancestors say they once saw a flock fly over the city, which obscured the sun for two or three hours, and were killed by hundreds, by people using eloches on tops of horses. Mr. Bradford himself used to see them brought to the Philadelphia market by cart loads. The aged T. Matlack informed me he once saw
a full wagon load knocked down. A Captain Davy, who was in Philadelphia at that time, (described above), went afterwards to Ireland, and there describing what he had seen, and giving the data for their numbers by giving breadth and time of passing it, some of the calculators declared they could not find numbers whereby to estimate them aggregate! They therefore declared in verse a whispering lie, and even after they gave to Captain Davy the name of Captain Pigeon.

In 1782, Hector St. John, of Carlíle, describing the country scenes he had before witnessed there, says, twice a year they ensured numerous wild pigeons. They were so numerous in their flight as to obscure the sun. He has caught fourteen dozen at a time in nets, and has seen as many sold for a penny as a man could carry twice. At every farmer's house they kept a tame wild pigeon in an cage at the door, to be readily to be used at any time to allure wild ones when they approached.

"In 1793, just before the time of the yellow fever, like flocks flew daily over Philadelphia, and were shot from numerous high houses. The markets were crowded with them. They generally had nothing in their craves besides a single acorn. The superstitions some found out they presaged some evil; and sure enough sickness and death came."

This is taken from J. Hector St. John [de Givécoeur] "In letters from an American Farmer." London (1782), p. 37.
The Wild Pigeon in Iowa. Front Y-Steam 52 (April 22, 1899)

305

"Some thirty years ago, when I resided near Rockford, in northern Iowa, the wild pigeon was exceedingly abundant at certain seasons of the year. During their migrations from the South to the North, especially, they were often seen in this region in immense flocks.

This interesting bird did not, however, stop for any length of time with us, and it was the exception rather than the rule to see a few individuals which remained during the season to rear their young.

No few individuals which remained with us to breed were always wild and shy, and for the most part inhabited only the more open timbered tracts, where were seen tall dead and scattering trees. They would always alight on the tipsmost branches of these ancient windbreaks of the forest, and keep a sharp lookout for approaching danger, and fortunate was the sportsman who was able to get within range of them.

The reasons which I am unable to fully explain, scarcely an individual of this species has, so far as I am aware, been observed in northern Iowa during the last fourteen or fifteen years."

"I had good shooting fall of 1876 at Lake Albert Lee, Minn.

"Some forty years ago the wild pigeon was often seen in southern and southeastern Iowa in immense flocks. In fact, there were more points in this State where these birds nested—"Pigeon woods" as they were generally called. -- "Since
writing the above we observed in Charles City, Ia., last summer a large wild pigeon in company with a couple of mourning doves, and at frequent intervals for a couple of weeks it was seen, and excited considerable interest.
Weld, Isaac.

"Travels through the States of North America and the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada during the years 1795, 1796, and 1797."


p. 269. [Above the Chaudi, on the St. Lawrence, early Sept. 1796]

"During a considerable part of the next day, we also proceeded on foot, in order to escape the tedious passage up the 'Rapide Plat', and some of the other dangerous rapids in this part of the river. As we passed along, we had excellent diversions in shooting pigeons, several large flights of which we met in the woods. . . . Their flesh is very well flavoured. During particular years, these birds come down from the northern regions in flights [270] that it is marvellous to tell of. A gentleman of the town of Niagara assured me, that once as he was embarking time on a vessel for Toronto, a flight of them was observed coming from that quarter; that as he sailed over Lake Ontario to Toronto, forty miles distant from Niagara, pigeons were seen flying over head the whole way in a contrary direction to that in which the ship proceeded; and that on arriving at the place of his destination, the birds were still observed coming down from the north in large bodies as had been noticed at any one time during the whole voyage; supposing, therefore, that the pigeons moved no faster than the vessel, the flight, according to this gentleman's account, must at least have extended eighty miles. Many persons may think this story surpassing belief; for my own part, however, I do not hesitate to give credit to it, knowing, as I do, the respectability of the gentleman who related it, and the accuracy of his observation. When these birds appear in such great numbers, they often light on the borders of rivers and lakes, and in the neighbourhood of farm houses, at which time they are so unwary that a man with a short
Welsh, William (Kincardine, Ontario. A Bruce Co. pioneer over eighty years of age).


Arrived in May, 1854, near Point Clark. Pigeons abundant. But this seemed accountable because of the enormous crop of beechnuts I the previous year ... "

"Hawks could often be seen in the flocks and odds must have had good hunting, picking them off at night. The Blue Hawk was then plentiful and easily distinguishable in the flocks. I have seen this bird catch a pigeon in direct flight." It is estimated that pigeon flew 60 miles an hour and "Blue Hawk" 80 to 180 when taking active.

"Other animals, such as foxes, coons, minks, weasels and martens also aided in the destruction of the birds."

One nesting 5 miles from this farm. That was said to be "eleven miles in one direction and thirteen in another. I did not see any hives with more than twenty-four nests and there were others with perhaps twelve and some with not more than three or four." I said only two eggs."

[441.] "Not known to breed at present, though it probably does so. Until about 1855, pigeons were extremely abundant in Central Ohio, having at hand before this time a roost and breeding place near Circleville, Pickaway county. Then, for weeks at a time, they might be observed flying over this city or around its suburbs, in the morning soon after sunrise until 9 o'clock or after, their flight was westward, from the roost. In the afternoon, from four o'clock till sundown they were returning. During these periods they were never out of sight, and often dozens of flocks were in view at once. These flocks were not of large size, but may be estimated to consist of from five hundred to fifty thousand birds, and it was their daily habit to leave their roost in search of food, in this manner. Whether those leaving in the morning invariably returned the same evening, or how far their journeys for food extended is not known. At such times they fed both in beech and oak woods and cornfields. When feeding up on acorns they were rather quietly dispersed among the branches of the trees, but beech nets were generally collected from the ground. In their flight over the city, they were usually at long gun-shot range or higher, but in the country they flew nearer the ground, and following the plane of any inequalities. Vast numbers were shot, killed with poles on their roosts, or captured in nets. Dr. Ritland states that near Circleville [Pickaway Co.], in 1850, 1,285 were caught in a single net in one day. And even this number was not exceptional if the price at which they were sold is any indication. Many thousands were offered for sale in the market of this city [Columbus]. Most of them were brought alive in coops, and the purchasers had the choice of carrying them home alive or leaving them killed on the spot, if he chose the latter, the seller by a delicately movements fractured or dislocated the bird's neck between his teeth. The average price at this time was five or six cents a dozen.
During the last ten years Pigeons have appeared irregularly, but usually in spring and fall, in small flocks. Sometimes they linger about swarming woodlands for several days. "Possibly they may breed in detached parties, but no such instance is known to me."

"The Wild Pigeon feeds in small communities. The nest of sticks is placed in a small tree." Eggs two, 1.45 x 1.05.
Former abundance of the Wild Pigeon in Central and Eastern New York.
Auch 7 (1890) 284-5.

"During the early years of my boyhood Wild Pigeons abounded in great numbers in central New York. One case in particular I well remember in the spring of, I think, 1835, the southeastern part of the township of New Hartford, Oneida Co., N.Y., became for several days their feeding grounds. This region abounded in beach fruits, upon the nuts of which trees they delighted to feed. For several days, beginning with the early dawn and extending to near the middle of the forenoon, the flight of these birds was almost incessant, and in the afternoon and evening their racket was equally as phenomenal; their nest was reported as being in the town of Norwich, Oneida Co., a distance of about fifty miles. The flocks were so large and numerous that they appeared almost more like clouds, and during the most active part of the time many flocks would be in sight from any one point of observation, their flight was also very low, probably owing to this close proximity of their feeding grounds, and caused the noise from their passage over our heads to be very perceptible, resembling the rushing sound of a heavy wind. Many of the smaller flocks would try to fly so low that it induced the workmen from a neighboring machine shop to try to kill them by striking among them with long poles; this failed, however, for some time, as the flocks simply parted and allowed the pole to pass through without hitting any of the birds. After a time my father suggested that they strike in the direction of the flight, when the birds being unable to see the pole, many of them were destroyed in this manner. I well remember my brother and myself standing in the garden, watching them as they passed over our heads, and throwing our Cape at them, which would pass through the flocks without hitting a bird, the gap being closed again almost instantly, and not seeming to check their rapid passage in the least."

It is tempting,

"At a still later period, in the early sixties, on the mornings of two or three consecutive days, large numbers of Wild Pigeons passed up the Hudson Valley crossing over the city of Albany. One of these mornings the flocks were uncommonly large. Three in particular which passed northward in quick succession, so that all were in sight at the same time, were as large and dense that the shadow cast on the ground as they passed was like the shadow of a passing cloud, being easily perceptible. The Hudson Valley at this point from the level of the plateau on the west to Cantonment Hill on the east, must be two and a half miles or more in width, standing in the crest of
the hill to the south of the city, the east and west extremes of each of these line flocks were invisible, although they were at a great
height; the sides dwindled away in the distance, appearing only as
a faint shadow. I noticed a few days after in the newspaper a
statement that there was an unusually large "pigeon roost" near
Fort Edward, N.Y. "

Animal behavior. Woods' Little Biological Lectures for 1898. Brehm (1899) p. 834. "If we place the three grades of pigeons under the same conditions and test each in turn in precisely the same way, we can best see how domestication lets down the bar to choice, and at the same time gives more opportunities for free action. The simplest experiment is always best. Let us take three species at the time of incubation and repeat with each the experiment of removing the eggs to a distance of two inches outside the edge of the nest. The three grades are well represented in the wild passenger pigeon (Ectopistes), the little ring-neck (Turtura rosmorina), and the common domestic pigeon (Columba livia domestica). The results will not, of course, always be the same, but the average will be about as follows:

1. The Passenger Pigeon. ... leaves the nest when approached, but returns soon after you leave. On returning she looks at the nest, steps into it, and sits down as if nothing had happened. She soon finds out, not by sight, but by feeling, that something is wrong. Her instinct is keenly attuned and she acts quite promptly, leaving the nest after a few minutes without feeding the egg. Her conduct varies relatively little in different individuals.

2. The Ring-neck Pigeon. - The ring-neck is tame and sits on while you remove the eggs. After a few moments she moves a little and perhaps puts her head down, as if to feel the missing egg with her beak. Then she,
may glance at the eggs and appear as if half-consciously recognizing them, and after ten to twenty minutes or more leave the nest with a contented air, as if her duty were done; so, she may stretch her neck toward the eggs and try to roll one back into the nest. If she succeeds in recovering one, she is satisfied and again sinks into her usual restless state, with no further concern for the second egg. The conduct varies considerably with different individuals.

3. The Roveot Pigeon. - The densest pigeon behaves in a similar way, but will generally try to get both eggs back; and, failing in this, she resigns the nest with more hesitation than does the ring-neck.

4. Results Considered. - The carrier pigeon's instinct is wound up to a high point of uniformity and promptness, and her conduct is almost too blindly regular to be credited with even that stupidity which implies a grain of intelligence. The ring-neck's stupidity is satisfied with one egg. The densest pigeon stupidity may claim both eggs, but it is not always up to that mark.
Whitman, C. O.

Breeding the wild pigeon. F. 45. S 6 (June 15, 1901)

Chicago, May 20. Dear Mr. Ames: I have just received thirteen.

To Mr. Whitaker, of Milwaukee, I obtained a pair from the Indians about twenty years ago. He kept them, and raised a flock of pigeons. I had about half that flock, and increased this number, although not rapidly. During 1899 and 1900 I failed to get a single egg hatched. The birds began mating early in February and laid many eggs before June 1, but all failed to give young, although many developed to, or near to, the point of hatching.

This year I separated males and females until April, then got three pairs to work. One young was hatched (and did well) when two weeks old, fell down from its nest, was injured and died. I have three pairs sitting now, each pair in a separate pen. They are now quite well turned, and are faithful in incubation.

If I could get one new bird, I could soon have a flock of fifty. They lay only a single egg at a time, but hatch in twelve and a half days, and lay again by the time the young is two weeks old. I have crossed them with the little ring dove, and have some fine hybrids, all of which are sterile.
Whitman, C.O.,

Discussion.

"p. 165. Colored plate No. 28 of P. pigeon; plate 29 of F
"p. 168. 30 of P. pigeon x ring-dove.
"p. 204-5. Incubation period—average 12 1/2 days; also of crosses.
"p. 207-8. Tables on incubation of P. pigeon and crosses.

"p. 16. Table on "Early of Mating Period;"
"p. 17. Mating behaviour; p. 19, 20, 21,
"p. 24. Nest building;
"p. 28. "Influence of social environment;"
"p. 86. "Pairing of Males;"
"p. 43. "Number of Eggs." One.
"p. 45. Table 4. "Time of Laying",
"p. 46. "of hybrids.
"p. 48. "Behaviour in Laying;"
"p. 51. Table 5. "Time of Hatching": Morning to middle of afternoon.
"p. 53. "Early Incubation;"
"p. 56. "Roosting Habits;"
"p. 61. "Effect of Temperature on Breeding;"
"p. 64-66. "Feeding and Care of Young;" also p. 67.
"p. 66. P. pigeon waits only 10-12 hrs. for egg to hatch; p. 67.
"p. 84. Cycle in hybrid, 9 in 8; p. 84.
"p. 112. Phylogeny."


p. 118. Nest calls, hybrid.

p. 120. Counting and copulation.

p. 140. Sociability.

p. 141. Fighting.

p. 144. Fear.


p. 146. Sleep.

p. 154-60. The Step from Instinct to Intelligence.
Williams, Samuel

"The Natural and Civil History of Vermont." 2 Vols., Burlington, (1809), vol. i. p. 136. "In the Wild Pigeon, the multiplying power of nature acts with great force and vigour. The male and female always pair; they sit alternately upon the eggs, and generally hatch but two at a time; but this is repeated several times in a season. The accounts which are given of the number of pigeons in the uncultivated parts of the country will appear almost incredible to those who have never seen their [137] nests. The surveyor, Richard Hagen, who ran the line which divides Massachusetts from Vermont, in 1741, gave this account of the appearances, which he met with, to the westward of Connecticut river.

"For three miles together the pigeons' nests were so thick, that five hundred might have been told on the beech-trees at one time; and could they have been counted on the hemlocks, as well, I doubt not but five thousand at one turn round."

The remarks of the first settlers of Vermont, fully confirm this account. The following relation was given me, by one of the earliest settlers at Canton: "The number of pigeons was immense. Twenty-five nests were frequently to be found on one tree. The earth was covered with these beech-trees, and with hemlocks, thus loaded with the nests of pigeons. For an hundred acres together, the ground was covered with their dung, to the depth of two inches. Their noise in the evening was extremely troublesome, and so great that the traveller could not get any sleep, where their nests were thick. About an hour after sunset, they rose in such numbers as to darken the air. When the young pigeons were grown to a considerable size, before they could readily fly, it was common for the settlers to

cut down the trees, and gather a horse load in a few minutes."

p. 137.8. [handwritten notes on pigeons in Ohio.]
Wilmerding, A. Clinton

"The passenger pigeons. Forest & Stream 68 (2) (Jan. 13, 1907) 55."

Information obtained from Thomas Hand, Netherwood, N.J. on Dec. 30 last.

"Sometimes he and others in his district shipped 110 barrels of pigeons a day for sixty to seventy days running, to New York. These came from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

"The hens laid but one egg at each nesting.

"Mr. Hand saw some flocks of wild pigeons fifteen to twenty years ago in Minnesota. The flight always occupied two or three days, and all came at one time, none struggling along after - that is, no particular quantities.

"The accepted reason for their extermination in that part of the country was a tremendous fog that lasted about three days, and the birds in taking their regular course across Lake Erie became bewildered and finally lost and drowned in the lake. The natives on the Canadian side said they were washed up on the shore in "wind-sweeps," so they had to go from the villages and bury them,... there were millions of tons of these birds destroyed."

"Mr. Hand thinks that the great disaster to the birds in the fog occurred in the late seventies, as he was trapping them in 1876, and subsequent to that time, after which they all disappeared. The pigeons at that time were near Bellefontaine, and crossed the lake near Ashland, Ohio."
28, 1860. Mr. Thompson; Sir,—I have received yours of the 10th inst., requesting information about Pigeons. They are not here the present season. Last year they came here early in April, and commenced building their nests by the middle of that month; and they left here with their young, about the middle of June. Their nests extended over a territory of, at least, 2,000 acres. Above the height of 25 feet from the ground, the tops of the trees were covered with nests. Some large birches had from 100 to 125 nests on a tree. The nests consisted of bunches of sticks, placed in the crotches of the limbs. They laid only two eggs in a nest, and raised only one brood. There might have been any quantity of eggs obtained from the nests; and great numbers of eggs rolled out of the nests and lay scattered on the ground, but I do not know that any of the eggs were preserved. Respectfully yours, Jacob Boyce.


"In the summer of 1770, this whole section of country was visited by an extraordinary calamity... It was an army of worms, which extended from Lancaster, N.H., to Northfield in Massachusetts. They began to appear the latter part of July, 1770, and continued their ravages until September. The inhabitants denominated them the 'Northern Army'.

"... (An) immense number of pigeons which Providence sent them immediately upon the disappearance of the North Army. Nothing could equal their number, unless it was the worms which preceded them. The Tylers of Piermont, Daniel, David, and Jonathan, commenced taking pigeons on the meadow, west of Haverhill Corner, and in the space of ten days, they had taken more than four hundred dozen! They carried them to Piermont, and made what is defined, in the Yankee vocabulary, 'a bee' for picking pigeons; and two or three times a week the people of Haverhill were invited down to Mr. Tyler's to pick pigeons. Those who went had the meat of all they picked, and the Tylers had the feathers; and they made, says Jonathan Tyler, 'four very decent beds of those feathers.' The bodies of those pigeons, when dressed, dried, and preserved for the winter, were very palatable and nutritious, and proved a good substitute for other meats, of which the inhabitants had been despoiled by the Nuns and Goths of the north."
"In the WILD PIGEON, the multiplying power of nature acts with great force and vigour. The male and female always pair: The sit alternately upon the eggs, and generally hatch but two at a time; but this is repeated several times in a season. The accounts which are given of the number of pigeons in the uncultivated parts of the country, will appear almost incredible to those who have never seen their nests. The surveyor, Richard Hazen, who ran the line which divides Massachusetts from Vermont, in 1741, gave this account of the appearances, which he met with to the westward of Connecticut river. "For three miles together the pigeons' nests were so thick, that five hundred might have been told on the beeche trees at one time, and could have been counted on the hemlocks, as well, I doubt not but five thousand at one turn around." The remarks of the first settlers of Vermont, fully confirm this account. The following relation was given me, by one of the earliest settlers at Clarendon: 'The number of pigeons was immense. Twenty five nests were frequently to be found on one beech tree. The earth was covered with these trees, and with hemlocks, thus loaded with the nests of pigeons. For an hundred acres together, the ground was covered with their dung, to the depth of two inches. Their noise in the evening was extremely troublesome, and so great that the traveller could not get any sleep, where their nests were thick. About two hours after sunrise, they rose in such numbers as to darken the air. When the young pigeons were grown to a considerable bigness, before they could readily fly, it was common for the settlers to cut down the trees, and gather a horse load in a few minutes.' The settlement of the country has since set bounds to this luxuriancy of animal life; diminished the number of these birds, and drove them further northward."


"This account may appear improbable to those who have not observed the fecundity of nature. It fails much short of what has been observed in the state of Ohio. The following is from Harris's account of that state, p. 179, 180. 'The vast flights of pigeons in this country seem incredible. But there is a large forest in Waterford, containing several hundred acres which has been killed in consequence of their light- ing upon it during the autumn of 1801. Such numbers lodged upon the trees that they broke off large limbs; and the ground below is covered, and in some places a foot thick, with their dung, which has not only killed all the undergrowth, but all the trees are dead as if they had been girdled."

"The above, he adds, is confirmed by a letter from the Rev. Mr. Story, dated Marietta, June 3, 1803. 'I have visited two pigeon-roosts, and have heard of a third. These I have seen are astonishing. One is supposed to cover one thousand acres; the other is still larger. The destruction of timber and brush on such large tracts of land by these small animals is almost incredible. How many millions of them must have assembled to effect it! especially as it was done in the course of a few weeks."

Zadock Thompson, in his HISTORY OF VERMONT, NATURAL, CIVIL AND STATISTICAL, in three parts, with an appendix. 1855. (Burlington, 1855) pt. 1, p. 100, draws entirely upon Williams, as quoted above, for his anecdotes of the pigeon, although his description, is, as might be expected, more accurate. On page 26, pt. iif, he adds the following:

"Having learned that Pigeons had appeared and reared their young in large numbers, in the spring of 1849, in several towns on the Green Mountains, particularly in Fayston and Warren, in Washington county, and being desirous in case they should return there next spring, to visit the localities, for the purpose of observing the habits of the Pigeons, and securing some of their eggs for specimens, I addressed a note of inquiry to Jacob Boyse, Esq., of Fayston. To this note I received the following reply: Fayston, June
Wilson, Alexander and Bonaparte, Charles Lucien.


p. 253. According to Mr. Hutchins, the Wild Pigeon abounds round Hudson's Bay, remaining as late as December, feeding on juniper berries when the ground is covered with snow.

p. 254. I have witnessed those migrations in the Genesee country—often in Pennsylvania, and also in various parts of Virginia, with impression; but all that I had then seen of them were mere straggling parties, often compared with the congregated millions which I have since beheld in our western forests, in the states of Ohio, Kentucky, and the Indiana territory, these fertile and extensive regions abounding with the nutritive beech-nut, which constitutes the chief food of the Wild Pigeon, in seasons when those nuts are abundant. Corresponding multitudes of Pigeons may be confidently expected. Will go perhaps sixty or eighty miles from roast for food.

Roost. The ground is covered to the depth of several inches with their dung.

Restraining of birds at roast.

"The breeding place differs from the former in its greater extent, in the western counties above mentioned, there are generally in beech woods, and often extend in nearly [255] a straight line across the country for a great way. Not far from Shelbyville in the state of Kentucky, about five years ago,

Wilson writes: 'On Friday the 24th, [1810], 3... set out for Lexington... I passed through Middleburg and Shelbyville, both in considerable places...

"The woods are swarming with pike, pigeons, squirrels and woodpeckers. The pike are universally fat, owing to the great quantity of mast this year.

--- Between Shelbyville and Frankfort, having gone out of my way to see a pike roast, (which by the way is the greatest curiosity I have seen since leaving home), I passed a deep creek called Benson, nine or ten times.'"

[On Saturday, April 14th. I left this place [Lexington] for Nashville, distant about 300 miles. - lxxxv. "I was now one hundred and eighty miles from Nashville..."

The country now became mountainous, perfectly ascending and descending, and about forty nine miles from Barrow, I passed through a pike roast, or roosting breeding place, which continued for three miles, and from information, extended in length for more than forty miles. The timber was chiefly beech; every tree was laden with nuts, and I counted in different places, more than ninety nests on a single tree. - lxxxvi. In the afternoon, we crossed the Little Barren..."
The page contains text discussing the nesting habits of pigeons. It describes how pigeons use trees for nesting, often in large clusters, and notes the departure of the young in early May. It also mentions the flight range of pigeons and how they are said to fly to Kentucky by early March. The text is rich with details about the natural behavior of pigeons and their interactions with their environment.

There is some handwritten correction and addition to the text, indicating the importance of the information. The page is part of a larger document that likely explores the natural history of birds in a specific region.

The page contains a handwritten note at the bottom right corner, which might be a reference or a reminder for the reader.
Wilson, Alexander

p. 258. Manner of flight of flocks.

p. 259. Trapping.

Nesting.

Method of breeding. Best food from tree with wings.

They have the same crying notes common to domestic Pigeons.

Size composition of flocks, sometimes mostly 8 or 9, or young.

260. I myself have seen the remains of a large breeding place as far north as the country of the Chocota, in Lat. 32°.*

Appear in formidable bodies in the neighborhood of Philadelphia.

Only once in several years.


* Vicksburg, Miss. is about 32° 20′.
p. 31. "The Pigeon of that Country, is something different from our Dove-house Pigeons in England, being more like Turtles, of the same colour; but they have long tails like a Magpie; and they seem not so bigge, because they carry not so many feathers on their baches as our English Doves, yet are they as bigge in body. These Birds come into the Country, to goe to the North parts in the beginning of our Spring, at which time (if I may be counted worthy, to be believed in a thing that is not so strange as true) I have seene them fly as if the Ayres regiment had beene Pigeons: seeing neither beginning nor ending, length or breadth of three Million of Million. The shooing of people, the sitting of Geese, and pelting of small shotte, could not drive them out of their course, but so they continued for foure or fife hours together: yet it must not be concluded, that it is thus often; for it is but at [32] the beginning of the Spring; and at Michaelmas, when they returne bache to the Southward; yet are these some all the yeare long, which are easily attained by such as look after them. Many of them build amongst the Pine trees, thirty miles to the North-east of our plantations; sitting next to nest, and tree to tree by their nests, so that the Sunne never sees the ground in that place, from whence the Indians fetch whole loads of them."
Writing in 1634: "These Birds come into the Country, to goe to the North parts in the beginning of our Spring, at which time (if I may be counted worthy, to be beleived in a thing that is not so strange as true) I have seen them fly as if the Angers Regiment had beene Pigeons:seeing neither beginning nor ending, length or breadth of those Millions of Millions, the shooting of people, the setting of Gunnes, and pelting of small shotte could not drive them out of their course, but so they continued, for foure or five heures together: yet it must not be concluded, that it is thus often; for it is but at the beginning of the spring, and at Michaelmas [September 29th.] when they returne backe to the Southward; yet are these some all the yeare long, which are easily attayned by such as Coores after them. Many of them build amongst the Pine trees, thirty miles to the North-east of our plantations; joyning nest to nest, and live to tree by their nests, so that the Sunne never sees the ground in that place, from whence the Indians fetch whole loades of them."

From Thousands Birds of Essex County p. 66.
Woodhouse, S.W.


Ectopistes marginella, novis.

A brief detailed description.

"This specimen somewhat resembles the E. Carolinensis, but on examination proves to be totally different. I procured it in the cress timbers in the North Fork of the Canadian, on the 6th. of September, 1850, whilst attached to the creek boundary survey as surgeon and naturalist — I saw several of them feeding on the ground, and was immediately struck with the eye, being so much smaller than our common dove. I was unable, however, to procure but one specimen, and that on dissection proved to be a male."
THE PASSING OF THE WILD PIGEONS. (PASSENGER PIGEONS).

Extracts culled from the writings of Frank P. Woodward, as published from 1913 to 1929.

By Edward J. Woodward.

Dunmore 9, Pa.

1920.

How Frank P. Woodward came to write his 400 or more sketches for the Scranton Times, The Wayne Independent and The Carbondale Leader, 1913 to 1929, when he passed away, has never been told, unless he told it in one of his sketches. He told me that he had wanted to write a series of sketches about Buffalo Bill, and his sponsor, "Red Dunlins", who, by the way, was born at or near Honesdale, Pa. Well, the series got started on some other subject, and new material kept cropping up, and he never did get to the Buffalo Bill sketches.

In looking through his sketches I am amazed at the number he devoted to the subject of the wild pigeons. It seems this had been a subject of writers for a hundred years, and they were still writing about them and talking about them when he wrote his sketches.

The biggest flock, or series of flocks, to be correct, were recorded by one writer, and he figured one billion pigeons in the flocks. This flock was several miles wide and 240 miles long. But I better get to my extracts.

Farview, Pa., Sept. 7, 1923.—The Wayne County historian, Phineas G. Goodrich, in his local history, published in 1840, says:

These, of all birds, are the most gregarious. They fly in flocks and build their nests near each other, many of them on the same tree, and thousands of them in the same forest. A tract of land called "The Pigeon Roost", in Atlanta township, sixty years ago, was one of their favorite places of rendezvous. Then they spread this region in immense flocks of thousands. They lived upon the beach-mast. Since that time they have steadily decreased in numbers, until they almost ceased their annual visits. Perhaps the great wheat fields of the west have lured them thither.

Pigeons have been caught in Wayne county with undigested rice in their crops, which they must have eaten on the rice fields of the south. Their rapidity of flight and ability to remain unflaggingly on the wing for many consecutive hours is wonderful. Once they were caught in nets by hundreds, but now, in 1840, are not caught at all."

An Albany, N. Y. writer in the New York Herald, about 1920 told the following:

As a boy, living at Union Square, Oswego county, N. Y., I remember with great interest the wonderful flocks of wild pigeons which flew over my home in the early days of the '50s. It was not uncommon to see these flocks a mile wide and ten miles long passing over every few days. They were like a cloud in the sky, darkening the sunlight. We were told the pigeons were on their way to their nesting places in the forests of northern Pennsylvania. I never heard of a gun being fired at the flocks or in their nesting places. In a few years we saw nothing more of them. Extermination must have been effective in the far west.—Albany, N. Y., July 2. Charles R. Skinner.

By Frank P. Woodward—Mr. Goodrich was disposed to accept the theory that they were lured to the western wheat fields as the solution of the problem of "the high cost of living". This certainly was not the solution for the birds are not there, but have seemingly vanished from the earth. If they were there we should certainly have learned of the fact long ago.
Wild Pigeons.

They vanished somewhere—but where and how is the puzzling question. I went over the subject of their disappearance with the late Theodore Day, a man who had given much thought along said lines. I also noted what the late Thomas J. Ham, the well known Wayne county publisher, had to say on the subject of the disappearance of the wild pigeons, and both of those men held to the same theory, and the theory seemed to be well backed up by facts, that the birds had been completely annihilated by being caught in a severe snow storm while they were crossing over some part of the ocean. The destruction occurred in the spring of the year. In the report I have referred to it was stated that ocean vessels had passed through sections of the sea where the surface of the water was actually covered with the dead bodies of wild pigeons.

Frank P. Woodward,
Fererview, Pa.;
Sept. 7, 1923.

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The late Cornelius Meylan, of Canaan township, Wayne county, Pa., an old settler there, who remembered the stage coach days on the Owego and Milford turnpike, remembered a lot about the wild pigeons.

John Fitzsimmons, who, at that time lived about two miles from Fererview stated that he had seen flocks of them that were so large that it required hours for them to pass.

Frank P. Woodward,
Fererview, Pa.;
Sept. 14, 1923.

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Will Aitken, Montrose Democrat, tells of their roosting place on Elk mountain. Flocks up to ten miles in width, and one to two miles long.

In Cooper's "The Pioneers", we have one of the best descriptions of the migratory flight of the pigeons, one which every nature lover should read, John Burroughs in his biography of "Audubon" quotes from America's earliest naturalist, Wilson, of the roosts in Kentucky. They killed thousands of the pigeons on these trips. An old lady, in Wayne county, who lived near Indians at one time, said the flocks were caught in a violent storm over the Great Lakes, which dashed them in the water and drowned them to the point of extinction.

Kirkwood, N. Y.; Oct. 8, 1923.

About the last year of Buchanan's administration and the breaking out of the Civil War, the writer saw them pass over in such flocks that it seemed that one-fourth the sky was covered, and we remember they would be an hour or more passing.--W. E. Samson.

Frank P. Woodward, 1923.

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W. H. Bullock, of Irondequoit, N. Y., writes: When I was a small boy, and those immense flocks passed over it would appear as if night had put in its appearance. I have killed a few, four at one time, when they were feeding on buckwheat stubble. I heard Theodore Day say that at one time when the pigeons were migrating in a dense fog, they got lost, and a vast number of them perished in the ocean, and the water for miles was covered with dead birds.

P. E. Staff, Elizabeth, N. J., Dec. 3, 1923.--Their sudden disappearance is certainly a mystery.

J. Fenimore Cooper: Too long to copy. Better read it. --E. J. W.
In 1866: Wild pigeons still were plentiful, feeding in large flocks. --F. P. W.
Professor Wilson estimated that a flock he once saw was 240 miles long. In a wild state these pigeons became extinct about 1900. It is said that the sole survivor was in the Cincinnati Zoological Garden in 1900, and it is likely that it, too, has passed away.

E. H. Marshon in 1907 wrote a book about the passenger pigeon in which he estimates that a total of 1,000,000,000 pigeons were killed in Michigan "nesting" in 1875. Another writer says that the pigeons would take possession of an entire forest with their nests; that one colony filled a strip of woodlands in Wyoming County seven miles long by three miles wide.

John James Audubon, says the naturalist, in 1831, gave many interesting facts about the passenger pigeon. He said that the migration was solely on the account of procuring food, which consisted mainly of acorns, beech nuts, berries, small fruits, etc. That a flock of a billion pigeons, which was not uncommon, would consume about 8,000,000 bushels daily, and naturally would clean a forest of food, and the birds would be compelled to seek some other place where food could be procured. When these migrations took place and the birds settled in another locality, they were killed in immense numbers. Whole communities turned out to slaughter them with guns, nets and poles to knock them from the trees on which they roosted.

At one time the birds were so plentiful that they were sold on the New York market for one cent each. Professor Audubon says that on a single tree from fifty to one hundred nests were frequently seen, that the eggs were two in number, and frequently only one, and that during incubation the male supplied the female with food.

The wild pigeon was a beautiful bird. The male was about sixteen and one-fourth inches long; extent of wings twenty-five inches; bill, black; feet, carminel-purple, throat, lornbeck breast and sides, light brownish-red; the rest of the upper parts, white. The lower parts of the neck, behind and along the sides, changing to gold, emerald green and rich crimson. The female colors were much duller.


Hoard's Dairyman, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, contained a very comprehensive article about the passenger pigeons by Prof. Moore.—W. H. Bullock, Honesdale, 1926.

A noted ornithologist has estimated that in the last 60 years (1928), 75% per cent. of bird life has disappeared from this country. Thirteen species of migratory birds have totally disappeared, and 30 more are on the way to extinction.

The above is what I find about the Passenger Pigeons in Frank P. Woodward's Spooking 'Round Memory's Garret. It is of necessity greatly condensed, but I have tried not to leave out any essential point. You can draw your own conclusions as to the cause or causes of their total extinction, but you can see that because of their habit of sticking together, that what happened to one happened to all. Unlike the common pigeon they did not split up in small flocks and stay in one place, but all went together to prosperity or doom, whichever it might be.—E. J. Woodward, Oct. 30, 1925.

1615 Clay Ave
Scranton, Pa
Woodworth, Philip B.

May 2, 1937.

Allen Elym, Ill. Aged 72.

Met this gentleman on train returning from Washington.

As a small boy went to Cassville, Huron Co., Mich. and lived there many years; later in life, up to 1917, spent his summers there. Familiar with the place from 1867-1917.

Up to 1881 the pigeons were there every other year as I remember it. The pigeons nested in the Township of Cassville, and as far as known this was the only place in the country where they nested. The nests were placed in poplar trees and not in bush trees. There were plenty of cater along the Pigeon River. He never went into the nest; “because it smelled so bad,” did not recall if pigeons laid one egg or two. He saw two pairs of pigeons on the bank of Pigeon River in 1894, the last that he ever saw.

Nine were trees had pairs in the county. The first in 1871 and the second in 1881. The latter marked the end of the Wild Turkeys.

As a boy he was in charge of Eonic Fisher, a Potawatamie Indian, as guardian. Fisher told him that the pigeons killed along in the ‘80’s tasted bitter and he thought that they were diseased.

He never heard of pigeons being trapped in numbers; and never knew of commercial trapping at Cassville. The birds in flight followed the leader and in passing along the beach they would at times come so low that the men would knock them down “by the bushel with pitch.” The flock would continue to dip down at the same places.
Young, Alexander

"Chronicler of the First Planters of the Colony of Massachussets Bay, from 1623 to 1636," Boston (1846).


"In the winter time I have seen flocks of pigeons, and have eaten of them. They do fly from tree to tree, as other birds do, which our pigeons will not do in England. They are of all colors, as ours are, but their wings and tails are far longer, and therefore it is likely they fly swifter to escape the terrible storms in this country."


"Upon the 5th of March [1631], from after it was fair daylight until about eight of the clock in the forenoon, there flew over all the towns in our plantation so many flocks of doves, each flock containing many thousands, and some so many that they obscured the light, that 'in passercu credi,' if but the truth should be written, and the thing was the more strange, 2 [336] because I scarce remember to have seen ten doves since I came into the country. They were all turtles, as appeared by divers of them we killed flying; somewhat bigger than those of Europe, and they flew from the north west to the south west; but what it portends, I know not."

2. See Winthrop, ii. 94, 331.
THE PASSENGER PIGEON Extinct?
By STANLEY GORDON

MUCH has been said about the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon, but can it be that the bird is making a slow but sure comeback — the bird which in 1867 was so plentiful that the Ohio senate stated it needed no protection against the slaughter which was being carried on?

Since what was believed to be the last of the Passenger Pigeons died in a zoo in 1914, reports from various parts of the continent have sifted through that the old bird had been seen. These were laid down to mistaken identity and it was thought that the bird must be a Mourning Dove; but from Winnipeg, Manitoba, comes a very encouraging observation from A. G. Lawrence, honorary game guardian for Manitoba, a keen bird photographer and columnist.

During the summer of 1928, he received a report from H. C. Popham that three Passenger Pigeons had been feeding along the Assiniboine River, in the heart of the city. Mr. Popham stated he knew the birds in his younger days, and could not be mistaken as to what they were, so Mr. Lawrence kept a sharp look-out for the trio. Finally he was rewarded with the sight of a pair of these birds and had an excellent view of them as they sat on a telephone wire.

He noted the pair as being larger than the domestic pigeon and as having longer tails (the bulkier of the two having a longer tail than its mate), slim necks and heads which were, according to Mr. Lawrence, definitely those of the Passenger Pigeon. When the birds took flight, he was able to observe the white outer edges of the tail feathers, but owing to the bright sky, he was unable to state as to their definite color. Later in the day he confirmed his identification with preserved specimens in the museum.

During the same year, another man who had known the birds in his youth sighted a lone bird which he claimed was a Passenger Pigeon. This report comes from Carman, Manitoba, and states the bird was in a tree, and gave ample opportunity for positive identification.

Reports dating back to 1923 show that a lumberjack in the Sprague district, at the southeast corner of Manitoba, noted 12 nests in four trees. Building in colonies was characteristic of the species. Reports also have come from Michigan and Indiana in the United States, that in 1929 three birds, Passenger Pigeons, were sighted, and in 1927 three others were seen near Selkirk, Manitoba, which were identified as a male and two female Passenger Pigeons. Another report comes from Les Cheneaux, Michigan, from a hunter who noted a lone bird while on a shooting trip in the dense bush country near there. But the most encouraging report to come from any part of the continent, is from a doctor who sighted 15 birds as he drove from Indianapolis to Kokomo, Indiana, during 1929.

(continued on page 43)

THE PASSENGER PIGEON Extinct?
By Stanley Gordon

(continued from page 3)

All these reports come from men who claim to have hunted the birds and know the species well, so surely all reports cannot be erroneous. Further, it is claimed that the species could easily have remained unrecorded owing to the dense bush which frequents the continent.

By these reports one can see that the bird cannot be extinct as was believed, but is staging a slow but sure comeback; but, it is granted, they will never frequent the country as they did in the nineteenth century.

NOTE: — The opinions and observations expressed in this article must not be accepted as being endorsed by HUNTING and FISHING in CANADA but purely as the author's own. — Ed.
Pigeon Care - Told by E.H. Shaves - Caught with Big Nets
[By Albert O. Barton]

... Another method was to catch them with nets, and with this practice Mr. E.H. Shaves, [1913 Median 51], became familiar while serving as station agent at the village of Brooklyn in southern Dane county 50 years ago.

The Andrew family, father and some of Evansville, were the most famous pigeon catchers of their day and locality, and made an industry of the practice. They even followed the pigeons to other states, going as far as New York, it is said.

The pigeons were caught in the open with large nets that were thrown over them after they had eluded or the ground in search of food. To bring the flocks down 'steel pigeons' were employed.

... When the pigeons were struck upon the ground, the net would be sprung. Hundreds were sometimes caught at a time in this manner and sometimes the number would be so great that it was difficult to hold the nets down. Even then many would get away.

The pigeons were either killed on the spot or taken away and fattened. The customary method of killing them was by pinching their necks with iron pinchers, as they stuck their heads up strongly to meshes of the net. When killed in this manner they were usually shipped away the same day, or the next, in barrels or boxes, and sometimes in refrigerator cars to Chicago, Milwaukee or New York markets. They were usually plucked first.

Many were fattened ... if they were wanted for fattening, they were placed in crates and taken away. The stockyards in Brooklyn were sometimes taken over by the Andrew family and thousands of pigeons were kept and fattened there on corn. Aftet their cooping could be heard nearly all night for
a considerable distance. Dozens of farmers in the vicinity of Brooklyn also caught and fattened pigeons and brought them to the Andrew headquarters to sell.

Some years later pigeons apparently did not come to Wilmien, but went to Michigan or elsewhere and thus the Andrews would follow them there, ...

The pigeons were swift flyers, but as a rule did not fly at great heights; sometimes only about 200 feet. Their chief food in the fall was acorns and corn. When a large flock would land in the ground store at the rear, would fly over the group and land in front for their food, thus forming a revolving body like a whirlwind.

When Mr. Braver was station agent at Brooklyn he often had to stay up almost all night at times to ship out the pigeons to Chicago, New York, or Boston. When the railroad company received a barrel for shipment, Mr. Braver would get $1.20 for handling the stock.

In this way he made much money for a time. Of course, pigeons were shipped from many other points such as Me Forkland and elsewhere, but the Andrew family were the big shippers.

Later the Andrews went into the elevator business at Brooklyn and later moved to Superior. One of the sons was Wallace E. Andrew, who represented Superior in the legislature during the administration of the elder Gov. G.A. Follette. Other brothers were Homer and Byron.
Early Days In...
PLYMOUTH
July 11, 1925

By H. C. Bade

H. C. Bade
(Continued from page 1)

The Passenger Pigeon
You probably have heard of the passenger pigeon but few of you have seen any. One Easter morning after my mother told me if I would get up early I would see the sun dance, I got up before sunrise and pigeons were flying north in such numbers that I got only a glimpse of the sun at intervals for a period of an hour. The pigeons fairly darkened the sun as far as I could see to the east. Millions of them were going to Canada. I shot hundreds of pigeons in my time. The last pigeons disappeared about 1882.

The last hunt Albert Schram and I had after they supposedly had disappeared was in Hanson woods where we shot 50 pigeons before 8 o'clock in the morning out of one white oak tree where they were feeding on small acorns. Being hungry they did not care to leave the tree. These birds ranged all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and the cause for and the manner of their disappearance has never been solved to this day.

The pigeons had their roosting place for the night. Such a place was a five acre tract of alder on the August Laack farm three miles northeast from here. Just at dusk they would arrive and light on some high limbs and go down at once among the alders, which were from 20 to 25 feet high and well branched. There would be several thousand birds and with bright moonlight each hunter could shoot all he wanted to carry. In spite of all the shooting the birds would not move after once settled for the night. Al Lautenbach of Lyceum hall has a beautiful specimen of a mounted male pigeon. It is worth seeing and he will gladly show it to any one calling.

To be continued.

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(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 1)

day the man in a good many instances seeks the salary.

Fishing Was Good
I have also enjoyed sports such as hunting and fishing, and if I tell you that on several occasions a party of four of us caught over 100 pickerel in one day, it may cause a smile. Mr. Henry Goelter and I caught 57 pickerel in one forenoon, besides losing nearly that many. They were caught still fishing, without moving the boat, at Long Lake. A morning cast by four of us resulted in landing 108 bass in Cedar Lake, Manitowoc county. Albert Schram and I brought 43 rabbits in one day's hunt, shot on and near the Hanson farm in the Town of Greenbush. At another time the Husons brothers and I went to Long Lake to fish. We got up early to get on the lake to still fish. I had no luck at all and when we pulled in for breakfast, the Husons had 17 pickerel, caught by trolling. Since they would not bite still fishing, I went in for trolling and by noon we had so many pickerel we did not count them, but filled a milk can with them. This included what the Husons had.

One spring at pickerel spawning time a friend and I drove to Elkhart Lake outlet where we launched our boat and headed for the marsh, which was overflown. I noticed the back of a pickerel, which was out of water, to one side. I took a shot and after pulling the fish into the boat, we found it to weigh 17 pounds and was 45 inches long. To get from four to seven pickerel at one shot was nothing unusual.

Louis Fiedler and I drove to Sheboygan one day, headed for a squirrel hunt. We spent the night at the home of my wife's parents, William Kroos. The next morning Max Kroos and we drove to the Town of Mosel where we put up with a farmer and hunted in the neighboring woods. The day's hunt resulted in us getting 67 gray and black squirrels. Black squirrels were quite frequent, but not plentiful. They were the same size as the gray and their fur was jet black.

(Continued on page 8)
XXXVI. CALIFORNIA'S WILD PIGEONS

The apparent daytime hooting of an owl has astonished more than one wanderer along Californian Sierran trails. Follows surprise at seeing a flock of bandtailed pigeons alight. These wild pigeons do have a call note resembling an owl’s. In the fall one sees them gorging on madrona berries.

In New Zealand, one sees their wild pigeons also stuff themselves on the tiny berrylike cones of the peculiar New Zealand conif-

ers. “Down-Under” the pigeons are not needled like ours. They even have a “celery-leaved pine.” The pigeons become abnormally thirsty at such banquets. The Maoris provide drinking troughs. These have snares. The Maoris thus catch hundreds of pigeons, and preserve them in great gourds in their own tallow.

The bandtailed is our Western “wild pigeon.” The Eastern one was the passenger pigeon. Once these wild passenger pigeons, stacked high in Chicago markets, sold for two for a nickel. Middle West pioneers yawned of the sky darkened by pigeon flocks. Today the pas-

senger pigeon is extinct. The bandtail was also nearing extinction! Wise protective laws are permitting it to come back. Bandtailed pigeons, when alighting, show clearly the band marking on the spread tail as they alight.

We have learned to save the bandtail from extinction. Is it not about time we conserved our leadership types, who now through EXCESSIVE birth control, race-suicide, with but 2, 1, often 0 children?

XLV. PASSENGER PIGEON FLOCKS DARKENED THE SKY

In Chicago’s Field Museum is a case of passenger pigeons labelled: “They were unable to reproduce their kind.” One recalls yarns of the days of Fenimore Cooper, when the flocks were so great “they darkened the sky.”

In those days, the little markets of an infant Chicago, had mounds of passenger pigeons. A dime bought enuf for a gorging. People ate a bit of breast and threw the rest away.

We had no wild life conservation a century ago. Now we strenuously try to save our last whooping cranes, our ivory-billed woodpeckers, our roseate spoonbills. Fine. But how about talented humans? With excessive birth control, our irreplaceable leadership types are going the way of the dodo, the moa, the great auk, yes... even yesteryear’s passenger pigeon.
Prairie Farmer (Chicago) Vol. 12 (Feb. 1852) 83, "Viciousness of Pigeons." — The common wild pigeon is one of the most troublesome and destructive of birds. A farmer in DuPage County informs us that he planted fifty acres of corn the past season upon which he could not by any means in his power get corn enough for seed. The whole difficulty was in the ravages of this insidious bird. Neither men, dogs, guns, or fowder could keep the pernicious varmints away. Pull it up, they would and did as often as he had a mind to plant it, and he was obliged finally to yield the point.

In this city [Chicago], the wild pigeons destroy during the past summer hedges of currants in a single garden. One man in the garden of a friend relented about a dozen in one day, while defoliating the entire currant bush, but all to little purpose; they were just about as thick as the nests. In fact, blackbirds, so evil and despicable, as well as dark-bodied, as they are, are not a circumstance to pigeons whose nieve they go in for destruction.
Alma Buffalo Co. Journal June 18, 1882. "Pigeons were reported flying in large numbers in Finnish Creek Valley last Monday [1882-84]. It's about time that they made their spring debut this June [1879-81]."

Alma Journal [Jan.-Dec. 64, all]

Alma Weekly Express [July '69 - Dec. 15, '70] Sept. 1879. "Pigeons have been flying in large numbers over town for the last few days. The boys all met at 5 o'clock cracking away at the birds [Jan. 29 - May 4, '76]."

Ibid. April 29, 1877. "Pigeons are not as plentiful this spring as formerly."

April 30, 1877. "Pigeons were seen in large numbers on the bottoms last Tuesday morning [24th]."

March 14, 1878. "Pigeons came to us one month earlier this spring than last." "The pigeon season has commenced and large flocks are seen daily winging their way northward."

Mondavi Herald [Aug. 21, 1879] Sept. [82-84] [86-87] [88-90]

Fountain City Republican May 20, 1871. "Zahllose Schwärme von wilden Vögeln haben sich auf den aus gegenüberliegenden Inseln zur Brut niederelassen und zeigen die Waffen dieser unschuldigen Opfer der Tagblut unserer Bewohner, wie wenig geeignet sind, diese Gelegenheit unbefüllt vor übergehen zu
laesen . . .

[April '70 - '72].

abid: April 25, '70. "Unser Jäger haben ihre Würf-Instrumente wieder hervorgenommen und Täuben und Enten müssen fliehen; die natürliche Folge davon ist, dass derartige Braten jetzt häufig sind."

abid: April 22, '75. "Die Nimrode von Fountain City haben ihre Schießprügel zum Einfang von Täuben und Enten in Ordnung und bald wird das Eiland wieder voll von dem Gehäut der Würf-Instrumente ..." [ '73 - '75].
Phillips Times June 7, 1879, "Pigeons are numerous in the woods."

Phid: April 24, '80, "Innumerable quantities of duvols and pigeons abound hereabout."

"July 23, '81, "Wild pigeons are numerous hereabout."

[1877-'81] [79-'81] [82-'83] [84-'86] [87-'88] [89-'90] [ '91-'92] .

"Pigeons. — Last spring the inhabitants of this and the adjacent counties, were surprised by the immense numbers of pigeons which visited them, and which were a great annoyance to the farmers, many of whom suffered much loss, and found it impossible to prevent them from picking up almost every seed which they put in the ground. This spring but very few have made their appearance, and in traversing the woods only a few small flocks can be seen, apparently searching for the main body.

We learn by a communication in the Indiana Register, printed at Vevay, that the Pigeons have this spring settled that state and some portions of Kentucky for their residence and their depredations, on account of the abundance of acorns and nuts with which the forests abound, but this year, in this Territory, the oak and nut bearing trees produced but little fruit; and as the pigeons could not this spring find their accustomed supply of food, they sought elsewhere for it, as very few have appeared, in comparison with the number which visited us last year. It would seem that the early flocks, by some means, communicated the intelligence respecting the barrenness of the land, to those which were in their passage from the west, and thus gave them a different direction. We may calculate, however, from their movements, that whenever the vats, etc., yield a large supply, we will be visited, the following spring, by innumerable pigeons — and from this the farmer may be enabled to prepare himself to meet his hungry enemies.

[From Switzerland Co.]"
Detroit Gazette: Mar. 8, 1822. Pigeons, ducks and wild geese are, in great numbers, constantly flying over this place. [July 1818 - July '25]

Indiana Register, Vevay, Ind.


University of Illinois:...

Indiana University: June 11, Oct. 1, 15, Nov. 5, 19, Dec. 10, 24, 1824.
Monomine Herald April 14, 1866 [Sat.]: "Last week pigeons were flying around, and a few robins and black birds made their appearance. 18 inches of snow compelled their return.

Marquette Mining Journal: "Pigeons are getting numerous, and the Marquetteans are getting excited."- Marquette and Peshtigo Eagle Sept. 3, 1881.

Allegan (Mich.) Record: "One morning last week, an acquaintance of ours, killed thirty-five pigeons, with a stick, as they were flying over."- firms Med. Daily Argus and Democrat June 3, 1854.

Grand Rapids (Mich.) Eagle: "The Pigeon Trade in Michigan. This paper states that there has been shipped from that place alone, 588 barrels, or 138,555 pounds of wild pigeons during the past season, realizing over $22,000."- Med. Argus & Democrat Sept. 8, 1866 [1].
Randall, Thomas E.

History of the Chippewa Valley. Eau Claire (1875).

p. 96 "A line drawn from the northern extremity of Lake St. Croix to Milwaukee city would describe the general course of the boundary between the prairie, or measureably timberless region, on the southwest, and the unbroken forest extending in the opposite direction to the great inland seas; varied, however, by occasional projections of timber into the meadows, as the Big woods on the Eau Galle, the peninsular of pine woods on Robinson's creek."

p. 33 "During the summer of 1846, a wealthy merchant of Helena, by the name of Bloomer, sent some agents of the Chippewa to select a site for a saw mill, - - . To secure hay for the winter, some of these men were sent up on the meadows in the neighborhood of Vanville, and hence the name of Bloomer was given to the prairie and town."

p. 169 Vanville lately changed to Bloomer.

Wisconsin Herald, July 31, 1866. "A Popular Error Exploded."

"Twenty years ago timber lands were entered in preference to prairie in all parts of Grant County, and their pupils at double the price, little appearing a general belief that some day there must be a great scarcity of timber, consequently a dearness which shall enable the timber land holders to exact extravagant prices for their property."

"Timber growth has exceeded the increase in population."

"In that time pine groves of new timber have grown up spontaneously upon lands ten miles away from timber. As soon as the annual fires were kept off, jack pines, cedar, chestnut, hickory, aspen and white wood, trees several kinds of oak, walnut and other timber of quick growth and usefulness"
for fuel and fence.

Tirancaster Herald, Feb. 23, 1869. "Ruin Weed. This natural product of the prairie has quite disappeared before civilization. It is only met with in worn fence corners where a few feet of original prairie have not been overthrown with the prairie plow."
Appleton Crescent Jan. 8, '70. "Not a fox has been seen in this county this winter."

From the New Commonwealth Dec. 10, 1886. George Whittemore, of Empire, has captured two red and one gray fox this winter. The latter is quite rare."
Owen (Dunn Co.) shield Nov. 23, 1908. "Not less than 100 deer were reported at this station from points east on the 300 mile front. The reports from stations in the southern part of the state exceed the record."

Shell Lake (Washburn Co.) Waltman Nov. 15, 1908. Geo. Mathews and Freeman Revs. have broken the record for killing deer, having killed a buck which weighed 267 lbs. when dressed.

Hurley (Iron Co.) Miner Sept. 8, 94. "The dead bodies of 28 deer were found in a thicket near Minersg after the fire."

Wausau (Marathon Co.) Central Wisconsin Nov. 21, 98. John Patzer shot a 280 lb. deer. "It was one of the largest if not the largest deer killed in Wisconsin this season."
Shirar, George 3rd.

p. 130. White-tailed deer unknown on north shore in 1870 and only few on the south. "The fact that approximately eighty thousand deer were killed each year of 1879, 1880, and 1881, and most of these within ten miles of Lake Superior, shows their extraordinary increase later."

p. 133. "On the north shore of Lake Superior, including all of northern Michigan and Wisconsin, there was existed a spring and fall movement of the White-tailed deer which possessed all the characteristics of a true migration. This habit was abandoned more than thirty-five years ago, after existing, doubtless, for centuries, as is merely of record, especially in view of the fact that those who were (134) familiar with it are few. Departing or have never understood the unusual character of this migration when compared with the habits of the White-tailed in its other widely separated ranges.

Early in May, as soon as the depth of the snow permitted travel, thousands of does worked their way north, traveling alone into a broad belt along the north shore of Lake Superior, where a few weeks later the fawns were born. The does came more leisurely, but by early June the migration was over.

In the coming of the first heavy north winds, accompanied by a light frost, sometimes as early as August 15, the does, fawns, and yearlings started south, and by September
Thousands were on their way, regardless of the fact that no snow would fall for six weeks and none deep enough to interfere with the food supply or freedom of movement for more than three months later.

Best depth of snow was probably original cause of migration.


Nov. 18, 1899. Dave Pickery and companion killed 2 deer in the swamp east of Hayton.

Grant Co. Mil. Sentinel April 15, 1894. Mr. Tarter of Carreville, Grant Co., gives notice through this column of the Herald that his wheat is being eaten up by deer, inhabiting the dense oak grove near by and that he would be glad to have his sporting friends "visit his farm, and bring their rifles along."
Staining of cleared specimens with alizarin red S


A. Fix in 95% alcohol for 48-96 hours or better

B. Place in 1% soln. of KOH until bones are clearly visible through surrounding tissue

C. Transfer directly to a dilute soln. of alizarin in KOH: one part alizarin in 10,000 parts of 1% KOH. Allow stain to act until the desired intensity is attained. Use fresh stain if needed. Then complete the clearing process.

D. Put in Mall's soln. - water 79 parts, glycerine 20 parts, and KOH 1 part.

E. Increase the concentration of the glycerine and store in pure glycerine.

The success of the method depends on obtaining the proper degree of clearing before staining. If the specimen is insufficiently cleared, a general staining of all tissues usually occurs.
STAINING

Skeleton of cleared specimens with

Alizarin red S  Dawson, Stain Tech. vol I

(a) Fix in 95% alc. for 48-96 hours or better

*To extract Fat see below

(b) Place in 1% soln. of KOH until bones clearly visible through surrounding tissue.

(c) Transfer directly to a dilute soln. of alizarin in KOH:
one part alizarin in 10,000 parts of 1% KOH. Allow stain to act until the desired intensity is attained. Use fresh stain if needed. Then complete the clearing process:

(d) Put in Mall's soln. - water 79 parts, glycerine 20 parts, & KOH 1 part.

(e) Increase the concentration of the glycerine and store in pure glycerine.

The success of the method depends on obtaining the proper degree of clearing before staining. If the specimen is insufficiently cleared, a general staining of all tissues usually occurs.

* 1) Put in 1.5 cc. hydrogen peroxide - 24 hr. &
black cloth - still

* To extract Fat:

1) Transfer directly for several days in 95% alc.

2) Transfer for 10 hrs. in 95% alc. &.

* Ward 95° + & ether below.
DEER SOLD FOR SEVEN CENTS A POUND

On a recent speaking engagement to Richland Center, Walter Scott of the Game Management Division discussed aspects of market hunting in the early days. After the talk, Mr. H. D. Pease revealed that the records books kept by his father, D. E. Pease, who was one of the first storekeepers in Richland Center in 1869, carried a number of entries on the sale of game. A search of the records showed that in 1869 deer were selling at 7½ a pound at a time when dressed pork was 11 3/4¢, butter 24¢ and eggs 10¢ a dozen. Some of the more interesting records follow:

**1869: Items sold according to day book entries:**

May 15, 2 coon, 4 mink and 28 rat skins for $10.38

Nov. 30, 1 deer 77 pounds for $6.59

Nov. 31, 1 deer 180 pounds for $12.60

Dec. 4, 3 deer for $11.69

Dec. 6, 162 pheasants (Sharp-tailed Grouse) for $91.26

Dec. 16, 4 barrels of partridge (Ruffed Grouse) 369 birds for $192.10

Dec. 20: 7 barrels of partridge totaling 547 birds, 1 barrel of 72 quail and 89 pheasants for $288.90

**1870: Jan. 2, 1 barrel quail, 340 birds, for $54.38**

Jan. 27: 1 barrel of 85 pheasants and 1 barrel of 40 pheasants and 142 quail for $109.73

Usually on such early date records such as this "pheasants" are considered to be what are now called Ruffed Grouse, but as the "partridge" is also listed in the same entry in these records, Dr. A. W. Schorger, an authority on the subject, believes that the "pheasants" here listed must have referred to Sharp-tailed Grouse. Of special interest is the high prices of 56 cents each paid for the sharp-tails, 52 cents each for the partridge and 16 cents each for the quail. Studies indicate that all of these birds were at a cyclic low point in 1869 and the high prices are
believed to reflect this condition. All of the game birds were sold to companies in the big cities. Another interesting note is the respective size of the birds. A total of 340 quail could be put in one barrel, while the average partridge per barrel was 92 and for sharp-tails only 85.

These records of early day market hunting in Wisconsin are of value not only because they are interesting, but because they reflect the abundance of game. With careful study they can assist in the study of wildlife cycles as far back as 1840. Anyone having such early date record books in their possession are urged to advise the Conservation Department so that the information can be recorded for future use.
"A much more congenial sort of drudgery was soon thrown in his way. Wilson the ornithologist had begun the publication of his *Birds of America*; but, in the infancy of the arts among us at that time, he was unable to find any one competent to color the splendid plates of that great work from Nature. My Father was at length induced to attempt it. The price paid was lucrative, to him; and his proficiency in the art of painting, his delicacy and accuracy of both eye and hand in observing and imitating the hues and the forms of Nature, ensured him a degree of success which delighted his employer, besides being, for a time, very agreeable to himself. Mr. Wilson always shot a fresh bird for his colorist, so that there should be no chance of the fading or changing of the brilliant tints of life. But constant repetition at length brought weariness, where the work had been begun with so much zest and conscious self-improvement: and when the other assistants had been sufficiently well trained, the task-work was willingly transferred to humbler hands."

1 In water-colors, he had, at that day, no superior in this country; and his love for this art, as for music, continued unabated during his whole life.


Note: This must have been about 1808, for in the paragraph before he is spoken of as in his 18th year, and he was born 30 January 1792, and continued in the work mentioned in the previous paragraph about a year.