

out the faulty portions, which in nearly all cases relate to abstract points similar to those just cited, the pages bear the impress of accurate observation and original thought, while no one who loves the out-door side of Nature can fail to sympathize with the author's sentiment or to be impressed by the truth and beauty of many of his passages. It is a pity that one who writes so delightfully will mar his work by a persistent adhesion to false principles.—WILLIAM BREWSTER.]

General Notes.

THE GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN BREEDING IN THE COLORADO VALLEY.— July 1, at an elevation of 11,500 feet, I shot an adult Golden-crested Wren (*Regulus satrapa*). Its presence made its nesting here almost a certainty, but all doubts were set at rest by the capture of a young bird just from the nest, in another part of the county, at 11,000 feet on July 25. Several others were heard and seen. I judge it is not uncommon, but from the fact of its ordinary call-notes being so deceptively similar to the Creeper's notes, it is easily passed by. So far as I know it seems to range a little above the bulk of the Ruby-crowns. — FRANK M. DREW, *Howardsville, San Juan County, Col.*

NOTES ON THE WINTER WREN (*Anorthura troglodytes hyemalis*).— My chance acquaintance with a chapter in the life-history of this species, during a recent visit to Grand Manan, N.B., may not be uninteresting to the readers of the Bulletin. I was informed by Mr. S. F. Cheney that its occurrence in that locality, where it is called the Spruce Wren, is not common. He has seen an occasional pair in previous years, principally in the winter season, and noted its prolonged sweet song, but he had never met with their nest, supposing always that it was placed on the ground in hollow logs. During the breeding season the dense spruce swamps are its home and in such a situation, upon one of the outlying islands near Grand Manan, I found its snugly hidden nest. At that time no owner appeared and I was ignorant of the value of my prize, but visiting the locality again on June 2, and carefully approaching to avoid disturbing its occupant, if any, to a distance of scarce five feet, I saw, cautiously thrust out from the mass of green moss, a brown little head, followed in a moment by the unmistakable form of the Winter Wren. It displayed scarce any fear, alighting only three or four feet from me, jerking its tail forward over its back and scolding vehemently, somewhat in the manner of our common House Wren. After watching it for several minutes, in my anxiety to procure it, I proceeded to back

off through the thick growth, in order to shoot, but it became alarmed at my movements and suddenly dropped to the ground when a hasty shot failed to procure it, nor did either of the pair subsequently appear. The nest was placed about six feet from the ground, in the end of a decaying stub, the irregularities being neatly filled with green wood moss, both below and around the nest proper, which measures outside $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth by 4 in width. The entrance is perfectly round, nearly an inch in diameter, placed two inches from the top, and is strengthened by a framework of a few slender dead spruce twigs, woven into the outside covering of green moss. Above it is well protected by a thick mass of the same green moss which serves so admirably to conceal it from prying eyes. Long, slender, dried grasses form the inner walls, just sufficient to give it strength, and within this a thick lining of soft white feathers of the Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*). A neater, warmer bird home it would be hard to conceive, and had the little architect not incautiously left a "white feather" partly protruding from the entrance I doubt if I should be its possessor. Five eggs were the full complement in this case. They are ovate, slightly pointed at the smaller end, of a brilliant white ground color, very evenly but sparingly sprinkled with reddish-brown dots, and measure respectively $.65 \times .49$, $.65 \times .48$, $.63 \times .49$, $.63 \times .47$ and $.62 \times .48$. They are larger and less rounded than are the eggs of *Parus atricapillus*, though resembling them somewhat in style of marking.—R. F. PEARSALL, *New York City*.

TWO MORE SPECIMENS OF *Helminthophaga leucobronchialis* FROM SING SING, N. Y.—While collecting with Mr. Eugene P. Bicknell, on Croton Point, among some small pines, July 24, 1881. I shot a specimen of the above-named Warbler. We were attracted by a flock of small birds flitting through the pines, composed of Chickadees, Yellow Warblers, Black-and-White creepers, and Blue-winged Yellow Warblers. While following these up we got a glimpse at this bird and killed it as it flew to the ground in pursuit of an insect. This specimen differs from others in having a black auricular patch. Sex not absolutely determined, as the bird was badly shot, but it was apparently a female.

On August 3, 1881, I shot another specimen, in some low bushes bordering a stream, near where I procured a specimen August 24, 1879.* It resembled that specimen in having a yellow pectoral band, but, unlike it, the wing-bands were normal; yellow, not white.—A. K. FISHER, M. D., *Sing Sing, N. Y.*

ANOTHER SPECIMEN OF *Siurus motacilla* AT LAKE GEORGE, N. Y.—Mr. Oliver B. Lockhart showed me a specimen of this bird which he shot, May 16, 1881, at Lake George. He is positive that he has seen other specimens, but failed in procuring them except the pair† which he and Mr. Bishop killed a few years ago.—A. K. FISHER, M. D., *Sing Sing, N. Y.*

* See this Bulletin, Vol. IV, No. 3, Oct. 1879, p. 234.

† See this Bulletin, Vol. V, April, 1880, p. 11.

MYIODIOCTES CANADENSIS IN KANSAS.—In watching for the early arrivals of the returning migrants, I shot August 29, at this place, on the banks of the Neosho River, a female Canadian Flycatching Warbler.

As the birds inhabit the low swampy timbered lands, this is without doubt their extreme western limit, and is therefore worthy of note.—N. S. GOSS, *Neosho Falls, Kansas*.

CAPTURE OF THE WORM-EATING WARBLER IN MASSACHUSETTS.—On September 19, 1881, I shot in some low moist woods in Cambridge, a fine female Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitherus vermivorus*). This is the first capture of this bird in Massachusetts. The only previous note of its occurrence in this State on record is that of Mr. W. A. Stearns, who says he saw one at Easthampton, Mass. (see *New England Bird Life*, p. 111).—HENRY M. SPELMAN, *Cambridge, Mass.*

MELOSPIZA LINCOLNI BREEDING IN NEW YORK AGAIN.—On page 197 of Volume III of this Bulletin, is an account of my taking the nest of this bird in 1878. To this record I now desire to add another. On June 16, 1881, on the shore of Otter Lake (or Pond) Hamilton Co., N. Y. (about half a mile from the locality in which I took the nest in 1878), I flushed a Lincoln's Finch from her nest. She was so quick in her flight that I missed her with both barrels and was obliged to retire into the bushes and wait her return, and as I stood up to my ankles in wet moss and mud among the alders, being devoured by mosquitoes, blackflies, and punkies, I kept saying to myself "If it is only a Lincoln's Finch it will pay for all this." But I could scarcely believe my good fortune when, after returning to the nest and killing the female bird, I took her out of the water, where she fell, and saw it really was the desired bird. The nest was situated almost exactly like the other, in wet spongy ground at the edge of the lake, not under any bush or weed, but quite well concealed by last year's grasses. Diameter outside, 3.75 inches; inside, 2 inches; depth outside, 2.25 inches; inside, 1.75 inches. It was composed of fine grasses loosely put together, and set down nearly level with the moss. The eggs, which were four, slightly advanced in incubation, were exactly like those taken in 1878, except that the spots of reddish-brown were rather larger and more marked.—EGBERT BAGG, JR., *Utica, N. Y.*

XANTHOCEPHALUS ICTEROCEPHALUS IN LOWER CANADA.—While on the Lower St. Lawrence, in July last, Mr. N. A. Comeau handed me for identification the skin of a Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus icterocephalus*) that he shot, early in September ("about Sept. 4"), 1878, in his dooryard, at Gedbout River, Province of Quebec, Canada—six miles west of the entrance to the Gulf.—C. HART MERRIAM, M. D., *Locust Grove, New York*.

COLAPTES AURATUS + C. MEXICANUS. — Quite a number of instances of specimens of *Colaptes auratus* showing traces of *C. mexicanus* coming to my knowledge, I have thought it worth the while to record them. In this Bulletin, Vol. V, No. 1, p. 46, I noted the capture of one of these abnormal individuals by myself at Fort Hamilton. Its black mustaches were sprinkled with red feathers, and its back was different from that of ordinary *auratus*, the black bars being very narrow, and the ground color more of a brownish-olive, nearly corresponding to Audubon's Plate of *C. ayresi* (Birds of America, Vol. VII). Last autumn (1880) I shot two more "Highholders" having a few red feathers intermixed with the black cheek patches. These are all the cases of this curious variation that have come under my personal observation, but Messrs. Bell and Wallace of New York furnish me with some valuable notes on the subject. Mr. Bell tells me he has had several such in his many years of experience as a taxidermist. He remembers one in particular which was remarkable for the deep salmon color of the parts which are golden-yellow in normal *auratus*. Nearly half of each of the maxillary patches of this specimen was red. It was shot in Orange Co., N. Y., or in some adjacent county. Mr. Wallace also says he has had a number of these varieties, and among them the strangest case of differentiation I have yet heard of. A few years ago a *Colaptes* was brought to him, one side of which was *auratus* and the other *mexicanus*. That is, one of the mustaches was black and the other red, and the quills and under surfaces of wings and tail on the corresponding sides were respectively yellow and red.

Mr. Ridgway, in this Bulletin, Vol. VI, No. 2, p. 121, says that of two hundred *aurati* taken in the vicinity of Mount Carmel, Ill., which he had examined, he detected only one aberrant specimen showing any trace of *mexicanus*. As out of thirty shot last fall at Fort Hamilton and examined by me two showed this variation, it may be that these mixed forms are more plentiful in the Atlantic States than in the interior. In view of the number of known instances of these "half-breeds" occurring in the East we need not be surprised if some cis-Alleghany collector yet takes a pure *mexicanus*.—DE L. BÉRIER, *Fort Hamilton, Long Island, N. Y.*

FURTHER NOTES ON THE LABRADOR GYRFALCON TAKEN ON LONG ISLAND, N. Y. — In the Bulletin for April, 1881, page 126, I recorded the capture of *Falco gyrfalco obsoletus* on Long Island, in Queens County, my information being derived from Mr. J. Wallace of New York City. Since then I have received a more detailed account of the matter from the gentleman above named, and to correct some doubts which have probably arisen as to the accuracy of my note, I make this somewhat lengthy statement. The bird in question was shot in the autumn of 1875, near Flushing, Queens Co., and brought to Mr. Wallace by two men. They were in haste and left saying they would return in a few days and give the particulars of the bird's capture. They failed to do so, however, and it was nearly two years before Mr. Wallace again met them. In the meantime he had presented the Falcon to Mr. George A. Boardman. Mr. Wallace, knowing nothing of the bird except that it had been brought to him

by two men from Westchester County, told Mr. Boardman it had probably been killed in that locality. Mr. Boardman published a note to that effect in the "Rod and Gun" (Vol. VII, Dec. 4, 1875, p. 153). When Mr. Wallace again met one of the men who had brought him the bird, he learned that the man and his companion were fishing in a boat not far from Flushing when they saw the Hawk perched upon a tree on the shore, and having a gun with them they easily secured it.—DE L. BERIER, *Fort Hamilton, Long Island, N. Y.*

PROBABLE OCCURRENCE OF SARCORHAMPHUS PAPA IN ARIZONA.—There has long been recorded (Pr. Phila. Acad., 1866, p—) a note of mine to the effect that I saw on the Rio Verde, in Arizona, a pair of birds that I supposed to be King Vultures. Mr. Willard Rice, an amateur naturalist of excellent powers of observation and long experience, who was with me on the occasion to which I refer, and to whom I pointed out the birds, told me the other day that he remembered the circumstances perfectly well, and that some years afterward, on the Verde again, he shot and killed a pair of birds which he has no doubt were of the same kind. They had a nest in a large cotton-wood tree. From his description of the specimens, which unfortunately were not preserved, I suppose them to be the Vulture in mention. But is not the fact of tree-nesting entirely against such supposition? I consider it established, however, that there occurs in Arizona a large rapacious bird, brownish or tawny above, white below, and naked headed, of some species as yet undetermined.—ELLIOT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

NYCTHERODIUS VIOLACEUS IN KANSAS.—April 17, 1878, Samuel W. Reed shot, on Crooked Creek, in Coffee County, a female Yellow-crowned Night Heron, and sent me the skin for identification. The bird was in full breeding plumage, and Mr. Reed stated in a note accompanying the bird that he found on dissection six or seven of the eggs enlarged to from one-eighth to three-fourths of an inch in diameter—also that another bird, probably her mate, was with her.

From this and the further fact that I have shot at this place in the months of July and August young birds (a pair of which I have in my collection), I think it safe to say they occasionally nest in the State. The young, as happens with the White, Snowy, and Little Blue Herons, may have wandered north from their breeding grounds, but there can be no question that the adult birds would have nested in the vicinity.—N. S. GOSS, *Neosho Falls, Kansas.*

CAPTURE OF THE SNOWY HERON (*Garzetta candidissima*) ON LONG ISLAND.—Although the habitat of this species includes this region as well as the greater part of New England, I consider it worth the while to record its capture here, as it is now rare so far to the North. Mr. John M. Rodocanachi shot a fine specimen on Cedar Island, Great South Bay, Long Island, on August 4, 1881, which he kindly sent to me.—LOUIS A. ZEREGA, 111 East 72nd St., *New York City.*

LOBIPES HYPERBOREUS AT 9500 FEET.—I was greatly surprised on May 22 by the appearance of a friend with six Northern Phalaropes (*Lobipes hyperboreus*) in his hands. They were killed by flying against the telegraph wires. Unless the flock turned back and retraced 50 miles of their journey, in migrating further north, they would be forced to cross the range at an elevation of over 12,000 feet, where we may expect to hear from the bird some day.

I thought birds were only killed in this manner when the wires were on a plane with their eyes. Such was not the case with these birds, as one had a wing completely torn off, two others were cut open longitudinally on the breast, and the rest were bruised on breast and neck, but none on the head at all.—FRANK M. DREW, *Howardsville, Col.*

BREEDING OF BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE IN LOWER CANADA.—During the middle of July last (July 11-19, 1881) I several times came across a female, with several young, of Barrow's Golden Eye (*Clangula islandica*) in the Godbout River, about a mile above its mouth. Mr. N. A. Comeau showed me skins of the adults of both sexes that he had taken here, and assured me that the species breeds regularly in this region. The Godbout River empties into the St. Lawrence, from the north, six miles west of Pt. de Monte which guards the mouth of the Gulf on that side. The place falls a trifle short of 50° north latitude. Dr. Coues says (*Birds of the Northwest*, p. 577) "It is the most northerly species of the genus, having apparently a circumpolar distribution, breeding only (?) in high latitudes." etc.—C. HART MERRIAM, M. D., *Locust Grove, New York.*

NOTES ON A FEW MAINE BIRDS.—**CORVUS CORAX**. RAVEN.—These birds are frequently seen about the islands on the Maine coast, to the west of Penobscot Bay, particularly on Isle au Haut, Duck Islands, Cranberry Islands, and other points to the westward, but so far as I can ascertain they have not been found breeding on our coast east of Grand Menan. At that place, however, Mr. George A. Boardman has found them nesting on the high cliffs.

On May 5 of this year (1881) I received two Raven's eggs, which were taken from a nest on Duck Island about the last of April. Both birds were shot down, but were not secured. The nest was placed in the top of a spruce tree, and described as a very bulky affair, built of sticks and lined with moss, cow's hair, and wool. It contained three eggs at that time.

Several of these birds were poisoned on Isle au Haut in the winter of 1879-'80 by a Mr. Curran who was using meat poisoned with strychnine to kill foxes. The inhabitants assert that they breed on that island, and that they kill lambs by alighting on them and picking out their eyes.

CYMOCHOREA LEUCORRHOEA. LEACH'S PETREL.—During a visit to the coast last June in search of ornithological and oölogical specimens I went to a well-known breeding ground of Leach's Petrel. We found the birds breeding by hundreds and out of some fifty burrows that we dug out, all but two or three contained a single bird sitting on its egg. One burrow

contained two birds but no egg. When taken from the holes the birds showed no disposition to fly but on being released would scurry back into their holes or under some log. They appeared to be completely dazed by the light, and if thrown into the air would fly in an aimless and dazed way for a few moments, very much after the manner of a Night Hawk when thrown from the limb of a tree.

In a letter written by Mr. Manly Hardy of Brewer, Me., to Mr. William Brewster, and quoted by the latter gentleman in the *Bulletin* for 1881 (Vol. VI, p. 125), Mr. Hardy says "the males do most if not all the incubating," but he further says that of twelve specimens taken from the nest and sent him June 15, 1880, *five* proved to be females. Having this communication in mind, my friend (Mr. N. A. Eddy) and myself thought to investigate a little, and to this end took twelve birds from their nests. None of the forty-three found on their nests showed bare spots on the breast as described by Mr. Hardy, though our visit was on June 23, or about a week later than when Mr. Hardy's birds were secured the year before, so our selections were entirely at random. Of the twelve birds *eight* were females and *four* males. One female and one male of those counted were from the burrow spoken of as *without* an egg, leaving to those taken from their eggs, seven females and three males. I have had others taken from the nest and sent me, and have found that the number of males and females was about equal. This would seem to indicate,—by Mr. Hardy's testimony above quoted,—that both male and female share about equally the task of incubation and *not* that the male alone does most if not all of it.

Collurio ludovicianus. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE.**—These birds, which were first reported as breeding in this vicinity a few years ago, still continue to visit us, and were among our earliest arrivals last spring. I have taken two nests the past season, both of which were taken in the same location where they have been found breeding for several years past. It may not be without interest to state that these birds seem peculiarly partial to two or three localities in this vicinity. In these places I have almost always found them from early spring till late in the fall, while elsewhere about our city they are very rarely seen.

Cotile riparia. **SAND SWALLOW.**—While examining some Sand Swallow's burrows on Cranberry Islands, this summer, three were found containing two nests each, each nest having in it fresh eggs. The finding of two nests with eggs in the same burrow struck me as somewhat remarkable and I thought it was perhaps worthy of notice.—HARRY MERRILL
Bangor, Maine.

DESTRUCTION OF BIRDS BY A STORM WHILE MIGRATING.—April 2, 1881, found me in a small schooner, on the passage from Brazos de Santiago, Texas, to Mobile, Alabama. At about noon of that day the wind suddenly changed from east to north, and within an hour it was blowing a gale; we were now about thirty miles south of the mouths of the Mississippi River, which would bring the vessel on a line with the river and the

peninsular of Yucatan. Up to the time the storm commenced the only land birds seen were three Yellow-rumped Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*) that came aboard the day previous, keeping us company the most of the day; but within an hour after the storm broke they began to appear, and in a very short time birds of various species were to be seen in all directions, singly and in small flocks, and all flying towards the Mississippi River. These birds of course must have been far overhead and only came down near the surface of the water in endeavoring to escape from the force of the wind. By four o'clock it had come to be a serious matter with them, as the gale was too strong for them to make scarcely any progress. As long as they were in the trough of the sea the wind had very little effect on them, but as soon as they reached the crest of a wave it would catch them up and in an instant they were blown hundreds of yards back or else into the water and drowned.

A great many flew on to the deck of the vessel to be washed about by the next wave that came over the side. Although I made no attempt to count the number of specimens that came aboard, I should estimate them at considerably over a hundred, and a great many more struck the sides and tumbled back into the water. It was sad indeed to see them struggling along by the side of the vessel in trying to pass ahead of her, for as soon as they were clear of the bows, they were invariably blown back into the water and drowned. Most of those that came aboard were washed into the sea again, but the next day we found about a dozen dead bodies that had lodged underneath the galley. The following is a list of the species recognized, and if more time could have been given to observation I undoubtedly could have made out others.

1. Wood Thrush. About twenty seen.
2. Black-and-white Creeper. Abundant.
3. Prothonotary Warbler. Large numbers.
4. Worm-eating Warbler. Large numbers.
5. Yellow-rumped Warbler. A few.
6. Chestnut-sided Warbler. Quite a number.
7. Yellow Warbler. Quite a number.
8. Golden-crowned Thrush. A few.
9. Kentucky Warbler. Large numbers.
10. Mourning Warbler. Large numbers.
11. Maryland Yellow-throat. Very abundant.
12. Hooded Warbler. Large numbers.
13. Redstart. The most abundant.
14. Cliff Swallow. Saw one.
15. Scarlet Tanager. Quite a number.
16. Summer Redbird. A few.
17. Towhee. A few.
18. Indigo Bird. As plentiful as Redstarts.
19. Nonpareil. Quite abundant.
20. Flycatchers. Saw a large number of the smaller species, but recognized only *Sayornis fuscus* (Pbæhe.)

21. Pigeon Hawk. Saw one.
22. Carolina Dove. A few.
23. Turnstone. Only one seen.

One important conclusion which can be drawn from these observations seems to be that instead of following the land a large number of species migrate direct from Central America to the Mississippi Valley across the Gulf of Mexico, and the scarcity of these species in Southwestern Texas is thus explained.—A. M. FRAZAR. *Watertown, Mass.*

ADDITIONS TO THE AVI-FAUNA OF THE UNITED STATES.—During the spring and early summer of 1881 the following birds, which are either new to the United States, or for the first time definitely ascertained to have been taken within their limits, were collected for me in Southern Arizona by Mr. F. Stephens. A simple list is here given, as there is not at present time to prepare a more detailed consideration of these, as well as many others of great interest, which will be fully considered in a future number of this Bulletin.

1. **Parus meridionalis**. *Sci.* MEXICAN CHICKADEE.—Hab., highlands of Mexico; Arizona (Brewster). Several specimens taken in March among the Chiracahua Mountains, where the species was found to be not uncommon.

2. **Myiarchus cooperi** (*Kaup*) *Baird*. COOPER'S FLYCATCHER.—Hab., Southern and Western Mexico (Tehuantepec, Yucatan, Mazatlan, etc.) Ascertained to be an abundant summer species about Camp Lowell. Numerous specimens taken between May 31 and June 25.

This species is *true cooperi* of Kaup and is not to be confounded with "*cooperi erythrocerus*" of the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

3. **Myiarchus lawrencei** (*Giraud*) *Baird*. LAWRENCE'S FLYCATCHER.—Hab., Northern Mexico, from northern boundary south to Colima, Tehuantepec, Yucatan, and Salvador. Eight specimens taken in the Santa Rita Mountains between May 12 and May 17. These captures confirm still another of Giraud's alleged sixteen Texas species.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*