

The Carolina Wren in Connecticut.—Mr. Willard E. Treat writes me that he took a male *Thryothorus ludovicianus* at East Hartford, Conn., March 18, 1886. It was in good condition, and had been seen since February 15 among some thick brush and tall weeds. This is, I believe, the third capture of this bird in Connecticut.—JNO. H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*

The Red-breasted Nuthatch in Kentucky in Summer.—On July 16, while 'taking my ease' in a hammock, I saw a small bird skipping about the uppermost branches of an adjacent pine tree. Not being able to identify it, my ever-ready .22 cal. cane-gun was brought into requisition, when down came a Red-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*). Its presence at this latitude (37° 52') and altitude (650 feet above tide-water) at this season of the year is very singular, and remains to be explained. Upon dissection the bird proved to be a female. The ovaries were much contracted but plainly discernible.—C. W. BECKHAM, *Bardstown, Ky.*

Singular nesting site of Wilson's Thrush.—It has long been a problem as to what use could be made of the old tin cans that fruits and vegetables have been preserved in, but it is now partially solved by a pair of Wilson's Thrushes choosing one to place its nest in. My two sons in passing through a piece of woods where this species is quite common, boy-like, kicked an old can lying on the ground when, to their astonishment, they made the discovery that it contained a nest and three eggs of the above species. The can rested on its side, the birds going in through a small hole in the cover (the entire end not having been cut). The nest was very wet and the eggs were addled, evidently having been deserted, owing to the heavy rains in early June. Unfortunately one egg was broken and the other two badly damaged, but the nest is perfect and the materials are typical of this species.—H. B. BAILEY, *South Orange, N. J.*

The Eastern Bluebird at Fort Lyon, Colorado.—Four Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*), two of each sex, were first seen here May 24 of this year. One male I collected, one female was killed by a cat. I found the nest of the other pair June 25. The young were then two-thirds grown. Old birds and young left July 14. The late arrival and nesting of these birds at this place where, during the four years I have been stationed here none have been seen, seems unusual.

S. arctica is abundant about the middle of March, but stays a few days only. *S. mexicana* is not found here.—P. M. THOME, *Capt. 22nd Inf., Fort Lyon, Col.*

Three Interesting Birds in the American Museum of Natural History: *Ammodramus lecontei*, *Helinaia swainsonii*, and *Saxicola œnanthe*.—As is well known, Leconte's Sparrow was described by Audubon (*Birds of America*, VII, p. 338, pl. 488) in 1843, from a specimen obtained on the Upper Missouri. Audubon says: "Although we procured several

specimens of this pretty little Sharp-tailed Finch, I have at present only one by me, a fine male, however, shot by Mr. J. G. Bell, of New York, on the 24th of May." He gives its habitat as "Upper Missouri prairies. Common." Professor Baird, in 1858, says (*Birds of North America*, 1858, p. 452): "I am obliged to copy the description of this rare Sparrow from Mr. Audubon, as I have no skin at hand. The type of the species was presented to me by Mr. Audubon, but it has somehow been mislaid." In the 'History of North American Birds' (Vol. I, 1874, p. 552) a second specimen is recorded as having been "received by the Smithsonian Institution from Washington Co., Texas, collected by Dr. Lincecum," but "in very poor condition, having been skinned for an alcoholic preparation and does not admit of a satisfactory description of the colors." This, then, was the only specimen known to be extant when the species was re-discovered in 1873 by Dr. Coues, "near Turtle Mountain, on the border of Dakota, latitude 39°," where a number were found together on August 9—the only occasion when they were noticed. The subsequent remarkable history of this long lost species need not be recounted, it having been found of late in numbers from the Upper Missouri region to as far south and east as South Carolina.

A specimen in the Maximilian Collection in the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, proves that a second specimen was really extant during this long interval. It still bears the original label in the handwriting of the Prince, as follows: "Ammodramus LeContei Audub. (Emberiza Audub.) Missour. Mas." In the manuscript Catalogue of the Maximilian Collection (p. 171, genus 515, sp. 3) it is recorded as follows: "[Coturniculus] Lecontei Audub. ; Bp. ; (Ammodramus Lecontei Gray). Nord America, am oberer Missouri." There is no further clue to its history, but doubtless it was taken by the Prince on his North American journey, 1832-34, and hence some ten years before the discovery of the species by Audubon. As the Maximilian Collection was transferred to the American Museum in 1870, this specimen was in New York City for three years prior to the re-discovery of the species by Dr. Coues.

The specimen (No. 1916) is in an excellent state of preservation, though doubtless taken not less than half a century ago.

Another specimen of historic interest in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History is one of the original Bachmanian specimens of Swainson's Warbler (No. 25,348). This is from the Elliot Collection, Mr. Elliot having received it from Professor Baird.

A third specimen, of much local interest, is an example (No. 1236, ♀ ad.) of a Wheatear (*Saxicola ananthe*), from the collection of Mr. D. G. Elliot, taken on Long Island, N. Y., but the date of capture is not given. It appears not to have been previously recorded.—J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

Four Rare Birds in Northern California: Yellow Rail, Emperor Goose, European Widgeon, and Sabine's Ruffed Grouse.—While on the coast of Northern California in December, 1885, I visited the ornithological col-