

less threw it away. The fact that *praticola* has been found breeding within less than twenty-five miles of the western boundary of Massachusetts,\* taken in connection with that of the captures above recorded, makes it seem not improbable that the form in question may occur regularly, if rarely, in Eastern Massachusetts during the migrations, and perhaps as a summer resident in the extreme western portions of the State.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Occurrence of the Florida Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata florincola*) in Southwestern Texas.**—On the eleventh of March, 1887, while collecting at Leon Springs, Texas, I came up with a party of four or five Blue Jays in a grove of hackberry and live oak trees. Supposing them to be the ordinary eastern bird, only one of them was shot, and although they were seen several times at San Antonio, no other specimens were secured. Upon comparing my bird with typical examples of *Cyanocitta cristata florincola* in the United States National Museum, I find it to agree perfectly with them. The principal characters that distinguish the Florida bird from the specific form consist in the smaller size of the former and the much less amount of white on the secondaries and the two outer rectrices.

Mr. Ridgway, who first suggested that my specimen was *florincola*, entirely concurs with me in this determination.

This Jay is evidently a rare bird in Southwestern Texas, for the only authority I can find for its occurrence there is in Dresser's classical paper, where he states that he "was told by several hunters that the Blue Jay is found near San Antonio." Leon Springs is in Bexar County, about eighteen or twenty miles northwest of San Antonio. — CHARLES WICKLIFFE BECKHAM, *Washington, D. C.*

**Abnormal Plumage of *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*.**—I shot, October 21, 1887, in the valley of Mud Creek, thirty miles southeast of Las Animas, Bent Co., Colorado, a female *X. xanthocephalus*. It could fly well but was quite young. The barrels of most of the quills of wings and tail were dark and full of liquid. The plumage was more loose and ragged than is usual in birds that can fly. It differs from all young females I have seen as follows:—

Lesser wing-coverts whitish; scattering white and whitish feathers in hind neck, interscapulars, back, upper tail-coverts, breast, belly, crissum and flank. Feathers of the breast long and rounded — looking like cotton strings. One secondary in right wing whitish on both webs for one inch; middle tail-feathers the same for half their length. Right outer tail-feather pure white. One downy, round feather one and a half inches long, starting from below oil gland. It was with two other young birds. The date is much later than I have ever seen these birds in Colorado.—P. M. THORNE, CAPT. 22d INF'TY., *Fort Lyon, Colorado.*

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\* See Mr. Park's note above.