

Dr. Bachman at Charleston, it renders it not unlikely that they still may be found nesting on the Atlantic Coast, in which case, perhaps, it might be well for us to give more heed to Mr. Bailey's record.*—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *Am. Mus. of Nat. Hist., New York City.*

The Interbreeding of *Helminthophila pinus* and *H. chrysoptera*.—On June 13, 1889, Mr. Samuel Robinson, who has collected with me here for the past fifteen years, noticed a male *Helminthophila pinus*, with food in its bill, fly and disappear at the foot of a small alder. A female *Helminthophila chrysoptera* soon appeared, also with food, and was lost to sight at the same spot as the other bird. On going to the locality five young birds flew from the nest and alighted on the bushes in the immediate vicinity. Both parent birds were soon feeding the young again. He shot the old birds and secured all the young, which, together with the nest, are in my cabinet.

The locality was ground sloping toward a swampy thicket and covered with a young growth of alders. A few maple trees were in the vicinity. The nest was on the ground at the foot of a small alder and partly concealed by overhanging ferns and weeds. It is composed externally of oak leaves and lined with grape-vine bark, no other materials being used.

The male (*pinus*) is a very bright specimen with white wing-bars, edged with yellow. The female (*chrysoptera*) is strongly marked with yellow below, the wing-bars being exceptionally rich with the same color.

The young, two males and three females, are all similar, and have the head, neck, chest, sides and back olive-green. Abdomen olive-yellow. Remiges like adult *pinus*. Two conspicuous wing-bars of light olive, edged with yellow.—JNO. H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*

***Dendroica coronata* Feeding upon Oranges.**—While at Enterprise, Florida, last February, I twice saw Yellow-rumped Warblers eating the pulp of sweet oranges. In the first instance the orange was one that had fallen from a cart into the street and had afterwards been crushed so that the pulp was exposed. The little bird tugged at it with all its strength and seemed to have much difficulty in separating pieces small enough to swallow. Some of these were fully an inch long and as large around as a lead pencil. In the second instance the orange had merely cracked open by falling from the tree to the ground beneath. During the entire month of February the orange groves in the vicinity of Enterprise were frequented by larger numbers of these Warblers than I found in other places, and I have little doubt that the fallen oranges formed the chief attraction.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Recent Capture of Kirtland's Warbler in Michigan, and other Notes.—A specimen of Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandi*), female, was secured by Mr. Knapp of Ann Arbor, Michigan, in the latter part of April or first of May, 1888, at Ann Arbor.

*Bull. N. O. C., Vol. VIII, p. 38.

It may interest the readers of 'The Auk' to hear of the occurrence of the Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), female, at Ann Arbor, in the latter part of December, and again in the early part of March, a foot of snow being on the ground at the latter date.

A small flock of Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) was seen on May 24, and a number of individuals secured. It is considered a rare bird in that locality.

Last spring also, I had brought to me for examination an egg of a common fowl about four inches in its long diameter, and the short diameter nearly equal to four inches. The shell was of average thickness, shell membranes normal. This egg not only contained white and yolk, but also a second egg of the usual size, with shell, membranes, and contents perfect. The shell of the inclosed egg was extremely thick. An interpretation of this phenomenon is easy enough; the smaller, normal-sized egg was evidently detained in the oviduct when just about to be laid, and then, having worked back to the region of the oviduct where the shell membrane is formed, met the descending yolk and white of the larger egg. A membrane was then deposited, not only around this second egg, but also around the the first formed perfect egg; then both descended the oviduct, a shell was formed about them both, and the resulting 'double egg' expelled. The failure to lay the first egg may have been due to some temporary weakness of the muscles employed.—F. L. WASHBURN, Cambridge, Mass.

Polioptila plumbea at Palm Springs, California.—During the latter part of April I spent a week collecting at Palm Springs in company with Mr. W. W. Price, and together we secured eight specimens of *Polioptila plumbea*, the first taken west of the Colorado River, I believe. Palm Springs is situated in the extreme western end of the Colorado Desert, about midway between the coast and the Colorado River, seven miles south of Seven Palms, a station on the Southern Pacific Railroad, and about seventy miles from San Bernardino. *P. plumbea* were found in a dry sandy wash near the settlement, in the tangled thickets of the creosote brush (*Larrea mexicana*). They undoubtedly breed there, as two young scarcely able to fly were secured, and others seen. Three males had the black cap fully developed.

Harporhynchus lecontei and *Callipepla gambeli* were found with young, but very shy.—FRED. O. JOHNSON, Riverside, California.

Winter Notes from Portland, Maine. — The exceptionally mild winter of 1888-89 was not without its effect on the birds about Portland. During the fall migration a great many of the Sparrows and Warblers prolonged their stay a week or ten days, or even longer, beyond their usual date. A noteworthy case was that *Dendroica coronata* which remained until December 6. There appears to be no previous December record of this