

Notes from Connecticut.—Among my notes for 1892 the following may be of interest, as relating to the vicinity of Bridgeport.

A fine male Carolina Wren in full song was shot April 8. I was attracted from a distance by the power and richness of its vocalization, and found it dodging in and about an immense pile of cordwood in a recent clearing.

On April 6, at Stratford, the *very* familiar cries of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher attracted and held my attention for several minutes, when it passed beyond hearing. Although but a short distance away at first, it was not seen, barriers interfering with approach.

Fish Crows (*Corvus ossifragus*) were observed in small numbers early in March, having been rare the preceding winter, if present at all. The morning of March 26, which was warm and clear, they were very common in certain districts, compelling attention by their discordant voices and unusual numbers, evidently fresh arrivals for the most part. They were particularly noticeable until midsummer when they gradually became silent and inactive. Even until May 1 flocks of twenty or thirty were occasionally seen; soon after, however, they were reduced to groups of a few unmated or barren individuals, and widely dispersed, breeding birds. Much more suspicious than the common species, they force themselves upon the attention long before the nest is in sight, in most cases in this vicinity. April 29, at Fairfield, one sat by a nest eighty feet from the ground, and confessed ownership of its young in the latter part of May. On May 12 I took a set of four fresh eggs from a nest seventy-five feet above the ground. This had been commenced in April, and its completion delayed at least two weeks. May 16 I took five nearly fresh eggs of the Fish Crow and one of the Robin from a nest near the summit of an isolated white pine tree in a recent clearing of hardwood growth. Tall timber near by seemed to them less attractive. The female being shot, its mate remained sorrowfully calling for several days, when it again mated and probably met with better success, as they could be seen there till July. A set of five eggs was taken at Mt. Vernon, New York, May 15, 1888, from a nest fully sixty-five feet from the ground, in low, wet woods. They were somewhat common there at that time.

Four Lawrence's Warblers were within a radius of half a mile, three typical and one with the black obscured and the crown dull yellow-olive, as seen by Mr. C. K. Averill and myself. As did all the others, it sang precisely like the Blue-winged Warbler; but it was not secured, as we had no gun. One fine fellow frequented the growth on one side of a small piece of woodland until July at least, while on the other side and within a stone's throw a beautiful Brewster's Warbler spent the greater part of his time. The latter, after patient watching, revealed his mate, a Blue-winged Warbler, and a nest in course of construction. This was in the edge of a pasture bordering a lane and grove. It was poorly concealed in the dead grass at the base of a small shrub among scanty briars and the beginning of a scrub growth, and was plainly visible from any point several feet away. It was constructed as is usual with *Helminthophila*

*pinus*. When seen again, June 14, it contained four eggs, two of which were Cowbirds, which were removed. Those remaining brought forth a pair of birds that, as they left the nest, could not be distinguished from normal young of the female parent, as would be expected, whatever the color of the male.

The Nashville Warbler probably breeds regularly throughout southern Connecticut and perhaps even in Westchester County, New York, as a pair spent the summer in Woodlawn Cemetery. I took a beautiful set of five fresh eggs in Bridgeport, June 6. The five nests I have seen were found by accident, mostly a few miles inland. In one place at Seymour, and almost within hearing of each other, five or six pairs have regularly nested for several years. With rare exceptions theirs are the best concealed nests of our birds.

The Worm-eating Warbler is a regular summer resident; I have found them in about every swampy or partly inundated wood, especially if with a rank growth of skunk cabbage. Twenty-five miles inland in the valleys I have also found them rather common, and breeding in the same situations and in kalmia thickets, generally not far from a brook or standing water.

The Hooded Warbler is common in this vicinity wherever the laurel grows in abundance, but is less so toward the central part (Seymour, etc.).

White-crowned Sparrows were abundant, in Stratford at least, during the middle of October (14th), and were by no means rare in the preceding May. At the same time in the spring there was also an unusual number of Bay-breasted Warblers, and in the latter part of the month Yellow-bellied Flycatchers.—E. H. EAMES, *Bridgeport, Connecticut*.

#### On the Occurrence of Three Rare Birds on Long Island, New York.—

*Strix pratincola*. — Mr. Wm. Conselyea of Brooklyn has a mounted specimen in his possession, which I examined and identified a short time ago, and which he has permitted me to record. He shot it at Hicks Beach, Long Island, about January 10, 1892. Mr. Conselyea was walking along the beach about four P.M. when he saw a large bird flying steadily and noiselessly over the sand hills towards him. He shot the bird, which makes the fourth record from Long Island<sup>1</sup>.

*Helminthophila celata*.—This bird has been recorded from a number of localities in the Atlantic States, but never from Long Island. The nearest approach to our limits is found in a specimen taken at Hoboken, N. J., in May, 1865, by Charles S. Galbraith [Amer. Mus. coll. no. 39,669]. Dr. Edgar A. Mearns<sup>2</sup> refers to it as a "rare migrant" in the Hudson River valley, and cites a specimen from Highland Falls, N. Y.,

<sup>1</sup> For previous records see Auk, III, 439; V, 180; VIII, 114.

<sup>2</sup> 'A List of the Birds of the Hudson Highlands,' Bull. Essex Inst. 1878.