

same specimen I am thoroughly satisfied, having lately seen Mr. Rackliff and learned that this is the same bird which he sent to Mr. Ridgway, and that he has never shot any other specimen in Maine nor elsewhere. It is evident that the source of erroneous date is not with Mr. Ridgway.

Spiza americana. — The Westbrook specimen and record is preceded by Mr. Charles W. Townsend's Job's Island specimen, recorded in 'The Auk,' Vol. II, Jan., 1885, p. 106. — ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Westbrook, Me.*

The Plumbeous Vireo in Central New York.—On September 24, 1893, I shot an adult female *Vireo solitarius plumbeus* at Peterboro, Madison Co., N. Y. The bird was feeding, just at sunset, among some old apple trees together with Robins, Chipping Sparrows, a few Warblers, and a Downy Woodpecker or two. Its motions seemed excessively deliberate even for a Vireo, though on dissection it proved to be in excellent condition, fully adult and moderately fat. In plumage the specimen is perfectly typical, agreeing in every way with Rocky Mountain examples with which I have compared it. On the other hand, it is much smaller than any of the western birds that I have seen, measuring: wing, 2.93; tail, 2.27; tarsus, 0.70; bill from nostril, 0.28 inch, thus well within the average of true *Vireo solitarius*. The form of the bill also agrees with that of the eastern bird, being much more slender than in the average *plumbeus*, though it is approached by some individuals of the latter race.

I am not now prepared to discuss the significance of these peculiarities, and the bird may for the present stand as above.

So far as I am aware this is the first record of the occurrence of the Plumbeous Vireo beyond the limits of its usual range.—GERRIT S. MILLER, JR., *Cambridge, Mass.*

Dendroica striata in Summer at Washington, D. C. — July 30, 1893, I shot an adult male Black-poll Warbler. The earliest record for the fall migration that I am aware of is Sept. 1, 1889.—EDWARD J. BROWN, *Washington, D. C.*

Helminthophila leucobronchialis. — On July 1, 1893, I found an adult *H. leucobronchialis* with two young in a small tract of alder swamp and woodland of North Haven, Conn. They were little disturbed at my presence, and I watched them carefully for some time. The adult fed both young at short intervals, leaving little doubt of its relationship to them. On July 4, they were still in the same locality, and I collected all three. Possibly the remainder of the family had been killed, as a careful search on both days through the adjacent country failed to disclose any other member of the genus *Helminthophila*.

Decomposition was so far advanced before I could prepare the adult that I was unable to determine its sex. The fact that it never sang while I was watching it, together with the generally dull color of its plumage, lead me to think it a female.

Unfortunately both of the young were still principally in the olive, downy plumage of nestlings, but enough of the final feathering had appeared on the throat, breast, and upper parts to make it certain that one, and probable that the other, would have become a typical specimen of *H. pinus*. The wing-bars of the young differ, being in the most mature specimen narrow and almost white, and in the other broader and light yellow. The plumage of the young would seem to indicate that the missing parent was an *H. pinus*.

These specimens, I think, tend to confirm the theory of Mr. Ridgway that *H. leucobronchialis* is not a valid species, but merely a leucochroic phase of *H. pinus*. — LOUIS B. BISHOP, M. D., *New Haven, Conn.*

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) on the Coast of South Carolina.—The capture of this far western species was the good fortune of the writer on the morning of November 24, 1893. I had taken advantage of the spring-tide to secure some Scott's Sparrows (*Ammodramus maritimus peninsulæ*), and upon going over a cyclone-swept cotton field *en route* to the marshes, I noticed a bird that resembled the Titlark (*Anthus pensilvanicus*), but observed that it did not wag its tail. I knew at once what it was—a western prize, and I at once shot it. The bird is an adult male in very fine unworn plumage, and was very fat. The exact locality was nine miles from Mount Pleasant, and two miles from the ocean. As far as I am aware this is the first eastern record for this species.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.*

Remarks on the Nest of *Cistothorus palustris*.—The nest of the Long-billed Marsh Wren is too well known to ornithologists generally to need description, but the only explanation of its globular form, which I can find, is that given by Wilson, who states: "A small hole is left two-thirds up, for entrance, the upper edge of which projects like a pent-house over the lower, to prevent the admission of rain." The inference from this and similar statements of later writers would be that the roof is built to protect the eggs from the rain. This may be partially true, but it seems strange that a species nesting at a season when violent rain-storms are least frequent should need a protection, which birds breeding earlier in the spring do not require.

But there is another danger to which the eggs of *C. palustris* are peculiarly liable, both from the character of the country in which they breed and the slenderness of the reeds which support the nest. This is the wind, which, sweeping across the exposed marshes of this Wren's summer home, often levels the rushes with the ground. I have found the reeds growing in the Quinipiack Marshes near New Haven, Conn., where large numbers of this species breed, leveled in this manner, and the attached nests turned almost at right angles to their original position. It is evident that under such conditions the eggs in an uncovered nest would fall out and be destroyed, while in many of these nests, which had the