

is quite curious is a long piece of fishing cord. The nest contained two eggs, and upon dissecting the female I found one more egg which would have been laid the following day. It will be seen that all the specimens of the Gray Kingbird which have been actually taken in South Carolina were from this famous Island—a favorite summer resort for the people of Charleston.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

Picicorvus an Untenable Genus.—In 'History of North American Birds,' Vol. II, p. 255, it is stated that the so-called genus *Picicorvus* "is so similar to *Nucifraga* as to be hardly separable; the principal difference being in the slender and more decurved and attenuated bill, with a slightly concave, instead of convex, culmen, and plain instead of spotted plumage." At the time, only one of the Old World species of *Nucifraga*, *N. caryocatactes*, the type of the genus, was available for comparison, and such was still the case when the A. O. U. Check-List was prepared; but more recently other species have been secured by the National Museum, and these, notably *N. multiguttata* Gould, from the Himalayas, show that the supposed distinction as to shape of the bill exists only as a specific character, *N. multipunctata* having the bill quite as slender as that of "*Picicorvus*" *columbianus*. Furthermore, the American species frequently shows indications of white apical spots to feathers of the breast, and still better developed white spots at tips of primaries. I can therefore see no good reason for continuing the recognition of *Picicorvus* as a genus, and would follow Audubon in calling Clarke's Nutcracker *Nucifraga columbiana*.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Notes on the Distribution of the Bobolink in South Carolina.—Mr. Loomis in his article entitled 'A Further Review of the Avian Fauna of Chester County, South Carolina,' in 'The Auk' for January, 1894, p. 27, makes this statement: "This is exemplified in the Bobolink, which is abundant along the South Carolina coast in autumn, but only so in the interior of the State in spring." This latter clause is entirely incorrect. The Bobolink is very abundant along the coast from April 28 to May 26, and some remain until June 5. They are known as 'May Birds,' and play havoc with the rice which has just sprouted by pulling it up. The rice fields have to be watched from morning till night by men called 'bird minders' who are shooting the entire day. A great many planters now plant the 'late' rice in June to avoid the birds. The May Birds do not confine themselves entirely to the rice, but also resort to the oat fields which at that season are 'in the milk,' and they become excessively fat. I have killed frequently more than forty Bobolinks at a shot from the oat fields in May. The Bobolink is also very partial to the enormous potato fields which are in full bloom the last of May and nearly ready to be dug. I have never been able to find what they feed on in the potato fields but it must be some bug peculiar to the potato. It is safe to say that millions of Bobolinks depredate upon the rice planters every May.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*