

giving as a reason that his conspicuous dress was a target for his enemies; which is the usual way we try to make other people think we know something. So I will now describe the following year's events, which was 1895. A female Scarlet Tanager came and built exactly on the same spot where the previous year's nest was; hence I infer it was the same female. But what of her gay lord, was he the same male? If so he must have undergone a great change of character, for he showed himself about the tree frequently and sang on the next tree very often during the day. But the most remarkable thing of all was, he spied a nest of Chippy Sparrows (*Spizella socialis*) with young ones. To my surprise he kept going to the nest and fed the baby Chippys, much to the disgust of their parents, who kept hovering around with food in their mouths which the little things could not take, after being fed so often by their gorgeous foster father. This was continued for a number of days. When his own precious young burst their shells and required attention he then left the Chippys to their rightful parents, which were now outgrowing their narrow domicile, being duly cared for. Mr. Tanager now paid as faithful attention to his own family, feeding them very frequently and singing his sweet song between feeding and collecting food. Seldom was he away, near sunset, longer than ten or fifteen minutes. So I am at a loss to account for the shyness shown the previous year, unless this was a second husband of the same female Tanager; and then the extraordinary fact of his feeding other birds' young ones is one of the exceptions that make the study of birds a pleasant recreation. — HENRY HALES, *Ridgewood, N. Y.*

**The Occurrence in Nebraska of *Vireo flavoviridis*.**—A specimen of the Yellow-green Vireo, *Vireo flavoviridis*, shot at Long Pine, Brown County, has just been received by the Curator of the Museum of the University of Nebraska. This is the first one reported in this State. It is a rare Vireo for the entire United States having been reported, as far as the author can learn, from Texas, California, and Canada only.

The specimen was shot and donated by the Rev. J. M. Bates of Long Pine, who has already done a great deal to further the knowledge of our native birds.

This adds one more to Prof. Lawrence Bruner's List of Nebraska Birds, recently published by the Nebraska State Horticultural Society. The total number of species and sub-species for the State is now 418.—ERWIN H. BARBOUR, *University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebr.*

***Helminthophila rubricapilla* vs. *Helminthophila ruficapilla*.**—The A. O. U. Committee appear to have ignored their rule "Once a synonym always a synonym," in the case of the Nashville Warbler. The West Indian *Dendroica ruficapilla* was called *Sylvia ruficapilla* by Latham in 1790 (Ind. Orn., II, 540). Wilson applied the same name to the Nashville Warbler in 1811 (Amer. Orn., III, 120). Whether by design or by

inadvertence. the name was altered to *S. rubricapilla* in a later volume of Wilson (Amer. Orn., VI, 1812, 15) and this appears to be the earliest eligible name for the Nashville Warbler. Under the A. O. U. Code. Nos. 645 and 645a of the 'Check-List' should therefore stand as *Helminthophila rubricapilla* (Wils.) and *Helminthophila rubricapilla gutturalis* (Ridgw.).—WALTER FAXON, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

**Bachman's Warbler** (*Helminthophila bachmani*) in **Greene County, Arkansas.**—Very early on the morning of May 7, 1896, while in the company of Mr. O. C. Poling, I heard among the score of voices a song which was new to me. It suggested a relationship to *Helminthophila pinus*, but it had several more notes to it. Neither was it a Parula song. After a little search we found the singer, a small yellow bird with conspicuous black throat and black crown, perched twelve feet above dry ground on the lower branch of a medium-sized tree surrounded by a heavy growth of blackberry and other bushes. It did not take me long to identify the bird, nor did it take Mr. Poling long to secure it.

Two days afterwards, May 9, we found and secured in the same manner a second male, only a few rods from where we took the first, but circumstances, among them, two very dead hogs, prevented a thorough search for the nests and females in the vicinity. The highly developed testes showed that they were breeding. The black of the throat extends from the chin to the breast. The locality is in the region of the peninsula of Missouri, on Boland Island, on the Arkansas side of the St. Francis River, and therefore in Greene County, Arkansas.—O. WIDMANN, *Old Orchard, Mo.*

**Second Occurrence of the Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher in Maine.**—On the morning of April 18, 1896, while driving past a farm-yard on Cape Elizabeth, about three miles from Portland, I heard the nasal call-note of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila cærulea*). In another moment I saw the bird fly from an old oak to an orchard close at hand. Here I watched him at my leisure. He was very active, but not at all shy, coming several times within eight or ten feet of me, constantly calling, often singing, and repeatedly, of course, displaying his characteristic form and colors. There was no bird of any kind with him. An hour later, I drove past the farm-yard again, and found him still in the neighborhood, having simply crossed the highway. He was still entirely alone. I drove within a few feet of him, and watched him for several minutes,—until he again flew off into the orchard.

The weather throughout New England was almost summer-like for a week preceding April 18, and to this fact, perhaps, was due the bird's long journey from the usual haunts of his kind.