

of which *Poliioptila* Scl., 1855, thus becomes a synonym. A pretty kettle of fish this, for a reductio ad absurdum!

Sylvania must be dropped, and our choice of a name for the genus lies between *Wilsonia* Bp., 1838, and *Myiodioides* Aud., 1839. Use of *Wilsonia* in botany does not debar it in zoölogy, and if it is not otherwise preoccupied it must stand. Soon after its rejection by Baird in 1858 on the ground of botanical preoccupation, it was used by Dr. Allen, in Proc. Essex Inst., IV, 1864, p. 64, and in various other places in succeeding years. I brought it pointedly to the front in Bull. Nutt. Club, V, 1880, p. 95; and the same thing was done over again, without any reference to these earlier usages, by Dr. Stejneger, Auk, July, 1884, p. 230.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

The Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) at Inwood-on-Hudson, New York City.—Visiting my summer home at Inwood-on-Hudson, March 28, 1896, I heard a loud and beautiful song coming from the top of a dead elm tree. The bird sang almost continually until my efforts to get a good view of him frightened him away. After sitting fifteen minutes on a rock near where the bird had appeared to alight, and waiting for the song, he broke out again, and I discovered him perching on a low tree not twenty-five feet distant.

It was a new species to me, but it seemed to me it must be the Carolina Wren, and on studying up the bird carefully, in all my books at home, I felt quite sure the identification was correct. I heard him again on April 1 and 22. May 14 we went to Inwood for the summer, but only heard the Wren sing four times, until May 22. Then I had a fine view of one near some dilapidated buildings around an unoccupied house. Four days later loud and continued singing attracted me to a heap of dry brush near these buildings, and there I found the parents and five little Carolina Wrens. The young were able to fly nicely, and they gave a musical call, much like that of the old birds, and scolded beautifully.

After that, they were seen frequently, and I heard the beautiful song at all hours of the day, up to Nov. 12, when we moved to town. Going to Inwood on Jan. 18, 1897, I heard the full song again, so it would appear that they wintered there.

The old birds were quite tame, lighting and singing in shrubbery close to the house, and twice one was seen on the piazza, examining plants in pots, and even drinking from the saucer of a flower-pot.—F. H. FOOTE, *New York City.*

The Mockingbird at Portland, Maine, in Winter.—On January 19, 1897, at noon, a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) appeared in a gutter which runs beneath the south window of my study. The thermometer was below zero, and there was no snow, but an unclouded sun had softened the ice in the gutter so that the bird could moisten his tongue; and this he seemed to be doing when I first saw him. He was perhaps

five feet distant from my chair, and I noted at once that he looked like a wild bird, his ruffled plumage being in perfect condition, unfrayed and unstained. In a moment he caught sight of me and flew away.

A heavy snow-storm set in the next day. It was followed within the week by another. Wintry weather prevailed generally up to January 29. On that day I was told by a neighbor — Edward Woodman, Esq. — that he believed a Mockingbird had been visiting his grounds for several days. There, on January 31, I saw the bird again. He was rather shy and quite silent, and soon flew away.

I published a notice of this interesting winter visitor in the Portland 'Daily Press' of February 2, hoping, if he were an escaped cage bird, that the fact would thus be brought out. Nothing, however, was elicited. Enquiries of local bird fanciers also failed to lead to the knowledge of any lost pet bird.

I now met with the wanderer nearly every day. About three o'clock of the afternoon of February 11, the sun shining warmly in a still, crisp air, he took up a position in the top of a tall elm before the same window from which I first saw him, and sang loudly for a few moments when he was apparently frightened away by passers-by. On February 15, I saw him for the last time, feeding on the berries of a mountain-ash. Four days later, — just one month from his first appearance, — Mrs. Charles J. Chapman, a neighbor and an entirely competent witness, reported to me that he had that morning visited her grounds in search of mountain-ash berries.

I have been able to find but one previous record of a supposed wild Mockingbird in Maine, — a very indefinite note by Mr. G. A. Boardman in the 'American Naturalist,' Vol. V, April, 1871, p. 121. It is this note, apparently, to which reference is made in 'New England Bird Life,' Vol. I, p. 62. — NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Me.*

Turdus lawrencii Coues. — In 1878, George N. Lawrence described a new Thrush from the upper Amazon, as *Turdus brunneus*,¹ evidently unaware that the same name had been previously applied by Brewer, in 1852, to the North American species now known as *Turdus fuscescens*. A year later, Dr. Coues published the third instalment of his Ornithological Bibliography, in which he inserted the title of Lawrence's paper with the following comment: "N. B. There is more than one *Turdus brunneus* of earlier authors. The present belongs to the section of the genus including *T. leucomelas*, *albiventris*, &c. If a proper *Turdus*, set *Turdus lawrencii*, nobis, hoc loco, species renovata."² *Turdus lawrencii* seems to have been overlooked by subsequent writers, and is not mentioned even in Seebohm's Monograph of the Turdidæ (Brit. Mus. Cat. Birds, V,

¹ Ibis, 4th Ser., II, Jan., 1878, p. 57, pl. i.

² Bull. U. S. Geol. & Geog. Surv. Territories, V, No. 4, Sept. 30, 1879, p. 570.