

37 on the Columbia River and sent by him to Audubon for publication in the 'Birds of America.'

When Audubon received the first specimens of this bird he considered it identical with the Mourning Warbler of the East, notwithstanding that Townsend regarded it as distinct, and not having published a plate of the latter species he drew one from these western specimens and issued it with the title *Sylvia philadelphia*.

Upon Townsend's return he demonstrated to Audubon that the two birds were distinct and a drawing of the eastern species was thereupon published, also (this time correctly) entitled *Sylvia philadelphia*.

The fifth volume of Audubon's 'Ornithological Biography,' which appeared soon after, contained the accounts of the two species, the western one being described as new under the name of *Sylvia macgillivrayi*.

Townsend meantime prepared his 'Journal' for publication and in the appendix included a list of the birds found by him in the West, and descriptions of such as had not already been described by Audubon.

Among the latter was this Warbler which he called *Sylvia Tolmiei*, after W. F. Tolmie an officer of the Hudson Bay Company whose acquaintance he had made at Fort Vancouver.

Townsend supposed that Audubon would use this name, as he had indicated it on the specimens that he had sent him, and he was much annoyed to find that he had substituted *Sylvia macgillivrayi* for it, claiming at the same time that his own name *tolmiei* had priority¹.

This claim has not been recognized in late years, but investigation shows that Townsend's 'Journal' was issued and received at the Philadelphia Academy by April 16, 1839, while Audubon's fifth volume was not received at the London Athenæum until June 22 of the same year, and did not of course reach America until later still.

These facts show that Townsend's name has clear priority, and in the interests of accuracy and justice it is a satisfaction to make the correction.

Macgillivray's Warbler should therefore stand in our list as *Geothlypis tolmiei*; whether or not the common name shall also be changed to Tolmie's Warbler we shall leave to the judgment of the A. O. U. Committee.
— WITMER STONE, *Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philadelphia*.

Sprague's Pipit near New Orleans, La.— On Nov. 24, 1898, I found in the drier parts of a favorite Snipe field, across the Mississippi from New Orleans, five Sprague's Pipits (*Anthus spragueii*): I had found them, as had also Messrs. Pring, Kopman, and W. B. Allison, in the vicinity of the city before, but these were the first I had seen for some years, and were earlier than any noted in former years. I flushed the birds repeatedly, shot one, a female, and had excellent opportunities for watching their

¹ Jour. A. N. S. Phila. VIII, 1839, p. 159.

towering flight, and hearing the notes that so markedly differ from those of *A. pensylvanicus*. — A. ALLISON, *New Orleans, La.*

The Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) at Peace Dale, R. I. — I have been very much puzzled a good many times during the past summer by hearing, in the near neighborhood of my house here, the notes of the Cardinal Bird given with great distinctness and for several minutes together. Every time when I have tried to find the author of the notes he has managed to escape observation. On the 21st of October, long after I had supposed the mysterious visitor had gone south, I heard the note very plainly and devoted half an hour to looking for the bird. I was so fortunate on this occasion as to get a good glimpse of the singer, and it proved to my astonishment to be a fine male of the Carolina Wren. As soon as I saw him he disappeared in company with his mate, both of them uttering the characteristic alarm note which the writers tell us of. I did not shoot the bird but feel entirely sure of the identification, as I distinctly saw the line above the eye, which is easily seen at tolerably close quarters. Immediately after the 21st we went through a long, cold rain storm and I supposed then I should not hear the Wren again. But on the 28th of October I did hear him singing with great spirit and for some minutes together. This is now the 28th of November and we have passed through a blizzard which began Saturday afternoon, the 26th, and has been without any doubt as severe a blizzard as we have ever experienced in this part of New England. Snow has fallen here to a depth rather difficult to estimate, but on the level it cannot be less than eight inches; of course, being accompanied by a very high wind it drifted enormously, — I observed several exhausted birds, or at least if not exhausted more or less disabled by the storm. While investigating the damage done in my garden I again heard my friend the Carolina Wren. This being the third time that he has intensely surprised me, I lose no time to report it. Is it common for Carolina Wrens to linger beyond the summer time as far north as this? I cannot find any record of it and imagine that I have a very odd specimen of the bird here. — R. G. HAZARD, *Peace Dale, R. I.*

The Finishing Stroke to Bartram. — I have changed not, and see no reason to change, my view of Bartram's case published in Pr. Phila. Acad. 1875, pp. 338–358, where I contend that he is a binomial author who sometimes lapses, and whose identifiable binomials which rest upon description are available in our nomenclature. On that occasion I inadvertently upon the fact that Bartram had been systematically ignored, though freely used when we wanted some binomial convenience like *Vultur atratus* or *Corvus floridanus*, for example — two specific names which still hold their proper place in the A. O. U. Check-List, showing the inherent difficulty of doing entire injustice to Bartram. But to be