

in Concord, Massachusetts, on May 1, 1908. This bird was identical in plumage with the one shot by Mr. Kennard in Auburndale last May, which specimen is in the Collection of the Boston Society of Natural History. The bird I saw was associated with Yellow Redpoll and Yellow Warblers and was unmistakable. Two other experienced bird students were with me.—LIDIAN E. BRIDGE, *West Medford, Mass.*

**A Prothonotary Warbler in Central Park, New York City.**—On May 4 of the present year I saw and identified a Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) flying back and forth over one of the inlets of the lake in Central Park. I watched it nearly an hour, many times seeing it light in a bush not four feet from where I was sitting. I pronounced it a Prothonotary Warbler, then went to the Museum and examined a skin to make sure of it. I was attracted to the bird by its song which was new to me.

On May 5, Mr. Chubb, of the Museum of Natural History, and Dr. Wiegman saw and identified it also.<sup>1</sup>—ANNE A. CROLIUS, *New York City.*

**Brewster's Warbler.**—Thursday, May 14, 1908, I saw a Brewster's Warbler, a male singing, in the Arnold Arboretum near Boston, Mass. At the time he was singing the regular three-syllabled song. He is in the same part of the arboretum as last year, and is, to all appearances, the same bird.

He was seen the following day by Mr. Charles F. Faxon.—JAMES L. PETERS, *Jamaica Plain, Mass.*

**The Kentucky Warbler in Vermont.**—A specimen of the Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosa*), was taken May 30, 1905, at Lunenburg, Vt., by Mr. W. E. Balch and identified at the Biological Survey. The specimen is now in the Fairbanks Museum at St. Johnsbury.

This is probably the first authentic record for the State.—WELLS W. COOKE, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**Mockingbird in West Medford, Mass.**—From November 17, 1907, until April 20, 1908, we had a Mockingbird — *Mimus polyglottos* — on our place the greater part of each day, with few exceptions, feeding on suet, barberries and cedar berries. The bird, presumably a female, as it did not sing, scolded and drove away the Shrike, Jays, Cedar Birds and Robins.—LIDIAN E. BRIDGE, *West Medford, Mass.*

**Nesting of the Short-billed Marsh Wren in Philadelphia, Pa.**—The Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*) is of exceedingly rare occurrence in the vicinity of Philadelphia, where it is rarely seen even as a migrant,

<sup>1</sup>[This is the bird recorded in 'Bird-Lore,' May-June, 1908, p. 128, where, however, the date of the observation is accidentally given as May 8 instead of May 4.—EDD.]

probably on account of its small size and general resemblance to its long-billed relative (*Telmatodytes palustris*), and also, quite likely, because very few of our ornithologists can distinguish it from the latter species. But it is not surprising that its identity is hard to determine, for it is more shy and retiring than the Long-billed Marsh Wren; consequently it is seldom seen and may occur and even breed in localities where its presence may be wholly unsuspected by the casual observer. Furthermore, very few ornithologists — especially the opera glass devotees — have the necessary ambition to intrude into its haunts, to wade into the swamps and marshes in quest of this and other marsh inhabiting species, and consequently there is nothing definitely known regarding its status as a resident in this vicinity.

There are no late records of its occurrence, and in the county of Philadelphia I have been unable to find a single authentic record of its capture or observation, except my own, and from this it will be seen that the Short-billed Marsh Wren can rightly be regarded as an extremely rare breeder, in North Philadelphia at least, as I have persistently and diligently searched the marshes in this part of the county annually for the past five years, but have found only one pair of birds and one nest.

This nest was found on June 8, 1904, at Richmond, Philadelphia, less than five miles from the City Hall, well within the city limits, in a large cat-tail marsh comprising over ten acres and almost surrounded by manufacturing establishments. It was well out in the marsh, amidst a dense patch of tall reeds, attached securely to the blades and stalks,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet above water  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep. It contained four fresh eggs which were collected and three of them are now in the writer's collection; the fourth was accidentally broken.

The nest resembled a Long-billed Marsh Wren's in every respect. It was compactly made of dried heads of living cat-tails and marsh grass woven tightly together into an oval-shaped ball, and thickly lined with cat-tail down. It was covered with loose pieces of cat-tails, hanging from it and making it look much larger than it really was; and these pieces of rushes almost concealed the round entrance, a hole in the side, just above the middle about the size of a nickel five-cent piece. It was 7 inches long outside and 3 inches wide. There were no sham nests nearby.

The female was well seen, and she scolded vigorously while I despoiled her nest, behaving exactly like a Long-bill. The male was heard singing nearby, but was not observed, and his song differed somewhat from that of his larger relative. However, he was seen on June 14, when I made an unsuccessful search for the nest which I had left so as to induce the birds to lay the remainder of the eggs, nor could I find any other nest that I could positively identify as belonging to *Cistothorus stellaris*, although I hunted diligently. That the bird had a nest I am positive, but it was overlooked, as the marsh was a large one, with the cat-tails growing in large, dense patches.

It has been stated by some ornithologists that the nest of the Short-

billed Marsh Wren differs materially from the Longbill's domicile, and still others have said that the Short-bill does not nest over water or in company with their erratic relative. Yet the nest I found could not be distinguished by any one from a Long-bill's, and it was, as I have mentioned, over deep water and in a marsh inhabited by a large colony of Long-billed Marsh Wrens. As I found only one nest, however, I can not base any important conclusion upon it.

Further investigations by ornithologists who are not afraid of marsh wading in the vicinity of Philadelphia will no doubt lead to the discovery of the Short-billed Marsh Wren at other localities as a rare breeder, for there are many marshes and swamps along the Delaware and its tide-water tributaries that are never invaded by an ornithologist during the summer. It is a bird of local distribution everywhere, and as erratic as the Long-bill in its habits, and it may be found in the most unlooked for localities. I may mention in conclusion that there are one or two doubtful records of the nesting of the Short-billed Marsh Wren in this vicinity.—  
RICHARD F. MILLER, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

**Breeding of the Tufted Titmouse in Washtenaw County, Michigan.**—Of rare occurrence within Washtenaw County, Mich., the Tufted Titmouse (*Bæolophus bicolor*) has hitherto always been looked upon as a winter visitant. Some years, as in 1903, they have been fairly abundant, but generally speaking only an occasional one has been noted here during the months from late fall to early spring, but never as a breeding species. Mr. N. A. Wood of the University Museum has frequently stated that he believed the bird would eventually be found as a summer resident within the county.

On May 24, 1908, it was my good fortune to find a nest of this species in an extensive swamp of oak, ash, elm and maple with a tangled undergrowth of various shrubs, situated some seven or eight miles west of Ann Arbor. The discovery was one of those accidents, so to speak, that frequently occur in field-work and which lend an added charm to the study of bird-life. It came about in the following manner. While preparing to refresh the 'inner man' my ear caught the clear, whistled *peto, peto* of the Tufted Titmouse but the bird was not located until a few moments later. At that time my companion drew my attention rather suddenly to it on a rail-fence almost immediately in front of us where it appeared to be examining the half-decayed rails for insects. Presently it secured a large, white grub from one of them and with a whistle of exultation proceeded to beat and peck it about the head. Apparently becoming satisfied with its condition after that operation the bird flew off into the woods with its victim. Before its destination could be ascertained the titmouse was back again examining the trees, hanging onto the leaves and terminal twigs just like a Chickadee. Its sweet, plaintive note, *peto, peto* or *whe-o, whe-o*, was constantly in the air, coming from various parts of the wood-