

During the period between 1885-1890 the late Harry K. Jamison did a vast amount of field work in this territory and in his note books (now in the author's possession) I find records of the finding of two nests and the observation of many birds. And even prior to this time at least two sets were taken there by a collector named Preble. In 1904, Mr. Chas. H. Rodgers records in 'The Auk' his observations of a pair which evidently had young at this locality.

These seem to constitute the only breeding records of this species prior to the year 1908, when I decided to investigate the region in search of the birds. With this object in view I made several trips to the Wissahickon Valley in Fairmount Park and observed Water-Thrushes each time. On May 26, several were seen, and again on June 7, full-fledged young of at least two pairs were noted in company with the parents. At my suggestion my friend R. F. Miller searched through the region several times in late June and July and on every trip observed Water-Thrushes. On summing up the birds noted, we estimated that at least five pairs bred along the creek within a stretch of three miles.

In view of these data it would seem that though undoubtedly rare in the surrounding country, the Louisiana Water-Thrush may now claim, and probably always could claim, a place among the regular summer residents of the County of Philadelphia.—RICHARD C. HARLOW, *Pennsylvania State College*.

**A Spring Record for Bicknell's Thrush on Long Island.**—In looking over the series of Gray-cheeked Thrushes in the Brooklyn Institute Museum a few days ago I noticed one specimen that seemed very small. A careful examination showed it to be a typical example of Bicknell's Thrush. It is a male in nuptial plumage and was collected by the writer on the divide north of Jamaica May 22, 1900.—GEO. K. CHERRIE, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

**Albino Robins.**—A record of an individual albino of any variety of bird would be of value only as illustrating the fact that albinism, partial or complete, may occur in any avian species: it would, however, be of considerable interest, and of some importance could one follow the varied fortunes and vicissitudes of any given albino bird.

This is denied us through the relative uncommonness of pure albino forms, an uncommonness which seemingly substantiates the idea that all such forms must perish early, probably long before any opportunity to breed and transmit the peculiarity is possible. Consequently any observations on a succession of albinos emanating from the same locality are worthy of record. Hence this record of experiences had during the summer of 1908, concerning albino robins, and of observations communicated to the writer by obliging friends.

Through the courtesy of Mr. A. H. Felger of Denver, the writer is enabled to state that three pure albino robins were seen in City Park, Denver,

during the summer of 1905, all apparently from one nest, and two more in the summer of 1906 in the same place, all being birds of the year. This park is within three blocks of the writer's home; it is well covered by a large variety of trees, has a considerable water supply, and forms an ideal home for many of our summer resident birds.

There is no record that any of these albinos returned to the park during any succeeding year.

A son of one of my neighbors saw a young pure albino robin in the immediate vicinity of my home during the summer of 1907.

On June 3, 1908, the writer received a live young robin, a pure albino, which was one of a brood of four robins (all the others being apparently normal) raised in a neighbor's yard about two hundred feet from the writer's house. A second young pure albino robin was given to the writer six days later (June 9), it having been raised in a nest half a block to the rear of the first albino's nest, and on June 11 (eight days after the receipt of the first), a third young pure albino robin was presented to the writer. This last one was found about the premises of Mrs. Ernest Knaebel, distant about half a mile from the location wherein were found the first two. These birds were all very tame and allowed themselves to be caught without fear or resistance. Everyone was a typical albino, with every feather pure white, and with pink feet, legs, and eyes, and white bill.

If any one of these birds were put in such a position that its head was between a strong light (the sun, or a bright lamp) and the observer, the effect was startling, the eye viewed by the observer shining like a glowing coal. This transillumination through both eyes illustrated strikingly the absence of all pigment in the iris and retina, and showed, too, how nearly opposite are a bird's eyes, and demonstrated that in a young bird the interocular septum (the perpendicular plate of the ethmoid) is cartilaginous, and remarkably translucent.

All of these birds were lively, and soon learned to take worms from the hand. They were all given to Mr. Felger who tried to raise them with the help of a friend experienced in successfully raising other young robins. These three albinos, notwithstanding that they all ate well, died within two or three weeks of capture, of an obscure intestinal disorder. The writer is inclined to believe, through the testimony of friends qualified to speak on the matter, that it is not very difficult to bring up nestling robins by hand, and feels that the failure, in experienced hands, to rear these albinos lends color to the belief that albinos are inherently of weak constitution.

It will be seen from the above that we have to deal with an unbroken series of albino robins observed during four succeeding seasons all in an area not to exceed one mile in diameter.

It seems reasonable to assume that these birds all emanated from a pair, or their descendants, originally and perhaps continually nesting in City Park. The inheritability of albinistic traits is undeniable and it is conceivable that this trait may be cropping out in the succeeding generations

of robins derived from this hypothetical pair in City Park, though most of the later generations may show no albinism at all. Considerable probability is lent to this hypothesis by the fact that the mother of the bird of June 3, 1908, was decidedly *white* on the belly and breast. It came a number of times to feed the albino young one while the young bird was on the writer's premises, and gave ample opportunity to note this variation from the normal. The writer also noted later on during the summer just passed in the same neighborhood two young robins which were nearly gray all over, both showing very little blackish even on the head or back; one of these two birds had the right outer tail feather pure white, and the left one half white. The coming summer will be of more than usual interest in anticipation of seeing about the writer's neighborhood these partial albino birds, or other young pure albinos.

The almost complete absence of pure white species of birds inhabiting dark areas like forests, and the commonness of white forms in bright areas like the sea, or seashore, may be accounted for by detrimental environmental conspicuousness, or by beneficial inconspicuousness, respectively; one might infer from the failure of these six albinos of 1905, 1906, and 1907 to return to the region of origin, that they perished through being conspicuous marks for predaceous birds.

These observations on the three young of 1908 shed no light on the assumption held by some writers that albinos are more apt to be females, because the sex of but one of the three could with certainty be determined; it was a male.—W. H. BERGTOLD, M. D., *Denver, Colo.*

**Unusual Dates for some Birds at New Haven, Conn.**—White-throated Sparrows have been present in large numbers in Edgewood Park up to date (Jan. 2, 1909). Five Rusty Blackbirds have been in the same Park since December 26. I saw a Fox Sparrow on Dec. 22 and two of them on Jan. 2. On Dec. 22, near Lighthouse Point I saw two Red-winged Blackbirds and about twenty-five White-winged Crossbills. The date cannot be called unusual for the Crossbills, but they are rare here. On Dec. 26 and 28, I saw a male Towhee in Edgewood Park. On Dec. 21, at Mitchell's Hill, I saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and on Dec. 25, at Saltonstall Ridge, I saw four Red-breasted Nuthatches. Robins and Bluebirds have been seen occasionally, and on Dec. 25 Mr. A. W. Honywill, Jr., saw a Hermit Thrush at Mitchell's Hill. On the next day Mr. Honywill and I saw the thrush at the same place. These birds were all positively identified although none of them were taken.—CLIFFORD H. PANGBURN, *New Haven, Conn.*

**Unusual Records for Massachusetts.**—*Chætura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT. I saw three in Sharon, Mass., on Oct. 12, 1907, which is apparently the latest date for the State. One of them flew almost directly overhead, affording perfectly satisfactory identification.