

was examined that could be reasonably expected to feed extensively on the insect, and its stomach contained remains of some of the pests. Judging from the fondness of birds for the clover leaf weevil (*Phytonomus punctatus*) and other species of the genus, a large number of birds will probably be found to prey upon the alfalfa weevil.—W. L. M.

Corrections and Additions to January Installment of Economic Ornithology.—In the list of mosquito-eating birds on p. 141 of the January, 1911, Auk is included the Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus "carolinensis"*). The specific name should of course be *vociferus*. On the authority of Jas. H. Gaut, formerly of the Biological Survey, the name of the Northern Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta t. lepida*) may be added to this list. The writer has recently found mosquitos in the gizzard of a Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*).

Three additional species also are noted in Bulletin 3 of the West Virginia Experiment Station; but the correctness of these records is said to be open to question.

An additional reference to tick-eating birds is Auk, XXIV, 1907, p. 401, where E. S. Cameron states that the Brewer Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), the Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), and the Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phœniceus arctolegus*) feed upon sheep ticks in Montana. A newly discovered enemy of the Texas-fever tick is the Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*).—W. L. M.

Faxon on Brewster's Warbler.¹—This paper is a most important contribution to our knowledge of Brewster's, or the White-throated Warbler, *Helminthophila leucobronchialis*, and practically settles the question whether this is a hybrid or a legitimate species. It is a record of a series of observations made on three families of warblers during the summer of 1910.

In two cases the male birds were Golden-winged Warblers and the females Brewster's Warblers; in the third instance both parents were Golden-wings; the young of the first two pairs lacked the clear markings of the Golden-wing, the young of the third pair were unmistakable Golden-wings. The detailed observations on the three families just noted are followed by a statement and discussion of the various hypotheses advanced as to the status of Brewster's Warbler, some sixteen cases being reviewed briefly. Finally the known facts are viewed in the light of Mendel's Law, the inference from this, and from the known facts being that Brewster's Warbler is a hybrid between *Helminthophila pinus* and *H. chrysoptera*, a deduction quite in keeping with the fact that no instance is known of a mated pair of Brewster's Warbler.

¹ Brewster's Warbler. By Walter Faxon. Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Harvard College, Vol. XL, No. 2, pp. 57-78, with one colored plate (to be supplied).

If the information gained is important, the manner in which it is imparted is somewhat exasperating to one unacquainted with previous papers on the subject. The title of the memoir affords no clue to its import; there is no statement of the problem under consideration, and for the first ten pages there is nothing to hint that there is any question as to the specific validity of the bird under consideration; furthermore in no instance do the common and scientific names occur in conjunction. Nevertheless we are much indebted to Mr. Faxon for the memoir.—F. A. L.

'**Cassinia.**'¹—The present issue contains a biographical sketch of Dr. William Gambel, by Witmer Stone; an 'Unpublished poem by Alexander Wilson,' by Robt. P. Sharples; 'Breeding of the Raven in Pennsylvania,' by Richard C. Harlow; 'The Wood Thrush,' by Cornelius Weygant; 'Nesting of the Blackburnian Warbler in Pike Co., Pa.,' by David E. Harrower; 'Recollections of Wild Pigeons in Southeastern Pennsylvania, 1864-1881,' by John G. Dillin; 'Report on the Spring Migration of 1910,' by Witmer Stone; the usual 'Abstract of Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club for 1910'; 'Bibliography for 1910' of papers relating to the birds of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, and the usual 'Bird Club Notes' and list of officers and members. The frontispiece is a view of the building occupied by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia from 1826-1840, at the corner of Twentieth and Sansom Streets, Philadelphia.

Mr. Stone's biographical sketch of Dr. William Gambel, well known to ornithologists through the various species of North American birds associated with his name, as described by him or named in his honor, presents the little that is known of his personal history. He is supposed to have been born "somewhere in eastern Pennsylvania or southern New Jersey, and to have early attracted the attention of Thomas Nuttall"; but his actual place of birth appears to be unknown, nor is anything known to Mr. Stone of his family history or of his relatives, nor has he been able to find a portrait of this distinguished pioneer in ornithological research in the wilds of the far West. From Mr. Stone's sketch we learn that he was employed for a short time at the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, and in 1847 was a candidate for the curatorship, but was defeated by the late Dr. Joseph Leidy. He served, however, as Recording Secretary in 1848-49, and on the Publication Committee, 1845-49. When little more than twenty-one years of age he made an overland trip to California, returning by way of Valparaiso and Cape Horn to Philadelphia in 1845. On this trip he secured the various new species of North American birds described by him soon after his return. In the winter of 1845 he began the study of medicine, obtaining his medical degree in 1848. In April, 1849, he started on a second overland journey to the Pacific coast, leaving Inde-

¹ *Cassinia*, A Bird-Annual: Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club of Philadelphia. No. XIV, 1910. 8vo, pp. 61, and frontispiece, March, 1911.