

northeastern Philadelphia during the fall of 1912, making that year a notable one for its irregular invasion. It arrived as early as September 4, when I observed the first one, which is my earliest record by 21 days, and remained until November 12.

A remarkable feature, to me, about the occurrence of this little *Sitta* here during that fall, was their habit of frequenting water courses fringed with dense growths of giant ragweeds (*Ambrosia trifida*), in which they sought food on the thick stems, petioles and leaves, often feeding close to the ground. I always regarded this nuthatch as a denizen of the forest and its occurrence in these weedy growths surprised me. They exhibited no fear as I entered the weeds, and if I kept quiet, they fed fearlessly within close proximity of me, often only a yard away.

On September 12, I observed in *Ambrosia* weeds along Frankford Creek, at Frankford, seven Red-bellied Nuthatches, four being in sight at one time. This is the largest number of these birds I have ever seen at one time.—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Frankford, Phila., Pa.*

The Acadian Chickadee (*Penthestes hudsonicus littoralis*) at Watch Hill, R. I.—On the morning of October 30, as I stepped from the house, it was obvious that there was a phenomenal flight of Chickadees (*P. atricapillus*), they were everywhere, in the bushes, hopping over stones in a field, and strung out along a telegraph wire. Some hours later I was walking down a road through some woods, bordered on each side by tangles of vines and bushes, full, of course, of the omnipresent Chickadees. Suddenly close behind me I heard a familiar, hoarse, *tsi'h-a, da'y, da'y*, bringing back memories of days spent in the north woods. I turned quickly around, discovered an Acadian Chickadee about twelve feet away working his way through the vines, calling repeatedly to his comrades, the Black-capped Chickadees, not far away. The dark brown cap, the brownish back and the rufous sides contrasted very markedly with the gray, black and white of *atricapillus*. Even at a distance of 100 feet I found that the Acadian was easily distinguishable from the common species with binoculars. The next day, October 31, a flock of four were feeding in some bushes bordering the golf-grounds. As this was the second record of the occurrence of this species in the state, and there was what might almost be called a flight for so rare a bird, I tried to collect one with a cap and golf-sticks but was unsuccessful, succeeding merely in getting very close. On November 5 several miles away on Napatree Point I saw a single Acadian Chickadee in a little tree near some cottages, and a little farther on two more climbing over a crate. These were the last birds I saw.

When I arrived in New York City, I received interesting confirmation of my observation in that this species had been noted around Boston by several observers in several localities. Recently, I have been informed that they have been reported from Connecticut. Previous to this winter its status in southern New England seems to have been as follows — very rare winter visitor to Boston, one record for Rhode Island, and one for Connecticut.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *New York City.*