

a solitary bird at the edge of a group of native spruce and hemlock saplings, near one corner of my garden.

This garden is a recent inclosure, and most of the trees and shrubs in it are young. One is disposed to believe that otherwise it would sooner have harbored examples of both of the warblers which form the subject of the present note.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

Cape May and Tennessee Warblers in Philadelphia.—In 'Cassinia' for 1913 (p. 36) I recorded these two species in a small yard 20 by 40 feet in the rear of my home in the thickly built up section of West Philadelphia. A Tennessee Warbler on September 12, an adult and two young Cape Mays on September 21, and two young on September 30. During the autumn of 1914, they were still more frequently noted; a Tennessee on October 1, and two or three Cape Mays on September 14, 24, 25, October 12 and 20. The yard contains rose bushes and a patch of native shrubbery as well as a small tree. The birds spent most of their time in the rose bushes picking off the aphides and allowed me to approach to within a few feet of them. Numerous records of the Cape Mays have been made at a number of nearby localities, but these, well within the city proper seem particularly interesting.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

San Lucas Verdin in Arizona.—In the October number of 'The Auk' (Vol. XXXI, p. 543) is a record of the San Lucas Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps lamprocephalus*) taken by Mr. H. Wright at Mecca, Cal., March 19, 1911.

Recently I received a typical specimen of this little known species (Mus. H. K. C., No. 18003) which was taken 20 years previously, and bearing the original label of the collector, Mr. F. T. Pember: "collected at Gila Bend, Ariz., April 18, 1891, ♂ L. 4.30, Ex. 6.64, W. 2., T. 1.90 inches."

Gila Bend is a small place in southwestern Arizona, elevation 1000 ft. It is about 90 miles north of the Mexican line and 100 miles east of the Colorado River.

This bird is even smaller than the California specimen, and can instantly be recognized upon comparison with true *Auriparis flaviceps*.—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Ill.*

Bluegray Gnatcatcher nesting in Wisconsin.—On May 31, 1914, in company with Mr. Normann DeWitt Betts, I found a pair of Gnatcatchers (*Poliophtila cærulea cærulea*) nesting at Lake Waubesa, Wisc. This is probably close to the northern breeding limit for the interior of the state.—A. W. SCHORGER, *Madison, Wisc.*

Robin's Nests.—Last spring, when Robins were beginning to build nests, a farm laborer in Champaign Co., central Illinois, removed an old nest from the crotch of an apple tree, and place it upon the tongue of a binder in a shed, near the farm residence. Although a year old, weather-

beaten, and stripped of its loose interior furnishing, the nest was essentially intact. Its walls of dark clay were strongly reinforced with tough grasses, and the foundation, bearing the impress of the two branches between which it had been held, was unusually generous in its proportions. During the winter the nest doubtless had contained snow and water, which, owing to the small soil particles of the clay, probably escaped almost altogether through evaporation, for the nest as it stood would hold water like a cup. I should estimate its weight at fully 18 ounces. In our orchard in Missouri I used to observe a number of robins' nests in the spring that had successfully weathered the winter, and it had often occurred to me that the birds would exhibit commendable economy if instead of building new nests they would remodel the old structures; but if this ever was done it escaped my notice. However, the nest that the farm employee placed upon the harvester tongue attracted a pair of robins, and I observed the female sitting in it. She evidently was getting the feel of it, and deciding whether or not to accept it in preference to the labor required to construct a new one. Being interested in the matter I asked the proprietor of the farm to report to me a fortnight later what the pair had decided. He wrote that they had "taken it" for the season. I should like to know whether this is a common practice among robins, or any other species. Charles Dixon in his 'Birds' Nests,' first edition, published in 1902 by Grant Richards in London, says, on page 242: "... various species of swallows breed in the disused nest of the Oven-bird . . . We might almost presume that these birds have relinquished the habit of forming a mud shell or outer nest when they discovered that these mud 'ovens' saved them the trouble of making one for themselves." Purple Martins will year after year occupy the same house or box. It is but one step further to an old nest in the case of robins.—DEWITT C. WING, *Chicago, Ill.*

Two New Records for British Columbia.—LARK BUNTING (*Calamospiza melanocorys*). On June 8, 1914, I collected a male Lark Bunting in a thicket of hawthorns on the shore of Okanagan Lake at Okanagan Landing.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). On October 6, 1913, I collected a male White-throated Sparrow that was with a large flock of Nuttall's and Golden-crowned Sparrows at Saanich, Vancouver Island. Both these birds are now in the provincial museum.

SITKA KINGLET (*Regulus calendula grinnelli*). A female taken at Okanagan Landing, December 29, 1913, is the first record east of the Cascades. A series collected here in summer have been identified as *calendula* by Dr. Louis B. Bishop. There are no winter records for this form.

BLACK MERLIN (*Falco columbarius suckleyi*). On February, 1913, I collected a Pigeon Hawk at Okanagan Landing, identified as *suckleyi* by Mr. Allan Brooks. This form is a straggler east of the Cascades.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). Usu-