

ducks and geese belonging to the gunners. Here we were able to approach the sparrows close enough to observe them well without a glass. Later, one of the birds sat in plain sight on a beach plum bush for fully five minutes, allowing us to study him thoroughly from various angles. We were astonished at this behavior in a bird with so well earned a reputation for secretiveness and elusiveness. The explanation was, however, forthcoming. The gunners told us that these two sparrows came every day and fed among their captive fowl. In this way, apparently, they had come to be quite reconciled to "neighboring" with humans, indeed thought nothing of it!—HELEN GRANGER WHITTLE. *Cambridge, Mass.*

**The Green-tailed Towhee (*Oberholseria chlorura*) on the coast of South Carolina.**—On the afternoon of January 18, 1921, I went to the beach to see whether the Whistling Swan had come back to the place where I had seen it the previous afternoon, but instead of seeing it I saw a bird in my yard with a chestnut crown patch feeding in a thicket of lavender bushes near high water mark and which, at first glance, I took to be a Swamp Sparrow. As I had yet to see a Swamp Sparrow in *winter* plumage with a well marked chestnut crown patch, and as the bird at a distance looked much larger than a Swamp Sparrow, I lost no time watching it but went hurriedly to my house for my gun. Upon coming back to the place where I had last seen it I found this strange bird in an adjacent lot and shot it. Upon securing it I was amazed to find that I had taken a Green-tailed Towhee—a bird of the far western states. The specimen is an adult male in fine plumage and was very obese. This bird must have arrived in my yard sometime in November, 1920, as the migration of the Fringillidae is over before the last of that month.

The capture of this Green-tailed Towhee makes the sixteenth far western bird and the forty-fourth species that I have added to the fauna of South Carolina.

There is a Virginia record of this Towhee by Mr. G. C. Embody ('Auk,' XXV, 1908, 224) of a bird taken near Portsmouth on January 26, 1908, by Mr. John B. Lewis and in the collection of Mr. Embody. To what extent the list of South Carolina birds can be increased by the capture of far western birds there can be no conjecture.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

**The Bohemian Waxwing in Iowa in Vast Numbers.**—An article, showing such thorough investigation as does that one entitled "Bohemian Waxwings in New England" by the late Horace W. Wright, which was published in 'The Auk' for January, 1921, is certain to prompt reminiscence and review. Some of us recall the days when we, too, entertained the Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycila garrula*) about our homes. Mr. Wright's article shows that the winter of 1908-1909 was a banner season for this species in the New England states, and a review of the literature on the subject reveals references to the appearance of this Waxwing in most of

the states in the northern tier from Washington to Maine, as well as in the Canadian provinces. Another fact, brought to light by this review, is that Montana is the only state from which the Bohemian Waxwing is reported regularly in the Christmas Bird Census.

It was in the winter of 1908-1909 that the most notable visit to Clayton County, Iowa, was made by this Waxwing. It was reported to have been seen in small flocks in several places. Most of my observations on these birds were made in our own dooryard or that of our nearest neighbor, where stood a mountain ash tree, loaded with berries. These observations were similar to those that have been published by others, therefore will not be repeated. But there was one feature of this visit quite out of the ordinary: On December 29, 1908, the day the Bohemian Waxwings arrived, a vast flock of birds was seen by two observers at points a half mile apart, and as there was a difference of about an hour in the time of the two observations there may have been two flocks or the first flock may have divided into smaller flocks. The first observer was Mr. Jerome Jones, who stated that soon after daylight a vast flock of birds flew over his head, "millions of them" he estimated; that they covered the sky and were several minutes in passing. When a boy, he had an interest in birds above the average, and is a man careful in his statements. The other observer was Mrs. D. A. Wright, whose description of the flock was written down soon after it passed and was substantially as follows: About eight o'clock in the morning she saw a flock, containing thousands of birds, fly northeast. They flew as closely together as birds ever do and covered a space from two hundred to three hundred feet in width and were two or three minutes in passing. She believed they were Bohemian Waxwings, nine of which for the following eighteen days frequented her mountain ash tree.

There seems to be no other species to which to assign the birds of this great flock. In corroboration of this conclusion we have this quotation "Professor Baird mentioned that Mr. Drexler saw 'millions' on Powder River, (Montana) in flocks rivalling in extent those of the Wild Pigeon." This is quoted in 'The Auk' for January, 1908, by E. S. Cameron in his account of the vast numbers of Bohemian Waxwings that visit Montana in winter. Again in 'The Auk' for October, 1917, Willoughby P. Lowe writes of this Waxwing: "The enormous quantities that visit Pueblo Co. [Colorado] during some winters is astonishing, densely packed flocks two miles long and a quarter of a mile wide occur. When a Pigeon Hawk dashes into their midst the sound of their wings must be heard to be appreciated."—ALTHEA R. SHERMAN, *National*, via McGregor, Iowa.

**The Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*) seen Killing a Large Bird.**—On December 17, 1920, while hunting in a teepelo swamp near my house I saw a Loggerhead of normal size attack and kill, a very large Phoebe (*Sayornis phæbe*). The attack was so quickly made that the Phoebe was dead before I could stop the Shrike.