

THE MOCKINGBIRD IN THE BOSTON REGION AND
IN NEW ENGLAND AND CANADA.BY HORACE W. WRIGHT.¹

The purpose of this paper is to review recorded occurrences of the Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*) in New England from the earliest records to the present time and to indicate thereby a definite increase in its representation during the period covered, especially in more recent years. In Samuel's 'Birds of New England,' 1883, p. 168, originally published in 1867, it is stated of the Mockingbird, "This bird is so exceedingly rare in New England that it can scarcely be regarded otherwise than as an accidental visitor; and Massachusetts is certainly its northern limit." In a 'Key to North American Birds' by Elliott Coues, fifth edition, 1903, originally published in 1872, the range of the species is given as "The United States from Atlantic to Pacific, southerly; rarely north to New England, and not common north of 38°; though known to reach 42°". In 'A History of North American Birds' by Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway, 1905, originally published in 1874, it is stated, "The Mockingbird is distributed on the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts to Florida. It is by no means a common bird in New England, but instances of its breeding as far as Springfield, Mass., are of constant (?) occurrence, and a single individual was seen by Mr. Boardman near Calais, Maine." Minot in his 'Land Birds and Game Birds of New England,' 1876, states, "A very rare or almost accidental summer visitor to Southern New England." Mr. William Brewster in the revised edition of the work, 1895, states in a qualifying footnote to *Mimus polyglottos*, "A local and very uncommon, but probably quite regular summer resident of southern New England, seen oftenest on or near the coast. One or two specimens have been taken in

¹This paper was completed by its author at the very time of his death, in June 1920. As a comprehensive and detailed review of the status of the Mockingbird at the northeastern bounds of its range, it is of special interest, but since in its original form it seemed rather too long for a general article in the already overcrowded pages of 'The Auk', it has been somewhat shortened by condensing the review of published records, to which the reader may be referred for fuller details if desired, and by omitting here and there certain less revelant passages. Otherwise it is substantially as it was left by its author.—G. M. Allen.

Massachusetts in winter." Mr. Brewster in his 'Birds of the Cambridge Region,' 1906, characterizes the Mockingbird as a "rare transient visitor in spring and autumn and very rare summer resident." The review will show, I think, that there has been in the last twenty years a notable increase of occurrence of winter resident birds extending even into Maine, as compared with the characterization of the Mockingbird by Mr. Brewster in 1906 as "a rare transie it visitor in spring and autumn," without mentioning winter residence, and by his footnote in 1895 stating, "One or two specimens have been taken in Massachusetts in winter," and that this increase in the northern limit of range of winter resident birds points to an increasing permanent residence of the Mockingbird in New England.

THE BOSTON REGION.

My own experience with the Mockingbird as a wild bird in the region of Boston dates from 1902, in which year one (1)¹ was observed on October 16 in a cemetery in Melrose. In 1903, a Mockingbird (2) was first seen in Landen's Lane in the Jamaica Plain district of Boston on February 26 and 27. This bird, presumably the same, moved into the Arnold Arboretum, in close proximity to the lane, in early March, and on April 21 was heard singing. In December of this year a Mockingbird (3) was seen at East Point in Nahant on the 28th day, and upon another trip there on January 30, a month later, was again observed in the same locality. This location was much exposed to winds from the ocean, and yet there was shrubbery enough to afford sufficient cover, apparently, to attract the bird to the spot. On the December date the record shows the temperature to have been almost stationery at 16° during the middle of the day, with fresh northwest winds. On the January date the minimum was 18° but on previous days of the month there had been minima of 5°, minus 1°, zero, and minus 6°, as Boston records of temperature. The mercury would certainly have fallen several degrees lower than these figures at Nahant, where the Mocker was wintering.

In 1904, a Mockingbird (4) was again seen in the Arboretum

¹ The figures in parentheses denote the succession of individuals observed.

on January 12, and on this date only. In the same year one (5) was observed in the park beside Jamaica Pond on January 6, 7, 13, 23, and February 1, and then was lost to our ken, but Messrs. F. G. and M. C. Blake recorded this bird as late as April 6. In December in the same locality, where had been Francis Parkman's suburban residence and rose garden in earlier years, a Mocker again appeared and was observed on the 19th and 23d of this month, and on January 2 following was seen on the Charles Sargent estate adjoining. Perhaps, these were different individuals, but they occupied so precisely the same portion of the park that it seems not improbably that the two occurrences should be regarded as those of the same individual. In both instances the bird was strictly a winter visitor, and, so far as my observation extended, sought other locations after January 2 and April 6 respectively. My weather record for the entire month of January 1904 is, "very cold and stormy; snowfall of the month thirty-six inches; sleighing uninterrupted." At the close of this year, namely, on December 23 and 26, again a Mockingbird (6) appeared in the Arboretum and became essentially a 1905 bird, for it continued to be observed on January 2, 16, 18, 24, February 2, 10, 22, and March 2, 7, 22, 31, after which it was no more recorded. On the later March dates no song had been heard. On February 2, however, the bird was in quite close proximity to a Northern Shrike, and both birds gave musical calls and whistles, the Shrike voicing itself rather the more variedly on this occasion. The record is that the two birds were within a hundred feet of each other on their respective perches in front of the administration building. Mr. Charles E. Faxon, whose fine, artistic work in illustrating Professor Sargent's 'The Silva of North America,' was done within this building, told me he had been puzzled over the identity of these two birds, for at one time he would see a Shrike and at another time a Mockingbird, but had failed to see both at the same time and clear up the mystery. Once more in December of this year a Mocker (7) appeared in the southerly section of the Sargent estate, near Jamaica Pond and was recorded on the 27th day, and once later on January 30, 1906, after which date the bird was not again seen.

Also in January, 1906, again a Mockingbird (8) was seen in Nahant on the 19th day, this occurrence being near the centre of

the town, where the peninsula is much wider than at East Point and there are more sheltered spots. No other individuals than these two January birds were recorded in 1906. Mrs. Edmund Bridge had observed this bird on December 20 preceding. No individuals appeared in the late autumn or early winter of this year in places which had now come to be associated with the Mockingbird as its winter haunts, namely, the Arboretum, and the park about Jamaica Pond and its immediate vicinity.

The year 1907 opened in the same way with no records of a Mocker in January, February or March. But in the fall, on November 8, one (9) was seen in the Fresh Pond Reservation, perching in shrubbery on the west side, while below on the ground an early Tree Sparrow was feeding. This bird was not again seen upon subsequent visits to the reservation.

During the entire winter of 1907-8, a Mockingbird (10) in West Medford was under observation by Mrs. Edmund Bridge. By her kindness I saw this bird on February 10. Mrs. Bridge states in 'The Auk,'¹ "From November 17, 1907, until April 20, 1908, we had a Mockingbird on our place the greater part of each day, with few exceptions, feeding on suet, barberries, and cedar berries. The bird, presumably a female, as it did not sing, scolded and drove away the Shrike, Jays, Cedarbirds, and Robins."

This was a winter when, according to my records, "Birds are very scarce. Land-birds are very noticeably absent, or present in the smallest numbers. Water-birds are also in diminished numbers, scarcely a species being as abundant as usual. Yet we have the White-winged Gulls in unusual number at the Lynne and Swampscot beaches and elsewhere, at least six Iceland, several Glaucous, and a Kumlien's." On the whole it was a rather mild winter with only five near-zero mornings occurring at the end of January and in early February.

In February, 1908, on a visit to Franklin Park on the 18th a Mockingbird (11) was observed there. And in April visits to the Park, two individuals (11, 12) were seen on the 14th and 22d. On the former date both birds were silent at the time of my visit, but on the latter date the two were seen several times together for a

¹ Auk, XXV, 1908, p. 320.

moment during a stay of one and one half hours, and while one of the two was silent, the other sang freely, mocking very distinctly fifteen of our common species. The record gives these mockings as the Bluebird's mellow notes, the Blue Jay's whistles and calls, the Flicker's flicking notes, the Brown Thrasher's song, the Catbird's calls and song, the Chickadee's *dee-dee-dee-dee*, the Purple Finch's call, the White-breasted Nuthatch's song, the Sparrow Hawk's "killy killy," the Northern Shrike's whistles and calls, the Red-winged Blackbird's whistles, the Phoebe's song, the Robin's song and cackles, the Crow's spring notes, and the Song Sparrow's song. This was my first experience in falling in with a good mocker. His performance was given mostly between 9 and 10 A. M. On April 25 this bird was again found singing in the same locality and added the Towhee's call to his repertoire previously heard. The second bird did not appear.

On April 11, 1909, Mr. Richard M. Marble informed me he observed a Mockingbird (13) in Franklin Park, further record of which was not obtained. In the late autumn once again a Mocker (14) was present in the Arboretum and was observed on November 13 and 22, singing freely on both of these dates, and was also seen on December 4, 14, 20, and January 31 following, when he was naturally silent. And when the spring of 1910 had come and on April 6 I visited the Arboretum, this bird undoubtedly the same, was again in song, and on the following day two individuals (14, 15) were present and both singing. As neither of these birds did any mocking, but sang only their own song, it may be assumed, perhaps, that they were young males and inexperienced songsters, although not necessarily so, since it is testified of Mocking birds in the South that it is not unusual to find a male who is not a mocker, or is a mocker to a very limited extent. One of these singing males continued under observation to the end of April, but the other dropped out of notice at once.

In this year, 1910, two individuals (16,17), quite widely separated, were present in Franklin Park and seen on January 12. I record that one of these birds was "calling loudly and incessantly" for a time and that "I had not before heard this sharp call from any of the Mockingbirds hitherto met with, which have invariably been silent during the winter season."

When December came, as had been not unusual in our experience, a Mockingbird (18) appeared in Olmsted Park by Leverett Pond and was seen on the 13th day by Mr. Barron Brainerd and on the 17th by Mrs. Bridge. Frequent walks through the park during the early months of the year following revealed this bird there throughout January, February, March, and April to the 17th day. On March 10 the bird had begun to sing and continued to be heard in song to the day of final record. On March 29, he mocked several common species, and on April 8, he gave a fuller performance, mimicking at least fifteen species, including Blue Jay, Bluebird, Robin, Phoebe, Goldfinch, Sparrow Hawk, Chickadee, Brown Thrasher, Catbird, Northern Shrike, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Crested Flycatcher, Downy Woodpecker, Flicker, and Bobolink. When the walk was taken on April 20, no Mockingbird was heard or seen, nor upon subsequent days.

In this year, 1911, in Riverway Park, near Longwood Avenue, a Mockingbird (19) was observed on February 9, 17, 23, March 1 and 7. And on March 13 and 17 two individuals (19, 20) were present in this park, one in song and the other silent, thus suggesting a female, and, perhaps, a pair. These birds continued to be under observation, one or both during the remainder of March and up to April 8 inclusive, beyond which date neither was in evidence. One bird continued a songster without mimickings, and the other bird was not heard in song. Mr. E. E. Caduc informed me that on March 19 he saw still another individual (21) in this park, passing three Mockingbirds successively according to his careful and discerning observation, and the bird located by Leverett Pond constituting a fourth in less than a mile of the parkway bordering Muddy River on the Brookline side.

When the fall of 1911 came, again a Mockingbird (22) was present in this park and was recorded on October 12, November 19, 28, December 25, and January 18 the year following. And in Olmsted Park by Leverett Pond a Mocker (23) again wintered with many records of observation from December 24 through January, February, and March, to April 3, 1912. On March 9 and 14 this bird softly sang the song of the species only, without mocking, within the shrubbery at the very entrance to the park at Huntington Avenue, while the bird of the previous year, which

had also spent the entire winter and early spring farther up in the park, had sung exclusively as a mocker. The same winter a third Mockingbird (24) was under observation at Chestnut Hill Reservoir with records from January 18 to April 4. This bird was not heard in song and was assumed to be a female.

Once more, when the fall of 1912 came, a Mockingbird (25) was seen in Olmsted Park by Leverett Pond, being first noted on October 18 and repeatedly seen afterward through the winter and early spring to April 13, 1913. In October and on November 3 and 14, and again in March on the 16th day and in April this bird was in song, executing, however, few distinguishable mimickings. After the date named in April it was not in evidence throughout the later spring and summer, but re-appeared in the same locality and on nearly the same day, presumably the same bird, in October, and was first recorded on the 19th day, when he was in song, and again on the 30th day, when he sang very beautifully, so that I record him as "The first singer of all the individuals which I have heard in the succession of years. There were no harsh notes, and there were few pauses in his song, and much variety, surpassing other winter examples which I have heard." He was still in song on November 17, and he remained in his chosen location and was recorded in December, and in January, February, March and April, 1914, being heard in song on March 29 and up to April 10, after which no records were obtained, and there was an apparent summer absence. But in October a Mockingbird was again in evidence in this locality, first recorded on the 19th day, and on November 25 as still in song and occupying the same oak as did the bird of the previous year, therefore seeming to be the same individual returned to former winter quarters. But in subsequent walks through this park no Mockingbird was seen, and this bird, presuming it to be the same individual, disappeared from our ken after three successive appearances in successive Octobers, the first two of which were followed with full winter residence continuing into the month of April, the 13th and 10th days respectively.

In the spring of 1915, on March 26, a Mockingbird (26) again was recorded in Riverway Park, scolding sharply as Bronzed Grackles flew into the shrubbery which it occupied. On April 12,

this bird was again seen, and on May 14 was still present and singing. In the autumn once more an individual (27) appeared in Olmsted Park beside Leverett Pond, being first recorded on October 8, when it "gave some very clear, beautiful whistles." On November 11 it was still in song and produced several mimickings. This bird was recorded also in December, January, and February of the winter of 1915-16, but not after February 10. On that day it had wandered beyond the confines of the park, and was found calling sharply and constantly on the premises of a residence on Allerton St., and, perhaps, following the neighborhood through, found a favorable spot of its choice beyond the confines of the park.

In our enumeration of Mockingbirds observed in the region of Boston, mostly within its precincts, we come now to one whose permanence of residence and powers of mimicry far surpass the record of any of the before mentioned birds. On January 10, 1915, this Mockingbird (28) was first seen in the Arboretum, the observation of which has continued with but temporary interruptions to the present time. Mr. Charles E. Clarke 'phones me to-day, while I have been engaged on this paper, that yesterday, January 26, 1920, he saw this Mockingbird still in the Arboretum, having wandered up the side of Bussey Hill from the shrub garden, its usual haunt. Unlike all the other individuals which have been enumerated this bird has summered and wintered there for five years, and has now entered upon the sixth year of his residence. In no one of the seasons has there been any evidence that he has had a mate, or that there has been a nesting of the species. Yet this bird has been a most joyous singer throughout all the regular seasons of song, both spring, summer, and fall, year by year, and has shown no disposition to wander elsewhere from any spirit of discontent or restlessness to find a mate. He has become a fixed permanent resident, braving all the rigors of severe winters and luxuriating in all the spring, summer, and autumn efflorescence and fruitage of this richly stocked park, in which are grown all the trees and shrubs which can be cultivated by a high order of intelligence in this climatic zone. Our resident Mockingbird has chosen the section known as the shrub garden for his haunt. A profusion of berries is here matured season by season for winter food, and thickly branching shrubs afford shelter from cold searching winds.

As evidence of the hardiness of this particular bird, it may be stated that he went safely through the winter of 1917-18, when there was a temperature on one morning of eighteen degrees below zero Fahrenheit, with below zero registration of four to ten degrees on four other consecutive mornings, December 29 to January 2 inclusive. I asked the superintendent of the grounds if he knew of any assistance being rendered the Mocker in this extraordinary test of its endurance, and he replied that he knew of none. This Mocker, self-reliant and unaided, braved all this severity, and again very low temperatures, later in January, and a cold wave in February, which once more sent the mercury down to a dozen degrees below zero. On March 23 he had begun to sing, perhaps, some days earlier. The only period of the year when this Mockingbird has passed from observation has been in August and September, when having completed his spring and summer singing he has probably gone into retirement for the annual moult. Again, in October, year by year, he has come back into evidence and into song, the song period lasting to the middle of November. From that time to the middle of March or thereabouts the bird has remained out of song, a winter period of four months. Mr. Charles E. Faxon informed me that in my absence in the summer of 1915, it sang up to July 27, Mr. Van Der Voet, superintendent of the grounds, and happily maintaining an eye and ear open to the birds therein, testifies similarly, that this bird sings well into July and then passes out of notice for a time, but re-appears in October. Not unlikely his seeming disappearance is due in part at least to his silence and the removal of one very emphatic evidence of his presence. The eye remains then, as the only sense for detecting him, and as it is the season of dense foliage, it may well be that in his quiet movements and shy estate due to molting he remains undetected among the shrubbery.

This Mockingbird's repertoire is very extensive. It has increased since the first season of his singing. He has developed into a mocker exclusively, not seeming to sing at all the song of the species. The mimickings succeed one another in such rapid succession that one hardly has time to name one to himself before it is succeeded by another. But if the listener remains an hour or longer with him, there is usually a return to some of his rarer

mockings, and so opportunities for renewed interpretations recur and more certain identifications of his rarer voicings can be secured. I have had many interesting experiences in listening to the performances of this bird. One can approach very near to him while he is thus engaged in singing, indeed, almost to the very tree or shrub on which he is perching. And he varies the perches of his choice somewhat, but has a few definitely chosen ones. Some are within the quietude of the shrub garden and some are beside the Arborway drive bordering the grounds outside, where there is a constant movement of motor vehicles in close proximity to him. In the spring seasons of 1918 and 1919 he made choice rather more frequently of this outside location, where it became necessary for the listener to make quite close approach in order to hear distinctly his voicings. He seemed to like the constantly varying companionship of the passing cars with their occupants, who, however, knew nothing of the Mocker's presence in their rapid passing by. Here on the slope of a ridge of extended length, covered largely with oaks and planted with berry-bearing shrubs along the roadway, he has given very full renderings of his remarkably varied repertoire. For instance, on May 6, 1918, he was inspired by a temperature which rose to 88° to especial responsiveness and gave mimickings of twenty-four different species in an hour or so. These were Brown Thrasher's song, Bluebird's song, White-breasted Nuthatch's call and song, Phoebe's song, Robin's song and cackle, Blue Jay in all its various voicings, Bob-White's "scattered" call, Sparrow Hawk's "killy-killy," Flicker's song and "flicking," Barn Swallow's song, Chickadee's "phebe" and "dee-dee-dee-dee", Catbird's call and song, Baltimore Oriole's song and chatter, Yellow-throated Vireo's song, Kingbird's song, Towhee's song and call, Yellow Warbler's song, Canary's song, Rose-breasted Grosbeak's song, Ruby-crowned Kinglet's call and song, Red-Shouldered Hawk's call (given separately from his Blue Jay's mimickings), Red-eyed Vireo's song, Scarlet Tanager's song and call, Cardinal's song. The combinations and variations seem endless, so quickly does he pass from one phase of song to another with various calls interspersed. Such singing may not be regarded as the highest type of bird music, but it certainly displays very wonderful powers of mimicry and self training.

On May 11, five days later, twenty-one different mockings were recorded, including seventeen of those heard on the previous occasion and four others, namely Mourning Dove's "coo," Meadowlark's call and rattle, Song Sparrow's song, and Warbling Vireo's song. To these were added on May 20 the Red-winged Blackbird's several calls.

In the spring of 1919, this Mockingbird had acquired a still wider repertoire. He was found singing as early as March 15, a day of temperature range from 23° to 35°, but with fair skies and warm sun. He was further heard on March 26 and April 7 and 14 having added to the number of his mimickings, the Northern Shrike's whistle. And on April 23, he had regained his full powers, and twenty-nine distinct mockings were recorded. In addition to eighteen of those already mentioned were eleven others, namely, Kingfisher's rattle, Chipping Sparrow's trill, Field Sparrow's song, Tree-Swallow's song, Cliff Swallow's call, Carolina Wren's song, Crested Flycatcher's challenging call, Nighthawk's call, Oven-bird's "teacher" song, Cuckoo's call, and even Bantam Fowl's barnyard voicings. On May 10 there were further recorded Downy Woodpecker's song or long call and the Whip-poor-will's song. He was also heard to imitate the frog's guttural roll and the fall cricket's chirp. In the autumn also, after his period of obscurity, this Mockingbird has a season of free singing. In 1918, on October 15, I listened to much varied mocking and recorded twenty-one clearly defined mimickings. These included his more usual voicings and to these were added, as imitations, not previously recorded, the House Sparrow's calls. On October 28, thirteen days later, a still more varied singing was noted, when twenty-six different mimickings were clearly identified. These included, besides twenty-two mockings already recorded, five new ones, namely, the Starling's calls, the Hairy Woodpecker's rattle call, the Crow's call and the Olive-backed Thrush's "pip" and querulous calls. On October 30 the repertoire was equally varied with twenty-six different mockings including the calls of Olive-backed Thrush, the songs of Warbling and Red-eyed Vireo, of Ruby-Crowned Kinglet and Tree Swallow. To these were added the call of the Bronzed Grackle. The day was very summery, with a range of temperature from 67° to 78,°

wind southwest. On November 7, a week later, the diversity of the mockings had not lessened, and the bird seemed still as fully in the spirit of song as in the previous winter, or as in the days of spring. The House Wren's song was heard and the White-eyed Vireo's song. By November 13, however, he was evidently losing much of this spirit of song, as only brief snatches of melody were heard, and on the 19th I found him silent. In the fall of 1919 he sang up to November 18. It may be stated, therefore, that this Mockingbird's season of fall singing has ended by the 20th of November, but has extended to about that date. At this time he is the only dependable singer among the birds, and his voice is, therefore, appraised high.

I have enumerated fifty-one species of birds which this Mockingbird of the Arboretum has been heard to imitate. The songs or calls of many of these are unfailingly interwoven in his singing and recur frequently. Others are quite often heard, but may fail to gain expression during an hour's visit with the bird. Still others are but rarely given, seldom gaining utterance, and have been heard but few times. What this Mocker may have achieved in other hours than those I have spent with him must remain unrecorded. It may well be that in my many visits with him I may not have heard all the mimickings of which he is capable and which he may have actually given. But the testimony here offered is sufficient to mark him a most extraordinary mocker, excelling, perhaps, in this power all other Mockingbirds whose repertoires have been recorded, so far as my reading has extended. I wonder if his life alone, without a mate or other individuals of his species can have contributed in any measure to this development of his voice, tending to throw him entirely upon his own resources for satisfaction and pleasure. If so, he is a most philosophical bird and merits admiration for his resourcefulness as well as his great achievements. Like most Mockingbirds he can be bold and aggressive toward other birds which come in his way and dart at them and chase them fearlessly, if they annoy him. He can also scold loudly with sharp chirps when disturbed, offended, or alarmed.

Mr. S. Waldo Bailey of Newburyport has recorded another remarkable instance¹ of power of mimicry in the case of a Mocking-

¹ Auk XXVIII, July, 1911, p. 372.

bird heard by him in early June, 1908, and which remained in his locality nearly a week, when he recognized twenty-nine distinct imitations, a list of which he gives. These include six which I have not heard from the Arboretum bird, namely, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Vesper Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Maryland Yellowthroat and Wood Thrush.

This Arboretum Mockingbird passed safely through the winter of 1919-1920, which has gone on record as, perhaps, the severest winter within forty years in its depth of snow and repeated low temperatures, the snow packed so hard to a depth of two feet or more that no attempt was made to open up the grounds and they were trackless for weeks as regards vehicular travel. But the Mockingbird secured its food and necessary shelter notwithstanding, while scarcely a person on foot entered the grounds and for the time being there were no bird observers to determine whether the Mocker was safely weathering it. But some mild days had brought spring-like conditions in late March, and when the Arboretum was visited on the 25th day, the Mockingbird was seen in his accustomed spring and summer haunt, not in song, but silent while we remained. We learned that he had first been seen by Mr. Van der Voet on the day preceding and was then still in his adopted winter haunt. On March 28, a visitor heard him mocking. He is now upon his sixth year of residence in the Arboretum. But it proved that he remained in evidence in April to a far less degree than in previous years, and instead of being an almost constant singer was heard to sing but infrequently. I am given records of his singing as heard by Mr. Charles Schweinfurth of the Bussey Institution, in the Arboretum grounds, on a morning in early April, in the lower branches of an English elm just east of the Institute building; again heard on May 1 in shrubbery bordering the drive by the small ponds; once again on May 3, about 5.15 P. M., when "the Mocker was in splendid form in the forsythias on the slope of Bussey Hill." Mr. Schweinfurth further states, "It was on Tuesday, May 4, as I was walking through the Arboretum in the early evening with a friend that we watched this bird singing beautifully and imitating several species on the road going from the Centre Street entrance toward Hemlock Hill.

He was perched in the top of a leafless, young tree, and we watched him and listened to him several minutes."

In my own visits to the Arboretum on April 24 and 29 the bird was seen, but not heard to sing, and on May 6, 12, and 17 he could not be found. I was informed on the last named date by the superintendent, Mr. Van der Voet, that an observer had told him that he had seen a second Mockingbird present a few days previous, speaking with assurance of the fact. Since this five-year resident Mockingbird is no longer seen or heard within the grounds, it may be surmised that we have the explanation in this alleged appearance of a second bird presumably a female, with which the long resident Mocker has mated and gone elsewhere for a nesting. If so, it may prove to be a happy occurrence, should progeny be reared to increase the representation of northern bred and resident Mockingbirds, some of which progeny may inherit the father's remarkable powers of mimicry.

Four other individuals should be enumerated to make the local list more nearly complete. Mrs. Edmund Bridge reported to me a Mockingbird (29) seen by her in West Medford on December 28, 1916. At Wellesley Farms I saw a Mocker (30) on May 11, 1917. Mr. E. E. Caduc informed me that on May 7, 1918, he found a second Mockingbird (31) singing in the Arboretum, this bird being in the same portion of the grounds as the permanent resident Mocker and that both birds were heard in song between four and six o'clock in the afternoon. This bird evidently was a migrant, as it was not further recorded. In the Fresh Pond Reservation, Cambridge, a Mockingbird (32) was seen on November 1 and December 11, 1918, and again on January 15, 1919. On the first named date it was quietly singing without apparent mockings. On the next date the bird was giving his sharp calls, and on the last occasion was silent.

In the Riverway and Olmsted Parks where individuals were present successively in the years, 1910 to 1916 inclusive, one, two, or three birds as winter residents; I have no knowledge of any individual having been seen in the last three years. That period covers their largest representation in Boston's parks, during which fifteen of the Mockers enumerated were seen. This may be due in part to the very regrettable pruning and thinning of the shrub-

bery throughout the extent of these parks, so that no close grouping has been kept and individual shrubs have been reduced to almost skeletons of their former selves. The consequence has been that fewer winter birds have remained, like the Song Sparrow and the White-throated Sparrow, and there has been an entire absence of the Mockingbird. The same injudicious treatment has been applied to the Public Garden with similar results as affecting ground feeding birds which seek covert in shrubbery. As records of the Mockingbird in the region of Greater Boston have been scattered along in years past, perhaps no sure experience can be drawn as to whether the species has been gaining a stronger foothold locally in recent years. But since Mr. Henry D. Minot in his 'Land Birds and Game Birds of New England,' published in 1876, characterized the Mockingbird as "a very rare or almost accidental summer visitor to southern New England," which statement Mr. Brewster in the revised edition, published in 1895, in a footnote as editor, qualified to the extent of characterizing it as "a local and very uncommon, but probably quite regular summer resident of southern New England, seen oftenest on or near the coast, one or two specimens have been taken in Massachusetts in winter," we may fairly regard the species as having had an essential increase in its representation in the Greater Boston Region, and increase in the period of twenty years between the two editors of the above named publication, and a further increase in the twenty-five year period since Mr. Brewster penned his footnote. That it should be with us as a winter resident rather than as a summer resident is the strange fact. For the winter resident Mockers appearing in the autumn or early winter are seldom known to remain in evidence beyond April, and the nestings of the species which have been recorded in the last thirty years, 1888 to the present time, require scarcely more than the fingers of both hands to enumerate, so rare have they been. What, then, becomes of these Mockingbirds with us in the fall, winter, and early spring is shrouded in mystery. One can only say that the species more than merely retains its hold in this section, absentees in the summer returning in the fall or other individuals coming in to take their places. Happily it does not succumb to the rigors of the climate in winter, but has proved itself eminently hardy and avails itself of the region

for winter residence, while, so far as our knowledge extends, it has not become a regular breeding bird in this section. Where it does breed to provide these winter resident birds is the mystery. May it not be that a very few nestings do occur summer by summer and some young are raised beyond the ken of the many field observers and thus a small but increasing representation has been maintained? There are certainly contributing factors of one kind or another, else we should not have continued to be in possession of even the limited representation of Mockingbirds, which we have. And the records indicate that all the winter resident birds, except the five-year resident Arboretum bird, move out of their chosen wintering haunts to localities where they live unobserved during the nesting season. And it may be assumed that some of these have found mates and bred, and thus have preserved the small representation happily maintained. A few nestings and probable nestings have been recorded in the issues of 'The Auk' and other publications in the series of years as occurring within the bounds of Massachusetts. These records are *bona fide* evidence that young are raised and that nestings occasionally, even if it be very infrequently, come to the knowledge of observers.

It is natural also to suppose that some migrant Mockers may push up into this northern limit of their range from the south in the spring, although the evidence of this is very limited, so comparatively few of the records presented are those of birds first observed in spring. There are but five out of thirty-two which indicate the presence of a Mockingbird that might be an actual spring migrant, the other twenty-seven occurrences being those of birds discovered in the fall or winter or too early in spring for any extended migration, and in most instances of birds being resident throughout the winter or far into it. The number of these in the enumeration is twenty-five. Thus our fall and winter appearing birds have not to any extent disappeared early enough to be regarded as migrants seeking the south. Indeed, migration of the species either in the spring northward or in the fall southward is but slightly indicated by the dates of the records. So it would seem that this northern representation is largely resident and is maintained probably by a limited number of nestings, few of which come to the knowledge of observers, and that this has

has been the case in a long series of years; also, that the maintenance of the species thus far north has been assisted to some extent by very limited migration. For a few spring migrants may slip unobserved into their breeding places year by year, especially females, not making their advent known by song.

ELSEWHERE IN MASSACHUSETTS.

In the following tabulation (pp. 399-402) are presented such published records for Massachusetts as have been found in a search through the literature, as well as additional instances supplied by various correspondents, arranged in chronological order.

Additional details are here given concerning a few of the later occurrences.

In 1909, the nesting of a pair of Mockingbirds on the grounds by Mr. Francis H. Allen at West Roxbury was a notable occurrence, a detailed account of which was published in 'The Auk' of October of that year.¹

The birds of this family were last seen on August 8. But subsequent information furnished by Mr. Allen to Mr. Thomas L. Bradlee² shows that a Mockingbird was seen in the same locality on October 7, 1909 to May 14, 1910; again from November 6, 1910 to April 14, 1911, and still again was seen on November 5, 1911, it being regarded as presumably the same bird. Mr. Allen in a letter under date of February 29, 1920, informs me that this Mockingbird at his home was seen off and on from November 5 aforesaid to December 9 and re-appeared on March 7, 1912, being seen also on March 9, 17, 28, and April 20. Mr. Allen writes that in the interval between December 9 and March 7 this Mocker was seen about a quarter of a mile away on January 2, and in another place, also about a quarter of a mile away, on April 22. This Mockingbird, therefore, regarded as identical season by season, spent four complete seasons of wintering in this locality of West Roxbury, namely, from November 22, 1908, to April 22, 1912, being the father of a brood in the first summer after his appearance, but not seen in either of the summers following, but disappearing, as far as observation went, respectively on May 14, April 14, and April

¹ Auk XXVI, 1909, p. 433.

² Auk XXIX, Apr. 1912, p. 249.

ADDITIONAL MASSACHUSETTS MOCKINGBIRD RECORDS

No.	Place	Date	Notes	Observer	Reference
1	Nahant	June, 1852	single bird	J. A. Allen	Proc. Essex Inst., 1864, vol. 4, p. 67
2	Springfield	Summer, 1855-60	pairs, breeding	Mrs. E. Harrington	Am. Sportsman, 1875, vol. 5, p. 370
3	Salem	June, 1874			
4	Newtonville	Nov., 1874	shot	H. A. Purdie	do
5	Newtonville	Mar. 6, 1875		E. C. Greenwood	do
6	Nantucket	Oct. 8, 1878	shot	G. H. Mackay	Bull. N. O. C., 1879, vol. 4, p. 64
7	Cambridge	Sept. 20, 24, '81	male	Brewster & Spelman	Mem. N. O. C., 1906, no. 4, p. 361
8	Fresh Pond	Dec. 10, 1881	female	C. R. Lamb	do
9	Taunton	Mar. 26, 1883	adult female	J. C. Cahoon	Forest & Stream, 1883, vol. 20, p. 185
10	Arlington	Aug. 15, 1883	brood of 4 & adult	W. S. Townsend	Auk, 1884, vol. 1, p. 192
11	West Springfield	Summer, 1888	male (? pair)	R. O. Morris	Auk, 1889, vol. 6, p. 340
12	West Springfield	Summer, 1889	male (? pair)	do	do
13	Nantucket	Aug. 11, 1889		G. H. Mackay	Auk, 1891, vol. 8, p. 120
14	Tatham	Sum., 1888-1891		R. O. Morris	Auk, 1892, vol. 9, p. 74
15	Marshfield	Aug. 15, 1889	breeding	H. A. Torrey	Orn. & Ool., 1889, vol. 14, p. 144
16	Sherborn	Oct. 26, 1889	pair and brood	E. J. Smith	Morse, Birds of Wellesley, 1897, p. 40
17	West Springfield	Apr. 26-Aug., '90	pair (? breeding)	R. O. Morris	Auk, 1891, vol. 8, p. 117
18	Marshfield	Sum.-Oct. 22, '90	pair and brood	H. A. Torrey	Orn. & Ool., 1891, vol. 16, p. 174
19	North Truro	Sept. 11, 12, 1890	2 or more young	G. S. Miller, Jr.	Auk, 1891, vol. 8, p. 119
20	Nantucket	Nov. 20, 1890	shot	G. H. Mackay	Auk, 1891, vol. 8, p. 120
21	North Scituate	? Nov., 1890	shot	J. B. May	in lit.
22	Quincy	Dec. 1, 1890	shot	E. H. Lathrop	Forest & Stream, 1891 vol 35, p. 511
23	Belmont	Apr. 5, 13, 1891	male	W. Brewster	Mem. N. O. C., 1906, no. 4, p. 361
24	Hyannis	Aug. 30, 1891	young bird	C. B. Cory	Auk, 1891, vol. 8, p. 395
25	Waltham	Apr. 7, 1892	male	H. A. Purdie	Mem. N. O. C., 1906, no. 4, p. 362
26	West Springfield	Summer, 1892	pair	R. O. Morris	Auk, 1892, vol. 9, p. 74
27	Lynn	Apr. 4, 1893	male	C. E. Chase	
28	Ipswich	Nov. 7, 1893	pair	N. Vickary	Orn. & Ool., 1893, vol. 18, p. 51
29	Amesbury	Nov. 7, Dec. 16, 1893		B. F. Damsell	Auk, 1913, vol. 30, p. 28

ADDITIONAL MASSACHUSETTS MOCKINGBIRD RECORDS (Continued)

No.	Place	Date	Notes	Observer	Reference
30	Framingham	Nov. 15, 1894	male, shot	F. C. Brown	Auk, 1895, vol. 12, p. 84.
31	Nahant Beach	before 1895		R. O. Wentworth	
32	Groton	June, 1895	nesting pair	C. F. Batchelder	Auk, 1895, vol. 12, p. 308
33	Taunton	Apr. 30, 1896	male singing	B. A. Scudder	Auk, 1898, vol. 15, p. 333
34	Ludlow	late May, 1896		R. O. Morris	Auk, 1897, vol. 14, p. 106
35	Cheshire	July, 1896		R. T. Fisher	Coll. Berkshire Hist. Soc., 1900, vol. 3, p. 120
36	Worcester	Apr. 27-May, '97	male singing	Miss H. A. Ball	Auk, 1897, vol. 14, p. 224
37	Taunton	Nov. 11, 1897	♀ shot	A. C. Bent	Auk, 1898, vol. 15, p. 59
38	West Medford	Sept. 23-Nov. 27, 1898	killed by storm	Mrs. E. Bridge	in litteris
39	Belmont	Oct. 26, Nov. 17, 1898		R. Hoffmann	Mem. N. O. C., 1906, no. 4, p. 361
40	Belmont	Mar. 25, 1899		G. C. Deane	do
41	Belmont	Oct. 15, 1899		A. Frazer	do
42	Cambridge	Oct. 26, 1899		O. A. Lothrop	do
43	Pigeon Cove	Spring, 1901		Mrs. Marshall	do
44	Danvers	Early Apr., 1902		Mrs. E. S. Fowler	1920, no. 5, p. 170
45	Danvers	Apr., 1902		do	in litteris
46	Rosindale	Feb. 27-Sum., '02	nesting pair	do	
47	Duxbury, Powder Pt.	Oct. 5, 1902-June 18, 1903	? female	G. Emerson	Auk, 1911, vol. 28, p. 116
48	Nahant, East Point	Dec. 28, 1903, Jan. 30, 1904		King, Wellman & Wright	Bird-Lore, 1904, vol. 6, p. 8
49	Belmont	May 29, 1904	male	R. Hoffmann	Mem. N. O. C., 1906, no. 4, p. 361
50	Dedham	Dec. 18, 1904-Feb. 3, 1905		R. B. Worthington	F. H. Allen, in litt.
51	Fall River	Apr. 11, 1906		Mrs. M. B. Horton	
52	Lexington	Feb. 8-Jy. 10, '07		W. Faxon	Auk, 1907, vol. 24, p. 446
53	Ipswich	Jan.-Apr. 26, '08		Miss S. E. Lake- man	Mem. N. O. C., 1920, no. 5, p. 170
54	Newburyport	June 5-?, 1908	♂, wintered	S. W. Bailey	Auk, 1911, vol. 28, p. 372
55	West Roxbury	Nov. 22, 1908-Aug. 8, 1909	♀, nested with above male	F. H. Allen	Auk, 1909, vol. 26, p. 433
		Apr. 2-Aug., '09			

ADDITIONAL MASSACHUSETTS MOCKINGBIRD RECORDS (Continued)

No.	Place	Daté	Notes	Observer	Reference
56	West Roxbury	Oct. 7, 1909-May 14, 1910	? one of above pair two birds	F. H. Allen	Auk, 1912, vol. 29, p. 249
57	Cohasset	Nov. 17, 1909	one bird	Mrs. Edmund Bridge	in litteris do
58	Cohasset	Jan. 28, 1910	breeding pair	Miss L. L. Hetzer	do
59	Groton	Winter, 1909-10	? same bird as 55	E. P. Bucknell	G. M. Allen
60	Nantucket	June 27, 1910		C. R. Lamb	in litteris
61	Pigeon Cove	Sept. 20, 21, 1910		F. H. Allen	Mem. N. O. C., 1920, no. 5, p. 170
62	West Roxbury	Nov. 6, 1910- Apr. 14, 1911		F. H. Allen	Auk, 1912, vol. 29, p. 249
63	Squantum Head	Mar. 11, 1911		F. P. Spalding	in litteris
64	Ipswich	Aug. 26-28, 1911	pair and 1 young	C. W. Townsend	Mem. N. O. C., 1920, no. 5, p. 170
65	Nantucket	Oct. 23, 1911	? same as 55	T. S. Bradlee	Auk, 1912, vol. 29, p. 249
66	West Roxbury	Nov. 5, 1911- Apr. 22, 1912		F. H. Allen	do
67	Groton	Nov. 9, 1911	? same as 59	Miss L. L. Hetzer	do
68	Manomet	Dec. 14, 1911		W. S. Brooks	Auk, 1912, vol. 29, p. 249
69	West Gloucester	Feb. 9, 1912		J. Kittredge, Jr.	Mem. N. O. C., 1920, no. 5, p. 170
70	Quincy	Apr., 1912	three birds	A. P. Morse	in litteris
71	Danvers High- lands	Nov. 12-26, 1912		Mrs. E. P. Fowler	in litteris
72	Hamilton	Oct. 19, 1913		C. J. Maynard	Mem. N. O. C., 1920, no. 5, p. 170
73	West Roxbury	Mar., 1914	seen twice	F. H. Allen	do
74	Westport	Apr. 5, 1914		Mrs. H. B. Horton	in litteris
75	Watertown	Nov. 29, 1914- Jan. 2, 1915		Miss M. G. Hinds	Bird-Lore, 1915, vol. 17, p. 210
76	Newburyport	Sum., 1914-1917	annual nesting	F. B. Currier	Mem. N. O. C., 1920, no. 5, p. 170
77	Nonquit	Sum., 1915 or '16		E. M. Stetson	in litteris
78	Ipswich	Aug. 28, 1916		Dr. C. W. Town- send	Mem. N. O. C., 1920, no. 5, p. 170
79	Greenfield	Summer, 1916	nesting pair	Mabel Comstock	Bird-Lore, 1916, vol. 18, p. 361
80	Westport Harbor	Nov. 7, 1916		Mrs. M. B. Horton	in litt.
81	Gloucester, Fig- eon Cove	Jan. 17-May 9, '17		Mrs. Babson	Mem. N. O. C., 1920, no. 5, p. 170
82	Fall River	Apr. 2-15, 1917	♂ in song	Mrs. M. B. Horton	in litt.
83	New Bedford	Dec., 1917-early		E. M. Stetson	do

ADDITIONAL MASSACHUSETTS MOCKINGBIRD RECORDS (Continued)

No.	Place	Date	Notes	Observer	Reference
84	Danvers	Mar., 1918 late Nov., 1917- late Mar., 1918	same bird two years died	Mrs. E. S. Fowler and A. P. Morse	do
85	Edgartown	Dec. 21, 1918- Jan. 4, 1919 Feb. 1-late spring 1917	male; returning four winters	Mrs. J. B. Worden	do
86	Springfield	Oct., 1917-Spr., 1918			
87	Brookline	Nov. 1, 1918- Spring, 1919 Aug. 26, 1919- Apr. 6, 1920	♂ ♀ ?	R. O. Morris F. H. Allen & C. W. Townsend	in litt. do
88	Marion	Oct. 3, 1918-May 1920 ?		Miss L. H. Handy	do
89	Rowley	Nov. 15, 1918		J. D. Sornborger	Mem. N. O. C., 1920, no. 5, p. 170.
90	Williamstown	Winter, 1908-19		Walter Faxon	in litt.
91	West Roxbury	Jan. 5, 1919		F. H. Allen	do
92	Dartmouth	Feb. 22-May, '19 Nov. 17, 1919- Mar., 1920	? ♀	Mrs. F. H. Stone and Mrs. E. M. Stetson	do
93	Danvers	Mar. 26, 1919	♂ in song	A. B. Fowler	do
94	Arlington Hts.	May 19-Oct., '19	do	T. L. Quimby	do
95	Arlington	first half of Je., '19	do	Miss A. W. Cobb	do
96	Bridgewater	late Nov., 1919- Apr. 29, 1920		Miss V. T. Wells	do
97	Cohasset	(? Dec. 10, 1919) Jan. 7-Feb. 8, '20		Dr. J. B. May	do
98	Mattapoisett	Jan. 1-Apr. 26, '20		J. E. N. Shaw	do
99	Roxbury	Dec. ?	B. S. N. H.		

22, when, we may suppose, he left in the search of a mate. It will be observed that his mate appeared on April 2 of the first season and that he waited a considerable time after that date each succeeding season before taking his departure. The dates of his subsequent returns year by year are interesting as indicating that as the season of winter approached he sought the same hospitable quarters which had served him well the previous winter and winters, returning respectively on October 7, November 6, and November 5.

Mr. E. P. Bicknell of New York gives me the details concerning the pair of Mockingbirds seen by him on Nantucket June 27, 1910. Mr. Bicknell writes, "The evidence was quite conclusive that they had either eggs or young on the grounds of an unoccupied summer cottage near the bathing beach. Both birds always showed increased concern whenever I approached a certain spot where the beach grass (*Ammophila*), that grew all about, was thickly massed along an old fence. They uttered harsh cries and frequently dashed close to my head, and once when, in searching for a fledgling, I was bending down and parting the grass, one struck my back with considerable force. No young were discovered nor could any nest be found in the few small pine trees nearby. A nest may have been in a thick growth of Japanese honeysuckle along one side of the house, but as I was leaving the island by the mid-day boat, there was not time enough for a complete search. The next year, when again on the island in June, I explored the same locality a number of times, hoping that the birds might have returned, but nothing was seen of them. I know of no other record of the Mockingbird on Nantucket, except the old one of Dr. Brewer, October 8, 1878. It is a scarce bird about my home on south-western Long Island, where I have not seen one for several years."

Concerning Mr. Currier's nesting records in Newburyport, he writes that he saw one each in 1914, 1915, and 1917. In July, 1915, he saw them in many places," indicating probably the members of the two families of that summer, when the young were grown. He mentions hearing two male birds sing in the seasons of 1915, 1916, and 1917, "his own" Mocker and one other. As late as August 1, 1916, he records "two singing not a great distance apart, about

three fourths of a mile from his house." In 1915, in July, he heard one singing often, about all day and half the night near his house, probably his permanent resident Mocker returned after the season's nesting.

This series of nestings in Newburyport in four successive years, 1914 to 1917, very closely resembles the series recorded above in Springfield about 1860 on the authority of Dr. Allen and in 1888 to 1891 on the authority of Mr. Morris, the intervals ranging very little and the limit coming at the end of four seasons between these rare series of breeding occurrences. These Newburyport nestings may be regarded as in harmony with the fact that Essex County has been also the chosen breeding ground of other southern species, whose northern limit penetrates Massachusetts, such as the Orchard Oriole, the White-eyed Vireo, and the Yellow-breasted Chat, representations of which have been more constant in that county than in other portions of the State. It may also be noticed that the seven nestings and all but two of the winter records are subsequent to 1913, or within the last six years, indicating an unparalled presence of breeding and winter resident birds within this period, which marks a most encouraging strengthening of the foothold of the species in Essex County. And may we not venture to conclude that the records of winter resident Mockingbirds scattered so widely in recent years even into Maine, indicate that these winter residents find mates and families of young are raised, perpetuating, let us hope, and increasing the northern representation already well established in New England.

Mrs. E. P. Fowler of Janvers furnished the record of a Mockingbird in Worcester, seen early in April, 1902, in the garden of Judge Forbes. The bird was in full song, Mrs. Fowler states, and adds that on the third day of their visit to its locality they learned that the gardener had killed it, misunderstanding an order to kill some other birds. Mrs. Fowler further states, "early that same year after the above incident we learned of another Mockingbird near the mansion house in Green Hill Park. We went and saw this bird. In a few days some careless boys stoned and killed it." Two shocking tragedies.

Mr. T. L. Quimby furnishes the record at Arlington Heights in 1919. Mr. Quimby writes, "As I recall it, it was the morning of

the 19th or 20th of May that I first saw the bird, and I saw him several times afterward in the locality back of the Thorncliff Academy on Robbins road. My attention was first called to him by the exuberance of his song, singing from the tip-top of a cedar tree. One of his favorite antics was to spring directly up into the air, four or five feet from his perch, and while hovering there pour forth his full-throated song. Others later saw him with me. I thought at one time later that I had seen the female, but of that I am not sure and doubt much if I did. I searched the thicket round about very thoroughly for the nest, but without avail." Mr. Quimby continued to see this bird "at intervals up to October, later in the season about the golf links just a little south of his former haunts." Mr. Quimby, under date of March 15th, is quite sure that he saw this Mockingbird a few days ago having completed a winter residence in that vicinity. Later, under date of May 11, he writes, "I have satisfied myself that I have seen the Mockingbird since last summer (and fall), I have thought more than once that I had caught a glimpse of him at a distance, but I have my doubts, for I have not been able to locate him near his haunts of last summer, and I made a very thorough search last Sunday."

Mrs. Edmund Bridge informs me that in the fall of 1898 a Mockingbird appeared on her place, September 23, and came daily up to November 27, the date of the great blizzard. Mrs. Bridge states, "On that day, at 4 P. M. this bird was found half frozen in our ivy vine where it had taken refuge. It was taken into the house by my friend Mrs. Sass who tried hard to revive it, but in vain." In this instance we have an early fall bird, which, if it had had migrating inclinations, would naturally have earlier disappeared, remaining and plainly undertaking winter residence, in which as have many others which are herein recorded, it might have been successful, except for the terribly destructive storm which overtook it. Mrs. Edmund Bridge also informs me that she observed two Mockingbirds in Cohasset on November 17, 1909. She states that these birds were three miles apart, and so could not have been the same individual, and that on January 28, 1910, she saw one bird, presumably one of the former two.

Regarding the record of a Mockingbird seen by Miss. L. L. Het-

zer about the Lowthrop grounds at Groton on November 9, 1911, she adds that "Two winters before one wintered there and was seen at intervals throughout the winter about the grounds."

Mr. Winthrop S. Brooks¹ saw a pair at Manomet, Plymouth County, on December 14, 1911. One of these, a female, he shot and gave to the Boston Society of Natural History. The bird has been mounted and is shown in the Society's collection of New England birds.

Mrs. E. S. Fowler, under date of March 29, 1920, states of the bird seen at Danvers Highlands on November 12, 1912, that he remained the last two weeks in the month; that he sang most of the daylight, but became so hungry for the crumbs scattered near the piazza that the house cat caught and killed him; and that Dr. Fanning of Danvers owns the mounted specimen.

Mr. Edward M. Stetson of New Bedford writes me under date of March 17, 1920, of a Mockingbird in his grounds in the winter of 1917-18, definitely observed on January 13, having been present two or three weeks earlier. Mr. Stetson states "He stayed with us practically all winter, and we saw him at intervals of a few days until he disappeared in the spring, early March, I think. He didn't seem to mind the cold weather and seemed very cheerful on the coldest days. I remember hearing his voice from the top of an oak tree one morning, when the thermometes was only 4° above zero. I never heard him sing a real song, but he had a cheerful little warble which he gave occasionally and which sounded very unusual on a cold winter's day."

Mrs. M. B. Horton reports concerning the Mockingbird at Westport Harbor on November 7, 1916, that a friend informed her that she saw the bird every day for two weeks, but did not hear it sing.

Mrs. James B. Worden writes me an interesting account of a Mockingbird at Edgartown, which is now, 1920, spending its fourth winter in gardens of shrubbery there. It appeared in the winter of 1917, being first seen by Mrs. Worden on February 18, 1917, but she states that it had been present from the first of the winter; that when the spring came, it sang, and that it remained

¹ 'Auk' XXIX, April, 1912, p. 249.

about the garden and around the centre of the town until late spring but was not seen through the summer; that on October 17 it re-appeared in a garden not far from where it was first seen, and it remained in these gardens nearly all winter and sang again in the early spring but that by the time the trees were well leaved out, again it disappeared from view until November 1, 1918, from which time it was heard once more all the winter; that Mrs. Chadwick fed the bird each winter, and it became very tame; and that once more it disappeared when the trees leaved out, but was seen however, by Mrs. Worden on August 26, 1919, when she observed it fly down and catch a moth on a path beside the garden where she usually saw it and then fly back into the shrubs. This occurrence leads Mrs. Worden to think that, perhaps, the bird has remained thereabouts all the time but was not observed. But it would seem to be unlikely that summer by summer it would entirely escape detection throughout the season in haunts that were of its choice the remainder of the year, but that rather it changes location sufficiently, perhaps, to term the movement a migration, and so departs from and returns to its chosen winter haunt year by year. The August date on which it was seen in 1919, namely, the 26th, is near enough to autumn and remote enough from tree-leaving time, to admit of such migration, limited as it may have been. The Mocker's love of concealment, however, when not moved with desire of song and display may, however, account for the later portion of the season of absence as only apparent, but I think not, for the entire period extending from late spring to mid-October, or the first of November, which times mark this Mocker's real re-appearance to be in evidence thence forward winter by winter until late May. In 1919, Mrs. Worden's letter states that Mrs. Chadwick did not see the bird in its accustomed place until November, the usual time of its re-appearance. Under date of March 12, 1920, I am informed that Mrs. Worden saw this Mocker on March 1, 2, and 9, proving that it had passed safely through the very severe winter of 1919-20, and by letter of May 7, Mrs. Worden informs me that her last observation of the bird was on April 6, "when it was making a great show of itself flying about in its usual haunts. I did not hear him sing this spring as the weather has been so wet and I dared not venture out. Mrs. Chadwick, who

returned after the middle of the month (April), has not seen or heard him. I know of no one feeding him this winter."

Mr. A. P. Morse furnishes me with the record of a Mockingbird at Danvers, January 4, 1919, "found tangled in a tendril of Virginia Creeper" and which "had an injured foot." This bird is now in the Essex County collection of the Peabody Museum of Salem. Mrs. E. S. Fowler of Danvers kindly supplies the earlier data of this bird. She states that it appeared in the last week of November, 1917, and was then singing; that it was seen several times in February and up to late March, when it was also singing but then disappeared from observation; that, however, it made its re-appearance, presumably the same bird, in December, about the 21st day, on Lindall Hill, and sang even then; that it was fed daily by Mrs. Peach, who on January 1, 1919, noticed that it had an injured foot which left tracks of blood on the grass, having lost a toe, so that it could not cling to the vine on the house where it was accustomed to perch and could not walk well, and fearing for its safety, she took it to the Peabody Museum. This bird was then well started on its second winter in the neighborhood after an apparent absence from late March preceding.

Miss Louise H. Handy of Marion writes me under date of May 27, 1920, that this Mockingbird, first appeared there on October 3, 1918, singing in subdued tones, and continued to sing on later dates. He passed the entire winter in the vicinity of the hotel and remained throughout the summer of 1919, singing freely, and seen and heard by the hotel guests. On October 7, Miss Handy states that she saw two Mockingbirds, both feeding on cranberry bushes and rose hips, but after November only one was seen. When the Cedarbirds and Pine Grosbeaks came, he would not feed on the cranberry bushes at all, and not until they left did he go to them. He was still there on October 7.

Mrs. Frances H. Stone, informs me through Mr. E. M. Stetson of New Bedford that a Mockingbird appeared on her summer place in Dartmouth, near Nonquitt, on February 22, 1919, and that she saw it, off and on until April or May, when it disappeared for the summer; that it came again on November 17, 1919, and stayed around until quite recently, but that it seems to have departed again now. (The date of the letter is March 26, 1920.)

Mrs. Stone reports that she had not heard it sing at all, and that since the big storm of February 5th it was minus a tail. The record indicates a female bird, which in 1919 left her winter quarters in April or May, probably for mating and nesting, and in November returned. Her disappearance in late March, 1920, indicates an earlier wandering than in 1919, (due, perhaps, to the accident which befell in the loss of her tail.) A letter under date of May 3 states that Mrs. Stone has not again seen the bird, and "she surely would have seen it, if it had not gone away, as it stayed around near the house most of the time." At the time of its disappearance warm spring weather was prevailing.

Mr. J. E. Norton Shaw in letters under date of March 3 and 12, 1920, furnishes the record of a Mockingbird in Mattapoisett in the winter of 1920, which was first seen on January 1, and on the 18th began to come to feed on the berries of the high laurel bushes in a piazza box with other birds, and since that date has been approximately a daily visitor. Mr. Shaw writes, "This bird which now comes to my hand is, I think, a female, as it is not as definitely marked as the first one I saw (referring to one seen in Marion in 1919). Since February 18 I have seen it every day. So far it has made no sound except angry chirping as though scolding other birds who interfere with its feeding." Mr. Shaw then describes four feeding places he has provided for the birds, one on a window ledge, two suspended from branches of a maple tree close to his veranda, and a fourth on the ground beneath the tree, where he has spread hay seed from the barn loft. Mr. Shaw states, "The Mockingbird has taken charge of these four feeding places. It perches in the maple tree from which the boards are suspended, arriving as early as 6.15 A. M. and staying until nearly dark. It seldom leaves for more than a few minutes. It has done this now for about a week or ten days, growing gradually bolder. It frequents all the boards and the ground, even coming to the window board and peering into the house. It attacks every bird that approaches these boards or the feeding ground." Mr. Shaw then graphically describes an attack this Mockingbird made upon a Flicker which appeared and started to eat and fastened to one of the boards, stating that after working itself into a rage, ruffling its feathers, whetting its beak, and shifting from one perch

to another, finally it dropped directly upon the back of the Flicker and darted at him with its beak; that it soon again descended on him and knocked him completely off the board, the Flicker falling half way to the ground as though injured, and then going to the trunk of the maple tree, while the Mockingbird flew back and forth near him, swooping past him; that very shortly the direct attack was renewed when the Flicker flew back to the board, the Mockingbird descending upon him and repeatedly striking him with its bill; and that small birds are attacked in the same way, except that he has never seen them actually hit, but they are driven from the boards and feeding ground constantly. Mr. Shaw states, "To offset this, I have established a second feeding ground with a suspended board on the north side of my house, under a large fir tree. Here, though less protected, the various birds now collect to feed." Mr. Shaw enumerates eighteen species, including the Mockingbird, which had visited his feeding places in the last days of February 1920. And still later, under date of May 1, 1920, Mr. Shaw writes, "The Mockingbird has been with us daily up to Monday, April 26. On that day it stayed around the feeding board until nearly dark. For the last month it has fed solely on dates, with an occasional bite of cooked fat beef. One day it did not appear at all up to six P. M., when I discovered that no dates were on its board. I did not see it anywhere, but went out and put its usual amount at the feeding place. Inside of five minutes it was at the board feeding, although apparently nowhere in the offing when I went out. I have listened carefully for its song, but have heard nothing except the harsh chirp with which it warns other birds. I have not seen it since last Monday, although we have watched carefully. It has remained very belligerent, attacking Blue Jays and Robins and showing much annoyance at any bird that came near." The absence of song up to late April indicates a female bird and its time of disappearance is in agreement with many other records of wintering Mockingbirds.

In the period 1884 to 1895, inclusive, thirteen years, ten nestings occurred, a period when our earlier ornithologists were much afield with gun to collect and were apparently stimulated by the earlier reported occurrences to gain for their own collections as full a re-

presentation of the species breeding locally as might be within their acquirement. Sentiment has been changing during the last twenty years under the influence of the Audubon Societies, and no longer, I think it may be said, would the taking of Mockingbirds in their family life be sanctioned for even private scientific use. The protective laws which an intelligent public opinion has enacted, crystalized under the head of the eminent ornithologists themselves, are a further safeguard against this.

Of these records, in thirteen instances the bird is actually recorded in winter; in six of these it spent all or most of the winter; in two instances it was observed up to November 17 and 27 respectively, in the latter case dying from exposure; and in the case of the three occurrences, wherein the bird is recorded as shot, the dates are November 11, 15, and 20 respectively, all of which November dates are certainly late for birds intending full migration. The more natural presumption is, I think, that these birds had intended winter residence. The October 26 occurrence at Sherborn, a rather late date for migration, may not mark, it is fair to assume, the date of the bird's departure, but signifies it was seen on that day and that day only. The earlier occurrence at Nantucket, when the bird was shot on October 8, may be regarded as indeterminate in respect to migration or winter residence. The notable feature of the list is the absence of September and the fewness of October occurrences, the period of the the year when migrating Mockingbirds would naturally be getting away, and when the individuals which were not purposing migration might be holding themselves in seclusion in haunts where food was still plentiful and foliage still gave abundant shelter, these birds seek village and park for winter residence, as the season advances towards winter and the conditions become wintry.

Records of the occurrences of the Mockingbird in the other New England States and in Canada follow.

CONNECTICUT

In 'Birds of Connecticut' by Messrs. Sage, Bishop, and Bliss, 1913, fourteen records of Mockingbirds are presented, namely, in Stratford and New Haven (Lindley)¹; Saybrook (J. N. Clark);¹

¹ Merriam, *Birds of Conn.*, p. 7.

Milford (G. B. Grinnell);¹ Suffield, (Lester);¹ near New Haven, May 30, 1877 (Osborne);¹ New Haven, seen by Dr. Bishop, December 18, 1882; Jewett City, nest with five eggs, June 20, 1884, second clutch of three eggs, June 28, female shot (Prior)² West Haven, one reported seen, July 21, 1894; New Haven one flew into greenhouse, November 2, 1904, seen by Dr. Bishop; Middletown, one seen June 9, 1907 (Cady); West Hartford, one seen by Mrs. L. A. Cressy, November 30, 1910, to February 9, 1911; (Mr. Lewis W. Kipley, Chairman of the Hartford Bird Study Club, who holds the composite records of the club, transmits to me the record of an extension of this bird's stay to April 17). Another seen the same winter by Mr. Edward P. St. John;³ Portland, one seen by Mrs. C. H. Neff, February 8 to April 4, 1911.

Mr. Albert Morgan of the New Haven Bird Club, under date of May 9, 1920, gives these further details of the West Hartford Mockingbird of the winter of 1910-11, which was first seen by him one morning in early November. "When I spoke about my find before the members of the Hartford Bird Study Club, one of the young lady members mentioned the fact that she had been feeding a similarly marked bird hard boiled eggs at her window sill and then I found out that my bird was the second seen within about a mile of each other in the town of West Hartford that winter. The one under my observation would not touch boiled egg, but ate ground up meat scraps, (cooked) with a relish. My visitor stayed with me until April, and not once did I hear it utter a note of any kind, he left the region of my house as silently as he came."

Mr. Charles E. Prior⁴ states concerning the nesting at Jewett City in 1884 that the first batch of five eggs was taken and that two of the three eggs of the second batch were also taken, after which one more egg was laid; that the nest was in a blueberry bush by the side of a rail-fence which separated the barren fields from the highways; that the male bird was not seen and that the female was shot; and that he and his companion also took the bush containing the nest and the two eggs.

¹ Merriam, *Birds of Conn.*, p. 7.

² O. and O., IX, 8, pp. 94, 95.

³ *Bird Lore*, XIII, 2, p. 97.

⁴ O. and O. IX, 1884, 8, pp. 94, 95.

Mr. St. John states concerning the West Hartford occurrences, in the winter of 1910-11, that the two birds were commonly found about a mile apart, both remaining very near the places where they regularly fed, though they had been seen together a few times at one feeding station, and that Mrs. Cressey and a neighbor believed that three Mockingbirds had visited the food tables, but not more than two had been seen at one time."

Following the enumeration of the fourteen records in 'Birds of Connecticut,' Mr. Sage states, "The late Frank L. Burr, of the *Hartford Times*, once told me that about the time of the Civil War a pair of Mocking birds nested in the meadow north of Avon St., Hartford. There was no question as to the identity of the birds, but the eggs were destroyed. A year or two later a pair had a nest quite near a house on Wethersfield Aneme in the same city. This nest also had eggs which were destroyed. Gurdon Trumbull, the artist and ornithologist of Hartford, now dead, informed me that he remembered distinctly two or three pairs of these birds nesting, about 1860, in what was then known as Gillette's Grove, Hartford. He saw the birds and heard them sing. The eggs were taken by Mr. Trumbull and a boy friend.

These Hartford nestings in the early sixties, mentioned as four or five in number, have a special significance when viewed in connection with those which occurred in Springfield, Massachusetts, about the same time. The year 1860 is named in both instances as well as the few years next following. It would seem, therefore, that period was a time when the Mockingbird made one of its stronger efforts in the northern limit of its ranges to become a regular summer resident, and in the records already given indicate another similar effort in Massachusetts, in the five year period 1888 to 1892, when occurred eight nestings, four in Springfield, 1888 to 1891, one in each year; one in Marshfield, 1889; one in Provincetown, 1890; one in Hyannis, 1891; and one in Ipswich, 1892.

Mr. Arthur G. Powers¹ in 'Bird-Lore's' Christmas census of 1911, at Hartford, records under date of December 24, a Mockingbird, and adds, "To my knowledge a Mockingbird has spent the last three winters in the same identical spot, even staying in the

¹ Bird-Lore, XIV, 1, 1912, p. 23.

same clump of rose bushes nearly all of its stay. I have watched diligently for three years to learn of its summer haunts, but am still as much in the dark as when I began. Last winter I saw two others wintering in different places in West Hartford, all three disappearing synchronously." These individuals, it may be assumed, were the same as those recorded above by Mr. St. John, except that Mr. Powers observed one of the birds for *three* successive winters.

I have seven other Connecticut records all subsequent to the publication of 'Birds of Connecticut,' except three, namely:

Mr. Lewis W. Ripley furnishes from the records of the Hartford Bird Study Club the record of a Mockingbird in song seen at West Hartford on March 14, 1904.

Mrs. Florence C. Paine of East Woodstock contributes through Mr. A. W. Upham the record of a pair of Mockingbirds coming to her garden in that town in the year 1906 and remaining three and a half days. Mrs. Paine states, "They appeared one beautiful afternoon when the Oriental poppies, iris, and other perennials were in bloom, so I think it was early June. The male bird sang but little that first day until night. There was a full moon, and we were awake many times following them from one side of the house to another, as singing they flew about to different trees and alighted on the piazza rails about the house and by our bedroom windows, the song sounding so loud in the quiet moonlight. They selected a large old appletree just outside the flower garden for a home and began to build. Alas, the Robins living there claimed the whole tree and flew at them every time they brought a stick or straw. They stood their ground bravely for two days, as they are great fighters, and both they and the Robins lost many feathers before they gave up and flew away, to be seen no more, leaving a nest about a third built."

Mr. H. C. Bigelow informs me under date of March 14, 1920, that a Mockingbird spent the winter of 1906 on Cedar St., New Britain, about a greenhouse. Mr. Bigelow states that the bird was around there more or less all winter, but that he did not see it after the warm weather came in the spring; that it did not sing, but gave only a clear chirp; would peck at the seed pods on the rambler roses, and was fond of apples put in the crotches of shrubs for it.

Mr. Bigelow has not heard of one being seen in New Britain since.

There was a Mockingbird lived at Fairfield¹ in 1914 noted on September 16 or on earlier by Mr. W. B. Wheeler and seen on September 27 by Mr. Wilbur F. Smith. This bird continued to be observed up to October 14 by Mr. Wheeler and was then singing from his gate-post. Mr. Smith also furnishes a record for Bridgeport in 1916, stating, "The last of February I was told of a bird that puzzled those who had watched it all winter, and, on March 3, I went and found it to be a Mockingbird; it had been about Laurel and North Avenues all winter."²

Mr. Lewis W. Ripley also furnishes the records of a Mockingbird seen at Windsor on January 14, 1912, and of one seen at Plainsville on April 9, 1914, which was singing.

Mr. Wilmot records one in the centre of West Haven,³ which "appeared on November 8, 1916, and has been observed almost every day up to January 22, 1917. It usually appears with a flock of Starlings. It pays no attention to food put out for the birds, but prefers to eat the berries of the bittersweet and honeysuckle vines which grow along the fence." Mr. Wilmot states⁴ further concerning this bird, "I announced in the April, 1917, number of 'The Auk' the presence of a Mockingbird in West Haven from November 8, 1916, to March 24, 1917. (Mr. Wilmot's records as published did not extend so far.) On July, 1917, the bird returned and is passing the winter at the same place (January 20, 1918.) Last winter the bird would not take food put out for it, but preferred to eat honeysuckle and bittersweet berries, but this winter it takes food put out for it and has become so tame as to alight on the window-sill and eat food. I have also observed it eating the dry seed pods of the asparagus which it swallowed whole, as it does the berries of the bitter sweet.

"On November 18, 1917, at Colonial Park, a summer resort about two miles from West Haven, I observed another Mocker which was eating the berries of a honeysuckle vine that grew along a fence. The extreme cold weather during the last few days of De-

¹ Bird-Lore, XVII, 2, 1915 p. 130.

² Bird-Lore, XVIII, 3, 1916, p. 173.

³ Auk, XXXIV, April 1917, p. 215.

⁴ Auk, XXXV, April 1918, p. 229.

cember and the first of January I thought would surely kill our Mocker, but he came through all safe and seems none the worse. During that time the thermometer went as low as twelve degrees below zero, which proves that Mockingbirds are not altogether southern birds, but can stand our northern winters. The plumage of this bird is quite different this winter, having a great deal more white in the wings and tail, so I would judge that it was a young bird when it passed the winter of 1916 and 1917 with us."

Mrs. Gilbert W. Chapin of Hartford contributes the record of a Mockingbird seen by her and two other members of the Bird Study Club near Arnold's Ice Pond in West Hartford on March 15, 1919. Mrs. Chapin states that the bird was singing, but not the full song as heard by her in the south, that, however, it was the real song of the Mockingbird, but not as loud and more fragmentary; and that several succeeding days they visited the vicinity, but failed to find it. Mr. George H. Gabriel¹ was also an observer of this bird which he found singing in a small peach tree in a backyard he informs me. The bird evidently was changing locations, either by limited migratory flight or mere wandering. The date is rather early for full migration from the south.

Four, perhaps five, of these records indicate winter residence, one of them a return of the bird for a second and a third winter.

Of these twenty Connecticut records with definite dates, from 1877 to 1919, a period of forty-two years, ten are those of winter resident birds, including one which was probably such; five are summer records, including the nesting of 1884, and the attempted nesting of 1906, two represent fall visitants; and three are early spring visitants. In ten instances the bird was observed on one day only, indicating that it was probably changing location, or was not followed up by the observer. One wintering bird returns a second winter and another a second and a third winter. In the case of seven of the winter records the bird was constantly in view for weeks, and in two instances continued to be in evidence until April 4 and 17 respectively, a time when Mockingbirds which have completed winter and early spring residence generally disappear from their chosen winter haunt, as the Greater Boston and many other

¹ *Bird-Lore*, XXI, 4, 1919, p. 243.

records indicate. Shall we not assume that the desire for a mate actuates them at this time, and that probably a fair proportion of them are successful in their quest, and nestings ensue, of which in many instances we gain no knowledge? Certainly, it is not a likely supposition that these northern winter resident birds leave New England for more southern locations after enduring the rigors of its climate throughout the winter and reaching the opening spring. And, after all, although the number of intelligent observers has largely increased within the past twenty years, it must be true that a comparatively small area of New England, even in its more populated portions, is carefully or at all methodically searched by competent observers.

RHODE ISLAND.

'Birds of Rhode Island' by Reginald H. Howe, Jr., and Edward Sturtevant, published in 1899, with 'Supplementary List' in 1903, contains five records for the State, covering eight individuals, within the period 1877 to 1897 inclusive. They are these: "Mr. A. W. Thatcher took a bird in East Providence in 1877. Mr. Harry G. White reported one singing at Newport on November 2, 1888. Lieut. Wirt Robinson writes that he saw one at Newport on November 5 and 12, 1889. Mr. F. T. Jencks observed one at Drawnville, October 18, 1891, and he has since seen two others there. There was a pair in Roger Williams Park, Providence, in the autumn of 1897." It will be observed that all of these records, except the first, which is without seasonal date, register autumn occurrences. One bird, is recorded as singing on November 2, as might be expected of a male, since the fall period of song usually extends at least a fortnight later.

Mr. Harry S. Hathway of Providence, under date of March 31, 1920, has given me the following six records. I quote: "Dr. Edwin R. Lewis of Westerly told me in February, 1900, of a pair of Mocking birds which have been summer residents near the farm of Frank Larkin on Beach St., in that town for three years. The Larkin family had lived in the south and were sure of the identity, for they knew its song. Last fall, 1901, I saw the fourth Mockingbird I have seen since living at Brownsville, (F. T. Jenks). Edwin Dow informed me he had seen a Mockingbird in the orchard back of

his home in Auburn on three or four occasions the last week in May, 1902, and he fully described the bird and song, leaving no doubt as to the identity. June 24, 1917, I saw a Mocking bird in bushes beside the road at Dunn's Corner, Westerly. It flew to a telephone wire, where it stayed for a few minutes and gave me a good opportunity for examination. I did not see it again in this locality, although I visited it on several occasions a week apart."

March 9, 1920, Mr. Moses J. Barber informed me that a Mockingbird had been feeding on suet, suspended in the bushes in his yard, since early in February, at East Greenwich. The bird has not been seen since. A Mockingbird was seen eating berries from a window box on February 27, 1920, by Miss Louise C. Humphrey in Rumford. Miss Humphrey is a former resident of the south and knows the Mockingbird well."

Seven other Rhode Island occurrences have been recorded. They are, a bird at Bristol in 1910 noted by Miss Julia Herreshoff,¹ who states, "The Mockingbird came with the blackbirds, just noticed March 12. I did not see him after July 25."

A second occurrence is a nesting at Barrington in 1911, an account of which ² is given by Miss Bertha B. Smith, who records that on April 7 a single bird was seen, which on the 19th, and three days following on account of its song was identified as a male; that on April 24 two birds were seen and from that date until the last of June they were observed almost daily. Miss Smith states that their nest was discovered about the middle of May in a spruce tree and contained four eggs; that only three young were known to hatch; that the birds stayed near the place of nesting and seemed inclined to quarrel with other birds; that early in September the adult birds and their young were seen every day, but that on September 20 the male alone remained and was observed until October 21; that a few days later, however, the female re-appeared with the male and both were seen daily; that on February 8, 1912, they were still in the vicinity, and the family owning the grounds near which they nested fed them all winter.

Under date of May 29, 1912, Miss Smith wrote, "The Mocking-

¹ Auk, XXVIII, 1911, p. 116.

² Bird-Lore, XIV, 5, 1912, p. 310.

bird (male) is still in Barrington, but we have been unable to discover any other individual this spring. Of the three that were hatched last spring only one was with the parent birds in the fall. All three birds were seen late in November, and then for a few weeks they disappeared. The male returned and stayed all winter. This spring I have made careful search and inquiries, but find only one bird." Mrs. M. B. Horton of Fall River observed this Mocker in Barrington on June 12, 1912. Mr. E. E. Caduc has obtained records of two other occurrences. He informs me that in company with Mr. W. E. Pring they saw two Mocking birds in Swan Point cemetery, Providence, on December 1, 1912. Mr. Caduc states, "The birds appeared to be feeding on berries of some kind and were quite tame, allowing us to pass about 25 feet from them without taking flight. On many subsequent visits to the same spot I have failed to note them. But on January 11, 1920, in company with Miss Ida Jenkins, we came upon a single bird not far from where I had found the others. He was not as tame as they and flew as soon as he saw us, but we had a good view of him and could readily identify him. These birds were seen very near the main entrance to the cemetery."

A sixth record¹ is furnished by Mrs. Annie B. McConnell, who saw a Mockingbird on November 30, 1917, about her place at Watch Hill all the morning, and who states that she had seen the bird several times during the fall, but not close enough to be sure of its identity until the 30th.

Mr. Edward H. Perkins includes a Mockingbird in his Christmas bird census² 1917 for Kingston and Narragansett Pier, seen on December 24.

Dr. Windsor M. Tyler contributes the record of a Mockingbird seen by him at Saunderstown, R. I., on January 26, 1919.

Mr. Hathaway has obtained from Miss Elizabeth C. Dickens of Block Island, R. I., her records of the Mockingbirds seen there, which have been kindly transmitted to me. They are: three seen together on August 23, 1914, in the bushes and on the fence at the "Gull's Nest" one first seen on August 30, 1915, and seen on several

¹ Bird-Lore, XX, 2, 1918, p. 159.

² Bird-Lore, XX, 1, 1918, p. 28.

occasions later; one first seen on August 26, 1916, and repeatedly seen afterwards; one first seen on August 17 1917, and observed again on September 4; one seen on December 20, 1917, of which Miss Dickens states, "The children reported seeing it again the second week in January, 1918," and adds, "I have heard on good authority of one wintering here before;" one seen, December 23, 1918, the first record having been on September 17, of which, under date of February 4, 1919, it is stated, "This bird is wintering;" one seen on September 15, 1919; and in 1920, "One came to food put out by a High School girl at her home in the first week in February and kept on coming, and presumably the same bird is still here, for she has seen it every morning since in the nearby trees (March 13)."

A later letter states, "There seem to be two Mockingbirds, one at the home of the High School girl about a mile north from the Manisses Hotel, and one in the hotel trees, so the student reported on April 10." This second Mocker may have appeared in this neighborhood as a spring arrival and from no very distant locality.

These records of Miss Dickens are of unusual interest as showing how unfaillingly in the last six years the Mockingbird has visited Block Island in the fall migration, appearing in late August and in September, when birds resident farther north are moving south, and the records quite suggest such a movement on the part of more northern representatives of the Mockingbirds. In three of the last four years it has been found that an individual has remained for winter residence. Miss Dickens chronicles the arrival of but one presumable spring migrant Mockingbird and no summer resident Mockers, even the wintering birds of recent years failing to continue to be observed when spring has come? The records of Miss Dickens cover at least eleven different individuals, and quite possibly more, for she thinks that the early autumn arriving birds year by year may not have been identical with the later wintering birds; as there were not frequent and repeated observations of the respective individual birds throughout the fall season. And it may be that one or more of the wintering Mockers should be regarded as the same individual returning to the same locality for winter residence after a full summer absence. Miss Dickens does not offer testimony on this point. But other contributors of re-

cords in other localities have offered quite conclusive evidence that such as has been the case in several instances.

The later Rhode Island occurrences furnish one complete winter resident record of a pair which had nested in the previous summer, the female being noted up to February 8, or later, and the male continuing throughout the winter and spring; two other winter records, one of them of two birds seen on December 1, and the other of a single bird seen on January 11, in both instances indicating winter residents; a fourth record of a bird seen up to November 30; which would seem far too late a date for one intending migration south; and a fifth record as early in the spring as March 12, which on the other hand would seem to be far too early a date for migration north, unless it can be established that the Mockingbird is one of the earliest spring and one of the latest fall migrants, coming with the March arriving birds and not departing until the latest fall stragglers are leaving; the sixth record is of a male bird in April singing.

VERMONT

In a 'History of Vermont' by Zadock Thompson, 1842, a list of the birds of Vermont is given by orders, and the Mockingbird is not included.

In 'A Preliminary List of the Birds Found in Vermont' by George H. Perkins, Ph. D., Professor of Natural History in the University of Vermont, 1901, it is stated of the Mockingbird; "A rare visitor, and in 1884 a pair nested in Lunenburg, as a result of which they are now in the State collection, [Montpelier]." Professor Perkins, under date of March 5, 1920, states "Mr. W. E. Balch told me that he saw the pair, which is in the Montpelier collection, when they appeared in the spring and kept watch of them till late summer, when he shot and mounted them for the State Collection." Prof. Perkins expresses his regret that he is not able to add to our knowledge of the occurrence of the Mockingbird in Vermont.

Dr. Lucretius H. Ross of Bennington writes me under date of February 25, 1920, "The Mockingbird is a rare bird in Vermont. On May 7, 1911, Charles Hitchcock reported seeing a single individual Mockingbird in the outskirts of Bennington village. The

next day I was fortunate enough to obtain a view of the bird. These two observations were the only ones I know of in this section of the State."

The only other record found for Vermont is a brief mention by W. P. Smith,¹ who writes, in reply to query for further information that a pair spent the season of 1919 at Wells River, and were frequently seen coming and going from a certain dense patch of shrubbery. The male was heard in song, though no nest was discovered, it seemed that the birds were breeding.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

For New Hampshire, there are two published records:

An immature bird, apparently a young of the year, shot at Hampton, August 24, 1900, and recorded by Dearborn.²

A bird seen on the outskirts of Manchester, November 5, 1916, apparently accompany a flock of Robins, which stayed in the neighborhood two days, observed by Dr. William R. Varick, Mr. Lewis Dexter and others. Mr. Carick states, "It did not act like an escaped cage bird, and I have not seen a caged Mockingbird in this region for years."³

I have a third record from Mr. James P. Melzer of Milford, who states that on November 7, 1904, he shot a Mockingbird in that town. "I still have the bird, he writes, I have never seen one here before or since." Mr. Melzer is a taxidermist."

MAINE.

Knowledge is at hand of many occurrences in Maine. Ora W. Knight in his 'Birds of Maine', enumerates the County records as follows, though believing that most if not all of them were escaped cage-birds: Cumberland, "have one, an escaped cage-bird taken at Gorham, August 12, 1890" (Norton); one seen at Portland, January 19–Feb. 19, 1897 (Brown); Knox, "One taken in February" (Racktiff); "have one shot at Vinalhaven, February 1891, an escaped cage-bird" (Norton); Oxford, (Nash); Piscataquis, "one

¹ Bull. Bot. and Bird Clubs Vt., No. 6, Apr., 1920.

² Dearborn, Ned., Birds of Durham and Vicinity. Contr. Zool. Lab. N. H. Coll. Agric., No. 6, p. 94, 1903.

³ Auk, XXXIV, 1917, p. 91.

shot in Monson, October 20, 1884, did not seem to have been a caged bird" (Homer); Washington, "One observed near Calais in 1870" (Boardman).

Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown¹ contributes to 'The Auk' the record of a Mockingbird in Portland observed from January 19 to April 4, 1897, a period of eleven weeks. Mr. Brown states, "The bird appeared in a gutter which runs beneath the south window of my study. The thermometer was below zero, and there was no snow, but an unclouded sun had softened the ice in the gutter so that the bird could moisten his tongue; and this he seemed to be doing when I first saw him. He was, perhaps, five feet distant from my chair, and I noted at once that he looked like a wild bird, his ruffled plumage being in perfect condition, unfrayed and unstained. A heavy snow storm set in the next day. It was followed within the week by another. Wintry conditions prevailed generally up to January 29." On January 31 Mr. Brown again saw the bird, now on a neighbor's grounds. Mr. Brown further states that it was seen nearly every day, and "about three o'clock of the afternoon of February 11, the sun shining warmly in a still crisp air, he took up a position in the top of a tall elm before the same window from which I first saw him, and sang loudly for a few minutes." It is stated that, for a brief time following, the bird escaped notice, but on March 6 it was again observed, and following another considerable period of obscurity, it was once more seen by other observers on March 24 and 28. Mr. Brown states, "On neither of these occasions was he more than an eighth of a mile from the spot where he first appeared in January. Finally, on April 4, I met with him again myself, in the same section of the city as before. I walked within a few yards of him and watched him for several minutes, while he disputed with some Robins the right to a cluster of sumacs, the fruit of which had no doubt helped to carry him through the winter. Up to the present time (June 1). I have neither seen him or heard of him since."

The 'American Naturalist'² published the following note contributed by Mr. G. A. Boardman of Calais, "I found a Mockingbird,

¹ Auk 1897, pp. 224, 324.

² Amer. Naturalist, V, Apr. 1871, p. 121.

Mimus polyglottos, in the woods up the river this past season (1870?). This is the first time the bird has been found in Maine, to my knowledge, and I think it could not have been an escaped cage bird."

An extract¹ from the Journal of Captain Herbert L. Spinney, First Keeper Seguin Island Light, situated at the entrance of the Kennebec River, under date of September 17, 1896, the occurrence of a Mockingbird on the island, as follows, "During the day, I shot a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*, Linn.), which proved to be a male bird. It was very wary, and it was with much difficulty that I secured it. It did not show signs of having been caged, although it might have been. About the same date the preceding year, I am positive I saw a bird of the same species fly from the east side of the north cove across to the trees, but it eluded all my efforts to capture it, and I did not again see it."

Mr. Wm. L. Powers,² under "Some Notes from Gardiner" states "The Mocking bird (*Mimus polyglottus*, Linn.) is without doubt an occasional summer resident in the State of Maine. Some twenty or twenty-three years ago, [about 1885] a pair nested and reared their young in the town of Leeds. This fact is certified to by four individuals who had lived for some time in Louisiana, where these birds were very plentiful. One of these four people had lived in Louisiana twenty years, and Mockingbirds were as well known to him as Robins are to us. Mr. L. W. Robins of Randolph, Me., believes that a pair nested near his house last summer. He heard one singing nearly every morning for a month, and all indications pointed to nest building, although the nest could not be located. The singing ceased all at once, and it was feared the bird was shot. One thing, however, is certain, and that is that Horner Dill, of Gardner, Me., took a specimen near his home on the morning of December 14, 1906. The skin is now in my possession and has been examined by Mr. Norton, Curator of the Portland Society of Natural History." It is suggested that Mr. Robbins' experience may have been with a male Mockingbird only, if no female was seen and nest was not located. Records of other lone Mockingbirds singing freely point to this as not improbable.

¹ Journal Maine Ornith., Soc., V, Oct. 1903, pp. 54, 55.

² Journal Maine Ornith. Soc., IX, 2, 1907, p. 52.

The 'Journals of the Maine Ornithologists' Society', 1899 to 1911, contains these records of the Mockingbird. Mr. W. H. Brownson¹ in an article on "Birds in and around Portland in 1906" states, "April 27, there was a Mockingbird at South Portland, which attracted considerable attention from many observers. Probably this was an escaped cage bird, but there is no evidence one way or the other." The presumption expressed is interesting in the light of many subsequent occurrences, as indicating the earlier trend of thought when a Mockingbird was seen so far north. Again in 1907, Mr. Brownson² records, "On the 19th, [May], a Mockingbird was seen in South Portland and was under observation all day. Last year there was a Mockingbird in the same locality which remained there nearly a week. This year's bird was different from last year's, being smaller and browner in plumage. It has been the custom to declare that every Mockingbird seen in Maine is probably an escaped cage bird. From the fact, however, that a Mockingbird was seen last year at the height of the migration season, and this year at the same time, I am led to believe that these birds were really stragglers who had strayed north with migrating flocks." And Mr. Brownson states in an editorial on p. 48, "In the present number of the Journal are several notes relative to the Mockingbird in Maine. There seems very little doubt that this bird is beginning to find its way as a straggler into the State during the spring migrations, and there is some evidence of its breeding here. The instances of its occurrence in the State have been more frequent of late, and it seems quite certain that these cannot be referred, as formerly, to the category of escaped cage birds."

Miss Elizabeth W. Russell³ under the caption "The Mockingbird Wintering at Portland, Maine," records the first appearance of the bird in a hedge December 15, 1908, "after a heavy fall of snow, followed by rain," and her observation of it for the second time on December 18, when "he flew to the hedge, close to our window and stayed there where I could study him at close range for half an hour or more, and although it seemed incredible, I could

¹ Journal Maine Ornith. Soc., VIII, 4, 1906, p. 85.

² Journal Maine Ornith. Soc., IX, 2, 1907, p. 51.

³ Journal Maine Ornith. Soc., XIF, 1, 1910, pp. 8, 9.

not make him out anything but a Mockingbird." Later Miss Russell learned that this Mockingbird went daily for its food to the yard of a neighbor, who threw out crumbs for the English Sparrows, and it ate with the sparrows. The bird was again observed by Miss Russell on January 20, and February 7. On February 8, it is stated, this bird was heard singing; "his song then was low and sweet, but grew daily fuller and richer, and ten days later he was in full voice. It was his custom to give daily morning recitals from seven or a little later to ten or eleven. I did not hear of his singing in the afternoon at any time. He came safely through our severe winter. I last saw him on April 17th, having a lively scrap with a Robin. On May 4th, I heard him singing, but did not see him, and although I sought him in every possible place, I neither saw nor heard him again."

Mr. Clarence H. Clark¹ of Lubec in "Notes on Washington County Birds," states, "The most interesting thing of recent record is the occurrence of the Mockingbird in this vicinity. The first appearance was November 19, 1910, when one of the species was found in the village. At first it was thought that it might be an escaped bird, but later two were reported, and then a few days afterward three were seen together and were observed at several places within the radius of a mile. I closely and carefully observed them hours at a time on a score of occasions, and at times would get within the distance of a few feet from them. They spent most of their time in orchards and about dooryards, where many people threw out various things for them to eat. I never knew of them being here before, and I think their late occurrence remarkable. They have remained here all winter, and the last report was February 26th." Lubec is at the extreme eastern end of the coast of Maine near Eastport, in Washington County, and it is certainly remarkable that Mockingbirds should have wintered there near the forty-fifth parallel of latitude. Mr. Boardman's record already presented was in the same county forty years earlier and still farther north, above the forty-fifth parallel.

Another wintering Mockingbird in Portland,—ten years later— is briefly referred to in the Cumberland County Audubon Society

¹ Journal Maine Ornith. Soc., XIII, 1, 1911, p. 20.

report,² for 1917, it is stated, "On January 7, 1917, (?), Arthur H. Norton, the well known ornithologist of our own city, gave an illustrated talk on the Mockingbird that was wintering in one of our parks." I am informed that in one or more of the winters since the above mentioned occurrence a Mockingbird has wintered at South Portland. One of these is the subject of an editorial note in the 'Kennebec Journal' of February 28, 1920, a wintering bird.

Other records are supplied in a letter of Miss Bertha L. Brown of Bangor to Mr. E. P. Brown of Belfast, under date of March 31, 1919, from which I have their kind permission to quote. Miss Brown writes, "Most exciting of all to us here has been our Mocking bird who spent most of the winter here. I first discovered him Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 1918, and saw him many times afterwards in the same locality, as did many other of the bird students of Bangor. I saw him last on January 18. Since then I have received several reports from people who think they have seen him in other parts of the city. One report early in February was from a very reliable observer. You know there have been several winter records of them in Maine, but none before so far north as Bangor." Bangor is in almost precisely the same latitude as Lubec. Miss Brown, writing me under date of March 3, 1920, describes the locality which this Mocking bird so far north frequented, "as a little hill, called Summit Park, having an open, sunny hillside spotted with evergreen trees and occasional crab-apple trees as well. Just beyond on a side slope of the same hill, is wild land, open pasture dotted with many evergreens. Also on the very top of the hill is a private residence with extensive grounds containing many trees. He seemed to make his headquarters in a couple of crabapple trees in the pasture. He fed on the apples. We did not hear him uttering any sound, except an occasional low chuk or chick. We saw him, almost daily in the vicinity of Summit Park from November 28, 1918, to January 17, 1919; twice also, December 12, and January 18, in another place, familiarly called Birch Hill, a half mile or more distant." Miss Brown adds, "I have heard of one other record of Mockingbird in this vicinity,

² Bird-Lore, XX, 1, 1918, p. 89.

and that should be authentic. Mr. Walter Handy of Brewer, reports having seen one in Holden, a small town near Brewer, the fall previous, exact date. November 11, 1917."

Still another record is given me by Mrs. Charles W. Alexander, from Hallowell, Maine. On January 2, 1919, a Mockingbird appeared at her feeding shelf, attracted apparently by the suet, as well as by cut apples placed for its benefit. It came from one to six times a day until January 21, when it disappeared until February 25. This day it arrived at noon and sang beautifully, and continued until March 11 when it again disappeared. On March 26, it was discovered in a neighboring orchard where it remained until April 1, when its visit really ended. On the evening of June 24, however, it came to Mrs. Alexander's yard again momentarily and then disappeared. What was apparently this same bird was seen in the neighboring town of Winthrop on November 16, 1918. A final record of the series reaches me in a letter of Mrs. Augusta Gardner of Bucksport, to Mr. E. P. Brown, under date of January 29, 1920, concerning a Mockingbird which appeared here on November 17, 1919, and was seen daily until December 13, when it disappeared. It was attracted by the berries on various high-bush cranberries and by crab apples.

These are all quite remarkable records as showing how far north the Mockingbird occasionally undertakes to winter and how hardy and capable of enduring severe northern New England weather it is. It is also remarkable that the Brown records disclose the occurrence of but three spring Mockingbirds and but one occurred nesting, all the others being records of winter occurrences. Where these far northeastern birds summered is an entire mystery. May we not surmise that they have had a part in assured nestings and have contributed to the further representation of northern resident Mockingbirds? Mr. Knight in his 'Birds of Maine,' 1908, was skeptical and expressed the view, "Though specimens [of the Mockingbird] have been captured more or less often, nearly all show indications of being escaped cage birds." This view seems to have widely prevailed in earlier years, so that the presumption then was, when a Mockingbird was seen in New England, that it must be an escape. But clear testimony to the contrary presented time and time again has effaced this early presumption, and there

are now well based reasons for the other assumption, that unless a Mocker should unmistakably show the marks of captivity, it is to be regarded as a wild bird which never lived within the confines of a cage. It is significant that six of the occurrences which I have enumerated were observed in the years 1906 to 1911, and that five have been observed in the last four years, 1917 to 1920, indicating an apparent still further movement of the Mockingbirds northward along the coast and a renewed attempt to push the northern limit of its range beyond its earlier confines. The few scattered earlier occurrences of which we have knowledge, including those of Canada, which are next to be presented, cover a range of sixty years from 1860.

CANADA.

Our survey may be briefly extended to Canada for the few occurrences of Mockingbirds which have been recorded there. Dr. J. Dwight, Jr., enumerates five records. He states,¹ "A young Mockingbird taken in the fall of 1894 and sent to me from Sable Island, Nova Scotia, constitutes the fifth record of this species for Canada. The other four are so scattered and have been so often incompletely quoted, it seems worth while to review them here. They stand as follows: 1. Strathroy, Ontario. A single bird was seen in the town, but not captured, July 1, 1880. 2. Chatham, Ontario. In point of time, 1860, this is the first Mockingbird taken in Canada. Mr. Edwin W. Sandys, who originally furnished the record, was recently seen by the writer, and he tells me the bird was secured by his father and is now in a collection of stuffed birds made by him. It was seen perched on the ridge pole of a barn one June morning just after a warm southerly gale, and its rich song was what first drew attention to it. 3. Hamilton, Ontario. A pair of birds spent the summer of 1883 at East Hamilton. (McIlwraith) 4. Truro, N. S. A bird was wounded and caught alive July 1, 1889. It showed no signs of being an escaped cage bird. 5. Sable Island, N. S. This is a young bird in much worn first plumage, taken in the fall of 1894. I have been unable to obtain any information about the specimen except that it did not

¹ Auk, XIII, Oct., 1896, p. 344.

come to the island in a cage, and we can only assume it was carried thither by some resistless storm, perhaps, from the mainland or more likely from some far more southern home."

Dr. Dwight¹ later contributes one other Sable Island record, "A young male in juvenal plumage was captured September 3, 1902, 'hopping about a woodpile,' " and he states, "It is the second from Sable Island in this plumage."

And there is one later Ontario record, supplied by Mr. James H. Fleming of Toronto, who states,² "I took a male on May 20, 1906, at Point Pelee, Essex County, Ontario. The bird was found near an old orchard on the west side about five miles from the end of the point; the sexual organs were well developed. Mr. B. H. Swales and Mr. P. A. Taverner were with me when the bird was shot."

One other indefinite record is given in a 'Catalogue of Canadian Birds' by John Macoun and James W. Macoun, 1909, namely, "A specimen was picked up on Haymarket Square, St. John, N. B., by a seven year old boy, Ronald Singer, and through Mrs. M. V. Lawrence, brought to me (A. G. Leavitt)." The Hamilton record is presented by the Messrs. Macoun on the authority of McIlwraith as a nesting record, in 1883, based on the testimony that the male bird in song was frequently seen by Mr. Eastwood, in his horseback exercise in the early morning, during the breeding season and that a second bird, the female, was seen on one occasion by him. Mr. Fleming³ in an article on "Birds of Toronto, Canada," places the Mockingbird in the Hypothetical List with this note, "The Hamilton record given by McIlwraith is not altogether satisfactory, and Mr. C. W. Nash, who was familiar with the time and place of the record is doubtful if the bird was correctly identified."

Mr. H. Mousley of Hatley, P. Q., writes me under date of March 8, 1920, "There is no such thing as the Mockingbird at Hatley, at least in my time; in fact it is rare anywhere in Canada." Mr. Mousley has very kindly consulted a list of books on the subject and finds in a 'Catalogue of the Birds of the Province of Quebec,' by C. E. Dionne, 1889, no reference to the Mockingbird, and in 'The Birds of Montreal' by Ernest J. Wintle, 1896, also no re-

¹ Auk, XX, 1903, p. 440.

² Auk, XXIII, 1906, p. 344.

³ Auk, XXIV, 1907, p. 88.

ference to the Mockingbirds. But he has found in "The Birds of the Province of Quebec," by C. E. Dionne, 1906, the following reference to the Mockingbird, on page 381, "M. C. J. Schmidt took a specimen on the 8th, of August, 1903, at Anticosti, and N. Comeau states that he took one at Godhaut in the same summer; these are the only instances of its presence in our province." And in 'Birds of Eastern Canada' by C. A. Taverner, 1919, p. 206, Mr. Mousley finds this reference to the Mockingbird: "Distribution, southern United States north into Canada at the Western end of Lake Erie. This is the only locality where the species has obtained what approaches an established foothold in Canada. A few pairs have been known to summer there for the last decade. The species is rare in Canada."

So the testimony of these writers indicates that the northern representation of the Mockingbirds has extended somewhat into eastern Canada, especially at the western end of Lake Erie, where in recent years it has gained "what approaches an established foothold," although still "the species is rare in Canada."

SUMMARY.

Our review of the occurrences of the Mockingbird in New England, herein set forth, suggests these conclusions, based on our own records and those of other observers who have given me theirs, as well as on published records, namely that the species has a more established foothold now and in recent years than when its very casual presence was interpreted as "accidental" or "an escape"; that in the most recent years there is evidence that it is still pushing northward the limit of its range along the coast; that the northern representation has been maintained as much, if not more, by permanent residence as by migrants moving in, although the latter, year by year, doubtless have assisted in its maintenance and increase; that now, since the taking of breeding birds and their eggs has been almost entirely checked by protective laws and an educated public sentiment, there will be likely to be a more rapid increase of this northern representation of the species in New England; that it is entirely hardy and acclimated, as much so as our hardiest permanent residents; that its survival in the rigors of winter is not dependent on aid rendered by human agency, much

as that may help, but that it is likely to suffer less than hardy ground-feeding birds, because it obtains its food from the berries of shrubs and vines and the frozen fruit on trees, especially apples, which are within its reach even in the time of deepest snows; that the many records of winter resident birds, far outnumbering those of spring, summer, and fall, indicate that there are probably many nestings which do not come under observation, in which young are raised, not a few, it may be, to remain as permanent residents and increase the northern representation; that these frequent fall and winter appearances of birds not observed during the summer are due probably to their seeking shelter and food in park and village shrubbery, where they readily come under observation; that they leave these wintering places for more retired haunts when the severity of winter has passed and conditions favor their release; that this movement may be greater or less in extent, amounting even to limited migration, but more likely northward than southward in conformity with the general trend of bird movement in the spring; and that thus they appear and disappear and sometimes re-appear, not remaining throughout the year within our observation and knowledge, except in the rare case of the celibate Arnold Arboretum Mockingbird.

THE NAME OF THE EASTERN HERMIT THRUSH.

BY OUTRAM BANGS AND THOMAS E. PENARD.

FROM the earliest times there has always been much confusion in the nomenclature of our American thrushes. It is, therefore, not strange to discover, even at this late date, some slight errors which have escaped notice and have persisted through so many years. But we should hardly have expected to find a serious error in the name of our common eastern Hermit Thrush which has received so much attention from investigators. This, however, is unfortunately the case.

In Tschudi's 'Fauna Peruana', Orn., 1845-1846, p. 187, Cabanis used the name *Turdus guttatus* for the Hermit Thrush. This was