

of 1920-21, from Green Lake, Sask. I call the attention of ptarmigan specialists to the fact that all four had the *shafts of the primaries black*. I have seen no other Saskatchewan ptarmigans.

**Archilochus colubris.** RUBY-THROATED HUMMING-BIRD.—Occasionally seen in July along the Beaver River, as far north as Ile a la Crosse. The Hudson's Bay Company Agent at Lac la Ronge tells me that it occasionally visits his flower-garden in summer; but I did not see it there myself.

**Dendroica palmarum.** PALM WARBLER.—A dried specimen has been sent to me from Green Lake, Sask. (The covering letter says, "a very pretty little bird.")—JOHN SMITH DEXTER, *Saskatoon, Sask.*

**Bird Changes Caused by the Winter of 1917-1918.**—The bleak winter of 1917-1918, which broke most records for cold or long winters, made some remarkable changes in bird-life here, many of which yet remain. The Mockingbird, the Carolina and Bewick's Wrens seem to have suffered most, and did not become normal in numbers until the winter of 1919-1920. The Golden crowned Kinglet, once very plentiful in winter, was very scarce until the spring migration of 1921, since which time they have been almost normal in numbers. The Tree Sparrow, so far as I know, was never reported from here until that winter and even old bird students had never seen one. A few wintered here in 1917-1918, several the next winter, even more in 1919-1920, and they were positively abundant in 1920-1921. So far I have not seen them this winter, 1921-1922, but the weather has been very mild, up until Christmas. Another interesting thing about this bird is the way it has prolonged its stay in the spring. In 1918 it left Feb. 12; in 1919, Feb. 18; in 1920, Mar. 12; and in 1921, Mar. 6. Mr. A. F. Ganier of Nashville, Tennessee, reports that the Tree Sparrow has had much the same history in middle Tennessee as it has had here since the record-breaking winter. The Towhee, once quite plentiful in winter, has just now regained its former abundance. Just how permanent these changes are or how general in extent they are, it will take a long time to tell, but I should like to hear from many sections of the country on this subject.—GORDON WILSON, *State Normal School, Bowling Green, Kentucky.*

**Arkansas Kingbird and Egrets in Connecticut.**—On the afternoon of November 4, 1921, while crossing a section of pasture land in east Meriden I noticed two birds flying to a large tree about fifty yards distant. They alighted a few feet apart, almost facing me, and I trained my eight power glasses on the smaller and unfamiliar bird,—for the other was a Robin.

At first glance it reminded me of the Crested Flycatcher; for the belly and lower breast were of a clear yellow, but above this a light ash shading to an almost white throat. The uncrested head was also of a much lighter shade than *Myiarchus crinitus*, and although no crown patch was visible there was a darker section from the lores to the auriculars.

Feeling certain that this bird was not an unusually late *M. crinitus* (my latest record being September 16) I began circling the tree to obtain a clear view of the lower back and tail then hidden by the branch, but unfortunately before I had taken a half dozen steps both birds took fright and vanished in the distance.

Although the observation was short, and the white web of outer tail feathers was not visible I feel convinced that this bird was the Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), for it was not the well known Crested Flycatcher of our Connecticut woods and orchards.

While the "wanderlust" of the American Egret has enabled northern bird students to report small groups of *Casmerodius egretta* during the past summer I might add that at sundown on September 4, 1921, I saw a white fleet of twenty of this species and with them two Great Blue Herons flying westward at Saybrook Point, Connecticut.—LESTER W. SMITH, Meriden, Conn.

**Notes on Early Summer Birds of the Virginia Coast.**—The following notes were made during a visit to Wallop's, Cobb's, Pig and Bone Islands, Virginia, from June 28 to July 2, 1921, in company with C. K. Roland. Apart from the observations on the breeding birds, the results of the trip seemed to me of unusual interest, due to the abundance of many species of shore-birds and water-fowl which we had no idea of meeting in this vicinity at this particular time of the year.

One is naturally led to speculate on the reasons for the presence of many of these birds so far south at so early (?) or late (?) a date. A search of the available migration records for the states to the north seem to shed no light on the subject and we are still at sea as to whether: (1) the present year has been an unusual one for the earliness or lateness of migrants; or, (2) the islands in question, because of their isolation, form a haven of refuge for many barren, crippled, or non-breeding birds or (3) many individuals of the species in question pass directly over a large portion of our Atlantic seaboard on the southward flight and may appear here long before they are to be expected in more northern latitudes.

June 27 to 29 inclusive, were spent on Wallop's Island, Accomac County, where, under the protection of the Wallop's Island Association, the owners, a couple of colonies of possibly 40 pairs of Least Terns, and a somewhat smaller number of Common Terns were nesting. Piping Plovers were also rather plentiful, and we saw several of their half-grown young along the deep wind-swept beaches at either end of the island. Among the other breeding species of note we might mention the Boat-tailed Grackles, which were quite common, although this is about the northern limit of their breeding range.

On June 27 we saw three female or immature Red-breasted Mergansers, and the following morning came upon one resting on the beach along one of the inlets. On June 29 a flock of ten Double-crested Cormorants flew over, heading north, and Black Terns were noted on both the 29th and 30th.