

gatam refert, adeoque hac parte Todum cinereum aequat, quamquam ipsa mole minor et vix Regulo par sit. Color illi supra plumbeo-canus, versus verticem sensim nigricans; subtus a gula ad caudam lacteus; Pennarum volaticarum autem, remigum scilicet et rectricum fere niger, marginibus externis remigum et tectricum secundariarum, itemque rectricum lateraliu in cauda aequali albis."

It should be noted that although Pallas assigned the species to the genus *Todus* of Linné, he called particular attention to the less massive bill ("ipsa mole minor"), not quite like that of the Wren ("vix Regulo par sit"). But Gmelin and Latham, both ignoring this modification in the shape of the bill distinguishing it from that of *Todus cinereus*, placed the species in *Todus*, thereby effectually concealing its identity.

Pallas' description agrees perfectly with Buffon's Gnatcatcher to which the name *Polioptila livida* (Gmelin) (Syst. Nat., I, (2), 1789, p. 981) has been applied. This species bears a superficial resemblance to *Todus cinereus* Linné (= *Todirostrum cinereum*), and is of about the same size. The bill is long like that of *Todirostrum*, wide at the base, but more slender, more compressed toward the tip, but not nearly so much as in the Wren (*Troglodytes*). The upper parts are bluish gray; head darker or dusky in the female or immature male, black in the adult male; under parts entirely white; wings dusky black with white inner margins to the primaries and white outer margins to the secondaries and secondary coverts; central pair of tail feathers entirely black, the others tipped or margined with white, the outermost pair almost entirely white, the base only being black.

It is, I think, sufficiently clear that Pallas' description, and hence Gmelin's *Todus plumbeus*, applies to this species which, on the grounds of anteriority, must henceforth be known as *Polioptila plumbea* (Gmelin) instead of *Polioptila livida* (Gmelin).

The two Guiana forms are thus:

Polioptila plumbea plumbea (Gmelin)

Polioptila plumbea innctata Hellmayr.

By this disposition of *Todus plumbeus* Gmelin, a further correction in nomenclature becomes necessary, affecting the name of the Plumbeous Gnatcatcher originally described by Baird (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., VII, 1854, p. 118) under the name *Culicivora plumbea* and subsequently known as *Polioptila plumbea* (Baird). This combination now being preoccupied by *Polioptila plumbea* (Gmelin) is no longer tenable, and hence the name of Baird's Plumbeous Gnatcatcher automatically becomes *Polioptila melanura* Lawrence (Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y., VI, 1858, p. 168).—THOMAS E. PENARD, *Museum Comp. Zool., Cambridge, Mass.*

Red-breasted Nuthatch, (*Sitta canadensis*), Breeding on Long Island, N. Y.—June 15, 1921, at Orient, Long Island, I took a female Red-breasted Nuthatch, believing it to be a late spring migration record for the locality. On examination the specimen proved to be a breeding bird.

The ovary contained the ruptured capsules from which the eggs had been developed. The breast was denuded of feathers and the skin thereon had not yet changed from the thickened and swollen condition of incubation. The bird evidently had eggs or young in the vicinity of Orient. The bird was collected about six a. m. in an orchard isolated from other woods. The nearest wood was red cedar, *Juniperus*, two-hundred yards south. A search for the mate was undertaken in a surrounding circle and on June 18 a male was discovered in a dilapidated orchard half a mile north. A male of this species was observed thereafter in that vicinity throughout the month of June and into July.

This species has been recorded, preceding this record, as late as May 30, in Orient. Records to May 25 are frequent. These late spring records, with the almost regular occurrence from mid-July on through August, of individuals, recorded as early south-bound transients, lead to the conclusion that this species may be a regular, though very rare, summer resident on the east end of the north shore of Long Island.

Notes of the Red-breasted Nuthatch were heard in Orient on July 12, 1922. The species apparently rarely wanders far from a certain station while here in summer. —ROY LATHAM, *Orient, Long Island, N. Y.*

Notes on New York Birds.—Among the birds received at the New York State Museum during the winter from various New York localities are some that seem worthy of record. Unless otherwise noted the specimens are preserved in the collections of the museum.

Colymbus holboelli (Reinhardt). **HOLBOELL'S GREBE**, (female).—Found alive, but with the feet frozen, at the Rensselaer Rifle Range, Rensselaer, New York, Feb. 23, 1923, by Mr. Paul Harter and brought to the State Museum. The bird was placed in an aquarium and fed for several days on fish and small salamanders. Died Feb. 27th.

Alca torda (Linn.). **RAZOR-BILLED AUK**.—Picked up dead on the beach at East Hampton. L. I., Jan. 23, 1923, after a cold northeast storm, and sent to the museum by Mr. James Douglas. The feathers were matted together by oil and greatly discolored.

Botaurus lentiginosus (Montgu). **BITTERN**.—Caught in a trap set for mink by Mr. N. A. Francis, Chatham, N. Y., Dec. 28, 1922. The specimen was mounted for the owner by Mr. A. Paladin, taxidermist for the museum.

Gallinago delicata (Ord). **WILSON'S SNIPE**.—Found in a mink trap Dec. 22, 1922, near Prospect Heights, Rensselaer county, and mounted by A. Paladin for the owner.

Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni (Bonaparte). **RICHARDSON'S OWL**, (female).—Taken at Plattsburg, N. Y., Dec. 16, 1922, by Lieut. L. R. Wolfe, and presented to the State Museum. According to a note attached to the specimen, the stomach contained the remains of three deer mice. —S. C. BISHOP, *State Museum, Albany, N. Y.*