

*Dendroica fusca*. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER.—May 7, 1925, Whitley Co., and September 23, 1925, Bath Co.

*Dendroica virens*. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.—September 23, 1925, in Bath Co.

*Dendroica discolor*. PRAIRIE WARBLER.—September 23, 1925, Bath Co.

*Seiurus aurocapillus*. OVEN-BIRD.—May 23, 1923, Bath Co.

*Geothlypis trichas trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—September 29, 1925, Whitley Co., and May 24, 1926, Montgomery Co.

*Wilsonia citrina*. HOODED WARBLER.—May 8, 1925, Whitley Co.

*Setophaga ruticilla*. REDSTART.—May 26 and 27, 1924, Bell Co., May 28, 1924, Harlan Co. and May 10, 1925, Whitley Co.

*Poliophtila caerulea caerulea*. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.—Two on May 23, 1923, Bath Co., one May 22, 1924, Lawrence Co., and two May 10, 1925, in Whitley Co.—R. E. HORSEY, *Highland Park, Reservoir Ave., Rochester, N. Y.*

**Notes on Porto Rican Birds.**—I read with much interest Mr. Danforth's article in 'The Auk' for October, 1925, on certain species of Porto Rican birds. Some of these species have come under my observation during my eight years on the Island. My work allows me time for bird study only when other things are not pressing which accounts for two of my records falling on January 6, an important holiday here.

Mr. Danforth's observations of the Ruddy Duck are similar to mine. I have seen it practically every month of the year and have always found the male in high plumage. It is the commonest Duck on the small bodies of fresh water between Guayama and Guanica Lagoon.

On January 6, 1923, two Hawks were observed for some time hunting in a large pasture north of Central Aguirre. They had the characteristic flight and plumage of Marsh Hawks, though appearing to be immature birds. Mr. Danforth's observations of this species makes me more certain of my identification.

On January 6, 1921, I found a female and two male Maryland Yellowthroats in the swampy land along the seashore about two miles west of Central Aguirre. They were not at all wild and I watched them for some time. Not far from the same location I saw a male Yellow-throat on January 1, 1923.

On September 9 and 10, 1921, we had much rain and exceedingly heavy winds from the southeast due to a hurricane passing to the south of us. During the months following, shore birds were more abundant on the south coast than at any other time from 1918 to date. On September 10 I noted an Upland Plover in a flock of shore birds not far from Guayama; and on September 13 I found a flock of fifteen Upland Plovers in a wet pasture just east of Santa Isabel. A specimen which I collected from this flock is now in the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C. This is the second record of this species for Porto Rico, the first being in 1882.

Regarding the abundance of shore birds after the storm of 1921, it seems a possible hypothesis that the fall migration of these species from the north drops relatively few individuals in Porto Rico when storms do not interfere with a flight to South America, and that Upland Plovers never stop here unless forced down by hurricanes.—F. A. Potts, *Fortuna, Porto Rico*.

**On the Origin of Flight.**—1. There exists dogmatism in science as well as in art or religion. Life is assumed to have originated at one epoch, and ontogeny is graphically represented as a tree. There is as much argument in favor of a theory of life having begun at various periods and having developed along parallel lines. Thus flight is dogmatically assumed to have been preceded by soaring.

2. Flight is not a necessary attribute of birds. The Ostrich, Apteryx, Penguin and some others do not fly. The power of flight is easily lost or repressed where not needed. There is no reason to assume that all flightless birds once flew unless paleontological records show that they did.

3. True flight is not confined to birds any more than are birds necessarily flyers. Bats are true flyers.

4. Today a soaring flight is paralleled in different types of life. Some species of squid, fish, lizard, marsupial and squirrel soar. There is no evidence that a flight structure is being developed in any of the above.

5. The various theories of the origin of flight all assume a soaring beginning. The Archaeopteryx and the evidence of four wings in the Pigeon are cited.

6. Some of our diving birds use their wings and not their feet while swimming under water.

7. Many sea birds beat the water with wings and feet before being able to rise. The Penguin uses its front appendages under water and when hurrying on the surface, beats it with these flippers.

8. It is submitted that flight may have started in some cases from a prototype similar to the Penguin, as well as from the two and four winged soarers. Thus a pre-flight bird that progressed similarly to the present Penguin by flopping along the surface of the water would develop pectoral muscles and be on the road to developing true flight. This might appear more obvious than a soarer developing flight structure or pectoral muscles, since none of our present soarers has developed any such structure. Dissection of a flying-fish is convincing proof that it does not flap its fins, having no muscles for such work.

9. An interesting homology may be pointed out in the case of man first mastering the art of flight before the art of soaring.—CHAPMAN GRANT, *Major, Infantry, U. S. A.*

**The Copper Plates of the Folio Edition of Audubon's 'Birds of America.'**—In my article published in 'The Auk' (Vol. XXV, p. 401, 1908) I included in the list of those which had been preserved, the Snow