

J. Murray of Lexington, Va. Birds were seen on August 25, 26, 28, and Sept. 1. While in Montreat, Buncombe Co., during Sept. 2-12, the writer saw three more Sycamore Warblers, one on the 4th, and two on the 10th. Montreat is about one thousand feet lower than Blowing Rock. All of these birds afforded the same easy study as the Blowing Rock specimens.

According to Mr. H. H. Brimley, in his 'Birds of North Carolina' (Pearson & Brimley), the Sycamore has been recorded but three times, though he states that Mr. Arthur T. Wayne referred specimens to this sub-species which he saw about Morganton and Lenoir, in Burke and Caldwell Counties at much lower elevations. The writer's observations indicate that *D. d. albiflora* can be considered as a fairly common summer resident above 3000 ft.

The writer can fully corroborate Mr. Brimley's statement regarding the Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*), in North Carolina. He says, on page 278, 'Birds of North Carolina' that, "we have very few records of this species in the State, and outside of Raleigh it has been recorded only from Buncombe County where Cairns called it an uncommon summer visitor . . . Pearson found two males at Montreat, Buncombe County, in July, 1903."

During the fifteen years that the writer has studied the summer bird life of the Blowing Rock, and Montreat sections of the mountains, the Blue-winged Warbler has been seen but once, that one a fine female at Montreat on Sept. 10, 1929. The bird was seen on a brilliantly clear morning amid a "wave" of other migrants, and came to within a few yards of us as we stood on the edge of an old trail, and watched it in a dead laurel bush. The black line through the eye, the white wing bars and touch of yellow on the forehead were distinctly visible without the aid of glasses. The abundance of Warblers in this section at this time of year is indicated by the fact that the wave of which this member was a unit, contained eleven species. The elevation at the spot was 3200 ft.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., 92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.

The Distribution Westward of *Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis*.—The range of the Northern Water-Thrush as given by Ridgway is:—"Eastern North America . . . breeding southward to . . . southern Michigan(?), northeastern Illinois(?), etc."

The status of this species in the Mississippi Valley appears to be rather undecided. Dr. Roberts does not record *S. n. noveboracensis* in his 'Review of the Ornithology of Minnesota,' 1919. Anderson (Birds of Iowa, 1907, p. 358) says "The notes upon the Grinnell Water-Thrush and the eastern variety (*S. noveboracensis*) are somewhat confused in Iowa records as most observers fail to differentiate between them . . . All of the Iowa specimens which I have examined appeared to belong to *notabilis*." Widmann (A Preliminary Catalog of the Birds of Missouri, 1907, p. 234) says "it is generally accepted that the Water Thrushes of Missouri belongs

to the western form, *notabilis*." Cory (The Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin, 1909, p. 666) says that "The Mississippi Valley region seems to be the dividing line between the eastern and western forms of this species, and as would be expected, a large number of intermediates occur in Illinois and Wisconsin." W. W. Cooke (Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley, 1888, p. 256) speaks of this species as "A bird of eastern North America; probably does not occur west of the Mississippi River."

The following typical specimens of *Seiurus n. noveboracensis* from the debatable area (where *notabilis* is, of course, the common form), are contained in the Dwight Collection and in the general collection of the American Museum of Natural History. All show a yellowish tinge to their underparts and the measurements of the bills fall well within the range given for this species by Ridgway:—*noveboracensis*, male, 11.9–14 (12.7), female, 10.9–14.7 (12.7); *notabilis*, male, 12.4–16 (13.6), female, 12.2–14.2 (13.2).

Dwight Collection.

- Iowa*.—*Hillsboro*. No. 12787, male, May 29, 1897. W. G. Savage, collector. Exposed culmen, 11 mm., bill from nostril, 9.1 mm.
Keokuk. No. 26465, female, May 12, 1904. C. K. Worthen Collection. Exposed culmen, 11 mm., bill from nostril, 9.7 mm.
- Illinois*.—*Warsaw*. No. 26461, male, May 6, 1905. C. K. Worthen Collection. Exposed culmen, 12.8 mm., bill from nostril, 11 mm.
Warsaw. No. 19162, male, May 9, 1899. F. P. Drown Collection. Exposed culmen, 12 mm., bill from nostril, 10.2 mm.
Warsaw. No. 26464, male, May 17, 1897. C. K. Worthen Collection. Exposed culmen, 11.2 mm., bill from nostril, 9.4 mm.
Warsaw. No. 26462, female, May 6, 1905. C. K. Worthen Collection. Exposed culmen, 11.2 mm., bill from nostril, 10.2 mm.
Warsaw. No. 19163, female, May 7, 1894. F. P. Drown Collection. Exposed culmen, 11.8 mm., bill from nostril, 8.9 mm.
- Wisconsin*.—*Koshkonong*. No. 26466, no sex, May 15, 1898. C. K. Worthen Collection. Exposed culmen, 11.8 mm., bill from nostril, 9.9 mm.

General Collection.

- Minnesota*.—*Ft. Snelling*. No. 53525, male, May 5, 1898. Dr. E. A. Mearns, collector. Exposed culmen, 11 mm., bill from nostril, 9.7 mm. Identification confirmed by H. C. Oberholser.
- Missouri*.—*Spring Valley, Shannon County*. No. 230001, male, May 9, 1907. Lewis B. Woodruff Collection. Exposed culmen, 11.5 mm., bill from nostril, 10.5 mm. Identification confirmed by H. C. Oberholser.
- Spring Valley, Shannon County*. No. 230002, male May 12, 1907. Lewis B. Woodruff Collection. Exposed culmen, 11.5 mm., bill from nostril, 10.2 mm. Identification confirmed by H. C. Oberholser.

Grandin, Carter County. No. 230000, male, May 21, 1907. Lewis B. Woodruff Collection. Exposed culmen, 11.8 mm., bill from nostril, 9.9 mm. Identification confirmed by H. C. Oberholser.—PHILIP A. DU MONT, *American Museum of Natural History.*

Bill Deformity in a Catbird.—The note "Bill Deformity in a Blue Jay" contributed by Charles E. Johnson, in "The Auk," XLVI, 1929, 241-242, reminds me of a similar deformity which I observed in a Catbird in my garden at Lyon Park, Clarendon, Virginia, near Washington, D. C.

The bill of this unfortunate bird was seen to be deformed in such a way that the upper mandible did not close upon the lower in a normal manner, but appeared bent upward dorsally. The bird was not particularly wild and good views of its head were obtainable at the time. The bend of the upper mandible appeared to occur somewhat past the middle toward the nares so that the greater portion of this mandible from the bend to the tip formed an angle of about 45° with the plane of the lower mandible. Naturally much of the inside of the mouth and the tongue as well were exposed. I did not see the bird feed, and it soon passed beyond my garden, but so far as could be judged by its behavior it appeared well-nourished and lively enough.—H. A. ALLARD, *U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher at Throop, Pa.—On April 13, 1929, on the grounds formerly occupied by the Scranton Country Club, the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea caerulea*) was seen by Adam Lord of Throop, Pa. Upon notification of this fact, my husband and I, with Mr. Lord found the bird in the same vicinity on the following day, where we verified the identification, observing the dainty creature for more than an hour at close range with field glasses, noting his actions, field marks and cry, all of which he gave for our unmistakable identification. Later in the day, we were able to reach several other bird students adding two more witnesses to what we believe to be the first record of this bird in Lackawanna County. Miss Emma C. Kirk and Mr. J. M. Cairns also saw the bird in the same locality.—MRS. FRANCIS H. COFFIN, *1528 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, Pa.*

Rare Connecticut Birds in Sanctuary Collection.—Since the establishment of the Birdcraft Sanctuary at Fairfield, Connecticut in 1914, several birds rare to the avifauna of the state have been received and prepared for the Sanctuary's Museum by the Custodian, Mr. Frank Novack. The specimens of Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Sycamore Warbler constituted the first records of these species within the state and the Wilson's Petrel, Gannet, Gadwall, Purple Gallinule, Black Gyrfalcon, Evening Grosbeak, and Yellow-throated Warbler are nearly as rare.

Mr. Novack recently called my attention to the fact that the Museum had specimens of the three Eiders that occur along the north Atlantic seaboard,—Northern, American and King,—all secured within Fairfield