

seldom left the premises. Since the last date however I have seen nothing of him.—HENRY BUNTING, *Madison, Wisc.*

**Song of the Gray-cheeked Thrush.**—Aretas A. Saunders in his excellent handbook, 'Bird Song,' states (p. 51) that while most species of American birds sing in migration he has never heard the Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Hylocichla a. aliciae*) do so, although Bicknell and Gillespie have (Auk, vol. 1, p. 130; *ibid.*, vol. 44, p. 112). The Veery (*Hylocichla f. fuscescens*), he says, probably does not sing while migrating. In May 1929 I was lucky enough to hear both of these species singing in migration, although whether I was observing *H. a. aliciae* or *bicknelli* it was impossible for me to tell. On May 25 I found *H. aliciae* singing in four well-separated places in Germantown, Pa., and two days later an individual was heard singing and was seen by me in one of these places. One of the things I noted down at the time, ignorant of Gillespie's similar comment, was "an emphasis suggesting the White-eyed Vireo." The voices had not the full strength of Bicknell's Thrushes which I have heard during the breeding season but were about equal to the half-voices of the Olive-backed Thrushes whose singing in migration I have noted for three successive years (May 14 to 22, 1927; May 13 to 27, 1928; May 14 to 25, 1929). Philip A. Livingston and the writer heard a Veery singing in the Choptank Swamp, near Henderson, Md., on May 5, 1929. It was a mere shadow of the song given on the breeding grounds and was repeated four or five times only. Though we were moderately close to the singing bird the song was hardly more than barely audible. C. Eliot Underdown on May 12, 1929, in Carpenter's Woods, Germantown, Pa., heard a Veery singing before daybreak.—EDWARD S. WEYL, 6506 *Lincoln Drive, Philadelphia, Pa.*

**The Song of Bicknell's Thrush: A Correction.**—It is often a duty, though seldom a pleasure, to correct one's own mistakes. It is sometimes a duty to correct the mistakes of others, but though there are occasions when one takes an unholy, if also uncomfortable, pleasure in so doing his duty, on the whole one is tempted to shirk such duties if possible. When, however, an error is perpetuated by being quoted as fact, it is clear that one ought to do what he can to stop it in its mad career through the literature.

The third volume of Edward Howe Forbush's 'Birds of Massachusetts,' in treating of Bicknell's Thrush (*Hylocichla aliciae bicknelli*) says, under the head of voice, "Song, like that of the Olive-backed Thrush, but once in the course of five or six repetitions, a flute-like *per-pseuo-pseuo* is interpolated," and cites William Brewster as authority. This is a good paraphrase of Mr. Brewster's own description in the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club,' (January, 1883, Vol. VIII, pp. 14, 15), which reads: "The song of Bicknell's Thrush is exceedingly like that of Swainson's; indeed, to my ear, the usual strain, though rather feebler, was

nearly indistinguishable; but occasionally—perhaps on the average once in the course of five or six repetitions—a peculiar and apparently perfectly characteristic bar was interpolated. This was a flute-like per-pseùeopseùeo given quickly and in a tone which, at a little distance, closely resembled that of the Solitary Vireo's well-known voice."

Mr. Brewster's notes were made on Mt. Washington in New Hampshire in 1882. I first made the acquaintance of Bicknell's Thrush on June 28, 1888, when I ascended Mt. Lafayette in the Franconia Range of the White Mountains in company with Bradford Torrey. In my journal, under that date, I find the following: "Mr. Torrey was the first person to suspect the presence of *T. aliciae* in New England in the breeding season. He induced Mr. William Brewster to investigate, with the result that *T. a. bicknelli*, which had just been discovered by Mr. E. P. Bicknell in the Catskills, was also found to exist in the White Mountains. Mr. Torrey says that the song which Mr. Brewster describes in his article in the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' as that of *T. a. bicknelli* and which he compared to *T. u. swainsonii*'s song, was not *bicknelli*'s at all but a peculiar song of *T. u. swainsonii*'s, which Mr. Brewster himself afterwards found to be the case."

Of course, this acknowledgment on Mr. Brewster's part came to me not directly, but through another, but no one familiar with Bradford Torrey's accurate habit of mind would question his statement. And also, no one familiar—as I have been for many years—with the song of Bicknell's Thrush would reject the possibility that the equally accurate William Brewster had, in this one case, failed to associate the song he heard with the species that actually uttered it. It is unfortunate that Mr. Brewster never explicitly corrected his error, but he virtually corrected it when, in the second edition of H. D. Minot's 'Land-Birds and Game-Birds of New England,' in his own formal life-history of Bicknell's Thrush, he omitted all mention of any song resembling that of the Olive-backed Thrush and simply stated, "The song is exceedingly like that of the Veery, having the same ringing, flute-like quality; but it is more interrupted, and it ends differently,—the next to the last note dropping a half tone, and the final one rising abruptly and having a sharp emphasis."

It is equally unfortunate that Mr. Forbush did not content himself with quoting this well-considered statement, published in 1895 after Mr. Brewster had become better acquainted with the bird than he was in 1882, and omit the earlier, and, as it proves, incorrect description. He does quote the later description, but lets the earlier stand, and remarks, "To my own ear the songs of the Veery and the Olive-backed Thrush have little in common and if that of Bicknell's Thrush closely resembles both, it must be quite variable." The song is, indeed, somewhat variable, but it is safe to say that, with the possible exception of some freak case of mimicry, its variations never approach very near so utterly different a song as that of the Olive-back.

Perhaps I have set myself a hopeless task in trying to correct an error of observation made by the greatest field ornithologist that New England has ever had and perpetuated by the author of a book that will long stand as the great compendium of New England ornithology, but I have done my little best.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

**Dickcissel and White-winged Dove on Long Island, New York.**—*Spiza americana*. DICKCISSEL.—On October 16, 1929, I caught a Dickcissel, at Speonk, in one of my bird banding traps, together with a Swamp Sparrow. The trap was located in a small swamp about ten feet from water. Mr. Ludlow Griscom in 'Birds of the New York City Region' states that the last Dickcissel was taken on Long Island in 1890. I believe this is the first record for the Island since that date. The skin is now in my collection.

*Melopelia asiatica*. WHITE-WINGED DOVE.—On November 14, 1929, I collected a White-winged Dove at Watermill. I first saw the bird at 2:30 P. M. when it flew directly across the road in front of my car, giving me the impression that it was a Mockingbird because of the white on the wing and tail. At 3:00 P. M. when returning on the same road I again noticed the bird, this time about one half mile further west and clearly saw it was no Mockingbird. The bird was standing by the side of the road and flew up when I approached. It alighted in a nearby tree and shortly flew down into the road to get a drink out of a small pool of water. I closely examined the bird through 8 power glasses, my first impression being that it was an albino Mourning Dove. But after further study of the bird I came to the conclusion that there was a remote possibility of its not being a Mourning Dove, but a rare bird. So I accordingly collected it. The body was sent to the American Museum of Natural History where it was sexed by Dr. Chapin. It proved to be a female. It was in excellent condition, the crop containing 513 kernels of rye. Mr. Lee S. Crandall of the New York Zoological Park said that they had lost no White-winged Doves, in fact they had had none for several years. He knew of no one who might have had any. It is a new bird for New York and I believe has never been taken east of the Mississippi, north of Florida. The skin is in my collection.—LEROY WILCOX, *Speonk, L. I., N. Y.*

**Some Recent Notes from Coastal South Carolina.**—*Sturnus vulgaris*. STARLING.—Has at last made its appearance in the city of Charleston, S. C. For some years it has been an uncommon winter visitor to the coast of South Carolina, although a permanent resident and breeder about sixty miles inland. Its appearance in the city has been awaited as a natural consequence as it has been seen in the country districts since late in 1920.

The city birds were seen on January 24, 1930, along the driveway of Hampton Park, well within the limits and in a purely residential section. There were eight birds in low trees along the drive, and they were approached