

*thorus l. ludovicianus*) about two miles north of Frankfort, Benzie County, Michigan. I followed the song and soon saw a pair of the birds. I was able to approach within twenty-five feet of them and see their markings distinctly. I have become familiar with this Wren, having seen and heard it several times in Wilmette and often in Tennessee, and I am certain that there is no mistake about the identification.—DAVID E. DAVIS, *Wilmette, Illinois*.

**Hermit Thrush Feeding on Salamanders.**—I have heard and read of a few instances in which Hermit Thrushes fed their young salamanders, but in July of this past summer I became a witness to the operation. In the Allegany mountains of the western part of New York state I discovered a nesting pair of exceedingly tame Hermit Thrushes. After my third day of observation the female fed her young while she was perched on my right fore-finger (along the rim of the nest). From such close quarters I had a good chance to recognize the food given to the young. I should say that on fully one-quarter of the trips made to the nest bringing food—male and female fed—salamanders were brought. I recognized both the Allegany and Red-backed salamanders in the menu. On one day when a Sharp-shinned Hawk flew low overhead, the female in excitement dropped to the forest floor a living but much-bruised Allegany salamander. I noticed that during the hotter parts of the day fewer salamanders were brought and attributed this to the fact that the heat had driven the salamanders deeper under cover.—COTT M. COKER, *Chapel Hill, North Carolina*.

**Connecticut Notes.**—In the October, 1930 issue of 'The Auk' I note that Mr. Devere Allen of Little Forest, Wilton, Conn., confirms previous observations on the undoubted increase of Killdeer Plovers throughout this section of the State. My business takes me into the field all through this region; so for the past years I have happily witnessed the Killdeer's increased presence in Branchville, Ridgefield, Wilton, Westport, Norwalk, Darien, Stamford, and New Canaan.

I have also observed for the past three seasons, at Forestby; a male Blue Gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila c. caerulea*) on the following dates May 12, 1928; May 4, 1929; and April 27, 1930. My attention was first attracted to this unusual visitant by its unceasing activity; an almost constant darting out from the limbs of small trees after insect food. As Neltje Blanchan puts it the bird resembles in manner and form a miniature catbird.

Apparently the most identifying feature was its white outer tail quills very prominent in its warbler like antics.

It would be very pleasing to know if others have noticed this bird; as in the "Birds of Connecticut" it is listed as a very rare summer visitant.

I was not favored with any call or song note from the bird, probably because of its smallness in volume; as Nuttall says it is scarcely louder than the squeak of a mouse.—BEAUMONT J. MOREHOUSE, *Branchville, Conn.*

**Notes on the Breeding-Birds of Orange County, N. Y.**—In an effort to further a plan of the Linnaean Society to obtain as much detailed

and accurate knowledge concerning the breeding-birds of particularly the more outlying and less frequented areas of the New York Region, a preliminary survey of Orange County, New York, was undertaken in mid-June 1929 and a second, thoroughly organized trip was made to this area on June 22, 1930. On this latter date, three observers worked west along the southern end of the County from Washingtonville through Florida (New York) to Port Jervis, thence through Neversink Valley to Cuddebackville and north along Neversink Valley to the County line, on east side of valley; thence on west side of valley to Big Pond back through Otisville to Middletown, across to Campbell Hall and south to Goshen. An effort was made to cover as many typical localities as possible in the relatively limited time at our disposal. The data on breeding-birds, while probably not exhaustive, are nevertheless representative and of interest by comparison with nearby areas in New Jersey (such as the Walkill River Valley), which had been previously "worked" in the breeding season. The list of 93 species observed in Orange County, on June 22, 1930, is probably of no great significance but is somewhat indicative of the type, and relative variety and abundance of the local bird-life.

Much of Orange County is composed of rolling uplands and high, rich pasture-lands and consequently, it is not surprising to find that the Upland Plover is a fairly common species in that region, in June, though rare and for the most part, absent, in New Jersey, immediately adjoining. On June 22, 1930 a total of ten birds of this species was observed though this number may possibly include birds of the year. The significant fact, however, is that if the results of the two trips, i. e. 1929, and 1930, are combined, it is apparent that the species was observed in no less than six different and more or less widely separated localities though chiefly in the neighborhoods of Middletown, Goshen and Washingtonville, Orange County, New York.

The only country, evidently suitable to the northern Warblers and Canadian species generally, in the County, is to be found in the extreme north-west edge, i. e. north and west of Port Jervis, principally about the Neversink Valley. It is here, if anywhere, that the locally necessary condition of altitude with its corresponding effect upon flora and fauna, exists. The following species generally regarded as more or less distinctively Canadian, were observed on June 22, for the most part in song; it is quite possible or even likely that others will eventually be discovered in this portion of Orange County, and possibly elsewhere within the County limits: Black-throated Blue Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Canada Warbler.

It is of interest to note that the Short-billed Marsh Wren is an abundant breeder in certain of the river swamps, such as that of the Walkill River, and is generally a commoner and more universally distributed species, in Orange County, New York, than in the major portion of New Jersey with which we are familiar. A pair of Tufted Titmice, feeding a brood of young, discovered at a point about nine miles north of Goshen, apparently repre-

sents a considerable extension of the known breeding range of the species, in the New York Region, though perhaps a sporadic instance.

The following is a list of the more interesting species recorded on June 22, which, for obvious reasons, does not include those treated in detail above: Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 3; Sora, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Turkey Vulture, 4; Northern Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 8; Orchard Oriole, 2; Purple Finch, 1; Grasshopper Sparrow, abundant; Henslow's Sparrow, 5; Purple Martin, 3; Cliff Swallow, 15; Tree Swallow, 4; Rough-winged Swallow, 1; Northern Parula Warbler, 1.—IRVING KASSOY, JOHN AND RICHARD KUERZI, *New York City*.

**Further Notes from the Savannah River Entrance.**—Several of the low marsh islands near the mouth of the Savannah River, are in a doubtful status as to whether occurrences should be recorded as from South Carolina or Georgia. After talking the matter over with the only two bird students giving more than a passing interest to the area, it was decided to record all occurrences as given below, until some better method or authority appears. The two persons mentioned above are Mr. W. J. Erichson and Mr. Gilbert R. Rossignol.

South Carolina: Jones Island, Long Island Fill, Horseshoe Shoals.

Georgia: (a) All the islands on the south side of the river, including: Cockspur Island, Long Island, Maurice Island, Elba Island. On the north side of the river: (b) Oysterbed Island, (c) The entire main river channel, including both north and south jetties.

The Long Island Fill is a recent engineering work connected to Jones Island and will soon reach to Oysterbed Island. It is about 15,000 ft. long, from 300 to 600 feet wide at high water, and has an average elevation of 12 feet above low water. The north side is concave, and between the Fill and the long point of Jones Island is a mud flat roughly oval one mile by two in size, that has come to be a great feeding place and high water rendezvous of many different water birds. Several small sand bars reaching out on either side afford night resting places, and a half-submerged jetty or so attracts the oystercatchers and ruddy turnstones.

Oysterbed Island was first what the name states, an oysterbed in the middle of the Savannah River, but changes of channel, and material pumped on it has increased it to perhaps 4,000 ft. long by 3,000 feet wide, and an elevation of 20-odd feet at low water. This sandy hill is the nesting ground for colonies of Least Terns, Black Skimmers, and Willets, and Wilson's Plover in abundance, with a pair or so of Oystercatchers, also nest here each year.

*Phalacrocorax carbo*. CORMORANT. A single bird found sitting on the north jetty was shot as it flew, and proved to be a male in good flesh and plumage. The skin was later sent to the Charleston Museum, and Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., agreed in the identification. He mentions the two records for South Carolina mentioned by Wayne in his 'Birds of South Carolina' and by Bent in his 'Life Histories.'