

out of the car, we were properly astounded to recognize a Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*). The rest of the party, Messrs. C. E. Clarke and brother, George Perry, R. J. Eaton, and John H. Baker and his brother, Dr. Myles Baker, came up a moment later, and we all had a perfect study of the kingbird, easily noting all the diagnostic characters. The day was phenomenally warm, and the kingbird was busy hawking for insects, but appeared tame and unsuspecting.

It seemed highly desirable to collect the specimen, but the party was weaponless. Griscom accordingly walked to the nearest house to borrow a shotgun. The owner was cordial and showed a strong spirit of co-operation, but had lent his gun to the owner of the next house. Proceeding there, Griscom obtained the gun, a double-barreled 12 gauge shotgun, but the available ammunition consisted of two No. 2 shells. Armed with this extremely unfavorable equipment, Griscom returned to his party, only to find that the kingbird had made a long flight across country, but Eaton had fortunately lined it up accurately, and it was finally found in an apple tree in somebody's back lot. Griscom was devoid of experience in collecting small land birds with No. 2 shot. The first shot damaged the apple tree to no purpose, but the bird was secured comparatively undamaged with the second. The sudden outburst of heavy artillery in their orchard gave justifiable annoyance to the occupants of the house, but when the object and results were explained to them with proper apologies, they were so good as to overlook our trespass.

The specimen proved to be an adult female, and has been presented to the Peabody Museum at Salem, where it will be mounted and put on exhibition. It is definitely the typical subspecies. The date is the height of the fall migration of the species from the West Indies to South America. A low pressure area which blanketed eastern New England in rain, fog, and mist for five days during the preceding week may have been attended by strong winds farther south. The only other record for New England is based on a bird shot in 1869, also in Essex Co., Mass., and preserved in the Boston Society of Natural History, the latter fact unrecorded by Forbush.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN and LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.*

Status of the Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) in Maryland.—Investigation of this subject has been prompted by the collection of a specimen of this species near Denton, Maryland, on September 28, 1931, by S. E. Perkins, III.

On the above date Mr. Perkins wrote me in part, as follows: "Today while returning from Preston in this county, I observed a large flycatcher making beautiful curving sallies from a fence after insects. In general it looked like a kingbird or a mocker but was clearly neither. A closer inspection made me think it an Arkansas Kingbird. I returned here (Denton) and verified my suspicions. Returned to the field with Mr. Virgil Moore and his son Charles, hunted it up, collected it, and I send the skin under

separate cover for your inspection." The specimen was duly received and Mr. Perkins's determination corroborated.

The bird is evidently an immature, as the feathers have the "woolly" texture characteristic of many birds in juvenal plumage, and moreover, it lacks all sign of the concealed occipital orange patch. The specimen is preserved in the collections of the Biological Survey.

So far as I am able to ascertain, the only other record for this species, credited to Maryland, is the specimen obtained fresh in the markets at Washington, D. C., on September 30, 1874, by Pierre Louis Jouy and presented by him to the Smithsonian Institution.¹ This species was subsequently included by Jouy in his 'Catalogue of the Birds of the District of Columbia.'² As originally published the catalogue merely listed the different species without comment, although the accidentals were marked with an asterisk. This paper was, however, reprinted by Mr. Jouy and issued separately, repaged and "with Remarks on the Birds of the District, by Drs. Coues and Prentiss." In these remarks the statement is made (p. 11) that the specimen of *T. verticalis* "was not known to have been secured in the District, but was certainly shot in the immediate vicinity, as Mr. Jouy found it fresh in market, on the 30th of September, 1874. The specimen is preserved in the Smithsonian Institution." It will be observed that no attempt is made to state the probability of collection in either Maryland or Virginia, although both states certainly are "in the immediate vicinity." Nevertheless, in 'Avifauna Columbiana' (2nd ed., p. 76, 1883) Coues and Prentiss refer to this bird and state "In point of fact, it was not actually got in the District, but in some adjoining portion of Maryland." This appears to be the first statement that the bird in question was secured in Maryland, and while it is not improbable that Mr. Jouy obtained this information from the market dealer, no evidence is presented to indicate such authority. The record has so stood to the present day being quoted in the several lists of the birds of the Washington region and in the 'Birds of Maryland,' by F. C. Kirkwood (p. 316). The specimen is still contained in the collections of the National Museum, and is labeled number 67396, ♂, Maryland, Sept. 30, '74. The catalogue entry adds "juv." to the record and the specimen is in fact, an immature, almost exactly like the Perkins example here recorded.

From the information obtained it would appear that the locality of collection for the Jouy specimen is based chiefly upon the probability that it was taken in Maryland rather than in Virginia. Nevertheless, the status of the species in Maryland is satisfactorily established by the specimen obtained by Mr. Perkins. In this connection it is of interest that the species is also entitled to a place on the list of Virginia birds, as a specimen collected September 19, 1919, on Wallops Island, Accomac County, Vir-

¹ Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution for the year 1874, p. 32.

² Field and Forest, vol. II, no. 10, p. 178, April, 1877.

ginia, by the late Dr. B. H. Warren, was so identified at the Biological Survey. Curiously enough, all three specimens here mentioned were collected in September, and at least two of them were birds of the year.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Late Nesting of the House Wren at Lexington, Virginia.—On Sept. 1, 1931, after returning from a vacation trip, I discovered a House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon aedon*) carrying food into a box at my front porch commonly used by them. On investigating I found three young in the nest apparently about four days old. The development of the brood was normal, and they left the nest early on the morning of September 12. Apparently only one adult was taking care of them. In answer to some questions Mr. S. Charles Kendeigh writes me as follows: "September records of nesting House Wrens are quite exceptional. In looking over some of the back records of the Baldwin Bird Research Laboratory, I could find only one record of nestling birds in September. That was of a brood of four which were fourteen days old on September 1. Unfortunately, I was compelled to leave the laboratory on this date and so do not know exactly when they left, but it was probably within the next day or two." That was in 1927.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Va.*

Carolina Wren roosting in Hornet's Nest.—On October 30, 1931 a resident of Yellow Springs, Ohio, related the following incident: A week previously she had heard a Carolina Wren singing in the yard around her home. Wishing to coax the bird to winter near-by, she hung a carpet-covered basket just under the eaves of a door-stoop roof on the north side of the house. Much to her surprise the wren refused the use of the improvised roost and, instead, entered the rear porch of the home via the open lattice work. As a roosting place the bird chose the interior of a large old hornets' nest which the owner of the home had hung in a dark corner of the porch. The bird's entrance to the hornets' nest was through a hole on the upper side of the structure.

This may be an entirely new and individualistic adaptation of the Carolina Wren to man's civilization, or it may indicate one type of its normal winter roosting place.—LOUIS B. KALTER, *535 Belmont Park, N., Dayton, Ohio.*

Nest Construction of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.—On May 15, 1931, while crossing a wood lot I came upon two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (*Poliophtila caerulea caerulea*) finishing a nest which they had constructed on a horizontal limb of an oak tree twenty feet from the ground and five feet from the main trunk and directly under another limb. The apparent intention of nature was thwarted by the placing of this lichen-covered nest in a lichen-less tree and thereby making it very conspicuous. An hour's observation disclosed the fact that both birds took part in the completion of the nest although one of them visited it more frequently than the other. Both took the same particular pains and worked in the same way. They