

Bass. Here, too, on these most northern islands the Red-winged Blackbirds were building in considerable numbers, although there was no suggestion of swampiness along the stony beach. True, the nests were placed low down in the brush.

The din of screaming Terns, calling Blackbirds and warbling Wrens was something to be remembered. Indeed, for hours after leaving the vicinity the same sounds mingled with the southing wind and roaring surf. The Terns were nowhere so numerous that they obscured the sky, but their numbers were uncountable on four of the smaller islands. Black Terns mingled freely with the Common Terns, but were evidently not breeding anywhere in the vicinity. Likewise the American Herring Gulls, few in numbers, were merely roosting out of harms way.

In all 58 species were recorded. The largest number, 42, were found on Middle Bass. On one rock reef but four species were present.

One cannot resist the conclusion that this chain of islands is a natural highway for the birds on their annual migrations.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, *POLIOPTILLA CÆRULEA*.—In my tour of the woods on the 10th of May, I found a nest of this bird saddled upon the horizontal limb of a small post oak tree. Nest about five feet from the trunk of the tree, and about ten feet from the ground. Hillside, high open woods, adjoining cultivated field, through which flowed a small stream. These birds reared their brood undisturbed, nest taken July 1st.

Measurement,—Height, 2.75. Depth, 1.25. Top across, outside 2.50, inside 1.00. Bottom, outside, 1.50; inside, 1.00. Inside walls declining from circumference to center making a shallow funnel shaped cup.

Material.—Entire outside composed of lichens, held together by caterpillar silk, and the stems of the sensitive vine, mixed with a quantity of a little nut brown husk, about one-fourth of an inch in length, the name of which I could not determine. This envelope was separated from the nest entire, without falling apart, making a mat 5.50 inches long on one

side, and 4.00 inches on the other, with a width of 3.50 inches. The remainder of the nest was composed of small feathers and lichens, made compactly together, with a few straggling horse hairs worked in near the bottom.

Although I have read descriptions of the nests of this bird, in which they were described as being fastened to the upright twigs of trees, I have never observed any in such positions. All which I have found in our woods, were saddled upon horizontal limbs, often on the highest branches, but never on the upright growth of a tree,

ROBERT WINDSOR SMITH, *Kirkwood, DeKalb Co., Ga.*

LITTLE BLUE-HERON, *Ardea cærulea*.—An immature female was brought to me on August 6th, by Mr. William Wayne, 3rd, who secured it at a mill dam on Crum creek, about three miles southeast of Berwyn. It is pure white with the exception of the tips of its primaries, and measures: length, 22.00; wing 10.10; tarsus, 4.00; bill, 2.84, in inches. Mr. Wayne informed me that two birds were seen, but one flew too high for a second shot. I believe this is the only record for Chester county, and it appears to have always been quite rare in Pennsylvania. Dr. Warren mentions "two or three taken in the southeastern part of the State," one of which, a young bird, was taken in August, 1875. Unfortunately the rumors of several other "White Herons" seen or shot in this neighborhood in a dozen years, have not been followed up.

FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Pa.*

COLONY OF BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS, *Nycticorax nycticorax nævius*.—Some years ago I visited a breeding ground of this species, situated a quarter to a half mile from water, near Columbia. The nests—which were often mere platforms of sticks and twigs—were placed well up and well out on the branches. Several sets of eggs were taken at a height of from sixty-three to seventy-five feet in chestnut trees. As many as five nests counted in a single tree.

LIONEL F. BOWERS, *Columbia, Penna.*