

very nearly circular — is forced into a pyriform shape. The malar and squamosal bones are bent almost at right angles, the junction of the angle pressing forcibly against the muscles of the lower mandible. (See illustration.) From the irritated appearance it must have caused considerable pain to the bird.

The entire body was fearfully emaciated and the bird was almost dead. It was absolutely impossible for the bird to have fed itself, and from the appearance of the sides of the mouth it was evident that another bird had been feeding it. A few soft seeds, about the shape of wild rice, though smaller and apparently predigested, were protruding from one side of the mouth, but the bird could not pass them through far enough to swallow them.—FRANK M. WOODRUFF, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Ill.*



Malformed bill of Rose-breasted Grosbeak

**Breeding of the Rough-winged Swallow in Berkshire County, Massachusetts.**—On July 3, 1906, as I was waiting for a train at the railroad station in Glendale, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, I saw a pair of Rough-winged Swallows flying back and forth over the Housatonic River. Skimming just above the surface of the rapidly flowing water they passed and repassed the station very many times, giving me excellent opportunities for making out their characteristic coloring and markings. Once they alighted on a large, flat-topped boulder at the water's edge where they moved about by a succession of short, quick runs, reminding me of Semipalmated Plover feeding on a sand beach. I have never before seen swallows of any kind move so quickly by the aid of their feet alone. After drinking at a pool of rain water which had collected in a hollow in the rock, these birds took wing again and resumed their regular, coursing flights. They frequently passed under a bridge by which the road from the village to the station crosses the river, and twice they turned sharply upwards and disappeared for a moment among its supporting rafters, which were twenty-five or thirty feet above the water. Suspecting that they might have a nest there I went out on the bridge, but I could not well see under it. On a telephone wire stretched across the river near the bridge I found, however, three young Rough-winged Swallows, fully grown and feathered, clamoring loudly for food, which their parents brought to them every few minutes. I had a fine view of these young birds, for they were perched in full sunlight within ten or twelve yards of me. Probably

there were one or two others of the brood under the bridge, but of this I could not make sure. Two of those on the wire sat facing me, showing very distinctly the rich, reddish brown or fulvous markings on the throat and upper part of the breast, which are so characteristic of the young of *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. Their plumage was wholly free from down, and their wings and tails appeared to be of full length. They must have been out of the nest for a week or more, but I consider it probable that they were hatched and reared in the immediate neighborhood. Although from the first I had entertained no doubts as to the identity of the old birds, I was glad of the opportunity here afforded for directly comparing them with a number of Bank Swallows which were flying about over the river just above the bridge. Whenever the two species came together it was easy to distinguish them, almost at a glance, for the Rough-wings looked a third larger and very much browner than the Bank Swallows, and they showed no traces of the dark pectoral band so conspicuous in the latter birds.— WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Another Connecticut Warbler from Maine.**— The publication by Mr. W. H. Brownson in the last number of 'The Auk' (p. 105) of seven records of the Connecticut Warbler from Maine leads me to record another specimen of this bird which I shot in Eliot, York Co., Maine, on September 12, 1894. This specimen, which was a bird of the year, is now in my collection.— ARTHUR H. HOWELL, *Washington, D. C.*

**The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Massachusetts.**— A male Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila cærulea*) was shot at Hyde Park, Mass., on Sept. 22, 1906, by Frank E. Webster of this town. The bird was alone, feeding in a clump of white birches in a yard. It was very lively in its actions, continually flitting about and now and then uttering a little squeaking note. The skin is now in the collection of Mr. John Thayer, Lancaster, Mass. — H. G. Higbee, *Hyde Park, Mass.*

**The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Philadelphia County, Pa.**— On April 19, 1904, while searching for Song Sparrows' nests in a bunch of nettles at Frankford, this county, I found a dead Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila cærulea*) lying in the weeds. An examination found it badly torn and mutilated, and useless as a specimen; its skull however, was preserved. It had undoubtedly been killed by boys with a sling-shot, as its condition indicated such a fate, and had been dead several days as it was infested with vermin.

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is an extremely rare transient in the Delaware Valley, and my record constitutes the first spring record, and the second one of its occurrence in this county. In the enumerated list of specimens in Stone's 'Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey' (p. 148) there is one record for Pennsylvania, and that is the specimen alluded to above, which was taken September 3, 1880, at Chestnut Hill,