

to compare them. The broken egg and the egg of the Cowbird were removed. On returning to the nest June 19, it was found to be deserted.

While interesting in itself and of importance as a fact in the history of the relationships which exist between these two birds, this record has no decisive bearing on the case, and it would be unwise therefore to attempt to draw inferences from it.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Warblers Destroyed by a 'Norther.'—Thousands of Warblers undoubtedly perished here last week during the 'norther,' which lasted three days, commencing on March 16. On the evening of that day flocks of Warblers were noticed around the gardens and houses here, and the next day many were found dead or were caught in a half-perished condition. About fifty per cent of them were Black-and-white Warblers (*Mniotilta varia*). The remainder were about equally divided between Parulas (*Compsothlypis americana*) and Sycamore Warblers (*Dendroica dominica albiflora*). Many Sycamore Warblers and Parulas were captured alive in the houses.

On the 19th, among many dead Warblers which were brought to me were a specimen of the Louisiana Water-thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) and one Hooded Warbler (*Sylvania mitrata*). Many Yellowrumps were in company with the rest, and, though much tamer than usual, none were found dead or were captured. On the 19th I made a trip for the purpose of observation, and found many Black-and-white Warblers and Parulas lying dead on the ground at the foot of live-oak trees.

From many of the ranches in the country round here, came reports of similar occurrences, and many dead birds of the species mentioned have been sent to me.—H. P. ATTWATER, *Rockport, Aransas Co., Texas.*

Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis in New Jersey.—On the 30th of May, 1889, I shot at Raritan, New Jersey, four Water-thrushes. The skin of one I have since shown to Dr. J. A. Allen of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and he pronounces it, without a doubt, Grinnell's Water-thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis*).—WILLIAM C. SOUTHWICK, *Raritan, New Jersey.*

Melanism in a Caged Wood Thrush.—A melanistic specimen of *Turdus mustelinus* (American Museum, No. 57,507, New York, June 20, 1892, presented by W. Warren Brown) differs from normal specimens of this species as follows: Two primaries, one entire secondary and a part of the outer web of three others of the right wing, and one primary of the left wing, are dull grayish; the auriculars are black, lightly tipped with fulvous; half the feathers of the chin are wholly black; the throat is normal, the sides of the neck are slightly blacker than is usual, the exposed portion of the feathers of the breast, flanks, under wing-coverts, and crissum are black with narrow tips or borders of tawny which on the breast are reduced to the minimum.

The bird-dealer from whom Mr. Brown purchased this specimen told him it was one of a nest of four he procured in June, 1891, and the following December or January they all changed to the same color as the example just described. There are a number of recorded instances of black Robins,* but so far as I am aware melanism has not before been noticed in the Wood Thrush.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Water Birds at Nantucket, Massachusetts.—*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*.—May 1, 1892, I saw eight Herring Gulls, two of which were adults, the others young in the gray plumage, resting in the Hummuck Pond. They frequent the large ponds to rest, as do also the Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*).

Larus philadelphia.—At Tuckernuck and Nantucket Islands the first Bonaparte Gulls this spring appeared May 10, 1892, four or five pairs, during a heavy southeast rainstorm.

Sterna hirundo.—At Tuckernuck and Nantucket the first arrivals this spring of the Common Tern appeared May 10, 1892. They came in flocks of fifty or more, drifting sidewise before a heavy southeast rainstorm. They scaled around several times, screaming, before alighting.

Merganser serrator.—May 1, 1892, I saw about thirty Red-breasted Mergansers in the Hummuck Pond, and on May 4 there were still quite a number living there.

Anas americana.—Feb. 22, 1891, I saw two Baldpates and shot one, a young male, the stomach of which contained only a little white sand. In former years they used to be fairly abundant here, but are now rather scarce.

Aythya americana.—Feb. 22, 1891, I saw three male Redheads in full plumage which were shot from a flock of about forty. They had been frequenting Coskata Pond in the eastern part of the island. These Ducks were fairly numerous here in former years; a few are at times seen here during the winter.

Aythya marila nearctica.—May 1, 1892, I saw two flocks of American Scaup, about twenty-five in each flock; they were resting in the Hummuck Pond. They were probably the remainder of those which have been in this locality all winter, numbering fully five hundred. I saw several hundred of them in the same pond on Feb. 21. There have been more of these Ducks about the island during the winters of 1891 and 1892 than for many years. In times past they were abundant every year. I noted a good many more of them during the past autumn, winter and spring than in the previous year. They appear early in November and are mostly gone by May 1.

Aythya affinis.—Feb. 22, 1892.—I have not noted any of these Ducks here before. While shooting at the Hummuck Pond on the above date, a single Lesser Scaup came to the decoys and was secured. There were a number of *A. m. nearctica* in the pond at the time.

*Deane, Bull. N. O. C., I, 1876, p. 24; Coues, *ibid.*, III, 1878, p. 48; Barrows, Auk, I, 1884, p. 90; II, 1885, p. 303; Faxon, *ibid.*, III, 1886, p. 284.