

Dryobates scalaris lucasanus in San Diego County, California.—A Sapsucker collected by Mr. W. W. Price on April 29, 1889, at White Water, San Diego County, Cal., is a typical example of *Dryobates scalaris lucasanus*. Mr. Price writes me that the specimen (♂ ad., No. 5,324, collection of G. S. Miller, Jr.) was shot from a telegraph pole “about three miles west of the station of White Water.” Woodpeckers, apparently of the same kind, were seen on several other occasions on the telegraph poles along the line of the S. P. R. R. near White Water, but they were very shy and no more could be killed. The birds were nesting in the telegraph poles, there being no other wood in the region.

Mr. A. W. Anthony found this bird among the San Pedro Martir Mountains, Lower California, in April, 1893 (Zoe, IV, October, 1893, p. 236). The present record extends the range of the form considerably to the northward.—GERRIT S. MILLER, JR., *Cambridge, Mass.*

Notes on the Capture of the Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) near Charleston, South Carolina.—In the early part of May, 1885, Mr. Brewster and myself saw a pair of Gray Kingbirds at Fort Moultrie, Sullivan’s Island, S. C. I determined to secure these birds with their nest and eggs, and after several visits to the Island I located their range, and on May 28, I found their nest which contained one egg and shot the female bird. The nest was built in a silver-leaf poplar, in a gentleman’s yard, only a few feet from his dwelling house. The nest, as I remember it, was very frail. Since that date of capture I have failed to notice the presence of this species on any of the coast islands of South Carolina, until this year, 1893.

On May 30 of this year, I determined to search Sullivan’s Island carefully for this rare visitor, and accordingly I arrived there early in the morning of the above date. After walking the entire length of the Island near the front beach, and having failed to discover this species, I leisurely searched the back beach. At twelve o’clock—mid-day—a bird I saw flying about three hundred yards away I took to be this species. I followed the direction of its flight until it was lost to view—over half a mile away. I at once hastened to the spot, and to my delight found a veritable Gray Kingbird perched on the top of a flag pole about fifty feet high in a private yard. The law on the Island prohibits shooting, under penalty of \$10.00 fine. My only chance was for the bird to light on the Government property—Fort Moultrie grounds—six yards away, where I could not be molested. I did not have long to wait before the male which was perched on the flag pole flew into the Government lands where I at once shot it. Upon my shooting the bird its mate flew directly over me, and I soon had it stored carefully away in my collecting basket. The nest which was found in the private yard, close to the flag pole, was built in the top of a small live oak tree about twenty feet high. It is a very frail structure, and is composed of sticks, jesamine vines, and lined apparently with oleander rootlets. One article in its composition which

is quite curious is a long piece of fishing cord. The nest contained two eggs, and upon dissecting the female I found one more egg which would have been laid the following day. It will be seen that all the specimens of the Gray Kingbird which have been actually taken in South Carolina were from this famous Island—a favorite summer resort for the people of Charleston.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

Picicorvus an Untenable Genus.—In 'History of North American Birds,' Vol. II, p. 255, it is stated that the so-called genus *Picicorvus* "is so similar to *Nucifraga* as to be hardly separable; the principal difference being in the slender and more decurved and attenuated bill, with a slightly concave, instead of convex, culmen, and plain instead of spotted plumage." At the time, only one of the Old World species of *Nucifraga*, *N. caryocatactes*, the type of the genus, was available for comparison, and such was still the case when the A. O. U. Check-List was prepared; but more recently other species have been secured by the National Museum, and these, notably *N. multiguttata* Gould, from the Himalayas, show that the supposed distinction as to shape of the bill exists only as a specific character, *N. multipunctata* having the bill quite as slender as that of "*Picicorvus*" *columbianus*. Furthermore, the American species frequently shows indications of white apical spots to feathers of the breast, and still better developed white spots at tips of primaries. I can therefore see no good reason for continuing the recognition of *Picicorvus* as a genus, and would follow Audubon in calling Clarke's Nutcracker *Nucifraga columbiana*.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Notes on the Distribution of the Bobolink in South Carolina.—Mr. Loomis in his article entitled 'A Further Review of the Avian Fauna of Chester County, South Carolina,' in 'The Auk' for January, 1894, p. 27, makes this statement: "This is exemplified in the Bobolink, which is abundant along the South Carolina coast in autumn, but only so in the interior of the State in spring." This latter clause is entirely incorrect. The Bobolink is very abundant along the coast from April 28 to May 26, and some remain until June 5. They are known as 'May Birds,' and play havoc with the rice which has just sprouted by pulling it up. The rice fields have to be watched from morning till night by men called 'bird minders' who are shooting the entire day. A great many planters now plant the 'late' rice in June to avoid the birds. The May Birds do not confine themselves entirely to the rice, but also resort to the oat fields which at that season are 'in the milk,' and they become excessively fat. I have killed frequently more than forty Bobolinks at a shot from the oat fields in May. The Bobolink is also very partial to the enormous potato fields which are in full bloom the last of May and nearly ready to be dug. I have never been able to find what they feed on in the potato fields but it must be some bug peculiar to the potato. It is safe to say that millions of Bobolinks depredate upon the rice planters every May.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*