

willow brush. I tried a charge of the small shot but did not reach him. He flew out and I killed him with No. 6 shot on the wing, the bird falling about seventy yards from where I stood. The individual killed on the evening of the 10th was a female and the other two were males. All were fat and their stomachs were well filled with worms and water grubs, larvæ, etc. Their feet were perfect in every way, the claws being sharp and showing not the slightest indication of having grasped the perch of a bird cage; and besides, the birds were exceedingly wild and shy. Then again cage birds as rare as the Mockingbird is in this latitude, and especially locality, do not go about in flocks, so, on the whole, I am satisfied that the birds came north with a flock of Brown Thrashers with which they were associating at the time I found them. I am not at all familiar with *Mimus polyglottos*, but one feature presented by the specimens captured appeared a little odd. The iris of the female was brown while that of both males was greenish yellow, much like the iris of *Oroscoptes montanus*, but not quite so yellow.—FRANK BOND, *Cheyenne, Wyoming*.

Bird Notes from Virginia.—The writer, in company with Messrs. C. W. Richmond and E. M. Hasbrouck, spent from May 14 to May 28, 1894, on Smith's Island, Northampton Co., Virginia, observing the bird life of that place. During our stay we identified sixty-two species of birds on the island, and noted a number on the adjacent mainland which were not seen on the island. The writer shot two females and one male *Tringa fuscicollis*, the first recorded instance of its occurrence in Virginia.

Terns, especially *Sterna antillarum* and *Gelochelidon nilotica*, seem to be rapidly diminishing in numbers, being far less common than I observed them on two previous trips in 1891 and 1892, when I was collecting in the vicinity of Smith's Island.

Tringa canutus was quite numerous, occurring in large flocks. May 25 hundreds of these birds were seen feeding along the extensive mud flats on the outer sea beach; some were in very highly colored plumage.

Ammodramus maritimus was breeding, and quite numerous; we secured forty-three specimens of this bird, and several sets of eggs.—EDWARD J. BROWN, *Washington, D. C.*

Connecticut Notes.—While collecting in a piece of thick woods near Greenwich, Fairfield Co., Conn., on the 25th of June, 1893, I found what at first appeared to be a nest of the Red-eyed Vireo, but which on closer inspection proved to be that of the Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax acadicus*). The nest contained three young several days old. The parent kept to the nest until I was within a yard of her, thus giving a good chance for identification. I think there are but two or three records of this species occurring in Connecticut.

On the 12th of July, while looking for *Helminthophila*, I took an adult female *H. lawrencii*. The bird is in every way like the female *H. pinus* excepting that the throat patch and stripe through the eye, which in the

male *H. lawrencii* are black, are in this specimen dusky olive-green. The specimen is quite similar to the one taken by Mr. H. W. Flint in New Haven several years ago.

The young in first plumage which this bird was attending when shot were in every respect typical *H. pinus*. The male parent was not found but I feel confident that it was *H. pinus*, as the young were well feathered and showed clearly the well defined black lores of the latter.—CLARK GREENWOOD VOORHEES, *New York City*.

Notes on Kansas Birds.—Mr. H. W. Menke, of Finney County, Kansas, at present a student in the University of Kansas, has noted in the county of his home four birds new to the bird fauna of Kansas. Finney County lies in the western and dryer portion of the State, and comprises chiefly high, dry plains. It is traversed by the Arkansas River flowing east from Colorado, but there is practically no timbered land in the county. The additions to the Kansas bird list are as follows:—

Carpodacus frontalis. HOUSE FINCH.—Five were taken by Mr. Menke out of a flock of fifteen on Jan. 5, 1892. The remnant of the flock was seen on the following day and again on the 7th. The birds were found about some stacks of alfalfa in a field of this western forage plant.

Piranga ludoviciana. LOUISIANA TANAGER.—A male was shot on May 20, 1893. On June 1, 1893, several pairs were seen in a small cottonwood grove in Kearney County (a county adjoining Finney).

Dendroica cærulescens. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—A male was taken in a deserted farm-house Oct. 17, 1891.

Hesperocichla nævia. VARIED THRUSH.—A single specimen was taken Oct. 17, 1891.

Mr. Menke has also taken in Finney County the Cinnamon Teal, the Red-breasted Merganser and the American Golden-eye, all rare Ducks in Kansas. A brother of Mr. Menke (Mr. G. G. Menke) took a set of nine eggs of the Black Rail (*Porzana jamaicensis*) on June 6, 1889. The Black Rail is a rare summer resident in Kansas. On April 23, 1893, Mr. Menke shot a Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes torquatus*), the second reported occurrence of this bird in the State. He also records the second occurrence of Clarke's Nutcracker (*Picicorvus columbianus*). Three birds were seen on Oct. 10, 1891. Mr. Menke also reports that the Pinon Jay (*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*) which Col. Goss in his 'Birds of Kansas' (1891) calls a rare visitant, with but one authentic record of occurrence, was a common winter resident up to 1891, appearing in large flocks in the autumns of 1889, 1890 and 1891.—V. L. KELLOGG, *University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kans.*

Temperature and Nest-building.—On or about March 1, 1894, I saw a Blue Jay pressing its breast upon a few twigs in the crotch of a large post-oak limb. This tree, standing almost directly in the path of my daily walks, was watched for some two weeks and no birds being seen nor any