

River, on the afternoon of the same day, when the cold was not especially severe, although it had been so the previous night, many Swallows while on the wing were seen to fall lifeless into the river. I learn that at Lemon City for several days the boys amused themselves by dropping their hats over benumbed or exhausted Swallows on the docks. On the morning of February 15, seven dead birds were taken from under the seat of a catboat where they had evidently sought shelter during the previous afternoon and had perished in the night. The same day I noticed many dead Swallows in the water and on the shores of Biscayne Bay adjacent to this place. At Cocoanut Grove, about ten miles further south, many birds were killed, over sixty dead Swallows being found one morning on the roof of a piazza. Persons who visited the ocean shore, which is a favorite resort for these birds, reported the beach as thickly bestrewn with dead Swallows. At the house of refuge, located on the coast opposite this place, over one hundred and fifty dead birds were counted one day.

An examination of the alimentary tracts of some of the birds showed an entire absence of food; and to this cause, rather than the direct influence of the cold, I am inclined to attribute the exceedingly great mortality which ensued.—HUGH M. SMITH, *Lemon City, Dade Co., Florida.*

The Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) and Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) Wintering in South Carolina.—I shot a male Rough-winged Swallow on the morning of December 22, 1894, which had been in the neighborhood for over a month, and which had roosted in a barn since November. I also shot two Tree Swallows on January 4, 1895. The weather was intensely cold between these dates, the thermometer registering as low as 8° above zero. It is not unusual to see hundreds of Tree Swallows on mild days in January and February, but it is certainly surprising to find them braving a temperature of 8° to 10° above zero. The Tree Swallows had their throats stuffed with myrtle berries, which they subsist upon in the fall and winter months.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

A Ground Nest of the Black-throated Green Warbler.—This Warbler is notoriously variable in its choice of a nesting site. The usual situation, of course, is the horizontal branch of a pine, hemlock or spruce, but I have seen nests built at or near the tops of tall specimens of these evergreens, in deciduous trees, such as birches and elms, and in barberry bushes in open pastures. It appears, however, that there is an even wider range of possibilities, for Mr. Clarence H. Watrous has just sent me a nest which he found—at Chester, Connecticut, June 18, 1894—*on the ground* “among a large clump of ferns in a very low and damp place under a heavy growth of hemlocks.” There is nothing peculiar about the composition or construction of this nest save that it

is unusually bulky and loosely woven at the bottom, showing plainly—were such evidence needed—that it must have originally rested on a broader and more stable foundation than the fork or branch of a tree or shrub. Its identification is placed beyond all question by the fact that it is accompanied by the skin of its little architect and owner who was shot while sitting on her four eggs. These, it may be added, are perfectly typical eggs of *D. virens*.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Dendroica palmarum in New Jersey.—Learning from Mr. Witmer Stone's 'Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey' that this western race of the Palm Warbler has not been recorded from the region covered by that work I desire to record my capture of an adult female *Dendroica palmarum* at Red Bank, Monmouth County, New Jersey, September 28, 1889. Several others were observed at close range and the comparative absence of yellow remarked.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

Breeding of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Minnesota.—Until the summer of 1892 this bird was a rare visitor in Minnesota and was not supposed to breed here at all. In the month of April, 1892, several pairs were observed near St. Paul for the first time. In June a nest was found by a local collector and brought to me for identification. The parent being taken with the nest it was easily identified. This find set me to searching for their nests the next season, and I was rewarded with a fine set of five eggs which were taken with the nest and parent in June. That was the only nest observed in 1893. The past summer the birds were much commoner than ever before, and four nests were found, three with eggs. The first nest was taken May 27, and contained four fresh eggs. The second set was taken on June 2, with five slightly incubated eggs. The third, also taken on June 2, contained four fresh eggs. The fourth nest, taken on June 18, contained four young, just hatched, and one addled egg. This is, I believe, the first record of the Gnatcatcher breeding north of 43° N. lat., St. Paul being in lat. 45° N. All the nests, with one exception, were taken in West St. Paul, in Dakota County. They were all placed on horizontal branches of the burr oak and the height varied from twelve to twenty-four feet.—WALTON MITCHELL, *St. Paul, Minn.*

The Systematic Name of the Mexican Creeper.—The specific or subspecific name *mexicana* has long been in use for the *Certhia* inhabiting the mountains of Guatemala, Mexico, and southern Arizona. The original reference to the name I have had no opportunity to verify, but it is credited to Gloger (Handbuch, 1834, 381) and Reichenbach (Handb. Spez. Orn., 266). The former is cited in the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List and by Mr. Sharpe in Volume VIII of the 'Catalogue