

The Louisiana Water-Thrush Breeding in Berkshire County, Mass.—On the eleventh of June, 1896, I found a pair of Louisiana Water-Thrushes (*Seiurus motacilla*) feeding fledged young, near a clear mountain brook in Sheffield, Berkshire Co., Mass.—WALTER FAXON, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

The Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) in Canada.—A young Mockingbird taken in the fall of 1894 and sent to me from Sable Island, Nova Scotia, constitutes the fifth record of this species for Canada. The other four are so scattered and have been so often incompletely quoted it seems worth while to review them here. They stand as follows:

I. Strathroy, Ont. (Strathroy Age [newspaper], July 1, 1880; Forest and Stream, XV, Aug. 26, 1880, p. 67; Bull. N. O. C., VI, 1881, p. 112). A single bird was seen in the town but not captured.

II. Chatham, Ont. (Morden and Saunders, Canadian Sportsman and Naturalist, II, Nov. 1882, p. 184; Chamberlain, Cat. Canadian Birds, 1887, p. 110; McIlwraith, Birds of Ontario, revised ed., 1894, p. 388; Piers, Trans. N. S. Inst. Nat. Sci., I, ser. 2, pt. iv, 1895, p. 409).

In point of time, 1860, this is the first Mockingbird taken in Canada. Mr. Edwin W. Sandys, who originally furnished the record, was recently seen by the writer, and he tells me the bird was secured by his father and is now in a collection of stuffed birds made by him. It was seen perched on the ridge pole of a barn one June morning just after a warm southerly gale, and its rich song was what first drew attention to it.

III. Hamilton, Ont. (McIlwraith, Birds of Ontario, 1886, p. 284, revised ed., 1894, p. 388; Chamberlain, Cat. Canadian Birds, 1887, p. 110; Piers, Trans. N. S. Inst. Sci., I, ser. 2, pt. iv, 1895, p. 409). A pair of birds spent the summer of 1883 at East Hamilton.

IV. Truro, N. S. (McLennan, Orn. and Oö1., XIV, Aug. 1889, p. 126; Piers, Trans. N. S. Inst. Nat. Sci., I, ser. 2, pt. iv, pp. 408-410). A bird was wounded and caught alive July 1, 1889. It showed no signs of being an escaped cage bird. Then it was put in a cage, where it lived for three years when it died and was thrown away.

V. Sable Island, N. S. This is a young bird in much worn first plumage, taken in the fall of 1894. I have been unable to obtain any information about the specimen except that it did not come to the island in a cage, and we can only assume it was carried thither by some resistless storm, perhaps from the mainland or more likely from some far more southern home.—JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR., *New York City.*

Thriothorus or Thryothorus?—I am interested in Mr. William Palmer's 'Thoughts on the New Check-List,' which suggests some thoughts in me. One of these thoughts is, that Mr. Palmer's criticisms are perfectly candid and sincere, and, therefore, should not be taken *de haut en bas*, but welcomed for anything they offer for the bettering of the Committee's performance. Another thought suggested is, that sometimes

Mr. Palmer is right, sometimes he is wrong, and sometimes he is just 'betwixt and between.' Take the case of the genus whose name, in two forms, heads this paragraph. Mr. Palmer says truly that Vieillot wrote the word *Thryothorus*; for so it appears on p. 45 of my well-thumbed copy of his 'Analyse,' 1816, though this is the page which the A. O. U. Committee cite for *Thryothorus*. But if Mr. Palmer had looked further into Vieillot's 'Analyse,' he would have found *Thryothorus* tucked away near the bottom of the right hand column of p. 70, in an alphabetical list of the new genera of the book, where the etymologies are given. There the etymon of the first element of the word is stated as 'ῥύθιον, *juncus*'; and as the correct form resulting is *Thryothorus*, I think the Committee can defend their use of it, though they may have to cite p. 70 instead of p. 45 for it. At the same time, it offers a nice case for hair-splitting; for the previous *Thryothorus* of p. 45 cannot be brushed aside as a "typographical error," since Vieillot makes his intention clear by there writing 'THRYOTHORE, *Thryothorus*.' I commend the case to nomenclatural casuists.

While on the genus *Thryothorus*, I may inquire further how it happens that we have changed the name of *T. bewickii leucogaster* (Baird, 1864) to *T. b. bairdi* (Ridgway, 1885). The fact that there is a *Troglodytes leucogastra*, Gould, P. Z. S., 1836, p. 89 (which Baird mistook for the subspecies of *Thryothorus bewickii* which he named *leucogaster* in Rev. A. B., 1864, p. 127) does not affect the case one way or another. Gould's bird is now *Uropsila leucogastra*; it is also *Cyphorhinus pusillus* of Sclater, *Heterhina pusilla* of Baird, etc., and this cannot outlaw the use of the name *leucogaster* in the genus *Thryothorus*. Bewick's Wren has never been referred to the genus *Troglodytes* since one of its subspecies was called *leucogaster*, and of course there is no rule of nomenclature, express or implied, which requires us to change a specific name in one genus for the reason that the same has been used in another genus. Parity of reasoning—or rather, of unreasoning—would require us to reject *Cistothorus marianæ*, because there was a prior *Troglodytes marianæ*. I submit, therefore, that *Thryothorus bewickii bairdi*, No. 719b of the A. O. U. Lists, 1886 and 1895, should stand as *T. b. leucogaster*.—ELLIOT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

The Hudsonian Chickadee breeding in Southern Vermont.—On June 29, 1895, I found two Hudsonian Chickadees (*Parus hudsonicus*) and one Black-poll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) on the summit of Stratton Mountain in southern Vermont. According to the U. S. Geological Survey the altitude of Stratton Mountain is 3859 feet, and these birds were observed at an altitude of about 3800 feet. The latitude is about 43° 6'—26 miles north of the Massachusetts line. As far as I can learn, the Hudsonian Chickadee has never been recorded from as far south in the breeding season. The Black-poll Warbler has been found by Mr. Bicknell and others in the Catskills, but I can find no other more southern record for it.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*