

Wrens. The nest was constructed of the usual materials — leaves, bark, and grasses — lined with grape-vine bark and hair, and contained two fresh eggs. This is, I believe, the first recorded instance of the Yellow-throat breeding over water, and is indeed surprising, as the nests are usually to be found in dense woods far from water. — WALTON I. WHITEHILL, *St. Paul, Minn.*

The Names of Two Mexican Wrens. — It is now generally believed that Baird was in error when he identified his *Thryothorus bewickii leucogaster* (Baird's Wren, so-called) with the *Troglodytes leucogaster* of Gould (Proc. Zoöl. Soc., 1836, 89; Tamaulipas). This belief was first expressed by Messrs. Sclater and Salvin (Nomencl. Av. Neotrop., 1873, 155), who identified Gould's bird with *Cyphorhinus pusillus* Scl. (Proc. Zoöl. Soc., 1859, 372) = *Uropsila leucogastra* Scl. & Salv., 1873. Accordingly Messrs. Salvin and Godman (Biol. Centr.-Amer., Aves, I, 1880, 95) have renamed Baird's bird *Thryothorus bairdi*. It appears to me that these authors, by beginning their history of Baird's Wren with the 'Review of American Birds,' 1864, instead of the 'Birds of North America,' 1858, have overlooked the fact that Baird had Gould's type of *Troglodytes leucogaster*. On page XV of the 'Birds of North America,' Baird says that he received from Gould about 150 species of birds, including some from Mexico, and on page 363 he says that Gould's specimen of *Troglodytes leucogaster* from Tamaulipas agrees perfectly with others in the Smithsonian Museum, — the "others" being the identical specimens which he afterward (in Rev. Amer. Birds) separated from the typical *Thryothorus bewickii* as *T. b. leucogaster*. Gould's type is not included in Baird's list of specimens in the Smithsonian Institution, probably because he intended to return it to Gould. It appears that Messrs. Sclater, Salvin, and Godman did not have Gould's type of *Troglodytes leucogaster* (see Biol. Centr.-Amer., Aves, I, 78); does it, then, seem reasonable to prefer their determination of *Troglodytes leucogaster* Gld. to Baird's, who had not only the type of *T. leucogaster* Gld. but also one of the types of *Cyphorhinus pusillus* Scl. (see Rev. Amer. Birds, p. 120)? Messrs. Sclater and Salvin's opinion concerning the identity of Gould's bird doubtless had its origin in the ill fit of Gould's measurements and the incompleteness of his diagnosis when confronted with skins of Baird's Wren. Gould's measurements do not seem to fit either Baird's *leucogaster* or Sclater's *pusillus*, for that matter:

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Bill.	Tarsus.	
<i>Troglodytes leucogaster</i> Gld.	2.75	2	1.12	.75	.33	(Gould.)
<i>Cyphorhinus pusillus</i> Scl.	3.5	1.75	1.1	.7	.75	(Sclater.)
	3.5	2.05	1.35			(Baird.)
<i>Thryothorus bewickii leucogaster</i> Bd.	4.7	2.1	2	.75	.6	(S. & G.)
	5-5.75	2.1-2.4	2.1-2.55	.5-6	.68-.78	(Ridgw.)

Canon XLIII of the A. O. U. Code of Nomenclature provides that "in no case is a type specimen to be accepted as the basis of a specific or

sub-specific name, when it radically disagrees with or is contradictory to the characters given in the diagnosis or description based upon it." This ruling, if strictly enforced, precludes the use of the name *leucogaster* for Baird's Wren. Under such circumstances, following the directions given in the Code, the bird must be "reintroduced into science under a new name, as a new species, and with a proper description." Mr. Ridgway (Auk, IV, 1887, 349) long ago maintained that Dr. Hartlaub described Baird's Wren, as *Thryothorus murinus*, in 1852 (Rev. et Mag. de Zool., 2d Sér., IV, 4),—twelve years before Baird called it *Thryothorus bewickii leucogaster* (Gld.), and twenty-eight years before Messrs. Salvini and Godman again introduced it as *Thryothorus bairdi*.

Baird's Wren has figured in both the first and second editions of the A. O. U. Check-List as *Thryothorus bewickii bairdi* (Salv. & Godm.). In the Eighth Supplement to the Check-List (Auk, XIV, 1897, 131), this name is changed to *T. b. leucogaster* Baird (*nec* Gould!) in compliance with the views of Dr. Coues (Auk, XIII, 1896, 345). It seems to me that Mr. Ridgway, although starting with the false premise that *Troglodytes leucogaster* Gld. equals *Cyphorhinus pusillus* Scl., arrived at the correct name for Baird's Wren when he called it *Thryothorus bewickii murinus* (Hartl.). If Mr. Ridgway's determination of *murinus* be questioned, it should be tested by an appeal to Dr. Hartlaub's types in the Museums of Bremen and Hamburg; if it prove erroneous, then the name *bairdi* Salv. & Godm. becomes available as the subspecific name for Baird's Wren. After what has been shown above concerning Baird's acquaintance with the type of *Troglodytes leucogaster* Gld., it seems no longer justifiable to identify it with *Cyphorhinus pusillus* Scl., which should now be known as *Hemiura pusilla* (Scl.), not *H. leucogastra* (Gld.).—WALTER FAXON, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

Rare Birds in the Vicinity of Philadelphia.¹—On Sept. 5, 1894, a specimen of *Contopus borealis* was secured near Holmesburg, Pa., and on May 18, 1895, a specimen of *Empidonax traillii alorum* was secured.

This is, I believe, the first definite record for the latter in this part of the State, as I am unable to find any in Stone's 'Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.'

While collecting in Tincum Township, Delaware Co., Pa., May 15, 1897, I secured a male *Piranga rubra*. This is the third record during the last twenty years for this species in this part of the State.—H. W. FOWLER, *Holmesburg, Philadelphia, Pa.*

Notes on Some Ontario Birds.—Occasionally Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*) has been reported in Lake Ontario late in the fall and in early winter; in fact this bird is not an infrequent visitor at Kingston in the

¹ Republished, with an addition and correction, from the July number of 'The Auk' (XIV, p. 326), where the authorship was accidentally credited to Mr. Witmer Stone.—EDD.