

generic name of the House Wren for reasons then in our estimation out of place to explain. In its adoption, however, we followed the accepted methods of scientific nomenclature.

Vieillot was first to separate Wrens from Warblers when he in 1807 (*Hist. Naturelle des Oiseaux*, p. 52) restricted the name *Troglodytes* to the true Wrens, including the European Wren (*Troglodytes parvulus*) as well as our American species *aëdon*, which is the only one he deals with in full, for the reason he was writing only on North American birds. He specified no type, and if he had not stated the inclusion of the European bird the mere fact that he took the specific name of the European species for his generic term would imply that he included it. In 1816 in his 'Analyse' (p. 45) he restricted *Thriothorus*, and made the type *arundinaceus*. Rennie in 1831 (*Montagu's Dict. British Birds*, 2nd. ed., p. 570), considering *Troglodytes*, a word meaning a cave dweller, not applicable for the Wrens called them *Anorthura*. This simple name substitution to suit Rennie's taste of course does not affect the type, and he made no restrictions whatever. We have then next to go to Prince Maximilian (*Beitr. Naturg. Bras.*, III, 1830, p. 742), who suggested *Hylemathrous* for a South American species, *T. furvus*, our House Wren *aëdon*, and also included in his separation *Thryothorus arundinaceus* of Vieillot, which he considered = to *Cistothorus palustris*, and not as now understood, *T. ludoviciana*. This name *Hylemathrous* was also in 1860 accepted and restricted by Cabanis (*Jour. für Ornith.*, VIII, p. 406, 407).

Hylemathrous then being used for the House Wren leaves *Troglodytes* by elimination for the European Wren and our Winter Wren, which is congeneric with the European species.

Prof. Newton in his 'Dictionary' (p. 1051) in discussing this case says: "A few, who ignore not only common sense but also the accepted rules of scientific nomenclature, by a mistaken view of Vieillot's intention in establishing the genus *Troglodytes*, reserve that term for some American species—which can hardly be generically separated from the European form.—and have attempted to fix on the latter the generic term *Anorthura*, which is its strict equivalent, and was proposed by Rennie on grounds that are inadmissible."—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

Nesting of the Great Carolina Wren in Connecticut.—"Come up here to-morrow morning and I will show you a bird's nest such as you never saw before in the State of Connecticut"—such was the tenor of the message which the mail brought me from Chester, Conn., last 15th of July, under the hand of Mr. C. H. Watrous, that stirred my oölogical instincts. I have a list of one hundred species whose nidification has fallen under my observation in Connecticut, and here was an offer to introduce to me No. 101. Of course I went, a passenger of the first morning train on the Valley Road, which left me on the station platform of that enterprising town which lies on the west shore of the Connecticut River, about ten miles from its mouth. It was not in the wild woods, as I expected, but

out in the back yard, not fifteen rods from the house, that I was escorted to an open shed, some dozen feet square, with roof of rough slabs laid double and supported by four corner posts, and with three open sides and one, the east, a rock. It was occupied by a small portable forge and anvil and the usual tools of a smithy, evidently long out of use. The end of one of the slabs of the roof, by the forces of decay, had fallen away from its support several inches, and on the shelf so formed between it and the slab above was the nest I had come to see; chiefly composed of decayed leaves, weed stems, fine rootlets, and rubbish, outwardly, and nearly filling the space, lined with stems of maple seed, horse-hair, and pieces of snake-skin. There was no tenant and neither welcome nor remonstrance greeted our intrusion, and the only bird note the cheery song of a Red-eyed Vireo in the tree that spread its shading arms over our heads. Finding seats we waited quietly and patiently the greeting and salutation anticipated as unwelcome guests intruding upon the family affairs of a stranger. Ten minutes of quiet and a little bird flitted from the thicket near, to a branch some fifteen feet away; for five minutes she remained quiet, motionless as a statue, and watched the invaders of her domain; she then descended to the water pool near, took a drink and began chasing the insects around the pool a few moments; then by short flights and leaps she drew near to her visitors till she reached a perch on a small stone not three feet away from us and watched us and our every motion, first with one eye and then with the other, till some slight motion on our part sent her scurrying into the thicket. It was a fine typical specimen of the Great Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), and her nest contained five eggs typical of the species, as found in the usual Carolina haunts. Mr. Watrous tells me that he has observed the birds in that vicinity for several years; that he saw the nest and young reared near the same place in a brush heap last year, and he has heard their inimitable song ringing out every month and every week of the year! The birds were perfectly quiet throughout our interview, no song of transport and no note of displeasure once met our ears. This is the first proof I have ever received that this bird was a permanent resident of Connecticut, and I believe this to be the first record of its nidification in the State. — JOHN N. CLARK, *Saybrook, Conn.*

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in New York City.—A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliioptila carulea*) was seen in Central Park, New York City, and positively identified, on May 22, 1901. — C. B. ISHAM, *New York City.*

Various Massachusetts Notes of Interest.—*Sterna caspia*—A young female was shot out of a flock of five on September 6, 1901, by Mr. B. C. Tower at Ipswich. These birds seem to appear on our coast very irregularly, but often in fair numbers.