

Further Notes on the Snowy Owl in Ontario.— Since my letter of March 3, 1902, was published by Mr. Ruthven Deane, in his paper on the Snowy Owl, in the July 'Auk,' further information has made it evident that the migration in Ontario was a much more extensive one than I had at first imagined. During March the females disappeared and were replaced in April by the returning flight of light colored birds (males, as far as I was able to examine). A few remained about Toronto Marsh all through May, and a small light colored male was taken on June 7. It was in excellent condition and showed no trace of being a wounded bird.

Estimate of the number killed.— It soon became apparent that this migration was no ordinary flight as regards numbers, and as answers to my enquiries came in I saw that some other means of counting heads was necessary. I then had recourse to the number of artificial owl eyes used in Ontario during the migration. I was greatly helped by two facts; first, the almost total absence of Horned Owls from Ontario, or at least the territory affected by the migration, and was thus able to eliminate the possibility of many of the eyes being used for Horned Owls; secondly, nine-tenths of the eyes used by taxidermists, amateur or professional, in Ontario are bought from three firms in Toronto. In one case I went over all the orders and checked off the owl eyes; in another I got a careful estimate, and in the third I estimated the number from information as to the extra eyes imported to meet the demand. I found that not less than five hundred pairs of large owl eyes were sold in Ontario during this migration; and I believe the figure to be a low one, for not only were the regular sizes exhausted, but any yellow eye that could be made to do duty was used. From what I heard and saw I believe that less than half of the owls killed were mounted; and in going over the matter with Dr. Wm. Brodie I found that he too had concluded that one thousand was within the mark, though on different grounds.— J. H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Ontario.*

An Addition to the Avifauna of Virginia.— In a collection of birds made during May, 1902, by the writer, in the Lake Drummond region of the Dismal Swamp, there is a specimen of Hairy Woodpecker which proves to be typical of the southern subspecies, *Dryobates villosus auduboni* (Swains.). Mr. William Palmer very kindly compared the specimen (♂ ad., taken May 22, 1902, Washington ditch, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile northwest of Lake Drummond, Dismal Swamp, Nansemond County, Virginia; field number 32, coll. of J. W. D. Jr., Washington, D. C.) with material in the National Museum, and pronounces it referable to the southern race. Hitherto this form has not been taken further north than North Carolina.— JOHN W. DANIEL, JR., *Washington, D. C.*

A new Foster-parent of the Cowbird.— On April 28, 1902, I found in an old log cabin a nest of Bewick's Wren, containing five fresh eggs of the owner and one fresh egg of the Cowbird. This species I do not find mentioned in any book, not even the late Maj. Chas. E. Bendire's monu-

mental work, as a foster-parent of the Cowbird. The nest in question was found in the southern part of Ross Co., Ohio, was photographed and the entire set collected.—W. F. HENNINGER, *Waverly, Ohio.*

The White-throated Warbler at Ann Arbor, Michigan.—I took a specimen of the rare White-throated or Brewster's Warbler (*Helminthophila leucobronchialis*) near Ann Arbor, Mich., May 18, 1902. It is an adult male, rather larger than either *H. pinus* or *H. chrysoptera*, and much different from either in coloration. We have no other record for this county, and only two for *H. pinus*, but *H. chrysoptera* nests here quite commonly.—NORMAN A. WOOD, *Ann Arbor, Mich.*

The Coloration and Relationships of Brewster's Warbler.—Brewster's Warbler (*Helminthophila leucobronchialis*) is invariably described as having a white breast more or less strongly washed with yellow; this tinge being reduced to the minimum, but still always present, in so-called typical examples.

I hope to prove that in pure plumage this bird has the under parts *absolutely* white, and that the slightest trace of yellow in the breast-feathers brands a specimen as intermediate between *leucobronchialis* and *pinus*. It is well known that these extremes are connected by a perfect chain of intermediates, and that the frequency of occurrence of these intermediates is, if we count them all as *leucobronchialis*, in inverse ratio to the purity of their coloring. (A fact, by the way, which points strongly to the belief that *leucobronchialis* is a mere variation of *pinus*.)

Whitish-breasted and more or less golden-winged examples of *pinus* are, comparatively speaking, not rare, but the *leucobronchialis* end of the gradation is meagerly represented by specimens—so meagerly, in fact, that ornithologists have apparently failed to get a clear idea of what it really is. Now since this gradation is from a bright-yellow-breasted, green-backed, *toward a pure-white-breasted, gray-backed bird*, the assumption that it certainly stops *just* short of attainment of the latter extreme would be absurd, even if there were no specimens to contradict it. There is, however, at least one such specimen. A Brewster's Warbler which I shot at Beltsville, Maryland, in May several years ago, and which is now in the Smithsonian collection, has all the white of the under surface exactly as pure and ashy, and the gray of the back as clear and as sharply defined against the yellow crown, as the best examples of *H. chrysoptera*. Of course a discrimination between pure white and very slightly tinged white can only be made by experts, and it was as experts that my father and I, both of us artists, examined this specimen with a view to testing this very point. When the bird was fresh, there was no slightest trace of yellow in its breast, on or below the surface of the feathers; but this purity of coloring has been marred by a most unfortunate accident. The breast was torn in skinning, and grease has exuded on to the feathers,