

Yellow-billed Cuckoo's Egg in a Robin's Nest.—On July 2, 1902, while examining various nests in a lot back of my house in Granby, Conn., as was my almost daily habit, I found in a Robin's nest with two eggs, an egg of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). The nest proved to be deserted, although early on the 1st of July, when the Robin's eggs were the sole contents, both birds were about. There is no mistaking the egg; light greenish blue, $1.31 \times .93$, elliptical.—STANLEY W. EDWARDS, *Granby, Conn.*

Breeding of the Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii alorum*) near Plainfield, New Jersey.—In 'The Auk' for January, 1901, I recorded the probable breeding of the Alder Flycatcher in Ash Swamp near Plainfield, New Jersey.

The question was settled the following summer by finding two nests in that locality. The first, which I found on June 16, contained three eggs, which proved to be the full set. On the 20th I discovered another nest with three eggs, which had increased to four on the 23rd. These two nests were only a few rods apart, both placed in wild rose bushes within three feet of the ground. The sitting birds would slip away at my approach and it was with some difficulty that I at length succeeded in seeing one of them actually on the nest. This nest and eggs I took and they are at present in my collection.

The above dates show the Alder Flycatcher to be one of our latest breeders, ranking in this respect with the Goldfinch and the Cedar Waxwing.

I found this bird at two other localities in July, 1901—a small swampy tract a mile west of Ash Swamp, and Great Swamp, Morris County, New Jersey—in each of which it undoubtedly nests. It seems probable, therefore, that it breeds in suitable localities all through northern New Jersey, and it will be of interest to learn how much, if any, further south its breeding range extends. It is not included in Thurber's 'List of the Birds of Morris County,' and in the recent 'Birds of Princeton' it is given as a transient only.

While studying this little flycatcher in its haunts I recorded the ordinary song note as *kra-teal* or *great deal*. Later I found that Mr. P. B. Peabody had written it *grea' deal*. This is, to my ear, the best representative of the note that I have seen. Sometimes, as stated by Mr. J. A. Farley in his recent article, it is given in almost one syllable as *hrreal*, but I do not think that the apparent length or number of syllables is dependent on the distance of the bird, for I have heard the *grea' deal* when within a few feet of the performer.—W. D. W. MILLER, *Plainfield, N. J.*

Western Evening Grosbeaks Nesting in Mexico.—Out some 200 miles from the city of Chihuahua and close to the Sonora line, I saw different bunches of Western Evening Grosbeaks (*Coccothraustes vesper-*

tinus montanus). This being in June, all were mated and preparing to nest.

One day, while riding up a water-course in the heart of a great pine forest, I saw, but 20 or 30 yards away, a female Grosbeak with a beak full of dry grass, hopping on the ground, closely followed by three males. I drew up at once, and from the saddle I watched the actions of the birds, with the hope that I might discover the location of the nest. The three males, in their anxiety each one to be nearer than the other to the female, caused her to drop her load, and fly into a pine tree, the three males following. The whole lot finally disappeared among the pines well up the hill-side. Examination of the tree into which the birds flew revealed nothing, and though I passed this spot every day or two, I saw nothing more of the birds. At other times I followed pairs that had come some distance to drink, from tree to tree over hills and hollows, with nothing but failure at the end.—GEO. F. BRENINGER, *Phoenix, Ariz.*

Another Record of *phryothorus ludovicianus* in Massachusetts.—As I was returning home about seven o'clock on the morning of September 6, 1902, I stopped near the edge of a damp thicket of bushes and small trees, consisting of willows, red maples and gray birches, with tangles of briars and wild grapes. This tract, several acres in extent, is in the northern part of Fall River, Mass. After a few moments my attention was attracted by a new bird song. This came from a black alder bush, which was so thick I could not identify the singer. After singing there for a few moments, the bird hopped on to an exposed twig, and I at once secured it,—a male Carolina Wren. Dr. Dwight, after examining the bird, has kindly written me that it is a young bird, in juvenal plumage. Among other variations of the song, I noted some which I presume are those Mr. Chapman refers to as the 'tea-kettle' notes.—OWEN DURFEE, *Fall River, Mass.*

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Massachusetts.—I observed a Gnatcatcher, doubtless the Blue-gray (*Poliophtila carulea*) at West Manchester, Mass., November 16, 1902. My attention was at first attracted by a new bird note—a nasal *twee*—several times repeated. The bird was flitting about in the top of an apple-tree and gave me a good, though brief opportunity to note his catbird-like form and kinglet-like actions before he flew farther off. He was very active and soon disappeared entirely, but not without having shown me his blue-gray color against the green of a Norway spruce. Messrs. Howe and Allen's list of the 'Birds of Massachusetts,' credits the State with six records for this species—all in the fall (August 27–December 18). West Manchester is only a few miles from Magnolia, where Mr. Outram Bangs took an immature female, August 27, 1879.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *Boston, Mass.*