

breed. Many similar cases have come to my notice, especially among the warblers.—J. CLAIRE WOOD, *Detroit, Michigan*.

**The Breeding Habits of *Empidonax vireescens* in Connecticut.**—On June 2, 1906, I was out collecting, in Stamford, Conn., with Mr. W. H. Hoyt. We were searching for a Hooded Warbler's nest in a dense laurel brake on the bank of a stream, when Mr. Hoyt found a nest of the Green-crested Flycatcher. The nest was compactly built, resembling a rather shallow nest of the Red-eyed Vireo, and was suspended from a fork at the end of a bush sapling about eight feet from the ground. The nest contained three fresh eggs. Both birds were shot, and upon dissection it was evident that the set was complete.

We proceeded about a mile up the river and there found an apparently well established colony of the birds. We first found a nest at the end of a limb of a large hemlock tree. The nest was about eight feet from the ground and was composed of shreds of inner hemlock bark. The cup was very shallow, and while the mass was packed into a fairly solid nest, a considerable number of shreds hung down in festoons from the nest for eight or ten inches. The three eggs were slightly incubated, and the female was so bold in their defence, darting at us and striking our hands when we touched the nest, that we were finally obliged to kill her with a stick before we could take the eggs.

Within 200 yards of this nest, we saw two other pairs of these birds, evidently breeding, although we were unable to find the nests. We found, however, six old nests, of which two were in hemlocks and four in bushes. The nests are so characteristic in situation and structure that I think there can be little doubt that these old nests were also those of *Empidonax vireescens*. The nests are so frail that I do not believe they could hold together more than two years, which would seem to imply that three or four pairs have bred in this colony for several years.

On June 7, 1906, I returned to make another search for the nests. I clearly located three pairs of the birds and finally found one nest. It was composed of dead grass and was so roughly thrown together, with the strings and ends hanging down so loosely, that I should never have guessed it was a new nest had I not seen the bird fly to it. It also contained three eggs, and the bird was quite wild and shy. The nest was, as usual, in a fork at the end of a beech limb, about nine feet from the ground.

There are two unreported records by local collectors of *Empidonax vireescens* breeding in Stamford (one by Mr. W. H. Hoyt, and one by Mr. G. Rowell), but they were made a number of years ago, and were merely rare and irregular finds. These records apparently show that the bird breeds regularly in Stamford, and is probably very much commoner with us than has been hitherto supposed.—LOUIS N. PORTER, *Stamford, Conn.*

***Empidonax griseus* Brewster vs. *Empidonax canescens* Salvin and Godman.**—In 'The Auk' for January, 1904, p. 80, I published a note showing that the two names given above apply to the same bird and that

*canescens* appeared in a February brochure of the 'Biologia' (by inadvertence said to be March in my note), thus antedating the publication of *griseus* in the April Auk for the same year, 1889. In this connection both Mr. Brewster, with whom the matter had been discussed, and the writer had overlooked a footnote in Ridgway's 'Manual N. A. Birds,' 2d ed., p. 599, giving the date of publication of *griseus* as Jan. 31, 1889. Further inquiry has brought to light the fact that the author's separates of the paper in which *E. griseus* was described bears the following imprint: "[Author's edition, published Jan. 31, 1889.]" This early publication, antedating the appearance of 'The Auk,' and also the part of the 'Biologia' containing the name *canescens*, gives unquestionable priority to the name *griseus*, of which *canescens* must stand as a synonym.—E. W. NELSON, *Biological Survey, U. S. Dept. Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

**The Raven near Portland, Maine.**—In 1882 I made note<sup>1</sup> of a Raven, presumably *Corvus corax principalis*, which was killed in the town of Cumberland, near Portland, December 31, 1875. I examined the specimen at the time; but I do not know what became of it, and therefore cannot positively state that it represented *principalis*.

No doubt the Raven was to be found regularly about Portland in olden times;<sup>2</sup> but I am able to cite only one other record<sup>3</sup> of its occurrence within recent years, and that is regrettably indefinite. I have never seen the bird alive near the city. I have, however, seen a second local specimen. A handsome male, quite typical of *principalis*, was taken on Cape Elizabeth, January 12, 1884, was secured in the flesh for my collection and was transferred, a few years later, to the cabinet of the Portland Society of Natural History where it remains (No. 3773, N. C. B.).—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Me.*

**Two Ravens (*Corvus corax principalis*) Seen at Harpswell, Maine.**—In bringing the local status of the Raven up to date, it seems desirable to record two living examples which I saw at Little Mark Island, Harpswell, Maine, October 5, 1889. Little Mark Island is about nine and a half nautical miles nearly east of Portland.

The Raven was a bird with which I had had a long acquaintance: therefore, as I watched this pair under favorable conditions, and listened to their characteristic notes, I was perfectly sure of the identification.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Portland, Me.*

**The Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) in Georgia.**—A young male of this species was taken by Dr. Eugene Edmund Murphey at Augusta, Georgia, on September 23, 1893, and is now in his

<sup>1</sup> Proc. Portland Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. II, p. 17.

<sup>2</sup> See Brewster, Birds of the Cambridge Region, p. 237.

<sup>3</sup> Smith, Forest and Stream, Vol. XIX, 1883, p. 485.