

**The Prairie Warbler near Chicago.**—I beg to report taking a male Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*), at Riverside, Ill., ten miles west of Chicago, on May 8, 1907. This is a rare species here. Apparently the only definite records for this locality of those of Mr. Geo. Clingman of June, 1878, and May, 1892, mentioned by Mr. F. M. Woodruff in his 'Birds of the Chicago Area.'—L. E. WYMAN, *Chicago, Ill.*

**The Kentucky Warbler in Southern New Jersey.**—On May 19, 1907, Mr. Richard F. Miller and myself found two Kentucky Warblers along the Pensauken Creek. While locally an abundant species on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware (in fact a common breeder in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia), this bird seems rarely to cross the river. I can find no other records for southern New Jersey.—CHRESWELL J. HUNT, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

**Another Cañon Wren Record for Colorado.**—There are few records of this wren (*Catherpes mexicanus conspersus*) in Colorado. To-day (October 20, 1907) I saw one in a yard stacked with cement building blocks. It was very tame and let me watch it from a distance of three or four feet.—W. L. BURNETT, *Longmont, Colo.*

**Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) on the Coast of South Carolina.**—On October 16, 1907, I saw and positively identified a bird of this species as it rested for about a minute in a live oak tree, which was within sixty feet of a negro house, situated on Oakland plantation, Christ Church Parish, but failed to secure it as it flew into a dense thicket of weeds, briars and bushes. There was no mistake in the identification, as the long fan-shaped tail was diagnostic; besides, it was not the first Bewick's Wren I had ever seen alive, for I found this species in positive abundance at Waukeenah, Florida, in 1894 (see *Auk*, Vol. XII, 1895, p. 367).

My friend Mr. Herbert Ravenel Sass (Assistant at the Charleston Museum), secured a specimen at the Navy Yard (within six miles of Charleston) on October 17. This specimen is the first that has ever been taken in the low coast region of the State, the bird being confined almost exclusively to the Alpine, Piedmont, and upper counties, and rare or entirely absent south of Richmond County, as it delights in a rolling or hilly country.

Mr. Leverett M. Loomis found Bewick's Wren breeding at Caesar's Head (3,118 feet), Greenville County (*Auk*, VIII, 1891, p. 333).—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

**A Parasitic Fly Injurious to our Native Birds.**—It seems to be well known that in England and on the Continent the nestlings of a number of small birds are not infrequently parasitized by flies, often times with fatal results. It is not so well known that one or more species of these parasitic flies have obtained a foothold in the United States, although

Hough records the presence in this country of two species in 1899 (see Zoolog. Bull., Vol. II, p. 289), stating that they are very rare. I find also that a specimen of one of these species (*Protocalliphora chrysorrhæa*) is in the National Museum from the top of the Las Vegas range, New Mexico, and a second from the White Mountains of New Hampshire, the latter collected by H. K. Morrison, probably about the year 1875.

The subject is not without interest to bird lovers, since during the past summer two successive broods of Bluebirds in Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, were parasitized by one of the species, and of the eight nestlings only one escaped. The living larvæ and pupæ from the second brood were forwarded to the Bureau of Entomology in Washington and the flies were reared and were identified by Mr. Coquillett as *Protocalliphora chrysorrhæa* Meigen. In appearance this fly so closely resembles a common blue bottle as to be readily mistaken for it. Instead of laying its eggs on carrion, however, this fly lays them more or less frequently on nestling birds, upon the living flesh of which the maggots feed. Truly, sometimes mother Nature seems to be a bit indifferent to the sufferings of her creatures.

How common these flies are in Massachusetts and how extensive their range is in the United States no one seems to know, but it is to be hoped that bird students will bear the matter in mind and report all cases of parasitism coming to their attention. Should they have bird boxes, if they suspect anything wrong with the broods, it will be well to promptly examine the nestlings and destroy the parasites in whatever stage they may happen to be.

Possibly birds that build in boxes or holes, like Swallows, Bluebirds, Woodpeckers, Wrens and others, are more likely to be victimized than those rearing their young in open nests, but the latter sometimes suffer in Europe, and it is highly probable that the young of our Robins, Song Sparrows, and others of our native species also may serve as hosts of this fly. The loss in the two broods noted above was nearly 90 per cent., and if these flies become at all numerous (even now they may be commoner than is suspected) our native birds will be threatened by a new danger.

For the facts in regard to the Bluebirds and for the specimens by means of which the identity of the parasitic fly was determined we are indebted to Mrs. Emma F. Everett, of Wellesley Hills, whose solicitude for the welfare of her Bluebird tenants prompted investigations which led to the discovery of the parasites.—H. W. HENSHAW, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*