

of robins derived from this hypothetical pair in City Park, though most of the later generations may show no albinism at all. Considerable probability is lent to this hypothesis by the fact that the mother of the bird of June 3, 1908, was decidedly *white* on the belly and breast. It came a number of times to feed the albino young one while the young bird was on the writer's premises, and gave ample opportunity to note this variation from the normal. The writer also noted later on during the summer just passed in the same neighborhood two young robins which were nearly gray all over, both showing very little blackish even on the head or back; one of these two birds had the right outer tail feather pure white, and the left one half white. The coming summer will be of more than usual interest in anticipation of seeing about the writer's neighborhood these partial albino birds, or other young pure albinos.

The almost complete absence of pure white species of birds inhabiting dark areas like forests, and the commonness of white forms in bright areas like the sea, or seashore, may be accounted for by detrimental environmental conspicuousness, or by beneficial inconspicuousness, respectively; one might infer from the failure of these six albinos of 1905, 1906, and 1907 to return to the region of origin, that they perished through being conspicuous marks for predaceous birds.

These observations on the three young of 1908 shed no light on the assumption held by some writers that albinos are more apt to be females, because the sex of but one of the three could with certainty be determined; it was a male.—W. H. BERGTOLD, M. D., *Denver, Colo.*

**Unusual Dates for some Birds at New Haven, Conn.**—White-throated Sparrows have been present in large numbers in Edgewood Park up to date (Jan. 2, 1909). Five Rusty Blackbirds have been in the same Park since December 26. I saw a Fox Sparrow on Dec. 22 and two of them on Jan. 2. On Dec. 22, near Lighthouse Point I saw two Red-winged Blackbirds and about twenty-five White-winged Crossbills. The date cannot be called unusual for the Crossbills, but they are rare here. On Dec. 26 and 28, I saw a male Towhee in Edgewood Park. On Dec. 21, at Mitchell's Hill, I saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and on Dec. 25, at Saltonstall Ridge, I saw four Red-breasted Nuthatches. Robins and Bluebirds have been seen occasionally, and on Dec. 25 Mr. A. W. Honywill, Jr., saw a Hermit Thrush at Mitchell's Hill. On the next day Mr. Honywill and I saw the thrush at the same place. These birds were all positively identified although none of them were taken.—CLIFFORD H. PANGBURN, *New Haven, Conn.*

**Unusual Records for Massachusetts.**—*Chætura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT. I saw three in Sharon, Mass., on Oct. 12, 1907, which is apparently the latest date for the State. One of them flew almost directly overhead, affording perfectly satisfactory identification.

**Sayornis phœbe.** PHŒBE. Saw one in Stoughton on Oct. 31, 1908.

**Lanivireo solitarius solitarius.** SOLITARY VIREO. Saw a singing bird at fairly close range on April 11, 1908, in Stoughton. Saw another singing bird in Sharon on October 12, 1907.

**Compothlypis americana usneæ.** NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER. Saw one in Stoughton on April 25, 1908, the throat of which lacked the cross-band.

**Dendroica pensylvanica.** CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. Saw a male at very close range on April 28, 1908, in Stoughton.

**Dendroica blackburniæ.** BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. Saw an elegant male in Sharon on May 31, 1907.—SIDNEY F. BLAKE, *Stoughton, Mass.*

**Massachusetts Bird Notes.—Florida cærulea.** An immature male in the white plumage was shot in Stoughton, Mass., by a Mr. Berry, Aug. 22, 1908. The bird was mounted by E. R. Adams of Canton, to whom I am indebted for the record, and is now in the collection of F. H. Kennard.

**Centurus carolinus.** In a collection of birds purchased some time since I found one of this species labelled “♀, Hull, Mass., 1882, W. B. R.” (Richardson). The bird is not however a female but evidently a young male.

**Empidonax trailli alnorum.** Early in the morning of June 8, 1904, I found an Alder Flycatcher singing in a clearing by the roadside within a mile of my home in Ponkapog. Frequent visits convinced me that the bird was breeding, but it was not until the 24th that I found and took the nest with 4 eggs.

The clearing was originally a swampy tract of pine, white cedars and red maple but was chopped over in the winter of 1901–02, resulting in a sprout growth of maples combined with such shrubs as *Comus paniculata*, *Alnus incana*, *Rhus venenata*, *Azalea viscosum*, etc.; the ground being still damp enough to support a growth of sphagnum and skunk cabbage.

The nest was well within the bushy area, 2½ feet up in an *Azalea viscosum* bush, of characteristic composition—dead grass with long loose ends hanging down.

Several times since I have seen Alder Flycatchers in both Canton and Norwood during the breeding season but have not taken the necessary time to find more nests.

**Sitta canadensis.** From 1900 to 1904 I spent considerable time in a part of Canton that seemed very favorable for birds of the Canadian Fauna. Here was a 50-acre tract of large white pines with adjoining swamp of white cedar and red maple, and considerable large deciduous growth. Numerous plants and shrubs of a northern character grew throughout the area, and I found breeding there such birds as the Barred Owl, Broad-winged Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Solitary Vireo, Canadian Warbler, and Brown Creeper.

April 29, 1900, I first saw the Red-breasted Nuthatch here and it seems quite probable that they were breeding; however on May 18, 1902, Mr.