

tion, on Center Street. When the young were about to leave the nest, one of my sons heard the man in question say, that he was "coming out early to-morrow morning and take those birds." As the nest was empty on the day designated, it is quite probable he succeeded in doing so. The parent birds were inconsolable for a time. Soon, however, they built again; this time low down in a golden elderberry bush which grew, within twenty feet of the house, on the front lawn of one of my neighbors. Here three young were raised and successfully launched from the nest. I saw two of the young birds killed by neighbor's cats. This same fate overtook the mother.

One day while sitting on my piazza, I saw in the vacant lot opposite, a cat spring into a hollow apparently in the act of catching a bird. Hearing the great distress of the male mockingbird directly over the hole, I ran to the place, but alas! too late. The cat bounded away but in her fright dropped the bird. Immediately picking it up, I recognized the still beautiful though lifeless mate of the distracted father who was hovering over me.

The father mockingbird and one of the young were constantly seen about the neighborhood until autumn, when they probably went South. In passing, I may say that it was this particular pair of mockingbirds which first incited me to the study of bird life. Whether the pair of mockingbirds described above are the pair referred to by Mrs. Seriah Stevens or not I do not know, but I have never heard of other than this pair nesting in Roslindale in 1902.—JULIA WINGATE SHERMAN, *Roslindale, Mass.*

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Brookline and Boston, Mass.—On December 3, 1910, when passing through Olmsted Park, lying partly in Boston and partly in Brookline, I came upon an Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata celata*) in a planting of shrubbery. It was an unusually brightly plumaged bird, others which I had seen in former seasons having been much more dusky and dull-plumaged. This warbler had just gone from view by taking a short flight out of my range of vision, when another very small bird was seen directly before me, which by coloration, form, and movement I perceived at once to be a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*). The tone of color of the upper parts was a very clear blue-gray, and the nervous switching and erecting of the tail were characteristic movements. I had several good views of the bird both in trees, on shrubs, and on the ground before it passed from sight, when automobile travel intervened. It appeared to be gleaning food of larvæ or insect's eggs from the twigs and remaining leaves. The following day five other observers, associate members of the A. O. U., to whom the knowledge had been given, also saw this bird in the same park a little farther southward. The earliest observer found it still in the company of the Orange-crowned Warbler, but the later group, while seeing the Gnatcatcher, was unable to find the warbler. On December 4 the bird was on the Boston side of the park, having been on the Brookline side when seen by me. In 'The Auk'

for January, 1905, p. 87, is a note of my earlier observation of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on October 22, 1904, in the Boston Public Garden.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

An Albino Robin.— In a flock of about twenty Robins an albino Robin was seen in "30 Acres," Roslindale, Mass., September 22, 1910. Two days later, I saw this bird twice, feeding on Rowan berries which grew on an ornamental tree opposite my home. This time the breast of the Robin was turned towards me. The light being perfect, I felt myself fortunate. The body was pure white with the exception of a few dusky feathers on the back. A perfect "robin-red-breast" red crescent showed on the upper breast similar to the black one of our Northern Flicker. A few red feathers were sprinkled over the lower underparts. The wings were largely dusky, as were the central tail feathers, the outer ones being pure white. He looked much larger than the average Robin both in flight and when perched. This was undoubtedly an illusion due to color.—JULIA WINGATE SHERMAN, *Roslindale, Mass.*

Notes from Boulder Co., Colorado. LEAST BITTERN.— A pair of these birds was seen in a cat-tail marsh near Boulder on May 28, 1910. On June 5 their nest was found containing four eggs. On June 12 one of the birds was observed on the nest which at that date contained five eggs. On June 18 the five eggs were in the nest, though no birds were observed. On July 9 what appeared to be a young bird left the nest; one sterile egg remained. I have found no other record of the nesting of the Least Bittern in Colorado.

CALIFORNIA CUCKOO. A cuckoo, probably of this form, was seen on July 9 and again on August 6, 1910, in the outskirts of Boulder.

DICKCISSEL. A male was seen on July 9 and 24, 1910, near Boulder. The bird was in fine plumage and was singing.

CAÑON WREN. The new Check-List limits the range of this wren in eastern Colorado to "southeastern Colorado." I have found the species a quite common resident in the cañons near Boulder, which is near the middle of the northern half of the State. A nest with young was found on July 10, 1910, well hidden in a crevice in one of the large rocks on a steep slope of one of the cañons.

PRAIRIE MARSH WREN. A female marsh-wren, taken Oct. 8, and a male taken Oct. 22, 1910, on the plains near Boulder, were identified by Mr. Oberholser as *T. p. iliacus*. Prof. Cooke states that these are the first actual records for Colorado for this form. From the Check-List range this would seem to be the form expected east of the range, though Mr. L. J. Hersey (Condor, July–August, 1909) records *T. p. plesius* as common at Barr, which is about thirty miles further east on the plains.—NORMAN DEW. BETTS, *Boulder, Colorado.*