

Lancaster, about due west. I went with him the next day (May 28, 1911) and found the nest with the female on it. She glided off and I shot her, to be absolutely sure about the identity. The nest was placed in a laurel bush (*Kalmia latifolia*) about eleven inches from the ground and contained four fresh eggs. It was a typical nest of this species, lined with the dark fibres that are usually used.

Later in the day we found another nest, in a laurel bush, about two feet from the ground. It contained four eggs slightly incubated. As the female was very tame and gave us every opportunity to identify her, I did n't shoot her, as it seemed unnecessary; especially as I had collected the parent bird with the first set.

I located another pair in this same wood, but failed to find their nest.—  
JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*

**Notes on a Massachusetts Mockingbird.**—The notes on the Mockingbird, published in a recent issue of 'The Auk,' recall to mind some pleasant and interesting observations I made on this species in eastern Massachusetts a few years since. In looking over my notebooks I find under date of June 5, 1908: "An unusual bird visitor seen today. While working in the field my attention was attracted by the (supposed) note of the Crested Flycatcher. I was somewhat surprised to hear it, as this flycatcher is found here only in a few restricted localities. This being outside of the localities where usually found, I hastened to investigate and found that these notes, and a varied collection of others also, came from a Mockingbird. By good fortune he proved to be very approachable, affording a fine chance to see and watch him.

"He was for the most part singing all the time; a pause of a few minutes now and then, during which time he fed more persistently than when singing, although his time when in song, was not entirely devoted to that, but he was frequently changing his perch in order to catch some insect, but making no noticeable pause in song. Much the same style and manner as the Red-eyed Vireo in this respect. I do not know what the powers of mimicry may be for the average mocker but I should think that this one was more than ordinarily skilled in that difficult art.

"A multitude of call-notes and songs of the commoner birds, and some that I hear but infrequently, he ran over apparently as easily as the pianist plays the scale, and with perfect imitation. In many cases not even an acute and practised ear could detect a variation from the genuine. He seemed to be especially well skilled in the performance of the song or calls of the Crested Flycatcher, giving that peculiar inflection one notes in the whistle of this particularly interesting species. Again, without any apparent pause, he would be "whipping-poor-will" with spiteful accent or trilling the amicable "cheer-up" of the robin. The squall of the Blue Jay and also the Jay's more musical bell like note, were rendered with correct expression. The mew of the Catbird and the clicker of the Kingbird, the laughing call of the Flicker, and the Downy Woodpeckers metallic

note, all these came in easier and quicker time than I can write. And so on throughout a long list of some twenty to thirty species.

"To me, unfamiliar with the mocker before, this was a rare treat. What his own individual song might have been I can only guess, but perhaps a rolling, lyrical song like that of the Brown Thrasher, which came in occasionally as an interlude in his long roll of imitations. No doubt, also, there may have been notes of several southern birds that we here in the north would not recognize, because of unfamiliarity with them; for his song was ever full and varied, shifting from one to another without any warning or apparent aim."

The following list, are species certainly recognized in his imitations:

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Blue Jay (two notes).               | 16. Indigo Bird.             |
| 2. Whip-poor-will.                     | 17. White-bellied Swallow.   |
| 3. Kingbird.                           | 18. Scarlet Tanager.         |
| 4. Crested Flycatcher.                 | 19. Red-eyed Vireo.          |
| 5. Chebec.                             | 20. Yellow-throated Vireo.   |
| 6. Phœbe.                              | 21. Summer Yellowbird.       |
| 7. Wood Pewee.                         | 22. Maryland Yellowthroat.   |
| 8. Red-winged Blackbird.               | 23. Chickadee.               |
| 9. Meadowlark ( <i>Zee-ee-p</i> note). | 24. White-breasted Nuthatch. |
| 10. Baltimore Oriole.                  | 25. Catbird.                 |
| 11. Downy Woodpecker.                  | 26. Brown Thrasher.          |
| 12. Flicker.                           | 27. Wood Thrush.             |
| 13. English Sparrow.                   | 28. Robin.                   |
| 14. Vesper Sparrow.                    | 29. Bluebird.                |
| 15. Song Sparrow.                      |                              |

Besides the above there may have been, as I have previously stated, two or three southern bird notes that I am unfamiliar with. The twenty-nine named were clearly enunciated and readily identified.

This bird remained in the locality for nearly a week and was enjoyed by several persons interested in bird study.—S. WALDO BAILEY, *Newburyport, Mass.*