

Where a small stream entered the harbor, I noticed quite a modification of the otherwise prevalent, boreal conditions. Waste water from some mills enters this stream, evidently raising the temperature considerably, for a mist hung over the stream and the beach was bare of ice and snow for some thirty feet on either side of the brook where it entered the harbor. The birds seemed to have taken advantage of this very local, climatic condition.

About a hundred Herring Gulls were feeding about the mouth of the stream; fifty Horned Larks were busy gleaning edible bits and two had a spirited contest for a choice morsel, while at times they twittered to each other in low, musical tones; and a bright and active Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow was noticed among the Larks. I observed it for some time, and it came within eight feet of me, searching for food among the sea-weed and stones, and rested for a minute or more upon a large beach stone. The creamy-buff appearance, of the back and head markings, breast and underparts, longitudinal gray side streaks, the contour of the bill, and the sharp-tipped tail feathers were distinctly visible. I was pleased to note this species on our coast in severe mid-winter.

I am reasonably sure that this sparrow was not *maritimus* which species has some late, northern records, as its larger size and different bill would serve to identify it.

I continued my observations at this point about an hour and while here a male Golden-eye whistled overhead, so near that his attractive dress and white spot near eye were distinctly seen. Also a fine adult, male Great Black-backed Gull was noticed with some Herring Gulls near a channel.—CHARLES L. PHILLIPS, *Taunton, Mass.*

**Notes on the Dickcissel in Colorado.**—During the week of August fourth to eleventh, 1912, while visiting friends at the ranch of J. W. Ramsey, near Crook, Colorado, in company with Mr. Dean Babcock, of Estes Park, I was fortunate in finding a number of Dickcissels (*Spiza americana*). They were first seen and heard singing August 6. Mr. Babcock had been familiar with the bird in the east and he told me he felt positive of the song. As they were very wary some difficulty was experienced in getting within gunshot, but the first specimen was finally secured, confirming the primary identification. Five specimens in all were taken, four males and one female, a pair of which are now mounted in the Colorado Museum of Natural History. We saw at least twelve individuals on the sixth and on subsequent days in other fields, enough to make a conservative total of twenty for the vicinity.

They seemed to prefer the moist meadows of sweet clover and sunflower, rarely going to the adjoining grain fields. Their habit (so common with many birds) of remaining on the highest stalk in a clump while singing, rendered them very conspicuous but difficult to approach. The note which had proved so instrumental in the identification consisted of six syllables divided into two parts; the first part of two syllables, slightly slower and higher pitched than the last of four syllables.

All of the specimens collected were in more or less worn plumage, but only one had made any progress with a molt, and on this bird it is only noticeable in the tail, half of which was composed of new feathers.— F. C. LINCOLN, Assistant, Dept. of Ornithology, Colo. Museum of Natural History, Denver.

**Proper Name for the Nashville Warbler.**— The specific name of the Nashville Warbler was changed in the eighth supplement to the A. O. U. Check-List from *ruficapilla* to *rubricapilla* because "Sylvia ruficapilla Wils. (1810), is preoccupied by Sylvia ruficapilla Lath. 1790." The fact is that *Sylvia ruficapilla* Latham, 1790, is not an original description, but is merely the placing in the genus *Sylvia* of *Motacilla ruficapilla* Gmelin, 1789, and as such does not preoccupy *Sylvia ruficapilla* Wilson.

Hence the name of the Nashville Warbler should be *Vermivora ruficapilla* Wilson, and the reference, *Sylvia ruficapilla* Wilson, Am. Orn. III, 1811, 120, pl. 27, fig. 3.— WELLS W. COOKE, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**Abundance of the Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) around Quebec.**— It is surprising to note that this rare warbler has been found very commonly in the woods around Quebec this spring, and even in the parks of the city. Two young ornithologists, P. W. Cook and A. W. Ahern, of this city, shot about fifteen, of which twelve were brought to me. They met with six to eight bands of the warbler, each containing something over a score of birds, and these in different localities, they seemed to be almost as numerous as the Myrtle Warbler. The first specimen seen, which was in company with a small flock of Black-throated Green Warblers, was shot on the 9th of May and by the 18th the species was very common. The last was seen on the 25th.

It has also been noticed that many other warblers were more common this spring than usually, especially the Blackburnian and Bay-breasted.— C. E. DIONNE, *Quebec, Can.*

**Mimicry in the Song of the Catbird.**— Though belonging to a distinguished and accomplished family of singers numbering among its members such delightful songsters as the Brown Thrasher, Mockingbird and more distantly related Carolina Wren, the Catbird figures with a more modest pretention to song and until recently I had supposed its vocal powers limited to its own individual lyrical, and sometimes seemingly labored song. But on July 5, 1912, while working in a meadow adjacent to a small brook with its usual tangle of alder, raspberry and elder I noted with considerable surprise and interest, more so because of the day-light hour, 11 A. M., the song of a Whip-poor-will, somewhat subdued and minor in quality, but clear and distinct nevertheless. It was several times repeated from the nearby thicket. So out of the usual was it at this hour that I went at once to reconnoiter and was not a little surprised to find the