

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

author, not a Whip-poor-will but a Catbird! So far as my observation extends he was certainly acting in a new rôle. Two or three times later in the day I heard the same performance repeated, and subsequent visits to the same locality have, on two occasions, enabled me to substantially confirm my first conclusions as to the accomplishments of this individual.

It is of further interest to note that in this particular locality the Whip-poor-will is seldom heard. One would have to travel several miles to a more 'brushy' or thickly wooded surrounding to hear them. These observations lead to the query, how then did the Catbird 'learn his lesson' and how much progress and to what degree do some individuals of the species attain in mimicry?—S. WALDO BAILEY, *Newburyport, Mass.*

**Another Occurrence of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Essex County, Massachusetts.**—I should like to record a full plumaged Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila cærulea cærulea*) seen in the pitch pine trees of the Ipswich Dunes on August 24, 1912.

The bird when first seen was flitting about the trees like a Kinglet uttering a curious little call note which at once attracted my attention. I coaxed the bird out on to the lower dead limb of a gray birch by squeaking, so that we were able to observe it carefully for ten of fifteen minutes although it was quite restless.

The bird was seen by Miss E. D. Boardman, Edmund Bridge and myself.—LIDIAN E. BRIDGE, *West Medford, Mass.*

**A Third Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Maine.**—Late in the afternoon of August 25, 1912, I heard several times near my house on Vaughan Street, Portland, what I believed to be the call-note of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila cærulea cærulea*). It proceeded from the tops of tall elms, bordering the street, where a number of small birds were flitting about, all too far away, however, to be identified by the eye. About six o'clock, the next morning, I again heard the call-note, now coming from an apple tree on my lawn, and I soon got a fair view of its author at close range. After a moment or two he flew to an almost leafless old apple tree on a near-by vacant lot where, as I stood under the tree, I watched him at my leisure, often within six or seven feet. At last, up to this time quite alone, he flew away southward, a hundred yards or so, to a group of elms, cedars and other trees, and was at once lost in a numerous band of bird migrants.

If we are to accept the records<sup>1</sup> literally, only three Gnatcatchers, all told, have made their way to Maine; but to the writer, before whom the three examples have so casually presented themselves,—with a possible fourth not to be overlooked,—it seems likely enough that more than a few others have come and gone unobserved, even in recent years.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

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<sup>1</sup> Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, V, pp. 236-237; Auk, XIII, pp. 264-265.