

have been accustomed to find year by year two or three Blackburnian Warblers (*Dendroica fusca*) singing throughout the month of May upon their arrival, and continuing in June on the testimony of other observers, giving assurance that the Blackburnian is a resident bird in this wood. The Blue-headed Vireo (*Lanius solitarius solitarius*) is also found year by year singing there much beyond the time of its migration. Both of these species were represented in song on May 24, June 19, and July 2 of the present year. Thus was had the unusual experience of hearing a Blue-winged Warbler sing with one ear and Blackburnian Warblers with the other, as probable nesting species. If the testimony presented may be accepted as furnishing reasonably reliable evidence of a nesting of Blue-winged Warbler in this locality in 1918, it may go on record as the second authentic occurrence in this region of Massachusetts, South Sudbury having the distinction of possessing both nestings within her borders.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

A Winter Record of Bewick's Wren from Northern Virginia.—On my way to the cars at Falls Church, Va., the morning of February 8, 1918, I was surprised by having a Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewicki bewicki*) fly up from the ground and alight on the top of a fence within a foot or so of my face. From the fence it flew down to a small stub where it sat for about a half minute, affording me an excellent unobstructed view at only a few feet distance, before it finally hopped under a box bush where I had to leave it. The past winter has been one of the worst in this vicinity for a number of years, with the ground covered with snow and ice from early in December until after the event recorded above. Bewick's Wren is more or less rare and local in this locality at any time but not an uncommon breeding bird some fifty miles west of here, in the Blue Ridge Mountains.—J. H. RILEY, *Washington, D. C.*

Russet-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata ustulata*) in New Mexico.—Some time ago, in identifying some other specimens of the genus *Hylocichla* in the United States National Museum, the writer unearthed a specimen of *Hylocichla ustulata ustulata* from New Mexico. It is No. 130328, U. S. Nat. Mus., an adult male, taken by Dr. E. A. Mearns on May 3, 1892, about one hundred miles west of El Paso, at the so-called "Upper Corner" Monument No. 40 on the Mexican boundary line, which is in the extreme southwestern corner of Luna County, New Mexico. There is, so far as I am aware, no previous authentic record of this subspecies from the State of New Mexico.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

Notes from the Vicinity of Washington, D. C.—The following notes from localities within ten miles of the Capitol seem worthy of record.

Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis. BLACK TERN.—Three were seen May 3, 1917, and about a dozen May 12, 1917, over Hunting Creek,

just below Alexandria, Virginia. As far as I am aware, this is the first time Black Terns have been seen in this vicinity in spring, though there are several autumn records.

Botaurus lentiginosus. AMERICAN BITTERN.— One was seen near Dyke, Virginia, on May 2, 1918. The latest previous spring record of which I am cognizant is April 30, 1859.

Spinus pinus. PINE SISKIN.— Two flocks containing about 35 individuals were seen October 22, 1916, above Cabin John, Maryland. Fall records of Siskins seem to be rare, and this is two days earlier than any previously recorded. Throughout the autumn of that year Siskins were quite common.

Passerherbulus henslowi henslowi. HENSLOW SPARROW.— One seen near New Alexandria, Virginia, April 1, 1917. The average date of arrival for this species is about April 18, and the earliest previous record April 10, 1889. This record was inadvertently reported by Dr. H. C. Oberholser (Bird-Lore, XIX, page 153) as March 25.

Oporornis formosus. KENTUCKY WARBLER.— Heard in Zoölogical Park, April 26, 1917, one day earlier than previously recorded.

Geothlypis trichas trichas. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.— One seen above Cabin John, Maryland, October 22, 1916. The latest previous fall record for this species is October 21, 1895.

Poliophtila cærulea cærulea. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.— On January 1, 1917, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was observed for some time at the Arlington Experiment Farm, Virginia. It was very active and several times uttered its characteristic squeaking note. As far as I am aware, this is the first record of the occurrence of the species near Washington in winter. Through a clerical error this occurrence was recorded by Dr. H. C. Oberholser (Bird-Lore, XIX, page 153) as January 2. The average date of spring arrival is April 7, and the earliest March 30, 1907.— M. T. COOKE, *Washington, D. C.*

Scarcity of Birds in the Spring Migration of 1918.— I have seen no reference, either in 'The Auk' or 'Bird-Lore,' to a general scarcity of birds this year, especially of the warblers and other small birds.

Here, the robins, grackles, starlings, and, perhaps, the thrashers, are as numerous as usual; the jays, and, perhaps, the towhees, more so. Taking the birds as a whole, however, the difference from other years may be indicated by the following figures:— best record to June 30, 104; average record to June 30, for fourteen years, 91; this year, 67.

Not only is the number of species seen notably smaller, but the number of individuals is smaller. For instance, I could count on the fingers of one hand all that I have seen of such common warblers as the Redstart, Wilson's, the Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Black-and-White; and the record is not much better for the Myrtle, the Yellow, and the Maryland Yellow-throat.

I might say the same thing about the Vireos, and the Flycatchers.