

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in the Boston Public Garden.**—On May 18, 1920, in the largest flight of migrant birds which has visited the Public Garden this season, came a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliioptila caerulea caerulea*). The bird, a male, all at once appeared in a moderate-sized English elm at the Arlington Street side of the grounds near Beacon Street before two fellow observers, Mrs. Calvert Cravy, Mr. Allan B. Craven, and myself, and remained in view scarcely more than two minutes, taking one other perch in a neighboring tree, and then being lost to our view. As there were many observers in the Garden on this occasion, it being the appointed morning for the visit of members of the Brookline Bird Club, and this Gnatcatcher could not be found again by any of them, it is probable that the two-minute period during which it was under observation by us marked the entire length of its visit and that it passed out immediately to other haunts. Only one other visit of the Gnatcatcher to the Garden has been observed and recorded,<sup>1</sup> that of one on October 22, 1904, following a southeast rainstorm with warm winds of almost gale force. On the present occasion a southwesterly breeze during the preceding night warming up the day to a maximum temperature of 77° had brought in natural sequence a flight of nearly sixty migrant birds to the Garden, of thirty-one different species, including fifteen species of warblers. One other record,<sup>2</sup> intermediate in time with the two above given, was obtained in Olmsted Park, lying between Boston and Brookline, on December 3, 1910, when the Gnatcatcher was in companionship with an Orange-crowned Warbler. The citation of dates of these three occurrences observed by me indicates how accidental as to season, as well as visitant at all, is the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in the Boston Region.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, 107 Pinckney St., Boston, Mass.

**The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliioptila caerulea caerulea*) at Quebec, P. Q.**—About 2:15 p. m. (Eastern Standard Time) on May 18, 1920, I stood on the wooden walk which has been built just below the southern wall of Quebec Citadel, three hundred feet above the St. Lawrence River, at the top of the steep, rocky cliff which forms the southern face of Cape Diamond. The surface of the declivity below me was partly bare and partly covered by grass and dead weeds or scattering clumps of bushes. There were no trees anywhere in the vicinity. Among the bushes were many migrating birds, for the most pronounced wave of bird migration of the spring of 1920 reached Quebec May 18. The preceding night had been warm and hazy, with light, variable winds, and the day itself was fine and quite summer-like, with an official maximum temperature at Quebec of 76° F.

In a bush on the cliff a few feet below me I saw what at first glance I took to be a Parula Warbler. I focused my binoculars (×3) on the

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<sup>1</sup> 'Auk,' XXII, Jan. 1905, pp. 87, 88.

<sup>2</sup> 'Auk,' XXVIII, Jan. 1911, pp. 117, 118.

bird and soon saw that my first supposition was wrong. I distinctly observed that the bird was about the size of a Kinglet, with upper parts almost uniform bluish-gray, seeming slightly lighter on the upper tail-coverts, wings fuscous, tail black centrally but with white outer feathers, and underparts uniform whitish. It was catching insects on the wing in a rather leisurely way, and I watched it for seven or eight minutes in excellent light with binoculars at distances varying from twenty to thirty feet, and obtained many clear and satisfactory views of it as it perched on the bushes and dead weed-stalks. Owing to the extreme steepness of the cliff, it was always below my eye, and while I thus saw its upperparts clearly, I could not satisfy myself as to whether or not there was black on its forehead. It frequently twitched its tail, and at irregular intervals uttered its note, which was a *pe-e-e*, low, weak, and rather hoarse. It resembled somewhat the *mew* of a Catbird, but was much lower and lighter. The bird was still among the bushes when I left.

At 4:15 p. m. the same day I returned and soon found the bird, which I watched for about half an hour, using my binoculars, and often seeing it clearly, sometimes at a distance of but fifteen feet. I verified my previous observations, and when the bird perched in a bush close beside the walk, where it was nearly at the level of my eye, I found that a clear, steady view of its forehead revealed no black. I left it where I found it, but could not rediscover it next day, nor on the day after.

Undoubtedly the bird was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, *Poliptila caerulea caerulea* (Linn.). I had never seen the species before, and so do not know just how conspicuous the black on the forehead of the male should be. The only previous claim of this species to a position in the avifauna of Quebec Province appears to be the statement by Wintle (*Birds of Montreal*, 1896, p. 126), which reads as follows:

“Accidental visitant’ [at Montreal]. Mr. Kuetzing saw one ‘example of this species in Mr. Craig’s collection, shot on the island of Montreal a number of years ago,’ but Mr. Craig says he ‘does not remember having it in his possession.’”

As this can hardly be considered satisfactory, the present appears to be the first certain and definite record of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Quebec Province.—HARRISON F. LEWIS, *Quebec, P. Q.*

**The Russet-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata ustulata*) Taken near Charleston, S. C.**—On October 22, 1901, I shot a male of this species near Mt. Pleasant that was feeding upon dogwood berries, and on May 3, 1902, I shot another specimen. These two birds were without any hesitancy labeled by me *Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni* and packed away. Last year I received a specimen of *H. u. swainsoni* taken by Mr. Otto C. Hastings at Bridgeport, Conn., which led me to compare my two South Carolina birds with his specimen with the result that the South Carolina specimens were entirely different as regards the coloration of the back.