

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.

This spring I made a special effort to obtain an Olive-backed Thrush, and on May 5, I shot a typical adult male near my home. As soon as I lifted the specimen from the ground I was satisfied that the two birds I had taken in 1901 and 1902 were none other than the Russet-backed Thrush; but to place the identification beyond question I wrote my friend, Mr. J. H. Riley, to send me a specimen of *H. u. ustulata* from the U. S. National Museum collection. Mr. Riley sent me an adult male taken by Mr. Ridgway on June 16, 1899, at Sitka, Alaska, which is identical in coloration with the two South Carolina birds. Here is a case of a Pacific coast bird occurring in South Carolina, in the autumnal as well as in the spring migration and may prove to be a regular migrant.

When I collected with my late friend, Mr. William Brewster, near Charleston in 1884 and 1885 I remember perfectly of his shooting Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked Thrushes and of his explaining the difference between these birds from specimens shot in the woods which he laid side by side. My impression is that all the of the Olive-backs he shot were typical representatives of *swainsoni*.

Since I began to collect birds in 1883 I do not believe I have shot six Olive-backed Thrushes, but of the great numbers I have seen at close range the backs seemed to me to be of the same color as the Gray-cheeked Thrush.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

Remarkable Migration of Robins.—On March 19, 1920, during a rain at midday at Chicago, the wind died out, causing the fog and smoke to settle down bringing total darkness. This condition lasted several minutes when the wind shifted from southwest to north and freshening, brought a heavy fall of wet snow. A large flock of Robins numbering several hundreds was observed on the south side of the city, near the loop, flying northwest. It took fully five minutes for them to pass a given point. A small bunch leaving the main flock would settle on wires, house-tops and vacant lots, apparently to rest before going on. These small flocks were passing for at least half an hour after the main flight had gone on. This is the first time I have seen flocks of Robins, in the daytime, in such unusual numbers.—EDW. E. ARMSTRONG, *2249 Calumet Avenue, Chicago, Ill.*

Some Rare Birds, for Yates Co., N. Y.—Melospiza lincolni lincolni. LINCOLN'S SPARROW.—On October 13, 1901, I secured a male of this species, the only one I have ever observed here.

Tringa canutus. KNOT.—This is a rare bird in Western New York, to say nothing of Yates Co. I obtained a specimen for identification on September 11, 1904, while it was associating with a host of other Sandpipers along Lake Keoka. This seems to be the first recorded occurrence of the Knot here since 1874.

Nuttallornis borealis. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER.—It was my pleasure to add this bird which is extremely rare here to my Yates Co. list on