

height of the nest walls and laid a new bottom above this egg. Subsequent to this three Cowbird eggs had been laid and the Vireo was incubating them at the time the nest was discovered.

On the 30th I returned with a camera to photograph this nest, which was in a low oak scrub, and discovered a female Cowbird near the nest. My first idea was, of course, that she was there to lay in the nest. Her subsequent actions were unusual if this was the explanation of her presence. I have several times observed Cowbirds approaching a nest or leaving it after depositing an egg and have always been impressed with the furtive, sneaking actions on such occasions. This bird remained in the tree and was visibly disturbed by our presence. She scolded a little and acted very much like an anxious female alarmed at an intrusion at her nest. On July 1 she was again present when we passed the nest but on my return again to this locality on July 13 I found the eggs broken and the nest deserted. I have often wondered since at the actions of this bird and decided to publish this note in the hope of learning whether any other person has had a similar experience.—IRA N. GABRIELSON, *Portland, Oregon.*

**The Nonpareil Wintering in Florida.**—On October 28, 1920, I observed two male and three female Nonpareils on the banks of the Miami Canal at the juncture of the Ta-Miami Canal (just outside the city of Miami). On December 13, 1920, I observed two females at the same spot. In the intervening six weeks I made a canoe trip to Fort Myers, Florida, through the Everglades and did not see another Nonpareil.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are common around Miami in the winter.—EDGAR BEDELL, *Waterford, N. Y.*

**The Black-backed Kamchatkan Wagtail, *Motacilla lugens* Kittlitz, in Alaska.**—During the course of the expedition to the Arctic coasts of East Siberia and Northern Alaska in 1913 and 1914, upon which Messrs. Joseph Dixon and W. Sprague Brooks went as zoological collectors, their power schooner, the "Polar Bear", put into the harbor at Attic Island, the outermost of the Aleutian chain, in early May, 1913. From the deck of the vessel here several black and white Wagtails, recognized as *Motacilla lugens* Kittlitz, were seen flitting about the beaches, and on May 4, one adult male was secured.

This specimen, now No. 21590 collection of John E. Thayer, is the first, we believe to be recorded from North America. It was not listed by Brooks in his account of the birds taken on the trip. (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 1915, LIX, No. 5.)

Hartert in 'Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna,' treats *Motacilla lugens* as a subspecies of *M. alba*, but the Kamchatkan bird differs so strikingly from its next door neighbor, *M. ocularis* Swinh, that we prefer to give it specific rank.—JOHN E. THAYER AND OUTRAM BANGS, *Cambridge, Mass.*