

**Notes from Lyme, Connecticut.**—Two female Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (*Poliophtila caerulea caerulea*) were seen by Dr. L. B. Nice and myself, August 17 and 18, 1921, on Lord Hill, Lyme, Connecticut. They came to a black cherry tree only a few yards from the house where we were staying; they were tame and allowed a close approach. Both of us are very familiar with these birds as they are common in southern Ohio and Oklahoma. In Sage, Bishop and Bliss' 'Birds of Connecticut' the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is listed as a "very rare summer visitant."

Two Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) were seen on August 24, 1921, three days earlier than their earliest fall arrival as recorded in 'Birds of Connecticut.' Myrtle Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*) were three weeks ahead of time for their earliest arrival is reported as September 14. We saw five on August 24, 1921, two in Norway spruces on Lord Hill and three eating bayberries by the Connecticut River. The migration of these birds may have been hastened by the cool weather of August.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Norman, Okla.*

**Some Interesting Dates of Occurrence near New York City.**—During the last year or two of observation near New York City, unusual dates of occurrence for the following birds have been noted.

**Pandion haliaetus carolinensis.** OSPREY.—Mastic, Long Island, N. Y., November 1, 1920. Two individuals. Several birds were seen on the two preceding days. This date, therefore, probably marks the end of the southward movement of this species.

**Icteria virens virens.** YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—Mastic, Long Island, N. Y., October 31, 1920. One individual. This is a purely casual record. The species should not be present after early October.

**Toxostoma rufum.** BROWN THRASHER.—Central Park, New York City, February 14, 1920. One seen. One bird, probably the same individual, was seen about a week later in the same locality.

**Telmatodytes palustris palustris.** LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN.—Pelham Bay Park, New York City, February 26, 1921. One individual. Observation made with Mr. R. V. Bennett.

**Sitta canadensis.** RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Great Neck, Long Island, August 19, 1921. One individual. This date is the earliest fall record for Long Island, except for one in July some years ago that seems only casual.—LAIDLAW WILLIAMS, *New York City.*

**Winter Notes from Montauk Point, Long Island.**—Montauk Point has long been known as an ornithological bonanza. Jutting far out into the ocean it attracts many rare stragglers, and seems a highway for migration. In winter the milder climate and dense cover attract a surprising number of land birds, while water fowl of many different kinds throng its shores. As a locality for intensive field work it would well repay the investigator, but this has never been done. Many people have made short trips there,

and the majority of the birds recorded from Long Island have been noted there, sufficient evidence of its ornithological possibilities. The winter bird life is the least known, and consequently the most interesting. The hotels are closed, the train service is wretched, the landscape is bleak, and a long walk of eight miles is required to reach the Point, the most interesting spot, by the most direct route. For water fowl the North Shore which is steep and rocky is by all odds the best section, and it is a good thirteen miles by this route to the Point. The South Shore is a broad beach and there are comparatively few birds there. The interior is very hilly with dense tangles of bayberry and briars, a huge territory which it would take a week to cover, and where the going is difficult.

The writers were in the Montauk Point region January 1 and 2, 1921, and February 20-22. The list of birds seen January 1 was published as a 'Bird Lore' Christmas census, and gives an excellent idea of the richness of the bird life, but lack of space prevented all but the briefest notes, and some of the rarities observed require further comment. February 20 and 21 were practically lost days, as a blizzard was raging, but the 22nd was a superb day, which more than atoned for the others.

1. **Cepphus grylle.** BLACK GUILLEMOT.—A few minutes after leaving the station at Montauk on January 1 a Black Guillemot in the white winter plumage was seen fishing off a wharf, about 50 feet from shore. We were on a bluff about 20 feet high just above it, and watched it diving and feeding for 15 minutes. The red feet were plainly visible when it dove, and even the red lining of the mouth was seen when it swallowed some food. Later on another bird was seen flying by the Point. As this was the second record for Long Island, the next day was devoted to an effort to collect the first bird noted, as well as an Arkansas Kingbird seen on the beach. Unfortunately the weather had changed overnight to a southwest gale with intervals of pouring rain. The Kingbird could not be found at all, but the Guillemot was discovered a few hundred yards from where it had been the day before, but so far out in so rough a sea that collecting it was out of the question. On February 22 probably the same Guillemot was found in exactly the same place. It was feeding just off shore, but swam out of range as soon as it perceived us. A half hour's wait behind an improvised blind brought the bird just within possible gun shot range, but while the shot scattered all around, the bird was untouched and went way out to sea for good. It is unusual for observers to depreciate their own observations, but we believe the rarity of the Black Guillemot on Long Island to be more apparent than actual. The thirteen miles of north shore of Montauk Point is typical country for this bird, whose habits we know well in life, and there is no good reason other than lack of observation to account for its alleged rarity. Elsewhere on Long Island its occurrence would be purely casual.

2. **Histrionicus histrionicus.** HARLEQUIN DUCK.—On February 22 after the blizzard a pair of these ducks were found in a little cove just west

of the Point, and just a little off-shore. The adult male was, of course, absolutely unmistakable. We do not see how it could be confused with any other water bird. In addition to its bizarre coloration we noticed that the tail was held cocked up in the air, a striking habit in life. The female is certainly an obscure little duck, and would require close range and a good light to identify when alone. Again we see no reason why this duck should not occur at Montauk Point occasionally. Severe winters are supposed to bring the northern water fowl southward, but last winter was remarkably mild and open.

3. **Erismatura jamaicensis.** RUDDY DUCK.—Two seen on Fort Pond January 1, and another on a small pond near Great Pond on February 22. This duck is very rare in winter on Long Island, and we know of no recent records.

4. **Fulica americana.** COOT.—A single bird seen on February 22 in the same pond with the Ruddy Duck. Another very rare bird in midwinter on Long Island.

5. **Tyrannus verticalis.** ARKANSAS KINGBIRD.—We were properly astonished to see a healthy specimen of this species busy catching insects on the north beach January 1, using bits of driftwood as observation posts. Insects were abundant, and it was having no difficulty in securing a meal. It was extraordinarily tame, allowing an approach to within 50 feet, and Crosby almost hit it with a pebble. Every possible detail of plumage was noted including the color of the outer tail-feathers, thus positively eliminating Cassin's Kingbird. It flitted up the beach just ahead of us for nearly a mile, before we left it behind. As already related it could not be found the next day in the heavy rain and high wind. It seems advisable to add that Griscom was well acquainted with this species in life, and Crosby with Cassin's Kingbird. The date is, of course, remarkable, but the mild and open fall accounts for it, as well as for the Ruddy Duck, Tree Swallows, Catbird, Thrasher, and Mourning Dove seen on the same trip.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, MAUNSELL S. CROSBY, and E. R. P. JANVRIN, M. D., *New York City*.

**Notes on crossing the Mexican Gulf from Key West to Galveston.**—April 4, 1921. Left Key West on the Mallory line S. S. "Concho" at 4.30 a. m.

7.30 a. m. A few Royal Terns and a Man-o-War bird or two. Flying fish in large numbers.

9. a. m. A Kingfisher came aboard.

6. p. m. Three Boobies high overhead.

6.30 p. m. A smallish *Buteo*, (it looked like (*swainsoni*), a very small Sparrow-hawk, and a small *Dendroica (discors?)*. All came from the south and carried on due north.

April 5, 10 a. m. A young Pomarine Jæger hovering over a big trolling Squid we have behind.