

of three outer tail feathers is also correspondingly greater in extent as compared with specimens of *dominica*.

Besides being an addition to the avifauna of New England this is the first occurrence of this species on the Atlantic Coast north of the Carolinas and east of Ohio and West Virginia. The bird is mounted and in the collection at Birdcraft Sanctuary, Fairfield, Conn.—PHILIP A. DU MONT, *Wilton, Conn.*

**The Winking of the Water Ouzel.**—In 'The Condor,' XXVII, 1925, pp. 143-144, I reported my observations on the winking of the Water Ouzel or Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus unicolor*), and concluded that it was not the nictitating membrane that winks, as is generally believed, but the upper eyelid, owing to the fact that the movement is from above downward and not from the inner angle of the eye outward. The movement in a vertical plane points to the eyelid, while the movement of the nictitating membrane is in a horizontal or slightly oblique plane. Only by disregarding and violating the anatomy can one attribute the winking to the nictitating membrane. I also reported that on an examination of skins, I found the eyelids were "clothed with short pure white feathers."

A recent article by E. W. Hendy, in 'The Nineteenth Century,' CV, 1929, p. 358, on the English Dipper bears out my observations and conclusions so thoroughly that I venture to quote it here: "The dipper possesses one curious physical feature which is I believe unique among British birds. It is the upper eyelid, covered with tiny white feathers. When he blinks, as he often does, the white eyelid is most conspicuous against the dark plumage. The play he makes with this quaint feature suggests that he is turning up the whites of his eyes, though really it is the upper eyelid which comes down."—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Ipswich, Mass.*

**Mockingbird Nesting Just Outside the Limits of Philadelphia.**—There was recently presented to the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, a nest and three eggs of the Mockingbird (*Mimus p. polyglottos*) taken in Mt. Moriah Cemetery, Delaware County, Pa. This cemetery is adjacent to Cobbs Creek Park and just across the City line of Philadelphia.

The notes accompanying the nest and eggs were made by Miss Clara Jessie Clair and are as follows: "May 26, 1929, two birds seen, one singing, May 28 the pair seen, May 29, one bird seen, May 30, nest found in privet bush contained three eggs. June 2, nest abandoned, eggs cold, one bird seen some distance from nest. June 8, nest still abandoned, eggs cold, collected and presented to Academy of Natural Sciences."

While the breeding of a Mockingbird just outside the city limits of Philadelphia is in itself interesting, the composition of this nest is even more so. The nest is made mostly of paper and rags with a very few small twigs and rootlets in the main body; rope, cord, string, waste, hair and a few immortal flowers from the wreaths on the graves. The very thin

lining is of fine rootlets.—WHARTON HUBER, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

**Notes from Northern New Jersey.**—*Spizella monticola monticola.* TREE SPARROW.—An exceptionally late individual of this species was observed on May 5, 1929 at Troy Meadows, N. J. by Messrs. J. L. Edwards, W. Downin, and the writer. This is, so far as can be determined, the latest record for the bird in New Jersey.

*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos.* MOCKINGBIRD.—A lone bird appeared in a city park in Passaic, N. J. on April 29 and remained at least until July 25. The bird sang profusely throughout its stay and was a very good mocker. It seemed to have a particular aversion to Robins, which it constantly chased out of its "territory."—ROBERT T. CLAUSEN, *Passaic, N. J.*

**Notes from Washington, D. C.**—*Colymbus holboelli.* HOLBOELL'S GREBE. I watched one of these Grebes for half an hour on the Anacostia River in front of the Washington Navy Yard, D. C., February 5, 1929. The presence of a Horned Grebe (*C. auritus*) nearby enabled me to make direct comparison between the two species. It was seen again February 9.

*Clangula hyemalis.* OLD-SQUAW. I saw a female on the reservoir at Sixteenth and Kennedy Sts., N. W., D. C., November 20, 1927.

*Plectrophenax n. nivalis.* SNOW BUNTING. Two seen on the mud-flats off Hains Point, D. C., November 29, 1928, one being secured for the District exhibit in the U. S. National Museum. Mrs. Wm. J. Whiting saw one on the flats at Four Mile Run, Va., January 12, 1929, and here on February 7, 1929 two were noted by Mrs. T. M. Knappen.

*Vireosylva philadelphia.* PHILADELPHIA VIREO. Two observed in West Potomac Park, D. C., September 8, 1928. At Chevy Chase Lake, Md., September 16, 1928, I watched four for some time; on one occasion within ten feet of me and all lined up on the same limb.

*Cistothorus stellaris.* SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN. One flushed in an old field along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal about two miles east of Cropley, Montgomery County, Md. It was studied at close range, the barred head and tail being noted. This is the fourth definite record for this region.—WILLIAM HOWARD BALL, *1233 Irving St., N. W., Washington, D. C.*

**Some Abnormal Breeding Records from the South Carolina Coast.**—Together with Mr. E. Milby Burton, of Charleston, S. C., the writer has been engaged in banding many of the breeding birds of the Carolina low country during the past season. Of the many nests seen and examined, a few interesting developments have been noted.

Among a large colony of Least Terns (*Sterna a. antillarum*) on Dewees Island, two instances were noted of a Tern laying its egg in a nest of a Wilson's Plover. When the first one was found it was thought that perhaps, some former observer had placed the Tern egg with the Plover's for mis-