

GENERAL NOTES

Black-throated Gray Warbler on the coast of South Carolina.—Being fully cognizant of the controversial aspect attaching to sight records of accidental species, the writer feels, nevertheless, that in cases where the identity is so self-evident as to allow of no confusion whatever, it is advisable to place the observation on record. He therefore offers the following.

On December 13th, 1941, while conducting Trip 12 of the Charleston Audubon Tours on Bull's Island, S. C., (part of the Cape Romain Federal Refuge) a warbler was seen in some very small pines, which attracted attention instantly because of its very unusual appearance. It was watched with and without nine-power binoculars at ranges varying from about twelve feet to elevations of about twenty-five feet as it flew into nearby live oak trees. The upper parts of the bird were distinctly bluish gray (this was the arresting character) and the crown was quite black as were the throat and the cheeks, these areas being separated by white stripes. The under parts were white with the sides streaked with black, and the wings showed two white bars.

It was difficult to believe that the writer was standing on a barrier island of the Carolina Low Country, for the last time he had seen such a bird had been on the Pacific coast where it belongs! There was no doubt in his mind the moment it was seen clearly, that the bird was *Dendroica nigrescens*. It was inevitable that he would think of his late friend Arthur T. Wayne, who lived only a few miles away from Bull's Island all his life, and recall that he had taken such species as the Green-tailed Towhee (*Oberholseria chlorura*) and Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spraguei*) in his front yard! Naturally, there was no collecting of this warbler for obvious reasons!

On reaching home the writer went through his ornithological library and all plates of *nigrescens* he could find. Everything only clinched the conviction more firmly than ever. Fuertes's plate of the species in the National Geographic Society's 'Book of Birds,' v. 2: p. 191, might have been done from the Bull's Island individual!

Those accompanying the writer when this epochal find was made were as follows: Mesdames Alfred and Maitland Edey, New York City and Brookville, N. Y., Mrs. W. A. Flagg, Westbury, Long Isl., N. Y., and Mr. Donald Maxwell of Westfield, N. J. The bird was new to all of them but its unusual appearance was apparent at once. It is the first instance of the occurrence of this far western species in South Carolina and probably in the south-east. The A.O.U. 'Check-List' of 1931 lists it as accidental in Massachusetts.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston, South Carolina.*

Distribution of Carolina Wren.—In a recent number of 'The Auk' (57: 95-104, 1940) Mr. George H. Lowery, Jr., gives exhaustive taxonomic treatment of the Carolina Wren, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. His text-figure 1,—'Provisional map showing distribution of races of *Thryothorus ludovicianus* (Latham)'— shows a considerable hiatus between territories occupied by *T. l. ludovicianus* to the south and *T. l. carolinianus* northward. This hiatus, as shown on the map, extends from southern coastal Virginia, across southern West Virginia, central Kentucky, extreme southern Illinois, southern Missouri, central Arkansas, and into southeastern Oklahoma and central Texas.

With the eastern and western extreme of this region I am not prepared to deal, but there is certainly no such discontinuity in distribution of the Carolina Wren as is shown through central-western Virginia, southern West Virginia, and central