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## General Notes

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (Archilochus colubris) in Cold Weather.— Forbush in his "Birds of Massachusetts," Volume II, page 322, in referring to this bird makes the following statement: "With the first frosts of autumn hummers begin to leave us. They can stand but little cold, and now and then in late September one is picked up chilled and apparently dying."

The following observations with Hummingbirds in this connection made in the Laurentian Mountains of Canada during the last two weeks of May, 1936, are of interest. At this time the spring migration in these mountains was well under way, and warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and other species were moving to their breeding grounds in numbers. Between May 20th and June 2d several Hummingbirds were seen that had survived severe weather conditions.

On May 20th the temperature in the early morning was 22 degrees Fahrenheit above zero after a snowfall during the night of six inches. This snow did not completely melt until late in the afternoon. The temperature the following night was 28 degrees above zero. Early on the following morning the temperature was again 22 degrees. Ice formed in water-pails and a cold wind blew all day. The temperature was 28 degrees at night and the mercury did not rise above 40 degrees all day.

May 22d. At midnight the thermometer registered 12 degrees above zero. During the night ice formed, and a heavy frost covered the ground.

Temperature 30 degrees at sunrise. May 23d. May 26th. May 26th. May 29th. May 30th. ... \*\* .. ... 32 (snow-squalls all day) " .. .. 38 .. June 1st 24 ...

During the morning of May 20th the ground and trees were covered with six inches of heavy, wet snow. I spent several hours paddling along the lakeshore on which our camp was located, observing the Hummingbirds and warblers that came there to feed. Myrtle and Parula Warblers were abundant with occasional Redstarts, Canada, Magnolia, and Wilson's Warblers and a number of Chebecs. All these appeared sluggish with the cold, and the Hummingbirds fluttered about on the underside of the snow-covered leaves, which were about half-developed, apparently capturing minute insects (probably aphids), on which they fed, occasionally dropping to the logs that floated along the shore to secure something so small that I could not determine what it was they were eating.

The warblers and flycatchers hopped along on the prostrate logs and appeared to capture the same kind of food as the Hummingbirds. All the birds permitted so close an approach that I could not use field-glasses during these observations. The last day of my stay the Hummingbirds were observed in their usual feeding places and apparently survived the cold weather unharmed.—CHARLES B. FLOYD, Auburndale, Mass.

An Unusual Concentration of Blue Jays.—As evidence that the Blue Jay (Cyanocitta c. cristata) is truly a migratory species, Dr. Dayton Stoner cites a record in the October Bird-Banding (Vol. 7, No. 4, pages 170–171, 1936) of a bird banded in Iowa that was subsequently collected in Arkansas. He also refers to five similar records published in Dr. Roberts's "Birds of Minnesota." More examples could have been cited from Lincoln's summary of bird migration (U. S. Dept. Agr., Circular 363, page 62, 1935).

Normally, Blue Jays are found singly or in small numbers. Their appearance in a large flock undoubtedly indicates mass movement over a considerable territory. Such evidence was recently noted on a Christmas bird census in the area

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