

interest to investigate. But to know a bird well it is necessary to know all about it and the study cannot commence too early in its life history.

The formation of the rubythroat patch commences first in a grayish patch of black or brownish spotted feathers ; these are margined with grayish, which gives the "grayish" aspect or cast to the patch. Then a brilliant patch of ruby will break out on this other patch and finally devour it, as it were, in a brilliant gorget of iridescent fire. The young male does not look unlike the adult female when seen at a short distance. The throat-patch of the male is dead black, when the bird is placed upon its back and a direct downward view taken, while if the bird be laid upon its side, the beauty of the layers of loveliness and sunshine are seen in the bright rufous red or garnet of the throat when the sun strikes it transversely.

Another interesting item is the great variation to be noted in the size of the bills. In the series I am examining there is a very noticeable variation. But to turn back to the question of molt. There is a field for close study, not only in the matter of *colubris* but in all birds, and the tenor of this article is to call attention to rather than point out the importance and the value of such an investigation ; also to seek aid and to request others to help me advance this line of bird study, by contributing notes upon it to our BULLETIN.

JOHN W. DANIELS, JR., *Lynchburg, Va.*,

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### ANOTHER NEW BIRD FOR LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO.

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It gives me pleasure to record two occurrences of the Short-billed Marsh Wren in Lorain County, Ohio. The first was seen by Mr. R. L. Baird in a low place just outside of Oberlin south, the other by the writer one mile west of North Amherst, on the north side of the south lake ridge. Both were singing lustily and were closely approached, but were not captured, our familiarity with the species in other places making that unnecessary. Mr. Baird's record is May 12 and mine May 19.

It is interesting to note, in this connection, that Carolina Wren, which was first seen in the county on September 6,

1899, at Chance Creek, spent two weeks or more in Oberlin village during the latter part of April. Its song was one of the conspicuous ones in the morning chorus during its stay. None have yet been heard at Chance Creek, but I have no doubt that they are nesting there.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

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### A CORRECTION.

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I learn that it will be necessary to name a substitute for the Alder Flycatcher of the horizon lists of Milton Township, DuPage County, Illinois, published in No. 28 of this BULLETIN.

Instead of the Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii alnorum*), it should be Traill's Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*).

The nest and four eggs mentioned in the remarks of June 29th were afterwards taken, together with one of the birds, the male, by the writer. The skin was forwarded later to Mr. Walter Deane of Cambridge, Mass., by whose courtesy it was placed in the hands of Mr. William Brewster for comparison. Concerning this Flycatcher, Mr. Deane has written me under date of April 9th, as follows: "Your bird is *E. traillii*. The characters that separate *alnorum* from *traillii*, 'upper parts richer and more olivaceous, the wing bands yellower and bill decidedly smaller', are not borne out in your specimen. Typical *traillii* from further west has a larger bill than your bird, while the bill of your bird is decidedly larger than *alnorum*." Ever since the original naming of *alnorum* by Mr. Brewster, the writer has entertained the idea, erroneous as it seems, that the birds found here during the nesting season were of this eastern form, and it is with pleasure that the present opportunity is now offered for setting matters right.

The foregoing facts also are of interest in showing that this section of Illinois comes some where upon the dividing ridge, or over lapping line, between several eastern and western forms. Interesting examples of these are our House Wrens and Water Thrushes, which prove at times quite puzzling in their proper disposition.

BENJ. T. GAULT, *Glen Ellyn, Illinois.*