

AN ADDITION TO THE BIRDS OF OHIO.

LYNDS JONES.

Writing under date of May 25th, Mr. William P. Holt, of the Toledo High School, announces the capture near there of a Cory's Bittern (*Ardeetta neoexena*), a long sought and much anticipated bird. The bird was captured in the Casino marsh on May 25th. Mr. Holt states that the specimen is in fine condition, and that he had seen either this bird or others in the same situation three times during the week. It seems entirely within reason that this bird was not a solitary one, but that at this time, when the Least Bitterns were so uncommonly numerous in these marshes, as well as in the marshes all along the southern shore of the lake, that there might have been something like a flight of them. However that may be, no other records are forthcoming. This species should be added to the list of Ohio birds in its proper place in the regularly occurring species because its range clearly covers the state, this record proving it.

A SCARCITY OF BIRDS IN THE NORTHERN
STATES.

Reports come in from many parts of the country north of the southern border of Ohio to the effect that birds are remarkably scarce for the season. The suggestion has been made that this scarcity is likely due to the unfavorable breeding season of last May and June, when the weather was cold and very wet, so that the usual number of young were not reared. This might easily be true if there was also an unusual mortality among the old birds, or if conditions of weather or food supply were such, during the summer and autumn months, that an increased mortality occurred. Before any final decision can be relied upon we should know what are the conditions the whole country over, for if there be any unusual

massing of birds in the south the whole theory would totter. In this connection it is urged that all observers make an unusual effort to make records of abundance during the remaining wintry months as well as during the period of migration, with a view to comparing the numbers of individuals with those which form an average for your vicinity in normal years. The opportunity for learning something more definite about the variations of abundance in birds and its relation to associated phenomena is an unusual one. The editor would be glad to correlate notes which may be sent to him for publication in the June Bulletin.

THE BIRDS OF OHIO: CORRECTION AND NOTE.

LYNDS JONES.

In his *Birds of North and Middle America*, Prof. Robert Ridgway leaves open the question of the forms of two birds in the Lower Lakes region. He had not seen specimens from the region. One of these is the Long-billed Marsh Wren and the other Traill's Flycatcher. These were entered in my Catalogue of the Birds of Ohio as *Telmatodytes palustris* and *Empidonax traillii* respectively, with the note that *E. t. alnorum* might be looked for as a migrant across the state. Numbers of specimens of each of these forms have since been collected in various parts of the state, and it is now possible to speak with certainty concerning the forms represented in Ohio. Specimens of the flycatcher have been compared with typical *E. traillii* from the western states, and have also been submitted to Messrs. Brewster and Oberholser for comparison with larger series of skins. The unanimous conclusion is that Ohio specimens are *E. t. alnorum*, Alder Flycatcher, and that no *E. traillii* occur in the state. Likewise, the wrens have been carefully compared with typical *T. palustris* and prove to be typical and not the Prairie form, *T. p. iliacus*.