

appeared to be the fur of the northern hare or rabbit nicely felted together.

This record of *Parus hudsonicus* would appear to indicate a later season for nesting than that occupied by *P. atricapillus*, as I discovered a flock of the latter containing both the old and young birds, several days from the nest, feeding only a few rods from the spot where, snug in their tree, lay concealed the brood of young *hudsonicus* which appeared to be only about a week out of the shell. Accordingly *atricapillus* must have been out in the world quite ten days before *hudsonicus* would leave its nest.

During my rambles in this vicinity in the months of September and October, I found *hudsonicus* to be more abundant than during previous years, and on at least one occasion a flock containing five or six individuals was seen. May we not hope that this occasional resident bird is becoming more abundant within our borders, and that the observations of future seasons may prove it to be a permanent though rare species.—  
SANFORD RITCHIE, *Dover, Me.*

**Hudsonian Chickadee about Boston, Mass.**—Mr. M. C. Blake and I have four records of the Hudsonian Chickadee (*Parus hudsonicus*) in the vicinity of Boston in November, 1904, namely: Middlesex Fells, Virginia Wood, November 4; Ipswich, Castle Hill, November 12; Belmont, November 25; and Waverley, Beaver Brook Reservation, November 25. In each instance a single Hudsonian has been in the company of a flock of Blackcaps in evergreen growth. In the case of the Ipswich bird he was in closely growing young spruces and hardly above the level of the eye and was very finely seen while he gave a sweet warbling song. The Belmont bird was also well seen and gave a few notes of the warbling song. In another flock of *P. atricapillus* the distinctive calls of a second *hudsonicus* were heard, and when we reached Waverley upon the same afternoon a third *hudsonicus* was giving calls among a flock of *atricapillus*. As it has not been my good fortune in previous autumns and winters to meet with this species, it would appear that at least it is in more evidence this season in the vicinity of Boston than for the last five years.—  
HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

**The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in the Public Garden, Boston, Mass.**—In the early morning of October 22, 1904, which was clear with a light southwesterly wind, following a southeasterly gale of fifty miles an hour along the Middle Atlantic and New England coasts the previous day, I found upon entering our Public Garden in the heart of the city a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila cærulea*). Immediately upon my entrance his call was heard from a neighboring beech, and being different from any call-note with which I was acquainted,—tiny, nervously given and oft-repeated,—it guided me at once to the presence of the bird. He constantly flitted from one bough to another with even more rapidity than does a kinglet and was of about kinglet size. The clear blue-gray of the entire head

and back, the white outer tail-feathers, the drooping of the wings and erectness of the tail at once made his identity clear. He was also engaged in his flittings in catching and eating insects. His companions were Black-poll Warblers and Juncos. From the beech he took flight into a tall sycamore maple and gradually worked down from the top of the tree into the lower branches, where he was seen at very near range and his catching of insects was observed with much interest. The House Sparrows, however, soon began to make trouble for him and at length drove him to a distance, but not before I had spent twenty minutes with this so rare bird in Massachusetts and made good acquaintance with it. I had not observed whether it had a black forehead and black line over the eye, not knowing at the time that these markings differentiate the male from the female, but as the color of the entire upper parts was a conspicuously clear *blue-gray*, and Coues's 'Key' describes the female as "duller and more grayish above," it was not improbably a male. When I made my usual morning visit to the Public Garden the next day, the Gnatcatcher could not be found. In the 'Birds of Massachusetts,' compiled by Messrs. R. H. Howe, Jr., and G. M. Allen, and issued in 1901, but six records of *Polioptila cærulea* are given, namely: *Chatham*, November 18, 1877; *Falmouth*, December 18, 1877; *Magnolia*, August 27, 1879; *Osterville*, September 26, 1879; *Brookline*, September 8, 1887; *Highland Light*, October 9, 1889. In the opinion of Mr. Willam Brewster it is not improbable that the bird may have drifted north before the southerly storm of October 21.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

**Notes on Several Rare Southeastern Michigan Birds.—***Gavia lumme*. RED-THROATED LOON.—We recently examined an immature bird of this species in the flesh which was shot November 11, 1904, on the Detroit River, near Point Mouille, by a local gunner and sent in to L. J. Eppinger, the local taxidermist, for mounting. This is the first record for *Gavia lumme* in southeastern Michigan, and there are but two records for the southern peninsula, both very old.

*Oidemia deglandi*. WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.—A bird of this species, sex not determined, was shot November 11, 1904, on the Detroit River, off Point Mouille, and sent in for mounting to Mr. Eppinger. No prior record for Wayne County is obtainable, although Mr. Swales examined a mounted specimen taken at the North Channel, St. Clair Flats, by Henry Avery during the fall of 1900.

*Oidemia perspicillata*. SURF SCOTER.—A female Surf Scoter was shot at the St. Clair Flats, St. Clair County, on October 13, 1904, and sent in with other ducks to Mr. Eppinger's, where we examined it. This is the second record for the species in this section, but without doubt both this and *O. deglandi* are occasionally shot by the gunners without the birds falling into any ornithologist's hands.

*Cistothorus stellaris*. SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN.—On October 2, 1904, Mr. Swales shot a female in Wayne County, six miles north of De-



Wright, Horace Winslow. 1905. "The Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher in the Public Garden, Boston, Mass." *The Auk* 22, 87–88. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4069893>.

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