

warbler—the rarest of southern warblers.—Dr. M. T. CLECKLEY, Augusta, Ga.

Springfield, Mass., Bird Notes.—*Branta bernicla*. On the 11th of April last a Brant was taken on the river near Northampton; this bird is rarely observed in this part of the Connecticut Valley.

*Aquila chrysaëtos*. In November, 1902, a Golden Eagle was captured alive in a steel trap at Belchertown by Edgar E. Mead; the bird is now in captivity in the city park in Springfield. There is no other record of the appearance of an individual of this species near here for more than twenty-five years, and there are only three instances recorded previous to that time.

*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*. A Migrant Shrike was taken at Longmeadow Dec. 19, 1901.

*Podilymbus podiceps*. In this section of the country the Pied-billed Grebe has been a rare breeder, usually locating its nest in remote places away from the habitations of man. In the spring of this year, a pair chose as their home a small pond in the suburbs of Springfield near a number of houses, and at a place which was a rendezvous for boys, and there nested and succeeded in raising two young.

*Branta canadensis*. For more than ten years Canada Geese have been successfully bred in the public park, in Springfield, and until last year, one of the wings of each of the young has been cut to prevent their flying, but last autumn about twenty-five individuals of those raised during 1902 were left uncut. In the early spring of this year these birds became very noisy and uneasy and beginning with short flights soon would go off for many hours. Several are known to have been killed, and others disappeared, probably joining migrating flocks. Although the path to the regular breeding grounds of its kind, to the north, was free for it to follow, one preferred to return to the park and there mated with one of those with a crippled wing, and the pair successfully raised a brood of young.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Some New Records for Nova Scotia.—Among a small lot of bird skins sent to me from Sable Island, Nova Scotia, by Mr. Jas. McL. Boutcher, I find no less than five species that are new to the Province and two others whose presence is purely accidental although previously recorded. Almost without exception the birds are young of the year, which goes to prove that young birds are most frequently lost, and as all of them were captured in the fall, it is extremely probable that they were carried along far out of their bearings by autumnal storms. It is well established that most accidental visitors in the East are taken in the fall, and the movement of storm centres in a northeasterly track east of the Mississippi undoubtedly has a close bearing upon such captures.

*Geothlypis formosa*. KENTUCKY WARBLER.—A young male taken



September 1, 1902, is in first winter plumage as determined by softening the skin and examining the bones. The nearest point at which the species regularly breeds is New Jersey.

**Chondestes grammacus.** LARK SPARROW.—A young male taken September 4, 1902. This bird, still showing remains of the juvenal plumage, had wandered at least a thousand miles from where it was probably hatched in the Mississippi Valley.

**Spiza americana.** DICKCISSEL.—A young male in first winter plumage taken September 13, 1902. Another wanderer from the Mississippi Valley, perhaps.

**Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis.** BLACK TERN.—A young male in juvenal plumage taken September 9, 1902. This species has been so often recorded along the New England coast that its occurrence at Sable Island is not unexpected.

**Micropalama himantopus.** STILT SANDPIPER.—An adult female, secured August 18, 1902, seems to establish a first record for Nova Scotia.

**Icterus galbula.** BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—A young male in first winter plumage, taken October 4, 1902, is the second only that has been recorded (see Auk, IV, 1887, p. 256, for earlier record) and Mr. Boutcher comments that it "came during a heavy gale."

**Mimus polyglottos.** MOCKINGBIRD.—A young male in juvenal plumage was captured September 3, 1902, "hopping about a woodpile." It is the second from Sable Island (see Auk, XIII, 1896, p. 344) in this plumage.—JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR., M. D., *New York City*.

**Formalin Fails as an Insecticide for Dermestes.**—Wishing to test the efficacy of this chemical which has been advocated as a protection against 'moths,' I placed five larvæ of *Dermestes* and a couple of teaspoonfuls of Schering's formalin in a new nearly air-tight 'Cambridge bird-can' leaving it closed for twenty-four hours. On opening the can I found the formalin had not entirely evaporated while the larvæ were unharmed. They had run about freely in the can and quickly revived in the fresh air. Even a bath in the liquid produced no permanent ill-effects, so the next day they and five more of their brethren were again placed in the can and a teaspoonful of carbon disulphide poured in. When the can was opened at the end of only ten hours, the larvæ lay dead in the little tray in which they had been placed. Although extremely offensive to the nose and dangerous because volatile and inflammable, there is no surer insecticide than the disulphide. It is penetrating and destroys life even in the eggs of 'moths' of all kinds, and its bad odor is offset by its rapid evaporation. Formalin is constantly irritating to nose and eyes and if, as I have shown, it fails to promptly destroy one of the naturalist's greatest enemies its use even as an insectifuge is not to be encouraged.—JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR., M. D., *New York City*.



Dwight, Jonathan. 1903. "Some New Records for Nova Scotia." *The Auk* 20, 439–440. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4069765>.

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