

complement of eggs nearly pipped. The nest was located under the shelter of the roof of a small porch adjoining a deserted fruit house. The nest was at one end of the porch, and running to the other end were the other five nests in varying stages of preservation according to age, the one at the other end being the oldest and represented only by fragments of nest material, the others in order of age to the fresh nest. This year's nest completed the width of the porch. Question, will the birds go back to the other end and begin again?

A WHITE SPOTTED BLUEBIRD'S EGG.—On April 27, 1902, a Bluebird's nest was found in an old apple tree containing four greenish-blue eggs and one with white blotches.

Bristol, Pa.

THOS. D. KEIM.

NOTES FROM IOWA:—LECONTE SPARROW (*Ammodramus lecontei*). On the evening of October 20 and the morning of October 25th, I found here near Denmark, Iowa, three individuals of Leconte Sparrow. On the first date mentioned I saw only one. At that time I did not know what the bird was. I was watching the birds in a low brushy hollow beside the road. There were many Juncos, Tree Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows about, but my attention was called to it by its quick excited notes and some of the other birds chasing it about. It was lighter in color than the other sparrows and seemed much smaller. It never flew up high but flitted about among the weeds and grass. It was so restless and active and kept so closely down among the weeds that I could not distinguish its markings with my glasses. The next Saturday morning I went down along the same road with a gun. I found two of the same sparrows and shot one. It was extremely difficult to see them far enough away to get a shot at them. I could walk up to within five or six feet of them and literally kick them out of the weeds but they would dive down into them again within ten feet and run along underneath them. The two were evidently a pair and one was a little more distinctly marked than the other. The strip of weeds beside the road was only five or six feet wide but I passed them several times going that close to them. At no time did they get higher than three feet above the ground. The specimen I shot was too badly torn to keep but I was able to positively identify it.

BEWICK WREN (*Thayomanes bewickii*). I found one in the yard near the edge of town on Sunday October 26th. It was around a large wood pile for some time and I managed to get several good looks at it with my binoculars. The flanks were distinctively rufous or reddish-brown while over the eye was a whitish band. It did not have the excited note most wrens I have seen had, but had only a low chirp which could not be heard far off. It inspected the wood pile all over from end to end and on every side; and if anything it seemed to carry its tail even straighter up over its back than most of the wrens I have noticed. It was too small for a Carolina Wren and having the line over the eye and the reddish flanks so plainly I could call it nothing else than Bewick Wren.

R. L. BAIRD.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

The following letter from Mr. Benj. T. Gault, written at Cayenne, French Guiana, shortly after his arrival there, is too full of



interest to remain simply on file. We are promised others as the work progresses.

The journey thus far has been decidedly instructive in many ways. Altogether we were about eighteen days on the boat and just five days out from New York before seeing land of any kind. During these five days we passed but three ships in mid-ocean.

With a monotony, which at such times is in a large measure conducive to drowsiness, it is then that one appreciates the slightest incidents at sea. The sight of a bird, a flying fish, or even a sail, intensifies the interest wonderfully, more especially during a calm sea voyage such as we experienced nearly all the way down. Being the hurricane season we had anticipated some squalls; but barring the choppiness of the ocean for the first day out, and a rather lively sea on after leaving Barbados, our voyage was markedly uneventful. Clear skies above at day, beautiful moonlight nights, and with almost continuous trade-winds prevailing during all the time.

But, in writing of birds, very few were seen after the first day, and even after reaching the islands sea birds appeared to be scarce. Mother Carey's Chickens (*Procellaria pelagica*) made their first appearance when we were passing the Statue of Liberty, two being seen. The next morning they were plentiful about the stern of the ship. The following morning many were also present, but before noon nearly all had disappeared, and we did not again see them after that date. In the outer harbor of New York a number of terns (flock of about 30) and some gulls were seen, but in either case we could not identify them.

On the morning of the 10th of September, the following day after leaving New York, we passed three or four birds resembling Boobies, but their identity was uncertain. However, on the afternoon of the 14th, a Booby (*Sula sula*) came so close alongside our vessel there was no mistaking it. Shortly afterward another appeared; and on the evening of the same day we were greatly amused by the awkward attempts of one to alight on the smoke stack of the steamer. This was about 7:30 o'clock. At one time it became slightly tangled in the rigging.

At a little after high noon (possibly 12:30) of September 11, a rather pathetic incident took place. It was the case of a badly tired out Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) that made a feeble attempt at making a landing. It tried to gain a footing on the fore part of the vessel, but evidently was frightened away unintentionally by some of the sailors at work on that portion of the ship. At that time we were approximately 200 miles from Cape Hatteras, the nearest point of land, and as the bird flew off to sea in an easterly direction it can easily be conjectured what the final outcome must have been. That same day at 4:30 P. M. we also saw our first Tropic Bird (*Phaethon americanus*). It inspected our ship for a few moments, called once, and passed away to the rearward.

At 8:20 A. M. of the 12th, considerable interest was aroused by the vain attempt of a sparrow-like bird to alight on the forepart of the vessel, and like the Kingfisher, it seemed much exhausted. A few minutes later, another one, possibly of the same species, was frightened from an awning covering the roof of the deck cabin. Both passed out to sea in an easterly direction.

September 13th we recorded another Tropic Bird and between ten and eleven A. M. of the 14th we saw many of them, perhaps 50 in all, the greater number making up a flock of about 40 birds. Since this latter date none have been seen.

In speaking of the Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus fuscus*), we did



not meet with it until dropping anchor in the harbor of St. Croix, our really first stopping place, as we had gone in and out of St. Thomas during the darkness of the night. Here we recorded one whose clumsy fishing tactics furnished us much amusement. St. Croix, perhaps not so pleasing in approach as some of the other islands later visited, was found upon short acquaintance to be of interest. It is interesting to the writer, at least, as offering an approach to a partial introduction to this wonderful tropical world now gradually unfolding itself as each day prolongs our visit to the Guyanas.

Any recognition of the interesting plants, both native and introduced, and met there for the first time, is hardly worth the while, just at this time, considering that much space should be given to rightly do them justice; but one easily marvels at the amount of tree, shrub and herbaceous life, representative of the order Leguminacæ, that is met with at every turn. Then there are the palms in a variety of interesting forms as well as other trees and shrubs remarkable either for their oddity of shape or noteworthy for their beauty of flower or foliage.

In this letter I will not undertake to give much space to the native birds met with up to this writing. I fear it would be unwise as we have only our eyes and glasses to fall back on at present, and to the writer, at least, their proper identification is largely a matter of conjecture.

I think I can safely say, however, that the feature of bird-life in the immediate vicinity and also in the city of Georgetown, British Guiana, where we remained between three and four days, was the abundance of that Tyrant Shrike (*Pitangus sulphuratus*), or Kis-ka-dee, whose "kis; kis; kis-ka-dee" and perhaps more frequently, "kis-ka-dee" can be heard from almost any quarter, and all hours of the day. Here in Cayenne and also in Surinam, it appears to be less plentiful. Indeed, I am not altogether certain of having heard it yet in Cayenne.

At the Botanical Garden of Demerara these birds were particularly numerous, as also were several flycatchers and hummers. From among the beds of the *Victoria regia*, while there, we had the good fortune of flushing two beautiful specimens of the Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*). A peculiar bird in the garden, too, was the Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) also a species of grackle (possibly *Quiscalus lugubris*) of which several were seen. The former kept close to some gardeners who were mowing the lawn; crowding up at times so closely as to almost come in contact with their scythes, presumably in quest of grubs of some kind. A large oriole also attracted our attention in the garden and in addition to the foregoing, several herons and one large hawk were recorded.

Another familiar bird common to the three leading cities of the Guianas is (*Troglodytes furvus*) which in song and general makeup greatly resembles our common House Wren at home.

In Cayenne the Carrion Crow (*Catharistes atrata*) is an exceedingly abundant bird, unsuspicious as the domestic fowl and thoroughly at home everywhere. Numbers of them roost in the tall royal palms (a beautiful grove of them by the way, and one of the attractions of the city) across the street from our hotel. In the harbor during the early morning hours gulls and terns are common about the pounds or traps of the fishermen. A nesting resort of the latter must be in this vicinity as we have seen quantities of what were taken to be eggs of the Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) on sale in the public market place, as are also various species of wild birds such as the Toucan and Parrot,



the Scarlet Ibis (*Guara rubra*) in a variety of interesting plumages, the Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus melanoleucus* and *flavipes*), Least (*Tringa minutilla*) and Semi-palmated (*Ereunetes pusillus*) Sandpipers, etc. Of sea birds, while at Demerara, we recorded the Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*), two being seen at the time of our visit to the sea wall.

But this list might be appended to considerably by the addition of other species, but of which the identification is in some instances doubtful. The islands (Leeward Island), too, offered several varieties not recorded by us thus far from the mainland.

In closing, however, I must not neglect to mention the occurrence of the little Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*) first noticed by us as tolerably common on the island of Dominica. Equally at home among the tropical trees, as in our own willow thickets at home, its familiar song and apparent abundance made for us a real pleasure while visiting that lovely island. Later, if time may permit, it is my intention to send you some additional notes from a wilder field, perhaps from the yet unexplored, or at least less frequented parts, of this and the adjoining colony of Dutch Guiana, alike interesting to the gold seekers and naturalists.

Yours truly,

Cayenne, F. G., 3rd October, 1902.

BENJ. T. GAULT.

#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

THE AUDUBON CALENDAR FOR 1903. Published under the auspices of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. By Taber-Prank Art Company, Springfield, Mass. Copyright, 1901, by Mrs. J. W. Elliot, Boston, Mass.

The plan of this beautiful calendar is well conceived and carried out with unusual good taste. Each of the six 12 x 10 inch sheets is printed in pale yellow with narrow white margins, containing two months of date, and some bird in natural colors with appropriate environment, to fill up the page. The arrangement of the sheets differ according to the demand of the colored figure. Thus, the Baltimore Oriole for May and June occupies the upper part of the page with the months arranged below. The selection of birds is logical and happy. Thus the Snowflake represents January and February, the Fox Sparrow March and April, the Baltimore Oriole May and June. Wood Thrush July and August, Meadowlark September and October, and the Red Crossbill November and December. The reverse side of each sheet contains matter descriptive of each of the birds figured, taken from H. D. Minot's "The Land-Birds and Game-Birds of New England" second edition, edited by William Brewster. This calendar will make a contribution to the beauty and brightness of any room or office.

L. J.

SOME NEW SOUTH AMERICAN BIRDS by Harry C. Oberholser, Assistant Ornithologist, Department of Agriculture. From the Proceedings of U. S. National Museum, Vol. XXV., pages 59-68, No. 1276.

During the course of various recent systematic researches in the bird collection of the United States National Museum, the following South American species and subspecies, apparently new, were incidentally brought to light. Five families are here represented. Under the Formicariidae one new species is described. The Furnariidae has added to it one species and one subspecies. Tyrannidae are increased by one genus, four species





Gault, Benjamin T. 1902. "Correspondence." *The Wilson bulletin* 14(4), 140–143.

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