

May, 1875, and two specimens noted by Mr. E. P. Bicknell at Riverdale, N. Y., October, 1876. Mr. W. E. Treat¹ records a specimen at East Hartford Conn., May, 1888, and Mr. Wm. Brewster² speaks of a number of other records from New England.

On October 12, 1892, at Flatbush, King's Co., New York, I shot a young male. It was in a hedge-row in company with great numbers of Myrtle Warblers, White-throated Sparrows, and a few other species. My brother and I were driving these birds along the hedge, watching for anything rare, and most of them were very alert and continued their flight at every motion we made. This bird, however, was sitting quietly on a bush, and was at once shot.

Turdus aliciae bicknelli.—I shot two Bicknell's Thrushes on Oct. 5, 1892, at Rockaway Beach. They were not together, but at widely separated parts of the Beach. I found them exceedingly shy, and it was only after much watching and pursuing of all the Thrushes that were noticed that I secured them. Many Thrushes were observed, but no others of any species were identified, for the cedars which grow on the Beach, and the tangled thickets of briars, afford excellent concealment to ground-loving birds, and in these spots they remained despite our most persistent efforts to dislodge them. Hence it seems probable that some of these others also were *T. a. bicknelli* and that there was a small migration of them at that time.

I have already noted³ the capture of this bird at Rockaway Beach on Oct. 5, 1889, and may mention the following cases of its occurrence in this region. Mr. Wm. Dutcher writes.—“My Long Island records of *bicknelli* are as follows: Oct. 1, 1881, two, Shinnecock Light; Oct. 23, 1886, one, shot at Astoria; Sept. 23, 1887, one or more, Fire Island Light; Sept. 18, 1889, one, Shinnecock Light. I believe them to be a regular migrant but not nearly so abundant as *aliciae*.” Mr. L. S. Foster writes me that he has three skins of this bird taken at the Statue of Liberty, New York Harbor, one Sept. 18-19, 1889, the others Oct. 11-12, 1891. I believe with Mr. Dutcher that this subspecies is a regular, though uncommon migrant.—ARTHUR H. HOWELL, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Rare Birds near Washington, D. C.—The spring migration, which is reasonably productive here about once in every four years, was remarkably so in 1892, in the number of rare and desirable birds it brought to local collectors. For the first three of the following records I am indebted to Mr. Frederick Zeller, a professional gunner, whose almost constant presence on the marshes, and excellent knowledge of local birds, enables him to detect and capture new or uncommon species in the District.

Tantalus loculator.—On July 2 Mr. Zeller brought me two females, adult and young. They were killed on the flats a short distance from the Washington Monument, and on the Maryland side of the Potomac. This is the first record of the species here in seventy-five years. According to

¹ Auk, V, 323.

² B. N. O. C., I, 94, 95, and Auk, III, 278.

³ O. & O., XV, 170.

⁴ Auk, III, 443.

Dr. Brewer (Water Birds of N. A., Vol. I, pp. 95, 96) two specimens were taken in the District in 1817; nothing is known as to their disposition.

Gallinula galeata. — On April 19 Mr. Zeller brought me a Florida Gallinule. While the species has been taken here before, still this is the first specimen existing in collections. A few days later, about April 22, Mr. J. D. Figgins secured a second specimen from Frederick, Maryland, and on August 12 Mr. Zeller brought me a young male.

Bartramia longicauda. — Some years ago the Upland Plover is said to have been seen on some hills overlooking the city, but no specimens are known to have been secured. On April 13 Zeller brought me two females killed from a flock of three on the flats. Subsequently a number were heard passing over at night. A few were seen early in August at Laurel, Maryland, and on August 2, about 9 o'clock in the evening, I heard one call as he passed overhead in a southerly direction.

Ægialitis semipalmata. — On Aug. 22 a young female of this species was brought me, having been killed on the flats near the city. This is the fourth record for the District of Columbia.

Empidonax pusillus traillii. — This has always been regarded the rarest of the Flycatchers, very few having been taken up to the present year. On and about May 18, for several days, they were quite common, and a number were taken by the collectors.

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus. — A female was brought me on Aug. 29, that was killed from a flock of Blackbirds on the marshes adjoining the city. This is the first record for the District.

Ammodramus henslowii. — Although known from this region for many years, this has been considered one of the rarest Sparrows, although always found in one or two localities. On May 30, while exploring a locality about sixteen miles from Washington a large colony was found, extending over a considerable area, and probably over a much larger territory than that traversed.

Geothlypis formosa. — The Kentucky Warbler although a resident of the District is one of the rarest of the family, so much so that but few have been taken, and frequently several years elapse between captures, while the eggs are unknown in local collections. Mr. Henshaw found a vacant nest some years ago, but with this exception the actual nesting in this locality has remained unknown. On May 30 a trip to Johnson's Gully, sixteen miles south of Washington, revealed quite a number of these birds, and frequently they could be heard singing in two or three directions at once. While walking along an old cattle trail, I flushed a bird from a nest containing five eggs directly beneath my feet, and shot her to be sure of identification; the eggs were but little incubated. One week later, June 6, a second nest was found, containing four eggs, slightly incubated, in a location similar to that of the first, and but a short distance from it, and close beside a path. Both nests were at the bottom of the gully, beside the only path traversing its length, and were without the slightest attempt at concealment. — E. M. HASBROUCK, *Washington, D. C.*



Hasbrouck, E M. 1893. "Rare Birds near Washington, D. C." *The Auk* 10, 91–92.
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