

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. "Formalin Fails as an Insecticide for Dermestes." *The Auk* 20, 440–440. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4069767>.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54527>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.2307/4069767>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/89976>

#### **Holding Institution**

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

#### **Sponsored by**

Smithsonian

#### **Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.