

there were one or two others of the brood under the bridge, but of this I could not make sure. Two of those on the wire sat facing me, showing very distinctly the rich, reddish brown or fulvous markings on the throat and upper part of the breast, which are so characteristic of the young of *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. Their plumage was wholly free from down, and their wings and tails appeared to be of full length. They must have been out of the nest for a week or more, but I consider it probable that they were hatched and reared in the immediate neighborhood. Although from the first I had entertained no doubts as to the identity of the old birds, I was glad of the opportunity here afforded for directly comparing them with a number of Bank Swallows which were flying about over the river just above the bridge. Whenever the two species came together it was easy to distinguish them, almost at a glance, for the Rough-wings looked a third larger and very much browner than the Bank Swallows, and they showed no traces of the dark pectoral band so conspicuous in the latter birds.— WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Another Connecticut Warbler from Maine.— The publication by Mr. W. H. Brownson in the last number of 'The Auk' (p. 105) of seven records of the Connecticut Warbler from Maine leads me to record another specimen of this bird which I shot in Eliot, York Co., Maine, on September 12, 1894. This specimen, which was a bird of the year, is now in my collection.— ARTHUR H. HOWELL, *Washington, D. C.*

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Massachusetts.— A male Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) was shot at Hyde Park, Mass., on Sept. 22, 1906, by Frank E. Webster of this town. The bird was alone, feeding in a clump of white birches in a yard. It was very lively in its actions, continually flitting about and now and then uttering a little squeaking note. The skin is now in the collection of Mr. John Thayer, Lancaster, Mass. — H. G. Higbee, *Hyde Park, Mass.*

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Philadelphia County, Pa.— On April 19, 1904, while searching for Song Sparrows' nests in a bunch of nettles at Frankford, this county, I found a dead Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) lying in the weeds. An examination found it badly torn and mutilated, and useless as a specimen; its skull however, was preserved. It had undoubtedly been killed by boys with a sling-shot, as its condition indicated such a fate, and had been dead several days as it was infested with vermin.

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is an extremely rare transient in the Delaware Valley, and my record constitutes the first spring record, and the second one of its occurrence in this county. In the enumerated list of specimens in Stone's 'Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey' (p. 148) there is one record for Pennsylvania, and that is the specimen alluded to above, which was taken September 3, 1880, at Chestnut Hill,

by Dr. W. L. Abbott. Stone says (on this page) that it is "only a rare straggler in the Delaware Valley," and on page 32 he considers it as a "rare or irregular transient" in the vicinity of Philadelphia, which indeed it is.

The only other record of its occurrence in the Delaware Valley which I have been able to find is the observation of one by three different persons at Media, Delaware County, Pa., in 1905. This bird, presumably the same individual, was seen on May 1 by Philip H. Moore, on May 2 by Lydia G. Allen, and on May 7 by Alice Fussel. (See 'Cassinia' for 1906, p. 67).

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher may have been a summer resident in the Delaware Valley in former years, "as there is a very young bird in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences, obtained many years ago by Wm. Wood" (Stone's Birds of Eastern Penn., and N. J., p. 148, footnote), but it must now be considered as an extremely rare transient in this vicinity.—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

Two Interesting Nebraska Records.—A male specimen of the Iceland Gull (*Larus leucopterus*) in the first winter plumage was shot by a boy near Dorchester, Nebraska, January 15, 1907, and later was brought to the University for identification. The bird was among a flock of crows when first seen, and was taken for a "white crow." It was easily shot because of its remarkable tameness. This record not only adds a new bird to the Nebraska list, but, I believe, extends the known winter range of the species considerably to the southward, the usual limit in the interior being considered the Great Lake region. The dimensions of this specimen, taken in inches, are: expanse, 47.5; length, 24.5; wing, 16.25; tail, 6.25; chord of culmen, 1.80.

The second record is that of an unusually early appearance of the Bohemian Waxwing (*Ampelis garrulus*) within the State. This bird does not usually reach the latitude of Nebraska until the middle of November, but on October 27, 1906, three specimens were shot from out a flock at the forest reserve near Halsey, Nebraska, and two of these were sent to the University for naming.—MYRON H. SWENK, *University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb.*

Autumn Records of Golden Plover and Lapland Longspur in Wayne Co., Michigan.—In the summer of 1906 I was engaged to engineer the laying out of a cemetery on P. C. 40, Springwells Township. As the work was to be according to strictly modern ideas, all the surface dirt was handled, and by autumn the twenty acres was a long narrow piece of smooth barren ground, different from any other piece in that vicinity. This attracted a pair of Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*) October 13, and a flock of fifteen Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus*) November 7. The plover were inspected at 200 feet and the longspurs at less than half that distance through the powerful transit telescope.



Miller, Richard F. 1907. "The Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher in Philadelphia County, Pa." *The Auk* 24, 222–223. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070869>.

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