

Cistothorus stellaris. A male taken by me Sept. 20, 1893, our second record for Raleigh.

Quiscalus æneus. Two, a male and female, taken Nov. 14, 1893, our second record for Raleigh.

Asio wilsonianus. A male taken Dec. 11, 1893, our second record for Raleigh.

Charitonetta albeola. A female taken Dec. 6, 1893, our first satisfactory record for Raleigh.

Nycticorax violaceus. An immature female taken June 25, 1894, and an immature male July 14, both close to a small stream. These are our first Raleigh records.

Clivicola riparia. A female taken Aug. 8, 1894, our second record for Raleigh.—C. S. BRIMLEY, *Raleigh, N. C.*

Four Additions to the Birds of the Virginias.—Specimens of four species of birds not included in Rives's List are in existence, two of which were taken in Alexandria County, Virginia. Three of the ten specimens are in the National Museum Collection, one in that of my friend, Mr. E. J. Brown, and the others in my own.

Acanthis linaria. REDPOLL.—One specimen, taken by Dr. T. H. Bean at Ft. Runyon, Feb. 19, 1875 (N. M. Coll. No. 68645).

Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni. NELSON'S SPARROW.—One taken by C. Drexler in September, 1862 (N. M. Coll. No. 25905); another taken by E. J. Brown on Cobb's Island, May 11, 1892 (E. J. B. Coll. No. 228); and a third taken by myself on Four Mile Run Marsh, Sept. 18, 1893 (W. P. Coll. No. 3266).

Dendroica palmarum palmarum. PALM WARBLER.—Probably a regular though rare migrant. I know of five specimens as follows: April 22, 1885, Roslyn (W. P. Coll. No. 1323); Sept. 18, 1887, Potomac Landing (W. P. Coll. No. 1600); April 29, 1888, Roslyn, collected by C. W. Richmond (N. M. Coll. No. 123549); Oct. 4, 1891, Ballston (W. P. Coll. 2833). This specimen has but one leg. Sept. 22, 1893, Four Mile Run, collected by E. J. Brown (W. P. Coll. No. 3281). These in connection with the following specimens, taken in Maryland near Washington, would indicate that the birds occur regularly: May 11, 1881, Soldiers' Home, D. C., collected by L. M. McCormick (N. M. Coll. No. 82477); May 6 and 11, 1889, Laurel, Maryland, collected by R. Ridgway (W. P. Coll. Nos. 2251, 2252); May 11, 1890, Riverside, Maryland, collected by C. W. Richmond (N. M. Coll. No. 123548).

Helminthophaga bachmani. BACHMAN'S WARBLER.—Examining recently the collection of Master P. Henry Aylett, of King William County, Virginia, I found a specimen of this bird. Unfortunately the collector failed to determine the sex and exact date. The specimen is undoubtedly a young male of the year and was collected near Aylett's as above, in August, 1892. This specimen agrees in most particulars with other males of this species, except that the black on the crown is more

restricted, and only visible on parting the feathers; the plumage is also much brighter and fresher than in ten spring males with which it has been compared.

Back dark olive green, upper part of head and neck slate-gray, with a greenish tinge changing to olive-green on the sides of neck and ear-coverts. Forehead, lores and chin lemon-yellow, connected with similar color around eyes and extending along sides of throat to the shoulders. Yellow of forehead obscured by greenish, the lores by black. Throat and forepart of breast dull black. All black feathers tipped with pale greenish yellow, those on the throat being marked as follows. Bases dusky-black, centers pale yellowish, then a band of darker dusky-black tipped with yellowish. Wings and tail as in adults but fresher. Breast lemon-yellow extending down the center nearly to the under tail-coverts, which are yellow at the base, the longer feathers as well as the abdomen being white; sides of breast greenish. Shoulders yellow as in adults, the middle wing-coverts edged with yellowish with dark centers. Three outer tail-feathers with white blotches on inner webs, the fourth showing some white on the edge and the fifth but a trace. Bill black above and near tip of lower mandible, the rest horny; feet dark. As the specimen was moulting the feathers about the throat are scanty and the markings not well defined. The first three primaries are but half grown, they evidently being the last developed of the second flight feathers. When I first saw this specimen a single feather of the nestling plumage remained among the feathers of the head, and I have since found several others on the sides of the neck near the shoulders. They were very pale slate-gray, the one on the head having the margin well worn.—WILLIAM PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

Irregular Abundance of Birds in the Breeding Season in Different Years at the Same Locality.—Several times of late my attention has been drawn quite forcibly to the fact that birds, or at least some species, are not entirely constant in their choice of a summer home, but vary the location of their breeding places to some extent from year to year. For this reason it does not seem safe to draw conclusions as to the abundance or rarity of a given species at a given place, from the experience of a single summer. As evidence of this, I may note the following discrepancies between my own observations and those of others. But for the fact that the terms 'abundant,' 'common,' 'quite common,' etc., are comparative and may not mean precisely the same to two persons, many more instances of this kind could, perhaps, be noted. In the following cases, however, it seems as if the only possible explanation was irregularity on the part of the birds themselves.

In the 'Atlantic Monthly' for August, 1894, Mr. Frank Bolles writes of the Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) in Cape Breton, as "not as numerous as in New Hampshire, but there were enough of them to keep up a running fire of conversation from one end of the island to the other."