

13. *Richardsonius* was proved to be a subgenus of *Leuciscus*. Its species were found to vary directly with the locality. (Art. II, Bull. U. S. Fish Commission for 1894.)

Queer Misfortunes of Birds.—I have noticed in a N. Y. paper, an account of a strange misfortune that happened to an English sparrow at the building of the Edison laboratory, Orange, N. J. The bird became entangled in a twine used in the construction of its nest, and met its death by hanging. This has reminded me of a similar incident that occurred to a bird last summer, near this place, Bowling Green, Ky. It was a common, or crow blackbird, and was seen hanging by the neck, from the limb of a tall tree overhanging the road. Whether in flying with a long grass or string it became entangled with it, or in what way it got caught in the noose and met its death is a matter of conjecture. A queer incident of a woodpecker has come under my notice. The bird, a hairy woodpecker, was seen on a tree trunk and though a stone was thrown towards it to see it fly, it remained in the same position. On going nearer it was found that the bill had been driven into the tree with such force that the bird could not extricate it, and had hung there, meeting a miserable death.

I have heard from a friend of an interesting life history of a mocking bird. It was quite a young bird when purchased from a negro bird-catcher, and it was soon discovered to have sore feet. These were swollen twice the natural size, and though efforts were made to relieve this, it was only after it had lost several of its toes,—two front toes on one foot and one on the other,—that the feet were finally healed. After this it moulted, losing about all its feathers at one time. Its eyes then became inflamed, and the eye-ball like a drop of water, finally closed and the bird became totally blind. In getting its food it would stand at one side of the cage and follow the wires till it reached the food, it would then follow the side of the cage till it reached the water. It soon learned, however, to gauge distances and would fly to the perch without fail. It was a pitiable object, but strange to say, this poor maimed bird, lame and blind, developed into one of the finest of singers!

A caged mocking bird here, in moulting, has the new wing-feathers, the primaries at least, reversed; the upper surface turned in or partially so. The owner of the bird has been advised to pull out these feathers, that they would then grow in straight. This would seem rather a severe measure. It would be interesting to know whether this is an accident only to caged birds, or if it ever occurs to birds in a state of Nature.—
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