

the eustachian tubes open, mesially, at the nether aspect of the base of the sphenoidal rostrum, just in front of the basitemporal region. This common or double aperture is often underlapped by a lip of bone, while the walls of the tubes themselves are usually completely ossified. Now in some Accipitres these walls, anteriorly, are not completed in bone, but in the dried skull exhibit more or less of an open tract. *Pandion* is remarkable in having the anterior openings of its eustachian tubes *entirely closed*, and it will be interesting to know whether this at all modifies the sense of hearing in this bird. The character is present in three different skulls of adult specimens that I have examined, so it is presumably constant, and, at the present writing, so far as I am aware it stands unique among birds.

Since writing the above paragraph, Mr. F. A. Lucas, of the U. S. National Museum, has very kindly sent me the head of a recently killed specimen of *Pandion*, and I have had the opportunity of dissecting it while the parts were perfectly fresh. They confirm what I have written above, inasmuch as the anterior aperture or apertures of the eustachian tubes do not open in the middle line of the cranium above the anterior spine of the basitemporal. But the osseous antero-lateral walls of the passages in question are patulous, at some distance, upon either side, from the median line, and the *fleshy* parts of the eustachian tubes communicate therewith. By means of a fine bristle, I found either passage communicated, as usual, with the middle ear, and so there can be no question as to the functional status of those organs in the Osprey. The external auricular cavities, however, are small, and in either one I found a loose plug of some size, of a substance that had the appearance of a blackish wax, and this is sometimes seen in other large birds.—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Takoma, D. C.*

Megascops asio macfarlanei—A Correction.—Since the appearance of the advance sheets of my paper entitled 'Descriptions of Seven supposed new North American Birds,'* I have been informed by Captain Bendire that Mr. MacFarlane's name is Roderick Ross MacFarlane, not Robert MacFarlane as given in my foot-note under *Megascops asio macfarlanei*. The mistake is to be regretted but I trust it will be excused in view of the fact that the name has been repeatedly, if not invariably, printed as R. MacFarlane, Robert MacFarlane, or Robert McFarlane. The form last named appears in the latest list of corresponding members of the American Ornithologists' Union (Auk, Jan. 1891, Supplement p. xiii).—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) in Central New Mexico.—The first of July, 1890, while in camp near the northern end of the Sandia Mountains, some twenty-five miles from Santa Fé, New Mexico, I saw a pair of

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