

until the first week of September; fresh owl pellets were found during the remainder of the month.

Although this barn is in constant use and the doors are usually open, the Barn Owls again nested here in 1950. Three young hatched from the clutch of four eggs and the young were again banded.

Flocks of Red Crossbills appear in Massachusetts with some regularity; there are more than 60 published records for the decade 1940-1950. Nesting records are quite otherwise—the Marblehead nest of 1917 being the only one known for the mainland of this state in the twentieth century (Wm. Brewster, *Auk*, 35: 225, 1918).

During the winter of 1949-50 from one to four of these wanderers were seen at intervals on Andrews Point, Cape Ann. A pair was watched on March 3, 5, and 13 for a total of five hours as they fed on the seeds of the pitch pine, *Pinus rigida*. They called softly and continuously, though the hard, dry *pip-pip* was never heard; the male at times sang briefly. On March 17 Mr. Martin Curtler of Rockport and I saw the female carrying nesting material. With the male in close attendance and singing softly, we watched her working on a half-built nest about 30 feet up in a pitch pine. The nest was saddled on a branch three feet from the tip, where the foliage was dense, and only a short distance from the upper windows of a summer cottage. The female carried an eight-inch willow twig from a nearby tree and worked it into the nest; she also broke off and used dead twigs from a white spruce, *Picea alba*, planted in a neighboring yard. The area contains a number of summer homes, then vacant, with adjoining groves of pitch pines.

On March 15 Miss Ann McCarthy of Beverly saw the pair of Crossbills with Chickadees, *Parus atricapillus*, and Red-breasted Nuthatches, *Sitta canadensis*. The Red Crossbills later left the flock and went to the nesting tree where the male was seen to pick up pine needles and present them to the female, repeating this performance three times. The birds kept up a constant low chattering while working. On March 24 the nest appeared to be finished, but there were no Crossbills in the vicinity. However on April 6, the owner of this property, Mrs. Harold S. Dole, saw the female sitting on the nest as the tree was whipped by a wild gale. Later in the day it had fallen, and she recovered the nest, intact but empty, from the road below. There on April 7, Mr. Curtler found some egg fragments which with the nest were placed in the Peabody Museum.

The nest is composed principally of fine grasses and weed stalks; around the outer rim there are a few small twigs from three to five inches long, most of them from the spruce mentioned above. Three feathers are visible, the largest a white chicken feather worked into the base. While allowance should doubtless be made because of the fall from the nesting tree and subsequent handling, the measurements as taken are: outside diameter 4.75 inches; inside diameter 2.0 by 2.4 inches; the somewhat oval bowl slightly more than an inch deep; total height was 2.0 inches.—DOROTHY E. SNYDER, *Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass.*

**Saw-whet Owl, *Aegolius a. acadicus*, Nesting in Illinois.**—To date there is but one known record of the nesting of the Saw-whet Owl in Illinois. Benjamin Gault's 'Check List of Birds of Illinois' records one nest in Marion County, Illinois, in 1890. For several years I have wondered whether Saw-whet Owls nested in the vicinity of Quincy, Illinois.

On April 28, three boys were hiking through a heavy willow woods bordering the Mississippi River, when a small brown bird flew from a broken willow. Looking up, they discovered four fuzzy little owls slightly larger than a domestic chicken egg. One bird fell into the river and was not retrieved, but the other three were captured,

then fed on fishing worms, beetles, and raw meat until they were old enough to fly.

The soft chocolate underparts, the small size, the dark bill, the well defined white "V" from above the eyes, and the lack of ear tufts identified them as Saw-whets. When they were able to fly they were released.

I feel this is a legitimate second nesting record in Illinois for this owl.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, Quincy, Illinois.

**A Substitute Name for a Thrush, *Turdus*, of the West Indies.**—The name *Turdus nigrirostris* Lawrence (Ann. New York Acad. Sci., 1: 146 [in reprint, 147], June, 1878) proves to be preoccupied by *Turdus nigrirostris* Karelín (Trudy Sankt-Peterburgskago Obshchestva Ėstestvoispytatelei, 6: 288, 1875). For the bird of Saint Vincent, I propose *Turdus fumigatus bondi*, new name, in honor of James Bond, the well-known authority on West Indian ornithology.

Karelín's name has been ignored by such authors as Hartert and Steinbacher, but is not a *nomen nudum*; the accompanying brief description may be translated from the Russian as follows: "Similar to the Siberian [thrush], but distinguished by the lack of a white eye-brow. Arrives in flocks late in the autumn." Its type locality is "the territory of the Cossacks of the Ural," which, on modern maps, appears as the West Kazakhstan Province of the so-called Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic.

The "Siberian thrush" of the Russians is *Turdus sibiricus* Pallas, 1776, known to non-Russian ornithologists as a species breeding from Japan to central Siberia in two races, each of which has a very conspicuous white supercilium in the adult. One must wonder whether *Turdus nigrirostris* Karelín represents a little-known, but valid, resident form of western Siberia, or merely an exceptional specimen of one of the familiar races.—H. G. DEIGNAN, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

**The Discovery of Sprague's Pipit, *Anthus spragueii*.**—"The first specimen of this truly interesting Lark was procured by Mr. Sprague, another of my companions, who shot it on the 19th of June, 1843, near Fort Union, Upper Missouri." So said Audubon in 'The Birds of America' (Vol. 7: 334, 1844) where the bird that he called *Alauda Spragueii*, after his artist, Isaac Sprague, is described. That statement is generally accepted as fact and it is perpetuated in Bent's 'Life Histories of North American Wagtails, etc.' (1950). There are, however, three records that show it to be not literally true. One of these appears in Audubon's journal of his Missouri River expedition, published in 'Audubon and His Journals,' edited by Maria R. Audubon (1897) with notes by Elliott Coues, where, on page 41 of Volume 2, under date of June 19, 1843, we read, "Harris and Bell have returned, and, to my delight and utter astonishment, have brought two new birds: one a Lark, small and beautiful," etc. To this Coues's footnote is: "This is the first intimation we have of the discovery of the Missouri Titlark, which Audubon dedicated to Mr. Sprague under the name of *Alauda spragueii* . . . It is now well known as *Anthus (Neocorys) spraguei*." Just before this the journal had said, "Sprague has been drawing all day."

Although the journal as printed does not state it specifically (there is indication of an omission), Audubon must have decided at once to name the new "Lark" for Sprague because he had already named a sparrow and a vireo for Harris and Bell respectively, for on the next day Harris and Bell are out again and he is hoping they will bring more specimens of "Sprague's Lark." On June 22 Audubon and his companions heard the song of "the little new Lark that I have named after Sprague" but had not been able to discover its nest. On the 24th, however, the nest was found, and very appropriately by Sprague himself, who took the female and her five eggs. Thus Sprague had more than a merely honorary association with his "Lark,"