

4. *Loxia curvirostra americana*, Coues. COMMON CROSSBILL. — Scattered irregularly all through the pine woods. Breeds at 7500 feet.
5. *Xanthocephalus icterocephalus*, Bd. YELLOW-HEADED BLACK-BIRD. — "At 9300 feet."
6. *Corvus americanus*, Aud. COMMON CROW. — "At 9300 feet." The Crows of Southwest Colorado have many a lesson to learn. Gun in hand, I have walked past within a few feet of half a dozen who merely honored me with an idle stare.
7. *Cypselus saxatilis*, Ridg. WHITE-THROATED SWIFT. — "At 10,000 feet; breeds."
8. *Ceryle alcyon*, Boie. BELTED KINGFISHER. — I have found it as high as 9500 feet. Breeds on all the lower rivers.
9. *Melanerpes torquatus*, Bp. LEWIS'S WOODPECKER. — Very common up to 7000 feet.

BREEDING OF THE ACADIAN OWL (*NYCTALE ACADICA*) IN MASSACHUSETTS.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

So far as I can ascertain, the single egg of the Acadian Owl which is preserved in the National collection at Washington is the only authentic example known. It accordingly gives me unusual pleasure to announce the recent acquisition of a fine set of fully identified specimens taken by Mr. W. Perham at Tyngsboro, Mass., April 5, 1881. Mr. Perham is probably already known to some of the readers of the Bulletin as a remarkably successful collector of Hawks and Owls. He takes many eggs of the Mottled Owl by hanging up artificial nests in suitable places in the woods. These "nests" are made from sections of hollow trunks boarded up at the open ends, with entrance-holes cut in the sides, and the Owls apparently find them quite to their taste for they freely appropriate them, both as roosting and nesting places.

Sometime late in March of the present year a pair of Saw-whets took possession of one which was nailed against the trunk of an oak in an extensive piece of woodland. No nest was made, the eggs being simply laid on a few leaves which squirrels

had taken in during the winter. There were four eggs on April 4, and as the number was not increased the following day, Mr. Perham decided that the set was complete and accordingly took the parent birds with their clutch. He writes me that he made many unsuccessful attempts to catch the female on her eggs. She invariably flew out when he began to climb the tree, and he was at length obliged to shoot her. This behavior is strikingly different from that of the Mottled Owl under similar circumstances, for the setting female of the latter species can always be taken off her nest by the hand, and even when pulled out of the hole rarely makes any attempt to escape. The male Saw-whet was shot while sitting on a branch near the nesting-hole.

So much for the particulars of the capture; now a word as to the specimens themselves.

The eggs were sent to me unblown; the birds, in the flesh. Had there been any reason to doubt the truth of Mr. Perham's representations, this fact would have set the matter at rest. The belly of the female was bare and wrinkled, showing that incubation had begun, but among her ovaries I found two eggs developed to the size of large buck-shot, which upon being cut open yielded a small quantity of yellow *yelk*. From this I infer that two more eggs would have been added to the set, perhaps, as with the Cuckoos and some other birds, after those first laid were well along towards hatching. The plumage of both male and female is clear and unworn but their coloring is much paler than in autumnal examples.

The eggs were perfectly fresh. The yelk was yellow of about the usual tint. The four specimens measured respectively $1.21 \times .95$; $1.21 \times .98$; $1.25 \times .96$; $1.25 \times .97$. They are nearly elliptical in shape, one end being only slightly more pointed than the other. The texture of the shell is rather rough and chalky in appearance and there is not the slightest perceptible polish. Two of them are much soiled with a brownish stain which easily washes off, and which was perhaps caused by contact with damp and decaying vegetable matter in the nest; the other two are pure, dead white. The Smithsonian specimen is very much smaller than the present ones, measuring, according to Dr. Brewer (B. N. A., Vol. III, p. 47), only $.95 \times .88$.

The above detailed facts may be regarded as furnishing the first positive evidence we have of the breeding of this Owl in

Massachusetts. In one of the early numbers of the *Bulletin* (Vol. II, No. 3, p. 84), however, Mr. Deane announced the occurrence near Boston of several young birds which were taken in June and July, and hence the present record will not be entirely unexpected. In this connection it is scarcely worth while to consider the supposed Saw-whet's egg which Minot mentions* as "found in a pine-wood near Boston, . . . lying on the ground (not far from a tree in which a Saw-whet had previously been seen)." This record, with many similar ones by the same author, may simply be ignored as unworthy the attention of the careful student of ornithology.

SONGS OF THE WESTERN MEADOW LARK (*STURNELLA NEGLECTA*).

BY CHARLES N. ALLEN.

No. 1. (See next page.) The song which first called my attention to the Western Meadow Lark.

Nos. 2, 12, 23. Alike in time and form but somewhat unlike in melody.

No. 6. An odd melody, but a common one, usually followed by a short musical gurgle which I cannot reduce to musical characters.

No. 11. Finished by singing the last three notes an octave lower than the first part leads one to expect.

No. 20. One of four distinct and dissimilar melodies sung by one bird without leaving his perch.

No. 24. The singer passes from "G" to "D" with a sweep, as is often done on a violin.

No. 25. A part of the Lark's soft song. This is very incomplete, but gives some idea of the song. It was caught by me in four detached portions, and I am not sure that I have them in the right order. The notes are correct, though their sequence may be wrong. All the other songs in this paper belong to the loud class. I am inclined to think that if the Meadow Lark's soft song were familiarly known, his reputation as a singer would

* *Land and Game Birds of New England*, p. 334.