

1.05 X .90 inches, and is in my collection with the parent bird. It will be observed that in size it is very close to the egg of *M. whitneyi*.—GEO. B. SENNETT, *New York City*.

[A New Generic Name for the Elf Owl.]—*Micropallas*, Strigidarum genus novum = *Micrathene*. Coues, 1866, nec *Micrathena*, Sundevall, Arachn.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

Sphyrapicus ruber Breeding in Coniferous Trees.—In the July number of 'The Auk' (Vol. V, No. 3, p. 234) I stated that I doubted very much that this species ever bred in coniferous trees of any kind. In a letter recently received from Mr. A. H. Anthony, a well-known western ornithologist, he informs me that *S. ruber* was a rather common species in Washington County, Oregon, during 1884 and 1885, and that he found a pair nesting in a big fir stub, fully fifty feet from the ground. He writes me that as he was unable to take the eggs he did not molest the birds, but that there could be no doubt of their identity, as he watched them from the first day's excavating till they began to incubate.—C. E. BENDIRE, *Washington, D. C.*

Occurrence of Traill's Flycatcher near Washington, D. C.—Three specimens of *Empidonax pusillus traillii* taken this spring, are probably the first ever obtained from this locality. Although this Flycatcher is mentioned in every list of the birds of the District of Columbia and vicinity as occurring here, there is no evidence that the authors had ever seen the bird or taken a specimen. One was taken by the writer on May 13, 1888, at Potomac Run, Alexandria County, Virginia, another by Mr. Ridgway at Laurel, Maryland, on May 18, and the third by myself on the 19th, in Virginia, opposite Georgetown, D. C. Several others were subsequently seen and identified.—WILLIAM PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

Early Appearance of Empidonax minimus at Portland, Maine.—The spring of the year 1888 was a bad season for early arrivals at Portland, most of the earlier birds being very much delayed. Yet some did come early, and I think the most remarkable example was the Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*). Previously its earliest recorded arrival was May 5 (N. C. Brown, Proc. Port. Soc. Nat. Hist., 1882, p. 12), but on the morning of May 2, 1888, a chilly day with the thermometer only 36° Fahrenheit, and snow falling steadily, I saw one in a large orchard inside the city limits.—JOHN C. BROWN, *Portland, Maine*.

Second Occurrence of the Prairie Horned Lark in Eastern Massachusetts.—In recording* not long since the capture of three specimens of *Otocoris alpestris praticola* at Revere Beach, Massachusetts, I ventured

*Auk, Vol V, No. 1, Jan., 1888, pp. 111, 112.