

commonly through the scattered woods of spruce (*Picea engelmanni*), fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*), pine (*Pinus ayacahuite*) and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). The flowers of the honeysuckle attract great numbers of hummers, and hundreds of *Selasphorus platycercus*, and many *Eugenes fulgens* and *Cæligena clemenciae* were seen daily about the clumps. Early on the morning of June 9, in company with Mr. Fred. Hall Fowler, the writer saw a female *Basilinna leucotis* sitting on a dead twig of a *Lonicera* bush close to the ground, warming itself in the rays of the rising sun. The white stripe on the side of the head was plainly visible, and led to its speedy capture. Subsequently others were looked for but none were seen.—A. K. FISHER, *Washington, D. C.*

**Breeding of the Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) near Pittsfield, Mass.**—Sometime since I received a letter from Mr. Henry R. Buck, of Weathersfield, Conn., giving a detailed account of the discovery of a small colony of Prairie Horned Larks, evidently breeding, near Pittsfield, Mass. Although the old birds were not taken, they were carefully observed, and Mr. Buck's intelligent description of them, and of the nest and eggs he obtained leaves their identification scarcely open to question, as is shown by the following extracts from his letter. Mr. Buck writes: "This summer [1892] I became interested in a nest . . . of *Otocoris alpestris*, which I thought was only a winter visitor here. Mr. C. H. Buckingham of Pittsfield, Mass., with whom I was walking, found the nest July 10, 1892. . . . The bird had built her nest in a sheep pasture, on the very top of a treeless mountain west of Pittsfield; on the ground of course. She could hardly have found a more unprotected spot, and had not roofed over the nest at all. It was about four inches in diameter, sunk even with the surface of the ground, and was composed of a thick wall of moss lined with dry grass, several locks of wool, and two or three leaves.

"The eggs were four in number, *fresh*, of about the same shape as an English Sparrow's, of a pale greenish ground color, spotted indistinctly but thickly with light brown and purplish. The spots are not at all clearly defined and not perceptibly thicker at one end than at the other. The eggs measure .62 X .84, .61 X .85 and .61 X .83 inches. No. 4 got cracked, so I did not measure it, but it was about the size of the others.

"We could not get a very close look at the bird, since she would sneak off when we were yet quite a distance from the nest, and after she had gone about forty yards would run unconcernedly about, among some rocks near there, but would always keep about the same distance away from us. If we followed her closely she would fly off with a steady, rapid motion of the wings, very like the flight of a Meadowlark. On the ground she ran easily and seemed to be able to go quite fast.

"We saw five or six other birds of the same kind near the place but could find no other nest. The birds were a little longer than a Bluebird—I should say about seven inches—but much plumper and stouter, reminding one of a Meadowlark in this respect. They were brown above and white

below, with the sides of the head below the bill, and also the throat, white, and a narrow black spot, shaped somewhat like a sickle, across the breast. I did not notice any black streaks on the sides of the head or the horns, but as I did not get very close, and did not look for them especially, it is not strange.

"On a second trip to the place, a week later, there was a very high wind blowing and we saw nothing of the birds."

This form of the Horned Lark has been already recorded as breeding in North Adams and Williamstown, Mass. (Faxon, Auk, IX, 1892, p. 201), as well as in Vermont, New Hampshire, and near Troy in eastern New York.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

**Capture of Clarke's Nutcracker in Crittenden County, Arkansas.**—A specimen of Clarke's Nutcracker (*Picicorvus columbianus*) was killed at Earl, Crittenden County, Ark., about twenty miles west of Memphis, Tenn., about April 1, 1891, and sent to Memphis for identification. It came into my possession in the flesh, but was already somewhat decayed about the head. I partly mounted it, and putting it aside for the time it was almost forgotten. Some time afterward I had it remounted by a professional taxidermist, but on account of the poor condition of the skin he could not make a very nice specimen of it.—ROBERT H. MITCHELL, Memphis, Tenn.

**Occurrence of *Aphelocoma cyanotis* in Western Texas.**—In the U. S. Department of Agriculture collection there are three specimens of *Aphelocoma* in worn plumage, collected by William Lloyd in western Texas. Through the kindness of Mr. Robert Ridgway they were compared with the type of *Aphelocoma cyanotis* in the National Museum collection, and were found to be referable to that species. They differ from *cyanotis* in averaging a little smaller and in having a more slender bill, thus grading toward *woodhousei*, as might be expected, where the range of that bird is approached. In coloration, however, allowing for the slight difference due to the wearing of the plumage, they are identical with *cyanotis*, and in no way resemble *woodhousei*. The specimens were taken July 14, 18 and 21, 1890, at Paisano, the highest point (5082 feet) on the Southern Pacific Railroad in Texas, about 60 miles north of the Mexican boundary.—A. K. FISHER, Washington, D. C.

**Icterus parisorum in Western San Diego County, California.**—The first week in April of the present year I was encamped on the Tia Juana River about two miles south of the National boundary and eight miles from the coast. Scott's Oriole was not uncommon at this point, nor at a later camp about twenty miles from the coast and not far from ten miles south of the boundary. As the country is exactly similar to that north of the line in western San Diego County, it is not unreasonable to expect that the species will be found equally common and of regular occurrence in favorable localities through the southern part of this county. In 'The