

in the higher mountainous and densely wooded tracts of the northern half of the State. Wells post office is located in the margin of a dense pine and spruce forest at the western base of the lofty Wind River range of mountains, in Uinta County, Wyoming, and its elevation, by aneroid barometer, taken the day we were there, was 8,000 feet. — FRANK BOND, *Cheyenne, Wyo.*

**Breeding of the Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii alnorum*) near Plainfield, New Jersey.** — During a visit to Ash Swamp, three miles east of Plainfield, Union County, New Jersey, on the 19th, 20th, and 21st of July, 1899, I was surprised to find the Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii alnorum*) a common species there.

My identification was confirmed by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., who examined a bird-of-the-year secured on August 6, 1899.

Circumstances pointed to its breeding here, and my experience during the past summer proves that it does so, for on every visit to the swamp I found the shy little flycatchers among the alders. These dates include May 30, June 17 and 24, and July 8, 15, 22 and 29.

The species is rather numerous and generally distributed throughout the swamp (which is less than one square mile in area), frequenting chiefly the alders along the streams and edges of the woods. Elsewhere in the vicinity of Plainfield I have found it only during the migrations.

I have not yet succeeded in finding an occupied nest, but discovered a deserted nest containing one egg, which may belong to this species. On July 29 I came upon one of these birds with a brood of full-grown young and saw one of the latter fed by its parent.

I believe this to be the first positive record of the breeding of this species south of northwestern Connecticut.

Its three congeners of the eastern United States all occur in this vicinity. The Least Flycatcher is a common summer resident, the Green-crested Flycatcher is a rare summer resident, and the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is a fairly common transient visitor.

The avi-fauna of this region is decidedly Carolinian. — W. D. W. MILLER, *Plainfield, N. J.*

**The Raven in Polk County, North Carolina.** — On the morning of February 15, 1897, I saw a Raven as it passed over the mountain village of Tryon, Polk County, N. C. Tryon is said to have an elevation of about 1500 feet, and is situated on a ridge leading up from the Piedmont Region to the peaks of Melrose and Hogback, the latter in South Carolina. — LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.*

**Song of the Western Meadowlark.** — Referring to the comment of G. S. Mead in his letter of August 18, 1900, printed in the October number of 'The Auk,' relative to the musical ability of *Sturnella magna neg-*  
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*lecta*, I wish to add a paragraph in commendation of the bird. On Monday, Oct. 1, 1900, I was at Big Piney post office, Wyoming, seventy-five miles north of the Oregon Short Line railroad. Early in the morning I was attracted to the wreckage of an old waterwheel in North Piney Creek just back of the post office, by a sweet and continuous vocal effort of some bird. I believed the singer was a Meadowlark for some of the notes were familiar, but I was in doubt, never having heard the song before. I approached, carelessly, and soon discovered a Western Meadowlark perched upon the topmost paddle of the old wheel singing — well singing an aria from the song-book of Nature. To me the performance was exceedingly creditable; but owing to the surroundings and the season of the year, its actual musical value may have been overestimated. The performance was continuous for over three minutes when the bird joined a small flock that was foraging industriously for breakfast along the bank of the creek.

This example of continuous vocal effort of the Western Meadowlark is the first and only one of my experience and while Mr. Mead's suggestion — that there may be individuals of surpassing vocal powers, is of doubtful value, nothing can be more certain than that continuous bursts of song are of rare occurrence. May I be permitted to add, also, that during nineteen years' residence in Wyoming my observation of the spring and summer song of the Western Meadowlark has forced the conclusion that there is no such thing as a distinctive vocal utterance of the race. One would almost be safe in asserting that no two larks sing alike, so great is the range of individual effort. While the songs of all of the Western Larks vary greatly from that of the eastern form the lack of uniformity will insure to the promoters of the taxonomic value theory final and certain confusion.— FRANK BOND, *Cheyenne, Wyo.*

**Occurrence of the Mexican Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra stricklandi*) at Neligh, Nebraska.** — It is interesting, to say the least, to note the occurrence of this southwestern bird at Neligh, Nebraska, several hundred miles east of its normal range. A large female was taken by myself on December 9, 1898, just at dusk, while it was perched on the head of a sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) feeding industriously upon the seeds. The only other birds in the near vicinity at the time were a few Common Redpolls (*Acanthis linaria*). There was a fair amount of snow on the ground at the time, but no heavy storms had occurred to account for the bird straggling so far from its usual range. The specimen is now in my collection. — MERRITT CARY, *Neligh, Neb.*

**An Addition to the A. O. U. Check-List.** — Several years ago I submitted to Mr. Brewster three specimens for comparison with the type of *Dendroica nigrifrons*, and he reported that they belonged to that Warbler. The three specimens form a part of a series of eleven males, in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences, taken in the latter part of May