

*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

and during June, 1894, in the Huachuca and Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona, by Mr. W. W. Price and his assistants.

Comparing this series with several males of *D. auduboni* in very high breeding plumage from the Sierra Nevada of Central California, I find that the gap between *D. auduboni* and *D. nigrifrons* is nearly bridged over.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.*

**Sequence of Plumages in the Black-throated Blue Warbler.** In my paper on the Molting of Birds (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1896, 159) I erroneously stated that the young males of *Dendroica caerulescens* in the first winter plumage were brown like the adult female. Attention was called to this error by Mr. Wm. Palmer in reviewing my paper in 'The Auk' (1896, p. 242). As I find, however, that many persons still regard some of the brown fall birds as young males it may be well to call attention to an interesting specimen in my collection, secured in Wyoming County, Pennsylvania, July 14, 1900. This bird is molting from the juvenal to the first winter plumage, the olive brown feathers of the earlier dress being seen on the back, sides of the body and under the tail, while most of the remaining feathers are of the black, blue and white plumage of the 'old male.' The flight feathers are not shed at this molt. All the feathers of the throat are frosted with white. This character as well as the olive edgings to the wing feathers will serve to distinguish males of the year from old birds.—WIRMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

**Granatellus venustus in Sinaloa.**—The California Academy of Sciences possesses three specimens of this rare Warbler collected by Mr. P. O. Simons in Sinaloa. Two of the birds were secured at Tatemalis—a male, June 4, and a female, June 17, 1897. The third example (a male) was obtained April 10, of the same year at Rosario.

The following is a description of the female: Above drab with top of head tinged with wood brown, deepening toward forehead; above ear-coverts a broad line of buff, extending nearly to the middle of the upper eyelid; ear-coverts wood brown, lores paler; wings broccoli brown; tail brown with three lateral feathers tipped with white, the outer web of outer one almost wholly white; lower parts whitish, with a broad buff band across chest; sides of body washed with buff; under tail-coverts largely tinged with buff; wing 2.15 in.; tail 2.50; exposed culmen .46; tarsus .75.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.*

**Maryland Yellow-throat at Sea.**—On August 19, 1900, at about 3 P. M. when my ship, the 'Saxonia,' eastward bound, was about 305 miles East  $\frac{1}{2}$  South from Boston Light, a small bird flew up from astern and spent several hours perched in various parts of the upper works. It was lively, generally shy, plump and apparently happy. It took no interest in finely