

identification. She was in full dark plumage, the darkest phase I have ever seen in this species, and the feathering on the tarsi was clearly noted. The nest was a large one, measuring two feet in diameter by one foot deep outside, the inner cavity measuring nine inches across by four inches deep. It was built in a crotch of the main trunk of the tree, resting partially on some smaller branches; it was made of large sticks and lined with pieces of dry flags and shreds of the same, with a few sprigs of green leaves. It contained two fresh eggs which we left for future reference, supposing that the set was incomplete. We visited the locality again on June 7 and had another good look at the bird, sitting on a fence-post, but there were still only two eggs in the nest.

As we had to leave this vicinity on the following day we collected the set of two eggs, which is now in the collection of Rev. H. K. Job of Kent, Conn. Mr. Job visited the locality again on June 20 but found the nest deserted. — A. C. BENT, *Taunton, Mass.*

Melanerpes erythrocephalus Breeding near Boston.— On the 26th of June, 1901, I saw a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers feeding their young in Newton, Mass., the nest being in a dead stump at a height of twenty or twenty-five feet from the ground. According to Messrs. Howe and Allen's 'Birds of Massachusetts' this would seem to be the first nest ever recorded from eastern Massachusetts, although Mr. Brewster, in his edition of Minot, speaks of one found in Brookline in 1878. — BRADFORD TORREY, *Wellesley Hills, Mass.*

Discovery of the Egg of the Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger borealis*).— On the morning of June 16, 1901, I, with a companion, started out with the intention of taking a few sets of Cormorants' eggs on the cliffs a few miles west of Santa Cruz, California. On reaching the locality, I noticed a pair of Black Swifts flying about over the cliffs, much lower than they usually fly. One bird rose high in the air and struck off in a bee line, at the rate of a mile a minute. I then resumed my search for the Cormorants, which I found on the face of the cliff, where the shore line turns sharply inland and about where the Swifts had been seen.

After throwing clods and stones for some time, to flush the cormorants in order to ascertain whether the nests contained full sets, we then, with the aid of a rope ladder and a pole and dipnet, took two sets of Baird's Cormorant containing four eggs each and one of Brandt's Cormorant containing three eggs, from nests situated about 25 or 30 feet from the top of the cliff.

After moving my ladder a little, I proceeded to reach out and down for a more distant set of Baird's Cormorant eggs when suddenly, right from under the pole and not more than three or four feet from my hand, a Black Swift flew out and down toward the water and passed around the angle toward the ocean. It did not rise above the cliff, in the immediate

vicinity, as my companion above the cliffs did not see it at all, though I called to him to watch if it came above.

I then moved my ladder a little closer and went down farther so that my face was about a foot and a half from the egg which the Swift had just left. It was placed on a shelf or crevice in the lower edge of a projection standing out perhaps four or five feet from the main wall and about ninety feet from the breakers below. This crevice was four or five inches high, five or six inches deep, and about twenty inches long, very narrow at one end, and about thirty feet from the top of the cliff, twenty feet of which is earth sloping back to the level land above. This portion of the cliff was wet and dripping constantly, causing tufts of grass to grow here and there, where there was earth enough to support the roots. It was just behind one of these tufts of grass, in a slight depression in the mud, formed no doubt by the bird, that the egg was laid. I did not disturb the egg or nest, not going nearer than a foot and a half, intending to return a week later to get possibly a full set, which I did, but found things just as I had left them a week before and no Swifts were in sight. I took the egg, and peeled off the nest, grass and all, and have it in my collection.

I have since concluded that the set was complete, as when preparing the egg I found that incubation was advanced about two or three days. Another reason for believing that the bird had laid her complement of eggs and was sitting, was the fact of her being so difficult to flush, as all birds sit closer as incubation advances.—A. G. VROOMAN, *Santa Cruz, Cal.*

A Rare Record for Eastern New York.—On August 29, 1901, I took a fine specimen of the Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*) on Shelter Island, N. Y. It was a female in young-of-the-year plumage, shot from a tall dead tree in a woodland clearing. This bird must have been reared not far from this locality, as it is not likely it had wandered far at this early date. It is the first specimen of the species I ever saw living, and a rare record for Long Island.—W. W. WORTHINGTON, *Shelter Island Heights, N. Y.*

Acanthis linaria rostrata in the Outer Hebrides.—The occurrence of a third example of the so-called Mealy Redpoll in the Island of Barra, one of the Outer Hebrides, led me to request my friend, Mr. W. L. McGillivray—a nephew of the late distinguished ornithologist, and a gentleman much interested in birds—to allow me to examine this and the other specimens of this bird in his possession with a view to ascertaining to what species or subspecies of *Acanthis* the birds obtained in this far western island belonged. I was much interested to find that all three examples were referable to the form described by Dr. Stejneger (Auk, I, p. 153) as *Acanthis linaria rostrata* (Coues)—a bird which has not hitherto been recorded for Great Britain, though several specimens have been obtained on islands off the west coast of Ireland.