

Snowy Owl and Golden Eagle at Plymouth, Michigan.—A Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) was shot at Plymouth, Michigan, on December 4, 1901. It was a male bird, and its stomach contained no food.

Recently a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaëtos canadensis*) was caught near here—the second one observed at this place. These birds are becoming quite rare in southern Michigan, and a law should be enacted for their protection, and not only for them but for several other species of our hawks and owls.—JAMES B. PURDY, *Plymouth, Mich.*

The Hawk Owl in Massachusetts.—I found lately in the Bryant Collection in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy two specimens of *Surnia ulula caparoch*. The label on one reads "Massachusetts, December 30, ♂," (No. 1524); on the other, "Massachusetts, ♂," (No. 1525). As no Massachusetts specimen has been recorded as taken on December 30, this bird is evidently unrecorded, and makes the thirteenth record for the State. The other specimen may be one of those already recorded of which we have no other data as to the capture.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, Jr., *Longwood, Mass.*

The Elf Owl as a California Bird.—So far as I am aware the chief, if not the only, claim *Micropallas whitneyi* has in the literature to the rank of a California bird rests upon the type specimen. The paper (Proc. Calif. Acad. Nat. Sci., Vol. II, p. 118) containing the original description of this specimen is entitled 'New Californian Animals', but the locality given for the specimen is Fort Mojave, which was on the Arizona side of the Colorado River. Positive evidence of the occurrence of this owl in California has recently come to my knowledge in an example (now No. 18298, Calif. Acad. Sci.) obtained April 20, 1898, by Mr. J. A. Kusche in San Bernardino County, the precise locality being about ten miles from San Bernardino on the old Toll Road, altitude about 2000 feet.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.*

Unusual Abundance of Lewis's Woodpecker near Tucson, Arizona, in 1884.—During the fall of 1884 Lewis's Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus torquatus*) appeared in large numbers in the Santa Cruz Valley, opposite Tucson, Arizona. Although I have been a resident of the place for about twenty-four years it was the only time I ever saw them in that neighborhood. The following concerning them is from my note-book of that date.

September 28. To-day I saw what appeared to be a large black woodpecker in the pomegranate groves west of town. It was wild and unapproachable. It kept much among the small trees.

September 29. To-day I fortunately secured the black woodpecker I saw yesterday. It proves to be a young female of *A. torquatus*. The cervical collar is entirely wanting. So far as I can remember it is the only one I ever met with in southern Arizona.

September 30. I counted 10 Lewis's Woodpeckers in the pomegranate groves to-day and secured 7 of them. They are surely beautiful birds. Evidently they are young as all but three lack the cervical collar, and in the three the collar, although well defined, is much narrower than those commonly met with in the adult bird. A few white spots are apparent in the necks of two, and two others are marked by a narrow line of dirty looking gray. They were in company with some five or six Sparrow Hawks and appeared to be on the most friendly terms with them. If disturbed they flew together and invariably settled on the same bush or tree. The woodpeckers did not cling to the boles of the trees, but sat on the limbs after the manner common to all perchers. They were mostly feeding on pomegranate fruit. They first cut a hole through the hard skin of the fruit and then extract the pulp, leaving nothing but an empty shell. I saw them repeatedly dart from their perches, generally on some topmost limb, far into the air, apparently catch something and then return to their starting point.

The day was cloudy and the wind blowing hard, but from no particular direction although the clouds were drifting westwardly.

October 4. This afternoon I saw but two Lewis's Woodpeckers. Towards night, however, probably a dozen gathered to a central point where the bushes were more dense.

October 8. The Tanagers and Orioles have finally disappeared. The same may be said of the female Blue Grosbeaks, as I have not seen one for the past week. Lewis's Woodpecker was not in evidence to-day.

October 11. Yesterday it stormed hard. Towards evening it cleared and to-day the weather is fine. I found Lewis's Woodpeckers very abundant. To-day I particularly noted their habits which, as a whole, are very unlike those of the Picidæ. In flight they have little or none of that laborious undulating movement so common to its kind, but in action and flight they seem possessed of peculiarities supposed to belong to birds of a totally different family. To-day not less than fifty of them were circling through the air, at an elevation of about 500 feet, with all the ease and grace of the Falconidæ. Not a stroke of the wing was apparent. I saw those in the trees leave their perches with the regularity of flycatchers, dart after insects, pause momentarily in the air and then return directly to the spot they had just left. I was under a tree when I saw one so leave and return with a dragon fly in its mouth. It was not more than twenty feet above me and in full view. It appeared to be anxious for others of its family as it repeatedly uttered a peculiar *chee, chee, chee*. That, at least, was the most I could make of it. They are also on the ground much of the time, but unfortunately the weeds are so thick that I cannot see what they do or how they act. When disturbed on the ground they fly to the neighboring trees and sit in rows like so many overgrown blackbirds. To-day, for the first time, I saw one sticking against the shaft of a mulberry tree beneath which I was standing. It was pretty well up towards the top and tapping it very lightly. Several others were sitting on the

limbs of the same tree and although I was not more than twenty feet below them they paid no attention to me. I slapped the tree with my hands, but instead of flying they merely turned their heads sideways, watched me for a few moments and then took no further notice of me. They were thick as blackbirds all over the valley and the Chinese gardeners were shooting them for food.

October 13. I cannot reconcile myself to the amazing flight and fly-catching peculiarities of Lewis's Woodpecker. It is difficult to believe such things possible without having really seen them as it has been my good fortune to do. To-day was but a repetition of what I saw them do two days since. From a tree top they will shoot through the air a hundred feet, at any angle or in any direction, stop short and then return to their starting place without a perceptible beat of the wing. Those high in the air were sailing in great circles. They kept it up indefinitely and had the appearance of being so many miniature crows. When sailing they appear to open their wings to the fullest extent possible. At times, however, there is no mistaking the woodpecker flight. I saw it to-day for the first time, not much, but it was woodpecker all the same. In the trees they sit motionless, leaving them only to dash after some passing insect. Those on the bodies of the trees, of which there were quite a number to-day, would occasionally make a short move up, but not often. Now that the pomegranate crop has been destroyed they have commenced to eat the quinces, of which there are large quantities. On the tops of some of the bushes I noticed that every quince had been eaten into, one side of the fruit being generally eaten away. The weather to-day was cloudy and warm.

October 15. Lewis's Woodpeckers have suddenly left the valley. In a tramp of about three hours I did not see more than a dozen.

October 17. I saw, I think, the same bunch of Lewis's Woodpeckers I did two days ago. They were about the same in number and were in the same locality. They occupied what might be called a 'headquarters' tree from which they refused to be driven. This is the third instance of the kind I have seen.

October 19. The blackbirds have come but the black woodpeckers have gone. I did not see one of these wonderful birds to-day.

October 21. Lewis's Woodpeckers are again here in their old time numbers, but I did not observe anything more than usual in their movements to-day.

October 22. There appears to be no diminution in the number of Lewis's Woodpeckers. Many were flying high, gyrating through the air like crows over a dead carcass. The day was windy and warm.

October 25. Lewis's Woodpeckers are still here in their usual numbers. They are in beautiful plumage. If wounded they are very pugnacious and will bite and claw the hands if opportunity is given. It seems to me that they have an unusually large amount of blood in them.

October 26. Lewis's Woodpeckers are still here, but far less numerous than they were yesterday.

October 28. Lewis's Woodpeckers have become quite scarce. Because of their handsome plumage I hoped to collect a few more, but succeeded in getting but two.

My last notation of them was made November 16, and is as follows: "Lewis's Woodpeckers are entirely gone." Although I find I was in the field ten times between Oct. 28 and Nov. 16 that is the only entry made of them. I cannot say with certainty whence they came or whither they went, but I always thought that they came from the north and went south, still I have nothing to prove it by. I surely found them to be an unusually interesting bird, — HERBERT BROWN, *Yuma, Arizona*.

The Rivoli Hummingbird in Southern California.—A male *Eugenes fulgens* was taken by Mr. J. A. Kusche in the San Gorgonio Pass, Riverside County, California, July 15, 1899. Mr. Kusche made the bird into a fine skin, which is now No. 17394 of the study series of birds in the California Academy of Sciences. I do not recall any previous instance of the capture of this Hummingbird in California.—LEVERETT M. Loomis, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco*.

Vestipedes vs. *Eriocnemis*. — *Eriocnemis* Reichenbach (*Avium Syst.*, 1849, pl. xl), is antedated by *Vestipedes* Lesson (*Écho du monde savant*, sér. 2, VIII, Oct. 22, 1843, 756). Lesson's name is equivalent to *Eriocnemis* and should be used in place of it.—CHAS. W. RICHMOND, *Washington, D. C.*

Note on 'Delatiria henrici.'—This species, named *Ornismya henrica* by Lesson and Delattre in 1839, was first described by Swainson as *Lampornis amethystinus* (*Philos. Mag.*, n. s. I, June, 1827, 442). Although given in a well-known paper, Swainson's name has been entirely ignored—an unfortunate state of affairs, since *L. amethystinus* becomes the type of *Lampornis* through the delayed publication of his 'Zoological Journal' paper (*Zool. Journ.*, III, Dec. 1827, 358). *Lampornis amethystinus* will thus become the proper name of the bird now known as *Delatiria henrici*, as well as the type of the genus *Lampornis*. The genus long known as *Lampornis* will probably have to be called *Anthracothorax* Boie.—CHAS. W. RICHMOND, *Washington, D. C.*

Lark Sparrow and Olive-sided Flycatcher in Western Maryland.—According to a long cherished desire on my part and a wish of Mr. F. C. Kirkwood, I went, on July 16 last, to the highest part of Maryland, to Accident, Garrett Co., for ornithological research. The elevation of Accident and contiguous territory is 2600–3000 feet. I had with me Preble's List of Summer Birds of Western Maryland, of which mention was made in the last volume of 'The Auk,' p. 208. I desired to, if possible, extend this list of 100 species. I found very near all the species at