

feet. All this time the other parent remained possibly fifteen feet directly over me, calling shrilly. In discovering this nest, as I entered the woods, I saw one parent sitting about twenty feet from the nest. The other bird left the nest when I rapped the tree with a small club. I did not climb at once, but walked on through the woods, both birds following, approaching closely, and calling frequently.

Later on in the day in another woods I saw a nest at some distance. As I approached, when possibly two hundred feet away, the parent slipped from the nest and flew silently and swiftly away. While climbing to this nest neither parent bird was seen or heard. After I returned to the ground they returned flying at a distance, at a great height and calling frequently.

The behavior of these birds was in striking contrast to that of the first pair, and it was the owners of the fresh eggs which were more aggressive.

The owners of five other nests found later showed none of the aggressiveness exhibited by the first pair usually remaining at quite a distance.

The aggressive pair built again and April 29 had a nest in a beech, one hundred feet from the former site. One parent left the nest as I approached and the other flew away when I was possibly fifty feet from the tree. The former bird remained near and several times flew within a few feet of me with angry cries but did not attack me.—E. B. WILLIAMSON, *Bluffton, Indiana*.

Metallura vs. Laticauda.— In 'The Auk' for January, 1902, page 92, Dr. Charles W. Richmond proposed to replace *Metallura* Gould 1847, by the earlier name *Laticauda* Lesson 1843, and the latter has been adopted in the recently published 'Birds of South America' by Brabourne and Chubb (Vol. I, page 137).

Fortunately, however, this change is unnecessary as there is an earlier *Laticauda* published by Laurenti in 1768 for a genus of serpents. Dr. Stejneger writes me that this is a perfectly valid name, diagnosed and with species. The genus of South American Hummingbirds will therefore retain its long established name, *Metallura*.—W. DEW. MILLER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City*.

Hummingbirds' Eyelashes.— An interesting fact was brought to light while my friend Mr. H. Muller Pierce was examining some Hummingbirds in my collection. We were using a powerful magnifying glass and looking at the brilliant metallic feathers on the throat, and the difference in the shade of colors, as they appeared with and without the glass. Mr. Pierce remarked "look at the eye lashes on this one!" With the naked eye we could see only the tiny black rim of the eyelid about the size of a pin head, but with the glass we found both upper and lower lids adorned with a row of minute round feathers set at regular intervals, about twenty in all. Upon further examination of over one hundred species from North, Central and South America, we found these feathers were of two colors—the majority being black, the others pale grayish brown. One exception

was found, *Gouldia conversi* from Costa Rica, in which the eyelid feathers are metallic green. Of our North American Trochilidæ, *Eugenes fulgens*, *Archilochus colubris*, *Calypte costæ*, *Basilinna xantusi* and *Cyanthus latirostris*, have black eye lashes, while in *Calypte anna*, *Selasphorus platycercus*, *S. rufus*, and *S. alleni*, *Stellula calliope*, *Amizilis tzacatl* and *A. cerviniventris chalconota*, they are brownish gray. The fact that the color of the eyelid feathers is alike in the male and female, may prove valuable in identifying certain species when other points fail; and the characters may be of value in the case of other small birds such as warblers, vireos, titmice, flycatchers, wrens, etc.—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Ill.*

The Great-tailed Grackle in New Mexico.—This note constitutes the first record of the occurrence of the Great-tailed Grackle (*Megaquiscalus major macrourus*) within New Mexico, as far as I can determine by examination of previous records.

One adult male specimen was brought in by Miss Fannie Ford of Las Cruces, New Mexico, on May 15, 1913. It was shot at her home, having been mistaken for a crow while flying about the corral. The measurements for this specimen come very near the minimum for this species. A pair of these birds is reported nesting at La Mesa, N. M., ten miles south of this place. The nest is placed in a large apricot tree in a dooryard. The birds are not at all shy but characteristically noisy! Their nesting is to be unmolested and it will be interesting to note if this is the beginning of a permanent residence or annual summer visitations to this place, or if it is merely a sporadic occurrence. It would seem that the conspicuousness of the species would have made record of it an easy matter had it occurred in this region to any extent previously.—D. E. MERRILL, *State College, N. M.*

The Night Song of Nuttall's Sparrow.—W. R. Lord, in his 'Birds of Oregon and Washington,' says of Nuttall's Sparrow, that, "Often, through the darkest nights, in the Virginia creeper or honeysuckle around the porch or piazza, he utters his plaintive song — seeming to say, as one sensitive observer has imagined it: 'Sweet, Sweet, listen to me, won't you.'"

I first noticed this peculiar habit on the night of April 16 when one sang at 10:15 P. M. The following night he sang at 11 P. M. during a hard rain. From this date I made nightly observations on this particular bird; the song continuing regularly until May 3, when it suddenly ceased, and on May 19 the nest containing four eggs was found in a rose bush tied to the side of the house. The following day all the eggs hatched. On the 28th something disturbed the young, causing them to leave the nest.

During this period the night song was not heard although the male continued to sing throughout the day; and not until June 2 was the night singing resumed. Then followed a period of song though not as regular as before, continuing to June 15th. Later I discovered that a second brood had been raised though not until too late for note taking.