

Chordeiles virginianus minor Cabanis, will become *C. v. gundlachii* Lawrence.—CHAS. W. RICHMOND, *Washington, D. C.*

A New Name for *Onychospiza Prjevalski*.—*Onychospiza* Prjevalski (Mongol. i Strana Tangut., II, 1876, 81), based on *O. taczanowskii* of the same author, has been generally lumped with *Montifringilla* Brehm, 1828, and the species name has been synonymized with *M. mandelli* Hume. Recently, however, Bianchi (Annuaire Mus. Zool. Acad. Imp. St.-Petersb., XII, 1907 (1908), 555) has recognized *Onychospiza* as a distinct genus, and in his paper (on the forms of the genera *Montifringilla*, *Pyrgilauda* and *Onychospiza*) has, I believe, pointed out the priority of *O. taczanowskii* (summer of 1876) over *M. mandelli* (Hume, Stray Feathers, IV, Dec., 1876, 488). The recognition of *Onychospiza* recalls the action of Rey (Synon. Eur. Brutvögel und Gäste, 1872, 216), who altered *Onychospiza* Bonaparte, 1853, to *Onychospiza*, effectually preoccupying the use of the same term in another sense. I therefore suggest *Onychostruthus* as a substitute for *Onychospiza* Prjevalski, with *Onychospiza taczanowskii* as the type.—CHAS. W. RICHMOND, *Washington, D. C.*

The Migrant Shrike near Boston.—On September 4, 1916, I saw a Migrant Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*) in Brookline, Mass., near the West Roxbury (Boston) line. The bird was in an open pasture, and I followed it about for some time, saw it at close range, and positively identified it. It was very active, flying about from boulder to fence-post and swooping to the ground after insects, probably grasshoppers. Mr. Brewster, in 'Birds of the Cambridge Region' (1906) cites but four records for the species within ten miles of Boston, and I find no later records in 'The Auk.'—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireosylva philadelphica*) in Massachusetts in Autumn.—On September 17, 1916, I shot a young female Philadelphia Vireo in Harvard, Mass. The specimen is now in my collection (No. 682). By a curious coincidence the bird was shot less than 500 yards from the spot where I took one about a year previous (Auk, XXXIII, p. 78).—JAMES L. PETERS, *Harvard, Mass.*

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*) in Massachusetts in December.—On December 3, sunny, light northwest wind, mercury about forty, I discovered a male Wilson's Warbler in the Arnold Arboretum, Boston. The bird was in a berry-bearing bush, barberry I think, but did not seem to be feeding on the berries but about the branches and twigs. He was in full color, very brilliant—of course seeming more so in the gray world of December, and appeared to be in the best of health and spirits. In the same bush was a White-throated Sparrow and across the drive, the Mockingbird which has lived there for some years. While I was watching

the warbler I was joined by two other parties of bird-students who offered to bear witness, as we all had an excellent view of the bird.— MRS. GEORGE H. MELLEEN, *Newton Highlands, Mass.*

A Remarkable Case of Bird-feeding.— This year, 1916, the House Wrens appeared on April 30, and presently a pair of them took possession of a bird box nailed to a disused poultry house at the rear of the lot. May 27, there was one egg in the nest. June 3, there were seven eggs, neatly concealed by feathers fastened upright in the rim of the nest and curving inward. June 14, there were four young, looking like wine-colored grub-worms, and three eggs. Later all the eggs hatched. June 23, when the older ones were nine days old, the parents fed them 34 times between 6.30 and 7.30 A. M. and at least half the hour was spent in trying to drive away six or eight English Sparrows that hung over the edge of the poultry house peering down at the nest, alighting on the lid and ledge of it, and manifesting the most excessive and persistent curiosity concerning the young which were keeping up a constant clamoring for food.

At first while the nest was being built and before the young were hatched, the parents made little fuss when another bird or a person approached, bestowing most of their scolding upon two cats that prowled around. But their anxiety grew with the development of their young and they protested more and more at every disturbance, both of them nipping the sparrows and following me and the cats with their angry chatter.

On June 24, the parents fed 21 times between 6.30 and 7 A. M. and again spent much of the time in fighting the sparrows which were even more impudent than before, peering into the opening of the box and remaining stubbornly upon the ledge in spite of the peckings they received.

On the afternoon of June 25, the young were fed 86 times between 4.40 and 5.40, and I discovered that the feeding was now done by one bird, the male, who no longer had time either to scold or to sing. Only five times in the hour did he utter a brief twitter, and from the twenty-fifth to the seventieth trip the feeding was incessant. He had discovered a rich feeding ground close by and neither sparrows nor cats interrupted him. Moreover, he did his best to keep the nest clean; but this, as we afterward ascertained was too much for him. He had to neglect his housekeeping to fill the seven hungry mouths.

That evening and the next day, by going near, we made sure that the female bird was missing, probably caught by the cats. But the work of the male so far surpassed that of other birds we had been watching that the matter was reported to Mr. Sperry, Assistant in the Nature Study Department of the Western Illinois Normal, and on June 28, the last day the birds would be in the nest, he and members of his class watched by turns. He himself came at 3.45 A. M. to begin the tally on a large sheet spaced for each hour and each hour space divided into quarters. A clock stood beside the watchers.

At 4.15 the Wren came out of a small elm where he had spent the night