

to mid-air unsuccessful. The birds remained about the tower until the first week of March, when I suppose they departed for the north.—DELOS E. CULVER, *Addingham, Pa.*

A Note of the Long-eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*).—On the evening of August 3, 1918, near the village of Branchville in northern New Jersey, some friends appealed to me to identify a supposed bird-note which for several nights previous had been heard in a grove back of the hotel, "The Pines." The note had always been heard after dark, and with such regularity and frequency that the diurnal birds were eliminated. The descriptions of this voice of the night varied widely. One said it resembled the mew of a cat, another likened it to the noise of a squeaking pulley, while other comparisons were less suggestive. But after hearing it, I would describe the note as a softly whistled *whee-you*, the two syllables slurred together. Although scarcely as long as the ordinary note of the Phoebe, in quality it suggested that of the Screech Owl—being, however, much shorter and more frequently uttered than the latter. I now suspected that it was an owl, but felt sure that it could not be a Screech Owl, a Barred Owl, or a Great Horned Owl, for I am familiar with the notes of these. So, after securing an electric flash-lamp and while holding it over my head, I tried to get as close as I could to the bird, to see it if possible. At least I thought I might "shine its eyes" as several years ago I had done in Florida with the Chuck-Will's-Widow. The wood was composed partly of native white pines and hemlocks with an undergrowth of sprouts of American yew. I first located the bird in a tall hemlock, but I could not see it in the dense foliage. In searching for it with my bright light, I flushed it several times, but I could never hear it fly from one tree to another. Its silent flight strengthened my suspicion that it was an owl, and its habitat made me think it was a Long-eared Owl. Although I failed to see the bird that night, the next morning, August 4, I walked out into the grove, and under one of the hemlocks in which I had first heard the note the night before, I noted some droppings and also a few owl pellets. Upon looking up into the tree, I was surprised to see a Long-eared Owl with its ear-tufts elevated, gazing down at me. It was perched upon a branch not more than twenty feet up, and remained there until I had examined it to my entire satisfaction and then walked away and left it. While the evidence is circumstantial, it seems to me pretty sure that the unknown note came from this bird or one of the same species. By a little further search in the trees near by, a second bird was located.

Since I have never read a description which I am sure applies to this note of the Long-eared Owl, I thought it worth recording.—G. CLYDE FISHER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

The Short-eared Owl in Massachusetts in Summer.—As the present status of the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) as a breeding bird

in Massachusetts seems to be somewhat doubtful, it may be worth while to record the fact that I saw one at Wauwinet on the island of Nantucket, August 6 and 7, 1918. The species formerly bred on Muskeget Island at the opposite end of Nantucket, where the killing of a family of six in order to protect the Tern colony from their depredations led to a discussion as to the probability that they belonged to an undescribed insular race (see Auk, 1897, 388; 1898, 75-77, 210-213). Mr. George H. Mackay writes me that he has been well satisfied that in the past the species "bred quite regularly (say one or two pairs) in the vicinity of Siasconset on Nantucket and more rarely on Muskeget Island." Siasconset is a little south of Wauwinet, on the eastern shore of the island.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

On *Brotogeris ferrugineifrons* Lawrence.—In 'The Ibis' for 1880 (page 238) Mr. George N. Lawrence described a new Parakeet from Bogotá, Colombia, under the name of *Brotogerys ferrugineifrons*. This is evidently a very rare bird in collections. In fact, so far as I know, the type, which is now in the American Museum of Natural History (No. 44744), is the only known specimen.

This species is well marked and can be confused with no other. It does not, however, belong to the genus *Brotogeris*, but to *Bolborhynchus*. This is shown by the form of the bill and by the presence of the oil-gland which bears a large tuft. In *Brotogeris* the oil-gland is wholly absent.

Bolborhynchus ferrugineifrons is most nearly allied to *B. andicola*, with which it agrees in its uniform green plumage, the tail two-thirds as long as the wing, and the tenth primary shorter than the ninth. It differs from that species, as well as from *B. lineola*, in its decidedly greater size, darker green coloration, and in the rusty forehead and face.

The skin is not of native Bogotá make, and the name "Wallace" on Lawrence's label indicates that the specimen was obtained from the New York taxidermist, John Wallace. The measurements, in millimeters, of the type specimen are as follows: Wings, 116 and 118; tail, 77.5; culmen, 14; tarsus, 15. The tail is graduated for 24 mm.—W. DEW. MILLER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) at Belmont, Mass.—I am able to furnish one more record of this species rare in eastern Massachusetts. On October 17, 1918, in a ramble over the Belmont Hill pasture and wooded lands, I came upon an adult male bird working assiduously for grubs upon a dead pitch pine tree. The yellow crown was a conspicuous feature. He allowed as near an approach as fifty feet and permitted me an exhaustive survey of him. After a time he dropped to a prostrate trunk of pitch pine close by and was then but thirty-five feet from the rock on which I had seated myself, thus indicating an absence of shyness.