

**Least Flycatcher in Michigan in April.**—April 4, 1920, weather cool, and many patches of snow still on the ground, Dr. Christofferson and myself, while on a bird jaunt much to our surprise discovered a Least Flycatcher. How the bird arrived here at such an early date is a mystery, as it should not have been much north of the latitude of Washington. This was just at the time of the severe storms accompanied by tornadoes that swept the country to the south of us, and it is possible that the bird was swept up and carried to this northern point in that way.

The earliest date I can find for the Least Flycatcher is April 23, at Petersburg.—M. J. MAGEE, *Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan*.

**A New Name for *Anairetes Reichenbach*.**—The generic name *Anairetes* Reichenbach (*Avium* Syst., 1850, pl. LXVI), or as it is often written, *Anaeretes*, is in common use for a group of South American Tyrannidae. It is, however, unfortunately preoccupied by *Anaeretes* Dejean (*Catal. Col.*, 3rd ed., 1837, p. 181) and, therefore, needs to be replaced. It may be called *Spizitornis* (σπιζιττης, parus; ἄρως, avis), nom. nov., with *Muscicapa parulus* Kittlitz as its type.

The species of this genus are as follows:

*Spizitornis parulus parulus* (Kittlitz).

*Spizitornis parulus aequatorialis* (Berlepsch and Taczanowski).

*Spizitornis fernandezianus* (Philippi).

*Spizitornis reguloides* (d'Orbigny and Lafresnaye).

*Spizitornis nigricristatus* (Taczanowski).

*Spizitornis flavirostris* (Sclater and Salvin).

*Spizitornis agilis* (Sclater).—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

**A Raven Pellet.**—In January of this year I picked up in a field at Santa Cruz Island, California, a pellet presumably ejected by a Raven (*Corvus corax sinuatus*). The pellet was three inches long with a diameter of one inch. It was examined by Mr. H. C. Bryant, of the California Fish and Game Commission, who writes: "Without pulling the pellet to pieces I discovered the following elements; parts of two Camel Crickets (*Stenopelmatus* sp.); parts of grasshoppers; 20 seeds of Poison Oak (*Rhus diversatola*); hulls of Wild Oats (*Avena fatua*)."

Mr. H. Harris, of Kansas City, Mo., who has kindly looked through the literature for me for mention of Raven pellets, writes that the only reference he has been able to find is in Vol. II of the fourth edition of Yarrell's 'British Birds,' edited by Alfred Newton, where, on page 260, it is stated: "A pair of Ravens known for many years to the Editor lived almost exclusively on moles, as he had ample facility for determining from repeated examination of the pellets of bone and hair which they, like so many other carnivorous birds, cast up." Mr. W. L. MacAtee tells me that there are no Raven pellets in the collection of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

It may be that when the birds feed on refuse or carrion that there is not enough binding material to hold the pellets together for any length of time. Will not some one who lives in Raven territory collect more data?—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Santa Barbara, California.*

**The Purple Grackle at Albany, Georgia.**—During the week of April 14 to 22, I was very much interested in observing two pair of Purple Grackles feeding in the residence section of Albany, Ga., within one block of the business district. The four birds frequented this locality only, so far as I was able to learn, during that time and were observed and commented on by a number of people. They were remarkably tame and fed on the lawns within five feet of parties in conversation. Both pairs, so far as I could judge, were in full plumage and attracted considerable attention. The locality on which they fed during the entire week did not cover more than two city blocks. We never note these birds in the cities, through this section, which caused my interest.—PETER A. BRANNON, *Department of Archives, Montgomery, Ala.*

**Note on the Generic Names *Schiffornis Bonaparte* and *Scotothorus Oberholser*.**—The generic name *Schiffornis* was first proposed by Bonaparte (*Ateneo Italiano*, II, No. 11, August, 1854, p. 314) as follows:

"34. *Schiffornis*, Bp.—74. *major*, Bp.—75. *turdina* Wied.—76. *minor* Schiff."

As Dr. C. E. Hellmayr has already indicated (*Genera Avium*, IX, 1910, p. 24), two of the three specific names originally included—*major* Bonaparte and *minor* Schiff—were at that time *nomina nuda*. The third, "*turdina* Wied," is readily identifiable as *Muscicapa turdina* Wied (*Beitr. Naturg. Brasil*, III, Abt. 2, 1831, p. 817), which is the type of the genus *Scotothorus* Oberholser (*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, 1899, p. 208). Dr. Hellmayr concludes that the name *Schiffornis* as used by Bonaparte in the publication above cited is a *nomen nudum*, because "two of the three species mentioned (*S. major* and *S. minor*) were undescribed at that time, while the third (*S. turdina*) belongs to *Scotothorus*." It seems clear, however, that this disposition of the name is not the correct one, while the two species, *S. major* and *S. minor*, being then undescribed, are, of course, not to be considered, the third, *S. turdina* Wied, which is perfectly tenable, becomes, by virtual monotypy, the type of *Schiffornis* Bonaparte. Since, furthermore, the name *Schiffornis* Bonaparte is long anterior to *Scotothorus* Oberholser and has the same species for its type, it must take the place of the latter, and the species and subspecies of that genus stand as follows:

*Schiffornis turdinus turdinus* (Wied).

*Schiffornis turdinus wallacii* (Sclater and Salvin).

*Schiffornis turdinus olivaceus* (Ridgway).

*Schiffornis turdinus amazonus* (Sclater).