

4. It is a rare occurrence as far as I know. They opened up sores on about ten out of sixty or seventy rams in the past two years.

5. They acted in a similar manner to two or three old thin cows last spring.

We treated the wounds with creolin and pine tar and tried to shoot and poison the magpies.

Yours very truly,

Keith Smith."

It is well known that Magpies are reputed to peck at sores on stock, but in this case uninjured sheep appear to have been attacked, and in one case, at least, severely. The point of greatest interest is the possible acquirement by the Magpie of the pernicious habit of the Kea Parrot.

Dr. H. C. Oberholser has kindly informed me that he is not aware of a similar occurrence.—A. W. SCHORGER, *Madison, Wisconsin*.

Strange behavior of a Bullock's Oriole.—In the early summer of 1920, a young lady, living near me, in eastern Oregon, picked up a young Bullock's Oriole, that had fallen from the nest. Though some time would have elapsed before the youngster would have begun its education under the care of its parents, there was no difficulty in rearing the bird, which soon became a recognized member of the family having the full liberty of the house. When it was several months old and had never exhibited the slightest fear of any human being, the family was surprised by its showing absolute terror, whenever its mistress entered the room dressed in a new dress, which had never been worn before in the presence of the bird. This seemed unreasonable, since it would fly for protection to any member of the family or even to strangers. After this fear had been several times exhibited and was evidently not to be treated lightly, it was suggested that a string of dark beads, which had until then been worn with the dress, might be responsible. When these were discarded the bird at once became normal and permitted its mistress the former liberties.

The sight of the beads, even if partly covered, on a dressing table, would always cause a panic. It is quite probable that the bird mistook them for a snake, in which case its fear was purely instinctive as no snake experience had ever entered the life of the youngster.—A. W. ANTHONY, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif.*

Domesticated Ipswich Sparrows (*Passerculus princeps*).—On December 26, 1920, four friends and I visited Duxbury Beach, south of Boston, Mass. As we approached one of the gunners' "blinds," which is occupied all through the shooting season, we flushed two Ipswich Sparrows. These flew a short distance toward the blind and dropped into the beach grass. We soon overtook and flushed them again. This performance was repeated several times, until finally the birds dropped upon the nearly bare sand close to the blind and on the edge of the group of tethered

ducks and geese belonging to the gunners. Here we were able to approach the sparrows close enough to observe them well without a glass. Later, one of the birds sat in plain sight on a beach plum bush for fully five minutes, allowing us to study him thoroughly from various angles. We were astonished at this behavior in a bird with so well earned a reputation for secretiveness and elusiveness. The explanation was, however, forthcoming. The gunners told us that these two sparrows came every day and fed among their captive fowl. In this way, apparently, they had come to be quite reconciled to "neighboring" with humans, indeed thought nothing of it!—HELEN GRANGER WHITTLE. *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Green-tailed Towhee (*Oberholseria chlorura*) on the coast of South Carolina.—On the afternoon of January 18, 1921, I went to the beach to see whether the Whistling Swan had come back to the place where I had seen it the previous afternoon, but instead of seeing it I saw a bird in my yard with a chestnut crown patch feeding in a thicket of lavender bushes near high water mark and which, at first glance, I took to be a Swamp Sparrow. As I had yet to see a Swamp Sparrow in *winter* plumage with a well marked chestnut crown patch, and as the bird at a distance looked much larger than a Swamp Sparrow, I lost no time watching it but went hurriedly to my house for my gun. Upon coming back to the place where I had last seen it I found this strange bird in an adjacent lot and shot it. Upon securing it I was amazed to find that I had taken a Green-tailed Towhee—a bird of the far western states. The specimen is an adult male in fine plumage and was very obese. This bird must have arrived in my yard sometime in November, 1920, as the migration of the Fringillidae is over before the last of that month.

The capture of this Green-tailed Towhee makes the sixteenth far western bird and the forty-fourth species that I have added to the fauna of South Carolina.

There is a Virginia record of this Towhee by Mr. G. C. Embody ('Auk,' XXV, 1908, 224) of a bird taken near Portsmouth on January 26, 1908, by Mr. John B. Lewis and in the collection of Mr. Embody. To what extent the list of South Carolina birds can be increased by the capture of far western birds there can be no conjecture.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

The Bohemian Waxwing in Iowa in Vast Numbers.—An article, showing such thorough investigation as does that one entitled "Bohemian Waxwings in New England" by the late Horace W. Wright, which was published in 'The Auk' for January, 1921, is certain to prompt reminiscence and review. Some of us recall the days when we, too, entertained the Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycila garrula*) about our homes. Mr. Wright's article shows that the winter of 1908-1909 was a banner season for this species in the New England states, and a review of the literature on the subject reveals references to the appearance of this Waxwing in most of