

admirably sheltered from the rain which had just begun. The three young which were a couple of days old, to judge from their practically naked yellow-orange skins spotted with black patches of down, fitted snugly in their cup of roots about two inches across, lined with ferns and grasses. The parent bird was very nervous, calling, "Pee-weep, Pee-weep," or "Ter-ee, Ter-ee," as we variously expressed it, in a plaintive manner, although not sufficiently frantic to attract attention. Although too wild to feed the young in our presence, it flew from perch to perch in a fifty foot radius about the nest and us, wagging its tail slightly, at times pausing a moment to snatch an insect, but never ceasing to call as indicated above. Its mate sputtered also giving the "Ter-ee" call with occasional peculiar inflections, one of which was a many syllabled winnowy note. The altitude at this point was about 2900 feet above sea level and the tree was in a fine patch of spruce forest not far from a spot where we found a Junco's nest with two young, lodged in an exactly similar situation in an old windfall.—WARREN F. EATON, *Weston, Mass.*, HASKELL B. CERRY, *Boston, Mass.*

Clarke's Nutcracker in Interior Alaska.—As Clarke's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) is rare in Alaska, a few records from the interior may be of interest. It has been taken on the Kowak River, also at Nushagak on Bristol Bay, at Sitka, and has been observed near Eagle, but I find no other published records.

In the fall of 1919 one of these birds was observed frequently at Takotna, in the Kuskokwim Region. It became very tame and confiding, came to various cabins for food, and was considered a pet. On October 1, 1919, the bird was shot and some time later the dried body was given to Mr. A. H. Twitchell, who kept it and turned it over to me in March, 1922.

Another Nutcracker was shot by Mr. Joe Blanchell, who keeps a roadhouse near Farewell Mountain, on the upper waters of the South Fork of the Kuskokwim River. One day in September, 1921, he saw a strange bird alight on the stove-pipe chimney of his cabin and shot it. He left it hanging by the feet in a steel trap on a cabin wall until my arrival at that point the following February. Enough remained of the bird for certain identification.

The third record for the interior was obtained in the Fairbanks Region. Mr. S. Wilson, who has a roadhouse on Chatanika River, 26 miles above the town of Chatanika, secured a male there in September, 1922. He sent the bird to Fairbanks, where it was kept in cold storage until my return from a lengthy trip the next April. The skin was prepared and placed in the Biological Survey Collection.—O. J. MURIE, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Further Increase in Grackles at Portland, Maine.—Several years ago attention was called in 'The Auk'¹ to a great increase in the number of Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*) to be found at Portland, Maine. Since

¹Vol. XXXIV, p. 210.