

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.

that time there has been further increase, and the birds formed a great multitude during the late summer and the early autumn of 1923. Even the busiest streets of the city were visited by them at times. On September 10 the writer noted a small flock on the roof of a building at the corner of Congress and Park streets, from which several birds descended to the sidewalk to pick up fragments of food fallen from some person's lunch-basket. I saw others elsewhere in the heart of the city at other times. When I left Portland for the season, on October 10, hundreds of Grackles were still frequenting the suburbs.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine*.

Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria*) in Alabama.—Mr. Arthur H. Howell in his 'Birds of Alabama,' just published by the State Department of Game and Fisheries, gives (on page 223) but two records of the occurrence of the Redpoll within the boundaries of this State. Both of these were made in extreme northern Alabama—Stevenson and Florence—and the validity of the first is questioned by Mr. Howell because September, the date of the reported capture, seems too early for such a boreal species to appear so far south. Therefore the following recent record, which I publish through the courtesy of Mr. Lewis S. Golsan, of Prattville, is of especial interest.

On February 13, 1924, Mr. Golsan was driving in a buggy along the Prattville-Booth road when, about three and a half miles west of Prattville, he saw a Redpoll in a roadside hedge. The bird, described by Mr. Golsan as a "fine male", was in company with three or four Pine Siskins and might have been passed unnoticed but for its bright red cap. Mr. Golsan stopped his horse and inspected the bird at a distance of about fifteen feet, noting plainly the small size, sharply pointed bill, and reddish breast-patch, as well as the red crown-cap. As Mr. Golsan has been a life-long student of birds and is thoroughly familiar with the Purple Finch, the only species that, in this locality, could possibly be confused with the Redpoll, I unhesitatingly vouch for the accuracy of his diagnosis.

That northern birds should appear farther south than usual this year should not occasion surprise when it is remembered that the closing months of the past winter were extremely severe.—ERNEST G. HOLT, *312 Bell Building, Montgomery, Ala.*

Breeding of MacGillivray's Seaside Sparrow in South Carolina.—On the afternoon of May 16, 1924, the writer had the pleasure of discovering the first nest and eggs of MacGillivray's Seaside Sparrow (*Passerherbulus maritimus macgillivrayii*) ever found in South Carolina. The details of this discovery may be of interest.

On May 13, together with Mr. E. B. Chamberlain, I left Charleston for a collecting trip for the Charleston Museum, with which we are both connected. Our destination was about thirty-six miles south of this city, and our route lay over the Charleston-Savannah Highway. About fifteen miles out from Charleston, this highway crosses a wide tract of salt marsh, and the causeway just completed over this waste was the situation that