

25, in a field where fresh manure was being spread on the snow, and I saw them almost daily for a period of two weeks thereafter, together with large numbers of Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings.

Otocoris alpestris hoyti. HOYT'S HORNED LARK.—Among the Larks above mentioned were a number that I at first took to be "Prairies." It was not, however, until February 2 that I finally collected one, when I found that although there was not a trace of yellow over the eye, yet in length of wing and in general tone or coloration of the body it more closely resembled an "alpestris" than a "praticola." Suspecting a Hoyt's, I sent it to Dr. Oberholser, by whom it was identified as such. Another specimen was taken the same day by Mr. A. W. Schorger. There is no previous record for the county.

Euphagus cyanocephalus. BREWER'S BLACKBIRD.—In 'The Auk' of October, 1926, I noted finding a pair of these birds, together with the nest and young, on June 9 of that year. The following spring, on a rather hasty trip to the same meadow, I failed to see any of the birds and concluded that they had not returned. The next two years I did not go there at all. May 13 of this year, however, on driving by, I was surprised to see four pairs, apparently nesting. Each pair had its own territory, well separated from the others, to which the birds returned after their frequent excursions, the male usually alighting on some tall weed stalk, his glossy-black form conspicuous above the waving grass. At the time of my former note, there was, I believe, only one definite breeding record for this species in any state east of the Mississippi, that being a nest found by Thure Kumlien near Lake Koshkonong, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, in 1862. (Kumlien & Hollister: "Birds of Wisconsin," 1903.) The nesting of a single pair here in 1926 would, therefore, be regarded as accidental, but the occurrence this year of several pairs, at the same place and undoubtedly nesting, would indicate an eastward extension of their breeding range.—JOHN S. MAIN, Madison, Wisconsin.

The Supposed Plumage of the Eocene Diatryma.—In the 'American Museum Novitates,' no. 62, March 16, 1923, pages 1 to 4, Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell under the name *Diatryma* (?) *filifera* described some long, slender, fossilized filaments from western Colorado as peculiar feathers that it was thought might possibly have come from the great running birds known as the Diatrymas. The specimens came from the vicinity of Roan Creek in beds of Green River Eocene age. The type of this interesting find was subsequently placed by Prof. Cockerell in the paleontological deposits of the U. S. National Museum (Cat. no. 10908).

In assembling data for the revision of the fossil bird list for North America for inclusion in the fourth edition of the A. O. U. Check-List, now in press, the name in question has come up for allocation and has led to the examination of the specimen. With more adequate feather material available in the bird collections of the National Museum than was accessible for comparison to Prof. Cockerell, it becomes evident that *Diatryma* (?) *filifera* is not avian

but belongs in some other group. The specimen is composed of long, narrow, threadlike or hairlike filaments of even width, the longest being more than one hundred millimeters long. On careful examination under a microscope these filaments have smooth, continuous margins, without lateral branches of any kind. No feather of this general length is known in which there are not occasionally at least lateral branches (barbs or barbules). Even in the Cassowary part of the filaments have these lateral elements.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

Another Audubon Copper-plate Located.—On a recent visit to the Pleasant Valley Bird and Wild Flower Sanctuary at Lenox, Massachusetts, I was the overnight guest of Miss Mary Parsons, one of the Trustees of the Sanctuary. Among the many *objets d'art* in the great house, I was interested to find a framed copper-plate of Audubon's folio edition. This plate is listed as Number 362 and contains figures of the Yellow-billed Magpie, Ultramarine Jay, Steller's Jay and Clarke's Nutcracker.

This brings the number of Audubon copper-plates now known and located to forty-two and it was my good fortune to locate the forty-first plate also, as recorded by Mr. Deane in 'The Auk' for July, 1925.

This plate was formerly in the possession of the late Mr. Morris K. Jesup of New York. Miss Parsons writes me as follows regarding her own acquisition of the plate.

"It was a few months after Mr. Jesup's death that I found Mrs. Jesup making piles of things that she thought had no interest and that she wanted to get out of her house in New York. The Audubon plate was among these things. When I told her that the plate was interesting and of some value she would not believe me and jokingly told me to take it if I would give it house-room. My carriage was at the door. I sent for my footman then and there to carry the plate to the carriage, much to Mrs. Jesup's relief!"

It is probable that this is one of the plates which were distributed by Phelps, Dodge and Company as described in the article by Mr. Ruthven Deane in 'The Auk' for October, 1908. Miss Parsons evidently acquired the plate before the days when automobiles were in use.—JOHN B. MAY, *Division of Ornithology, State House, Boston, Massachusetts.*