

remaining portion was the quills and rachis of the contour feathers, all down as well as the webs of the contour feathers were burned.

With a desire of obtaining an explanation of the cause and probable frequency of an occurrence of this nature a competent Cleveland electrician was consulted. I am indebted to him for the following analysis, and can do no better than to quote from his recent reply to my inquiry.

"Will say that a similar incident may have never occurred before, and may not again.

"In my opinion the bird did not get shorted across the wires or grounded with same or it would have been killed. It probably was sitting on the wire very near where same broke, and was in the path of the arc which was caused by the breaking of the path of the flow of electricity.

"The break in the wire was caused by a flaw or injury to same, and probably would have broken even if the bird did not alight on it. An arc is due to the flow of current being broken when carrying a high voltage and amperage and may be from a fraction of an inch up to several feet, similar to a flash of lightning, which forms a high heat unit."—PAUL A. STEWART, *Lectonia, Ohio.*

Original Publication of *Chionophilos alpestris insularis*.—The Horned Lark which inhabits the islands of Santa Cruz, San Clemente, etc. off the Californian coast, recognized first by Dr. C. H. Townsend to be a separate race, has been known by the name *Otocoris alpestris insularis* Townsend, dating from September 9, 1890, when Townsend's description was published (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIII, p. 140). The late Dr. Jonathan Dwight published a review of the Horned Larks (Auk, VII, pp. 138-158, April, 1890). On page 152 (in text) Dr. Dwight says: "Mr. C. H. Townsend has kindly loaned me a series of ten male Horned Larks from the Santa Cruz group of Islands, California, including the type of the bird which he calls *insularis*. I am much surprised to find his birds practically indistinguishable from Orelogon specimens of *strigata*. They are the same size and though averaging a little darker, the nape approaching brick red, some of them can be matched by the few specimens of *strigata*, I have for comparison, etc." This constituting a dragnosis, and being the earliest use of the name *insularis*, the name should now be: *Chionophilos alpestris insularis* (Dwight). The original citation is: [*Otocoris alpestris*] *insularis* (Townsend Ms.) Dwight, Auk, VII, p. 152 (in text), April, 1890—"Santa Cruz group of Islands, California"; the type in the U. S. National Museum is from San Clemente Island (fide Townsend). The generic name *Chionophilos* Brehm, 1832, has priority over *Otocoris* Bonaparte, 1838 (cf. Laubmann, Verh. Orn. Ges. Bayern, 15, p. 222, 1922).—C. ELIOT UNDERDOWN, *Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Ill.*

[While *Otocoris a. insularis*, as mentioned by Mr. Underdown, actually first appeared in Dr. Dwight's paper, the fact should be noted that the species was described by Dr. Townsend, and it was only due to a delay in the publication of his paper that the name first appeared elsewhere. Dr.

Dwight would have been the last person to consent to the use of his name as an authority for *insularis* in such a case as this. The species should be credited, as is done by the A.O.U. Committee, to Dr. Townsend, but the citation should be (Townsend MS) Dwight, Auk, VII, p. 152.

Chionophilos as a generic name is of doubtful validity and is not recognized by the A.O.U. Committee. There is some question as to whether it is anything more than a common name as used by Brehm in 1832.—T. S. PALMER.]

Notes from Escambia County, Florida.—*Morus bassanus*. GANNET.—One of the very few instances of the occurrence of this Atlantic coastal species anywhere in the Gulf of Mexico was noted on April 5, 1931, off the outer beach near Pensacola, about ten miles from the Alabama State line. In all, three birds were seen—two adults and one in immature plumage. They passed singly at about five-minute intervals, beating westward against a strong northwest wind. Each was in sight for three or four minutes, affording the observer ample opportunity to study them at ranges under 500 yards with 6 x glasses. On May 6, 1931, a single bird in immature plumage was seen briefly at a great distance off the beach.

Pisobia bairdi. BAIRD'S SANDPIPER.—Since the capture of the first specimen of this western species in Florida (Auk, vol. XLV, p. 370, July, 1928) on April 22, 1928, constant watch has been kept on the beaches for the possible occurrence of others, but none was seen until May 2, 1931. On that day, a single bird in spring plumage was discovered on the inner beach at a point not 200 yards from the spot where the 1928 specimen had been taken, and it was studied for several minutes with 6 x glasses at a distance of not more than 25 yards. The bird then joined a small flock of Least Sandpipers (*P. minutilla*) and a single White-rumped (*P. fuscicollis*), when further study at much shorter range gave excellent opportunity for size and color comparison. To clinch the identification, the flock was flushed and the upper tail coverts of the two larger Sandpipers compared in flight. On May 6, 1931, another single bird (possibly the specimen of May 2) was seen, also on the inner (lagoon) beach, at a point about three miles to the westward.

Bartramia longicauda. UPLAND PLOVER.—Occurrence of this species during the 15 years of the writer's residence in this region has been so infrequent as to be considered accidental. On March 25, 1931, a single bird was seen in company with Killdeers and Pipits on a little-used airplane landing field, known as Old Corry Field—a locality that, through oversight, had never been included in the writer's search for this species. Again on March 30 the field was visited and two Plovers were found—both so tame that they allowed the approach of an automobile to within about 10 yards. On April 8, five Plovers were seen at the same place. During the intervals between the foregoing dates, other observers visited the field and found the birds present. It is not unlikely that a careful watch maintained over this area in the future will show the species to be a regular, if uncommon, transient.