

May 8, 1931, to June 15, 1929. Eggs (seven nests): June 14, 1928, to July 6, 1923. Young in nest: June 8, 1921, to July 9, 1928. Nine other nests, young left the nest by: July 22, 1931, to July 29, 1930.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana*.

**The Starling as a Mimic.**—Dr. Charles W. Townsend ("The Auk," Vol. XLI, 1924, pp. 541-552) says (p. 544), "I am inclined to think that individual Starlings vary greatly in their powers of mimicry." My experience accords with his surmise, indeed it does more: it affords a superlative instance of its truth.

After February 15, 1915, when I first observed the Starling in Lexington, Mass., the bird became progressively commoner in the town until, say in 1925, it was abundantly represented there. During the nine years following its first appearance, I was in the field a good deal, meeting the bird daily in the latter part of the period, and in all this time I heard a Starling utter the note of *only one other bird*. This was the whistle of the Cowbird—the upward-sweeping whistle followed by two short notes on a lower pitch—which may be suggested by the syllables, *wee, too-too*. This note I heard in several of the years, perhaps half a dozen times in all. I was aware that the Starling whistled and sang like a Wood Pewee, a Bluebird or what not; I was on the watch for instances of mimicry; and, guarding against error, I never assumed, as we used to do in the old days, that the song of the Bluebird meant that the Bluebird was here; that the whistle of the Wood Pewee was as good as the bird in the hand. In spite of the evidence in the literature, piling up as the years went by, that the bird was a mimic, the Starling was no mimic, except of the Cowbird, to me.

Then, in Cohasset, Mass., late in December, 1924, from a group of Starlings which had been "clatt'rin' in tall trees" came, one right after another, the song of the Phoebe, the whistle and the scatter call of the Bobwhite, the *wee-chew, wee-chew* of the Flicker, the song, nearly perfect, of the Meadowlark, the sharp call-note and some Vireo-like phrases of the Purple Finch, the Wood Pewee's peaceful whistle, the rolling *too-wheedle* of the Blue Jay, the two-note whistle of the Chickadee, a note unmistakably that of the Goldfinch, and the Red-winged Blackbird's cluck and the gurgling part of its song. In ten minutes, thirteen notes of ten different birds, given by a flock of Starlings—perhaps by one Starling; an accumulation of audible evidence to convince the stubbornest juror.

Some of these notes no Starling could have heard for weeks, or months—and no more could we—yet the power to reproduce them was there. It seems almost incontrovertible not to "suppose the self-same Power" that enabled us to recognize these notes, made it possible for the Starling to call them up out of the past.—WINSOR M. TYLER, *112 Pinckney St., Boston, Mass.*

**The Names of Two Genera of Timaline Birds.**—Oberholser (Smiths. Misc. Coll. Quarterly Issue, vol. 48, pt. 1, May 13, 1905, p. 65) proposed

*Horizillas* to replace *Malacopteron* Eyton, preoccupied, but Gistel (Isis von Tilesius, München, 1850, p. 95) had many years previously noticed that Eyton's name was preoccupied and proposed *Malacornis* to replace it, which must be used. Later Oberholser (Smiths. Misc. Coll., vol. 74, no. 2, Sept. 27, 1922, p. 1) has endeavored to show that the type of *Alcippe* Blyth (Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, vol. 13, pt. 1, no. 145, May 1844, p. 384) is *Trichastoma affine* Blyth and therefore should replace *Horizillas* and renames *Alcippe* of authors, *Alcippornis*. He has overlooked the fact, however, that Blyth a few pages previously to his formal proposal of *Alcippe* (idem., p. 370) had used the name in conjunction with *Timalia poiocephala* Jerdon, which becomes the type by monotypy. Stuart Baker (Fauna Br. Ind. Birds, 2d ed., vol. 7, 1930, p. 50) has used *Ophrydornis* Büttikofer for *Malacopteron* Eyton, but this is inadmissible as Oberholser has shown when he proposed *Horizillas*. To summarize, the two genera will stand as follows:

1. *Malacornis* Gistel, 1850.

Type, *Malacopteron magnum* Eyton.

*Malacopteron*, Eyton, 1839, not Serville, 1835.

*Setaria* Blyth, 1844, not Oken, 1815.

*Horizillas* Oberholser, 1905.

*Alcippe* Oberholser, 1922, not Blyth, 1844.

*Ophrydornis* Stuart Baker, 1930, not Büttikofer, 1895.

2. *Alcippe*, Blyth, 1844.

Type by monotypy, *Timalia poiocephala* Jerdon, of which *Alcippornis* Oberholser (Type, *Alcippe cinerea* Blyth, not Eyton) is a synonym.—J. H. RILEY, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

**The Loggerhead Shrike, an Addition to the Virginia Avifauna.—**

To settle the sub-specific identity of the shrikes of southeastern Virginia, on March 30 and April 8, 1932, I collected a pair, the female of which contained a fully formed egg when shot.

They were later submitted to Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, who finds them to be the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*). He also writes: "Since these, without doubt represent the breeding form of *Amelia*, it extends the range of this form up the coast to southeast Virginia, constituting apparently the first authentic record of this bird for the state."

*Amelia* is forty miles west by south from Richmond and fifty-five miles north of the North Carolina state line.

Dr. J. J. Murray of Lexington, Va., in his article in the April issue of 'The Auk' on "Additions to the Virginia Avifauna," predicted that the Loggerhead Shrike would yet be found in Virginia.—JOHN B. LEWIS, *Amelia Court House, Va.*

**Western Palm Warbler in Massachusetts in Spring.**—Apparently no specimens of *Dendroica palmarum palmarum* have been collected in New England in the spring. Last May 3 I had an excellent observation of an