

Prairie Horned Larks Perching in Trees.—In Mr. Gale B. Pickwell's study, 'The Prairie Horned Lark' (Trans. St. Louis Acad. Sci., XXVII, 1931), although he has quoted generously from my paper (Auk, XXXIII, pp. 281-286) he has omitted my probable unique experience in having watched a pair of these Larks when bringing food to their young, and always first perching in a tree. I have yet to find a reference to these Larks perching in trees at all, and all the text books state definitely, that they never perch in trees. Mr. Pickwell says (p. 69) that I have not made it clear just how I located a certain nest at its very beginning. On reference to my paper, I find that in order to discover just when the "paving" to these nests is added, I "lifted" a recently laid set of eggs from a nest about 240 yards from my bungalow, on April 14, 1915. At the back of this nest the ground rose somewhat abruptly into a ridge, behind which, it was easy for me on the following day to lie concealed and watch the female commence the scrape for the second nest, which was finished at 4.30 p. m., as stated in the table of events recording the times at which the paving to this nest was put in place, also, the laying of the eggs.—HENRY MOUSLEY, 4073 Tupper Street, Montreal.

The "Phoebe" Call of the Chickadee.—From childhood I have imitated the "phoebe" call of the Oregon Chickadee. I never took notes on the call, but mentally associated it with spring and summer and cannot recall ever hearing it in the winter.

After reading in 'Bird Song' by Aretas A. Saunders that the Chickadee uses this call at all seasons, I began to make a careful check on the Black-capped Chickadees (*Penthestes a. septentrionalis*) of Montana. For two winters, 1931-32, 1932-33, I carefully listened for the birds to voluntarily give this call and then attempted to coax it from them by whistling the notes. They have usually showed signs of interest and possibly a little excitement when I have whistled, but have never answered. On November 12, 1933, I at last inveigled one bird to whistle "phoebe" a few times. This was my only winter record. During the spring and summer, the poorest imitation of "phoebe" will excite the entire flock to a concerted "phoebe" chorus. From these observations I had concluded that in the West the notes are used almost exclusively in the spring and summer.

The winter of 1933-34, however, presented unusual conditions and during January until time of writing (February 14) the Missouri River has been free from ice, butterflies are flying, gophers are running over the prairie and the Chickadees are whistling "phoebe"! I can only account for this by the spring-like weather.

I have never heard the Chestnut-backed Chickadee (*P. r. rufescens*) sing the "phoebe" call or give any notes resembling it. During the summer of 1933 I was in daily contact with this species in the San Juan Islands, yet never was able to attract the slightest attention by whistling this call. While the birds sing the common "chickadee-dee-dee" and give other undecipherable twitterings, I failed to hear anything that could be interpreted as "phoebe."