

singing male whose song attracted our attention as we approached a farmhouse, and came from a large, branching white-poplar tree on a lawn in front of the dwelling. We spent some time watching the bird, who sang persistently, and we searched unsuccessfully for its nest.

This is the only Warbling Vireo I have ever seen in Cape May County, and at the time of its observance, I was unaware of its rarity in southern New Jersey, where I have seen it three other times in June, viz., June 9, 1915, Westmont, Camden County; June 29, 1928, Palmyra, Burlington County; June 16, 1932, Pennsville, Salem County. All of these birds were singing males and were undoubtedly nesting, but we were unable to find their nests.

I have never seen a Warbling Vireo in July or August, nor during September migration in southern Jersey, and have very few May records of its occurrence in the State. In fact, I have seen the Warbling Vireo on very few occasions anywhere in late summer and fall.—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*.

Western Meadowlark in New Jersey.—On April 28, 1940, with Miss Miriam Minton of Metuchen, I made an early-morning trip to the region south of South Plainfield, New Jersey, in order to take a census of the Upland Plovers that are usually to be found there. While driving slowly along a country road and listening carefully for the notes of the plover, my attention was called to a beautiful and very familiar song. I said at once to my companion, who is an enthusiastic bird student, "That is the song of the Western Meadowlark!" Presently our binoculars revealed the bird (*Sturnella neglecta*) sitting on a fence post about one hundred yards distant. We slowly approached the bird until we were within fifty yards of it. During this time it had poured forth its complete song a number of times. We watched it until it flew to a distant field. As I am very well acquainted with this bird in the West and have spent many hours listening to its gorgeous songs, including the flight song, there is not a possible doubt as to correct identification.

On May 1, 1940, I made another trip to this locality hoping to hear the bird again. The fields were searched for some distance in every direction during the two and one-half hours I was there, but there was no trace of our western visitor. I spent many other mornings in May in this section of the country but without result, so I conclude the bird had wandered farther afield. I am unable to find a single authentic record of this bird's appearance so far east.—JOHN T. S. HUNN, *1218 Prospect Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey*.

Probable breeding of the Beautiful Bunting in the United States.—Although the fourth (1931) edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-list' implies, on page 316, that the Beautiful Bunting (*Passerina versicolor pulchra*) is a regular resident of "extreme southeastern California," we know of but one published record for that State: two specimens taken by Dr. J. A. Hornung from "fifteen or twenty" seen at Blythe, on the Colorado River, February 8-9, 1914 (Daggett, *Condor*, 16: 260, 1914). The only other record published to date for the United States is that of a female taken by Frank Stephens at Crittenden, Santa Cruz County, Arizona, July 14, 1884 (Brewster, *Auk*, 2: 198, 1885).

During June 1940, the writers made a three-day survey of the bird life of the west slope of the Baboquivari Mountains, at the east end of the Papago Indian Reservation, Pima County, Arizona. Observations were made from Baboquivari Camp (in Baboquivari Canyon a bit below the mouth of Moristo Canyon) to well up in the pinyon-juniper-oak-locust woods of Baboquivari Peak. Our most in-

teresting find was a colony of Beautiful Buntings, apparently the first to be discovered in the United States.

On the morning of June 12, the senior author found two pairs of the birds in dense thorny thickets well up in Baboquivari Canyon. Here, at the foot of a cliff on a rough, steep slope, the males sang repeatedly. Though one pair was observed mating, no nest was found. The male of this pair was finally collected. Meanwhile Phillips and Hargrave, who were preparing specimens at Baboquivari Camp, took two males and one female there. All three of the above-mentioned males were plainly in breeding condition, but the ovary of the female was only slightly enlarged, the largest eggs being 1 mm. in diameter, and in none of the four birds was there any indication of a brood patch.

During the evening of that same day the senior author saw four males in the lower part of Moristo Canyon, about half a mile above camp. On June 13, Sutton and Phillips saw three or four males and one female in the catclaw and mesquite brush of a small flat in this same section, and a pair in mesquite, *Baccharis*, etc., near the mouth of the canyon. No new nests were found, but two old nests which were much like those of other members of the genus *Passerina*, but a little less bulky, were found several feet up in the thorn brush.

On June 13, our party detected a total of two males and one female at and near Baboquivari Camp. On June 14 a single male was seen there by Sutton. That day our activities centered in the higher parts of the mountains and in our return to Tucson. We saw no other *Passerina* anywhere in the region.—GEORGE MIKSHI SUTTON, ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, and LYNDON L. HARGRAVE, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*.

Natural death of a Fox Sparrow.—In 'The Condor,' September 1924, Laurence M. Huey describes the natural death of an Audubon's Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni*) under the title 'The Natural End of a Bird's Life.' Huey describes the bird as "ascending a vertical rose stem in a peculiar spiral manner" and otherwise conducting itself in a very abnormal fashion. Shortly afterward the bird fell dead to the ground and was examined externally and internally by Huey, who could diagnose nothing that might have had a lethal effect.

Late in the afternoon of November 23, 1937, the author flushed a Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) at unusually close range in an apple orchard at the State Institution of Applied Agriculture, at Farmingdale, Long Island, New York. The bird perched erect on the lowest limb of a large tree and gave every appearance of perfect health. A few seconds later it dropped back into the grass, presumably to resume feeding. (It was not easy for me to be certain at this distance that the bird had dropped *head foremost*, as it had appeared to do.) The writer walked slowly forward, expecting to flush the sparrow again, but soon came within sight of the trembling bird approximately five seconds before its death. A cursory examination revealed no parasites. Freezing or emaciation seemed unlikely; the temperature had remained near normal for several weeks previously and read slightly above 40 degrees F. at the time. There had been no snow on the ground.

Aside from these two records, the author can find no data on a bird's death from causes which were presumably natural. Such occurrences must undoubtedly be quite rare.—HENRY M. STEVENSON, JR., 724 Eighth Avenue, West, Birmingham, Alabama.

Notes from Hawk Mountain (Kittatinny Ridge), Pennsylvania.—In the course of six three-month periods of almost daily census-taking of hawks (the fall seasons