

for you—who cooks for you all?”. The challenge came from the forest on the opposite side of the river, perhaps a quarter of a mile away. Never before having heard the species within several thousand miles of this region we were instantly attentive, and were favored by another rendering about a minute later. We failed to hear the bird again during the night. Our next camp was made many miles below, and here we heard Great Horned Owls several times during the night, calling to each other across the wide valley, but no further note from the Barred Owl.

This fortunate observation is the basis of Mr. Bent's record for Fort McMurray, Alberta, in U. S. National Museum Bulletin 170, page 196. The note was inserted when the bulletin was in final page proof, and this circumstance precluded fuller particulars. It should be noted that this record extends the range as known at that time northwestward from the region of Lake Winnipeg, a distance of about 500 miles. Doubtless when the region is more thoroughly worked, the Barred Owl will be found to occur in the intervening area.—EDWARD A. PREBLE, 3027 Newark St., Washington, D. C.

Alder Flycatcher breeding in Philadelphia.—The Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailli trailli*), regarded as a breeding bird of the Canadian and Hudsonian Zones, has this year (1940) been found nesting in Philadelphia, within city limits. The bird has been found breeding sparingly in the Poconos in northern Pennsylvania, but this locality is fully one hundred miles farther south and in the Carolinian Zone.

At the mouth of Pennypack Creek which empties into the Delaware River, there is a low swampy area of calamus, cat-tails, sedges and elderberry bushes bordered and interspersed with willow trees. In the past few years, records of the occurrence of the bird in this locality indicated that it might be breeding. It was often observed perched on a dead branch from where it sent its three-syllabled note out over the swamp at frequent intervals. It was Mr. William Yoder who first discovered the bird summering in this locality. His records are one bird on May 26, 1938, and June 21, 1938. He found another bird there on May 21, 1939, and the writer records one bird singing on August 1, 1939. Yoder's records for 1940 at this same locality are two birds on May 30 and three on June 2.

On June 15, 1940, Mr. Richard F. Miller, in company with Mr. Carl Collopy and the writer, found the nest. It was constructed of coarse grasses and was situated 22 inches up in a small elderberry bush that was four feet high and growing amid clumps of goldenrod and jewel-weed. Miller stated that the nesting site was typical of that of the Indigo Bunting. The one egg was white and marked at the larger end with light buffy blotches. On June 19, 1940, the female was observed sitting on four eggs while the male sang, perched on a dead stub about 150 yards away.—EDWARD J. REIMANN, 2261 E. Kennedy St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Hoyt's Horned Lark in Massachusetts.—For some years it has been noticed that flocks of Horned Larks, many individuals with white eyebrows and pale-yellow throats, occur at inland localities in late winter or early spring, usually just after heavy snowstorms or strong northwest winds. Inexperienced observers usually report these as Prairie Horned Larks, but definite proof that this bird would normally occur in flocks of 30 to 40 in eastern New England is lacking. For two years I have been on the trail of such flocks, have noted what I regarded as sus-

picious individuals, but have had no success in collecting specimens. From March 16, 1941, on, just after the weather conditions described above, various members of the Harvard Ornithological Club, to whom I am much indebted, reported such a flock, and on March 20, they described the conditions for observation as being so ideal that I went out to an extensive field in Concord that afternoon with Messrs. Bergstrom and Parker, after we had all studied museum series in the morning. The larks were all in one bare patch of ground by the road, and could be studied from the car window. Examples of what appeared to be three different types were collected, three of which, as hoped, proved to be the subspecies, *Otocoris alpestris hoyti*, the first record from the State. In spite of two hours' scrutiny at thirty feet, I am unable to give the percentage of Prairie and Hoyt's Horned Larks in this flock, so great are the technical difficulties in shade of color and in size. It was a simple matter to pick out the one Northern Horned Lark with its yellow eyebrows, but the size difference between the Prairie and Hoyt's could only be determined when two birds of the same sex were *motionless, side by side, and in exactly the same plane*. These conditions occurred just twice and the larger bird was shot immediately. Mostly, of course, the birds were running around, facing in different directions, or were squatting behind lumps of sod in alarm, in which case it was absolutely impossible to be sure of either color or size differences. I trust these remarks may prevent Hoyt's Horned Lark from being reported annually hereafter in this State on the basis of sight records! I am much indebted to my colleague Mr. J. L. Peters for carefully determining the larks with me.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts*.

American Magpie in Virginia.—On May 12, 1940, on the farm of P. J. Nixon, near Ballsville, Powhatan County, Virginia, an American Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*) was captured in a pole trap set for hawks. In the quest for identification the bird was delivered to Mrs. P. J. Flippen, of Ballsville, who forwarded it to the State Game Commission, where identification was made. The bird, a female, was mounted and is preserved in the Virginia State Museum of Mineral, Timber, and History. This is apparently the first recorded instance of this species in Virginia.—CHESTER F. PHELPS, *Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, Virginia*.

Carolina Wren in central New Hampshire.—Early in the morning of August 21, 1940, I was fortunate enough to observe an adult Carolina Wren, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*, at my summer home near Center Ossipee, New Hampshire. A room in a long shed, attached to the house, is used as a summer kitchen. I was busy at what one should be doing in a kitchen at that hour, and the large door that led to the porch was open. Suddenly a bird flew in, crossed to a large screened window on the opposite side of the room, and after fluttering there a few moments, dashed out by the way it had entered, and disappeared around the corner of the barn. The view afforded as the bird paused at the screened window left no doubt as to the identity of a species familiar to me from many years' experience in the Middle States.—EDWARD A. PREBLE, 3027 Newark St., Washington, D. C.

Bluebird mortality in 1940.—During late February and early March this past spring (1940) when Bluebirds, *Sialia sialis*, had moved north in numerous, irregular flocks, a most destructive snow-and-ice storm occurred. I was immediately cognizant of the fact that Bluebird flocks were becoming fewer and the numbers of birds decreasing daily. By the first of April normally about ninety-three per cent